

Aspatria Rural Partnership Community Action Plan



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Foreword and Acknowledgements

Our Parish Council came together with eight others in early 2009 to explore how we can work in partnership to meet the challenges that we all face in our rural towns and villages. We formed the Aspatria Rural Partnership and decided to prepare this Community Action Plan. It aims to provide a strategic approach and to co-ordinate our actions through the delivery of an evidence-based action plan.

This is intentionally a succinct document, which belies the amount of work that went into its preparation. That work is captured in a background issues paper, which sets out the research and consultation that helped us define our objectives and actions.

We now want to implement our plan and we welcome your input. If we have missed something that is important to you, then let us know. If you have any suggestions on the actions or if there is anything you can do to help implement them, please do get in touch. This document will be regularly reviewed and your support is vital.

I would like to thank Jeff Downham from Action with Communities (ACT) in Cumbria for his support; and Shirley Muir for her continued hard work over the nine months in the preparation of this plan.

We are grateful for financial support to ACT, Allerdale Borough Council, Aspatria Charity Shop and Aspatria Neighbourhood Forum.

I would also like to thank my fellow members on the Aspatria Rural Partnership for their input into the plan's preparation and I look forward to working with you all to see through its implementation. This plan does not belong to the nine people who sat on the steering group, but to the whole community represented by the Parish Councils in the area.

Margaret Abbott

Chair of the Aspatria Rural Partnership

September 2011

If you would like more details or you want to comment or get involved, please get in touch with the Aspatria Rural Partnership:

Telephone Shirley Muir on 016973 20803 or email shirleymuir7@btinternet.com

Introduction

This is one of two documents that make up the Aspatria Rural Partnership Community Action Plan. It is the Action Plan that will be regularly monitored and updated.

The companion report is the 'Aspatria Rural Partnership Issues' document, which provides more detail on the background, research and consultation that led to this Action Plan.

Nine Parish Councils in and around Aspatria formed a constituted locality group in 2009 called the Aspatria Rural Partnership. The group identified some common issues where it was felt that working together would reap greater benefits than each Parish Council working in isolation. A decision was made to prepare a plan for the area to set out issues and actions and to begin working more closely with other agencies and organisations to deliver services for local communities. The group commissioned one of its members, Shirley Muir, to co-ordinate the preparation of this plan.

At the same time there was a movement toward locality working from national and local government, for example

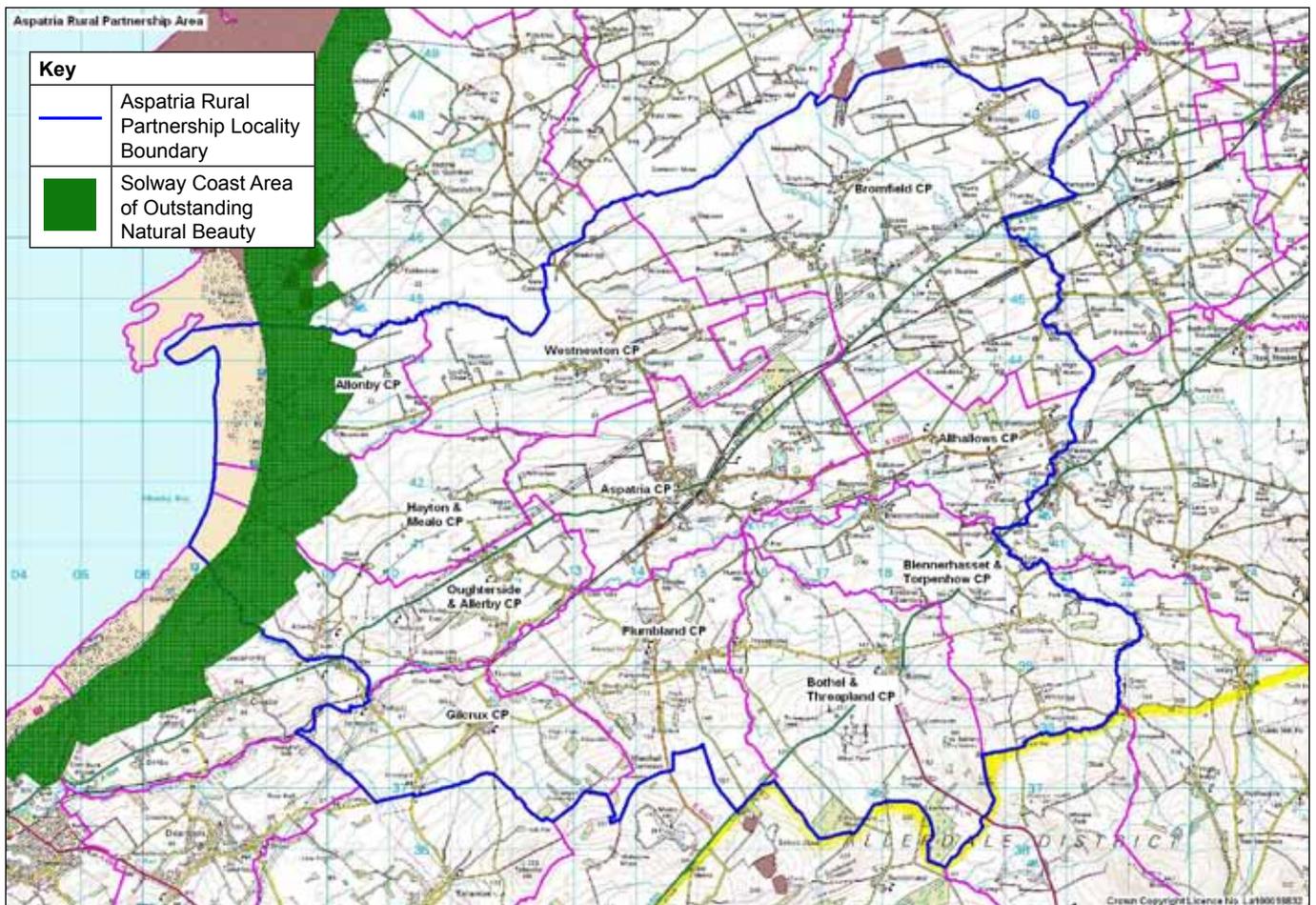
the 'Big Society' and the Localism Bill. The Localism Bill aims to devolve greater powers to local councils and neighbourhoods, giving communities more power over housing and planning decisions. In Cumbria, boundaries for locality working were proposed in 'Future Generation', a Strategy for Sustainable Communities in West Cumbria 2007 – 2027. This included North Allerdale, subdivided into Aspatria, Silloth and Wigton.

