



REVISION OF CONISTON PARISH PLAN 2017

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BACKGROUND

Location

Coniston is a village in the county of Cumbria within the southern part of the Lake District National Park beside Coniston Water, the third longest lake in the Lake District.

Coniston grew as a farming village and to serve local copper and slate mines. During the Victorian era it developed as a tourist location partially through the construction of a branch of the Furness Railway which closed in the late 1950's / early 1960's.

Today, Coniston is a popular tourist resort with a thriving village community. The nearest large villages are Hawkshead 4 miles away and Ambleside 8 miles away. Local knowledge suggests that nearly 60% of the housing stock in Coniston is owned as a second home or let as holiday housing. There is a good range of local services and social amenities with a primary and secondary school, fire station, post office and shops with basic supplies. The main employment locally is based around agricultural and tourism with many other local businesses. Coniston has wide range of social and recreational opportunities. The population of the Parish is 928 (Census 2011).

Reason for Revision of Parish Plan 2017

The first Coniston Parish Plan was completed in 2004 with an update completed in 2011/12 and a revision now required. The idea behind a Parish Plan is to form a village plan for the next 5 years based on Parishioners requests on what can be achieved to improve services and facilities within the village. Once the Parish Plan is completed it will act as an Action Plan for the Parish Council and other organisations.

The Team

Coniston Parish Councillors & Debbie Friend (local resident).

Timeline for Consultation with Villagers in Revision of Parish Plan

17th September 2016 – Free Coffee morning held in the Reading Room, Coniston Institute

December 2016 – Paper questionnaire sent out to all households in Coniston with a prize draw to encourage responses.

January 2017 – collation of the questionnaire responses

April – June 2017 – drafting the Coniston Parish Plan 2017

July & August 2017 – completion & editing of document

September – distribution of document

Action Plans from 2011/12 Coniston Parish Plan

HOUSING

Issue	Action	Leading Body	Priority	Timetable / Review Date	Update January 2017
Affordable Housing	Ensure sufficient affordable housing remains in the village	Coniston & Torver Community Land Trust	Medium	Ongoing – review annually	Affordable houses built at Barratt Croft (5) & started at St Andrews Youth Centre
Planning	Complete Coniston's Neighbourhood Plan	Coniston Parish Council with Lake District National Park Authority	High	6 - 12 months	Coniston Neighbourhood Plan completed 28 th January 2016.
Empty properties	Make properties available for local occupancy	Coniston & Torver Community Land Trust	Medium	12 months	Lengthy investigations were made into this but it was not financially viable.

VILLAGE EVENTS (held by external charities / companies)

Issue	Action	Leading Body	Priority	Timetable / Review Date	Update January 2017
Lack of notice of events	Create a regularly updated village diary including events available online and on local noticeboards	Coniston Parish Council	High	Start as soon as possible	Completed - Parish Diary updated on Coniston Parish Council website

FOOTPATHS

Issue	Action	Leading Body	Priority	Timetable / Review Date	Update January 2017
Improvements to footpaths	Contact land owner with problem areas	Coniston Parish Council to advise land owners	Medium	12 months	No update
More signage	Contact National Trust / Lake District National Park Authority to review	Coniston Parish Council to inform relevant authorities	Medium	12 months	Completed - additional signage obtained for Cumbria Way in parish

	signage				
Dog foul on paths	Contact South Lakeland District Council for advice on prevention	Coniston Parish Council	High	6 months	Work done with SLDC & extra signs placed in village
Paths not clear of vegetation / debris	Contact Highways and Home Housing to arrange clearance	Coniston Parish Council to contact relevant authority	Medium	12 months	Brow Steps have been cleared by Home Housing and verge maintenance work undertaken by local contractors
New footpaths	Establish where new footpaths are required	Coniston Parish Council	Low	12 months	No update

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Issue	Action	Leading Body	Priority	Timetable / Review Date	Update January 2017
Review bus timetables	Contact neighbouring parishes for any similar issues then contact local bus companies	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months	X12 service is now continuing.

