

# Parish of Pennington Community Plan 2019



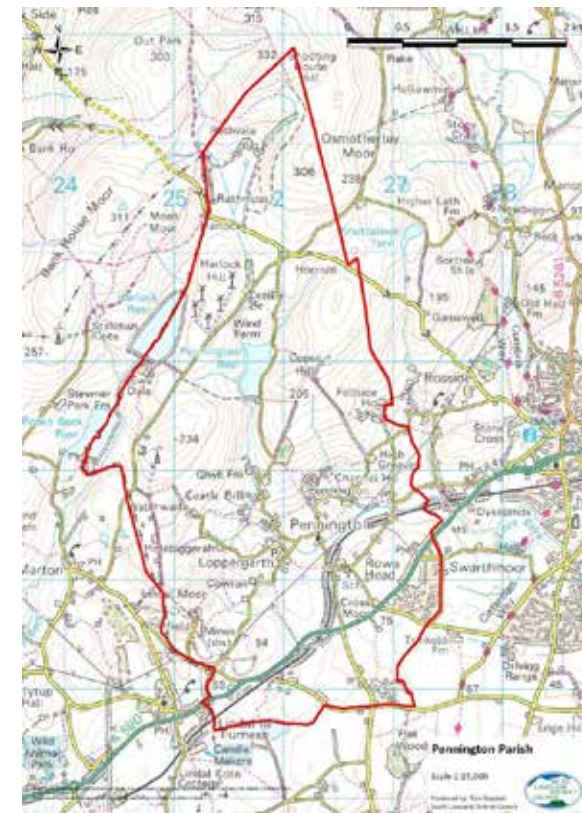
Artwork by Oliver of Pennington Church of England School

Together we  
can achieve  
great things

## The Plan: Pennington Parish

Pennington Parish is a small, friendly community which is close to Ulverston. The local Church was built nearly 1000 years ago and plays an important part in the life of the amazing village and primary school. The wildlife and scenery in Pennington provides a beautiful backdrop for a peaceful area near the Lake District. You can go horse riding, play in the park or go to the pub. There are many rumours about the secrets of Pennington including: a buried Viking boat, graveyards of fallen soldiers, a demolished castle and many more exciting things to learn about our amazing surroundings.

Thank you to Sasha from Pennington Church of England Primary School for writing the introduction.



# Introduction

## The Plan: How it came about

The creation of this Community Led Plan is an initiative of Pennington Parish Council under the Localism Act in 2011 and the Open Public Services White Paper which support a national drive to shift power away from central government to local government, communities and individuals.

Many community based services will only be able to continue if Town and Parish Councils are supported and encouraged to play a more active role in their local design and delivery. With this in mind members of Pennington Parish Council agreed to explore the development of a Community Led Plan. The Parish Council welcomed the formation of a sub-committee to take a lead on exploring the need for and creation of a Community Led Plan. The sub-committee initially consisted of two Parish Councillors and a member of the local community, growing in size to include members representing different areas of the community. The sub-committee worked with local authority partners from ACTion with Communities in Cumbria, and the Community Development and Public Health teams taking advantage of training opportunities and drawing on their expertise and guidance. The sub-committee also consulted with the community through public meetings and through working with small groups of residents to develop a questionnaire.

The finalised questionnaire, delivered to households during the Summer of 2018, was the result of approximately 18 months of planning and development and provided the community information on which this plan is based. A total of 850 questionnaires were distributed to all of the houses in the Parish, with 304 completed responses being returned, a return rate of 35.7%. Members of the sub-group collated the responses onto a global spreadsheet which formed the basis for analysing the data and identifying the key issues leading to the actions.

In addition to the responses received through the completed questionnaires, member of the sub-group spent time with the children at Pennington Primary School working with the pupils to establish their likes, dislikes and priorities for the Parish. The children were very positive about the benefits of living and attending school in school in Pennington and enabled the sub-group to represent their feedback in this plan.



