

# DALSTON

Parish Plan 2005-2015





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*An Unplanned Future  
for Dalston*

*Ian Turnbull 2004*

## ■ To Produce a Parish Plan

...was Dalston Parish Council's decision. It was put together and distributed voluntarily by local people on behalf of the Parish Council for the benefit of Dalston Parishioners.

## ■ Why Have a Parish Plan?

By 2002 Dalston Parish Council had a number of projects in mind; all of them intended to improve the quality of life in the Parish. Traffic and parking were recognised as an issue; youth services another. Carlisle City Council was about to produce the next local plan and throughout local government it was becoming evident that unless a plan was in place and that plan was the result of widespread local consultation there was little chance of being listened to, never mind attracting funding.

**A responsible Parish Council *needs* to listen to the people it represents and it needs to plan for the future.**

So... after many meetings, out came the **Big Questionnaire** and after a long process of analysis and a few hiccups - here is the Plan.

Four working groups have looked at the following topics:

1 The community

2 Services

3 The built and natural environment

4 Traffic, parking and transport

In addition, business and youth questionnaires were sent out.

## ■ This Parish Plan

... is a shortened version of the full Plan. It takes a look at Dalston Parish as it is now and some of its history. Then there is a summary of the more important issues raised by the results of the questionnaire and it looks at how some of these issues can be redressed, both by the Parish Council and the residents themselves. Most importantly there is an **Action Plan**, which assesses how and when action will be taken. This Action Plan is intended to cover ten years, but will be reviewed annually and undergo a thorough review after five years. This version of the plan is in simplified form. All the data are available as appendices at the back of the full document.

The Plan in its full form will be placed in Dalston Library, with relevant departments in both Local Authorities and will be made available to any other agencies on request (for example funding agencies).

There will be a second part to this Plan - a **Parish**



**Design Statement**, which, will examine the built and natural environment more closely and prepare the way for future development in the Parish. When adopted by Carlisle City Council as the Planning Authority, it can be used as a supplementary planning tool.

## ■ Dalston Parish then ...



The first proper settlers in Dalston were Brigantian Celts, then the Romans occupied the area in 78AD. They had a camp to the west of Dalston Hall, one of their main roads ran through the village and they quarried sandstone at Shawk. By the fourth century this area was a peaceful Roman province.

From then until medieval times the area was fought over by Picts, Scots, Danes, Anglo Saxons and Normans until Border Reiving died out in the fourteenth century. As late as 1346 Scottish raiders attacked Dalston. Dalston men enjoyed free grazing on 'stints' in return for furnishing horses and armour to defend the settlements.

From Brigantian Celts to Romans, from Border Reivers to the land enclosures, Dalston Parish was a place for grazing and agriculture. The Industrial Revolution brought industry, but the River Caldew has always played a fundamental part in Dalston's prosperity. The Romans established a corn mill on the River and the first cotton mill was built in 1782 at Mill Ellers. By 1830 there were four cotton mills, two corn mills and a forge making agricultural tools.

Raughton Head includes the Rivers Caldew and

Roe and Cockley Beck. It was in the heart of what was once Inglewood Forest, formerly part of Castle Sowerby Parish, in the Scottish honour of Penrith.

[For a fuller history of Dalston see the Parish Design Statement and the Dalston Website: [www.dalston.org.uk](http://www.dalston.org.uk)

## ■ Dalston Parish now...

Dalston Parish, with about 2640 inhabitants, is approximately five miles from Carlisle. The largest settlement is Dalston Village, a mainly residential village of 1620 people. Dalston has some light industry and is linked to Carlisle and West Cumbria by road and rail. There are good links to the M6.

The civil Parish of Dalston includes the settlements of Bridge End and Buckabank, Raughton Head, Gaitsgill, Unthank, Cumdivock, Stockdalewath, Lingey, High Bridge, Cardewlees, Orton Grange and Nether Welton. All are separated from each other and from Carlisle, by agricultural land with scattered dwellings. The River Caldew runs for about 7 miles roughly south to north through the Parish, and is a dominant feature in the landscape.



Caldew School, Dalston, a 1000 pupil comprehensive school, once served the rural areas south and west of Carlisle City, but now takes many pupils from the city itself. Lime House School, Dalston, is an independent preparatory and secondary school.

There are primary schools at Dalston (200 pupils) and Raughton Head (50 pupils).

## ■ Population

The 2001 National Census provides us with information for Dalston Ward, which is a wider area, including Cummersdale and St Cuthbert's Without (Durdar). The population is shown to be 5172. Table 1.1 shows the resident population of both

Dalston Parish and Dalston Ward compared with equivalent data from the 2001 Census. The data for Dalston Parish is taken from the Parish Plan Questionnaire. As the age groupings between the two sources are slightly different, the figures from the questionnaire are shown in *italics*.

	Dalston Parish	Dalston Ward	Carlisle	England and Wales
Under 16		16.6	18.8	20.2
16 - 19, ( <i>16 - 19</i> )	( <i>2.7</i> )	5.2	4.8	4.9
20 - 29, ( <i>20 - 34</i> )	( <i>5.3</i> )	8.0	11.4	12.6
30 - 59, ( <i>35 - 64</i> )	( <i>57.4</i> )	42.2	41.8	41.5
60 - 74, ( <i>65 - 74</i> )	( <i>23.2</i> )	18.6	15.0	13.3
75 and over, ( <i>75 and over</i> )	( <i>15.3</i> )	9.5	8.3	7.6

■ Table 1.1

*Resident Population  
(percentage)*

*Source: 2001 Census,  
Dalston Parish Plan  
Questionnaire*

## ■ The Responses to the Questionnaire

About 2,130 questionnaires were distributed; 841 were returned. That is 40%, which is an adequate working sample.

Many issues were duplicated in the different sections, so to avoid repetition they will be dealt with where found to be most appropriate. (But not omitted!). We have tried to differentiate between ***Dalston Village*** and ***Dalston Parish*** and hope that this is made clear.



## ■ Population Distribution By Location

### ■ Table 1.2

Table 1.2 shows the distribution of the Parish population according to the Electoral Roll.

Source: Electoral Roll 2004

Sections of Dalston Parish	Electoral Roll No	Electoral Roll % of Total
Brow Nelson	24	1.2%
Cardew	41	2.0%
Cardewless	35	1.7%
Cumdivock	53	2.6%
Dalston (Rural)	39	1.9%
Dalston Hall	10	0.5%
Gaitsgill	46	2.2%
Lakerigg	24	1.2%
Lingeyclose	24	1.2%
Lingeyclose Road	38	1.8%
Low Mill	8	0.4%
Nether Welton	12	0.6%
New Road	12	0.6%
Newby Cross	4	0.2%
Orton Grange	50	2.4%
Raughton Head (Rural)	73	3.5%
Raughton Head	123	5.9%
Sowerby Wood	15	0.7%
Stockdalewath	59	2.8%
The Gill	19	0.9%
Unthank	28	1.4%
Welton Road	11	0.5%
Dalston Section	1328	64%
(Including Bridge End, Buckabank & Hawksdale)	(257)	
Electoral Roll Totals	2076	

### ■ Table 1.3

Table 1.3 shows the distribution of the Parish population from the completed questionnaire returns.

Source: Dalston Parish Plan Questionnaire

	Number Returned	Percentage of Total
Dalston Village	463	55%
Cardewlees	16	2%
Cumdivock - Lakerigg	52	6%
Gaitsgill	19	2%
Lingey	36	4%
Raughton Head	46	6%
Stockdalewath	44	5%
Unthank and Raughton	22	3%
Bridge End - Buckabank	139	17%
No Response	4	0.5%

## ■ Population Distribution By Gender

### ■ Table 1.4

Table 1.4 shows the questionnaire returns by gender.

Source: Dalston Parish Plan Questionnaire

	Number Returned	Percentage of Total
Male	360	43%
Female	472	56%
No Response	9	1%

# 2.0 COMMUNITY MATTERS

## How do we view our Parish?

Table 2.1 and Figure 2.1 show that the majority of people in Dalston Parish feel it is a place with a sense of identity defined by our strong feelings of community.

Visitors comment on the friendliness of the place and we all know that it can sometimes take an hour to post a letter! We appreciate the rural nature and natural beauty of the Parish.

