

Beaumont Parish

Action Plan

for the Communities of

Beaumont, Grinsdale, Hosket Hill,

Kirkandrews-on-Eden

and Monkhill

2023 to 2028

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 Action Plan (online only for its evolving nature)	
 Parish Plan questionnaire available on the Parish Website	

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The Parish Plan Project Team
The project was carried out by volunteers from the community
and the Parish Council

Funding Assistance

This Parish Plan was created with financial support from ACT and Beaumont Parish Council

Why?

A Parish plan helps us as a community steer the direction we we want to go in together, how we allocate funding, what grants we apply for and how we interact on your behalf with the new Cumberland Council.

What?

A community led Plan with the following purposes;

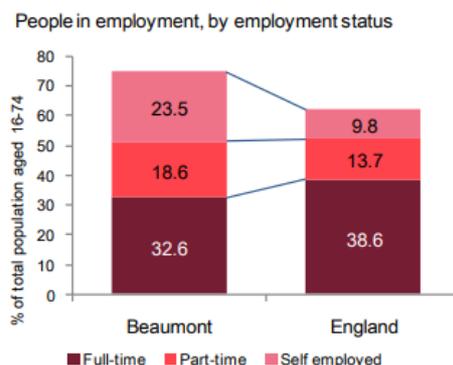
- Set a vision of what is important to the community
- How we safeguard valued local features for the future
- Identify key facilities and services
- Identify and preserve distinctive features in the Parish
- Identify and tackle problems

Parish Profile

Beaumont Parish is bounded to the North by the River Eden, to the East by the Carlisle City Boundary, to the South and West by the parishes of The Ortons and Burgh by Sands.

The ONS data for 2013 reveals:-

- A population of 490 residents, including 80 children under 16 and 90 people over 65, living in 195 households, which is broadly in line with national averages.
- A strong feeling of satisfaction with the area as a place in which to live (83%) as well as a confidence (75%) that there is an effective social coherence, (“people get on well together in the local area”)
- A relatively high level of safety, with both perceived and actual criminal issues being lower than the national average.
- A low proportion of deprivation and reliance upon social benefits
- Comparatively good levels of health and low levels of unemployment or economic inactivity
- A balance of educational qualifications and mix of employment.



- A high proportion of houses are owner occupied, detached and above Band C Council Tax rating, but a higher than average proportion of the housing stock is deemed to be energy inefficient.
- There is widespread car ownership, but the availability of rural public transport is poor.

The Parish comprises a traditional rural area, and includes the villages of Beaumont, Grinsdale and Kirkandrews on Eden, together with the hamlets of Monkhill and Hosket Hill and scattered neighbouring properties. There are no shops or schools within the Parish, The nearest primary school is at Burgh by Sands (3 miles) and the catchment Secondary school is at Dalston (6 miles).

Beaumont Parish Hall is situated in Kirkandrews on Eden, and there is also a Village Hall at Grinsdale, which is currently adapted to house a Ukranian refugee family.

The Church of St. Mary at Beaumont (C of E) is a Grade 2* Listed Building, sited on a Norman 'Motte', which itself sits over the site of a Turret of Hadrian's Wall (World Heritage Site).

There is an active Methodist Chapel at Monkhill, originally established in 1858 and rebuilt in 1904 with a large school room. The Church of St. Kentigern at Grinsdale (accessed by a bridleway through two fields) was closed for worship in 2001. It is currently undergoing conversion to a private dwelling with public access to the graveyard.

There is one public house, 'The Drovers Rest', in the Parish at Monkhill. This was a former barn and stables and is a listed building which once belonged to the Carlisle and District State Management Scheme (until its dissolution in 1973) since 2020 we have two new landlord/landlady, Beki and Tom who have won numerous accolades for their food and drink.

There are two graveyards in the Parish, at Grinsdale and Beaumont, and the Parish Council grants financial support towards the cost of their maintenance. There is also a closed graveyard (maintained by Cumbria County Council) in Kirkandrews on Eden adjacent to the site of the former St Andrews Church (closed in 1750's and with no visible evidence remaining)

There is a 'Pound' in Kirkandrews on Eden, which was renovated as part of the previous Parish Plan to include picnic tables and an information panel about the history of the village. Beaumont also has an attractive Village Green (part of the former Norman "Bailey") with seating and an information panel about the history of the village. Both community areas are maintained by Beaumont Parish Council with the assistance of members of the community.

The River Eden passes the villages of Grinsdale, Kirkandrews on Eden and Beaumont, before exiting into the Solway Firth at Sandsfield, on the Western boundary of the Parish. The river and its banks are classified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and the Parish is within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The course of the former Hadrian's Wall (World Heritage Site) crosses the Parish through Grinsdale, Kirkandrews on Eden and Beaumont, then crosses the fields directly West of St Mary's Church towards Burgh by Sands. The opportunities that this presents are considered within this Parish Action Plan.

Historically, the principal occupation of the residents of the Parish was mixed agriculture and, although now offering significantly less employment, this still shapes the area's character.

The Consultation Process

In October 2018 a review of the old Parish Plan was carried out by the Parish Council. A working group was set up and it was agreed to begin work on the new plan in March 2019. As with the previous plan, it was necessary to use three different forms of consultation with the community in order to develop a valid community led plan.

In September 2019, a community consultation was held in the Parish Hall led by Hellen Aitken of ACT and to which all members of the community and all community group leaders were individually invited. Attendees were asked to comment on various aspects of life in the parish and many ideas were received from this meeting.

The ideas from the meeting were put onto a display which was taken to various community events and the church, chapel and halls during the period from October 2019 to January 2020. The display was then left in the Parish Hall with comment forms to allow all of the hall's user groups to contribute.

Analysis of the information gained enabled the creation of a Questionnaire which was distributed by hand to every household in the Parish during August 2020 and was put online on the Parish website. There was very little response, and it was decided that the number of completed questionnaires would not be sufficient to develop a meaningful plan.

In April 2022, the old Parish Plan was updated and readopted to allow the Parish Council to continue with its work.