## The Plan: Your guide

The aim of this document is to identify how the residents of Pennington wish to see their community develop over the next three to five years. One of the key areas of feedback through the completed questionnaires is how much residents value and appreciate their local area and all it has to offer, the actions in this document are written with the aim of further enhancing the area and local services.

There are pre-existing strategic plans in place for the Parish, including land allocation for housing at Cross a Moor and improvements to the A590 with the potential to build a roundabout. This roundabout and the increased traffic due to housing plans for the Croftlands area will impact on the village of Swarthmoor.

The Community Plan will enable the Parish Council, and other local groups, to seek funds for locally important initiatives or improvements; the plan demonstrates that the Parish Council has consulted with the community and gathered feedback on key issues affecting those living in the Parish. We want to get things done and make things happen – having a Community Plan is no guarantee that we’ll get what we want, but we are more likely to succeed if we know where we want to go. This plan belongs to the community; it is up to us all in the community to do our best to make a success of our Community Plan.

## The Plan: Parish statistics and questionnaire responses

Pennington parish currently includes approximately 850 homes, Pennington Church of England Primary school, Pennington nursery, a farm shop, cricket club, two public houses and two community venues. Closely bordering the parish is Swarthmoor Football Club offering a football pitch and community venue. There are many small businesses based within the parish, through business premises and people working from their home. The parish is ‘cut in half’ by the busy A590 trunk road, the impact of which is clearly reflected the feedback provided by residents who live along the road, and who have to use the road on a daily basis. The feedback received from residents who completed the questionnaire will influence the actions of the parish council, supporting the council to seek funding and support from other agencies.

**Proposal for a new roundabout: Will a roundabout improve your access? “Traffic lights at all junctions is a better idea.”**



Key statistics gathered through the questionnaires are based on the return rate of 304 completed questionnaires. It does not provide a forensic assessment of the population of Pennington; however, the responses do provide us with an overview and general pointers on the issues, preferences and concerns of local residents. The findings from the questionnaire, as laid out in the following pages and on the action plan, are a starting point for our community plan which should evolve as actions are met, tasks carried out and emerging issues identified.

Questionnaire response statistics	Actual parish statistics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 57% of the population are aged 0-18 years of age;</li><li>• 31% are aged between 19 – 65 years old; and,</li><li>• 13% are aged 66 years and above.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2008 recorded residents;</li><li>• 18.1% of the population are aged 0-17 years;</li><li>• 62.1% are aged between 18 – 64 years old, and;</li><li>• 19.7% are aged 65 years and above</li></ul> <p>Source: Office for National Statistics</p>

Of these responses we can see that approximately:

- 40% are retired;
- 30% of the population are in full time employment;
- 14% are in part-time employment;
- 11% of young people are in state education;
- 5% volunteer their skills and time;
- 3% are registered disabled;
- 2% are carers;
- 2% are home makers; and,
- 1% are economically inactive.

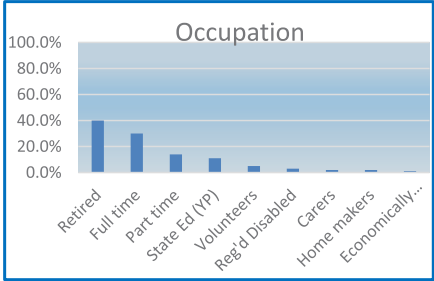


Figure 1.1

The statistics tell us that the parish is diverse and dynamic with a mix of age ranges and experience, and we need to ensure that this diversity is reflected through the community plan. We have worked with the children in Key Stage 2 at Pennington Church of England School to get their ideas, suggestions and comments about living and going to school in Pennington. Gathering the pupil voice has been an important part of the process and will ensure that we are doing our best to reflect the needs of the younger population as best we can.

The Community Plan has been separated into themes which capture the feedback received from those residents who completed and returned the questionnaire.

The themes are –

- Housing
- The environment
- Traffic and road safety
- Health and wellbeing
- Services and amenities
- Communication



*Lych Gate within churchyard*

## Housing

The South Lakeland District Council Development Plan includes land allocation for housing at Cross a Moor. In addition to this, land has been allocated and plans passed for housing developments on a number of sites across the Ulverston area.