Graph Key		True/Mostly True Percentage	Mostly False/False Percentage	Don't Know/No Response Percentage
1	Dalston Parish has a strong sense of community	76%	9%	16%
2	Rural nature of the Parish is important as part of our identity	90%	2%	9%
3	We live in a beautiful Parish	95%	0%	5%
4	We thrive on being able to socialise among ourselves	84%	4%	12%
5	We see ourselves as a working community	85%	4%	11%
6	Our community has a healthy variety of ages and family structures	86%	3%	11%
7	The Parish has a willingness to join in	71%	10%	20%
8	Community emblem and motto are a strong part of identity	69%	10%	22%

Table 2.1

How Dalston is viewed by it's community

Source: Dalston Parish Plan Questionnaire

The key messages from the people of the Parish about social and community issues are:

### Facilities

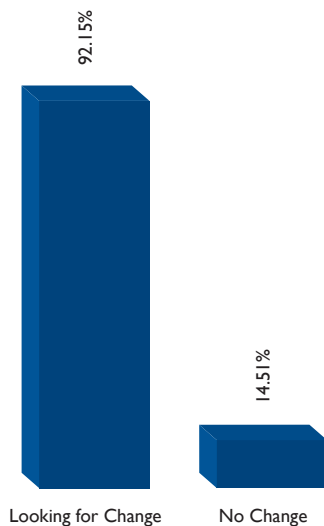
There is general satisfaction with our current **meeting places**, but there is clearly a problem with the state of the Youth Hut, and 56% of respondents would like to see a new **Community Hall**, preferably on the Recreation Ground. This would provide much-needed facilities for the Youth Club and other young people's groups.







A majority of respondents (Figure 2.1) is seeking change and improvement in the Recreation Ground. Although the **children's playground** is seen as an adequate resource, there is a need to ensure the equipment is kept up to date.



■ Figure 2.1

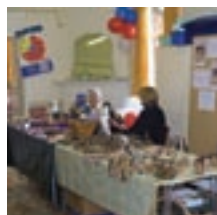
*Looking for a change on the Recreation Ground*

*Source: Dalston Parish Plan Questionnaire*

Figure 2.2 summarises the questionnaire responses, showing a preference for a new community sports hall to replace the current youth club hut.

A **youth shelter** for young people to have an area of their own to meet and socialise was a popular idea with some people, but 30% did not want one. Of those who did, under 35s were more in favour of a shelter. Near to The Square and on the Recreation Ground were the preferred sites. Most youngsters want a 'drop in centre', open after school and evenings with a variety of activities or just a place to meet.

**Improved facilities at the Primrose Hall, Gaitsgill** – Those who use the Primrose Hall responded positively to the suggestion of improvements to the Hall (56%).



■ Figure 2.2

*Recreation Ground Facilities*

*Source: Dalston Parish Plan Questionnaire*

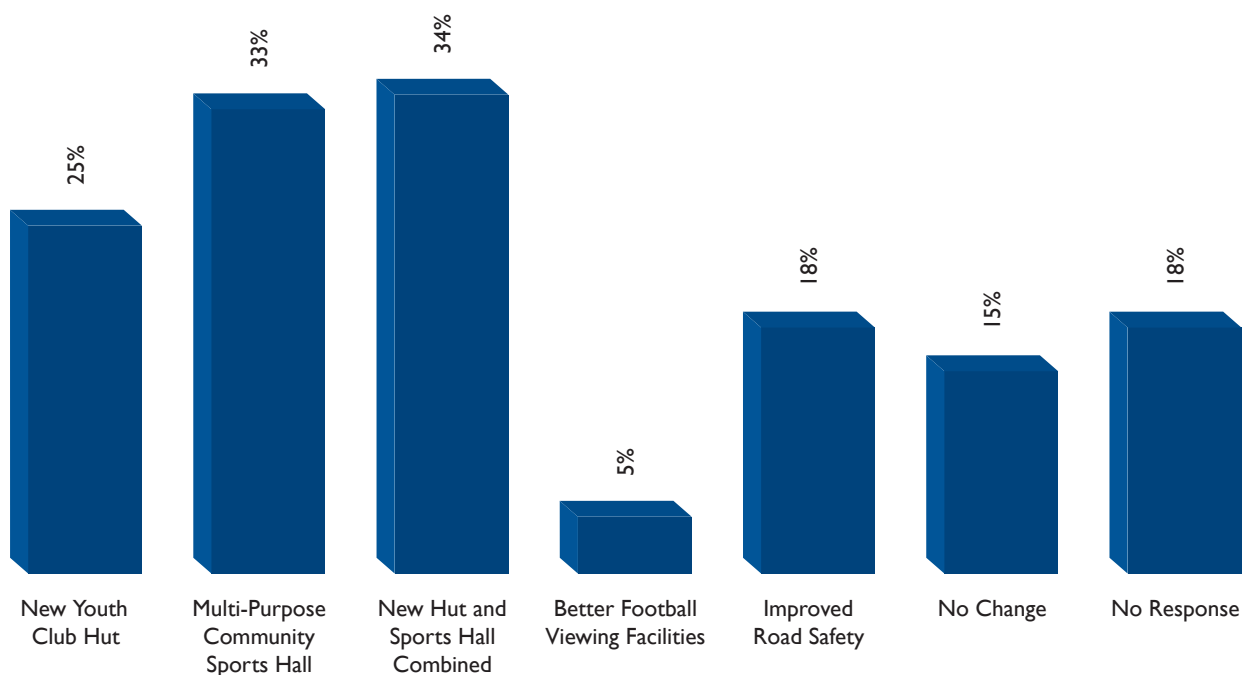


Table 2.2 illustrates the support for a **new building** in Dalston Village to accommodate the police, public information and a Parish office. A police office is clearly given the main priority. Half of responders were in favour of selling Forge Green to fund this.

■ Table 2.2

Source: Dalston Parish Plan Questionnaire

	Number Returned	Percentage of Total
Parish Office	285	34%
Tourist Office	229	27%
Police Office	507	60%
Public Information Office	275	33%
Meeting Room	214	25%
Replacement Library	216	26%
No Response	244	29%

63% support a **community bus service** for the whole Parish; this shows the need to support rural public transport schemes for both Dalston village and surrounding areas. But...if you don't use it, you'll lose it!

## ■ Communicating

There is a need to increase awareness of the activities going on in our meeting places to encourage wider participation. This can be done through **The Parish Paper** and **The Dalston Website** ([www.dalston.org.uk](http://www.dalston.org.uk)). 58% of the Parish has access to the Internet, but only 23% of the Parish has seen the Parish website. Come on ... take a look; make it your 'home page'. The Parish Paper is thought to require more news, relevant articles and a youth section.

The **funding of youth clubs/groups** is seen as a parental or charitable responsibility. However, 60% are in favour of the Parish funding youth workers. There is even stronger support (68%) for the Parish to fund the training of adults to be youth workers in the Parish. 60% of the Parish see a benefit in bringing young and old together in community projects.

## ■ Improving things

Half the respondents regard **The Square** in Dalston as important for our social and community life, especially those who live in Dalston Village. It is the commercial centre of the Parish and the focus of much of Parish life, so to regenerate The Square and make it more 'people friendly' could only improve the quality of life for many people.

There is overwhelming support (74%) for Dalston Parish to build upon the success of the annual Dalston Show with other events being organised to create a **Festival Week**.

57% of respondents would like a "**Parish Voices**" archive. The older residents of the Parish particularly support this. The archive is seen as a relevant method of improving the community involvement of local schools.

Half the responders favour a scheme to form a **family support group** and under 35s are especially keen on this.



41% support the creation of a "**friends of our churches**" group, which would give practical help in the form of building skills and materials to preserve these historic Parish buildings.

There was a strong response (62%) for the creation of a **Parish Trust**, where bequests and donations would be administered and supported by the Parish Council to fund social and community activities in the Parish.

## ■ What Next?

### ■ Parish Council Aims:

- Work with local organisations and village and community halls to provide support and improve communications.
- Ask the Primrose Hall and Victory Hall Committees to draw up an action plan to determine their needs in order of priority and submit these to the Parish Council. Explore wider use of the hall for local activities. Work with Carlisle City Council when the new village hall surveys begin this year.
- Work with the Recreation Association, the City and County Councils and other agencies to provide a new Community Hall.
- In the short term, look at using and/or adapting existing buildings to improve facilities for users.
- Work with both City and County Councils to fund, provide and train youth workers
- Continue to plan for the building of a Parish/Police Office
- Continue to work towards the refurbishment of The Square
- Work with both Councils to investigate a community bus service.
- Consider the establishment of a 'Parish Trust'
- Explore the setting up of a 'Youth Council' to give young people a say in future planning
- Contact the schools to establish a Parish Archive
- Promote the means of having a 'Festival Week'
- Support the establishment of a means to support families in need
- Support the establishment of a 'Friends of our Churches' Group.



### ■ What can you do?

- Offer to spearhead any of the above schemes
- Support initiatives
- Look at your organisation/group - what can you do to help with any of the above?
- Offer your services, especially if you have relevant skills/experience!
- Be welcoming to newcomers and visitors.

Overall, respondents feel that services in Dalston Parish are satisfactory, but a detailed examination of responses in this and other sections of the questionnaire reveal that there is much room for improvement. The charts show that the population is increasingly elderly, but there is insufficient suitable housing. Young adults find it hard to stay in the Parish because of high house prices and little private rental accommodation. There are problems with traffic, parking and transport, as there is with provision for young people. The responses concerning policing speak for themselves. Tourism is a neglected area and the question 'Why do so few people use the Library?' provokes some thought. City Council research shows that the provision of shops per population numbers is very low. Some services, such as street sweeping, which are taken for granted in urban areas, are almost non-existent in the rural districts. So there is much to consider.

