

Grisedale Croft Care Home — questions for officers

Submitted at the request of the officer to the Committee, to accompany our written submission

Health and Adults Scrutiny Committee, Westmorland and Furness Council · Meeting of Wednesday 23 September 2026 · Agenda item 6 · Submitted 18 September 2026

These are the questions Alston Moor Parish Council asks the Committee to put to officers. They are set out here as a plain list so that they can be answered one by one, in writing if that is easier than at the meeting.

Every question arises from a document Westmorland and Furness Council has itself published. The right-hand column gives the source and the paragraph of our written submission where the point is set out in full. **Pack page** is the number at the foot of the reports pack for this meeting; **report page** is the number inside the attached Grisedale Croft Consultation Report; **Applethwaite report page** is the number inside the report at agenda item 7.

THE FOUR WE WOULD ASK FIRST, IF THERE IS TIME FOR NO OTHERS

- ▶ **Q4.** Why does the report nowhere state that, on the corrected information, refurbishment was the most supported option?
- ▶ **Q21.** Why was a preferred option named for Grisedale Croft and expressly not named for Applethwaite Green, when both were decided at the same Cabinet meeting?
- ▶ **Q26.** On what building was the £2.5m–£3.0m refurbishment estimate calculated, given that the same figure appears in the Applethwaite Green report and no survey of either building is held?
- ▶ **Q39.** Where is the revised Equality Impact Assessment that was promised during the consultation, whose own review date was 20 August 2026?

A. The accuracy of the report before the Committee

	Question	Source
Q1	Paragraph 3.2 states that "The consultation ran from 14th May 2026 – 19th July 2026". The consultation closed on 19 August 2026 and was originally advertised to close on 5 August 2026. How did a date that was never the closing date at any stage come to be printed in the covering report?	Pack p.5; report pp.3, 6, 12 Submission \$2
Q2	The identical error appears at paragraph 3.2 of the Applethwaite Green covering report. Who checked these reports before publication, and when?	Pack pp.5 and 65 Submission \$2
Q3	Will a corrected report be published before Cabinet meets on 13 October 2026, and will the correction be drawn to Cabinet's attention?	Submission \$2, \$5

B. The figures

	Question	Source
Q4	Table 5 shows that in Part 2 — the only phase in which consultees had the corrected information — Option 2, refurbishment, was chosen by 66 respondents and Option 5 by 58. Why does the report nowhere state that refurbishment was the most supported option in that phase, when the Applethwaite Green report states its own outcome plainly at its key message 5?	Report p.16; Applethwaite report p.70 Submission \$3
Q5	Table 4 records 33 Part 1 paper forms received during the Part 2 period, and calls those who sent them "Part 2 respondents". Are those 33 counted inside the figure of 138 for Period 2?	Report p.16 Submission \$3
Q6	If they are, will officers publish the Period 2 figures with those 33 responses removed, so that the Committee and Cabinet can see the preferences of those who had only the corrected information?	Submission \$3
Q7	Table 7 shows that among the 180 respondents who are Alston or Alston Moor residents, the options that keep care provision on the Grisedale Croft site total 87 against 82 for Option 5. Why is this not stated anywhere in the report?	Report p.17 Submission \$4
Q8	The total row of Table 7 gives Option 5 as 96 and "Other" as 10. The columns add to 95 and 11, as do Tables 1 and 5, and the percentages printed in the same row correspond to 95 and 11. Which figures are correct, and will the table be corrected?	Report p.17 Submission \$5

Q9	The "preference with comments" column of Table 2 is stated as 171 and adds to 169. Taken with the second column, Table 2 accounts for only 197 of the 199 responses. Which two responses are missing, and will every percentage in that column be recalculated?	Report p.15 Submission \$5
Q10	Report page 18 states that "93% were aged 45 or above". The figures given are 174 of 185, which is 94 per cent. Will this be corrected?	Report p.18 Submission \$5
Q11	There is no Table 8 in the report and two different tables are numbered Table 10. Report page 8 refers to "the four options Cabinet decided to consult on" when there were five. Will these be corrected, and what else in the report has been checked?	Report pp.8, 18, 19 Submission \$5

