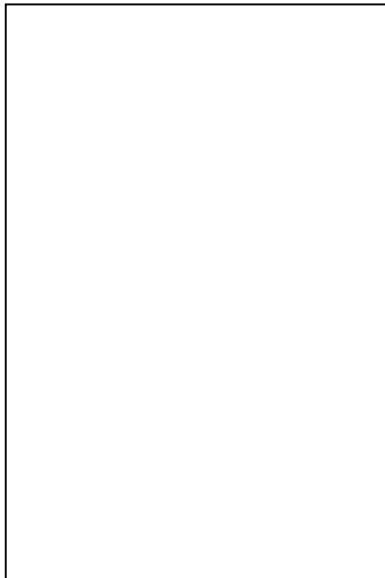


Lanchester Parish Appraisal Report

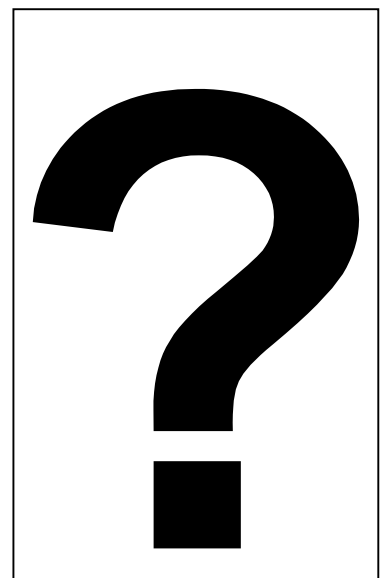
PAST



PRESENT



FUTURE



March 1998 – September 1998

Lanchester Parish Appraisal
was co-ordinated by the
Derwentside Community Development Initiative

Acknowledgements

Many individuals and agencies contributed their time and support to the Lanchester Parish Appraisal Project. In particular, the residents of Lanchester who formed the Lanchester Parish Appraisal Steering Group should be acknowledged for their enthusiasm, dedication and hard work, which enabled the production of this report to take place. Thanks also to all the residents of Lanchester Parish who participated in the various community consultation exercises which took place during the project.

Thanks to the Lanchester History Society provided a very interesting section of the history of Lanchester Parish, the local schools and young people who enabled the young persons surveys and young persons community consultation exercises to take place and to the various agencies and consultants who assisted with the project.

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SECTION 0.1: REPORT SUMMARY

- ◆ The Lanchester Parish is located in the Derwentside District of County Durham. The Parish has approximately 1850 households and a population of approximately 4500 residents.
- ◆ The Lanchester Parish Appraisal project was overseen by a steering group consisting local residents and community group members. The local community were consulted during the appraisal using a number of methods including a residents survey, two young people's surveys, public meetings, community workshop meetings and focus groups.
- ◆ The research project highlighted the need for continued community involvement and support if successor projects are to be realised. A need exists, with regard to the local community via a successor partnership to agree a common set of objectives and a common sense of purpose.
- ◆ The majority of participants of community consultation exercises including young people shared a common view that Lanchester is a beautiful, quiet rural place to live.
- ◆ Lanchester has a considerably high level of community activity with over fifty community groups listed in the area. Lanchester also has a very high level of active volunteers in the community.
- ◆ Although economic indicators suggest Lanchester is a relatively well off area, recent evidence suggests that among the local authority housing estates in Lanchester, this is not a true reflection. Over 73% of all council households in Lanchester are in receipt of housing benefit. This compares to the district level and indicates pockets of deprivation.
- ◆ Play and leisure facilities are a major concern in Lanchester. A play park feasibility study will be carried out in November 1998 by Lanchester Park Life.
- ◆ A common theme from the results of community consultation exercises was the need to provide facilities for young people, particularly teenagers, in Lanchester. The report recommends a feasibility study be carried out in order to formulate a business plan which will be used to develop appropriate provision and raise funds for such provision.
- ◆ Young people in Lanchester of all age ranges expressed the view that there are a lack of activities for young people in Lanchester, particularly teenagers.
- ◆ Transport issues in Lanchester Parish are and will remain a major concern among local people. The report highlights the need for a co-ordinated approach to identifying and tackling transport issues in Lanchester over a long-term period.
- ◆ The need for improvements to the public toilet facilities in Lanchester emerged as the single major concern of local people in Lanchester Parish.
- ◆ Dog fouling in Lanchester Parish was identified as a major problem particularly by parents with children.

SECTION 0.2: ACTION PLAN FOR LANCHESTER PARISH

0.2.1 Introduction

The Lanchester Parish Appraisal Steering Group agreed that the action plan to be included in the final report will contain 3-7 priority projects. This decision was taken for a number of reasons and was seen as a move away from traditional appraisal reports and action plans.

More recently those wards which are labelled Community Economic Development Wards (eligible for funding under EU Objective 2, priorities 4.1 and 4.2) have also contained detailed action plans with many different projects recommended. The Lanchester Parish Appraisal Steering Group decided that because they are not directly eligible for targeted funds, producing an action plan which details many different projects would be both unrealistic and unachievable. Additionally, raising aspirations of local people is another fear of the group. However, although the action plan contains 7 main projects for action, it is important to note that these are the main priorities for action and not to the only priorities for action. Recommendations appear in various sections of the report which can be investigated and prioritised by the Lanchester Parish Appraisal Steering Group (or its successor group) as and when appropriate.

ACTION PLAN FOR LANCHESTER PARISH

		Partners	Suggested Funders		Comments
1 (a)	Play Parks/Feasibility Study	Lanchester Park-Life Lanchester Parish Council Lanchester Partnership	Lanchester Parish Council Rural Action	November 1998	Applications for funding for this project have already commenced
1 (b)	Play Park Project (Back of Kings Head site)	DDC, DCC Lanchester Parish Council Lanchester Park Life Environmental Agencies Lanchester Partnership	National Lottery Charities Board Lanchester Parish Council Derwentside District Council Rural Development Commission Private Funders/Charities & Trusts	November 1999	This project will go ahead after the successful outcome of the feasibility project.
2	Public Toilets Upgrading/ Re-siting	Lanchester Parish Council Lanchester 'Partnership' DCC	Local Authority	March 1999	Painted and tidied Improvements to be agreed with the local authorities
3 (a)	Youth Project Feasibility Study	Community Education Lanchester Partnership Local schools	Derwentside District Council – Arts & Community Init. Fund RDC Small Projects NLCB Small Grants	January 1999	Further research and questionnaires to investigate type of project needed
3 (b)	Youth Project	Community Education Lanchester Partnership Local schools Young people DRCI/DCDI	Lloyds/TSB NLCB Northern Rock Trust	October 1999	A business plan to be drawn up on successful completion of the feasibility study
4	Lanchester Partnership Formed	Residents, Community, Voluntary, Private & Statutory Agencies	NLCB Small Grants Application	January 1999	Constitution developed/agreed. Charity status pursued
5	Transport: a. Car Park issues b. Traffic control issues	Lanchester Partnership Lanchester Partnership Durham County Council	Local Authorities Other	January 1999	Partnership sub group formed January 1999 Main issues identified May 1999 Long term action plan drawn up June 1999

SECTION ONE:

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction to the Report

The Lanchester Parish Council commissioned the Durham Rural Community Council (DRCC) to carry out a Community Appraisal of the Lanchester Parish area in March 1998. The Project was co-ordinated by the Derwentside Community Development Initiative which is one of three district community development projects managed by the DRCC. From the beginning, the Project was overseen by a locally led community steering group, the Lanchester Parish Appraisal Steering Group. The Appraisal commenced at the end of March 1998 via an open public meeting and was completed at the end of August 1998.

1.2 Background To The Area

Lanchester Parish is situated in rural Derwentside which is part of County Durham. Lanchester Parish has a population of approximately 4500. There are approximately 1850 houses in Lanchester parish comprising two thirds privately owned housing with only 16% of all housing being local authority social housing which is very low compared to the Derwentside average of over 30%. Lanchester Parish has its own preservation area. The main routeway through the Parish is the A691. Lanchester Village is situated approximately eight miles from Durham City.

1.3 History Of Lanchester Parish

Lanchester lies in the valley of the Smallhope Burn, and is probably the oldest, if not the prettiest village in North West Durham.

It is not recorded who the first inhabitants were, the only evidence which is available has come from various historical finds which have been unearthed over the years, which suggests that the valley and surrounding area were colonised by communities of both the iron and bronze age.

The recorded history of Lanchester began with the coming of the Romans. The remains of the Roman fort, Longovicium, can be found to the west of the village. Hadrian's Wall, completed in AD36, became the northern frontier of the Roman empire, but with the Wall being so far from their headquarters in York, a main highway was built known as Dere Street, and several forts were built to protect Dere Street, Lanchester being one of them.

Built in AD 140, the fort covers six acres and housed both cavalry and foot soldiers, in all approximately 1000 men. Lanchester is the only fort on Dere Street that is in a good state of preservation as no development has encroached the fort or surrounding area, which includes a substantial civil settlement. To the west, an aqueduct which supplied water to the fort fed by a dam which could be one of the oldest arched dams in the world, and a cemetery, part of which was uncovered when the ground was cleared for major pipeline in 1981. Lanchester Roman fort therefore, could be one of the largest areas of Roman occupation, as yet unexcavated, in the British Isles.

Longovicium, (Long Camp), was abandoned sometime in the fourth century, and over the years the interior buildings and the rampart walls were torn down to provide stone for field walls. The magnificent parish church of Lanchester was also built from the stone of the fort, and the pillars on the north side of the nave known as monoliths, were removed from the headquarters building of the fort.

In the south porch of the church is a large Roman altar dedicated to the Celtic Goddess Garmangabis found close to the fort. The altar was dedicated by members of the Seubian Cavalry who came from Germany. In fact the only Romans who were stationed at the fort of Lanchester were the officers, as the rest of the men came from other parts of the Empire.

The church, now known as All Saints, was built in 1183, and is a fine example of the Norman period. The interior of the church displays many fine examples of Norman and early Medieval architecture, which to this day shows the skills of the masons of that period.

Lanchester in the medieval period had some significance as an ecclesiastical centre, when the Collegiate Church of Lanchester was created in 1284 by Bishop Anthony Beck, Bishop of Durham. The college consisted of a Dean, Alexander de Craven, and seven prebendaries. The most famous Dean was Marmaduke Lamely, who later became Master of Trinity College, Bishop of Carlisle, Bishop of Lincoln and Treasurer of England.

The parish of Lanchester at that time covered 43,655 acres, and this may have been the reason why the college was formed so the religious needs of the population were not neglected. The parish extended from the river Deerness to the river Derwent, and from Allensford to the present day Craghead. Today there are seventeen separate ecclesiastical districts and parishes in what was the ancient medieval parish of Lanchester, which was ten times larger than it is today.

At the time of the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII, the deanery and canonries were abolished, and the church reverted to normal status, this time as a perpetual curacy. Since 1842 the incumbents have been known as vicars.

It would seem that Lanchester continued as an agricultural settlement until the early sixteenth century. A pictorial map of 1754 shows a settlement of sixteen houses and a corn mill at Bishop's Mill. Some land had been enclosed, and this was continued under the Lanchester Common Act of 1773.

In 1810, a turnpike road was constructed from Witton Gilbert to Lanchester through the valley. This was the beginning of improved transport facilities, and the improvement was furthered in 1862 when the North Eastern Railway opened a line from Consett to Durham. The line finally closed in 1965, and today forms a very pleasant footpath.

