



Parish Plan

Draughton
VILLAGE



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Introduction

Local development of parish plans formed part of the recommendations of the Government White Paper "Our Countryside – The Future" which was published in 2000. Since that date over 3,000 parish plans have been created with support from The Countryside Agency and Rural Community Councils.

Following a meeting on 15th April 2008 attended by many villagers, Draughton Parish Council decided to go ahead with the proposal that the Village should have its own Parish Plan which would incorporate:

- **The views and opinions of as many individuals, groups and organisations within the community as possible, and**
- **The identification of local action points.**

A Steering Group of volunteers from within the Parish was formed in April 2008 and in the following months a programme of information gathering and consultation took place, which culminated in the production of this document.

The Purpose of a Parish Plan

Even in a small parish such as Draughton it can be difficult to assess the views of residents on many aspects of life that affect the community, ranging from housing and transport to community facilities and other local issues. When dealing with other governmental agencies, the Parish Council is keen that in doing so it accurately reflects our views and it is in this context that the Parish Plan is situated. By providing a clear statement of needs and aspirations, we make it more likely that they may be achieved through the work of the Parish Council with Village support.

Over a period of time, situations and priorities change and it is important that the community continues to have an input in those changing circumstances. It is hoped that through the recommendations contained in this Parish Plan we will provide a basis for the effective communication of the views of residents to decision makers.

We hope you find the Plan interesting and that as it is taken forward and continually updated, it will contribute a lasting benefit to the community.

Draughton Parish Plan Steering Group - May 2009



Development of the Plan

To ascertain the views of the residents of Draughton, a Questionnaire was compiled and circulated to every household. This Questionnaire comprised a mixture of "tick box" responses, which enabled statistical data to be accumulated, supplemented by a number of open ended questions designed to give respondents a more general opportunity to air their views on the topics covered in the Questionnaire. There was also a short Questionnaire for under 18s and responses were gathered from a representative of the residential care home in the Village, the Dales Care Centre.

Of the 103 Questionnaires circulated in the Summer of 2008, an astonishing 86 were completed and returned – **an 84% response rate**. The data and subjective responses of this high return have been accurately extracted to represent the views of the community and so establish the final Parish Plan as a credible and reliable representation of the views of the community as a whole.

The statistics used in the Plan are up to date as of August 2008.

In the Autumn of 2008, an Open Event was held in the Village Hall to enable the residents to see the progress to date and importantly to give everyone an opportunity to make any additional comments. Some of these comments are quoted in the various sections of the Parish Plan. Approximately 50 people visited the Open Event and in addition to comments on specific issues, the general feedback was one of overwhelming support for the project and a desire to see tangible benefits for the community arising from it in the future.

The Parish Plan comprises separate sections covering a range of issues. Each section concludes with one or more action points which are summarised at the end of the document.



Draughton - Past & Present

The origin of the name, Draughton, remains unresolved. The 1086 Domesday Book records Dractone and later documents give the same location names of Drahton, Draiton and Drachton. All these names appear to be derived from the Anglo Saxon word 'draeg' – now changed to draw or drag - signifying a place where items have to be dragged up or down steep hills, such hills remaining a feature of the current parish.

Until the later 20th Century Draughton was primarily an agricultural village with mixed farms stocked with cattle, sheep and dairy cows. Quarrying had begun in the Parish in the 14th Century and continued for several centuries even providing stone for the construction of York Minster.

In the later 18th Century several villagers were active home workers combing wool. A small cotton mill was founded in the late 18th century and later the premises converted to furniture making. Another building accommodated a besom maker who also made wooden clogs. At the end of the 19th Century the Village still supported a blacksmith, a cobbler and a joiner but as road and rail communications improved in following decades these trades disappeared.

A small school, established in the early 19th Century, was located in one of three cottages, which now comprise the Manor House. A proper school opened in 1851, the gift of the largest parish landowner, John Coulthard of Gargrave. The school roll listed 90 children from Draughton, Halton East and outlying farms but by the middle 1930s the roll had declined to 38 children. The school closed and the building is now the Village Hall.

An Anglican church, St Augustine's, was built in 1898 and named in honour of the Augustine Priory at Bolton Abbey. Money for the new church was raised by public subscription, local doctors, parsons and trades people and notably the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire. However, there had been a Village Wesleyan chapel since the early 1800s. The chapel was part of the Addingham circuit and was in use until 1960. It is now a private house. The Village graveyard was on three sides of the chapel and in use until 1956.