PARKING

Issue	Action	Leading Body	Priority	Timetable / Review Date	Update January 2017
Lack of free car parking & coach parking	Evaluate current parking available	Coniston Parish Council with local car park owners	Medium	12 months	Additional coach parking has been considered. Limited availability for additional free car parking
Lack of signs to current car parks	Request better signs to car parks	Coniston Parish Council with local car park	Low	12 months	No update

		owners			
Lack of free parking for local residents in parts of the village	Investigate ways to increase parking for residents	Coniston Parish Council to evaluate	Low	12 months	No update
Litter left in car parks	Reduce litter left	Coniston Parish Council with local car park owners	Medium	12 months	Any litter found in car parks to be reported directly to car park owners

HIGHWAYS

Issue	Action	Leading Body	Priority	Timetable / Review Date	Update January 2017
Lack of pavement at Adams Bridge to Ship Inn	Investigate area for a suitable solution	Coniston Parish Council with Cumbria County Council Highways	Medium	12 months	Completed - road markings altered between Adams Bridge & Ship Inn
Potholes and drains needing repair	Find all problem locations and liaise with Highways	Coniston Parish Council with Cumbria County Council Highways	High	12 months	Highways problems regularly reported and followed up when necessary
Verge maintenance and dry stone walls in need of repair	Find all problem locations and liaise with Highways	Coniston Parish Council with Cumbria County Council Highways	Medium	12 months	All issues regularly reported to Highways
No regular maintenance of roadsides	Investigate employing a Lengthsman	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months	Currently no budget in precept for a lengthsman
Yellow line restrictions ignored by motorists	Enforce yellow line restrictions	Coniston Parish Council to liaise with South Lakeland District Council and the Police	Medium	12 months	No issues reported to Coniston Parish Council.
Coaches too wide for local roads	Investigate ways to improve	Coniston Parish Council with Cumbria	Medium	12 months	No update.

	access for coaches	County Council Highways			
Church Bridge traffic reports	Investigate road safety solutions	Coniston Parish Council with Cumbria County Council Highways	Low	12 months	Completed

FACILITIES

Issue	Action	Leading Body	Priority	Timetable / Review Date	Update January 2017
Lack of District Nurse and Health Visitor support especially with rural issues	Increase support from District Nurses and Health Visitor	Coniston Parish Council with Local Health Authority	Medium	6 months	Coniston Parish Council supporting the current campaign to keep a doctors surgery in the village
Coniston Carers are approaching retirement and currently no exit strategy in place	Investigate how to maintain the Coniston Carer scheme	Coniston Parish Council	High	6 months	
Low numbers at Coniston Primary & John Ruskin School	Support the school to ensure its future	Coniston Parish Council with Coniston Primary School	Medium	12 months	Working on increasing affordable houses to encourage families to the area.
Parishioners would like current facilities to stay within the village	Support local facilities where possible	Coniston Parish Council where appropriate	Medium	12 months	Encourage local facilities to be used and Coniston Business Forum has been set up.
New facilities requested	Support new facilities if interest is shown	Coniston Parish Council where appropriate	Medium	12 months	Support given for new facilities.
Lack of support for	Look into setting up	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months	Coniston Business Forum set up in

businesses	Coniston Traders Association	with local businesses			2014.
Lack of employment	Support new businesses that would create jobs for local people	Coniston Parish Council where appropriate	Low	12 months	Support given for new businesses as appropriate.
Potential loss of public conveniences in the village	Support the existing facilities	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months	Bridge Toilets provided free by Coniston Parish Council and funded through the precept.
Potential loss of swimming pool at John Ruskin School	Support the existing facilities	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months	Facility supported by Coniston Parish Council

VILLAGE INFORMATION

Issue	Action	Leading Body	Priority	Timetable / Review Date	Update January 2017
Lack of co-ordination between different organisations	Encourage more communication between organisations	Coniston Parish Council facilitating better communication	Medium	12 months	Parish Diary available online and entries are free
No up-to-date village website	Create village website	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months	No update
No village diary of events	Create a village diary and keep it updated	Coniston Parish Council	High	6 months	Completed - Parish Diary online
Parish Newsletter not available online	Make Parish Newsletter available by e-mail / website	Coniston Parish Council to liaise with Church	Medium	12 months	No update
Lack of co-ordination between organisations in an emergency	Create Community Emergency Plan	Coniston Parish Council	Completed	12 months	Coniston Emergency Plan completed.

Coniston Parish Plan 2017

A questionnaire with 29 questions on different topics were delivered to each household (735 – Census 2011) in Coniston in December 2016. 97 questionnaires were returned. The majority of replies were from people aged over 65, who have lived in the village for over 20 years and were retired.

PLACE

Events

The results of the questionnaire state people would like to see more events and the majority of people do not feel inconvenienced by them. However, the majority would like to be better informed when these events take place.

