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## **FORWARD**

The Rural White Paper 'Our Countryside: The future. A Fair Deal For Rural England' published in November 2000, set out a number of measures to give local people the opportunity to become more involved in the development of their community. The Government believes that parish councils, as the tier of government closest to local communities, have a central role to play in improving local quality of life.

For many years, Crigglestone Parish Council has wanted to undertake a survey of the needs and aspirations of residents and was therefore very happy to take advantage of the opportunity offered by the White Paper. The Parish Council is committed to working with the local community, and as representatives of the community, Councillors consider it vital that they actively engage with them to identify a vision for the future. This plan has been developed in conjunction with individual members of the community, voluntary and community organisations, local businesses, young people and Wakefield District Council. It is hoped that the plan will assist in improving the environment, and offer opportunities to create cohesion within the community. The plan reflects issues raised through Parish Council and Area Panel meetings.

Early in 2003, the Parish Council made a grant application to 'Awards for All Lottery Funding', and was awarded £4700 to cover all costs related to the development of the plan. In November 2003, the Parish Council organised a public meeting to discuss the plan with local people. The meeting included a presentation by Chris Barker, a Yorkshire Rural Communities development officer. More than 70 people attended, many more than the Parish Council had anticipated and it was clear that local people were very interested in being involved in the plan. Following the meeting, a 15- strong steering group was formed to organise the work; the group includes four parish councillors, 10 individual members of the community, some of whom represent community groups, and the Wakefield MDC Area Panel officer. Details of the steering group are provided at the end of this report.

The group designed a questionnaire, which was distributed to all households within the parish. Nearly 400 completed questionnaires were returned, representing over 10% of households. The Steering Group wanted to ensure that young people to had their say and a questionnaire was designed to identify how they feel about the area, what leisure

activities they are interested in, and what other issues affect their lives. Nearly 300 young people, representing over 20% of young people in the parish aged between 5 and 16 completed the questionnaire. Local schools played a significant role in collating the information, and working with young people to complete the questionnaire.

Finally, we wanted to ensure that local businesses were given the opportunity to have their say and to this end produced a specially adapted questionnaire based on the household questionnaire. Of the 58 businesses approached, a very satisfactory 20% responded and we would like to thank them for their time and interest. Those who responded represent a wide variety of business activity and employ between 1 and 150 people; two thirds of them have been established in the parish for more than 10 years, with a quarter having over 30 years history here.

The household questionnaire covered five areas: housing, leisure and entertainment, transport and highways, the environment, and access to services and community safety, and these form separate chapters in this report, preceded by a brief history of Crigglestone and a summary of recommendations. Given the level of response by our young people's, we deemed it appropriate to dedicate a separate section to the analysis of the young people's questionnaire.

**THE POPULATION OF CRIGGLESTONE**

The population of Crigglestone is just over 9000 and along with the rest of the Wakefield district grew very slightly (0.2%) between the censuses of 1991 and 2001. The following table based on information from the 2001 census provides a breakdown by age, gender and living arrangements:

Crigglestone Parish	
<b>POPULATION</b>	
<i>All People</i>	<i>9,189</i>
Residents living in households	9,128
Residents living in communal establishments	61
Males	4,497
Females	4,692
Aged 0-4	487
5-15	1,255
16 to 24	841
25 to 44	2840
45 to 64	2484
65 to 74	728
75 and over	537

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Each section of this report concludes with a set of recommendations. For ease of reference, these are set out below.

### **Housing:**

- Develop links with planners to ensure that issues identified in the plan are taken into consideration for any future developments
- Identify with planners how consultation on future planning issues can be undertaken

### **Leisure**

- Conduct audit of current activities
- Develop marketing plan for local activities
- Work with partners to improve the use of local facilities
- Identify partners to organise and develop activities within the parish
- Develop a plan to provide a play site suitable for young people

### **Transport and Highways**

- Work with district council to develop plan to identify and introduce effective road safety schemes.
- Work with bus companies to improve services
- Work with partners to develop a transport plan for the parish, particularly improved access for people attending health centres
- Work with schools and parents to encourage more children to walk to school

### **The Environment**

- Identify and develop effective grounds maintenance and street cleaning plan with partner organisations
- Work with partners to install and empty more dog bins
- Make people aware of the recycling facilities available, and work with district council to identify any areas to improve recycling within the parish
- Identify and preserve key areas of woodland within the parish
- Develop an environmental plan for the parish, identifying key areas of interest
- Work with partners to develop Newmillerdam Colliery Site

- Work with partner organisations to improve and maintain Betty Eastwood Park
- Identify key areas to improve the appearance of the parish e.g. public seating, bedding plants, hanging baskets

