

# Swinton Parish Plan





- Where we are page 2
- Introduction page 3
- History page 4,5
- The Village & its People page 6,7
- Local Transport page 8
- Traffic & Road Safety page 9-12
- Pavements, footpaths & bridleways page 13
- Housing & Future Development page 14
- Security, policing & other emergency services page 15
- Village facilities page 16-19
- Communication page 20
- Community Involvement page 21
- Local Businesses page 22
- Village Memories page 23
- Future Citizens page 24
- Comments page 25
- Action Plan page 26-29
- Acknowledgements page 30

# WHERE WE ARE



Swinton now

The environment of Swinton Parish is the sum of many features, both natural and man-made. The southern half of the parish lies within the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Designated in 1987 this area is a rich mixture of woodland, pasture and arable farmland interspersed with small villages such as Swinton. The area has a wide diversity of trees, wild flowers and animals and contains important key species of brown hare, lapwing, skylark, cowslip, dwarf spurge and knapweed broomrape.

A small network of footpaths within the Parish give access to this natural countryside. The houses around the village give access to some outstanding views across to the North York Moors which on a clear sunny day allow you to see the purple of the heather and in winter time you can see the moors blanketed in snow. There are, however still problems with our natural environment, see later section.





This Parish Plan has been produced from responses to two comprehensive questionnaires sent out to 276 households during the early part of 2010. The Steering Group was keen to hear the views, opinions and concerns of as many people as possible and was pleased with a strong response from so many.

The idea of a Parish Plan was first discussed by the Parish Council in 2008, but it wasn't until the following year that a separate Steering Group was formed to take the idea forward. Much help and advice has come from Maggie Farey, the Rural Development Officer for Rural Action Yorkshire and the Steering Group is indebted to her for all her hard work. As Chair of the Steering Group I would personally like to thank all members of that group for their help with the production of this plan, as well as thanking all residents for their input to it; this is your plan and does not necessarily represent the views of either the Parish Council or the Steering Group.

The Plan is designed to highlight and publicise the good things about life in

Swinton as well as to identify any problems areas in the village.

Swinton is a village lying 2 miles to the North East of Malton on the B1257; this road divides the village with local amenities on both sides of it. Swinton is fortunate to have a thriving village pub, the Blacksmith Arms and a butcher's shop and store, Hornsey Meats, both family run businesses. There is no Post Office, church, chapel or school. Villagers have to travel to Malton for Post Office services. The village is in the parish of Appleton le Street and Church of England services are held in the neighbouring villages of Amotherby, Appleton le Street, Barton le Street and Hovingham. Other denominations have to travel to Malton or further afield. The nearest schools are Amotherby and Malton, but the village has a thriving pre school playgroup, based in the Reading Rooms. There is no village hall as such, but events can be held at the Sports Centre, which has a kitchen and bar, or the Reading Rooms which has a small kitchen.

# HISTORY



This is a very brief history of the village of Swinton and has been based on cartographic and documentary evidence. It is by no means exhaustive and includes very little social history. Swinton lies in the parish of Appleton-le-street and lies on the northern edge of the ridge of land that marks the beginning of the Howardian Hills, an area rich in prehistoric finds. Whilst no finds or archaeological sites have been located dating to the Neolithic, Bronze or Iron Age, it is highly probable such sites exist due to the extensive finds located within 1km of the village. Swinton lies on the Roman road that links Malton and the Marching camp at Wath and Wades causeway at Amotherby. An amphora (a large ceramic pot that could contain, wine or olive oil etc) was located in the 1950's in the field where Robert Harrison now keeps his geese. A complete pot is quite a rare find and would indicate the possibility of a Roman site in the vicinity. Recent work at Broughton has revealed a previously unknown Roman building dating 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

Swinton derives its name from Suintune (11<sup>th</sup> Century) and the first historical records for Swinton date to the medieval period with charters as early as the eleventh century surviving which record the land holdings.

Before the Norman conquest Cnut and Gamel held two manors and 11 carucautes (1 carucautes is all land that could be ploughed in 1 year by 8 oxen). After the Norman conquest the land at Swinton was held by the king and part of the parish was held by the Lords of Malton from at least the early thirteenth century. The medieval period saw several significant families hold land in Swinton including the Paynels and de Bolton's. Thomas de Bolton in 1275 sold the Manor of Swinton to the Prior of Malton for £147 3s 4d.

The present day street names of East, Middle and West Street probably derive from the Medieval period and are associated with the Open Field farming system practised during this period. Two recent archaeological interventions during construction for domestic buildings have revealed evidence of Medieval Activity. In March 2005, On Site Archaeology undertook a Watching Brief on land adjacent to Birch Cottage, Middle Street. A small pit was identified which contained animal bone and a large sherd of Humberware dating from the Fourteenth century. In March 2007, Fern Archaeology carried out a Watching Brief on land adjacent to 1 Cherry Avenue, West Street. The work revealed a series of



medieval occupation deposits including pits containing a large assemblage of medieval pottery dating from the late 12<sup>th</sup> century. These medieval deposits were in turn overlain by the remains of limestone buildings depicted on nineteenth century maps of the village.