Allerdale Borough Council promotes locality working in its Council Plan for 2011 – 2015 and sets out its intentions to 'Introduce locality working principles in all operational services' and to 'Develop plans for all localities'. The Council Plan recognises the locality boundaries as set out in the Future Generation Strategy.

This Community Action Plan covers the parishes of the Aspatria Locality (west to east):

Allonby, Hayton & Mealo, Oughterside & Allerby, Gilcrux, Westnewton, Aspatria, Plumbland, Bromfield, All Hallows, Blennerhasset & Torpenhow and Bothel & Threapland (as shown on Map 1).

Map 1: The Aspatria Rural Partnership Locality (Map courtesy of Allerdale Borough Council)



How the Plan was written

The first step was to study all of the existing Parish Plans, which had been prepared in full consultation with the communities and therefore provided a good starting point to identify common issues. A list of policies shared by several Parish Councils was drawn up and used as a basis for further consultation. More issues were added following discussion at Parish Councils, Partnership meetings and workshops; then a questionnaire was used to gather wider views from the community. This was a sample survey, where each Parish Councillor from participating councils distributed and collected ten questionnaires. This aimed to produce a cross-section of the population and a good response rate. The results helped us to prioritise the issues and develop actions to address them.

At the same time, information on statistics and current policy was collated and analysed to give a picture of the area – its environment, economy and social issues. This highlighted where there is greatest need for improvement in the area. More detail on the background, research and consultation is given in the companion report 'Aspatria Rural Partnership Issues'.



The plan was written in partnership with other organisations working in the area. The opportunity was taken as part of the 'Aspatria Together We Can' week to consult local people and to follow up with a workshop to explore how organisations can work better together. This included representatives of Cumbria County Council, Allerdale Borough Council, Police, Fire and Rescue Service, National Health Service, Beacon Hill School, Home Housing, West Cumbria Carers, Age UK, Cumbria Mental Health Group, Aspatria Dreamscheme and Action with Communities in Cumbria.

Throughout the preparation of this plan, meetings have been held with officers from various departments of Allerdale Borough Council to ensure that the policies in our plan can integrate with theirs and to explore how we can work together to implement our actions.

The Aspatria Rural Partnership held regular meetings to review progress and direct the preparation of the plan; and representatives reported back to their own Parish Council.

The Town and Parish Councils were actively involved in the preparation of this plan and contributed financially towards its production, with the exception of Gilcrux and Bothel & Threapland Parish Councils. The population of the area covered is around 7,000, with 2,800 living in Aspatria and an average of 420 in each of the villages.

