

# Parish Plan

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## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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# **INTRODUCTION**

## **(a) Beetham Parish**

An outline of Beetham Parish is provided on the next page. . The villages of Beetham and Storth in the west of the parish form the largest centres of population in the parish. In addition, smaller communities are located at Carr Bank, Sandside, Hale, Slackhead, Farleton and Whasset. To the west, the Arnside and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a region of low limestone hills and natural woodlands. The coast of the Kent Estuary forms the western boundary of this area.

The parish is divided into two Wards, East and West. East Ward is 3-4 times the area of West Ward but has a slightly lower population. The eastern part of the parish around Farleton and Whasset is dominated by the hill of Farleton Knott. The area is mainly meadow and pasture used for dairy and stock rearing.

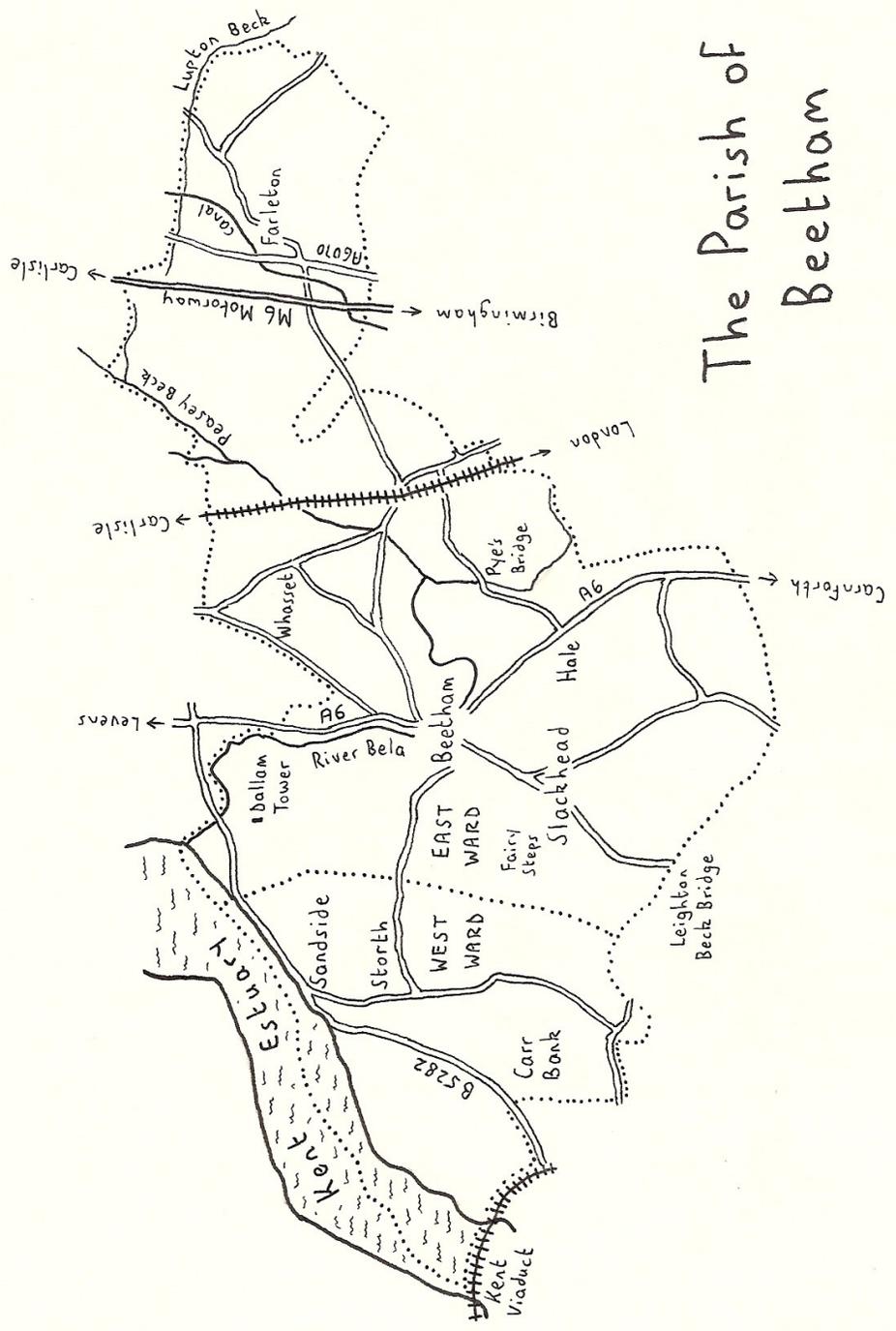
## **(b) The Parish Plan**

This Parish Plan was coordinated by Beetham Parish Council and is based on a Parish Questionnaire carried out in 2006. It is supplemented by comments made by during consultations with a number of community organisations operating within the Parish.

