

Oswaldkirk Village Plan

2004-5



APRIL 2005

Oswaldkirk Village Plan 2004-5

Executive summary

In 2004 the Oswaldkirk Parish Meeting agreed to produce a Village Plan and a Steering Committee was established. Following discussions, a questionnaire was produced and circulated to all households in Oswaldkirk. The purpose of this questionnaire was to obtain a view of what villagers liked and disliked about Oswaldkirk, what concerns they had and what they would like to see changed. The questions covered local services, the environment, traffic and transport as well as planning and financial issues.

A total of 99 questionnaires were sent out and 59 were returned. The results of the questionnaire were analysed by the Steering Committee and a draft Plan was produced as well as a draft Action Plan.

A series of three consultation meetings was arranged and villagers were given the opportunity to read and comment on the draft Village Plan. Views were also requested on the Action Plan and, in particular, what priority particular actions should be given and who could be responsible for them.

Following this consultation exercise, both the Village Plan and Action Plan were finalised. A total of 16 actions were highlighted and these are listed below:

1 To improve availability of information in the village:

Produce and circulate a Village Information Booklet.

2 To ensure that the natural environment is adequately protected:

Lobby Ryedale District Council, Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, North Yorks Moors National Park Authority and North Yorkshire County Council to ensure that appropriate levels of protection are afforded to trees, hedges, public footpaths and walls.

3 To improve Chestnut Bank:

Organise a small working party to clear vegetation on Chestnut Bank, plant with appropriate shrubs and keep vegetation down.

4 To improve the state of local roads and verges:

- a) *Discuss state of drainage of the B1363 and Stocking Lane with Highways Department at North Yorkshire County Council.*
- b) *Determine the frequency and quality of verge cutting and report to North Yorkshire County Council Highways Department if not up to appropriate standard.*

5 To improve car parking in the village:

- a) *Discuss with the residents of The Terrace issues related to parked cars.*
- b) *Highlight to offenders that parking on the pavement is illegal and dangerous and hence should not occur.*
- c) *Highlight that cars should not be parked in potentially dangerous areas - for example near corners.*

6 To improve road safety around Oswaldkirk:

Discuss the following issues with North Yorkshire County Council Highways Department and North Yorkshire Police Force:-

- a) *Speeding traffic, especially motorbikes*
- b) *Footpath up Oswaldkirk Bank along the side of the B1363.*

7 Traffic calming in Oswaldkirk

Discuss issues regarding traffic calming with North Yorkshire County Council Highways Department and North Yorkshire Police Force.

8 To increase the mobility of villagers via the use of alternative means of transport:

Publicise the existing Ryedale Car Scheme and any other related activities via Village Information Booklet and Notice Board.

9 To increase the use of car sharing and hence decrease the amount of traffic on the roads:

- a) *Encourage use of car sharing via use of the Notice Board.*

- b) *Discuss with Ryedale District Council whether there are Car Sharing Schemes set up in the area that could be extended to Oswaldkirk.*

10 To try and improve the local bus services:

Discuss the report with the local bus companies and with the Transport Department at Ryedale District Council to aim to improve the frequency and usefulness of the bus service, including the provision of a visible bus stop and timetable.

11 To inform the local surgeries and Health Care Departments of the outcome of the report:

Forward a copy of the final Plan to the local surgeries and Health Care Department for information.

12 To try and address concerns of villagers regarding the local police and other emergency services:

- a) *Discuss issues regarding crime and visibility of the police with the local Community Officer.*
- b) *Discuss with Oswaldkirk Neighbourhood Watch regarding liaising with local Police.*
- c) *Publicise the First Responder Scheme and seek further recruits.*

13 To try and improve a range of services in Oswaldkirk:

- a) *Discuss issues related to roadside care and winter weather services with North Yorkshire County Council Highways Department.*
- b) *Discuss issues related to electricity supply with the local supplier.*
- c) *Discuss issues related to television reception and mobile phone reception with relevant suppliers.*

14 To increase the level of recycling in Oswaldkirk:

- a) *Publicise the location of the current Recycling Centre to villagers via the Village Information Booklet.*
- b) *Lobby Ryedale District Council to add further recycling facilities and to consider the possibility of an additional refuse collection to include garden waste, bottles, cans, paper and plastic.*

Please note that this action has already been completed.

15 To increase the awareness of the Parish Meeting and Parish Information Morning:

- a) *Highlight to Parish Meeting Officials that the aim of the meeting should be better publicised. The time of the meeting should also be reconsidered to ensure that it is at the most convenient time. This could be done via the proposed Village Information Booklet.*
- b) *Further consideration is required regarding the timing, content, notification and purpose of the Parish Information Morning.*

16 Inform local planning authorities of the outcome of the Village Plan:

Highlight conclusion of Plan to relevant planning departments and, in particular, if development occurs then it should be affordable and in keeping with the village.

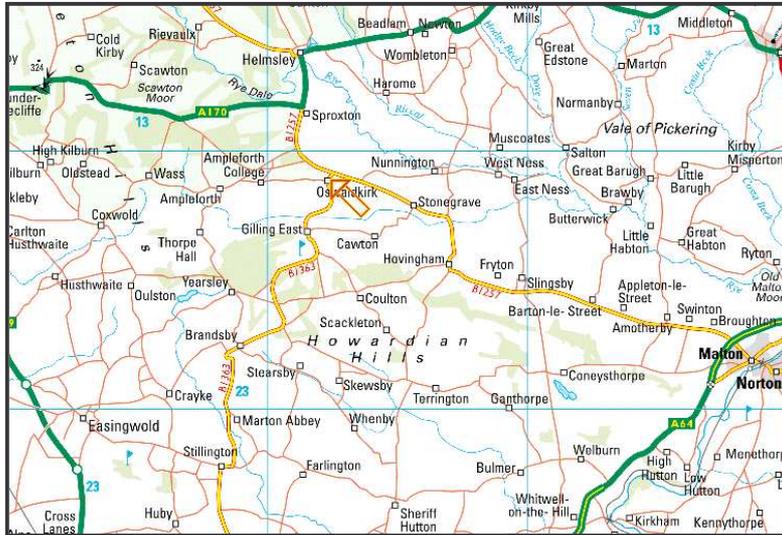
Most of the actions were rated as either *high* or *medium* priority and were given a three to six month timescale for completion. The Parish Meeting was considered as the most appropriate forum for keeping the village up to date.

The Executive Summary was circulated to all households in Oswaldkirk together with a brief note thanking everyone for their help. In addition, the final report was distributed to Ryedale District Council, North Yorkshire County Council, North Yorks Moors National Park Authority, Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Yorkshire Rural Community Council.

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1 Introduction



Oswaldkirk is in the district of Ryedale in the county of North Yorkshire. It is situated on the south-facing bank of the Hambleton Hills, overlooking the Coxwold-Gilling Gap and beyond to the Howardian Hills. It lies in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and part is in the North York Moors National

Park. Most of the village is classed as a 'Conservation Area' by the Ryedale Planning Authority. It is a lively and pleasant village consisting currently of one hundred and ninety-four adults and thirty young people of seventeen years and under. There are also numerous dogs, cats, sheep, geese, hens, cattle and one donkey. In total there are one hundred and eight houses, including two working farms, one pub, two churches, but no shop or post office.

