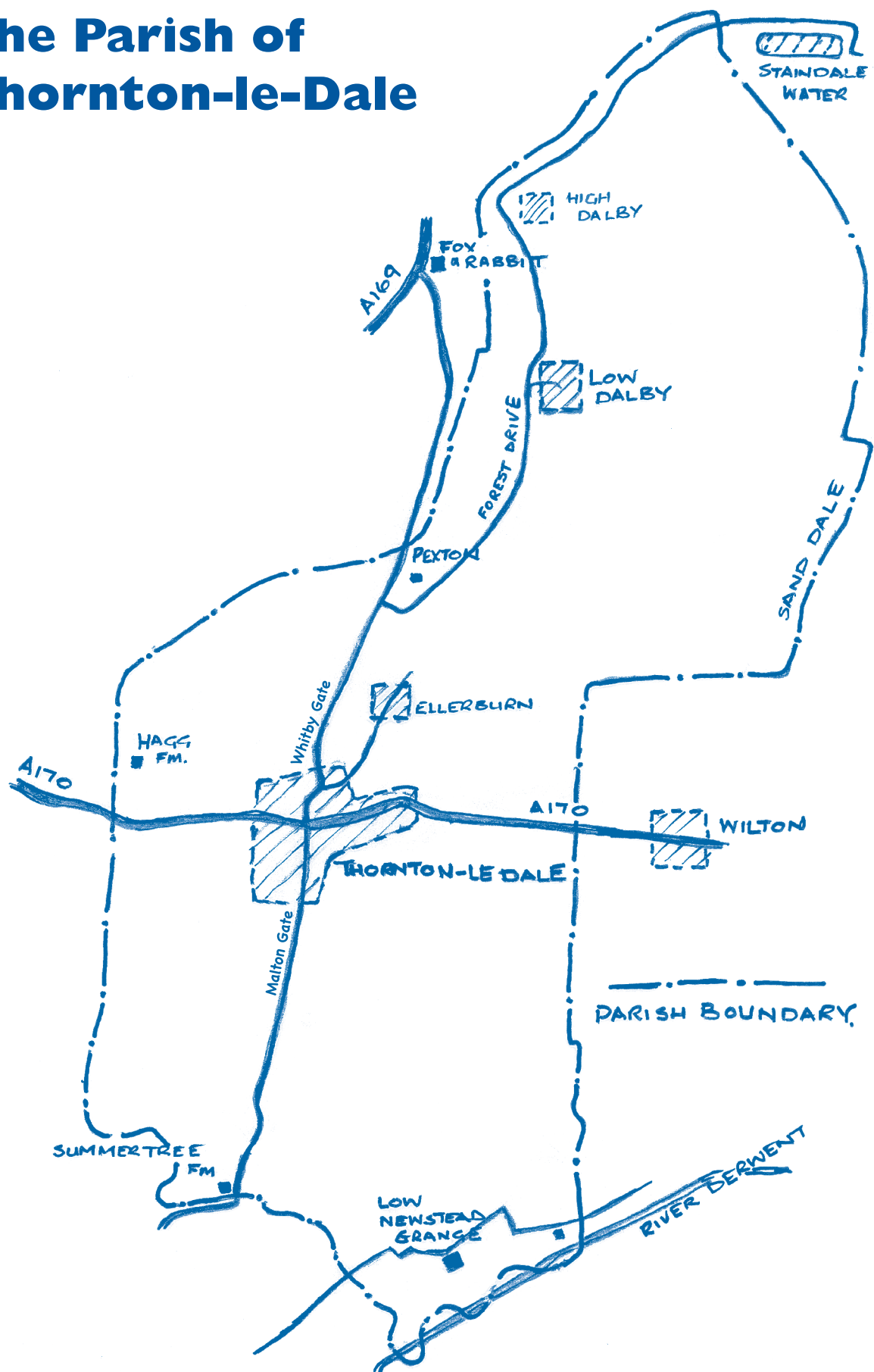




## Parish Plan 2008 - 2013



# The Parish of Thornton-le-Dale



# INTRODUCTION

During 2006 Thornton le Dale Parish Council decided to move towards the preparation of a Parish Plan with the help of the Yorkshire Rural Community Council (YRCC).

During the autumn of that year an open day for all parishioners was held to explain the nature and purpose of a parish plan. This resulted in the formation of a steering group which included a Parish councillor, interested parishioners and representatives from YRCC and NYMNP.

The main task for the group was the preparation of a questionnaire designed to find out what the community wanted for the future development of the Thornton-le-Dale Parish. The results would provide the basis for a plan which could be used by the relevant authorities when any development for the area was being looked at during the next five years.

The questionnaire was delivered to every household (860) and 334 were returned, a response rate of 39%. A group of volunteers collated and analysed the responses - the main concerns expressed were traffic problems, the visual appearance of the parish and housing.

The following pages form the basis for an action plan which will reflect the needs, concerns and aspirations of the community. It will only succeed if everyone comes together and forms an active dynamic community and the fact that some fifteen volunteers have already been actively working to help to produce the plan is a hopeful sign.

Thank you to everyone who answered the questionnaire - this is a big step forward for Thornton-le-Dale Parish.

Parish Plan Steering Group



# HISTORY OF THORNTON LE DALE

We are not sure when man first settled in the Thornton-le-Dale area but we know for certain that the high ground to the north of the village was farmed by neolithic man. The first physical evidence of settlement is an Iron Age (or possibly Bronze Age) bank and ditch, probably a boundary to prevent cattle rustling, in Ellerburn Woods. An Iron Age burial mound containing a cart or chariot was found on Pexton Moor not far from the Forestry toll-booth. Little has been found from the Roman period: pottery in Low Mill Garth, coins at Ellerburn.

Evidence of Anglo-Saxon occupation is revealed by the place name Thornton while later Viking settlements grew up at Dalby, Farmanby and Roxby. Fragments of a Saxon cross and Scandinavian style gravestones are built into the walls of Ellerburn Church.

Over the course of time Farmanby and Roxby were assimilated into Thornton and by the mid 19th century it had become known as Thornton Dale. The arrival of the railway in 1882 brought tourists in its wake and the -le- was later added to give the place a more upmarket image in keeping with its reputation as the prettiest village in Yorkshire.

After the Norman Conquest the main Thornton Manor was given to the Crown and later William gave it to his sister Adelaide whose third husband was the Count Odo, the founder of the House of Albermarle. By 1281 the Manor was in the hands of John De Easton who was granted a weekly market on the village green by King Edward I.

Whilst the market no longer operates, the village cross and stocks (last used for public punishment of wrongdoers in 1874) remain. The Green continues to be a focal point of village life today with Summer Sunday afternoon band concerts and as the venue for the annual switch-on ceremony of the Christmas lights in early December.

Thornton-le-Dale Church - All Saints - is said to originate in the 14th century and could have been built on the site of an earlier Anglo-Saxon church. It has a Norman font and a 17th century chancel arch. It has a colourful past; the stonework in the interior of the church shows signs of damage repair after a pitched battle took place there during the Civil War period in the 17th century. William Grimes, who saw action at Waterloo and guarded Napoleon Bonaparte at Saint Helena, is buried in the church graveyard.



The Thornton Manor passed into the hands of Richard, first Viscount Lumley, through his marriage to Elizabeth Sandys, a granddaughter of the fourth Lord Latimer. Lady Lumley, as she became, owned much of the land in the area and, when her son died in 1656, she sold her property in London, Hampshire and North Yorkshire and used the proceeds to fund a charity which built a row of 12 almshouses and a grammar school in the centre of



the village. The almshouses are still in use today supported by the Lady Lumley's Charitable Trust. The school was open to all children who could read the New Testament. The small single schoolroom was reputed to have held up to 200 pupils but it only had 16 on roll in 1890 and closed in the early years of the 20th century. It is now used by the community for a variety of purposes.

The Hill family took over the main Thornton Manor in 1661. The current Hall, as it is known today, was built on the site of the original manor house and has been improved and enlarged over the years. It now serves as a residential home for the elderly with a public bar attached.

