

Burneside Action Plan Project Final Report



PLACED
PLACE EDUCATION

Side Action Plan Project: Share your views

Residents and
visitors to the village

So far, we received contributions from:

- 43 survey respondents
- 44 unique visitors to the website
- 67 comments on the ideas wall
- 2 meetings on village workshops and 20 people from St Oswald's CE Primary School
- 12 local residents on an online workshop

In addition we have had conversations with local organisations including Burnside Residents Association, Burnside Church, The Burnside Community Centre, The Burnside Village Hall, Burnside Village Surgery, Burnside Village Shop, Burnside Village Post Office, Burnside Village Library, Burnside Village Club, Burnside Village Youth Club, Burnside Village Tennis Club, Burnside Village Football Club, Burnside Village Golf Club, Burnside Village Cricket Club, Burnside Village Badminton Club, Burnside Village Table Tennis Club, Burnside Village Chess Club, Burnside Village Darts Club, Burnside Village Bowls Club, Burnside Village Snooker Club, Burnside Village Billiards Club, Burnside Village Pool Club, Burnside Village Golf Club, Burnside Village Cricket Club, Burnside Village Badminton Club, Burnside Village Table Tennis Club, Burnside Village Chess Club, Burnside Village Darts Club, Burnside Village Bowls Club, Burnside Village Snooker Club, Burnside Village Billiards Club, Burnside Village Pool Club.

Burnside Action Plan Project: What happens next?

What happens next?

We have had productive conversations with a wide range of people from the community. There is the potential and desire for the community to make things happen through a collective effort.

There is an agreement about what will be produced, no budget constraint and no fixed time scale for when it will happen. It is hoped that future projects and developments will be funded by contributions with the community at the end of the engagement period, we will put together a full report that will be shared publicly along with the Community Action Plan.

Our Community Action Plan workshop is a general step forward in moving elements of the community back to the front of the queue in making things happen. In order to make things happen, it is crucial that the community has the opportunity and capability to lead through the process to achieve goals.

Join the Community Action Plan Workshop

Join our 'Thinking in Community Action Plan' workshop on Wednesday 16th May 10:30 - 12:30 for more.

Thank you to all the people for every minute for how to sign up.



Introduction

PLACED have been working with Ann Hall, a Community Projects Lead, to understand how local people in Burnside could make activities and positive change happen in the village in the short, medium, and long-term. This project is intended to capture early-stage aspirations for the area, and there is no set funding available beyond this engagement activity. Through this project, the idea of a 'Community Action Group' has been discussed as a way to enable the community to make projects happen in sustainable ways that do not rely on funding.

The purpose of the project was understanding community aspirations which could guide future activity.

Engagement programme

Below is an overview of the engagement programme:

- **Community stakeholder workshop**
22nd March
- **Social PinPoint website**
16th April – 4th July
- **Public virtual workshop and conversation**
5th May
- **Young people's workshop**
13th May
- **Primary school workshop**
25th May
- **Pop-up interim workshop**
2nd – 3rd July
- **Community Action Plan workshop**
7th July

Engagement activity

Community Stakeholder Workshop

The first workshop introduced PLACED and the engagement project to members of the community who are already active at a local level, such as the Residents' Association, the Parish Council and South Lakes Housing.

An interactive presentation over Zoom was used to collect feedback on different aspects of the project. This initial workshop was aimed at getting feedback on the initial engagement strategy, understanding ambitions for the engagement and identifying key communities to reach.

From this workshop, 'Involving local people' rated as the top priority.

Some people were unsure about the involvement of Ellergreen as they were uncertain about what their 'true' intentions were for the engagement. Others were pleased that the focus of the project was about community involvement and self-led activity, as opposed to waiting for other organisations or funders to make things happen.