It was at the beginning of this century that the planned development of the village began, and over the last seventy or more years, the development has suddenly escalated with the building of several housing estates, both council and private which has greatly increased the population of the village of Lanchester.

SECTION TWO:

METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

The report utilised three methods of investigation including: (a) Secondary research where information was gathered by utilising existing data including the 1991 census information; (b) Primary research including a residents survey and two young peoples surveys; (c) Action research including organisation of and participation in public meetings, community workshops and focus groups.

All community consultation techniques were developed and co-ordinated by the Derwentside Community Development Initiative (DCDI). In conjunction with the Lanchester Parish Appraisal Steering Group, Durham Co-operative Development Association (DCDA) and Groundwork West Durham, community consultation exercises were facilitated by the DCDI.

2.2 Aims of the Research

- To carry out a community appraisal in the Lanchester Parish area involving participants from all sections of the community including residents, young people, community group representatives, local agencies, local businesses and local authorities.
- To identify the community's priorities in order to enhance the social, environmental and economic aspects of life in Lanchester Parish.
- To develop a realistic action plan for the future.
- To develop a local partnership group who will be responsible for overseeing the project and developing the action plan.

2.3 Community Consultation

In order to maximise community involvement and participation from a wide section of the Lanchester Parish area, the following methods of community consultation were used during the project:

2.31 Public Meeting

An open public meeting was held at the Lanchester Community Centre at the end of March 1998. Over thirty people attended including residents and community group representatives. During the meeting volunteers were asked to come forward to form a local steering group for the project and to help in other ways by contributing local knowledge to the project. A meeting was held in the first week of April 1998 and participants agreed to form the Lanchester Parish Appraisal Steering Group to guide the Appraisal Project. Below is an outline of the various community consultation exercises which the Steering Group approved and which were carried out during the project.

2.32 Residents Survey

During the first stages of the project, the Steering Group agreed that one of the most effective ways of gaining the views of local people would be via a residents' survey.

Over the next two months, the Steering Group in conjunction with the Project Co-ordinator, designed a ten page residents survey (see **Appendix I**). The survey was distributed by local volunteers to every household in the Parish – 1850 in total. A total of 390 (representing approximately 21% of all households in Lanchester Parish) surveys were returned in all. In addition to volunteering to distribute the surveys door to door, volunteers also carried out the majority of quantitative analysis of the surveys.

2.34 Community Workshops

Four community workshop meetings were held during July and August 1998. A free crèche was provided at two of the workshops to try and improve access for those with childcare responsibilities. All workshops were facilitated at the Lanchester Community Centre. The Workshops were all held at different times and on different days to try and encourage a wider section of the local community to attend. Each community workshop began with an explanation and an update of the appraisal project.

Workshop 1: Community Profile – The first workshop required local people to profile the area using their local knowledge. The workshop looked at the types of business in the area, local events, services, community groups and activities and transport.

Workshop 2: Identify Issues and Opportunities – The second workshop identified the areas **Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT analysis)**. This workshop also required participants to begin to identify some of the main issues and priorities of local people.

Workshop 3 – Ideas for Action - A number of agencies were invited to attend this workshop to disseminate information relating to Lanchester Parish in terms of future projects. These included, Derwentside District Council (an overview of the West Durham Rural Networks Partnerships Rural Challenge Bid), Derwentside College (Rural Challenge Projects relating to Lanchester Parish), Anchor Training (an overview of how New Deal may link into future community environmental projects for Lanchester) and Derwentside District Council, Derwentside Strategy for Play Parks and Leisure. This workshop also prioritised the main concerns and issues from the previous workshops. A number of future projects were suggested at this workshop.

Workshop 4 - A formal presentation of the findings of community focus groups and the first three community workshops was given at workshop 4.

2.35 Focus Groups

Three focus groups were originally planned to target people with childcare responsibilities, elderly people and people in receipt of benefits, particularly the unemployed.

The focus groups were semi-structured and required participants to discuss the strengths of Lanchester Parish, issues or concerns relating to their particular group and issues relating to the whole of Lanchester Parish. It was agreed that it would be difficult to target a focus group towards people in receipt of benefits. A survey was instead carried

out during the local EEC surplus food distribution day at the Lanchester Community Centre.

2.36 Business Survey

As part of the economic brief, Durham Co-operative Development Association carried out a survey of local businesses. The survey was distributed to 83 local businesses. Sixteen businesses (19.3%) responded to the survey. Participating businesses were from various sectors of the business community including six which were private limited companies, three partnerships, four sole traders, two public sector and one local charity.

2.37 Youth Surveys

Two youth surveys were carried out relating to young people aged eight to ten years and eleven to eighteen years. Both surveys were facilitated at local primary and secondary schools in the area. An overwhelming response to the survey was achieved with 287 youth surveys being completed by young people from Lanchester Parish.

2.38 Youth Focus Group

In order to gain the views of young people who had left school and do not usually participate in any of the organised activities in Lanchester, youth outreach sessions were jointly facilitated by a specialist youth consultant and a local volunteer. The outreach sessions were unstructured and involved speaking to young people on the streets of Lanchester.

2.39 Publicity

Various methods of publicity were used throughout the project. Initially, the Lanchester Parish Council Newsletter advertised a public meeting to start the project. Parish Newsletters were distributed in mid March 1998.

A leaflet advertising the community workshops was distributed by volunteers to every household along with the residents' survey.

Each focus group and community workshop was advertised separately via posters displayed in various venues in Lanchester. Throughout the project, various posters were displayed, advertising the Appraisal Project. Two press releases were also used to publicise the project.

In addition to the above publicity, all known local community groups were invited in writing to attend community consultation exercises.

2.40 Shop Window Project

In addition to the above consultation exercises, a shop window project was set up for three months mid-project in an empty shop building. The project consisted of various photographs and publicity which aimed to generate interest, inform local people and

generally raise the profile of the project. The shop window project was organised by volunteers of the Steering Group.

2.41 Numbers of participants of community consultation activities:

Residents Survey	390
Young People Survey 1	162
Young People Survey 2	125
Public Meeting	30
Elderly Focus Group	32
People with childcare responsibility focus group (x2)	25
People in receipt of benefits survey	7
Young peoples discussion group	10
Community Workshop 1	14
Community Workshop 2	18
Community Workshop 3	21
Community Workshop 4	14
Lanchester Parish Appraisal Steering Group Members	21
Lanchester Parish Appraisal Steering Group Meetings	13

SECTION THREE :

HOUSEHOLD, HOUSING & HEALTH CARE

3.1 Population Profile

The population of the Lanchester Parish is approximately 4500. However, available information which is readily accessible from Durham County Council relating to the population profile of Lanchester is based on electoral ward data.

The population of the Lanchester Ward has declined during the 1990's. At the time of the 1991 census the resident population of the Ward was 4918 people. The resident population of the Lanchester Ward in 1996 was 4657, representing a decline in the population of 5.3% over this period.

Table 1: Population Structure of Lanchester Ward by Age and Gender in 1996

Age	Male		Female		Total		Derwentside
	No	%	No	%	No	%	%
0-14	353	7.6	337	7.2	690	14.8	18.6
15-24	2663	5.6	294	6.3	557	11.9	12.0
25-44	579	12.4	547	11.7	1126	24.1	28.2
45-64	680	14.6	691	14.8	1371	29.4	24.3
65+	372	8.0	541	11.8	913	19.8	16.9
Total	2247	48.2	2410	51.8	4657	100	100

Source: Durham County Council

The population structure of the Lanchester Electoral Ward shows a number of variations to that of the Derwentside district. The main variation is the relatively low percentage of children in the population of Lanchester Parish and the relatively high proportion of people of pensionable age or over in the Parish.

There are 690 children between the ages of 0-14 in the Lanchester Ward and this age group accounts for 14.8% of the total population of the Ward. This figure is substantially lower than the district average of 18.6%. There are 913 people in the 65 plus age category accounting for almost one fifth of the total population of Lanchester Ward. The corresponding figure for the district is lower at 16.9% of the Derwentside population.

The 0-14 and 65 plus age groups combined account for 34.6% of the Lanchester Ward population compared to 35.5% for the district. Therefore the proportion of the Lanchester Ward population who are located in the working age range of 16-64 is very similar to that of the district as a whole.

3.2 Housing

An analysis of the structure of housing in the Lanchester Ward is usually a good economic indicator. The housing structure of an area is a general indicator as to the wealth of that area. In 1991 there were a total of 1942 houses in the Lanchester Ward. Table 2 shows the structure of these 1942 houses in the Lanchester Ward. There are approximately 1850 houses within the Parish boundaries.

Table 2: Housing Structure in Lanchester Ward in 1991

	Lanchester %	Derwentside %	England & Wales %
Owner Occupied	77.67	63.35	67.8
Rent Privately	5.42	4.42	7.3
Rent for Housing Association	1.19	2.22	3.2
Rent from Local Authority	15.73	30.01	19.8
Households with no car	24.65	43.37	32.6

Source: 1991 Census

Over three-quarters of houses in Lanchester Parish are owner occupied properties. This figure is substantially higher than the Derwentside average of 63.35% and 10% higher than the national average. Almost 16% of all the houses in the Parish are local authority rented housing, half of the district figure and well below the national average.

The level of car ownership in Lanchester Parish is high with only 24.65% of households not having a car. This compares very favourably to the level of car ownership in the district where over 43% of households do not have a car. Nationally 32.6% of households do not have a car. Thus when using home ownership and car ownership as economic indicators Lanchester Parish is shown to be a relatively economically affluent area. However, there is evidence that patches of deprivation do exist in Lanchester, particularly among the two local authority social housing estates. Evidence suggests that over 73% of people living in council houses in Lanchester are in receipt of housing benefit. (Source : Derwentside District Council March 1998). This figure is very high but compares to the Derwentside average. Housing benefit levels are often used as an indicator of deprivation. Therefore, although Lanchester Parish ranks as a relatively less deprived area of Derwentside, it is important not to ignore the fact that in some areas of Lanchester, this is not the case.

3.3 Health & Care

This section of the report identifies care provision and care needs and the level of satisfaction of care services in Lanchester.

Most people in Lanchester are registered with a G.P and do not have any difficulties accessing their local G.P. both inside and outside of normal hours. Participants of the residents' survey were asked whether people in their household had any particular disability or special need.

Table3: People With Special Needs or Disabilities

Special Need/Disability	No.	Special Need/Disability	No.
Physical Disability	44	Learning Disability	3
Total or partial deafness	36	Problem with alcohol misuse	2
Visual Impairment	16	Problem with drugs/substance abuse	0
Mental Health Problem	5		

Source: Lanchester Parish Appraisal Residents Survey

It was recorded that 44 households had one or more residents with a physical disability and 36 households recorded that one or more members of their families were partially deaf. These numbers appear quite high in relation to the number of surveys returned. Further investigative research could be useful in terms of assessing whether Lanchester has a particularly high level of residents with disabilities and whether their needs are adequately met in the local community.

192 respondents to the residents' survey indicated that they would like to see a community transport service in Lanchester. Such a service could incorporate a transport to hospital and prescriptions collection service. Respondents of the resident's survey indicated that the most important extra care service needed in Lanchester Parish would be the provision of care services for elderly people living in Lanchester. Other services suggested are indicated on the table below, the most popular being transport to hospitals (22 respondents). Some areas run a voluntary transport to hospital scheme and some outpatients are also provided with free transport from the local health authority.

