

# Holme Community Led Plan

A practical guide to the policies and proposals of Holme Parish Council and the aspirations of the Holme community



January 2018

## **Introduction**

### **What is the Holme Community Plan?**

The plan is a comprehensive document produced by your Parish Council, reflecting the aspirations of the whole community. It looks at many aspects of our village life, not just at matters relating to housing development and planning.

There are two types of plan which a Parish Council could have produced following the Localism Act of 2010. A Neighbourhood Plan is produced by the community and sits alongside any approved Local Plan. This has more statutory weight and is more appropriate where the local community has specific planning concerns or issues.

The second is a Community Led Plan. In the case of Holme, there were no fundamental objections to the 'Local Development Framework' proposals drawn up by South Lakeland District Council (now adopted in the Core Strategy [2010] and the Land Allocations [2013]).

Having taken advice, Holme Parish therefore decided to embark on the simpler Community Led Plan (CLP) which looks at a range of local issues over and above planning issues. The local planning authority is not required to formally take account of them but they are 'material planning considerations' for any planning applications. It also follows that this plan is not necessarily the agreed policy of higher level local authorities such as the district and county councils.

It is important to stress that these are Holme Parish Council policies, proposals and aspirations which have evolved from extensive consultation and are based upon the aspirations and views of the local community. They will guide the Parish Council over the next 5 to 10 years.

The plan will also be circulated to other key stakeholders and public bodies whose own policies and priorities affect our village. It will be expected that these bodies show due regard to village aspirations. They have come together after full and wide consultation within the village. The plan is also a helpful framework for elected representatives on such bodies.

To help you navigate this document there is an index on [Page 35](#). (Hold the Ctrl key and click on the page link to take you to the relevant policies or proposals.)

### **How has it been created?**

The decision to produce a new village plan was taken in mid-2013. Though the old Holme Parish Plan is still relevant and has been reviewed (see <http://www.holme-westmorland-pc.gov.uk/parishplan.shtml>) it was technically out of date.

A supporting document to the former Village Plan is the Village Design Statement. This has not been formerly reviewed but will be interpreted together with the development brief resulting from the specific development proposals contained in the South Lakeland Local Plan. This is chiefly to do with land known as 'East of Milnthorpe Road' stretching from the outskirts of the village on Milnthorpe Road back towards Mayfield Avenue and the recent Pear Tree Park development.

## **Public Consultation**

In Holme there have been 2 distinct phases to date:-

### **Initial Public Meeting: November 2013**

This meeting which was attended by over 60 residents took the form of a working meeting in the Village Hall. Those attending were divided into a number of subject areas, each of which identified key issues for these areas.

### **Public Consultation: Vision Questionnaire: February 2015**

In this consultation, which was delivered to every household within Holme, residents were asked to take a longer term view of Holme and to try and say how they thought it would look in 10 years time.

Somewhat predictably the 82 respondents confirmed that the essential 'village' character of Holme was extremely important (over 62% expressed this view). Over 50% of the respondents said they considered themselves to be 'part of the village' and regularly engaged in village activities.

A summary copy of these stages can be found on the [Holme Parish Council website Community Plan page](#).

### **Current Status**

In May 2017, Holme Parish Council adopted the Holme CLP. It therefore represents an agreed collective view which will be the basis of Parish Council plans, funding (precept) and grant applications and comments on all planning matters.

In October 2017, a draft copy was supplied to planning officers from South Lakeland District Council, whose helpful, constructive comments have resulted in technical amendments made in November 2017.

The Plan will not be finalised until consultations have taken place with a number of statutory bodies. These will include ACRE (Action for Communities in Rural England) and the Community Engagement Officer for SLDC.

It is also available without charge, downloaded from the Parish Council website. Printed copies have also been made available for residents unable to download a copy, at a charge of £3.00 to cover printing and production costs.

When all final comments have been received and all essential amendments have been incorporated, the 'approved' plan will then again be made available on the Parish Council website. A public meeting will also be held to explain the Parish Council's thinking and to explore the ways in which its proposals can be progressed.

## **Community Aspirations**

The key aspirations of the community for Holme over the next 15 years have been distilled from the public consultation on issues which took place in 2015.

- The importance of new housing being appropriate to the needs of the locality. This is taken to mean, both being in character and also of a type which will meet the needs both of first-time buyers and elder residents needing suitable housing including some sheltered.

- A strong desire to ensure that the essential rural qualities of our village are retained. This will be particularly relevant when considering the development brief for East of Milnthorpe Road.
- There is a widespread concern about a range of highways matters but in particular the condition of our footpaths and in some cases the lack of the same.
- An equal concern about the impact of heavy vehicles and also the need to find solutions to the speed of traffic through the village.
- A need to clearly identify the appropriate way of ensuring community facilities which will contribute to the life and size of the village – this includes the school, church, village hall and sport/recreation facilities.
- Issues for the elderly with regard to access to hospital services, particularly Westmorland General and also how best to support them in their homes.
- Helping the community recognise that they have a role to play, in partnership with official bodies such as the Parish Council, to enhance the quality of Holme as a community.

## Action Plan

A plan is not a static document. Things change - new issues arise - and new ideas emerge.

The Parish Council will review its plan annually, at a convenient meeting prior to the Annual Meeting (typically March) and then report any significant changes at that meeting. This will allow Holme residents an opportunity to be advised of significant changes and proposals likely to be brought forward, most likely due to new precept funds, balances or other available grants.

## A Profile of Holme

A comprehensive parish profile for Holme was produced by ACT (Action for Communities in Cumbria) in 2013. For this reason it is not reproduced here.

A key document shaping the future development of Holme is the South Lakeland Local Plan. This is comprised of the Core Strategy adopted in 2010 and the Land Allocations, adopted in 2013. [Proposals for Holme are shown here.](#)

A single Development Brief for a site of approximately 73 dwellings (East of Milnthorpe Road) was produced in November 2017 and is presently the subject of public consultation.

## How the Holme Community Led plan is set out

The plan has 4 key areas that have previously been identified. These are:-

**Community Development (CD):** Housing, Employment and Environment

**Community Infrastructure (CI):** Roads, Lighting, Statutory Services and Signs

**Community Facilities (CF):** Transport, Shops, Sports and Social

**Community Social Needs (SN):** Health and Welfare particularly for the youth and elderly.

Each key area has an initial section (Context) which sets the background picture of the current day situation.

Then within each of the following areas, there is a section which summarises the main issues that have been identified and which the policies and proposals aim to address.

For each issue there are then 2 elements:-

- **Policies** - these are principles which the Parish Council will adopt and promote, both through its work and budget; in its discussions with statutory authorities; and when commenting upon proposals which materially affect the village and its community e.g. planning applications.
- **Proposals** - these are matters which generally affect a specific location within the village but will also include proposals that need to be worked through with individuals, interest groups, or service providers. They will relate to the specific use of land or buildings and will be matters which the Parish Council will actively seek to promote and achieve within a defined time scale. Each proposal is preceded by a justification.

For each proposal, there is also an indication of its timescale and likely cost. This can only be indicative. Whilst it is understandable that individuals aspirations tend to rate everything as 'high priority', the reality is that some proposals will take longer to come about or may be dependent upon other issues being resolved before they can proceed.

The units used are:-

Q: Quick Win – likely to be implemented within a year and to be achieved without any major expenditure.

ST: Short Term – likely to be completed within 2 years.

MT: Medium Term – likely to be completed over a 5 year period.

LT: Long Term – likely to be completed over a longer period.

It is also important to try and estimate the likely extent of financial input to each proposal as follows:-

£ - Proposals in the range from £100 to £500

££ - Proposals in the range £500 to £5000

£££ - Proposals in the range £5,000 to £50,000

££££ - Proposals in excess of £50,000

## **Plan Structure Example**

**Key Area:** Community Development [CD]

**Context:** Descriptive

**Policy Area:** Residential Development Issues

Policies e.g. CD: Housing Development

Proposals e.g. CD P1: Land Adjacent to Holme Beck

## SECTION 1: Community Development: [CD]

### Context

South Lakeland District Council (SLDC) has now published its Local Plan which followed a number of years work on the Local Development Framework. It consists of three main parts - the Core Strategy, Land Allocations and other planning policy documents. It will guide development until 2025. In all 132 new houses have been proposed in Holme, with the production of a single development brief (for 73 dwellings). A proportion of the proposed dwellings will be for local needs (so called 'affordable' housing).

