

SKELSMERGH AND SCALTHWAITERIGG COMMUNITY PLAN 2015

A Summary of the Consultation

1st December 2015

The Consultation

In June 2015 a questionnaire was circulated to all the households in the parish. We requested your views and opinions on the topics of environment, housing, transport and highways, communications, community and social issues.

The Response

We received 74 household replies (37%) which represents the views of a significant proportion of residents and therefore forms a reasonable basis for drawing conclusions.

Findings

You wrote to us with many interesting and useful observations but this summary is restricted to the more generally shared views. Residents are by and large appreciative of the quiet rural surroundings of our parish and its proximity to Kendal but acknowledged the limitations in terms of communications, facilities and public transport. There were very few identified problems when it came to crime, vandalism or isolation. Good neighbours are much appreciated in the parish.

The most consistent opinion shared by a significant majority related to their desire to have some say in the planning and appearance of new housing though affordability and local occupancy were lesser concerns but clearly significant for a small minority who identified an unmet local demand.

Unsurprisingly road maintenance, winter gritting and dangerous conflicts between HGVs, motorists, motorcyclists, cyclists and pedestrians were considered to be important ongoing issues, as was the dissatisfaction with the incomplete repairs to Laverock Bridge. The collapse of support by the highway authority for the Kiln Croft footway connection was an obvious disappointment for residents there. Though speed limits were generally thought to be appropriate, the failure of motorists to obey them was still as much a problem now as it was when the first survey was done.

There were a fair number of references to our public footpaths and bridleways. Many of you wrote in appreciation of the Five Parish Walks leaflets. From your comments it is clear that our network of public footpaths needs to be well-maintained.

Mealbank generated a range of concerns deriving from the sometimes uncomfortable proximity of the Trading Estate and its impact on residential amenity. Other matters such as dog-fouling, drainage and the condition of the private road which also happens to be a public bridleway, have continued to be a source of annoyance.

This issues of communication and connectivity generated interest. The variability of broadband reception and mobile phone coverage has the greatest effect on many people's everyday lives as well as affecting the efficiency of businesses in the parish. In terms of local communication the

Parish Council website has not so far generated much interest. The Community and Church News is much appreciated by its readers but some thought it needed more secular content. 28 respondents have added their email addresses to an expanding parish database for essential news, we hope that others will join in.

Some respondents would like more social activities based on the Community Hall, such as barbecues and activities for young people. The suggestion to acquire a defibrillator to be placed at the Community Hall, received a good response.

Most households have the use of a car but it was interesting to see the level of support for a bus service for Mealbank and along the A6. There was a good response from residents to the invitation to offer lifts and help.

What happens next?

We have drawn up The Community action Plan which states some of the tasks which the Parish Council ought to address during the next five years. Concerns which are outside our powers will be taken up with the relevant partner authorities such as District and County Councils, but limitations on their resources already make self- help increasingly important.

Greater community involvement in dealing with shared problems will be needed if we are to achieve some of our aims and aspirations. We need more of you to serve on the Parish Council and Community Hall committee and to contribute time and support for the community. Small Parish Council grants will continue to be available to support initiatives from volunteer groups.

We are very grateful to you for your responses to the consultation. Many of your ideas are reflected in the Community Plan, others have not been overlooked but taken into consideration. Appendix 1: Parish Council criteria concerning Housing Development and Appendix 2 : a table summarising all residents' responses is published on the Parish Council website www.scelscalp.org.uk .

We look forward to working in partnership with you to make improvements in the parish over the next five years.

Your Parish Councillors are:

John Chapman Chairman

Hermann Moisl Vice Chairman

Mary Chapman

Tim Maggs

Phil Rigby

Phil Yates (Scalthwaiterigg)

