

#### Danby Wiske Lazenby Streetlam

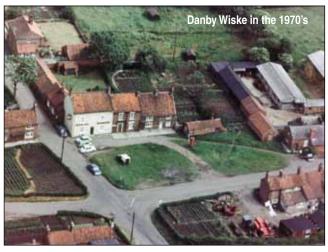
# **August 2010**



## Introduction

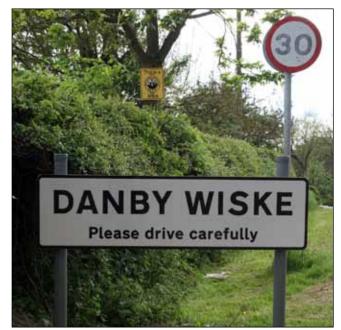
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#### **Danby Wiske Parish Plan**

This Parish Plan sets out your collective vision for the future of the Parish for the next five to ten years. It is based upon the views and opinions of the whole community who have responded to the two questionnaires issued and analysed by the Steering Committee. The initiative to produce a Parish Plan came from the Parish Council who called two public meetings to gauge the level of support for the production of a Parish Plan.



The Plan can be used by our elected representatives and the officers of all levels of local and central government as a point of reference to gauge local opinion. It has also become a requirement of many of the possible funding bodies that a Parish Plan is in place before funding applications can be considered. This document will be one of the primary documents that will be referred to when there are proposals affecting the future of this Parish.



Having identified that the community supported the production of a Parish Plan the Steering Committee was set up. Funding to produce the Parish Plan was then obtained from the Big Lottery Fund. are the prime source of information for your Parish Plan. The response rate was in excess of 93%, which we believe is the highest response rate in any North Yorkshire parish. This can give us all confidence that this Parish Plan reflects the views of the whole community.

The Parish Plan questionnaire was in effect a survey of the quality of service and support provided by a number of organisations to our community. These ranged from County Council, District Council and Parish Council to the water, electricity, telephone and internet services, to the church, village hall and the pub. It gave you for the first time the opportunity to have your views heard and documented.



An initial questionnaire was issued to confirm the level of support for a Plan and to give residents the opportunity to highlight the issues that were important to them. Then the main questionnaire was prepared during the winter of 2009 and issued in February 2010. The responses to this



As time moves on the Parish Plan will require review and possible development. It does not anticipate major change but envisages various improvements and developments to the current parish amenities and support structures. Some proposals will be easier than others but we have already made progress and implemented ideas that were generated from the questionnaire.

## **Our Community**

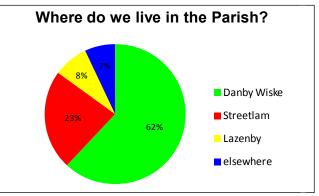
The Parish of Danby Wiske and Lazenby is a rural area of approximately 10 square miles consisting of the three small communities of Danby Wiske, Lazenby and Streetlam linked by a scattering of farmsteads with a total population of fewer than 300. The Parish is located some four miles north and west of Northallerton in the gently undulating Vale of Mowbray.

Administratively the Parish comes within Hambleton District Council and North Yorkshire County Council; ecclesiastically it mainly lies within the diocese of Ripon.



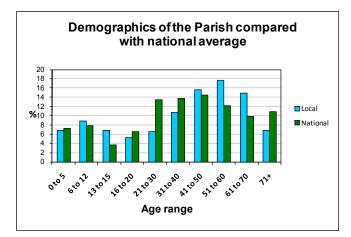
The Parish is overlooked by the Pennines to the west and the Hambleton Hills to the east. Travel and transport are special features; on the south-eastern boundary is the old Great North Road (now the A167), also running north to south is the East Coast mainline railway which is bridged by the road to Northallerton, while running east to west is the Coast-to-Coast walk.

The villages developed to support and provide accommodation for the farming community. Fifty to sixty years ago there was a railway station, a school, a number of shops, pubs and two chapels as well as the church. Farming mechanisation and changes in transport and communication have altered that structure. Our questionnaire reveals villages populated by a mixture of commuters and retirees with a comparatively small number of people living and working in the Parish. There are few farmsteads that remain within the village boundaries but the agricultural and tourist industries do provide appreciable levels of local employment. The church now shares its rector with a large number of other parishes and there is no resident clergyman. Other than the church the only community building is the Danby Wiske village hall, which was constructed over 30 years ago and is in continual use for a variety of functions. Until the 1960's schooling was provided in Danby Wiske but all children now travel to Northallerton and further afield for their education.

