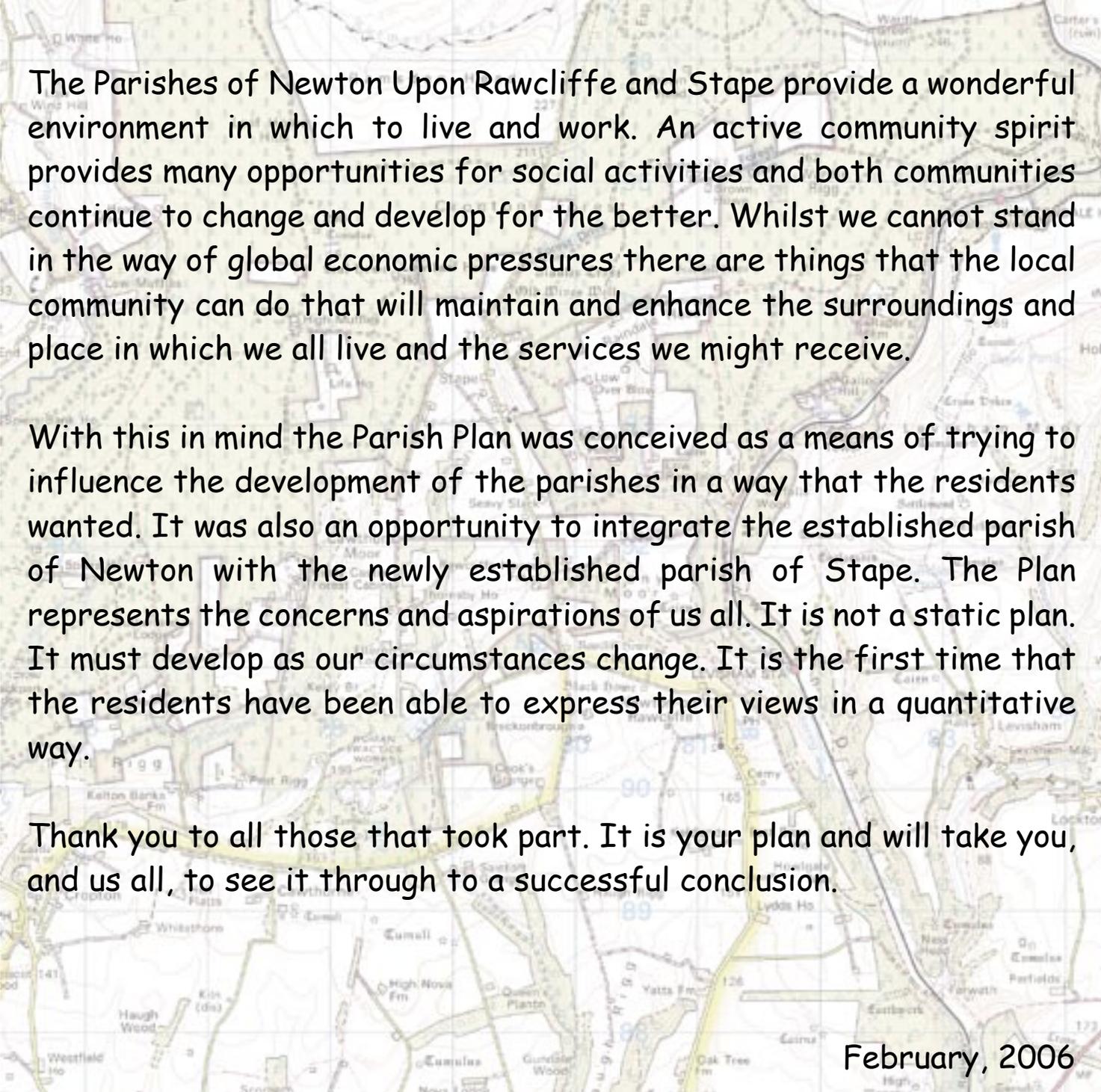




The Parishes Plan
of
Newton Upon Rawcliffe
&
Stape





The Parishes of Newton Upon Rawcliffe and Stape provide a wonderful environment in which to live and work. An active community spirit provides many opportunities for social activities and both communities continue to change and develop for the better. Whilst we cannot stand in the way of global economic pressures there are things that the local community can do that will maintain and enhance the surroundings and place in which we all live and the services we might receive.

With this in mind the Parish Plan was conceived as a means of trying to influence the development of the parishes in a way that the residents wanted. It was also an opportunity to integrate the established parish of Newton with the newly established parish of Stape. The Plan represents the concerns and aspirations of us all. It is not a static plan. It must develop as our circumstances change. It is the first time that the residents have been able to express their views in a quantitative way.

Thank you to all those that took part. It is your plan and will take you, and us all, to see it through to a successful conclusion.

February, 2006

Parish Plan Steering Group

Angela HEMINGWAY (Chairman of the Steering Group),
Pauline ATKINSON, Emma BRODRICK, Alf CARTER, Bob DANES, Heather DOLAN
Elizabeth FAIRBURN, Rita GOODMAN, Jenny PICKERING, Barbara WHITEHEAD
John WICKS, Dennis WILCOCK

The Parish Council of Newton Upon Rawcliffe and Stape

Newton Councillors

Pat ANDERSON (472 172), Emma BRODRICK (472 416),
Angela HEMINGWAY (477 002) (Vice Chairman - Newton), Elizabeth KIRK (472 601),
David PELLIS (473 508),

Stape Councillors

Alfred CARTER (472 984) (Vice Chairman - Stape) (Resigned on 17th October, 2005),
Elizabeth FAIRBURN (476 873), Ian WILLIAMS (473 330) (Chairman of the Parish Council),
Ellie GRAYSON (476 108) (Co-opted on 12th December, 2005)

Clerk to the Council

Dennis WILCOCK (477 012),

Acknowledgements and Thanks

The Parishes Plan Steering Group wishes to thank all those that helped with the whole process of developing and delivering the Parishes Plan. A great deal of work was done in submitting the application for funds, designing the questionnaire, analysing the returns, organising the public meetings and producing the final report.

The Group is very grateful to all those that completed the questionnaire (an 80% response was achieved) and took part so actively in the public meetings.

The group wishes to thank those that supplied photographs for this final document. They were : Andy Bulmer, Larry Goodman, Barbara Whitehead, Dennis Wilcock and Vivien Wilcock.