A new steering group was set up and an amended questionnaire was drawn up. This was delivered to individual households and collected again by Parish councillors in July 2022. 33% of the questionnaires (69) were completed and returned and the responses were collated during September.

The issues, concerns and wishes of respondents to the Public Consultations and Questionnaires have informed the creation of the Parish Plan contained herewith. All figures shown in the charts are expressed as a percentage of the total number of respondents to the questionnaire.

Following consultation with Cumberland County Council, ACT, Solway AONB, Cumbria Rural Housing Trust, the finalised Parish Plan was launched.

Survey Results and Analysis

Response rate:

Before going into the breakdown from the form it is wise bearing in mind the response rate for the questionnaire.

196 Questionnaires delivered to residents in the parish (1 per household.)
77 completed questionnaires.
39% response rate.

Overview of Community Satisfaction

Within the October 2022 Parish Questionnaire, residents were asked the following questions:

Q.1 "What do you like best about living in the parish?"

Most responders highlighted the quiet, rural nature of the parish, the quality of community life and of being known by their neighbours. They also appreciated the nearby facilities in Carlisle.

Q.2 "What do you like least about living in the Parish?"

The large majority of comments reflected concerns regarding traffic speeds and volumes, the poor state of pavements and verges and the inadequacy of the public transport system.

Q.3 "What do you think should be protected from change?"

The majority of responses related to the maintenance of the quiet, rural nature of the parish with 17% stating that the parish should not be overdeveloped. More specifically, some respondents said that signposts, old trees, historic buildings and the Pound should be protected.

Social, Culture, Religion and Heritage

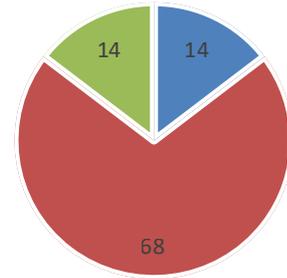
Q.4 asked respondents if they use the community buildings in the parish

-62% (39% of the parish) of respondents do use the community buildings, of which 68% use the hall, 14% use the church and 14% use the Chapel.

-14% of respondents do not use the community buildings

-24% did not answer the question

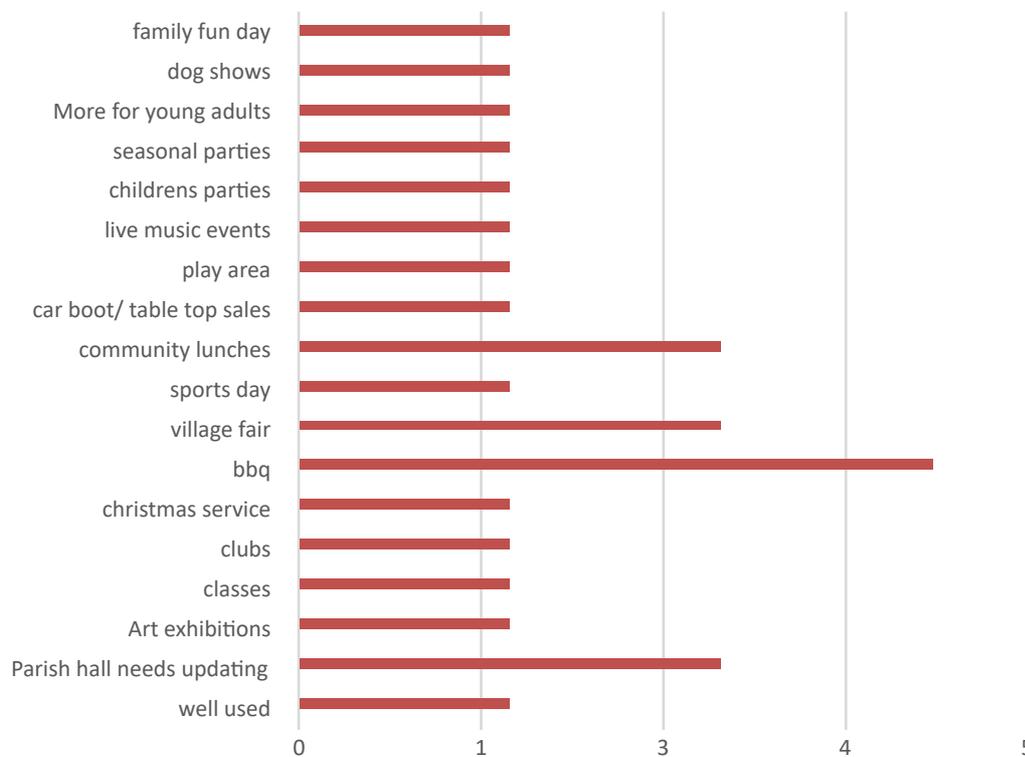
Comparative use of community buildings (Figure 1)



● St Marys ● Beaumont parish hall ● chapel

Q.5 Do you think community buildings could be better integrated into community use ?

Figure 2: Q5



There was a variety of suggestions for additional use of the halls. (Figure 2)

Q.6 Do we need more places/ routes to walk within the parish?

28% of respondents thought that we need more places to walk in the parish and 13% did not.

Q.7 Do you consider it important that the network of public footpaths and public areas be well maintained?

27% of respondents thought that it was important that public footpaths be well maintained.

Q.8 Should this be funded through the Parish Precept?

27% of respondents thought that this was a good use of the parish precept but 19% were either unsure or said no, many stating that this responsibility of the Cumberland Council through taxation.