Oswaldkirk is named after the church which is dedicated to the Anglo-Saxon King, Oswald. Gradually people might have inhabited the area after the end of the last Ice Age, ten thousand years ago. However, the first recorded reference to Oswaldkirk is in the Domesday Book to which it is referred as Oswaldecherca or Oswaldecherce. It is recorded as belonging to Berenger de Toni and Count Mortain. Berenger de Toni's manor was probably located at West Newton Grange and passed from him to the Abbot of Rievaulx and, later, to the Earl of Feversham. The manor passed into the hands of the Pickering family in 1316 and they remained owners until 1674, when it passed to William Moore. Moore was responsible for building Oswaldkirk Hall which is located to the west of the village. Until 1932 the owner of the Hall also owned the village. However, following the death of the last squire – Colonel Musgrave Benson – the estate was broken up and sold off.



Saint Oswald's Anglican Church

1.1 The Parish Meeting

Oswaldkirk has a Parish Meeting, which is an assembly that gathers to discuss, comment and decide on local issues. Local Government legislation states that in communities of fewer than 200 adults, a Parish Meeting will be used to represent the residents. Once the population rises above 200 it is necessary for a Parish Council to be formed with elected officers holding posts. Any adult from the village can attend, speak and vote at the Parish Meeting. In this way, decisions are the product of the whole village and not just of a small elected group. The Parish Meeting has officials who organise and run the meetings. These officials are a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The Oswaldkirk Parish Meeting occurs whenever there are key issues that the Parish Meeting Officials consider require wider discussion; for example, proposals for development in the village always warrant a Parish Meeting. The Parish Meeting is also responsible for setting the Parish Precept. On average there are three meetings per year and every household is invited to attend. Each meeting is attended by approximately 25 people.

In addition to the Parish Meeting there are Parish Information Mornings which are



held monthly. The times and locations of these meetings are promulgated via the Parish Magazine and the village Notice Board. These informal gatherings are held in the Village Hall and operate in order for villagers to meet Parish Meeting Officials to discuss any key issues. It is also an opportunity for villagers to meet and just have a chat!

The Village Hall, Oswaldkirk

1.2 The Village Plan

In 2000 the Government set out plans for the countryside in the 'Rural White Paper'. The Government wanted local communities to take more control of their own affairs and engage with other organisations to achieve the required results (see Countryside Agency 2003).

At the Annual General Meeting of the Oswaldkirk Parish Meeting in April 2004, a presentation on Parish Plans was made by the Yorkshire Rural Community Council. Following discussion at the meeting it was agreed that Oswaldkirk should produce a Village Plan. It was considered that if this Plan were to be meaningful, it would need to represent the likes, dislikes, needs and views of the entire village. Volunteers were called to move the project forward and a Steering Committee was established (see Section 7). The Steering Committee then embarked on a consultation exercise to determine what the villagers would like or not like to occur in the village. Consultations were focused around Parish Meetings as well as Parish Information Mornings. Following this initial consultation phase, a questionnaire was developed by the Steering Committee and circulated to the whole village.

The Steering Committee delivered one questionnaire to each occupied dwelling in the Parish in October 2004. Of the 99 distributed, a total of 59 were returned, which represents a response of 60%. The results were then analysed and the findings are presented in this document.

During the analysis phase, further Steering Committee Meetings were held, as well as three Consultation Meetings. The Consultation Meetings were held in the Village Hall and were structured so that villagers could comment on the draft plan as well as the Action Plan. Following this consultation exercise, the final document was presented to the Parish Meeting Annual General Meeting in April 2005.

2 The People of Oswaldkirk

2.1 Introduction

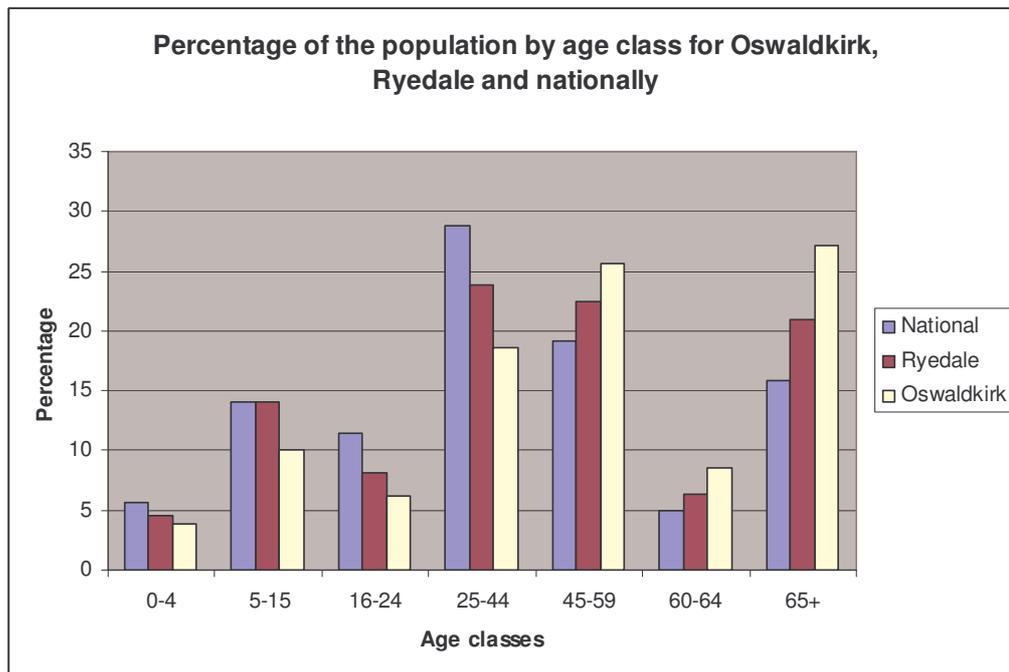
One of the aims of the questionnaire was to obtain an overview of the population of Oswaldkirk. In obtaining this information we would be able to compare the population structure with the national population and that within Ryedale. This information would indicate whether there could be issues regarding future services in the village. We also aimed to get an indication of what was important to villagers about living in Oswaldkirk.

2.2 The population of Oswaldkirk

There are currently 194 adults (95 women and 99 men) and 30 children (20 female and 10 male) who live in the village. Fifty-one percent of the population are female and 49% are male. Of these, a total of 129 people replied to the questionnaire, with 47% being male and 53% female.

In Figure 1 is a comparison of the age structure of the population of Oswaldkirk, who replied to the questionnaire, compared to the population both nationally and in Ryedale. From this table it can be seen that the residents of Oswaldkirk, who replied to the questionnaire, are older than both the national average and that in Ryedale, with 35.6% over the age of 60 compared to 20.8% of the nation as a whole and 27.2% for Ryedale.

