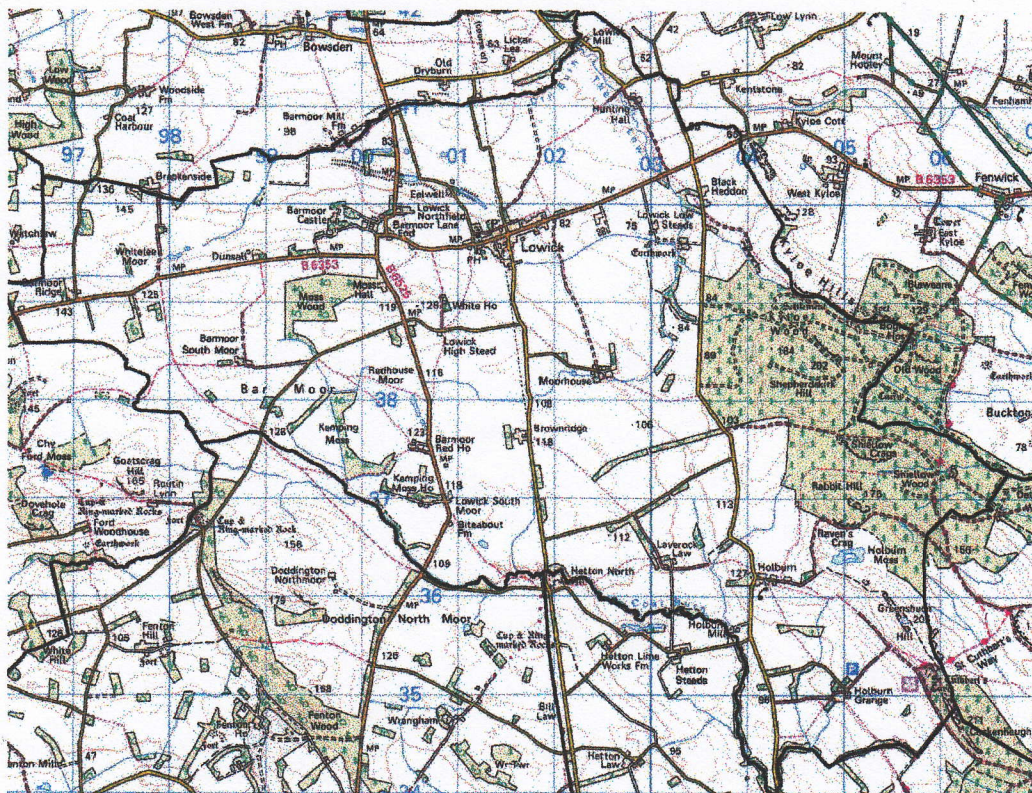


LOWICK PARISH PLAN

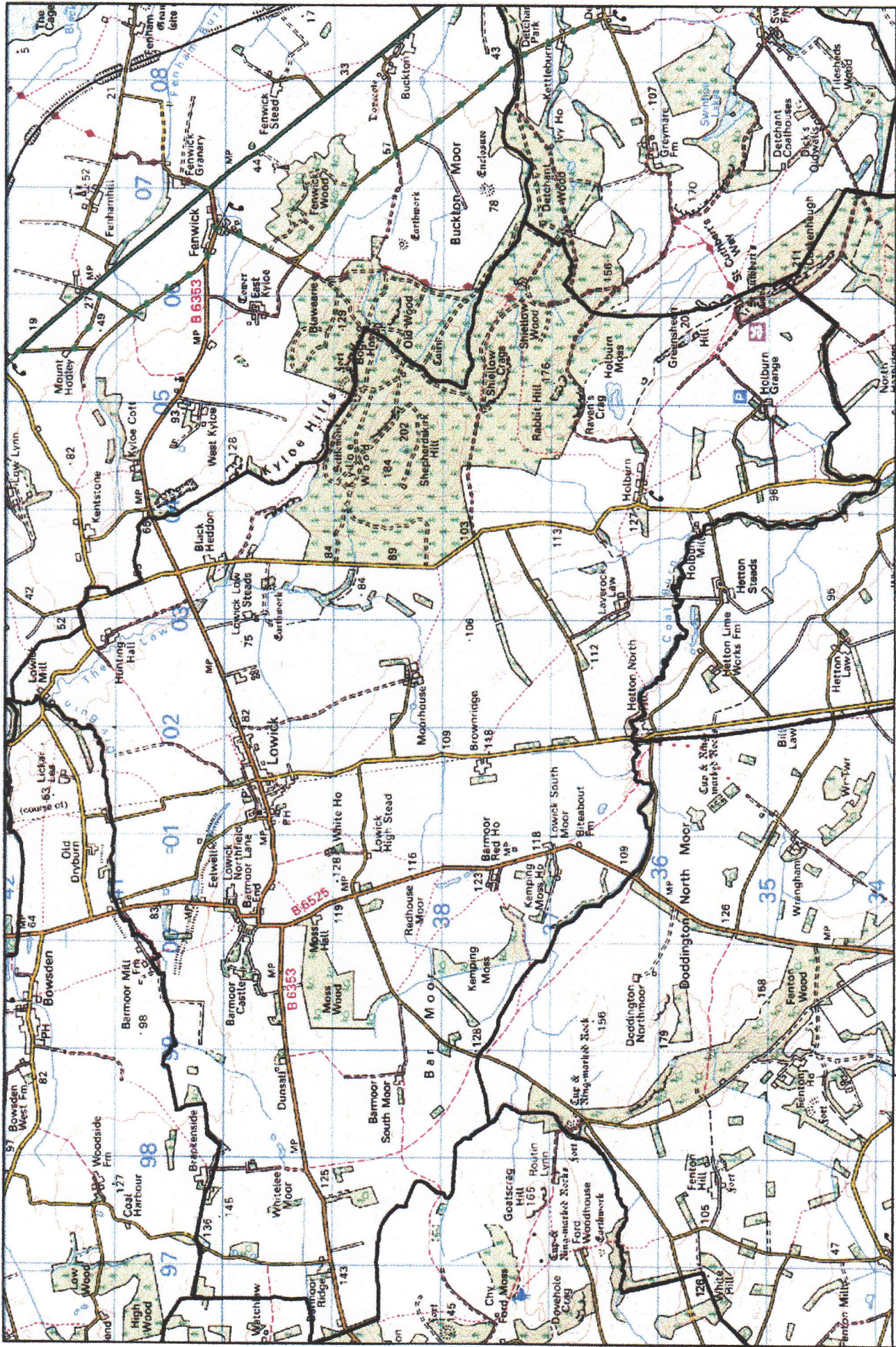
2004



Initiated by Lowick Parish Council and undertaken jointly
with the local community in association with

Mandy Nesbit
Landscape Architect





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LOWICK PARISH PLAN

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SECTION ONE

PARISH PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

By Chairman of Lowick Parish Council

In Lowick during 2002 the one remaining general store/Post Office, both public houses and the farm were all up for sale. What was happening to our community?

This prompted the question what makes a community. A community comes about as people feel a bond with others because of a shared interest. At its best a community should extend out from the family to embrace all the people within that community so that there is an awareness of the needs of others and a willingness to contribute to the common good. To achieve this it is important that individuals do not become isolated and should interact to some degree with others in the community.

In the countryside and villages various structures like the churches, the school, workplaces, shops, pubs and societies have all contributed to making a close-knit community. But now we are in a time of rapid change. Rationalisation in agriculture, smaller family units, increased car ownership and a generally more fluid population are just some of the things that are driving the changes and causing a strain on these structures.

There was growing concern within the community about the state of the village hall, which was always considered fundamental to village life. The above factors had all contributed to its decline and some major repairs were now needed.

The Vital Village initiative offered the Parish Council the opportunity to carry out a comprehensive consultation process and to let the people express their main concerns, needs and wants. From the outset there was a good response from the local community and as the parish plan has progressed, momentum and interest have greatly increased, resulting in enthusiasm and commitment being demonstrated by many people.

The parish plan, which we have drawn up, brings together the main projects, which as a community we would like to deliver. By taking action and working together the community will become stronger and more inclusive and everyone will benefit.

The Parish Council wishes to thank all those who have contributed to the Plan by expressing their opinions at meetings or in questionnaires. We would also like to thank the Countryside Agency for their generous funding which enabled us to undertake the plan in the first place and particularly to their staff at Newcastle for their assistance. We thank Berwick Borough Council for supplying maps and information and for continuing to help develop the projects, Els Nicol and the community Council of Northumberland for their support and finally Mandy Nesbit, Environmental Consultant, whose enthusiasm and know-how has been invaluable.

Peter Calder
Chairman of Lowick Parish Council

January 2004

2. VITAL VILLAGES INITIATIVE

Vital Villages

“Vital Villages – equipping communities to shape their future”. The aim of this scheme is “to give rural communities a bigger opportunity to run their own affairs and to set out a vision for their town or village to guide its future development.”

Vital Villages is a Countryside Agency initiative to help small rural communities take stock of their village; to identify what they need to revitalise it; to ensure local people have a voice in their future; and to provide support to enable each village to make its own decisions and to implement some of the improvements needed locally. The scheme enables Parish Councils to apply for funding to meet the cost of preparing and producing a Parish Plan.

Plans should *“identify key facilities and services, set out the problems that need to be tackled and demonstrate how distinctive character and features can be preserved.”*

They are intended to develop previous work such as village appraisals and village design statements and set a framework for communities to plan their own futures.

Current Government thinking involves local communities taking more control of their own futures. They want local people through Parish Councils to have a say about what they want and to engage with other powers to get it done.

What is a Parish Plan?

Parish plans are “holistic” or comprehensive in scope. They should set out a vision for the community in the future and identify the action needed to tackle issues of concern.

The Plan needs to look at all aspects of Parish life. *“...The plan needs to incorporate social, economic and environmental issues relevant to the community and needs to be totally comprehensive.”* They can include everything that is relevant to the people who live and work in the community, from employment and playgrounds to the design of new buildings. It might cover such aspects as housing, services, the village hall, sports facilities, open areas, access, play areas, transport, to name but a few. It is up to the community to decide what is important to them. The guidelines and output requirements are as follows:

- It should address all issues of concern to the community together in one document.
- The community should work together to prepare the document and feel that it belongs to them
- Based on information provided through survey, research and consultation.
- Focused on action and contain a clear statement of What? Why? How? Who? When?

3. LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHY

Lowick parish in North Northumberland is within the Lowick borough ward of the district of Berwick upon Tweed, which is the northernmost district in England. Lowick ward is 10,795 square hectares with a population of 989. The parish of Lowick is 3,767 hectares and has an electorate of 450 people living in 268 households.

Berwick borough is predominantly rural and sparsely populated with fewer than 27,000 people in an area over 370 square miles. It is the second smallest local authority in England. Berwick borough belongs to a cluster of 54 local authorities, which are the “most sparsely populated or deeply rural local authorities in England”. There are 354 local authorities in total in England. The cluster of 54 local authorities cover one third of the total area of England.

Over half the population lives in the urban area of Berwick. There are three other main settlements within the borough each with fewer than 2000 residents; Wooler, a small market town on the edge of the Cheviots; Seahouses, a fishing village and popular seaside tourism centre and Belford, a smaller village between Berwick and Alnwick on the old Great North Road. Belford and Wooler are both 7 miles from Lowick and the main town of Berwick upon Tweed is 10 miles away.

The parishes surrounding Lowick are also very rural with none of them having the combined services and facilities that Lowick offers.

4. LOWICK VILLAGE AND PARISH

Lowick village is centrally placed in the parish, located at the crossing point of the old Roman road, the Devils Causeway and the Pilgrims way, a route between Holy Island and Melrose. Lowick is the only village in the parish, and serves a wider area than the parish due to the limited facilities and services in adjoining parishes. Neither of two adjoining parishes of Kyoel or Bowsden have churches, shops or schools. The village is linear in character with houses having been built alongside the roads. Several new houses have been built in recent years. A detailed description of the landscape of the parish is given in chapter 6.

Lowick has the following services and facilities:

Lowick Village Store and Post Office

The village shop and Post Office came under new management in June 2003. The proprietor offers a full range of groceries along with newspapers and magazines, and off licence. The shop is currently being refurbished and extended so that a wider range of goods will be available.

