

# Sinnington Parish Plan



2005

# Contents

Introduction	1
How the plan was developed	2
Village Profile	4
Findings from the Parish Survey	9
An Action Plan for Sinnington	18



## Acknowledgements

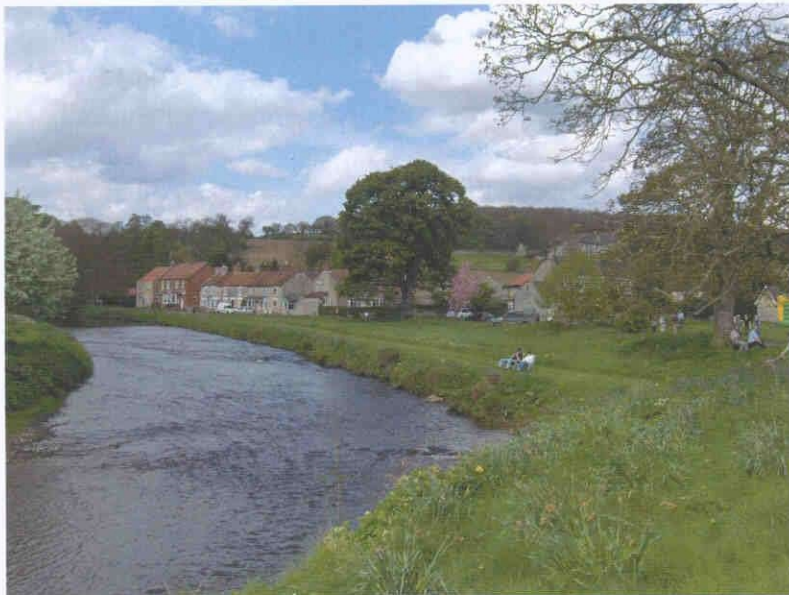
The Parish Plan Steering Group would like to thank all those residents of the parish who contributed by completing the survey, attending meetings, and providing photographs. We are also very grateful to Sue Houghton, a former resident of the village, who produced the wonderful map reproduced on the centrefold of this report. Lastly we would like to thank the Countryside Agency for providing the funds to make the production of this plan possible.

## Introduction

Sinnington is without doubt one of the loveliest villages in Ryedale, and those who live, work and visit the parish understandably wish to see the environmental and historical heritage of the parish maintained. However, it is also a working parish, and a lively and active community, with changing needs and priorities. So when the Countryside Agency offered the Parish Council the opportunity to develop a Parish Plan for the future environmental, economic and social development of the parish, it seemed an ideal opportunity to find out how those living and working in the parish wished to see it develop in the coming years.

In particular the aim of the plan is to:

- Describe how people living and working in the village would like to see it change and develop
- Influence the policies and decisions of external agencies (e.g. Ryedale District Council and North Yorkshire County Council) as they affect the Parish
- Help the Parish Council and village groups (e.g. Village Hall Committee) gain access to funding for improvements or developments



*The River Seven*

The research and production of this Parish Plan has been funded by the Countryside Agency (two thirds) under their Vital Villages Programme, together with contributions 'In Kind' from volunteers (approximately one third), and a small grant from the Parish Council.

## How the Plan was developed

In January 2004, following a well attended public meeting, Sinnington Parish Council decided that it should begin the process of developing a Parish Plan. In April 2004 a Parish Plan Steering Group was established to carry out the work of researching local views and producing the Plan.

### **Initial survey of village clubs, interest groups and businesses**

In July 2004 the Steering Group wrote to all the clubs, interest groups and businesses in the parish to enlist their help with the development of the Parish Plan. They were asked to canvass the views of their members or staff on:

- What they liked about the village now and would like to see maintained
- What they didn't like about the village and would like to see changed
- Their ideas for projects or initiatives that would improve life in the village

Each group was sent a survey form on which to record what people said under six main topics headings:

- Housing
- Transport and travel
- Environmental issues
- Rights of Way
- Village facilities
- Communication technologies

In all 9 clubs/interest groups, 3 businesses and the Church, the Chapel and the school were contacted. The clubs/interest groups included:

- Carpet Bowls Group
- Football Club
- Play Group
- Reading Group
- Village Drop-In
- Village Hall Committee
- Youth Club
- Women's Institute
- Young Farmers

The Steering Group received 8 responses. In addition, two public meetings (one in the evening and one in the afternoon) were held in the Village Hall, to provide those not involved in any formal activities within the village to add their views.