Figure 1: Percentage of the population by age class for Oswaldkirk, Ryedale and nationally



*Data from Phillpotts and Cohen (2005)

NB Figures for Oswaldkirk refer to those replying to the questionnaire

Twenty percent of the respondents indicated that they attend the local Parish Church of St Oswald's and 7% attend St. Aidan's Church.

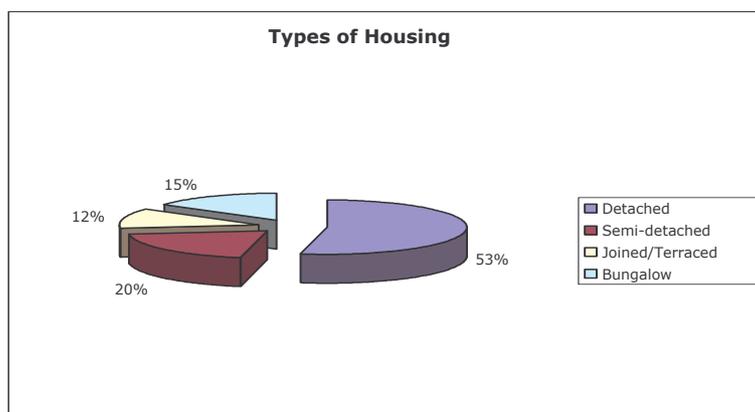
Saint Aidan's Roman Catholic Church



2.3 What is the housing like in Oswaldkirk?

In the village there are 108 dwellings, including 7 holiday cottages, of which 53% are detached houses, 20% semi-detached, 12% joined or terraced, and 15% bungalows. These data are presented in Figure 2. (For the purposes of this report the description of “joined” has been used to differentiate semi-detached properties of varying architectural styles from the usual understanding of semi-detached properties which are normally mirror images and were constructed at the same time.) The types of house occupied by the respondents to the questionnaire were as follows: detached – 29 (49%), semi-detached – 17 (29%), terraced – 3 (5%) and bungalow – 10 (17%).

Figure 2: Types of housing in Oswaldkirk





The Main Street, Oswaldkirk

The older houses in the village mainly date from the 18th century, and are an assortment of farmhouses, former farm buildings and farm workers' cottages, with two exceptions - Oswaldkirk Hall, and The Malt Shovel Inn. Whilst some of these might have originally been thatched, the majority now have clay pantiled roofs. All would have been built using local stone and timber, and had relatively small windows due to the difficulty of manufacturing glass. These 18th and early 19th century houses are two storeys in

height with relatively narrow floor plans and steeply pitched roofs.

The introduction of the rail network through the 19th and early 20th centuries meant that it was possible to bring other building materials into the area, such as brick and Welsh roofing slate. Fashion also became an element of the building industry.

The increase in travel, the transportation of goods and the availability of a wide range of materials over the last 100 years brought about a greater variety to the style of houses built – a pattern which the planning authorities are now seeking to keep in check.

The majority of the village has been designated as a 'conservation area', where its essential linear form, and the character of its stone and pantiled houses, should be maintained.

2.4 What's good about living in Oswaldkirk?

When asked what they liked about Oswaldkirk, the following responses were obtained from villagers:

- a friendly village with a social conscience
- two active churches with increasing co-operation
- an integrated community of a viable size
- a safe place to live
- Parish Meeting important rather than a Parish Council
- plenty of village events
- close to Ampleforth Abbey

The village has several facilities, namely the Playground, the Village Hall, Millennium Footpath, Chestnut Bank, the telephone box and Malt Shovel Inn. When the villagers were asked whether they used any of these, the Playground was used by 32% of respondents, the Village Hall by 63%, Millennium Footpath by 62%, Chestnut Bank by 30%, the telephone box by 4% and the Malt Shovel by 68%.



The Playground, Oswaldkirk

The villagers were also asked their view of how important the environment was to them – of those that replied, 99% considered it to be important or very important.

One very important issue which came to light early in the consultation exercise, is the fact that in spite of all the meetings, notices and flyers distributed, not everyone in the village is aware of all the aspects of village life and whom to contact for information. Therefore, it was considered useful to produce and circulate a Village Information Booklet, which will be updated from time to time and which will list all salient information.

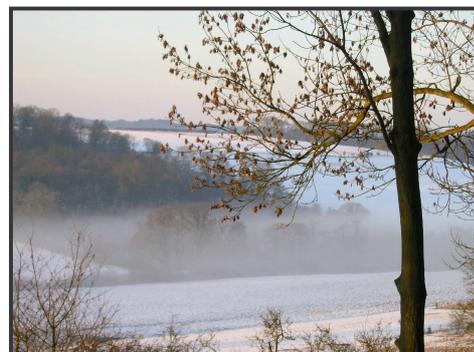
ACTION 1

Produce and circulate a Village Information Booklet.

3 Environment in and around Oswaldkirk

3.1 Introduction

From the above it was noted that 99% of the respondents consider the environment to be important or very important. Villagers also highlighted that it is important to preserve the 'countryside character' of Oswaldkirk. With the quality of the countryside in mind,



The Hagg, Oswaldkirk
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several questions were set to determine what people thought should be protected and what should happen to specific sites in the village. Views on road safety were also requested, with the aim of trying to identify key areas of concern.

3.2 What needs protection in Oswaldkirk?

When villagers were asked what they thought needed protection, 62% of respondents recommended hedges, 68%, trees, 71% public footpaths and 50% walls.

On the basis of the information in 2.4 and 3.2, it is felt that Ryedale District Council, North Yorkshire County Council, the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the North York Moors National Park Authority should be lobbied to ensure that the natural environment is adequately protected.

ACTION 2

Lobby Ryedale District Council, North Yorkshire County Council, the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the North York Moors National Park Authority to ensure appropriate levels of protection are afforded to trees, hedges, public footpaths and walls.

3.3 Chestnut Bank – what should be done?



Chestnut Bank, Oswaldkirk

Chestnut Bank is a small piece of woodland stretching from the top of Manor View to St Oswald's Church. In 1938 North Yorkshire County Council bought the site and in 1980 planted several Horse Chestnut trees. These trees replaced dead and diseased trees which the Council had removed. Since this time the trees have grown and much time has been spent trying to keep the area under the trees in order. In 2001 the area was cleared and a footpath was installed by the British Trust for Conservation

Volunteers. The questionnaire was seen as an opportunity to seek views as to

how this area should be further developed. The results of this consultation are presented in Table 1. (It should be noted that respondents could tick more than one box.)

Table 1: Results of the consultation on Chestnut Bank

	TOTAL
Let it go back to nature	19%
Remove some of the large trees	1%
Keep all vegetation under the trees down	32%
Let the vegetation under the trees grow up	5%
Plant a range of native shrubs and flowers	46%
Any other ideas	7%

From the above it is clear that work is required to improve the site by planting a range of shrubs to act as undergrowth and to keep the current vegetation growth down.