The Aims, Objectives and Actions in the following section evolved from the process described above. For further detail on how the issues under each objective were identified, please see the companion document, 'Aspatria Rural Partnership Issues'.



Aims and Objectives

Aim: Protect and Improve our Environment

The landscape of the Aspatria locality is attractive rolling farmland, bordered by the Lake District uplands to the south and stretching across the low plain of the Solway coast to the north. It lies between the Lake District National Park and the Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB); extending into the AONB at the coast at Allonby. Aspatria is the largest market town in the area; villages and hamlets are scattered across the rural area, most with a mix of traditional buildings and often with attractive Village Greens.

Promoting the Area

Issues

- The area is attractive and residents value its quiet rural character
- It does not appear to have a positive image outside the area
- There is potential to promote the area for small-scale tourism including walking, cycling, horse-riding and events
- More research and promotion of the archaeological heritage can be done

Actions

- Promote attractions, local food, accommodation and other businesses through the internet and printed materials
- Co-ordinate and market events across the area
- Link to major attractions such as Hadrian's Wall, Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Lake District National Park
- Research, improve and publicise walking, cycling and horse-riding routes across the area
- Research and promote archaeological sites and links between them

The key environmental issues identified in the research and consultation fall under four themes:

- 1 Promoting the area
- 2 Wind farms
- 3 Improving the local environment
- 4 Managing radioactive waste safely

The issues and proposed actions are as follows:

Wind Farms

Issues

- Landscape character guidelines state that wind farms and other energy infrastructure need to be carefully sited and designed to prevent this landscape type becoming an energy landscape
- There is a proliferation of wind farm developments and proposals in this area
- The cumulative effects of current and proposed wind farms have not been assessed
- A more co-ordinated and strategic approach is needed to the siting of wind farms
- The role of local democracy in the planning decision process has been undermined
- The potential for alternative forms of energy in the area has not been assessed

Actions

- Lobby Central Government regarding the disproportionate allocation of wind farms to this area, detracting from the landscape quality
- Gather evidence and establish expertise at a county, partnership and local level
- Work with Allerdale Borough Council planners on the Local Development Framework to include appropriate policies
- Establish the capacity for other alternative energy techniques and promote their development



Improving the Local Environment

Issues

- Protecting the local environment is a high priority for residents
- Dog fouling remains an issue
- Litter is a problem, particularly on roads into villages
- Despite better controls on the spreading of sewage sludge, people still noted a problem around Plumbland which appears to be under-reported

Actions

- Employ an environmental warden to work with residents to tackle local issues and to encourage a pro-active approach to caring for the local environment, building up volunteer skills and capacity
- Co-ordinate voluntary litter picks along key routes into villages
- Encourage people to report problems, including dog fouling, fly tipping, pollution, odours etc to the relevant authority

Managing Radioactive Waste Safely

Issues

- There is a proposal to build a nuclear waste repository in West Cumbria
- The 'Managing Radioactive Waste Safely' (MRWS) Partnership is consulting the community
- Some of the area is unsuitable geologically for an underground facility
- The above ground facility could still be sited in the area and there may be infrastructure and transport implications
- There could be positive impacts for the economy and community
- Whether the project goes ahead depends on community support

Actions

- Provide a forum to gather evidence and views on the MRWS proposal and encourage wider community involvement in the decision-making process

Aim: Support the Local Economy

The locality covers a large rural area with considerable variation in local economic indicators. For example, Aspatria and All Hallows show higher levels of income deprivation than the Cumbrian average, while Blennerhasset and Torpenhow appear to be relatively affluent; yet Blennerhasset and All Hallows are neighbouring parishes. Aspatria provides a hub for the surrounding rural area and is particularly well used for access to doctors, back-up shopping and the post office. However, there is competition for work and services in nearby larger towns such as Cockermouth, Workington and Carlisle.

The effects of changes in the economy are often felt harder in rural areas, such as the impact of rising fuel prices. Rural isolation leads to problems in accessing services.

The key economic issues identified in the research and consultation fall under the headings of industry, broadband and shopping.

