

Lorton Parish Council Community Survey 2024

Summary and Analysis of Responses

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1 Introduction

The following is an analysis of the questionnaires received from the community as part of the Parish Council's Community Survey carried out in the Spring of 2024.

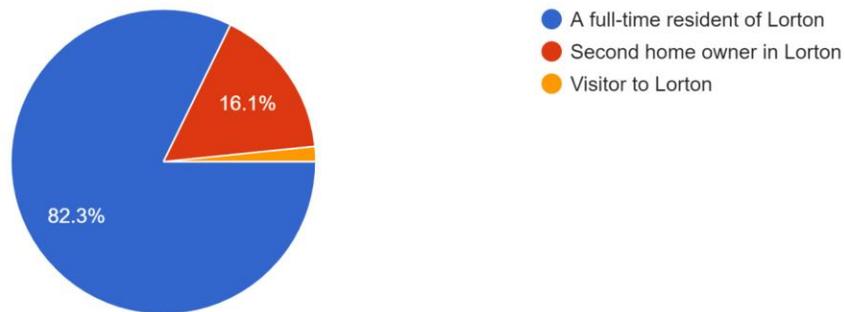
The purpose of the survey was to collect the views of the community of life here in Lorton, and to help the Parish Council plan for the future.

We have also attempted to summarise the results of the survey.

2 Q13. Make-up of respondents

62 questionnaires were returned. The majority are full-time residents of Lorton (51 FT, 10 SHO, 1 Visitor). The PC also received a written letter responding to the survey; however this letter cannot be included in the statistics as it did not follow the questionnaire format.

Are you a:
62 responses



3 Q1. How satisfied are you with the quality of life in Lorton?

The majority, 42 respondents, believe the overall quality of life is excellent. This is followed by 17 respondents believe it is good, and 3 respondents believe the overall quality of life needs improvement. Their reasons relate to:

- Dangerous speed of traffic on Low Lorton road.
- Transport. That it would be beneficial if bus services to Cockermouth and Keswick ran year-round.
- Dog fouling in the churchyard.
- Impact of Airbnb.
- A feeling that more people need to be involved (in the community) and use the shop.

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The reasons respondents believe the quality of life is excellent or good relate to:

- Location/geography -unspoilt countryside, stunning views of fells.
- Beautiful place, unspoiled by overdevelopment, traditional character
- Not dominated by tourism, unspoilt, no too touristy
- Friendly community, a sense of collective wellbeing, peacefulness

Concerns raised relate to:

- Speeding and traffic
- Pedestrian and road safety
- Community amenities

Selection of comments:

“(We) couldn’t imagine a better place to live”

“A lovely little Lake District community with all the amenities and proximity to Cockermouth.”

“Beautiful surroundings, lots to do in the village and really nice people living there”

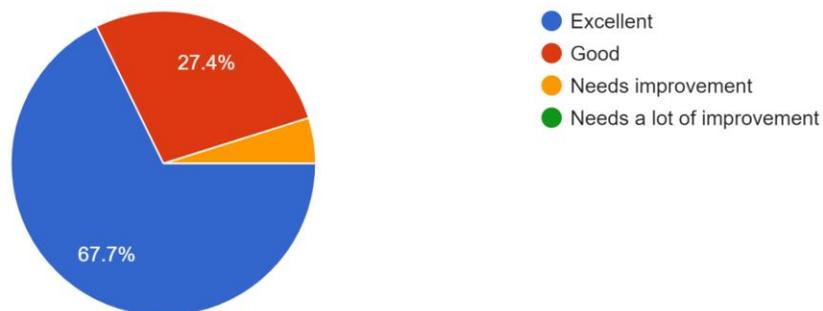
“It is a supportive, welcoming and friendly place to live”

“Great range of clubs, excellent shop and friendly pub. Lovely community. Well maintained communal facilities.”