ACTION 3

Organise a small working party to clear vegetation on Chestnut Bank, plant with appropriate shrubs and keep vegetation down.

3.4 The state of roads, pavements and verges in Oswaldkirk



When the villagers were asked about the state of the roads, pavements and verges in Oswaldkirk, the majority considered that they were in either a good or reasonable condition with approval ratings of 88% (roads), 85% (pavements) and 70% (verges).

Two specific issues were flagged. Firstly, the problem of flooding due to the inadequate drainage along the B1363 and Stocking Lane.

Stocking Lane showing poor state of road, lack of drainage gully and new hedge

Secondly, whilst the majority of respondents (70%) considered the state of the verges to be either good or reasonable, there were many comments reflecting the fact that residents were not convinced that the verges were cut six times a year as programmed. Comments were also passed regarding the fact that when cutting did take place, the grass cuttings should be removed.

As regards to street lighting, 49% of the respondents considered that the state of street lighting in the village was either good or reasonable. Several written comments were also made regarding this subject – of the replies, eleven were very against existing or additional street lighting, six would like some modification of the existing lighting, for example via the use of private lighting along the Main Street and The Terrace, and seven stated that they would like to see an improvement in street lighting. It would appear, therefore, that the village is split equally on this issue and that there is no majority in favour of moving away from the status quo.

Based on the responses to questions on the state of roads, pavements and verges in Oswaldkirk, it can be seen that action is required regarding drainage of certain roads as well as ensuring that the verges are adequately maintained.

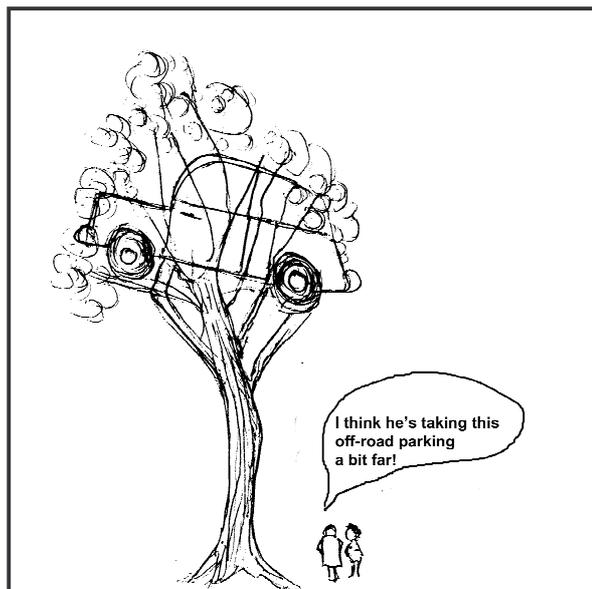
ACTION 4

- a) Discuss state of drainage of the B1363 and Stocking Lane with the Highways Department at North Yorkshire County Council.**
- b) Determine the frequency and quality of verge cutting and report to North Yorkshire County Council Highways Department if not up to appropriate standard.**

3.5 Road safety in Oswaldkirk

3.5.1 Cars and Oswaldkirk

According to National Statistics, 73% of households have one or more car/van; households in Yorkshire and Humberside have 70%, and in Oswaldkirk car ownership is higher, with every household that replied to the questionnaire owning at least one car. This is probably a reflection of the location of Oswaldkirk and the lack of viable alternative transport (see Section 4).



As regards off-road parking, many houses have plenty of off-road parking; however several replies highlighted key areas where parking was an issue. The areas highlighted were along The Terrace, on the pavement along the Main Street, outside St. Gregory's House, on the south side of the bend turning from the Gilling Road into Main Street and at the top of Manor View.

From the above it can be seen that there are numerous issues regarding parked cars, therefore action is required to try and address the concerns highlighted (please see also Section 3.5.3)

ACTION 5

- a) Discuss with the residents of The Terrace issues related to parked cars.**
- b) Highlight to offenders that parking on the pavement is illegal and dangerous and hence should not occur.**
- c) Highlight that cars should not be parked in potentially dangerous areas, for example near corners.**

3.5.2 Danger spots in Oswaldkirk

When residents were asked if they thought there were any major traffic "danger spots" around Oswaldkirk, 85%, of those expressing a view, stated that there are danger spots around the village.

Residents were also asked to identify any specific areas that they considered to be dangerous. The written comments were extensive and covered virtually all the highways in and around the village. The following summary of views is based on a geographical approach and does not seek to prioritise specific areas.



Comments passed on the York road (B1363)

The York road (B1363) passes through the village and generated the following comments:

- Traffic on the bank, particularly motorbikes, travels too fast
- The 30mph speed limit does not extend to the top of the bank
- There is no pavement on the central section of the bank
- Approaching the village from Bank Top, the signs are partially hidden by vegetation and dirt



**The Terrace – junction with the B1363,
Oswaldkirk**

- There is no warning that directly beyond the hairpin there is a well used junction with traffic using The Terrace
- Once presented with a clear run out of the village towards Gilling, traffic accelerates, reaching high speed as it passes the entrance to the playground
- Proceeding to Bank Top from Gilling, the junction with Main Street has limited visibility and heavy vehicles travelling in both directions present a hazard on the hairpin.

Comments passed on the junction of the York and Malton/Helmsley road (i.e. B1363 and B1257)

The York road/Malton road T-junction is seen by some as dangerous primarily due to poor driving, with traffic cutting the corners. It is also seen as a hazard as children have to cross the Malton Road and there is no reduction in speed limit on the Malton Road.

Comments passed on the Main Street and The Terrace.

The following comments were passed regarding the Main Street and The Terrace

- In both areas people complain about the number of vehicles parked on the roads
- In both areas people complain about the speed of vehicles
- It is evident that HGVs ignore the weight restriction on the Ampleforth road, thereby passing along the full length of the Main Street

Comments passed on the road to Ampleforth

The road to Ampleforth is considered to be dangerous by a number of respondents as:

- it is very winding
- it is narrow
- visibility on some sections is poor

Respondents raised issues of concern regarding the approach from Ampleforth into Oswaldkirk where there is a relatively straight downhill section culminating in the road narrowing and a blind but gentle bend into the village. The geometry of the road therefore encourages vehicles to speed as they enter the village, although there are also limited visibility exits at this very point and narrow, if non-existent, verges on one side.

The above comments raise some important issues regarding potential danger spots around Oswaldkirk. These should be discussed with both the North Yorkshire Police and the North Yorkshire County Council Highways Department.

ACTION 6

Discuss the above issues with North Yorkshire County Council Highways Department and North Yorkshire Police, in particular:

- a) Speeding traffic, especially motorbikes***
- b) Footpath up Oswaldkirk Bank along the side of the B1363.***

3.5.3 Views on traffic calming measures in Oswaldkirk

Residents were asked if they would support a range of traffic measures and were also asked to make suggestions/comment as appropriate. The analysis of the views expressed showed significant support for all of the road safety measures listed, with 85% supporting an extension of the 30 mph limit and 81% supporting a 20 mph limit along the Main Street and The Terrace. Interestingly, the support for traffic calming measures drops slightly to 64% whilst the support for weight/size limits rises to 87%. Only eight respondents would not support any of these measures. During the Consultation exercise concern was raised regarding traffic calming measures and in particular the type of measures that should be used.