A mill is also recorded as being located in the parish but no other information survives on its location or type. Many of the fields adjacent to the residential area retain remnants of medieval ridge and furrow.

In 1774 an Inclosure Award was obtained for Swinton, whereby the Open field system of farming disappeared to be replaced by parliamentary enclosure consisting of medium sized fields in a semi-regular pattern. It was defined by regular external and straight internal hedgerow boundaries, the only internal boundaries recorded were either tracks or drains. Whilst many hedgerows have been removed in the twentieth century, Swinton still retains much of its eighteenth century landscape.

Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group report 117 looked at the 17th Century Manor Farm which suggested it was originally 3 storeys, the storey being where the farm workers used to sleep. It would have had a thatched roof.

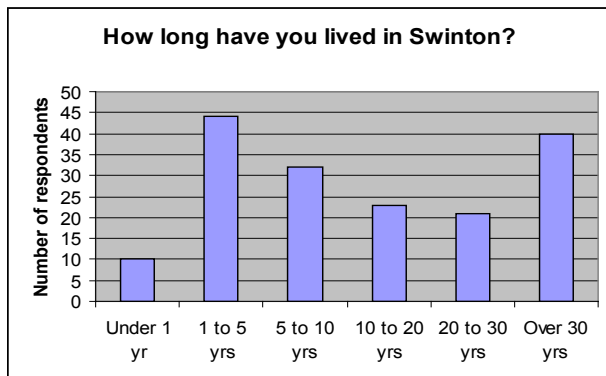
Swinton Grange was erected in the 1860's for Edward Behrens industrialists formerly from Manchester. His son Major Clive Behrens married Charlotte Rothschild in 1899 and was a JP and Deputy Lieutenant for the North Riding. Their son William (Colonel Behrens) was instrumental in several memorable activities including Swinton Grange Stud, which was one of the most successful small studs in the area. Founded in 1928 with a break during the Second World War. Breeding for the flat did not commence until 1954 after Colonel Behrens retired from his career as a barrister. The most successful winners were bred from Winning Bid.

Then from the late nineteenth century and into the twentieth the village witnessed expansion of housing extending the village along Main Street and East and West Street.

After some delays a single track railway for the Thirsk- Malton Branch line of North Eastern Line was constructed in 1851 and completed in 1853. The nearest station to Swinton was located at Amotherby. By the twentieth century numbers of passengers were falling and the Amotherby station was closed in 1930. In March 1963, the last passenger used the line and the final freight train was on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1964.

# THE VILLAGE AND IT'S PEOPLE

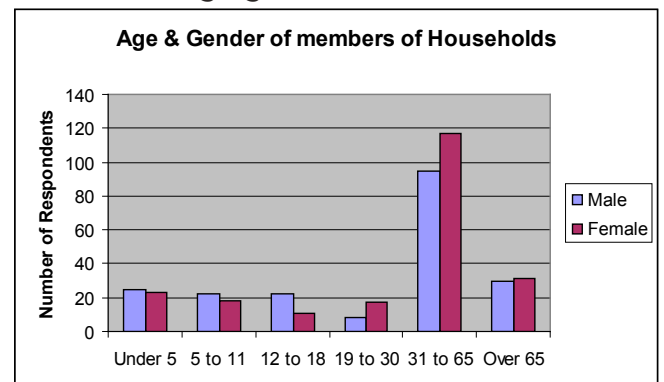
The majority of those who completed the questionnaire have lived in Swinton for less than five years, however there are forty households who have lived here for over thirty years.



80% of the properties are owner occupied and only two are not the main home. The type of property varies, but from the responses the majority live in detached houses, followed by semi-detached and terraced ones.

The ages of the houses also produced some interesting information with a wide range, starting in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and with a number of properties been built in the 1930's, 1970's, 1990's and more recently from 2007 to the present. Not surprisingly for a rural area most households own or use either one or two cars or vans and a significant number have bicycles.

The number of children in the parish appears to be higher than normal for the size of the village and the figures generally would suggest that there is a high proportion of households whose occupants are of working age.



The vast majority of households in Swinton have a computer and use Broadband to access the internet. The type of preferred fuel for over 100 households for heating their homes is oil, with about 50 properties using either coal, wood and electricity and bottled gas, a combination of these. There is considerable interest in being connected to a mains gas supply if this becomes possible in the future. Almost 60% of households feel that their home is fully insulated to save fuel costs, however 10% feel it is not and a further 25% have homes that are only partly insulated.



# THE VILLAGE AND IT'S PEOPLE



113 households feel that the current arrangements for refuse collection is satisfactory, with a further 30 households stating that is only satisfactory sometimes. However there are 26 households who are not satisfied with the current arrangements. Only 14% stated that they either work or do voluntary work in Swinton, the majority who travel out of Swinton go less than 5 miles, and all but 11 households have to travel less than 30 miles.