Comments vary:-

Positive	Negative
Coniston 14 – benefits village	Events on nearly every weekend
Events well managed	Impact on terrain / environment
Most events at John Ruskin School and help their funds	Events self-sufficient so businesses do not benefit
	Noise especially at night
	Infrastructure & parking – inadequate to cope
	Timing of events – would be better held at off-peak times when there are fewer tourists as well

Action Plan

Issue	Action	Leading Body	Priority	Review
Event Diary	Publicise events better	Coniston Parish Council	High	6 months
Events being self sufficient	Request event organisers use local businesses where possible	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months
Noise (especially in the late evening / night)	Ensure event organisers are aware	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months
Lack of parking	Request event organisers have adequate parking / signage & better signage in village	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months

Coniston Parish Council Note

Events that are notified to Coniston Parish Council are put on the Parish Diary (www.coniston.info) and sent to Coniston Tourist Information Centre.

WALKING

People in the Parish use the footpaths and bridleways a lot.

Like the beautiful varied landscapes – fell, lake, islands, farm building, traditional livestock, tarns, woodlands, forest, waterfalls and ghylls.

Routes requiring improvement (in no particular order):-

1. Adams Bridge to Ship Inn – pedestrians off the main road (A593)
2. Park Gate to end of old railway line at Dow Crag House (pedestrians off the main road (A593)
3. Yew Tree Farm area
4. Cyclists off the main roads
5. Footpath from the footbridge after Level Field heading under the base of the Scrow to Miners Bridge
6. Atkinson Ground – poor signage above here
7. Footpath off the road from Monk Coniston to Tent Lodge
8. Stile out of Hagwood (*post-questionnaire note – now replaced with a gate*)
9. Old Furness Road to Park Gate – old railway line gets muddy puddles quickly
10. Park Gate to Park Coppice – steep slope after the gate is muddy at the bottom
11. Bridleways – reminders for people to be considerate sharing the route
12. Lack of litter bin at Monk Coniston
13. Park Gate heading up the fell
14. Guide for short (ideally circular) walks avoiding stiles, suitable for wheelchairs / pushchairs
15. Better surface around Boon Crag to enable wheelchairs to use it
16. Dog mess bins at end of most paths / routes
17. Railway line – extend past Torver to Broughton

Requests for New Routes:-

1. Coniston Water Trail
2. Old railway line fully restored to footpath / cycle route
3. Coniston to Hawkshead

Action Plan

Issue	Action	Leading Body	Priority	Review
Footpaths requiring improvement	Contact Lake District National Park Authority, National Trust and Rawdon Smith Trust	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months
New routes required	Contact Lake District National Park Authority, National Trust	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months
Reduce dog fouling	Contact South Lakeland District Council	Coniston Parish Council	High	6 months

	& local PCSO			
Adams Bridge to Ship Inn and Park Gate – pedestrians on road	Contact Highways	Coniston Parish Council	High	6 months
Signage needs improving	Contact Lake District National Park Authority & National Trust	Coniston Parish Council	High	6 months

Coniston Parish Council Note

1. *Lake District National Park Authority Car Park Team have been asked previously about replacing the litter bin at Monk Coniston but their policy is no bins at their car parks*
2. *Dog mess bins cannot be provided as these specific bins are treated as contaminated waste and the Parish Council would have to pay for the cost of emptying them.*

TRANSPORT

The results of the questionnaire show that the public transport is only used occasionally or never. The majority of people do not use the X12 bus service (Coniston to Ulverston).

Comments:-

People find the timetable and cost prohibitive to using the bus services but people support the X12 service (morally) and some financially.

Difficult journeys

1. Students in higher education struggle to get to 6th form / college in Ulverston / Barrow.
2. Buses to Ambleside / Windermere / Kendal – times do not link for people to work in Coniston or other bus / train connections.
3. No evening services

Action Plan

Issue	Action	Leading Body	Priority	Review
Bus times not always suitable	Find out times people want and then work with bus route providers	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months
Develop and improve sustainable transport links	Find out potential sustainable transport and if they are suitable for Coniston	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months

Coniston Parish Council Note

The Cumbria County Councillor did say in 2015/16 that a mini bus was available through Cumbria County Council that parents could use to get 16 – 18 year olds to further education although parents would need to arrange drivers.

CAR PARKING

The questionnaire revealed people are split almost 50:50 on having additional parking at peak times.