A general issue that did arise is that, on the one hand, residents want speed restrictions, but on the other hand concern was raised regarding the increase in

the number of signs and the fact that these would spoil the look of the village. Any action taken to address the issue of speeding traffic will need to consider these conflicting issues to ensure that an appropriate way forward is found which slows the traffic down but does not intrude on our environment.

Written comments on these issues have been grouped and structured to match the “danger areas” discussed above.

Comments passed about the York Road (B1363).

Many residents called for the 30 mph speed limit on the York Road to be extended to the top of the bank and southwards towards Gilling to a point beyond the last dwelling, thereby including the road alongside the playground.

Having established a new area within the 30 mph limit the question then turns to how to enforce the limit. Views passed indicated speed cameras as a possibility, as well as traffic calming measures similar to those at Coxwold. An added benefit might be that in addition to an initial installation at the 30 mph boundary, a further installation might be possible adjacent to the playground.

Measures to ease the danger at the intersections of The Terrace and Main Street with the main road might simply involve improved signage which clearly showed the junctions and perhaps gave a written warning. The positioning of the signs would also need reviewing. These solutions have been proposed by a number of respondents. The use of mirrors has also been suggested and this obviously merits consideration, particularly when exiting from The Terrace when it is impossible to see low vehicles descending the bank.

Comments passed about the Malton road and York road T junction (Junction of B1257 and B1363)

A number of respondents requested speed restrictions on the Malton road. It was highlighted that various speed limits and traffic calming methods have been employed to slow traffic in similar village locations closer to Malton but not at the Oswaldkirk junction and adjacent to the housing on the main road.

Comments passed about the Main Street and The Terrace.

Some respondents would like to see a 20 mph limit in force along these roads and in adjacent areas. In any event, most residents simply want the speed limit enforced. It was proposed that this could be achieved by implementing a series of traffic calming features or, on the Main Street, by leaving cars parked on the road, as this forces people to slow down (although it restricts visibility). On the Main Street the reduction in visibility was not considered to be a problem, whereas on The Terrace residents felt that children and others might be hidden

by parked cars and the danger may therefore be increased. Some respondents wanted vehicles to be removed from The Terrace (See also Section 3.5.2).

Comments passed about the road from Ampleforth.

Most respondents identify the primary issue very simply as the speed of vehicles approaching Oswaldkirk, and the general call is for traffic calming on the approach into the village. The simplicity of the problem should not, however, be allowed to detract from the seriousness of it. There is also a call to stop HGVs using the road.



View of Main Street from the West

From the above it can be seen that there are numerous issues regarding traffic calming. It should be noted that a 30 mph speed limit is due to be established along the B1363 through Oswaldkirk from 2005-6. This speed limit will also be extended along The Terrace and the Main Street. Coincident with this would be traffic calming measures along the B1363. The type of traffic calming measures have yet to be decided, and therefore the above issues will be brought to the attention of North

Yorkshire County Council Highways Department and North Yorkshire Police Force and discussed with them as appropriate.

ACTION 7

Discuss the above issues regarding traffic calming with North Yorkshire County Council Highways and North Yorkshire Police Force.

4 Travelling to, from and around Oswaldkirk

4.1 Introduction

A series of questions was posed which aimed to determine whether villagers experienced any problems travelling to, from and around Oswaldkirk. In addition, several questions were asked about the local bus service.

4.2 Getting to the shops and the doctors



Oswaldkirk
© D Lee

Residents were asked whether they experienced any problems getting to the hospital, doctors, optician, dentist, shops etc. Generally no significant problems were identified. Respondents reported that for all medical services i.e. doctor, chiropodist, optician and dentist, 90% or over never had problems accessing them. In excess of 95% stated that they never had problems accessing shops or “other” services. Only two [2%] reported that they often had problems.

Two comments by respondents were noted – one was related to the availability of a National Health Dentist in the area, whilst the other issue was the availability of transport for residents who are perhaps elderly and without their own transport to access treatment etc.

It is known that schemes exist in Ryedale to provide this group with transport, some of which are charitable. However, from the responses received, very few people are aware of them or even use them.

ACTION 8

Publicise the existing Ryedale Car Scheme and any other related activities via Village Information Booklet and Notice Board.

4.3 Car sharing

As part of the questionnaire an indication of current car sharing was determined as well as a willingness to increase the level of car sharing. Those residents who did undertake car sharing did so predominantly for social or leisure purposes (56%), with shopping next (29%). Only 5% of respondents indicated that they car-shared for either work or school trips. When asked whether they would be prepared to take part in a car sharing scheme, 69% and 56% indicated that they would be willing to take part in a car sharing scheme for social or shopping trips respectively. As regards school and work, 40% and 47% respectively, stated that they would be willing to take part in a car sharing scheme.

ACTION 9

Encourage the use of Car Sharing via use of the Notice Board and the Village Information Booklet. Discuss with Ryedale District Council whether there are Car sharing schemes set up in the area that could be extended to Oswaldkirk.

4.4 Buses and Oswaldkirk

Residents' views on the local bus service were requested and, whilst only 2% of respondents indicated that they used the bus as their main form of transport, a further third of the respondents claim to use the service for shopping and social trips.

Of those that did state that they use the bus service, approximately half [43%] had no comment on the route. The remainder were evenly spread as to whether the route was *good*, *reasonable* or *poor* and 60% of the users rated the timetable as *reasonable* to *poor*, with the remainder offering no comment. Reliability and costs generally received a *reasonable* to *good* rating, attracting 53% and 44% respectively. Comment on access for the disabled was very limited and could not be analysed.

Written comments on the bus service varied from *poor* to *good* for the size of the village. There are a couple of issues that predominate however. The first centres on the "certainty" of the service. The word "certainty" being used in the widest sense in that the travelling public need to rely on the service. There were many comments about the timetable in that it is not prominently displayed and operates at times that are not sympathetic with the users, e.g. having taken the bus is there then time to shop and return at a realistic time? The bus service then creates problems as there are no signed bus stops. If we decide to take the bus, where do we go? What time does it pass through the village? Does it come from outside the village or does it turn around here? Will it drive by if I stand here? Not a helpful situation for a new starter and unlikely to encourage travel!

Some villagers have made the point that a recognised bus stop, with perhaps a shelter and a clear timetable, would solve these issues. The concept of a bus stop/shelter was proposed by some respondents as this could serve traffic from either direction and might have the added benefit of making bus travel more of a social event and, therefore, more appealing.

Whilst some respondents were very specific in their individual timetable and routing requirements, others indicated that adjustment to the timetable would make the bus service more attractive. In particular, a schedule that tied in with

Helmsley schools or normal working hours might be a positive move. Similarly, a late evening service might encourage use from Helmsley or York.