“Lake District village without the tourists”

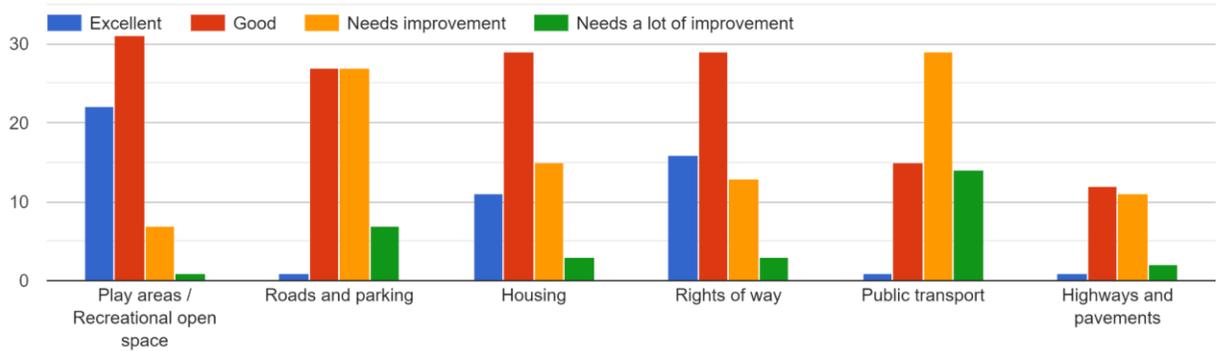
How satisfied are you with the overall quality of life in Lorton?

62 responses



4 Q2. How would you describe the following services?

How would you describe the following services?



- Play areas / Recreational open spaces ranked highly, receiving the most responses rated as 'excellent' and 'good'.
- Roads and parking and Public transport are areas that many respondents believe need improvement or need a lot of improvement. This is followed by Housing then Rights of Way.

Key themes for each service based on further comments and reasons provided:

Play areas / Recreational open spaces

- The Parish Field, tennis club, and village walks are excellent.
- The Parish Field is not used to its full potential, more could be done to engage people or activities in that recreational space.

Roads and parking

- Roads have numerous potholes and require better maintenance.
- Parking is limited, particularly around the Village Hall and school.
- People parking on narrow roads cause traffic, pedestrian, and cycle safety issues.
- Traffic/congestion control methods are suggested.
- A car park could support the shop, village hall, and homes without parking areas.

Housing

- Affordable housing is appreciated but scarce.

- Many properties are holiday homes or second homes, making it difficult for locals to find housing - to buy or rent.
- Many properties are being redeveloped into high-value homes, reducing the quantity of bungalows and first-time buyer stock.
- Policies for managing the affordable housing, planning developments, holiday home and second home use are suggested.

Rights of Way

- Some footpaths flood and get muddy making them difficult to use.
- Safe routes for pedestrians and cyclists are suggested including a safe routes to school scheme, making Church Lane one-way.
- Clearer rights of way/permissive routes to local fells are suggested.

Public transport

- Increased bus services to local towns and villages including Cockermouth and Keswick are welcome. The available summer service is well used but it is not offered in the winter outside of tourist season.
- A community bus or car pool system has been suggested

Highways and pavements

- Speed restrictions and or traffic calming measures are needed throughout the village. Areas of concern include Low Lorton thoroughfare, Whinlatter pass including High Lorton/Holemire Road area.
- Potholes are a consistent problem. Suggestions include resurfacing Church Lane and Tenters Lane.
- Some roads are poorly lit and don't have pavements, making them unsafe to walk on especially in the winter.
- Drainage on roads is a problem in Low Lorton

Selection of comments:

"The infrastructure belongs to a bygone age and does not serve the community well."

"The parish field, tennis club and walks around the village are all excellent facilities. For indoor recreation, there are any amount of activities you can get involved with in Yew Tree Hall. Walking and parking are easy enough (if you're ok with a short walk sometimes). The main thoroughfare needs a speed restriction and a weekly bus service to and from Cockermouth would be beneficial - not just in summer."

"It's a rural village for its size has all the necessary amenities. The village shop is fantastic and should be supported by all"

“Could do with more children's play facilities / The parking could be improved especially school and village hall / Public transport is only a bus to Keswick every 2 hours over the summer months. You need to have access to private transport to live in the village. The £2 bus fair does encourage use when it is a viable option / The village needs a speed limit and cars need to be encouraged to slow down.”

“Cars take priority in rural villages, more needs to be done to prioritize other modes of transport, make these safe and practical options. Safe routes to school schemes, pathways and bridleways that connect the village/offer joined up off road rights of way. Swing on playing field needs a bit of TLC. Cars should not be parked on pavements.”