Table 4: Additional Care Services People Would Like to See in Lanchester

Additional Care Services	No.	Additional Care Services	No.
Transport to hospitals	22	Regular Visitor or caller	10
Baby-sitting service	12	Money and benefits advice	10
Collection service for prescriptions	11	Help with form filling	6

Source: Lanchester Parish Appraisal Residents Survey

Information and advice on money, benefits and form filling were also mentioned. The Citizens Advice Bureau and/or the local Department of Social Security can provide such assistance but the nearest offices are in Stanley. A regular benefits awareness surgery could be useful for those claiming or wishing to claim benefits.

3.4 Recommendations

- ◆ It is recommended that a community transport scheme be investigated. A volunteer driver scheme network could be incorporated into a community transport scheme which could provide transport for local people to hospital as well as collect prescriptions for those who cannot easily do so themselves.
- ◆ It is recommended that a welfare benefits advice surgery be provided by the Citizens Advice Bureau at set regular intervals at an outreach venue (e.g. Community Centre, Park House or Doctors Surgery) in Lanchester. This will provide welfare advice and increase take-up of benefits in the Parish.

SECTION FOUR:

EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

4.1 Economic Profile

Unlike much of Derwentside, Lanchester came through the dramatic decline of the coal mining and steel making industries relatively unscathed. There is no major industry in Lanchester and residents travel outside of the Parish to their place of work. The employment base of residents of Lanchester is predominantly professional or managerial with a very high proportion of residents in the higher socio-economic groups. Unemployment in Lanchester is low.

4.2 Employment Base

Contained in this section is an analysis of the socio-economic groups in the Lanchester Parish along with a breakdown of resident occupations. This will allow an analysis of the employment base of the Lanchester Parish.

There are a high number of residents in the three sub groups of employers/managers, professional workers and senior non-manual workers. In the Lanchester Parish these three sub groups account for 62% of the working population. This figure is more than double the equivalent figure for the district. Due to the exceptionally high proportion of residents classified in these three groups, representation in the remaining sub groups is slight. In Derwentside 45% of the working population are located in the manual work sub groups whilst in Lanchester the figure is 25.7%.

Table 5: A socio-economic breakdown of residents of Lanchester Ward (1991)

Sub Group	Lanchester	Derwentside
Employers/managers	31.9	14.7
Professional Workers	12.4	4.2
Senior non manual	17.7	11.0
Junior non manual	8.0	10.8
Personal service workers	0.0	1.7
Foreman and supervisors	1.8	3.5
Skilled manual	17.7	25.0
Semi-skilled manual	6.2	12.5
Unskilled manual	2.7	7.5
Own account workers	1.8	4.1
Agricultural workers	0.0	0.8
Armed forces	0.0	0.1

Source: 1991 Census

When looking at the occupation of residents of Lanchester Parish, a number of clear differences can be seen when compared to the district as a whole. In Lanchester 39.3% of residents are either managers or professionals compared to the district average of 18.6%. Residents of Lanchester are well represented in the occupations of clerical and secretarial, craft and associated professions. Very few residents have as their occupation sales or personal and protective services.

Table 6: Standard Occupational Classification of residents of Lanchester Ward 1991

Occupation	Lanchester	Derwentside
Managers	22.7	11.8
Professional	16.6	6.8
Associated Professional	9.5	8.4
Clerical and Secretarial	14.2	14.4
Craft	11.8	16.1
Personnel and Protective Service	9.5	9.3
Sales	5.2	8.1
Plant and Machinery Operators	5.7	13.9
Other Occupations	3.8	10.4

Source: 1991 Census

4.3 Analysis of Unemployment

In July 1998 there were a total of 62 residents out of work and claiming unemployment benefit in the Parish of Lanchester. This section provides an analysis of this group of 62 unemployed residents by age, gender and duration of unemployment. The analysis of unemployment in this section is based on claimant unemployment data. This is a very narrow measure of unemployment and the real level of unemployment in the Lanchester Parish is likely to be considerably higher than that identified by claimant unemployment figures.

Quarterly unemployment statistics for the Lanchester Parish shows that unemployment has fallen during the past two years by almost 50%, although the fall has not been steady and consistent. In April 1996 there were a total of 112 residents unemployed but by July 1998 the number of unemployed residents had fallen to 62.

Table 7: Unemployment statistics for Lanchester Ward

Date of Return	Male	Female	Total
April 1996	79	33	112
April 1997	61	18	79
April 1998	54	17	71
July 1998	44	18	62

Source: Employment Service

Unemployment in Lanchester Ward has fluctuated over a two year period although the overall trend is downwards. Total unemployment in Lanchester Ward actually increased during 1997 although during 1998 total unemployment has consistently fallen.

Unemployment in the Parish of Lanchester affects different age and gender groups to a different extent. Table 8 breaks down the 62 residents unemployed by age and gender.

Table 8 : Total Unemployment in Lanchester Ward by Age and Gender (July 1998)

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
16-24	16	8	24
25-34	7	2	9
35-54	18	7	25
55+	3	1	4
Total	44	18	62

Source: Employment Service

The vast majority of unemployment in the Lanchester Ward is found amongst men. Of the 62 residents unemployed 44 are male and 18 female.

Table 9 gives a breakdown of long term unemployed by age and gender. Long term unemployment is defined here as being out of work and claiming unemployment benefit for 6 months or more. There are a total of 28 residents of Lanchester Ward who have been unemployed for 6 months or more.

Table 9 : Long Term Unemployment in Lanchester Ward by Age & Gender (July 1998)

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
16-24	7	2	9
25-34	2	0	2
35-54	12	2	14
55+	3	0	3
Total	24	4	28

Source: Employment Service

In the Lanchester Parish 45% of all recorded unemployment is long term. As with total unemployment, the vast majority of residents long-term unemployed are males. It is widely accepted that the claimant count measure of unemployment does not give a true reflection of the real rate of unemployment. The claimant count measure gives an artificially low rate of unemployment as it excludes a number of groups of people who may wish to work but are not considered to be unemployed under the claimant count measure of unemployment. Groups excluded from the measure include lone parents, those on government training schemes, people who have taken early retirement and those registered as permanently sick because of the lack of local employment opportunities.

4.4 School Leaver Destinations

In conjunction with other economic indicators, the destinations of 16 year old's after they leave school can be a good indicator as to the strength or weakness of the local economy, the opportunities available to young people and the general affluence of the area. The analysis of school leaver destination in this section is of school leavers from St Bede's Comprehensive School. It should be noted however, that St Bede's also serves other areas in the District and that not all children recorded in the table below reside in Lanchester Parish.

Table 10: The destinations of the 201 statutory school leavers from St Bede's RC School in 1997

Destination	Male	Female	Total	%	Derwent side	County Durham
Continuing Education	70	85	155	77.1	58.7	56.5
Youth Training	5	7	12	6.0	11.8	13.8
Employment	15	4	19	9.5	13.5	12.3
Unemployment	3	1	4	2.0	6.6	6.1
Not Seeking Employment	2	0	2	1.0	2.4	2.5
Left Area	0	0	0	0.0	1.1	2.2
No response	6	3	9	4.4	5.9	6.6

Source: Durham Careers Service

The levels of school leavers continuing education is extremely high. 77.1% of St Bede's school leavers continue in education compared to 58.7% for all Derwentside schools and 56.57% for all schools in County Durham.

With such a high proportion of school leavers staying in education, representation in the other destinations is below both the district and county averages. The proportion of 16 year olds who left school and entered youth training courses is only half the rate of the district and county figures. The number of 16 year olds who left St Bede's and were unemployed is very low at 2.0%. This compares very favourably to the district and county figures of 6.6% and 6.1% respectively. Almost 10% of school leavers from St Bede's gained employment on leaving school which is 3-4% below the district and county figures. Of the 201 school leavers in 1997 not one had left the area.

4.5 Economic Indicators

In 1994 Durham County Council carried out a study involving 177 wards in the county with the aim of identifying those with economic need. Durham County Council analysed each ward using 13 separate economic indicators.

The relative standing of each ward with respect to the economic indicators can be shown by using standard scores calculated from all indicators. These standard scores measure each economic indicator on a common scale for all indicators, relative to the County average. The higher the positive score the greater the level of need and therefore the more economically deprived the ward is. The lower the negative score the more economically affluent the ward is. **(please see Appendix II).**

None of the economic indicators for the Lanchester Ward registered a positive score. There were 5 indicators of low need, 2 indicators of below average need and 6 indicators of average need. These scores place the Lanchester Ward as one of the most economically affluent wards in County Durham.

4.6 Household Survey - Economic and Employment Section

The survey found that in terms of residents employment, the Lanchester Parish is a travel to work area. The vast majority of residents travel outside of the Parish to their place of employment. Sixty-four residents work in the Lanchester Parish while 168 people work within 10 miles of the parish. Fifty residents travel over 20 miles to their place of employment.

As expected most residents travel to work by motor vehicle. The findings of the survey are compared to the finding of the 1991 Census in the table below.

Table 11: Means Of Travel To Work By Residents Of Lanchester Parish(%)

Mode of transport	Survey Results	1991 Census
Rail	1.5	1.5
Bus	9.1	5.7
Car	78.4	68.7
Cycle	1.5	0.9
Foot	1.5	10.0
Work at home	8.0	10.0

Source: Lanchester Parish Appraisal Survey Results 1998, 1991 Census

Based on the survey results more residents of the Lanchester Parish are using public transport than were in 1991. Of the respondents to the question 9.1% travel to work by bus compared to only 5.7% at the time of the last census. More people are using their car to travel to work than were in 1991 while less were walking to work. The number of people staying at home to work according to the survey is consistent with the 1991 census results.

When asked what were the main barriers to either gaining employment or gaining their preferred type of employment, issues relating to childcare and age were most common. Other barriers to employment were seen to be the poor public transport service in the Parish and disability. A full set of responses is set out below.

Tale 12 : Barriers to employment for residents of Lanchester Parish

Barrier	Number of responses
Lack of childcare facilities	13
Cost of childcare	16
Poor public transport	14
Age	29
Disability	12
Lack of experience	7
Lack of confidence	6
Low wages	5
Other	10

Source: Lanchester Parish Appraisal Residents Survey 1998

4.7 Training & Education

Residents of the Lanchester Parish are relatively well informed on where to find advice and information regarding education courses, training opportunities and career guidance.

While large numbers of residents would like to improve skills in information technology (I.T.) and foreign languages, residents were much more reluctant to show an interest in attending courses in such areas. One hundred and twelve people indicated they would like to improve on I.T. skills and 79 language skills. However, only 48 residents were interested in I.T. training and only 1 interested in foreign language training. A large number of people, 73, were interested in self-employment.

Asked what training residents would like to undertake, overwhelmingly the most common response was information technology with 40 respondents. Thirteen residents would like training in care services, eight in accountancy and eight in printing. Few people wanted training in other areas.

4.8 Recommendations:

- ◆ It is recommended that the provision of training for local businesses in IT skills be carried out. Derwentside College could provide such training.
- ◆ It is recommended that Derwentside College be approached promote basic level IT courses and IT taster courses to residents of Lanchester parish.
- ◆ It is recommended that an outreach advice service be investigated for Lanchester. An advice service delivered on an outreach basis would provide a reliable service to those unsure about the benefits they are entitled to and how much they can claim. Advice could include employment, finance and consumer issues.
- ◆ It is recommended that provision of a business start-up advice service be provided on an outreach basis for local residents of Lanchester. This could be provided by agencies who give free business advice such as Durham CDA who advise people on the development of co-operative businesses or sign-post them to another agency where appropriate.