A final comment is that bus services do take an inordinately long time to reach their destination as they pass through all the minor villages. In some areas bus routes can be co-ordinated to link in to rail or express bus routes, thereby delivering travellers from a wide area into the major conurbations quickly. With reference to York, it might, for example, be realistic to link in to Malton railway station or to a direct non-stop bus service from Easingwold.

The above indicates that there is room for improvement in the local bus services. Improvements are required in the route, frequency and reliability of the service. The provision of a visible bus stop and timetable would also seem to be necessary.

ACTION 10

Discuss the above with the local bus companies and with the Transport Department at Ryedale District Council to aim to improve the frequency and usefulness of the bus service, including the provision of a visible bus stop and timetable.

5 Quality of Local Services in Oswaldkirk

5.1 Introduction

A series of questions was posed that was aimed at obtaining views on the quality of health care, emergency services and utilities.

5.2 Quality of health care services

Residents were asked how they rated the various medical and general services and, if they classified them as poor, were then asked to give details/comment. In general, 60% or more of the respondents reported that they had not used the health visitor, home help, ambulance, maternity care, chiropody, loan of medical equipment, meals on wheels, counselling services and physiotherapy service. However, 81% of the respondents confirmed that they had used the Doctor and found the service to be good or reasonable. Eighteen percent had not used the service or had no opinion, with only 1% rating the doctor service as poor. The District Nurse had been used by 24% of the respondents and they found the service to be good or reasonable, with the remainder having no opinion or not having had need of the service.

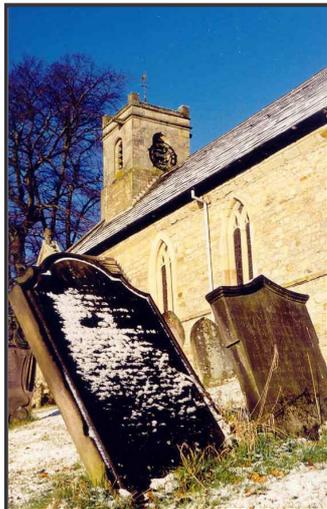
The above indicates that generally residents are happy with the local health service.

ACTION 11

Forward a copy of the final Plan to the local surgeries and Health Care Department for information.

5.3 Emergency services and Oswaldkirk

Residents were asked to give their views on the standard of the emergency services in the area. The analysis of the results shows that most respondents had either never had need of an emergency service or, if they had, had found it to be good quality. The only service to come out with a significantly lower rating was the local police. Of the 37% who had used the local police, half had a poor opinion of the service.



There were ten adverse comments relating to the actual performance of the police force. The majority of these comments were based on the police response to incidents such as burglary. The remainder related to police liaison work with the community, which the individuals would have expected to receive as part of a basic service. The general view was that the police do not have a visible presence in the area.

The other issue raised was the potential time it might take, or indeed has taken in some cases, for the emergency services – primarily ambulances – to respond to call outs. The establishment of a First Responder Scheme in Oswaldkirk and Gilling has gone some way to alleviating the problem, but can only be viewed as a part time, fall back solution. It has also underlined the real exposure of our community, which is served by ambulances based in Kirbymoorside and Malton. These cover vast areas and are backed up by ambulances based at York. A response time of 10-15 minutes under good conditions is therefore to be expected. At busy times it could be in excess of 30 minutes.

An urgent action that has already been commenced is to recruit more volunteers for the First Responder Scheme. A follow up is to extend the training of the First Responders, thereby improving the service. This action is being considered and would probably go ahead once new recruits have received their basic training.

The above highlights concerns with the local police. These concerns should be discussed with the local Community Police Officer and Oswaldkirk Neighbourhood Watch. As regards other emergency services, the First Responder Scheme should be further publicised with the aim of increasing awareness as well as obtaining new recruits.

ACTION 12

- a) Discuss issues regarding crime and visibility of the police with the local Community Officer.**
- b) Discuss with Oswaldkirk Neighbourhood Watch regarding liaising with local Police.**
- c) Publicise the First Responder Scheme and seek further recruits.**

5.4 Utilities and Oswaldkirk

Residents were asked to give their views on the standard of the utilities in the area. The analysis of the results and an overview of the written comments form the basis of the following summaries:

Mains water – 94% say that the water quality is good with only 5% indicating that it is poor.

Electricity – 24% consider the supply to be good, 52% reasonable and 23% poor. A number of residents complained in the written responses about the high levels of outages. Unfortunately there are two supplies to the village and our survey cannot distinguish which area the comments relate to. However, it would appear from studying the other answers on the various questionnaires that The Terrace has more problems than the Main Street and associated areas.

Refuse collection – 96% of the respondents consider the service to be good or reasonable.

Roadside care - achieved a very mixed response, with 12% of respondents indicating that they were content with the service, 36% considering the service to be reasonable, and 37% rating the service as poor.

Winter weather service - generated a mixed but evenly balanced result- 25% good, 44% reasonable and 21% poor. A number of adverse written comments related to snow clearance. It appears, however, from Parish Meetings that, whilst large sections of the village are not automatically gritted/cleared, North Yorkshire Highways Department have responded to previous requests by installing extra salt bins and that they do respond to specific problems when they are reported.



View of Main Street in the snow

Television, radio and mobile phone reception – A number of respondents complained about the poor television, mobile phone and digital radio reception. The analysis of the statistics generated 41% of respondents who consider the service to be poor, 32% who rate it as reasonable and 25% rating it as good. Discussions could be held with the appropriate bodies to see if there are any plans for improvements. However, it should be noted that some respondents specifically expressed their reluctance to have masts erected in the area.

On the whole, utilities and services in Oswaldkirk are considered to be satisfactory. However, the appropriate authorities should be consulted for those services where concern has been highlighted, i.e. electricity, roadside care, winter weather service, mobile phone, television and radio reception.

ACTION 13

- a) Discuss issues related to roadside care and winter weather services with North Yorkshire County Council Highways Department.**
- b) Discuss issues related to electricity supply with local supplier.**
- c) Discuss issues related to television reception and mobile phone reception with relevant suppliers.**

5.5 Recycling in Oswaldkirk

Oswaldkirk currently has a Recycling Centre which consists of a paper, bottle and can bank. This Recycling Centre is located in the Malt Shovel car park and has been there since the late 1980s. When asked whether they used the

Recycling Centre, 65%, 57% and 46% of respondents used the bottle, paper and can bank respectively.

When the villagers were asked whether they would be willing to increase their level of recycling, the majority of respondents indicated that they would be willing to use a skip for garden waste (60%), clothing bank (61%), plastic bottle bank (71%) and aluminium bin (56%).

As regards further recycling, when villagers were asked whether they would be prepared to keep certain refuse items separate, 93% indicated that they would be willing to do so.

The residents of Oswaldkirk have indicated that they would be willing to increase their level of recycling; therefore Ryedale District Council should be informed of this with the aim of increasing levels of recycling.