The proprietor of the shop was involved in helping select questions for the questionnaire seeking information about the provision of services and supplies and hopefully this feedback will assist him to identify the needs of the customers.

Lowick First School

Lowick First School is a large airy building situated centrally in the village of Lowick, with a large playing field attached. The building which is owned by Northumberland Local Education Authority is in good repair. There are currently two full-time teachers

including the headmistress and a part-time teacher and there are 29 children at the school. Lowick First School also has a special relationship with Holy Island First School. When the tide allows the children from the island to cross the causeway, they travel to Lowick. However, when the tide cuts them off from the mainland they attend their own school on the island. There are currently five children at Holy Island School. Lowick First School is part of the Kyloe Cluster of schools, which enables six rural schools to come together to work on projects and topics, to widen and enrich the curriculum within the schools of the cluster with the help of the Cluster Support teacher. The school has just had an OFSTED inspection and received excellent results.

The Local Education Authority is currently trying to make financial cutbacks and small rural schools are feeling under threat of closure or amalgamation. 99 per cent of respondents to the questionnaire said that the school was either very important or important to the local community.

Playgroup

Lowick pre-school plays an essential role in the development of the children in the village and the surrounding area. At present the playgroup is full, with sixteen children and there are children travelling to the playgroup from outside the catchment area. There are a lot of babies and young children who attend the toddler session and whose parents have expressed a desire for their children to come to the playgroup when their children are old enough. There is a demand for the playgroup to be opened for an extra session each week thus resulting in playgroup being open five mornings a week.

The playgroup has undergone two OFSTED inspections both of which have resulted in Lowick pre-school being placed in the top category for pre-school provision. The playgroup has always enjoyed a very good relationship with the school. The quality of provision has recently been recognised by Northumberland LEA and EYDCP resulting in the county council providing money for a closer working relationship between playgroup and school to provide a seamless “foundation stage” for children between 3 and 5 years of age.

The building currently used by the playgroup and located in the school grounds is in a very bad state of repair and initial findings suggest that it may not be worth spending money on it but that it might be more cost effective to replace the building. A feasibility study is currently underway, looking at three cost options – refurbish, demolish and rebuild or a purpose built modular building. The playgroup committee favour a purpose built modular building, which would cost in the region of £165,000. The school governors are supporting the playgroup on this project. However, until a decision has been made by the Local Education Authority as to the future of schools in the area all plans are currently on hold. A date for a decision by the LEA has not been given.

In the parish questionnaire 87% of respondents or 153 people thought that the playgroup was either very important or important to the local community.

Churches

Within the last two decades there were five churches in the village. The first to close was the Methodist church, followed by the Roman Catholic church. Within the last two years the Plymouth Brethren meeting house, which was located at Barmoor closed down and then in December 2002 the church of Scotland was closed also as it was felt that the building needed too much money spent on it to bring it to a good standard of

safety and repair. The church building was sold in the summer of 2003 and will be converted into a house.

There is a long history of Presbyterianism in Lowick, both Scottish and English Presbyterians had premises at Lowick at one time. The Scottish congregation has been in existence since 1662, formed by Rev. Luke Ogle, who resigned as minister at Berwick as a consequence of the act of uniformity and retired to nearby Bowsden. This congregation is one of the oldest non-conformist groups in the country.

The Church of Scotland congregation now use the village hall for their Sunday morning services and any other services or events.

St John the Baptist church

The Anglican church of St. John the Baptist, built in the early English style, is the parish church and is now the only functioning church building in Lowick village and since the closure of St Edwards Catholic church it is now used also by the Catholic congregation. The present building dates from 1794, and was added to in 1887, the chancel and vestry work being carried out by F. R. Wilson, who also worked for the Percy family, Earls and Dukes of Northumberland. A church has stood on the site since the twelfth century; the monks of Lindisfarne built the Norman chapel here when the ancient parish was sub-divided. The register for the church dates from about 1720.

The Parochial Church Council are currently trying to raise money to convert the old boiler house at the West end of the church into a toilet and washroom. This involves installing a water supply and drainage system through the churchyard at an estimated cost of £20, 000. A second stage to the project will be to create a small kitchen facility at the back of the church.

Services take place every Sunday morning at 9am and every Wednesday morning at 9.30am. In the questionnaire 80% of respondents or 141 people considered the church to be either very important or important to the local community.

Lowick Village Hall

Originally built as the village school, the stone building now serves the parish as their village hall. Comprising of a large room, which is the main hall complete with stage, a smaller meeting room, a kitchen and eating area, toilets and some storage rooms, the hall is currently in need of extensive repairs and refurbishment. It is currently under utilised, mainly it is felt because of its present condition but 93% or 164 people say that the village hall is either very important or important to the local community. 92.6% of respondents support the refurbishment of the hall to facilitate greater usage, believing it to be important to the local community.

Regular users include:

- Lowick parish council
- Lowick youth club
- Over 60s
- Lady Freemasons
- Pilgrims (stay overnight in hall on way to Holy Island on annual pilgrimage)

New users

Since the Parish Plan was started there has been a great deal of discussion about the village hall and about what can be done to make it a resource, which meets the needs of

the community in the twenty-first century. This was central to the questionnaire, which was distributed to every household, and at every open event connected with the parish plan the opportunity has been taken to raise the issues concerning the village hall, and to seek new users in order to make it sustainable for the future. At a wine and cheese in September 2003, forms were available for people to sign up to different clubs and classes. There was an overwhelming response and as a result many new clubs have started with others planned for 2004.

Computer facilities were installed in the small meeting room in 2002 as part of the villages on line project, which saw Northumberland College attract funding from the New Opportunities Fund. The project enabled the installation of three computers and a printer, together with various software and other peripherals such as a digital camera and to offer technical support and training to eight villages. Lowick Parish Council took the opportunity of using this contribution as match funding and were able to receive a grant of £5000 from Berwick upon Tweed Community Development Fund in order to make improvements to the hall to facilitate the computer project, along with some additional items to support the project. This project has seen new people come into the hall to use the computer facilities.

Northumberland College brought their college bus to the car park of the village hall to offer free computer training for ten individuals. In addition the college offered to run free 5-week taster courses in any subject. An art course was started on a Wednesday afternoon and this was so successful that a thirty week course is now ongoing which is attended by those from the village and outlying areas. Further courses are under discussion.

As has already been mentioned the Church of Scotland congregation now use the village hall as their meeting place in the village for all their services and meetings.

New users include:

- Lowick Church of Scotland congregation
- Users of the computer facilities
- Art group
- Local history group
- Floral art group
- Keep fit (starting January 2004)
- Social and recreation committee

Playpark

Lowick playpark is an average 1960s style play park with swings and a slide. It is maintained and managed by Berwick borough council and is in a good state of repair. It is a large site, with a park bench located at one side, there are a few trees on the site. It has the potential to be greatly improved to meet the needs of different ages of children and the community as a whole. At an open event the community was asked what they would like to see in the park some of the comments received about the park include:

The park could be so much more better, more trees and plants, seating for picnics and social gatherings, mums and dads to sit whilst watching children play.

Space needs to be better utilised - a maze, sculpture (art in the community) better swings etc, using wood and user-friendly materials.

I wish the Childrens play-park was better kept, with more facilities for children to use.

Football field

Lowick's football club is very keen and active and play in the Northumberland League. They have recently relocated their football field to the eastern edge of the village to enable them to erect a permanent building. They are currently seeking funding to enable them to install changing facilities and showers at the ground, make various environmental improvements, improve pedestrian access and provide lighting.

Lowick football club is very well supported by the village and by those living in the outlying areas. In the parish questionnaire 88% of respondents considered the football field to be either very important or important to the local community.

Lowick Common

A large area of grass situated to the northern edge of the village. The common traditionally was used by the village for any events they held. However in recent times the old football field was more likely to be used as there was better parking and access to electricity and toilets.

War memorial

A stone war memorial located in the centre of the village. The memorial itself is in good repair, but the lettering needs reinstating.

Two public houses

There are two public houses in the village, the Black Bull, providing food, drink and accommodation and the White Swan, providing food and drink.

Bookless Motors

The garage currently sells fuel, services cars and agricultural and horticultural machinery. There is a very well stocked stores division for the agricultural industry. The business plans to move to alternative premises over the road next year, at which time it will no longer sell fuel.

Lowick studio gallery and coffee shop

The gallery has a resident artist who undertakes commissions. The gallery aims to promote local high quality arts and crafts and to promote local food producers and provide a service to the community for quality gifts and a meeting place serving tea, coffee and good home baking.

Pottery

There is a pottery, which runs classes for adults and a pottery club for young people. Adjacent there is a paper-making and art studio.

Lowick Farmers Silos

They are a major employer in the area particularly during the summer season. Set up as a farmers' co-operative forty years ago but currently owned by Allied Grain, there is storage for about 60,000 tonnes of grain, oilseed rape and pulses.

Barmoor Castle Country Park

A caravan park is situated within the grounds of Barmoor castle. The caravan park was opened in 1990. There are currently eighty static residential caravans, with the intention

of increasing the numbers to one hundred by the end of summer 2004. The ultimate aim of the proprietors is to renovate the Castle. There are few facilities on site so residents depend on local services.

Other businesses

There are a variety of other businesses both in the village and the wider parish; there are two blacksmiths, a haulage contractor, horticultural and agricultural contractors, various farmers, food producers and food retailers, plumber, electrician, builder, joiner, taxi service, agricultural services, various consultants, resident artists and several bed and breakfast establishments and self catering properties.

5. COMMUNITY PROFILE

Lowick parish is within the Lowick borough ward of the district of Berwick upon Tweed, which is the northernmost district in England. The population of Lowick ward as measured in the 2001 Census was 989 of which 49% were male and 51% were female. The present average age in Lowick ward is 42.8 years, compared to the average age nationally of 38.6 years. 64 % of its inhabitants are either married or remarried compared to a national figure of 50.9%. 99.7 % of the population of Lowick ward are white compared to the national average of 91%.

Religion

82% of the population of Lowick are Christian as against a national average of 72%. 9.6% of Lowick ward have no religion and 7.6% do not state their religion, against the national figures of 14.8% and 7.7% respectively.

Health

Over 67% of people in Lowick ward declare their health to be good, lower than the national figure of 68.6%. 19.7% of residents in the ward have a limiting long-term illness higher than the national figure of 18.2 %.

15.1% of those living in Lowick ward provide voluntary care to look after or give help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of long-term physical or mental ill health or disability or problems relating to old age. This is considerably higher than the national figure of 10%.

Economic activity

61.4% of the population of Lowick ward are in employment, broken down into the following categories; 12.8% are employed part-time, 32.3% are employed full-time, and 16.2% are self-employed. 21.4% have degrees or postgraduate qualifications (as opposed to 19.8% in England & Wales as a whole),

Employment characteristics

Although at 3.9% the rural North East has the highest proportion of people working in the agricultural/fishing sector in rural England this remains a small part of the regional workforce. The vast majority (68.1%) of rural residents are employed in the following three sectors; public administration, health, education (34.7%); the banking sector (10.9%) and distribution hotels and restaurants (22.5%). This split does not significantly differ from urban areas. Sectors with a higher than average level of employment, compared to other rural regional populations include construction (7.4%) and, energy and water (1.9%).

Unemployment

Unemployment within Lowick ward was 3.2% - the average rate in England and Wales is 3.4%. Within Lowick ward, 33% of those unemployed were aged 50 and over, 0% had never worked and 29% were long term unemployed. Source: 2001 Census

Levels of unemployment benefit claims in the North East as a proportion of the working age population is the highest of all English regions (2.3% in rural areas and 3.6% in urban areas). This compares with the English rural average of 1.5% and urban average of 2.6%

Self employed economic activity

16.20% of people of working age within Lowick ward are self-employed compared to the national average of 11% of the rural working population. 10.7% of people of working age in the rural North East are self-employed. Similar to the rest of England, a higher proportion of men (14.7%) compared to women (5.8%) are self-employed in the rural NE. However a much higher proportion of women in rural areas are self-employed than in the urban North East (2.5%).