SECTION FIVE:

LOCAL ECONOMY

5.1 Introduction

This section contains information about local businesses, public services and also gives a profile of the various services in the Lanchester Parish area. A list of local businesses and the results of the Lanchester Appraisal Business Survey are contained in this section. Several issues and concerns have been mentioned during every community consultation exercise, both face to face and via the residents survey. These include the public toilets in the village, litter bins and the lack of dog litter services.

5.2 Local Public Services

The following section is a list of local public services in Lanchester.

5.2.1 Schools

Pre-school educational provision in Lanchester includes the Lanchester Toddlers and the Lanchester Play Group both held at the Lanchester Community Centre. Lanchester has a nursery school and three primary schools, the Lanchester Infant School and Lanchester Endowed Parochial Junior School which are both on Front Street and Lanchester RC Primary School on Kitswell Road. St Bedes RC School and Greencroft Upper and Lower Schools are the secondary schools which service the area.

5.2.2 Health Services

The doctors surgeries in Lanchester Parish include:
Milne & Milne, Park House
Dr Nagi, Croft View
Westlands Surgery, Front Street.

Taylor & Matthews is the local dental practice situated on Front Street. Steven T. G. & Wade is the local opticians.

Dryburn hospital is the nearest accident and emergency hospital although Shotley Bridge Hospital provides the nearest minor accident unit. Maiden Law Hospital provides limited specialist medical care.

Murray's pharmacy is the local chemist situated on Front Street.

5.2.3 Residential Cared Facilities

Lynwood House is a County Council owned residential care home based on Durham Road. There are also four 'care in the community' homes in Lanchester Parish which are also owned by Durham County Council.

Privately owned residential care homes include the Hayricks Residential Care Home and Howden Burn, based in Maiden Law hospital grounds.

The Lee Hill Centre in Front Street is a day centre for adults with learning difficulties.

5.2.4 Police

Lanchester has its own police sub-station but the station is not continually manned. The main police station is based in Consett.

5.2.5 Fire Service

Villa Real Fire Station, Consett, serves Lanchester Parish area.

5.2.6 Welfare, Advice & Housing Services

Stanley and Consett Employment Service Job Centres both serve the Lanchester Parish area. Additionally, an Employment Service job vacancy notice board can be found at the DRCC, Park House, Lanchester. Residents who are unemployed or seeking alternative employment can put their C.V. on the Derwentside Infonet at various points in the district or at Stanley Job Centre. This service is designed to be used by local employers as an alternative method of recruiting prospective employees. The nearest Department of Social Security Office is in Stanley.

Derwentside District Council offer a local neighbourhood housing office facility based at Park House, Lanchester. The nearest advice centre is Derwentside Citizens Advice Bureau based in Stanley with a two day per week service operating from Citizens House, Station Road, Consett.

5.2.7 Social Services

Social services available in Lanchester include Careline which is a monitored warden service provided by Derwentside District Council, the WRVS, Meals on Wheels service and a Friday Club.

5.2.8 Post Office

Lanchester Post Office is a sub post office situated in Front Street. The main sorting office is in Leadgate.

5.2.9 Banks & Building Societies

There are four banks and building societies in Lanchester including Natwest Bank, Barclays Bank, Newcastle Building Society (based within a local solicitors), Mercantile Building Society (based within a local travel agent).

5.2.9 Library Services

Lanchester Library is situated in Newbiggen lane and a mobile library serves the outlying areas. Books on wheels is also a service provided by the WVRs.

5.2.10 Local Information

The Lanchester Parish Council produces a quarterly newsletter which is delivered to every household in the Parish. However, this is under review at present with a view to linking to Derwentside College to produce a newsletter. All three local churches produce their own newsletter. The Durham Rural Community Council produce a community publication, Community News, every three months.

5.3 Public Services

The three public services which residents of Lanchester Parish are most satisfied with are the Library, the postal services and refuse collection.

During the appraisal project, the biggest concern regarding public services was raised about the state of the public toilet facilities. This concern generated an exceptionally high response to the residents' survey with 261 people indicating they were dissatisfied with the public toilets. Parks, playgrounds and litter bins were also recorded as very unsatisfactory public services. During community workshop three, a number of high priorities were identified by participants. These included an upgraded children's play park, the provision of dog litter bins, poop scoops and dog fouling signs to be provided by the local authorities. Litter bins were also rated highly as a major concern and a number of participants of all community consultation exercises suggested that existing litter bins should be re-sited in order to reduce the levels of litter in Lanchester, particularly in the village.

5.4 Additional Services

The residents survey asked people if they would like to see additional services in Lanchester. The table below outlines some of the suggestions for new services. The provision of dog litter bins, again, came up as the most frequent suggestion and the provision of a sports centre was also suggested.

Table 13: New Public Services People In Lanchester Would Like

Service	No.	Service	No.
Dog Litter Bins	14	More Re-cycling facilities	4
Sports Centre	11	Detached Youth Worker	3
Better Library Facilities	9	Meals on Wheels Service	3
Improved Traffic Warden Service	6	Public Complaints Dept.	2
Improved Floral Displays	6	After Schools Service	1
More Info. About Public Services	5	Local Councillor Visits	1
Childcare Services	4	Dentist	1
Job Seeking Service	4		

Source: Lanchester parish Appraisal Residents Survey 1998

5.5 Empty Shops & Buildings

One the highest responses to the residents survey was 377 respondents who stated that empty shops and buildings should be used for social or charitable purposes until they are

let. These views were shared among many participants of focus groups particularly people with young children and participants of the community workshops.

5.6 Suggestions for Repairs in Lanchester

The table below shows suggestions for repairs which could be carried out in Lanchester. Again, public toilets generated the most suggestions for improvements followed closely by repairs to footpaths and pavements.

Table 14: Suggested Repairs

Suggested Repairs	No.	Suggested Repairs	No.
Public Toilets	29	Tennis Court	1
Footpaths/Pavements	21	Church Grounds	1
Road Surfaces	11	Cricket Field	1
Public Seating	7	Pots in Front Street	1
Empty Properties	7	Resource Centre	1
Parks/playgrounds	6	Sewage Works	1
Culvert at Brook View	3		

Source: Lanchester Parish Appraisal Residents Survey 1998

5.7 New Businesses

In relation to local businesses, 232 survey respondents stated that they would like to see new businesses in Lanchester Parish. The most popular idea for a new business was the provision of a new food and grocery shop. Provision of specialist shops including a cobblers and shoe shop, a clothing shop (particularly children's clothes). Four percent of respondents to the survey would also like to see a launderette/dry cleaners in Lanchester. Nine percent of respondents to the survey would also like to see a new café and or restaurant in the village. Since the closure of Grandmas Kitchen, the only commercial café in Lanchester is situated on the ground and first floors of Matthew's Newsagent, Front Street.

5.8 Local Shopping Facilities

The majority of people indicated that the main reasons they do not shop in Lanchester is due to high prices and low choice and quality. This was particularly true for elderly people attending focus groups. Elderly people were less likely to have access to transport to shop in Consett or Stanley supermarkets. Most people who responded to the residents survey stated that they shop at the Metro Centre and Durham for non household items.

Table 15: Reasons People Do Not Shop For Groceries In Lanchester Parish

Reason	No.	Reason	No.
High prices	201	Low standard of shops	12
Low choice & quality	192	Too few parking facilities	7
More convenient elsewhere	40	Free bus service to Tesco	5

Source: Lanchester Parish Appraisal Residents Survey 1998

5.9 Tourism

The majority of participants of all community consultation exercises and particularly those who responded to the residents' survey (260 people), indicated that they would welcome more visitors and tourists to Lanchester. However, it was also pointed out during the community workshops that more visitors would require more car parking spaces which is already seen to be a major problem in the village. A recent successful Rural Challenge Fund bid was made by the West Durham Rural Networks Partnership. Provision will be made at Derwentside College's Lanchester site of a Virtual Tourism Centre. Local businesses will be able to obtain advice as well as accessing advertising space on the Internet. It was suggested during the community workshops that tourist information relating to facilities in Lanchester could also be put onto the Internet to publicise the Lanchester area. Local churches, the Roman Site, cycle paths, walkways and village life, were also recorded as popular tourist attractions.

5.10 Business Support

Participants involved in focus groups and community workshops indicated that the business community already plays an active role in supporting the local community. However, respondents to the survey indicated that sponsorship of local events would be the best way for local businesses to contribute to the local community.

5.11 Business Survey Results

Local businesses constitute an important part of the community and no community appraisal would be complete without the contribution of local businesses. As a result a survey of local businesses was carried out as a major element of the Lanchester Parish Community Appraisal.

The following is a list of registered local businesses in the Lanchester Parish area.

Local General Shops	
Name	Type of Business
Ray Emmerton	Greengrocer and florist
J Matthews	Newsagent
Spar	Retail foodstore
Northumbrian Convenience Stores	Food retailer

Specialist Shops/Services	
Name	Type of Business
Fairgreen Ltd	Betting Shop
W R Bland & Company	Accountants
Nicholson and Weston	Estate Agents and Surveyors
Lanchester Country Store	Agricultural/Equestrian Merchants
Lilydale Pet Supplies	Pet Shop
David Williams	Photography
Derwent Vinyls	Sign writing on vehicles
F Cunningham The Village Florists	Retail florists

Ian Smales	Chartered Surveyors/Property & Building Valuers
Lanchester Hardware	Retail DIY Products
Ark Insurance Consultants	Insurance Brokers
Richmond James and Lee	Solicitors

Takeaways & Bakeries	
Name	Type of Business
The Golden Valley Takeaway	Chinese Takeaway
Peters Cathedral Bakers Ltd	Bakery Shop
H Crinnion and Son	Retail Delicatessen

Hairdressers/Salons	
Name	Type of Business
Beryl's	Unisex Hairdressers
Yvonne's	Unisex Hairdressers
Talking Heads	Hairdressers
Carols	Hairdressers
Innocence	Hairdressers

Public Houses and Clubs	
Name	Type of Business
The Black Bull Inn	Public House
The Queens Head	Public House
Lanchester Social Club and Institute	Licensed Private Members Club
The Kings Head	Public House
Lanchester Cricket Club	Sports Club
Lanchester Arms	Public House

Other Businesses	
Name	Type of Business
Ashfield Veterinary Surgery	Veterinary Practice
Human Resource Solutions	Employment Agency
Marwell and Company	Management Consultants
AGGRD	Contract Design
R W Hall & Son	Install Land Drainage Systems
Acorn Nursery	Nursery and Market Garden
Inglis and Kidger	Land Drainage
Alexandra Agency	Model Agency
Red Cross Charity Shop	Retail Charity
Durham Rural Community Council	Charity

Garages/Motor/Petrol Stations	
Name	Type of Business
Russell Close Motors	Retail Skoda and used cars
Witbank Garage	
Fuel First	Petrol Station plus lease hire

Factories and Manufacturing	
Name	Type of Business
Durham Com International	Crime Prevention Products
J L McDermot	Packaging Consultant
Clark Business Forms	Retail Computer Stationery
Point Curing Technology Ltd	Body Repair/Paint technology
Malton Associates	Engineering Consultancy
E Eggleston Junior and Son Ltd	Wood Timber Products/ Animal Foodstuff
Mill Feed N E Ltd	Agricultural contractors
Richter Residues Ltd	Manufacture Industrial Absorbents
Farms/Dairy	
Name	Type of Business
Low Meadows Farm	Mixed Farming
Lanchester Dairies	Dairy Farm and Processing Plant
Hollinson Farm	Sheep Farm
Humber Hill Farm	Sheep and Cattle Farm
Colepike Home Farm	Mixed Farming
Blackhouse Farm	Mixed Farming
Ragpathside Farm	Dairy Farming
Hole House Farm	Beef and Sheep Farming
Stobilee Farm	Sheep farm/retail second hand farm machinery
Throstle Nest Farm	Beef and Sheep Farming
Tribridge Dairy	Farming small holding – hens, cows and pigs

5.13 Business Survey

A business survey was sent to 83 businesses in the Lanchester Parish. Replies were received from 16 businesses representing a 19.3% sample of businesses in Lanchester parish. This is a very positive response rate.