C. The evidence the report does not contain

	Question	Source
Q12	The report names occupancy, referral pathways, refurbishment costs, demand assumptions and financial information as the most contested evidence, and reproduces none of it. There is no occupancy figure, no cost figure, no referral data and no pound sign anywhere in the fifty-six pages. Why was none of the disputed evidence set out, and will it be published before Cabinet?	Report pp.35–38, throughout Submission \$6
Q13	What has been the occupancy of Grisedale Croft in each of the last ten years, and what is it today?	Submission \$6, \$23
Q14	What is the net cost of operating Grisedale Croft, after resident contributions, for each of the last five years — as distinct from the gross cost per person relied on in the consultation materials?	Applethwaite report p.47 Submission \$12
Q15	How many referrals, enquiries and admissions has Grisedale Croft received in each of the last five years, and through which pathway did each arrive?	Q&A no 1, 15 June 2026 Submission \$18
Q16	Are permanent admissions to Grisedale Croft currently suspended or restricted? If so, by whose decision, from what date, and on what recorded basis? Theme 2 of the report is headed "Impact on current and future residents".	Report p.23 Submission \$26
Q17	Of 104 potential NHS short-stay bed weeks in 2025/26, the authority's Questions and Answers document records that 20 were used. What steps were taken during that year to make the remaining 84 available, and to whom?	Q&A no 1, 15 June 2026 Submission \$18
Q18	The same document records that hospital discharge teams "do not have access to this pathway". When was that restriction introduced, by whom, and has it been reviewed?	Q&A no 1, 15 June 2026 Submission \$18
Q19	Twenty-seven supporting documents now sit on the consultation portal and none is before this Committee. Section 13 of both covering reports, "Background Documents", is blank. Why is nothing listed there?	Pack pp.7 and 66 Submission \$22
Q20	The covering report lists "Appendices (if any)" as "N/A", while the consultation report cross-refers to "Appendix 2 – N-Compass report". Will the Healthwatch report and the N-Compass advocacy report be put before this Committee in full, rather than in summary?	Pack p.5; report pp.54–55 Submission \$20

D. Two consultations, two standards

	Question	Source
Q21	Cabinet named a preferred option for Grisedale Croft and expressly did not express a public preference for Applethwaite Green, having held one internally for both. Why were the two treated differently?	Report p.3; Applethwaite report pp.3 and 49 Submission \$9
Q22	The Grisedale Croft consultation page states that the preferred option is alternative accommodation "if one could be acquired, and it is financially viable ". That second condition appears nowhere in the five options as put to consultees. When was it added, and what does it mean?	Consultation portal, read 17 September 2026 Submission \$9
Q23	Respondents to the Grisedale Croft consultation proposed phased refurbishment with residents remaining on site, and the report quotes them. At Applethwaite Green the same proposal was named "Option 1.5" and given its own row in every table, its own theme, its own key message and its own appendix. Why was the Alston Moor proposal recorded only as "Other"?	Report p.40; Applethwaite report pp.56–59 Submission \$10
Q24	Correspondence from Markus Campbell-Savours MP is published on the consultation portal and he is not mentioned in the report. Tim Farron MP wrote to members of Cabinet in support of retaining provision at Grisedale Croft and is not mentioned either, although he has a named subsection in the Applethwaite Green report. Why does the Grisedale Croft report record nothing said by any elected representative?	Report p.4; Applethwaite report pp.62–63 Submission \$13
Q25	Healthwatch engaged 40 people on Alston Moor and 17 at Applethwaite Green. The Applethwaite Green summary states specific findings; the Grisedale Croft summary states none of its own. Why?	Report p.54; Applethwaite report p.68 Submission \$14

Q26	The refurbishment estimate for Grisedale Croft and the refurbishment estimate for Applethwaite Green are both £2.5m to £3.0m, and the authority holds no condition survey for Grisedale Croft. On what building, and on what evidence, was that figure calculated?	Applethwaite report p.47; FOI 208440 Submission \$11
Q27	The sentence "These events were attended by between 10 and 25 people, many of whom attended multiple sessions" appears word for word in both reports, covering twelve events in two communities. What attendance record was kept for each of the six events on Alston Moor, and will it be produced?	Report p.9; Applethwaite report p.10 Submission \$15, \$20
Q28	Four members of staff at Grisedale Croft responded and all four chose the authority's preferred option. Eight responded at Applethwaite Green and seven chose refurbishment. How were staff at each home consulted, what record was kept, and why does neither report contain anything said at a staff meeting or anything from former staff?	Report pp.7, 18; Applethwaite report pp.8, 18 Submission \$16

E. The conduct of the consultation

	Question	Source
Q29	People who attended the drop-in sessions were told their views would be considered and included in the consultation report. Officers were seen taking notes. Report page 10 says the comments "were not captured and fed into the consultation response process". Will officers produce every note or record made by an officer at any of the six sessions?	Report p.10 Submission \$20
Q30	A report of the drop-in sessions was promised to the Clerk of Alston Moor Parish Council and never arrived. What became of it?	Submission \$20
Q31	The executive summary lists "a public meeting and drop-in events" among the sources through which "Additional evidence was received", while report page 10 says the drop-in comments were not captured. Which is correct?	Report pp.4 and 10 Submission \$20
Q32	The public meeting of 16 July is recorded as attended by 78 members of the public. Alston Town Hall holds 93 chairs; all were in use and people were standing in the doorway, around the edge of the room and on the landing. By what method was the figure of 78 arrived at, and what record supports it?	Report p.13 Submission \$20
Q33	On what date, and by what means, was each of the six drop-in events first publicised? The sessions at The Hive, Nenthead and at Garrigill Village Hall — the only two held outside Alston town — both fell on 26 June, the day the consultation information was replaced. Which version of the materials was issued at them?	Report p.9 Submission \$19, \$26
Q34	The online survey "did not allow for respondents to select none of the five options, or choose multiple options". How many respondents wrote in the free-text field that their selection did not reflect their view, and how were those responses weighed?	Report p.14 Submission \$8
Q35	Direct responses and correspondence from 20 people were excluded from the quantitative analysis. Alston Moor Parish Council's formal consultation response, adopted on 3 August 2026, appears in no table because no organisational responses were received through the survey. How were those 21 contributions weighed against the 199 that were counted?	Report p.14 Submission \$20
Q36	Not one of the 199 responses came from a resident of Grisedale Croft, while five residents of Applethwaite Green responded to their survey. What was done to enable residents of Grisedale Croft to respond, and why is the difference not addressed in the report?	Report p.17; Applethwaite report p.18 Submission \$20
Q37	What script, briefing or form of words was used when the authority telephoned Part 1 respondents about the update, and will it be published?	Report pp.15–16 Submission \$26
Q38	The thematic analysis was produced "with the assistance of AI software" and "focused primarily on the content, strength and consistency of views expressed rather than counting the frequency of individual comments". What published measure exists of how many people held each view?	Report pp.20 and 56 Submission \$8

