

CROPTON with CAWTHORNE



PARISH PLAN

Foreword

The Parish Council for Cropton and Cawthorne decided some time ago to set up a working party to produce a Parish Plan. It has taken a long time to produce, for which I apologise, but we trust you will find the results and planned actions to be of interest.

The working group was delighted that so many residents took the time to complete the questionnaire. There were many useful comments, which have been taken into account in preparing the Parish Plan.

The Parish Council has now endorsed the Plan and a copy has been delivered to all households within the Parish. The next stage will be to take forward those actions which you have indicated are important and worth pursuing. The working group trusts that you will continue to be involved which we hope will further enhance the life of the community which we all enjoy so much.

The working group would like to thank Margaret Farey of Yorkshire Community Council who has guided us through the maze of paperwork. We would also acknowledge the generous financial support of the Countryside Agency.

This report was prepared and printed, along with the questionnaire and newsletter, by Cropton Components who were also responsible for the analysis of all data.

I look forward to seeing you at future meetings.

David Barber
Chair, Cropton Parish Plan Working Group

Cropton and Cawthorne Parish History

The attractive Moorland village of Cropton lies to north west of Pickering on the edge of the North York Moors. The church and several of the houses to the north of the village lie within the North York Moors National Park but the whole Parish lies within the District of Ryedale.

There was a settlement in Cropton before the Anglo-Saxon period and the village was mentioned in the Domesday survey. Towards the end of the 11th century, a motte and bailey was built and the site is now a scheduled ancient monument of national importance. The parish contains the site of a Roman settlement at Cawthorne of which only two working farms remain.

William Scoresby the elder, the greatest of Arctic whalers spent his early days in Cropton. He attended, somewhat intermittently, the village school until he was 9 and then worked locally on the land until he was 19, when he went to sea. He is remembered as a great whaling captain, navigator and Arctic explorer and has a place in history as the inventor of the Ice Drill and the Crows Nest.



There is no record of when St. Gregory's Church was built but the font is said to be Anglo-Saxon and there is a mention of a Chaplain being attached to the church in the 14th century. There have been 3 Methodists Chapels in the village. The Zion Primitive Chapel built in 1852 after the split between the Wesleyans and the Primitives in 1849 is now the only active one. The village school which was rebuilt in 1874 was closed in 1959.



St. Gregory's Church, Cropton

Farming, agriculture, forestry, milling, mining, quarrying, lime burning and haulage were the main occupations of the men of Cropton. Many of the girls and women were engaged in service at the “big houses”. At one time the village had 3 pubs, a blacksmiths and several shops.

These industries have shaped the landscape of the Parish (see map). Goods and Services to be had locally included – hardware, paraffin, drapery, haberdashery, groceries (from more than one establishment), books, bed and breakfast, bicycle repairs, sweets, postage stamps etc, animal feed, dairy produce and there was even a tailor and a shoemaker within the village.

Electricity finally reached Cropton in 1949 and in the early 60’s the delicious soft spring water piped from Hartoft was replaced by a mains water supply. Until the 1980’s villagers who wanted the Doctor to call, informed Mrs Gill who tied a red ribbon around the signpost by the chestnut tree to summon the passing doctor.

To this day Cropton remains an attractive moorland village and an exceedingly pleasant place to live. Demographic and social changes, together with the rise of the ubiquitous motor car, have changed the village greatly.

The village no longer has a village shop and there is little or no public transport. Accordingly we are left to rely upon the occasional travelling van, or travel to Pickering or beyond for our basic requirements.

Because of its location and attractive, quiet aspect house prices tend to be high and local, young people are forced to look further afield for both housing and employment opportunities.

Thus, in common with many rural communities we will, through the loss of basic services, experience rural deprivation and a drop in the quality of life for the community.

This apart, we still have a thriving church and chapel and the newly refurbished village hall is increasingly becoming the centre of village life.

Introduction

In consequence of the Governments Rural White Paper 2000 entitled “Our Countryside – the Future” town and parish councils were invited to prepare plans which would set out a vision of what is important, how new development could best be fitted in, the design and quality standards it should meet and how to map out the facilities which the community needs to safeguard its future.

With funding from Yorkshire Rural Community Council under the Vital Villages Initiative this has given every individual the opportunity of participating in how our parish should develop during the 21st Century.

Until the mid 19th century our community would have evolved fairly slowly but, thereafter, economic, social and environmental developments accelerated rapidly. By the late 20th century developments in technology had not only raised expectations but completely transformed the way in which people live, i.e. the advent of a consumer orientated society.

Now, in the 21st century, few of our residents “were born and bred” within the parish. Many of the newcomers are middle aged and retired which means that we are an ageing community with, unfortunately, very few children. Furthermore, in recent years several residential properties have become weekend or holiday homes.

Within all communities new people arrive, and for a variety of reasons old ones depart. In this respect change is inevitable, but it seems likely that, during the 21st century the rate of change will accelerate. To this end, if we are not to be overwhelmed by events we need to plan for our future.

This document, The Cropton with Cawthorne Parish Plan, is a summary of the aims and aspirations of the residents regarding the economic, environmental and social development of Cropton with Cawthorne Parish for the foreseeable future.