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| Action | How it will be tackled | Priority | Partners | Lead Responsibility | Timescale | Resource and Cost | Notes on Progress |
|---|---|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Involvement of Children in Future | By discussions in established groups and by special meetings | High | Existing Mums and Toddlers and Kids Fun Club groups | Mums and Toddlers Group Kids Fun Club | Immediate | Little financial costs at first stage | Discussion already in place |
| Provide events and facilities for children | By existing groups and village halls | High | Mums and Toddlers and Kids Fun Club with Village Halls | Mums and Toddlers Group Kids Fun Club | On Going | To be ascertained | On going activity |
| Improve wildlife habitat | By discussions with local farmers, ecologists and wildlife group | Medium | Wildlife Group, RDC, NYMNPA, Farmers | Wildlife Group Parish Council | Medium term | Volunteer time needed to access costs | Initial objectives established |
| Work to see if set-aside may be used for wildlife | By working group enlisting the support of local farmers | Medium | Wildlife Group, Farmers | Wildlife Group | Medium term | To be ascertained | Progress to be made |
| Renovation of Keld Lane Pond and hide erected | Volunteer and professional support | High | Local landowners, Parish Council, RDC, Wildlife Group | Parish Council | Immediate | Grant of £1300 available for clearance. £2000 applied for | General agreement received. Grant of £1300 received. |
| Seek improvements to local roads and Green Lanes | By liaison with NYCC Highways Dept and NYMNPA | High | Roads Working Group, Parish Council, NYCC, NYMNPA | Parish Council | On Going | NYCC RAC grant of £1500 received. Parish Council designated £700 | Rawcliffe Bank improved. Further work in April, 2006 |
| Reduction in speed especially through Newton | By a public campaign through Parish News Letter | High | Parish Council, NYCC Highways Dept, Community Police Officer | Community Police Officer | Continuous | Volunteer meetings with Police and Highways. No financial cost | Campaign in Newsletter |
| Produce a "Living History" of Newton and Stape | Small group of local volunteers | Medium | NYCC Archives NYMNPA, Borthwick Institute | History Working Group | Intermediate | Would need to fund final publication - £1000? | Need to gain volunteer time for research. |
| Provide water supply to Penny Garth Allotments | With allotment holders and Parish Council | High | Allotment holders Parish Council YRCC | Parish Council Allotment holders | Completed | Completed with grant of £940 from YRCC | Complete |
| Provide rotavator for soil improvement | With Allotment holders and Parish Council | High | Allotment holders Parish Council YRCC | Parish Council Allotment Holders | Completed | Completed with grant of £149 from YRCC | Complete |
| Provide input and advice on Penny Garth soil condition | By public meeting with Allotment holders and Askham Bryan College | High | Allotment holders Parish Council Village Hall | Parish Council Allotment Holders | Completed with Nigel Harrison of BBC Radio York | Completed with grant of £240 from YRCC | Complete |



Introduction

Change is inevitable. With the advances in communication, transport, mechanisation and social and economic development it is small wonder that rural parishes and villages have changed to reflect the new reality.

Newton and Stape have seen great changes over the years in common with other rural communities. They are certainly not unique in this respect. Farming still occupies as much land as before but changes in methods and the introduction of so much mechanisation has led to a dramatic decline in the number of people on the land. Where once even the smallest farm would employ several farm labourers most farms in the area are now tended by the farming family at most. With these changes the occupations that supported the farms have disappeared. Blacksmiths who used to feature in almost every village have gone. The knock on effect and changes in transport and jobs has resulted in several support businesses also going. In Newton this has led to the disappearance of the tailor, post office, garage and shops. Changes in



population led to the closure of the school.

But the change has not been all bad and certainly not disastrous. Farms are still active and many small businesses thrive within the two parishes. Changes in communications have enabled some businesses to operate in the parishes where previously this would not have been possible. The parish population is again at an increasing level and more properties are occupied as several barns have been converted into dwellings.

Whilst it is not possible to stand in the face of national and international pressures there are things that can be done at a local level which will influence and improve the parishes for all that live within them.

With this in mind the Parishes Plan was conceived by the Parish Council as a means of determining how people wanted the Parishes to develop for the better. It was also seen as an opportunity and means of bringing the two parishes closer together after the formation of Stape as a parish in its own right and newly independent of Pickering.

The process got underway with a public meeting in Newton Village Hall on 24th November, 2003. There was good support for the idea of the plan and many topics which were thought of as being in need of attention. As a result of that meeting a Steering Group of interested people was formed

making clear that anyone who wished to be part of the group was more than welcome.

The principal task of the Steering Group was to develop a questionnaire that could be used to find out what all the residents of the parishes wanted for the future and to determine their main concerns. With this task ongoing a successful application for funding the project was made to the Countryside Agency.

The Parishes Plan questionnaire was circulated to all residents in July, 2004 and the results analysed by Yorkshire Rural Community Council who have been very supportive throughout the whole process. Copies of the results from the questionnaire were circulated to every household and public meetings held at Newton on 10th and Stape on 15th November, 2004.

As a result of these meetings the established groups in the parishes - the Village Hall Committees, Church and Chapel and the Parish Council etc - along with newly established groups such as the Wildlife and Conservation Group, set about planning actions to meet the concerns and desires expressed in the survey and discussions.

What is presented herein is a summary of the issues raised during the whole Parishes Plan process and the actions that have been taken or proposed by the groups. The process is ongoing and is intended to lead to better and integrated parishes.