Comments:-

- Additional coach parking could be provided at John Ruskin School and Coniston Sports & Social Centre
- Keep the current free parking
- Prefer smaller sites run for good of the village
- Cost of parking prohibitive. Lake District National Park Authority fines not popular.
- Tickets should be transferable to other car parks in the area and providers
- More use made of Coniston Sports & Social Centre and both school car parks – reasonably priced and benefit the village. Better signage is needed for this.
- Discontinued proposals for car park on Lands Field (opposite Fire Station) has people for and against it.
- Problem parking close to shops and cafes on Yewdale Road for residents.
- Suggestion of using the verges down Lake Road for parking at peak times
- Disagree with charging at Fell Gate car park
- Reduce traffic going down Lake Road – encourage people to park in the village.
- Problem of pinch points of roads to Ambleside / Hawkshead when large vehicles (including coaches) meet.
- Free parking for locals and ‘local disc’ parking

Action Plan

Issue	Action	Leading Body	Priority	Review
Extra coach parking during peak season	Work with Cumbria County Council who lease the Far End Sawmill from the National Trust for a temporary coach park	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months
More use made of Coniston Sports & Social Centre parking	Work with Coniston Sports & Social Centre to highlight their available parking possibly by a leaflet drop locally & offering local parking permits	Coniston Parish Council	High	6 months
Transferable car park tickets	Work with local car park providers	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months
Cars parked on Yewdale Road all day	Investigate disc parking for Yewdale Road at shops	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months
Pinch points	Request Highways look at reducing the pinch points on the local roads	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months
Free parking required	There is limited free parking in the village and a land owner would need to come forward	Coniston Parish Council	Low	12 months

Coniston Parish Council Note

- *The bridge at Coniston Sports & Social Centre is unsuitable for coaches*
- *There are signs at the exit of the Ruskin Avenue Lake District National Park Authority car park directing people to the Coniston Sports & Social Centre car park.*
- *Old Furness Road car park frequently at capacity during peak season*
- *Cllrs are against the formalisation of the car park at Fell Gate and the introduction of pay & display at this location.*

HIGHWAYS

Issues

- Verges, saplings, dry stone walls, drainage need addressing
- Signage at ‘Gateside’ for a concealed entrance and slow sign
- Overall lack of road maintenance for many years – results in flooding issues
- 20 mph limit in village
- Keep verges for habitats
- Problem of non-residents parking at The Garth / Ruskin Avenue
- Coaches an issue on narrow roads
- When Diversion / Road Closed signs up no details of area covered.
- The Banks cannot cope with ‘holiday traffic’ and supermarket vans – the road is disintegrating.
- Speed numbers on road, rumble strips and coloured crossing points
- Local people need to pool their knowledge of local highways drains and have a written record of it before it gets lost.
- Mixed view on the recent new streetlights – some people happy but others say it has left areas very dark at night.

Action Plan

Issue	Action	Leading Body	Priority	Review
Lack of road maintenance	Coniston Parish Council Precept money has been allocated for a Lengthsman	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months
20 mph speed limit required	Work with Highways on the possibility	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months
Non-residents parking at The Garth / Ruskin Avenue	Work with Highways to investigate residents only parking scheme	Coniston Parish Council	High	6 months
Number of vehicles and inappropriately sized one using The Banks	Work with Highways for a solution	Coniston Parish Council	High	6 months

Coniston Parish Council Note

- *Money has been allocated in the 2017/18 Coniston Parish Council precept for a lengthsman. Cumbria County Council have no current budget for the cutting back of verges and saplings.*
- *Cumbria County Councillor is currently investigating what can be done at The Garth / Ruskin Avenue to reduce the speed of cars and non-residents parking in the area.*
- *Potholes / street light problems can be reported directly to Cumbria County Council by anyone.*
- *White lines have recently been reinstated in Coniston after 4 years of chasing Cumbria County Council.*
- *The removal of white centre lines in narrow stretches is to give drivers the perception that the road is narrower and therefore to slow down.*

HOUSING

The results of the questionnaire show that people would support the development of new sites with up to 11 houses on.

Comments:-

- Local occupancy rules – what applies where
- New developments should take into account local styles
- 3 bedroom houses with gardens and 2 car parking spaces and are affordable are required
- More opportunity for self build
- Home Housing properties are not maintained.
- Ensuring sufficient affordable housing for the future.