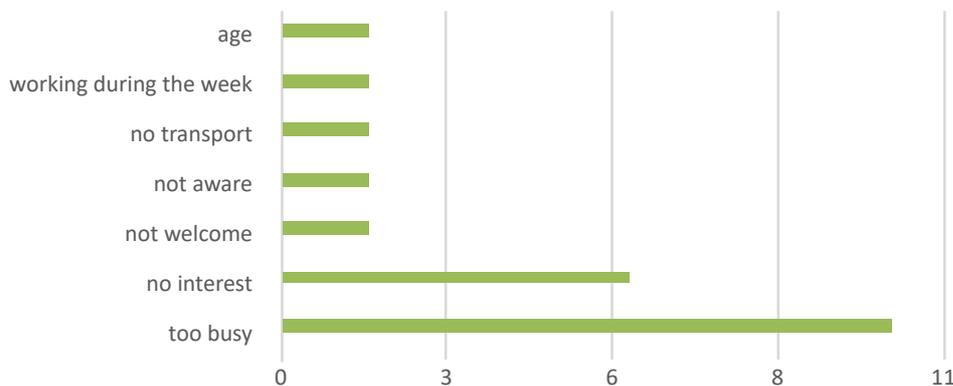
Q.9 Do you regularly support/attend any of the social opportunities that are advertised in the monthly Parish News and on the Parish Council website?

28% of respondents attend social activities, 6% seldom attend and 14% never attend any social activities in the parish.

Q.10 Why not?

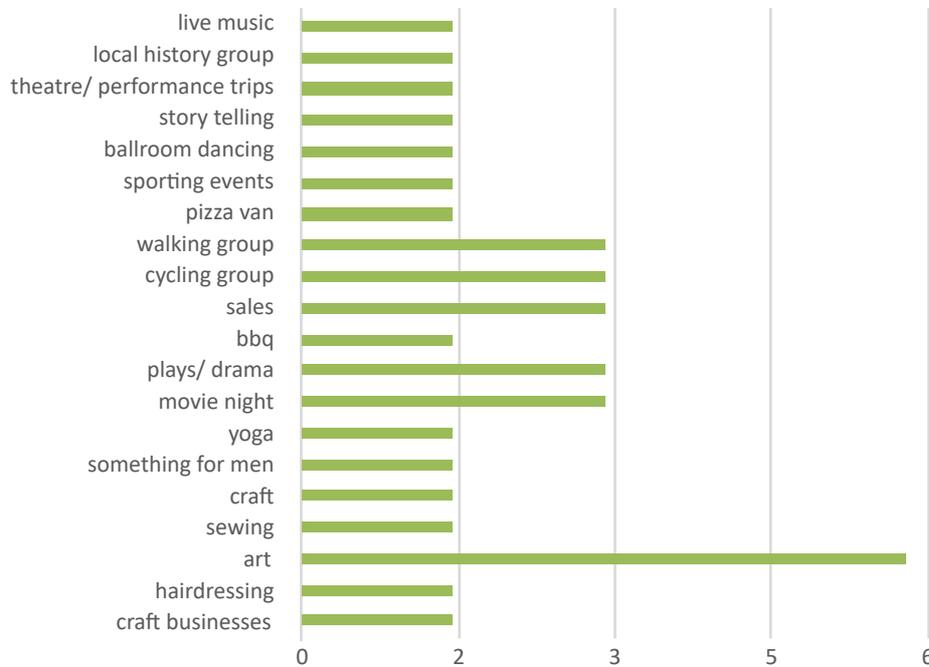
This question elicited a variety of responses (Figure 3) with the majority giving busyness as the main reason.

Figure 3: Q10 reasons for not attending social activities in the parish



Q.11 Can you suggest additional events/ activity groups which you would like to be involved with?(Figure 4)

Figure 4:Q11 Suggestions for additional events



Services

Q.12What services and amenities would you use or like to use in the parish for the following age groups?

Children 0-3

There were no specific requests. There are currently no specialist facilities in the Parish however Beaumont Parish Hall has spent money updating its play equipment to suit a large age range and there is a mother and toddler group at Burgh by Sands.

Children 4-11

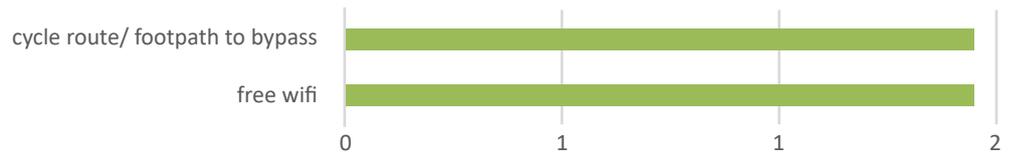
The main suggestions for primary aged children were family fun days and a play scheme, which is already established. (Figure 5)Teenagers

Figure 5: Services for children aged 4-11



There are no facilities specifically for teenagers in the parish. The suggestions received were for a cycle route to the bypass, providing more independence and for free wifi to be provided somewhere in the parish. (Figure 6)

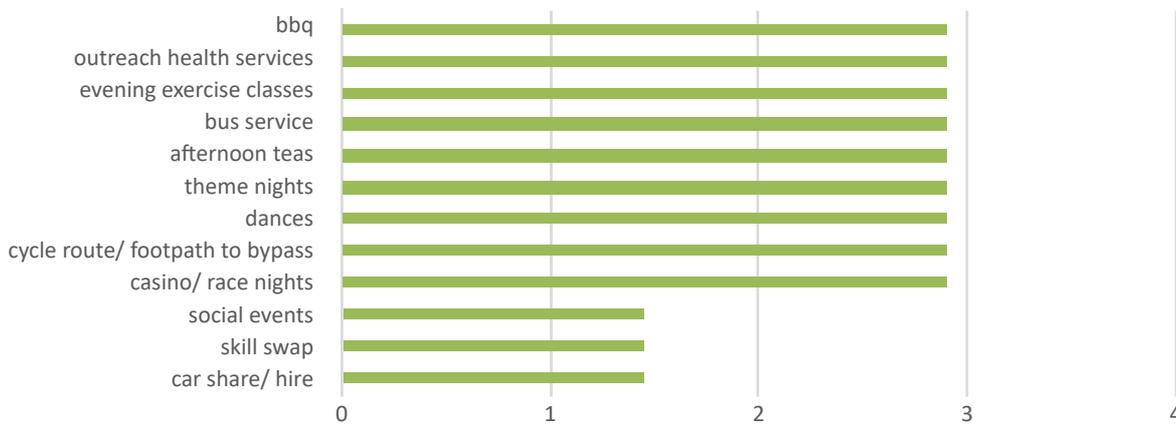
Figure 6: Services for teenagers



Adults

A variety of clubs and classes are held in the various social gathering places in the parish, including Women’s Institute, Flower Club, Yoga Classes, coffee mornings and lunches and afternoon teas. Many parishioners suggested that they would like more of these social/ community events.