Action Plans - To be reviewed periodically

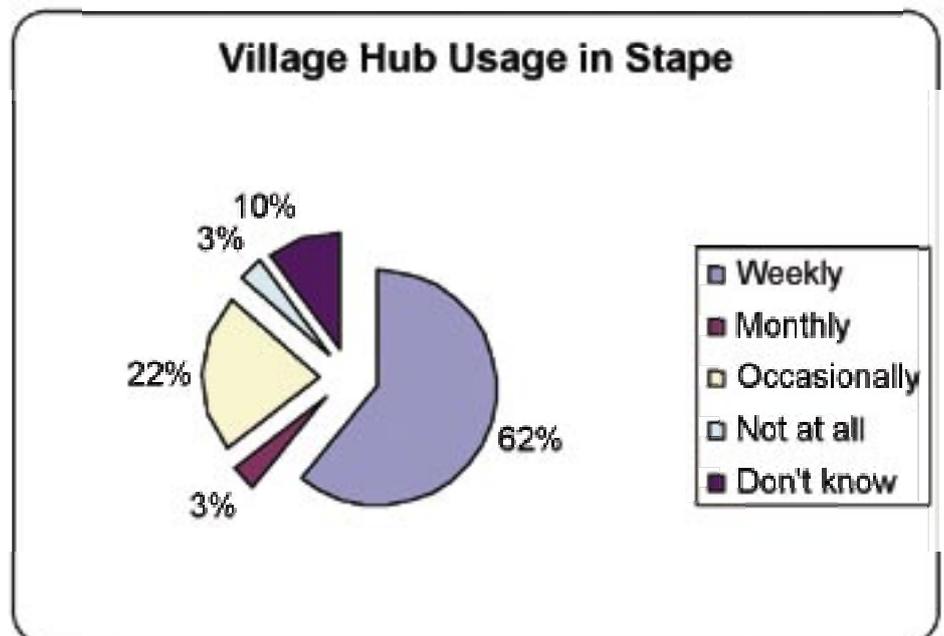
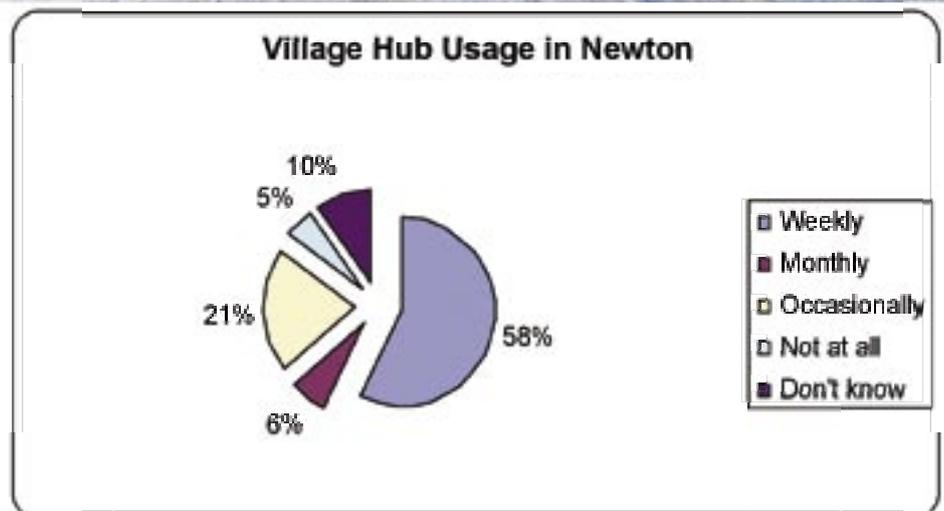
| Action | How it will be tackled | Priority | Partners | Lead Responsibility | Timescale | Resource and Cost | Notes on Progress |
|--|--|----------|--|---------------------------|-------------------|--|---|
| Stape Village Hall - Refit Kitchen | Volunteer labour and purchase of kitchen units | High | Village Hall Committee Parish Council YRCC | Village Hall, Committee | 2005 | £1200 estimated | <u>Completed</u> |
| Stape Village Hall - Improve heating & Lighting | Volunteer labour and proprietary materials | High | Village Hall Committee Parish Council YRCC | Village Hall Committee | 2005 | £300 estimated for materials | <u>Completed</u> |
| Stape Village Hall - Improve Car Park | Lay hardcore base and mark out parking area | Medium | Village Hall Committee Parish Council | Village Hall Committee | Medium | £300 estimated for materials | On Going |
| Stape Village Hall - Re decoration | Materials to be purchased volunteers to paint! | High | Village Hall Committee | Village Hall Committee | 2005 | £300 estimated for materials | <u>Completed</u> |
| Newton Village Hall - Provide toddlers Group and keep fit class | Recruit Volunteers and deliverers | High | Village Hall Committee and external providers | Village Hall Committee | 2005 | No costs expected | <u>Mums and Toddlers groups established</u> <u>Keep Fit Class on Thursdays</u> |
| Newton Village Hall - Determine refurbishment | Firm of architects identified to oversee the project | Medium | Village Hall Committee Funding bodies | Village Hall Committee | Medium | £20,000 | Initial proposals and costs estimates given. |
| Notice Board displaying Routes and Local Access | Erect Notice Board on Newton Village Green (Stape Notice Board has already been erected) | High | Parish Council NYMNP Working Group | Open Access Working Group | Immediate | Relief Map (£1200) Paper Map £6 New Notice Board | Well underway. Notice Board available |
| Walk and Ride Leaflets | Write leaflets for Newton and Stape | Medium | NYMNP, Landowners, Parish Council, RDC | Open Access Working Group | Trial during 2006 | £300 | Progress being made |
| Report on problems | Liaise with appropriate authorities | High | NYMNP, NYCC, RDC, Landowners, Parish Council | Open Access Working Group | On going | No costs. Volunteer time | System to be established |
| To continue to develop the Playing Field | By the Playing Field Association with the support of other bodies | Medium | Playing Field Association, Parish Council etc. | Playing Field Association | Continuous | To be ascertained | Continuing meetings of Playing Field Association |



If a "Village Hub" was established it would have regular usage with about 60% of residents using it on a weekly basis. Less easy to understand is the small percentage of people who wouldn't use it even if it was there! Clearly some more work needs to be done!

For those that would only use it occasionally there is work to be done to demonstrate that the hub could provide the type and quality of service that is wanted and at a time and a place that is most convenient to all.

The differing nature of the two parishes needs to be accommodated to get the best possible outcome.





THE PARISHES OF NEWTON UPON RAWCLIFFE AND STAPE

Whilst both parishes are rural communities there are nonetheless considerable differences between them.

Newton Upon Rawcliffe has a village at its centre and is surrounded by farms and scattered residences, while Stape is a very scattered



hamlet with farms and considerably more managed woodland all around.

Newton is characterised by its village green with the duckpond at its centre. Its resident duck families are well settled

in. Love 'em or hate 'em there is no getting away from the Newton Duck (*Duckus Horiblis*). There is a constant



battle to keep the number of ducks within manageable limits so that the pond can sustain other forms of



wildlife and residents and visitors can enjoy a peaceful night's sleep!

Houses and converted barns surround the pond, most notable being the pub, The Mucky Duck, and Quern House

thought to be the site of the former church in the village. The south to north through road from Pickering to Cropton or Stape bisects the village with the eastern side being within the North York Moors National Park. For the Parish Council that means dealing with two planning authorities. The Village Hall is just north of the village green and the Church and Chapel on the southern approaches.