The issues and ideas highlighted in this initial survey and the public meetings were used to shape the Parish Survey questionnaire described in the next section.



*Sinnington Football Team*

### **Parish survey**

The survey questionnaire was delivered to every household in the Parish in October 2004. There was space on the questionnaire for up to six members of each household to give their views and all age groups, including children and young people were encouraged to respond. It was divided into six sections:

- You and Your Household
- Village Environment
- Village Facilities
- Housing and Development
- Transport and Communications
- Further Comments

The aim of the survey was to establish a clearer social, demographic and economic profile of the village and to elicit residents' views and opinions on a wide range of topics relevant to those living and working in Sinnington. In total 151 questionnaires were delivered and 74 were returned, giving a slightly disappointing response rate of 49%. However, 161 people did contribute their views and many respondents took the time to write additional comments. All responses to the survey were anonymous and no questionnaire could be traced back to a person or address. The analysis of the survey was carried out by members of the Steering Group. The original questionnaires have now been destroyed in accordance with the Countryside Agency's policy.

### **Writing the Plan and Developing the Action Plan**

The findings from the survey were considered by the Steering Group and draft proposals for action were developed. The findings and draft proposals were presented to a public meeting in the Village Hall in January 2005, and a draft Parish Plan was considered by the Parish Council in March 2005.

## Village Profile

The section of the plan briefly describes the history of Sinnington, and the structure and geography of the parish. It also draws on the parish survey to present a demographic profile of the parish.

### **A brief history of the Sinnington**

Referred to first as Siueninton or Sevenictun in the Domesday book of 1086, Sinnington is thought to have emerged as a settlement between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Centuries, the 'tun,' (ton or town) of the dwellers on the River Seven. At this time it was a very small settlement which probably followed the system of open field farming to the East of the river and common grazing land to the West. At what is now Friars Hill, the Gilbertine canons of Old Malton had a grange. In the 12<sup>th</sup> Century Sinnington had passed to the de Clere family who gave land to establish another grange, of which the great hall has survived on the hill near the church with some 12<sup>th</sup> century features intact. The religious priories at Guisborough and Yedingham all had connections with this grange and hall, probably giving us the name 'Nuns' Walk'

Two more notable names connected with Sinnington are Katherine Parr, widow of John Neville, third Lord Latimer and the owner of the Manor of Sinnington, who subsequently married Henry V111, and Elizabeth, Lady Lumley who left a generous bequest which has provided for young and old people in the parish and beyond.

Sinnington has grown from a small settlement of under 40 people at the time of the conquest to a thriving village of 350 in 75 households in 1841 and to present day numbers of about 300 people in 150 houses!