Social grades

The North East is under represented in most of the high level occupations including managers, larger employers and professionals, with the lowest proportion of all English regions. Only 7.4% of employees in the rural North East fall into higher managerial, large employer, or professional occupations compared to a national average of 8.7%. There is also a slightly lower proportion of people working in lower management and intermediate occupations. The North East has the highest proportion of people in rural areas who have never worked (2.3%) compared to the national average (1.5%) and double the number of long term unemployed (1.1%) compared to the national average (0.7%).

Working hours

Consistent with national trends, a much larger proportion of women (45.0%) in the rural North East work part time (31 hours or less) compared to men (9.2%). Likewise the rural North East reflects the national picture of the proportion of male workers working more than 48 hours per week (27.8%) compared to 27.7% nationally.

Income level and distribution

The North East contains severe pockets of deprivation with wards characterised by low levels of economic activity, a higher than average elderly population and higher than average rates of income support claimants compared to the national average. Rural wards in the North East tend on average to be less income deprived than those in urban areas.

An analysis of average household income in the North East shows that only 18% of wards have an average income of below £20,000 per year, compared with 41% of urban wards. This is a pattern reflected throughout all English regions, though it should be noted that the North East region has one of the smallest proportion (18%) of wards with households that have an income of £30,000 plus, compared to a national average of 34%. Whilst income levels tend to be higher in rural areas, this is not the case for wage levels. The average gross weekly earnings in 2002 in the rural North East was £293.54 compared with the urban figure of £326.62. This is the lowest figure of all English regions where the average rural weekly earnings was £332.02. The North East has, however, has seen the highest level of increase in rural earnings, with an increase of

12.8% between 1999-2002. Despite this, regional differentials have remained relatively unchanged, reflecting the low base from which wages in the North East began.

Housing and households

In Lowick ward there were 431 households in 2001. All of the population of Lowick lived within households. Within Lowick ward 54% of households were owner occupied, compared with 57.5% in Berwick borough as a whole and 69% nationally. Only 6.5% of households within Lowick were rented from the council, compared to 19% in Berwick borough and 13% nationally. Within Lowick ward 35% of households were private rented or residents lived rent free, compared to the national figure of 12% and the figure of 21% in Berwick borough. 10% of households within Lowick ward have no central heating compared to the national figure of 8.5% or 9% in Berwick borough.

Vehicle ownership

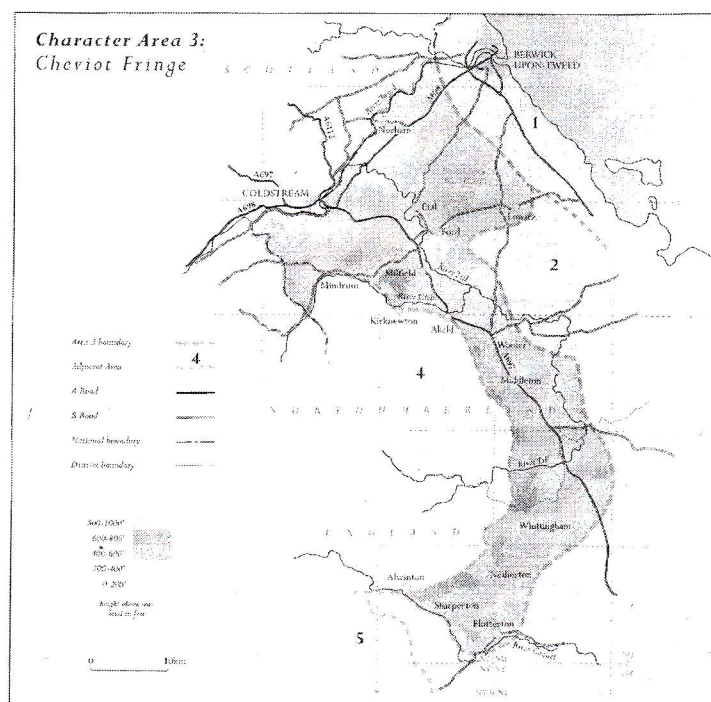
Within Lowick ward 12% of households have no car or van, compared to the national figure of 27% or 26% in Berwick borough. Within Lowick ward 50 per cent of households have one car and 37% of households have two or more cars or vans compared nationally to 29% that have two cars or more or to 23% in Berwick borough.

Index of Multiple Deprivation

There are 8414 wards in England. Each ward has been ranked, taking account of a number of measures, called domains, of deprivation, covering income, employment, health deprivation and disability, education, skills and training, housing and geographical access to services. The higher the number, the lower the levels of deprivation – therefore 1 is the most deprived and 8414 is the least. The last figures available are for year 2000 at that time Lowick parish was part of Ford ward, which had an index of multiple deprivation (IMD) of 2,682, which puts it in the top third of deprived wards in the country.

6. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

The parish is strongly agricultural in character, comprising mainly of fairly large mixed





From top; Lowick Hall; Lowick Hall farm cottages; a traditional Northumbrian barn at Lowick Hall farm.



From top; Lowick Hall farm buildings; silage making; Sheep shearing.



From top; looking East towards Killoe hills; looking South-West towards Cheviot hills; sheep in winter.

stock and arable farms. A more accurate description is given in the Countryside Character initiative, which is a programme of information on the character of the English countryside. It maps the country into 159 separate and distinctive character areas. Lowick parish is mostly within the area designated "Cheviot fringe" although the south east part of the parish is within "Northumberland Sandstone Hills" which is defined as area 2 within the character initiative. See fig. 1

The following information is taken from the Countryside Agency Landscape Character Assessment for the North East.

Landscape Character

A tranquil agricultural landscape of gently undulating to flat lowland farmland which provides the setting to the Cheviot Hills, separating them from the Northumberland Sandstone Hills to the east.

The physical form of the landscape has been heavily influenced by glaciation and deposition. It is covered by an extensive blanket of glacial till, with thick deposits of alluvial clay and sands.

Farm hamlets, are widely scattered throughout the area. Characteristic of this area is a 'patchwork' appearance of mixed farmland, enclosed by a strong pattern of hedgerows, with many hedgerow trees and small coniferous woodlands, which provide cover for game.

Physical Influences

The landscape of the area owes much to a widespread mantle of glacial deposits. The 'solid' rocks, limestones, mudstones and sandstones, which underlie much of the area, belong chiefly to the Cementstone Group of Lower Carboniferous age. Pre-glacial erosion of these rocks, which lie between the more resistant volcanic rocks of the Cheviot Hills and the Fell Sandstone Hills, reduced most of the area to a low elevation. Deposition of rock debris from beneath and within the ice sheets that crossed the area during the last glacial period has left an extensive mantle of boulder clay (till), some of which is moulded into characteristic drumlins. Glacial meltwaters locally cut channels into the underlying solid rocks. Sand and gravel, carried by these meltwaters, was deposited as vast spreads across parts of the area.

Historical and Cultural Influences

The location of the Cheviot Lowland Fringe, on the English/Scottish border, has strongly influenced the historical character of the area. Many existing landscape features have their origins in the need for defence. These include the earthwork remains of Iron Age hill forts, which line the break of slope between the lowland vales and plains and the surrounding high ground, and the defensive structures, such as Norham Castle, which form a chain along the frontier. The present A697 from Morpeth to Coldstream, was originally a Roman road. It was an important military route during the three centuries of border conflicts between the English and the Scots, which continued until the accession of James 1 united the two kingdoms in 1603. It was along this 'Kings' Highway' that most of the great battles of the Border Wars took place, including the battle of Flodden Field in 1513, during which James IV of Scotland was killed. A tall stone cross marks the battlefield.

There is much surviving evidence of early settlement in the Cheviot Fringe. The Milfield Plain in particular provided attractive sites for Neolithic farmers. It is

exceptionally rich in buried archaeological remains including extensive prehistoric ritual landscapes and Anglo-Saxon estate centres. Early Anglo-Saxon farmers originally cleared and cultivated the fertile lowland vales in a series of large open arable fields with associated hay meadows and common grazing. More peaceful times saw a main wave of enclosure in the 18th century, when the previously open fields were 'well-fenced with quicksets', so preserving the pattern of the ancient Anglian field system.

Buildings and Settlement

Scattered farmsteads and farm hamlets and a handful of villages reflect a general pattern of settlement which was established from at least Anglo-Saxon times. It consists of small nucleated villages, each separated by a wide area of surrounding land, within which farm hamlets, comprising a large grouping of farm buildings, cottages and industrial outbuildings, are widely dispersed.

Single-storied cottages solidly constructed in stone rubble won from the overlying glacial till deposits are characteristic of traditional building style. Roofs were originally thatched with heather or with reeds, although most have been replaced with blue-grey slates. A few have stone slab roofs. Larger houses and more important local buildings are commonly constructed in dressed sandstone, or use sandstone for corner blocks and lintels, with rubble infill walls and stone slate roofs.

Of the fortified structures in the area, it is the tower houses and 'bastles' which are most characteristic of the border region. Bastles are strongly fortified houses constructed with exceptionally thick stone walls, and with few openings at ground floor levels. Some of these structures have been incorporated within the fabric of later country houses, which are typically set within parkland, and add much to the character of the local landscape.

Land Cover

Arable cultivation dominates much of the good quality farmland within Lowick parish.. There is a large wooded area along the Kyloe hills and within the grounds of Barmoor Castle and the nearby Moss wood.

Few uncultivated or unimproved areas remain within Lowick parish but it does not lack wildlife interest. The flat low-lying fields are used as roosts and feeding grounds by wildfowl, especially geese, over-wintering on the coast and there is growing evidence that otter numbers are increasing in the area as well.

7. LOCAL HISTORY

Any mention or understanding of Lowick must inevitably take account of its location. Ten miles from the present Scottish Border at Coldstream, its history is intertwined with the River Tweed and the Cheviot Hills, which comprise the boundary between England and Scotland. Berwick-upon-Tweed itself changed hands some fourteen times before becoming (still sometimes reluctantly) a part of Northumberland.

The name of Lowick seems to have its origin in Old English, meaning an isolated place usually of some strategic importance. The Low Burn rises at Moss Hall to the west of Lowick village and wends its way to the sea at Goswick Sands by way of Hunting Hall, Lowick Mill and Low Lynn Water Mill. Even the pronunciation of Lowick is 'disputed' to this day. Is it "Low-Wick" or is it "Lall-wick"? It seems to depend on which side of

the border you originally came from. The consensus in the parish seems to favour the latter.

There are several records which reveal the extent of border raiding, during the 12th and 13th centuries in particular, where a number of raids of significant strength were made as far south as Wooler. Compensation was sought by the Church and people of Lowick from the Warden of the Eastern Marches for extensive damage inflicted on buildings and in loss of livestock. A large *posse en masse* assembled in the Barmoor Castle Woods in 1417 under the Lords of the Eastern Marches which prevented an even more extensive raid across the border from the Scots.

Lowick is only a few miles from the scene of the great battlefield of Flodden, which took place in the autumn of 1513. Having previously camped at Wooler, the Earl of Surrey and his artillery spent the last night before the battle in Barmoor Woods to the immediate west of Lowick village. On the morning of the 9th of September to the ring of trumpets and the sound of drums he divided his forces. One part crossed the Till at Milfield to the south of the Scots army to cut off any hope of retreat, the other he led with his son, Thomas Howard, across the river at Twizel to come up behind James IV at Branxton. Although now an old man, Surrey who had won the Battle of Bosworth Field for Henry VII some 28 years before, despite his age won this battle for Henry VIII at Flodden.

As Sir Walter Scott wrote in his epic "*Marmion*":

".....From Flodden Ridge

The Scots beheld the English host

Leave Barmore-wood, their evening post,

And heedful watched them as they crossed

The Till by Twisel Bridge. "



Kyloe Woods

Another famous wooded area within the Parish includes part of the Kyloe Woods, which has one of the largest variety of trees to be found. There are said to be two of the original *Leylandii* trees from which all others in this country have their origin, and these particular specimens are now over 100 feet tall! These woods also have their legends, as the names of places such as Bogle Hall and the Shepherds' Kirk reveal.

