

FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION ON APPLEBY PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

This report deals with the feedback from the Visioning Day held on the 21st May 2016, but also incorporates relevant issues raised as a result of the initial consultation in September 2015. The event was held in Appleby Village Hall between 9am & 3pm. A total of 83 people registered when they arrived (a number of others may have attended but not registered). A separate form is attached should you wish to comment on this report, which can also be found on the Welcome to Appleby website <http://www.appleby-lincs.co.uk> and comments returned to Joy Powel at joypowell22@hotmail.co.uk. also on Appleby Residents Facebook Page, or hand delivered to the Village Hall. Closing date for replies is 19th September.

Peoples' Vision For The Future

In addition to specific issues (covered subsequently in this report), people were asked how they would like the parish to look in 15 years time. In essence, people wanted it to remain very much the same, with the following aspects featuring strongly:-

- Quiet
- Strong sense of community
- Pleasant views
- Beautiful location open spaces

Housing & Development

There appeared to be no support for any housing development in Santon.

There was some tolerance for limited development within Appleby village itself, with the field next to the Church, the grounds of the Old Appleby Hall and the area covered by Jackson's Farm barns being the most popular suggestions. It should be noted, however, that the first two sites mentioned sit outside the current development boundary.

Appleby village has a considerable number of larger properties (and, conversely, a relatively small number of smaller properties). A high proportion of those who favoured housing development acknowledged the need for affordable (or at least more modestly-sized) housing, both to attract younger people to the village and to

give older people the opportunity to downsize, be they existing residents or those wanting to move into the village. It was felt to be extremely important that any development should fit in with the character of the village.

Residents were very protective towards the green spaces in Appleby (the playing field and the paddock opposite the church, in particular) and whilst some disagreed with infill of any kind, the majority of those that did agree with some infill suggested that buildings should be relatively modest in size in order to preserve the sense of space.

In relation to commercial / industrial development, the parish's rural location within the picturesque Ancholme Valley was considered to be of paramount importance and such development should not detract from by the parish's location within the open aspects of the Ancholme Valley (or adversely impact on any leisure activities carried out within it). Small-scale projects (workshop conversions or modest renewable energy sources in appropriate, or remote, locations) which did not adversely affect the rural setting were however felt to be acceptable.

Employment

The general feeling was that attracting further employment to the Parish is likely to be limited to craft workshops utilizing redundant farm or

industrial buildings, or people working from home where they are able to utilise fast broadband.

The most suitable sites for craft workshops are considered to be the old farm complex off Risby Road and the Station area.

Services & Facilities

Appleby village is only 5 miles from Scunthorpe, but residents felt that the lack of any shop, post office or medical facilities can give rise to a sense of isolation, particularly given the shortage of public transport. Santon suffers from a similar lack of facilities, but is much closer to Scunthorpe, where there are extensive facilities.

People also highlighted the absence of a mother and toddler / family group and the lack of a youth club in Appleby.

Older residents were concerned that there should always be a reliable bus service within the parish (because it is often their only means of transport), but also viewed the Village Hall as a potential social hub.

At the moment, Appleby would appear to lack the critical mass, which might otherwise attract or encourage the services which people would like to see.

A Farm Shop proved to be a popular suggestion and may represent a modest and achievable start to providing the sort of services that residents would like to see.

Appleby village has recently been connected to high speed broadband via fibre-optic cable, but the remainder of the parish has not and this is seen as an imperative.

Risby Road is the preferred – not to say only – route into Scunthorpe for residents with their own transport. The condition of the road is of

some concern, as is the volume of traffic using it at ‘rush hour’.

Church & Village Hall

Both the Church and the Village Hall were seen as extremely important to the parish.

It was felt that greater use should be made of the Church as a venue for events other than religious ceremonies – concerts, art exhibitions and as part of a heritage centre, for example.

By contrast, the Village Hall was seen as the potential community hub of the village, with pop in / drop in activities, a café and the location for a crèche and a playgroup. There was an ambitious suggestion to market it for business meetings.

Traffic & Transport

Traffic in the Parish is an emotive issue for many residents, be it the volume of traffic, vehicles speeding, the number of HGV’s through the Parish in general (but Santon in particular) or the use of Risby Road as a ‘rat run’ for many drivers on their way to Scunthorpe. Many would like to see greater management of the traffic travelling on the roads through the parish.