### **Access to Facilities & Community Safety**

- Work with partner organisations to improve public transport
- Work with district council to identify and develop improved cycling provision around the parish
- Work with banks to improve access to cash dispensers
- Identify current neighbourhood watch schemes
- Inform people of the measures the parish takes to increase policing

### **Young People's Survey**

- Identify through road safety officers those schools involved in walking to school schemes
- Identify which schools are involved in road safety education
- Identify with school the problem of young people cycling to school.
- Work with partner organisations to reduce the fear of intimidation by gangs around the parish
- Identify music and performing arts groups to increase opportunities
- Identify opportunities to increase youth work provision within the parish
- Improve marketing of activities
- Improve the cleanliness of play areas
- Identify opportunities to increase access to higher education within the area

## CRIGGLESTONE – A BRIEF HISTORY

There is little doubt that the Anglo-Saxons once ploughed the fields of Crigglestone. Whether the land was occupied prior to their settlement is less certain. The fortuitous discovery of artefacts in the district in recent years, in the form of a Celtic head at Chapelthorpe, an Early Bronze Age axe head at Kettlethorpe and flint arrowheads at Woolley Edge and Pugneys, shows some primitive occupation in earlier times.

Unfortunately, nothing dating from the Anglo-Saxon occupation is known to exist locally. Any vestige of their presence was swept aside by the invasion of ruthless invaders from Scandinavia – the Vikings. Feared by the Anglo-Saxon settlers, their record of murder, plunder and pillage requires little reference here, and they became the absolute overlords of the region.

It is from this period that we can trace our local beginnings, primarily with the founding of new villages to which the Viking settlers bestowed a name, often using the suffix ‘*thorpe*’ which meant hamlet or village, or ‘*tun*’ which meant farmstead. Many of the village names in our parish derive their origins from this period:

Painthorpe	Pagan’s hamlet
Kettlethorpe <sup>1</sup>	Ketel’s hamlet
Hollingthorpe	Hamlet with the holly bushes
Chapelthorpe	Hamlet with the chapel
Crigglestone	Farmstead on Cryc Hyll
Slack	A valley or hollow
Dirtcar (Durkar from 1905)	From the Viking drit kjarr, meaning dirt marsh

Thus, Yorkshire ceased to be an Anglican Kingdom and became a Danish province. Within three generations, almost every family of note was Danish on either the father’s or the mother’s side. The Viking conquest of Northern England was complete by the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> century and following this, a form of order, though fractious at times, descended for a period, eventually culminating in the conquest of the Norman King William in 1066.

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<sup>1</sup> Until local government reorganisation in 1950, Kettlethorpe was part of Crigglestone Parish

Following the change to Norman Lordship, a new order of government was established which introduced the feudal system and, in 1086, the great land survey, the Domesday Book. The survey provided the King with a record of all taxable holding within his English kingdom. Recorded in the book were the number of plough teams and information concerning the rights of common pasture and other manorial rights enjoyed by local inhabitants. The Domesday Book records that in *Crigeston* and *Orberie*' (the entries are combined), there were four *socmen* (free tenants), one *villein* (an unfree tenant, usually annexed to the Lord's person for whom he undertook agricultural work in return for a landholding and the right to graze on the common pasture), three *bordars* with 4 ploughs (a border was a villein cottager, one of the lowest ranks in feudal society who had some land for subsistence but who was obliged to perform agricultural services freely for the Lord).

For evidence of local occupation from this period, it is necessary to make the short journey to Woolley where the Church of St Peter exhibits a fine Norman tympanum (door arch) in its south aisle. It is, of course, possible that the Norman chapel was constructed in Chapelthorpe on the site of the present parish church. There is little doubt that the village name originated from Viking times and we know that *Crigleston* had its own chaplain, Simon. He was party to witnessing documents prior to 1229 and would have served in the Chapel there. All evidence, which might have existed of this earlier chapel, was lost when the old chapel at Chapelthorpe was demolished in 1771, prior to the erection of the present structure. Reference to the early chapel can be found in the Manor Court Rolls for 1314, where it is recorded that: "*Margery la Wryghte sues Agnes, daughter of Geoffrey de Newebygyng for assaulting her in Crigelston Chapel and breaking her head with a shingle*".

References to such misdemeanours are commonplace in the court rolls where the findings and adjudications of the Manor Court, set up to enforce the customs of the Manor, are recorded. In the court rolls of 1274-1275, it is recorded that: "*Robert son of Henry de Crikleston is charged with taking a hare in the warren and gives 2/- to be under the surety of Adam Tulling until the next Court*."