Industry

Issues

- Aspatria provides local employment for the town and nearby villages
- Reliance on a few major employers increases the risk of major losses
- More small-scale industry at Aspatria could increase employment without threatening the environment
- Agriculture is a key employer in the area, though numbers employed are low and farmers often rely on other income from diversification
- Quarries in and near the area provide some local employment but with accompanying transport issues
- The percentage of people receiving workless benefits is higher than the Cumbrian average in Aspatria and All Hallows
- Targeting business and job creation at Aspatria would benefit the town and surrounding area; and help to maintain its role as a local service centre

Actions

- Increase the use of the business parks at Aspatria and Fletchertown
- Promote new small businesses and home-based working

Broadband

Issues

- Cumbria County Council (CCC) is preparing a county-wide plan called 'Connecting Cumbria'
- Community-led solutions are encouraged and may be funded
- More information on current broadband speeds and future options is needed at a local settlement level
- Parish Champions should be appointed
- Parish Champions, working with CCC and Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC), will identify which parishes need to work together

Actions

- Improve access to Superfast Broadband

Shopping

Issues

- Aspatria does not have a large supermarket or many speciality shops
- Its linear nature and busy main road does not lend itself to an amenable town centre experience
- It is well-used for back-up shopping by people from surrounding villages
- It provides the main access to doctors for people in the locality
- Most of the villages no longer have shops or post offices
- It is estimated that more than one in ten main grocery shops are done online
- Local people view the viability of local shops as an important issue
- There is an opportunity to work with a new project called Cumbria Food Direct to support the production and sale of local food

Actions

- Promote shops in Aspatria
- Promote shops in the villages
- Support the production and sale of local food

Aim: Increase the Availability of Affordable Housing

There is a need to increase the availability of affordable housing in the locality for a number of reasons. The need varies from parish to parish and the issues are different in Aspatria than in the rural area.

There are several prominent derelict buildings in the area, which detract from its image. They include empty homes, commercial properties and untidy sites, such as building or conversions where work has stopped for a long period.

Affordable Housing

Issues

- There is an increasing lack of affordable housing in West Cumbria especially for first time buyers
- It has become harder for first time buyers to afford a deposit, so there is an increased demand for rented property
- The number of people aged over 60 is increasing rapidly
- In the rural area, there is a risk that young people can not afford to buy or rent houses in their village and this is compounded by other rural economic factors, such as the lack of employment, public transport and other services
- All of the parishes except Aspatria fall below the Cumbrian average for the percentage of social rented housing
- Individual villages demonstrated a need for affordable housing in the housing needs surveys. In total, this shows a need across the area in particular for:
 - To rent: 43 two-bedroom houses or flats, 16 three-bedroom houses, 5 two-bedroom bungalows or ground floor flats, and 2 five-bedroom houses
 - To buy: 9 two-bedroom houses or flats and 2 three-bedroom houses
- The need varies from parish to parish and the housing needs survey information can help to allocate land or buildings as appropriate and as opportunities arise
- There does not appear to be a great need for additional affordable housing in Aspatria identified in the Housing Needs Survey
- There are potential development sites at Aspatria. In the long-term, an increase in the population would help to maintain the viability of the town
- There is a localised problem in Aspatria of vacant properties and the threat of decline of specific areas within the town.

Actions

- Support the development of new housing at Aspatria with a proportion of affordable housing, and additional homes in rural areas on a small scale



Derelict Buildings

Issues

- Derelict buildings detract from the area's image and may promote further vandalism or neglect
- There are different types of derelict properties which are dealt with in different ways
- Allerdale Borough Council is preparing an Empty Homes Strategy that will identify where resources will be most effective in tackling empty houses and flats
- 'Untidy sites' and commercial properties can be tackled through the Town and Country Planning Act and Section 79 of the Building Act 1984
- There are empty homes and prominent derelict commercial properties in Aspatria, Torpenhow, Blennerhasset, Prospect and Allerby

Actions

- Bring empty and derelict buildings back into use, including homes and commercial properties



Aim: Promote Safer & Stronger Communities

Statistics on crime and anti-social behaviour are average in Aspatria and low or very low for the surrounding rural area. Local community priorities identified in 'Safer Stronger Communities' meetings in Aspatria often centre on speeding traffic.

Village Halls used to play an important role in rural social life but this has changed, often leaving halls underused. They can still act as an important hub for villages, perhaps in the delivery of local services, and there is enthusiasm locally for their continued and increased usage.

The value of community involvement and local democracy is recognised in the 'Big Society' and opportunities for community empowerment are offered through the Localism Bill. Faith in local democracy is low in the locality and many Parish Councils in the area did not have enough candidates and need to co-opt members. We hope that this plan will help to engender interest and support for local activities.