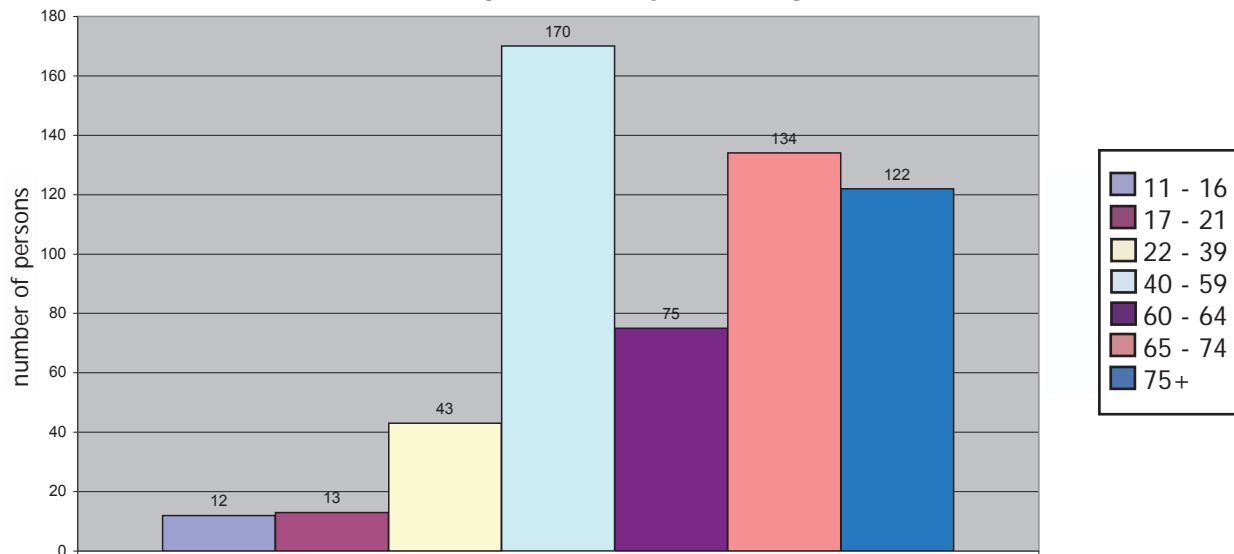
The picture-postcard village attracts thousands of tourists each year to see one of the most photographed homes in the country - Beck Isle Cottage. Built in the 17th century with a cruck frame and thatched roof, it stands on the banks of the beck and regularly appears on chocolate boxes, jigsaws and calendars.



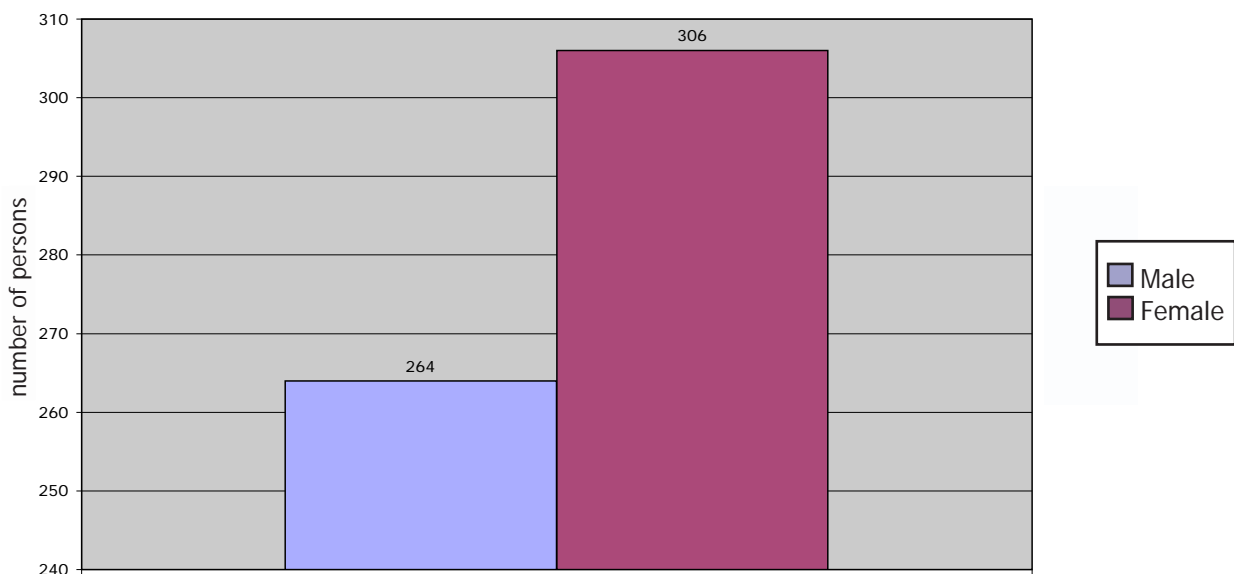
## We asked the following:

In an effort to understand our local population, we asked the following; Age, Gender, Place of Work. The following charts show the responses to these questions.

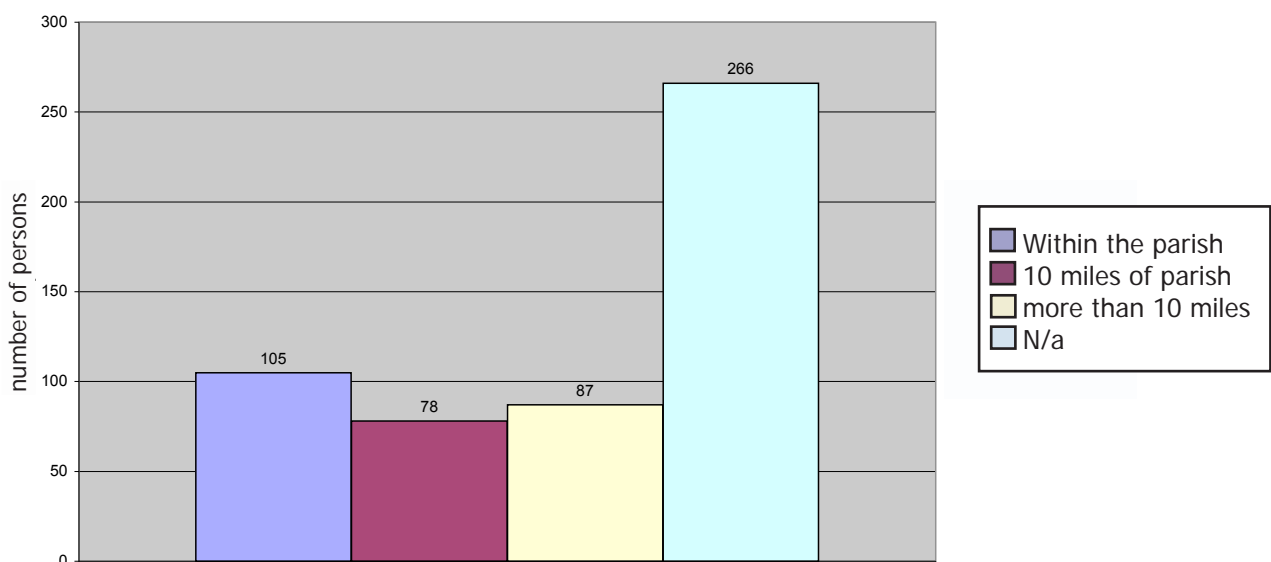
To which age band do you belong?



Which gender are you?



Where is your main place of work or study?