One such reference to the action of the Manor Court in Crigglestone is of significant interest. In the court rolls of 1316, it is recorded that Robert, son of Hugh de Chapelthorp, was found guilty of: "*Cutting down ashes and apple trees worth 8d without*

*permission and making a ditch in seeking for coals.*” For this offence, Robert had his free land confiscated and was fined 12d. This is the first known reference to mining of any form in the ancient township of Crigglestone. It is from this period (1307) that the first known reference to Thurstonhagh (Newmillerdam) is documented. Records show that a mill existed on a ‘mill pond’ in the hamlet at that time. The current village name is derived from ‘the new mill on the dam’ which was erected to replace the dilapidated earlier structure in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

Local history is inextricably linked to wider developments and though there is little documentary evidence of such events as the Black Death or the peasants’ revolt in Crigglestone, there is little doubt that both must have left their mark on the community. As we have seen with the Manor Court Rolls, some documentary evidence does occasionally survive the ravages of time. Two such documents relating to Crigglestone are the poll tax return of 1379 and the hearth tax return of 1672. The poll tax return records the tax which was levied on fifty of the inhabitants of the *Villata de Crigelston*. The hearth tax levied a payment of two shillings on every hearth or stove in every dwelling house. There were exemptions to this tax however, including schools, smiths’ forges and bakers’ ovens. The hearth tax was collected in two instalments, on Lady Day and at Michealmas. The return shows that of the 101 dwellings in the township at that time, two had six hearths, these being the properties of George Ellis and Thomas Pilkinton.

The medieval history of Crigglestone is bonded to religious activity. It is from ancient records relating to the church that we glean so much of the information on which our study of the past is based. We know for instance, that following the Act of Dissolution, the little chapel at Chapelthorpe was closed and for some years used as a cottage. We know that in 1578, Thomas Leake, the Chaplain at Chapelthorpe was teaching ‘scollers’ in his chapel – his class comprised the majority of the children of the 100 householders in the area.

Church records are also invaluable when physical research is being undertaken, especially in respect of land ownership. Many of our present day field enclosures derive their names from early times, and many can still be traced – Endel, Haver Royd and Tan Yard Close are just three of the many referred to in our old church documents. One of the most important surviving historical parish documents is the Inclosure Award

and Plan of 1799/1800 which refers to land enclosures such as the Great Butts, where all the able bodied men of the village were required to practice their archery; Pithills, where they extracted their coal; Quarry Close where they obtained their building stone; Clay Pit where they dug clay for brick making and, perhaps most enthralling of all – Hanging Close! The Inclosure Award records the ownership of all land within the parish and, where let, the name of the tenant. It also specified the valuation of each individual enclosure of land and its area – truly a local historian's treasure trove.

The Inclosure Award records the ownership of all land within the parish and, where let, the name of the tenant. It also specified the valuation of each individual enclosure of land and its area – truly a local historian's treasure trove

Many other plans survive which demonstrate the vast changes which have taken place in the parish over the years. Many of these plans inevitably have a mining connotation. A cursory look at the surface plans of the Cliffe Colliery at Painthorpe show how that immediate district has changed, albeit mainly in the past 150 years. It is worth using these plans to trace the development of Crigglestone and its 'satellite' villages from the mid-1800s to the present day. Many of the major local industrial developments from this period, including mining, stone quarrying, brick making, paper manufacture and brewing have been spawned, have prospered and ultimately abandoned during this time. It is a sobering thought that the mining industry which dominated the area for so long and on which our fathers and their fathers for many generations before them relied.

## HOUSING

Both the development of housing stock and planning issues have been high on the agenda for discussion at Area Panel meetings. This is why it was considered important to include housing development and planning issues in the questionnaire.

The questionnaire sought to identify how people in the parish feel about future housing developments. The information from the 2001 census notes that there are 3990 households, and provides information on how this relates to the various types of housing within the parish.

	<b>Crigglestone Parish</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Wakefield District %</b>
Households ( <i>all household spaces</i> )	<b>3,990</b>		
Detached	<b>1,202</b>	<b>30.1</b>	20.1
Semi-detached	<b>2,066</b>	<b>51.8</b>	45.0
Terraced	<b>603</b>	<b>15.1</b>	24.5
Flat	<b>119</b>	<b>3.0</b>	10.3
Non permanent accommodation	<b>-</b>	<b>0.0</b>	0.2
Vacant household spaces	<b>104</b>	<b>2.6</b>	3.1

The research asked a number of questions relating to the number of houses built in the parish since people had moved into the area, the level of residents' concern about future developments, the type of future housing people would find acceptable, and how the Council should consult with local people on future planning issues.