We asked you what type of housing you’d like to see developed in the parish, the responses were -

- 41% would like affordable housing;
- 37% would like for starter homes;
- 27.5% would like bungalows to be built;
- 15.5% would like rental accommodation;
- 12% would like detached housing;
- 8% would like flats or apartments built.



Figure 2.1

Alongside this set of figures, 37.5% of respondents told us there is enough housing in the parish, 21% told us that there is a need for more.

### What type of housing is needed in the area?

***“If new housing is built they should be starter homes for younger people to get on the property ladder and live locally”***  
***“We feel further housing will no longer make Swarthmoor a village.”***

## The environment

We are lucky to live in a beautiful part of the United Kingdom on the edge of the Lake District National Park and close to the market town of Ulverston. Pennington Parish is unique and diverse in nature with a number of villages, hamlets and outlying settlements. Swarthmoor is the largest village and is home to approximately 2000 residents. Whilst the history of the Parish is less well documented than we would like, over time some research and rumour suggests that there may be Roman ruins, a buried Viking long ship, and a burial site for a leper colony amongst other things. The mysteries lead to many questions and have spiked local interest. The survey suggests that some residents would like to know more about their area, with 60 responding that they would be interested in attending local history talks.



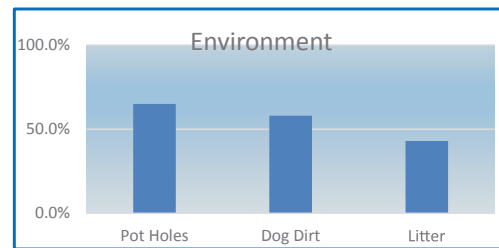
*Pennington Parish Bier*

Many who responded highlighted the poor state of local public footpaths, particularly Rufus Lane. The children at Pennington School were particularly focused on how important the environment is to them, with many stating that they like the rural landscape of the parish and how important is in to protect nature and not to cause pollution.

**Figure 3.1**

The top three environmental issues highlighted by residents who responded to the questionnaire are –

- Pot holes 65% of respondents reported that they are regularly affected by pot holes;
- Dog dirt 58% identified dog dirt as an issue; and,
- Litter 43% shared their concerns about litter in the parish.



**Figure 3.1**

It's important that we reflect the needs of the young people of the parish in this plan. Members of the subcommittee carried out a consultation activity with the children in Key Stage 2 at Pennington School. The children told us that they like attending school and living in the parish because of the beautiful surroundings. The environment was highlighted as a priority: the children told us they value the natural environment and want to protect it; they like having outdoor space where they can walk, ride their bikes and see nature.

## Traffic and road safety

The parish is split in half by the A590 trunk road which carries on average 15,000 vehicles per day (source: PPC A590 Traffic Data January 2014). The road impacts on all residents; many call for better speed management and improvements to promote road safety. Local residents are regularly affected by incidents and road works along the A590, with those living close by experiencing difficulties getting in and out of their driveways and having to live with the pollution caused by standing traffic. Other roads in the parish, including Main Road, Park Road, Pennington Lane and Carley Lane are also affected by speeding vehicles which compromises the safety of pedestrians and other road users. These roads are often used as 'rat runs' by drivers trying to avoid hold ups on the A590 which increases the volume of traffic on narrow, residential roads and lanes. Many residents stated that they are affected by the volume and speed of traffic in the local area.



*Rufus Lane*

The key areas of feedback through the returned questionnaires are:

Cross-a-Moor junction -

**Figure 4.1**

- 84% state that they use this junction;
- 62% state that a roundabout at Cross-a-Moor will improve their access;
- 56% state that a roundabout should be funded by new housing developers
- 50% state that a roundabout at Cross-a-Moor is the ideal solution;

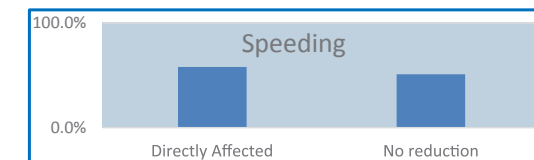


**Figure 4.1**

Speeding in the parish -

**Figure 4.2**

- 58% are directly affected by speeding in the parish. Areas affected include the A590, High Carley Lane and Pennington Lane, however;
- 51% do not wish to see a reduction in the speed limit. Many residents believe that there should be traffic calming measures and enforcement to ensure that drivers stick to the speed limit.



