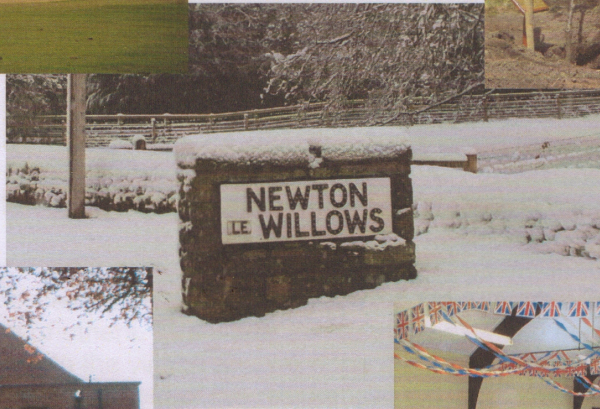


NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS PARISH SURVEY 2012



REPORT AND ACTION PLAN

Newton-le-Willows Parish Council



NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS

Newton-le-Willows is a typical, small Richmondshire village which predates the Domesday Book. It is a Parish of some 720 hectares with 150+ dwellings concentrated in the village in the centre of the Parish.

Newton-le-Willows is a very active and welcoming village, recognized for its community spirit in the winning of the Calor Village of the Year Award 2009/2010.



The village offers a wide range of groups, activities and support networks, including The Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, a cricket club and a very popular 'Newton Newts' Performances In Newton (PIN) organizes entertainment for the village regularly throughout the year.

There are many more excellent examples of teamwork and village people giving up their time in the support of others. We would like to thank all those people who unselfishly give their time to the village and we hope this Parish Plan will go some way to setting out the future involvement of the residents in the continued support of the village.

This plan is key to guiding the Parish Council in a direction sourced from public opinion.

The Parish Council would like to thank all members of the parish who completed the questionnaire.

We would also like to thank the Lower Wensleydale Partnership for their grant towards publication and Aysgarth School for help in preparing the questionnaires.

SURVEY RESPONSES

General

Just under half of households in the Parish responded to this survey, representing 162 residents, which is somewhat disappointing. However, we think it gives the Parish Council a good idea of the concerns and needs of the whole community.

It was interesting to note that 55% of those responding were over 55, with most living in their own houses and the balance in rented accommodation.

Overall, most people were happy with the village as it is. They thought that people were friendly, helpful and that there was a good community spirit. People wanted a better bus service to fit in with their needs and would have liked a Village Shop.

There were several major concerns for the vast majority of respondents:

The Wheatsheaf



Most wanted this either tidied up, demolished or made better use of and it was nearly always described as “an eyesore in the centre of the village”. As most will know, this property is privately owned and is the subject of planning consents, the initial conditions for which have been met. However, the Parish Council has been trying to get this at least tidied up and made safe and will continue to do so. Legislation is complicated. However, we are in constant contact with the Planning Department and have requested a

meeting with the landowner to discuss concerns.

Speeding Traffic, Parked Cars and the Railway Bridge on Station Road

Although these have been identified as separate issues, it is obvious that they all come under the heading of road safety and as such are the responsibility of the Highways Department of North Yorkshire County Council and the Police.

Railway Bridge

Pedestrian safety at this point is of major concern with two “near misses”. The Parish Council has had several meetings with the Council, who are endeavouring to help, but financial constraints are cited as the reason for non-action. Currently, the Highways Department has promised to paint heavy white marks to emphasise how narrow the road is at this point. We know this is not sufficient but will pursue the matter. The problem in this area is also exacerbated by speed of vehicles and parked cars on the road.



Speeding

Speeding drivers were a serious cause for concern, particularly on the roads to and from Aysgarth School at school dropping off times but also on Bedale Road where parked cars mean the road is often “single track”. Slow Down signs have been painted on the road but have had little or no effect. The Parish Council has been in talks with the school, which is aware of the situation.

On-street parking

This is of particular concern on the hill from Aysgarth School to the Railway Bridge and on Bedale Road where most of the speeding issues are. The Parish council will consult with the Police to establish the best way forward.

The following were of lesser concern but were still important

Dog Fouling

Major efforts have been made to improve the situation but it is still a problem. The vast majority of our dog owners pick up after their pets but there are some who do not, despite the possibility of £1000 fine, which applies on pavements **and** off-road.

Public Rights of Way



It was clear that some people were deterred from using these because of the type of stile in some places. This was a problem for those with restricted mobility as well as dog walkers. The Parish Council will attempt to find a solution to the problem through discussion with the relevant landowners.