Stape, being such a scattered hamlet, has no central focal point but consists of a series of farms and residences some of which have been converted from old barns and include the former chapels.

Both parishes are dominated by Newtondale Gorge which borders part of

the eastern side of the parishes. The Gorge provides unrivalled recreational facilities for residents and visitors alike but such is the abrupt nature of the gorge sides that its presence is not apparent from much of the parishes. On approaching the gorge the first view remains breathtaking no matter how many times one might have seen it.

The remainder of the parishes are on the rolling upland area above the gorge and valleys and have large areas of sandy subsoil and rock. The land is primarily used for supporting livestock with much of the land in Stape being forested. The

land lies above the Vale of Pickering. Newton is 100 - 120 metres above Pickering at 170 metres above sea level.

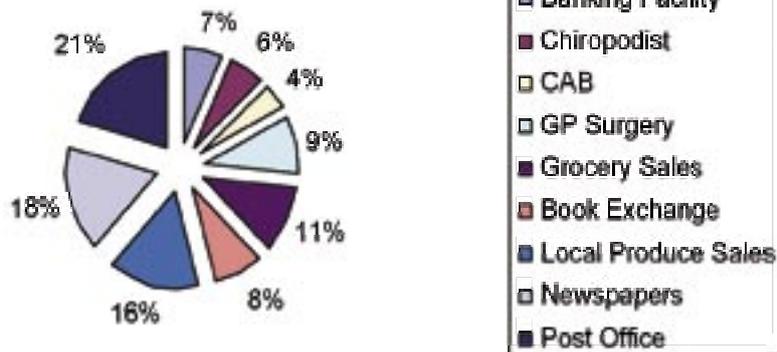
Newton Parish contains 71 inhabited residences with approximately 150 people of all ages. Stape has 41 residences and 80 people.



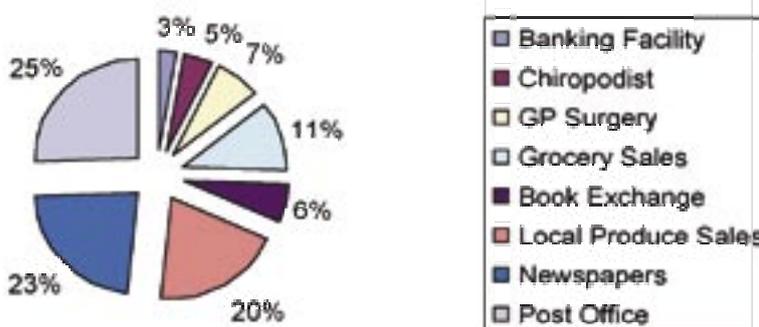
Restoration of other houses and barns continues. Over recent years there has been a marked increase in the number of children in Newton with an increasing number being born in the village.



What People want from a Village Hub in Newton



What People want from a Village Hub in Stape



community centre. When asked what services would be provided from such a Hub there was no shortage of ideas!

In both parishes Post Office services were the highest priority with newspaper, grocery and local produce sales gaining good support even though newspapers can be delivered by the Post Office! Other services did not score too highly.

Both parishes have village halls so a venue for a hub is not a problem. What is needed is for some enterprising individual or group to address a potential commercial opportunity based on a market survey that has already been done! Perhaps there are lessons to be learned from other local villages where successful shops have been opened.

SERVICES NEEDED IN A VILLAGE HUB

Both parishes suffer from limited public services. There is a bus service of sorts through Newton and none at all in Stape. One of the few other public services is provided by the Library Van which makes its weekly visits. Other services are provided on a commercial basis.

While it was recognised that such a sparsely populated community such as ours cannot expect all the services that are provided in a town, there was a strongly held view that if some sort of "Village Hub" was established

some services could be provided to reduce the need to travel to and from a



IMPORTANT ISSUES

When looking to the future there were a range of issues that were viewed as most important.

In both parishes the issues were broadly similar. Local transport, or more accurately, the lack of it, was an issue as, without a private car, it was generally not thought practical to live here.

Interestingly crime and policing was seen as a significant issue even though Ryedale in general has one of the lowest crime rates in the country. The recent



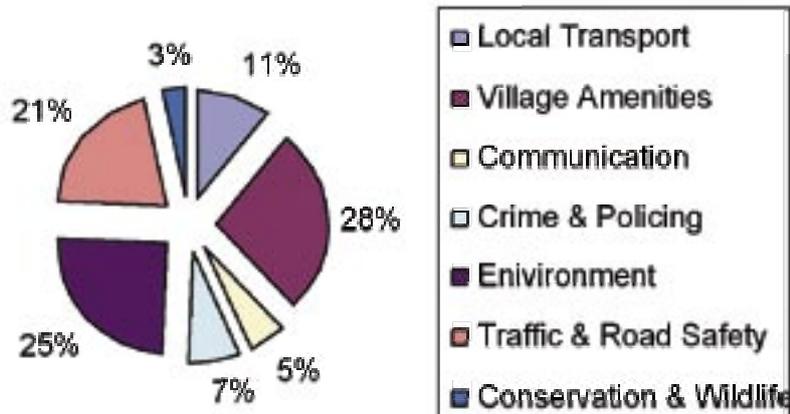
appointment of a new Community Constable, Andy

Marsden, may go some way to reducing concerns.

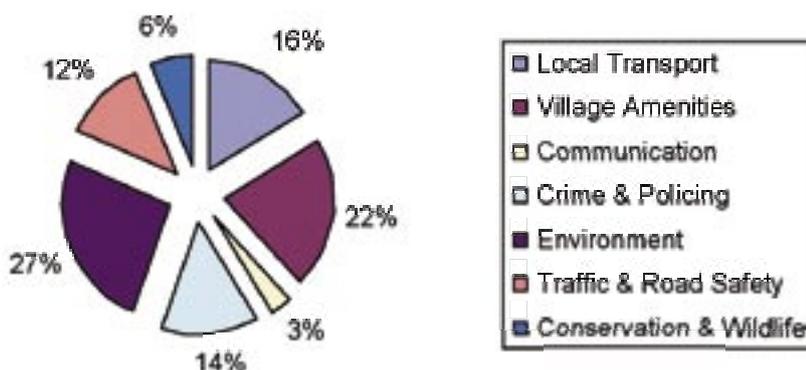
Traffic and road safety were seen as slightly different in Newton and Stape, probably reflecting the fact that many in Newton felt there was too much speeding traffic through the centre of Newton and that the main culprits were local people!