In 1880 Skipton and Ilkley were connected by the Midland Railway which ran through Draughton. The stretch of line was particularly popular with Lancashire and Yorkshire mill workers wanting to visit Bolton Abbey and the River Wharfe. The line closed in the 1960s but has a new lease of life as the successful volunteer-run Embsay and Bolton Abbey Steam Railway.

In 1811 the earlier turnpike, based on the old Roman road at Draughton Heights, was replaced by a road linking Skipton and Ilkley to facilitate growing volumes of traffic, particularly to and from the corn mill at Skipton. To "assist" passing traffic the Village supported two public houses, the 'Bay Horse', now Grange Cottages, and 'The Matchless,' now Matchless House.

In 1991 the A65 trunk road was re-aligned to bypass the village to the south. This eliminated the often heavy traffic that used to go through the top end of the Village thereby contributing to a more tranquil environment.

Today the Parish covers 948 hectares and comprises 103 houses, of which 88 are situated in a fairly compact area surrounding Low Lane and the old A65 and a further 15 properties, consisting of farms and domestic residences. The Parish contains 6 working farms and sheep predominate. In terms of occupations, there is a good cross-section of local businesses, retired people and those who commute to the surrounding towns and cities. Recently there has been a rise in the number of households with people aged under 19.

In the 1970s three cul-de-sacs, Spring Rise, Meadowcroft and the Croft, totalling 22 houses, were built off Low Lane, but in more recent times there has only been some smaller scale new housing development consisting of a few in-fill properties and a re-development of a property previously used for agricultural purposes.

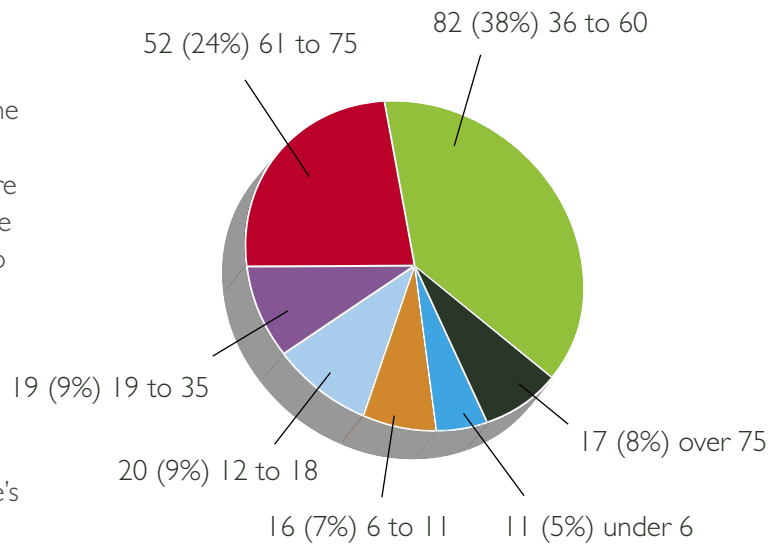
A notable exception to this is the Care Centre which was constructed in the 1970s overlooking the Village Green. The Care Centre accommodates 56 residents and employs 62 people, predominantly from Silsden and Keighley. There are 6 freehold bungalows situated behind the Care Centre, the occupants of which live independently but are welcome to use the Care Centre's facilities.

Situated at the bottom of Low Lane next to the Bolton Abbey to Embsay train line is a small caravan site.

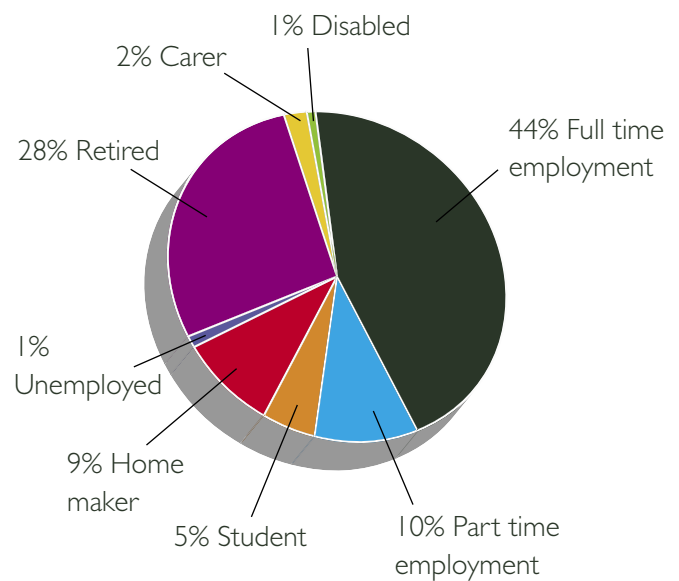
The Village Hall is used for a variety of purposes including occasional social functions for the community. St Augustine's Church (part of Skipton's Holy Trinity Anglican church cluster) holds regular Sunday services. There was a widely-used Post Office/shop but this closed in April 2008 when the owner retired.