The nature of the businesses, which responded to the survey, varied considerably. They ranged from farms and dairies to a florist, pet shop, petrol station, library, waste wood contractors, residential home and a furniture design and making business.

The structure/ownership of the businesses differ also. Out of the 16 respondents 6 were private limited companies, 3 were partnerships, 4 were sole traders, 2 were public sector organisations and 1 was a charity.

The businesses which responded to the survey appear relatively well established in the area. Half of the respondent businesses had occupied their current location for 10 years or more. Five had been at their present location for between 6 and 10 years while 2 had occupied their current location between 2 and 5 years. One business was a new business having only been located in the Lanchester Parish for less than 6 months.

In terms of size the respondent businesses were very small. In total the 16 businesses employed 165 people on either a part or full time basis. Of the 165 people employed in total 97 were from Lanchester. There were equal numbers of male and female employed on a full time basis whereas the number of females employed on a part-time basis far out numbered male part-time employees. Only 1 business had any volunteers.

There is no major industry in Lanchester Parish. Almost all the business in the Parish are either farms or small local shops employing local residents with a custom base which is predominantly local residents supplemented by a small amount of passing trade.

Business confidence was found to be fairly strong amongst the respondents. Nine businesses said they expect to expand business in the next year. The reasons given for this optimism were improved goods and service and a better quality of service. Higher demand from local residents was also seen as a contributory factor. Five businesses said they do not expect their business to grow in the forthcoming year. Here the reasons cited were location and access, particularly parking in the village. The lack of a large amount of passing trade was also seen as a cause for pessimism. Two businesses did not know if their business would expand or not.

Asked to predict staff levels for the next 12 months, 8 business said that they expect to employ more staff while an equal number said that they expect staffing level to remain the same. One business said they would employ fewer staff in the next year.

The 16 businesses were asked what skills and qualification they looked for in new employees. The results are set out in the table below

Table 16: Skills and Qualifications looked for in new employees by 16 Lanchester businesses

Skill/Qualification	Number
Vocational	5
Writing	6
Numerical	7
Communication	12
IT	5
Driving	5
Inter-personal	7
Customer Care	8
Other	5

Lanchester Business Survey 1998

The table shows that the skills and qualifications most looked for in a new employed are communication skills, customer care skills inter personal skill and numerical skills. Only 5 businesses looked for I.T. skills, while 5 looked for specific vocational qualifications.

The most commonly used methods for filling vacancies was via the Job Centre or through internal methods such as word of mouth. The Careers Service, agencies and newspapers were used less frequently. The Derwentside Infonet was the least common method of filling a vacancy with very few businesses using this method.

Many of the businesses indicated that they do access goods and services locally. Services accessed locally included window cleaning, milk delivery, newsagents, post office, printers and groceries. Some suggestions for improving local services include: a "good supermarket" and better bus services. The overwhelming reasons for liking their business location were the beautiful countryside, pleasant surroundings and nice environment.

There were very few dislikes about the location of businesses. The main difficulties were the lack of adequate parking facilities, the lack of good public transport and the high transport costs of being located in the countryside. Eleven businesses thought training in the use of computers would help their businesses. The type of computer training required was mostly general office skills.

Twelve of the 16 respondents to the business survey said building links with community groups could prove useful. The groups which businesses think it could be useful to build links with are set out below.

Table 17 : Organisations businesses think engaging with could prove beneficial.

Community Organisations	Numbers
Schools	7
Further Education Colleges	4
High Education Colleges	2
Employers	6
Community Associations	4
Community Groups	3
Voluntary Organisations	7

Source: Lanchester Business Survey 1988

Asked how local business can contribute to local projects the main response was funding and fund raising. Other responses included sponsorship, advertising local projects, publicity, advice and guidance and the use of facilities.

5.13 Project Recommendations

- ◆ Investigation into the provision of a new community cafe could be carried out. A community cafe may be an opportunity to involve young people in a worthwhile project.
- ◆ Investigation into the provision of a Community Cyber Cafe to be based at Derwentside College (Lanchester Site) should take place in conjunction with Derwentside College.
- ◆ It is recommended that local businesses/individuals who own/lease empty buildings and properties in Lanchester Front Street be lobbied to agree to allowing premises to be used for community or charitable purposes whilst empty.

- ◆ Local businesses should be invited to the Lanchester Parish Appraisal Steering Group and should be also kept informed of its activities. This may encourage more businesses to offer support to the local community.

- ◆ It is recommended that a Lanchester tourism web page be sited in the Derwentside Infonet.

SECTION SIX : ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT

6.1 Introduction

Lanchester Parish is located in the Derwentside District of County Durham. The Parish boundary is shown on Plan A. (see **Appendix III**)

The main settlement area of Lanchester Parish is clustered in a small area situated in the valley bottom. The land rises to the West and North East and following the valley to the South East. The majority of the Parish is open countryside and occasional farms and small settlements, each having their own identity.

The A691 forms the main routeway through the Parish, by passing the village centre, running from the North West to South East towards Durham.

The A691 is a main routeway, connecting the Parish with other main A roads, making Lanchester easily accessible from other parts of the region.

The appraisal has taken into account the views and impressions of local residents. The issues highlighted during the workshops, in the questionnaires and visual survey will form the framework of an environmental strategy.

The main issues of concern are as follows:

- Poor play facilities
- Parking provision/traffic
- Public toilets
- Unsightly shop frontages and empty shops
- Improvements to existing footpath network.

The basis of the report concentrates on these issues – and thus deals mainly with the primary settlement and village centre.

Plan B (see **Appendix IV**) shows the position within the Parish of potential areas of improvement/ development.

6.2 Play Provision

At present there are five designated play sites under the jurisdiction of the Parish Council in Lanchester, each very poorly equipped and lacking in ‘Play Value’.

These areas are located as follows:

1. Behind Park House
2. Hurbeck Cottages
3. At the Cricket Ground
4. Behind Manor Grange
5. Hollinside.

The inadequacy of the play provision has raised particular concern and local people are strongly in favour of developing at least one of the above sites.

The favoured sites for development are:

- ◆ Behind Park House (Park House site – 178 respondents to the residents survey)
- ◆ The Cricket Ground (Cricket Ground Site – 125 respondents to the residents survey).

Park House Site

(Site 1, Plan B)

Situated behind Park House, Site 1 is a mown grass field bordered to the East by the Kings Head car park wall —presently in a state of disrepair – and to the West by the Lanchester Valley Walk. The play equipment consists of swings and a small modular unit.

This site, although not overlooked by houses and somewhat tucked away, proved to be most favoured by the local community for further development, due to its accessibility to the village centre and residential areas.

Cricket Ground Site

(Site 2, Plan B)

The Cricket Ground and its existing play equipment – swing, climbing frame and pipe, is situated off Kitswell Road. Although not overlooked by housing it would be in view of those using other facilities provided at the Cricket Ground. This site was the second most favoured area for further play development.

This site is not in such close proximity of the village centre as the area behind Park House. However, it is closer to the village schools.

6.3 Parking Provision And Traffic Congestion

Problems with parking provision and traffic congestion in the village centre and around the schools is considered to be of great concern.

The concerns raised can be divided into categories:

- ◆ On street parking/waiting along Front Street
- ◆ Parking at the village schools
- ◆ Existing car park behind the Spar
- ◆ Existing pub car parks (Kings Head and Queens Head car parks which are privately owned)

On-street parking/waiting along Front Street

(Site 3, Plan B)

Traffic congestion arises within the village centre due to on-street parking/waiting outside the shops on Front Street. This appears to be particularly outside the Spar shop.

However, since the beginning of the appraisal project, double yellow lines have now been placed around the entrance to the Spar car park and along Front Street.

Parking at Village Schools

(Site 4, Plan B)

Traffic congestion and parking problems are occurring outside the schools due to parents dropping off and picking up their children.

Existing car park behind the Spar Grocery Shop

(Site 5, Plan B)

The existing car park behind the Spar shop, although well used, there is possibly a lot of wasted space resulting from its layout.

It is also scruffy in appearance and in need of tidying up.

Queens Head car park (privately owned)

(Site 6, Plan B)

Situated behind the Queens Head on Front Street.

Kings Head car park (privately owned)

(Site 7, Plan B)

Extremely large car park situated behind the Kings Head, and present location of the recycling facilities.

6.4 Public Toilets

(Site 8, Plan B)

Situated in one corner of the car park behind the Spar shop – these toilets are viewed as an eyesore, having suffered from a degree of vandalism, and need cleaning.

6.5 Shop Front Improvements/Vacant Premises

Concerns have been raised relating to the impression created on Front Street by vacant premises and different architectural styles.

6.6 Public Footpaths/Rights Of Way

(Site 9, Plan B)

Lanchester Parish is very well positioned for easy access into the countryside – and indeed the marginal areas are rich in wildlife and have high ecological value.

A good footpath network is in existence, most notably the Lanchester Valley Walk.

Smallhope Burn

(Site 10, Plan B)

Smallhope Burn is a tributary of the River Browney and separates the village centre from the A691 bypass. Its banks are steep and very overgrown, it is culverted under The Green and then reappears behind the Kings Head. It is thus almost entirely hidden from view.

6.7 General Issues

Dog fouling/dog bins

The problems of dog fouling are of concern to the residents of Lanchester.

Litter

The amount of litter within the village centre and location of litter bins is a concern of the residents.

6.8 Lanchester Parish – Wider Area

The majority of this section has concentrated on the village centre, due to the fact that this is where the main environmental issues lies.

The wider Parish is rural in nature, and very picturesque.

There are however fears expressed by the people of Lanchester. These fears are that of further new development spreading out from the main settlement resulting in the loss of areas of their rural countryside, and also that posed by potential opencast mining.

The overall impression given from the people of Lanchester Parish is that they like the environment in which they live very much, would like to improve the problems expressed in the main settlement, and safeguard their environment for future generations to enjoy.

In order to do this it is recommended that the people on Lanchester consider producing a 'Village Design Statement'.

6.9 Recommendations

- ◆ It is suggested that a feasibility study be carried out by Lanchester Parklife and the Lanchester Parish Council, looking further into the play requirements, location and types of equipment, and age range to be targeted.
- ◆ Initiate projects encouraging people to walk to school with their children, either from home or from existing car parks – stressing the value to general health and fitness and road safety education.