St Cuthbert



Close by, and within the parish, is St. Cuthbert's Cave. This early Christian Saint was born around 634 AD and died on the Farne Islands in 687. However he was not destined to lie in peace at Lindisfarne since a Viking raid in 875 necessitated his body being moved out of harm's way. One of its resting places en route to its subsequent burial at Durham was a natural cave formation on the Holborn moor, above Holburn Grange. Since Lowick Village is on the original route which pilgrims took from Melrose to Holy Island the village began to grow in some prosperity through catering to the needs of pilgrims for food and shelter. Up until the 20th century some five inns of various size and standard survived to serve the needs of the travelling public and local residents alike.

Holburn

Holburn today is a small settlement on the edge of the woods on the back road between Ancroft and Chatton. Some parcels of land still belong to the Trust administered by Greenwich Hospital in South-East London. Interestingly this Institution frequently administered the sequestered estates of attainted members of the aristocracy. Land that was used for mining at nearby Scremeston, for example, which had once belonged to the Earl of Derwentwater as well as land at Holburn, passed into the hands of Greenwich Hospital in 1716 when James Radcliffe, 3rd Earl of Derwentwater was beheaded at the Tower of London along with William Gordon, 6th Viscount Kenmure for their part in the Jacobite Rising of 1715.

Nearby is the prettily named steading of Laverock Law, a perfect example of how this is truly a border area. Laverock in Old English means "Skylark" and Law, in Old Scots, means a rounded hill. Hence the rounded hill where skylarks sing = Laverock Law.

Lowick village

Lowick village is situated fairly centrally in the parish, and includes Barmoor, Holburn, and Lowick itself. People were described throughout much of the 18th and 19th centuries as being "employed in the collieries, quarries, and in the manufacture of bricks, drainpipes, and lime burning." The latter was already on its last legs by the last quarter of the 19th century.

Agriculture played a leading role in the local economy alongside extractive industries such as mining and quarrying. A perfect example of how they literally stood shoulder to shoulder with one another can be seen within the landscape on the Coal Burn (which rises on Kemping Moss and flows past Holburn Mill to change its name below Hetton Hall). Where the burn passes what is now Hetton North Farm on the southern boundary of the parish extensive colliery workings went very much hand in hand with working on the land. Chief crops were said to have principally consisted of barley, oats, peas, and turnips.

Those who laboured in the fields were for the most part tenants who worked along with their families and occasionally with casual labour, with a few of them who employed agricultural labourers (or "Hinds" as they were colloquially known) more or less permanently. The landlords were some of the leading families of the area.: The Sitwells at Barmoor Castle, the Haggerston Family at Haggerston Castle, the Gregsons at High Hall, Mrs. Stopford, Sir Francis Blake at Bowsden, and to the south the Earl of Tankerville and the Duke of Northumberland.. There are memorials to the Sitwells and the Gregsons in Lowick Parish Church. The latter appear to have opened quite extensive workings at the Licker Colliery between Lowick and Bowsden in 1854.

Lest anyone believes that rural life was without difficulties in the 18th century a perusal of the Quarter Session records for 1730 tells of when Robert Blake of Norham (North Durham) was the plaintiff in three separate actions for recovery of goods detailed as sheep, wool, pigs etc from Jane Wallis and Eleanor Ramsay at "Howburne" [Holburn] and one Thomas Watson at "Howburne Woodhouse". Frustratingly the verdict does not seem to have come down to us.

Population has declined considerably in this part of Northumberland and Lowick Parish is no exception. In 1801 there were 1382 residents, the women exceeding the men in number. After 1821 the numbers are more equal between men and women. By 2001 the number for the entire Lowick ward is given as 989, a drop of nearly 28%. A steady fall in 200 years.

Archaeology

The roman road "The Devils Causeway" runs through the parish. There are several other interesting archaeological sites within the parish, including the remains of an iron-age fort to the north west of Laverock Law. There is a fine example of prehistoric rock art "cup-and-ring marks" at Roughting Lynn. This example is part of a collection located approximately in a ten mile area which are described as "one of the most interesting collections to be seen anywhere in the world". These carvings typically consist of concentric circles arranged around cup-shaped depressions, and their exact purpose remains a mystery.

8. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Extensive community consultation occurred throughout the duration of the parish plan, which included meetings and discussions with groups, organisations and individuals, as well as a questionnaire, which was distributed to every household in the parish in June 2003. Several well-attended open events were held when the community were able to read about the initiative, view the findings to date, comment and sign up for specific groups and activities.

Some of the general comments received from the community:

Apart from minor dereliction - the place is perfect.

Thanks for opportunity to comment. Village is moving in right direction.

Lowick needs to recognize its strong farming heritage, but build on its ability to adapt and accept/welcome new families and businesses into the community. Its a friendly village with lots of potential and the local businesses need to complement rather than compete.

We need to be bold with our funding bids but there must be good evidence of pulling together and community unity. All facilities should be considered communal.

We do care about the community and environment of Lowick Parish and would like to share the collective responsibility to maintain, improve and appreciate the area. Our home here being a "weekend retreat" means practical assistance and involvement would be intermittent but we could be available for some projects and do/would participate in social events.

The community spirit in the village needs to be rekindled - e.g. Lowick Festival Week, Miss Lowick discos, Barn Dances etc. should all be organized again. I'm sure lots of the villagers would be delighted and willing to help in the organization of such events.

People flock to Norham from miles around to see their annual "scarecrow" display - could we not do something similar?? I'm sure it would be great fun.

There are a large volume of children in the village, and there needs to be more facilities and events organized for them.

Important to strengthen sense of community. More community activities needed in village - but village hall cold and uninviting.

Car parking around the crossroads / village shop area and on zigzags outside the school needs immediate attention. Accidents waiting to happen!

Although the provision of several more litter bins would benefit the village, the main problem seems to be persuading certain people to actually use them!

Important to cherish the lovely old bits of the village we have and not spoil them with ugly development. Sympathetic restoration of old buildings the priority. Shell of village hall should be retained.

We feel that information in the form of a regular newsletter (not necessarily very lengthy) or an oral update given by a parish councillor local to each area of the parish, outlining any ongoing and/or new projects and detailing any help required at that particular juncture in time would enable people to volunteer for specific projects appropriate for their skills.

The building used for playgroup is outdated and badly needing a revamp. Some parents are taking their children out of the village to other playgroups because our own facilities are so poor.

Applications should be made for lottery funding.

ANALYSIS OF QUESTIONNAIRE

A copy of the questionnaire complete with results is included in the appendices.

There were 95 questionnaires returned out of 230, of those 72% were from Lowick village with the remaining 28% from the outlying area of Lowick parish.

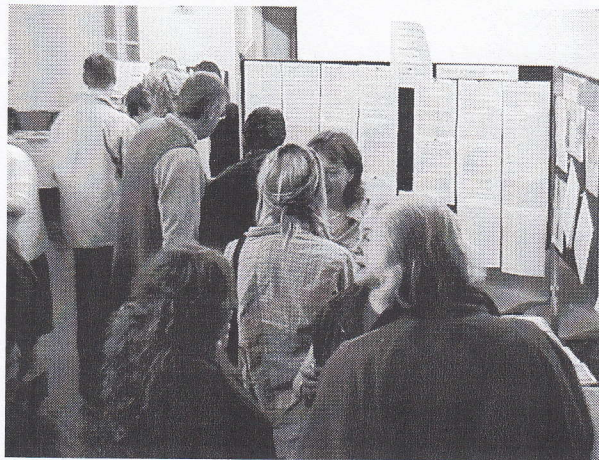
52% of respondents were male and 48% were female. 22 % of respondents were aged between 25-44 and 29% aged between 45-59. 36% of respondent had lived in the parish less than five years.

When asked "How did you come to live in the area?" the largest response at 38% was a love of country life, followed by 27% through working in the area and 20% born here.

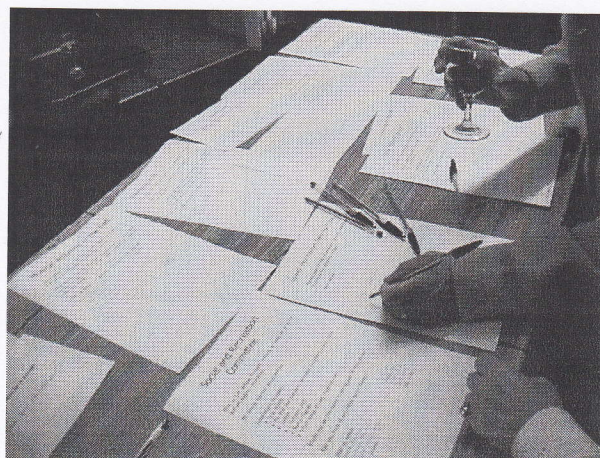
Employment

36.5% of respondents were employed, 16% of respondents were self-employed, which is the same statistic as returned by the 2002 census, and which is considerably higher than the national average of 11%. 30% were retired. Of those running businesses, 90% did so within the parish.

A Wine and Cheese
was held in Lowick
Village Hall, as
a very successful
consultation event,



The results of the
questionnaire were
on display to read
and everyone
mingled over a glass
of wine and
discussed the
projects.



Everyone also had the
opportunity to sign up,
either to assist with
projects or to request
events or activities and
also to have another
opportunity to tell us
their views in
connection with the
Parish Plan.



All the existing groups and associations in the parish put together information about their organisation and activities.

The over-60s had a display of old photographs of their events over the decades.



The Youth Group had lots of photographs of their activities.

Lowick First School and the Play group took the opportunity to display information to a wider audience than those who attend school events.



79% of respondents worked full-time and 13.6% worked between 15 and 30 hours per week, with 7.4% working less than 15 hours per week. Of those not in work 5.7% were looking for full time work, 3.8% were seeking part time work. Of those seeking work 11 people would like more information about job vacancies or training opportunities within the community. Lack of access to transport was a barrier to getting work for 4 people.

Nature of employment

21.6% of respondents were employed in agriculture or horticulture. 17.6% involved in the retail or service industry and 5.9% involved in the tourist industry. Surprisingly 29.4% of respondents were employed in local government or the public sector, this can perhaps only be explained by the increasing popularity of Lowick as a place to live by those working primarily in Berwick.

Place of work

37.4% of respondents main place of work was within the parish. 24.2% worked primarily in Berwick with only 5% working in Wooler. 33% of respondents worked mainly elsewhere.

Housing and development

36% of respondents thought that the number of houses that had been built in Lowick in the last ten years was about right. 17% of respondents thought there was too little new housing and 17% thought it was too expensive. 63% of respondents thought Lowick could accommodate more new housing. 52% of respondents thought the parish needed homes for young people, 49% wanted small family homes and 42% wanted rented accommodation. Only 15% thought that no further homes were needed.

63.6% of respondents would support tourist based development or tourist attractions in the parish. 69% would support cottage industry. 51% would support workshops and 40% homes with business premises. 50% of respondents would support the conversion of buildings to residential use and 28.5% would support co-operative premises.

Transport

94% or 159 would support the Parish Council in making an application for a community transport scheme to address some of the transport needs identified in the parish. 34 people would like to use such an initiative to connect to the local bus route. 17 people would like transport to get home from after school activities or evening classes. 30 people would use it because of problems using conventional public transport. 45 people would use it to travel to places not on the local bus route.

When asked for volunteers to assist with this project, 4 people volunteered to be transport co-ordinators. 13 people would be prepared to be volunteer drivers using their own car with a mileage allowance and 12 people would be prepared to drive a community vehicle.

Additional services

95 people wanted a prescription collection service. The parish and village are currently served by GP services in Belford and Wooler, both of which are 7 miles away with limited public transport available.

53 people would like a newspaper delivery and 17 people would like groceries delivered.

Existing social facilities

Local social facilities were deemed by the majority to be poor for all age groups other than for over 60s. 17% of respondents thought facilities for over 60s were good and 45% thought they were reasonable with 12% saying poor.

Proposed clubs and activities

135 people think there is a need for a social and recreation committee to organise events for the community, such as social evenings, leisure activities, evening classes and various clubs etc.

60 people would like a keep fit/yoga class. 31 people would play tennis. 24 people want to play snooker/pool. 22 people want to play bowls/boules. 13 people would like to play skittles. 12 people would like to play table tennis. 10 people would like to play mini tennis.