The 191 responses to the Parish Questionnaire represented a 23% rate of return, allowing for the fact that many households have multiple occupancy. Only one questionnaire was sent to each household, although the facility was provided (but rarely utilised) for more than one response from a household.

In 2006, Beetham Parish contained 1724 residents, of which 1477 (86%) were aged over 16 years. A comparison of the mean age of respondents with the age of residents reported in the 2001 census indicated that over-45s were roughly twice as likely to complete and return their questionnaires. Due consideration was given to these observations when drawing conclusions based on the 2006 Parish Questionnaire.

# The Parish of Beetham



# **1. SERVICES**

## **1.1 Local Government**

### 1.1.1 Current Situation

Excluding the parish council, there is currently two tier local government in the area, South Lakeland District Council and Cumbria County Council. Local government is being reviewed by central government and a single tier is the aim. The results of the questionnaire indicated a strong preference for the seat of local government to be located in South Lakeland with concern being expressed about the high annual increases in Council Tax which have not been accompanied with a commensurate increase in the level of services.

In addition, the Arnside and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) lying west of the A6 near Beetham has some influence on the way that part of the parish is managed.

### 1.1.2 Future Strategies

The parish council will be consulted should draft proposals to revise local government be drawn up and will bear in mind the results of the questionnaire when commenting on the consultation.

### 1.1.3 Recommendations

Future proposed changes to local government should be examined with a view to ensuring that any revised structure benefits residents of the parish of Beetham at a level of Council Tax that is fair to all residents of the parish.

## **1.2 Policing**

### 1.2.1 Current Situation

Local police services are based close to the parish at Milnthorpe and there has recently been greater emphasis on community policing. A Police Officer and a Police Community Support Officer are designated for policing activities in the parish.

### 1.2.2 Future Strategies

The questionnaire revealed that respondents felt that crime is not a major concern in the parish. This is supported by 2006 data which showed that Beetham is the area with the second lowest crime rate in the North West region. 75% are not affected by crime or anti-social behaviour although 25% would like to see more visible foot patrols from time to time. Support for an increase in such provision will therefore be provided.

### 1.2.3 Recommendations

- a) The Parish Plan should support the general provision of more visible policing from time to time, particularly in the two main settlements in the parish (Beetham and Storth).
- b) The Neighbourhood Watch scheme should be encouraged within the parish to support the efforts of the police.

## 1.3 Medical Services

### 1.3.1 Current Situation

Medical, dental and veterinary services are currently provided by practices located outside the Parish boundary (e.g. Milnthorpe, Arnside and Carnforth). The Parish Questionnaire did not identify a need for a doctor's or veterinary clinic within the Parish once a week. The Parish Questionnaire did reveal a significant hope that a First Responders Group covering the parish would be introduced. This took place during 2006. The First Responders Group is routinely contacted, where appropriate, by the emergency services in response to a 999 telephone call.

### 1.3.2 Future Strategies

The Parish Plan needs to acknowledge the importance of the medical services to the quality of life of residents of the parish.

### 1.3.3 Recommendations

Maintenance of the present level of health care in the area be supported and monitored with a view to ensuring that the level of service improves where possible.

## 1.4 Education

### 1.4.1 Current Situation

Primary schools exist in both Beetham and Storth. The Dallam Comprehensive School in Milnthorpe is the nearest secondary school. Other secondary schools at Carnforth, Kendal, Kirkby Lonsdale and Lancaster provide alternative options for pupils leaving primary school. There is some provision for adult education within the parish and greater provision close by at the Dallam Community Centre, Milnthorpe. Wings School at Whassett is an independent residential school providing specialist education for children from throughout the country with emotional, behavioural and associated difficulties. It is a valuable national resource which has no significant local impact.

#### 1.4.2 Future Strategies

The results of the questionnaire indicate satisfaction with the educational services available within and close to the parish.

#### 1.4.3 Recommendations

Educational provision should be monitored. It is likely that opposition would be the first reaction to any proposal to close either primary school in the parish.

### **1.5 Telephone**

#### 1.5.1 Current Situation

Landline provision within the parish is good with broadband being available to most residents. Satisfactory mobile phone reception is much less widespread.

#### 1.5.2 Future Strategies

Responses to the questionnaire revealed that 45% of respondents have poor mobile reception at home but that 58% are against installation of masts in the parish to improve reception.

#### 1.5.3 Recommendations

Any proposal to erect masts to improve mobile telephone reception should be examined closely to gauge the impact on the visual amenities within the parish.

### **1.6 Public Toilets**

#### 1.6.1 Current Situation

There are no public toilets in the parish.