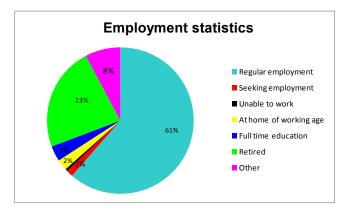


The community has continually and progressively developed over the years. There will always be change and if there was no change the community could stagnate. Your Parish Plan will help to provide direction to any future proposal for changes.

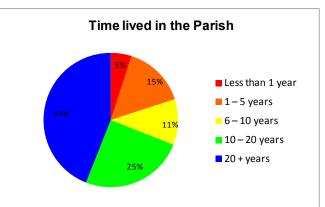
The make- up of our population has some features that are in line with national statistics. The proportions of men to women at 49:51% reflect the figures for both Yorkshire and England as a whole. Age ranges also have some similarity to the average in England, but 32% of our population are aged 50 - 70 compared with the average for the country



of 22%. However 23% of our community are under 16 which is similar to the national picture. A worrying feature is the decline in the number of twenty-year-olds, as they have tended to leave the community. The employment rate is 61% compared with a national average of 72%; this statistic is also reflected by the fact that 23% of the population have retired. This Parish Plan needs to recognise these demographics by proposing developments that cater for the needs of the current community, while encouraging the evolution of a more balanced age distribution.





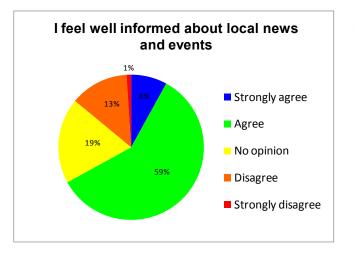




79% of residents believe that there is a good community spirit in the Parish and the actions recommended in this Plan could take this further.

## **Communications**

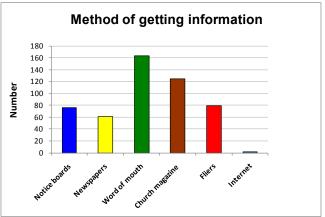
Most Parishioners said they felt well-informed about local news and events, either through word of mouth or from the "Anvil" church magazine.



#### "Make sure that website is updated regularly with lots of pictures from events."

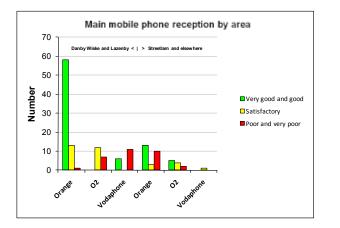


Over 70% were in favour of the erection of a notice board to provide information for residents and visitors, the site most favoured being the village green at Danby Wiske. Several people commented that they were not sufficiently aware of the activities of the Parish Council. Some newcomers felt uninformed about many activities and services available in the Parish.

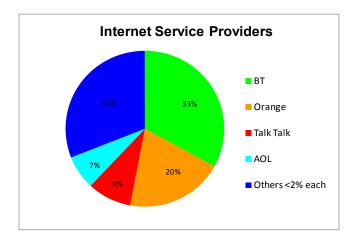


### "0.92 MB internet speed is less than government target 2.0MB!"

Over 90% of respondents have internet access at home, most accessing by landline. Many complained about the slow speed of broadband, the main problem being the land-line distance from the exchanges. The majority were in favour of a village website, and various suggestions were made about what it should be used for, such as forthcoming events, advertisements, local services (eg trades-people, bed and breakfast), recent pictures, local history and a discussion forum.



People used mobile phones from various providers. There were localised variations in reception, but in general Orange was reported to be good and  $O_2$  and Vodaphone to be poor.



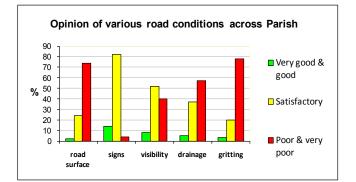
"I get my information from the wife"

- Obtain new notice board on Danby Wiske village green.
- Set up Parish website. (www.danbywiske.org.uk)
- Ask Parish Council to publicise its minutes and the names of Parish Councillors on website and notice board.
- Give mobile phone companies and internet service providers the results of our survey and seek improvements to the service where necessary.
- Produce helpful Parish information sheet.