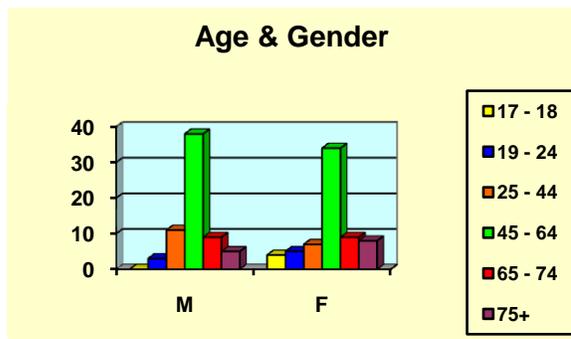
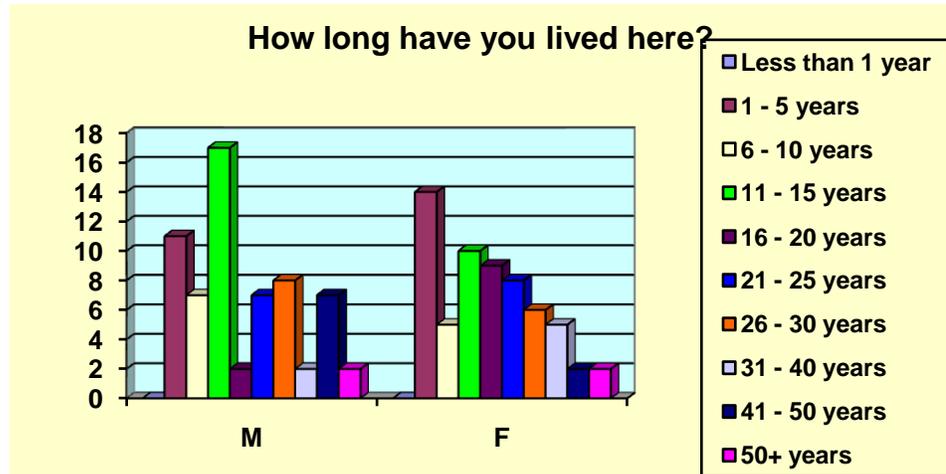
Objectives

- Address and accommodate changes identified by Residents
- Provide a Formal and Measurable Plan for the future
- Provide Facilities and Infrastructure to meet Residents needs
- Improve the Environmental Health of the Parish
- Maintain the Tradition and Heritage of the Community

Section 1 – Profile of Residents

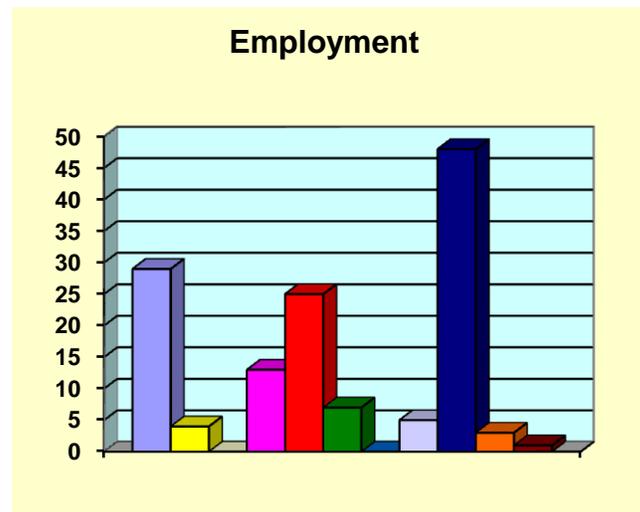
It was pleasing to see that 68% of residents completed the questionnaire.

Although 40% of residents have lived here for over 20 years 30% have lived than 10 years and no residents had lived here for less than 1 year. 11 – 15 years was the highest group



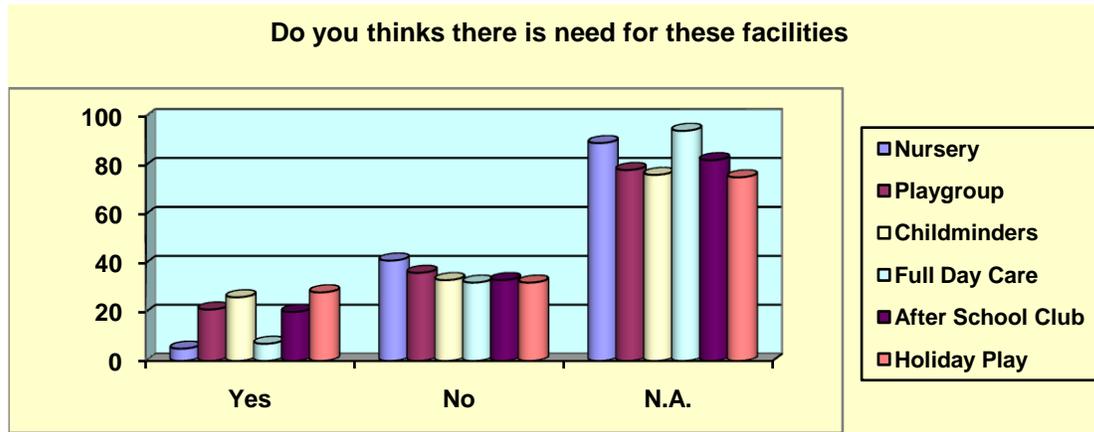
Figures are for Adults only, 67 Female & 66 Male made for a pretty even split. 77% of the population is aged over 45 and 10% are aged 75+

A large number of residents (28%) are self-employed with a further 27% being either employed or involved in home management. There unemployment rate is low at 03%. By far the largest group are the retired who make up 36% of the population. People were roughly 2 to 1 against having Industrial units within the Parish



Section 2 – Child Care & Facilities

A large number of people did not answer this question which perhaps reflects the small number of children within the community.