#### 1.6.2 Future Strategies

Responses to the questionnaire indicate a fairly even split between those who feel there is a need for public toilets with a slight majority being opposed to their provision. It is known that South Lakeland District Council has closed several public toilets recently to save money. It is therefore considered unrealistic to envisage that such provision would be provided in the future within the parish.

#### 1.6.3 Recommendations

There is not felt to be a need for a policy on the provision of public toilets.

## 2. HOUSING

### 2.1 Current Situation:

These data are based on the latest official figures which were published in the 2001 National Statistics.

In 2001, there were a total of 833 dwellings in the Parish of Beetham. Of these, 92% were shown to be occupied, 3% were vacant and 5% were second residences/holiday accommodation.

The largest proportion of properties (58%) within the Parish were detached, including bungalows, and 33% were semi-detached and terraced properties. In addition, 9% were flats, maisonettes, apartments or other temporary structures, e.g. caravans. Most properties were owner-occupied, but 2.4% were Council or Housing Association/Registered Social Landlords, and 10.7% were privately-owned tenanted properties.

The average household size (number of persons) was 2.21.

The total population of Beetham Parish in 2001 was 1,725, of whom 41% were between the ages of 16-74 and were 'economically active'. 28% of people between the ages of 16-74 were 'economically inactive' (many in this group are probably retired.) and 1.2% were unemployed. Children between the ages of 0-15 and young people between the ages of 16-24 formed 14% and 6% of residents respectively. The mean age of the population was 48.8 years. More detailed information of the population of Beetham Parish can be found on the following web site:

[Neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk](http://Neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk)

According to Land Registry records for April-June 2006, of 539 properties sold in the South Lakeland area, the average prices of houses were :

	£
Detached:	326,949
Semi-detached:	202,635
Terraced:	181,798
Flat/maisonette:	173,974

### 2.2 Future Strategies

A Housing Needs Survey prepared by South Lakeland District Council some years ago illustrated an identifiable need in the South Lakeland area for affordable homes. A Housing Needs Survey specifically for Beetham Parish was initiated in September 2007 managed by the Cumbria Rural Housing Trust in association with Beetham Parish Council. The need for affordable homes is exacerbated when relatively small "low-cost"

properties are purchased and developed into “non-affordable” housing. Future planning policy needs to take account of the impact of this on the availability of affordable homes. According to the results of our own Parish Council survey, the number of houses built over the last 15 years was considered to be ‘about right’.

### 2.3 Recommendations

- a) Future housing development should provide a higher proportion of low cost housing for young people and flats for elderly residents.
- b) Conversion and development of redundant barns and farm buildings should be encouraged.

## **3. COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

### **3.1 Childcare**

#### 3.1.1 Current Situation

At present there is an after school club at Storth School. Also, a Parent & Toddler Group meets twice weekly at Heron Hall, Storth. Milnthorpe Primary School provides a “Children’s Centre”, the services of which are available to residents of all adjacent parishes. Other childcare arrangements within the Parish must be made privately.

#### 3.1.2 Future Strategies

When the responses to the questionnaire were analysed, over 75% of respondents did not feel a need for additional childcare facilities

#### 3.1.3 Recommendations

There would not appear to be a need to pursue this matter further.

### **3.2 Youth Facilities**

#### 3.2.1 Current Situation

There are no youth facilities within the Parish other than the playing field in Storth. Drama opportunities are provided by the “Kids on the Bay” group which meets at the Storth Village Hall.

#### 3.2.2 Future Strategies

76% of questionnaire respondents regard the provisions for young people within the Parish to be inadequate. A meeting place and youth club were considered to be high priorities. Current recreational activities at Storth Village Hall (e.g. indoor badminton,

country dancing, indoor bowls) could be extended for younger users in conjunction with the existing adult groups.

### 3.2.3 Recommendations

- a) The provision made for the youth of the Parish should be reviewed, particularly with regard to the need for a youth club in the parish.
- b) The provision of youth facilities in the current community centres in the parish should be supported.

## 3.3 Community Centres

### 3.3.1 Current Situation

Storth is very well provided for with 3 meeting places: the village hall, Heron Hall and the Village Church. These facilities host a number of social activities weekly for both young and old. Other areas of the Parish are less well provided for but there was little or no support for a meeting place in Whassett or Farleton.

Storth Village Hall was built around 1927 and although it has served the village well since then it no longer meets current standards & expectations. Access into the building and circulation within the building is difficult for any person having a disability. The main hall is in use every evening of the week but because of the noise from the hall penetrating into the downstairs areas the meeting rooms cannot be used by other groups that may wish to meet at the Village Hall. Improvements to build a two storey extension at the rear of the Hall are expected to be completed early-2008. The extended building will provide two new useable meeting rooms. This will allow its use by a wider range of groups and societies, both during the week and at weekends. Plans have been developed for a new front entrance, new male and female toilets within the existing building, a lift & toilet for disabled people and refurbishments within the existing hall, but these are dependant on securing grants to cover the cost of the work.

