

PARISH PLAN

• Flawith • Aldwark • Youlton

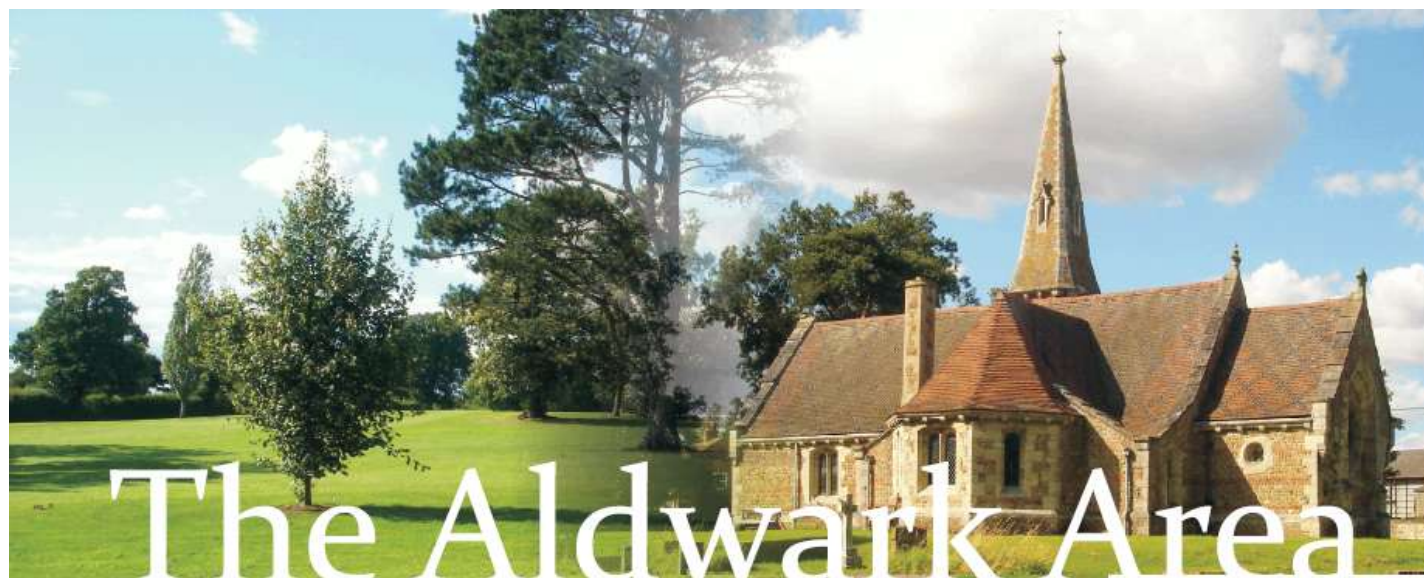
2008

ALDWARK

FLAWITH

YOULTON





What is a Parish Plan?

Parish Plans grew out of a Government White Paper published in 2000. The idea was taken up by local councils and developed in this region by the Yorkshire Rural Community Council who obtained funding to support it. A Parish Plan aims to give people an opportunity to get involved in planning the future of their town or village, the immediate locality and local amenities. It should reflect the views of all sections of the community and suggest a plan for action. It is a statement of how the community sees itself developing over the next few years.

The plan will help to: Represent residents' views on what services are needed • Influence local planning and development decisions • Provide evidence for funding bids. Parish plans have become a recognised tool that can be fed into other plans and strategies such as local development frameworks, where the needs of individual towns and villages and their surrounding countryside might not normally be adequately considered.

The Aldwark Area Parish Plan

The Aldwark Area Parish includes the civic parishes of Aldwark, Flawith and Youlton. Our plan was supported and funded by the Yorkshire Rural Community Council and Hambleton District Council with a small grant from the Parish Council. The idea of carrying out the Parish Plan was originally suggested by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Henry Dean, who convened the first meetings of the Steering Committee. Thereafter the Parish Plan consultation was organised and evaluated by a Steering Committee of local residents who operated independently of the Parish Council.

What has happened so far?

The Aldwark Area Parish Plan was launched in January 2007. This first event, hosted by Aldwark Manor Hotel, combined a briefing and consultation on the Parish Plan and an exhibition of old photographs of the villages. It was attended by approximately 65 adults, some of whom brought their children.

The main consultation which took place at the start of summer in 2007, used a broad ranging questionnaire which was distributed to every occupied household in the Parish Area. A separate questionnaire was distributed for completion by residents aged 15 and under. Both questionnaires were designed so that personal feedback from every resident was possible. 91 households returned the main questionnaires representing 179 people and approximately 80% of occupied households. 40 young people completed the "Youth Questionnaire". In addition to check-box responses, individual comments were invited throughout the questionnaire. The analysis of both the statistical feedback and the extensive free comment was completed over the summer and the main conclusions were shared with the community at a public event in November 2007 and another on 17th December, both hosted by Aldwark Manor Hotel. A number of working groups were formed at the November meeting to develop the consultation process further in areas of particular interest to community members. Over the next few months, members of the Steering Group wrote this report, for distribution to all the households in the area.

What happens next?

The real work begins rather than ends with the publication of this Parish Plan. The Plan serves as formal summary of the outcome of the consultation process to date and a framework for future projects. It is up to individuals to put the time and effort into making things happen.