- ◆ It is recommended that lift sharing be encouraged where walking to school is inappropriate.
- ◆ It is recommended that investigation into improvement of the layout of the Spar shop car park to maximise potential parking spaces, take place.
- ◆ Investigate potential disabled car parking spaces in the village. Provide special permits allowing parents to park there when dropping off/collecting children to school – tying in with the walk to school project.
- ◆ It is recommended that the toilets behind the Spar shop are upgraded including painting and cleaning. However, in the long-term it is recommended that the toilets be re-sited in a more appropriate place.
- ◆ It is recommended that vacant premises/shop owners be approached to discuss the possibility of vacant premises being used for display purposes or as charity shops, rather than leaving them in a vacant state.
- ◆ It is recommended that the feasibility of a ‘Shop Front Improvement Scheme’ be investigated.
- ◆ Although a good footpath network is in existence, improvements are recommended to the paths themselves, the signage and to increase the provision of benches in appropriate locations.
- ◆ The use of way markers, inclusion of small pieces of public/environmental art, interpretation boards and/or becoming part of the ‘Parish Paths Partnership’ is recommended.
- ◆ Although already acting as a natural habitat rich buffer between the bypass and the village centre, it is recommended a feasibility study be carried out into visibly revealing Smallhope Burn for the people who live in Lanchester and those visiting to enjoy.
- ◆ It is recommended that dog fouling signs be erected and dog bins be provided, the position of which to involve consultation between the local authority and the community.
- ◆ It is recommended that a project be undertaken to ascertain the suitability of the location of litter bins within the village centre.

SECTION SEVEN: LOCAL COMMUNITY & LOCAL SERVICES

7.1 Introduction

From the outset of this project, one of the main aims was to generate community interest and develop a community led forum to steer the direction of the project. In addition, it was recognised and acknowledged that to develop or act upon recommendations for action in Lanchester Parish, such a community forum would need to continue once the appraisal project was completed. In order to ensure that priorities for action regarding the social, economic and environmental regeneration of Lanchester Parish, it is important to ensure that future projects are owned and controlled by the local community. To achieve this local skills and resources need to be identified, harnessed and developed. The level of community involvement which has been generated throughout the appraisal project is very encouraging and certainly should be built upon in the future.

The community section looks at the various community groups, activities and events which take place in Lanchester. A valuable amount of information contained in the Community and Local Services Section was generated via the Community Profile Workshop 1.

Lanchester Parish has a very high level of community activities taking place at a number of different venues including the local community centre and the three churches which serve the Parish. There are numerous community groups in Lanchester Parish and many local residents are also involved in volunteer activities.

One of the objectives of the Lanchester Parish Appraisal was to gather ideas and suggestions, relating gaps or potential opportunities to community provision including community activities, community groups and local services.

7.2 Community Facilities and Activities

There are a considerable number of different venues which provide community activities for residents of Lanchester Parish. The Residents Survey suggested that the most popular and well used single community venue is the Lanchester Community Centre which is used by over 30 community groups. However, the three local churches also scored very highly in the survey as being very popular and well used community venues.

In total, there are over fifty-eight community or interest groups listed in Lanchester. This figure is probably higher as it is possible that all groups may not be mentioned or acknowledged in this report. Over thirty-three community or interest groups are affiliated to the Lanchester Community Association. There are at least twelve different community groups/clubs for young people in Lanchester Parish (some run more than once for different age groups). Over fourteen groups are identified as not being affiliated to the community centre.

Community and Interest Groups in Lanchester Parish

The following list of groups are all affiliated to the Lanchester Community Association, Lanchester Community Centre:

Keep Fit	Women's Institute	Flower Club
Bridge Club	Wildlife Club	68 th DLI Club
Over 60's	Thursday Club	Art Group
NSPCC	Red Cross	Save the Children
Conservatives	Methodist Youth	Benfieldside Folk Dance Group
Local History Society	Lanchester Parish Council	Labour Party Group
Lanchester Players	Lanchester Lions	Model Boat Club
Lace Club	Beginners Bridge	Choral & Operative Society
Wednesday Whist	Wednesday Bridge	Needlecraft Group
Lace Group	CPRE	Outdoor Bowls
Decoupage	Tennis Club	Greencroft Parish Council

Young Peoples Clubs and Groups in Lanchester Parish

Name of Group	Age Ranges	Venue
Anchor Boys -	5-9 years Junior Section 9 – 12 years Company Section 12 years onwards	
Rainbows	Various	
Brownies	3 age groups	Methodist Church
Girl Guides	Various	
Boys Brigade	Various	Methodist Church
Brass Band	Junior Section/Young Players	Methodist Church
Methodist Youth Council	Various	Methodist Church
Church of England Pathfinders Group	Various	All Saints C of E
Junior Wildlife	7 years upwards	Community centre
Ballet	Various	Community Centre
Tai Quads	Various	Community centre
Red Cross Youth	Age 5 upwards	Red Cross Shop

Other Community Groups, Clubs and Societies in Lanchester

Lanchester & District Flower Club	Modern Sequence Dancing (Age Concern)
Lanchester Agricultural Society	Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club
Day Club for the Housebound	Adult Training Centre – Lee Hill Centre
Lanchester Parklife	Lanchester Angling Club
Ramblers Association	Lanchester Model Makers Club

Lanchester Leek Club	Lanchester Durham Wildlife Trust
Lanchester Allotment Association	Lanchester Antiquarian Society

Regular Community Events in Lanchester	
December/Christmas Period	Christmas Choral Service (all three churches)
	Christmas Eve Carol Service - Village Green
	Lanchester Lions Senior Citizens Social Evening
	Boxing Day Fox Hunt
Easter	Egg Rolling Down Paste Hill – Wildlife Trust
May	Boys Brigade Fun Run
June	Lanchester Lions Carnival
	Lanchester EP School Family Picnic
	Lions Cycle Ride
	Lions Street Market
	Shakespeare Society Performance – Community Centre
July	Lanchester Show
Summer School Holidays	Derwentside District Council Playschemes & Play-bus
	Male Voice Choir Concert
September	Leek, Flower & Vegetable Show – Lanchester Social Club
	Leek, Flower & Vegetable Show – Kings Head Public House
October	Operatic Society performance
November	Lanchester Lions Bonfire Night
Other Regular Events	Lanchester Players Banquet and Pantomime
	Brownies and Guides Gang Shows
	Coffee Mornings (Various)
	Luncheon Clubs (Various)

7.3 Community Venues

Fifty percent of households who responded to the Residents Survey listed the local community venues which they use. Additionally, fifty two people who responded to the survey indicated that they were a member of a community management committee of one or more community venues listed below. The table below shows the number of survey respondents using each venue.

Table 18: Community Venues Regularly Used by local Residents

Organisation/Venue	No of people	Organisation/Venue	No of People
Community Centre	107	Cricket Club	10
Methodist Church	55	Library	10
Parish Church	40	Outdoor Bowls	6
Croft View	22	Lanchester Tennis Club	6
All Saints R.C.	20	Derwentside College	4
Lanchester Social Club	13	Red Cross	2
Lanchester Lions	13	Ramblers Association	1
School Facilities	12		

Source: Lanchester Parish Appraisal Residents Survey

7.4 Disabled Facilities

Twenty-nine respondents (7%) to the Lanchester Residents Survey indicated that they had a disability which prevented them from joining in certain activities at community venues. The majority of problems which disabled people faced in relation to accessing community venues in Lanchester included restricted access to community venues, transport difficulties, a lack of disabled facilities, e.g. handrails. During the focus groups and community workshops, a number of participants suggested that the Community Centre, although an excellent facility, could be improved for disabled and pushchair access particularly the entrance on Front Street.

7.5 Young People

A high number, 112 respondents to the residents survey, indicated that they felt the Lanchester Community Centre did not cater for all sections of the community. Twenty percent of people who responded to the survey indicated that a lack of provision for teenagers was the main problem. This view was also shared by young people who participated in Young Persons surveys and or focus group discussions.

7.6 Funding Issues

It is very evident that one of the strengths of Lanchester Parish is the very high level of community activities and events which take place in the area. However, a common view about Lanchester is that it is a fairly affluent area. As such, this could be seen to be a barrier in relation to accessing outside funds for the area. Lanchester Parish, although part of the Rural Development Area, cannot access a number of funds which other areas across the district have the potential to access. For example, Lanchester is not a priority ward under European Objective 2 priorities 4.1 and 4.2, nor is it a Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) identified area. Such funds are directed at those wards or identified geographical areas which are suffering from high levels of deprivation on a number of different indicators. As such it could be argued that an affluent area like Lanchester Parish does not need targeted funds. This is not the view held by local residents and members of the community.

During focus groups and community workshops a high number of participants felt that other areas had an unfair advantage in terms of being able to access funding from a wider range or sources. Such opinions were mainly concerned about the lack of provision of

funds for appropriate play park facilities and lack of facilities for young people (both issues which are addressed in detail elsewhere in this report). People expressed views that such provision should be provided for by public funds, i.e. the local authorities. General views gained during face to face community consultation exercises indicated that it is widely recognised that Lanchester does have pockets of deprived areas particularly among the elderly population and concentrated across the two local authority housing estates in Lanchester Parish.

Lanchester Parish has an excellent record for attracting alternative funding through numerous community mechanisms. Two such mechanisms which have been widely acknowledged throughout the community consultation exercises include the Lanchester Community Economic Development sub-group of the Lanchester Community Association and the Lanchester Lions. For example, the Lanchester Community Association received one of the first National Lotteries Charities Board Grants distributed, to improve the Lanchester Community Centre. Additionally the current Millennium Woods Project appears to have considerable community involvement and support from residents and local groups.

7.7 Local Information

One of the common themes which has cropped up time and again during the project is the feeling that although there are many community activities taking place in Lanchester, information available on such activities needs to be comprehensively brought together. Various suggestions to improve access to information have been put forward by many participants particularly during the Community Workshops. Such suggestions include the provision of a community newsletter, a community information booklet or a 'Village' brochure.

7.8 Local Area Partnership

Since the beginning of the appraisal project, local people who have given up their time have seen the potential role and need for a community based and led driving force, which will take forward some of the suggestions for action which will come from the project. During the latter stages of the project, the setting up of a community area partnership has been considered by the Lanchester Parish Steering Group. Additionally, it has been proposed that due to competition and other difficulties in accessing funding for Lanchester Parish, the development of a new community charity or other type of suitable enterprise appears to be a very realistic and viable option.

7.9 Agency Resources

As well as the various community groups and activities which take place in Lanchester, there are also other community resources in the area. One such resource is the Durham Rural Community Council (DRCC) who aim to develop the capacity of local communities and provide technical advice, assistance and training to community groups across Durham County. In addition, the DRCC is an easy resource for community groups in Lanchester to access as its head office is based in Lanchester village. Facilities available to local groups at the DRCC also include the use of a resource room which has computer and Internet facilities as well as a resource library and Funder Finder facility.

Other agencies are available to provide support including the Durham Co-operative Development Association (DCDA) who can provide technical assistance and advice on any aspect of setting up community owned enterprises and co-operative businesses. Groundwork West Durham and Acorn Trust are both agencies which can provide practical and technical advice and assistance on a wide range of environmental projects from small projects to very large environmental projects.

Derwentside College also has an excellent facility in Lanchester which is to become a Centre of Excellence. As well as providing access to a wide curriculum of post sixteen further education courses locally, the college has an exceptional IT resource facility. Access to the Internet facilities are available. The Lanchester Parish Council has also demonstrated its commitment to achieving maximum community involvement in future regeneration and community initiatives. Firstly, this has been through the provision of this appraisal project and secondly, through its willingness to commit itself to directing financial resources to priorities which have been identified by the local community. Statutory organisations including the Derwentside District Council and the Durham County Council can also provide advice and resources other than direct funding. The Police and Community Education Service could also provide advice and assistance in relation to the development of projects and technical assistance concerning crime and youth.