# Traffic and Parking Issues

We asked questions about what residents felt were important issues regarding traffic and parking in the village and in the parish generally

## We asked questions regarding the following:

Speeding problems in the village

Danger spots in the parish

Improvement measures to be taken

Parking in the centre of the village

Car Parking Permits for the centre of the village

Pedestrian issues

Police enforcement of parking restrictions

### *Some Statistics*

*70% complained about the speed of traffic*

*80% said crossing the road in the village centre was dangerous*

*51% had no problems with parking in the village.*

*41% felt 'no parking' areas should be better policed*

## Traffic Summary

### Danger Spots in the Parish

**The crossroads at the centre of the village** was highlighted by a large majority as the major danger spot for pedestrians and vehicles (195). A number of responses suggested a one-way system past Wardill's

Other key issues raised were:

### Pedestrians

- Difficulty crossing the A170 throughout the village and at the top of Thornton Hill

### Junctions with the A170

- Hurrell Lane, Outgang Lane, Priestmans Lane, Church Lane, Dog Kennel Lane, Prospect Place and Roxby Road were difficult for vehicles and pedestrians
- Overtaking traffic on A170 between Thornton Hill and Hagg Farm

### Maltongate

- Speed of traffic and parking are a problem
- Vehicles parking between Westgate and Willow Garth and opposite Heron Close make it difficult for cars accessing Maltongate

### Roxby Road

- Junction with Maltongate - cars parked in Maltongate block vision for access from Roxby Road
- Cars parked on the hill near junction with A170 often cause congestion

### School Area

- Speeding traffic delivering and picking up children from the school. This involves vehicles entering Castle Garth from Roxby Road and Farmanby Close into Castle Road



## Priestmans Lane

- Joining A170, a mirror is needed for turning towards Pickering
- There should be no right turn onto A170

## Whitbygate

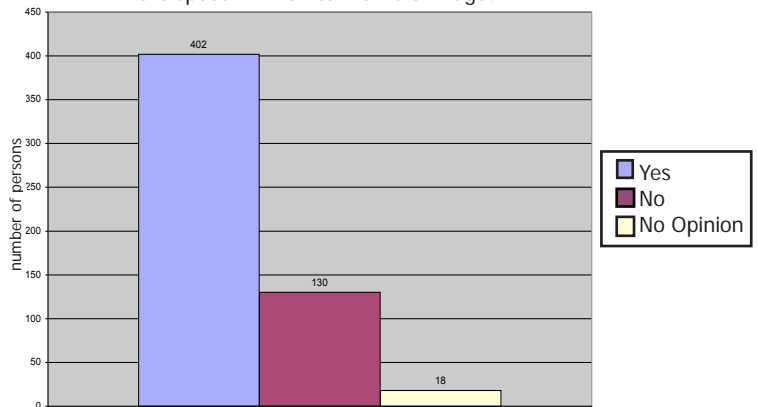
- Parked cars make it difficult for two way traffic
- Should have a weight restriction
- 30 mph signs being ignored
- Need for reduction to 20 mph

**Prospect Place** – Access to and from A170 difficult because of often double parked cars

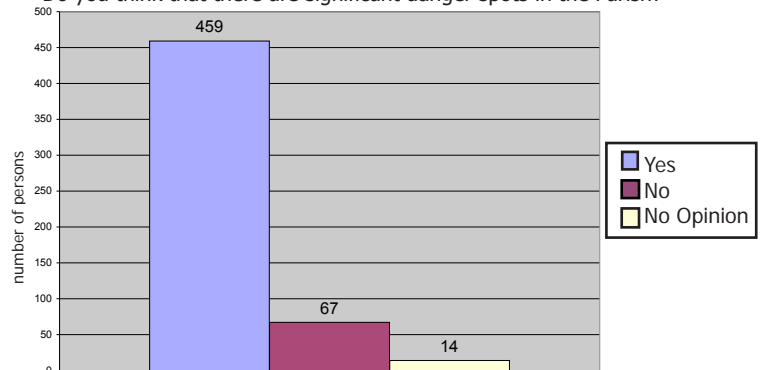
## Parking: The following general issues were raised about parking in the village:

- Double yellow lines ignored
- Difficulty of parking in village centre for elderly and disabled
- Parking in the village should be time-limited
- Areas should be designated as 'Residents Only'
- Residents without a garage should have parking permits
- Parking for residents is a problem during holidays
- Residents should have free parking in North York Moors car parks
- A requirement for more Disabled car parking
- Bicycle park to be provided in village centre
- Village centre parking should not be reduced
- One-way system around village green
- Parking restrictions should be reduced from 7 months
- All new houses should have off-road parking
- New access from A170 to North York Moors car park should be constructed

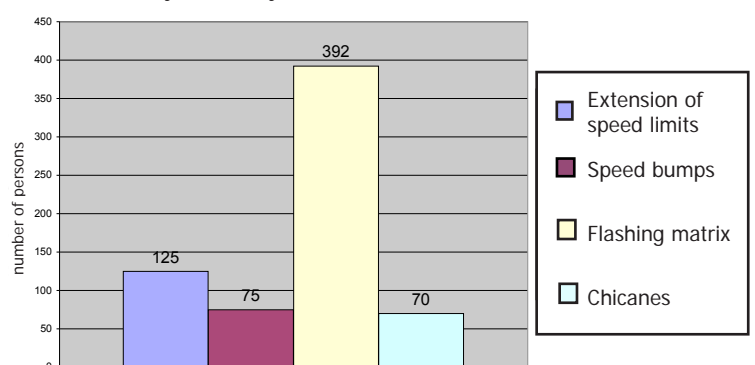
Do you think there is a problem with the speed in Thornton-le-Dale village?



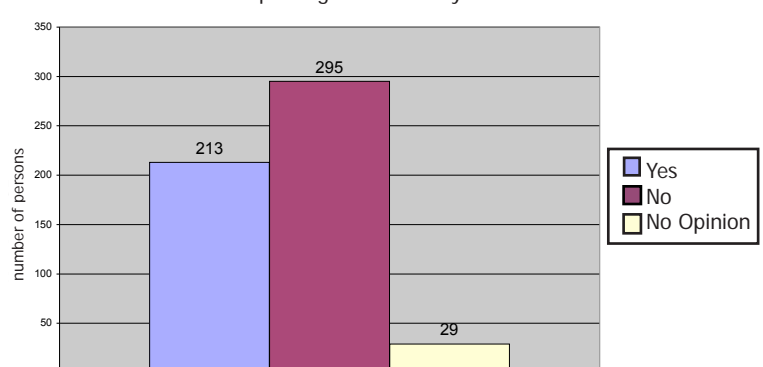
Do you think that there are significant danger spots in the Parish?



Do you feel any of the measures need to be taken?



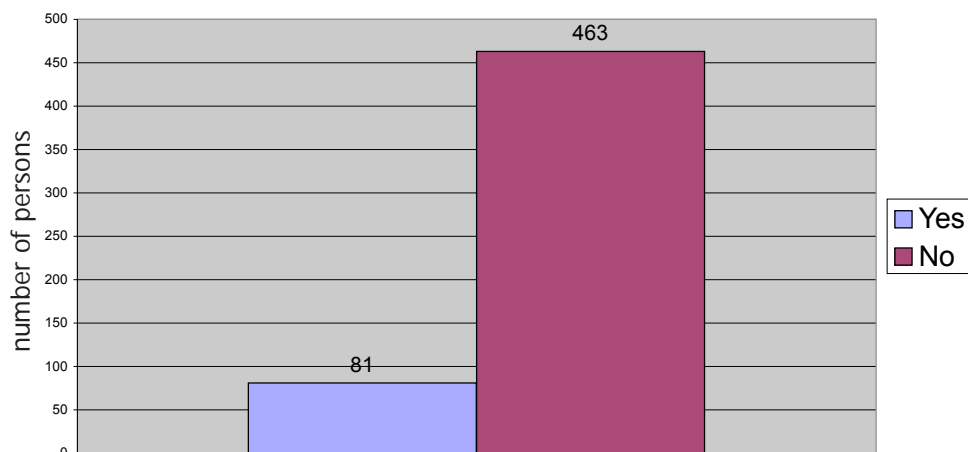
Is local parking an issue for you?







Do you have a parking permit to use the main car park in the centre of the village?