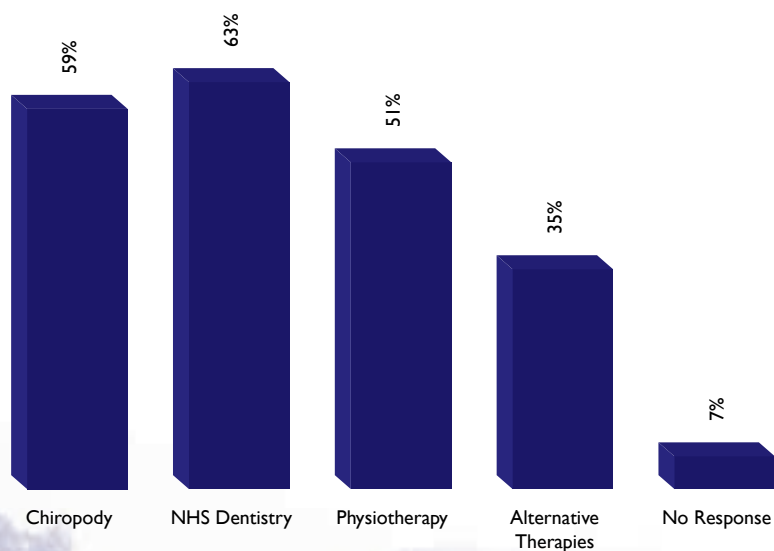
## Policing

This elicited the most concern: provoking some of the strongest responses in the whole questionnaire. 83% want more visible policing and 88% are in favour of a police office in Dalston village. Vandalism and threatening groups of young people were the main causes for concern.

## Health

Figure 3.1 shows the numbers responding to the question asking about more health provision in Dalston.

Although there is general satisfaction with the Dalston Surgery, given the restrictions imposed, there is considerable verbal concern about overall pharmaceutical provision for the Parish. Figure 3.1 indicates that there is a demand for a NHS dental service.



**Figure 3.1**

*Percentage responding to the question asking about more health provision in Dalston.*



## ■ The Library

63% of respondents were in favour of a new library, although a disappointing 59% will not use Dalston Library. Those who do make good use of the Library are the elderly and our young people. Seven to thirteen year-olds living in the wider parish make the best use of it.

## ■ Tourism

Over 45% of respondents favoured action to encourage and promote tourism. It was noted that bed and breakfast provision is lacking and that there is little tourist information. Dalston Village is a popular destination for walkers and given that the Cumbrian Way and the Reivers Cycleway pass through the Parish, there should be a more positive approach to providing a welcome to visitors and more information, perhaps in the form of boards showing footpaths and places of interest.

## ■ Markets

These were clearly a popular idea, especially a farmers' market. (66%). These could take place in the newly revamped Square and would also provide a tourist attraction. Using The Kingsway as an alternative market area is another possibility.

## ■ Laundry

70% were in favour of a dry cleaning agency.

## ■ What Next?

### ■ Parish Council Aims:

- Contact the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to ask them to look at the local operation of the scheme.
- Encourage continued good relationships with the Police. The Police have already been given the detailed views of respondents.
- Communicate police matters through the Parish Paper and the website
- Pass on the findings of the questionnaire on health to the Dalston Surgery and the Primary Care Trust.
- Continue to work with the County Library Service with the aim of building a new library.
- Request a trial period of increased library opening hours: e.g. Saturday morning.
- Establish a voluntary tourism group to meet for a limited period to set up initiatives to improve tourism in the area.
- Contact appropriate agencies about markets and dry cleaning agencies.

## ■ What can you do?

- Join the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme: a large team means less work for everybody.
- Be observant and report problems to the Police: they want to know.
- Do you know a suitable place for a temporary Police office? Let the Parish Council know.
- Get to know the community policeman.
- Think - would your hall provide a good venue for alternative health facilities - exercise classes, lectures etc?
- Use the Library!
- Be welcoming to tourists!
- **Use everything!**



## 4.0 THE ENVIRONMENT

This section fulfils two functions: firstly, it describes the character and appearance of the Parish as seen by those who live here. Secondly, it indicates the aspirations of residents as revealed in the questionnaire.

The mainly rural nature of the Parish is the characteristic most commented upon, although it has to be recognised that there is a strong industrial and commercial base.

### ■ The Buildings

Through the centuries, buildings have been erected to satisfy the needs of local people, and in styles, which were considered appropriate at the time. They were residences and places of work and in earlier, more troubled times, were built for defence.

In Dalston Village, there are now few buildings remaining from before the middle of the twentieth century. Currently, there are five housing estates, small groups of houses, numerous individual houses, Caldew School, Nestlé's factory and other industrial buildings. Generally, there is no strong individual architectural character such as is seen, for example, in Cotswold villages, although the almost defensive layout of The Square in Dalston, with most buildings having a similar character, is an exception.

In the wider Parish, which is more rural, farmhouses and cottages date from earlier times and there is the later innovation: the barn conversion.

Most industrial buildings are clustered together to the north west of the centre of Dalston and are not obtrusive, although the highway to Cardewlees passes between two parts of the BP fuel depot, with its railway siding. The highest building is the tower of Nestlé's factory, which is visible from most parts of the Parish.

What respondents consider important is the distance between settlements, and the undeveloped open

spaces in the Parish, as well a clear separation of the built-up parts of the Parish from Carlisle itself.

### ■ Housing

While a majority does not want estate development, there are, nevertheless, those who would like there to be more housing of specific types such as **starter homes** and **homes for the elderly**. Respondents in the 21-49 age group are in the majority of those favouring more homes. Few would be happy with estate development, so where are the new dwellings to be built? More favour infill, but how does this affect open spaces? Those living in the more rural parts of the parish expressed acceptance of barn conversions.

■ Table 4.1

Source: Dalston Parish Plan Questionnaire

	Number Returned	Percentage of Total
Starter Homes	181	22%
Social/Rented	46	5%
Housing for Single People	81	10%
Housing for the Elderly	205	24%
Executive Housing	46	5%
Flats/Apartments	67	8%
2/3 Bedroom	47	6%
Estate Development	12	1%
Infill	69	8%
Barn Development	27	3%
No Response	60	7%



## ■ Shops, offices, factories, warehouses, depots, farm buildings

More of all of these buildings would be acceptable, especially more **shops**. 83% of respondents want more shops in Dalston village, but there is also a wish for shops in the outlying villages.

**Farm and horticultural buildings** would be desirable in the wider Parish.

94% of respondents think the **household waste collection** adequate. 60% think that glass, metal and paper recycling is adequate, but that plastic recycling is inadequate (62%).



## ■ What Next?

### ■ Parish Council Aims:

- Inform the City Council and trade organizations of these findings.
- Develop a Parish Design Statement to be approved as supplementary planning guidance.
- Establish where development would be permitted if landowners were prepared to sell land.
- Caution against over development because of traffic and parking problems.
- Lobby for the Southern Relief Road
- Plan for accommodating more residents and shoppers because of the increasing popularity of the area.
- A housing needs survey is currently under way and the Parish Council will give careful attention to the findings.

## ■ The Landscape

Predominately in agricultural use, the landscape is gently undulating with frequent hedgerows, numerous trees and small woodland areas. The Cumbria Structure Plan 2004 classifies the majority of the Parish as Lowland – Ridge and Valley or Low Valley. There are no areas of designated County Landscape within the Parish.

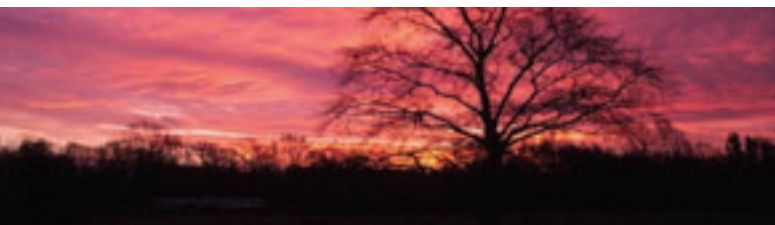


The River Caldew and other watercourses are significant and attractive landscape features. The majority of farming activity comprises beef and dairy farms and sheep rearing. Other notable rural uses of land are horticulture, garden centres and gravel extraction. The landscape adjacent to Rose Castle is one example of attractive open fields with mature hedgerows, scattered trees and a riverside pathway (Cumbrian Way). The mainly rural nature of the Parish is a widely appreciated feature.

A majority of respondents to the questionnaire would like to see more **tree planting** (60%) and **landscaping** (48%). Strong preferences for landscaping, tree planting and replacing dead trees especially in hedgerows were expressed for The Green (including Glave Hill) and the Kingsway. Other locations included Dalston Square and outside the Building Society, riversides, around the Nestlé plant and the White Bridge. Native and deciduous species are preferred to conifers.

