

**CRIGGLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH PLAN UPDATE 2008**

Following a public meeting in 2003, a steering group was set up to discuss the preparation of a Parish Plan. The group decided to consult residents by means of a questionnaire which was circulated to every house in the parish. The questionnaire sought to identify the make-up of the population in the parish, in terms of the age range, the gender distribution and numbers of children, single people, couples, etc. It also sought to establish what local residents thought about the services they received, which were good, which required attention and which services were not being delivered.

Over 700 questionnaires were returned, analysed and the results summarised in the Parish Plan which was published in September 2004. Every house received a condensed version of the plan, showing the recommendations. The Plan was reviewed in 2006 and the Parish Council is now updating residents on actions taken on these recommendations.

HOUSING

The questionnaire sought to identify how people in the parish feel about future housing developments. The 2001 Census identified 3990 households and provided information on how this relates to the various types of housing within the parish.

The parish had a fairly stable population with, 75% of those questioned having lived in the parish for over 11 years and 38% having lived in the area for over 30 years.

There was some resistance to further development, although it was felt that more affordable housing was required to help regenerate the area.

Some concern over lack of consultation regarding planning issues was raised.

2004 Recommendations:

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

Update:

1. Any development plans will be closely monitored to ensure the unique character of the Parish remains intact to maintain a separate rural identity from Wakefield City. The Parish Council will continue to lobby for new/improved infrastructure on future developments where necessary.
In the light of increased flooding incidents the Parish Council will continue to pressure Local Authorities/Developers/Private Landowners, etc to ensure adequate drains, ditches and infrastructure are incorporated into any new developments in the area.
2. Consultation on any future planning issues remains a priority. The Parish Council will continue to make submissions to the LDF to ensure the integrity of green belt land is maintained.

LEISURE AND ENTERTAINMENT FACILITIES



It was very evident from the responses in the original questionnaire that people make very little use of the facilities in the parish. The Parish Council has the Village Institute which is available for community use for a very small charge. The Village Institute has regular classes including keep fit, yoga, karate, painting, watercolours and Music for Minors. The facility is also available for small

functions.

A survey conducted in October 2008 shows that some residents know about the activities at the Village Institute but are much less aware of activities at the Community Centre on Cliff Road, Hall Green Community Centre and at churches in the parish. Respondents suggested a variety of activities they would like at these venues. With regard to open spaces in the parish, the most popular are Newmillerdam and Pugneys Country Parks followed by Betty Eastwood Park. The survey also showed that a minority of respondents were involved in after school clubs and groups such as Scouts and Guides. Further details of the outcome of the survey will be available on the Parish Council's web site at www.crigglestonepc.org

2004 Recommendations:

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

Update

1. An audit has been conducted as mentioned above.
2. The Parish Council will compile a comprehensive list of local activities/events/venues and post the information in the Parish Newsletter/Magazine/Website.
3. The Parish Council is currently working with various organisations, public rights of way, residents' associations, etc. to improve the use of current facilities.
4. As above.
5. The Parish Council has consulted local young people about the BMX track and hopes to carry out upgrading works.

TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

The Transport and Highways section of the questionnaire created by far the most interest.

People were very concerned about the safety risks of street parking, particularly near to shops and schools.



Our original survey revealed that 55% of children were being transported to school by car and this still remains the case.

The survey highlighted the continuing problem of heavy goods vehicles on roads around the parish. The introduction of weight restrictions on High Street, Crigglestone and in

Newmillerdam have been considered but these limits would be subject to proper enforcement.

Flashing Visible Display message signs have been introduced along Durkar Lane, Durkar Low Lane and Barnsley Road, Newmillerdam; both areas were identified as high risk areas by residents.

The most positive issue from this section of the survey was that the majority of people do not experience transport difficulties getting from the parish to other places.

2004 Recommendations:

1. Work with District Council to develop a plan to identify and introduce effective road safety schemes.
2. Work with bus companies to improve services
3. Work with partners to develop a Transport Plan for the Parish, particularly improved access for people attending health centres
4. Work with schools and parents to encourage more children walk to school

Update

1. The flashing Visible Display message board on Durkar Lane has been re-installed but the one at Newmillerdam has been removed.
2. The Parish Council have pursued every avenue with the bus companies to maintain/improve current services without success but will continue to apply pressure especially in view of the difficulties of the elderly/disabled resident accessing essential services such as doctors' surgeries etc. and the increased demand resulting from the Calder Park development.
3. The Parish Council is meeting other bodies to research the possibility of reinstating a local railway facility/service. Various sites are under investigation.
4. Schools in the parish have regular walk to school days and the Parish Council would like to see more 'walk to school' routes.
5. The Parish Council is continuing to monitor the progress of the M1 widening scheme.

THE ENVIRONMENT

The survey in 2004 showed that residents have strong feelings about the cleanliness and appearance of the parish and clear views about how it could be improved.