The environment and conservation ranked highly amongst the issues as did village amenities. All these issues point to a desire to protect the parishes and broadly maintain them much as they are now.

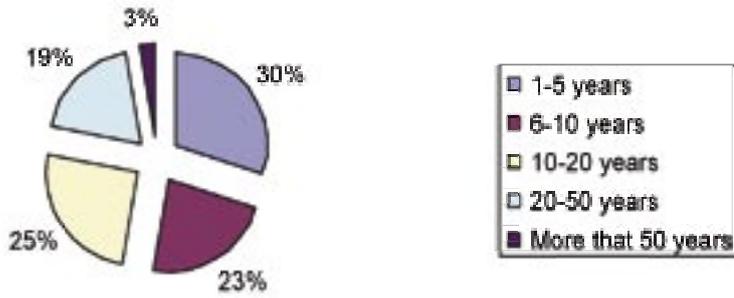
Most Important Issues in Newton



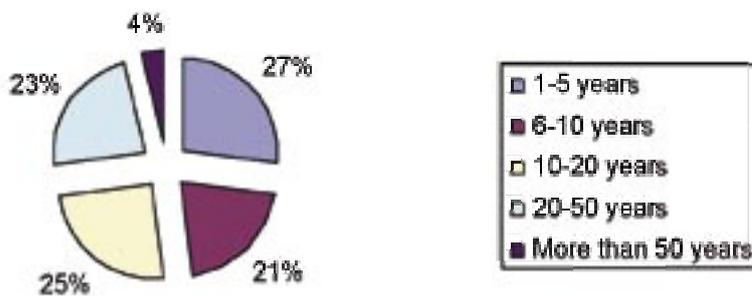
Most Important Issues in Stape



Residency in Newton Upon Rawcliffe



Residency in Stape



continuing movement of people into and out of both parishes.

More surprisingly the periods of residency for the two parishes were very similar. Although those living here for more than fifty years accounted 3 and 4% for Newton and Stape respectively, the rest of the residents were very evenly spread having lived here from one year up to fifty years. This distribution is a result of new people moving in and, more recently, by resident families having more children. At the time of writing more young children live in Newton village than at any time for many years. It is confidently expected that this trend will continue - so we are informed by the local stork!

RESIDENCY IN THE PARISHES

To find how residents hoped to see the Parishes develop it was important to have some basic idea of how the parishes were made up and what sort of community any plans might be needed to support.

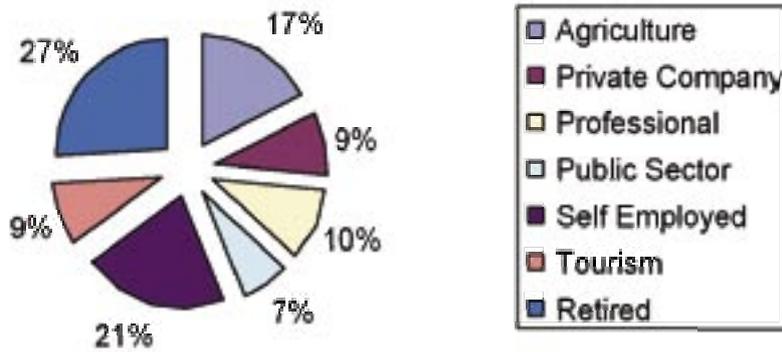
A first step in this process was to find out how long people had lived in the parishes.

The results showed that for both parishes there was a very vibrant community with some residents having lived here for more than

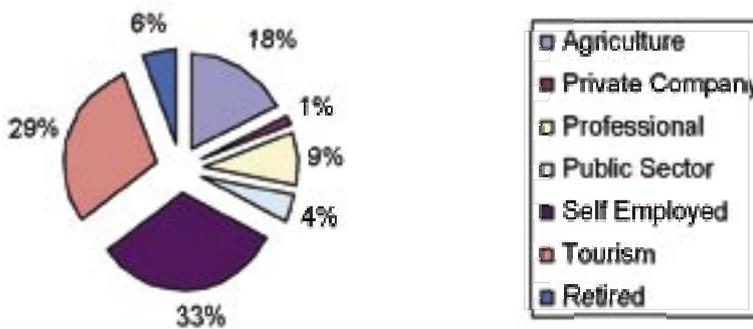
fifty years. But generally there was a very even mix of new and old residents with a



Occupations in Newton Upon Rawcliffe



Occupations in Stape



OCCUPATIONS IN THE PARISHES

The return on occupations showed a very varied community with a whole range of activities going on.

As might be expected in a very rural community there is still considerable employment in agricultural activities. Both parishes have much the same percentage of people involved with 17% in Newton and 18% in Stape. Newton still has four working farms within the village and both parishes have several other farms in the more remote areas. However,

the decline in people working on the land has been very marked even within living memory.

But there the similarity between parishes ends. Newton has a large retired population while in Stape the largest percentage is involved in tourism. In both cases a considerable number of people are self employed. By the nature of the questions asked everyone was likely to enter their occupation in more than one category - farmers may well have replied that they were occupied in agriculture and also self employed. But the basic picture that comes back is that both parishes support a wide range of small local businesses and farms, a thriving retired group and activities across a complete spectrum. That's what makes living here so good as there are so many interesting people around!



THE FUTURE - HOW PEOPLE WANT THE PARISHES TO DEVELOP

Having found what everyone thought of the Parishes the whole point of the exercise was to find out the opinions on how they should develop.

The first stage in that was to find what type of community was favoured.