There are, however still problems with our natural environment.

Dog Fouling – 36% of the replies to this questionnaire felt there was a noticeable problem in different areas of the village. New dog waste bins have recently been erected at Highfield Terrace and the bottom of Swinton Lane.

Litter – 9% of the replies reported a significant problem at various locations in the village.

Questions about light pollution, low flying aircraft, traffic and other noise pollution, vandalism and disturbance brought some complaints but not as a major issue.

Foul Drainage -48 said there was a problem with inadequate drainage, especially in West Street and at the bottom of

the village. This would have important implications in considering any new development within the village.

Surface Drainage – 43% reported problems with surface water drainage in parts of the village.

Sustainable/Eco Schemes – 34% of replies expressed some interest about such projects within the village with ideas ranging from small wind turbines, better recycling facilities, solar panels and a possible community woodland. Some owners have already installed solar panels and a new 15m high wind turbine has now been erected at the small business units near the sports centre which it is anticipated will generate 15kw of electricity.

42 people expressed a wish to have an allotment.

## **ACTION PLAN**

- Improve foul and surface
- Discourage dog fouling
- Doorstep collections of cardboard and plastics
- Better provision for recycling and separation of waste
- Provide allotments

# LOCAL TRANSPORT



## Bus Service

Residents have concerns over using the local bus service with 48% never using the service which is perceived to be reliable but there are concerns over the bus route, timetable, accessibility and storage space for groceries and pushchairs.

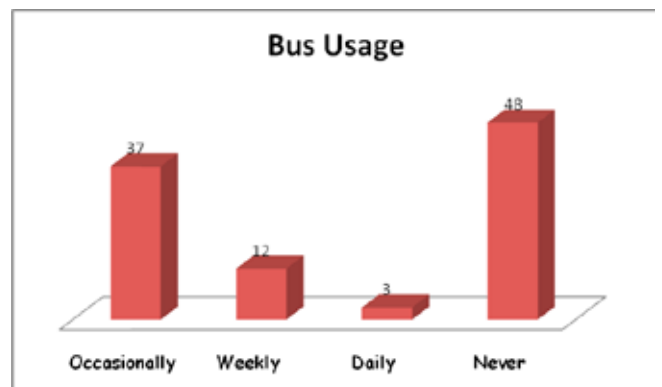
If the concerns were to be addressed positively all indications are the usage percentage would increase.

Residents have highlighted the following concerns and suggested improvements that would give a better service to the village

## Concerns

- No bus between 8.05 & 9.26am, Bus times between 8-9.30am uncertain
- No buses on Sundays & Bank Holidays
- Not enough services into and from Malton – late evening
- Bus stop on the main road too far away, if you are lame or suffer with walking restrictions and live at the bottom of West or East street .
- Residents who use the Bus Stops on East and West Street have no indication if the bus is unable to reach them.

- Service does not synchronise with Trains or other Bus services from Malton, leaving users with up to an hour's delay on their onward journey.



## Action Plan

- All buses to be routed around the village and have Disabled access.
- All buses to have Storage areas
- Timetable to be coordinated with Train and Coastliner services
- Use modern technology to indicate when a bus for whatever reason cannot come down into the village.
- Snowy/ice procedure, parent representative for village who could be informed of changes/difficulties/ delays etc & then contact others

# TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY



## Traffic and Road Safety

The village has speed limits of 40 mph on the B1257 Main Street, 60 mph on Swinton Lane (Mead Farm Lane ) which runs from the B1257 past Swinton Grange to the Malton Castle Howard Rd, and 30 mph on Laundry Lane and the rest of the village. The majority of the village lies to the North and the only access is via East and West Street. Swinton Lane is used by residents and by people working at the business units at Swinton Grange; it is also used by drivers avoiding traffic in Malton and jams on the A64.

The B1257 Malton to Helmsley is used by The Street Villages to access Malton and is the main route for traffic travelling between Malton and Kirbymoorside besides traffic travelling to Helmsley and beyond. The speed of traffic is of major concern. Residents living on the South side have to cross it to reach the bus stop to Malton, the postbox, the pub and the sports centre. Those to the North cross when they get off the bus from Malton, to reach the shop, the Play Group, The Bowling Club and the newly refurbished playground. The secondary school children travelling by bus have to cross this road.



## **B1257**

### **Speeding and Safety**

Respondents are very concerned about speeding traffic all had a view. A massive 94% consider speeding to be top concern. 50% considering it a major problem, 34% a problem, 10% a slight and only 6% considering it not a problem.

Inconsiderate drivers do annoy householders 60% regarding it either major or a problem. The next highest concerns were Cyclist Safety at 57 %and Pedestrian Safety 51% followed heavy good vehicle at 45%.

The response to the question on accidents may reflect on how it was interpreted eg had you had an accident? It was the only question to which the don't know/no opinion was high having a massive 28%. However the comments reflect a real fear of having an accident.