Many of the concerns about this development will be addressed through this brief. The contents of this Community Led Plan are particularly relevant in this respect particularly as they relate to the type of housing, design, access and environmental consideration.

Additional land (5.5 ha) is also identified for business premises at Elmsfield and off Milnthorpe Road.

### Policy Area: Residential Development

### Issues

- Ensuring that the type of housing is appropriate to the social needs of the community.
- Ensuring that the design of both individual dwellings and the major developments is complimentary to the rural character of Holme village.
- Recognising that there are aspects of Holmes infrastructure which require investment either to increase the capacity of existing facilities e.g. sewage treatment or to provide a safer infrastructure for all residents e.g. condition and availability of pavement.
- Taking appropriate measure to ensure that valued rural character and the environment is protected and enhanced through good design and environmental safeguards both for the quality of the surrounding landscape and its wildlife habitats.
- Ensuring that development layouts take full account of issues such as traffic speeds, safety of residents (particularly the elderly and young children) and recognises opportunities to promote healthy lifestyles through pedestrian, cycling and leisure routes.
- Recognising the needs of the Holme community, particularly in respect of its increasing proportion of elderly residents. Many live independent lives in the village but presently live in buildings more suited for family occupation or which cannot easily be adapted to suit the needs of the elderly.
- Recognising the aspirations of young people to live in the village where they have grown up, either in rented or low-cost housing provided in both the public and private sector.
- Ensuring that opportunities for additional small-scale developments (typically less than 5 dwellings) which are specifically aimed at the above two groups above can be accommodated within the overall Local Plan.
- Seeking to ensure the maximum benefit to the community from the Community Infrastructure Levy. CIL is a charge on new development that will be collected by SLDC to provide additional funding to help pay for the cost of

infrastructure arising from new development such as highways and schools. The charge on most domestic dwellings is £50/sq metre, of which 15% will be directed to the Parish Council who has considerable discretion on the community or other schemes which it can support. In addition South Lakeland District Council has the discretion to where it allocates additional funds, particularly for community infrastructure, local needs housing and community developments.

## Policies

<b>CD1</b>	<b>Types of Housing</b>
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For the development areas of Holme specifically identified in the South Lakeland Local Plan, the material considerations which will be of concern to the Parish Council will be that:-

- a. The mix of development must favour dwellings suited to the needs of both the elderly and those seeking their first home.
- b. That 35% of all development is 'affordable'. A strong preference will be expressed for innovative forms of tenure including housing associations and shared-equity schemes which ensure that the homes are truly affordable. This term is specifically explained in a [South Lakeland 'Affordable Housing' paper](#).
- c. A specific need has been expressed during plan consultations relates to sheltered accommodation allowing both independent and 'cared for' services to be available for elderly residents. Specific needs assessments are the responsibility of Cumbria County Council. Within the proposed development brief and other proposals for development in Holme village, the Parish Council will welcome any proposals for multi-occupancy buildings. This also relates to other housing specifically adapted to meet the mobility needs of the elderly and those with physical disabilities.
- d. Where larger houses are capable of sub-division into smaller units, this will be encouraged provided that other planning considerations such as parking provision can be satisfied.
- e. Opportunities for small scale infill development will be supported, particularly where they provide opportunities for housing to meet the housing needs previously identified. However, this can only be where other planning safeguards are also achievable, particularly in regard to highway safety, parking provision and impact on adjacent properties and the possible loss of important areas of open space or amenity.

<b>CD2</b>	<b>Design Considerations</b>
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- a) Development will not be encouraged unless it can be shown that there is appropriate infrastructure to accept the development and that any such infrastructure can be provided without detriment to the environment or visual amenity of the village. Specific issues will include the capacity of sewage systems and the ability of the community school to meet any predicted increase in pupil numbers.
- b) All development will be expected to be designed in such a way that it ensures the safety of all residents; promotes lower traffic speeds; and improve access on foot and by cycle, with appropriate links and enhancements to the village footpath network and community buildings such as the school and village hall.
- c) The reality of modern car mobility must be recognised, both to mitigate the effects of additional peak traffic movements due to the proposed new housing development but also in respect of adequate off-street parking both for residents and guests.
- d) Landscaping and amenity provision should be commensurate with the local environment and promote diversity of wildlife habitats. It should also reflect the need for safe play areas, particularly for young children.
- e) Materials used in the construction of dwellings should be appropriate to the vernacular of the village where limestone is a widely used facing material. Designs should also reflect the character and scale of buildings within the village and not introduce more 'urban' features typical of many commercial developers. In this respect the Village Design Statement is still a valid document which will be taken into account when commenting on planning applications.
- f) Developers should have particular regard to the details of site boundaries. Walling and hedging are important characteristics of the rural landscape and should be used to complement hard boundaries such as fencing which usually deteriorate over time.
- g) Alternative forms of house construction will be given favourable consideration together with self-build schemes, provided the design is such that it complements the adjacent properties, the overall character of the village and can be shown to result in housing solutions which are more affordable.
- h) Developments should incorporate as appropriate, elements which can be shown to provide environmental benefits, both to the locality and the wider environment. These might include integral solar panels, amenity planting and wildlife refuges.

<b>CD 3</b>	<b>Other Policies</b>
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- a) Whilst specific leisure developments may be appropriate in and around Holme, they will be treated on their individual merits. Proposals likely to result in either a loss of land capable of providing housing for permanent occupation or the loss of housing to holiday homes will not be considered favourably.
- b) As a principle, requests for relaxation of local occupancy conditions will be opposed unless there are compelling reasons to the contrary.
- c) The Parish Council will, in partnership with South Lakeland District, carry out periodic housing needs assessments (a specific service exists to do this). While second home ownership is not seen as a major problem, it will be monitored using aggregated council tax data held by South Lakeland. Any issues can then discussed with the planning and housing departments of the

District Council and relevant housing associations. Present planning powers cannot prevent new homes from become second homes.

<b>CD4</b>	<b>Protection and Enhancement of Village Character</b>
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- a. The scope for further major expansion of Holme village has been limited through the SLDC Local Plan. It is most unlikely that any further large scale development will be considered favourably during the lifetime of this plan
- b. Whilst there are some developments which are appropriate outside the physical limits of Holme visit, these are generally likely to be small in scale and related to a specific agricultural or similar need.
- c. Development proposals likely to cause detrimental impact upon the essential amenity of the village or its surrounding landscape will be subject to the closest scrutiny and will, in general, are opposed by the Parish Council. Possible threats, though unlikely, include those of shale-gas extraction, multiple wind-turbine farms and any new mineral extraction proposals outside of those currently in operation.
- d. The Parish Council will expect all new developments to include a range of amenity planting and will seek opportunities to enhance existing amenity areas.
- e. The Parish Council will seek to protect services which contribute to the amenity of Holme e.g. Lengthsman and litter collection. It will also seek opportunities for the further enhancement of existing areas of public open space.

## Proposals

<b>CD P1</b>	<b>Land adjacent to Holme Beck – Mayfield Avenue</b>
MT	££££

**Justification:** This area of land forms part of a planning brief and shown as being protected as recreational open space. Together with the adjacent land indicated for informal public open space, it offers one of the few areas of the village central to the whole village which might be suitable as a site for new community centre facilities. Such a development might also incorporate space for use by visiting health services.

The possibility has a short-term and medium term component, which the Parish Council expects will be given full consideration as part of the East of Milnthorpe Road Development Brief. The nature of much of this land means it is unlikely to be suitable for any form of meaningful active recreation, due to drainage constraints and the access requirements of the Environment Agency.