Heron Hall in Storth was built in 2004. It meets all the required standards for disabled access, toilet facilities etc. The hall, located on the playing fields in the centre of the village, is used daily by the pupils at Storth School for physical education, drama and dance. It is also used on specific evenings during the week and twice weekly by the Parents & Toddlers playgroup.

The Village Church was created in 2006 when the Storth Methodist and Church of England congregations amalgamated and decided to meet in the Methodist building. Sunday School meets on Sunday morning before the service and a number of village clubs use the premises regularly.

### 3.3.2 Future Strategies

The need for a community facility in the east of the parish requires further investigation.

### 3.3.3 Recommendations

- a) Support the plans to extend and improve the facilities offered by Storth Village Hall
- b) Investigate the need for a community centre in the east of the parish for use by the residents of Whassett and Farleton.

## 3.4 Provision for the Elderly

### 3.4.1 Current Situation

Storth is very well provided for with 3 meeting places: the village hall, Heron Hall and the Village Church. These facilities host a number of social activities weekly for both young and old. Provision in other areas of the Parish is limited.

### 3.4.2 Future Strategies

79% of respondents felt that there is a need for better public transport within the Parish. Volunteers provide a service via Community Transport South Lakeland (see Section 6.1.4) for elderly residents who need transport for medical or social reasons, but this cannot satisfy the needs of all elderly residents and an improved public transport service would be a better solution.

### 3.4.3 Recommendations

- a) Review the transport situation throughout the Parish and look into the practicalities of bringing others to the facilities available for the elderly in Storth.
- b) Encourage the use of one of the current community centres as a meeting point for the elderly.

## 3.5 Churches

There are two churches within the Parish, one at Beetham (Church of England) and the Village Church at Storth.

## 3.6 Shops / Post Offices

There are no large shops or supermarkets within the parish, though these are available close-by in Kendal, Milnthorpe and Carnforth. There are two mobile milkmen in Storth/Sandside.

There are two Post Offices, one in Beetham and one in Storth, each with a small shop attached. The Storth Post Office is managed by the Storth Community Co-operative Ltd which was formed in 2004 to save the village shop and Post Office from closure. The Postmaster was due to retire but had been unable to sell the business and was about to close the shop. A Steering Group was formed and approximately £16,000 was raised by

the community. These funds, together with grants from Cumbria County Council, South Lakeland District Council, Beetham Parish Council and DEFRA enabled the Co-operative to purchase the business in 2004. The shop is operated entirely by unpaid volunteers and the Post Office is managed by the Postmaster. Up to mid-2007, over £7000 has been donated from profits to the community for various projects.

## **4. ENVIRONMENT**

### **4.1 Recycling**

#### 4.1.1 Current Situation

Recycling within the Parish is spearheaded by South Lakeland District Council (SLDC) which provides boxes to most households to separate glass, paper, green waste and general waste. Currently there is no provision for recycling cardboard, plastic or textiles via door step collections.

#### 4.1.2 Future Strategies

58% of respondents were satisfied with recycling schemes in the Parish. Recycling facilities for plastics and cardboard would be welcomed. Whilst 56% of respondents are satisfied with the recycling facilities, this percentage can not be taken as evidence that the current situation is acceptable.

#### 4.1.3 Recommendations

- a) More facilities for doorstep recycling would be welcomed by residents of the Parish. Opportunities for encouraging or promoting recycling in the Parish should be sought.
- b) Location of a plastics recycling bin alongside the existing recycling bins at Milnthorpe should be requested.

### **4.2 Litter**

#### 4.2.1 Current Situation

Litter is not felt to be a major issue though an increase in the number of bottles and food packaging thrown from car windows onto rural roads is a concern. This is particularly noticeable adjacent to lay-bys along the A6.

The Parish has a length of foreshore on its boundaries at Sandside. Detritus washed up along the strand line, particularly plastic bottles and other non-degradable debris, continue to represent a hazard to wildlife.

Dog faeces is an ever present problem, particularly along grass verges and footpaths in the vicinity of residential areas or adjacent to car parks and lay-bys.

#### 4.2.2 Future Strategies

The questionnaire showed that 66% of respondents have no problem with litter though 78% favour the introduction of Poopscoop bins in the parish.

#### 4.2.3 Recommendations

Action should be taken to recognise the desirability of good behaviour, taking litter home and or collection and disposing of small quantities disregarded by others as an incidental part of other recreational activities. Poopscoop bins and relevant byelaws should be implemented.

