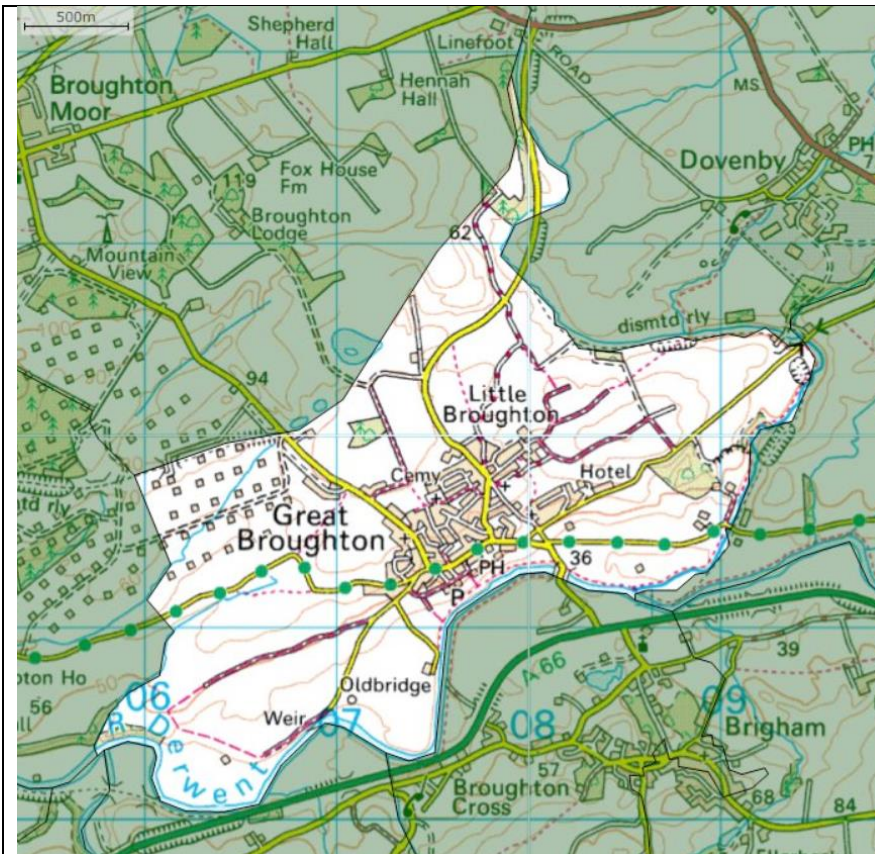


BROUGHTON PARISH PLAN

2024 – 2028



BROUGHTON PARISH PLAN 2024 to 2028

Produced by Broughton Parish Council

e-mail :

broughtonparishclerk@hotmail.com

Website :

<https://broughtonparishcouncil.co.uk/>

Front Cover :

Broughton Bridge & Parish Boundaries

GREAT & LITTLE BROUGHTON

The Parish of Broughton which includes the villages of Great and Little Broughton is situated in the present Cumberland Unitary Authority (previously Allerdale), 3 miles west of Cockermouth and 6 miles east of Workington. It has approximately 850 dwellings ranging from very old cottages to large fashionable houses providing a mixture of rented and owner-occupied accommodation. However, in recent years there has been an increase in second homes and holiday rentals which is influencing availability and affordability for young villagers. The population is a healthy mix of people with a balance of long-standing families and 'off-comers' which tends to make the many social opportunities in the villages well supported.