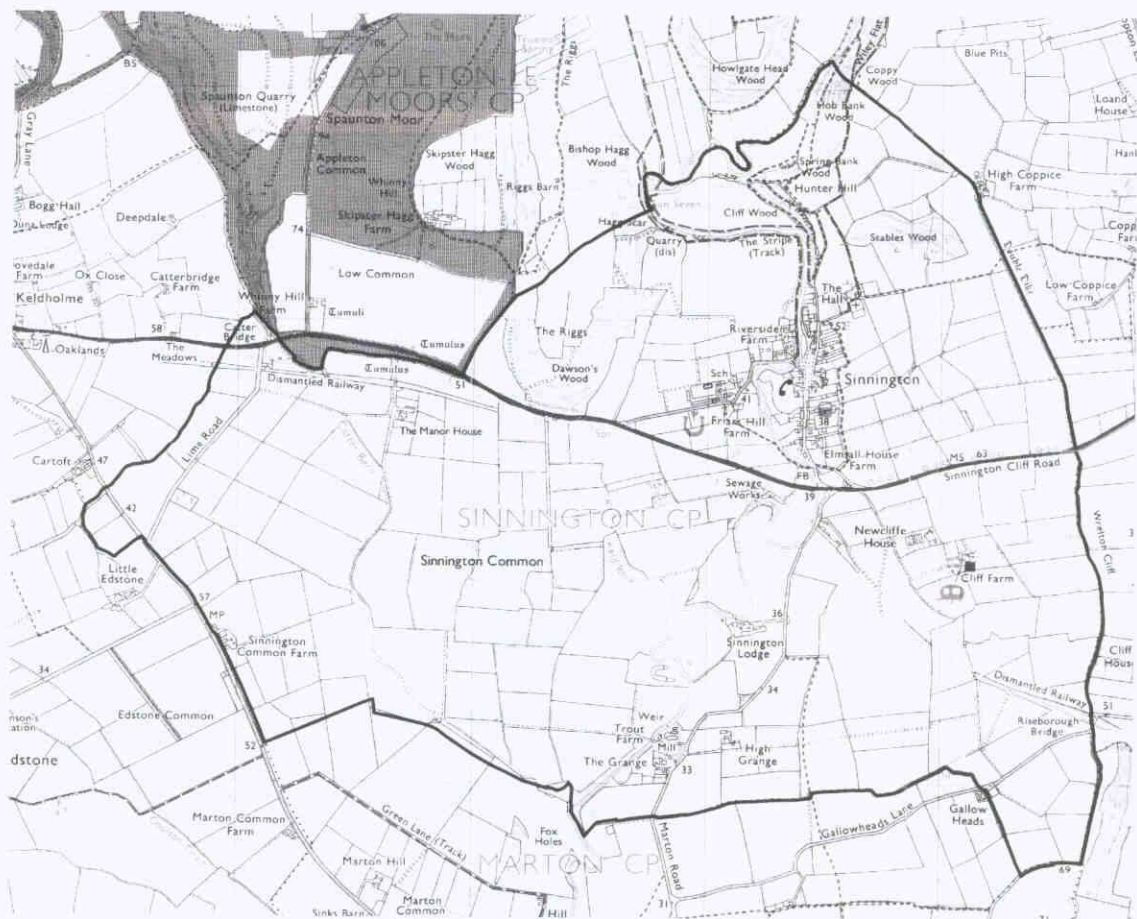


*Villagers on the Green c1850*

## Village structure and geography

The Parish of Sinnington lies 3 miles east of Kirkbymoorside and 4 miles west of Pickering. It covers an area of approximately 3 square miles, part of which is within the North York Moors National Park. Sinnington village, which is bypassed by the A170, is the main centre of population. The river Seven flows through the centre of the village and the river bridge and village green provide a focal point for the village. The map below shows the Parish boundary.

Most of the land in and around the village is used for mixed agriculture. However, to the north and west of the village there are large areas of woodland. Stables Wood and Ruff Wood are now owned by the Woodland Trust and provide recreation for residents and visitors alike. The parish also has a good network of footpaths and bridleways, which again are well used by residents and visitors.