**Light pollution** is a difficult question. There are always requests for more footway lighting, but the siting of lamps should be handled sensitively to keep the balance between the rural character of the area and public safety. Industrial/commercial floodlighting can often be intrusive and even some security lights on houses can cause unacceptable glare, which can be a danger, if drivers are dazzled and a nuisance, if neighbours are disturbed.

Other problems were identified such as **fly tipping**, **roadside litter** and **dog fouling**; these were mainly in Dalston itself. **Agricultural waste** and noise were seen as less of a problem.



## ■ What Next?

### ■ Parish Council Aims:

- The Parish Design Statement should develop the overall strategy for housing, industrial plant, the landscape and tree planting.
- The schools can be involved in developing the detailed proposals and in planting out new trees to generate a sense of ownership. This may help to protect young trees and plants.
- Keep reminding people of Parish Council policy, to be further developed, and the legal responsibilities for the above nuisances.
- Press for enforcement measures.
- Continue to monitor the levels of commercial, industrial, public and domestic lighting.
- Encourage property owners to ensure that all lamps with reflectors are directed so that light is focussed to within their own premises.
- Continue to take part in the City Council Environment Group meetings, to keep in touch with local developments.

## ■ Rivers and Water Features

The **River Caldew** has played an important role in the life of the village. In the past its clean fresh water provided power to many mills and resulted in the early expansion of Dalston Village. Today the river is no longer used for power or drinking but is an important popular, highly valued and very attractive recreational and environmental feature of the Parish. The River Caldew forms part of both a Site of Special Scientific Interest and at European level, is a candidate for a Special Area of Conservation.

At Cardewlees, sand and gravel extraction works already provide an interesting wetland feature and wildlife refuge, but this is not yet accessible to the public.

70% of respondents did not perceive a problem with the ecology and quality of rivers and water bodies and 51% were satisfied with the pollution control arrangements. Concerns were expressed about bank erosion (33% average, but 50% and 41% in Gaitsgill and Raughton Head respectively). Litter was considered to be a problem in Dalston Village (34%), Cumdivock/Lakerigg, Lingey and Bridge End/Buckabank (30, 29 and 27%). Those in Unthank/Raughton and Stockdalewath perceived agricultural pollution of the rivers and water bodies to be more significant. In 2003 a pollution incident on tributaries led to the formation of the Ive and Roe Conservation Group (Figure 4.1).



Some parts of the parish have been designated Nitrate Vulnerable Zones by Defra. As a result, those farms affected will be subject to additional controls for the storage and disposal of slurry. The Environment Agency has identified sites in the Caldew catchment

area that are, or could be, potential sources of diffuse pollution. The Environment Agency has set water quality objectives, known as the River Ecosystem Classification, for each of the main rivers (Table 4.2).

■ Table 4.2

R Caldew	RE Class 1	Water of very good quality suitable for all fish species
R Roe and R Wampool	RE Class 2	Water of very good quality suitable for all fish species
Pow Beck	RE Class 4	Water of fair quality suitable for coarse fish populations

*River Ecosystem  
Classification Objectives  
(Environment Agency)*

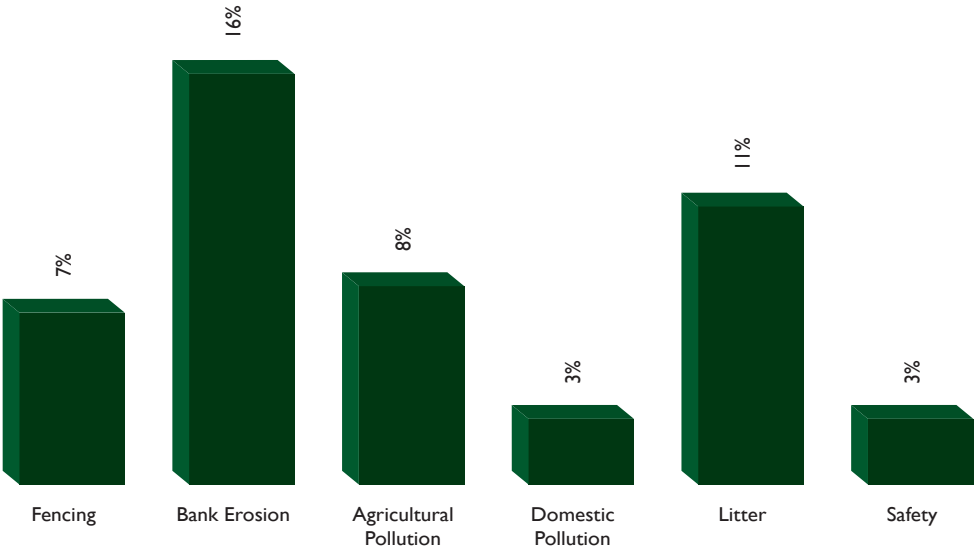
The Environment Agency has recently revised its information on flood risk, which gives an assessment of the actual risk of flooding. Information has also been provided to planning authorities to help them make decisions on planning applications. This suggests that some properties and potential development sites may be at risk of flooding.

■ What Next?

■ Parish Council Aims:

- Establish a group to liaise with owners, operators and neighbours of the Cardewlees quarry site and with appropriate agencies to develop a strategy for long-term management of the site.
- Work with the Eden Rivers Trust to explore options for reducing riverbank erosion and developing conservation habitats.

- Look at a ‘rivers action plan’ for consideration by landowners.
- Promote community awareness of potential pollution threats and environmental problems.
- Promote action to protect and enhance the quality of rivers and their environs throughout the Parish. This should be achieved by working in partnership with Eden Rivers Trust, the Ive and Roe Conservation Group and the Environment Agency.
- Working with Environment Agency, identify and publicise sources of advice on reducing pollution a) from agricultural and industrial/commercial activities and b) the operation of septic tanks.
- Arrange “River clean-up days”.
- Conserve the weir at Buckabank as an important feature of the landscape.
- The Parish Council should discuss flood risk with the Environment Agency and establish if there is a need for flood protection or flood warning schemes.



■ Figure 4.1

*Water condition  
problems  
Source: Dalston Parish  
Plan Questionnaire*



## ■ Footpaths, Bridleways and Cycleways

The Parish has 26 miles of signed **public footpaths** and **bridleways**. Dalston is fortunate in having paths of great variety and from some; excellent views can be had of the surrounding countryside and to the more distant hills of the Lake District and the Pennines. Some are very well used, especially those which run alongside the River Caldew.



Generally, the **Rights of Way** are well marked by good wooden signposts and stiles are provided where there are no gates. Cumbria County Council is responsible for maintaining the routes and has a full-time Footpaths Officer who currently works closely with the East Cumbria Countryside Project. Some of the footpaths and bridleways, however, are very muddy and would deter most pedestrians, the bridleway from Gaitsgill to Buckabank and from Gaitsgill to Highwath Bridge near Lime House being two examples.

The **network of Rights of Way** has developed over a long period of time and reflects historical movements of people in the local community when the farming population was greater and transport was more often by foot or horseback. Whereas this historical network provides excellent recreational possibilities, it may be an opportunity to think about additional links, which will stimulate new movements. For example, a footpath link between Townhead Road and the Station may encourage both walking and railway use. Another possibility may be a route between the centre of Dalston and a possible recreational country park at Cardew Mires.

In an attempt to popularise the use of all the Rights of Way, the Parish Council has produced, as part of a Millennium Project, a detailed and weatherproof map with some supporting materials (available from the Post Office and the Corner Shop, price £2.50). The Redspearlands Footpath Group, in the Raughton Head area, has recently been formed. It monitors and promotes the Parish paths.

The recent surfacing of the **Cycleway/Footpath** from St Michael's School to Carlisle has proved particularly popular, especially with the young people. As well as the surfaced cycleway mentioned above, there is an eight mile section of the 187 mile Reivers Cycleway and an additional 3 mile off-road section route signposted through the Parish.

## ■ What Next?

### ■ Parish Council Aims:

- Inform the relevant agencies of the unsatisfactory state of any footpaths and bridleways.
- Monitor the condition of the cycleway (the Parish Council has already consulted Carlisle City Council on the surface damage.) Pass on concerns about safety, especially with regard to visibility and use by illegal vehicles.
- Support the footpath group.
- Plan for future footpaths.

## ■ What can you do?

- Report any problems you come across to the Parish Council.
- Keep using the footpaths, bridleways and cycleways.
- Support the Redspearlands Footpath Group.



## Traffic



During the Public Consultation exercise many interesting comments were made about traffic, parking and transport issues; it is clearly an emotive issue.

Dalston is striving to maintain its rural identity but is facing problems due to **increasing traffic flows** and **limited facilities** for parking. Much of the area consists of rural roads, which were never designed or built to cope with modern heavy traffic. They are also badly maintained.