**Figure 4.2**

Road signs and markings -

Figure 4.3

- 68% state that road signs are clean and clearly visible;
- 58% state that road markings are clear;
- 49% have identified areas where road markings need repainting.

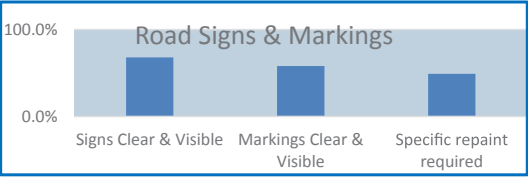


Figure 4.3

**Will a roundabout improve your access?**

*“A roundabout would help at the junction. But the making of it would cause major disruption. Therefore I’m not sure the disruption would be worth the end result.”*

*“The speed limit is fine it’s just that the drivers who drive too fast. A speed camera might be an option though.”*

## Parking

Those who responded to the questions on parking provided us with a picture of parking ‘hotspots’ in the parish. This is a difficult aspect of village life to plan for, there is no solution but all we ask is that people are respectful and courteous to their neighbours. Many residents shared their ideas on how to improve parking which members of the Parish Council raised with the County Highways team. We welcome this ongoing dialogue to identify problem areas and work together to find solutions.

**Are you concerned about parking in the Parish?**

*“There should be a 20mph speed limit near the village play parks and double yellow line on the roads. Is it possible radar activated calming devise?”*



Birkrigg Park

## Health and wellbeing

We are keen to work with local residents to promote health and wellbeing through activities, workshops and local talks. It is clear from the responses received that many residents lead an active life, with many enjoying taking in the views whilst walking the lanes. We are lucky to have facilities in the parish to bring people together, including the Memorial Hall, Reading Rooms, Parish Rooms and Football Club. These buildings are used for a range of different clubs and activities already, including keep fit, dog training, drama groups and coffee mornings. There is scope to do more, we’re very conscious of the current focus on health, particularly on mental health support needs, and how we can encourage local residents to participate in activities and events.

Of those who responded-

Figure 5.1

- 59 residents attend parish activities; compared with ,
- 145 residents who do not.

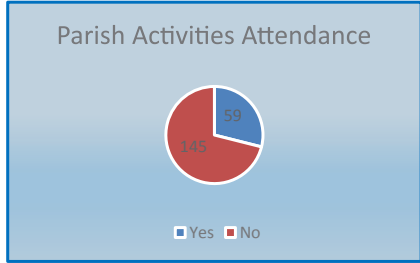


Figure 5.1

**Are you concerned about parking at Pennington School?**

*“... We need to do more to encourage people to walk to school.”*



Pennington School



Footpath from Loppergarth to Rowe Head

Residents told us why they don't attend parish-based activities –

Figure 5.2

- 67 said they are not interested;
- 61 said there are no appropriate activities;
- 57 said they are unaware of what activities are available;
- 48 said they don't know when activities are on;
- 10 said the drab appearance of the venues put them off;
- 5 said the venues are too cold;
- 4 said a lack of parking was a reason;
- 3 said the venues are not accessible;
- 3 said that activities are too expensive.

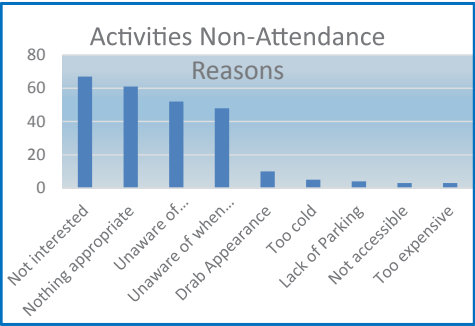


Figure 5.2

We asked you about the type of activities you'd like in the parish, these include:

- Keep fit classes;
- Local history talks;
- Craft fairs;
- Adult education classes;
- Vintage fairs;
- Yoga/pilates classes;
- Parish walks; and
- Exhibitions.