The preservation of the tranquil character of the village is valued by Draughton residents and features in the majority of comments made during the preparation of the Parish Plan.

Age distribution of the villagers
(Excluding the Dales Care Centre)



Employment of Draughton villagers



Action

Produce a history of Draughton incorporating some of the information displayed at the Open Event.

Housing

Draughton is a community of 103 houses including the outlying farms and hamlets. The property is a mix of listed buildings, traditional cottages and modern build. New build has currently been restricted to three small 1970s cul-de-sacs, infill and conversion of old farm buildings into residential properties. A residential care home catering for 56 residents was established in the 1970s.

As Draughton is a conservation area and due to the lack of facilities, the current Craven development framework to 2021 does not envisage new development in the Village. This is a key issue to the community with mixed reactions being voiced in the responses to the Questionnaire.

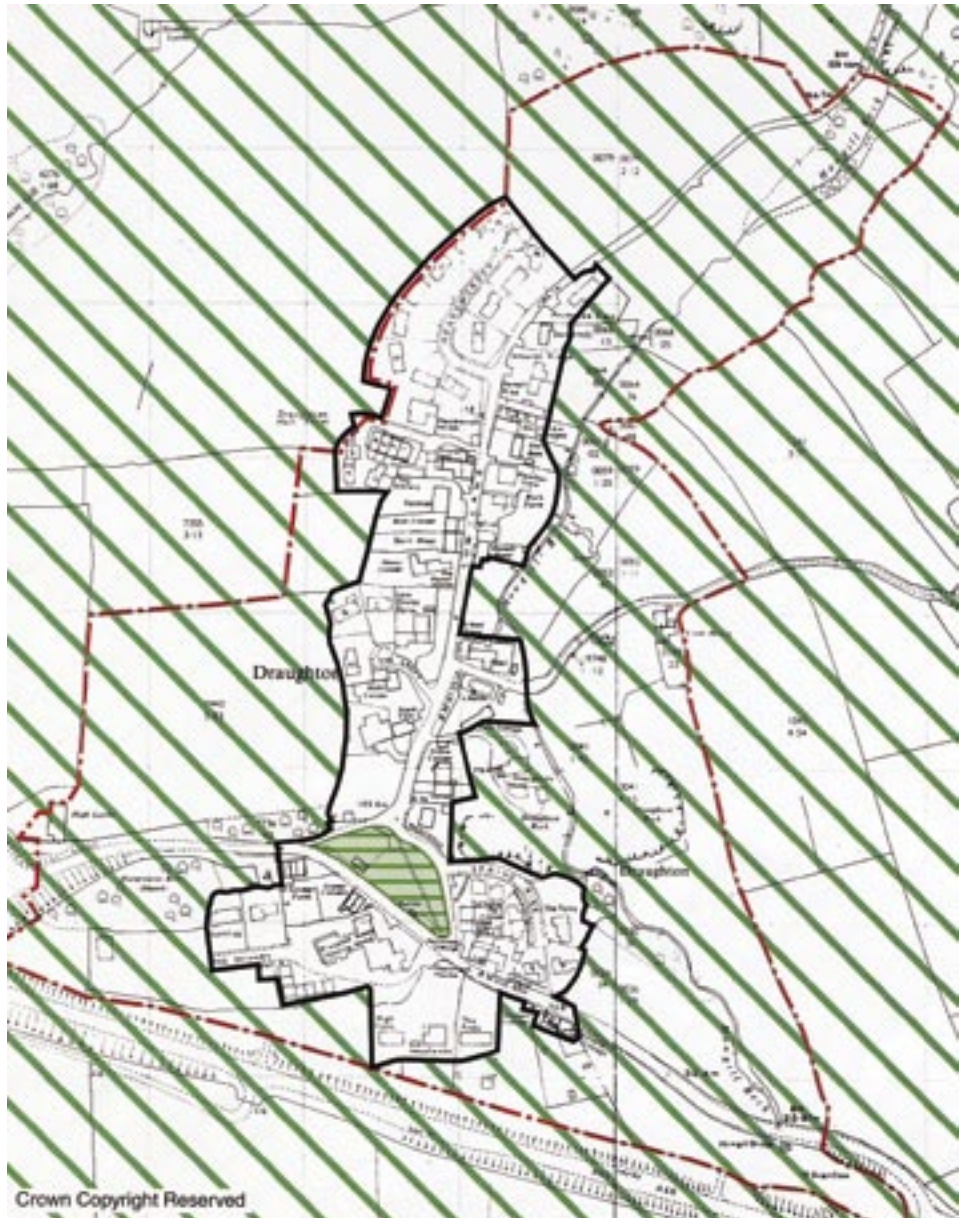
Some 27% of households foresee a need for change in their housing requirements in the next 5 years, this being split evenly between larger and smaller houses and bungalows. Without development it is questionable whether these needs could be answered within the existing housing stock.