It is just as important to sustain the **commercial and industrial vitality and prosperity** of the area, as it is to preserve a good environment for people. The Industrial Estate and other industrial sites are both an important source of employment and bring in trade to the Dalston area, as do the facilities such as shops, public houses, hairdressers, the Library, and the Surgery in Dalston Village. We must therefore ensure that the infrastructure is capable of coping with all these demands.

The people of Raughton Head have been experiencing an increase in numbers of HGVs. Drivers are taking short cuts on totally unsuitable rural roads, and in the absence of a **Southern Bypass** to Carlisle, it is difficult to tackle the problem. 60% of respondents expressed a wish for this road, which was originally intended to link the Northern Relief Road with Junction 42 of the M6.

69.5% of respondents stated that there were problems with **speeding** through the villages. It is this, combined with the increasing density of traffic that makes many pedestrians, especially the elderly,

feel **unsafe**. **Safety** in Station Road and particularly the junction with Carlisle Road gives great cause for concern. People feel unsafe when walking on the rural roads.

The Industrial sites at Barras Lane and the Station have increased in size during recent years and this has, and will continue to have, an impact on the number of heavy goods vehicles using Dalston Village. Parishioners seem to have misunderstood the extent of the **HGV restrictions** through Dalston. Those vehicles, which are going to locations in the restricted area, such as Nestlé, B.P and the Barras Lane Estate, are permitted to pass through Dalston village.

68% of respondents felt that traffic problems would increase with future development on the western fringe of Carlisle at Morton Park unless the road network on the south west side of Carlisle is improved.

The increased volume and weight of traffic, parking density and speeding have all affected the quality of life in Dalston, especially for pedestrians and particularly in The Square.



## Possible Traffic Solutions

- Press for a Southern Bypass for Carlisle.
- A 30mph limit through Raughton Head is being implemented.
- Investigate a 20mph zone through Dalston Village centre.
- Investigate the removal of the HGV limit to the other side of the Barras Lane Industrial site in order to reduce the number of HGVs travelling through Dalston village.

- Construct footpaths, which will keep people safer and discourage unnecessary car use.
- Provide safe crossing points at the Station Road junction and near the schools.
- Work with the police to monitor speeding.
- Continue to plan for regenerating Dalston Square to make it a more attractive and 'people friendly' place. The aim would be to preserve and even improve the viability of all the businesses and would include:
- **Time limited parking and the provision of extra parking spaces in other areas.**
- Increased safety of pedestrians in the centre of the village by seeking to provide a direct footpath between the Co-op and the Lych Gate.
- 63% say that there is inadequate parking provision for the Victory Hall, despite Glave Hill car park being available.
- 62% believe that people are inconsiderate when parking.
- Commuters from the outlying districts often operate a private car-sharing scheme, because of parking restrictions in Carlisle, and this is seen to cause problems with parking in The Square and at Bridge End.
- Many parents drive their children to the schools. People parking on the estate roads opposite the schools cause serious problems. Apart from the nuisance to residents, emergency services could be prevented from gaining access.

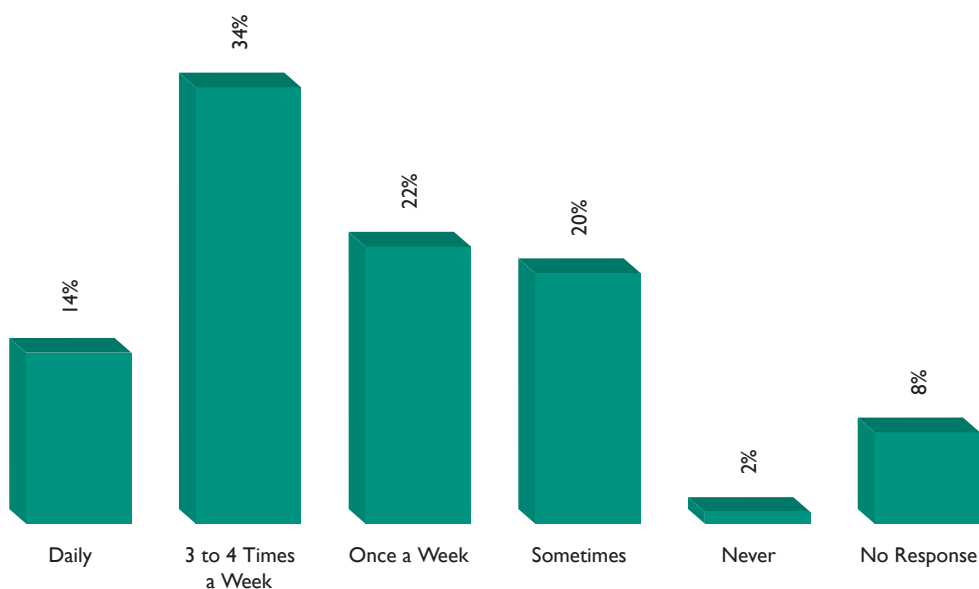
## ■ Parking

Increased development in the Parish of Dalston and problems for local consumers gaining access to the centre of Carlisle are contributing to greater use of Dalston as a convenient and unrestricted shopping area.

- The majority of people using the facilities of The Square park their vehicles for a short period of time, with 57% parking for up to 15 minutes and 27% parking for 15 to 30 minutes.
- 62% think that the parking provision within Dalston village is inadequate.



As can be seen from the graphs there are a large number of people visiting the village sometimes, but the Corner Shop and Bakers are the most visited on a daily basis.



■ Figure 5.1

*Co-op/Bakers*

*Source: Dalston Parish*

*Plan Questionnaire*



Figure 5.2

Doctors

Source: Dalston Parish  
Plan Questionnaire

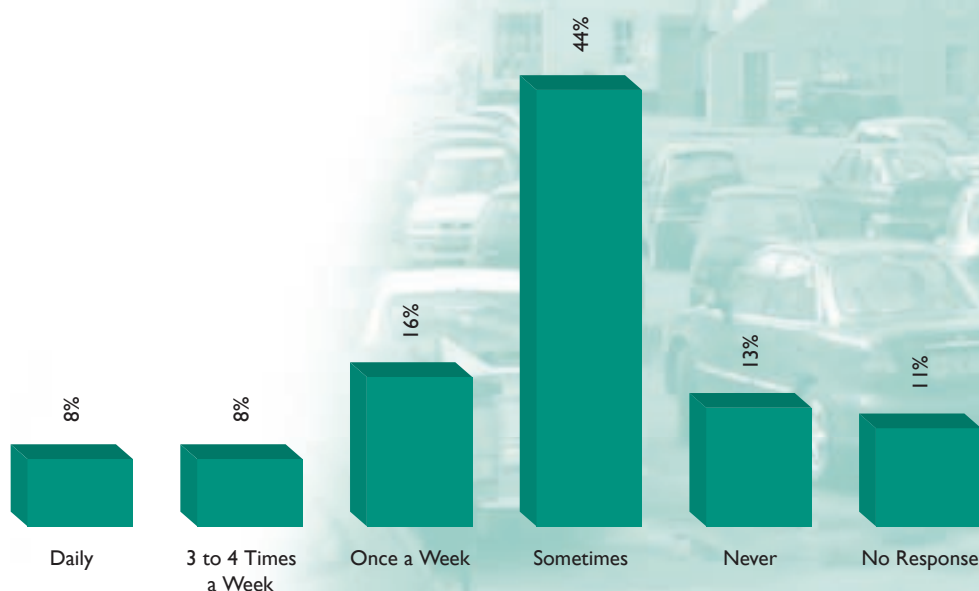


Figure 5.3

Corner Shop

Source: Dalston Parish  
Plan Questionnaire



Figure 5.4

Post Office

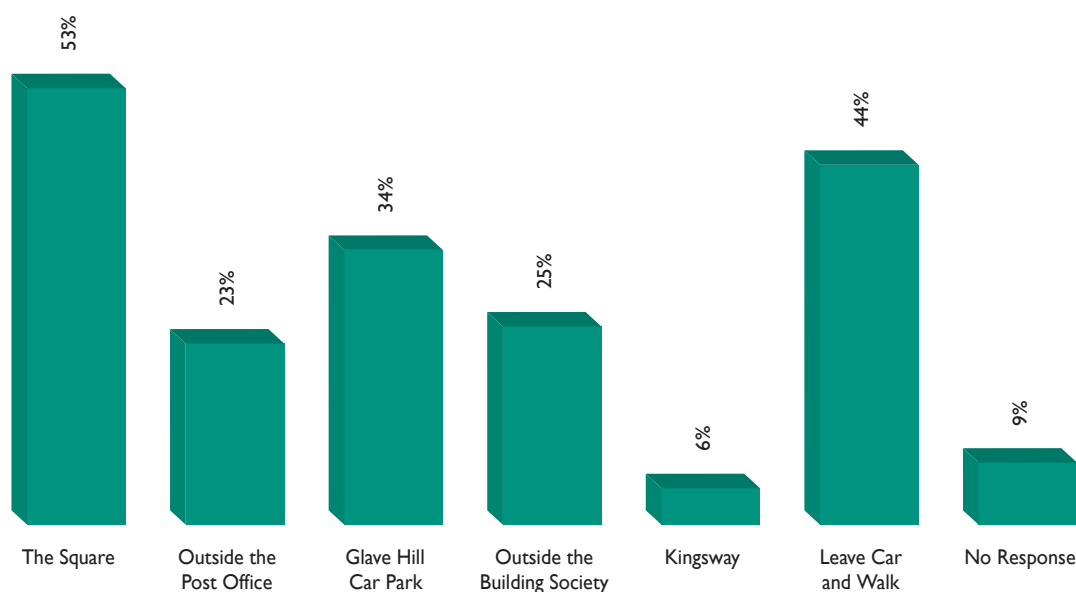
Source: Dalston Parish  
Plan Questionnaire

The results show that 269 of those surveyed use the facilities within the village centre on a daily basis, 561 on 2 – 3 days per week and 1038 weekly. To this figure, all the passing trade can be added. 14% of those surveyed visited the Co-op and Bakers daily while 8% visited the Corner Shop each day. 57% (482) visit the Doctors ‘sometimes’.