“Lorton is a typical middle class neighbourhood. No better or worse than others. It benefits from the surrounding visual landscape. It is poorly served by facilities and relies on its proximity to Cockermouth.”

5 Q3. What interests you: Which community activities are you involved with or attend?



| Community activity | Mentions |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Film Club | 37 |
| Derwent Fells History Society | 29 |
| Melbreak Communities Wildlife Group | 29 |
| Lorton Vale Gardening Club | 28 |
| Lorton School Community Lunch | 22 |
| Table Tennis Club | 18 |
| Melbreak Dark Sky | 17 |

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|-----------------------------|----|
| Lorton Tennis Club | 15 |
| Melbreak Creative workshops | 12 |

The majority, 58 of the 63 responders, take part in at least one community activity. 3 responded that “I do not take part in any”, and 2 respondents did not respond: but all 5 provided feedback as part of their response which included that they work full-time, time with other responsibilities was an issue, they were getting too old, or lived out of the area.

Respondents show a keen interest in history and heritage, gardening and environmental projects, sports activities, children and family activities, and more general community activities such as coffee and cake. This is an active community involved in a range of interests with many satisfied with what is on offer.

Some respondents call for more people to use services like the village shop and pub to ensure their longevity. St Cuthberts is also named as a specific asset with members of the congregation welcoming people to the village. There is also a call for more youth engagement/ascites for people in their twenties and younger.

6 Q4. What interests you: Are there activities or projects you would like to see running in the community?

Key interests or features that respondents suggested, and that do not already feature, include:

- Cricket pitch
- Art out West
- Art sessions/ group (opposed to class)
- More coordination between YTH and pub
- Youth engagement
- Allotment/ growing food
- Village Library
- Multicultural activities

Selection of comments:

“It’s brilliant that there are opportunities to celebrate and support the wildlife in Lorton and so many sports and society events taking place.”

“The new Malthouse Club is an example of an initiative I support and typical of what happens in the village with new residents bringing new ideas. In past years the Table Tennis Club, Film Club, Melbreak Communities and Community First Responders all started in similar ways. New ones will emerge in the future.”

“Walking the local guide book available from the shop is a must for any visitor holiday guest.”

“The community coffee mornings are a great idea. Art sessions are a great way to improve mindfulness and can include all generations and skill sets.

The Pub Quiz is also a great social pastime.”

7 Q5. What might stop you from taking part in activities and projects or accessing community services?

As mentioned in question 5’s response, what stops respondents taking part includes:

- Timing /full-time work
- Not here enough
- Nothing
- Comments on the condition and ambiance of the village hall were also made, suggesting they need improving so people can access a warm, hospitable environment.

Selection of comments:

“Many take place during the day - (this) can be an issue if you work during the week/work full time”

“Many activities are mainly attended by people in a very different age range, we are in our 20s.”

“Facilities are poorly accessed, cold and uncomfortable.”

“Lack of transport”

“The only thing that comes to mind is that if I was severely constrained to a wheelchair I would not be able to get into the Hall.”

“Parking near YTH and ambiance of the hall. Activities being too expensive”

“I don't hear of anything - is there an email mailing list?”

8 Q6. What could be done to improve access in the Community?

Comments about how to improve access in the community largely fall into three categories:

- In/accessibility of village assets
- Lack of public transport
- Poor rights of way/pavements

Selection of comments:

“Provide a car park to support facilities and allow a cleared road for the bus to go through.

“Consider outdoor platform lift for wheelchair/pram access at Yew tree Hall”

“Developments which prioritise pedestrians and cyclists. For example, 20mph speed limit, and perhaps a 'pedestrian lane' painted on the road where pavements are not possible and signage to reflect prioritisation of pedestrians and cyclists). Improved street lighting would help also.”

“I would also say that the footpath routes near the village could be of much more benefit if they were all stile free and had firm/year-round surfaces.”

9 Q7. What could be done to improve diversity and inclusion in the Community?

The majority of respondents suggested that there was no need for improvement, however barriers to diversity and inclusion were identified, these include:

- (dis)ability access requirements
- Housing and affordability
- Proximity bias/ need for improved transport services

There is also a perception that the village is generally made up of middle class, well off and predominantly older people and that although the community is considered open and welcoming by some, there are suggestions for more community spaces and inclusion efforts. Making activities cheaper or free and improving communication and engagement are some of the suggestions made that could address this.