One of the great features of the two parishes is that they have a mixture of all sorts of working activities from farms to a whole series of small businesses. These businesses are wide ranging from plumbing to stone walling, from electrical work to

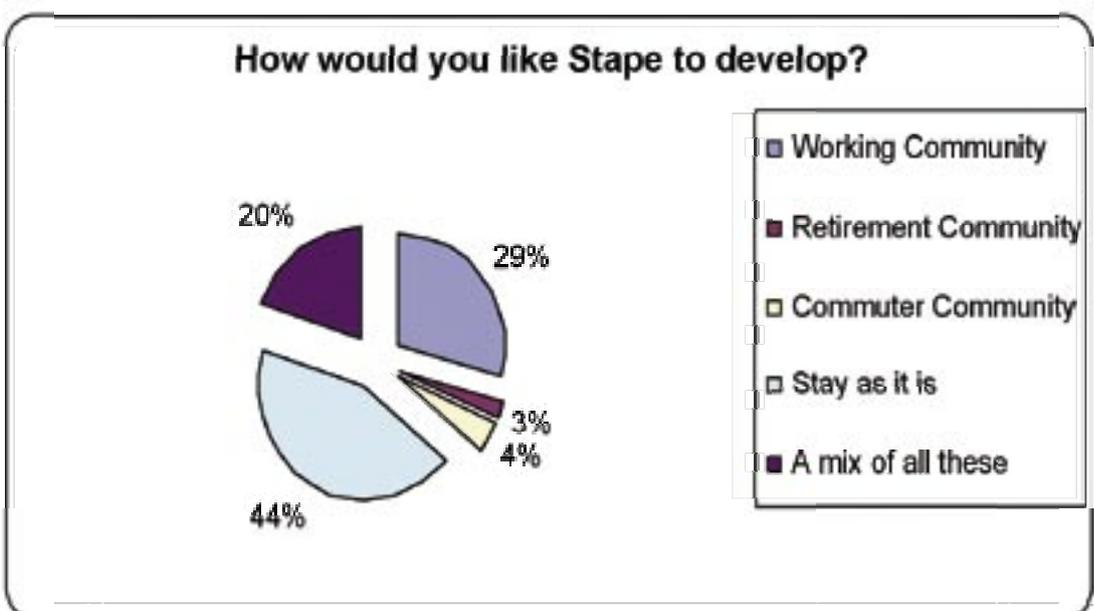
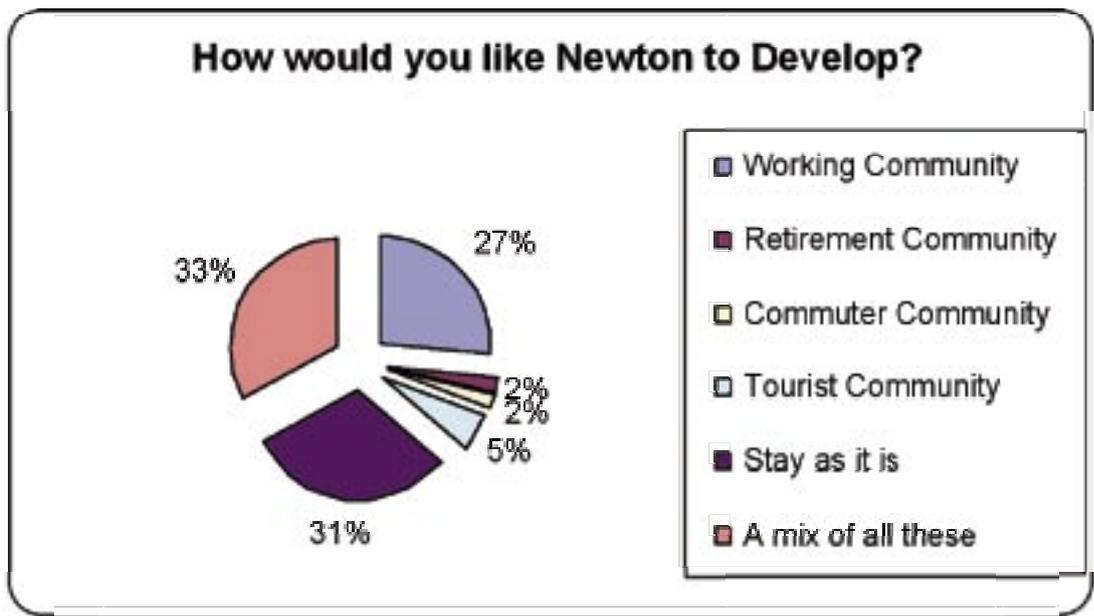
car repair and maintenance and from wood working to supplying food to worldwide expeditions. Many small businesses are involved with the tourism industry with holiday cottages and bed and breakfasts.

The parishes are situated in one of the most beautiful areas of the country, which attracts tourists, but also provides

excellent recreational facilities for local residents.

It is comforting therefore, to see that what most people wanted was to see the parishes continue as proper working communities. Not surprisingly, with a good number of residents, being relatively new to the area, there was a strong view that the parishes should remain as they are.

Of course, nothing will stay as it is without positive action and the more detailed desires of residents which are contained within the survey will be the task of the various groups within the parishes from the Village Hall Committees, Church and Chapel Committees to the Parish Council itself. How these are to be achieved is laid out in the action plans.



POAD'S EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION AND THE PENNY GARTH ALLOTMENTS

Newton is very fortunate in that its residents enjoy the benefits of an educational charity and allotments.

Poad's Educational Foundation

This was set up by the will of Richard Poad in 1727. The will is held at the Borthwick Institute in York. There is a transcript which is easier to read.

The bequest was in the form of land around Newton, which was left to trustees to provide a school and schoolhouse and give grants to assist the children of the Parish of Newton Upon Rawcliffe. There is also mention of some money to help the poor of Newton, which has not so far been identified, though it has been suggested that this may be the origin of Penny Garth allotments which are now managed by the Parish Council.

The identity of the

school is not clear; it may have been the building which eventually became the Village Reading Room, which was replaced by the school at the top of the village which is now the Village Hall.

The Reading Room was eventually sold and the money was invested and incorporated in the funds of the Trust.

The Trust is still administered and provides small grants for young people in the village, under the management of Trustees, some of whom represent the residents and others represent the Church and Local Government. The Trustees come under the general supervision of the Charity Commissioners.

The grants are distributed annually and are for young people up to the age of twenty five. They are to be used to assist pupils to attend schools, institutions or classes, other than for elementary education, by paying fees, travelling or other

incidental expenses or maintenance allowances. The Foundation also supports the promotion of education, social and physical training.