## **Roads & Transport**

Traffic volumes within the Parish are relatively light, and our roads are very low on NYCC's priority list for improvements, repairs and gritting. Most of the roads are in reasonable condition, but there are places where the surface quality is poor, while in winter some stretches are not gritted for long periods and may give rise to accidents. The Parish Council has tried to get various roads in the Parish reclassified from the current C or U classification, but so far NYCC have not supported these requests.



#### "I don't want Danby Wiske to become duttered with road signs and street furniture to spoil its present appearance and appeal."

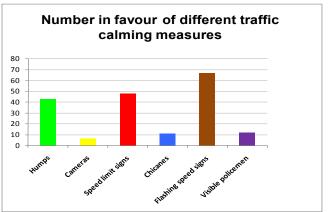


In our survey, three quarters of respondents thought that the condition of the road surfaces, and winter maintenance, was poor or very poor. Many considered that road drainage was inadequate, and that visibility, both for pedestrians and drivers, was bad in some places - a point of particular concern because the Coast-to-Coast walk runs along one of our busier roads.



Two thirds of respondents thought that the speed of vehicles in the Parish was a problem, and half believed that some form of traffic calming was required, the most popular options being flashing speed-warning signs and better speed limit signing.

"10,000+ walkers pass through the parish every year. There are no footpaths at all, the roads are narrow and bendy. This puts walkers at risk when on the road"



There was little support for the provision of additional parking or more passing places, and road signing was generally considered to be adequate. The Parish Council has recently erected new village name signs for both Streetlam and Danby Wiske, with the words "Please drive carefully" beneath.

"Speed through Danby Wiske should be reduced to 20mph"

There is great concern regarding safety on our roads which are narrow and bendy with poor visibility, lack of footways or useable verges on which vehicles of all sizes, groups of cyclists, horses and walkers are travelling. This is seen as creating a potentially dangerous situation.

"Mounstrall Lane is a school bus route and a recommended cycle route, but is given low priority by Yorkshire Highways both for re-surfacing and gritting"

Travel in the Parish is very much dominated by the private car. 83% of residents said they made car journeys of up to five miles several times a week, while half frequently travelled further. Northallerton and Darlington were the most common destinations.

The only public transport in the Parish is a weekly bus service from Danby Wiske to Northallerton. However very few residents use this service.

Most were not even aware of its existence, although 67 residents said they would use the bus if the service were to be improved.

55 residents said they would consider car sharing with others who wished to make the same journey.



- Encourage residents to report problems such as potholes to the Parish Council and NYCC. (www.fixmystreet.co.uk)
- Ask Parish Council to continue pressing NYCC about highway problems, including speeding, lack of footways, maintaining useable verges and poor drainage.
- Post details of the current bus service on the Parish notice board (which is also the bus stop).
- Share the findings of the questionnaire with local authorities and bus companies with a view to increasing the services through the Parish.
- Put people who said they were interested in car sharing in touch with each other.

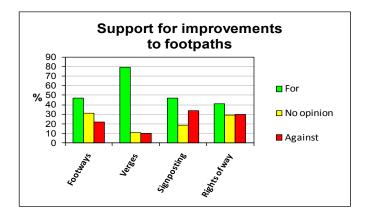
## **Pedestrians**

The Parish has slightly more than 10 miles of footpaths and bridleways. Opinion was divided on whether these were adequately sign-posted, but many people thought access along rights of way needed to be improved.

"I would like to see a footpath from pub all the way over river Wiske, through Lazenby and over the railway bridge. I would also like to stop people parking on the paths in the village hall area as it makes it hard for disabled people."

There are only short stretches of footway beside our public roads, and there was much concern about the safety of walkers, cyclists and horse-riders along narrow lanes. Many people thought the footways should be extended and improved, and many more thought the verges should be cut regularly to improve visibility and pedestrian access.

"Signposting of rights of way is satisfactory where the right of way leaves the highway but after that it is not easy to follow."



### Actions

- Approach NYCC about improvements to stiles, signs and footpaths.
- Approach NYCC about the cutting of roadside verges.