In the 16th century farming communities began to develop based on the south facing slopes of the moor to the north of the village down to the river terraces of the Derwent. These are fertile and have the best of the sun which is ideal for cultivation. In the 17th century the exploitation of the minerals on the moor to the north of the village began as coal outcropped and was later accessed through bell pits. The discovery of potters' clay led to expert potters coming from Staffordshire who were active as farmers in the growing season and as potters in the winter. In 19th century demand for coal meant real investment was made to work the rich coal seam 200ft below the surface. Extraction of fire clay led to the establishment of brick and tile making and in Little Broughton, domestic pottery and clay pipes were manufactured. The mix of housing we have today is reflective of the substantial houses built by the landowners and entrepreneurs and the cottages and later the social housing estates built for the workers. The owners also established and endowed some village institutions. The community was strongly religious, signified by the construction of a Quaker Meeting House, three non-conformist chapels and a church. They developed their own entertainment through church activities, music, and drama groups. Competitive sports teams, particularly rugby and, later, the annual village carnival, also played their part. At the beginning of the Second World War, the Ministry of Defence enclosed about three square miles of the moor and used it as a naval armaments' depot providing many local jobs. This tract of land, through its security fence, has been defended from intrusion for the last seventy years and has now been returned to Cumberland Unitary Authority and leased for the development of the Derwent Forest master plan. The site is rich in wildlife and historical interest and its future continues to occupy many hours of parish time. This site and the villages have many ancient hedge rows and boundary walls which there is a desire to preserve.

There are many reasons to enjoy living in Great and Little Broughton and of particular highlight is the expansive network of walks enjoyed by many and particularly, dog walkers. In 2021 a booklet was published to highlight the many bridleways, footpaths and accessible routes. The walk across Soddy Gap, a community Asset, and a site once open cast, is particularly enjoyed with the bird life settling on the legacy ponds. The river with its available fishing licence, is also popular and hosts increasing wildlife. The village has 26 seats which not only provide rest but also the opportunity to chat. With a hotel, community pub and 2 other pubs, all with a different feel, refreshment and socialising is close at hand.

In 1927, the mining owners endowed the village hall which thanks to a group of enthusiasts, has been completely renovated in the past 5 years and now hosts activities to suit any age and most interests. This is complemented by a village cricket field, a scout's field and the Red Rose rugby league pitches.

The children's playground on the Welfare Field, is well used and requires significant maintenance, the upgrade of which is one of the focuses of the parish council who have already secured funding for safety netting for the football area and an adult outdoor gym facility.

At one time there were 8 shops in the village and a visiting fish and chip van, but now there is just one shop. Unfortunately, we have lost buses over the last few years which means that car usage has increased making parking and road safety a big issue. Whilst there is still active farming in the village, most people commute to work in the nearby towns and to the nuclear industry although home working has become more prevalent. The village has campaigned long and hard for better access onto the A66 and the Parish Council and others continue to present a strong case despite National Highways decision in 2023 not to proceed.

One of the main stays of the village is the school with its excellent reputation. This is important to maintaining young people within the village and for ensuring associated activities are viable. One of the highlights in the

calendar is the annual July Children's Carnival when the villagers come together to support the beautiful children's floats but also the entertainment provided from the pubs, school, marching bands and other groups.

In 2017, the parish council decided that the allotments could be a much stronger asset for the village and a group was formed to manage a transitional plan. Today we have 102 allotments with 81 tenants who grow an increasingly wide range of produce and have quite a selection of poultry. The waiting list is actively managed, and it is encouraging to note the number of young people requesting plots, which will ensure the future of these well used sites.

Our 9 councillors supported by our clerk have recently undertaken a review and now have an action plan to move forward which includes revising our parish plan, ensuring the Derwent Forest development has local involvement, maintaining Soddy Gap access and to the lovely walls and amenities, developing the Welfare Field and supporting all that makes Great and Little Broughton a good place to live.

Mary Bradley, Chair Broughton Parish Council

VILLAGE SURVEY 2022

The latest village survey was carried out in 2022. A response was received from around 18% of the 776 households within the parish with registered electors, and those who had lived in the village for over 20 years made up the majority of the respondents.

Overall, respondents had a:

- Positive view on the quality of life, community facilities, and community activities within the village, as well as a primarily positive view on the play park.
- Negative view on the cleanliness and tidiness of the village.

Priority issues for villagers from a quantitative analysis of the survey results are:

- Improving Public Transport
- Improving Traffic Calming Measures
- Improving Facilities and Activities for Young People, and
- Improving the Appearance of the Village

Key emerging themes from a qualitative analysis of the survey were:

- Improving Litter within the Village
- Improving the Environment, through Litter Picking, reducing Dog Mess and providing
- visual improvements to the village
- Improving Parking Provision
- Improving the Highways
- Maintaining Footpaths

Of the areas identified in the qualitative analysis, 195 are the responsibility of Cumberland Council, with 113 being the responsibility of the Parish Council. The Parish Council has used the issues and areas arising from the survey to form the basis of the action plan that follows. Actions identified will be those which the Parish Council are able to undertake themselves and will include referral of issues to the relevant authorities where responsibility sits outside the remit of the Parish Council.