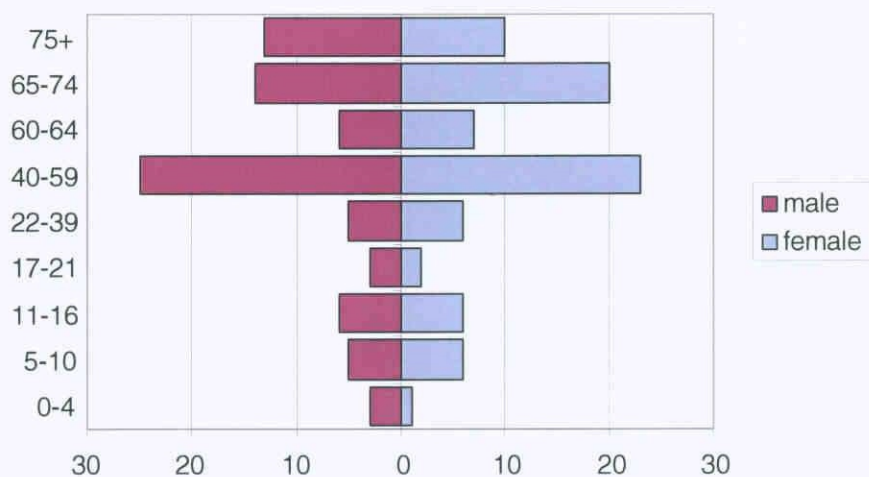


*Stables wood*

### The people of the village

We know from the Ryedale District Councils records that there are approximately 300 people living in the parish in around a 150 households. However, as part of the work of developing the Parish Plan, we wanted to establish a clearer social, demographic and economic profile of the village. The information presented below relates to those individuals and households who responded to the Parish Survey.

The 71 households which responded ranged in size from one to six people. The 163 people covered by the survey included 27 children, 77 working age adults and 57 older adults. The age profile of the parish (based on the survey) is shown below.



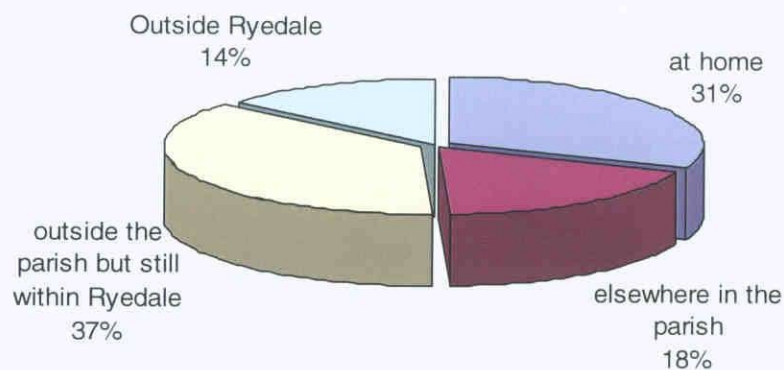
*Age profile of the parish*

Only 6 residents said that they were registered disabled.



## Economic and social life of the village

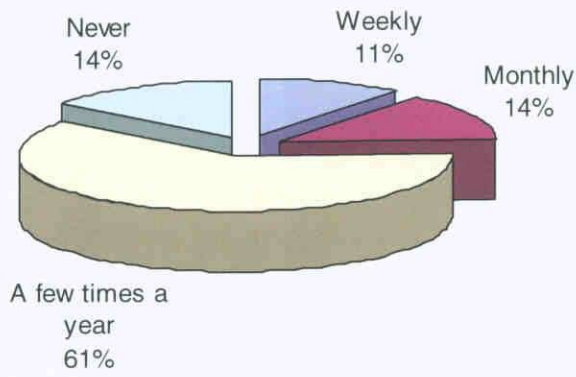
The survey showed that 28% of residents are in full or part-time employment, 7% were self-employed, 17% were in training or full time education, 4% were unwaged and 42% were retired. Only one respondent said they were permanently sick or disabled. Although the parish is a predominantly rural community with a number of farms and related businesses, most residents work in other sectors either in Ryedale or further a field in Scarborough or York. A significant number of residents either work from home (20) or within the parish (12). The graph below gives a profile of peoples' main place of work or education.



### *Place of work or education*

In terms of access to services, all major services and facilities are available in either Kirkbymoorside or Pickering though the nearest hospital is in Malton about 12 miles south. There is a regular bus service running through the village on its journey between Helmsley and Scarborough and in the summer the Moorsbus service runs past the village.

The main services within the village are the primary school, Church of England church, Methodist chapel, pub and a thriving village hall, which is used by a number of village groups as well as outside organisations. The Parish Survey showed that the village hall is well used by many residents.



*Use of the Village Hall*

There are also a number of businesses in the village including farms, a steel fabrication company, a riding stable and a number of small businesses run from peoples own homes.



*Sinnington Village Hall*

## Findings from the Parish Survey

This chapter summarises the findings from the parish survey under four main headings - village environment, village facilities, housing and development and transport and communications. The issues raised in the survey are discussed and some solutions to problems are considered. However, the main action points are presented in the Action Plan.