Suggested Sites for Future Housing

- YHA Land at Far End
- Field at Far End
- Field below The Garth
- Institute to Holywath Gates
- Field below Beck Yeat
- Primary School (part of playing field)
- Field below Coniston Sports & Social Centre heading out of the village

Second Homes

The questionnaire shows the majority of people would like to control / limit the number of second homes / holiday lets.

Comments:-

- All non-permanent homes should have to undergo change of use planning application
- Local property tax / levy on second homes & holiday lets would give an income to provide for local services
- Young families are leaving area due to cost of homes
- Have ‘local occupancy’ clauses been effective? Better enforcement required.
- Businesses in village buying homes for their staff who come from outside village.
- Problem of people owning property for holiday lets and not paying Council Tax. Instead an application is made at South Lakeland District Council for small business rate relief and so they not required to pay anything.

The “locality” for Coniston (i.e. area for current local occupancy clause under Lake District National Park Authority) incorporates the parishes of:-

- Blawith and Subberthwaite (area within the NP)
- Broughton West (area within the NP)
- Claife
- Colton
- Coniston
- Dunnerdale with Seathwaite
- Egton with Newland (area within the NP)
- Haverthwaite

- Hawkshead
- Kirkby Ireleth (area within the NP)
- Lowick (area within the NP)
- Satterthwaite
- Torver

The questionnaire reveals that this locality is felt not to be too restrictive.

Comments:-

- People who want to move to Coniston to live permanently and contribute to the local economy should be able to.
- Other areas that should be considered – Millom and Ulverston.
- Parish appears to be good at working together in order to get things done e.g. identifying and developing local housing.

Action Plan

Issue	Action	Leading Body	Priority	Review
Lack of public knowledge of existing local occupancy restrictions	Publicise the list of local occupancy restrictions created by Coniston & Torver Community Land Trust and how to report non-compliance	Coniston Parish Council	High	6 months
Maintenance work by Home Housing not done	Collate issues and contact Home Housing	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months
Planning permission not required for a change of use from permanently occupied to a holiday / second home	Work with Lake District National Park Authority to achieve this.	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months
Second / holiday home owners paying no Council Tax / rates	Work with South Lakeland District Council for a solution	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months
Former Coniston residents not always eligible for 'local occupancy' housing if they want to move back into the area.	Work with Lake District National Park Authority to re-word the restrictions appropriately.	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months

Coniston Parish Council Notes

If holiday / second home owners pay business rates the money goes directly to central government and is not spent locally. Additionally, some are entitled to small business relief which means they do not pay anything. If they paid double Council Tax instead the money would stay local.

LIVING IN CONISTON

Coniston is seen as an attractive village with a good variety of shops and attractions including historic aspects. The village has a friendly atmosphere with a good community spirit.

Broadband

The results of the questionnaire show $\frac{3}{4}$ of people use the internet frequently, just over half are happy with their broadband service and less than $\frac{1}{4}$ have high speed broadband.

Comments:-

- Too expensive
- Important for business
- Issues getting problems solved
- Frequent 'drop-outs'

Village Services

The people who completed the questionnaire are 50:50 about working to develop further facilities. People are glad to have the bank, doctors' surgery, bakery and active Parish Council. Coniston is a service centre with a mix of shops, bank, Fire Station, primary & secondary schools and is a good example of a community working together. Coniston school pupils enjoy living in Coniston as there is no trouble, they feel safe going out and enjoy walking / fishing in the area

Required:-

- Indoor wet weather entertainments for children
- Encourage use of Churches
- More accessible building for Doctors
- Village website and a diary of events
- Expand use of swimming pool and cover it
- Continuation of Coniston Carers
- Encourage people to join local clubs and use facilities
- Activities for young people using local resources
- Day centre for old people
- More activities / clubs for secondary school pupils, including in school holidays

Missing:-

- Clothes shop
- Dancing, film nights, fitness classes, weight loss classes
- Lengthsman
- Pharmacy
- Charity shop
- Citizens advice
- Chiropody service
- Care Home
- Market / Christmas Fair
- More quality and reasonably priced eating places
- Night café

- Dedicated Post Office

There are limited employment opportunities with most vacancies being low wage, in the retail or catering sector and seasonal working.

Village Information

¾ people from the questionnaire know about the Parish Newsletter, CDC e-mail circular, Coniston Parish Council diary and village noticeboards.