The Parish Council has undertaken to support the findings and objectives identified in the plan. A combination of initiatives by working groups, individual Parish residents and the Parish Council will ensure that progress continues to be made on many of the key issues raised in the Plan. If one or two individuals want to pick up on other ideas suggested by the plan, they are perfectly entitled to do so provided they take the interests of other residents into account.

Acknowledgements and Thanks

This Parish Plan process would not have been so productive without the participation of all those community members who completed the Questionnaire, attended the events at the Aldwark Manor or took part in working groups. The management of the Aldwark Manor Hotel has been particularly supportive and generous in providing conference rooms and refreshments free of charge.

Stephen Glendenning of G3 Advertising has given his time and expertise to produce the newsletters, posters and information boards. Meg Huby analysed the anonymous data supplied in Questionnaires. Members of the Steering Committee have also attended many meetings, and given up their spare time to develop the questionnaire, plan and organise events, deliver information to households and write up the plan. Practical support and advice was supplied by Jo Buffey of the Yorkshire Rural Community Council (YRCC).

Vital funding was provided by the YRCC, Hambleton District Council and the Parish Council.

I am grateful to them all.

Martin Brooks
Parish Plan Chairman

Utilities, Services, Waste & Re-cycling

Recycling and Eco initiatives

The Questionnaire asked specifically about increasing the recycling of household waste to which 150 people gave their support.

Shortly after the questionnaire was completed, Hambleton District Council introduced their roadside recycling collections which separates paper, bottles, cans from other waste. This is a major improvement in recycling household waste although opportunity for improvements should be monitored and suggestions made.

There were a wide variety of other suggestions made to reduce our environmental impact which are covered here under the heading of eco initiatives these included:

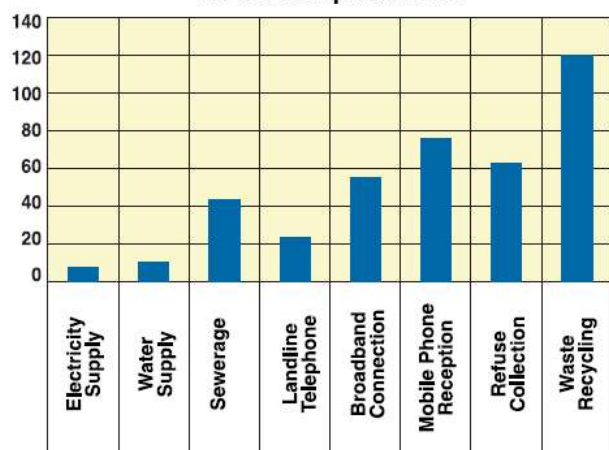
Aldwark

- Aldwark wind turbine 4
- Communal oil purchase 4
- Develop conservation/ fuel efficiency 3
- Investigate alternative sources of heating 2
- Recycling centre in village 2
- Group take-up of solar panels 1
- Local recycling and use of hotel recycling 1
- Land put aside to grow renewable energy sources 1
- Extend green bin collection toward end of year 1
- Advertising how to dispose of large items (fridges, settees etc) 1
- Recycling of local wood for log burning stoves 1

Flawith

- Investigate Alternative energy supplies 3
- Windmills 3
- Vegetable Waste Composting 1

Services in which our parish would like to see a improvement



Eco Working Group formed

It was this breadth of interest that led to the formation of the Eco Working Group. The ideas that the group have worked on so far are available by contact Martin Brooks on (01347) 830105

- Community ordering of oil (system now in place)
- Application made to EoN for a free allocation of 1000 low energy light bulbs (includes Alne so we meet qualifying criteria).
- Community electricity purchase
- Re-use, as opposed to recycle unwanted but serviceable household items (to be trailed initially through the web site)
- A community composting system to reduce green waste transported and dumped
- Community vegetable growing. (Individuals grow and exchange produce)
- Reclaiming dead or waste wood in the area for household heating.
- A plant swap stall - earmarked for the Aldwark Village Green in Oct 2008
- Developing a network of sources for locally grown produce
- Bird and wildlife conservation (eg bird boxes)

Refuse Collection

65 respondents called for improved refuse collection mainly regarding the restoration of weekly black bag collection. Better information about re-cycling and waste disposal services was requested.

Sewers and drains

43 respondents would like to see improved sewerage especially in Youlton, which does not have mains sewerage and in Flawith where sewerage sometimes spills into the road. Better drainage was requested in both Aldwark and Flawith. This would be improved in both villages and on some roads, where flooding during heavy rainfall was an issue, if drains and gullies were cleaned out more frequently.

Spreading waste on farmland.

There were many comments about foul smells, possible health concerns and generable unpleasantness regarding the practice of spreading waste products on fields in the area. There were also comments about the damage done to roads and bridleways by the lorries delivering it. These matters have been taken up by the Parish Council.

Other services

Mobile phone reception was an issue for 73 respondents and improved broadband for 52. There were some comments about poor telephone lines, electricity failures, water supply and the need for mains gas.



The Parish Plan has brought individuals and communities within the Parish Area together and provided a focal point for identifying what is important and where there are shared interests. This intangible but real benefit has been to improve the personal contact and sense of community within and between the three parishes in the Aldwark Area.

It is not surprising that, as in any community, there are also areas of disagreement and potential conflict. Knowing what these differences are is a starting point in trying to resolve them.

There have already been some achievements from the Parish Plan

Aldwark Play Area

We heard on May 6th that our £10,000 bid for lottery funding has been successful. As a result of the feedback from the questionnaire and with the Parish Council's agreement and support, the Parish Plan Steering Committee bid through Hambleton District Council for Big Lottery funding to supply play equipment on the village green in Aldwark.