Safer Communities

Issues

- Crime figures are low for the rural area, which is valued by local residents
- Crime figures in Aspatria are average, and community priorities often centre on speeding traffic
- Aspatria Neighbourhood Watch is successfully operating in the town
- Community involvement and empowerment is being encouraged through legislation and policy
- Village Halls provide an important focus for local communities

Actions

- Expand the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme where there is demand, including Farm Watch
- Host an event for Village Hall Committees to explore benefits of working together
- Promote events in Village Halls
- Promote examples of good practice in each parish on the internet and in newsletters
- Explore how to engage the wider community in the Aspatria Rural Partnership

It is important that the work of the Aspatria Rural Partnership moves beyond the preparation of this plan to its implementation. This requires resources to co-ordinate the work as well as a commitment from partners to devote staff time and, where appropriate other resources to complete actions.

Most of the Parish Plans included proposals to produce a regular newsletter and maintain a website. It is important for the Partnership to communicate between parishes and with the community.

The Localism Bill aims to devolve greater powers to local councils and neighbourhoods, giving communities more power over housing and planning decisions. The Bill contains a number of provisions that will affect Parish Councils, including to:

- Give new powers to local councils (and others) to buy community assets and to provide services by, or on behalf of, principal local authorities;
- Permit changes to legislation relating to parish polls
- Introduce Neighbourhood Plans to enable communities to permit development – in full or in outline – without the need for planning applications.
- The Community Right to Build will give local communities the power to take forward development in their area without the need to apply for planning permission, subject to meeting certain safeguards and securing 50 per cent support (a simple majority) of the community through a referendum.

Partnership Working

Issues

- The Aspatria Rural Partnership needs resources to implement this plan
- The Partnership is well placed to work with other organisations to deliver local services
- The Partnership can prepare itself for the changes to come so that it is ready to take advantage of new powers where appropriate

Actions

- Secure funding to continue the work of the co-ordinator
- Build on our partnership experience and develop ways of better working together
- Monitor and review this Action Plan
- Maintain good communications within and beyond the partnership
- Explore opportunities for devolvement of some services from Cumbria County Council and Allerdale District Council
- Prepare for the introduction of the Localism Bill



Aim: Improve Access to Health and Leisure

Life expectancy for men and women in Allerdale is still lower than the England and Wales average figure. Locally there is variation in health statistics, such as the percentage of people with a limiting long-term illness, which reflects a similar pattern to other indices of deprivation.

Aspatria provides the main access to doctors' surgeries. One of the issues identified by local National Health representatives was that patient transport to hospitals was limited to those with a medical need in recent budget cuts.

The community survey shows that local people consider the provision of activities for young people and support for older people to be important issues. There is an opportunity to work with Age UK North West to promote and extend the work of Village Agents in the area.

More information is needed on what is currently available for young people and where there are gaps. Some co-ordination has already taken place between organisations providing activities for young people as a result of this action plan. Dreamscheme provides a hub of activity for young people and children in Aspatria and has the potential for outreach activities into the villages.

Health and Leisure

Issues

- Health is linked to economic factors and there is local variation
- Aspatria is the focus for healthcare in the locality
- Recent cuts to patient transport may lead to pressure on community transport schemes
- Local people consider both activities for young people and support for older people to be priority issues
- There is an opportunity to work with AGE UK North West to co-ordinate support for older people, particularly through the Village Agent scheme
- More activities are needed for young people
- Dreamscheme can provide some outreach activities through its current programme

Actions

- Contribute a democratic input to the delivery of local health services
- Aim to have Village Agents that cover all relevant activities and age groups
- Provide activities for young people

Aim: Improve Roads and Transport in the Area

The Aspatria Rural Partnership has worked very closely with Cumbria County Council to prepare a Roads and Transport Plan for the area. The area covered by the Roads and Transport Plan extends into the adjacent parishes of Holme St Cuthbert and Ireby & Uldale because they share some of the same issues. The Roads and Transport Plan is a separate document and regularly reviewed with Cumbria County Council. It includes actions against each of the following issues for specific locations.

Issues identified by residents in the community survey fed into the Roads and Transport Plan. It is worth noting that in the survey, flooding at Blennerhasset and Baggrow was raised as an issue by 50% of respondents there under the transport question, and in an earlier open question 'what don't you like about living here' it got the highest score for an unprompted issue.

Roads and Transport

Issues

- Road Safety Issues - Road geometry
- Road Safety Issues - Driver behaviour
- Environmental Issues - Erosion
- Environmental Issues - Flood Management
- Social or Access Issues - Public Transport
- Rights of Way
- School Travel Plans

Actions

The Roads and Transport Plan Actions are included in the table in this Community Action Plan as they appeared in September 2011. The full and updated Roads and Transport Plan is available from Aspatria Rural Partnership or Cumbria County Council.