A significant number thought there is a need for activities for adults, particularly the elderly; with a number of suggestions, including:- monthly socials, lunch clubs, over 60's club, coffee mornings, bingo, dominoes and village shows.

Section 3 – Young People

The number of young people who took part in the survey was small, however the quality of their answers was excellent and they made some very valid comments. The young people requested to see more sports facilities, play equipment, more trees and community events. In the 'made over' village hall they wished to have 'after school and school holiday activities' they were also interested in I.T., dance, film and village history and having a youth club, however there was little support for a chess club, but interest in having a pantomime. Other ideas from the young people were provision of cricket, basketball, table tennis and table football and there was support for re-instating the village pond.

The majority of the young people were in favour of more seats, trees, re-cycling facilities and a village newsletter, although more street lighting and litter bins were not welcomed. All the young people felt safe in the village and only a small minority experienced difficulty getting to activities outside the village, with three young people saying they use the 'Moorsbus'. Most of them would use a public bus service, if one were available and destinations would include Pickering, The Leisure Centre and the Swimming Pool, also Kirkbymoorside and York, they would wish to travel mainly on weekends and in the school holidays.

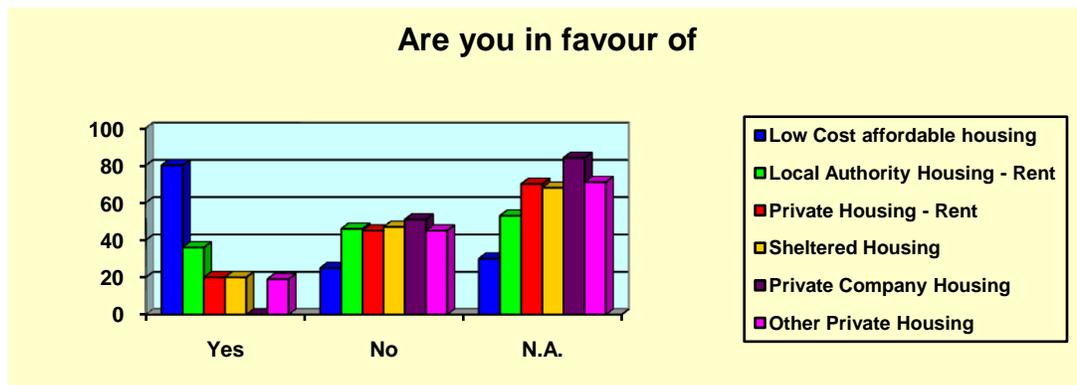
All of them felt that the young, non car drivers and the elderly had difficulty travelling outside Cropton. Everyone liked living in Cropton because it is peaceful, pretty and quiet, with friendly people and a good community feeling.

If they had a magic wand they would like a number of things some more realistic than others, however these included; bike rides, a shop, IT facilities, a multi-purpose playing field, a skate park, a swimming pool, a play park (like the one at Dalby) and a fast food outlet and generally more places to play.

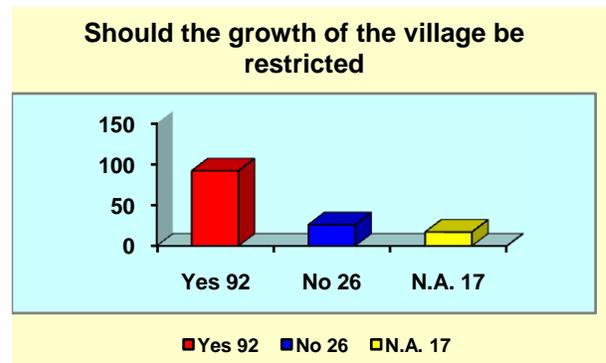
Section 4 – Housing

The area wide problem of local children being able to afford to live in the area which they were born and raised remains with us. Whilst there is a large majority in favour of low cost housing there is little opportunity due to planning restrictions.

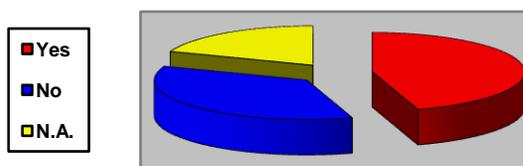
Furthermore there is an even larger majority in favour of restricting the growth of the village and maintaining the status quo.



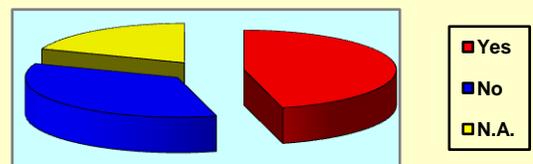
There was a large majority who favour the provision of low cost housing. By contrast there is an even larger majority who believe that the growth of the village should be restricted.