On street Parking and Parking on Pavements are not a major concern. Slightly more are concerned about parking on pavements than on street parking but parking is not seen as a major problem by most respondents. The highest ratings being slight or not a problem. Parking near the turning to East Street was did cause difficulties.

Traffic noise fumes and congestion are of least concern although some had difficulty accessing the B1257.

### **Speed limits and Traffic calming B1257**

73% wanted the speed limit to be reduced from 40mph. 88% were in favour of 'flashing slow down' signs at the entrances to the village. 31 people would consider any measures to slow traffic. A range of suggestions were made such as occasional speed traps, pedestrian refuge, speed bumps, rumble strips. Most of the comments are in favour of some sort of traffic calming others objected to any. Speed bumps and chicanes are least popular.

#### **Action Plan**

##### **Speeding**

- Reduce speed limit on B1257 to 30mph
- Introduce flashing matrix signs on B1257
- Enforce speeding limits on B1257
- Introduction of suitable traffic calming measures after discussion

##### **Safety**

- Refuge or crossing on B1257
- Make drivers more aware of access problems to B1257
- Drivers to be made aware of narrow roads leading off B1257
- Drivers to be made aware of pedestrians crossing

# TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY



## Rest of the Village

Speeding traffic is again the chief concern followed by inconsiderate drivers.

Asked where the problems were people mentioned: Swinton Lane, East and West Street, there were a number of comments relating traffic speeding to matches at the Sports Centre. Heavy goods vehicles are more concern to West Street.

Accidents again rates low for the same reasons as on the B1257. However from the numerous comments about speeding these are prevented by residents looking out for speeding traffic and giving way to inconsiderate drivers. and Respondents are worried about the safety of children playing and access to the B1257.

**On street parking** 65% have some kind of problem. 11 people cited West Street and 3 East Street and grass verges, Manor Vale, and Middle street cited.

**Parking on pavements** 58% have some kind of problem 8 mention West Street, 4 East Street, Manor Vale and Middle street are also mentioned.

**Pedestrian safety** 50% have concerns. 6 respondents are concerned about West Street and 2 for Swinton Lane and others mention where no pavements.

**Cyclists** are considered to be safer with in the village with 40% having concerns about safety with 4 people citing West Street.

**Traffic Pollution** traffic fumes and noise were again seen as least important. traffic

congestions was also rated low but access to and from East and West Streets was commented on.

**Traffic Calming and Speed limits** 63% what the speed limit reduced from 30mph to 20mph. Amongst the suggestions were more warning signs such as to width of East Street, beware pedestrians in road. Some favour speed bumps others hate them but people do want the traffic to be slow down

## Swinton Lane

There were requests for Swinton Lane to have a lower speed limits. There were many comments on speeding and safety including 'very narrow for two speeding cars to pass coming in opposite directions'; 'a rat-run instead of of driving to traffic lights in Malton'. there were also a request for gritting and another for a warning sign for Laundry Lane turn off.

## Action Plan

### Speeding

- Lower speed limit on Swinton Lane
- Reduce other limits to 20mph
- Introduction of suitable traffic calming measures after discussion

### Safety

- Make drivers more aware of access problems to B1257
- Drivers to be made aware of narrow roads
- Drivers to be made aware of pedestrians

- Monitor on street and pavement parking

## Traffic Pollution

Traffic noise, fumes and congestion are of least concern to the village.

## Speed limits and Traffic calming for the B1257

73% wanted the speed limit to be reduced from 40mph. 88% were in favour of flashing slow down' signs at the entrances to the village. 31 people would consider any measures to slow traffic. A range of suggestions were made such as occasional speed traps, pedestrian refuge, speed bumps, rumble strips. Most of the comments are in favour of some sort of traffic calming measure - others objected to any.

## Road Safety

Accidents again rate low as there are few reported accidents. However from the numerous comments about speeding these are prevented by residents looking out for speeding traffic and giving way to inconsiderate drivers. Access on to the B1257 was commented on. Residents are worried about the safety of children playing. There were a number of comments relating traffic speeding to matches at the sports centre.

## Traffic Calming and Speed limits for the rest of the village

63% want the speed limit reduced from 30mph to 20mph. Among the suggestions were more warning signs such as to width of East Street, beware pedestrians in road. Some favour speed bumps, others hate them but people do want the traffic to be slowed down