### **Village environment**

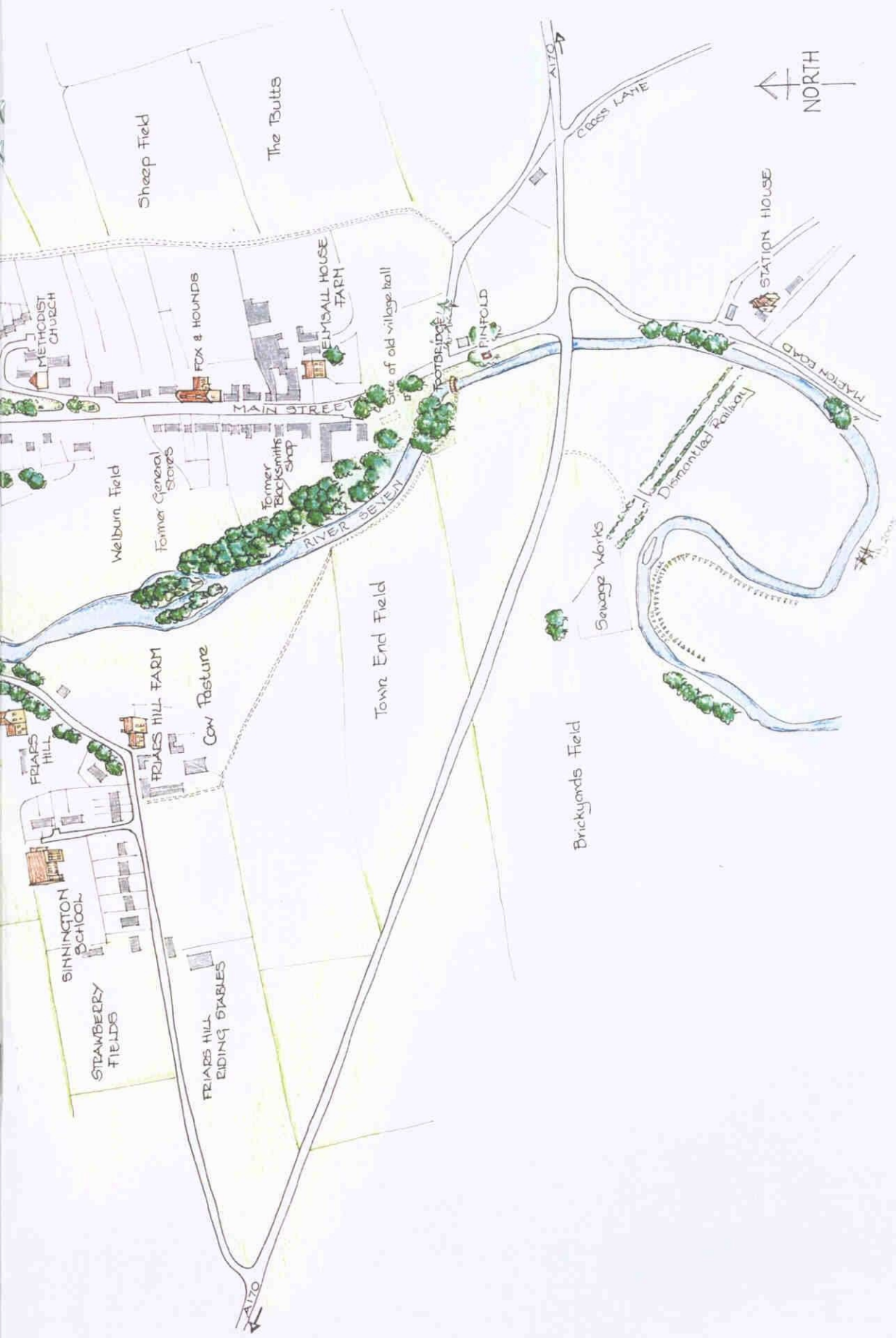
The village has two outstanding features; the green at its heart, with fine old trees – oak, lime, horse chestnut, sycamore and copper beech, and the river Seven with its elegant little bridge. There are also delightful short walks in the neighbouring woods and several footpaths and bridleways leading north to Appleton le Moors and Cropton and east to Wrelton. Not surprising therefore, people are anxious to see the village environment maintained.