To overcome all of these issues, Dalston must embark on a programme of work to make the village a safe and pleasurable place to be, ensure that its special character is retained and provide adequate facilities to enable the continuation of its unique shopping facilities.

## ■ Possible Parking Solutions

- Investigate the provision of additional car parking within the area adjacent to the centre of the village, of a size and location, which will alleviate the present problems and encompass any predicted



■ Figure 5.5

*Parking Preferences*  
Source: Dalston Parish Plan Questionnaire

## ■ Transport

Dalston is served by reasonable bus and rail services which are at present under-utilised. There is a problem with the inadequacy of public transport serving the outlying areas.

There are many elderly and retired people in Dalston and those who cannot or choose not to drive, point out:

future requirement, associated with The Square re-development.

- To successfully regenerate The Square, parking there would be reduced and be time restricted. Parking for residents and the disabled would be included. However, more parking spaces would need to be found close to the centre, which could accommodate long-term parking.
- Reduce the number of children being brought to school by car by working with the Schools and the Local Authority on the ‘Safer Routes To School’ initiative.
- Develop better footways in and around the villages to make walking a safer option especially for the young and elderly.
- Continue to press for efficient monitoring of parking infringements.
- Look into the possibility of setting up a car-sharing database probably using the Dalston Website and local shops as a management portal.
- Investigate the provision of private car sharing facilities

- Public transport is expensive.
- The station is a long walk from the village and some of the estates.
- Access to the northbound platform for the elderly or disabled has not been properly addressed
- Parking space and secure cycle parking facilities are inadequate.
- The approach to the station is hazardous and unclear – not ‘people friendly’.

One of the main aims of the Parish Plan should be to increase the use of public transport by working with all transport providers to obtain a reasonably priced service, timetabled more to the travel requirements of the people of Dalston Parish rather than the requirements of the transport operators.

Preliminary discussions have already begun with the bus company and with careful research; running fewer buses at off peak times could reduce the cost of travel. If this were successful, it could have an impact on the volume of traffic entering Carlisle from the West.

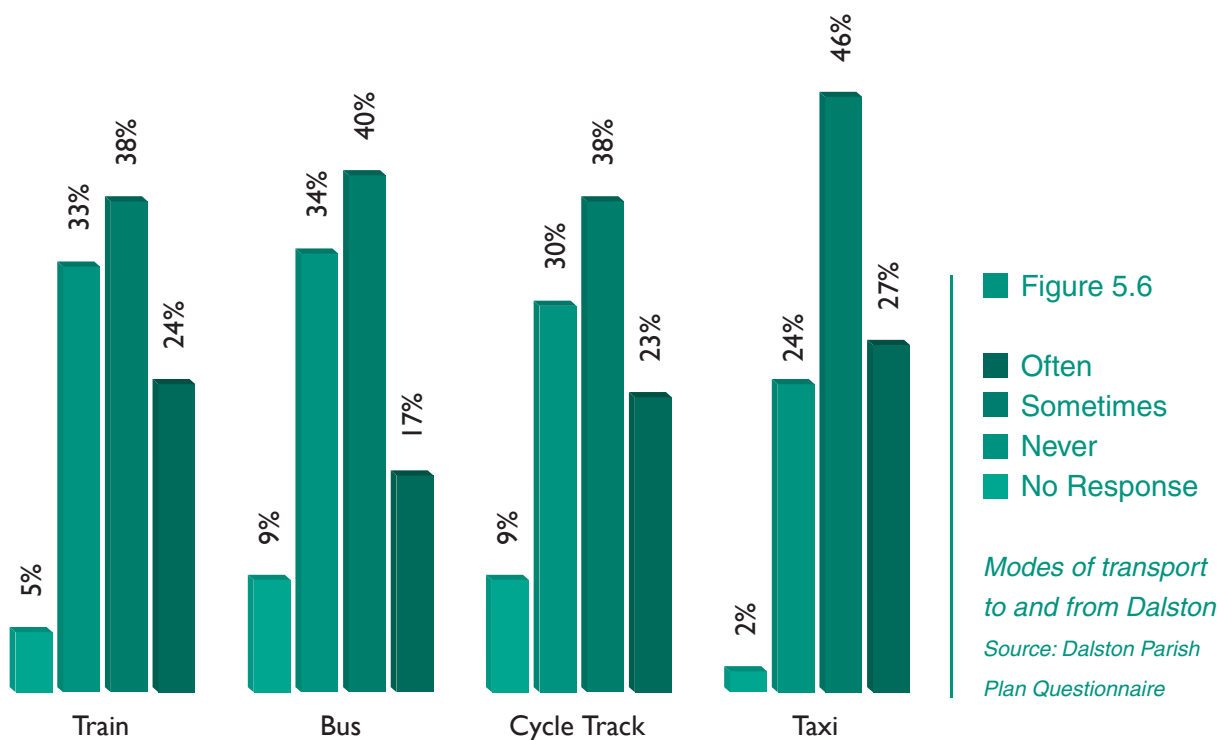
One disadvantage to a good public transport system between Dalston and Carlisle may be that it will encourage commuters from the outlying areas such as Cumdivock, Raughton Head, Stockdalewath and Welton to use the village as an informal park and ride facility making the parking provision totally inadequate.

## Possible Transport Solutions

- Work with all Transport Providers and the Local Authority to provide a cost effective Public Transport System based on need as opposed to the requirements of the service providers, thereby reducing the number of vehicles passing through our villages.
- Aim to set up a shuttle service from all the outlying areas to connect with the revised public transport system.
- Work with the Community Transport Officer to promote the 'Rural Wheels' initiative in areas where there is little or no public transport.
- Support the Station Group and lobby Network Rail to improve facilities at the Station.

## What can you do?

- Be considerate of other road users and householders.
- Support efficient public transport systems by using them.
- Walk whenever possible - it's better for you, and you meet people!
- Take a look at opportunities to share transport.
- Observe speed limits - that is just safer for everybody.
- Consider using a rural taxi service - there is one.





# 6.0 WHAT ABOUT THE YOUNG PEOPLE

## Introduction

Before assembling the youth questionnaire, the Chairman of the Parish Council visited Caldew, St. Michael's and Raughton Head schools to listen to what the young people had to say about where they live and what they feel they need for the future. The youngsters were alert and interested and contributed responsible and interesting ideas.

250 questionnaires were sent out to local and other selected schools. All returns were anonymous and to be answered by seven to eighteen year olds. 99 questionnaires were returned, which is a 40% response and similar to the main questionnaire. It is an adequate working sample. The results show remarkable agreement, so it can be assumed that the comments are representative. 32 returns were from 7-11 year olds, 41 from 11-13 year olds, 21 from 14-16 year olds and 5 from 17-18 year olds. The male/female balance is strikingly even.