## ACTION PLAN

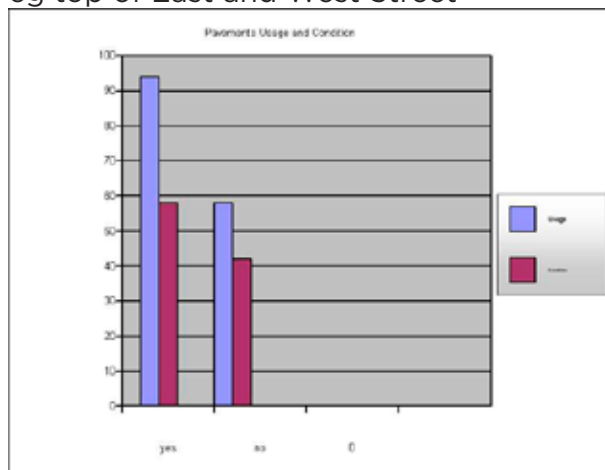
- Investigate traffic calming measures
- Reduce speed limit on B1257 to 30mph
- Introduce flashing matrix signs on B1257
- Enforce speeding limits on B1257
- Lower speed limit on Swinton Lane
- Reduce other limits to 20 mph
- Refuge or crossing on B1257
- Make drivers more aware of access problems to B1257, narrow roads and pedestrians

# PAVEMENTS, FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS



## Pavements & Footpaths

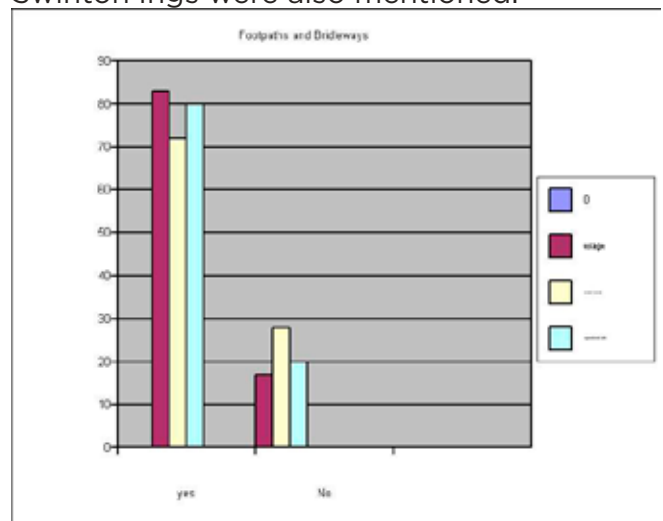
We asked about usage and condition of pavements and where the problems were. 168 people used the pavements of which 54% were happy with the condition. There were comments about them being badly maintained throughout Swinton, ranging from unevenness of the pavement, too narrow when walking with children, dogs or buggy, breaking up and overgrown hedges. Comments were made about the pavements near the shop and also towards Broughton and Malton not being not wide enough with no separation from traffic also mud from vehicles. There was a suggestion for rails where path is high above the Street eg top of East and West Street



## Bridleways

83% used them and of those that use them 72% are happy with the condition and 80% happy with the signage.

Vegetation was reported as a problem in the summer particularly along the path from West Street to Amotherby Churchyard as several people would like to be able to walk children to and from school; it was suggested it become a bridleway. Others are concerned about the state of the footpath past the Sports Hall and to Broughton and would like it to be a bridle path. Potholes near Sports Centre and to Swinton Ings were also mentioned.



There was a lot of concern about the state of the footpath between Amotherby and Malton.

The aim of the housing and future development action plan is to seek to ensure that future developments in Swinton take into account the view and needs of the residents of Swinton.

Swinton is a rural village consisting of 245 properties which include one village shop, pub, garage and small light industrial units. The domestic properties cover a broad mix of size, type, private and social. Swinton has changed rapidly in the last sixty years and will continue to change. The village still retains its medieval form defined by Main Street, East, West and Middle Street. The historic older properties including several listed buildings sit easily with more modern housing giving Swinton its pleasant environment. However, the last five years have seen a substantial expansion of the village with over forty new properties being built and property prices increasing. This rapid expansion has caused concern for the residents, which is reflected in the returned questionnaires.

70% of the returned questionnaires want little or no development and no further large scale developments. 100% state it is vital that the village retains its rural character and is not expanded to become incorporated into Amotherby or a suburb of Malton. The Local Development Framework has already stated that Swinton and Amotherby are described as a 'Service Village whereby these Villages

will have the majority of housing allocated to them. Whilst it is recognized that some development will be required, the challenge will be to ensure that what is valued in Swinton remains intact. Any future development needs to address the needs of the community with particular emphasis on affordable housing so the younger members of the community can remain in the village.

There needs to be support for the Parish Council to aid them to become more effective at pushing the villages views to the Local Planning Authority and the production of a Design Statement would enable this and help with a consistent approach for each application.

## Action Plan

- Produce a Design Statement for Swinton  
This is a practical tool which would help influence decisions on design and development. It would be a clear statement of the physical character of Swinton against which planning applications may be assessed
- Explore options for affordable housing only going to local people and that a good mix of housing exists for families to expand and remain in the village.
- More sheltered accommodation for the elderly so people can remain in the village



When asked if they feel safe in the community, a total of 98% said yes, with 42% of residents strongly agreeing with this and a further 56% saying they agree. Crime and community safety does not appear to be an issue in Swinton with only 12 households having been affected by crime during the last three years.