For a clear overall picture of the differing views on housing development within the community, see the bar chart on page 9.

Supporters of future housing development commented on the need for *“more young people”* *“to maintain a balanced community”*. The point was made that *“communities need to develop, not stagnate, otherwise amenities being sought will not materialise”*. Opposition focused firmly on the view that new building would *“change the character of the village”* and its environment. It was pointed out that *“a lack of resources made Draughton unsuitable for development”* and that residents had moved to the Village because of its peaceful rural situation.

In summary, Draughton has a history of successful moves to adapt to change. Some want this to continue and still protect the character of the Village, but others worry that this may not be possible and further moves may go too far:

There is an overwhelming opposition to large scale housing development.





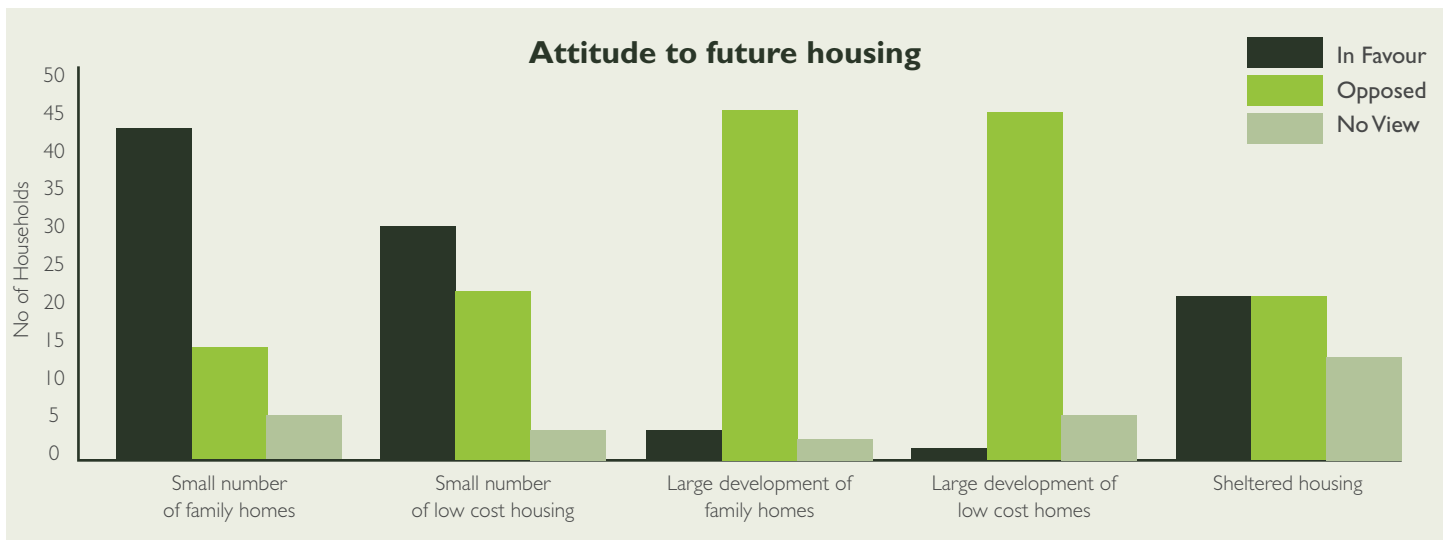
Quotations from the villagers:

“...in keeping with the village...”