Selection of comments:

“I guess reduced house prices/more affordable housing, but from a parish point of view, accessibility to Yew Tree Hall.”

“Apart from physical access to the YTH noted above I believe activities are open and welcoming.”

“House prices are possibly a disincentive to a wider diversity of residents hence the comment above.”

“Physically - with difficulty, like many areas of the Lake District or a historic area. But it is those very factors that make the village what it is.”

“Open day/mornings for various clubs where people can have a go/attend without obligation.”

“The village demographic tends to be older, until such time as there is a greater mixture of ages, it will be hard to address this. Making the parish council more inclusive for younger residents would be very helpful.”

“Activities for people in our age range (20's)”

10 Q8. Lorton benefits from having a primary school, village hall, shop, church, pub and community open spaces. Each plays an important part in the daily lives of Lorton’s inhabitants providing much needed services and acting as focal points for events in the community. How do you use and value these assets? Are there any other spaces, buildings, or land that you see as special to the local community in Lorton? Please use this space to tell us your views:

Overall respondents feel lucky to be in a village that has the community assets and surrounds Lorton has and there is an emphasis on the importance of supporting and maintaining these assets to ensure the longevity and character of village life. The public footpaths and Parish Field are highly valued and The Pound is described as a “special place for children and families”.

Many residents use and support many of these assets, attending events, shopping locally or socialising at the pub. The village hall is frequently used for events and activities and the church, though not regularly attended by all, is appreciated for its openness and historical value.

Suggestions for improvements and challenges stated include:

- Improved access to the Yew Tree Hall and Garden/ significant investment needed
- Better coordination and communication among community assets like the pub, shop, and village hall.
- Suggestions for new community amenities, such as village allotments and enhanced open spaces.
- Calls for more community-focused events and greater involvement of local residents in school activities
- Sustainability of Village Shop and Pub
- Utilising the Pub, Village Hall and Church as community spaces.

Selection of comments:

“The playing field, the pound and the network of public footpaths that are altogether beautiful, historical and wild as it should be living in the countryside. The village hall is a useful asset, I do not use the other facilities as much but nice they are here for the community.”

“The shop is really useful.”

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“Our children thrived at the school and we attend village hall events fairly regularly. Only really go to church at Christmas and not really 'pub' people. The shop is now, along with tennis club, our key village 'asset'. The Pound is a special place too and the kids would want to go whenever the sun was out.”

“We need a new village hall built on church lane between the pumping station and the old school house.”

“I do not use the primary school, but I do believe that its playground should be used as a car park outside of school hours, particularly in school holidays

I value the village hall, but believe that it requires further improvement in terms of wheelchair access, kitchen size, increased storage, car park and better use of the basement. I would like to see an independent feasibility study undertaken to access how to make Yew Tree Hall operate better for the benefit of the community.

I value the shop and feel that it would benefit from increased space for a cafe area, and a car park

The church is an underused asset. It has the potential to be used to a far greater extent as a community hall.

The pub is underused at the moment, and thought needs to be given to how it can increase its customer base.

I value the open spaces such as the "pound".

“20 mph signs would improve safety for everyone engaging in these activities. PARKING at village hall is v. difficulty and dangerous.”

Unfortunately I believe that the high number of second homes and holiday lets in Lorton undermine the functioning of the village as a vibrant place to live.”

“We are very lucky in such a small village to have these assets and use them all frequently.”

“My family uses the shop frequently and occasionally the playing field and school playground in the holidays. These are both great. I think more could and should be done to ensure the shop is sustainable for the owners. Perhaps we (residents of Lorton) should all consider if we could use the shop more than we do.

I would value an improved offer at the pub. I understand that it is set up more for tourists/the campsite and would perhaps need a significant investment/changes to become more community focussed, which is a shame as I think a pub with more of a community focus could thrive in the village.”

“The church is a huge space that is underused but like the village hall both are so cold that they are not a pleasant environment to be in.

The Parish field is an underused space.

We need a fit for purpose village hall that can be used by all members of the community”

“School - more input from locals would be beneficial - reading, nature walks type of thing.