The vast majority of respondents were aware of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and a resounding 119 households said that they would participate in the scheme.

66% of respondents feel that the street lighting in Swinton should 'stay as it is' 26% feel it should be increased and 6% feel it should be reduced and 2% would prefer no street lighting. It was suggested that in some areas, especially the newer developments that street lighting was excessive, whereas in other parts of the village it was felt that it should be increased.

It was also felt by one or two residents that streets lights should go off after midnight.

With regard to other emergency services such as the ambulance service and the fire

and rescue service, the general consensus was that it was good, but a vast majority of respondents had not used either.

## **ACTION PLAN**

- Monitor the street lighting
- Turn off street lights after midnight

# VILLAGE FACILITIES



## Swinton Bowling Club

The Bowling Club was formed in 1935 by a group of gentlemen from the village. A photograph of these players is on show in the clubhouse. The land where the Bowling Green is situated together with the football field and children's playground was given to the Parish Council by deed from the Behrens family of Swinton Grange. There were two conditions:-

- a) The whole of the area should be used as a children's playground.
- b) The Parish Council should let the bowling land to the Bowling Club for a peppercorn rent.

In 1977 the green was extended to its present size.

The clubhouse at the time was a large green hut which remained in use until 1996. A successful lottery bid meant that it was possible to upgrade the clubhouse in time for the 1997 bowling. A small group of members demolished the old building which was transported to Great Habton by tractor and trailer.

The club plays in four leagues: - Hovingham, Ladies, BATA Gas Triples and the Veterans. Matches are played on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings and the veterans play on Wednesday afternoons. The season is from the beginning of May until the end of August.

## Swinton & District Horticultural Society

Swinton & District Horticultural Society was formed in 1936 and the Show has always been held on August Bank Holiday Monday. In the early 1930's the Women's Institute ran it and when the men took over it moved to the Parish Hall. The first show was held in the village playing fields.

Two cups were purchased, one for the ladies and one for the gentlemen with most points in the show. We still use those cups today, along with another which we have had donated or purchased over the years. We now have a chrysanthemum show in October. The first chrysanthemum show only had two exhibits but now it has grown to the extent of a whole row and more the length of the hall.

Both shows have classes for vegetables, fruit, flowers, floral art, baking, handicrafts and agriculture.

We would like to see more village exhibitors which would help keep us going.

If anyone would like to join the Society, please contact the Steads at Hill View, Swinton on 01653 694663.

## VILLAGE FACILITIES cont



### **The Playground near the Bowling Green**

The original pieces of playground equipment, two slides, were donated to the children of Swinton by patrons of The Blacksmiths Arms in 1978. The two slides were in memory of Stan Prest and Clarice Smith. A rocking horse and some swings were put in by the Parish Council at a later date. The swings still remain but the rocking horse was removed when it became dangerous.

In 1996 the Parish Council applied for and obtained a grant to erect an adventure trail. Over the years certain parts of the trail have had to be repaired through fair wear and tear but sometimes due to vandalism. Last year after an inspection most of the trail was condemned. It was at this point that the Parish Council decided to remove all the faulty items and look at a new playground. A display of equipment available was held in the Reading Room when parents and children were invited to come along and register their thoughts and ideas. Grants were applied for and obtained from NYCC, Ryedale District plus a 106 agreement which was money paid by the developer of Meadowfield Close. Further contributions were received from local residents and business people. A plaque has

been erected listing all those who donated. The new playground equipment was installed by Image Playgrounds of Sheriff Hutton and we hope to purchase further funds allow.

The official opening took place in July 2010 when the playground was opened by Sarah-Jane Voelcker, the granddaughter of Clive Behrens who gave the land to be used for a children's playground.

There was an excellent turn out of children, parents and grandparents with a barbecue and cold drinks being supplied.

### **ACTION PLAN**

- Fundraise for more equipment
- Have an annual event in the playground

# VILLAGE FACILITIES cont



## Swinton Pre School Playgroup

Swinton Playgroup is an established group formed in 1979. It operates from the Reading Room which is shared with other community groups. The Playgroup is run by a committee of parents and is a member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance. The facilities include a main playroom with adjacent toilet facilities, one further room for other activities such as cafe or area for extended play, a kitchen, and an enclosed garden for outdoor play and learning. The group serves the local community and a number of villages within the surrounding rural area. The group cares for up to 24 children between the ages of two and five years .

The aim of the Playgroup is to provide a safe, secure and stimulating environment in order to give pre-school children the opportunity to develop their full potential by learning through play.

Playgroup sessions (term time only) are:

Monday	9.00 to 11.30
Tuesday	9.00 to 15.00 with a lunch club from 11.30 to 12.30
Wednesday	9.00 to 15.00 with a lunch club from 11.30 to 12.30
Thursday	9.00 to 11.30

Telephone 07879 834975 for enquiries.

## Swinton Reading Rooms

Originally built as a school room and forming part of the Behrens estate in the village, Swinton Reading Rooms were used as a community hall before being given to the village in 1980 by Colonel William Edward Boaz Behrens for continued use for community benefit.