### **4.3 Renewable Energy**

#### 4.3.1 Current Situation

There are no facilities within the parish boundary to generate renewable energy either by wind power or tidal power.

#### 4.3.2 Future Strategies

The geography of the parish could support the generation of electricity by wind power. The feasibility of the generation of electricity from tidal power is less likely.

#### 4.3.3 Recommendations

- a) Local generation of electricity using small turbines on individual houses should be supported, but the installation of large wind farms should be opposed in view of their adverse impact on the natural beauty of the AONB.
- b) Carry out a detailed assessment on the impact of a tidal power system on the local environment and its feasibility before a final decision is taken.
- c) The installation of solar panels on current and new houses should be encouraged.

### **4.4 The Arnside / Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)**

#### 4.4.1 Current Situation

The Arnside and Silverdale AONB includes more than half the area of the parish, and is a unique landscape of national importance that extends to approximately 75 square kilometres, including around 30 square kilometres of intertidal sands and mudflats plus low lying limestone hills with a mosaic of herb rich grassland and ancient woodlands. Most of the population of the parish lives within the AONB but, despite this, the

questionnaire revealed that very few respondents were aware of its existence or what it stands for.

#### 4.4.2 Future Strategies

A review of the present boundary of the Arnside and Silverdale AONB is in progress. One possibility is that Farleton Knott will be included within its boundaries. This prospect did not receive any strong support or opposition from respondents to the questionnaire and, in the light of the general lack of interest in the subject, is not seen as a major issue.

#### 4.4.3 Recommendations

- (i) A proposal to include Farleton Knott within the boundary of the Arnside and Silverdale AONB should be supported to ensure that this natural feature is appropriately maintained. Support can be confirmed by contacting Natural England (NE).
- (ii) The parish should actively encourage parishioners to learn more about the AONB designation.

## 5. LOCAL ECONOMY

### 5.1 Introduction

Sandside was once a thriving part of the Port of Milnthorpe with its own Customs House on Quarry Lane ([www.storth.com/historyofstorth.htm](http://www.storth.com/historyofstorth.htm)). This finally closed with the construction of the Kent Viaduct at Arnside in 1857.

Agriculture was formerly the mainstay of the local economy, but is now of much smaller economic significance. There are significant employment opportunities at Sandside Quarry, Beetham Paper Mill, Elmsfield Park Industrial Estate and various light industrial businesses on either side of Quarry Lane at Sandside, the most recent being the Shore Line development commenced in 2006.

Many small rural communities have failed to keep pace with the demands of the modern world and have suffered as a consequence. Beetham has kept pace and a diverse range of business interests have developed to create wealth and employment for the residents of Beetham and surrounding communities, though many commute each day to places as far away as Manchester.

### 5.2 Manufacturing

#### 5.2.1 Current Situation

Limestone has been quarried in the area for centuries and there are several good examples of traditional lime kilns within the parish. The Tarmac owned quarry at Sandside

supplies hundreds of thousands of tonnes of crushed and coated aggregate per year for building materials and road construction.

Beetham Paper Mill manufactures and supplies specialist papers for customers around the world and the site can trace its industrial heritage back some 900 years.

An industrial site has developed in the east of the Parish at Elmsfield Park. In recent years there has been a large increase in small home-based business brought about by improvements to the road infrastructure into South Lakeland, changes in telecommunications and personal computing such as broadband. Previously this business would have been situated in more industrial areas such as Manchester, Preston, East Lancashire and Carlisle.

### 5.2.2 Future Strategies

Beetham Parish sits on the edge of Morecambe Bay on one of the major tourist routes into the Lake District and within 90 minutes drive of the industrial heartland of the North West. As such, we are excellently placed to take advantage of the growing number of visitors to the area but we must keep an open mind on the need to maintain a balanced economy when reviewing planning applications for new or expanding local businesses.

### 5.2.3 Recommendations

As things stand at the beginning of 2007 business and employment in the parish is healthy and prospects look good for the foreseeable future. However, we must always balance the needs of the local community with the development of local industry.

## 5.3 Farming.

### 5.3.1 Current Situation

Farming is an important contributor to the local economy and to the attractive appearance of much of the rural landscape. However, the number of people employed has fallen in recent years and the foot and mouth outbreak in 2001 brought about significant changes to the industry. Many farmers have diversified or specialized to maintain their livelihood.

Before foot and mouth most farms relied on milk, beef and sheep production with a small amount of arable mainly for cattle feed. Foot and mouth coupled with the dissolution of the Milk Marketing Board decimated these traditional ways and many farmers have sold their milk quotas as production costs exceeded the price they were able to charge. To survive some farmers have supplemented their income by providing livery to the growing number of people keeping and riding horses; some have gone 'organic' and some farms have broken up with land and buildings being sold off to satisfy the ever increasing need to provide housing, for second homes and for the expanding leisure market.