Comments

- One website with all events everywhere listed
- One nominated way to communicate
- New edition of Parish Directory
- More use of social media
- Large yearly calendar in Tourist Information Centre / Institute for people to view

Churches

The questionnaire shows that about half of them attend Church. Majority of people attend Church occasionally for christenings, weddings and funerals.

Comments:-

- Numbers attending Church are declining
- Need to keep a Vicar in the village
- Presbytery and The Vicarage are both empty.

Action Plan

Issue	Action	Leading Body	Priority	Review
Ensure continuation of bank and doctor's surgery	Coniston Parish Council gets involved if there is a vital village service under threat.	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months
Not enough publicity about events in the village	Coniston Parish Council will investigate having a diary in Coniston TIC / Institute	Coniston Parish Council	High	6 months
No village website	Coniston Parish Council will look for a volunteer / organisation to progress this	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months
Lack of use of John Ruskin School swimming pool	Coniston Parish Council will work with the school to investigate possibilities of additional / public use and year round use	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months
More membership required for	Work with clubs to publicise them.	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months

local clubs				
Coniston Parish Directory 2011 out of date.	Coniston Parish Council to develop an up-to-date directory	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months
Continuation of Coniston Carers	Work with Coniston Carers to ensure the vital service continues	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months
No Vicar	One advert produced no applicants, second advert is out.	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months

Coniston Parish Council Notes

- Information is communicated locally through:-
 1. Coniston & Torver Parish Newsletter (distributed monthly)
 2. CDC weekly e-mail issued every Friday (cdc@coniston.cumbria.sch.uk)
 3. Coniston Parish Council Parish Diary (www.coniston.info)
 4. Noticeboards – Coniston Co-operative building, Bridge Toilets, Haws Bank bus shelter and Coniston Institute.
 5. Coniston Parish Council Facebook / Twitter page
- Vicarage will be empty until a Vicar is found for St Andrews.
- Coniston Parish Council will support new appropriate business developments in the area in accordance with the Coniston Neighbourhood Plan.

FUTURE OF CONISTON

The questionnaire asked what people would like Coniston to be in 10 years' time:-

Many people would like to see it the same as it is now.

Place

In 10 years' time the majority of people would like Coniston to have an increase in population with a good mix of young and old. They would like Coniston to be an undeveloped Lakeland village with employment for locals. The environment is protected with the same number of green fields. Funding available from the Lake District National Park Authority and the local authority to assist with tourism, parking etc. Yew Tree Tarn is seen as an important amenity for recreation and would like to see no future problems with low water levels.

Walking

In 10 years' time the majority of people would like Coniston to have less 'manicuring' of footpaths and bridleways with signage kept to a minimum. They would like to have more guided walks by locals with historical information and good routes with wheelchair access.

Transport

In 10 years' time the majority of people would like Coniston to have better bus services for visitors and workers including the X12 service (Coniston to Ulverston) and transport available for children aged 16 – 18 attending further education.

Car Parking

In 10 years' time the majority of people would like Coniston to have additional large parking areas and free parking at Walna Scar Road.

Highways

In 10 years' time the majority of people would like Coniston to have better infrastructure links – improved roads to cope with pressures of tourism economy with vehicular pinch points dealt with and less service vehicles. Also, people would like the maintenance of the infrastructure improved with more pride taken in it. Additional cycle routes are requested off road e.g. Coniston to Broughton.

Housing

In 10 years' time the majority of people would like Coniston to have less holiday lets / second homes with suggestions of limiting it to 25 – 30% of the housing stock to give more homes for locals. Current properties that are empty could be converted for use by local people. It is suggested that workers of well paid jobs in Ulverston, Kendal, Windermere, Barrow-in-Furness and beyond could live in Coniston and meet amended local occupancy rules. People would like to see more low-cost homes to with 3 – 4 bedrooms to encourage families and workers to the village with their children in the local schools. On the other

hand, people would like a limited the number of additional houses in the village. Several suggestions were made to have a residential / nursing home for the elderly or homes for the elderly with live in carers.