“...maintain the character of the area...”

“...lack of resources make Draughton unsuitable for development...”

“...wonderful environment for bringing up children”



Action

Seek to preserve the rural character of the Village.

Education

The profile of the Village over the past few years has changed with an increase in the number of families moving into the existing properties in the area. 23 households in the Village have school-age children, and there are an additional 11 children aged 5 and under; so the quality and choice of local education provision, and access to it, is a key issue for many living in Draughton.

Most of the children attend state schools in Craven but a few go to schools outside the local catchment area, and a small number are educated privately.

“Breadth of choice is a positive aspect of our local secondary school system”.

Primary/Secondary schools	Number of children
Skipton & Upper Wharfedale	22
Beamsley Boyle & Petyt	6
Ilkley	2
Leeds	2
Giggleswick	2
Other	4

In general, it is felt that local schools are doing a good job, and that, from Draughton, we have good access, especially for those who use the catchment schools which are served by the home-to-school transport service. In particular, a positive response was given regarding the transport to the local catchment primary school, Boyle & Petyt. However, it is difficult to access further education facilities (including adult), extra-curricula activities at schools and evening education classes due to poor public transport (see Transport section).

There were some adverse observations about the selection system in the Craven area for local children, given the number of grammar school places taken by children out of the area.

Action

Seek to improve bus links to access further education and extra-curricula activities.

Transport

Public transport to and from the Village is limited to a weekday and Saturday hourly bus service, the X84, to Skipton in one direction (first bus 0753 last 1830), and to Ilkley and Leeds (first bus 0837 last 1857) in the other. The journey takes 15 minutes into Skipton, and about 1 hour and 30 minutes to Leeds. In both Skipton and Ilkley, connections can be made with local and intercity train services, or with other bus routes to, for example, Keighley and Harrogate. A Sunday service, run by a local bus company, connects the village with Ilkley, Skipton and Malham, and is designed for walkers and tourists wishing to leave Draughton before 10am and return after 5pm in the evening. A Harrogate bus can be boarded at the junction where Low Lane meets the A59.

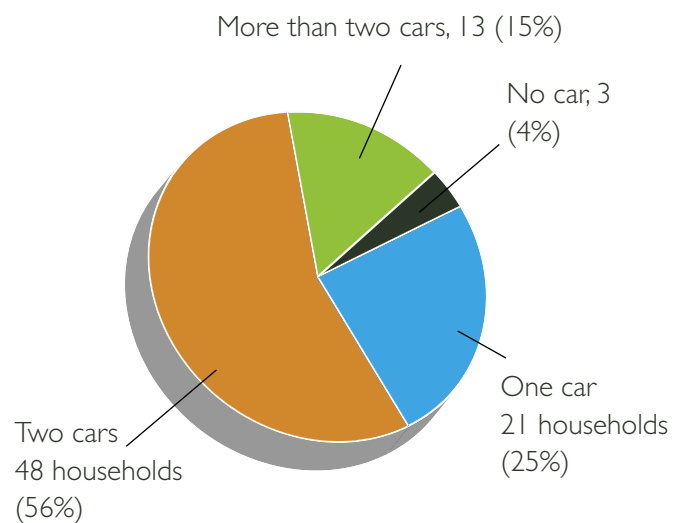
The bus services are perceived by some villagers as unreliable and not sufficiently extensive. In particular, it is felt they do not start to run early enough, nor do they continue late enough, to enable them to be used either by villagers commuting to work or school in Skipton, Ilkley or beyond, or by villagers wishing to visit the local towns for an evening out.

It was unsurprising to find that only 3 villagers use the bus frequently (more than 4 times a week), although the Care Centre employees and visitors regularly use the bus service and would appreciate a more frequent service. A further 23 villagers use the buses at least once a week. A bus shelter on the south side going to Skipton would be welcomed.

Train services are used more than buses. The majority of villagers (69%) thought the train timetable quality and frequency was good, however because of the limited bus timetabling, they tend to be accessed by car, with people driving to nearby stations at Skipton, Ilkley and Steeton.