Figure 7: Services for adults



Other popular suggestions related to community services and transport. (Figure 7)

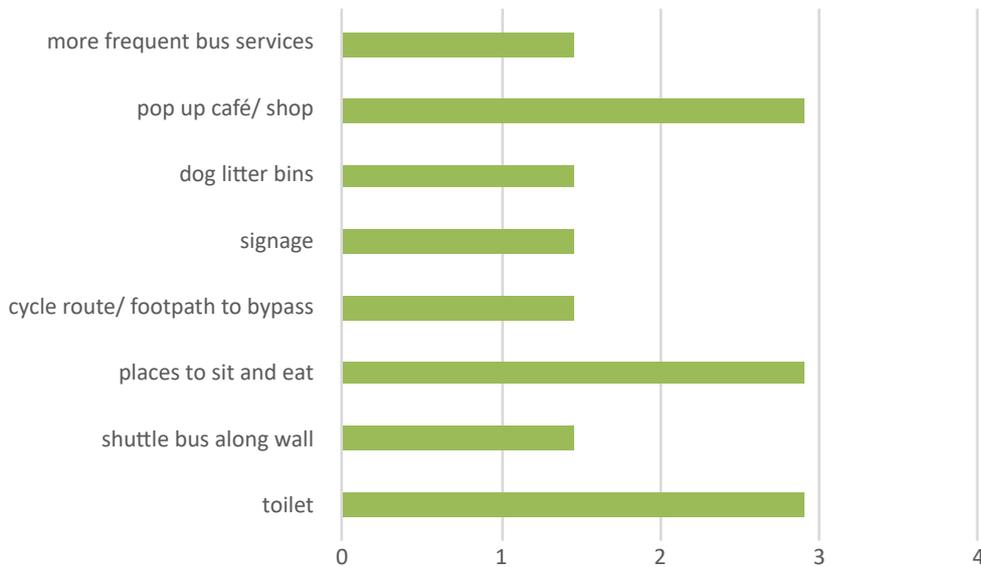
Senior citizens

Suggestions for older residents also focussed on social gatherings and transport

Tourists

Tourism is becoming an increasing feature of life in the parish and again, transport and accessibility featured amongst the suggestions along with provision for toilets, eating and facilities for tourists travelling with dogs.(Figure 8)

Figure 8. services for tourists



Q13 Do you think that we should have a defibrillator in the parish and if so, where? (Figures 9 and 10)

Figure 9: Q13
Should we have a defibrillator in the parish?

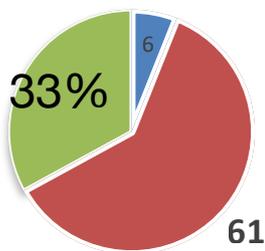
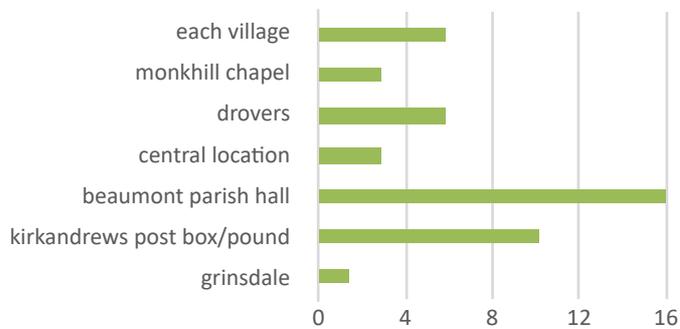


Figure 10: Q13 Where should it be located?



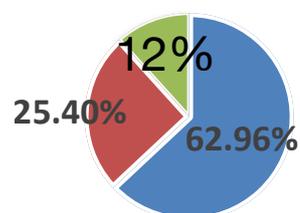
33% of residents were in favour of having a defibrillator in the parish, 6% opposed and 61% did not respond. Beaumont Parish Hall was the favoured location for a siting, although it appears that each village would like to have their own.

Q14 Do you use the local bus service and are you aware of the transport service provided by Rural Wheels?(Figure 11)

The Stagecoach 93/93A service from Carlisle to Bowness-on-Solway was to end on June 19th in 2022. This caused a public outcry, and as a result a limited service was extended until April 2023. There are no further proposals for provision of a bus service after that date.

Rural wheels provides a bookable transport service for residents of rural areas and could provide an alternative to bus or car journeys, but journeys would be chargeable.

Figure 11:
Q14 Do you use the local bus service?



Blue is no response Red is No Green is Yes

Q15 Do you or your family use the Parish hall play area? What would you like to see there?

The Parish Hall has a large playing field and a children’s playground. 26% of respondents use, have used, or are planning to use the playground. This facility is owned and maintained by the Parish Hall Committee with financial assistance from the Parish Council. In the 2013-2018 Parish Plan all the suggestions for developing the playground centred on improving the play equipment. This is currently nearing completion by the Parish Hall Trustees with financial assistance from the Parish Council.

Q16 Are you aware that the Parish council provides a library service at the Parish Hall? Is this something that you would make use of?

28% of respondents knew about this service and 23% did not. In terms of usage, 10% said that they would use this service and 12% said that they would not.

Housing and the built Environment

Q17 What, if any, development would you like to see in the parish? (Figure 12)

Figure 12: Q17 what development would you like to see in the parish?



The majority of comments related to housing development. The largest response came from residents who would like to see no further development in the parish (16%) although 7% would like some affordable housing within the parish. There were also suggestions that a few, small houses in keeping with the character of the area could be built. Other comments related to maintenance of roads, footpaths, a new parish hall and a play area in Monkhill.

Q18. How and where we can provide suitable and affordable homes for young people and older residents in the Parish? (Figure13)

Figure 13: Q18 How and where can we provide affordable housing in the parish?