The parish has a fairly stable population. The vast majority of those questioned had lived in the parish for more than 11 years (75%), with 38% living in the area for more than 30 years. These long term residents have witnessed a number of significant developments within the parish over the years, and while 26% feel that too much housing has been built since they came to the area, 24% feel it is about right, and only 3% believe there has been too little new housing.

Consequently, there is some resistance to further development. When asked about the type of housing that would be acceptable in the future, more than a quarter of respondents feel there is no room for more housing (26%). However, of those who would not be averse to new housing developments, 19% feel that preference should be given to housing which is suitable for first time buyers, 13% would like to see homes for

young people and another 13% would favour homes for people with disabilities. Evidence from the 2001 census data also indicates that the percentage of property traditionally seen as lower in cost, e.g. terraced housing and flats, is well below the district average. This is an issue that needs to be addressed since 28% of people living in the area are under 24 years of age.

The main concerns about the impact of future developments can be divided into four main areas; roads and infrastructure, environment, conservation issues, and pressure on schools. These issues will be discussed further throughout the report in the relevant sections.

Concern over the lack of consultation regarding planning issues has been raised at Area Panel meetings, as people feel they should be more involved in discussions and decisions about their local area. This concern is shared by 58% of respondents to the business survey who would like to be consulted on planning issues through the same channels as the household respondents: 48% of the latter would like to be consulted via the parish council and 30% would like planning officers to make presentations on planning issues within the area concerned.

### **Recommendations**

- Develop links with planners to ensure that issues identified in the plan are taken into consideration for any future developments
- Identify with planners how consultation on future planning issues can be undertaken

## LEISURE AND ENTERTAINMENT FACILITIES

A key issues affecting all communities is access to services, particularly those providing social activities. It is important to provide opportunities for all sectors of the community to develop and maintain a healthy lifestyle, particularly with the increase in obesity identified by health organisations. Although the parish has some facilities, many are either under utilised or are unsuitable for the provision of a wide range of activities.

Are you aware of what is on offer at the following places?			
	%		
	Yes	No	N/a
Community centres	32	63	5
Village Institute	26	71	4
Church halls	16	78	6
Sports clubs	25	58	17
Playgrounds	13	55	32
After school clubs	16	44	40
Youth clubs	10	58	32
Uniformed organisations	29	42	29

It is evident from the responses that people make very little use of the facilities available in the parish. A majority of people never use them (89%), but it is also apparent from the responses that few people are aware of what is on offer locally and 44% of those questioned feel that poor publicity is the reason for the lack of use of local facilities. There is a need for the parish to identify current usage of local facilities, and how, through partnerships, new groups and activities can be developed for the area.

How many times a month do you use the following?					
	%				
	More than 10	Between 6 & 10	Between 1 & 5	Less frequently	Never
Community centres	1	3	8	8	80
Village Institute	1	1	2	14	82
Church halls	0	3	2	11	84
Sports clubs	5	2	4	2	86
Playgrounds	0	0	2	4	94
After school clubs	1	0	3	0	96
Youth clubs	0	0	4	0	96
Uniformed organisations	0	1	2	0	97

The survey identified that people are interested in participating in local activities, and a list of preferred activities was identified, although further research should be conducted to develop a comprehensive list for local people. There was clear evidence that there is a need for a local drama group (25%) and 14% of those questioned feel there should be a young people's drama group. The survey also identified a small number of individuals who would be prepared to run or organise groups or activities within the parish.

It is clearly necessary to identify what future facilities would be preferred if funding and space became available. The most popular choice would be a playground, with a youth club close behind. However, as will be explained later in this report, we do know from the young people's survey that very few young people attend a youth club or would want to, and there is more interest in organised leisure activities. This disparity of views certainly acts as a reminder that when it comes to identifying "what young people need", we cannot rely on adults' views, but must consult with and indeed listen to young people themselves. The parish also has a number of small play areas, but it is evident that there is a need to identify and develop a site suitable for all ages.

### **Recommendations**

- Conduct audit of current activities
- Develop marketing plan for local activities
- Work with partners to improve the use of local facilities
- Identify partners to organise and develop activities within the parish
- Develop a plan to provide a play site suitable for young people

## TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

The transport and highways section of the questionnaire created by far the most interest. There were many comments about most areas of the parish, but it is clear that three areas are of particular concern Stoney Lane, Hall green and Crigglestone High Street. The largest number of complaints concern Stoney Lane with respondents expressing concern about cars parked outside the school and shops. Many people are worried about the amount of traffic in the area, but are particularly concerned with parking and the dangers it poses to people are using the shops and taking children to school. People are very concerned about the safety risks of street parking (74%), particularly near to shops and schools.