The rooms are now the home of Swinton Playgroup/several table tennis teams and a local dyslexia group.

A committee representing various areas of the community handles the management of the rooms and all village members are entitled to attend the Annual General Meeting and be nominated for a place on the committee. In fact we would welcome this!

The hall is available for private hire and is ideal for children's parties. There is also a full size snooker table for use. Hiring charges are kept low, but we do rely on local volunteers to run and maintain the halls.

In the past Youth clubs and activity groups have been held from the rooms and perhaps someone would be interested in setting the wheels in motion again to meet the needs of the younger members of the community.

The halls have recently been refurbished and fitted with disabled access and toilets and we are currently having the exterior stonework renovated, as funds will allow forming the final stage of our general overhaul.

Anyone interested in hiring the hall or taking an active part, please contact Dianne Illingworth on 01653 697548.

## VILLAGE FACILITIES cont



### Swinton Brass Band

Swinton and District Excelsior Band was formed in 1936, after a group of men who had played in local pubs decided to become a more formal group. The band held its meetings in the disused Methodist Chapel on West Street (known now as the Band Room). The room originally had no electricity and the band had to practice by candlelight. The band grew in the next few years but the outbreak of the Second World War changed the character of the band.

After the war, Colonel Behrens purchased the former Methodist Chapel giving the band a permanent base, which became known, as the Band Room.

During the 1950's the band went from strength to strength and after a decline in the 1960's several distinguished Bandleaders brought Swinton back to the fore. A much-anticipated event is the annual Christmas concert around the village and more recently the Christmas carol concert at the pub on Christmas Eve.

For a far more detailed history of the Band please see [www.swinton-band.org.uk](http://www.swinton-band.org.uk)

### ACTION PLAN

- More publicity for the Brass Band and the Sports Centre

### Swinton Sports Centre

The Broughton, Swinton and Amotherby (BSA) Playing Fields Association is a community funded and run sports and social organisation based off Low Lane. The BSA Club was opened in 19xx with over 60% of the funding needed to purchase the land and build the sports hall being raised by the local community, the outstanding balance being funded through grant aid. The facilities which include the sports hall, changing rooms, showers, bar & lounge are modern, well maintained and popular with a wide range of local clubs. Facilities are also available for and popular with individual members.

Indoor activities include five-a-side football, badminton, netball and short mat bowls. Also available are facilities for both gymnastics and volleyball. North Yorkshire Police and the Fire Brigade regularly use the hall for training purposes.

There are two football pitches, a cricket square, children's play area & car park. The club has recently acquired a further two acres of land and an additional football pitch and tennis courts are planned for the future.

The Club has a licensed bar and comfortable lounge area which can be hired out for functions and private parties.

Bingo is held on the last Saturday of most months and is usually in aid of local clubs and organisations.

For further information on becoming a member or booking the hall please contact the club on 01653 690708.

# COMMUNICATION



## Communication

There was a mixed response as to how people hear about what is happening in the village. The majority of residents hear either through the Street Newsletter produced by the church, the local paper, mail drops, the village shop or pub and word of mouth.

The majority of residents thought an information pack for residents, especially new ones would be useful; this could contain information on transport, local services and village events.

There was strong support for a village newsletter and website, both of which are being worked on by the Steering Group.

For those people who are connected to the Internet the broadband service is very slow due to the fact that we are at the extreme end of the line from the BT exchange.

There were also some requests from 20 questionnaires which indicated they would like an Internet facility in the village for public use



## ACTION PLAN

- Pressure to be put on BT to install a relay exchange or fibre optic link to the village
- Newsletter to be regularly produced
- Website to be set up and kept up to date
- Investigate public Internet access venue and costs
- Information pack for new residents

# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



The preliminary questionnaire for the Swinton Parish Plan showed a need for more community events. There has been a very good response to suggestions for those events as well as offers of help from residents.

In the past there were many social activities happening in the village, such as over 60s lunch and Christmas Party, Harvest Festival, Youth Clubs and a rounders competition between Swinton and Broughton.

The first event held was the Race Night in November 2009 in the Blacksmith Arms which was not very well attended, but enjoyed by all who came; there was good support from the previous landlords and the village shop with prizes; it is hoped to repeat this event later in 2010.

In April two drop in sessions were held in the Reading Rooms to highlight the results from the questionnaire and invite further comments and suggestions from residents; both these events were well attended and we received coverage in the local press.

The Treasure Hunt and Barbecue which was held in August on probably the wettest afternoon for some time was attended by over 80 people of all ages. There was very positive feedback and many requests for something similar every year!

At the time of writing plans are well under way for the Bonfire Night on 6 November at the Sports Centre; many local residents have offered help with this, ranging from collecting bonfire material to cooking and serving the food.

The Swinton Bowling Club is a well supported group in the village and holds regular Bingo sessions down at the Sports Hall.