85 people would like more social events. 49 people wanted a local history group. 42 people would like a gardening club. 35 people would like an art/creative crafts group. 33 people would like a computer club. 27 people would like a rambling club. 21 people would like a luncheon club. 18 people would like a music society. 16 people want to play whist or board games. 15 people would like a drama group. 6 people would like to play Bridge.

People were found to start several of these activities and an open event in September gave people the opportunity to sign up. There was an excellent response and many activities have now started. Two Christmas floral decoration classes had 15 attendees and more classes are planned. 29 people turned up at the inaugural meeting of the local history group, a steering group has been set up and a future timetable is planned.

Lowick Village Hall

There had in the past been discussion by the village hall committee about refurbishing the village hall to include showers and changing rooms and to create a hard surfaced multi purpose flood lit sports area adjacent to the hall. The question “ How important are the following to the community?” was asked to try and establish thoughts and priorities on three different options.

- Option 1 - Refurbishment of village hall to increase greater usage
- Option 2- Refurbishment of village hall to include showers and changing rooms
- Option 3- Creation of hard floodlit sports area adjacent to hall

The results are tabled below – 175 people answered the question

	1 = very important	2 = important	3 = not important	4 = no opinion
Option 1	124 (70.9%)	38 (21.7%)	2 (1.1%)	10 (5.7%)
Option 2	43 (24.6%)	32 (18.3%)	47 (26.9%)	18 (10.3%)
Option 3	47 (26.9%)	52 (29.7%)	32 (18.3%)	16 (9.1%)

In summary 162 people or 92.6% of respondents thought the refurbishment of the village hall was either very important or important. 75 people or 43% of respondents thought the refurbishment should include showers and changing rooms, with 47 people or 27% saying changing facilities were not important.

47 people or 27% of respondents thought the creation of a hard surfaced floodlit sports area was very important with 52 people or 30% saying important.

An additional text question was asked "Do you have any thoughts on what is needed in the refurbishment of the hall? Or how the hall could be used to make it financially sustainable? Any comments?"

Many responses were received, with several duplications but the main comments are listed as follows:

New floor, heating and kitchen.

New toilets and showers, new kitchen, floor needs attention, needs to look bright and welcoming.

Redecorate, curtains.

Hold monthly car boot and table top sale, well advertised adjacent to A1.

Organise a youth club with coffee bar, snooker, billiard tables.

Decorated smart enough for social events eg dances, parties etc.

Damp course. Central heating.

Basket ball nets in sports area.

Provision of more comfortable chairs.

Childrens Saturday morning dance classes. I have considered running these but have been unsure of the viability in this area.

Better heating (to remove damp smell) and to make more comfortable.

Village fair/fete in summer with floats, stalls, games/events.

Better heating/modernise the kitchen, would get greater use for parties, weddings etc.

Bigger catering area.

Could be used as a venue for the W.I. if ever reformed. To generate cash from village it needs to be refurbished first. Once complete good venue for dances, quiz nights, discos for under 16s who live in village and surrounding areas.

New kitchen. New floor. Raising ceiling.

Create a room for a weekly GP surgery and other health care provision.

Complete new building with low up keep.

Sports centre for all abilities/creched and staffed properly.

Showers and sound system.

Kitchen refurbishment.

Provide a Luncheon club.

Type and extent of refurbishment depends on use(s) of building.

Pull down screen, projector and sound system for functions, meetings and community education.

Relocate Play Group - could be venue for Play group. Bar area and sound system to make it more appropriate for private functions. Promote skills of local people.

Better use of village hall for parking for visitors. New sign for village hall. Small stage shows, pantomimes etc. Form a local drama group either children, adults or both.

Updating kitchen for "commercial use".
Windows - heating - condensation.

New kitchen. Needs a lot of work on walls, floor etc.

More go-ahead people on committee.

Upgrading generally is more likely to increase usage which could help financially eg weddings.

The approach to the hall wants to be made more attractive, re-site bins

General redecoration - it seems dark and gloomy.

Improving the appearance of the outside.

New kitchen, warmer, cosy, carpet.

Important to strengthen sense of community with more community activities, but village hall cold and uninviting. Sympathetic restoration of old building.

Refurbish to a standard acceptable for evening social events.

Such activities as would enhance communal activity.

Flooring renewed. Redecorated.

Heating. Redecorated.

Ceilidh.

Use village hall for Play Group.

Contact National Village halls association for advice - should be on internet.

Public Toilets needed

Refurbish to encourage pilgrims on St Cuthberts Walk. Perhaps dormitory facilities and information.

Possibly advertised as available for hire - wedding evenings etc.

General refurbishment - better heating, kitchen etc. Redecorating and more comfortable chairs.

Information services and communication

81 people thought a tourist information point would be a welcome addition and 100 people thought a local information point was needed. 101 people supported the idea of a map/tourist leaflet. 72 people supported better signposts. 106 people wanted a parish newsletter. 62 people supported a parish web page.

Countryside

100% of respondents thought the quality of the countryside was either very important or important to them. Trees and hedgerows were classed as either very important or important by 98% and woodland by 97%, and 85% considered public footpaths and bridleways to be important and 82% thought traditional farm buildings important only 43% thought modern farm buildings important which perhaps indicates that the community does not understand modern agriculture.

9. ACTION PLAN

Priorities

The projects are not listed in order of priority. Proposed actions have been prioritised into three categories – High, Medium and Low.

These decisions were made on a combination of factors, which included,

- how essential the action was deemed to be in both the short and long-term,
- the effect that the action would have on the community.
- a realistic understanding of the time and effort required of the community

Some actions have been included as high priorities not necessarily because they are seen to be more important than other actions but because they are fairly easily achievable. Other actions may be considerably more demanding and perhaps more important in the long-term but this has to be weighed up with how much the community can do at any one time, so hence they have to become a longer term objective given the effort that will be required to fulfil other priorities.

Timescale

In addition to prioritised actions, timescales have been set – Immediate, Medium and Long term.

So what next?

There are currently fourteen projects that have been identified as priorities, which have come out of the Parish Plan. The summary of the action plan, which follows identifies which organisation is going to be the lead on each project. Where it is the Parish Council leading, each project has a parish councillor, who will take responsibility for developing their particular project and to bring in other people from the community to help deliver the project.

In section two, each project is identified individually and a summary included of progress to date on each. Section two of the Parish Plan will be constantly changing as these projects develop. Each project will also have a separate file and this file will be updated as they progress.

There will also be a file on funding sources and as information is requested it will be cross-referenced and put into a series of box files. Some of the projects will have an individual box file, which will hold information relevant to that project such as funding information packs and application forms.

SUMMARY OF ACTION PLAN

	Description of project	Priority	Timescale	Action by:
9.1	Refurbishment of village hall – started - building surveyor appointed to undertake feasibility study and utilise information to date to produce plans and proposals	High	Immediate	Parish Council + village hall committee + other groups & individuals
9.2	Social and recreation committee - Additional community activities	High	Immediate	Parish Council + village hall committee - Marjorie Bell - Susan Graham
9.3	Local heritage project – group now formed, working with borough archivist	High	Immediate	Local history group + Parish Council - Peter Calder
9.4	Signage and interpretation - dependent upon heritage project	Medium	Medium	Local history group + Parish Council - Stephen Mather
9.5	Gardening club – to include best kept garden competition and garden open day	High	Medium	Gardening club + Parish Council - Duncan Stewart
9.6	Environmental improvements	High	Medium	Parish Council + gardening club - Duncan Stewart
9.7	Improvements to playground – specific recommendations to be established	Medium	Medium	Parish Council + youth group + playgroup etc - John Huddart
9.8	Computer facilities – integration of various different computer facilities	High	Immediate	Parish Council + others
9.9	Parish newsletter and web page – initially Parish council as project led	High	Immediate	Parish Council + others - Ann Gold
9.10	Housing survey – questionnaires being produced by CCN to give out in January.	Medium	Immediate	Community council + Parish Council
9.11	Transport project – feasibility work to begin shortly - discussions with key partners	High	Immediate	Parish Council - Ann Gold
9.12	War memorial – reinstating lettering	Medium	Medium	Parish Council - Alan Kinghorn
9.13	Play group building - ongoing	High	Immediate	Play group
9.14	Football club facilities - ongoing	High	Immediate	Football club

9.1 VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT

Community consultation has revealed there is a great deal of support to refurbish the village hall, which is greatly in need of essential repairs and general refurbishment in order to fulfil the needs of the community. 93% of respondents or 164 people said the village hall was either very important or important to the local community. 92.6% of respondents or 162 people supported refurbishment of the village hall.

A list of proposed new clubs and activities were included in the questionnaire and many people responded positively e.g. 60 people wanted Keep Fit, 30 wanted Badminton, 21 people wanted a luncheon club, 35 people wanted art and creative crafts, 49 people wanted to start a local history group, 85 people wanted more social events, and 135 people thought there should be a social and recreation committee.

An open event was held in September with a huge turnout which displayed the results of the questionnaire and gave people another opportunity to sign up for activities. As a result some of these groups have now started, there is a Wednesday afternoon art class, the history group has commenced and also the social committee. The keep fit class is due to start in January and flower-arranging classes have begun.

As a first step in the project to refurbish Lowick village hall, the Parish Council have been successful in getting funding to employ a Building Surveyor to carry out a building survey and assessment of Lowick Village hall and prepare plans for future works and uses. They have been successful in securing funding from the Berwick upon Tweed Community Development Fund to enable this work to proceed. The brief for this work is as follows:

- To carry out a Building Survey to assess the condition of the hall and identify and provide budget costs for essential repairs.
- To look at the existing facilities and utilising information made available through the questionnaire and consultation events regarding existing and proposed uses make decisions about how best to refurbish the hall, which might include additional building work.
- To carry out a measured survey of the building and prepare scheme design proposals, drawings and budget costs for discussion and consultation.
- To liaise with the various committees including the village hall committee and the Parish Council and to hold an open event when the information will be displayed for the whole community to comment upon.

The delivery of the building survey and plan will be a major milestone in the development of the refurbishment of the village hall. It will give the Parish Council and the village hall committee a clear picture of what is needed at the hall and the costs and the plans to enable them to consult with the wider community. The report that will be produced as a result of this funding will provide firm facts and figures and will provide the basis for discussions between the organisations and committees to answer their questions and ultimately get agreement on final proposals. This work will be the basis of a funding bid document, to get funds to refurbish the hall.

There are currently eight active voluntary groups in Lowick who would all benefit from this project and there are many other groups either just starting up or intending to commence. Through the feasibility study they will have the opportunity to have an input into the proposals for the hall, which would benefit the success of the groups in the long term.

The hall, when refurbished will be an ideal place for an outreach centre for training, workshops and classes. Northumberland College has been involved in providing computer training at the hall and is currently providing an art class. Many more classes are anticipated but at present the hall is cold and damp, which puts many people off. The feasibility study will build upon the information already gathered through community consultation to identify what training and courses people want.

The young people in the village will be one of the target groups for this project. A refurbished hall will provide greater sports and recreational potential, as well as courses and training. The computer facilities installed last year have been particularly successful with youngsters who now use the hall regularly so there are greater opportunities to consult with them further. They will be asked about their interest in music, dance and drama and classes, which could be provided in a refurbished hall.

The outcome of the survey will indicate how best the hall can be used in the future to fulfil the needs and aspirations of the community. The Parish Plan has identified that the community see their village hall as a valuable resource which must be used more in order to justify refurbishment and to make it sustainable. It is essential to continue to bring people into the hall, and to identify new uses for the hall and new activities to take place in the hall. This is currently the aim of the community of Lowick, to support the hall at a time when it has been struggling financially and to ensure its survival and future use. The delivery of this project will greatly increase the knowledge and confidence of the community and enable them to move forward with the hall refurbishment and to apply for the necessary funding.

DEFRA are a possible source of funding. A representative from DEFRA has been to the hall and spoken to the community about RES funding and has supplied the Parish council and Village hall committee with information about RES and what an application will need to include and what skills will need to be demonstrated by the applicant. This information is included in the hall refurbishment project file.

Priority – High

Timescale – feasibility work to begin immediately

Action by – Lowick Parish council in association with Lowick Village hall committee.

Partnership organisations – DEFRA, Northumberland College, Community Council of Northumberland, Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Council.