As we found in the survey of young people (see page....), with 55% of children being transported to school by car, it is inevitable that the roads will be clogged up with cars during the school run and with parents trying to save time by dropping their children off as close as possible to the school gate they can create a serious safety hazard to other parents and children who walk to school, as well as to other pedestrians. Many respondents believe it is time for parents to think again about whether it is always absolutely essential to drive their children to school and, with the growing problem of childhood obesity, whether their children would benefit more from the exercise they would get from walking. It is always noticeable by how much traffic on the roads is reduced during the school holidays.

The business respondents agree with local residents about the problems of parking: 58% feel street parking presents a problem, with a third citing both Calder Grove and Durkar as problem areas. Half are of the opinion that speed limits should be better enforced and that existing speed limits should be reduced. A third want to see traffic calming measures introduced, together with more road signs and additional weight restrictions. Denby Dale Road and Newmillerdam are seen as the most in need of traffic control measures.

For respondents to the household survey, Hall Green (20%) and Crigglestone, particularly Crigglestone High Street (19%) were highlighted as significant danger spots on roads, with many respondents suggesting areas for improvement. Durkar (18%) is also seen as a major danger spot, particularly Durkar Lane, where the main complaints

are about speeding traffic and lorries and other heavy goods vehicles contravening the weight restriction.

When asked what improvements should be introduced, many argue for improved enforcement procedures to control speeding traffic. It is evident from the information that speeding traffic is a major issue, and many express the view that improved traffic calming measures should be introduced. Although some calming measures have been implemented, these are seen as ineffective due to their design, and it is felt that more flashing lights, particularly near shops and schools should be installed.

The survey also highlighted the continuing problem of heavy goods vehicles on roads around the parish. This has been raised many times at Area Panel meetings, and many people feel that, weight restrictions, along the lines of the one in Durkar Lane, should be introduced on some roads, particularly in Newmillerdam and on Crigglestone High Street. It is important, however, that any restrictions which are introduced and those which already exist should be properly enforced.

The most positive issue from this section of the survey is that a majority of people do not experience transport difficulties getting from the parish to other places, with 52% indicating they never had such difficulties and 26% only occasionally. Only a small number of the respondents to the business survey indicated that their staff had difficulty travelling to work, though two of these are among the larger employers in the area.

Only 11% were satisfied with the available bus routes, the only form of public transport available to residents. One of the main areas of concern is the withdrawal of the 110 service<sup>\*</sup>, as this has provided the main transport from Hall Green. People feel that the withdrawal of the service now denies them a public transport link to local health centres. A number of complaints were also registered about the confusion caused, particularly to older residents, by the frequent changes to the 443 and 444 bus routes. A majority of people are concerned about access onto buses for people with disabilities, and 34% feel that wheelchair access should be improved.

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<sup>\*</sup> It should be noted, however, that since the questionnaire was first devised and distributed, there have been some improvements in the 110-bus service in response to local protests.

## **Recommendations**

- Work with district council to develop plan to identify and introduce effective road safety schemes.
- Work with bus companies to improve services
- Work with partners to develop a transport plan for the parish, particularly improved access for people attending health centres
- Work with schools and parents to encourage more children to walk to school

## THE ENVIRONMENT

As we found in our analysis of the housing section of the questionnaire, the environment is clearly a major concern for local residents, with many people wanting to preserve the area, and feeling that no new developments should be built. Residents also have strong feelings about the cleanliness and appearance of the parish and clear views on how it could be improved.

Much of the area is maintained by the district council, and there appear to be mixed feelings regarding the services provided. People feel that grass cutting (79%) is either good or reasonable, and 49% feel the same about the emptying of rubbish bins and street cleaning (48%). However, a majority of people (70%) feel that the parish needs more dog bins and 61% feel that the maintenance of paths and ginnels is poor.

How would you rate the provision of the following services within the parish?				
	%			
	Good	Reasonable	Poor	No opinion
Maintenance of paths and ginnels	7	25	61	7
Grass cutting	31	48	16	5
Street cleaning	10	38	47	4
Provision of dog bins	1	7	70	22
Emptying of dog bins	2	8	45	45
Provision of rubbish bins	9	29	52	9
Emptying of rubbish bins	12	37	37	14

People are becoming more aware of the need to recycle used materials, and our survey asked what facilities would be support if they were more readily available. Many of the people questioned supported recycling, but it is felt that more facilities should be provided for glass bottles (20%), paper (19%) and cans (16%). Seventeen percent would support community composting and garden waste initiatives, however, these facilities are not widely available, and it is felt that to increase recycling across the parish more work should be done with the district council to improve awareness and availability. Of those responding to the business questionnaire, two thirds consider that recycling of paper, cardboard and glass are the most desired recycling facilities which they would be prepared to support.