From this workshop, there were conversations about 'wants' and 'needs' for things to happen. There have been several Community Action Plans in Burneside, and some were concerned that this method had been tried before whilst nothing changed. Consequently, our engagement strategy moving beyond this workshop focused on collecting:

- Short-term goals
- Mid-term goals
- Long-term vision

This allowed us to capture a broad view of how to enhance the village quickly, and also identify bigger ambitions that could be worked towards in time.

In line with the aspirations identified for community involvement, a strong focus of the engagement strategy was how people could be involved and play an active role, from volunteering to leading groups.

Online engagement: Social Pinpoint website

Due to Covid restrictions, we set up a website (www.placed-engagement.org.uk/burneside/) where people could share their views in two ways:

- An Ideas Wall where participants could post comments and react to other people's contributions publicly
- A short survey made of open and multiple-choice questions that people could complete anonymously

Public virtual workshop and conversation

We ran a virtual workshop over Zoom that was open to the wider public. We used interactive presentation software to lead a conversation about what immediate changes participants would like to see, their long-term aspirations, and what barriers they could identify for engagement.

Young people's workshop

To ensure young voices were heard as part of this engagement project, we ran two workshops, one targeted at young people and the other catered for school children.

A virtual workshop was held over Zoom to get young people's perspectives on how they felt about Burneside now, and what they'd like to see happen in the future.

We invited the participants to comment on maps of Burneside and Bowston to tell us the places, buildings and activities that currently exist that they liked or that needed improving. We then asked them to upload images into a group collage to visualise the types of spaces, activities and events they would like to see happen, and how they might be a part of it.

Children's school workshop

We ran an hour-long workshop over Zoom for a class at St Oswald's Primary School starting with a presentation to introduce the children to the aims of the engagement. The activities included:

- Identifying what they liked about Burnside
- Identifying what they did not like about Burnside
- Drawing a picture of Burnside to show what types of buildings, spaces and activities they would like to see

Pop-up interim workshop

In response to relaxations of Covid social distancing, PLACED ran an 'Ed the Campervan' event on Millennium Green on Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd July.

This workshop was an opportunity to present the findings of the engagement to date to members of the public, and also move the conversation forward to understand how the 'wish list' of engagement could be made a reality by the community.

An Interim Report was made available both online and in-person at the pop-up event to communicate what we had heard so far.



Community Action Plan workshop

The final workshop focussed on ways to make a community action group happen, including how to do so in the face of potential negative comments or local barriers.

Taking the format of a risk assessment, we presented the group with barriers that the community had identified to discuss how we could address them as a group. The options were to avoid, transfer, mitigate, or accept the risk.

All of the group were positive in their desire to see things happen locally, and many stated that a good focus for the group would be to be a

'hub' where different organisations and activities could be promoted, people could network and share resources, and all the activities happening could be found in the same place to encourage people to attend events and get involved themselves.

The workshop ended with a plan for participants to meet up with Ann Hall in person the following week to keep the up momentum and work towards a programme of summer events.



Total numbers engaged

In total:

- 47 people completed the online survey
- 25 people left 93 comments on the digital Ideas Wall
- 5 people attended the Community Stakeholder workshop
- 12 people attended the public virtual workshop and conversation
- 2 young people attended the online young people's workshop
- 21 children took part in the school workshop
- 20 people attended the pop-up events on Millennium Green
- 9 people attended the final action planning workshop

Results: What you said

We asked local people to identify the strengths and issues they felt were characteristic of Burneside. From this discussion, people were invited to suggest projects and goals for the village that could then become part of a Community Action Plan. The following section presents an overview of the current views of the village before detailing goals and aspirations for the future.

Happening now:

Strengths

Survey participants were asked "What makes Burneside special? What are its strengths? and invited to select answers from a list. Their votes were as follows:

Strengths	Number of survey respondents
Location	33
Environment	27
Community	24
History	21
Business	12
Education	8
Buildings/Built heritage	7
Identity	6
Services	5
Other	7

Throughout this survey and the rest of our engagement, the following views were shared:

- **Location and environment** were quoted as strengths for the village. People who expressed this view said they liked the proximity to the Lake District and walking routes such as the Dales Way, and the proximity with Kendal, while being a separate village that has its own identity.
- **The local history and community** were also considered as positives for the village. The Paper Mill was often mentioned when talking about heritage. The existing community groups and activities were also appreciated.