Parish Website

With Karen Tyers providing the technical expertise, we have developed a web site for the Aldwark Area.
(www.aldwarkarea.co.uk)

Oil supplies

The idea of bulk buying oil as a community, first mooted at the launch meeting for the Parish Plan has now been put in place for those wishing to participate. Please contact Martin Brooks on (01347) 830 105 for further details.

Discounted Membership at Aldwark Manor

The Parish Plan also provide some impetus for the Aldwark Manor Hotel to clarify and implement its long standing commitment to a reduced membership rate for parish residents joining the Spa. This has now been formalised and residents of the Parish Area are entitled to a reduced rate subject to proof of residency.

Working Groups

Working groups have been set up to develop the following ideas emerging from the questionnaire. Community consultation will be central to the groups' approaches:



- A local information leaflet for new and established residents alike. This aims to consolidate useful information about all aspects of living in the area and how to get hold of essential services.
- Footpaths, bridleways and cycle routes group to explore and develop options for tackling the priorities raised by the questionnaire and incorporating any new ideas that emerge
- Village appearance - a priority for each village but the specific requirements are unique to each place and community. Individuals in Aldwark and Flawith have expressed an interest in developing a plan for improving the appearance of their village in ways suggested by the Questionnaire. The suggestions made for Youlton are largely things the Parish Council has under its normal remit so no separate group has been set up for Youlton.
- Eco group - a group including people from Aldwark and Flawith have met 5 times and are taking a wide remit to identify ways in which the financial and environment cost of living in this area can be improved. The group has already expanded to include residents of Alne and link with their Parish Plan. Contact Martin Brooks on (01347) 830 105 for further details.



Roads, Pavements & Transport

This was a top priority in each of the parishes in the Aldwark Area and attracted a large number of individual responses. It reveals concerns about road conditions and speeding, coupled with the quality of road signs.

Roads And Road Signs

Over half of the respondents (86) felt that the condition of roads throughout the parish was poor and most of the rest felt their condition was at best 'OK'. Improvements in road signs were also called for.

Concerns over poor road signs

	Good	OK	Poor	Total
Aldwark	3	56	31	92
Flawith	3	21	19	46
Youlton	2	15	3	20
Total	8	92	53	158

Concerns over poor road conditions

	Good	OK	Poor	Total
Aldwark	0	39	53	93
Flawith	3	20	22	45
Youlton	0	10	11	21
Total	3	69	86	159

Many suggestions and specific problems were identified by location. In summary, these covered:

- Potholes in the roads, particularly near the verges which were often badly cut up by wide and heavy vehicles.
- Mud on the roads and overgrown verges and hedgerows, which sometimes hindered vision and obscured road signs.
- Road signs were often inadequate, dirty and poorly maintained.
- Several people did not like the modern village name plates, preferring a more traditional look.

Pavements

There were concerns about the condition of pavements in Aldwark and to a lesser extent in Flawith with 83 and 39 people respectively rating them fair or poor

- The main complaint in Flawith was the lack of a continuous pavement through the village.
- There were many calls for a path from Flawith to Alne so that children, in particular, could walk or cycle safely to the facilities there.

Speeding

Overall, 129 residents were concerned about excessive traffic speed in the villages, in particular through Flawith (45) and Aldwark (77) where the safety of children was frequently cited with calls for action to be taken. 108 were concerned about traffic speed on the roads between villages, again the major concern being the safety of children crossing the road for school buses or playing. Remedies requested were:

- Responsive speeding signs were most favoured (59), followed by textured road surfacing (40) and reduced speed limits (26).
- Several adverse comments were made about wide and heavy farm machinery and lorries especially those going to the Linton airbase.

Concerns over speeding traffic in villages

	No	Yes	No opinion	Total
Aldwark	14	77	4	95
Flawith	1	45	1	47
Youlton	9	7	3	19
Total	24	129	8	161

Concerns over speeding traffic outside villages

	No	Yes	No opinion	Total
Aldwark	24	56	15	95
Flawith	4	41	2	47
Youlton	5	11	5	21
Total	33	108	22	163

Transport

Less than a quarter of all respondents ever use the bus service with only 10 (out of 159) using a bus once or more each week. More than 20 said they would never use the bus service.

- The poor frequency and timing of the bus service were the main reasons given for not using them, with the poor evening service to and from York a particular complaint.
- There were some requests for a service calling at Youlton.
- Reliable information about prices and times of buses was widely requested.

Local Amenities

This section aimed to find out what would encourage people to make more use of local amenities were as follows:

The APLA Site in Alne

- Access by footpath or bike route 21
- More information about what is available 7
- Better bus service 3
- Aldwark and Flawith team set up 2
- Organised activities e.g. after school or in school holidays 2
- Rounders or netball 1
- Keep fit for over 60's 1

Aldwark Manor Hotel and Spa

- Reduced rates for locals (general) 41
- Pay for swimming alone at reasonable rate 8
- Reduced rates for children and under 17's 7
- Food and drink discount 5
- Pay as you go 3
- Reduced Golf membership 3
- Events held at hotel 3
- Tennis court 1
- No lifeguard requirement at swimming pool 1
- Transport to and from Flawith 1



These comments were sent to the Hotel Manager, Debora Heather. She has responded by confirming a reduced rate for Spa membership and has set up a system to enable this at the time Aldwark Area residents join. The hotel is also considering organising an event for the community. The Hotel intends to play its part as a member of the community but must also preserve its commercial viability. The hotel is disposed to supporting a number of other initiatives arising from the Parish Plan.