Are you in favour of Mains Drainage



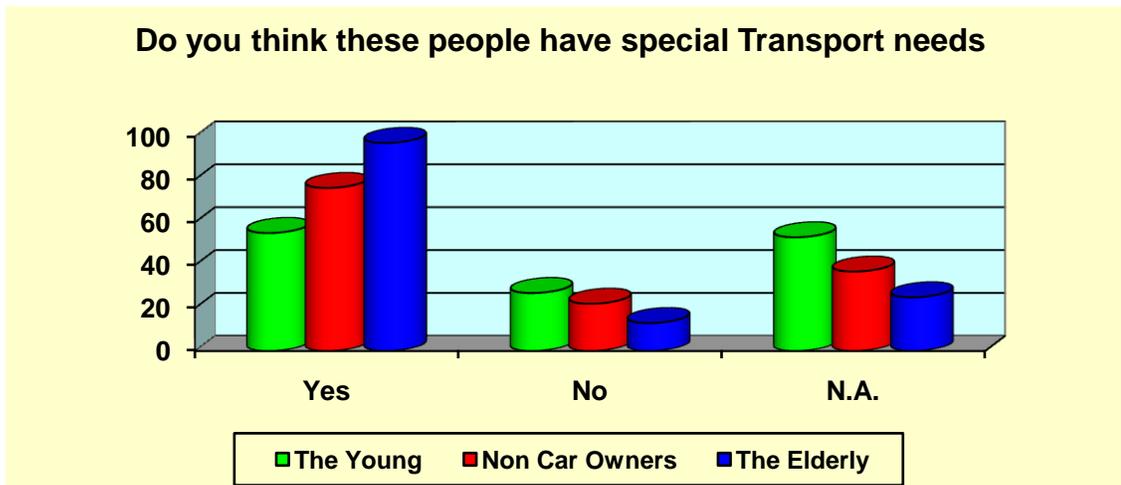
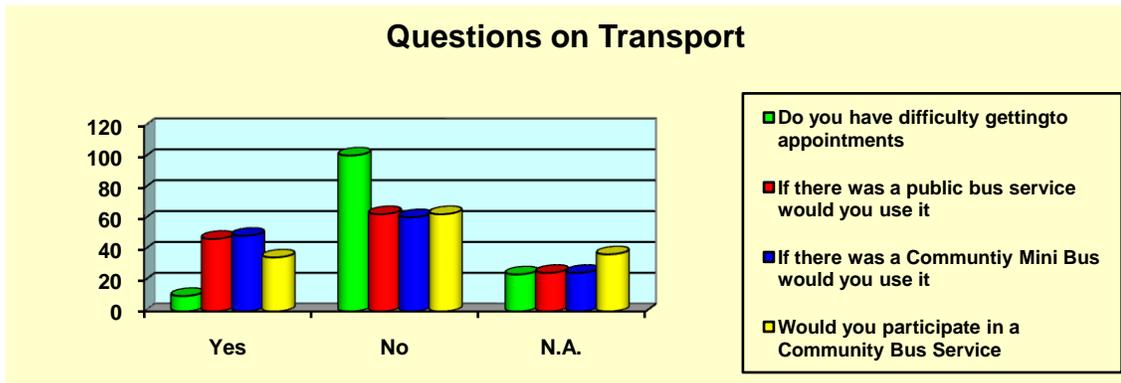
Are you in favour of Mains Gas



Whilst there is a majority in favour of mains drainage/mains gas the numbers involved would probably be insufficient for it to be an economic solution.

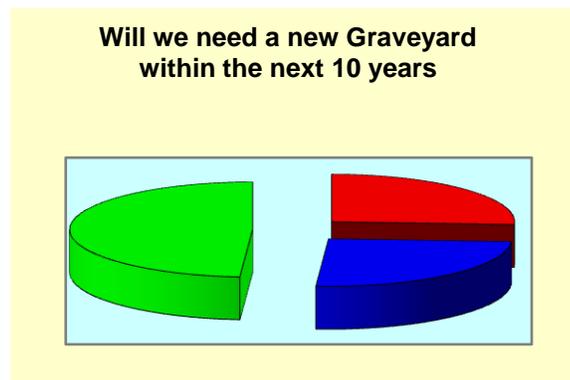
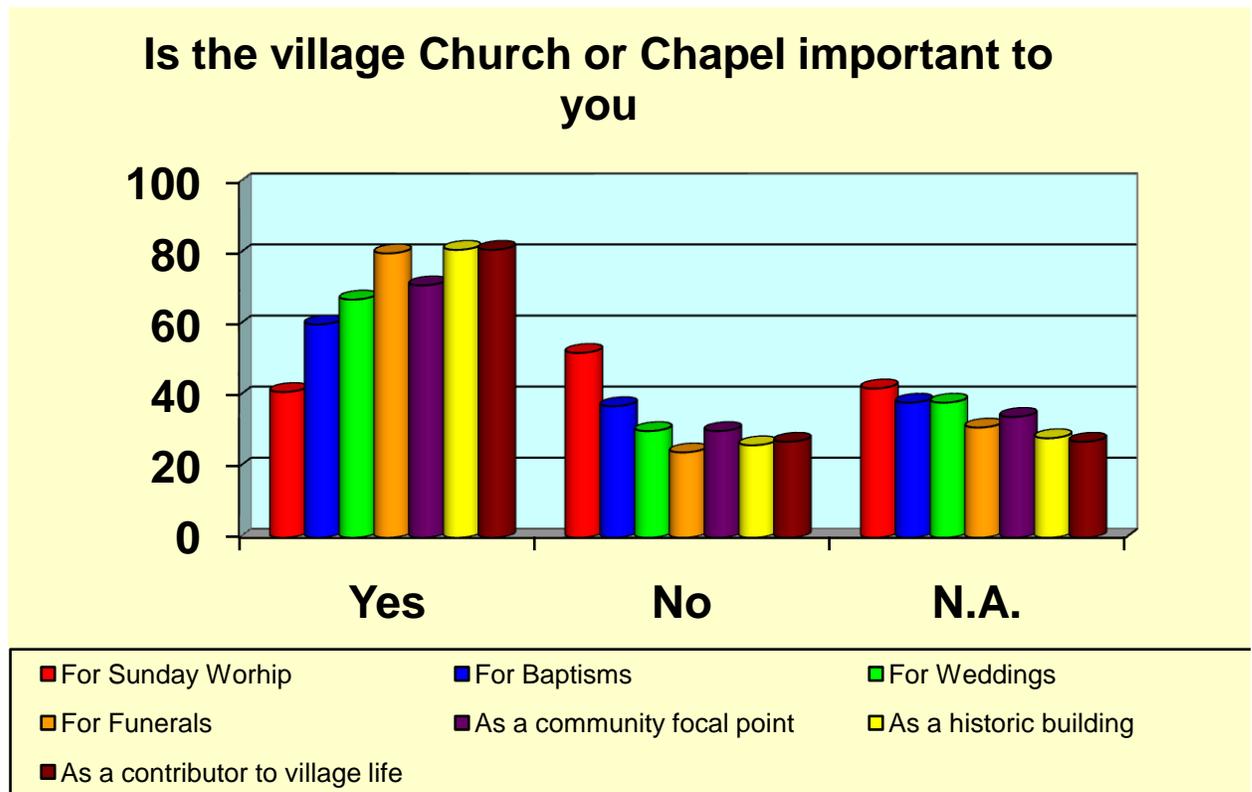
Section 5 – Transport