ACTION 14

- a) Publicise the location of the current Recycling Centre to villagers via the Village Information Booklet.***
- b) Lobby Ryedale District Council to add further recycling facilities and to consider the possibility of an additional refuse collection to include garden waste, bottles, cans, paper and plastic.***

Following circulation of the questionnaire, Ryedale District Council announced that garden waste, bottles and paper would be collected separately. Therefore, this action has been addressed.

6 The Parish Meeting and Local Planning issues

6.1 Introduction

The Villagers' views were requested on the Parish Meeting, Parish Information Morning and Local Planning issues (See Section 1.2).

6.2 The Oswaldkirk Parish Meeting and the Parish Information Morning

Of the people who replied to the questionnaire, 61% had attended the Parish Meeting. When comments were requested regarding why people had not attended, various reasons were provided, ranging from the time not being

convenient, other commitments (e.g. work or children) to some not being aware of it and its role.

In order to aid dissemination of information, Parish Officials have run a Parish Information Morning since 2000. This occurs on the second Saturday of every month and runs from 10.30 am till noon. Of the 102 respondents to the question, 'Have you attended a Parish Information Morning?' 25% had, whilst 75% had not.

The above indicates that whilst attendance at the Parish Meeting is relatively high (though not all villagers attend regularly), there is a sizeable proportion of the village that is unaware of the role of the meeting. Work is required to try and increase awareness and this could be via the proposed Village Information Booklet. This Village Information Booklet could also include a list of useful information and contact points.

As regards the Parish Information Morning, awareness is low and attendance likewise. Therefore, further consideration should be made to ensure that villagers are aware of it and that it is held at an appropriate time.

ACTION 15

- a) Highlight to Parish Meeting Officials that the aim of the meeting should be better publicised. The time of the meeting should also be reconsidered to ensure that it is at the most convenient time. This could be done via the proposed Village Information Booklet.***
- b) Further consideration is required regarding the timing, content, notification and purpose of the Parish Information Morning.***

6.3 Local Planning in Oswaldkirk

Villagers were informed that currently housing development within the village is restricted to in-fill only and that development outside the village is generally not permitted by the North York Moors National Park Authority or Ryedale District Council. They were then asked whether they thought that these restrictions should remain as they are. A total of 84% indicated that they thought that the current development restrictions should remain as they are. In addition to this, comments highlighted that, if any new development was permitted, it should be affordable and in character with the village.

The above views should be passed to appropriate planning authorities and fed in to planning consultations and applications.

ACTION 16

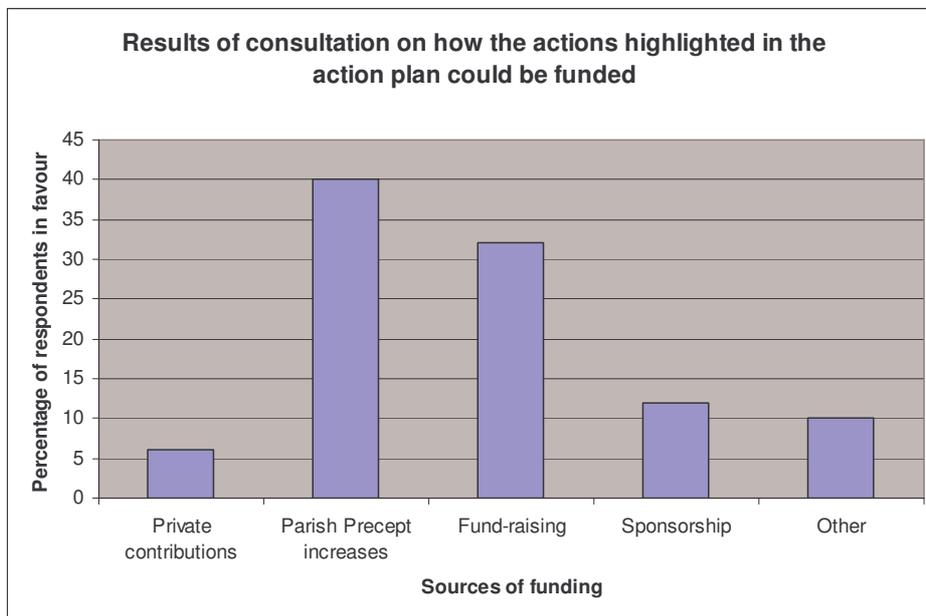
Highlight conclusion of Village Plan to relevant planning departments and, in particular, if development occurs, then it should be affordable and in keeping with the village.

6.4 Financing activities in Oswaldkirk

The Oswaldkirk Parish Meeting has the ability to set a precept once a year in order to finance activities in the village. This is usually discussed at a Parish Meeting in January and Ryedale District Council informed shortly afterwards. Monies are collected via the Council Tax and then sent to the Parish Meeting Treasurer. For information, the Parish Precept for 2005-6 was set at £575.

It was appreciated that the questionnaire and the associated Action Plan could highlight activities that could result in expense for the villagers. Therefore, it was considered appropriate to seek views on how such activities should be funded. The results of this consultation are presented in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Results on consultation of how the actions could be funded.



From Figure 3 it is clear the majority of people consider the Parish Precept to be the preferred way of raising funds. Therefore, if any of the actions highlighted above, and summarised in Section 9 require finance, these should be funded via the Parish Precept.

7 Steering Committee Members

Jackie Young
Helen Goodman
Michael Fram
Philip Entwistle
Paul Elm
Sue Elm
Mark Clook
Ian Henley
Roger Dexter-Smith

8 References

Phillpotts G. and Cohen D (eds) (2005) Region in figures – Yorkshire and the Humber. Office for National Statistics Winter 2004/5 No 9 ISSN 1740-6188

Countryside Agency (2003) Parish Plans – Guidance for parish and town councils. Countryside Agency



St Oswald's Church

9 Action Plan

The following Action Plan was developed following the consultation exercise (See Section 1.2). It is proposed that it should be reviewed each year at the Annual General Meeting of the Oswaldkirk Parish Meeting.