Aspatria Rural Partnership Community Action Plan

Actions	First Steps	Partners	Priority	Time scale
Aim: Protect and Improve our Environment				
Objective: Promote the Area				
Promote attractions, local food, accommodation and other businesses through the internet and printed materials	Get advice and support from partners Research potential funders, sponsors and advertisers	West / Cumbria Tourism Allerdale BC Solway AONB Local businesses	High	1yr
Co-ordinate and market events across the area	Consider best options for publicising on websites and printed material Develop a marketing strategy		High	1yr
Link to major attractions such as Hadrian's Wall, Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Lake District National Park	Identify opportunities for joint marketing	Hadrian's Wall Partnership, Solway AONB	High	2yrs
Research, improve and publicise walking, cycling and horse-riding routes across the area	Identify routes and improvements needed	Cumbria County Council	High	2yrs
Research and promote archaeological sites and links between them	Identify key locations and relevant interest groups	Grampus Heritage and Training Cumbria CC	Medium	2-3yrs
Objective: Develop a strategic approach to the siting of wind farms				
Lobby Central Government regarding the disproportionate allocation of wind farms to this area, detracting from the landscape quality	Set up meeting with MP Identify further action	Cumbria CC, Allerdale BC, MP	High	2 months
Gather evidence and establish expertise at a county, partnership and local level	Lobby for a study to establish the cumulative effect of wind farms in the area Prepare contact list of people with knowledge and experience and arrange a forum	Cumbria CC, Parish Councils Action groups	High	6 months
Work with Allerdale Borough Council planners on the Local Development Framework to include appropriate policies	Consult Planning Policy Group Invite planners to ARP meeting	Allerdale BC	High	6 months
Establish the capacity for all other alternative energy techniques and promote their development	Carry out a study to identify potential for renewable energy in the area Promote events on renewable energy with Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAFS)	Cumbria CC, CAFS, PCs	Medium	2 yrs
Objective: Improve the environment in and around the town and villages				
Employ an environmental warden to work with residents to tackle local issues and to encourage a pro-active approach to caring for the local environment, building up volunteer skills and capacity	Explore costs and potential funding sources for environmental warden	Allerdale BC	High	1-2yrs
Co-ordinate voluntary litter picks along key routes into villages	Contact Mike Phillips at Tidy Britain Group	Parish Councils	Low	2 yrs
Encourage people to report problems, including dog fouling, fly tipping, pollution, odours etc to the relevant authority	Incorporate information on reporting in ARP update to be distributed via parish newsletters Co-ordinate education campaign to deter dog fouling and encourage reporting	Parish Councils	Medium	1yr
Objective: Encourage community involvement in the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely consultation				
Provide a forum to gather evidence and views on the MRWS proposal and encourage wider community involvement in the decision-making process	Contact MRWS to plan events Parish Councils to highlight the issue to their communities and encourage them to express their views	MRWS, Parish Councils, CALC	Medium	6 months

Actions	First Steps	Partners	Priority	Time scale
Aim: Support the local economy				
Objective: Promote small-scale industry and business				
Increase the use of the business parks at Aspatria and Fletchertown	Act as a pressure group to direct small businesses to the rural area Contact Allerdale BC	Allerdale BC, WCDA	Medium	2-3yrs
Promote new small businesses and home-based working	Work with partners to promote small businesses in the rural area Promote small businesses in parish newsletters	WISE WCDA Women's networks	Medium	2-3yrs
Improve access to superfast broadband	Each parish council and ARP to appoint a broadband champion to work with Cumbria County Council and CALC Identify solutions between relevant parishes Investigate training and job creation opportunities for superfast broadband installation	Parish Councils Cumbria CC, CALC	High	1yr
Objective: Promote the benefits of shopping locally				
Promote shops in Aspatria	Lobby planners and economic development Investigate community project with Co-op	Allerdale BC Co-op	Medium	3yrs
Promote shops in the villages	Explore the potential for community shops where appropriate	Parish Councils	Low	3yrs
Support the production and sale of local food	Explore how ARP and the PCs can promote local food sales Investigate possibility of a farmers' market	Cumbria Food Direct Farmers	Medium	3yrs

