

Barwick in Elmet & Scholes Parish Plan 2012

A Summary



About this Parish Plan

In 2006, Barwick in Elmet and Scholes Parish Council published its first ever Parish Plan. However, the Plan was always seen to be time limited and the need for a thorough “refresh” of it was envisaged after 5 years. The Parish Council has now undertaken this and our new Parish Plan is designed to serve us for the next 5 years in terms of the priority projects it proposes. It should be noted that the 2006 Parish Plan set out much historical and contextual information that is not repeated here. Alongside the Parish Plan, the Parish Council is also developing a Village Design Statement and has embarked upon the production of a Neighbourhood Development Plan in line with the government’s Localism Act.

Progress since the 2005 Parish Plan

The 2006 Parish Plan set out a wide ranging and comprehensive Action Plan based upon consultation with all sections of the community. The key areas where progress has been made are set out below.

Barwick	Scholes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan. ✓ New playground at Jack Heaps Field. ✓ Retention of Post Office. ✓ Village Hall upgrade. ✓ Upkeep of Ancient Heritage sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ New Conservation Area designated with associated Management Plan. ✓ New heritage street signage. ✓ Retention of Library. ✓ New children’s playground at Station Road. ✓ Scholes Lodge Farm “public open space” ownership.
Parish-wide	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Heritage lighting installed. ✓ Regular newsletters to 2,300 properties. ✓ Neighbourhood Development Plan begun. ✓ On going support for “In Bloom” groups. ✓ New Barwick & Scholes Community Fund. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Christmas Lights. ✓ Grants for numerous village organizations. ✓ Registration of Parish assets with Land Registry. ✓ Work begun on a Village Design Statement. ✓ Parish website set up - barwickandscholespc.com.

A Vision for our Parish

The people of Barwick in Elmet and Scholes like their community: they appreciate its serenity, its countryside, the strong sense of community and the fact that it is a safe, clean and pleasant place to live, for young and old alike. The history, heritage and character of our Parish is what make it a special place to live in. Our Vision is for the Parish to maintain its essential character as a rural community; within easy reach of the city environs, yet separate and distinct at the same time. In maintaining this identity, we wish to ensure that our citizens are given opportunities to contribute to the vitality of the community; opportunities to work and learn in the community; opportunities to live healthy and satisfying lives in the community.

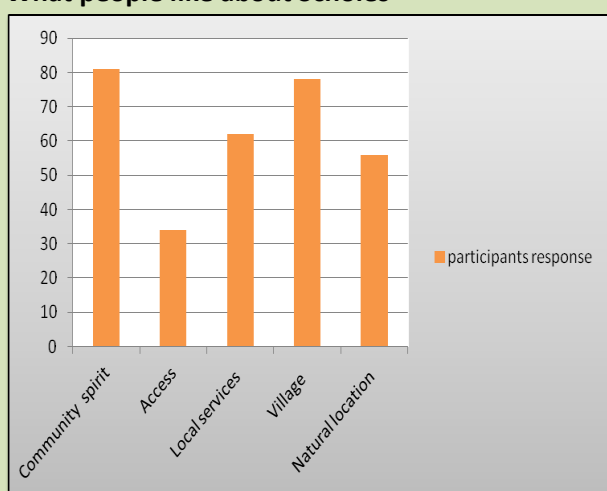
Consultation with the Community

The consultation process for the Parish Plan took place between August and November 2011. A wide range of activities were undertaken in order to ensure that there was a significant amount of feedback from all sectors of the community, in particular the traditionally “hard to reach”. In total, 402 people participated through the following activities:

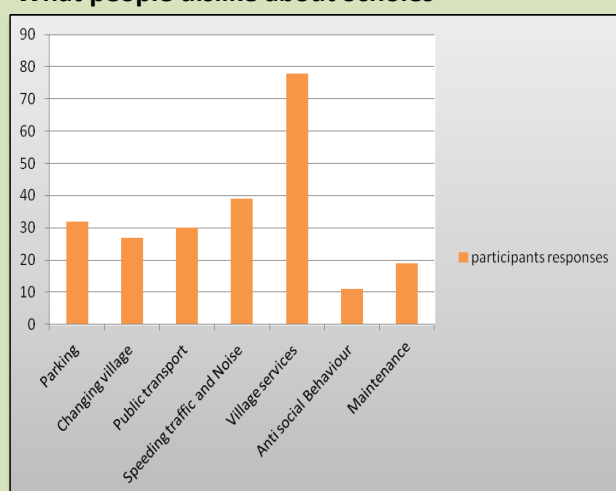
- ❖ **A Questionnaire survey of Parish Councillors.**
- ❖ **Launch events at the Village Halls.**
- ❖ **Household questionnaires.**
- ❖ **Community events and activities.**
- ❖ **Barwick and Scholes Primary Schools.**
- ❖ **Youth Bus and Boston Spa School.**