### 5.3.2 Future Strategies

Farming is undergoing major changes. However, farming and associated industries form an integral part of our local community and we have a duty to assist the farming community to make the necessary changes wherever possible.

### 5.3.3 Recommendations

To ensure that the needs of the farming industry and the local community are considered jointly when considering future changes within the parish.

## **5.4 Leisure.**

### 5.4.1 Current Situation

Beetham Parish has some of the finest scenery in the UK. Parts of our parish are included in the AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and SSSIs (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) exist. Our coast line is blessed with magnificent sunsets; we have spectacular expanses of limestone pavement, and within a couple of miles Leighton Moss provides bird watchers with one of the best reserves in the country. If that were not enough, we are on the doorstep of the second most popular National Park in the country, the Lake District.

To accommodate the large numbers of visitors who come to the area to enjoy these facilities caravan and camp sites have expanded to cover more than 100 acres of landscaped woodland. The four main sites which provide static and touring plots with on-site shops, bars and cafés are Beetham, Hallmore, Fell End and Silver Ridge.

Other significant attractions are the Wild Life Oasis on the A6 at Hale and the Heron Corn Mill in Beetham. There are two garden centres in the parish at Beetham and Carr Bank. Last but not least, there are excellent hotels/inns at Beetham, Hale and Sandside providing a wide range of food and accommodation.

### 5.4.2 Future Strategies

Maintain viable and high quality facilities suited to an area of outstanding natural beauty.

### 5.4.3 Recommendations

With four large caravan parks in the parish, a careful balance must be kept between the understandable wishes of the owners to develop their businesses and the needs of the local residents who have to live alongside the sites.

## 6. TRANSPORT

### 6.1 Current Situation

#### 6.1.1 Roads

The road network accessed by parish residents provides good communications when travelling on north-south routes, but is limited for east-west travel. Historically, the routes of roads running east-west were determined by the presence of wet or hilly ground. The major arterial road is the M6 which provides a fast route to the north and south. The A6 provides a good link to Kendal, Barrow (via the A590) and to the M6 at Carnforth. In the east of the parish, the A6070 and B6384 run in a north-south direction. The only classified road running east-west is the B5282 between Milnthorpe and Arnside, though this is subject to seasonal flooding at Sandside due to high tides. At Milnthorpe, the B5282 links with the B6385 which leads via the A65 to Junction 36 of the M6.

Numerous unclassified roads in the parish are narrow and unsuitable for large vehicles.

#### 6.1.2 Railway

Rail links to centres outside the parish are good. Arnside and Silverdale stations provide access to the Lancaster – Barrow line, a rail connection to Manchester Airport and access to the Lancaster – Leeds line by changing at Carnforth. By driving to Oxenholme Station which is 8 miles north of Beetham, residents can access the Glasgow – London Euston line.

#### 6.1.3 Buses

Bus services follow the main classified roads and are, therefore, mainly in a north-south direction. The only full service in an east-west direction follows the B5282 from Milnthorpe to Arnside. Vehicles of a reduced size (e.g. the Carnforth Connect service) must be used for east-west services because of the limited width of unclassified roads in the east-west direction. Bus services within the parish include :

- a) the 552 service from Arnside to Kendal. This links at Milnthorpe with the 555 service which runs from Lancaster – Kendal – Ambleside – Keswick - Carlisle.
- b) Whassett and Elmsfield in the east of the parish are served by the 554/555 route (Lancaster – Kendal – Ambleside - Keswick – Carlisle). Farleton does not have a bus link, though the 554/555 route serves Elmsfield, which is about a mile from Farleton.
- c) the Carnforth Connect service which runs between Carnforth Station and Milnthorpe/Ackenthwaite, linking the smaller villages in the area (Warton, Yealand Conyers, Yealand Redmayne, Cinderbarrow, Hale and Beetham). However, the Carnforth Connect service does not provide a service to the residents of Storth, the largest village in the parish. The financial viability of this service is an on-going problem.

#### 6.1.4 Community Transport

Volunteers provide a car transport service to residents who need transport for medical or social reasons but who do not have easy access to private cars or public transport. This service is managed by Community Transport South Lakeland, Kendal, but is coordinated locally by nominated volunteers. Users pay a defined rate based on the distance travelled for each use of the facility.

#### 6.1.5 Taxis

Three private hire services operate within the parish.