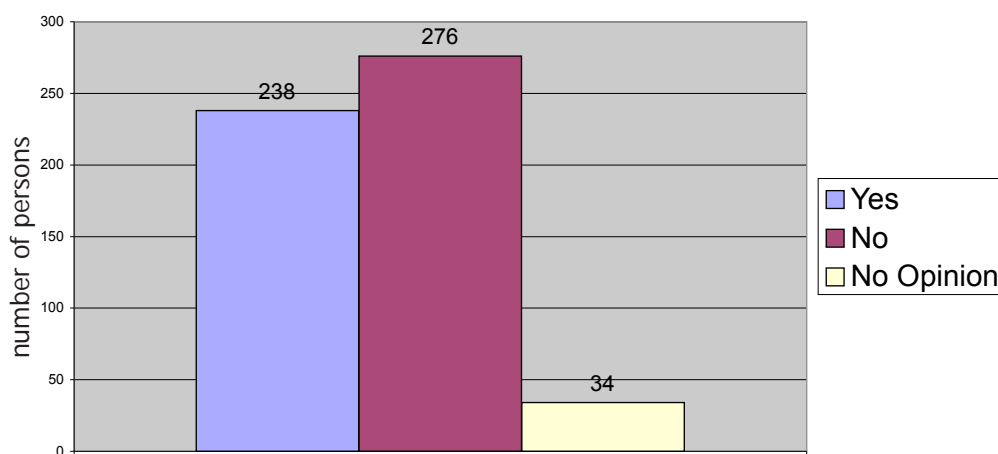


**Do you feel that, as a pedestrian, you are adequately provided for?**

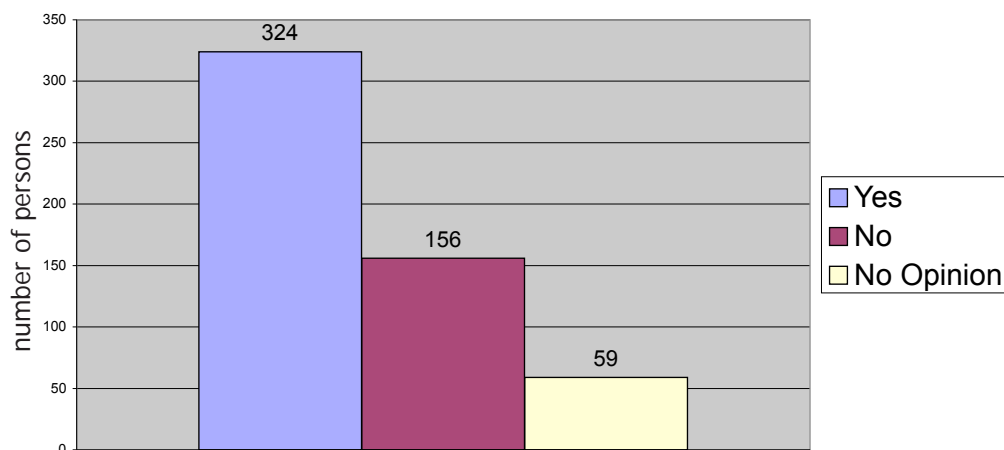
**No, for the following 3 reasons**

- Should be a zebra crossing on A170
- No footpath on Roxby Road between The Rise and Maltongate
- A170 pavement is too narrow outside the New Inn

Do you feel that, as a pedestrian, you are adequately provided for?



Do you feel the police action to enforce 'No Parking' is a good idea?





# Environmental Issues and Refuse Collection

**We asked questions regarding the following:**

Specific issues  
Green issues  
Refuse collection

## *Some statistics*

<i>Complaints about dog fouling</i>	<i>49%</i>
<i>Concerns about beck maintenance</i>	<i>45%</i>
<i>Concerns about street cleaning</i>	<i>34%</i>
<i>Concerns about grass cutting</i>	<i>23%</i>
<i>Lack of litter bins</i>	<i>24%</i>
<i>More collection of recyclables wanted</i>	<i>63%</i>

## **The Environment**

- Dog fouling was a particular concern in the following areas Maltongate, Archway Lane and Dog Kennel Lane. It is also a problem outside the New Inn and along Roxby Road. More dog bins are required
- Grass and verge maintenance: areas specifically mentioned include Maltongate, the area around the church and grass verges in Main Street
- Beck maintenance was a concern. A suggestion was made to raise the height of some of the bridges crossing the beck from Maltongate
- Street and footpath cleaning needs attention
- Inadequate street lighting in certain areas
- Low flying aircraft noise was commented upon
- More litter bins are required around the village

## **Do you feel strongly about green issues?**

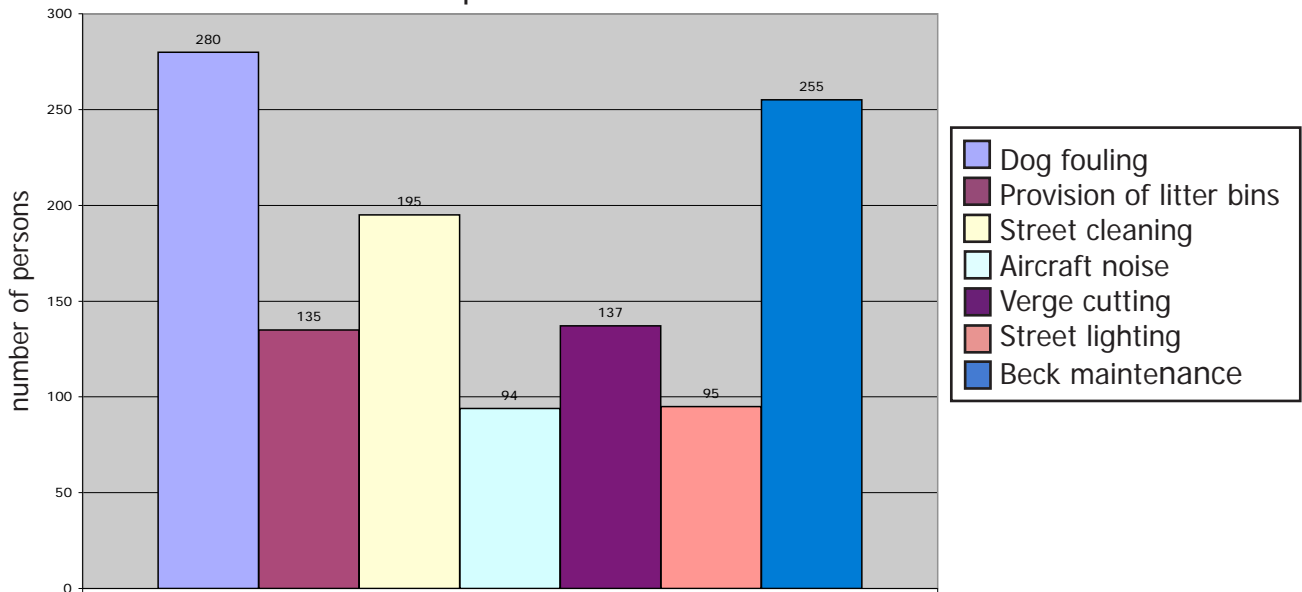
- Concern was raised about protecting hedgerows and wildlife
- Other issues include encouraging buying of local produce, thus reducing transport costs and emissions
- A suggestion was made about harnessing the beck's energy
- Less use of cars around the village should be encouraged, eg not taking children to school by car
- Traffic fumes, noise pollution and air pollution generally were highlighted
- Litter problem, especially around the pond area was highlighted

