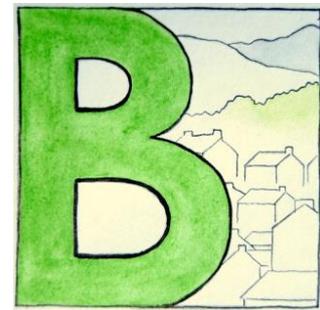


BROUGHTON

COMMUNITY PLAN 2021



In March 2021 a 5 year Review considered which issues from Broughton's 2016 Community Plan have been resolved and which remain outstanding. A public consultation then invited residents to identify priorities going forward.

This 2021 Plan now provides an update to the more comprehensive 2016 Plan. It outlines a number of current local concerns and suggests how these might be addressed – whether through community, parish or local authority action.

“Peaceful friendly area where people genuinely care about each other”

Local Amenities

Wilson Park remains regarded as an underutilised community asset. Suggestions - including from youngsters - on improving its amenities mention a climbing wall, a fitness circuit, a cycle track for beginners, picnic tables and pollinator friendly planting.

But the most popular idea is for a Skate Park. A voluntary Group, with support from parish councillors, aims to explore this and other possibilities further.

Several parents want the fence around the playground area to be reinstated for safety reasons and the Parish Council is considering this.

One resident proposes more benches along the railway track path to encourage fitness and promote wellbeing in older people. Following input from LDNPA and if landowner permission is given, this may become a community project.



Public Transport and Access

Comments reiterated dissatisfaction with public transport provision locally. The X7 bus service starting this summer will improve access to Millom and Barrow but the persistent lack of buses to Ulverston continues to disadvantage our community.

Responses point out limited access to Foxfield Station and offer solutions such as: a footway along Foxfield Road; Occupation Lane improved to provide a footpath and cycleway; bicycle lockers at the station; linking up bus and train services; using adjacent land for a car park.

Duddon Parish Council is in the process of registering Occupation Lane as a Public Right of Way (Bridleway) to clarify both user and owner rights and may also consider lobbying Cumbria Highways, SLDC and Network Rail to improve all types of access to the rail station. Cllr. Brereton continues working with public transport operators and Cumbria CC to deliver integrated transport services while Simon Fell MP and various bodies are ambitious to see connectivity of the Coastal Path and long-distance cycle routes enhanced in the Duddon Estuary area.

Road Safety

A lower 20 mph limit for Broughton was the preferred way to improve road safety in our 2015 parish-wide survey.

After 6 years of lobbying and fundraising, a 20 mph zone will be in place this autumn. Several respondents to the recent consultation expressed thanks for this success.

But there is still concern over road safety. Residents want better road signs and markings in town and mention improved maintenance of surfaces, different signage and wider sections on the A595 as possible ways to reduce traffic accidents and to discourage rat running through Broughton. Pedestrian safety on the outskirts of the town is also a worry.

The Safer Speeds Group intends to monitor for potential improvements to the 20 mph zone. Cllr. Brereton continues to lobby for road repairs, resurfacing, improvements to signage and speed calming measures on all the parish's road as well as for better enforcement of speed limits – in particular on the A595. The Parish Council, District Councillors and our MP will also raise road safety matters with Highways and Cumbria Police.





Environment

Much interest was expressed on specific issues affecting our local environment. Some respondents say verge cutting regimes, clearing of trees and shrubs and the tidying up of grassed areas are unwittingly harming wildlife in locations such as next to the A595 and along Foxfield Road.

Tidiness often means the loss of dense cover for nesting birds, the removal of seed heads from native plants and the destruction of habitats for invertebrates. It is suggested that a more sensitive approach would better enable wildlife to thrive. Other proposals include wildflowers at the entrances to Broughton, better control of invasive species, more people litter picking when out walking, reducing light pollution and residents leaving small “untidy” garden areas.

We suggest the Parish Council could liaise with Cumbria County Council on verge cutting timings and also incorporate local priorities into its upcoming Greening Campaign. Simon Fell MP is lobbying government on the local environment and there will be, for instance, pilot programmes for maintaining and establishing new hedgerows.

Young People

In 2015 our Young People's Questionnaire found that there isn't enough for teenagers to do locally. Poor public transport also means a reliance on adults to get to other towns.

Although our parish has groups and clubs for youngsters, secondary-aged kids mostly want somewhere to socialise and enjoy a range of activities. Suggestions this year include asking the Keppleway Centre

to provide physical activities and for local groups and individuals to offer youth-oriented talks and activities on subjects such as photography, art, ornithology and first aid.

The Parish Council plans to ask Broughton School pupils to identify suitable activities. Local interest groups and the Keppleway Centre may also wish to get involved in delivering a range of events.

Connectivity

Respondents agreed with our recent Review's observation that, despite some improvement since 2015, broadband speed and mobile coverage is still inadequate. This was clearly demonstrated during lockdown periods when households and businesses needed better connectivity. Our MP is working with governmental departments to improve rural broadband but some parishioners suggest a community led high speed broadband provision could provide a better solution.

Currently the non-profit BR4N scheme, which brings more affordable superfast broadband to rural areas, is gathering momentum in Cumbria.

Advocated by County Councillor Matt Brereton, if 100 homes and 50 businesses within Duddon Parish register an interest, sufficient funding could be unlocked to significantly improve both broadband speed and reach throughout our area.

Our Community

Local services and facilities play an essential role in sustaining our community. Sadly the past few years has seen the closure of Ulpha Post Office, Broughton's dental practice and the High Cross pub while only the intervention of CGP avoided the loss of Melville Tyson and The Bakery. Something like a Business & Tourism Chamber could promote Broughton and the area to improve viability of shops and businesses.

Concerns were once again expressed about the lack of manageable homes to enable older people to stay locally. Responses also say dedicated parking should be a pre-requisite for new buildings, these should be stone clad to be more in keeping and houses ought to be affordable. Our recommendation is that Planning Departments at SLDC and LDNPA should take more account of local requirements and settings.

Insufficient parking frustrated many respondents in 2015. Since then, parking provision has improved due to a section of the Auction Mart doubling up as a CGP staff car park. Nonetheless, it is still felt that lack of parking spaces in Broughton's centre puts off visitors and reduces custom for businesses. It is suggested that parking on bends should be discouraged and this will be discussed by the Safer Speeds Group with Highways.

Next Steps...

This Broughton Community Plan 2021 presents some of the issues affecting the lives of those living in Duddon Parish and has been produced to help inform decision-making amongst policy holders and to support local initiatives.

Other topics such as landscape protection, historic building conservation, footpath maintenance, local public health provision, World Heritage status, small business support, crime, emergency planning, flooding, climate change, education and employment opportunities are discussed either in the 2016 Broughton Community Plan or form part of local authority considerations.

The priorities highlighted in this Plan ought to be acted on as much as possible to ensure that our community remains vibrant and sustainable. Duddon Parish Council in conjunction with other bodies will take on tackling and implementing some of the identified actions. As a community we also have a collective responsibility, so each individual should consider making a contribution, however small, towards improving our lives going forward.

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