*The Stripe in Spring*

In recent years the parish has experienced several major floods, the most severe of which was in August 2002. The risk of flooding is a major worry to those whose houses are at high risk but flooding is an issue which all residents are concerned about. The Parish Council has had discussion with the Environment Agency and whilst a new flood warning system has been introduced, there is little prospect of the Agency investing in flood defences in Sinnington. Since the 2002 floods therefore,



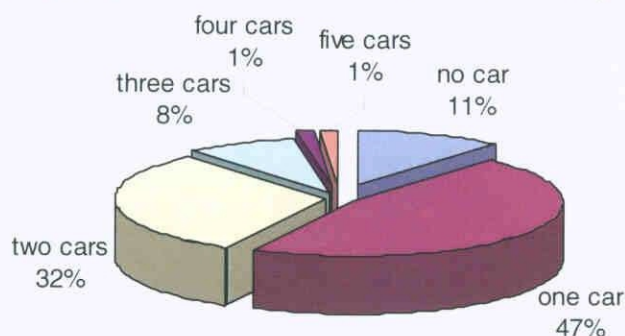


the Parish Council has organised a number of riverbank clearances. These have been carried out by working parties of volunteers from the village. The survey showed that there was very strong support for the clearances, and a perception that this action has been very effective in preventing further flooding. However, over two thirds of respondents felt that the issue of flooding had not been fully addressed by the agencies concerned.



*The Green and The Stripe during the 2002 flood*

With increasing numbers of tourists visiting the village, and the growth in car ownership amongst residents, street parking and parking on the green are a concern to residents. 79% of respondents thought that street parking was a problem in some parts of the village. The main areas of concern were Main Street near the Fox and Hounds pub, especially in the evening and at weekends, and Friars Hill particularly during 'school run' times. The survey asked whether residents would support either the introduction of a residents' parking scheme or the creation of a village car park, but the majority of respondents were not in favour of these options.



*Number of cars per household*

The majority (58%) of residents were also concerned about the speed of traffic travelling through the parish. Again Main Street and Friars Hill were felt to be the main problem areas but a number of respondents were also concerned about the speed of traffic on the A170 and the lane between Sinnington and Marton. Two thirds of respondents said they would support reducing the speed limit in the village to 20 mph and more than two thirds favoured having a sign at each end of the village asking people to drive carefully/slowly through the village.

Whilst dog fouling on the village green was not felt to be a major problem, 88% of respondents supported the provision of a dog litterbin. At the open meeting to discuss the findings from the survey, a number of residents highlighted the problem of dog fouling on Church Lane and asked for an additional dog litterbin to be located in that area of the village.

At present there are very few street name signs in the village, and so the survey asked whether residents would support the provision of street signs to indicate the different areas of the village (e.g. Main Street, Croft Green). Respondents were almost equally divided on this question with a tiny majority in favour of some limited signage.

### **Village facilities**

There was overwhelming support for changes to be made to the village hall to make it more accessible to disabled peoples. Other changes suggested included improving the heating and toilets within the hall and extending the storage facilities and/or making them more accessible. There was also substantial support for an extension for the care parking area by the village hall to prevent damage to the green. The questionnaire asked what sort of surface people would prefer to see used and the majority favoured the use of an artificial grid like surface through which grass could grow.

There was widespread support (64%) for improving the sports and play facilities in the village. The survey asked what facilities people would like to see provided and suggestions included a children's play area, a tennis court, a new football pavilion and a 5-a-side football pitch. However, people seemed to be almost equally split on whether these facilities should be near the village hall/on the village green or near the school/on football field. The majority of people who attended the open meeting to discuss the findings from the survey felt that play facilities for younger children should be located near the village hall, and any new sports facilities should be sited near to the school.



*The May Fair*

In recent years there has been some discussion about whether a public toilet facilities should be provided in the village, and so the survey sought people's views on this. Only a quarter of respondents supported the provision of public toilets.