Village Hall - draughty/no parking/ poor kitchen facilities/ no disabled access.”

11 Q9. Are there community issues you would like to raise e.g. safety for cyclists, pedestrians, speeding vehicles, lone walking, walking in the dark, littering, dog fouling.

Community issues respondents would like to raise fall into 4 categories:

Road safety

- Signage of cycles from Low Lorton to Hundith Hill crossroads
- Speed restriction in village e.g. 20 mph limit in village
- Walls falling onto road

Nuisances

- Littering
- Dog fouling

Rights of way

- Gravel footpaths
- Improvement of footpaths

Climate change

-

Comments about further education about Dark Skies, Crummock Water weir, and improvements to the Village Hall were also made.

Selection of comments:

“Safety for cyclists and pedestrians is an issue - cars parked along road sides mean people often have to weave between cars to get passed one another. Speed of cars in Low Lorton and on Whinlatter by pass are an issue. Poor parking on junctions.”

“Yes, climate change is a major issue for us all. A large part of valley bottom towards Cockermouth could be crucial in preventing flooding downstream. Where the increasing wet weather is encouraging the spread of soft reed, the land is becoming less viable for sheep and cattle farming. Is there a case for more tree planting on such land, either commercial willow or forest trees.”

“Is there anything we can do as a community in the journey to net zero - improving building’s efficiency/renewable energy initiatives?”

“Corner of Wheatsheaf dangerous vehicles do not slow down!

Speeding through village and vehicles often don’t slow down for pedestrians.

If footpaths were gravelled then they could be used more as often too muddy to access. Well done for the new hard surface footpath in Low Lorton near the new houses so much safer than the road on the bend.

Dog fouling is always a problem wish owners would pick up after their dogs

YTH needs improvement- lack of parking, better access and heating. Making it more of a welcoming and usable space.”

12 Q10. What would you like to see in Lorton in ten years time (2034)?

Essentially, respondents would like to preserve Lorton’s character and ensure its long term appeal by enhancing and supporting its community assets and amenities. There is an emphasis on:

- preserving green spaces and historical buildings and maintaining the villages charm
- more wildlife and conservation efforts,
- improving transport services
- attracting more families, and young families

There are suggestions for a more community focused pub with a wider range of offerings, more sustainable initiatives like renewable energy sources, and a desire for a community plan or agreement to guide future development (housing and land usage) to maintain the villages identity.

Selection of comments:

“Our existing assets school hall and church and sport activities, year round bus service.”

“More full time residents, fewer houses used (rarely) as second homes.”

“Safe walking routes for pedestrians especially for children and people with disabilities.”

“More local occupancy continuing shop. Continuing activities.”

“No more new houses, makeover for the Yew Tree Hall, less second homes and holiday homes.”

“More young people.”

“Social housing. More children.”

“A village hall that has plenty of parking, easy access and better heating.”

“New village hall with parking. Community allotments”

“More young families. Lorton feels to be at risk of becoming almost entirely home to OAPs and second-homers, which completely disables the ability for community.”

“Very much as it is. Perhaps some decent proper low cost social housing.”

“I would like to see the community working together to make the most of our area and landscape to be more sustainable and 'self'/village sufficient. There's plenty of land around (obviously under private ownership) but how about looking at opportunities for community utilities such as wind/solar power, community ground source heat pumps, local spring water even? It's easy to dismiss this sort of idea as fanciful, but I think but the way utilities are managed in this country is a complete farce and the costs of providing them are only going to rise. There is natural resource locally to provide much of what's needed to the village.”

“Much the same as now. Plus a decent year round bus or community transport to town. A 20 mph speed limit; some public electric fast charge point for cars. A bigger and better shop. It would be nice to have some allotments.”

13 Q11. What would you choose to change about Lorton?

There were many replies of “nothing”, or similar wording. Many respondents again would like to preserve Lorton’s character and ensure its long term appeal by enhancing and supporting its community assets and amenities.

An emphasis was on:

- Housing: Reduction in the number of second homes to ensure more permanent residents.
- Community Spaces: Suggestions included developing more recreational spaces, such as a cricket pitch.
- Traffic: Implementing measures to reduce traffic and improve road safety.

Selection of comments:

"I'd like to stay as it is, except for unfinished houses no more new homes!"