Actions	First Steps	Partners	Priority	Time scale
Aim: Increase the availability of affordable housing				
Objective: Encourage the provision of affordable housing to rent and to buy				
Support the development of new housing at Aspatria with a proportion of affordable housing, and additional homes in rural areas on a small scale	Work with partners to provide affordable housing in appropriate places according to housing needs surveys and the Local Development Framework	Allerdale BC Housing Associations	Medium	5yrs
Objective: Encourage the restoration and use of derelict buildings				
Bring empty and derelict buildings back into use, including homes and commercial properties	Work with ABC on Empty Homes Strategy Identify problem sites Work with appropriate partners	Allerdale BC PCs	High	1-5yrs

Actions	First Steps	Partners	Priority	Time scale
Aim: Promote safer and stronger communities				
Objective: Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour				
Expand the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme where there is demand, including Farm Watch	Raise awareness of scheme through newsletter update Encourage membership, including on-line	Police NW co-ordinator	Low	3yrs
Objective: Co-ordinate and promote events in village halls and other community facilities				
Host an event for Village Hall Committees to explore benefits of working together	Explore potential benefits including insurance, utilities, events etc	ACT, Village Hall Committees	High	6 months
Promote events in Village Halls	Consider options, e.g. websites	Village Hall Committees	Medium	2yrs
Objective: Encourage community involvement				
Promote examples of good practice in each parish on the internet and in newsletters	ARP to produce regular update for Parish Newsletters	Parish Councils, community groups	Medium	1yr
Explore how to engage the wider community in the Aspatria Rural Partnership	Annual General Meeting Explore membership options	ACT	Medium	6 months
Objective: Strengthen the role of the Aspatria Rural Partnership				
Secure funding to continue the work of the co-ordinator	Explore funding opportunities and submit applications	ARP, ACT, CVS, CALC	High	6 months
Build on our partnership experience and develop ways of better working together	Assess where we are working effectively and explore new ways of working together and with partners Identify opportunities and issues where partnership working is of most benefit	ARP and Partners	High	1-5yrs
Monitor and review this Community Action Plan	Review implementation of the plan every 6 months	ARP and Partners	High	1-5yrs
Maintain good communications within and beyond the partnership	Explore with PCs a joint website Produce regular update to include in PC newsletters	ARP, PCs	High	1-5yrs
Explore opportunities for devolvement of some services from Cumbria County Council and Allerdale District Council	Consult with Cumbria County Council and Allerdale District Council	CCC, ABC, CALC	High	1-3yrs
Prepare for the introduction of the Localism Bill	Raise awareness of the opportunities that the Localism Bill provides Ensure we have processes in place	ARP, CALC, ACT	High	1-2yrs

Actions	First Steps	Partners	Priority	Time scale
Aim: Improve access to health and leisure				
Objective: Maintain good access to local health services				
Contribute a democratic input to the delivery of local health services	Work with the Primary Care Trust	PCT	Medium	1-5yrs
Objective: Support older people in accessing services, such as shops, doctors and social networks				
Aim to have Village Agents that cover all relevant activities and age groups	Work with Age UK on Village Agent scheme to develop and expand the role	Age UK, RDPE	Medium	1-2yrs
Objective: Co-ordinate activities and events for younger people				
Provide activities for young people	Work with Dreamscheme to continue activities in Aspatria Explore possibilities to develop children's rural outreach project	Dreamscheme Young Cumbria Mobex	Medium	1-3yrs

Location	Action	Partners	Priority	Time scale
Aim: Improve roads and transport in the area				
Objective: Investigate and improve the safety of roads and junction at priority locations as identified				
B5301 from Silloth to A595	Consider the route for inclusion in future Route Accident Study programmes	Cumbria County Council (CCC)	High	5 years
Bends at Fletchertown	Carry out traffic surveys in Fletchertown using carriageway counters	CCC	High	3 months
Junction at A595 Cockbridge Road end	Revisit Cockbridge Road end to look at signage	CCC	Medium	1 year
Two junctions on the A595 at Bothel Junction on the A595 at Moota	Accident history has been reviewed. Implement recommendations from the A595 accident study Discuss with Connect Roads	CCC Connect Roads	Medium	1 year
Crossroads in Prospect	Recent accident figures have been reviewed. Carry out further investigation, including a wet skid workshop. Liaise with Connect Roads	CCC Connect Roads	High	6 months
Hidden dips on the Prospect to Westmoor end road	Further investigation and discussion with Connect Roads	CCC Connect roads	Medium	1 year
Junction at Queen Street/Harriston Road	Improvements impractical and accident history low. Monitor situation	CCC	Low	3 years
Pedestrian safety at above junction, especially for schoolchildren	Carry out further assessment for pedestrian crossing Investigate flashing lights Revisit School Travel Plan	CCC	High	6 months
Junction at Gowrie crossroads	Accident history favourable. Continue to monitor	CCC	Low	3 years
Footpath on road from Aspatria to Harriston	Cut back vegetation	CCC	Medium	6 months
B5299 Aspatria to Mealsgate	Carry out traffic surveys in Fletchertown using carriageway counters	CCC	High	3 months
Footpath along the B5299 Aspatria to Mealsgate	Investigate the demand for and viability of creating a new footpath/bridleway	CCC Sustrans	Low	3 years
Footpath from Pinegrove to Allhallows	Investigate the creation of a new footpath/bridleway	CCC Sustrans	Medium	3 years