Though not part of the Development Brief, it is important to recognise that the village no longer has an open space suitable for formal ball-based activities as the Community Sports Field is presently leased to clubs outside the village. Its only site, adjacent to the Community School, is too small for club matches.

**Proposal:** Discussions will take place with the planning authority, land owners and developers, to consider how this space (the eastern end of the proposed site) might best be used not only to provide a visible gap between adjacent residential developments (existing and proposed) but to also incorporate a new community building.

The Parish Council will also be keen to explore ways in which the present Community Sports Field (off Milnthorpe Road) might be brought into wider 'village use', together with sources of funding for an all-weather, or similar sports pitch.

<b>CD P2</b>	<b>Village Centre Housing Provision for the Elderly</b>
MT	££££

**Justification:** The Holme Village Hall (former school) fulfils a most important role as a location for a wide range of village activities. It is recognised as being in need of extensive improvements to bring its facilities up to modern-day standards, with restricted amounts of land for vehicle parking and potential dangerous pedestrian access. If it is possible to secure funds allowing the construction of a new, modern, multi-purpose hall, then the present building, with its central village location, could be considered to provide appropriate accommodation for any identified elderly peoples accommodation, as it is central to shops, the church and public transport.

**Proposal:** Discussions take place with the Village Hall Management Committee and Trustees to consider the merits of inviting a housing association or registered elderly care provider to purchase and redevelop the building, but only at the point when an alternative community building has been constructed and is available for use. Such a proposal requires the majority approval of all residents within the village. The Parish Council has expressed an interest in a recent initiative from South Lakeland District Council, to help set up a community based housing association and provide funds towards a viable project. This proposal will be explored during the early part of 2018.

<b>CD P3</b>	<b>Improving Appearance</b>
ST > MT	££ - £££

**Justification:** Areas of open space are part of the character of rural settlements. It is desirable to see these reflected in new housing developments and also existing amenity areas. These should be well maintained and in some cases improved, to benefit of the whole community.

**Proposal:** There are several areas of the village which could contribute more to the character of the village. These include:-

- The village Square adjacent to the village shop.
- The land opposite, including amenity land adjacent to the Church and the site of the War Memorial.
- The area adjacent to the proposed new development off Mayfield Avenue.
- The Lancaster Canal tow-path and connecting footpaths.
- Land adjacent to Holme Beck adjacent to Twinter Bank and the new Mayfield Avenue.
- Land opposite Holme Community Sport Field.
- Areas adjacent to Mill Ponds – Holme Mills.

In all the above, the Parish Council will seek opportunities for improvements and where required consider contributing to their cost through the precept and other sources of funding/grants, in partnership with landowners. The priority areas for consideration will be the Square, the War Memorial and the adjacent land (Memorial Gardens) adjacent to the Church.

The local Lancaster Canal restoration group is presently considering how it might improve the surface of the tow-paths along various lengths, including Holme.

## **Policy Area: Promoting the Local Economy**

### **Issues**

- Ensuring that opportunities for locally-based jobs can be encouraged through provision of suitable premises.
- Safeguarding locally-available low-cost business premises, while seeking to improve the environment and promote improvements to business infrastructure e.g. high speed internet.
- Seeking opportunities to attract further businesses to Holme, but recognising that these should not generate traffic, or other issues which gives rise to problems relating to size, frequency, accessibility or times of operation, particularly in respect of any adjacent residential properties, or highway safety.
- Seeking improvements to the appearance of existing business locations within Holme and Holme Mills.
- Recognising that leisure and recreation opportunities could have a considerable benefit, not only for additional employment, but also for the support of local services such as the Smithy Inn, Post Office, Lime Tree Stores and accommodation services. However much will depend upon the scale of such developments and the traffic which can be accommodated, given the issues related to narrowness of village roads and absence of footpaths within the village centre.

### **Policies**

<b>CD 5</b>	<b>Business Premises</b>
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- a. There will be a presumption against any proposal which results in a reduction in the number or amount of business premises within Holme or Holme Mills.
- b. Encouragement will be given to measures which aid the suitability of existing business sites through further investment in the condition of buildings, surrounding environment, or services which improve their potential for new businesses e.g. provision of high speed internet, improvements in vehicle access.
- c. The proposed new area for business activity off Milnthorpe Road is considered a high priority. A mix of premises sizes should be encouraged, in particular for service providers, storage and smaller start-up business units.
- d. Proposals for developments likely to generate significant large vehicles movements, or a high volume of additional traffic will not be considered

appropriate within Holme or adjacent areas requiring access through the village (which is subject to weight and height restrictions) except for access to the village centre.

- e. No further expansion of the Storth Engineering site or Holme Mills site should be considered until such time as a traffic management plan has been agreed and implemented with the appropriate authorities for access to Holme village and Station Road.
- f. Consideration should be given to the further expansion of Elmsfield Estate, as an appropriate location for larger manufacturing units, providing such development includes an agreed traffic management plan to exclude vehicles on unsuitable roads and to regulate traffic travelling through the centre of Holme.
- g. High speed internet services are considered a priority for all current and proposed business areas. The current pure fibre services offered by B4RN and similar specialist internet service providers will be supported where they offer significant benefits to business premises and homes.
- h. While farm buildings should, in general, be retained for that purpose, there are buildings which might be converted to provide suitable premises for small-scale businesses. Support will be given to any such proposals provided they do not generate significant volumes of traffic or adversely affect road safety or the amenity of adjacent residents and serve to enhance the viability of the farm unit.

## Proposals

<b>CD P4</b>	<b>100% Fibre Broadband for Holme</b>
ST	£££

**Justification:** Despite the provision of Fibre-to-Cabinet services in Holme, the service still provides a relatively slow speed and often inadequate capacity for some residents and for businesses located at Holme Mills and Elmsfield. The provision of a true fibre service like that provided by B4RN has been assessed and is feasible for Holme. It could not only attract new high-tech business to Holme, but also provide a significant benefit to owners of domestic properties and developers of new housing as it offers speeds and capacity many times faster than that presently available.

**Proposal:** The Parish Council will support B4RN or any similar service throughout Holme where it can be shown to offer significant benefits and be provided at a reasonable cost. An application will be made, through the Parish Council, for LIP funding which, if successful; will accelerate the likelihood of bringing hyper-fast broadband to the whole of Holme and Holme Mills.

<b>CD P5</b>	<b>Proposals for Industrial / Light Commercial Development</b>
ST	£

**Justification:** Holme has existing sites at Elmsfield and a small site off Moss Lane. These supplement the long established sites in the village and at Holme Mills. The South Lakeland Local Plan has made proposals for additional land within the village.

**Proposal:** The Parish Council supports the above proposals together with the proposal for a new access to the land off Moss Lane. The present access is barely suitable for commercial traffic, further exacerbating the amount of commercial traffic on Station Road and Duke Street.

<b>CD P6</b>	<b>Proposals for Holme Mills and between Milnthorpe Road and Moss Lane</b>
LT	£££

**Justification:** The former industrial site of Holme Mills is also a historically important site. It provides much-needed low-cost accommodation for local businesses and an artist's community. It does however warrant some improvement in its appearance and that of the surrounding mill dams, which have important wildlife value.

Similar consideration applies to the land adjacent to Milnthorpe Road within the village centre.

**Proposal:** The Parish Council will, in discussion with the land owners, tenants and residents, promote a scheme which seeks to enhance the appearance of these areas and the amenity of local residents. Such schemes should be considered a suitable beneficiary for funds from the Community Infrastructure Levy.

## Policy Area: Leisure and Tourism Development

### Issues

- Holme has a relatively low level of tourist activity, chiefly related to the village pub and static caravan sites. However the quality of the surrounding landscape, good accessibility to recreation networks e.g. Limestone Link, Bay Cycle Way, high importance wildlife habitats and the attractions of the disused Lancaster Canal offer considerable opportunities for environmentally sensitive leisure developments
- There is potential to increase the amount of sustainable tourism activity within the village, particularly where it is related to outdoor activities such as walking, water-based activities or cycling. Such activities will increase the amount of money spent locally, helping ensure the continuance of village services including shops, pubs and clubs.
- Holme lacks a suitable building that can be used for a range of indoor recreational activities. Such a building would have considerable benefits for the well-being of residents and provide an all-weather resource for young people.