ACTION PLAN

Explanatory Notes

This Action Plan presents the issues identified by the community through the 2022 survey and public consultation.

Issues are grouped under the broad headings of **The Environment, Roads & Transport, Community, Communications, Housing & Employment**

Actions are those the Parish Council will take in relation to a particular Issue. However, in some instances, the Parish Council will refer the issue to a higher authority (e.g. the County Council, where they have responsibility for the issue) or will encourage members of the public to take action themselves.

The Parish Plan will be published via the Parish Council Website and there will be a regular agenda item in Parish Council meetings to progress issues and update the plan.

List of Abbreviations used in the Action Plan

CC	CC Cumberland (County) Co	PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
HA	Housing Associations	PC	PC Parish Council
NH	National Highways	VHC	Village Hall Committee

THE ENVIRONMENT

Issues

There are concerns about the amount of litter around the village

There are concerns about the amount of dog-fouling on paths

It has been suggested that more tree planting within the village should take place

Weed control on footpath edges seems to have disappeared

Better protection of 'Green' areas (e.g. 'The Green') from vehicle access etc

The public footpaths need to be cut back and maintained to allow and encourage access

River contains unsafe levels of sewage

Number	Action	Joint Organisation & Partners
E0	Facebook campaigns to ask people to take their litter home and use their own domestic bins.	PC
E1	PC to consider organising regular litter picks in line with the Cumberland Council Anti-Social Behaviour Policy	PC/CC
E2	PC to consider whether to recruit village handyman within required Cumberland Council guidelines	PC/CC
E3	Feedback Street Cleaning concerns to Cumberland Council and request additional signage and path stencils	CC
E4	PC working with others to consider a program of tree planting in line with West Cumbria Forrest	PC
E5	Feedback weed control concerns to Cumberland Council	CC
E6	Feedback concerns re maintenance of 'Green' areas to Cumberland Council	CC/Housing Associations
E7	PC to ensure that an adequate maintenance plan exists for public footpaths and bridleways	CC

E8	Monitor sewage levels via United Utilities website and lobby appropriately	PC/United Utilities

ROADS & TRANSPORT

Issues

Review number of 'Grit Bins' to better support villagers during icy weather

Condition of roads – potholes etc

Current speed calming inadequate - speed limits not adhered to

There is inadequate provision of parking spaces within the village and a number of its estates leading to parking on paths or traffic obstruction

There is inadequate provision of public transport to serve the needs of the Village

Some of the Parish's Road signage is in a poor state of repair

Lack of a footpath between Little Broughton & Soddy Gap (part of a popular walk) is a safety issue

Some footpaths (e.g. Pumping House Lane) need to be improved underfoot and better lit

More dropped kerbs are required for the use of mobility scooters and wheelchairs

Improve pedestrian walkways on Main Street

Improve ease of access to/from village via A66 Roundabout

There are ongoing concerns as to the safety of the Great Broughton/Little Broughton junction

Number	Action	Joint Organisation & Partners
T1	PC to request grit bin review from Cumberland Council	CC
T2	PC to request resurfacing/surface dressing to Cumberland Highways for identified roads/streets within Parish	CC
T3	Feedback Highways concerns to Cumberland Council where it is felt that current speed calming is inadequate	CC
T4	Feedback concerns over traffic speed and near misses to Cumbria Police	PCSO
T5	Feedback public transport concerns to Cumberland Council and Bus Operator	CC/Stagecoach/Local Providers
T6	PC to chase up request to repair/replace the signs	CC
T7	PC to establish how footpath joining Little Broughton/Soddy Gap could be achieved and what funds could be available	With local councillor/CC
T8	Feedback footpath concerns to Cumberland Council	CC
T8	Feedback mobility access concerns to Cumberland Council	CC
T9	Feedback concerns re pedestrian walkways on Main St to Cumberland Council	CC
T10	Continue to lobby National Highways re A66 Roundabout	NH
T11	Feedback concerns re LB/GB junction to Cumberland Council and request survey/review undertaken to appease concerns	CC
T12	Consider how we maintain and provide better access (Currently narrow steps down) to River Derwent on the Cockermouth side	With local councillor/CC