Bay Horse Inn

- Good food 25
- No smoking 24
(since July 2007 it has been. Have you been?)
- Decoration/ refurbishment 21
- Beer garden 7 (it has one)
- Children's play area 5
- Restaurant/ dining area 4
- Family friendly 3
- Social charitable events 3
- Special evenings 2
- Cheaper beer 1
- More upmarket 1



Tollerton Post Office and Shop

The shop at Tollerton is clearly well used and highly regarded by residents across the Aldwark Parish area. There were many comments about the need to keep it going as it is, and several about the range of services and the staff friendliness (41 positive comments in all).

Some suggestions were made for improvement that included

- Longer opening hours - Sundays or evenings 4
- Access by footpath or cycle path from villages 4
- Deliveries with or without newspapers 2
- Direct bus service 1

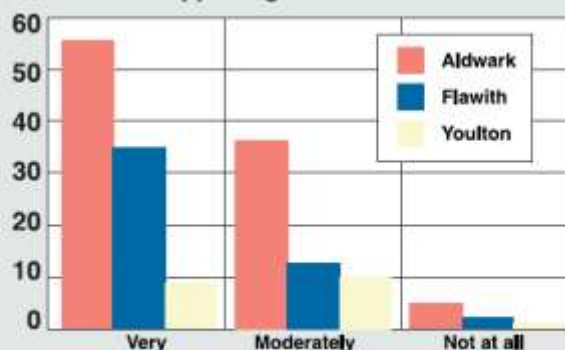
The owner of the shop, Phil Lancaster was sent this feedback. He would like everyone to be aware that the Tollerton shop is now open from 6.30 am Mon - Sat until at least 5.30 pm, except for Wednesdays and Saturdays when it stays open until 7 pm. Within reason he can accommodate deliveries of supplies in conjunction with paper deliveries. Phil suggested that a more promising and complete delivery service that could be set up through his connection with Dooleys of Easingwold which he is willing to explore if demand exists.

Churches

Aldwark Two people requested more family services and two comments on the timing or duration of the services. One person requested a 'gospel' type of service but another, a more traditional service. One person requested a Sunday School. Four people requested more social or cultural events and one felt the church should be lit up with spotlights.

Alne Five people commented that a footpath to the church would be useful (presumably from Flawith), and two requested more social or cultural events.

Number of people who are interested in supporting local businesses



Footpaths, Bridleways and Cycle Paths

This was the third most important issue for respondents and potentially the most contentious

Overview

Responses to this section reflected the interests of the farmers who wish to protect their land and livestock, and the interests of those members of the community who seek access to the local countryside for leisure. Strong views were expressed on both sides. It is hoped that as a result of this plan, ways of meeting the interests of all residents will emerge through reasonable and open-minded discussion.

At the time of the questionnaire the River Ure project "Walks through time" was being developed with the idea of linking existing rights of way in the communities on each side of the Ure.

According to the responses to the questionnaire, the numbers of people using existing footpaths and bridleways 'almost every day' are: Aldwark 46, Flawith 15 and Youlton 7. Using them 'about once a week' are: Aldwark 17, Flawith 4 and Youlton 7.

In all three parishes, residents interested in footpaths, bridleways and cycle routes were mainly looking for improved access to leisure and play amenities in the area, for example, to the river in Aldwark and the APLA site from Flawith and to a lesser extent, from Youlton.

For Flawith, pavements are requested to increase roadside access within the village and as a way of accessing the APLA site in Alne.

Measures which might encourage more journeys by foot or bike?

	Aldwark	Flawith	Youlton	Total
Safer roads	50	39	6	95
Bike routes	46	26	4	76
More footpaths	34	34	5	73
More bridleways	27	19	4	50
Footpath signs	43	13	0	56
More pavements	13	35	0	48
Better pavements	14	14	0	28
Organised walks	4	5	0	9

Improvements suggested

Aldwark

- Access to and walks along the river 29
- Support for the Ure River "Walks through time" 7
- Circular walks around the village 5
- Links to Flawith and Youlton 4

Other comments included •Direct access from village to Vale of York walk (Keeper's Cottage walk) 2 •More suitable dog walks 2 •Better maps/signs of walks including distances 2 •Existing paths have been blocked or not signed 2 •Cycle paths (safe for kids) 1 •Maintain right of way through wood 1 •Condition is dangerous especially Rice Lane 2 •Remove barbed wire over stile in hotel 1

Do you think there should be more footpaths and bridleways in the parish?

	No	Yes	Total
Aldwark	26	49	92
Flawith	8	36	46
Youlton	8	5	20
Total	42	90	158

Adverse comments about more footpaths included:

- Sufficient paths already 5
- Maintain existing footpaths before creating new ones 4
- Invasion of privacy /disrespect and hassle for farmers 2
- Disturbance of wildlife 4
- Paths ruin the village 2
- Walkers cause disruption to farmers and crops by leaving litter and not having dogs on leads 1
- No rights to be granted for circular river walk 1

Flawith

- Footpath to Alne 27
- Flawith to other villages (Tollerton, Aldwark, Myton, Tholthorpe) 9
- No footpaths at all currently in Flawith, so any would be a start! 1
- More bridleways generally 3
- Footpath around the triangle 1
- Support River walk 1