Harry Christian VC 100 year commemoration

Many residents told us about their ideas for setting up clubs and events, including a local running club alongside the many other suggested activities and events.

We asked you if improvements to parish venues would increase participation. You responded by telling us:

Figure 5.3

- 46% agreed that improvements would attract more people;
- 45% agreed that this will encourage participation;
- 42% agreed that improvements will make activities and events more attractive;
- 42% agreed that it will encourage members of the community to set up new groups or organisations; and ,
- 40% agreed that they will use the parish facilities if they were improved.

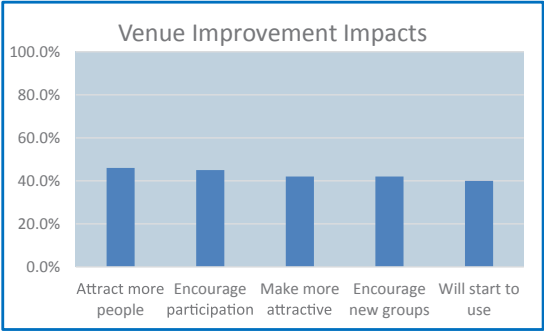


Figure 5.3

This information is important; it will support us to find ways to access funding and resource to improve parish facilities and to make sure venues are fit for a range of purposes. The responses we received about making improvements to local venues were consistent, indicating that improvements will increase participation and may lead to the creation of other events.



Treasure found in Pennington



Pennington Reservoir



Memorial at Cross-a-Moor



What type of skills, talents and/or experience would you be willing to offer?  
“...computer based skills...paper crafting/ greeting card making classes...classes in art, crafts, poetry, writing, bible study...pursuit of funding...general labouring...life support courses...befriending service for elderly/isolated people”

## Services and amenities

Residents told us how and where they access services and amenities. Pennington Parish has seen a marked reduction in the availability of services and amenities; Swarthmoor alone was served by three shops, a launderette, a hairdressing salon, post office, garages and two public houses, with Loppergarth having its own post office and village store, garage and public house. This has reduced markedly over the years and has resulted in residents having to go to local towns to access these facilities. Alongside the reductions in Pennington Parish, our surrounding towns have also seen a loss of services including a significant number of bank closures and the accompanying loss of cash machines and the recurring threat of closure to our post offices. Of those who responded –

Figure 6.1

- 88% of residents use Ulverston Post Office;
- 82% use Ulverston cash machines;
- 79% access Health services in Ulverston, with 85% of residents using an Ulverston based chemist;
- 76% of residents use a supermarket based in Barrow;
- 53% of residents access banking services in Ulverston, with 44% using services in Barrow.

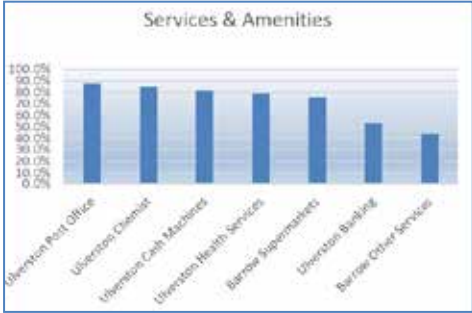


Figure 6.1

Figure 6.2

Travelling by car remains the most popular method of travelling to local services, with 80% of residents using a car, 16% walking, 13% using public transport and 4% using other methods of transport (taxi, cycling) and a growing use of online facilities.



Figure 6.2

We are living in a time of proposed development, from improvements to the road network, to the building of the Blue Light Hub alongside the potential development of new supermarkets. The Parish Council is often invited to comment on development plans and proposals for Ulverston and surrounding areas. This information will enable us to reflect the use of and access to services and amenities.

What type of skills, talents and/or experience would you be able to offer?  
“...Willing to help at a pop up hair salon on my days off...”