These limitations explain why many of the comments made by respondents to the Questionnaire expressed dissatisfaction with public transport services and explain why public transport is used so little on a regular basis by people living in the Village.

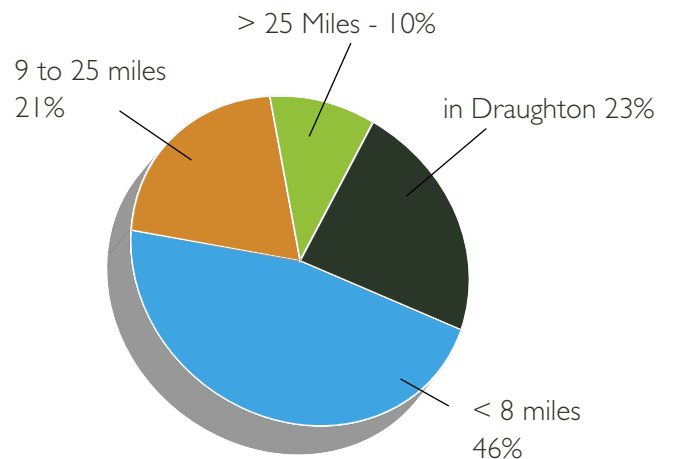
Number of cars per household



There are 162 cars in the village; an average of nearly ONE PER ADULT over 18years old.

Distance travelled to work

(% is percentage of those working)



Action

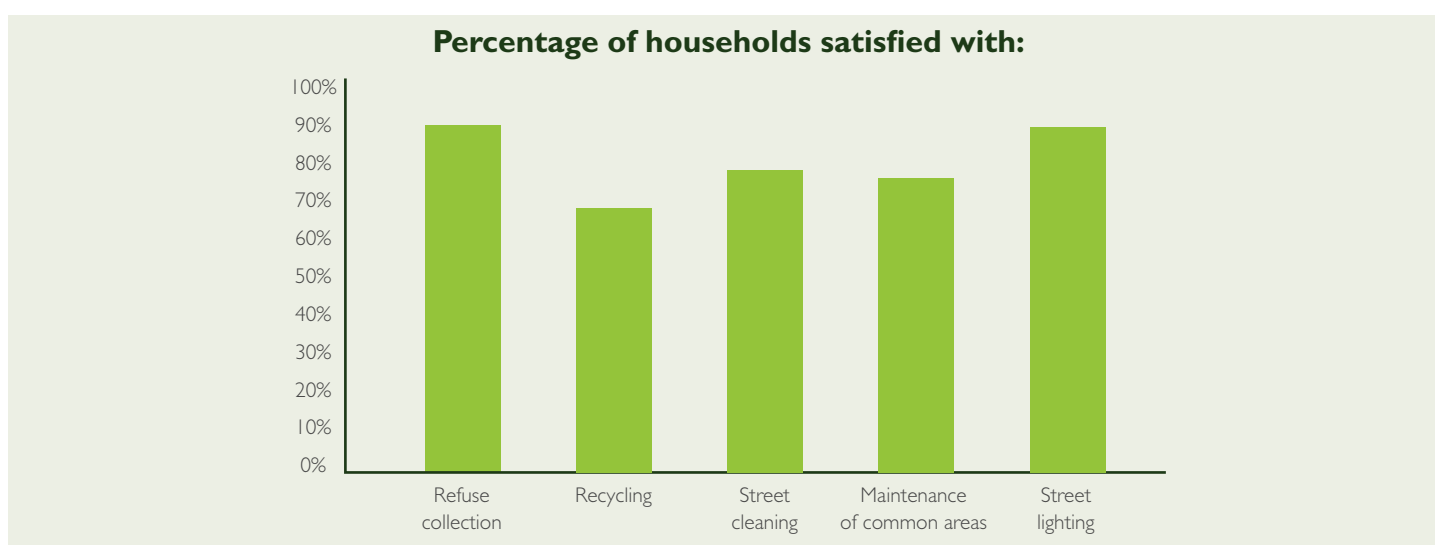
Seek to improve bus timetabling, in particular the X84 service.

Provide a bus shelter on the south side of the road next to the Care Centre.