## **Refuse Collection**

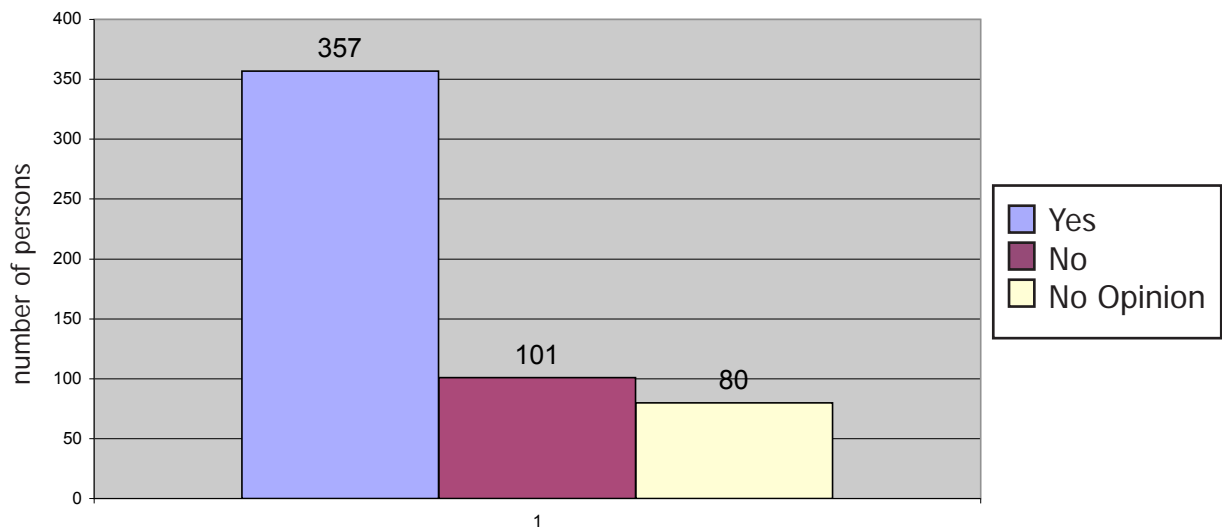
- Plastic, cardboard, aluminium foil and metals collections should be made by the Council
- Amenity skips should be installed in the village car park and numerous suggestions were made that the TLD tip shop should be re-instated
- Collection of rubbish on a fortnightly basis was generally well supported, though not by all residents



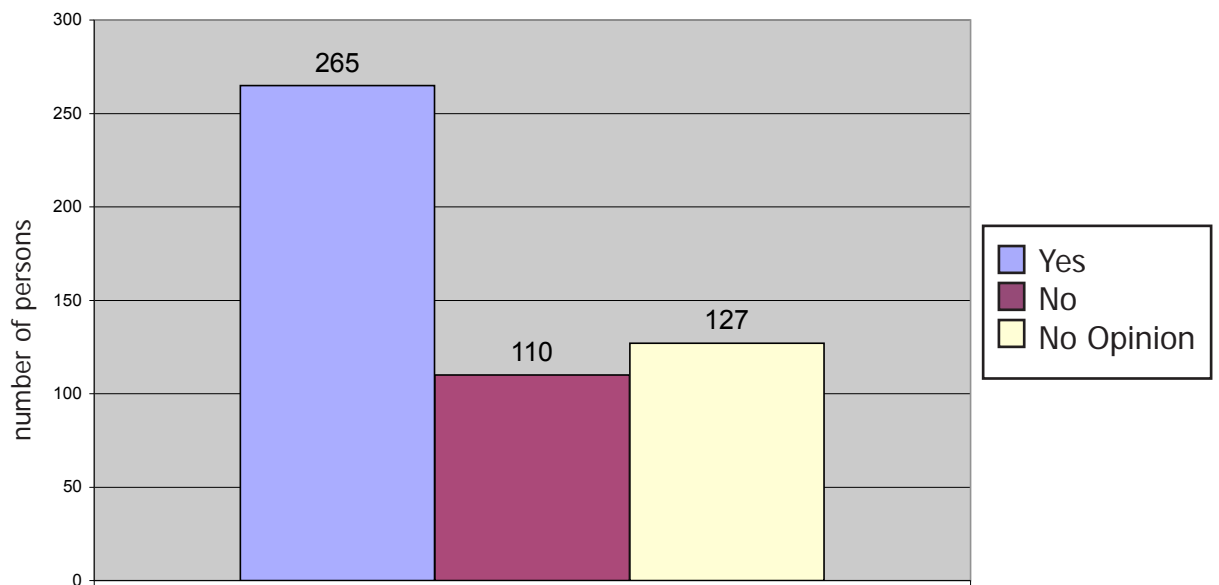
The number of respondents who expressed concern on these specific issues.



Would you like to see more provision made by the local council to collect other types of recycleable material from your home?



Do you feel strongly about green issues?





# Communication

We asked how people felt that information should be communicated around the parish and asked specifically about whether a parish newsletter should be published. If so, how often should it be issued and what should be included. Could this be linked to a parish website?

## Some Statistics - What would you like to see in a Community Newsletter?

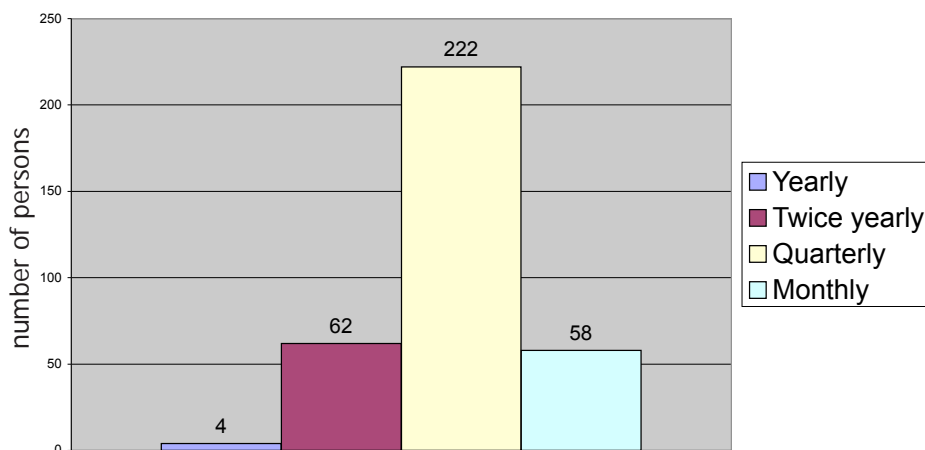
News 37% - Local issues

Information 36% -Forthcoming events, planning and contacts for clubs etc.

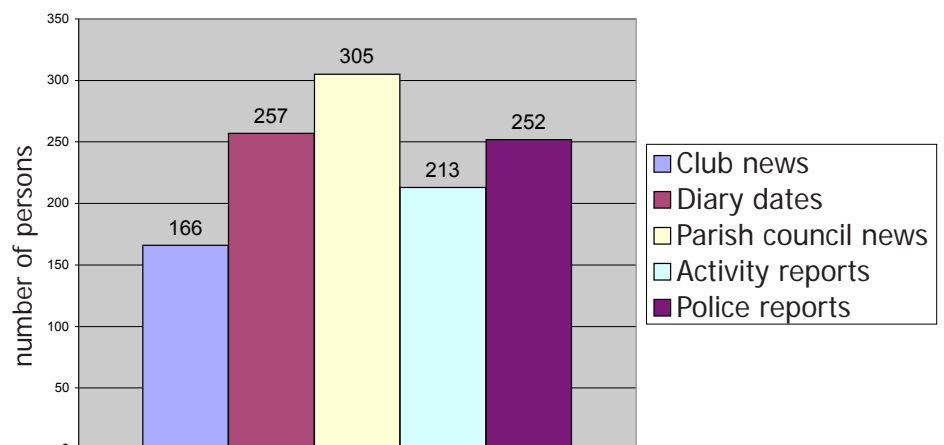
Features 26%-Club/shows/sports fixtures.