### Policies

<b>CD 6</b>	<b>Tourism Businesses</b>
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- a. Leisure developments will be considered on their merits, having regard to the scale and impact of the proposal not only in visual terms, but also upon the local environment and habitats, noise and general levels of activity. In practice, these are most likely to be related to leisure use of the Lancaster Canal both as a recreational waterway and as part of the village footpath and cycle network.
- b. Potential exists to further enhance Holme Mills as a craft centre, which could also have benefits for the local tourist economy.
- c. Proposals to increase the provision of over-night visitor accommodation will be considered favourably, consistent with other planning considerations such as scale, size and arrangements for vehicle parking. Proposals to promote activities which make a low impact upon the environment e.g. cycling, walking will be considered favourably, together with investment in the infrastructure to support them e.g. cycle ways, footpaths and signing.
- d. Tourism development can also bring with it a proliferation of signage. This is acceptable where essential for the identification of the property, but excessive commercial signage will be resisted and fly-posting/un-authorised signs will be referred to the appropriate authority for enforcement.

## Proposals

<b>CD P6</b>	<b>Preparation of a Tourism Development Plan</b>
MT	££

**Justification:** Low-impact sustainable tourism can easily be accommodated in Holme which has a range of links to popular networks including the Lancaster Canal, Limestone Link and Morecambe Bay Cycle Way.

**Proposal:** The Parish Council will produce a tourism policy statement, for consultation with local businesses and leisure organisations, aimed at increasing the attractiveness of Holme as a leisure destination, particularly for people engaged in active recreation.

<b>CD P7</b>	<b>Proposals for land off Milnthorpe Road – Community Sports Field</b>
MT	££££

**Justification:** There are significant benefits to be gained from the promotion of active recreation. Though Holme benefits from access to open countryside for walking and cycling, it would benefit from a building which allows for all forms of indoor recreation. None of the present facilities are suitable for this purpose.

**Proposal:** Land presently identified for active recreation e.g. football, archery, tennis, cricket and bowls should be protected and, in consultation with landowners and community bodies, developed to provide suitable public facilities. These might include an all-weather sports pitch and the identification of a suitable site for a purpose-built indoor sports hall. These might however, also be provided elsewhere, which would be equally acceptable.

<b>CD P8</b>	<b>Interpretative Signing and Footpath Network</b>
MT	££

**Justification:** Holme has a heritage which is worthy of interpreting, both for the village residents and the visitor. It is specifically mentioned in a long distance trail from Blackburn to Buttermere (Wainwright Way) and has an interesting history as a farming and industrial village, particularly associated with the construction of the Lancaster Canal and the history of weaving and flooring manufacture. It also sits on the Limestone Link trail which traverses the spectacular limestone scenery from Kirkby Lonsdale to Arnsdale. This is an excellent long distance route, marred only by a dangerous section adjacent to the A6070. The Lancaster Canal tow-path is a popular local resource, particularly for dog walkers.

**Proposal:** The Parish Council should seek to produce an inventory of significant features within its boundary and seek commercial sponsorship to allow for improved signing of its features of historical, architectural, geological and wildlife interests and produce an online trail and features map as part of its village web site.

<b>CD P9</b>	<b>Artist Community – Holme Mills</b>
LT	££££

**Justification:** A thriving artistic community provides a range of benefits for the life of Holme, as well as interest for visitors. The present building at Holme Mills has potential to be promoted throughout the year, possible in association with display area, café and shop.

**Proposal:** Discussions should take place with the land owner and tenants to identify ways in which the site might be developed to produce an artists 'quarter' which can be promoted as a visitor attraction and integrated within the overall site. Such an attraction might also be used to interpret the interesting social and industrial history of Holme Mills.

## Section 2: Community Infrastructure: [CI]

### Context

Though Holme has experienced a significant increase in the number of houses in the last 10 years, its essential character is still that of a rural village, centred on the Church and village Square. From there, roads go North West towards Milnthorpe (Milnthorpe Road) and South East towards Burton (Burton Road).

The building of the motorway in the 1970's caused a number of footpath links to be severed, but there is still a good network of footpaths spreading out from these roads and North Road. The disused Lancaster Canal is also an important local footway, which connects Holme to the Limestone Link, a long-distance footpath from Arnsdale to Kirkby Lonsdale.

Despite the recent development, the Holme road and footpath network still reflects the age of the horse and cart, which generates a number of issues relating to on-street parking; non-contiguous, sometimes narrow footpaths; narrow roads unsuitable for heavy non-essential vehicles and pedestrian safety, particularly for children and the elderly. These problems are at their worst in the centre of the village, which is still the focus of much village life.

Several years back, the Parish Council had detailed discussions with Cumbria Highways on a wide range of highways issues. While some of their concerns have been addressed, there are a number of major issues which remain and must be considered as a high priority for action.

### Policy Area: Highways and Footpaths

### Issues

- Significant stretches of main footpath are in a poor condition, particularly on North Road. Attention needs to be given to places where dropped-kerbs have become damaged or are absent, especially on paths used for access to the Community School.
- Several roads in the village centre lack a contiguous pavement, presenting conflicts with motor vehicles, uneven surfaces which are a hazard for the elderly and difficulties for parents using buggies.
- Traffic speeds do not always reflect or respect the nature of the road network. There are a number of places in South Lakeland which now have 20mph restrictions. Such limits are appropriate for much of Holme and need to be progressed as part of a detailed traffic management plan. This plan also needs to look at the use of the village network by non-essential commercial vehicles, appropriate signing and enforcement of the existing limits, measures to improve highway safety and measures to reduce excessive speed.
- Obstruction and inconsiderate on-street parking is an issue regularly raised at Parish Council. In some cases, new parking regulations may be required where vehicle parking adjacent to road junctions can give rise to hazardous situations e.g. North Road/Burton road junction and Hillside/Pear Tree Park junctions on North Road.

- Only Burton and Milnthorpe Road qualify for Priority 2 gritting in icy conditions (within 5 hours). North Road is a primary route for many villagers and also used by school buses. There have been a number of potentially serious accidents on North Road in icy conditions. This should be recognised through inclusion in the gritting schedules as a Priority 2 route. The Parish Council will also consider what local measures can be taken to ensure that key footpaths can be treated and cleared of snow during winter conditions.
- Street lighting is an important safety consideration, but also has environmental consequences through light pollution. Lighting has recently been upgraded to new standards, but minor revisions may well be required.
- The importance of both the urban and rural footpath networks needs to be recognised, with improved maintenance of both, better signing and some new provision, particularly on the A6070 between North Road and Holme Park Farm, which is part of the Limestone Link. Improvements are also important where they contribute to safer school access. The Lancaster Canal is a valued local amenity which requires better all-weather surfacing as it is often very wet in winter.
- Dog fouling is less of a problem following an advisory signing programme. However, dog fouling remains a local concern.

## Policies

<b>CI 1</b>	<b>Maintenance of Footpaths and Road Surfaces</b>
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The Parish Council will submit an annual programme of requested improvements to Cumbria Council and seek regular meetings with the appropriate officers to ensure that priority areas are addressed.

It will also assist and advise residents of their responsibilities where trees and bushes overhang or obstruct public rights of way.

A specific sum will be allocated in each annual Parish Council budget as a contribution towards better maintenance of recreation paths within the village.

Irresponsible residents who fail to meet their obligations with regard to dog fouling on and adjacent to highways and on footpaths will be referred to the appropriate authorities who are able to enforce financial penalties. Additional dog litter bins will be considered where appropriate and capable of regular emptying either by South Lakeland, the village Lengthsman, or another similar body.

Better signing can contribute to wider enjoyment of recreational routes and will be requested where it can help. The Parish Council will seek a review at least once every 2 years to ensure that the necessary maintenance has been carried out to footpath signs, access furniture such as gates and stiles and drainage/surface maintenance.