Living in Coniston

In 10 years' time the majority of people would like Coniston to be a more thriving tighter strong local community of permanent residents of all ages that has the feeling of a 'special village' with a variety of businesses taking pride in their external appearance and not all of which are tourism related. The local shops units all should be full with people on holiday making more use of them and less of supermarket home deliveries. There needs to be a balance between Coniston being a tourist destination and a village for local families. People would like to see the current good services remain including the variety of clubs & societies (maybe with new ones which are for the youth) and more local events (e.g. water festival) with younger people in the community running them. The current emergency services Mountain Rescue Team, Fire, Police should continue to be well supported along with other vital services including Coniston Carers and First Responders. Both of the schools should still be open in 10 years' time and an increase in numbers is desired. People would like to continue to see an active Parish Council and closer working ties with surrounding villages to work together to solve similar issues. A greater understanding is required from local authorities to keep local communities alive. People do not want to see Coniston become a retirement village and want to encourage more young families to live in the village. A suggestion for a future attraction would be somewhere that has child friendly activities for rainy days. People would like pedestrians in the village to have more priority over vehicles.

Tourism

In 10 years' time the majority of people would like Coniston to have visitors that respect there is a local community which lives and works here and a balance between the economic needs of the village and lifestyle needs of locals. It is seen there is a requirement for a specific major visitor attraction, especially for wet weather days, to draw visitors to the area and give locals employment year round.

Environmental

In 10 years' time the majority of people would like Coniston to have community-led schemes where money goes back into the community (e.g. hydro schemes) and community buildings using renewable energy sources. Coniston should be more pro-active on environmental issues e.g. plastic bag free Coniston. It is hoped there could be an independent food growing area and composting area which is self-reliant and sustainable whilst also involving schools.

CONCLUSION

Coniston Parish Council will work on all the actions defined in this plan over the next 3 – 4 years, with other bodies where necessary.

Coniston is still a thriving and friendly community, but the Parish Council acknowledges the challenges ahead with council budget restrictions and the implications of Brexit. The overall feeling of Coniston villagers is to preserve and maintain the character of the village, and in order to do so the Parish Council will focus on the key issues identified in the plan. This may involve being creative and innovative in the way we do things in the future, for example adopting a ‘lengthsman’ scheme to clear verges of saplings, unblocking drains and generally maintaining our local environment; sometimes to stay still we have to move forward, swimming against the tide of change. The Lake District National Park has now obtained World Heritage Status and the Parish Council will strive to ensure that the benefits this promises is spread throughout the whole community.

We will work to retain and encourage young families into the village as the mix of young and old is essential in a vibrant community; in order for this to be sustainable the Parish Council will seek to promote local business and employment opportunities. One of the most encouraging inputs into the Parish Plan consultation was from the young people of the village, school children who stated that they loved living in Coniston because they appreciated the rural environment and felt ‘safe’.

Distribution of Revised Parish Plan

- Available on Parish Council website – links sent to villagers via Parish Magazine, CDC circular, Parish Noticeboard & local authorities (South Lakeland District Council, Action with Communities in Cumbria, Cumbria County Council, Lake District National Park Authority, National Trust)
- Limited number of hard copies printed for villagers.

Completion of Plan

- An event for the village was held on Wednesday 12th July for villagers to see the completed Parish Plan including the action plan

Finally:-

Thanks to everyone who has assisted in this revised Parish Plan, including those who filled in a survey or attended an event and gave their opinion. If you would like further information, please contact the Clerk to Coniston Parish Council (8 Old Furness Road, Coniston LA21 8HU).

APPENDIX

Contact Details relevant organisations:-

Coniston Parish Council

c/o Janette Carroll, Clerk to Coniston
Parish Council
8 Old Furness Road
Coniston
Cumbria
LA21 8HU

Cumbria County Council

Headquarters
The Courts
Carlisle
CA3 8NA

South Lakeland District Council

South Lakeland House
Lowther Street
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 4UF

Lake District National Park Authority

Murley Moss
Oxenholme Road
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 7RL

Coniston & Torver Community Land Trust

c/o

Coniston Community Emergency Plan

c/o Janette Carroll, Clerk to Coniston
Parish Council
8 Old Furness Road
Coniston
Cumbria
LA21 8HU

Coniston Flood Forum

c/o Steve Emmett
21 Beck Yeat
Coniston
Cumbria
LA21 8HT

Coniston First Responders

c/o Helen Lace, Secretary
9 Ruskin Avenue
Coniston
Cumbria
LA21 8EH

Coniston Mountain Rescue Team

Hon Secretary
Old Furness Road
Coniston
Cumbria
LA21 8HU

Useful Information

Coniston Parish Council website (including Parish Diary with events) - www.coniston.info

Cumbria County Council – www.cumbria.gov.uk

Reporting Highways Issues (including potholes, road markings, street lights and blocked drains - <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/roads-transport/highways-pavements/reporting-problem-on-highway/WDM/default.asp>)