People are also becoming more aware of recycling and the need for more recycling facilities within the parish. It was felt that the District Council should be doing more to improve awareness and availability.

Many respondents felt that there was a need for a special open space in the parish for local people to picnic and play and many also favoured additional public seating, bulb and bedding plants and hanging baskets. However, the Parish Council must identify key areas, as maintenance costs must be taken into account to ensure an economical and effective service.

2004 Recommendations:

1. Identify and develop effective grounds maintenance and street cleaning plan with partner organisations.
2. Work with partners to install and empty more dog bins.
3. Make people aware of the recycling facilities available and work with District Council to identify any areas to improve recycling within the parish.
4. Identify and preserve key areas of woodland within the parish.
5. Develop an environmental plan for the parish, identifying key areas of interest
6. Work with partners to develop Newmillerdam Colliery Site.
7. Work with partner organisations to improve and maintain Betty Eastwood Park.
8. Identify key areas to improve the appearance of the parish e.g. public seating, bedding plants and hanging baskets.

Update

1. The Parish Council has noted the decreasing occasions of gully, street and pavement cleaning operations and will apply for a more regular service.
2. Bins have been provided by the Parish Council at both entrances to Betty Eastwood Park. WMDC have agreed to empty the bins.
3. New recycling procedures were implemented by WMDC in 2007/08.
4. The Parish Council in conjunction with Peel Holdings are pursuing recognition from the RSPB in respect of bird-life in the washlands at Calder Park.
5. The Parish Council is consulting the District Council Countryside Unit to conduct develop an environmental plan for the parish and to identify key areas of interest.
6. The Environment Agency has given Betty Eastwood Park countryside status which means that the area is protected against future development.
7. The Environment Agency has given BEP countryside status which protects the area against future developments. A strategy is in place for tree thinning in the park during 2008/2009. An information board has been installed.
8. Hanging baskets continue to be popular around the Parish. The Durkar marker stone has now been installed at the Denby Dale Road/Durkar Lane junction. The provision of more public seating remains an ongoing issue.
9. The Parish Council is pursuing WMDC to keep drains/ditches clear and to continue to identify potential flooding areas.

ACCESS TO SERVICES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

The 2001 Census Data revealed 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.



It is felt generally that the health services provided in the parish are adequate, but residents are concerned about the poor availability of NHS dentists, which, of course, a national problem.

Crime and the fear of crime are a national problem. It is significant that people's fear and perception of crime is out of line with the reality of crime statistics.

A significant group of respondents expressed concerns at the lack of provision of cash dispensers.

2004 Recommendations:

1. Work with partner organisations to improve public transport.
2. Work with District Council to identify and develop improved cycling provision around the parish.
3. Work with banks to improve access to cash dispensers
4. Identify current neighbourhood watch schemes
5. Inform people of the measures the parish takes to increase policing.

Update

1. See Transport and Highways.
2. The Parish Council is currently working on a cycle route between Midland Railway line and Royston.
3. No longer a priority.
4. The Parish Council to re-investigate to establish how many and where Neighbourhood Watch schemes are operating.
5. The Parish Council is part of the SAFE Scheme which sees dedicated Police Officers working in the parish, and priorities for this policing are set by the Parish Council at its monthly meetings. The SAFE Scheme project is dedicated to 'quality of life issues' not criminal offences, which are dealt with by dialling 999.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SURVEY



The analysis of the Young People's survey highlighted five main areas which almost mirror those of the household survey: road traffic, safety, the environment, leisure and education.

2004 Recommendations

1. Identify through road safety officers those schools involved in walking to school schemes.
2. Identify which schools are involved in road safety education
3. Identify with schools the issues related to young people cycling to school
4. Work with partner organisations to reduce the fear of intimidation by gangs around the parish
5. Identify opportunities to increase the provision of music and performing arts groups
6. Improve marketing of activities
7. Improve the cleanliness of play areas
8. Identify opportunities to increase access to higher education within the area.

Update

1. This is an ongoing issue to be addressed by the Parish Council
2. The Parish Council is still pursuing Road Safety Education with St James's School and will investigate the current situation in other schools.
3. This is an ongoing issue to be addressed by the Parish Council
4. A Dispersal Order has been in place in parts of the Parish which has resulted in a drop in calls related to anti-social behaviour.
5. A Music for Minors group currently meets on Tuesdays in the Village Hall.
6. See leisure and entertainment above.

7. Play areas in Calder Grove and Kenton Drive are currently well-maintained. The Parish Council attempted to create play areas in BEP but failed due to restrictions imposed by Health and Safety regulations.

CONCLUSIONS

There are still many issues to be addressed and the Parish Council will endeavour to follow these up over the next twelve months.

Since it is now four years since the original plan was produced, Members have agreed to prepare a new plan. The next steps will be to hold a public meeting and appoint a steering committee.

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