The household questionnaire revealed much about how parishioners view their communities:

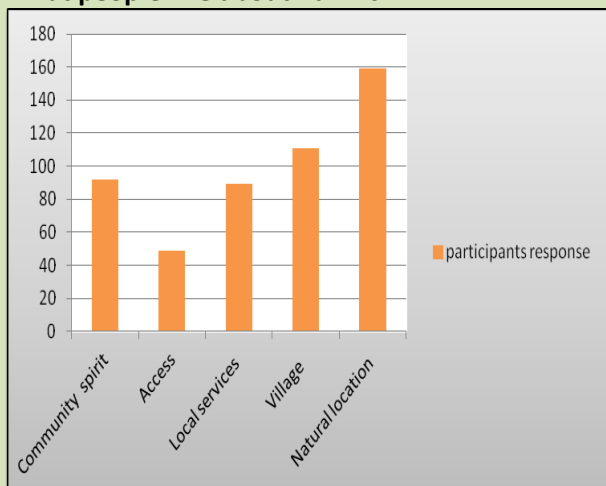
What people like about Scholes



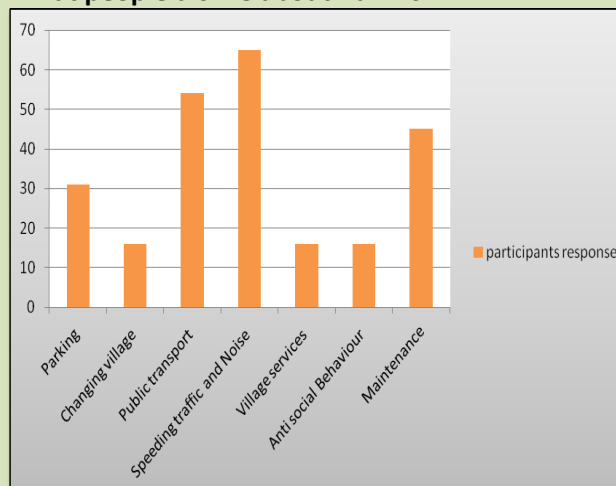
What people dislike about Scholes



What people like about Barwick



What people dislike about Barwick



Headline findings from the consultation

The consultation activities, revealed the following key concerns for people living in the parish:

- ❖ **The increasing threat posed by the prospect of new development.**
- ❖ **Danger to public safety from speeding traffic.**
- ❖ **Poor and unreliable public transport provision.**
- ❖ **A lack of facilities for young people.**
- ❖ **Anti social behaviour.**

The 5- year Action Plan

The following table sets out an Action Plan for the next five years. It is intended to be a practical description of the concerns and issues raised through the consultation process and also reflect the on-going priorities of the Parish Council. Each potential project identified has been prioritised, reflecting the concerns raised by the community consultation. Of course, funding the projects will have a bearing on when they are brought forward. However, as an aspiration for our communities, it does set out a coherent plan of action and will, if realised in its entirety, go a long way towards ensuring our parish offers opportunities for all.

Project title	Project details	Issue addressed	Outcomes
Priority 1 projects: aim for delivery through 2012 and 2013			
1. Superfast Broadband	Investigate broadband speeds across the parish; community aspirations for faster broadband; matched with the plans of providers to upgrade services.	Slow broadband speeds reported across the parish; an issue for business growth and householders alike.	Next generation superfast broadband accessible to homes and business enabling new business opportunities and improved quality of life.
2. Outdoor spaces for youth	Working with young people, the project proposes a discussion about the options for developing outdoor spaces such as Scholes Lodge Farm and Jack Heap's.	A lack of informal spaces for young people to congregate and use for outdoor recreation.	Improved quality of life through enhanced opportunities for healthy outdoor recreation for young people.
3. Youth Forum	Establish a formal process for young people to provide input to the parish council in particular, focused on 11-18 year olds.	Provide young people with a voice and route to decision makers.	Providing a direct voice for young people to communicate concerns, for consultation and to initiate projects.
4. Improved Rights of Way network	Develop a comprehensive Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Barwick and Scholes via the Public Paths Partnership.	A lack of joined up rights of way in places and issues relating to upkeep and investment in signage, stiles etc.	Improved opportunities for outdoor recreation and new visitors to the parish to enjoy the countryside.
5. Neighbourhood Watch	Developing a community scheme in both villages to provide 'eyes and ears' for emergency services.	Addresses crime and could usefully incorporate concerns about fire safety from WY FRS.	Reduced crime and fear of crime for householders and business. Improved safety for vulnerable individuals through improved fire safety measures.
6. Village Design Statement	Provide a comprehensive, parish-wide assessment of character, heritage and conservation issues to address.	Potential expansion of the housing stock of the parish and increased flexibility in the planning system.	Improved opportunities to protect and enhance heritage and inform future development in the parish, with particular regard to the Neighbourhood Development Plan.
7. Conservation Area Management Plan (Barwick): implementation	To ensure recommendations provided in the Conservation Area Management Plan are implemented.	Enhanced protection of the historic hearts of the village. This Plan is now complete and requires implementation.	Enhanced protection for heritage assets in the historic centre of the village.
8. Conservation Area Management Plan (Scholes): implementation	To ensure recommendations provided in the Conservation Area, Management Plan are implemented.	Enhanced protection of the historic hearts of the village. This plan is now complete and requires implementation.	Enhanced protection for heritage assets in the historic centre of the village.
9. Neighbourhood Development Planning	Undertake a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the parish, in order to prepare for new growth and to ensure sustainability for communities in the parish.	New demands on the parish for accommodating new housing needs a direct response from the parish to ensure development is sustainable.	Improved facilities for the parish in line with new growth. Increased control for the Parish Council over new development and growth plans.