Hedge Clippings

This is still an issue in particular areas. Landowners will be reminded to ensure clippings are removed.



Mirror at end of Sinks Lane

This was cited by several as a danger area. Hedge growth often obscures the view from the mirror which “fogs up” in poor weather.

Road Surfaces

These are deteriorating with the financial restrictions imposed on Councils. The Parish Council will work with the Highways Department to improve the situation.

Bus Service

The use of this service is severely limited by the timings, particularly during the evenings and at commuting times. The Parish Council will highlight the results of the survey to the appropriate authorities.

The following comments and suggestions, whilst not urgent, are desirable and somewhat easier to achieve

Village Clean up

This was seen as a good thing by most residents. There were many ideas on how to get more people involved which we will be considering.

Energy Efficiency

The statistics from this question will be passed to the Climate Change Group for them to promote usage, in particular, of energy efficient boilers

Community Police Officer

Over 2/3rd of respondents did not know who this was or how to contact him. The Parish Council will arrange for details to go in Newton News, on the Parish Council noticeboard and try to arrange his attendance at, perhaps, a coffee morning.



PCSO Richard Braddick

Information on Local Services

Most people were aware of local services but some were not covered. The Parish Council will arrange for additional information to be publicised.

Computers/Newsletter



It was interesting to note the high incidence of computer usage and particularly internet access. However, more than half of those responding did not look at the Village Web Site, preferring to see the hard copy of the newsletter, which was very popular. The Parish Council will review the situation.

Most people complained about the slow speed of broadband in the area.

Village Hall and Activities

There are several good groups/activities in the Village, the most popular of which appear to be PIN, coffee mornings, Newton Newts and quiz nights. The Village Hall was very well regarded and although there were some suggestions to improve it most thought it was "fine as it was". However, there were many suggestions of other activities that residents would like to see:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Arts | Fitness/Aerobics |
| Badminton/Sports | Gardening Club |
| Brass Band Concert | Handicrafts |
| Bridge | Lectures/demos |
| Car Boot sales | Luncheon Club |
| Childrens events | Meeting place some days |
| Choir | Music/Dance |
| Cinema for families | Social Cycling |
| Coach Trips/theatre trips | Theatre |
| First Aid Training | Youth Club |



The most often requested of these is Fitness/Aerobics and First Aid training. The Parish Council will try to set up some initial sessions.



Having a sociable meeting place available during the daytime would be useful, perhaps combining it with other activities such as crafts or a luncheon club.

Although a Youth Club was suggested, further questioning revealed only two people needing this facility.

All these suggestions have merit but volunteers are needed to run and organise them. The Parish Council will encourage the start-up of new groups.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

What happens next?

The publication of this Plan is not the end of the process but rather a means of informing the community about the issues that have been identified as important and some of the changes that it would like to see in the village. It is a community document and as such it is important that the community is involved in its implementation. Whilst the Parish Council will lead actions in the Parish Plan, success will depend on people joining in and helping to achieve the desired results.

The following Parish Council Action Plan has been compiled as a result of your views and progress will be reviewed on a regular basis. A regular update will be published in the Newton News.

We particularly thank those people who spent time compiling and distributing this survey, analysing the results and producing this report:

Paul Barlow
Elaine Bean
Joyce Harrison
Alan Hudson

Peter Olsen
Bob Sampson
Stuart Tate
Sylvia Tate

Newton-le-Willows Action Plan 2012

	Action	Responsibility
Wheatsheaf	Seek improvements to safety and appearance	PC/RDC/Owner
Railway Bridge	Seek to improve safety	PC/NYCC/Police
Speeding Traffic	Act to reduce speeding through village	PC/NYCC/Police/Aysgarth School
On Street Parking	Review impact of on-street parking	PC/NYCC/Police
Dog Fouling	Continue efforts to improve situation	PC/Dog Owners
Public Rights of Way	Address problem of access	PC/Landowners
Hedge Clippings	On-going monitoring	PC/Landowners
Mirror – Sinks Lane	On-going monitoring	PC/NYCC
Road Surfaces	Seek improvements	PC/NYCC
Bus Service	Seek improvements	PC/RDC
Village Clean-up	Review Process	PC
Energy Efficiency	Give statistics to Climate Change Group	Climate Change Group
Community Police Officer	Raise profile	PC/Police
Information on local services	Improve and publicise information	PC
Broadband Speed	Seek improvements	PC
new groups/activities	Encourage start-up of new groups	PC