Other comments more dog waste bins, Goose Lane condition appalling, smelly and uneven (Harpers mentioned in connection with this), formerly there was a footpath to our parish church in Aldwark, not enough people to sustain footpaths

No adverse comments were made regarding footpaths

Youlton

- Cycle route to Tollerton 2
- Aldwark riverside walk 1

Other comments Paths good if they don't inconvenience land owners and farmers. Condition of Sustrans route to Linton Woods needs attention

Adverse comments about more footpaths included:

- Enough paths already 2
- Totally against more footpaths 1
- Better access to existing paths 2



Health & Social Care

People in the area use a variety of health and social-care services. Many use Tollerton Surgery, current Partners are Dr Mike Potrykus and Dr Sarah Utting but others use GPs located in Boroughbridge, Helperby, Easingwold and further afield. It should be noted that although some questions in the questionnaire referred specifically to the GP practice at Tollerton, there was an opportunity to comment more generally on local services.

Doctor's Surgery at Tollerton

45 people rated the Tollerton surgery 'Good', 38 rated it 'Adequate' with only 9 people rating it 'Poor'.

Three people described their experience of Tollerton as excellent or very good. Another person described local emergency medical care as 'brilliant'. Several people commented that the surgery was too small and under-resourced to cope with the growing local population.

19 people said they had difficulty reaching the surgery. Although reasons for this were not specified, many people commented on having difficulty making appointments at Tollerton in one way or another. If there is a problem of actually getting to the surgery for some individuals, it is an issue which should be tackled then please let us know.

How do you rate the service provided by the Doctor's surgery in Tollerton?

	Good	Adequate	Poor	No opinion	Total
Aldwark	23	27	6	18	74
Flawith	20	6	4	4	34
Youlton	2	5	0	10	17
Total	45	38	10	32	125

Response from Dr Potrykus

We asked Dr Potrykus to comment on these issues. He thanked residents for their comments. He acknowledged the limitations of the current premises in Tollerton but explained that financial constraints have prevented improvements. But he is hopeful that as the NHS now expects GP practices to provide services that were previously only available in hospitals, finance to improve the surgery might become available.

The appointments system has been improved. Since July 2007 the surgery has opened from 8am to enable more people to call in before work. Mondays are mainly an 'on the day' service to cater for problems that have arisen over the weekend. The concerns about the 'Out of Hours' service mirror national concerns. Repeat prescriptions can be obtained by post or fax, and ordering by email is being investigated. Renewing prescriptions by phone is not encouraged in line with national guidelines for safety reasons.

Dr Mike Potrykus and Dr Sarah Utting



General comments on local Health and Social Care Service

- Problems with making appointments 20
- Problems with 'same day' booking system
- Inconvenient for working people, getting through to book, booking when convenient 10
- Poor 'Out of hours' service 10
- Poor experience (eg too few doctors, surgery too small, long waiting times, getting a home visit) 7
- Surgery closed on Thursdays 1

Ambulance Service

One respondent felt that an ambulance station in Easingwold should be considered. 11 households had needed an ambulance in an emergency within the last 3 years.

Ambulance response

In 11 instances recorded, 4 arrived in less than 20 mins and 6 between 21-45 mins

Time taken for emergency ambulance to arrive

	Frequency
Less than 20 minutes	4
20 - 45 minutes	6
More than 45 minutes	1
Total	11

Dental Services

- Lack or inadequacy of local dental services 9
- Unable to get NHS dentist 3
- Evening or Saturday appointments needed for working people 1
- Dental service 'dictatorial, not customer focused, intransigent' 1

Social Care

Care for the disabled. Ratings were Good 7, Adequate 7, Poor 7

Care for the elderly. Ratings were Good 8, Adequate 11, Poor 12

Settling in

There were several responses to the question 'If you have moved into the area during the last 5 years, is there anything that would have helped you settle in more easily?'

5 respondents said that more information about local groups, services, facilities, faith groups, tradesmen etc would have been useful. One suggested a website. Some said it had been difficult to meet people and thought the pub might do more as a meeting place. One commented on unhelpful Planners and another on unfriendly farmers! There were 8 comments on how welcoming, friendly and helpful people had been.

Employment and Training

This was a concern for 25 people, although only 11 answered the question 'What would have helped?'

The factors suggested were: Better transport 5

More information on job opportunities 4

Better opportunities for training 3 Better childcare or carer transport 2 Although relatively small in number, these issues are important for the people affected.



Housing and Development

As explained in the information sent out with the Questionnaire, Hambleton District Council's current planning policy is to restrict the development of new housing to larger towns and villages where the infrastructure exists to support additional residents, including first time buyers. Approval for new rural domestic development will, in general, be confined to commercial uses. The Council has said there would need to be very powerful justification for deviating from these planning policies.

Notwithstanding this policy, 40 people suggested a need for 2-bedroom, 20 for 3-bedroom, 15 for 1-bedroom and 5 for 4-bedroom affordable housing.

From across the Aldwark Area, 12 people reported difficulty in finding affordable housing and 7 said they had experienced a shortage of rental property and 2 a shortage of retirement housing.