Penny Garth Allotments

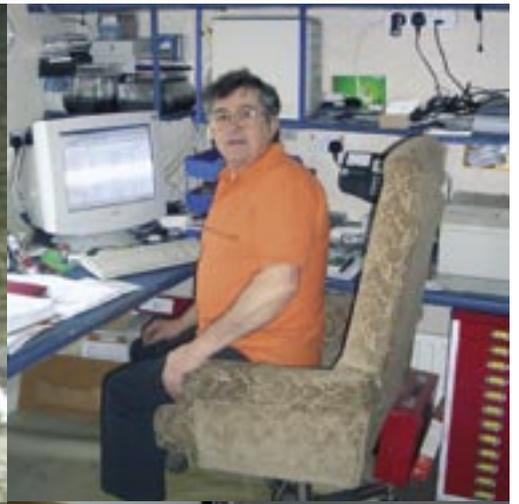


The allotments are situated just north of the church and vicarage on the east side of the village and within the National Park. They basically comprise seven plots of approximately 14 by 35 metres and are for the use of the parishioners of Newton Upon Rawcliffe. The soil is sandy loam which is ideal for vegetable growing. They are administered by the Parish Council and are allocated to interested persons as they become available. At the present time all are in use.

Recent improvements to the allotments have seen a water supply installed to aid the growth of vegetables over the hot dry summers(!). A rotavator is now available to ease the task of cultivating the soil.



PEOPLE AND OCCUPATIONS IN THE PARISHES



COMMUNITY FOCAL POINTS IN THE PARISHES

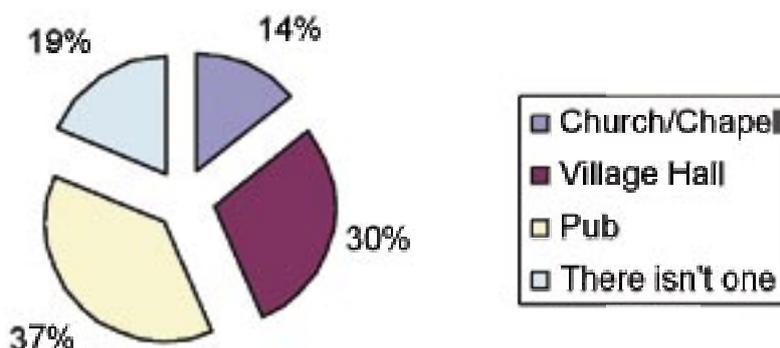
One of the essential requirements for a community spirit is that there is some focus for the community. In small parishes the number and variety of communal

Pub doesn't feature. It is not really surprising to see that 50% of the people in Stape feel that there is no community focal point. Perhaps a little surprising is

the church and chapel offer better community facilities or organise events which have a wider appeal. Of course any such proposals have to compete against the growing volume of home entertainment and the additional stresses of work and changing social pressures. So no one can imagine the task is going to be easy, but most would accept that living in an area with a good community spirit and good community facilities is a great deal better than living living without these.

However one should not be pessimistic. There is a good spirit within the

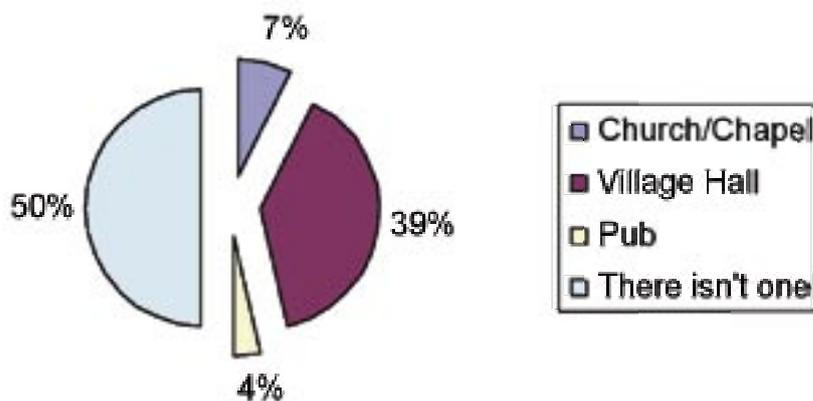
Community Focal Points in Newton



facilities is bound to be small so it is all the more important that those that do exist are suited to the community's needs. The first stage in that process is to find which, if any, of the communal facilities are thought to be the focal point for activities.

Not surprisingly the two parishes return quite different results. In Newton 19% say that there isn't a focal point while the Village Hall and the Pub (the Mucky Duck, formerly and historically the White Swan) score well. As one might expect, people in Stape respond by identifying the Village Hall as the focal point and, since it is the only communal facility there, the

Community Focal Points in Stape



that the church and chapel don't fare too well in either parish.

One might draw the conclusion that there is a task to perform or an opportunity to exploit by making the village halls and

parishes and this is evident in the help and support neighbours readily give each other and in the support that is given to parish events. Examples of these include the village fetes and and brass band concerts.

FOOTPATHS, BRIDLEWAYS AND GREEN LANES IN THE PARISHES



Of course, one of the main features of both parishes is the number of ways of being able to enjoy

the wonderful countryside on foot or on horseback. The scenery brings visitors from all over the world. But it is also a great asset that local residents have the privilege

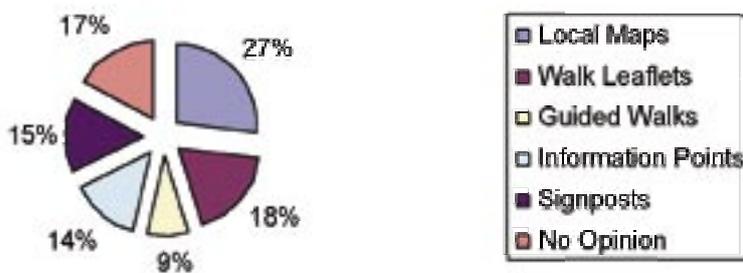
of living with and enjoying every day.

To gain access to the countryside there are numerous footpaths, bridleways and green lanes. Many of these run through the National Park whose responsibility it is to maintain them. But many are outside the Park and need

support as well. This often falls to combined efforts from the Parish Council and other statutory bodies. Recently the Parish Council



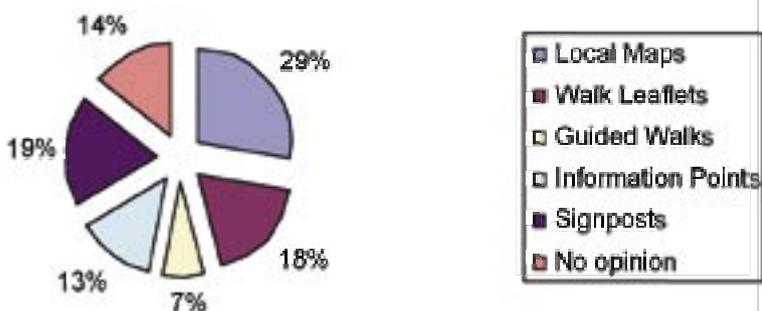
Support for Footpaths and Bridleways in Newton



combined with the National Park and the NYCC Highways Dept to improve a stretch of Back Lane in Newton. Of course green lanes are part of the highway and allow farmers in particular access to their fields.