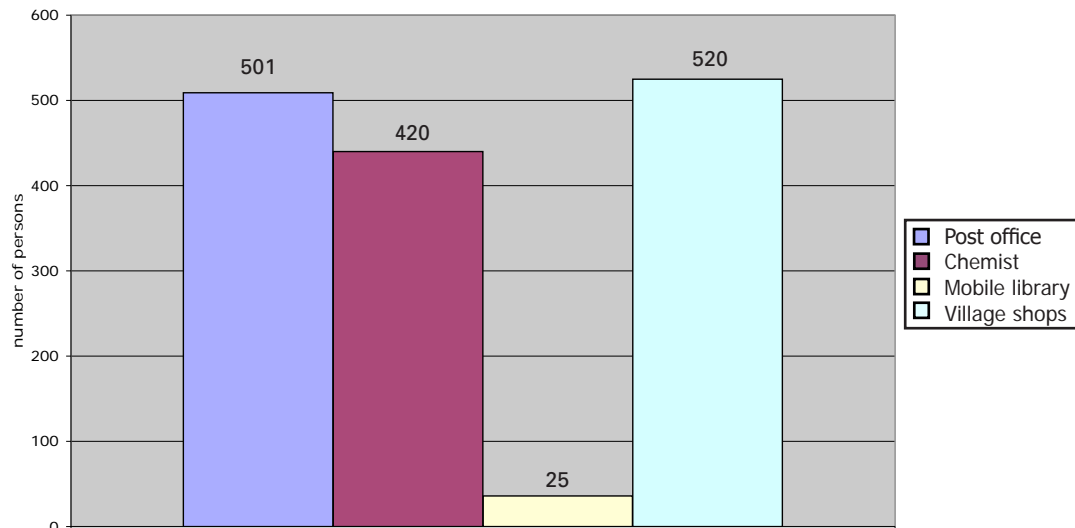
If yes to a newsletter, how often should it be circulated?



What would you like to see included in it?



## Which village shops do you use?



### Other suggestions for new shops were:

Fruit and veg/local produce

Bank

The Post Office and chemist should certainly be maintained with some calls for the chemist to be open on Saturdays.

## Crime and Policing

### What questions did we ask?

Is crime a concern for you?

If so, what are the specific issues?

Is there a need for Neighbourhood Watch?

The majority said that crime was not a concern, but those who saw it as a problem raised the following issues.

- A greater Police presence is needed
- Vandalism
- Damage to gardens
- Shed break-ins
- Vehicle thefts
- Rowdy youths around the car park - including the racing of cars
- Youths drinking and causing trouble around the pond
- Under-age drinking
- Occasional incidents of house burglary

Of those that thought crime was a concern a slight majority would favour a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.



# Amenities and Facilities

## What questions did we ask?

We asked residents what recreational clubs and sporting activities they supported and which new ones they would like to see.

Those were:

tennis, keep fit, table tennis, badminton, basketball and netball.



## Play area Roxby Road

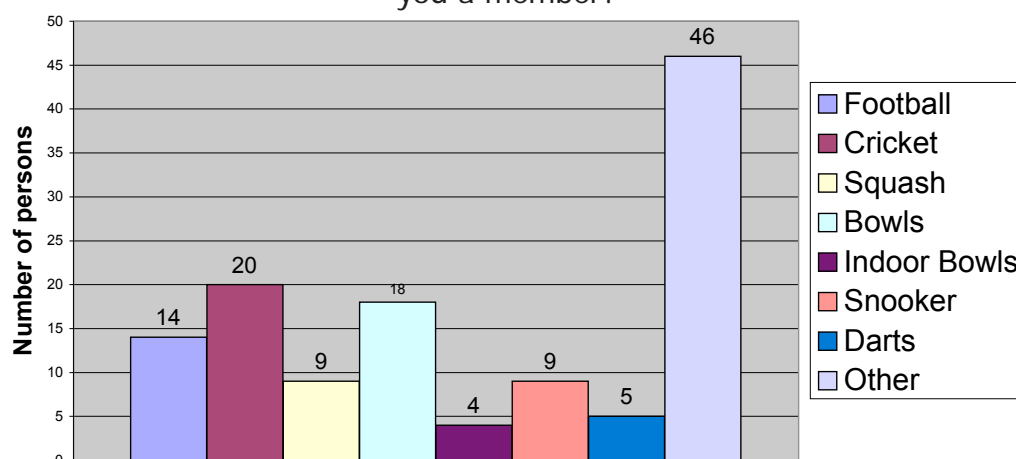
Most see this as a useful amenity, with concerns that if it is lost then it might be used for building development.

However, the majority view is that those facilities and the area's appearance have declined, therefore becoming outdated and untidy.

There should be more facilities for younger children and the park needs to be better maintained. It has become scruffy, the grass needs cutting more often and there is too much litter.

There should also be more seating for those adults taking children to the park.

Of which sporting or recreational clubs in the parish are you a member?



## We asked questions regarding the following:

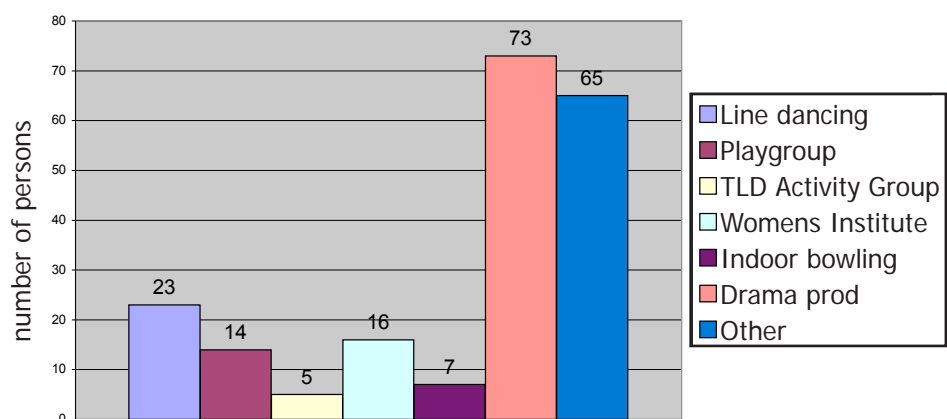
Attendance or participation in village hall activities

Participation in parish activities

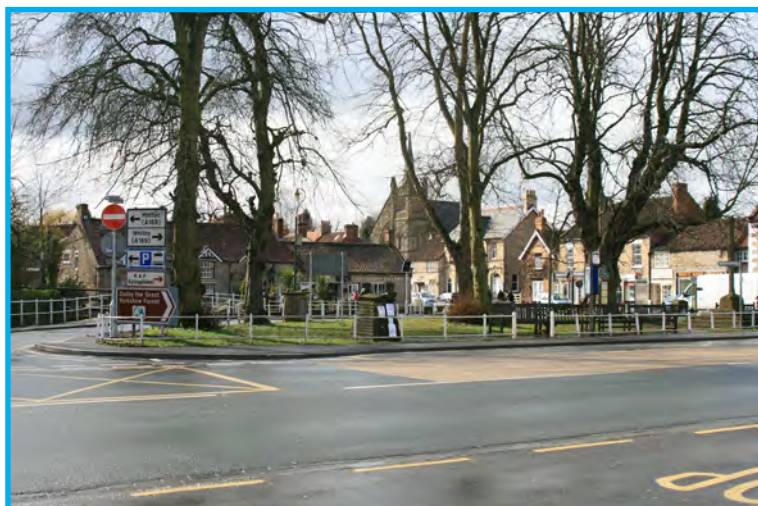
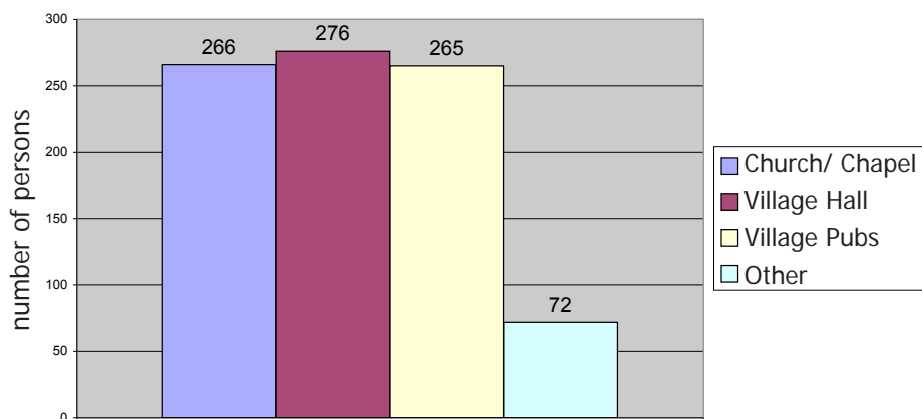
Focal points for community activities

The charts below indicate the responses.