All appreciate the rural nature of the area, but those in the wider Parish are more enthusiastic about the natural beauty, peace and tranquillity. Those Dalston youngsters who think it is an 'OK' rather than 'good' place to live, like the peace and the convenience of the facilities, although any adverse comments were: 'not much to do'. Only one responded 'boring'. Older respondents suggested improvements such as: **more say in what goes on, less vandalism, more policing, less traffic, more access to open spaces and better transport.** However, 86% of the youngsters feel safe in our area and again 'traffic', plus

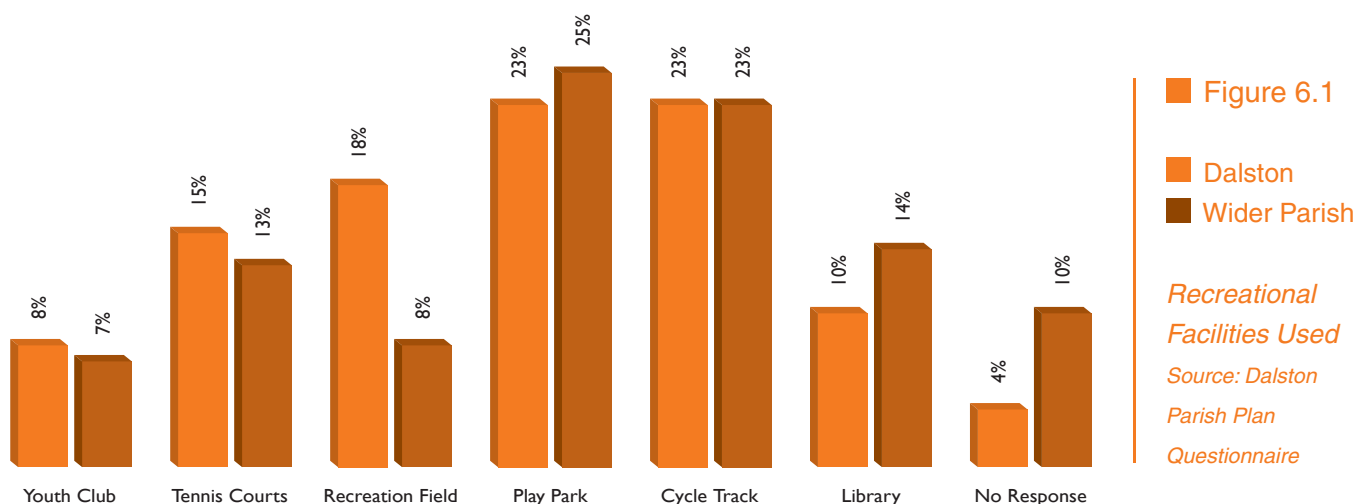
'threatening groups' were mentioned as problems.

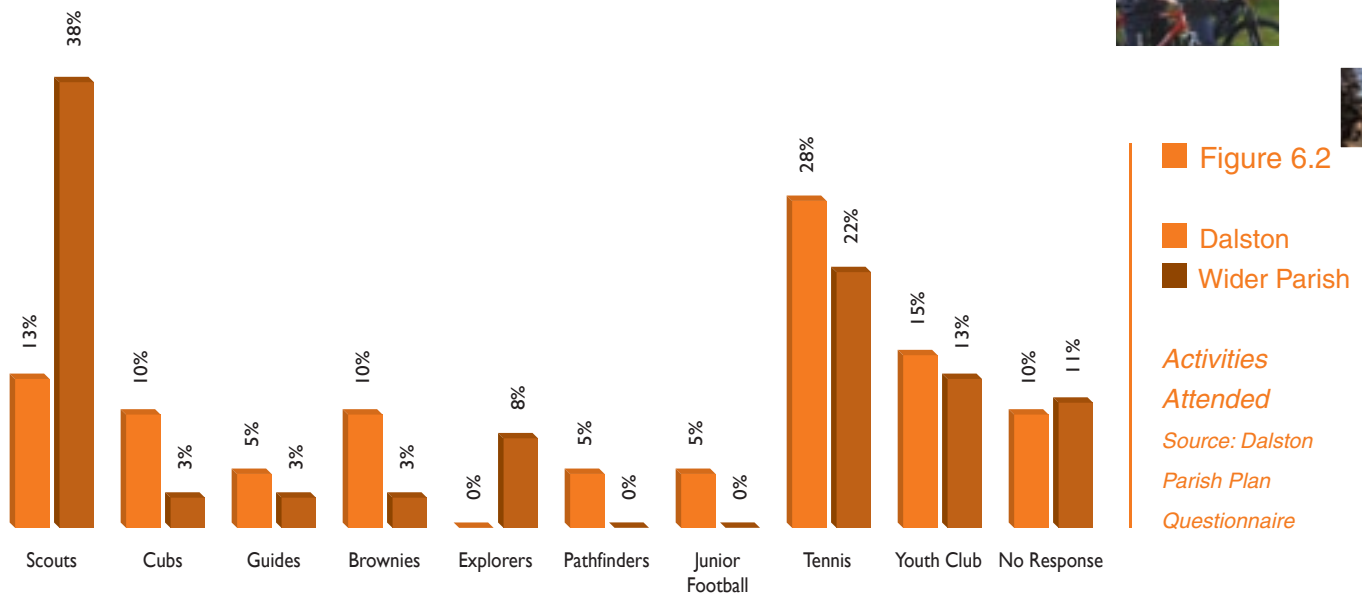
The fact that the overwhelming majority of pupils attend the local schools must have a positive effect on community spirit.

**Means of transport** to school covers a wide variety and clearly more use is made of the car in the wider Parish. In Dalston 68% sometimes walk, but in the wider Parish only 19%. 30.5% of Dalston youngsters go by car, but 63% in the wider Parish. A disappointing number do not make use of school buses (only 9.5% in the rural areas.) **Travel for recreation** reveals a different picture, with 47% of Dalston young people going on foot and 40% by car, whereas in the wider Parish 73% go by car. This is unsurprising when Dalston is the main centre for activities.



The questions on **facilities** and **recreational activities** provoked the strongest responses. The Dalston facilities are popular with all the youngsters and parents are clearly willing to take their children to use them (Figure 6.1 and 6.2). The Raughton Head Young Farmers Club is an active and vibrant group with 60-70 young people involved, often successfully in entertainment and other competitions.





The survey revealed an enormous demand for **after school activities**: 83% from Dalston and 78% from the wider Parish. Clearly these would satisfy a family need where parents are at work when schools close. Most wanted a youth centre which could also be used as a 'drop in centre', although a youth shelter was popular with the 14-16 age group ... but 'please no supervision'. The Recreation Ground and The Square are the favoured locations.

#### The following is a list of suggested activities:

- **Gymnastics and sporting activities** (by far the most popular)
- Football coaching including girls
- Music, arts and drama
- Cricket
- Reading Club
- Rugby
- Cooking
- Rock climbing
- Arts and crafts
- Swimming
- Internet access and computer games
- Trampoline
- Trips
- Dance
- DIY
- Field sports

#### Facilities:

- Youth Centre/youth café
- Mountain bike track
- Bigger play park
- Cinema
- Village pond and gardens
- Chip Shop

## What next?

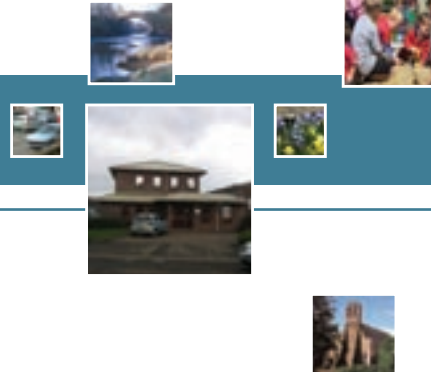
### Parish Council Aims:

- Send a full report of the findings in the form of a newsletter to the pupils of all the schools.
- Instigate the organisation of a 'Youth Council' to listen to and represent what young people have to say.
- Work with the schools, local authorities and sporting organisations to investigate the setting up of as many activities as possible.
- Continue to try to facilitate the building of a community/youth centre.
- Maintain all facilities and where possible extend and improve them.
- Look at appointing a youth co-ordinator.
- Work with all agencies to provide youth workers.
- Help with training of youth workers.
- Look at opportunities for linking community transport to activities.

### What can you do?

- Could you take an activity group?
- Do you know someone who could?
- Would your recreational activity/sports group help?
- Would you help out?
- Would you like to train to work with young people?
- Are you good at fund raising?
- Would you help with transport?

Contact the Parish Council on 01228712920



There are about 123 businesses in Dalston Parish and they cover a wide range, from light engineering, agriculture and agriculture-related businesses, to services, construction, financial and retail premises. Most are in Dalston Village and on the Barras Lane industrial estate, but there is a small concentration at Lingey.

Dalston hosts the largest milk treatment factory in Europe, but the sizes of businesses vary and could mainly be called 'small'.

32 businesses responded to the business questionnaire – only 26%. Most responders thought it was an advantage to be situated in Dalston because there is less competition and it is convenient for the M6. Comments about advantages relate directly to the rural location, but comments on disadvantages refer to the lack of economic success in Cumbria as a whole (one of the six economically poorest performing counties in Britain). That industrial expansion without a Southern Bypass would have an adverse effect on the quality of rural life in the Parish, was much commented upon.

## Transport

The transport/road network issue elicited some comments. Only six respondents found the Heavy Goods Vehicle restrictions a disadvantage. Free parking and 'park anywhere' were seen as advantages although there is much concern over inadequate parking. 'Hassle free' parking is a positive advantage for businesses in The Square, but private car sharing is causing congestion. Dangerous junctions at Station Road and Cardewlees were concerns.