7.10 Recommendations

- ◆ The Lanchester Parish Steering Group should continue after the appraisal project has ended in order that recommendations for action in Lanchester Parish can become achievable. It is recommended that the Steering Group aim for charitable status in order to maximise the potential for bringing in funds. A NLCB Small Grant should be sought for starter costs.
- ◆ It is recommended that all local resources should be drawn upon including inviting representatives from local agencies to attend or become part of the successor partnership to the Lanchester Parish Appraisal Steering Group. Such representatives should include voluntary, statutory and private sector businesses.
- ◆ It is recommended that a representative from every community group should be encouraged to join the partnership.
- ◆ It is recommended that the provision of a community newsletter be investigated further.
- ◆ It is recommended that the Lanchester Parish Appraisal Steering Group seek funding or resources in kind in order to produce a comprehensive guide to community groups, activities and provision in the Lanchester Parish area. All local groups could be approached to contribute financially or otherwise to such a document which should be updated annually.
- ◆ The Lanchester Parish Appraisal Group should join with the Community Centre Community Economic Development Group to form a fundraising sub committee of Lanchester Partnership.

- ◆ It is recommended that the Community Centre seek funds to improve disabled/pushchair access to the centre's entrance on Front Street.

- ◆ It is recommended that specialist interest sub groups be set up as sub groups to the Lanchester Appraisal Steering Group. These should at least include: youth and crime; fundraising; transport and traffic; play and environment.

SECTION EIGHT: CRIME & SAFETY

8.1 Introduction

Fear of crime in Lanchester appears lower than in many other parts of the Derwentside District. This section of the report mainly looks at the responses recorded in the resident's survey as crime and safety was not a major issue at any of the focus groups and community workshops.

During the focus groups, people with young children indicated that one of the good things they liked about Lanchester was the low crime rate. Additionally, the majority of participants of the elderly resident's focus groups indicated that they felt Lanchester is a relatively safe place to live. However, the same group would like to see more police on the beat.

In contrast to the above, approximately 25% of respondents to the residents survey stated that there are areas in Lanchester where they do not feel safe. However, this figure increases to 41% when asked if there are areas where people feel unsafe after dark. The table below shows the areas of Lanchester Parish where people feel unsafe.

Table 19: Areas Where People Feel Unsafe In Lanchester Parish

Where People Feel Unsafe	No.	Where People Feel Unsafe After Dark	No.
The Garths/Public Toilet Area	13	The Garths/Public Toilet Area	35
Railway Walk	12	Car Parks (Particularly Spar)	34
Front Street	10	Railway Walk	20
Car Parks	6	Village Centre	17
Kings Head Play Park	5	Areas of Poor Lighting	13
Burnside	2	Most Areas	13
Footpaths on various estates	1	Bus Shelters	3
		Cadger Bank	3
		Deanery View Walk	2
		Shopping Areas	2
		Behind Percy Place	1

Source: Lanchester Parish Residents Survey

8.2 Crime Committed in Lanchester Parish Over the Last Twelve Months

People were asked if they had been the victim of crime within the last twelve months. Fifty four people indicated that they had been the victims of crime. This represents 13.5% of all respondents of the survey. This figure is quite high considering the fear of crime remains low to medium. The main crimes committed against respondents included nuisance and anti-social behaviour, theft and burglary and vehicle damage. The table below indicates the type of crime respondents of the survey have been victim of.

Table 20: Type of Crime Committed in Lanchester During the Last Twelve Months

Type of Crime	Number of times	
	Once	Twice
Nuisance & Anti-Social Behaviour	20	0
Theft & Burglary	20	0
Violence and Harassment	3	1
Criminal Damage	3	1
Vehicle Damage	19	1

Source: Lanchester Parish Appraisal Residents Survey

The incidence of violence and harassment and criminal damage in Lanchester Parish is quite low. Of those responding to the survey, only three people had been the victim of crime more than once in the last twelve months. The majority of those who had been the victim of crime had reported the crime to the police.

8.3 Crime Prevention

The resident's survey also indicated that 49 people had received crime prevention advice over the last twelve months. Sixty-nine people indicated that they were a member of a neighbourhood watch initiative and a further 174 people indicated they would like to join a neighbourhood watch initiative. Participants of community workshops stated that they felt the provision of more neighbourhood watch initiatives would be a good thing. However, some participants felt that such initiatives are difficult to recruit members to and sustain because of lack of long term commitment of members.

8.4 Fear of Crime

The fear of crime in Lanchester is medium to low. The table below shows the types of crime which people are most concerned with. These correlate with the types of crime most likely to be committed according to respondents of the resident's survey.

Table 21: Types of Crime Residents Are Concerned About In Lanchester

Type of Crime	No. Of people
Theft & Burglary	231
Nuisance & Anti-Social Behaviour	170
Vehicle Damage	164
Criminal Damage	80
Violence and Harassment	58

Source: Lanchester Parish Appraisal Residents Survey 1998

8.5 Police Provision

When asked their opinion on the adequacy of police provision in Lanchester, a very high majority of survey respondent's (301) indicated that police provision was not adequate. This figure seems very high considering that the majority of participants of all community consultation exercises indicated that they felt the fear and incidence of crime in Lanchester Parish is medium to low.

In relation to public safety, concerns were highest in relation to the need to enforce traffic speeding limits, an increase of policing and youths loitering in public places. The table below shows some of the residents concerns, which were recorded.

Table 22: Residents Concerns

Area of Concern	No.	Area of Concern	No.
Need to enforce speed limits	28	Cyclists on pavements	7
Need to increase policing levels	27	Vandalism	4
Youths Loitering in public areas	21	Vulnerability of the elderly	4
Parking Violations	14	Underage Drinking	2
Drug Use	8	Re-housing of criminals	1

Source: Lanchester Parish Appraisal Residents Survey 1998

8.7 Young People

Concern has been raised by a number of participants about young people loitering in public places in gangs. However, young people responded in their own survey that they also fear gangs of young people/youths hanging around the village in gangs.

8.8 Drugs and Substance Abuse

Although only eight respondents indicated that they were concerned about drug use, it was also pointed out that where people had consulted their children on this matter, the young people had indicated that drugs were quite easy to acquire. According to the results of the young peoples surveys and detached youth session, drugs does not appear to be a problem in Lanchester.

8.9 Recommendations:

- ◆ It is recommended that the Derwentside District Councils Neighbourhood Watch Officer be contacted to investigate extending existing neighbourhood watch provision in Lanchester.
- ◆ It is recommended that a project where young and elderly people work together be investigated to dispel the fear of crime among the elderly regarding young people.
- ◆ It is recommended that areas where there appears to be inadequate lighting, should be highlighted and reported to the relevant local authorities to be reviewed for improvement where appropriate. Particularly the public toilet areas, car parks and Railway Walk.
- ◆ It is recommended that the Police are invited to discuss crime and safety issues with the local community. This could be facilitated via the new Lanchester Partnership.

SECTION NINE: YOUNG PEOPLE

9.1 Introduction

The young people's section first gives a brief overview of the general views and opinions which have emerged from the community consultation exercises including the residents survey, community workshops and focus groups which have been carried out during the appraisal project.

The report then presents the results of two surveys carried out with young people aged between 11 years and 18 years from St Bedes School in Lanchester and Greencroft Upper and Lower Schools, and young people aged 8 – 10 from Lanchester E.P. Primary and Lanchester All Saints RC Primary during July 1998.

9.2 Summary Of Youth Issues Raised During Community Consultation Exercises

One of the major themes to emerge from all community consultation exercises was the problem of a lack of adequate facilities for young people in Lanchester Parish. This was particularly true in terms of teenagers and young people who had perhaps ceased attending organised activities such as the Brownies, Scouts and Guides.

In Lanchester Parish, there are many activities organised for young people but these are generally clubs or groups of special interest. As such, there is no youth club or detached youth facilities provision in Lanchester.

Youth issues were mainly debated at the community workshops and focus groups. These face to face exercises initiated discussions regarding the lack of facilities for young people and particularly the lack of provision for young people at the Lanchester Community Centre. Concerns were raised regarding young people hanging around the streets and congregating in gangs in various places in Lanchester, particularly in the village. However, such views, among all age groups ranging from people in their twenties to pensioners, also included recognition of the need to provide facilities for the same young people. Essentially, residents of Lanchester were quite sympathetic and held positive views about the young people of this age group.

Various solutions to the problems of lack of facilities for young people have been discussed. These range from providing space in the community centre, acquiring one of the empty shop units and investigating the possibility of providing facilities in Croft View. General opinion was that the community centre was the least appropriate place to provide activities although the suggestions of an empty shop unit or Croft View were both seen as possible solutions. Again, debate has taken place regarding whether provision should be a drop in centre, a youth centre based project or a detached youth project. Discussions which took place among participants of community consultation exercises were inconclusive regarding the type of provision which is need. It was felt that most importantly, young people themselves needed to be widely consulted regarding future provision for young people. To an extent, consultation has already begun to take place in relation to the two young people's survey and the young peoples detached youth discussion which are detailed below.

9.3 Lanchester Young Persons Surveys Results

This section of the report looks at the results of the two young peoples surveys which were carried out. As the views of the young people were quite different among the two age groupings, each survey is presented individually. Recommendations are presented at the end of the section.

9.4 Methods Used

A Youth Consultant was employed to carry out the young peoples community consultation exercises. The surveys were carried out at the beginning of the following schools: St Bedes School, Greencroft Upper, Greencroft Lower, Lanchester E. P. Primary School and Lanchester All Saints RC School.

The questionnaires were delivered to the schools at the beginning of July and the head-teachers arranged their distribution to the relevant classes. The completed questionnaires were collected two weeks later.

Not all young people in the intended target group will have been questioned due to sickness, holiday, or attendance at another school. The numbers of returned questionnaires from the 15 – 18 age group was low due to the timing of the distribution of the questionnaire. Many from this age group were not available as they had already left school following GCSE exams. Similarly older young people attending Derwentside College were not available for questioning. However, the questionnaires completed, complemented with the detached work, can be seen to be representative of the intended age group.

9.5 Response Rate

A total of 287 questionnaires were completed and returned. 125 completed questionnaires were returned by the 11 – 18 age group and 162 completed questionnaires were returned by the 8 – 10 age group.

9.6 Young Persons Survey Aged 11 - 18

The first young peoples report incorporates the results of the surveys as well as the views expressed by a number of young people who were met on the streets of Lanchester by the author and a member of the Lanchester Appraisal Steering Committee, during an evening in late July.

9.6.1 Environment

In the responses to questions about Lanchester and many of the other questions in the questionnaire, it should be noted that there was often more than one response given. All comments have however been recorded in a separate report.

The most popular choices for liking living in Lanchester were the fact that it is quiet and peaceful, the countryside and that it is a nice safe area. When asked what they disliked about the village, 58 of those who responded said there was ‘nothing to do’ whilst only 2 said there was nothing they disliked about the village. Nineteen respondents stated that they ‘did not like certain people’ and 14 young people shared the views of residents in general that there are not enough shops.

9.6.2 Activities

Fifty young people stated they participated in activities in Lanchester but 58 said they go outside of Lanchester for leisure activities.

The most popular activity taken part in, in Lanchester is tennis followed by Boys Brigade, rugby and cricket. However, many different activities were recorded including the Girl Guides, Red Cross and Lanchester Show.