145 (94%) respondents said that any commercial development should be in keeping with the character of the area. Specific comments on development were:

Aldwark

- In future to be more in keeping with character of village 2
- Concerned about expansion of hotel 2
- Keep a focus on it and prevent destruction of villages, as has happened elsewhere 1
- Maintain what we have - no phone masts/overhead wires or windfarms 1
- Nothing to encourage rowdiness 1
- Life has not improved - character has deteriorated 1

Flawith

- Drainage doesn't work (foul we think) 7
- Flooding problem from surface water 1
- Disappointed at small number planned by HDC 2
- Does it mean villages will stagnate? 1
- Need to ensure approved plans are adhered to 1
- Limit industrial development on agricultural land 1



Play & Leisure

Responses came from the main Questionnaire (16 and over)
and the Young Person's Questionnaire (15 and under)

Young Persons' Questionnaire, Current play patterns

- Most children play in their own homes or gardens. Aldwark 16, Flawith 25, Youlton - 4. In contrast only 6 in Aldwark, 1 in Flawith and none in Youlton play in the street or village green.
- A significantly higher number of people in Flawith (16) and Youlton (5) use the leisure sites in Alne or Tollerton than is true for Aldwark (2)

Requests from the Young Persons Questionnaire

- Of the 40 young people represented, 28 asked for a footpath to Alne
- 29 young people said that footpaths and bike tracks would encourage them to play more in the local area.
- In both Aldwark and Flawith 10 requests were made for play areas in the village

Main Questionnaire

People using organised leisure and playgroups considered them broadly acceptable (toddlers and older, after school clubs, holiday play schemes, youth club, sports clubs, scouts, guides, cubs and brownies. The one complaint is occasional lack of places.

However, the specific need for informal play and leisure activities for young people was highlighted by 18 comments. The population of people under 18 has grown significantly in Flawith and Aldwark in recent years. While informal access to the local countryside has historically been accepted, it is no longer viable for either the community or the local farmers.

The Aldwark Parish Area was used in the justification for the APLA leisure site in Alne being developed yet the inadequate access from all villages is clearly an obstacle to its use for all the parishes in the Aldwark area.

Aldwark - Specific suggestions

- Play/ sport for children 4 comments
- Be nice for children to be able to play in wooded areas rather than tell them they will get shot.
- Resurrect the old cricket pitch
- Proper area for children and adults (say bowling)
- Facilities for young people on the village green
- Jetty by the river
- Open space
- Safe play area for kids away from roads

The distance and hazardous nature of the journey to APLA by road for young people in Aldwark makes their spontaneous use of the APLA site unlikely. Provision of play facilities in the village is the priority for young people of all ages. The only public space available is on the village green which is not ideal for young people over the age of 10. More space is needed to provide for the growing number of older young people so that as play interests change, all ages have their own dedicated play areas. The formation of an Aldwark Play and Leisure Group is recommended to oversee play provision on the village green and to develop additional leisure provision for all ages, in and close to the village. The first priority is to determine the use of the funds granted to the village by the Big Lottery for play equipment

Flawith, Specific suggestions

- Clear village green 1
- Install swings on green 1
- Need local play area 1

Flawith and Youlton

For Flawith and Youlton safe access to the APLA site in Alne is a clear priority whether by foot or cycle. North Yorkshire Highways have added a roadside pavement between Flawith and Alne Cross to their 'project list' but there are no funds allocated to it so far, nor is any timescale assigned.

Additional suggestions from across all villages

- Local swimming pool 10
- A village hall/room and organised play 9
- Clay pigeon shooting 1 • Cricket net 1
- Aldwark Water Centre 1
- Tennis court 1
- Aldwark Water Activity Centre

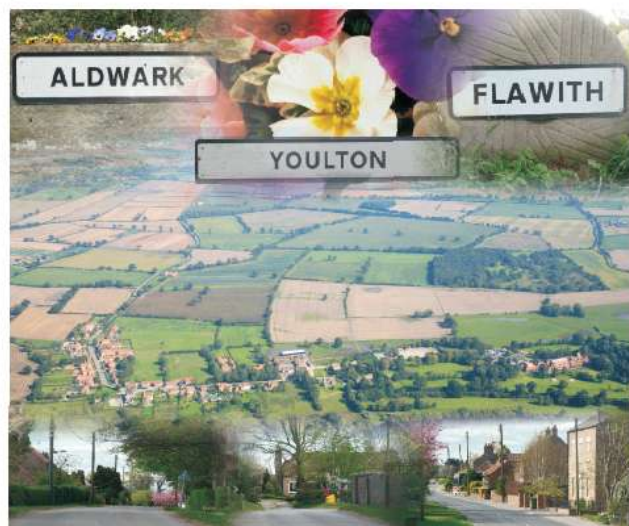
Aldwark Water Activity Centre

In an initiative carried out during the Parish Plan as part of the application for lottery funding, the possibility of local young people using the Centre has been explored. In principle, we have established that we could organise as a formal group, perhaps including Alne and Tollerton make use of the centre. The problem is that demand for the centre is so high we have to plan well ahead to get times booked. Summer 2009 is the next realistic opportunity should anyone wish to pursue this option.

Village Appearance

The Appearance of Villages

The appearance of our parish villages was ranked the second highest concern for most people and as might be expected, there were a variety of responses to our questions on the subject.



Improvements requested

The majority of residents (118) were in favour of improving their village appearance, mainly by such measures as increasing roadside planting with bulbs, or flowering trees. In each village respondents would like to achieve this by either joining a working party or by using their own initiative rather than by an increase in council tax. Again the majority (140) would like to see verges and hedges in the villages kept neat and tidy, as opposed to natural.