It will also seek early discussions with Cumbria County Council to overcome the dangers identified on the A6070 through the provision of a new, alternative path.

<b>CI 2</b>	<b>Lower Traffic Speeds</b>
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The Parish Council, in conjunction with the Highways Authority and Cumbria Police, will explore ways of effectively reducing traffic speeds and securing enforcement of current weight and access restrictions. These should include community enforced speed limits backed by police intervention (as recently shown to be effective in Endmoor) and regular monitoring of traffic speeds to remind motorists and the assess particular problems (use of speed indicator devices and mobile speed monitors).

<b>CI 3</b>	<b>Non-essential commercial traffic</b>
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The Parish Council will expect the Highways Authority to develop, within the next year, a plan to better manage the routing of commercial traffic through the village centre, with better signing of unsuitable roads, an agreed routing for commercial vehicles requiring access to Holme Mills and Storth Engineering on Station Road, the effective enforcement of weight limits and commercial vehicles using Holme village roads for non-essential purposes.

<b>CI 4</b>	<b>Effective Control of On-Street Parking</b>
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The Parish Council does not wish to see excessive use of urban measures such as yellow lines in order to restrict on-street parking, particularly on residential streets off the principal traffic routes. Many older homes do not have adequate off-street parking – a situation common in many rural areas.

Residents should take every care to ensure that on-street parked vehicles do not constitute an obstruction either to adjacent properties, other vehicles (especially emergency vehicles) or to pedestrians. Where this does occur, the Police will be requested to give advice and, if appropriate, to enforce regulations.

<b>CI 5</b>	<b>Maintenance of Traffic Signs and Enforcement</b>
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Poorly maintained traffic signs encourage motorists to ignore statutory restrictions, including speed and weight. There are several roads in the village which have weight restrictions and where non-essential traffic not requiring access is excluded.

Despite representations, these aspects have not received active attention either by the Highways Authority, or the Police. The Parish Council will seek every opportunity to ensure that signs are well maintained and that statutory limits are enforced.

## **Proposals**

### **Justification:**

- To improve highway and pedestrian safety.
- To reduce traffic speeds where doing so will contribute to the well-being of residents, contribute to improved amenity and promote highway safety.
- To encourage more recreational use of our footpath network both by residents and visitors, with associated economic, tourism and health benefits.

<b>CI P1</b>	<b>Highway and Pedestrian Safety</b>
MT	££££

**Proposal:** The following work is seen as a high priority and will be reviewed annually.

**Footpath surfacing maintenance** (including some dropped kerbs):-

- North Road – in particular Chestnut Close to Hillside and opposite the Community School.
- Mayfield Avenue.
- Trinity Drive.
- Sections of Station Road.
- Sections of Hillside and Yew Tree Close.
- Sheernest Lane.

**Road Markings**

- North Road / Burton Road / Duke Street / Milnthorpe Road – to promote safer pedestrian and vehicular movement.
- Duke Street / Station Road – to reduce traffic speeds.

**Road Signage**

- Non-essential/ weight limited traffic – North Road, Burton Road, Milnthorpe Road.

**Recreational Network**

- Steps should be taken to provide a suitable pedestrian route between the junction of North Road and the A6070 and the point where the Limestone Link runs east adjacent to Holme Park Quarry. An alternative which might be considered is to provide a suitable pedestrian route way under the M6 to re-link North Road with Holme Park Farm.
- The Canal and Rivers Trust should be encouraged to upgrade the surface of the Lancaster Canal tow-path so that it is capable of use throughout the year, both by walkers, cyclists (as part of a long-distance cycle route from Kendal to Lancaster) and disabled. Footpaths linking it to the village should be actively maintained, clearly signed and protected from any obstruction.

<b>CI P2</b>	<b>Village Centre Safety</b>
ST > MT	£££

**Justification:**

The village centre of Holme is the hub of community activity, being the location of the church, village shop, bus stops, pub, post office and village hall. It is also an area where there are significant conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles, especially where there are no contiguous pavements.

There is an opportunity to address this issue through a comprehensive proposal which has, as its objectives:-

- To improve the attractiveness of the village centre as a place to sit and enjoy a safe, quiet environment.
- To minimise the potential for pedestrian accidents and make the centre a safer place for all.

- To reduce traffic speeds.
- To help reduce dangers for all who make use of the village hall. This includes youth groups and the elderly.
- To help minimise obstruction and vehicle/personal danger due to inconsiderate or illegal on-street parking.

**Proposal:** The Parish Council will pursue this through the preparation of detailed proposals for the re-prioritisation of the village centre as a pedestrian area through which traffic passes. This need not be an expensive scheme, but will help make the village centre a more pleasant and safer place within which to go about daily life and in which to enjoy the amenities which the village has to offer.

It will also expect the development brief for Holme identifies specific measures to mitigate the effect of resulting increased traffic movements through the village centre, especially at peak times of the day.

Specific elements of this plan will include:-

- Measures to improve vehicle parking in the Square, so that it is principally for short-stay traffic, buses and visitors to the village.
- An improvement to the amenity of the Square by redesign of the present planted areas and better integration with the Millennium space adjacent to the Church and the War Memorial, so as to make it a more pleasant place to enjoy the rural qualities of the village centre.
- Clearer road markings and surfacing changes, to emphasise pedestrian priority, make it safer for those using the village hall and Duke Street and its junction with Milnthorpe Road. And to clearly identify space reserved for stopping buses. Signing would also the potential for vehicle accidents when turning into North Road from Milnthorpe Road and to slow the speed of traffic entering Holme from Station Road.
- Consider how to better illuminate the Square and adjacent area, with appropriate seating and shelter.
- Consider the need for additional statutory measures to reduce obstruction, or dangerous situations in the vicinity of village centre road junctions due to unsafe or inconsiderate on street parking.
- Additional measures to reduce the dangerous conditions which occur at dropping off and pick up times from the school. This is a difficult problem which ultimately can only be solved by parents working with the school to reduce the number of vehicles used to transport young people and by promoting other measures not using a motor vehicle.
- Particularly within the village centre, to consider if certain areas should be designated as being for residents and short-stay parking only, through the use of appropriate parking regulations.

<b>CI P3</b>	<b>Vehicle Noise</b>
ST	££

The construction of the M6 motorway has, with the increases in traffic volumes, had unfortunate and intrusive effects by increasing traffic noise, to the extent that it can be quite intrusive in certain conditions e.g. wet and windy weather.

**Proposal:** The Parish Council will request the Highways Agency to implement specific measures to reduce traffic noise from the motorway. These will include low-noise surfacing of all carriageways but particularly north-bound, together with the planting of additional noise-suppressing shelter belts, particularly on the open sections to the east of North Road.

<b>CI P4</b>	<b>Traffic Signage Review and Speed Restrictions</b>
ST	££

Good vehicle signage is an important part of good traffic management. However, Holme has a number of issues requiring action. These will form part of the regular dialogue which is required between the Parish Council and the Highways Authority.

**Proposal:** Particular issues requiring high priority action include:-

- New 30 mph signs and weight limitations – North Road, Burton Road and Milnthorpe Road.
- Removal of 'old peoples' sign – Milnthorpe Road.
- Possible parking restrictions – North Road/Burton Road/Pear Tree Park/Hillside.
- Provision of stop lines – Pear Tree Park.
- Reduction of maximum speed to 50mph – A6070, particularly from north of North Road through to Burton village.
- Improved junction signage into Holme from Burton direction – North Road/A6070.
- Restriction of non-essential traffic – Pear Tree Park/Mayfield Avenue.
- The Highways Authority will be requested to carry out a thorough review of traffic signs to see what measures might be taken to reduce clutter and inappropriate signage.

<b>CI P5</b>	<b>Promotion and Improvement of Rights of Way</b>
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The Parish Council has powers to ensure that rights of way are not only usable and un-obstructed but also adequately signed.

**Proposal:** In conjunction with Cumbria Council, it will carry out regular inspections of all its public footpaths to ensure that they are fit for purpose and contribute towards their maintenance and effective signage and use by visitors and residents alike.