No.	Action	Priority	Who's going to do it?	By when will it be done /actioned?	Who will keep the village up to date with progress?	Done?
1	<p><i>To improve availability of information in the village:</i></p> <p><i>Produce and circulate a Village Information Booklet.</i></p>	High	Sub-group of the Village Plan Group	By end of July 2005	Sub-group will liaise with Parish Meeting and provide regular updates on Notice Board	
2	<p><i>To ensure that the natural environment is adequately protected:</i></p> <p><i>Lobby Ryedale District Council, Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, North Yorks Moors National Park Authority and North Yorkshire County Council to ensure that appropriate levels of protection are afforded to trees, hedges, public footpaths and walls.</i></p>	High	Parish Meeting	Ongoing	Parish Meeting	

No.	Action	Priority	Who's going to do it?	By when will it be done /actioned?	Who will keep the village up to date with progress?	Done?
3	<p>To improve Chestnut Bank:</p> <p><i>Organise a small working party to clear vegetation on Chestnut Bank, plant with appropriate shrubs and to keep vegetation down.</i></p>	Medium	Team of volunteers	Ongoing	Group will keep village up to date with progress via Parish Meetings and the Notice Board.	
4	<p>To improve the state of local roads and verges:</p> <p>a) <i>Discuss state of drainage of the B1363 and Stocking Lane with Highways Department at North Yorkshire County Council.</i></p> <p>b) <i>Determine the frequency and quality of verge cutting and report to North Yorkshire County Council Highways Department if not up to appropriate standard.</i></p>	High	Parish Meeting	By end of July 2005	Parish Meeting	
		High	Parish Meeting	By end of Oct 2005	Parish Meeting	

No.	Action	Priority	Who's going to do it?	By when will it be done /actioned?	Who will keep the village up to date with progress?	Done?
5	<i>To improve car parking in the village:</i>					
	<i>a) Discuss with the residents of The Terrace issues related to parked cars.</i>	High	Parish Meeting	By end of July 2005	Parish Meeting	
	<i>b) Highlight to offenders that parking on the pavement is illegal and dangerous and hence should not occur.</i>	High	Parish Meeting - to be done via leaflet drop	By end of July 2005	Parish Meeting	
	<i>c) Highlight that cars should not be parked in potentially dangerous areas – for example near corners.</i>	High	Parish Meeting - to be done via leaflet drop	By end of July 2005	Parish Meeting	
6	<i>To improve road safety around Oswaldkirk:</i>					
	<i>Discuss the following issues with North Yorkshire County Council Highways Department and North Yorkshire Police Force:-</i>					
	<i>a) Speeding traffic, especially motorbikes</i>	High	Parish Meeting	By end of July 2005	Parish Meeting	
	<i>b) Footpath up Oswaldkirk Bank along the side of the B1363</i>	High	Parish Meeting	By end of July 2005	Parish Meeting	

No.	Action	Priority	Who's going to do it?	By when will it be done /actioned?	Who will keep the village up to date with progress?	Done?
7	<p>Traffic calming in Oswaldkirk</p> <p><i>Discuss issues regarding traffic calming with North Yorkshire County Council Highways Department and North Yorkshire Police Force.</i></p>	High	Parish Meeting	By end of July 2005	Parish Meeting	
8	<p>To increase the mobility of villagers via the use of alternative means of transport:</p> <p><i>Publicise the existing Ryedale Car Scheme and any other related activities via Village Information Booklet and Notice Board.</i></p>	Medium	To be done via Village Information Booklet	By end of July 2005	Village Information Booklet sub-group will liaise with Parish Meeting and provide regular updates on Notice Board	

No.	Action	Priority	Who's going to do it?	By when will it be done /actioned?	Who will keep the village up to date with progress?	Done?
9	<i>To increase the use of car sharing and hence decrease the amount of traffic on the roads:</i>					
	a) <i>Encourage use of car sharing via use of the Notice Board.</i>	Medium	To be done via Village Information Booklet	By end of July 2005	Village Information Booklet sub-group will provide updates	
	b) <i>Discuss with Ryedale District Council whether there are Car Sharing Schemes set up in the area that could be extended to Oswaldkirk.</i>	Medium	Parish Meeting	By end of July 2005	Parish Meeting	
10	<i>To try and improve the local bus services:</i> <i>Discuss the report with the local bus companies and with the Transport Department at Ryedale District Council to aim to improve the frequency and usefulness of the bus service, including the provision of a visible bus stop and timetable.</i>	Medium	Parish Meeting	End of October 2005	Parish Meeting	

No.	Action	Priority	Who's going to do it?	By when will it be done /actioned?	Who will keep the village up to date with progress?	Done?
11	<p>To inform the local surgeries and Health Care Departments of the outcome of the report:</p> <p><i>Forward a copy of the final Plan to the local surgeries and Health Care Department for information.</i></p>	Low	Parish Meeting	End of October 2005	Parish Meeting	
12	<p>To try and address concerns of villagers regarding the local police and other emergency services:</p>					
	a) <i>Discuss issues regarding crime and visibility of the police with the local Community Officer.</i>	High	Parish Meeting and Oswaldkirk Neighbourhood Watch	End of July 2005	Parish Meeting	
	b) <i>Discuss with Oswaldkirk Neighbourhood Watch regarding liaising with local Police.</i>	High	Parish Meeting	End of July 2005	Parish Meeting	
	c) <i>Publicise the First Responder Scheme and seek further recruits.</i>	High	Parish Meeting	End of July 2005	Parish Meeting	

No.	Action	Priority	Who's going to do it?	By when will it be done /actioned?	Who will keep the village up to date with progress?	Done?
13	<i>To try and improve a range of services in Oswaldkirk:</i>					
	a) <i>Discuss issues related to roadside care and winter weather services with North Yorkshire County Council Highways Department.</i>	Medium	Parish Meeting	End of October 2005	Parish Meeting	
	b) <i>Discuss issues related to electricity supply with the local supplier.</i>	Medium	Parish Meeting	End of October 2005	Parish Meeting	
	c) <i>Discuss issues related to television reception and mobile phone reception with relevant suppliers.</i>	Medium	Parish Meeting	End of October 2005	Parish Meeting	

No.	Action	Priority	Who's going to do it?	By when will it be done /actioned?	Who will keep the village up to date with progress?	Done?
14	To increase the level of recycling in Oswaldkirk:					
	a) <i>Publicise the location of the current Recycling Centre to villagers via the Village Information Booklet.</i>	High	Following circulation of the questionnaire, Ryedale District Council announced that garden waste, bottles and paper would be collected separately. Therefore, this action has been addressed.			✓
	b) <i>Lobby Ryedale District Council to add further recycling facilities and to consider the possibility of an additional refuse collection to include garden waste, bottles, cans, paper and plastic.</i>	High	As above			✓

No.	Action	Priority	Who's going to do it?	By when will it be done /actioned?	Who will keep the village up to date with progress?	Done?
15	To increase the awareness of the Parish Meeting and Parish Information Morning:					
	a) <i>Highlight to Parish Meeting Officials that the aim of the meeting should be better publicised. The time of the meeting should also be reconsidered to ensure that it is at the most convenient time. This could be done via the proposed Village Information Booklet.</i>	Medium	Parish Meeting - some issues could be addressed in the Village Information Booklet	By the end of July 2005	Parish Meeting	
	b) <i>The Parish Meeting should give consideration to the timing, content, notification and purpose of the Parish Information Morning</i>	Medium	Parish Meeting	By the end of July 2005	Parish Meeting	

No.	Action	Priority	Who's going to do it?	By when will it be done /actioned?	Who will keep the village up to date with progress?	Done?
16	<p><i>Inform local planning authorities of the outcome of the Village Plan:</i></p> <p><i>Highlight conclusion of Village Plan to relevant planning departments and, in particular, if development occurs then it should be affordable and in keeping with the village.</i></p>	High	Parish Meeting	By the end of July 2005	Parish Meeting	