Issues

A diverse range of views were shared regarding issues currently facing Burneside. The most frequently discussed topics were:

- **Local businesses**
 - **Shop:** Complaints were made by people who felt the current shop doesn't fulfil its potential, and would love to see more local produce, fresh fruit and veg and seating.
 - **Pub:** People who commented on the pub found it to be intimidating and not family-friendly.
 - **Lack of food and drink offers:** People talked about having to drive out of the village to buy their lunch or go to a café.
- **Infrastructure**
 - **The public toilet and the school gate were highlighted as things that could be repaired.** During our pop-up event, a Councillor gave an update regarding the school gate, explaining that the school currently has no budget for this and is in the process of raising funds.

- **The playground was identified as needing repair and considered to be somewhere you don't stay for long.** However, it was pointed out that work is already under way in this area.

• Transport

- People who talked about transport complained about the **lack of public transport** to and from Kendal and roads being unsafe.
- **Heavy Goods Vehicles** driving through the village were considered to cause noise issues and damage to the roads.

• Difference in opinions of local community

- One shared view was that the local community was divided and not interested in local events or coming together. People who shared this view generally have felt disappointed by the lack of interest in activity from the community in the past. They also were not part of existing groups.
- In contrast, another shared view was that there is a diversity of events taking place in Burneside and that they are well attended. People who expressed this view communicated a wish to bring together the groups that are already active in Burneside. They were often involved in one or several groups.

• Other

- Litter was identified as an important issue during the children's and the young people's workshops and was frequently cited as their least favourite thing about Burneside.



What have we heard so far?

What have we heard so far?

Section 1	Section 2	Section 3
Section 4	Section 5	Section 6

The display board features two large panels with the heading "What have we heard so far?". Each panel is divided into a grid of colored sections (red, blue, green, orange, yellow) containing text. Several colorful sticky notes are attached to the panels.

Plan Project: 1975

Plan Project: 1975

The board includes a graphic of a yellow balloon and a logo for "PLACED" featuring a house icon.



Needs and goals

The online survey invited participants to share what they considered to be priorities in Burneside.

What would you like to see more of in Burneside?	Number of votes
Food and drink venues	36
Youth provision	35
Local shops	34
Sports Facilities	26
Transport improvements	21
Arts, culture and museums	16
Community forums	10

Participants were also asked to share their thoughts on the priorities they had selected. Views expressed insisted on the need for community involvement, the provision of activities for young people, and the wish for an attractive shop and café.

Needs and wishes for the village were shared on the Ideas Wall, survey and during our engagement events and workshops. They can be grouped into short, medium and long-term goals:

a) Short-term projects

Short-term projects were defined as those that could be delivered quickly, whether in a few hours, days, weeks, months or within a three year period. Frequent suggestions included:

- **Community activities** such as creating a walking and history of Burneside guide, litter picking, dog poo vigilance, and interest groups such as photography, music or knitting. For children and young people, more clubs and activities.
- **Landscaping elements** were suggested, for example wildflower planting and community benches.

- **Events.** Bike 4 Burneside is currently underway, a Festival of Paper was suggested as well as a pop-up market selling local produce.

b) Medium-term projects

These projects were defined as taking between 3 years and 9 years to complete. They may need greater resources, additional partnerships, funding, time and organisation to complete. These could be more permanent solutions to the short-term projects, and part of a strategy to meet a long-term goal. Frequent suggestions were:

- **Road safety:** Reducing the speed limit through the village and improving footpaths
- **Leisure:** Creating a skate park, Muga or running track, allotments (Willing Field was considered an ideal location)
- **Improvements:** Drains and sewers were considered in need of repair because of blockage issues, especially in Hall Park. People who talked about Hall Park asked for a general improvement of the area.
- **Riverside:** Contributions mentioning the riverside asked for it to be developed and made more attractive.
- **Transport:** An improved public transport offer and safe bike lanes were requested, especially on the road to Kendal.
- **Economy:** People proposed the following:
 - Work and business units
 - Café, food places, bakery
 - Services: community centre, medical and support services, youth provision

c) Long-term projects

We have defined long-term as projects and aspirations that may take 10 years or more to achieve. Long-term projects can be made up of several projects and take a significant amount of time and funding to be realised. Frequent suggestions were as follows:

- **A vibrant heart of the village:** A vision shared was to have a village that is sustainable, attractive and dynamic. Many people aspire for Burneside to be more like Staveley.
- **Paper Mill heritage:** Views for and against celebrating the Paper Mill heritage were shared. Some people feel the Mill brings issues such as heavy vehicles and noise. However, others feel it should be celebrated as a key part of the heritage of Burneside, and that it also brings economic opportunities and jobs.
- **New housing:** Housing that is sustainable, affordable and attracts new people while catering for the specific needs of the local population. There were also discussions about the maximum number of new houses people wished to see, so that Burneside can retain its rural character. Another opinion was that new housing developments would bring funding and allow for improvements that would benefit the whole village.
- **Economy:** There were two opposing views, one wishing for industries to coexist in the village, and the other wishing for the Mill to be closed.
- **Population:** A wish for diversity in generations was shared and for the village to be able to cater for the older generation.
- **Sustainability:** Suggestions included reducing Burneside's carbon footprint and providing alternative energy sources.
- **A new road:** This was proposed by some people who wished for Heavy Goods Vehicles to stop driving through the village.

Community Involvement

One aim of this project was to understand how the people of Burneside could come together to make projects happen for the community. Throughout our engagement, we asked people whether they would like to get involved and if so, in what capacity, and what skills or knowledge they could bring.

The survey allowed respondents to select one or more categories of roles they wished to play in realising the vision they had for Burneside. Results were as follows:

Roles	Number of survey respondents
Be a member of a community group	17
Share my skills and knowledge	16
Raising awareness / marketing	11
Involve my networks	5
Other*	8

Respondents were also asked to specify the skills and knowledge they could bring:

Skills or knowledge	Number of survey respondents
Community engagement	11
Administrative	6
Project management / coordination	6
Fundraising	6
Business	6
Educational	3
Networks	3
Other*	8

*Categories grouped into "Other" received two or less votes.

During our pop-up event, people were invited to select a project they would like to be involved in, and to specify the role they would be willing to play. Projects that were selected were:

- Festivals
- Refurbishing the toilets
- Local shops
- Repairing the school gate
- Reducing the carbon footprint
- Renovating the playground
- Providing youth services
- Housing

People mostly volunteered to lead or be a member of a community group and to share their skills and knowledge.

A view that came from young people was that youth-led initiatives and decision making is important to them, so they have greater agency over their space and social time. Regarding the development of the bike jump track for example, they shared that they enjoy having ownership of making the jumps themselves, rather than having a 'professional' tell them how it should be.

These answers convey an appetite for forming and being part of a strong community that is dynamic and puts enthusiasm into projects.

Timeline: Towards a Community Action Plan

The main objective of the engagement was to understand what local people wish to see happen in Burneside and how the community could carry out projects.

Our engagement work allowed us to gather wishes and concerns from local people regarding their village, but also to hear about good things that are already happening locally, and identify

people who are interested in making more of them happen.

This information gathering forms a positive first step towards a Community Action Plan. This section presents a timeline of the work that has been done and the next steps, followed by some recommendations on how to keep going.