A number of residents told us about their difficulties with using public transport, from the times of the bus schedule to the siting of bus stops. Cumbria has an ageing population and we need to find ways to ensure that our facilities are accessible to all residents. We can use this information when responding to future development plans to influence improvements to services and amenities in the parish.

It will be very difficult to reinstate a Post Office or to open a local shop in the parish, in order to plug gaps we asked residents about their thoughts on pop-up services. We asked if you would like to see any of the following pop-up services in the parish –

Figure 6.3 and Figure 6.4

- 52% told us that pop-up services are a good idea
- 153 residents would like a pop-up Post Office;
- 97 of residents agreed about a Parish Nurse;
- 95 residents would support a mobile library service;
- 82 would like a pop-up café; and
- 75 expressed a preference for mobile health services, i.e. chiropodist

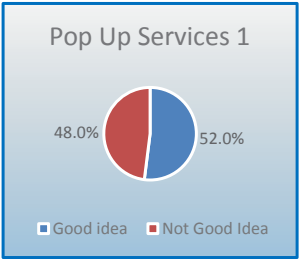


Figure 6.3

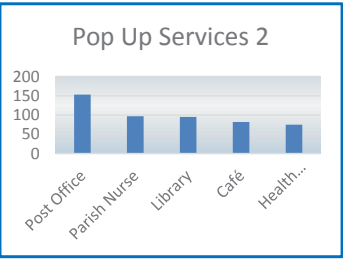


Figure 6.4

What is apparent throughout the responses is the skills and talents of the local population. We asked residents if they would be willing to offer their skills, talents and experiences to support community led initiatives. A number of residents completed the comments box stating that they would like to be more involved when they have more time, or are not sure what skills they possess which could be of benefit to the parish. Some residents had suggestions for activities and we need to find a way to support those residents to explore their ideas and bring, if possible, to fruition. Alongside all of these comments, **40 residents** told us that they would like to offer their skills and talents.



## Communication

Communication is key in any parish, and this was reinforced by the responses received to the questions in this section. We are not alone in our growing use of the internet – from online grocery orders to downloading films; we are increasingly reliant on a secure broadband connection to go about our everyday lives.

Figure 7.1

- 80% of homes in the parish have internet access;
- 59% of homes have reliable internet access;
- 19% of residents would like to improve their IT and internet skills.

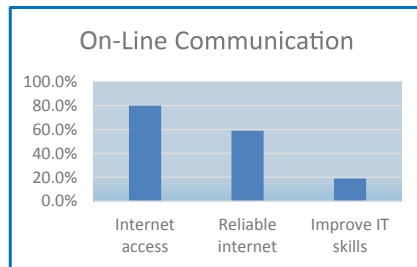


Figure 7.1

In order to raise awareness of parish issues, the Parish Council has a website and Facebook page alongside posting information on the parish notice boards. A group of residents run the Community Chat magazine which is a valuable source of information on events, local issues, some delicious baking recipes and important contact information on what to do in the event of an emergency. We are always seeking ways of improving channels of communication across the parish, asking residents how they access information sent out by the Parish Council. You told us –

Figure 7.2

- 66% read the Community Chat magazine;
- 32% of residents read the parish noticeboard;
- 8% access the Parish Council website;
- 7% use the parish Facebook page; and,
- 3% attend Parish Council meetings.

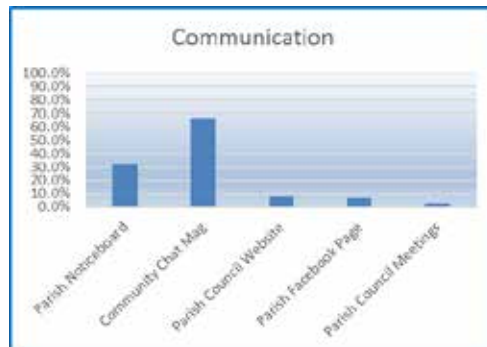


Figure 7.2

It is clear that we need to find ways to improve methods of communication across the parish so that residents have the information they need and so that the Parish Council is able to represent the needs and preferences of the community.