The post of village Lengthsman is one that historically been part funded by the Parish Council jointly with a discretionary grant from our Cumbria County councillor. Any measures to suspend or end this service due to financial cuts will be strongly resisted. At the same time, steps will be taken to find alternative funding, via the Parish precept or possibly business sponsorship, in order to continue a valuable and most cost-effective service to the village.

<b>CI P6</b>	<b>Priority Gritting - North Road</b>
ST	££

North Road is a key access road into the village and a bus route for school children in Holme and at nearby secondary schools. Despite this and a number of road traffic incidents in recent years, it is not a Priority 2 route (gritted within 5 hours). The Parish Council has long held the view that this is a priority for upgrade.

**Proposal:** That Cumbria Highways be asked to recognise the importance of this road for local access during winter conditions (ice/snow) and give urgent consideration to upgrading its status in the interests of traffic safety.

### **Policy Area: Other Infrastructure and Services**

#### **Issues**

- The current capacity of the sewage treatment plant is considered too small to cope with the proposed new development over the next 5 years.
- During periods of high rainfall, a number of areas in the village are prone to flooding, along with a section of the A6070 at Holme Park Quarry.
- Regular preventive maintenance of gullies and de-silting of main rivers (Holme Beck) is considered essential to mitigate local flooding.
- Regular maintenance of local culverts is required to ensure that they flow at full capacity and are not obstructed by roots, litter or other debris.
- Several areas of Holme are blighted by overhead wires for telephone services. A programme is required to remove these.
- Provision of genuine super-fast internet continues to be an issue.
- Though Holme has an emergency plan to cope with significant civil disasters, it is in need of review, especially in the light of recent severe flooding.

#### **Policies**

<b>CI 6</b>	<b>Sewerage Capacity and Flood Water</b>
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The responsibility for both these areas rests with the statutory bodies such as United Utilities and the Environment Agency. It is the view of the Parish Council that these authorities should fully meet their obligations, particularly with regard to planning considerations, to ensure the all new development can be adequately serviced and not be subject to any significant flooding.

Specific action is required as a high priority to address the issues of flooding which regularly occurs on land adjacent on Mayfield Avenue. Any future development must also address this issue when considering the affect of additional surface run-off.

It also expects that the Highway and District authorities to carry out a program of gully emptying and inspection of key culverts/drains in the village at least once per year, to ensure that properties are not at threat during periods of high rainfall or flash flooding.

<b>CI 7</b>	<b>Emergency Planning</b>
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During recent extreme weather conditions Holme has been effectively cut off, making it extremely difficult or impossible for residents to leave or gain access to the village. This is potentially a life-threatening situation as the village has twice recently been cut off for a period in excess of 12 hours. This has also been an issue for emergency services as paramedics, doctors and First Responders often use their own cars to get to emergency. This can be impossible when key roads are flooded. The Air Ambulance does have a landing site in the village but this can be extremely difficult or impossible to use at night time. For this reason, the Parish Council will seek early discussions with the emergency services to review the provisions of the Emergency Plan, so that it reflects this relatively new situation.

There are 3 areas of the A6070 where severe flooding has effectively closed the road to all but high-sided and 4x4 vehicles. These warrant priority schemes to ensure that this key route is accessible at all times, as the key emergency route into the village. There are also other roads which can be dangerous or impassable including Moss Lane and the railway bridge near Storth Engineering. This is an area requiring significant capital expenditure by the Highways Authority.

<b>CI 8</b>	<b>Community Policing</b>
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Holme is, in general, a very low crime area, but proximity to the motorway network does make it vulnerable to spates of organised crimes both at domestic and business properties and outlying farms/properties. The Parish Council values the service of its Community Police and will strongly oppose any measures which reduce the level of policing below current levels. Community policing in the village is reassuring both to elderly residents and to the parents of young children who benefit from regular school visits and road-safety awareness training.

<b>CI 9</b>	<b>Street Numbering</b>
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Several areas of Holme have somewhat confusing street numbering. While not a priority, the District Council is requested to review the numbering, or to clarify the signing for Pear Tree Park (leading into Trinity Drive) and Trinity Drive.

## Section 3: Community Facilities: Transport, Shops, Sports and Social: [CF]

### Context

It is clear, from comments, that one of the major attractions of Holme, as a community, is the range of facilities that it can offer. There are over 20 active village groups from the WI through to sporting clubs such as Bowling and Cricket. The village also has an excellent Community School, Church, village Shop, Post Office, Pub, Village Hall and Social Club at Holme Mills. It also enjoys an excellent hourly service by bus to Kendal and Lancaster, though this is limited in the evening, which can be an issue for young people seeking activities or friends in nearby towns.

However, like many rural villages, the situation is a fragile one. In particular:-

- The Church has a shared Vicar and a relatively small congregation for the size of the village.
- There are no longer any surgery facilities for the increasing number of elderly residents.
- There is no direct bus service to Westmorland General Hospital, the nearest outpatients department.
- Recently the village shop was at risk of closure. This is the only shop within the village other than the post office/newsagents.
- The current tenants of the village pub work extremely hard but without them, several events through the year might not readily happen.
- External pressures have, in the past, also brought the future of the Post Office and School into some doubt, though this is not a current issue. However the business is presently up for sale.
- Since the withdrawal of mobile library services, a scheme has been introduced allowing access to a limited supply of books in the village hall, one day per week.
- There is no bank or cash point.
- Internet facilities have improved, but there are opportunities for a far superior service, with community support.
- Isolation is a major issue for elderly people, especially when living alone without a car.

The village does have a well used and well managed village hall but the building is in urgent need of modernisation. It is located on a restricted site with adjacent dangers due to shortage of parking places and narrow roads. These can create hazardous situations at busy times.

Accessibility issues have partly been recognised through the provision of a voluntary car driver scheme since 2014. This service is of particular value to the elderly, providing a simple and relatively inexpensive way of fitting in hospital and doctor/dentist appointments, as well as access to leisure facilities and shopping.

## Policy Area: Community Facilities

### Issues

- The ability to provide a village meeting point which is appropriate to meet modern standards or the number of residents anticipated by 2020, cost-effective to manage and easily accessible both by car users and people travelling on foot.
- The need to address a wide range of social difficulties experienced chiefly by the elderly, related to lack of contact, access to medical facilities – both for primary care and for chronic conditions, loss of personal mobility and cost of access to the same.
- The need to provide a choice of facilities for casual recreation in addition to that provided by specific clubs.
- The shortage of facilities which meet the needs of the younger residents of the village, including the needs of teenagers not part of organised groups.
- The difficulty of providing voluntary support for facilities and organisations, without which, such activities as a play group, first responders, the car lift scheme, meals on wheels, parish council, scouts/guides/brownies, the church and elderly care cannot hope to operate effectively.
- The ability of the school to not only accommodate, but also meet the diverse needs of an increased number of pupils following proposed housing developments.
- The need to continue producing a widely accessible village newsletter, along with Internet based services. The newsletter is presently run on a volunteer basis, both for production and distribution.
- The inadequacy of the current Internet services in terms of speed and capacity – facilities considered key by many considering the place in which they will live and work.

<b>CF 1</b>	<b>Community Recreation Facilities</b>
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In addition to its Club sporting facilities (Cricket, Bowls) the village has two areas available for informal sports activities. The first, adjacent to the Community School, is owned by Cumbria County Council and made available to the school. In the short-term, its future is not under threat, but any proposals for its disposal will be strongly opposed unless equivalent alternative provision can be made. Given the use by the school, this would seem unlikely.

A second area is an important area of land between Pear Tree Park and Mayfield Avenue housing. This is specifically protected in the new Local Plan and owned by South Lakeland District Council. At present, it is unsuitable for general use due to surface conditions, poor drainage and access constraints imposed by the Environment Agency. It will never be large enough for formal ball-based activities. In the short term, its status as open space must be protected, though it also has a potential longer term value, along with adjacent informal recreation space as a possible site for new community hall facilities. The latter should not be seen as incompatible with community aspirations, given the location which is equidistant to most residents of the village.