Environment

Refuse services in Draughton are provided by Craven District Council, while North Yorkshire County Council provides highways maintenance, winter maintenance, street cleaning and lighting, and verge cutting. In addition the Parish Council maintains 5 footway lights. Volunteers cut the grass on the Village Green. The Village Hall Committee maintains the playground.

Households stated they were generally satisfied with current refuse collecting, recycling, street cleaning, maintenance and street lighting. Some requests were made for more recycling, gritting and verge-trimming services, and for screening of the recycling bins.



Action

Continue to lobby for essential safety improvements to the A59 and A65 junctions.

Investigate community scheme for improving recycling, in particular plastics.

Provide a salt bin near the Care Centre.

Screen unsightly recycling bins near the Village Hall.

Provide convex mirrors at the top and bottom of “Muck Gate”.

Parking restrictions and traffic calming measures were strongly opposed in the Village – 89% and 68% respectively. However a number of suggestions were made for improving road safety in the Village including “...20mph throughout the Village...”, “...flashing 30mph signs...”, “...mirrors at the junction of Muck Gate...” or “...reversing the one-way direction down Muck Gate”.

Road entry to the Village is from the fast moving traffic on the A65 or A59. There are currently no bollards or traffic islands, no prominent “No Overtaking” signs or lighting at these junctions. Villagers pressed very strongly for road safety improvements to both road junctions into the Village, particularly in view of recent instances of accidents and fatalities. This has been pursued by the Parish Council, to date unsuccessfully.

Villagers were generally in favour of supporting green initiatives that would benefit the community but retain the Village’s character.

Leisure

The community has a number of leisure facilities within the Village, including a Cricket Club, and events and activities arranged by the Village Hall Committee. The cricket team regularly plays in the summer months in a farmer's field in the Village. The footpaths and bridleway accessed from the Village are well-used by villagers and resident dog-walkers, as well as by visitors who use parking in the Village as a base from which to explore longer local walks.

Our Questionnaire asked people to let us know how they liked to spend their leisure time, and a wide range of pursuits was mentioned. Many of these will of course need to be accessed out of the Village, but our challenge is to see if any interests can be accommodated to a greater extent within our own resources.

115 people within Draughton reported they regularly took part in sporting activities. A total of 25 sports were mentioned, the most popular being:

Sporting activities			
Swimming	21	Walking	12
Football	16	Tennis	10
Golf	15	Cycling	9
Cricket	12	Running	9
Gym	12	Squash	7

Of those responding, there was a suggestion for a playing field in a wider sense to serve as a cricket and football pitch. Given the number of young children growing up in the Village the future use could increase.

There were 33 different leisure activities mentioned, the most popular being:

Leisure activities			
Walking	119	Live Music	13
Theatre	52	Equestrian	13
Cycling	30	Gardening	12
Cinema	29	Fishing	7
Eating Out	17	Shopping	5

Walking and cycling are popular pursuits and it was suggested that charting the footpaths, bridleways and cycle routes around the vicinity and providing circular walking routes could be helpful. A direct cycle/walking route to Skipton was suggested.

Action

Investigate the provision of a playing field.

Develop circular footpath routes around the Village.

Investigate the provision of a direct cycle/walking route to Skipton.

Community Facilities

As a small rural community Draughton has few community facilities of its own with services and amenities being available in the nearby towns and villages such as Skipton, Ilkley and Silsden. There is a Village Hall, children's playground, St Augustine's church with weekly Sunday services, newspaper distribution point, Village Green, mobile library, a small caravan site, livery stables and horse riding centre, milkman and weekly visiting fishmonger, and a telephone kiosk.

The majority of villagers (77%) shop in Skipton, whilst others travel to Ilkley (16%), and the rest (7%) to Silsden, Otley and Colne, or shop on-line.

The closure of the combined post office and shop in April 2008 was noted by a large majority (95%) of the households as a significant loss to the community. It is unclear how this facility could be replaced and at the time of its closure the Parish Council did pursue options for re-opening the post office in the Village Hall or the Church. However, at the time, this was not successful. The Questionnaire responses indicated that 88% would use a facility, if a post office and shop could be re-established.



Linked with this, there were many suggestions for a community enterprise with 97% in favour of some form of village venture. There was interest in a variety of projects including a pub, tearoom/café/winebar, farm shop, garden centre and general arts/recreational facility. A suggestion was made for a mobile shop like the mobile van from the village shop in Burnsall.