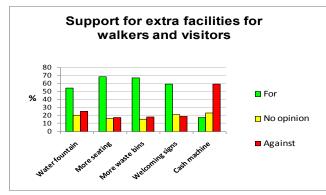


"Many of the stiles are unusable. Signs are not easily visible in summer months due to crops and hedges being unchecked."

### Coast-To-Coast Walk



The Coast-to-Coast walk, devised by Alfred Wainwright, runs for 4 of its nearly 200 miles through the Parish. The Danby Wiske Parish section is at the lowest altitude of the whole route and much of it runs along the roads. Although the walk is not designated as an official national trail, it is increasingly popular, now attracting over 10,000 walkers a year. It has been claimed to be the second-best walk in the world. It is very challenging not only because of its distance but because the combined ascent of the walk is equivalent to the height of Mount Everest.



When Wainwright came to Danby Wiske in 1972 he did not think much of the place, describing it as "a slough of despond," but today's parishioners nearly all think the walkers are of benefit to the Parish and are keen to give them a better welcome. The questionnaire made various suggestions for improvements, most of which were supported: these included welcoming signs, a drinking water fountain on Danby Wiske village green, and more seating in Streetlam as well as in Danby Wiske. Many people were concerned about the safety of walkers on the narrow and winding roads. It was suggested that the walk should be routed off the roads and onto existing footpaths wherever possible.

### Actions

- Produce and display a welcome and information poster for walkers to be placed on the new notice board.
- Explore the possibility of obtaining new seats for Streetlam and Danby Wiske.
- Set up a group to review the feasibility and benefits of having the Coast-to-Coast walk designated as a national trail (like the Pennine Way).
- Work with NYCC to investigate the possibility of routing the coast-tocoast walk off the roads wherever feasible.



### "At present we provide inadequate welcome and facilities for walkers."

## Environment

All of us are aware of the complexity of environmental issues, and all of us would like to live in as pleasant surroundings as possible. In response to measures suggested in the questionnaire, parishioners expressed very strong support for maintaining the current hedgerows, but they were less enthusiastic about the planting of additional hedgerows because of the effect on visibility.

### "Horse riders clear up own muck in centre of village."



The majority would like to see more trees planted in appropriate places, but some pointed out that the trees on the green needed to be kept pruned. Because it is an offence to plant a tree within 15 feet of the centre of a highway this may limit the possibility of tree planting. Most people were also in favour of taking more effective measures to reduce litter and dog fouling, and to improve the quality of water entering the river Wiske.

"More dog waste bins needed. Plenty of signs about dog fouling, but not enough bins to dispose of it."

- Set up action group to consider all practical methods of improving the environment.
- Ensure that trees in public spaces are adequately pruned.
- Provide additional dog waste bins.
- Form a volunteer group to clean up litter on footpaths and roads within the Parish.



"Volunteers could be asked to pick up Coast to Coast litter."

## **The Church & Historic Features**

The church at Danby Wiske is a grade 1 listed building, having a Norman tympanum over the doorway and examples of 12th, 15th and 18th Century building work. It is also important for its contribution to parish life. 46% of those completing the questionnaire stated that the church was important to them as a place of worship, and it does provide an important focal point for large numbers to meet on special occasions such as the carol service, weddings, funerals etc. The speed at which money can be raised for repairs is a reflection of its importance to the community, and this is borne out by the questionnaire, with 89% considering that the church is important to them as an historic building.



There are also several other listed buildings (grade 2) including Danby Grange, Danby Hall, The Manor House, Lazenby Hall and the bridge over the River Wiske (designed by John Carr, the wel-known York architect), and two scheduled monuments, the moat around the former rectory, and the lost village of Lazenby. There are, dispersed throughout the parish a number of farm houses and village properties, many of which are well over 150 years old. These have been built with local bricks and often with traditional pantile roofs, which have blended well with the countryside. It is to be hoped that this harmonious relationship between buildings and countryside will continue, and future planning decisions will respect the scale and nature of the traditional buildings.

### Actions

 Ask the Parochial Church Council to consider encouraging non-religious activities in the church, such as concerts or festivals.