A significant number of people felt they did not have a problem with transport themselves but others did, mainly the elderly. It was felt that better information could be provided about the twice weekly bus service and as a result it may be used more. A similar view was held about the moors bus, and that it was aimed at the tourist rather than the local person.



Section 6 – Church, Chapel & Graveyard

Whilst only a majority of residents attend Church or Chapel for Sunday worship a substantial majority do, nevertheless, feel that the church and chapel have an important function within the community. Not everyone is satisfied with the way in which the graveyard is maintained. Opinion regarding whether or not a new graveyard will be required, within the next 10 years, seems to be fairly evenly balanced.



Section 7 – Community Facilities

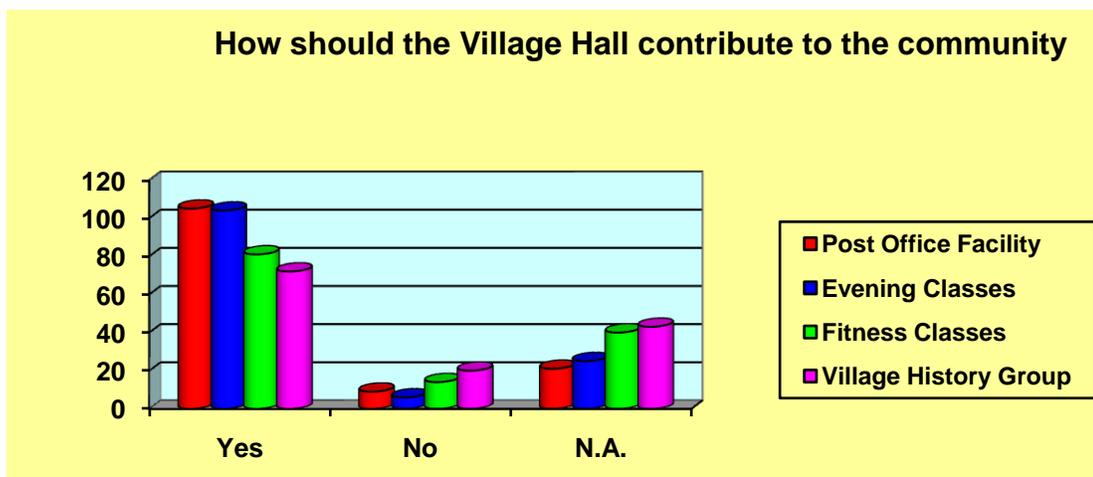
A very large number of people felt strongly about the loss of the shop and post office facilities and questioned whether these could be replaced in some way in the village hall.

The Village Hall came in for praise and approval. There were requests for meetings, drama groups, coffee mornings, indoor sports functions, all forms of evening classes and for fundraising functions to support the Village Hall. It was also questioned whether the hall could be opened for private functions.

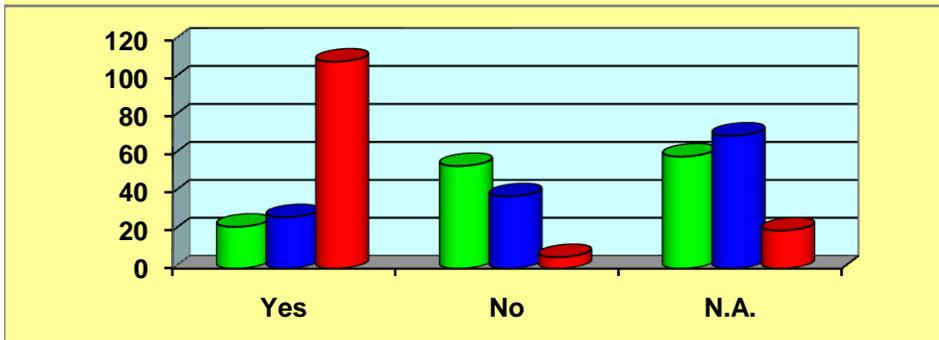
Again a significant number of people supported the permitting of, and the consumption of alcohol on an occasional and controlled manner. This was proposed for weddings, dances etc

In general, footpaths, pavements were considered adequate and suitably maintained. However Back Lane came in for considerable criticism, as did the bridle path to the side of the Church. One point raised was the amount of vegetation overhanging footpaths.