The mobile library visits the Village every three weeks with 11 households regularly attending; 82% consider the choice of books to be good and 91% think the quality is good.

Over 88% of households use the Village Hall. These include Village social events such as the annual BBQ, quiz night and casino night. The hall can be hired for parties and evening and day classes such as upholstery and bridge, Young Farmers' meetings and council meetings. The hall is used, on average, about 10 hours per week. A number of villagers requested more events and social functions.

16 households with children under the age of 14 regularly use Draughton's playground.

There is no registered childcare within Draughton with care being dealt with at home, by friends or family or outside the Village. A clear majority were not in favour of any venture within the Village.

There is a strong interest in bulk buying for the following products – heating oil, electricity, solid fuel and household insurance.

Action

Investigate provision of post office and shop facilities or some wider form of community enterprise.

Set up bulk buying scheme via a Village website

Investigate the provision of a mobile shop to visit Draughton

Provide more organised events at the Village Hall

Communication

Draughton's footprint covers outlying farms and houses (see map in Housing section) as well as the Village "centre". Communication is currently via notice boards outside the old post office and also the church and by means of the local press. The church's monthly news, containing some Draughton community news, is circulated to 30 households in the Village. Flyers are also frequently distributed to each household regarding Village events and meetings, together with posters on lampposts dotted around the Village.

Over 89% of the Village look at the notice boards, although there were suggestions that since the closure of the post office a further notice board elsewhere in the Village would be useful. 80% of these people would prefer more information and nearly 70% suggested newsletters, website or e-mail communication. This was supported by St Augustine's Church Committee who would like to participate in website and e-mail communication for Parish events. Similarly the Cricket Club and Village Hall Committee would appreciate this facility. A website would also facilitate the initiation of a bulk buying scheme.

Regarding Parish Council matters, the majority thought enough information was provided with over 40% having recently attended a meeting. However regarding Village matters outside the remit of the Parish Council, more communication would be useful.



Action

Provide and maintain a Village website to improve communication.

Provide an additional notice board in a more "central" location.

Conclusions

Draughton is set at the foot of the Yorkshire Dales National Park and is regarded by residents as a tranquil and pleasant environment in which to live. Villagers want this to be retained for future generations.

The production of the Parish Plan has been an opportunity to collate photographs, facts, opinions and suggestions from residents regarding our rural community as we move further forward into the 21st Century.

With an overwhelming majority in the Village supporting and participating in the Parish Plan Questionnaire and Open Day the Action Points drawn up are reliable and credible suggestions to enable the kind of community we want in the future.

	Description	Action
Draughton “Past & Present”	Produce a history of Draughton incorporating some of the information displayed at the Open Event	Volunteers
Housing	Seek to preserve the rural character of the Village.	Draughton Parish Council (DPC) to address Craven’s development policy in consultation with the Village community.
Education	Seek to improve bus links to access further education and extra-curricula activities.	DPC (see Transport section)
Transport	Seek to improve bus timetabling, in particular the X84 service.	DPC to draw the attention of “First Group” to the inadequacy of their current timetable.
	Provide a bus shelter on the south side of the road near to the Care Centre	DPC
Environment	Continue to lobby for essential safety improvements to the A59 and A65 junctions.	DPC
	Screen unsightly refuse bins near to the Village Hall	DPC
	Investigate community scheme for improving recycling, in particular plastics	DPC
	Provide a salt bin close to the Care Centre	DPC
	Provide convex mirrors at the top and bottom of Muck Gate	DPC



	Description	Action
Leisure	Investigate the provision of a playing field	DPC or Draughton Cricket Club to liaise with landowners (to identify a suitable site) and to investigate availability of grant funding.
	Develop circular footpath routes around the Village.	DPC
	Investigate the provision of a direct cycle/walking route to Skipton	DPC
Community Facilities	Investigate provision of a post office/shop or some wider form of community enterprise	DPC
	Set up bulk buying schemes (eg for oil or solid fuel)	Villagers, via website
	Investigate provision of a mobile shop to visit Draughton	DPC
	Provide more organised events in the Village Hall	Village Hall Committee to recruit volunteers to assist the organisation of events
Communication	Provide and maintain a Village website to improve communication	DPC and volunteers
	Provide an additional notice board in a more "central" location	DPC

Acknowledgements

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All Draughton villagers for participating and for their interest in the Parish Plan.