The need for low-cost housing for both the young and the older generation is apparent, with 23% of respondents making comment on this question and some suggestions as to how this might be achieved. However, the feasibility of these would need further discussion.

The Parish and its surrounding area have a thriving network of local small businesses, often run by self-employed parishioners, providing a wide range of services and amenities. There is easy access to Carlisle and other towns which offer availability of larger scale business and services.

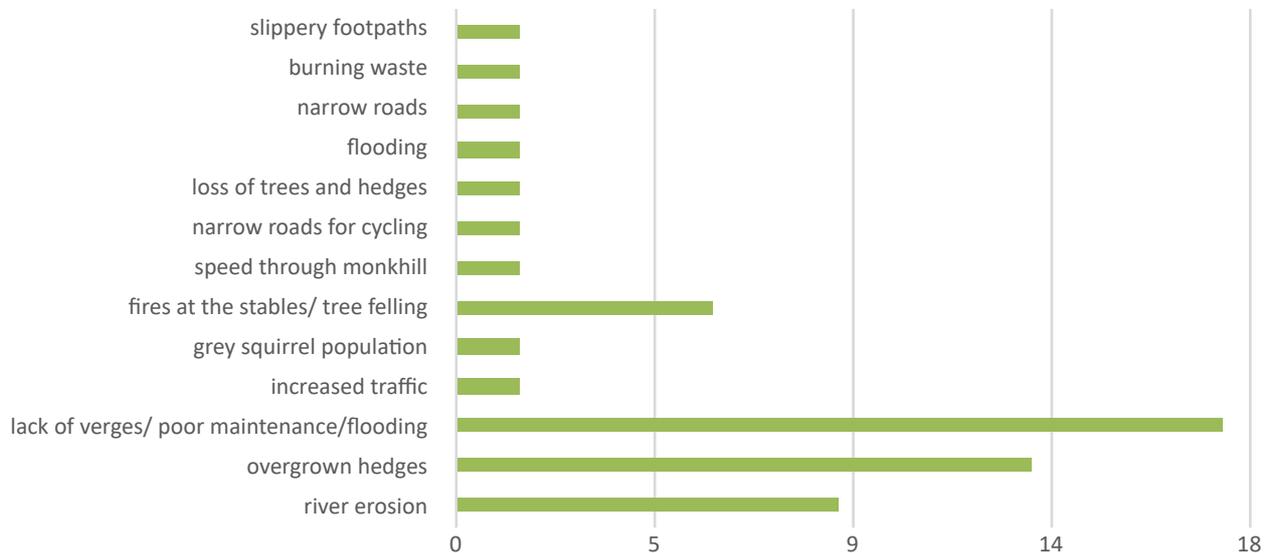
Q19 I asked, if you are (or would like to be) self-employed or run a small local business, what extra facilities would assist you? (e.g. office facilities in the parish hall)

There was very little response to this question, suggesting that the self-employed people in the parish are managing successfully with their existing facilities. There was one suggestion that a meeting room at the Parish Hall with wi-fi and access to catering might be a useful facility.

Natural Environment

Q20: What current environmental issues in the parish are you concerned about? Eg size of hedges, verges, flooding etc (Figure 14)

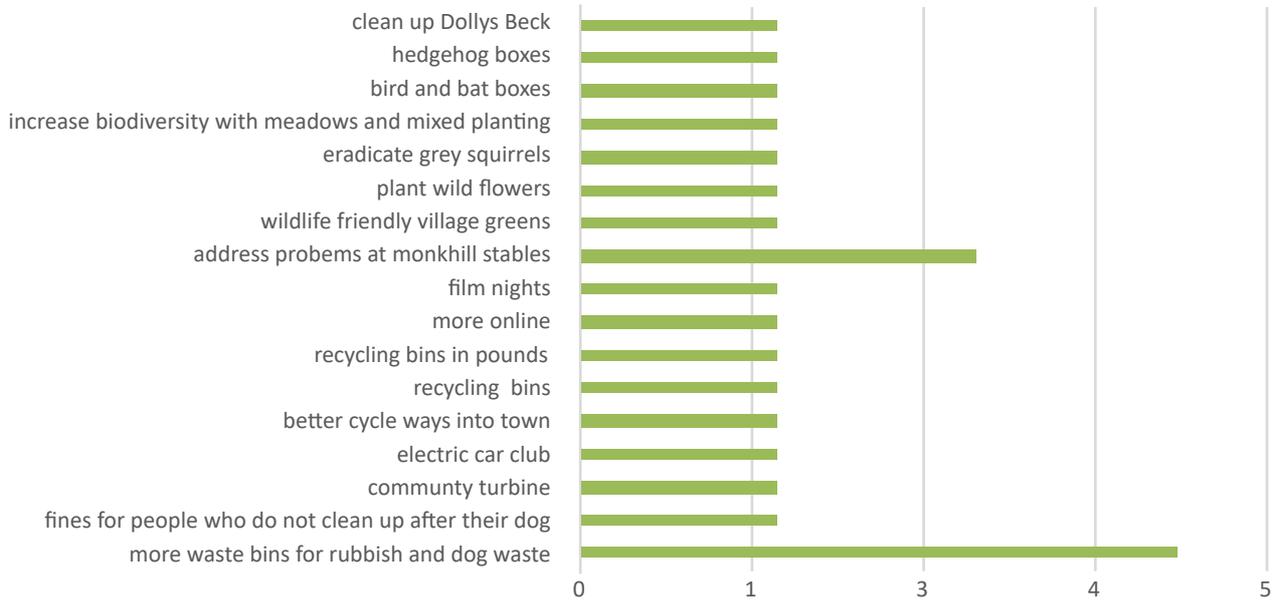
Figure 14:Q20 What environmental issues are you concerned about?



The majority of concerns relate to roads, verges and hedges with a significant number concerned about river erosion along the Eden and flooding generally.

Q21 How do you think Beaumont parish could be more environmentally friendly?(Figure 15)

Figure 15: Q21 how could the parish be more environmentally friendly?