WHAT HAPPENED

- **22nd March:** Online community stakeholder workshop "A vision for Burneside"
- **16th April - 4th July:** Website open for engagement: Ideas Wall and online survey
- **5th May:** Online community stakeholder workshop "A vision for Burneside"
- **13 May:** Young people's digital workshop
- **25th May:** Children's school workshop
- **2nd - 3rd July:** Pop-up workshop on Millenium Green
- **7th July:** Community Action Plan workshop

NOW

- Presenting our findings in this report
- Handing over the Community Action Plan template

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- A group of interested people will be working together to put on Bike 4 Burneside and create a contribution for the Kendal Torchlight Gathering

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Establish an action group that can promote what is happening locally and make small projects happen

FUTURE AMBITIONS

- Work towards short and medium community priorities

Recommendations

a) Starting small

People who spoke about the planning of projects across Burneside suggested to “start small” with projects that could be achieved in a short period of time. Some projects that could be delivered in the next few months are:

- **Pop-up activities**

Pop-ups are a great way to make things happen quickly, to have an impact on the local village life and to gauge appetite for more.

A small event providing activities for young people would help to understand whether there is an interest for this locally. A worker for Kendal Youth Zone put themselves forward to explore possibilities of organising activities for young people in Burneside.

A pop-up market selling local produce could answer the need for a better local retail offer.

A pop-up café would be a first step towards the wish for a food and drink place where people could sit down and socialise.

- **Gathering information, contacts and resources**

It is important to acknowledge that Burneside has groups that are active already, for example the Parish Council and the Residents' Association. An action could be to bring together existing groups to allow exchanges of ideas and to inform people on where they can find support and resources locally. As such, a first step might be collating a list of networks and active individuals in one place. This can be used to gather information and details about what is happening locally and who is involved.

b) Short-term projects

These are projects that need more resources and input, while still being achievable in the short term. As such, they are a logical second step from the projects presented above.

We recommend selecting an idea from the category “Short-term projects” in the first part of this report.

As a reminder, these were:

- Community activities
- Landscaping elements
- Events
- Improvements
- Additions to the village

c) How to make projects happen with an Action Plan

Below we have provided a template for an Action Plan, identifying key considerations and steps when looking to make a project a reality. The aim is to make the project manageable by identifying what needs to be done, who will do it and key deadlines. This is intended to be a working document. As such, tasks and priorities will change as the project develops.

Within this template, we have provided some guidance notes to help those using it to understand the process behind it. Each line should have a single, contained action. A blank template has also been provided.

What is the project?					
Describe the project in a few words. Make sure it's a tangible goal. For example, instead of "Bring the community together", you could write "Put on a community festival this summer".					
When will this be completed?					
Make sure the size of your project is realistic in your timeframe and given the number of people involved. We recommend starting with a small project.					
What is the aim?					
What will it achieve? Who will benefit? Does it address a need?					
What actions do you need to take?	What do you need to do this?	What are the risks?	How do you address them?	Who is accountable for this action?	When? Some realistic timeframes
Break down your projects down into small, manageable tasks.	This could be people, materials, space, money, time, equipment, or something else.	What could go wrong? What is the worst-case scenario? What barriers can you identify?	Can the risk be minimised, or are the risks so big that the project can't go ahead? Do you need someone to advise on the issue? Or do you accept it and go ahead knowingly?	Identify a named person, not a group. Make sure they understand and consent to what is required of them.	Consider your capacity but be mindful that some actions need to happen quickly to retain momentum. If a task will take a year to complete, it might be that it needs to be broken down into smaller tasks.

d) Next steps: Establishing a Community Action Group

Depending on the appetite for and success of community involvement in the Summer Festival project, the next step could be to consider whether and how a community group could be established.

Here are some external resources that could be useful to consider at this stage:

- www.local.gov.uk/our-support/guidance-and-resources/community-action/community-action-overview/what-community-action
- www.saga.co.uk/magazine/money/personal-finance/giving/how-to-set-up-a-community-group
- www.locality.org.uk
- www.powertochange.org.uk
- www.cagoxfordshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/CAG-Quickstart-Guide-2014-PRINT.pdf

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