"Speed limit for vehicles, more pedestrian pavements."

"Nothing."

"Younger people participate more in attending and running community events."

"20 mile an hour everywhere."

"Less holiday homes and more full time residents to support local assets."

"More young people."

"Better parking...somehow pavements...somehow."

"Bigger opportunities for younger people in the village.."

"Fewer second homes and more permanent residents."

"The Parish Council needs to embrace change and be more forward thinking about the village needs. It seems to be run by people who want it run their way - and are not open to other people's views. Try visiting other villages and their community spaces to see what can be done."

"More thoughtful and sympathetic planning and design of new builds. Fewer holiday homes."

"Better public transport."

"Fewer second homes and holiday lets."

"School a shop, a church, a pub, ideally the same ones under the same management, younger demographic, a younger parish council and less unoccupied second homes."

"No flooding and less rain."

14 Q12. What do you like most about Lorton?

Respondents clearly highlight the sense of community and the beauty of the natural surroundings as key things they like most about Lorton.

Selection of comments:

"Its character and location, it is a beautiful and mostly unspoilt Lakeland village that is off the beaten track but stunning and quiet, it is also an incredibly friendly place and a lovely spot to live. The trees, including the historic yews and hedgerows and fields, helps to make it feel a very green and pleasant village, full of rare and not so rare wildlife, which makes it really special and should be celebrated/ protected more."

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"The quiet and the natural connection to the country. The sense, also, that there is still a real a community here."

"The surroundings"

"The people and its setting."

"It's sense of calm"

"The community."

"That I can walk everywhere safely day and night; that I will know or at least recognise most people I see; and that most people are considerate and tolerant of others. There is a tremendous reservoir of kindness as evidenced when people fall ill or have accidents and this reflects the strong community spirit here."

"There is a strong interest and support for environmental issues which has been supported by the Parish Council and the Melbreak Communities."

"Being able to walk around, take in the nature - real working farms - friendly community."

It's my home. Family been here for generations. By the beck in the gardens at yew tree hall - idyllic! Energetic and dynamic community"

15 Q14. Is there any other information or views you would like us to know about for the purpose of this survey about Lorton?

Housing generally, but particularly the lack of affordable housing and the increase in second homes and holiday lets.

Crummock Water Weir is also mentioned

Selection of comments:

I would like to know how the Parish council reflects the views of local residents on bigger issues such as the removing of the weir at Crummock- there has not been a public consultation by the local PCs, yet there will be a planning response made by Lorton PC / collectively the local PCs.

"In spite of the fact that we are second home owners of a house that has been used as a rented holiday house for 40 years, we support restricting any new housing to local occupation at an affordable level. We would hate this to become a "dead" village like many in the southern lakes."

“There is nothing in this survey about the rural environment from the aspects of a) viable farms and associated rural businesses, that have created the landscape we love; and, b) care for the environment in what we do and how we live. It is important that we retain the characteristics of a rural community with rural businesses and services. Initiatives to encourage rural crafts and services might be a way to help prevent the village becoming an over-priced retirement community”

“The survey is a great idea!”

“Maybe the Parish Council could make people better informed about what they can (and cannot) do? I think for example their role in planning is not well understood.”

“The direction of travel for villages in the LDNP is to become ghost villages of second and holiday homes. Lorton is some way behind the villages in the south lakes but is likely to catch up in the next 20 years. To maintain its sense of community it needs to think carefully about its role as a village and how it sustains key facilities. The school needs younger families to live here so build more local occupancy homes. Older people are not well served. Access to facilities is poor and bungalows are demolished. So build more bungalows and keep them in village hands through the use of a housing association. Think how to service industry perhaps by making a tech hub. Attract young professionals who no longer work in an office and for whom the relatively cheap housing in Lorton (yes really!) and local landscape are appealing once the village has fibre optic links.

Overall there needs to be a village vision, looking forward to the future, not back to its Victorian heyday. Without it, what has become a retirement community will morph into a theme park for holidayers, key facilities will shut and the community will be lost.”

“Community views are crucial to the continued success of the community. Therefore, it would be good to see further engagement events where views can be shared.”

“School issue is difficult, few residents in the village are young families, which is what this school needs. You cannot make people join a community but everyone wants the community. Relationship with LDNP and planning. Two recent developments have taken away two bungalows which should have enabled older residents to remain. Problem of second home owners.”