It has been evident throughout the survey that people are very interested in the natural environment, and wish to preserve most of the existing features. As shown in Table 5 above, when asked what could be done to improve the environment, 24% feel there is a need to preserve existing woodland, and 22% want to keep hedgerows short and tidy. Only 3% feel that the parish council should cut down some existing trees.

<b>What do you think could be done to improve the environment of the parish?</b>	
	<b>%</b>
Plant more trees	14
Cut down some trees	3
Preserve existing woodland	24
Create more nature reserves	14
Repair dry stone walls	16
Keep hedgerows short and tidy	22
Let hedgerows grow naturally	6
Preserve single trees in special places (specify)	1

People feel there is a need for a special open space in the parish for local people to picnic and play (55%) and respondents were invited to nominate areas which might be used for this purpose. The main area suggested is Betty Eastwood Park, but various respondents point out that the park does not appear to be very well maintained.

Maintaining the appearance of the area is clearly an issue for local people, and it is evident that local residents want to see improvements. People would like more public seating (74%), bulb and bedding plants (69%) and hanging baskets. However, the parish council must identify key areas, as maintenance costs must be taken into account to ensure local people are provided with an economically effective service.

### **Recommendations**

- Identify and develop effective grounds maintenance and street cleaning plan with partner organisations
- Work with partners to install and empty more dog bins
- Make people aware of the recycling facilities available, and work with district council to identify any areas to improve recycling within the parish
- Identify and preserve key areas of woodland within the parish
- Develop an environmental plan for the parish, identifying key areas of interest
- Work with partners to develop Newmillerdam Colliery Site
- Work with partner organisations to improve and maintain Betty Eastwood Park

- Identify key areas to improve the appearance of the parish e.g. public seating, bedding plants, hanging baskets

## ACCESS TO SERVICES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

The 2001 census data reveals that 71.2% of people within the parish are generally in good health, compared with 64.6% of people within Wakefield district and 68.8% for England.

HEALTH	<i>Crigglestone</i>	%	Wakefield District	England
<i>All People</i>	9,189			
Limiting long-term illness <sup>2</sup>	<b>1,609</b>	<b>17.5</b>	22.4	17.9
General health 'not good' <sup>3</sup>	<b>761</b>	<b>8.3</b>	12.3	9.0
General health 'fairly good'	<b>1,888</b>	<b>20.5</b>	23.1	22.2
General health 'good'	<b>6,540</b>	<b>71.2</b>	64.6	68.8
People providing unpaid care <sup>4</sup>	<b>1,082</b>	<b>11.8</b>	11.1	9.9
Providing unpaid care 50+ hours per week	<b>192</b>	<b>2.1</b>	2.7	2.0

Our survey recognises that people are generally happy with the health services provided in the parish, and consider them adequate for local needs. The one exception is the provision of NHS dentists, which has been highlighted as a national problem.

Although people generally do not have difficulties in getting to health services, as indicated in the previous section, there were numerous comments regarding the 110-bus service. Many people, particularly those without cars, commented that they now have more difficulty in accessing services. Some respondents also pointed towards problems with the 443 and 444 bus services changing routes without notice.. Public transport is clearly an issue, and many people have to rely on family and friends to transport them to health services.

People generally believe that there is adequate provision for people to access services and move around the parish. However, 39% of people feel there is inadequate provision for cyclists, and that more facilities should be provided to meet local needs.

<sup>2</sup> Limiting long-term illness covers any long term-illness, health problem or disability that limits daily activities or work

<sup>3</sup> General health refers to health over the 12 months prior to Census day (29 April 2001)

<sup>4</sup> Provision of unpaid care: looking after, giving help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of long-term physical or mental ill-health or disability or problems relating to old age.

<b>Is there adequate provision for the following groups to access services and move around the parish?</b>			
	<b>%</b>		
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Do not know</b>
Wheelchair users	16	23	61
Pushchairs	28	21	51
Pedestrians	56	20	24
Cyclists	27	39	35
Partially sighted	3	26	71

A significant group of respondents, just over 30%, expressed concerns at the lack of provision of cash dispensers.

Crime and the fear of crime are a national problem, and the household survey identified that only 22% had been affected by theft or burglary, and only 21% by vandalism. However, 85% of people feel there is a need for greater police presence, and 78% would like to see the introduction of a neighbourhood watch scheme. It is significant that people's fear and perception of crime is massively out of line with the reality of crime statistics. This is part of a national trend and one explanation that is gaining ground is that this distortion and subsequent fear of crime is the direct result of sensational crime reporting by some parts of the media.