In **Aldwark**, the most frequent suggestion was to plant flowers, and flowering or specimen trees on the verges through the village (13 comments), including at the entrances to the village. In addition, some residents (9) were concerned about the damage to road surfaces, and the mud left behind by large lorries and farm machinery

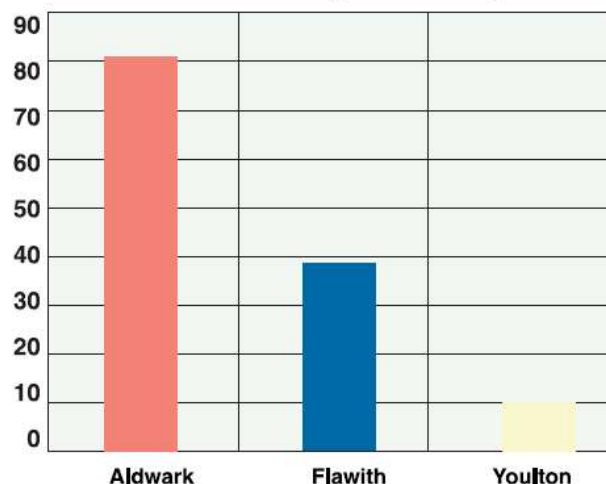
Other suggestions were:

- More dog waste bins to reduce soiling on pavements
- Improved play area/village green
- All hedges to be kept neat and tidy
- Village signs to be improved



In **Flawith**, the derelict house in the village drew the most comment, with 9 residents calling for something to be done about its appearance. There were also 7 comments suggesting better street lighting. Again verges and the damage by passing traffic was a concern to several respondents.

Number of people who would like to see neat verges and hedges



Other suggestions were:

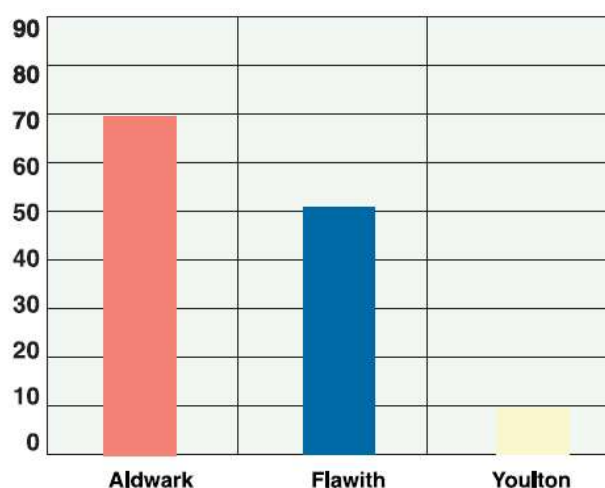
- More planting and flowers on verges
- Better litter control, especially from vehicles going to the recycling centre
- Tidying up of the gravel store at the village entrance
- Village signs and better grass cutting

In **Youlton**, the chief concern was of litter and agricultural debris, especially along Hagg Lane and on road verges (10 comments).

Residents would also like to see:

- Better village name signs
- Removal of the salt box from the village green
- General improvement of road conditions

Number of people who would like to see the appearance of their village improved





Various aspects of community life were covered in the Questionnaire including meeting places, social activities and communication.

Meeting Place

Issues such as the size, cost and upkeep of a village hall are enough to deter many people from supporting the idea. We therefore asked people about the need for a place for residents to get together, first in their village and then for the whole parish

- Residents in Aldwark felt there was a need (34-Yes, 22-No), in Flawith it was equally balanced (18-Yes, 18-No) and in Youlton (0-Yes, 12-No).
- The need for a meeting place for the whole parish was evenly split at 47 - Yes and 44 No across the Parish Area.
- Commendably, there were 7 expressions of support from the good citizens of Youlton to clean, maintain or fund raise for a meeting place even though they don't see the need for one. Aldwark had 39 offers and Flawith 27.

Residents in Aldwark made these comments:

- Need a place to meet for church and community 4
- Explore the use of the boathouse 2
- Church is the only place so if you don't go there's nothing else 1



Social activities

A wide range of activities were suggested including

- Barbeques 17
- Sports / fitness groups 15
- Quizzes 10
- Book clubs 9
- Coffee mornings 8
- Tai chi, Pilates, yoga 5

A village/ parish fete, rambling club, toddler/ playgroup, music group or choir, wine tasting and film group were also mentioned.





Information

Many people requested practical information in the questionnaire feedback. We started to think of this information as a "survival pack" - what any resident might find useful for everyday life in this area. It involves pooling the information we have in our heads, pinned to a notice board or stuck in a drawer and turning it into a useful local directory of services, amenities or products. A working group has formed to put this together and it will be distributed as a leaflet and kept on the website. Examples of content include:

- Where and how to purchase reduced price tickets for the Aldwark Bridge
- Opening times of the shop at Tollerton
- Waste and recycling site at Tholthorpe
- Details and contacts for the play and leisure facilities at Alne (APLA)
- Contacts for Sunday paper and milk delivery
- Details of local walks, footpaths and cycle tracks - probably on website
- Places of worship
- Details of local Doctors and Dentists and local tradesmen
- Spa Rates at Aldwark Manor Hotel
- Contacts for Flawith Residents Association and Parish Council contacts in each village
- Environmental agency web site - Flood Risk and Flood information
- Shooting dates

Other comments

There were many other comments, most of which are covered in other sections of this report. There were several calls for a local shop selling local produce and 4



Karen Tyers helped to develop a web site for the Aldwark Area.