The majority of responses to this question related to the provision of more suitable habitats for wild flora and fauna within the parish. There was also a substantial concern about provision of facilities for dog waste and general rubbish.

Q22. What, if any, environmental projects or improvements would you like to see in the Parish in the future? eg renewable energy sources. (Figure 16)

The majority of responses to this question related to the provision of renewable energy sources within the Parish (70%). Of these almost 30% suggested solar panels and almost 10% (of 77 households) thought that a wind turbine would be a good idea

Tourism

Q23. What do you think about the level of tourism in the parish? (Figure 17)

Figure 17: Q23 What do you think about the level of tourism in the Parish?

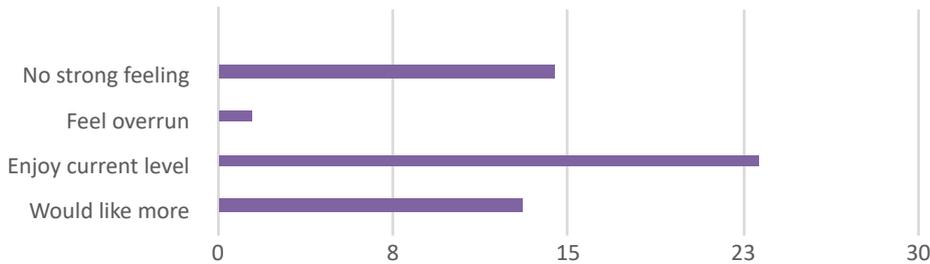
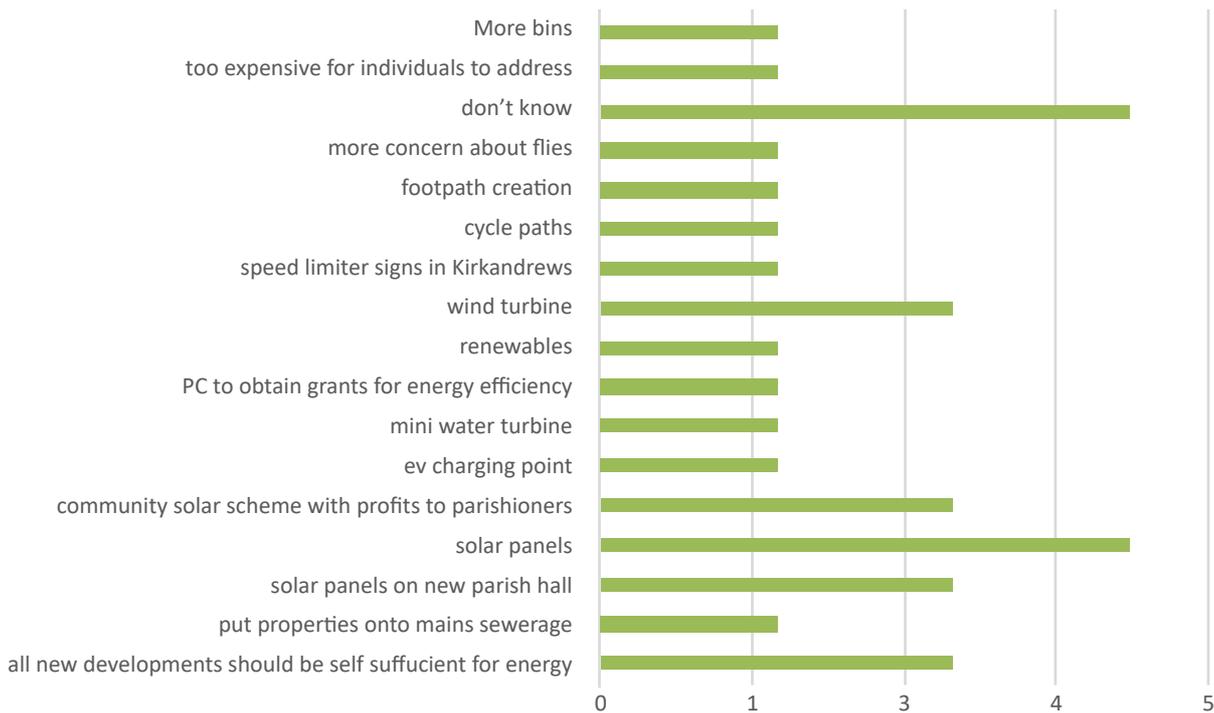


Figure 16: Q22 What environmental projects or improvements would you like to see in the Parish?

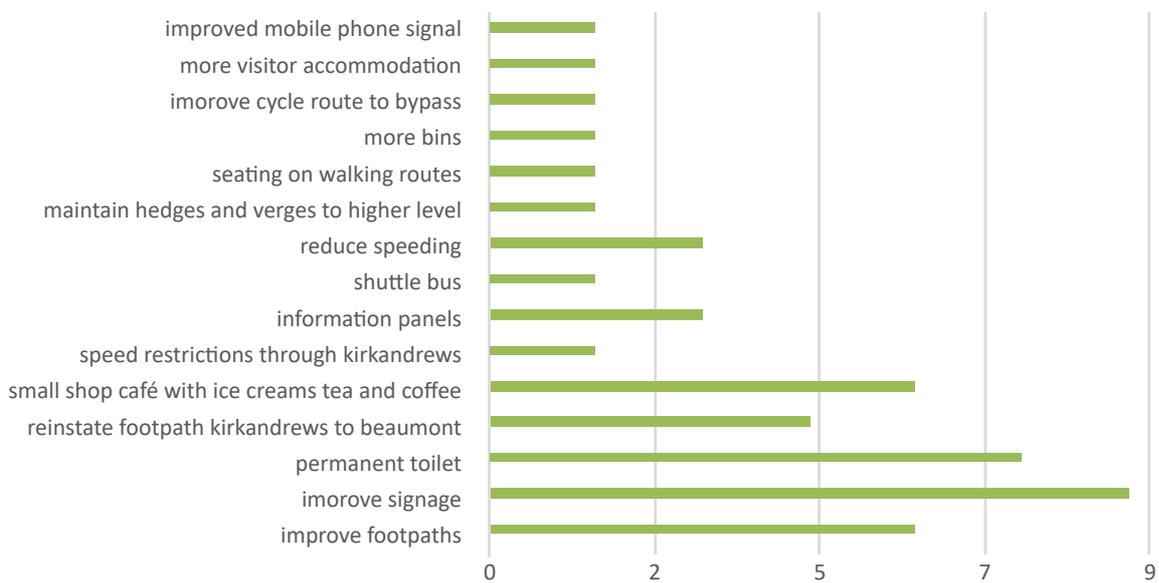


The majority of residents are happy with the current level of tourism or would like more.