By contrast with the household respondents, half of all business respondents have been affected by theft or burglary over the past 12 months.

Typically, most offenders are young and 82% of respondents share the view that there should be greater provision of activities for young people in order to deter them from becoming involved in crime. It has been evident throughout that there is a need to improve access to leisure opportunities for all sectors of the community.

There is a particular need to encourage more people to become involved in the organisation of activities, and to ensure greater and more effective publicity about activities which are available.

<b>Do you think any of the following measures are required?</b>			
	<b>%</b>		
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Do not know</b>
Greater police presence	85	9	6
Neighbourhood watch	78	7	15
More drink & drug education & prevention	71	8	22
More activities for young people	82	3	15
Better signposting	40	23	37
Advice on healthier lifestyles	34	28	38
More activities for senior citizens	36	10	54
Other	50	0	50

### **Recommendations**

- Work with partner organisations to improve public transport
- Work with district council to identify and develop improved cycling provision around the parish
- Work with banks to improve access to cash dispensers
- Identify current neighbourhood watch schemes
- Inform people of the measures the parish takes to increase policing

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S SURVEY

Our analysis of the young people's survey breaks down into five main areas, almost mirroring the rest of this survey: road traffic, safety, the environment, leisure and education. We had intended initially to incorporate the findings of the young people's survey into the main body of this document, but decided that because so many children and young people had participated, the results were truly representative of the youth of Crigglestone Parish and that they merited a separate section.

### **Traffic**

One of the key issues identified from the household survey is the problem of traffic around the parish particularly in relation to road safety, and while we noted in earlier sections that a majority of respondents to the household survey express concern about speeding traffic, 70% of young people are not bothered by this.

Perhaps of greater interest however is that 55% of children and young people are taken to school by car, with only 39% walking and only one individual cycling to school. We refer on page..... to the problems posed to pedestrians and other road users of the additional traffic generated by the school run, but an additional concern posed by the information we obtained from young people is that a majority of those being taken to school by car attend junior school. During our discussion of the findings of the surveys, older members of the steering group could not avoid reminiscing about our own journeys to school and while we recognise that there was much less traffic on the roads when we were young, we nevertheless have memories of walking several miles to and from school. At the time of writing, there is growing national concern about the problem of childhood obesity, so these findings are particularly problematic for the community.

### **Safety**

The survey sought to identify what young people think of their area, and the responses raised some interesting issues. In contrast to the view of their parents and other adults, young people do not feel unsafe within the parish, with 87% disagreeing that it is not safe to play out, and 62% not feeling intimidated by gangs. By contrast, 69% consider that local play areas attract too many gangs. However, the 38% who do feel intimidated represents a significant minority and this emerges therefore as an issue which needs to be addressed. This does not mean however that safety is not an

important issue for young people since 97% feel it is very important to have somewhere safe to go and 96% are of the opinion that it is very important for the area to be crime free.

## **Environment**

The survey identified that young people are split over the cleanliness of the parish, with 69% disagreeing that there is too much vandalism and graffiti around the parish, 52% believing that too much rubbish is left lying around and 47% being concerned with dogs fouling pavements and footpaths. It is evident that young people see this as less of a problem than those questioned in the household survey. This may be because as we know anecdotally, many young people are more tolerant of litter problems and very often they simply do not see it – however, we still have 48% who believe it is important to have a cleaner environment. Hopefully, recent initiatives, in partnership with the district council will soon begin to have a noticeable impact not only on the cleanliness of the parish but also on people's attitudes towards this issue.

## **Leisure**

One of the most satisfying conclusions of the young people's survey is that 66% of young people do not believe their lives are boring, and that there is nothing for them to do around the parish. The survey found that the main activity in which young people participate is music and performing arts groups. Significantly, this is also an activity identified in the household survey as desirable but not readily available. The provision of football is identified as being very good, particularly as the parish has a number of effective sports and football clubs providing opportunities for many young people of all ages from within the parish. It is also evident that the parish has a number of successful uniformed organisations, which were identified as being very good, and well attended.

Particularly noteworthy is the fact that 97% of those questioned do not use youth clubs or attend youth projects, and only 30% feel it is important to have youth work support. Clearly, there is little opportunity for young people within the parish to access youth club facilities, with only Hall Green Community centre providing a limited voluntary service, and the young people's service now attending the centre one evening per week with the youth van.