There was an overwhelming view that the network of footpaths and bridleways around the village were adequate although some thought the construction of a bridge upriver to create more circular walks would enhance the network. A few people expressed concern about the damage caused to the bridleways by frequent use by horses and tractors, and a number of respondents highlighted the need for improved maintenance of rights of way to take account of the heavy usage by all groups of users.

There was a strong desire to see greater use the school's facilities outside school hours. However, it was recognised that a number of legal, safety and security issues would need to be addressed in order to make this possible.

### **Housing and development**

Since the 1960's the main part of the village has been designated as a Conservation Area, which places restrictions on certain development and also responsibility on parish council and individuals to maintain the quality of development. This has led to relatively small amounts of building land being available. This section looks at



housing needs in the village and considers how the provision of housing might develop in the future. The survey asked seven questions about housing and development and some very clear views emerged from the respondents.



*Main Street*

Only one household said that their home in Sinnington was not their main residence. However, we know that there are a number of second homes and holiday homes within the village. A recent estimate suggests that there are 6 second homes and 6 holiday homes/lets, which are let on a commercial or semi-commercial basis. Five households said that members of their family were likely to be looking for further housing in the next 10 years. This represented 8 people, 6 of whom were under 18 and 2 were over 60; the majority of respondents felt that there was a need for more housing in the village to meet local needs and the table below shows the type of housing people felt was needed.

<i>What types of housing do you think are needed in the village to meet local needs?</i>	No. of respondents
Affordable housing for younger people to buy	67
Accessible housing for older people	24
Larger family / executive housing	5
Housing Association rented housing	14
Other type of housing	1

At the moment, only infill sites are allowed to be developed, and the general feeling was that these developments should be closely monitored. There was strong support for the development of affordable housing for younger people.

### **Transport and communications**

This section looks at transport to and from the village using the 128 bus, and the provision of a continuous cycle/footpath path along the A170 from Pickering to Kirkbymoorside. It also considers communications in the village including mobile phone signals and reception and broadband.

Out of 142 responses only four people use the bus weekly and 90 people never use the bus at all. The main reasons given for this low usage are that most people have access to a car and find it more convenient to drive. However, a number of people said they did not use the bus because of the expense of the fares. Disabled people or those with less good mobility found the bus very difficult to use. The survey asked whether people would favour raising the pavement at the bus stops to make it easier for people to get on and off, and two thirds of respondents supported this idea. Out of 108 people to express a view on the creation of a continuous a cycle/footpath along the A170 from Pickering to Kirkbymoorside, 95 (88%) were in favour.

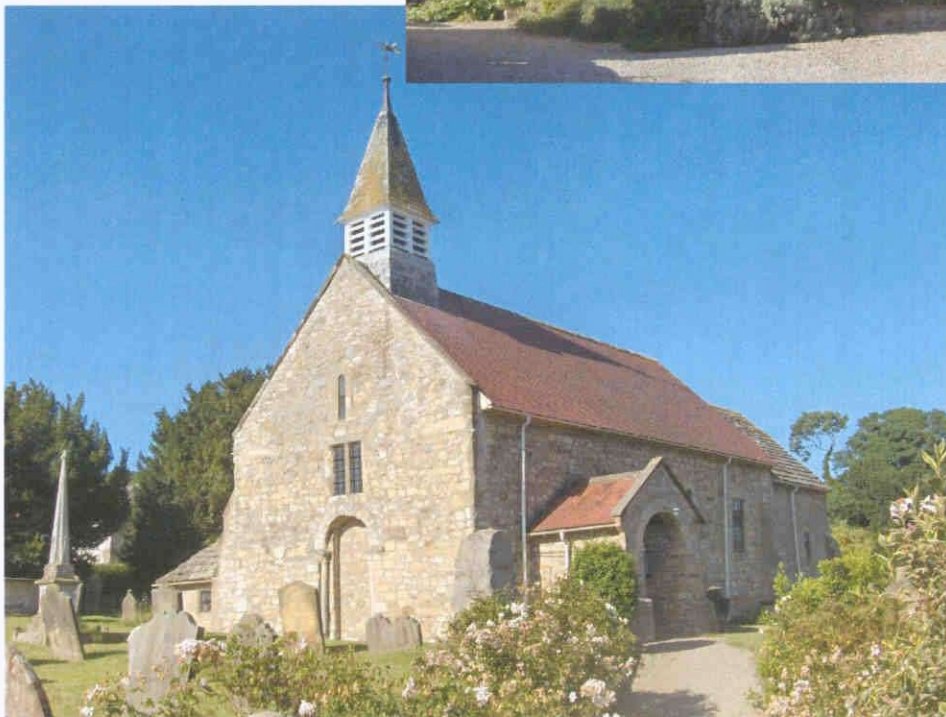
On the subject of mobile phone signals 70 out of 127 said it wasn't a problem to them. A majority of people didn't want a mobile phone mast to be built. Their main concerns being that it would be a health hazard and an eye sore. A small percentage of people said that the village website needed developing and that they thought broadband should be made a priority. At the time the survey was undertaken it was understood that technical difficulties in providing broadband to the village had been resolved and so the questionnaire did not include a specific question on this issue. However, it has since emerged that there are insufficient cables feeding the village telephone network and so the broadband capacity of the village has now been reached. This means that at the present time no more households can be connected to broadband.