### 6.2 Future Strategies

- a) Support the future provision of the Carnforth Connect service, possibly with an extension to provide a service to Storth residents
- b) Support the future provision of rail services on the Lancaster – Barrow line
- c) Support voluntary community programmers such as Community Transport South Lakeland in their efforts to provide transport for needy members of the community
- d) Monitor possible future changes in the provision of public transport to ensure the needs of parish residents are considered before decisions are taken.
- e) Support the provision of bus services in the east-west direction using vehicles of appropriate size

### 6.3 Recommendations

- a) Consider ways of providing support to the Carnforth Connect bus service
- b) Lobby organizations responsible for the provision of public transport to ensure that the needs of parish residents are considered
- c) Support the installation of width restriction signs on appropriate narrow, unclassified roads in the parish. This is becoming of increasing importance as the use of global positioning systems results in vehicles being guided onto unsuitable roads
- d) The junctions of Storth Road and Green Lane with the B5282 Arnside-Milnthorpe road are considered particularly hazardous. Consideration should be given to speed restrictions and/or to a roundabout at the Storth Road – B5282 junction.
- e) Quarry Lane, Storth should be improved to provide a cycle track and a viable alternative to the B5282 at times of high tide and flooding.

## 7. RECREATION

### 7.1 Current Situation

Access to the footpaths within the AONB provides excellent opportunities for walking. These would be expanded by provision of towpaths alongside the canal if the Lancaster-Kendal canal is re-opened. Plans are being developed to create a new 1400km North West coastal trail running from Chester – Carlisle. This is likely to run along the Kent estuary via the Sandside embankment, the public footpath through the railway cutting and Quarry Lane.

The absence of bridleways in the parish means provision for horse riders and cyclists is limited.

While no village hall is available at Beetham, the Heron Theatre provides a good facility for amateur dramatics. There are two community halls in Storth, the village hall and Heron Hall and both of these are heavily used. There is no community facility in the east of the Parish (Farleton and Whasset).

Sports facilities for senior and junior players in the Parish are minimal. The sports field adjacent to Heron Hall in Storth is used regularly by junior soccer teams and is available for anyone who wishes to use it for recreational purposes. A field in Beetham is occasionally used for outdoor sports, but this is privately owned.

### 7.2 Future Strategies

- a) Investigate the viability of a village hall in Beetham.
- b) Investigate the feasibility of purchasing land to provide a sports field/recreational area in Beetham.

### 7.3 Recommendations

- a) Support the use of existing recreational facilities in the parish to ensure their continued viability.
- b) Support the provision of improved play equipment on the Storth playing field.
- c) Support the provision of a village hall in Beetham if a significant local demand is expressed.
- d) Support the provision of a sports field/recreational area in Beetham if a significant local demand is expressed.
- e) Support the introduction of improved provision for horse riders and cyclists.
- f) Plans to develop the North West coastal trail should be encouraged.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **BEETHAM PARISH ACTION PLAN**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>How it will be tackled</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Lead Organisation</b>	<b>Status</b>
SERVICES	Review impact of proposed changes to local government organisation on parish residents	1) If future changes are proposed, Parish Council will review impact of the proposals on parish residents 2) Views of parish residents to be presented to local MP, District Councillors & County Councillors	Low	<b>Parish Council</b>	Nov 2006 : On hold pending future proposals for changes to local government organisation
	Support provision of more visible policing in the parish	1) Responsible Police Community Support Officer to attend Parish Council meetings at least 6 times per year 2) Contact local police to request more foot patrols in the parish 3) Publicise local opinion on need for foot patrols via Parish Newsletter	Medium	<b>Police Community Support Officer</b>	
	Setup Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the parish	1) Neighbourhood Watch organisers to identify suitable schemes within the parish to expand the existing service 2) Liaise with local police on possible additional schemes	Medium	<b>1) Neighbourhood Watch</b> 2) Police	
	Assess impact of proposals for mobile telephone masts	1) Review future plans for mobile telephone masts 2) Ensure local opinion is publicised	Low	<b>Parish Council</b>	

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HOUSING	Support the provision of low cost housing for local residents and flats for elderly residents	1) Await results of Housing Needs Survey 2) Support plans for low cost housing for local residents and flats for elderly residents, if acceptable, when future Planning Applications are reviewed	Medium	<b>Cumbria Rural Housing Trust</b>	
COMMUNITY FACILITIES	Review provision of youth facilities, particularly youth Clubs, in the parish	1) Talk to Youth Cumbria to assess possible need 2) Identify available youth facilities in the parish 3) Approach Management Committees of suitable premises in the parish to identify possible locations for youth clubs	Medium	<b>Young Cumbria</b>	
	Improve facilities offered by Storth Village Hall & Heron Hall	1) Develop plans for improving the facilities in Storth Village Hall and Heron Hall 2) Apply for financial support	Medium	<b>1) Village Hall Management Committee 2) Storth Playing Field Management Committee</b>	
	Investigate need for a community centre in the east of the parish	1) Conduct survey in the East Ward of the parish to identify need 2) Identify possible locations in the East Ward which could be used	Medium	<b>Parish Council</b>	