Project title	Project details	Issue addressed	Outcomes
10. Traffic Regulation in key locations	Implement a series of traffic regulations through the villages to combat a variety of issues from fly-tipping through to indiscriminate parking and obstructions to bus routes.	Traffic flow, safer streets for pedestrians, improved public transport, safer crossing for children attending Scholes primary school.	Specific proposals relate to: 1. Station Road/Morwick Grove/Rakehill Road, Scholes 2. Belle Vue Road, Scholes 3. Main Street/Long Lane junction, Barwick 4. Elmwood Lane, Barwick
Priority 2 projects: aim for delivery through 2014 and 2015			
11. Parish Business Directory - supporting business growth	The development of a comprehensive Directory published/updated annually that provides opportunities for better business across the parish.	Improving knowledge of the businesses operating in the parish, where they are, what they offer.	Improved knowledge of what businesses operate in the parish and what they offer. The development of a web-based directory can offer a range of services and networking.
12. Community Information	Extend the provision of Services provided from Scholes Library. Investigate opportunities to provide Information in Barwick.	Further provision of information concerning all council and other services for residents.	Accessible information from service providers for residents in Scholes. A similar facility for Barwick would complement this activity.
13. White Rose Cycle Route 66	Opening up of a cycle route from Stanks Bridge through to Thorner along the disused railway.	Potential to draw in new visitors and provide a valuable recreational resource.	New opportunities for outdoor recreation and improved linkages between Scholes and Thorner.
14. Housing Needs Survey	A comprehensive survey of all households across the parish to establish demand for housing type and tenure for the future.	Ensuring affordable and appropriate housing for residents seeking new homes.	Enhanced knowledge about housing needs for residents to be reflected in new housing allocations through the LDF.
15. Public transport survey	Survey of users of bus services to establish how satisfactory current services are and how improvement might be made.	Bus provision, connectivity with railway stations, timetables and routes.	Identification of opportunities to improve public and community transport provision in the parish.
Priority 3 projects: aim for delivery from 2016 onwards			
16. Youth Club	To establish a facility in one or both villages for young people.	Activity restricted to weekly LCC Youth Bus service.	Developing the Youth Bus initiative into a more inclusive, popular and regular facility for one or both villages.
17. Improved Health services	An investigation of the range of facilities and services provided currently and the demand for services from residents.	The provision of enhanced Health Service provision in Scholes was raised as a key concern by residents.	Improved, extended, more patient responsive services.
18. Further Education provision	Investigate the opportunities and demand for Further Education to be provided.	No FE provision exists currently in either Barwick or Scholes.	Adults provided with opportunities for new learning and skills development on sites in the parish.
19. Scholes Post Office	Investigate the options for re-opening a Post Office facility in Scholes.	No Post Office now exists in Scholes with the nearest facilities in Barwick and Crossgates.	Potential to take forward a community post office scheme, outreach scheme or to encourage a private individual to take on PO services.
20. Village Gateways	The Village Design Statement will look at each of the major gateways into the parish and provide recommendations for future improvement.	Speeding Sense of community	Improved Gateways to the villages and parish that will enable people to know more clearly when to adapt their driving behaviour in particular.

The full Parish Plan and Consultation Report
may be viewed on the Parish Council website

www.barwickandscholespc.com