Communications

Responses to the question "How would you prefer to keep in touch with what is happening in the Parish?" were intriguing. Clearly people had difficulty deciding on one option and so chose several. Selected preferences were:

- Parish Newsletter 85
- Notice Boards 62
- Talking to neighbours 53
- Email 44
- Parish web site 32
- Going to church 10

The means of doing all the above exist already with the exception of an email network. With the kind assistance of Karen Tyers we have set up a website to help with communication of progress with the Parish Plan and other communication like the Parish Newsletter, Parish Information pack, Parish Council Agendas and Minutes. After 12 months in operation we will review

Parish Plan Headlines

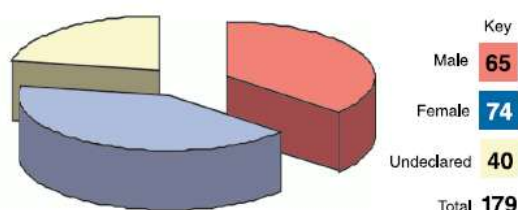
The results from the Aldwark area community

The Aldwark Area

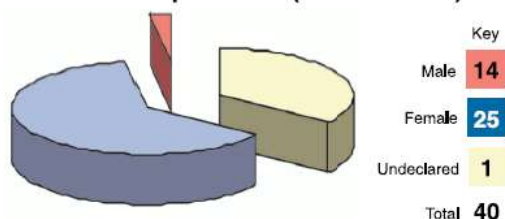
The name Aldwark probably originates from the Saxon 'ald weorc' meaning old fort which refers to the Roman station once located there. A ferry allowed the Roman road to cross the river, on its way through the Forest of Galtres to Beningborough then to York, entering the city at Bootham Bar. The river and landing were used commercially from Roman times well into the twentieth century.

Headlines from the responses

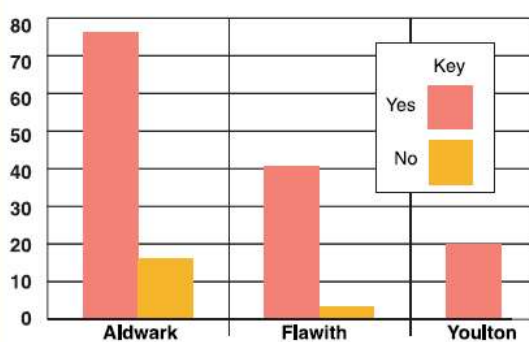
Number of respondents (16 and over)



Number of respondents (15 and under)



Number of respondents happy with the parish?



Priorities by section of the Questionnaire

PRIORITIES	Aldwark	Flawith	Youlton	TOTAL
Roads/Traffic/Pavements	29	30	7	66
Village Appearance	30	3	3	36
Footpaths/Bridleways	13	3	0	16
Health & Social Care Provision	7	3	4	14
Housing and Developments	6	5	0	11
Crime & Personal Safety	5	1	4	10
Utilities, Services & Waste	4	4	0	8
Provision for Children	1	4	0	5
Local Facilities & Amenities	2	0	0	2
Public Transport	1	0	1	2
Employment and Training	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	87	45	19	151

Topics attracting highest number of responses

	Appearance	Traffic	Recycling	Footpaths	Roads	Bike Routes	Pavements
Aldwark	72	77	Not broken	49	55	46	25
Flawith	46	45	down	36	22	26	41
Youlton	12	7	down	5	11	4	2
Total	130	129	119	90	88	76	68

Priorities for Action

Roads, Pavements, Traffic and Waste spreading

The Parish Council has agreed to take responsibility under its normal remit for requested improvements under these headings. The Parish Council is already attending to many of the specific improvements requested in the following areas:

- Improvements to the condition of roads and road signs (rolling programme)
- Measures to curb excessive traffic speed in the villages and local roads
- Wide and heavy vehicles damaging local roads and threatening road safety
- Improvements to the condition of pavements in Aldwark and Flawith
- Better control of industrial waste spreading

Leisure

- Improved play areas in Aldwark (Parish Council and Aldwark Working Group)
- Improved play area in Flawith or a footpath from Flawith to Alne, as access to APLA site. (Local community has established this on the NY Highways project list but no commitment on timing exists)
- Create more footpaths, cycle ways and bridleways (Working group)
- Reduced rates for local people at Aldwark Manor (concession on membership rates achieved)

Improved communications

- Newsletter - Parish Council now issues regular newsletter
- Web site (site exists at www.aldwarkarea.co.uk) content to be developed by working group
- Local information leaflet (Working group)

Priorities for which no one has yet offered to take action

Leisure

- More play activities e.g. making use of Aldwark Water Sports
- Amenities
- Improved recycling facilities and information about them (HDC have since instituted roadside recycling)
- Improved refuse collection
- Improved sewage services and more efficient drainage especially in Flawith
- Better mobile phone reception, telephone and broadband services

Housing

- Affordable housing was requested although in conflict with HDC housing policy

Appearance

- Many wanted improvements but most wanted to adopt voluntary action - over to you !

Other possibilities

- Deliveries from Dooleys via the village shop at Tollerton
- Parish Council exploring options for community meeting place

And finally, many thanks go
to all the members of the
Parish Plan Steering Group
who gave up vast amounts of time
during the plan's development.

Aldwark

Martin Brooks
Mark Clark
Simon Driver
Sue Southall
John Gandy
Catriona Linnen
Ed Roberts
Mandy Rudd

Flawith

Joyce Whitehead
Roland Crooke

Youlton

Henry Dean
Colin Stroud

Aerial photography courtesy of Ben George Photography 0794 783 7715