How can communication with the Parish Council be improved?

***“...make best use of traditional methods and be creative using new media...”***

## Action plan

To be reviewed annually.

Theme	Issue	Action	How to tackle it	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Timescale	Resources
Communication	Need to improve the dissemination of information in the Parish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support ‘Community Chat’</li> <li>• Advertise Facebook and the Parish council website/ vice versa</li> </ul>	Seek financial support  Communication between ‘Community Chat’ team and Facebook	Community chat team and Facebook/ Digital Platform Editor	High  High	1-2 year  0-1 year	Approx £90 per month
Communication	Improve communication across the Parish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure regular digital updates</li> <li>• Improve and increase the use of the Facebook page and exploring other digital platforms</li> <li>• Raise awareness and promote current courses e.g. Stay Safe Online</li> </ul>	Training for editor of Community Chat and	Facebook/ Digital Platform Editor  Parish Council	High	1-2 years	Funding for website maintenance Funding for Community Chat Funding for resources and venue hire

Theme	Issue	Action	How to tackle it	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Timescale	Resources
Environmental	Litter and dog dirt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education</li> <li>Posters/ banner</li> <li>More bins</li> </ul>	School children to design and display posters	Pennington School Green team	Medium	1-2 years	Approx £150
Environmental	Litter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Involve the community in litter picks</li> </ul>	Set up an annual litter pick day	Parish Council	Medium	1-2 years and ongoing	Access resources available through SLDC
Housing	Concerns over new housing development plans	Safeguard communities wishes that new housing should be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Affordable</li> <li>Local occupancy</li> <li>Planned to protect open spaces</li> <li>Take account of the local infrastructure</li> </ul>	Parish Council to influence planning design  Community Chat to encourage residents to attend planning meetings	Parish Council  ‘Community Chat’ to support	Medium	1-10 years	Time To be reviewed as and when a planning application is submitted
Traffic and Road safety	Dangers posed by speeding traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A590</li> <li>Main Road</li> <li>Carley Lane</li> <li>Through villages</li> </ul>	Parish Council to involve Police (PCSO) Parish Council to explore and monitor traffic calming measures	Cumbria Highways Police	High	0-2 years and ongoing	Police patrol time
Traffic and road safety	Main Road, Swarthmoor not gritted in freezing conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alert need for Main Road to be included in gritting schedule</li> </ul>	Raise with Highways	Parish Council	High		

Traffic and road safety	Pot holes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contacting CCC/ HIMS</li> </ul>	Individuals to identify potholes  ‘Community Chat’ and Facebook to advertise HIMS contact details	Parish Council  ‘Community Chat’ to support	Medium	0-5 years ongoing	Individuals time  HIMS support
Traffic and road safety	Poor visibility of street/ lane ends at junctions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate road end visibility improvements with Highways team</li> </ul>	Parish council to seek advice from elected members and instigate contact with the appropriate Highways team	Parish Council	High	1-2 years and ongoing	Individuals time
Traffic and road safety	Road markings in need of repainting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify location of road markings in need of repainting</li> </ul>	Parish council to put together a programme of works to share with Highways team	Parish Council	Medium	0-5 years and ongoing	Time
Traffic and road safety	Difficulty getting to bus shelters on A590 for some residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore bus routes with bus companies to establish if the route can include different parts of the parish</li> </ul>	Direct contact with the bus companies	Parish Council	Low	0-5 years and ongoing	Time
Traffic and road safety	Condition of bus shelters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek funding to improve the condition of local bus shelters</li> </ul>	Check condition of all bus shelters in the Parish to produce a checklist of repairs	Parish Council	Medium	Ongoing	Time, funding for repairs
Traffic and road safety	Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue dialogue with the community to find solutions</li> </ul>	Parish Council to seek advice and input from Highways	Parish Council	Medium	Ongoing	Time