## Staffing and Community Involvement

There is a complex mix of numbers employed and hours worked, but of those responding, 19% businesses employ one full time worker and 16% employ two. One business employs 90 full time workers, one 45 and one 38. Only 39% of those responding actively attempted to recruit locally and although 53% say they have positive links with local schools, only one business participates in the Youth Enterprise Scheme. A large majority have no plans for any future community involvement.

## Agriculture

25% of those businesses that responded are agriculture related; so revitalised agriculture would benefit the whole community. ('Farms make up 28.5% of VAT registered businesses in Cumbria, and employ 5% of the total workforce' - Cumbria Vision, October 2004.) Government policy on sustainability and the Health and Welfare Strategy will affect agricultural management in the future. Some businesses do experience a shortage of available land in the Parish.

## What Next?

### Parish Council Aims:

- Encourage the establishment of a network of local businesses - a Chamber of Commerce. It is to be hoped that this would encourage better liaison with local schools and community enterprise.
- Lobby for a better transport infrastructure (promised in the new Cumbria Vision Agency established in October 2004). A South Carlisle Environmental Route is mentioned in the draft Local Transport Plan 2007-2012. This would also include a viable airport and university: all to increase the vibrancy of local business.
- Encourage projects that would bring new initiatives to the area while preserving the rural character.
- Continue to attempt to apply a sensible, practical and informed approach to planning issues.
- Assist with marketing initiatives.
- Where possible contract for local tradesmen to do its work.
- Push to improve communications and community relations.
- Promote local markets.
- Assist with local authority support for enterprise.

## What can you do?

- Keep in contact with the Parish Council for mutual benefit.
- Be aware of the community and its needs.
- Help to make the Parish economically vibrant, yet preserve its rural identity.
- Add to the lobbying for better transport and communications wherever possible.

## 8.0 ACTION PLANS



Task	Action	Agencies	Priority
New Community Building	Continue to work towards this facility and investigate alternative provision	Recreation Association Victory Hall Committee Parish Council Cumbria County Council Carlisle City Council	High
The Square Regeneration	Continue to work on the plans already in place beginning with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time restrictions on parking</li> <li>• Providing alternative parking spaces</li> </ul>	Parish Council Cumbria County Council Carlisle City Council DEFRA Rural Regeneration Company North West Development Agency Other outside agencies	High
Parish/Police Office	Continue to work towards providing this facility	Parish Council Cumbria Constabulary	High
Parish Archive	Approach schools	Schools in the Parish Parish Council Cumbria County Council	Low
Primrose Hall and Victory Hall Refurbishment	Discussions with Hall Committees	Primrose Hall Committee Victory Hall Committee Parish Council Cumbria County Council Carlisle City Council	Medium
Festival Week	Form Festival Committee	Parish Council Parish Community Dalston Show Committee	High
Parish Trust	Form Trust Committee to seek advice	Parish Council Community	High
Family Support Group		Parish Council Community	Low
'Friends of our Churches' Group		All Churches	Low
Community Transport	Investigate all possible solutions	Cumbria County Council	High

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Task	Action	Agencies	Priority
Policing/Improving Public Safety	Contact Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators	Cumbria Constabulary Neighbourhood Watch	High
Improving Library Services	Contact the Library service to increase opening hours	Parish Council	High
Improving Library Services	Continue to plan for a new library	Parish Council Cumbria County Council	Low
Tourism Group	Parish Council initiative	Cumbria Tourist Board Parish Council Community	Low

SERVICES

Task	Action	Agencies	Priority
Parish Design Statement	Continue work in progress	Parish Council	High
Investigate Development Land		Parish Council	Medium
Tree Planting		Parish Council Schools in Parish	Medium
New Footpaths	Investigate suitable sites	Parish Council Redspearlands Footpath Group Cumbria County Council Ramblers Association East Cumbria Countryside Project National Footpath Agencies	Medium
River 'Clean Up'	Organise 'Clean Up' days	Parish Council Whole Community	Medium
River Bank Erosion	Work with the Environment Agency and monitor developments	Parish Council Eden Rivers Trust Landowners Ive and Roe Conservation Group	High
Cardewless Quarry Site	Establish a group of involved parties	Parish Council	Medium

ENVIRONMENT

Task	Action	Agencies	Priority
Footways	Continue to extend footways to make walking safer	Parish Council Carlisle City Council Cumbria County Council	High
The Square Regeneration	Develop the plans already in place	Parish Council Carlisle City Council Cumbria County Council Other Agencies	High
Car Sharing	Set up database	Volunteers	High
Rural Transport Services	Approach all transport providers to provide a practical shuttle system to benefit the people of both the outlying areas and parts of Dalston village	Parish Council Carlisle City Council Cumbria County Council Other Agencies	High
Public Transport	Work with all transport providers to investigate and install a more efficient, integrated and cost effective system, which will benefit the public	Parish Council Carlisle City Council Cumbria County Council Other Agencies	High
Dalston Station	Make it more 'user friendly' Improve the approaches	Parish Council The Station Group Network Rail Cumbria County Council	High

TRAFFIC, PARKING & TRANSPORT



Task	Action	Agencies	Priority
Youth Council	Establish a Youth Council to meet regularly and ensure feedback to the Parish Council	Schools in Parish Parish Council	High
Youth Co-ordinator	Examine the value of recruiting the services of Youth Co-ordinator to survey and advise on youth provision	Parish Council	High
Youth Provision	Approach all relevant agencies with a view to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finding youth workers</li> <li>Providing training for youth workers</li> </ul>	Parish Council Carlisle City Council Cumbria City Council	High
After School Activities	Investigate all possibilities	Parish Council Carlisle City Council Cumbria County Council Schools in Parish Sporting Associations	High

WHAT ABOUT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Task	Action	Agencies	Priority
Chamber of Commerce	Initiate the formation of an organisation to bring together Dalston businesses	Parish Council	Medium
Improve Communications with Businesses	Sustain a dialogue with local businesses for the benefit of the community	Parish Council	Medium

BUSINESS

Thank you for reading this Plan, but most of all, thanks go to those who took the trouble to fill in the long questionnaire. As you can see it has produced some interesting results.

- The people of Dalston Parish are happy to live here.
- They appreciate the rural nature and relative peace of the area and are anxious to preserve this.
- They have a strong sense of community and are proud of the way people work together.
- They are proud of the heritage of the area.
- The Parish is a thriving and active place.

It is natural to resist change, but passing time produces change and it seems to creep up insidiously. Are things as they were ten or twenty years ago? - of course not.

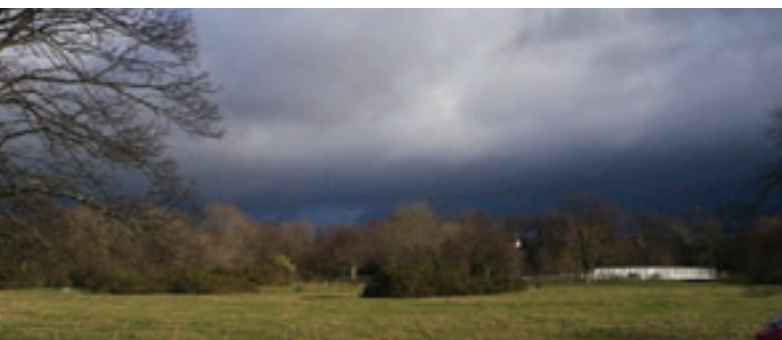
The questionnaire responses have revealed issues, which need attention and the Parish Council, will make every effort to address these. Large projects have been identified, specifically The Square regeneration, an alternative to the Youth Hut and an improved approach to the Station. These will take detailed planning, be costly and time consuming to achieve. It must be remembered that there is no such thing as 'a quick fix' and the success of the Parish Council's attempts will rely on many things, mainly access to funding, working with organisations in the Parish and

the co-operation of outside agencies. Some things will take longer than others to remedy, some will happen speedily, some might never happen. But one thing is certain; the Parish Council will do its best.

**Look at the Action Plans:** as this is envisaged as a ten year plan, the Parish Council will review the Action Plans annually when drawing up the budget and setting the precept. It will then publish a 'progress so far' report and make any necessary adjustments. A more thorough review will take place after five years.

It is so important to hear what **you** have to say. When you have read the Plan, please comment on it. Is anything missing? Drop a note into the boxes provided in the Post Office and the Corner Shop, or e-mail the Website, or stop/ring any Councillor and speak to them. This Plan is meant to benefit the community, so feedback is essential.

The Dalston Parish Plan is just the start of what can be done to ensure that Dalston Parish preserves what is good and thrives in the future. If the whole community works together to achieve as many of the aims as is possible, things **will** happen. After all, it is **your** Parish and **you** can help too.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Parish Council wishes to thank:

The Parish Plan Steering Committee

Those who joined the Working Groups

The Countryside Agency

Voluntary Action Cumbria

Cumbria County Council

Carlisle City Council

... And anyone who helped in any way to produce this Plan



# DALSTON

Parish Plan 2005-2015

**Dalston Parish Plan 2005**

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