Support, was voiced, for the provision of maps, signposts and information points to indicate footpaths, bridleways and points of interest.

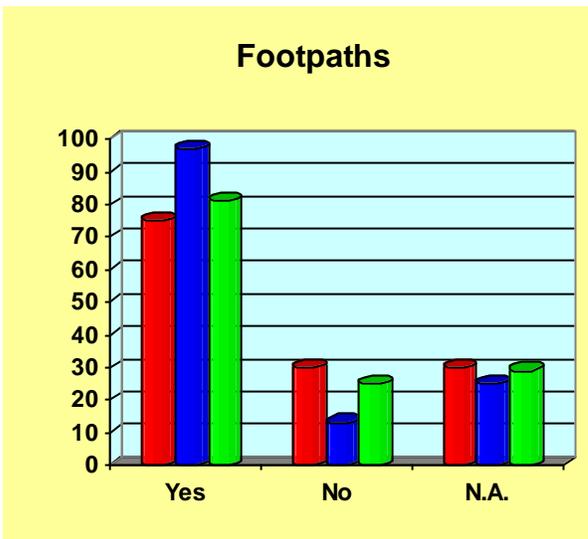


Should we continue current Ban on Alcohol in the Village Hall



While 22 people wished to continue the ban and 27 favoured having a bar a huge majority (109) favoured the use of alcohol on an occasional and controlled basis.

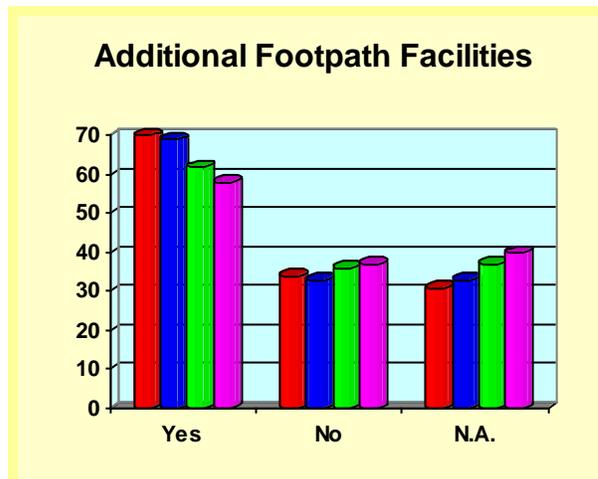
Footpaths



People generally felt that our local footpaths were in good repair and were suitable for use by pedestrians. They were also considered adequate for use by pushchairs and wheelchairs

Two thirds of respondents were in favour Of providing maps of local footpaths and walks and the provision of an information point. The number was slightly less for additional signposts