As in the household survey, young people feel it is very important to know where activities are taking place. It appears that lack of information about where and when activities are held needs to be addressed, and that key partners need to be identified to increase and promote local activities. It is evident that young people want more opportunities to socialise, as 80% said they would like somewhere to meet their friends, with 64% noting that it is important to have organised activities, and 71% saying it is very important to have more variety of leisure activities. It is also noted that 78% feel that it is important to have activities out of school, which emphasises the importance for the Parish Council of involving a wide range of partners in identifying and promoting opportunities for young people.

The questionnaire had an excellent response from young people under 11 on the issue of play areas. The survey found that 56% of those questioned had no play area near to their home, and of these, 79% are dissatisfied with the facilities on offer. We also learn from the findings that there is a major problem with the cleanliness of play facilities, with 96% feeling there is too much litter and broken glass, and 74% feeling there is too much dog dirt. It appears that maintenance of equipment is less of an issue with 73% disagreeing that the equipment is often broken, and 62% feel that the equipment is not outdated.

## **Education**

It is satisfying to note that young people believe in the importance of education and job opportunities, with 91% saying that good educational opportunities were very important and 89% agreeing with the statement that that higher education and training is very important (89%). One area that should be considered for further education is the Hall Green and Chapelthorpe areas of the parish, as the 2001 census identifies that 39.7% of residents have no qualifications, which is above the district average (39.1%), and the average for England (28.9%).

## **Recommendations**

- Identify through road safety officers those schools involved in walking to school schemes
- Identify which schools are involved in road safety education
- Identify with school the problem of young people cycling to school.

- Work with partner organisations to reduce the fear of intimidation by gangs around the parish
- Identify opportunities to increase the provision of music and performing arts groups
- Improve marketing of activities
- Improve the cleanliness of play areas
- Identify opportunities to increase access to higher education within the area

## **THE STEERING GROUP**

### **Cynthia and Len Binns**

Residents of Hall Green since 1984. Active members of the Hall Green Community Association since 1986. Cynthia helped establish the Playgroup while Len helped to start the Junior Youth Club.

### **Frank Buxton**

Resident in the parish for 65 years. In the mid-1970s, together with his wife Joan, helped to establish the 45th Wakefield Durkar Scout Group with which he was Involved until a few years ago. Two sons and five grandchildren.

### **Hazel Chowcat**

Chair of the Steering Committee, resident of Newmillerdam for five years, member of Crigglestone Parish Council, LEA governor of Kettlethorpe High and Mackie Hill J & I Schools; trustee of Worrill's Almshouses, and Crigglestone Village Institute; local community correspondent for the Wakefield Express.

### **Jackie Craven**

Resident of Durkar for 36 years. Chair of Crigglestone Parish Council. Trustee of Crigglestone Village Institute and Worrill's Almshouses. Governor of Crigglestone Nursery School. Member of the Guide Association as Brownie Guide at Hall Green Brownies and District Commissioner for Chevet District Guides.

### **Maureen Cummings**

Treasurer of the Steering Committee. Member of Crigglestone Parish Council from 1998-2000, when she became Parish Clerk.

### **Michael Greensmith**

Vice Chair of the Steering Committee, a resident of Calder Grove with wife Wendy and 3 children who attend St James Junior School Crigglestone where he is a member of the Board of Governors.

### **Mike Kidd**

Resident of Crigglestone for 8 years. Mike is interested in local and community issues.

### **Eric Morgan**

Resident of Crigglestone and former Chair of Crigglestone Parish Council

### **Roy Ormsby (Wakefield Metropolitan District Council Area Panel Officer)**

### **Christine Platten**

Resident of Crigglestone for 22 years. Member of Crigglestone Parish Council. Trustee of Crigglestone Village Institute

### **David Proctor**

Resident of Durkar for 5 years. Interested in wildlife and conservation. Was previously Director of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust for 10 years and conservation officer for West Yorkshire. Member of RSPB.

### **Helen Tynan**

Resident of Crigglestone for 14 years. As a full time mother of two young children, Helen campaigns to improve the provision of play facilities for your children in the area.

### **Keith Wainwright**

Member of Crigglestone Parish Council. Lifelong Crigglestone resident. Governor at St James Primary and Crigglestone Nursery Schools. Trustee of Worrill's and Charlesworth Almshouses and Hall Green Community Association. Member St James' Church Parochial Church Council. Member Durkar, Crigglestone and Calder Grove Residents' Association

### **Marilyn Wood**

Represents local businesses and also a resident of Calder Grove. Training Manager at the Cedar Court Hotel, married and a dog owner!

**Glynis Young**

Secretary to the Steering Committee, a resident of Durkar and a member of the Durkar, Crigglesstone and Calder Grove Residents Association.