F. The equality duty

	Question	Source
Q39	The Equality Impact Assessment of 2 July 2026 gives itself a review date of 20 August 2026 and commits to being "continually reviewed and updated throughout the consultation process". A revised assessment was promised to us during the consultation and at its close. Where is it? If it exists, why has it not been published; if it does not, why was the work not done?	Equality Impact Assessment, 2 July 2026 Submission \$21
Q40	Paragraph 11.1 defers all equality impact assessments to the Cabinet paper, which the authority has said this Committee will not see. How is this Committee to test the assessment it is being asked to advise upon?	Pack p.6; statement of 8 September 2026 Submission \$21

Q41	The assessment concedes that resident assessments, accessibility needs, staff impacts and stakeholder views were "not yet gathered" and would be collected "before any decision is taken". Have they now been gathered, and will they be published before 13 October?	Equality Impact Assessment, 2 July 2026 Submission \$21
Q42	The assessment states that "Alternative provision exists in the local area". The Cabinet report of 21 April 2026 says "Distance to alternative homes is excessive" and calls Grisedale Croft "the only local provision", and the consultation page says Alston has "little alternative provision available". Which is the authority's position?	Equality Impact Assessment; Cabinet report; consultation portal Submission \$18

G. The preferred option, and what happens next

	Question	Source
Q43	In answer to Freedom of Information request 208440 the authority confirmed it holds no feasibility study, no site search, no sites considered, no cost estimate, no timetable and no identified capital funding for the preferred option. Has any of that changed since 22 May 2026, and will the site, cost, timetable and funding be published before Cabinet — or will the authority state plainly that none yet exists?	FOI 208440, 22 May 2026 Submission \$18
Q44	Has any specific building in Alston been identified, viewed, valued or discussed by any officer or member in connection with the preferred option?	Submission \$26
Q45	If no suitable and financially viable building is found, what happens to the residents and to residential care provision on Alston Moor? The authority's own Cabinet report rejects closure with no alternative in Alston as unacceptable.	Cabinet report, 21 April 2026 Submission \$18
Q46	What assumption has been made about the proceeds of the Grisedale Croft site, and would any capital receipt be reinvested in care provision on Alston Moor?	Submission \$26
Q47	Will officers commission a building-specific condition survey of Grisedale Croft, and cost a phased refurbishment that keeps residents on site, before any decision is taken?	Submission \$11, \$25
Q48	Has any discussion taken place with NHS partners about an integrated bed base for Alston Moor — residential, respite, intermediate, step-down and palliative? If not, when will it begin, given that it is required under every one of the five options?	Report pp.44–47 Submission \$24
Q49	Alston Moor Parish Council supplied the Alston Alliance Health and Care Plan and related historical documents to the consultation at the authority's request. When they were disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 a substantial part of their content was redacted. Which exemption was relied upon for each redaction, and will the unredacted documents be put before Cabinet?	Submission \$23
Q50	Will officers publish any letter, email or briefing sent to staff of Grisedale Croft during the consultation concerning speaking publicly about it?	Submission \$26
Q51	Paragraph 2.1 says this Committee's feedback " can " be included in the decision paper for Cabinet. The Applethwaite Green report says " will ". Why the difference, and will the Grisedale Croft wording be brought into line?	Pack pp.5 and 65 Submission \$20
Q52	The reports were published at 21.13 on 16 September 2026, after the five clear working days required for a meeting on 23 September had passed. Twenty days separate this meeting from the Cabinet decision. How will this Committee's view be recorded, considered and reflected in the decision papers in that time?	Pack pp.1–4 Submission \$19, \$20

HOW WE WOULD LIKE THESE ANSWERED

- ▶ **In writing, before 13 October 2026**, so that the answers can be considered by Cabinet alongside the report.
- ▶ **Question by question.** Several of these have been asked before in correspondence and answered in general terms. We ask for an answer to each one.
- ▶ **Where the answer is "no information is held", we ask that it be said in those words**, rather than the question being answered in principle. That answer is itself useful to the Committee.