Which of the following parish activities did you support or take part in over the last 12 months?



Which of the following do you consider to be the focal points for the community in Thornton-le-Dale





# Housing

We asked residents for their views and about the type of housing they lived in

## We asked questions regarding the following:

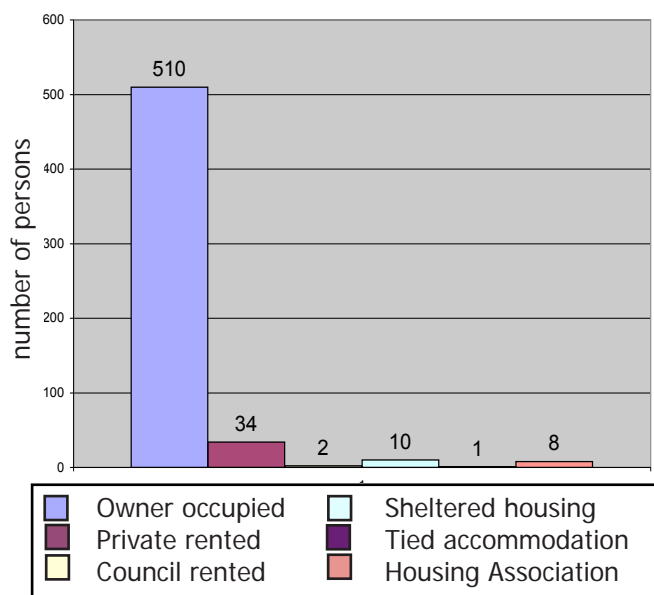
Type of house lived in

Housing suitability

Housing preference

Housing expansion/development

What type of house do you live in?

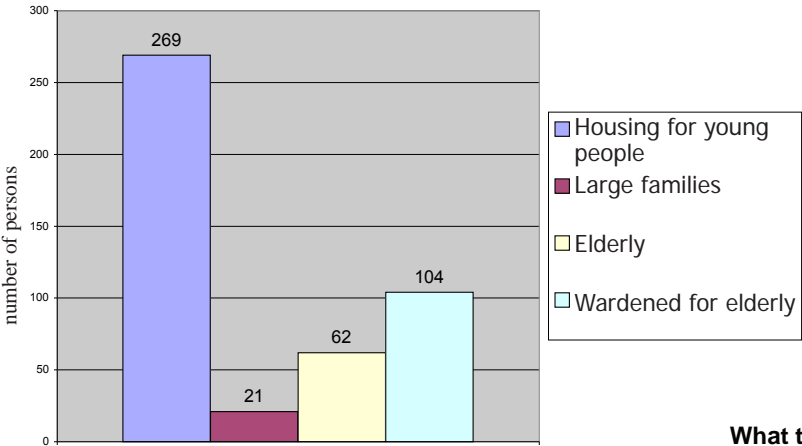


When asked if there was a need for more housing. Of the 113 responses, 23 were in favour and 90 against.

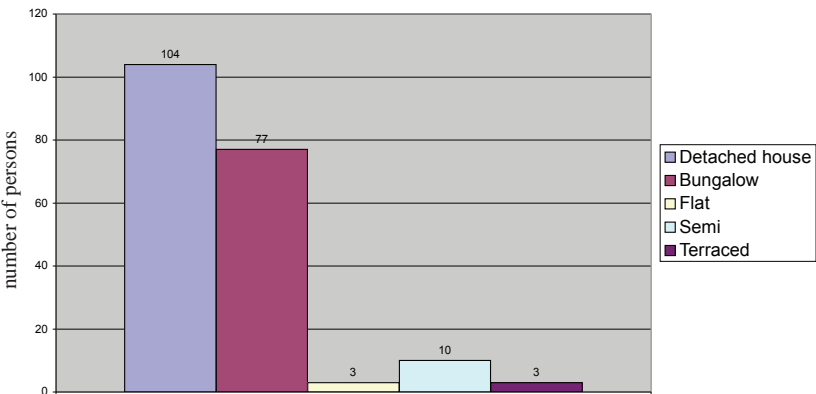
Of the 90 responses which clearly showed lack of favour for more housing in the Parish;

- By far the largest number of responses - 29 – referred to the size of the village of Thornton-le-Dale by using terms such as 'big enough' and 'space to breathe'. Several referred to the danger of spoiling the village character or atmosphere as a result of possible future housing development
- 10 specifically mentioned the possible strain which would be put on the local services infrastructure (sewerage, water, schools, doctors)
- 9 specifically mentioned 'infilling' and how this is causing the village of Thornton-le-Dale to lose available green space. One respondent stated that this spoiled 'the village charm'; another said that infilling would lead to more 'cars and traffic'
- 8 specifically mentioned the large number of holiday 'lets' or second homes
- 7 specifically mentioned either claustrophobia, lack of space or congestion as factors associated with increased housing provision
- Only 4 respondents referred to the problems faced by young people in finding suitable housing in the parish; only 1 respondent linked this to a need for more Housing Association stock
- 1 respondent had trawled the internet and calculated that there were 32 houses for sale on the market at the time of the survey. He/she concluded that there were plenty available thus there was no need for any more to be built. However he/she felt that most were not affordable for local families.

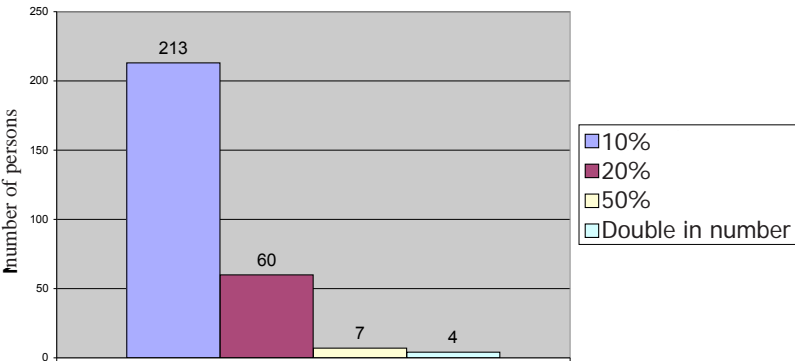
If more housing was needed or required the following graphs identify the need.



What type of home would you prefer?



During the next 10-15 years would you like to see the number of dwellings in the village increase by



# Parish / Village Design

We asked residents to identify areas that they would not wish to be developed and asked for their views on areas, which enhanced or detracted from the village/parish

## Some of the questions that were asked concerned

Types of new housing and their enclosure  
Heritage features of the village/parish



## Areas which residents would not wish to be developed

- 120 responses to this question were analysed.
- The largest number of responses – 38 – indicated a wish to retain existing fields, woodlands and allotments, most of which were identified as being within the village of Thornton-le-Dale. Phrases commonly used in respect of such areas were 'paddocks', 'open farmland', 'green areas' and 'green belt/National Park/conservation areas'.
- The second largest number of responses – 24 – was in respect of the existing playground, sports field and bowling green areas within the village of Thornton-le-Dale.
- A total of 15 respondents indicated that they did not wish to see further building development 'anywhere'.
- A total of 7 respondents specifically mentioned a wish to see no more infilling.
- A total of 11 respondents indicated that they did not wish to see existing farmland or woodland outside the village of Thornton le Dale developed. Several of these mentioned the Ellerburn valley.
- A total of 3 respondents indicated a desire to see no further development along the A170 beyond the existing Thornton-le-Dale village boundaries because of traffic safety issues.
- In view of concerns about climate change and increased risks of flooding, 7 respondents stated that there should be no further development along the banks of the Thornton-le-Dale beck; 3 of these specifically mentioned low lying land.