Highways Hotline Tel: 0300 303 2992 (answer phone service evenings, weekends and public holidays)

South Lakeland District Council – www.southlakeland.gov.uk

Reporting Dog fouling - <https://www.southlakeland.gov.uk/your-environment/dogs/dog-fouling/>

Cumbria Choice Based Letting

To register for re-housing with Cumbria Choice (includes Council and Housing Association Properties Locally)

on the <https://www.cumbriachoice.org.uk/Data/ASPPages/1/30.aspx>

Breaches of Planning (including local occupancy clauses)

Most breaches of planning should be reported to Lake District National Park Authority (planning@lakedistrict.gov.uk or Tel: 01539 724 555. Some local occupancy clauses are dealt with by South Lakeland District Council Legal Department (customer.services@southlakeland.gov.uk or Tel: 01539 733 333)

Non-emergency Police number – 101

For reporting all non-emergency issues, including illegal off-road driving and cars parked causing obstruction.

**Occupancy restrictions in Coniston & Torver
By Coniston & Torver Community Land Trust**

This is a summary of the homes in Coniston that are under a local or permanent occupancy agreement. We have highlighted the area that people may move from to take up residency.

This is quite a complex list and you can see how policies have tightened over the years.

Old Furness Road – 7/1980/5773 (Home Housing Association) 16 dwellings Condition 6 – The dwelling houses shall be occupied as sole or main residences only by persons employed, to be employed or retired from employment locally and the dependants of such persons living with them and the widows or widowers of such persons. ‘Locally’ shall mean the area of the District Council of South Lakeland. A ‘main-residence’ is a dwelling occupied for more than half a year.

St Martins Court – 7/1987/6228 15 dwellings Section 106 agreement – Occupied by a person employed or to be employed or last employed or one who has throughout the period of three years immediately preceding the commencement of such occupation had their only or principal home in the area of **South Lakeland District Council**.

Must be only or principal home of the occupant.

Hellens Court – 7/1995/5489 5 dwelling facing the road Section 106 agreement - Occupied by a person employed or to be employed or last employed or one who has throughout the period of three years immediately preceding the commencement of such occupation had their only or principal home in the area of the County Council of Cumbria.

Must be only or principal home of the occupant.

Barratt Croft – 7/1994/5390 (Home Housing Association) 13 dwellings Section 106 agreement 10 rented properties – local to Coniston and then steps out 3 shared ownership – local to Coniston and adjoining parishes and then steps out.

Butcher Moss, Torver (Home Housing Association) 8 dwellings Section 106 agreement Local to Torver and Coniston and then steps out.

John Hext House (Coniston Church Rooms) – 7/2007/5403 (Mitre Housing Association) 3 dwellings Section 106 agreement Rented - Local to Coniston and then steps out

Church Fields (Eden Housing Association) 11 dwellings Section 106 agreement Rented - Local to Coniston and then steps out

Campbell House - (7/87/5402) All dwellings. Bill Murray, compliance planner at LDNPA, comments...

‘Condition 7 of the Planning Consent states

‘The units of accommodation hereby approved shall not be used otherwise than for *sheltered housing accommodation*.’

Subsequently we have discovered, from documents held by some of the owners of flats at Campbell House, that there are additional occupancy constraints on some flats drawn up

under the old Section 52 constraints which are still valid and require the flats to be permanently occupied by those over 55 years old.

The Garth 46 Dwellings 13 dwellings controlled by South Lakes Housing. Re-allocation will be to persons from South Lakeland District Council area. 33 dwellings, privately controlled. There is a re-sale restriction to people from Cumbria.

Little Moss Nos 1-2 and 4-16 controlled by South Lakes Housing. No 3, privately controlled. There is a re-sale restriction to people from Cumbria.

Private-build restrictions Most private-build dwellings constructed after 1986 contain certain occupancy restrictions. Details are currently being collated. Since 1990 two further restriction have been applied as follows:

Beck Side, Adams Bridge – restricted to permanent and local occupancy.

Underwood, Little Arrow, Coniston – restricted to permanent and local occupancy.

No restrictions on:-

Beck Yeat - Church Beck Close – 7/1986/5691

Hellens Court – (rear 5 dwellings) – 7/1991/5625

Spring Bank Cottages, Station Road – 7/1999/5108

Coniston and Torver Housing Trust (CLT)