As previously noted, older residents are more dependent on public transport and at the moment the only bus service is to and from Scunthorpe. It has been suggested that a service to and from Brigg would be useful.

There is inevitably a degree of overlap between Traffic and Transport, the provision of Services and the Environment, especially with regard to walking/cycling routes, and the provision of amenity or leisure activities. The communities of Appleby and Santon are surrounded by open countryside and the challenge is to manage traffic and the environment in a way which enhances peoples’ quality of life and encourages leisure activities.

Environment & Leisure

Air quality, especially at Santon, was of particular concern. It was said that there

were a high number of cancer rates and asthma sufferers in the Santon area and it was pointed out that, according to a recent newspaper article, Scunthorpe was considered second only to Glasgow for poor air quality. Noise pollution from lorries and cars, along with dust and metal particles thought to originate from the steel works, were other noted concerns.

The condition of existing footpaths, particularly along Ermine Street towards the level crossing, and the road down to High Santon Villas, were considered dangerous.

Access to the Ancholme Valley footpaths featured prominently in residents' comments and in their hopes for the future, as did the protection of existing green spaces within Appleby Village.

Residents particularly value the woodlands in the Parish, especially the Rowland Plantation.

It was noted that, despite the extent of the open countryside around Appleby and Santon, only two public footpaths still exist: one in the Rowland Plantation, the other being the Public Footpath at Santon which leads from High Santon to Risby Warren, via Low Santon Farm.

There is a permissive footpath, adjacent to Rowland Plantation, which provides a walk past the site of the remains of Thornholme Priory through to the River Ancholme, which

in turn joins a footpath South towards Broughton.

Carr Lane in Appleby Village provides a short walk to the River Ancholme and Saxby Bridge. It is not a formal footpath but one that has been used for many years and crosses the Parish Boundary with Neighbouring Saxby. There are already moves afoot to try and have this designated a permissive footpath.

There was overwhelming support for the creation of a circular route linking Carr Lane, Appleby with other parts of the Parish (utilising existing farm tracks) which could then join up with the Ancholme cycle path under construction on the East bank of the River Ancholme. This would then link with walks, cycle paths and public footpaths in neighbouring Parishes and would also give access to the Viking Way atop the Lincolnshire Wolds.

There were a number of interesting suggestions about improving the environment, including bird boxes (specifically to house owls) and hides for watching birds, along with insect hotels, as well as wild flower areas, bat boxes, and general protection of wild life in the open countryside which forms such a large part of the Parish.

There was strong support for the establishment of a Heritage Centre and/or Trail. There is a story to tell about the Wynn family, its connection with Appleby and the subsequent development of the steel works.

POSTSCRIPT

In order to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan, issues have to be 'land-based' because the purpose of the Plan is to inform planning decisions. Unfortunately, therefore, some of the things that were of concern to residents cannot be included in it. These are to be addressed in the following ways:-

Environment

- **The air quality particularly around Santon** - the Parish Council will investigate the recent readings for this area and raise the matter with North Lincolnshire Council to inform them of residents concern
- **Tree Management** - along Beck Lane and Church Lane, trees and hedges are giving rise to problems with light and access. The Parish Council will have trees assessed for safety and nuisance
- **Existing Footpaths** – the Parish Council will request North Lincolnshire Council to improve the quality of existing footpaths and signage
- **Provision of birds nesting boxes and hides for observing wildlife** -funding and positioning to be part of heritage trail and walks development

Services and Facilities

- **Provision of High speed Broadband to rest of parish** – the Parish Council to request timescales for connection
- **Bus Service** – the Parish Council to get feedback from residents who use the Call Connect Service to monitor satisfaction rates
- **Sewage and Drains** – problems with existing drains should be taken up with Anglian Water and North Lincolnshire Council as appropriate
- **Increased Use of Village Hall and Church** – both the Village Hall Committee and the PCC are working on this

Traffic and Transport

- **Safety of the junction Risby Road and Ermine Street**
- **Speeding Traffic**
- **HGVs** – Santon

All the above are Policing and North Lincolnshire Council issues: the Parish Council will continue to raise them with the appropriate bodies until a solution is found.