# Transport

We asked residents about local transport issues.

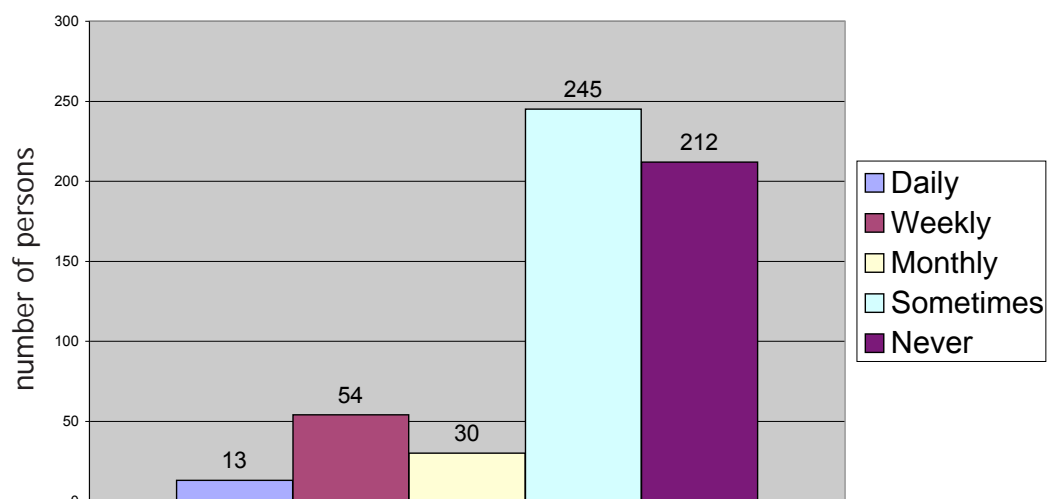
## The questions that were asked were

Do you use local transport?

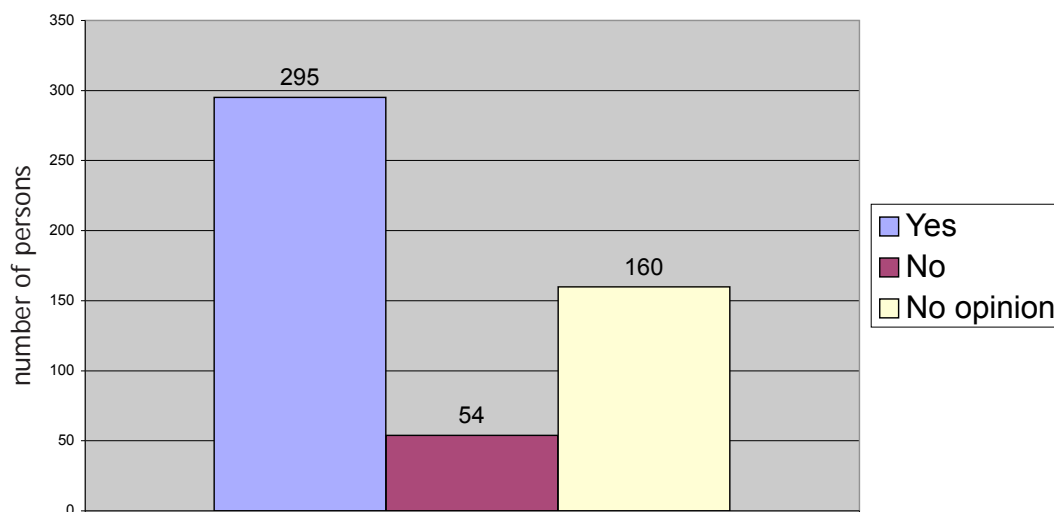
Are you happy with local transport provision?



### Do you use local bus transport?



### Are you happy with the bus services currently provided?



# Comments on Dalby

We examined 302 comments from 284 returns.

- **What do you like about Dalby?**

Generally favourable, ie, the qualities offered, space, walks, peace, easy access from Thornton le Dale.

- **Comments on entry fee.**

Too expensive and unfair to local residents.

- **Comments on Mountain Bikes.**

Trails being damaged, clash of interest with walkers and facilities for children.



- **Comments on New Centre**

Some dislike style of buildings and comment on poor parking.



- **Other Comments.**

There were adverse comments related to the motor rallies. Other comments related to enforcement of speed limits on the narrow roads.



## Comments on Health Provision in the Parish

80 comments were received

Of those comments which could be directly attributed to either of the two surgeries operating in Thornton-le-Dale, only positive comments (25) were recorded in relation to the Snainton based practice.

There were some adverse comments (22) about the Pickering based practice concerning:

- The length of waiting times
- Slow reaction to home calls
- Difficulty in contacting reception

There were some adverse comments (10) that could not be attributed to either practice.

Other responses commented on:

- Lack of dentists (2)
- Long waiting time for chiropody (4)
- The need for 6 day cover for prescriptions/pharmacy (6)
- The need for improved medical cover at weekends (1)



# ACTION PLAN

SECTION	ACTION	PARTNERS	PRIORITY	TIMESCALE	RESULT
<b>TRAFFIC</b>	Reduction of speed through village Pedestrian Crossing Parking	NYCC NYP NYMNP PC	HIGH	Ongoing 6 months	Work in Progress
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>	Increase dog waste bins Improve grass cutting Beck maintenance Street cleaning Amenity skips in village car park	NYMNP PC EA RDC	HIGH	Ongoing 12 months	
<b>REFUSE COLLECTION</b>	Collection of plastic/ cardboard, foil and metals	RDC	MEDIUM	18 months	
<b>POLICE</b>	Neighbourhood Watch Scheme Higher profile of local beat officer Enforcement of parking restrictions	NYP PC	HIGH	Immediate 6 months	
<b>CLUBS/SPORTS/ ACTIVITES</b>	Improvements to play park	Play Park Committee RDC	HIGH	Ongoing 8 months	
	Investigate other amenities	Sports Committees Volunteer Groups	MEDIUM	12 months	
<b>HOUSING</b>	Investigate provision of affordable housing for local families	PC RDC NYMNP	HIGH	Ongoing 60 months	
<b>VILLAGE DESIGN</b>	Prepare a village design statement for the parish	PC NYMNP RDC	HIGH	18 months	
<b>HEALTH</b>	Investigate improvement to all services	PC PCT Doctors	HIGH	12 months	
<b>COMMUNICATION</b>	Investigate possibility of continuing newsletter	PC Volunteer Group	MEDIUM	6 months	
<b>DALBY</b>	Forge better links between Village/FE Negotiate free passes to Dalby for Parish residents	PC FE	HIGH	12 months	

**KEY:-** PC = Parish Council; PCT = Primary Care Trust; NYMNP = North Yorks Moors National Park; NYP = North Yorkshire Police; NYCC = North Yorkshire County Council; RDC = Ryedale District Council; FE = Forest Enterprise; EA = Environment Agency

## Some of your other comments!

Footpaths – are for the safety of pedestrians and not for walking around advertising boards.

National Parks – Allow more conversions of redundant buildings to dwellings with less stringent rules.

Seat on Roxby Road for elderly residents to rest whilst carrying heavy shopping.

Would like bus to travel around village picking people up.

Ellerburn – Can no longer see the valley, all you can see is hedge from the footpath! Many commented on the hedge.

Cycle Paths – Extend cycle path all the way into village. Provide more paths to encourage walkers.

Tourism – Christmas lights are too popular, no longer for villagers. We have too many tourists but we need them to keep village alive. Ensure there will always be shops and services for the local community as opposed to tourist focused. Holiday homes contribute little to economy, push house prices up and leave village deserted in winter months. We need homes for 'locals.'

Village Pond & Beck – It needs cleaning more often. Tidy pond around edges, have more planting and have more seats.

Better signage for car park and also to inform visitors of short walk from car park to village.

Reintroduce use of stocks for punishment!!

More Police presence needed.

Employ a local caretaker/warden for village.