Theme	Issue	Action	How to tackle it	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Timescale	Resources
Health and Wellbeing	<p>Lack of community knowledge/ interest in present recreational activities</p> <p>Lack of variety currently on offer/ broader range required</p> <p>Explore potential for position of a Community Nurse in the Parish</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peak peoples interests and inform of availability</li> <li>• Trial or explore new opportunities for provision</li> <li>• Promotion of hall hire</li> <li>• Encourage volunteers to run taster sessions</li> <li>• Encourage and support local residents to set up activities e.g. local running group/craft club</li> </ul>	<p>Raising awareness through Parish Facebook page, Community Chat, Pennington School newsletter and a community engagement event</p> <p>Seek funding opportunities</p>	<p>Parish Council</p> <p>Community Plan group</p>	High	0-3 years	Time Room hire, advertising and refreshments
Services and amenities	40 residents offered their skills, talents and experiences to support community led initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• run a series of sessions to work with residents to identify skills and talents</li> </ul>	Raise awareness of the sessions through the parish website, Facebook page, Community Chat, Pennington School newsletter	Community plan group			Room hire, refreshments, stationery, time, advertising

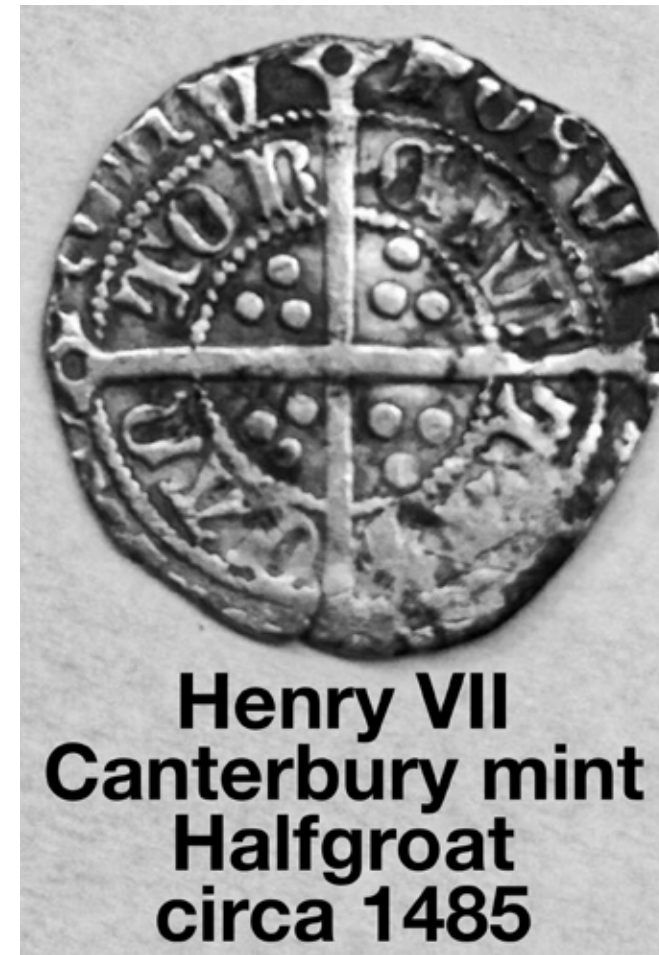
The Community Led Plan subcommittee and Pennington Parish Council would like to express our gratitude to all who have contributed to the development and production of this plan:

Pennington Parish Council; Baywind Energy Community Trust; ACTION with Communities in Cumbria - Fran Richardson; Cumbria County Council - Mike Conefrey & Carol Last; the Head teacher, staff and children of Pennington Church of England Primary School; Councillor Janet Willis; Councillor Andrew Butcher; Councillor Caroline Airey; Councillor James Airey; Community Chat team; a special thank you to Finger prints for their design and printing expertise; and, the CLP team – Angela Scrogham, Helen Storey, Juanita & Colin Houston, Neil Douglas, & Lorraine Thompson and all those who have made contributions along the way.



*St. Michael & The Holy Angels, Pennington*





**Henry VII  
Canterbury mint  
Halfgroat  
circa 1485**







*Paintings of the Parish by Key Stage 2 children from Pennington School*