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	Review the provision of transport for the elderly	1) Publicise the Community Transport South Lakeland scheme 2) Check on the status of the Rural Wheels scheme 3) Conduct a survey to identify need	High	<b>1) Community Transport South Lakeland</b> 2) Rural Wheels	
	Encourage the use of a community centre as a meeting point for the elderly	1) Identify existing provisions in the parish 2) Publicise current provisions in the Parish Newsletter 3) Discuss opportunities for extra meeting points	Medium	<b>Parish Council</b>	
ENVIRONMENT	Support provision of more doorstep recycling	Contact SLDC to request facility for doorstep recycling of a wider range of materials e.g. cardboard, plastics	Medium	<b>SLDC</b>	
	Request provision of plastics recycling bin at Milnthorpe	Contact SLDC to request provision of plastics recycling at Milnthorpe	High	<b>SLDC</b>	
	Publicise the importance of litter/dog faeces on the visual appearance of the parish	1) Develop a publicity programme & then actively publicise the impact of litter & dog faeces on the local environment	High	<b>1) Parish Council</b> 2) SLDC	
	Support local generation of electricity using small turbines & solar panels	Support, where appropriate, when reviewing Planning Application	Medium	<b>1) SLDC</b> 2) Parish Council	

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	Consider the impact of any future proposals for large wind farm/tidal power schemes on the local environment	1) Consider the impact on the local environment during review of Planning Applications 2) Express residents lack of support for large scale energy projects when reviewing any future projects of this type	Medium	<b>SLDC</b>	
	Support proposal to include Farleton Knott in the Arnside and Silverdale AONB (AONB)	1) Contact AONB to identify their plans for Farleton Knott 2) Write a letter of support to both the AONB and the North West Designation Project Team of Natural England for inclusion of Farleton Knott	Medium	<b>Natural England (NE)</b>	
LOCAL ECONOMY	Balance needs of the local community with the development of local industry	1) Support limited developments to provide employment in the parish 2) Consider impact on local employment when reviewing Planning Applications	Medium	<b>SLDC</b>	
	Balance needs of the farming industry & the local community when considering future changes in the parish	1) Support limited developments to provide employment in the parish 2) Consider impact on local employment when reviewing Planning Applications	Medium	<b>SLDC</b>	
	Balance needs of the owners of caravan parks & the local community when considering future changes in the parish	1) Support limited developments to provide employment in the parish 2) Consider impact on local employment when reviewing Planning Applications	Medium	<b>SLDC</b>	

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TRANSPORT	Provide financial support to the Carnforth Connect bus service	1) Request information on the financial viability of the Carnforth Connect service 2) If the service is financially viable, include a specified sum in the Annual Budget for financial support to Carnforth Connect	Medium	<b>Parish Council</b>	
	Lobby organisations responsible for the provision of public transport used by parish residents	Contact Carnforth Connect & request that some services pass through Storth	Medium	<b>1) Parish Council</b> 2) Carnforth Connect 3) Stagecoach 4) Cumbria County Council	
	Support the installation of width restrictions on appropriate narrow, unclassified roads in the parish	1) Identify specific locations where width restrictions are needed in the parish 2) Discuss possible future restrictions with Cumbria County Council	High	<b>1) Parish Council</b> 2) Cumbria County Council	
	Consider speed restrictions and/or roundabout at the Storth Road – B5282 junction	1) Write a Letter to Cumbria County Council expressing concerns about safety at the junction 2) Discuss the issues with Cumbria County Council	High	<b>1) Parish Council</b> 2) Cumbria County Council 3) Police	
	Improve road surface on Quarry Lane to provide a cycle track & alternative route to B5282 at times of flooding	1) Investigate ownership of Quarry Lane 2) Investigate feasibility of adopting Quarry Lane with Cumbria County Council	Medium	<b>1) Cumbria County Council</b> 2) Parish Council	

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RECREATION	Provide improved play equipment on the Storth Playing Field	1) Develop a plan for improving the play equipment on the Storth Playing Field 2) Prepare & submit applications for financial support for the plans	Medium	<b>Storth Playing Field Management Committee</b>	
	Assess need for a village hall in Beetham	Conduct a survey of Beetham residents to assess the need for a village hall in the village	Medium	<b>Parish Council</b>	
	Assess need for a sports field/recreational area in Beetham	Conduct a survey of Beetham residents to assess the need for sports field/recreational area in the village	Medium	<b>Parish Council</b>	
	Support development of the North West Coastal Trail	1) Write a letter of support to the responsible organisation (Northwest Regional Development Agency – NWDA) 2) Liaise with NWDA on future plans for the coastal path	Low	<b>1) North West Development Agency (NWDA)</b> 2) Parish Council	

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