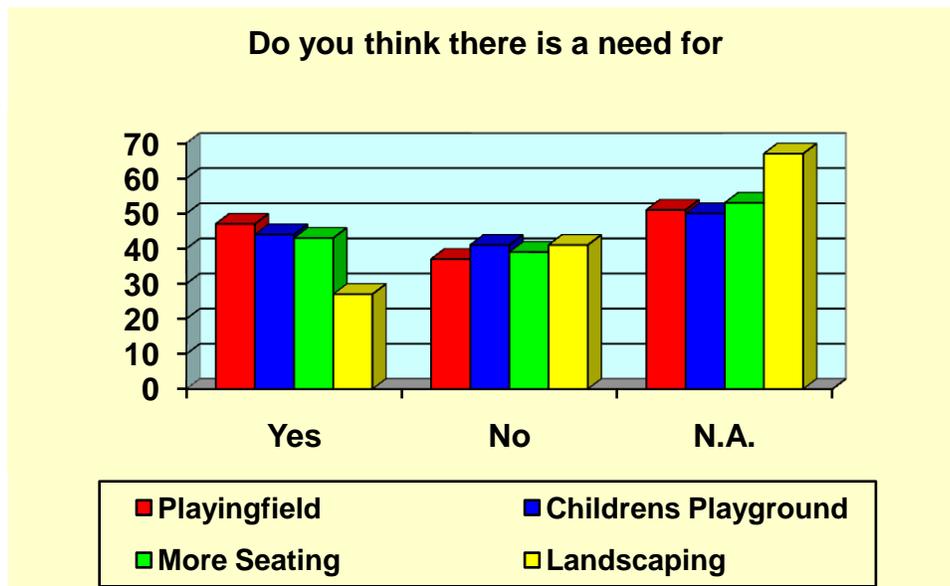
Additional Footpath Facilities



Section 8 – Recreation & Leisure

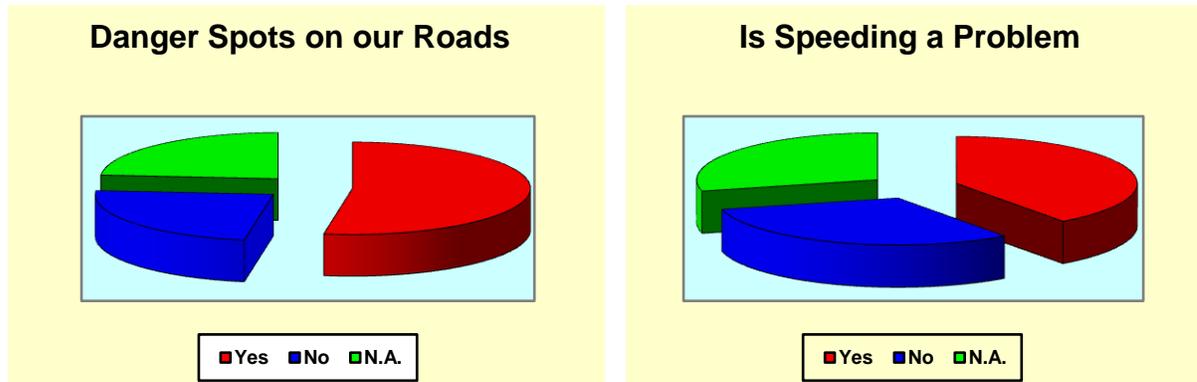
The refurbishment of the tennis court and the provision of a multipurpose sports area together with internal bowls in the Village Hall. These feelings were mirrored by the young people's answers, but the children were largely in favour of a playground and multi-purpose sports area.

There was support from the cricket club as a meeting place.



Section 9 – Road Safety

A large number of people felt that there are potential danger spots on the roads both within, and close to, the village, e.g. the road junction opposite White Cottage and the Chestnut Tree, the bend at the northern end of the village near the site of the old pond and the narrow lane along the eastern boundary of the old wood yard into which the entrance of the proposed housing development will be.



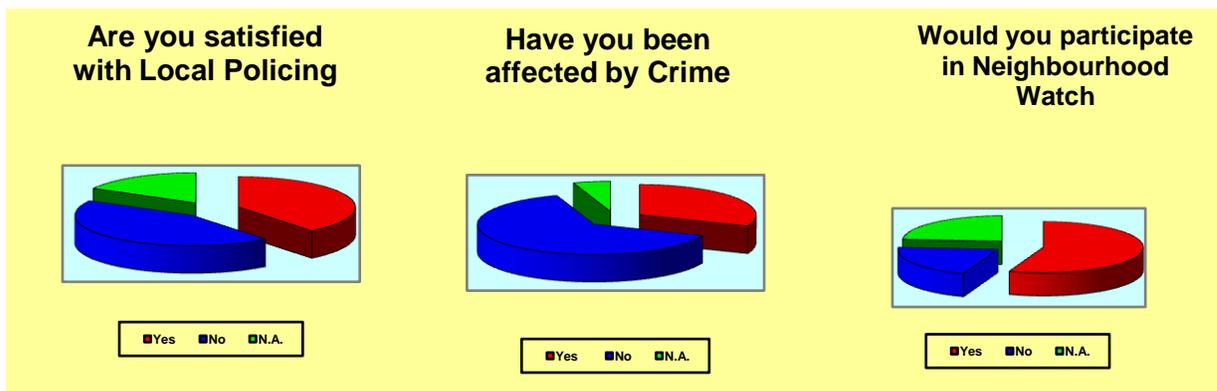
Speeding remains a problem for a slight majority of respondents. However, with the exception of 'Children at Play' signs, there is opposition to any extension to the erection of additional speed limit signs or additional traffic calming measures.



Section 10 – Crime & Policing

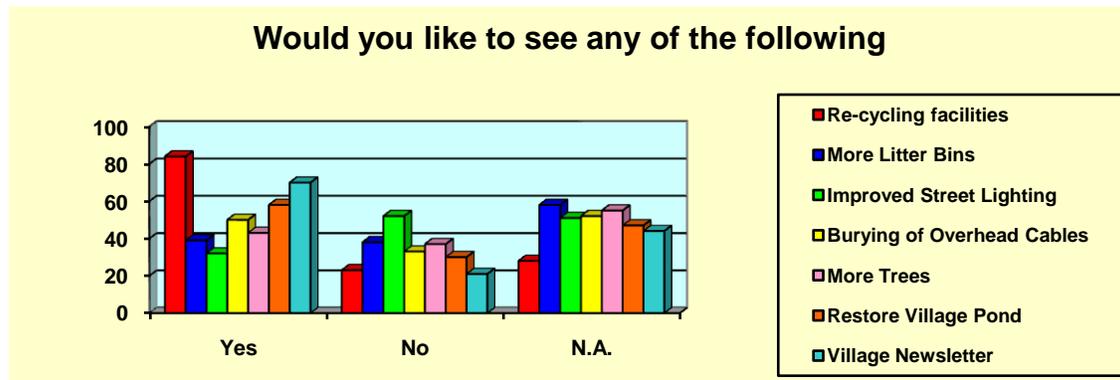
In national terms Ryedale has a very low level of recorded crime. However a significant number have been affected by crime but the majority has not. Nevertheless more people were dissatisfied than satisfied with the effectiveness of local policing. A large number are in favour of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in conjunction with North Yorkshire Police. Whilst local police officers do their utmost to meet the needs of rural communities, they are, inevitably, constrained by the available resources. A Neighbourhood Watch Scheme would, the police believe, promote an active partnership between them and residents by:-