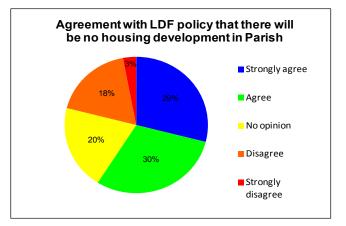




# **Housing and Development**

At present there are about 111 units of housing in the Parish. A third of these have been developed since 1950 and fall broadly into three groups: individual dwellings built for agricultural occupancy or as in-fill development within the villages, social housing financed by the local authority in Danby Wiske and Lazenby and two private housing developments in Danby Wiske. More than half of these newer dwellings are detached houses, often with four bedrooms. In the same period there were many conversions of buildings previously used for other purposes, such as the school, rectory and police house.





"A maximum number of five affordable houses could be considered. The predominance of larger houses will only increase the aging population."

The questionnaire sought people's views about future housing development, in the context of the Local Development Framework (LDF) produced by Hambleton District Council. Over half the respondents were not aware of the LDF.

The majority of the community agrees with the general policy set out in the LDF that there should be no major housing or industrial development in this Parish. There was however some support for the building of a limited number of affordable houses.

#### "Affordable housing should stay affordable"



The questionnaire included a question prompted by the current controversial proposals to establish large-scale commercial wind-farms in the nearby communities of Bullamoor and Appleton Wiske. The majority of our community would oppose such a proposal for the Parish. Although commercial-scale wind-farms are promoted as being "green," they have a detrimental effect on the landscape, and recent research has suggested possible negative effects for health and for wildlife. One of the conclusions drawn from research is that commercial scale wind-farms should not be located closer than two kilometres from any dwelling. No locations in the Parish meet this criterion. However some landowners within the Parish would support the siting of small-scale individual wind generators on their land.

"Drains and sewers seem unable to cope with the present number of houses, so there shouldn't be any more development until this is addressed"



"No obvious area for development without affecting the aesthetic appeal of the village."

- Ask Hambleton District Council to publicise their LDF better and to involve the community in its development.
- Inform HDC of the Parish response to affordable housing.
- Make HDC and NYCC aware of the opposition to commercial-scale windfarms.



# Services and Security

Hambleton District Council provides every household with a black bin for non-recyclable waste, a green bin for garden waste, and, for most households, blue boxes and bags for recycleables, paper, plastic, tins and glass. These are all collected fortnightly, the dates being given on the Council's website www.hambleton.gov.uk. Three quarters of respondents were satisfied with these arrangements, though many of those without a blue box would like to have one. Half of those responding said they also used the recycling bank for bottles, cans, newspaper and clothing located behind the village hall. Several suggested that a facility for recycling cardboard should be added.

### "Not aware of facility [at village hall] – will use it now"

For heating, most residents rely on oil and solid fuel. 61 people supported the idea of forming a collective to purchase fuel. There is no mains gas supply in the Parish, and responses demon-



strated no real demand for this. Most people thought

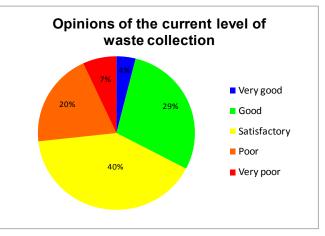


the electricity supply was good, but several expressed concern about the hardness of the water.

Over the last ten years there have been isolated incidents where inadequate drainage and possibly also watercourse maintenance has caused flooding problems for a small number of properties in Danby Wiske village.

"Limescale is a big problem" "An overnight glass of water tastes horrible"

### "It's too hard and destroys electrical equipment"



NYCC's mobile library visits several locations within the Parish every three weeks. Although most people were aware of this service, very few used it (it was sug-

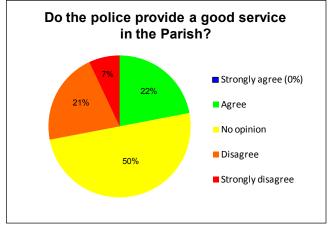
gested this might partly be due to the timing of the visits). Similarly, few people used the existing services for the delivery of milk and vegetables, and most were not even aware of them.





"Use local services or lose them"

#### "Not going to be filmed in my own village"



In the days when Danby Wiske had its own resident policeman, crime in the Parish was negligible. Whilst the present system of policing appears somewhat remote, the results of the questionnaire suggest that crime is not a major problem in the Parish. Accordingly, very few people expressed an opinion one way or the other re-



garding the service provided by the police. Less than 10% of the community supported the use of CCTV in the Parish.