The most popular activity joined in outside of the village is swimming, followed by football although various other activities were mentioned including rugby, drama, snooker and gym.

Table 23:.. Activities that would be joined in if they were available in Lanchester

Activity	Response	Activity	Response
Youth Club	34	Ice-skating	6
Swimming pool/swimming club	32	Hockey	6
Sports Centre	30	Amusement arcades	6
Football Club/Training	24	Cinema	6
Club/Disco	10	Dancing	6
Cycling	9	Drama Club	5
Tennis	9	Snooker	5
Basketball	8	McDonalds/Burger King	5
Ten-pin bowling	8	Athletics	4
Fitness Club/Gym	8	Rugby	4
Trampolining	7		
Art Club	6		

Source: Lanchester Young Persons Survey Aged 11 –18 1998

When asked which activities they would join if available the most popular choice for new activities in Lanchester was for a youth club, followed by a swimming pool and sports centre. Also listed in lesser numbers were: skateboarding; singing/music lessons; better parks; mountain bike park; go-kart track; babysitting; boxing; family picnic; rounders; climbing; table tennis; volley-ball; golf; cricket; motor biking; walking; an environment group; computer club; village fair; orienteering; taekwondo; fishing; games club; badminton; theme park; clay pigeon shooting; bungee jumping; ‘somewhere to hang around’; shops; gymnastics; squash and skiing.

9.6.3 Play Parks

The Cricket Ground and the back of Park House are the most popularly used play areas. Play areas not on the list and used were: Greenwell Park; the school fields; the

tennis courts; Kitswell; Cornsay and Allensford.

Table 24: Play Parks That Are Used Regularly By Young People

Back of Park House	40
Other	18
Behind Manor Grange	11
Hurbuck Cottages	6
Hollinside	5

Source: Lanchester Young Persons Survey Aged 11 –18 1998

Eighty seven respondents stated that they would like more play equipment in the play parks. Suggestions given for what new equipment would be liked in the parks included various equipment from ‘anything’ to swings to a helter-skelter!

9.6.4 General

Most respondents listed Lanchester as the place where their best friend lived. Also listed as places where their best friend lived were: Hollinside; Fenhall Park; Durham; Catchgate; Leadgate; Delves Lane; Annfield Plain; New York and Jamaica.

Going out with friends and playing football were the most popular activities for evenings, weekends and holidays. Numerous other activities were listed including watching T.V., playing with the computer, visiting the Metro Centre and shopping.

Having ‘nothing to do’, bullying and boredom were the problems faced by most of the young people questioned. Additionally, 37 respondents stated they were themselves bored or had nothing to do. Fifteen respondents also stated they are experiencing bullying. In a separate section of the report, 34% of respondents stated they had been bullied at school. This appears to be a very high number. When asked if they thought more help was needed for people being bullied at school 107 or 86% said yes, more help was needed. 18 or 14% said no, more help was not needed.

When asked how Lanchester could become a better place for young people to live in, 60 respondents stated the need for more activities. In comparison, only 14 specified they would like a sports centre and only 13 specified that they would like a youth centre.

9.6.5 Employment & Education

One hundred and ten respondents felt they would be able to gain employment after leaving school. Only 7 respondents felt that they would not gain employment. From the 7 responses which said they may not be able to gain employment after school, the reasons given included: few places to work in Lanchester; poor exam results; expensive transport costs from Lanchester; lack of shops. The most popular reason given for what would help to get a job, was a good education and qualifications with 78 of those questioned suggesting it

The majority of respondents stated they would go to college after leaving school. 35% of those questioned selected more than one answer.

TABLE 25. Responses on choices after leaving school

Choice	Response
Go to College	102
Get a job	34
Attend a training course	23
Other	10

Source: *Lanchester Young Persons Survey Aged 11 –18 1998*

9.6.6 General

When asked if they had consumed alcohol, 91 respondents or 73% said yes, they had consumed alcohol. 33 or 26% said no they had not, although one person did not answer. Of the 91 who had consumed alcohol, 56 said they did still drink, 33 said they no longer drank alcohol and 2 did not answer. The main reasons given for consuming alcohol were because it ‘tastes nice/I want to’, ‘because its good and makes you feel good’. Only 8 respondents listed boredom and only 2 listed in order to get drunk.

Of the young people questioned, when asked if they smoked, 114 or 91% said they did not smoke and 9 or 7% said they did smoke. 2 did not reply to the question.

When asked if they had taken an illegal drug or substance 114 or 91% of the young people questioned said no, they had not taken an illegal substance and 10 or 8% said yes, they had taken an illegal drug or substance.

Only one respondent replied that they still used the drug, but not very often.

When asked if they had ever been in trouble with the police 92 respondents or 74% had not been in trouble with the police, 30 respondents or 24% had been in trouble and 3 did not reply to the question. Various reasons were given for being in trouble with the police, but mainly included minor offences.

When asked why they had got into trouble with the police, 18 gave ‘boredom’ as a reason, 7 did not know and 2 suggested ‘pressure from friends’.

9.6.7 Young Peoples Detached Session

Many of the views of the young people questioned ‘on the Streets’ of Lanchester, were similar to those expressed by respondents of the surveys. This is particularly true of lack of facilities for young people and having nothing to do, particularly during holidays. Concerns were raised by the young people that they could not use the local community centre.

It was suggested that tennis, basketball and football courts are underused because of their poor quality and flooding when it rains. Additionally, there were no basketball or football nets or they were in very bad repair.

Young people felt that they were moved on by the police from places in the village without good reason especially as they felt they had no-where else to go. The young

people suggested a disco on Friday nights would be a good idea but would have to cater for 13-14 year olds and 15-17 year olds separately. Young people were also very much in favour of a coffee bar to sell soft drinks and play music. The older youth would prefer somewhere to go and socialise together, indoors.

Housing was a concern among the older young people and they expressed the views that they would have to move away from the village as there are not enough starter/low cost homes to rent.

9.7 Young Persons Survey Aged 8 - 10

This section of the report now looks at the results of the young persons aged 8 – 10 survey which was carried out.

9.7.1 Environment

The local countryside and the play areas were rated as being the best things about living in Lanchester. Young people also stated they liked their friends and the local shops. A significant number of children (40) were not able to name something they disliked about the village.

Not enough safe areas to play and litter were the greatest concerns of young people aged 8 – 10. Only 12 young people said they had nothing to do.

9.7.2 Activities

Of those responding, 109 young people said they participated in activities in Lanchester and 78 said they took part in activities outside of Lanchester.

The most popular activities in Lanchester that children take part in are Boys Brigade, SDA and football. Young people also enjoyed going to Sunday School, playing rugby and ballet classes among the many activities which were listed.

By far the most popular activity joined in outside of the village is swimming. However, young people also listed numerous other activities including football, horesriding, cubs and gymnastics.

The most popular choice for new activities in Lanchester was for a swimming pool or organised swimming club, followed by a football club, running club and cycling club.

During community consultation exercises, a swimming pool was also mentioned as a much needed resource for Lanchester. However, it was recognised that it is likely that a new swimming pool would not be provided in Lanchester. Suggestions were made that although the E.P. schools swimming pool is very small, this would still be a wonderful resource for the local community, both younger and older members. Suggestions were made that the school could be approached in order to ascertain whether the possibility of using the pool would be feasible, perhaps during school holidays. Other activities which would be popular include a football club and training, a running club, a cycling club, gymnastics and various others.

9.7.3 Play Parks

One hundred and twenty-five young people stated that they use one or more play parks in Lanchester. Of these, 76 use the back of Park House and 76 use the cricket ground site. Most children used more than one play area on a regular basis.

Play areas that were not on the list and regularly used were: the tennis courts; Consett; Malton; Allensford; Burnhope; Chester le Street; South Moor; Craghead; Kitswell Park; Greenwell Park; Stanley and Cornsay Colliery.

The majority of young people said they would like to see new play equipment in the play parks. As with the older young people surveyed, suggestions for the type of new equipment varied greatly

9.7.4 General

Most respondents listed Lanchester as the place where their best friend lived. Also listed as places where their best friend lived were: Howden-le-Wear; Quebec; Cornsay Colliery; Durham; Shotley Bridge; Blackhill; Carlisle; Leeds; Suffolk; Dipton; Esh Winning and Craghead.

Popular activities among the 8-10 age group during weekends, evenings and holidays include playing, watching TV, playing with friends, trips and holidays, football, cycling and swimming. Many other activities were also listed.

The most popular choice for improvements regarding how Lanchester could become a better place to live, was for more and better play areas. Second most popular choice was for a youth club and more activities. Also listed in lesser numbers were: less graffiti; more houses; cleaner toilets; walks; riding school; a farm to visit; less pubs; improve the village centre; shows; less houses; more lollipop ladies; more security and 'nothing'.

Table 26: Suggestions as to how Lanchester could become a better place for young people to live.

Suggestions	Responses
More parks/play areas	73
Youth club/more activities	49
Less litter	34
More shops	22
Less bullies/bad people	13
Swimming pool	12
Less cars/slower traffic	10
Leisure centre	7
Football pitch	6
More school	4

Source: Lanchester Young Persons Survey Aged 8 - 11 1998

9.8 Recommendations

- ◆ It is recommended that further consultation via a feasibility study be made among young people of all ages regarding what type of facilities are needed. A feasibility study should also be practical based involving youth work techniques.
- ◆ It is recommended that young people are invited to participate in any future youth feasibility study.
- ◆ It is recommended that young people are involved in a feasibility study to determine the need for a new play park.
- ◆ It is recommended that the provision of a facility where young people can meet or take part in activities on a regular basis be investigated as part of a youth feasibility study.
- ◆ It is recommended that the Comprehensive Schools are made aware of the results of the young peoples survey regarding the number of young people who have been bullied or feel bullying is a problem.
- ◆ It is recommended that the Durham County Council be notified of the condition of the basketball and football court nets in order that they can be replaced.

Appendix 2

Plan A – Lanchester Parish

Appendix III

Plan B – Location of potential sites for improvement

Appendix IV

Table: Standard Economic Scores Explained

Score	Category
Over 2	Extremely high need
Between 1 and 2	High need
Between 0.5 and 1	Above average need
Between -0.5 and 0.5	Average
Between -1 and -0.5	Below average need
Between -2 and -1	Low need
Below 2	Extremely low need

Table: Scores for the 13 indicators of economic need for the Lanchester Parish (1994)

Economic and Social Industries	Score	Level of Need
% of males who are economically active and unemployed	-1.15	Low
% of females who are economically active and unemployed	-1.27	Low
% of persons aged 16-24 who are economically active and unemployed	-0.29	Average
% of persons aged 16-24 who are economically active and on a Government Scheme	-0.10	Average
% of males aged 16-64 who are economically inactive and not students	-0.37	Average
% of females aged 16-59 who are economically inactive and not students	-0.88	Below average
% of residents aged 16 – pensionable age who are prevented from working by permanent sickness	-0.45	Average
% of residents without professional qualifications	-1.16	Low
% of persons in households whose head is in social class V (unskilled)	-0.83	Below average
Dependency ration – those economically inactive (including children) as a proportion of those economically active	-0.23	Average
% point change in the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate 1991-1994	-0.08	Average
% of the economically active who have been unemployed for greater than 1 year (seasonally adjusted rate April 1994)	-1.13	Low
% point change in the seasonally adjusted long-term unemployment rate 1991-1994	-1.1	Low

Source : Durham County Council