Q.24 How we can improve the experience of tourists and visitors to the Parish? E.g. appearance, facilities, information. (Figure 18)

The parish is steeped in history, and we are surrounded by evidence of the lives of people from The Stone Age, the Romans, the Border Reivers, through to the Industrial Revolution. The area along the course of Hadrian’s Wall has, in recent years, attracted a greatly increasing number of visitors, either walking the route of Wall, or using the Hadrian’s Way National Cycle Trail. In addition, the course of the former canal from Port Carlisle to Carlisle (later adapted to form the track bed of the Carlisle to Silloth branch railway line) passes through the Parish, and there is still evidence of the industry and heritage buildings relating to it

Figure 18: Q24 How we can improve the experience of tourists and visitors to the Parish?



The most popular suggestions put forward were to improve the footpaths and signage, the provision of toilet facilities and provision of drinks and snacks. Several of the suggestions related to traffic speeds and road maintenance and more sustainable forms of transport.

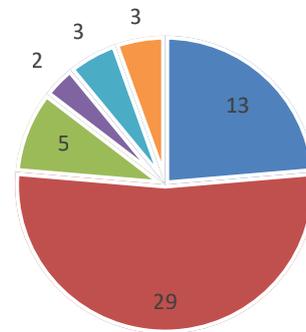
Roads

Q25. Some parishioners have expressed concern about road safety and maintenance in the parish. Are there any areas that you feel need special consideration? (Figure 19)

The Parish has direct road links into Carlisle and is connected to the north of the River Eden via the A689 Carlisle Northern Development Route. The Parish has a number of minor roads running through it; each carrying significant amounts of traffic to and from the adjacent villages and western reaches of the Solway plain. In recent years, the quantity and size of vehicles travelling from Carlisle via Grinsdale Bridge, Kirkandrews and Monkhill towards Burgh-by-Sands have increased markedly. Large lorries and farm vehicles regularly have difficulty passing a similar sized vehicle coming the other way. This situation usually results in one or both vehicles riding up the grass verge resulting in dirt/mud being spread on the road, increasing danger of skidding to other users, damage to the roadside environment and reducing road safety.

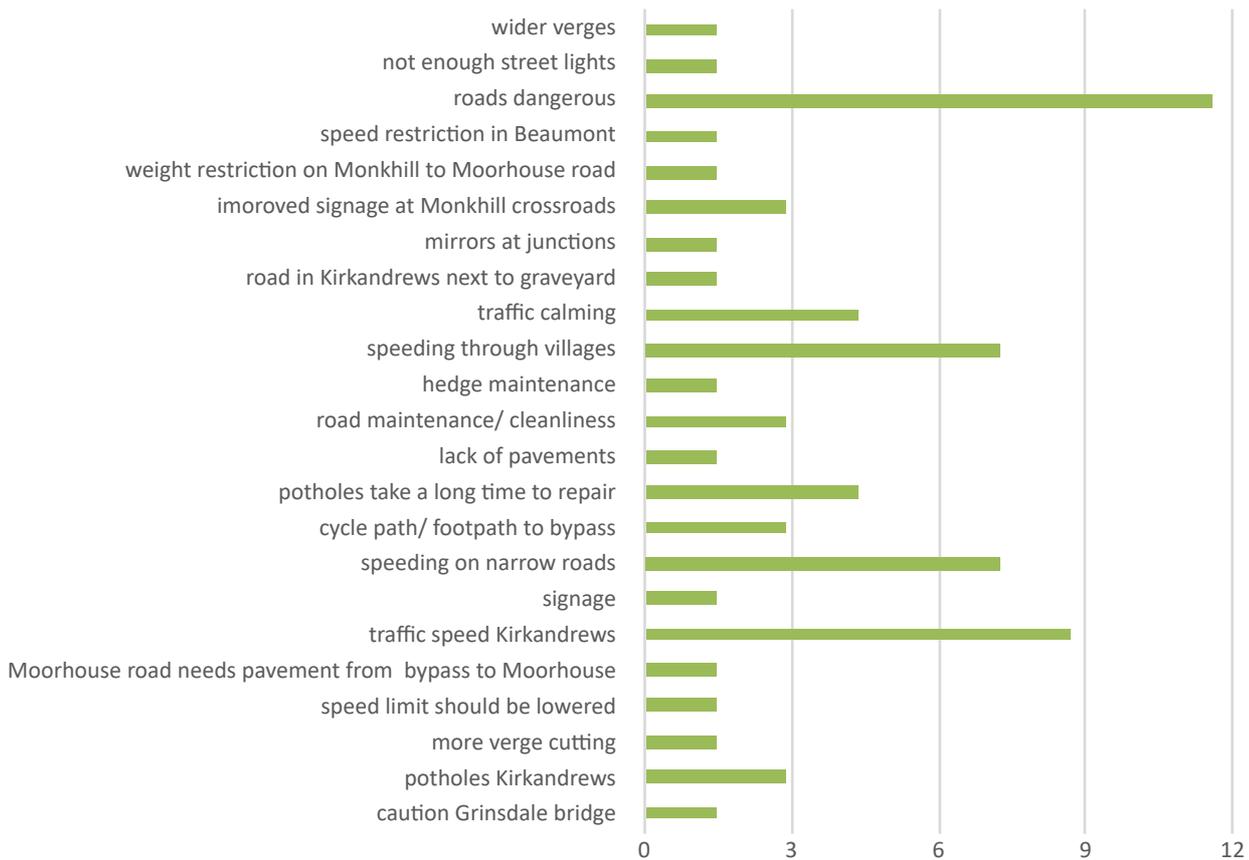
61% of respondents replied to this question and their primary concerns could be broadly categorized as shown below. Clearly the main concern in the parish is traffic speed followed by maintenance of roads and verges (Figure 20)