COMMUNITY

Issues

There is a request for the provision of more activities in the Village Hall (e.g. Table Tennis)

There is a suggestion to improve the signage at the entrance(s) to the village – see T6 (Transport)

Play park requires a revamp and consider more facilities for young

Consider how to best use the disused telephone box (by the post office/shop) to prevent it from becoming an eyesore

Consider more seating/benches around the village

Refurbishment of existing seating/benches around the village

Reinstate picnic area/benches at play area

Ensure allotments are fully utilised and maintained in accordance with tenancy agreements/allotment association guidelines

Could current network of footpaths provide a walking track, nature trail or similar

Capture and utilise history of the village

Difficult to recruit Parish Councillors – vacant places remain unfilled

Number	Action	Joint Organisation & Partners
C1	Feedback suggestion for more activities to Village Hall Committee	VHC
C2	Improved representation from PC on Village Hall Committee or vica versa	VHC
C3	PC to seek appropriate funding streams to allow playpark upgrade/refurbishment	PC/Funding Streams
C4	Create plan for revamp of play park (underway) and deliver improvements (underway), including consideration for picnic benches	PC
C5	Pull together a plan for how to best use the telephone box for the good of the village	PC
C6	PC to carry out review of provision and maintenance of seating/benches in communal areas	PC
C7	Improved representation from PC on Carnival Committee or vica versa	PC/Carnival Committee
C8	PC to work with Allotment holders and their representatives	PC
C9	PC to work with others to look at potential for promoting more imaginative use of Footpaths and Bridleways	PC
C10	PC to pursue Heritage Lottery Grant to enable memories/memorabilia to be captured	PC
C11	To promote the role and value of being a Parish Councillor	PC
C12	To canvass volunteers for a Village Action Group and then actively support formation of group	PC

PARISH COMMUNICATIONS

Issues

It is unclear as to the role of the PC within the local community

PC needs to keep community better informed of matters of interest

Most activities in the village are not initiated or organised by the parish council

PC does not have a social media presence (i.e. Facebook)

Website needs to be the primary focal point for village Information

Insufficient Village Noticeboards

Number	Action	Joint Organisation & Partners
P1	PC to develop existing PC Website and promote its use as first port of call	PC
P2	PC to communicate more regularly with villagers through Social Media, Website, notice boards and other media (e.g. Village Newsletter)	PC
P3	Consider regular press release to Times and Star.	PC
P4	Set up Parish Council Facebook Page to improve communications.	PC
P5	Parish council walk rounds/better engagement in areas of village to canvass and listen to local opinion on priorities	PC
P6	Consider the leadership role of the Parish Council in the community	PC

HOUSING & EMPLOYMENT

Issues

Provision/availability of housing to younger generations to remain within village

Proposals to develop new housing on Derwent Forrest

Effective contribution to community planning (Expansion of Village, Infill sites)

Understand barriers to enabling access to employment and further education whilst living within the village

Encourage development of reliable and fast broadband

Increasing number of second homes/holiday lets within village

Number	Action	Joint Organisation & Partners
H1	Work with and feedback to Housing Associations to ensure adequate provision for those within village who want to get onto housing ladder	HA
H2	PC to be proactive in discussions around Derwent Forrest and any impact of development on local community	PC
H3	PC to pro-actively support Cumberland Council in development of updated Community Plan	PC
H4	PC to understand impact of last (Allerdale BC) Housing Survey	PC
H5	Understand whether the perceived barriers to access employment/further education is a live issue	PC

VERSION CONTROL

Version	Date	Notes
DRAFT	March 2024	Draft issued to Parish Council for review
1.0	April 2024	Version 1 incorporates minor changes/corrections. Approved for publication at April PC meeting, 23/4/24