9.2 SOCIAL AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

In the parish questionnaire 88% of respondents thought there was a need for a social and recreation committee to help organise additional social and community activities. At the open event in September 2003, four people signed up saying they would like to work together to organise some social events for the community. Increasing social activities within the parish is integral to the refurbishment of the hall in order to create a sense of community ownership of the hall. In addition the profile of the hall needs to be raised both within and outside the community, for refurbishment to be feasible and sustainable.

SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Suggestions included in completed questionnaires or given at open events:

- Christmas pantomime
- Ceilidhs
- Craft classes
- Calligraphy
- Soft furnishings

- Bird watching/identification
- Quiz nights
- Pie & pea supper – together with quiz night?
- Country dancing
- Country music evenings
- Film club
- Dance and music classes for children
- Passing on traditional skills and crafts

Priority – High

Timescale – Immediate

Action by – The parish council in conjunction with Lowick Village hall committee to set up the social and recreation committee, which will begin to plan events.

Partnership organisations – Groups and organisations within the parish and adjoining parishes.

9.3 LOCAL HERITAGE

In the parish questionnaire 54.3% of respondents thought that local heritage and interpretation was either very important or important to the local community. 49 people said they were interested in being part of a local history to explore the heritage of the area and to produce a record of the past. An initial meeting had an attendance of 29 people and subsequent meetings have resulted in a steering group being formed, which has met several times. The borough archivist attended a public meeting and gave an interesting talk on the area as well as offering useful advice on setting the group up. It is planned that through the Northumberland College the borough archivist will run a 5-week course on researching local history which will begin in January 2004 and may well develop into a longer course.

A simple form has been given to all of those who attended the local history group meetings to identify the interests of the group. A wide range of topics were included, which covered all aspects of local history and the natural heritage of the area and people were asked to tick those of interest. Specifically mentioned by several people was the wealth of information that exists within the community, in the form of old photographs, records, documents and most important of all, peoples memories. It was felt that a high priority should be placed on collecting verbal information from the older residents of the community, as much of this information is not written down and could subsequently be lost forever. It is hoped that as the group develops, a firm project proposal will be formed.

Priority – High

Timescale – Immediate

Action by – Lowick local heritage group

Partnership organisations – Lowick Parish Council, Local Heritage Initiative (LHI), Linda Bankier, Berwick upon Tweed Borough archivist, Northumberland College.

9.4 SIGNAGE AND INTERPRETATION

In the parish questionnaire 67 people thought it would be good to have interpretation boards and 86 people supported the idea of a village trail. Leaflets of local walks available to buy was supported by 103 people and 128 people supported maps of local footpaths.

There is a possibility of developing this project alongside the local heritage project in order to interpret any findings, whether they are historical, archaeological or based on the natural history of the area.

Priority – Medium

Timescale – Medium

Action by – Lowick local heritage group in conjunction with Lowick Parish Council

Partnership organisations - Local Heritage Initiative (LHI), Berwick Borough Council

9.5 GARDENING CLUB, BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION AND GARDEN OPEN DAY

Many people made suggestions along the lines that more flowers and plants would improve the village.

Some of the comments are listed below:

Competition for best garden to encourage all of the parish to maintain own gardens.

Tubs of flowers down the Main Street would make it more colourful.

Tubs of flowers at entrances to village and village focal points.

Flower troughs.

Create flower beds and baskets eg competition for the best garden.

All gardens to be well kept. Plants as you come through the village, lots of colour.

More floral displays.

Have a community bulb planting day

More hanging baskets. Have an annual competition for "Best Garden in village".

Blossom trees along Main Street.

Entering national competitions like "Village in Bloom" and "Best kept village". A gardening club could grow plants for this and hold plant sales to raise funds.

Flower tubs along main street and welcome signs at entrances to village.

More flowers and trees and lights - trees lit at Xmas.
Open gardens - Chatton did a trail, Belford opening one a month.

Priority – High

Timescale – Medium

Action by – Lowick gardening club, with assistance from Lowick Parish council. Parish Councillor Duncan Stewart has offered to help set this group up.

Partnership organisations – Gerry Milne, Lowick village store proprietor has offered to sponsor a “Best kept garden competition”.

9.6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

There were various environmental improvements proposed for Lowick village. 155 people wanted more shrubs and flowers in the village. 114 people thought more trees should be planted in the parish. 118 people wanted more seating and 116 thought there should be more litterbins. Further consultation should take place on this at the same time as the plans for the village hall are considered.

Some of the comments are listed below:

Tidy up Main Street.

Ask all homeowners to tidy up their buildings and gardens, especially on Main Street. So many are in need of repair or painting.

Lights to the football field at the bottom of the village.

Roads and footpaths need repairing in places.

- Better maintenance eg benches and litter bins.

Improved car parking facilities would tidy the appearance of the village.

Tidy up unsightly building fascias and soften lines with trees, planting etc.

Tidy up land surrounding village hall.

Problem with parking around shop and by blacksmiths - needs sorting.

Priority – High

Timescale – Medium

Action by – Lowick Parish Council with assistance from Lowick gardening club and other interested groups and individuals.

Partnership organisations – Berwick Borough council, local businesses

9.7 IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PLAYGROUND

The playground is an area that could be greatly improved. The information that has already been collected needs to be considered and further discussion take place with the various groups in the parish that currently use the playground. To include local residents, pre school and mother and toddlers groups, the school and the youth group to establish what their needs are and precisely what improvements they would like to see in order to identify specific recommendations.

Priority – Medium

Timescale – Medium

Action by – Lowick Parish Council to try and find a group of people who can work together to help deliver this project.

Partnership organisations – Berwick Borough council, Sure start, local residents, pre school and mother and toddlers groups, the school and the youth group.

9.8 LOWICK COMPUTER FACILITIES

Three computers were installed in Lowick village hall in 2002 as the result of a funding bid by Northumberland College and a project called “Villages on Line”. In addition the Parish council received a grant from the Berwick Community Development Fund to assist with the project in Lowick. The computers have been extremely well received and are well used and enthusiasm for the computers is increasing. A parish web page has been created as part of the villages on line project, which links the villages together.

In addition three computers have also been installed into the Black Bull public house and one computer has been installed in the village shop. It is felt that these various computer facilities need to be integrated in some way and a co-ordinated approach to their promotion and use established.

Priority – High

Timescale – Immediate

Action by – Lowick Parish Council

Partnership organisations – Village hall committee, Villages On Line project, Northumberland College, Black Bull, Lowick village store

9.9 PARISH NEWSLETTER AND WEB PAGE

It is important that an effective method of communication is established, particularly if the community wants to build upon the current interest and enthusiasm developing for various projects. A Parish Newsletter would enable information to be disseminated amongst parishioners at regular intervals.

A parish web page would be another way of keeping the parish informed of progress on various projects, particularly for those directly involved so that they could also see how other projects were developing. A web page has already been created through the villages on line project, it might be possible to utilise this and either extend it or create links.

Priority – Medium

Timescale – Medium

Action by - to be established

9.10 HOUSING SURVEY

The Parish questionnaire indicates that there may be a need for more affordable housing for local people of all ages. In order to establish the situation more clearly has been decided to carry out a detailed assessment of local housing need by means of a housing survey. It is intended that this will provide information on the number of households requiring alternative accommodation, the type of accommodation required and the prices that local households can afford.

In view of the proximity of Hetton Ward to Lowick village it has been agreed that the survey be extended to include the residents of Hetton Ward.

The Community Council of Northumberland has undertaken to collate and analyse the results of the survey and to produce a report setting out the findings. The information gathered in the survey is anonymous and will remain strictly confidential. If the survey shows evidence of a real need for affordable housing in Lowick it is possible that, with the support and agreement of the local authority, a small number of houses for rent or sale could be built locally, for local people.

This exercise is being carried out to assess the level of overall demand not to produce a waiting list. The contribution by local people will help to ensure that if, in the future, additional affordable housing is developed in Lowick it will be appropriate to local needs and include the right mix of accommodation.

Priority – High

Timescale – Immediate

Action by – Gillian Wheeler on behalf of Community Council for Northumberland with assistance from Lowick Parish Council

Partnership organisations – Berwick borough council

9.11 TRANSPORT PROJECT

Information has already been displayed at open events about the possibility of attracting funding to help address some of the transport issues identified within the parish. Further more specific information should be collected. Discussions need to take place with adjoining parishes. Existing transport providers should be approached and included in discussions.

Priority – High

Timescale – Immediate

Action by – Lowick Parish Council

Partnership organisations – North Northumberland Rural Transport Partnership (NNRTP) – Marc Johnson, Northumberland County Council – Ged Thomas, Countryside Agency, DEFRA, adjacent parish councils of Bowsden, Kyloe, Tillside, Doddington,

9.12 WAR MEMORIAL

The text on the stone war memorial needs reinstating by a stone mason.
The following is the text and formation on the war memorial:

**SACRED
TO THE MEMORY
OF
THOSE MEN WHO GAVE
THEIR LIVES FOR
GOD, KING & COUNTRY
IN THE GREAT WAR
1914 – 1919**

**AND ALSO
TO THE MEMORY
OF
THOSE WHO FELL IN
THE WORLD WAR
1939 - 1945**

SGT. C. PRINGLE S.L. INF. - K.I.A. JULY 3 15
L.CPL. C. STOTHART K.O.Y. L.I. - SEPT. 6 16
RFL. R. FORESTER C. OF L. RGT. - P.O. RFLS - SEPT. 16 18
L.CPL. T. YOUNG S.F. HDRS. - OCTR. 12 16
PTE. J. FAIRBAIRN R.S.F. - OCTR. 16 18
L.CPL. W.S. MILBURN K.O.Y.L.I. - OCTR. 29 16
A.B. A.C. MARK R.N. - DIED JAN. 19 17
DVR. D. FAIRBAIRN R.A.S.C. - FEB. 7 17
PTE. G. ALEXANDER K.O.Y. L.I. - K.I.A. FEB. 10 17
PTE. F. ANDREWS N.Fs. - JUNE 15 17
RFL. J.W. RENTON R.I. RFLS. - AUG 3 17
L.CPL. J. CORCORAN M.C.O. - SEPT. 8 17
PTE. A. WADE N.Fs. - SEPT. 22 17
SGT. B. HILLS N.Fs. - D. of W. FEBY 20 18
SGT. J. SCOTT N.Fs. - K.I.A. MARCH 21 18
PTE. W. SMITH NORTHANTS REGT. - APRIL 20 18
L.CPL. G. PROUDLOCK R.Es. - MAY 28 18
GNR J.A. McCRAITH R.F.A. - D. of W. SEPT. 8 18
PTE. J. PIERCY Y. & IS. REGT. - SEPT. 21 18
PTE. R. WILSON E. YKS. - K.I.A. SEPT. 28 18
PTE. R. HILLS A. & S. HDS. - OCTR. 14 18
L.CPL. J. WILSON R.A.S.D. - DIED OCTR. 28 18
PTE. W. HALL D.L.I. - D. of W. OCTR. 29 18
L.CPL. I. PROUDLOCK K.O.Y.L.I. - K.I.A. SEPT. 29 17
PTE. D. FAIRBAIRN L.Fs. - OCTR. 9 17
PTE. L.W. SANDERSON A.I.F. - OCTER. 9 17
PTE. R. GLAZIE M.G.C. - DIED DECR. 9 18
PTE. T.H. BRUCE N.Fs. - NOVR. 12 18

GNR. L. ABERCROMBIE R.A. - 7 MAY 41
GUARDSMAN A. AITCHISON M.G.C. - 2 JAN. 40
RFN. E. BROWN CAMERONIANS - 25 APRIL 45
CPL. J.B. CLARK R.A.F. - 15 JULY 45
SAPPER R. WATT R.E. - 4 MAY 45

**"LEST WE FORGET
THEY DIED THAT WE MIGHT LIVE"**

Priority – Medium

Timescale – Medium

Action by – Lowick Parish Council to find funding to implement project

Partnership organisations – Berwick Borough council,

9.13 PLAY GROUP BUILDING

The playgroup committee are currently involved in fundraising for the purpose built modular building. Estimated cost £165,000.

Priority – High

Timescale – Medium

Action by – Lowick playgroup

Partnership organisations – Lowick first school, Northumberland County Council.