- Reducing the opportunities for crime
- Helping to reassure those who live in fear of crime
- Reinforcing neighbourliness within the community



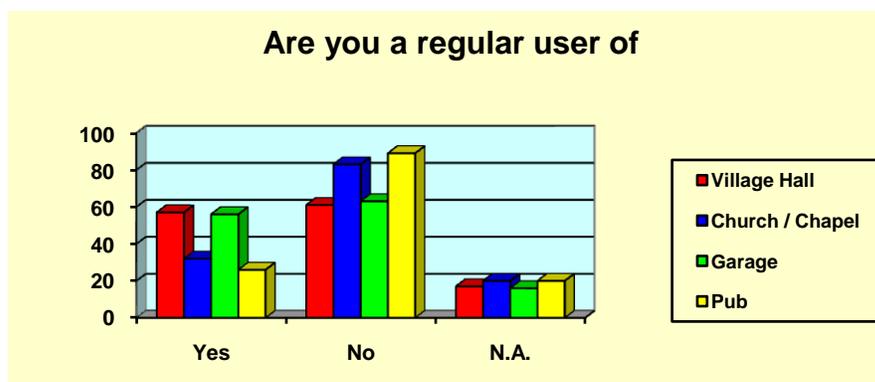
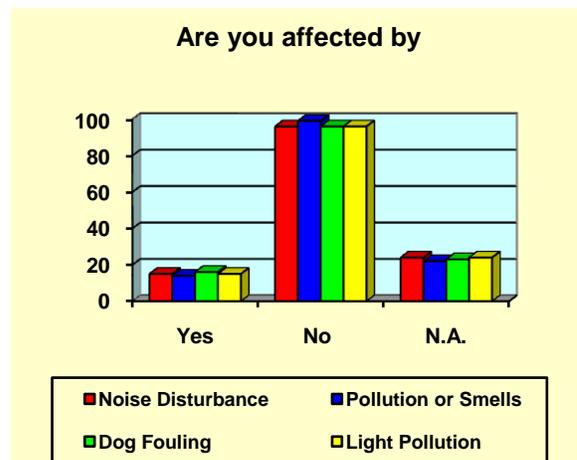
Section 11 – Environment & Open Questions

A large majority of respondents favour recycling facilities, an object now achieved by the fortnightly Ryedale District Council collection. Further increases in re-cycling will be required by the District Council as collector and the County Council as waste manager if Government targets are to be met.



Very few people seem to be troubled by noise disturbance, pollution or smells, dog fouling or light pollution

Although there were some adverse comments on noise from low flying aircraft and the pub



Section 12 – Actions

Sect	Topic	Actions
2	Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RDC to be informed of respondents views
3	Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CVH Trustees to be informed of responses
4	Housing	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. RDC to be informed of our findings2. PC to monitor Government Action on Affordable Housing
5	Transport	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Results to be forwarded to NYMNPA & RDC2. PC to monitor situation with regard to potential loss of current Bus service
6	Church, Chapel etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PCC to be informed re comments on the graveyard
7	Community Facilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Provision of Post Office – PC to pursue if and when appropriate2. VH Trustees to be informed of the comments regarding use of Village Hall3. Comments re state of Footpaths to be passed to NYCC4. Parish Plan Group will produce Local Footpath Map5. Consideration should be given to the co-ordination and increased usage of Travelling Shops
8	Recreation & Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comments to be passed to the VH Trustees
9	Road Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PC to pursue the question of Road Signs with NYCC

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| 10 | Crime & Policing | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Comments re Crime & Policing be made known to North Yorkshire Police2. Public Meeting with Neighbourhood Policing Team with regard to starting a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme |
| 11 | Environment | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Public Meeting to be held to discuss the generation of a Newsletter2. Comments on Greens, Verges & Tree Planting to be passed to PC
3. Investigate the re-instatement of the Village Pond4. Round Hill improvements to be discussed with English Heritage5. Improvements to Cropton Banks Wood to be discussed with Woodland Trust6. Investigate provision of a Village Heating Scheme |

Section 13 – Conclusion

The Parish Plan has evolved from an evaluation of the completed questionnaire. It is not, however, intended to be definitive but, rather, subject to periodic review so that it may, thereby, be amended to meet changing circumstances and aspirations.

It is evident that, overall, respondents do not wish there to be many major changes, i.e. they find the parish to be an attractive place in which to live. For example 92 questionnaires confirmed that the growth of the village should be restricted and, as one person wrote, “every effort should be made to maintain the heritage and culture of this attractive moorland village”

Nevertheless, there will, inevitably, be many changes to the society within which we live during the 21st century. Our parish plan should therefore, be a preparation for the future, i.e. how should we adapt to change in order to conserve the characteristics of our parish that we most value? At the same time we need to endeavour to provide housing and employment for local people.

Hence, there is a need for the plan to be updated at regular intervals. The Parish Council will receive a copy of the plan, for ratification, prior to any action being initiated. Please support the Parish Council by ensuring that its members are made aware of your desires and expectations for our community.

Parish Plan Working Group

David Barber - Chair
Philip Coombes
Margaret Farey – Y.R.C.C
Stephen Feaster
Amanda Howard
Paul Taylor

Parish Council

David Barber - Chair
Dot Grayson
Annie Monkman
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