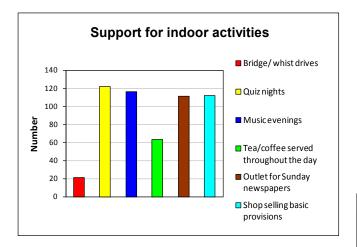
Nevertheless there have been periods when a surge in theft has occurred and people in the Parish need to be mindful of ways in which this can be countered. There was a good level of support for the Farm Watch and Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

"Lights needed at church end of Danby Wiske"

- Ask HDC to provide a blue recycling box collection throughout the Parish.
- Put those interested in the collective purchase of fuel in touch with each other.
- Approach Yorkshire Water with the concerns of the community regarding water quality
- Ask relevant authorities to review and improve drainage and effective water flow through water courses.
- Ask NYCC to advertise the mobile library visit times.
- Encourage the distributors of milk and vegetables to advertise their service better.
- Continue to support and encourage Farm Watch and Neighbourhood Watch schemes.
- Inform the North Yorkshire Police Authority of the analysis of the security section.

# **Recreational and Social Facilities**

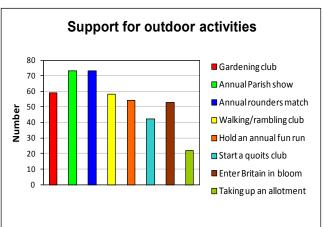
The Parish enjoys a good community spirit and there are a number of thriving community activities. Most of these take place at the village hall in Danby Wiske, overseen by the active Village Hall Committee. They include fund-raising events, monthly Women's Institute meetings, dances, weekly teas during the summer, a keep-fit class and an annual hog roast. The village hall can also be hired for private events. At Christmas there is a very popular party for all children in the Parish up to the age of 14. This is financed by an afternoon of strawberry teas and children's sports in the summer, both of which are organised by the Children's Party Committee.



The Parish does not have any designated outdoor recreational or sports facilities, though a football team plays regularly at Streetlam. In Danby Wiske, in the absence of a proper playground children tend to play on the green, but it is not ideal for this purpose because of its small size and the proximity to the roads.

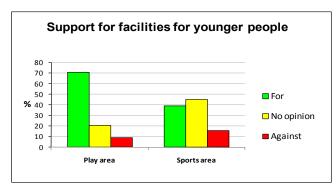
#### "Need to improve facilities to attract young people to live in the village"

90% of respondents to the questionnaire said they were aware of activities and events in the village hall and more than half regularly attended them. A number said they would be willing to help out, and are encouraged to get in touch with the committee. Most people thought the village hall was adequate for the needs of the Parish.



"Do not believe recreation area would be used and fall into disrepair"





The preliminary questionnaire demonstrated overwhelming support for the re-opening of the White Swan pub in Danby Wiske, and happily this has now occurred. The large majority of respondents said they would use the pub regularly or occasionally, the most popular suggested events being quiz nights and music evenings. Many people would also like the pub to serve as a shop selling basic provisions and Sunday papers.

From the preliminary questionnaire several suggestions were made for activities to be held around the Parish. 73 respondents were interested in holding an annual Parish Show and the same number would like to see the rounders match re-started. There was also sufficient support for a number of other activities to be set up. A total of 22 people expressed an interest in taking up an allotment, which is well above the 6 people required by the Allotments Act for this to be considered.

82% felt that the recreational facilities for younger people are poor or very poor. From the questionnaire less than 25% were able to support a mother-and-toddler group or a formal pre-school group. There are 18 children in the parish aged 0-5 years and a small number expressed an interest in a mother-and-toddler group. It may be possible for these parents/carers to get together on an informal basis. 71% agreed that there should be a safe play area for younger children.

- Forward comments related to the village hall to Village Hall Committee.
- Forward comments about the White Swan to the landlord.
- Set up an action group to explore possibility of providing a safe play ground for children.
- Set up meetings with interested people to progress suggested activities.
- Request Parish Council as required by the Allotments Act to consider the possibility of providing allotments.