Figure 20: Main areas of concern about roads



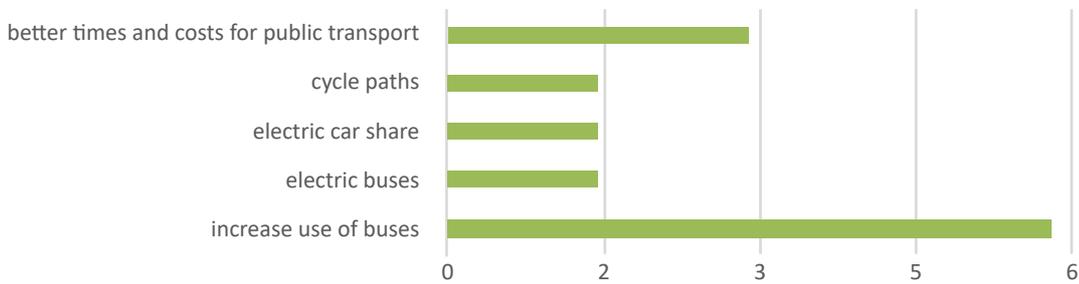
• Maintenance • Speed • signage • Pavements • Cycle path to bypass

Figure 19: Q24 Road safety and maintenance



Q26. How could we promote sustainable/low carbon transport? (Figure 21)

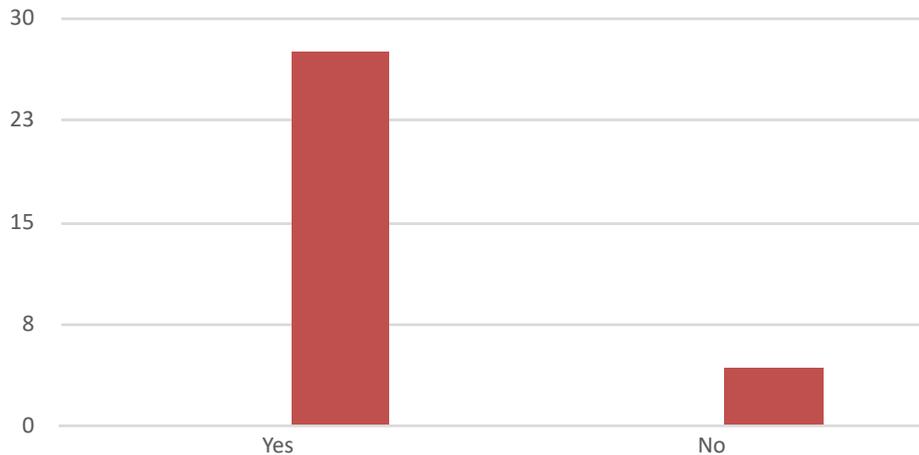
Figure 21: Q26 How to promote sustainable transport.



The most common response was to increase the use of buses, but this also appears to be linked with the need for a more considered timetable and a general reduction in fares.

Q27: Do you feel safe living in the parish (please give reasons for your answer)? (Figure 22)

Q27: Figure 22 Do you feel safe in the parish?



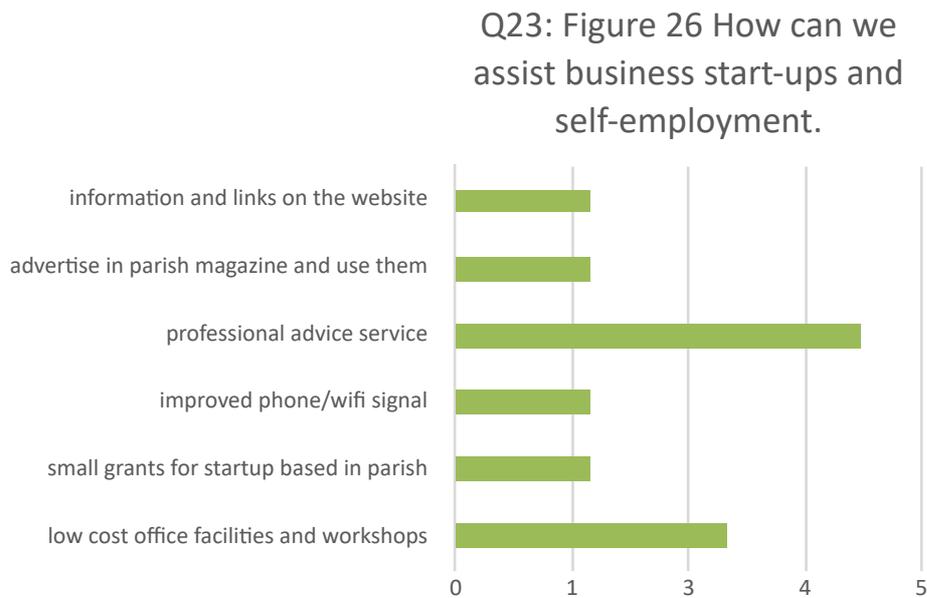
The majority of respondents feel safe living in the parish. Of those who said that they felt safe, 14% cited neighbours looking out for each other as their reason and 3% said that they felt that the parish has a low crime rate.

Economy

Q28 Is there anything in or about the parish that holds you back economically?

88% of respondents to this question did not feel that anything in the parish was holding them back economically. Those who did feel held back by the parish gave lack of regular buses, council tax and poor mobile/internet signal as reasons.

Q29: How can we assist parishioners with business start-ups or self-employment? (Figure 23)



Q30: Some parishioners have expressed an interest in having a local café/farm shop or craft workshops. Do you agree and, if so, would you be prepared to help make it happen? (Figure 24)

75% of respondents to this question thought that some type of café/ farm shop or craft workshops in the parish would be a good idea. 6 respondents thought that they would like to help with a project like this.