Location	Action	Partners	Priority	Time scale
Objective: Improve driver behaviour at priority locations				
Speeding traffic at Baggrow, Uldale Brow and Prospect	Speed limit has been introduced at Baggrow Carry out further investigation during term time Review accident statistics for Uldale Brow	CCC	Medium	2 years
Indiscriminate parking at Blennerhasset School	Review School Travel Plan Car park proposed by Blennerhasset Parish Council for school staff	CCC Parish Council	Medium	1 year
Speeding traffic near Bothel School	Site investigations complete Review School Travel Plan Lay 'Keep Clear' markings outside the school and speed/traffic counters	CCC Police	Medium	1 year
Speeding traffic in Oughterside	Consider including in the Prospect 40mph speed limit through Community Travel Plan	CCC Police	Medium	1 year
Speeding on B5301 at Plumbland, Threapland and Parsonby (extend 30mph limit to all of roads through villages) and through Westnetwon	Investigate and discuss with Connect Roads	CCC Police Connect Roads	Medium	1 year
Speeding traffic in Aspatria	Police surveys complete Number of timber wagons is increasing Discuss with Connect Roads	CCC Police Connect Roads	Medium	1 year
Vehicles entering and leaving Brandraw car park in Aspatria	No serious issues identified during site visits. Continue to monitor	CCC	Low	3 years
HGV's using North Road through a narrow road and residential area in Aspatria	Will be assessed for a possible 7.5 tonne weight limit as part of the north Allerdale TRO review this financial year Consult on including North Road in the 7.5 T weight limit order.	CCC	Medium	1 year
Inappropriate parking in Aspatria – on pavement, on Queen Street near school, on Lawson Street, St Mungos park	Investigate and discuss with Connect Roads	CCC Police Connect Roads	Medium	1 year
No speed limit in the village of Mawbray	Local Practice to carry out a speed limit assessment on the B5300	CCC	Medium	2 years
No speed limit outside Holme St Cuthbert School	Investigate speeds, volumes and accidents	CCC	Medium	1 year
A596/High Scales/Low Scales junction	Fatality in June 2011. Investigate accident statistics	CCC	Medium	1 year

Location	Action	Partners	Priority	Time scale
Objective: Investigate and address erosion issues				
B5300 - Castles corner, near Beckfoot	Confirm status of Environment Agency plans	CCC Env Agency	Medium	1 year
Deterioration of the flood walkway at Arkleby Bridge	This is maintained by Cumbria Highways and repairs have been carried out. Monitor and repair as required.	CCC	Low	3 years
Objective: Investigate and address flooding issues				
Flooding at Blennerhasset and Baggrow on all roads into the villages	Carry out Sustainable Urban Drainage review Clear ditches on farms	CCC Parish Council Farmers	High	1 year
Flooding at: Torpenhow Daleside at Ireby	Investigate flooding problem	CCC Env Agency	Medium	1 year
Erosion on road from Allerby crossroads to Oughterside Mill	Road closed. Investigation underway	CCC	High	3 months
Road along the River Ellen from Ellen Villa to Beech Hill is undermined	Investigation underway	CCC	High	3 months
Flooding at Beech Hill as a result of poor drainage	Gullies will be emptied as part of general cyclic maintenance Discuss with Environment Agency	CCC Env. Agency	Medium	1 year
Objective: Increase the use of community transport				
Relatively low use of alternative forms of public transport, e.g. Rural Wheels, Voluntary Drivers	Promote schemes to the villages	CCC Parish Councils	Medium	1 year
Objective: Improve walking, cycling and horse-riding routes to and through the area				
Research and improve walking, cycling and horse-riding routes across the area and short family walks	Identify routes and improvements needed	CCC Parish Councils	Medium	2yrs
Objective: Promote sustainable travel to schools				
Blennerhasset, Bothel & Beacon Hill Schools have been identified as priorities	Review existing plans for the three schools to take account of any changes to journey patterns and populations	CCC Schools Parish Councils	Medium	1 year