*The Chapel*



*The Barn  
at The Hall*



*Sinnington Church*

## An Action Plan for Sinnington

Action (low cost/no cost)	How it will be tackled	Partners	Timescales	Lead Responsibility
1. Provide dog litter bins	Two dog litterbins are required – one near the Green and one at the bottom of Church Lane. Bins to be similar in design to the existing 'beehive' litter bins but marked with a dog sign.	Ryedale District Council	Achieved, ongoing	Parish Council
2. Continue the river clearance programme	Organise river bank clearance groups as necessary		Annual	Parish Council
3. Investigate the options for reducing the speed of traffic through the village	Discuss with the Highways department the possibility of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reducing the speed limit through the village to 20mph</li> <li>▪ Erecting 'drive carefully' signs at both ends of the village</li> </ul>	County Council Highways Department	By end up 2005	Parish Council
Action (medium/high cost)	How it will be tackled	Partners	Timescales	Lead Responsibility
4. Develop improved sports and play facilities	Establish a Task Group of interested people (e.g. reps from school, football club, parents) to identify what is wanted, likely costs, funding sources, and options for development.	Ryedale District Council Education Department. Local sports clubs and play groups	Set up task group in autumn 2005 Long term timescale to be determined by group	Initially Parish Council
5. Provide disabled access to the village hall	Investigate availability of village hall improvement grants Investigate the feasibility of modifying the toilets to allow access for disabled people and installing a loop system (to help people with hearing impairments)	Yorkshire Rural Community Council	Within the next two years	Village Hall Committee

6. Improve the parking facilities adjacent to the village hall	Obtain quotes for the creation of a small number of parking spaces	Yorkshire Rural Community Council Village Hall Committee	Within the next two years	Parish Council
7. Establish a continuous footpath / cycleway along the A170 to Pickering and Kirkbymoorside	Establish working group to determine level of support for the project	Neighbouring parish and town councils County Council Highways Department Local Cycle Touring Club District Committee		
<b>Action (Influencing other agencies)</b>	<b>How it will be tackled</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Timescales</b>	<b>Lead Responsibility</b>
8. Ensure that all new housing in the village is to meet the needs of local people	Discuss with RDC planning department the possibility of restricting planning permission for new developments to housing for local needs	Ryedale District Council and North York Moors National Park Planning Departments	Within the next year	Parish Council
9. Seek improved maintenance of footpaths and bridleways	Encourage NYMNP and NYCC to perform regular maintenance of the rights of way and in particular to carry out further remedial work on the path to Cropton to ensure it is usable throughout the year	North York Moors National Park and North Yorkshire County Council Rights of Way Departments Cropton Parish Council	Continuous	Parish Council
10. Seek improvement of the flood defences	Maintain pressure on the Environment Agency to provide a higher standard of flood defence for the village	Environment Agency	On-going	Parish Council



*Activities at Sinnington School*



*Work at Leng's steel fabrication workshop*



*Footbridge over the Seven*

*Friars Hill Riding Stables*