The Action Plan summarises how we will achieve the outcomes identified in the Parish Plan. We have listed each action and who we recommend should be responsible. The colour code represents how far we have progressed on the actions:

Completed

In hand or ready to go

We need your help

Action	By whom	
Communications		
Obtain new notice board on Danby Wiske village green.	Parish Council	
Set up Parish website (www.danbywiske.org.uk).	Parish Council	
Ask Parish Council to publish its minutes of meetings and the names of Parish Councillors on website and notice board.	Parish Council	
Give mobile phone companies and internet service providers the results of our survey and seek improvements to the service where necessary.	Action Group	
Produce helpful Parish information sheet.	Action Group	
Roads and Transport		
Encourage residents to report problems such as potholes to the Parish Council and NYCC (www.fixmystreet.co.uk)	Residents and Parish Council	
Ask Parish Council to continue pressing NYCC about highway problems, including speeding, lack of footways, maintaining useable verges and poor drainage.	Parish Council / NYCC	
Post details of the current bus service on the Parish notice board.	Action Group / Little Red Bus company	
Share the findings of the questionnaire with local authorities and bus companies with a view to increasing the service through the Parish.	Action Group	
Put people who said they were interested in car sharing in touch with each other.	Action Group / Individuals	

# Action Plan - Page2

Pedestrians	
Approach NYCC about improvements to stiles, signs and footpaths.	Parish Council / NYCC
Approach NYCC about the cutting of roadside verges.	Parish Council / NYCC
Coast-to-coast	
Produce a welcome and information poster for walkers to be placed on the new notice board.	Action Group
Explore possibility of obtaining new seats for Streetlam and Danby Wiske.	Parish Council
Set up a group to review the feasibility and benefits of having the Coast-to-Coast walk designated as a national trail.	Action Group
Work with NYCC to investigate the possibility of routing the Coast-to-Coast walk off the roads wherever feasible.	Action Group / NYCC
Environment	
Set up action group to consider all practical methods of improving environment.	Parish Council
Ensure that trees in public spaces are adequately pruned.	Parish Council
Provide additional dog waste bins.	Parish Council
Form a volunteer group to clean up litter on footpaths and roads within the Parish.	Action Group
The Church and Buildings	
Ask the Parochial Church Council to consider encouraging non-religious activities in the church such as concerts or festivals.	Parochial Church Council
Housing and Development	
Ask HDC to publicise their LDF better and to involve the community in its development.	Action Group / HDC
Inform HDC of the Parish response to affordable housing.	Action Group
Make HDC and NYCC aware of the opposition to commercial- scale windfarms.	Action Group

# Action Plan - Page3

Parish Council / HDC
Action Group /
Interested individuals
Action Group /
Yorkshire Water
Action Group /
relevant authorities
Action Group / NYCC
Action Group
Community
Action Group
Action Group / Village
Hall Committee
Action Group /
landlord .
Parish Council / Action
Group / Community
Action Group /
Interested individuals
Parish Council

## And Finally...

The Steering Committee concludes that the responses from Parishioners demonstrate that this is a settled community at ease with itself. In the language of estate agents the Parish has become a "desirable place to live". There have been changes since Alfred Wainwright saw it as "a slough of despond". The Parish is noted for its generosity and ability to pull together in times of need, as was shown in the recent magnificent fund-raising effort for the church tower.

No one is looking for vast change but there are areas that need improvement. Some of the ideas that have been generated will be easier to achieve than others. Our formal representatives, the Parish Council, cannot be expected to deliver everything without our help. We will all need to contribute ideas, energy and time.





In addition to this Plan, we have produced a Fact Book, which is a document containing the full analysis of data and information from the questionnaire. Copies will be sent to William Hague M.P., Hambleton District Council, North Yorkshire County Council, the Parish Council and the Action Group.

To become Involved contact any of the Steering Committee:-(L to R) Steve Phillips, Geoff Solomon, Tim Glanvill, Penny Glanvill, Margaret Goldie, Frank Hugill, Chris Bacon, Adrian Farmer, Hugh Wrigley.



We conclude with one last quote from the questionnaires.

"Peoples hopes and aspirations will be lifted by this plan. I hope that practical and financial restrictions in the future will not disappoint them" The Steering Committee would like to thank all of those in the Parish who have contributed to the preparation of the Plan, in particular the 205 residents who completed the questionnaire.

#### We also thank

The Parish Council for initiating the Plan and for their help and support.

The Big Lottery Fund for providing funding.

The Village Hall Committee for the use of the village hall.

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