A third area, known as the Community Sports Field (off Milnthorpe Road) was the site previously proposed for a Community Sports Hall, together with open space for football, archery and tennis. In the last year the charitable body managing this has been wound-up. The site is now run by an ad-hoc body which leases the land and makes it available to Milnthorpe Football Club. Football teams within Holme have to travel to Burton for their games and practice.

Until the plans of the new body are clear it does not appear that this land is available for informal recreation, something that is of concern. The land is protected from other forms of development i.e. housing. The Parish Council will seek to clarify the use and tenure of this site, which it believes should, if possible be available, in whole or part, for informal public recreation use by all Holme residents. Should proposals be made for an all-purpose building capable of accommodating a range of indoor sports activities, these will be supported and the project could be considered for assistance through infrastructure grant funding (along with the other community projects also mentioned in this plan).

Though not a site for active recreation, the land owned by the Parish Council off Moss Lane is important, it is presently leased to the Holme Grown Allotment Society. This has been a very successful community project which should continue as long as demand exists and there is a competent body to manage it.

<b>CF 2</b>	<b>Community Education Facilities</b>
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The principal facility in the village is the Community School. This is a successful village school with 113 pupils presently enrolled. It has recently started a new nursery. Performance in all key indicators for reading, writing and numeracy are above the average for the local authority area of Cumbria.

The importance of this school to the village cannot be over-stated and this importance is likely to increase, given the proposed additional development over the next 10 years. While the present Headteacher does not envisage a problem in accommodating any increase, the site is one which dates back to 1911.

Along with many such schools, it does make its facilities available to the community.

Further discussions are desirable with the school Headteacher and Governors, to consider if there is a need to protect alternative sites within the village for a new school, over the next 10 to 15 years. This would be a major investment both for the school, education authority and the community. It is important that a long term location be established as this does not form part of the current Local Plan for South Lakeland.

The school is considered a high priority for high-speed fibre Internet should this be made available in the village.

There are presently no facilities for adult-education in the village, the nearest being based at Dallam School in Milnthorpe. The County Library Service maintains a stock of books in the Village Hall. There are no buildings suitable for visiting medical services. This is something which should be considered in any new community building, particularly given the high proportion of elderly people in the community

and the difficulties they experience gaining access to medical services, the prescription service and home support.

<b>CF 3</b>	<b>Keeping People in Touch</b>
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At present the primary service to do this is the Parish Newsletter. It is funded by local advertising and donations, produced through volunteer editorial staff and distributed through the church.

Given the rapid development of social media and the Internet, these are other ways in which information can be shared. The village has several Facebook sites, a new Parish Council website and several informal networks. While these greatly help in keeping people in touch, they cannot be considered as a substitute for something produced in paper form, despite the labour intensive nature of this facility. This may necessitate a re-think about the role of the printed newsletter so that it reflects the wider interests of the village as a whole.

The Parish Council will continue to support this publication, but wishes to explore how its future can be secured as a community service. This is clearly an area requiring greater volunteer involvement both in production and distribution. It is something that should be discussed in detail before the end of 2018, with a view to establishing more robust arrangements.

<b>CF 4</b>	<b>Other Community Societies</b>
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The day to day running of these is dependent upon the committees behind them and is not one where the Parish Council expects to have any direct input. Their importance to the village is fully recognised. However, where there are management, tenure or financial issues which are in the community interest, the Council will be happy to engage in constructive dialogue and assistance if it has the requisite powers. This will not, in any instances extend to the seeking of planning consent on behalf of the particular body or to direct involvement in the running of such a body. This does not preclude Parish Councillors from being appointed to such management committees where there is a community interest.

<b>CF 5</b>	<b>Community Services – Shops/Post Office/Pub</b>
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Like its societies, these facilities depend upon community support for their viability, something which became all too obvious when the village shop was closed for a brief period in 2016. The size of the village means that all of these have some fragility and it is important that they are supported. The village pub not only provides a hospitality function but also promotes, with other residents, a number of events during the year and runs the local meals on wheels service.

Post Office services are constantly under review and closure would be a major concern. The village Shop appears safe in the short-term following new tenants but, like the post office, floor space is limited.

The Parish Council does have powers to become involved in the support of such services, but cannot be responsible for running them. It will continue to assist where it is possible and will welcome discussions with business owners, where it might be in a position to assist in securing their long term viability.

<b>CF6</b>	<b>Community Safety - Policing</b>
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Despite considerable reductions in its police resources, Cumbria Constabulary continues to provide a presence within the village chiefly through its Community Officers but also in response to its 999 and 101 services. Fortunately Holme is a relatively low crime area, something which needs to continue. Crime is typically concerned with small-scale thefts and minor domestic issues.

It is regretted that officers do not have the resources to regularly attend Parish Council meetings as this is a valuable forum for exchange of information. However, in the short term, the receipt of a written report for each Parish Council meeting is helpful.

In the past Holme has had a number of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes though their value at present is questionable due to lack of area co-ordinators. The Parish Council wishes to promote their re-establishment and will have early discussions with the police to see how this can be achieved, as part of its policies for more community engagement.

One initiative which has been applied in other villages is the No Cold Calling scheme, run by Cumbria County Council Trading Standards. This scheme does provide a lot of re-assurance to elderly people. Though cold-calling by telephone has largely replaced it and cannot easily be controlled other than by individual actions e.g. call blocking, there is still value in having such a scheme and this is something which will be followed up.

From time to time, there are minor issues related to anti-social behaviour, often attributed to young people. Such behaviour is not acceptable and it is often a very small number of individuals. It is recognised that specific provision for the needs of young people can help. This is something which the Parish Council will wish to take up with the police, organised youth groups and the school. Past initiatives have sometimes failed due to the lack of support from the community. This is a common problem and one which needs to be addressed.

<b>CF7</b>	<b>Community Faith and Fellowship</b>
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Like many churches, the numbers who attend regularly has fallen in recent years. However the importance of the Anglican Church, as part of our village, should not be underestimated. The membership is actively seeking ways of providing friendship and emotional support to new and existing residents. It is also investigating the possibility of a part time Youth worker, to address some of these issues. The village Newsletter provides an opportunity for the views of the church to be heard, along with news of their events and meetings. The Parish Council values the help offered with the distribution of the newsletter and will continue to seek ways of developing an active dialogue.

No other denominations have a presence for worship in the village.

## Section 4: Social Needs: Health and Welfare: Including Elderly and Youth

### Context

Over 40% of the population of Holme is over the age of 50 and it seems likely this proportion will increase over the next decade. Holme is relatively well served with community facilities and services. However, if one or other partner dies, or can no longer drive a car, loneliness and isolation can rapidly follow. New web-based delivery services such as home food delivery have helped but much more needs to be done to address the widespread problem of isolation for such people. With families living further apart and traditional neighbourliness being less common (though good in Holme) there is a need to consider how the community as a whole can help overcome these problems.

The issues are not the sole concern of the elderly. While Holme offers a good place in which to grow-up, with an excellent school, an active playgroup and toddlers and a strong scouts/brownies group, there are challenges. All voluntary groups require people willing to actively support them and not just to take from them. Young people also need opportunities to gain valuable life skills through active involvement in the adult world. They also need some recognition of their wishes for safe places in which to play, places to engage in informal games and also more active sports. Without the help of friends and parents, it is increasingly difficult for them to meet up with their friends and their peer group outside of school hours and also to become involved in out of school activities, or additional tutoring provided by their school.

The biggest single challenge is to find new people prepared to give some of their time for the benefit of others. This has traditionally been a core benefit of rural living, but is under more and more pressure, as the demands on family and work life have increased. Many important societies and organisations in the village are run by people who are retired and, in some instances, have done the job for many years. This is a situation which has got to be reversed, or our village will be very much the poorer.