“No requirement for new build as alternative to Yew Tree Hall. YTH needs refurbishment, disabled access and toilets. The characterful building should remain.

77/77a/77c services greatly improved this year BUT no bus service for locals during winter, work with Stagecoach to provide basic Lorton/Cockermouth community bus year round.”

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“If the present Village Hall is to remain drastic measures need to be taken and [land] purchased, opposite the hall for parking. Alternatively, to build a new hall, along the Church Road from the church, and old school house.”

“Stone wall is a historic asset. Recent collapses of short lengths are not being rebuilt so they extend. can owners be encouraged to repair them? Grants? can voluntary working parties, acquire sufficient skills? is their local expertise?”

16 Summary

There are many ideas that have emerged from the survey.

Our initial assessment is that the priorities for the community, based on the survey results are:

- Care for/protect/preserve what makes Lorton a beautiful place to be - natural and built environment
- Make the most of existing local assets/amenities
- Continue to foster a welcoming community for current and future residents to enjoy.

Based on the survey responses provided, there isn't a strong demand for a new village hall in Lorton. The focus seems to be more on improving existing amenities, preserving the village's natural beauty, and enhancing community activities and facilities. There are mentions of improving the current village hall's appearance and accessibility but not a strong push for building a completely new one. The community values the current amenities and seems more concerned with maintaining and upgrading what they already have rather than calling for entirely new infrastructure like a new village hall.

16.1 Extract of key Issues

- Speeding vehicles, particularly in Low Lorton
 - Designated pedestrian walkway?
- Parking
 - Lack of parking
 - Inconsiderate parking
- Transport
 - Poor public transport
- Accessibility, particularly to YTH
- Rights of way and path maintenance
- Housing
 - Lack of affordable housing
 - Second homes and holiday lets
- Dark skies
 - Some respondents want more street lights, others want fewer
 - Excess “security” lighting
- Crummock Water weir removal

16.2 Specific questions that have been asked:

- UU work at Crummock, what Lorton's role is and what has been done to respond and address the issue?
- What is happening about plans for the village hall?

16.3 Themes of questions from survey results:

Public Consultation and Parish Council Transparency:

- How does the Parish Council gather and reflect community views on significant and localised issues (like the removal of the weir at Crummock Water or removal of street/footway lighting, tree and or hedge removal)?
- How can the Parish Council improve transparency and communication with residents?

Infrastructure and Services:

- How can traffic flow and speed limits be better managed to enhance safety and reduce disturbance?
- What steps can be taken to improve public transport, especially during winter months?
- Is there a plan to address parking issues, particularly around key community spaces like the Village Hall?

Housing and community sustainability:

- How can the community encourage more permanent residency and reduce the dominance of second homes?
- What initiatives can attract and support younger families and professionals to settle in Lorton?
- How can the Parish Council help foster a more inclusive environment where all residents feel their views are valued?

16.4 Thematic ideas and suggestions from survey results:

Environmental and Heritage Preservation:

- Protecting green spaces, historic buildings like Yew Tree Hall, and enhancing wildlife habitats.
- Implementing recycling facilities and promoting sustainable practices.
- Maintaining and restoring stone walls

Community Facilities and Activities:

- Improving accessibility and amenities at the Village Hall, including better parking and facilities for events.
- Organising more community activities and events to foster a sense of belonging.
- Supporting local businesses - organising community events/activities in partnership with local businesses

Planning and Development:

- Advocating for thoughtful and sympathetic design of new builds that blend with the village's character.
- Exploring possibilities for a local occupancy housing scheme to prioritise housing for residents over second home owners.

Communication and Consultation:

- Increasing awareness about the role and responsibilities of the Parish Council, particularly in planning and development matters.
- Enhancing communication channels to ensure all residents are informed and involved in local decision-making processes.

16.5 [Draft] Prioritized Issues for Action

Speed and Traffic Control:

- Addressing speeding and enhancing road safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

Housing Policy:

- Managing the balance between second homes and permanent residences to maintain a strong community.

Public Transport:

- Improving public transport services to better connect Lorton with surrounding areas.

Community Amenities:

- Developing and maintaining recreational spaces and ensuring they meet the needs of all age groups.