

Appendix 1

Identifying the Issues which need tackling and the opportunities which could lead to action

Education

The statistics on page 10 possibly illustrate low expectations of local residents. Only 34 people (of respondents) are currently in further education. It is encouraging, however, that 140 people have indicated that they are interested in gaining qualifications. On the whole, support for the CDC is good and there is much information contained in the questionnaire to help and support them with long-term planning and provision. There is also a lot of support for additional activities in the village and volunteers to back them up.

Care in the Community

The lack of short-term personal/domiciliary care was highlighted in the Working Group report as a problem in the parish. However, there is an opportunity to improve the situation as 107 people volunteered to help in some capacity or other. There is also an opportunity to establish a Good Neighbour Scheme – if 119 people volunteered to take part, they obviously consider that such a scheme is very much needed.

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Litter and dog mess provoked the usual amount of complaints – the subject of litter received over 200 indications that it is a problem and there were many more comments throughout the questionnaire. There is definitely a need for additional bins (not necessarily dog bins) – particularly at the southern half of the village. However, a bit of PR work could be necessary as a worrying number of the comments requested dog/litterbins where they already exist.

389 people (49%) request a greater Police presence in the village.

Environment

Footpaths – these get a lot of mentions and there is clearly a great deal of support for some form of guide, both for visitors and residents. There is a good opportunity to set up an environment group to help with the obviously needed maintenance.

Pavements – again, mentioned a lot of times, not in a big way, but repeatedly throughout the questionnaire, which indicates that it is a real concern for certain groups of the population.

Recycling – there was a huge amount of support for plastic recycling within the village. The existing facilities are very well used but it is difficult to know whether the situation will have changed following the start of EDC's green box scheme. However, for householders serious about recycling, the green box is totally inadequate and it would be preferable to encourage people to sort and recycle in Shap for the benefit of Shap.

Heritage - there is a very good opportunity to improve the dated image of Shap with the support of 61% of returns favouring an attractive focal point for the village. An improvement scheme could also be linked in with other popular suggestions – community woodland (52%) and the restoration of sites of historical sites (45%).

Concrete Road – 59.5% of returns are against closing the Concrete Road to motor vehicles.

Transport

Buses – 494 people (62%) never use the bus service, but there were a lot of requests for an increased service, particularly for later services between Penrith/Shap/Kendal.

Railway station – this idea attracted the support of 56% of the people returning questionnaires. However, the information did not reveal how frequently a rail service stopping in Shap would be used.

Highways

This section of the questionnaire required detailed examination. There are a lot of complaints about parking and danger spots as well as a considerable proportion of the community commenting on speeding. The direct question about speeding confirmed that 54% of individuals think that it is a problem.

Sport and Leisure

Although, according to the questionnaire, there are only 91 users of the Sports Hall, there is a lot of interest in the additional activities which could be provided there, eg 229 votes for a gym. It also ranked very highly as an area for improvement and investment – particularly where youth activities are concerned.

Services

Dentist - the desire for a dental service in Shap features quite highly – a situation which is probably more significant following the recent closure of an NHS practice in Penrith.

Nat West - 59% of positive support for a Nat West cash point machine.

Shap Today - very popular as a guide to what's on in the village. It received a lot of support and positive comments about possible expansion. The noticeboard is also surprisingly popular but in need of attention.

Youth

The biggest thing which stands out of the questionnaire is the problem of addressing the needs of the young in the village. Their needs and problems (sometimes they are the problem) appear frequently in different sections of the report and over half of the total responses positively indicated that more activities were needed for young people.