Like most other things footpaths, bridleways and green lanes need active support if they are to be used to greater effect.

Support for Footpaths and Bridleways in Stape



There was strong support for a whole series of measures from local maps to leaflets on walks and guided walks. For the local tourist businesses there is a possibility that such items could be sold as an attractive package for visitors.

COMMUNITY FOCAL POINTS IN THE PARISHES - Village Halls

The community facilities in the two parishes differ



greatly as Newton, with its church, chapel and pub reflect the fact that it has a village at its heart. Stape on the other hand is a widely spread hamlet.

What both do have in common though, are village halls.

That in Newton is the former school and many village residents remember the days when they used to attend! Those were the days of outside toilets and central stove. The building is of stone construction with a later brick extension which now comprises the kitchen. The former outside toilets now provide stone built storage space. The hall in Stape is of all wood construction with a raised stage.

Both halls are well used but there seems little cross usage. The Parish Council, which represents both

parishes, makes a point of using both halls. Nevertheless each hall serves local groups well and is a centre for parish activities.

At Newton a regular series of domino evenings are held on the third Monday of the month through the winter with socials on the first Monday of the month. A Mums and Toddlers Group meets every Monday and a Kids Fun Club every Friday. For those that wish to keep fit the chance exists every Thursday evening.

The village hall in Stape provides the home for the Stape Original Band which often serves both communities at village fetes and summer carnivals.

One thing that the halls do have in common, as they are both getting on in years, is the need for constant repair and re-decoration

along with a programme of maintenance and refurbishment.

High on the list of priorities for both halls has been improvements to the kitchens. Stape has recently had some major work done which has resulted in much improved facilities and a better working environment.

Similarly basic heating of the buildings is needed to reduce the effects of dampness caused by condensation as the buildings are heated for the winter events and then go cold in between. Again Stape has recently seen some improvements in its heating



system.

One of the many challenges for both Village Hall Committees has been providing events that people want. The Parish Plan process itself has seen several new successful introductions but good ideas are always welcome!

COMMUNITY FOCAL POINTS IN THE PARISHES - Church and Chapel

St John's Church

Seventeenth century maps show an Anglican Chapel in Newton. We know very little



about the building except that it was probably in the grounds of Quern House at the top of the green. In the 1860's the Pickering and Newton worthies held a meeting, declared that the existing wooden building was "totally unfit for worship" and set about building the present Church, costing about £660. At the same time the Church Commissioners contributed £103 towards the building of a Vicarage, and Newton and Stape became a joint ecclesiastical parish. Over the years we acquired some "Mouse" Thompson furniture, and the organ is by Harrison and Harrison, a

fine small instrument made in 1894.

Nowadays villages don't get a Vicar apiece, and we are joined in Middleton Benefice, which also includes Wrelton, Aislaby, Sinnington and Marton. Our Vicar, the Rev'd Adam Reed, lives in Carr Lane, Middleton.

Regular services are on 1st and 3rd Sundays: Holy Communion at 9.30 am; and short Morning Prayer on Thursdays at 9am. We have a children's corner with books and toys at the back of the Church and all the family are welcome.

There are special services at Christmas, Easter and Harvest time, and 5th Sunday services rotate around the Benefice, followed by lunch together.

We are also very pleased to share services with the Chapel on suitable occasions.

Our plans for the future are to continue to build quietly on these foundations. The Parish Church is the church in the place, available to all who want it when they want it. We aim to ensure that it is alive and healthy for everyone.

Newton Methodist Chapel

The Foundation Stone of the chapel was laid in 1907. So, in 2007 we shall be celebrating our Centenary.

The chapel is part of the Pickering Circuit, which is a group of sixteen chapels mainly in local villages which are under the leadership of two ministers, Rev'd Peter Cross, based in Pickering and Rev'd Kim Hurst based in Thornton Le Dale.

There was a thriving Sunday School from the opening to the late 1990s. A choir has developed over the years and now regularly present the Gospel in the locality.

Services are weekly on Sundays at 6.15pm with special events throughout the year - publicised on the notice board and in local papers.

The Chapel welcomes everyone on all occasions.



COMMUNITY FOCAL POINTS IN THE PARISHES - Children's Activities in the Village Halls and on the Playing Field

Village Halls

Both Village Halls provide a place of entertainment for the local children. Both are used for children's parties and other events and Newton has regular children's meetings on Monday morning and Friday evenings. As well as community events both halls are available for hire.

Newton and Stape Playing Field

Whilst it didn't feature strongly as a community centre in the questionnaire, the Playing Field is undoubtedly a major asset for the parishes and for the local children in particular. Indeed the field is well used by holiday makers and their families and by several families from Pickering!

The Playing Field was born when two young lads piped up at the Parish Meeting in 1998, called to consider possible millennium projects, and asked for a field to play in. Most people

realised that there was now too much traffic across the green for safety and the idea was adopted with enthusiasm by the Parish Council.

Two and a half years' hard slog followed, setting up a separate charity to develop and run it, buying land, getting planning permission, visiting existing playing fields to get ideas, considering detailed quotations and applying, successfully, for a huge capital grant from the National Lottery. One factor that helped us there was the inclusion in the Playing Field Association's constitution of two under 18 year old advisers: this was thought to be unique.

We finally bought the field early in 2001, got it fenced - and then had to put everything on hold for Foot and Mouth Disease. Eventually it was done, more or less,



in time for a very happy opening on the Queen's Jubilee day in 2002. We have tried to provide, within our one acre, something for everyone. It is not just a children's play park: you can play tennis all the year round on the multi-sport hard court and there is a permanent barbecue beside the picnic tables.

The Committee knows it is much appreciated, and families come up from Pickering and neighbouring villages because ours is better than anywhere else nearby. We hope people realise that there is still quite a lot of hard slog running such a welcome facility: cutting the grass, weekly inspection of equipment, fundraising to pay the inordinate 3rd party insurance, ROSA annual inspection and so forth. Nevertheless, it is a great achievement for a small scattered community like Newton and Stape.