### Policy Area: Helping Meet Health and Welfare Needs

#### Issues

- There is a need to find an effective structure, grounded in the community, which seeks to support the wide range of government, county and voluntary services concerned with the 'wellness' in our communities.
- There are some key people who are the 'eyes and ears' of any community. This informal and powerful network needs to be used in a way that does not compromise individual's right to privacy but still ensures that residents with real needs are helped in a timely and effective manner. This is not just in respect of medical/health matters e.g. help after being discharged from hospital but also in respect of other pressures such as emotional or financial difficulties. In this respect, the plan makes specific proposals for a 'Good Neighbours' scheme to provide proactive support to the elderly and vulnerable and to ensure a co-ordinated approach together with health practitioners,

local government care services, other community initiatives e.g. Age UK South Lakeland schemes and services such as First Responders, the WI and the church.

- How to effectively maintain 'reactive' support for villagers – an example is the excellent First Responders, but also being able to avoid some difficulties from occurring through more 'proactive' approaches e.g. support, counselling and access to professional advice. The latter is the essence of 'wellness' – promoting happy and contented communities, which take it upon themselves to solve some of their challenges e.g. the much valued voluntary driver scheme.
- The young people of the village need to find ways of not only expressing their needs, but also coming together to plan and meet them, with the support of others who support and work in the community.

## Policies

<b>SN 1</b>	<b>Developing Social Responsibility and Encouraging Community Engagement</b>
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This is an area where the Parish Council has a key role to play, but it cannot hope to do it in isolation. It does have wide-ranging powers but without imposing considerable additional charges through its precepting powers cannot hope to support the retention of key important services or facilities. Furthermore it will be reluctant to use these until it has exhausted other avenues for greater community collaboration and involvement. What is certain is that we cannot assume that the 'status quo' will continue without a substantially greater input from volunteer Holme residents.

To this end, the Parish Council sees itself as the initiator and part funder (using its precept powers) of a range of services which allow Holme to prosper as a strong, vibrant community. It does not see itself as the provider of these services.

There are a range of areas where community engagement and participation could make an enormous difference to the quality of life of our village. These include:-

- Support for the provision and management of a whole range of sporting and social activities, many of which are suffering from falling membership and struggling to meet increasing costs. The Play Group, Community Sports Field association and Holme Social Club are only three of many such examples
- Support for the elderly in our communities. Family structures have changed dramatically in the last decade and elderly can often no longer rely upon the help of families living in the same village or nearby. Charitable bodies such as Age UK South Lakeland can do much to help plug this gap, but only if they are adequately funded and have a pool of volunteers on which to call.
- Our community, like any other, is not immune from the pressures that affect society today – food poverty, family breakdown, financial difficulties, emotional stress and ill health. The church fully recognises the role that it could play in helping support those needing help in the village. However

without volunteer support, access to professional services and funding, this will never be achieved.

- There is a case to consider if as well as the excellent First Responders service there should also be a Good Neighbours service. This requires suitably trained volunteers, working interdependently but closely with the health services (hospitals / GP's), to ensure that elderly residents and other vulnerable people have a local contact who is aware of their needs and can provide a first point of contact in such situations.
- Opportunities for the younger members of the village to have access not only to formal clubs/organisations but also to informal facilities which they can call their own. In urban areas these are generally available but even simple facilities such as a skate park, kick about area, meeting point shelter, or youth club, present major challenges without volunteer support, to help fund and manage them.
- Additional support for the volunteer driver scheme. This is literally a lifeline for many meaning they do not have to wait for buses at cold, often unsheltered bus stops, without seating.
- Supporting trained specialists in a range of activities. The First Responders are an obvious example, entirely dependent upon volunteer support and funding, but vital in saving lives until the emergency services (themselves under severe pressure) can arrive. The church is considering the employment of a community outreach worker as well.
- The provision of key services such as high-speed Internet. The B4RN hyper-fast fibre network is supported by experienced professionals, but relies upon the energies and enthusiasm of village residents and business people to not only fund, but also construct its network. The results have transformed rural life in villages such as Hornby, Arkholme and Hutton Roof and are about to do the same for the Yealand villages and Silverdale.

## Proposals:

- To help identify areas of community and social difficulty and to react to them effectively, in close co-ordination with statutory agencies, local Government services, health practitioners and voluntary community bodies.
- To reduce the costs of providing such services and improve the quality of service.
- To develop an enhanced spirit of 'neighbourliness' and 'self-help'.

<b>SN P1</b>	<b>Good Neighbours Scheme</b>
ST	£££

## Justification:

Following a recent meeting with care practitioners from the NHS and local surgeries, the idea was floated of a new voluntary service focussed on the rapid, proactive response to the needs of individuals in the community. Such a service would augment and work closely with health practitioners including our local surgeries and recently established Integrated Care Community structure which covers the villages in an arc from Kirkby Lonsdale through Milnthorpe to Arnsdale.

This is a large, disparate rural area, where distance makes effective working difficult without a locally based group of volunteers, trained to anticipate and respond to

welfare (this should be taken to include medical, financial or emotional) difficulties. Such an idea would not replace the present services. It would help these and voluntary bodies, such as Age UK South Lakeland, to target their resources more effectively and to help people who might otherwise disappear 'under-the-radar'.

Such a voluntary group, now formally called 'Good Neighbours' requires adequate funding to allow for an independent volunteer coordinator, appropriate training for all volunteers and must also comply with national safeguarding measures e.g. Disclosure and Barring Service. It is unlikely to be run by the Parish Council, though they will actively contribute to its formation and in part, running costs. It will be primarily targeted at people with a short-term difficulty. They may, for example, require simple immediate help e.g. people discharged from hospital and living alone or warrant help from other care services including practical help around the home e.g. approved professional or artisan services such as electricians or plumbers. Pioneer work in this area is being undertaken by Age UK South Lakeland and the Parish Council has recently been in discussions with a similar scheme (Embsay) running near Skipton. The establishment of a 'Good Neighbours' service may be helpful as a way of offsetting the recent loss of its Village Agents service due to funding difficulties.

**Proposal:** That the Parish Council promotes and helps in the setting up of a new voluntary supported service for Holme called 'Good Neighbours'. Planning for this will take place this year (2018). Following a village survey (November 2017) the extent of demand and willing volunteers will be known. Depending upon the outcome, it is hoped to launch the scheme during 2018.

<b>SN P2</b>	<b>Provision for Young People in the Village</b>
MT	££ > £££

**Justification:** One of the long-standing 'needs' which has been raised is finding a location where young people can meet, with some form of simple shelter. At present, particularly in the summer months, this can be either on the Community School playing field (or adjacent recreation area), or in the bus shelter in the village centre. Neither of these locations is ideal. An ideal location would be one where there is a degree of visibility, but not somewhere likely to cause disturbance to adjacent residents.

**Proposal:** In the short term, this may be difficult to find, unless some provision could be made on the Community Sports Field off Milnthorpe Road. However, the Parish Council will be keen to consider any positive proposals which are made to improve provision for young people's recreation.

A variety of other ideas have been put forward including a youth café and skateboard area. Should such proposals be made by any interested group having the necessary energy to help fund, develop and run such a facility the Parish Council will be pleased to consider how it can help.

<b>SN P3</b>	<b>Medical Services within the Village</b>
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**Justification:** It is fully recognised that the costs of providing purpose-built medical facilities in Holme would be prohibitive. Visiting post-natal services have until recently been provided in the village hall for mothers and toddlers. Unfortunately facilities are not ideal for anything other than a consultation. These services have presently been withdrawn without adequate consultation. The matter has been raised, through the Parish Council, with our MP. The elderly within the village would also be greatly assisted if such facilities could be provided even on a part-time e.g. once per week basis

**Proposal:** A room suitable and reserved for consulting and visitor medical services, along with basic equipment should be included in any proposals which are made for a new Community Hall. In the interim, arrangements should be re-instated for monthly visits from a qualified Care Worker at the Village Hall

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MT	££££
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LT	£££

## Policy Area : Leisure and Tourism Development

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MT	££
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LT	££££

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ST > MT	£££
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ST	££
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## Section 4 : Social Needs : Health and Welfare : Including Elderly and Youth

### Policy Area : Helping Meet Health and Welfare Needs

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ST	£££
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MT	££ > £££
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