9.14 FOOTBALL CLUB FACILITIES

Lowick football club are currently seeking planning permission to erect two portacabins at the football field. They are seeking funds to provide services such as electricity and water to install showers and changing facilities into the building. In addition they will be fencing the area and undertaking various environmental improvements. Financial estimates are not available yet.

Priority – High

Timescale – Medium

Action by – Lowick Football club

Partnership organisations – Lowick Parish council, Berwick Borough council.

SECTION TWO

PROJECTS

Refurbishment of Lowick Village Hall

In February 2004 Lowick Parish Council successfully applied to Berwick upon Tweed Borough Councils Community Development Fund for a £3000 grant to enable them to undertake a building survey of the village hall and a feasibility study to look at the refurbishment of the hall.

They employed Robin Hales, a building surveyor with considerable architectural experience to carry out this work. After the initial building survey was completed, several consultation events were held offering the community various options as to the level of refurbishment and also seeking information on how the community wished to use the hall in the future.

This provided enough information to enable Robin to make decisions about the hall and to draw up plans for refurbishment for consultation. Final plans were approved by the village hall committee in spring 2005. Planning permission was obtained from Berwick Borough Council in June 2005.

It is anticipated that the work will cost in the region of £170,000. A business plan is being prepared by committee members to support funding applications and funding bids are currently being made. The community has currently raised in the region of £8000 by their own efforts.

Social and Recreation Committee - Additional community activities

The two parish councillors leading this project, Sue Graham and Marjorie Bell have been very successful in recruiting members of the community to assist with this project and now have a keen and active committee.

Additional community activities which have taken place over the last few months, include a very well supported Keep Fit class in the village hall on a Wednesday night; flower arranging classes for Christmas with some spring flower arranging classes planned; an interesting talk about reflexology and Indian head massage, with further sessions currently being discussed.

Successful fundraising events during 2004 and 2005

All events were in aid of Lowick village hall refurbishment and include:

- A wine and cheese to consult with the community on the proposed plans for the refurbished hall.
- A Ceilidh and hog roast, dancing to the local Penny Dot Ceilidh band
- Burns supper
- Mexican evening
- Ceilidh and barbeque
- Cookery demonstration
- Garden fete
- 100 club
- Plant sale and coffee morning
- Car boot sale

Local Heritage project

The Lowick Local Heritage Group has now been formed. Initially there were several very well attended public meetings, organised by a steering group and greatly helped by the Berwick upon Tweed Borough Archivist, Linda Bankier in order to gauge support for the group. All meetings had over 30 people in attendance, so it was decided there was enough interest to set up a formal Lowick Heritage Group. They now have a constitution and a formally elected a committee.

They have had many guest speakers, talking about a wide range of different subjects. The evenings are very well attended.

Linda Bankier has been running a weekly course for 10 people from the parish, in order to familiarise them with the techniques of undertaking historical research. There is a possibility of extending this course through Northumberland College and this is currently being explored. There is also a course being run at Belford which several members are attending.

The group are looking to invite other speakers to attend and are currently collecting information from members about which particular aspects of local heritage are of interest to them. Many projects are under discussion and it is hoped in time the group will be able to apply to LHI for funding to help them deliver some of their chosen projects.

The group spent some time working on producing some information for display as part of a Berwick borough history celebration.

Parish newsletter and web page

The Parish newsletter is now being produced regularly by Ann Gold. Initially it was a way of communicating information about the Parish Plan; now with so many additional community activities taking place and the momentum of the refurbishment of the village hall increasing, there is always something to report. The next newsletter will be out in mid April to tell everyone about the plans for the hall, and the social events planned for the summer.

An example copy of a newsletter produced is included.

LOWICK PARISH PLAN

NEWSLETTER

March/April 2004

THE VILLAGE HALL

A detailed survey of the village hall has now been carried out, and the results of this survey were on display in the village hall on 26th February. Unfortunately it was the evening of the heavy snow, so not as many people as we expected were able to attend. However a good number of questionnaires have now been returned, and the preferred option is option 2, which

Is "to refurbish the hall – damp proof course, insulated new roof, remove suspended ceiling, modernise kitchen, heating system, new toilets with small changing room and shower in each of the men's and women's toilets, provide a disabled toilet, general repairs, and add a separate committee/function room." There was a strong demand that the stage should be retained, and that a separate committee/function room should be added.

Plans will now be drawn up to incorporate as much of the "wish list" as possible, and these will be on display at a **Wine and Cheese** evening in the village hall on **Tuesday 13th April**, to which everyone is invited.

LOWICK HERITAGE GROUP

A large audience enjoyed a very interesting talk by Charles Baker-Cresswell on the Anglo Saxons in Northumberland at the February meeting. The next meeting will be in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on 20th April, when Rev. Arthur Wiltshire will give a talk on **"The Borders in the 16th**

Century". There will again be an entry charge of £2.00 which will include tea/coffee and biscuits. Everyone welcome.

KEEP FIT

This class, on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 – 8.30 p.m. with Shirley Cross is very popular, and Shirley has stepped up the pace in the last couple of weeks! For more information contact Shirley on 388403.

GARDENING CLUB

From returned questionnaires we now have an idea of what projects the gardening club can start with. These range from flower tubs/hanging baskets and bulb planting in the village, to a village Christmas Tree. A meeting will be arranged in the near future, if you would like to become involved, or would like more information contact Duncan Stewart on 388401.

LOWICK OVER 60'S

There are currently over 40 members of the Lowick Over 60's who meet in the Village Hall on the 3rd Monday of the month. It is their 42nd birthday on 15th March, and this is being celebrated with a buffet supper at the Black Bull.

ART CLASSES

Art Classes, run by Northumberland College, take place in the Village Hall on Wednesday afternoons. These classes will continue throughout the summer term, and if there is sufficient interest they will begin again in September. For more information contact Duncan Stewart on 388401.

YOUTH CLUB

Meet in the Village Hall, their programme for the next few weeks is as follows:

18th March – Sports Night 6.30 – 8.00 p.m. (last one until November)

25th March – Pancake Tossing 6.30 – 8.30 pm.

22nd April – Youth Club 6.30 – 8.30 p.m.

FOOTBALL CLUB

The Football Club are enjoying a very successful season, they are currently top of the North Northumberland League and play Amble in the quarter final of the Bilclough Cup on 13th March.

The Football Club would like to thank everyone who supported their Race Night in the Black Bull, they raised over £1300 for club funds.

LOWICK PRE-SCHOOL

A reminder that Lowick Pre-School are holding a **Dance at Berwick Rugby Club on 19th March**. Tickets £7.50 to include buffet supper available from Jenni Jenkins on 388495.

LOWICK FIRST SCHOOL

Ofsted Report – The governors of Lowick School were very pleased with the findings of the inspectors from Ofsted who came to visit the school just before Christmas. The report, published a few weeks ago, described the school as “A good school with many very good features. It provides pupils with a safe, secure environment, helping them achieve to their full potential. The pupils’ attitudes in lessons and in their behaviour add much to their ability to learn effectively. Dedicated leadership by the head teacher and the governors helps the school to achieve good value for money.”

The full report is available at the school or can be read online at www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports/

Mrs Frankland is a particularly strong and dedicated head teacher, who ensures that the school is very inclusive, catering for all abilities extremely well. All children are well challenged and

make good progress as she has good teachers working with her. The national results have been consistently excellent, with the most recent results putting us in the top 5% in the country yet again for every subject, when compared with similar schools. Everyone works terrifically hard at the school, so we are very happy that we had such a positive outcome.

New Head Teacher – Sadly, Mrs Frankland has decided to move on after 9 years at Lowick School. We thank her most sincerely for all her hard work for the school, achieving great Panda results, two excellence awards and finally an outstandingly good Ofsted. Mrs Frankland is going to work for Newcastle LEA as a maths consultant for schools. She will be leaving at the end of this term and will be replaced by Mrs Christine Thirlwell, who is currently teaching at Hipsburn, near Alnwick. We hope both ladies will be extremely happy in their new posts.

Ann Daniels, Chair of Governors

Help Wanted – can anyone spare an hour or two a month to deliver meals on wheels in Lowick and Fenwick. Mileage is paid. If you can help please contact Ann Gold on 388205.

Hopefully the next newsletter will be ready by mid April. If you would like any item to be included you can email me at barryandanngold@aol.com, or phone me on 388205.

Ann Gold

SECTION THREE

APPENDICES

INDIVIDUAL QUESTION COUNTS

Question Number : 1 **NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS :** 95

206

	Male	Female
0-4	2	8
5-10	4	8
11-15	5	3
16-17	1	1
18-24	7	3
25-44	20	22
45-59	26	26
60-64	10	8
65-74	17	13
75-84	9	10
85+	1	2

Lowick village	68 (71.6 %)
Outlying area of Lowick Parish	27 (28.4 %)

Yes	90 (94.7 %)
No	3 (3.2 %)

Owner occupied	75 (78.9 %)
Private rented	8 (8.4 %)
Local authority rented	6 (6.3 %)
Provided with employment	4 (4.2 %)
Other	2 (2.1 %)

INDIVIDUAL QUESTION COUNTS

95

Cars	121
Vans	11
Motor bikes	8
Specially adapted vehicles	1
Lorries	2

184

Male	96 (52.2%)
Female	88 (47.8%)

184

11-15	8 (4.3%)
16-17	2 (1.1%)
18-24	10 (5.4%)
25-44	41 (22.3%)
45-59	53 (28.8%)
60-64	18 (9.8%)
65-74	30 (16.3%)
75-84	19 (10.3%)
85+	3 (1.6%)

183

Yes	173 (94.5%)
No	10 (5.5%)

182

Less than a year	24 (13.2%)
1-5 years	42 (23.1%)
6-15 years	30 (16.5%)
16-25 years	20 (11.0%)
26-50 years	34 (18.7%)
51 + years	4 (2.2%)
Whole life	28 (15.4%)

INDIVIDUAL QUESTION COUNTS

179

Born here	36 (20.1%)
Came with family	23 (12.8%)
Work in area	49 (27.4%)
Relatives live nearby	15 (8.4%)
Love of village life	27 (15.1%)
Love of country life	68 (38.0%)
Availability of housing	17 (9.5%)
Retired here	17 (9.5%)
Marriage	21 (11.7%)
Setting up home	12 (6.7%)
Other	8 (4.5%)

172

The community	60 (34.9%)
The environment	74 (43.0%)
The situation	37 (21.5%)
Other	0 (0.0%)
Not sure	1 (0.6%)

178

An employee	65 (36.5%)
Self-employed - employing other people	11 (6.2%)
Self employed - not employing anyone	18 (10.1%)
In a government training scheme	0 (0.0%)
Unemployed	3 (1.7%)
Unwaged housewife/husband	11 (6.2%)
Retired	54 (30.3%)
Permanently sick/disabled	4 (2.2%)
In full-time education	12 (6.7%)

102

Agriculture/horticulture	22 (21.6%)
Manufacturing - engineering	3 (2.9%)
Manufacturing - other	5 (4.9%)
Retail/Service industry	18 (17.6%)
Financial services	1 (1.0%)
Tourism eg hotels/catering/B&B etc	6 (5.9%)
Local Government/Public sector	30 (29.4%)
Construction	4 (3.9%)
Transport/Communications	4 (3.9%)
Food processing	4 (3.9%)
Other	5 (4.9%)

INDIVIDUAL QUESTION COUNTS

Question Number : 15 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION 29

In the parish	26 (89.7%)
Outside the parish	3 (10.3%)

Question Number : 16 **NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION** **99**

Within the parish	37 (37.4%)
Berwick	24 (24.2%)
Wooler	5 (5.1%)
Other	33 (33.3%)

Question Number : 17 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION 81

Full-time (more than 30 hours per week)	64 (79.0%)
Part-time (15-30 hours per week)	11 (13.6%)
Part-time (less than 15 hours per week)	6 (7.4%)

Question Number : 18

Full time (more than 30 hours per week)	3 (5.7%)
Part-time (15-30 hours per week)	2 (3.8%)
Part-time (less than 15 hours per week)	2 (3.8%)
Not seeking work	46 (86.8%)

Question Number :	19	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION	18
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Yes - but remain part-time	8 (44.4%)
Yes - work full-time	1 (5.6%)
No	9 (50.0%)
Don't know	0 (0.0%)

Lowick Parish Plan
General Parish Questionnaire June 2003

INDIVIDUAL QUESTION COUNTS

PERSONAL SECTION

Question Number : 20 **NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION 15**

If you are seeking employment, do you require more information about job vacancies or training opportunities within your community?

Yes	11 (73.3%)
No	4 (26.7%)

Question Number : 21 **NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION 11**

If you are actively seeking work, are there any barriers that are preventing you from taking up employment, training or study opportunities?

Lack of alternative care for adult dependent	0 (0.0%)
Lack of child care locally	0 (0.0%)
Cost of child care locally	0 (0.0%)
Lack of access to transport	4 (36.4%)
I don't have the right type of experience	1 (9.1%)
I don't have the right type of qualifications/training	1 (9.1%)
Disability or ill health of some kind	2 (18.2%)
Lack of information/advice	1 (9.1%)
None of these	5 (45.5%)

Question Number : 22 **NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION 111**

What is, or would be, your main means of transport to work, training or study?

Walking	11 (9.9%)
Car/Van	81 (73.0%)
Public Bus	7 (6.3%)
Private Bus	6 (5.4%)
Train	3 (2.7%)
Motor-cycle/Scooter/Moped	2 (1.8%)
Bicycle	0 (0.0%)
Taxi	0 (0.0%)
Other	1 (0.9%)

Question Number : 23 **NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION 31**

If you are interested in taking vocational training, what training would you be looking for?

Business administration	4 (12.9%)
Clerical/Secretarial	3 (9.7%)
Information Technology/Computing	18 (58.1%)
Professional/Managerial	3 (9.7%)
Engineering	3 (9.7%)
Construction	0 (0.0%)
Skilled/Craft related	6 (19.4%)
Catering/hospitality	3 (9.7%)
Retail	3 (9.7%)
Other	0 (0.0%)

INDIVIDUAL QUESTION COUNTS

176

INDIVIDUAL QUESTION COUNTS

Question Number :	28	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION	151
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Tourism development/attractions	96 (63.6%)
Light industrial	49 (32.5%)
Workshops	77 (51.0%)
Co-operative premises	43 (28.5%)
Cottage industry	104 (68.9%)
Homes with business premises	60 (39.7%)
Conversion of buildings to residential use	76 (50.3%)

Often	16 (9.6%)
Occasionally	51 (30.5%)
Never	100 (59.9%)

Yes	159 (94.1%)
No	10 (5.9%)

Yes - to connect with the local bus route	34 (19.9%)
Yes - to travel home from after school activities/evening	17 (9.9%)
Yes - because of problems using conventional public tr	30 (17.5%)
Yes - to travel to places not on the local bus route	45 (26.3%)
No - I would not use the service	99 (57.9%)

Yes - as a volunteer transport co-ordinator	4 (2.6%)
Yes - as a volunteer driver using my own car (with mile	13 (8.6%)
Yes - as a volunteer driver using a community vehicle	12 (7.9%)
No - I am not interested	131 (86.2%)

Lowick Parish Plan
General Parish Questionnaire June 2003

INDIVIDUAL QUESTION COUNTS

PERSONAL SECTION

Question Number : 33

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION 176

How important are the following to the local community?

	1 = very important	2 = important	3 = not very important	4 = no opinion
Lowick School	169 (96.0%)	5 (2.8%)	1 (0.6%)	1 (0.6%)
The Playgroup	131 (74.4%)	22 (12.5%)	7 (4.0%)	8 (4.5%)
Mother and toddler group	115 (65.3%)	29 (16.5%)	5 (2.8%)	16 (9.1%)
The Village Hall	140 (79.5%)	24 (13.6%)	7 (4.0%)	2 (1.1%)
Shops	144 (81.8%)	20 (11.4%)	7 (4.0%)	0 (0.0%)
The Post Office	160 (90.9%)	6 (3.4%)	5 (2.8%)	4 (2.3%)
The Public houses	102 (58.0%)	58 (33.0%)	9 (5.1%)	3 (1.7%)
The Garage	101 (57.4%)	46 (26.1%)	17 (9.7%)	2 (1.1%)
The Church	94 (53.4%)	47 (26.7%)	16 (9.1%)	12 (6.8%)
The playground	115 (65.3%)	35 (19.9%)	10 (5.7%)	11 (6.3%)
The football field	108 (61.4%)	47 (26.7%)	6 (3.4%)	11 (6.3%)

Question Number : 34

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION 172

If you usually shop in Lowick is it because?

The local shops give good value	4 (2.3%)
You like to support local shops	97 (56.4%)
You like the social contact	29 (16.9%)
It saves time	42 (24.4%)
It saves transport costs	38 (22.1%)
You don't have transport to go elsewhere	6 (3.5%)
You need 'last minute' items	106 (61.6%)
Use rarely	70 (40.7%)
Other	0 (0.0%)

Question Number : 35

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION 161

If the village shop was to provide the following would you use them?

Fresh produce - fruit and veg	129 (80.1%)
Fresh meat	88 (54.7%)
Dry cleaning service	77 (47.8%)
Shoe repairs	72 (44.7%)
Lottery link	64 (39.8%)
Debit/Switch facility	84 (52.2%)
Photo developing	51 (31.7%)
Power/Phone card top ups	66 (41.0%)
Haberdashery	60 (37.3%)
Hairdressers	45 (28.0%)

INDIVIDUAL QUESTION COUNTS

Question Number : 36

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION

128

Prescription collection service	95 (74.2%)
Regular visitor/caller	5 (3.9%)
Money/benefits advice	6 (4.7%)
Help with form filling	9 (7.0%)
Newspaper delivery	53 (41.4%)
Grocery delivery	17 (13.3%)
After school clubs	21 (16.4%)
Baby sitting/childcare	16 (12.5%)
Pet watching	26 (20.3%)

Question Number : 37

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION

161

	good	reasonable	poor	no opinion
Children up to 16	13 (8.1%)	29 (18.0%)	56 (34.8%)	36 (22.4%)
Young people 17-25	0 (0.0%)	21 (13.0%)	70 (43.5%)	37 (23.0%)
People 26-60	1 (0.6%)	37 (23.0%)	55 (34.2%)	39 (24.2%)
People over 60	27 (16.8%)	65 (40.4%)	19 (11.8%)	39 (24.2%)

Question Number : 38

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION

104

Badminton	30 (28.8%)
Bowls/Boules	22 (21.2%)
Mini tennis	10 (9.6%)
Snooker/Pool	24 (23.1%)
Table tennis	12 (11.5%)
Tennis	31 (29.8%)
Keep Fit/Yoga	60 (57.7%)
Skittles	13 (12.5%)
Other	10 (9.6%)

Question Number : 39

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION

122

Whist drive/Board games	16 (13.1%)
Bridge club	6 (4.9%)
Luncheon club	21 (17.2%)
Computer club	33 (27.0%)
Rambling Club	27 (22.1%)
Gardening Club	42 (34.4%)
Art/Creative crafts	35 (28.7%)
Drama	15 (12.3%)
Music Society	18 (14.8%)
Social events	85 (69.7%)
Other	5 (4.1%)

Lowick Parish Plan
General Parish Questionnaire June 2003

INDIVIDUAL QUESTION COUNTS

PERSONAL SECTION

Question Number : 40 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION 116

If you do not take part in any sports or leisure activities is it because?

Do not want to	47 (40.5%)
Unsuitable times	10 (8.6%)
Access problems (physical)	2 (1.7%)
No transport	3 (2.6%)
Too expensive	4 (3.4%)
Poor publicity	6 (5.2%)
Poor facilities	11 (9.5%)
Not available locally	62 (53.4%)

Question Number : 41 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION 153

Do you think there is a need for a social/recreation committee to organise events for the community - such as social evenings/leisure activities and classes/various clubs etc?

Yes	135 (88.2%)
No	18 (11.8%)

Question Number : 42 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION 175

How important are the following to the community?

	1 = very important	2 = important	3 = not important	4 = no opinion
Refurbishment of village hall to increase greater usage	124 (70.9%)	38 (21.7%)	2 (1.1%)	10 (5.7%)
Refurbishment of village hall to include showers and ch	43 (24.6%)	32 (18.3%)	47 (26.9%)	18 (10.3%)
Creation of hard floodlit sports area adjacent to hall	47 (26.9%)	52 (29.7%)	32 (18.3%)	16 (9.1%)
Refurbishment of play group building to ensure future c	102 (58.3%)	42 (24.0%)	4 (2.3%)	14 (8.0%)
Provision of changing facilities etc at new football/sport	78 (44.6%)	38 (21.7%)	14 (8.0%)	22 (12.6%)

Question Number : 44 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION 161

In relation to information services, do you think that the parish needs any of the following?

Tourist information point	81 (50.3%)
Local information point	100 (62.1%)
Map/Tourist leaflet	101 (62.7%)
Signposts	72 (44.7%)
Parish newsletter	106 (65.8%)
Web page	62 (38.5%)
Brown tourist signs	58 (36.0%)
Other	0 (0.0%)

Lowick Parish Plan
General Parish Questionnaire June 2003

INDIVIDUAL QUESTION COUNTS

PERSONAL SECTION

Question Number : 45

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION 179

How important is the quality of the countryside around the parish to you?

Very important	161 (89.9%)
Important	18 (10.1%)
Not very important	0 (0.0%)
No opinion	0 (0.0%)

Question Number : 46

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION 178

How important are the following features of the surrounding countryside to you?

	very important	important	not very special	no opinion on them
Trees and hedgerows	155 (87.1%)	20 (11.2%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.6%)
Woodland	142 (79.8%)	30 (16.9%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.6%)
Dry stone walls	112 (62.9%)	33 (18.5%)	13 (7.3%)	6 (3.4%)
Meadows and green fields	136 (76.4%)	28 (15.7%)	1 (0.6%)	2 (1.1%)
Public footpaths and bridleways	109 (61.2%)	43 (24.2%)	16 (9.0%)	1 (0.6%)
Traditional farm buildings	82 (46.1%)	65 (36.5%)	9 (5.1%)	7 (3.9%)
Modern farm buildings	34 (19.1%)	43 (24.2%)	45 (25.3%)	27 (15.2%)

Question Number : 47

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION 173

What do you think could be done to improve the environment of the parish ?

	very important	worth doing	not necessary	don't know
Plant more trees	66 (38.2%)	48 (27.7%)	11 (6.4%)	6 (3.5%)
Preserve/plant single trees in special places	80 (46.2%)	43 (24.9%)	14 (8.1%)	7 (4.0%)
Shrubs/flowers in village	96 (55.5%)	59 (34.1%)	4 (2.3%)	1 (0.6%)
More seating	83 (48.0%)	35 (20.2%)	17 (9.8%)	5 (2.9%)
More litter bins	74 (42.8%)	42 (24.3%)	14 (8.1%)	3 (1.7%)
Local heritage and interpretation	53 (30.6%)	41 (23.7%)	16 (9.2%)	9 (5.2%)
Restore local landmarks	77 (44.5%)	48 (27.7%)	9 (5.2%)	10 (5.8%)
Restore war memorial	70 (40.5%)	50 (28.9%)	14 (8.1%)	5 (2.9%)
Sculptures/art works	12 (6.9%)	28 (16.2%)	54 (31.2%)	14 (8.1%)
Any other suggestions	9 (5.2%)	1 (0.6%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)

Question Number : 48

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION 161

Would you be interested in being part of a local history group to explore the heritage of the area to produce a record of the past? This could be generously funded.

Yes	49 (30.4%)
No	112 (69.6%)

INDIVIDUAL QUESTION COUNTS

166

65 (39.2%)
101 (60.8%)

172

No opinion
2 (1.2%)
34 (19.8%)
24 (14.0%)
19 (11.0%)

145

128 (88.3%)
103 (71.0%)
50 (34.5%)
86 (59.3%)
67 (46.2%)

166

15 (9.0%)
107 (64.5%)
148 (89.2%)
57 (34.3%)
53 (31.9%)

150

71 (47.3%)
79 (52.7%)