## Future Events

In addition to those mentioned there was support for all the ideas in the questionnaire, the most popular being a Village Fete, Open Gardens and a family walk. The Steering group is planning a Beetle Drive to involve some of the younger members of the community, a Safari Club and a Car Boot sale.

The Steering Group is keen to hear from any residents who would like to organise any event, or be involved in helping with any activities.

## ACTION PLAN

- Need organisers to take events forward

# LOCAL BUSINESSES



There are several businesses based in Swinton, with the Blacksmith Arms and Hornsey Meats being the most visible.

The Blacksmith Arms is situated on the main road running through the village and has a good reputation for serving good traditional home cooked food; they also run a regular Quiz Night, Karaoke, discos and Race Nights. One of the highlights of the year is the Carols round the Christmas tree outside on Christmas Eve with the Swinton Band.

Hornsey Meats is based opposite the pub on a site which was originally a blacksmith's shop and then a garage. It is a family run business, father and son and somewhere where you are always sure of a warm welcome and smiling service.

DDH Electrical Services are based in one of the units in Lowfield Lane and offer a wide range of services - domestic, agricultural and industrial.

Domestic Heating Services are also based in Lowfield Lane and offer plumbing, heating and Aga services.

P Farrow & sons are based at the bottom end of East Street and are a large metal recycling plant.

Dianne Illingworth has a holiday cottage to let in Wellgarth which is available all year round for weekly and short breaks.

Walnut Garth is another holiday cottage on the Main Street, which welcomes dogs and again is open all year, with many additional 'extras'. They also sell seasonal produce from their garden at regular intervals.

Atkin Motor Engineers is a family run business, established for 38 years. They offer dealership services for Ford, Nissan and Daihatsu as well as used vehicle sales, servicing and repairs.

## ACTION PLAN

- Make sure all businesses are included in new residents directory
- Encourage local businesses to support the newsletter and website (when it is set up)





## **Mrs Cuthbertson**

Mrs Cuthbertson has lived in the village for over seventy years. She has seen some drastic changes, some of which she doesn't approve! The life of the housewife has changed greatly – gone are the oil lamps, the candles, the side oven, the peggy tub and peggy stick, flat irons on the fire. Now we have the working mother – away from home.

Village life has changed too. Swinton had a Post Office with shop, where you could purchase everything from a needle to a candle, also a blacksmith, a village joiner, for a short time we even had a fish and chip shop!

There was more 'community spirit' years ago. Football and cricket were strongly supported, along with other sports.

The Chapel was important in the village life – 'the anniversary' where the Sunday School children had to recite a piece or sing a song, was looked forward to with great excitement; this took place during the Sunday afternoon, and again in the evening annually.

Also annually, even more exciting – the Village Trip to Scarborough! Most of the village residents, except for the working fathers would pack their sandwiches and away on a coach to the seaside for a long day.

'Clipping Rugs' is also a family pastime which has died out; these were made out of old clothes, cut into strips approximately four inches long and one inch wide, threaded double through a Hessian backing.

The whole family would work on them together sitting around a special frame. The Swinton Reading Rooms were much used years ago; the retired men would spend their afternoons there, chatting, smoking, reading, playing dominos etc. Once the children finished school for the day they used to congregate in the Reading Rooms for the evening, playing various games – the road was not so busy then!

I remember going with my Grandfather to the Blacksmith's shop (now Bob's) to have his horse shod. My Grandfather was the local coalman living on Highfield Terrace. He carried out his work with a horse and cart and stabled his horse for many years in the stables at the rear of the Pub.

## **Memories from a Village Resident**

Grandfather collected our rations, from Mr Lapish the grocer in Malton, during the war and in subsequent years.

His dog Billy always walked with him and the cart and was a formidable ratter. Billy, a terrier cross, used to catch the rats in the stables at the pub. The first one he ever caught was by its rear end and the rat managed to bite his nose. This inspired him never to make the same mistake.

In later years Grandfather stabled his horse with Mr Prest at Chapel Farm. When he retired from his coal delivery business (still with horse and cart) he used to help out at Reg Waite's farm in West Street.

Just shows how rural the actual village used to be and how much things have changed with most of these agricultural buildings now being dwellings.

It has been quite difficult to engage with the young people of the village and is something which we think we could have done better.

We did send out questionnaires to as many young people as possible, but the response rate was quite low, however there were many similarities to the answers.

They would like to see more activities provided for the younger age groups, including Youth Club, Bonfire Night Barbecue, discos, scarecrow competition, woodwork club, garden fete and village parties.

They would like more organised sports activities. They would also like to see the playground at the Sports Centre refurbished, which we believe is currently being planned.

It was interesting to note that one of the requests was for a village newsletter in order for them to find out what was happening.

Many of them were concerned about the speed of traffic on the main road and the fact that in order to reach the Playground at the top of the village there was no crossing available for children and parents with prams.

## **ACTION PLAN**

- Investigate the possibility of running a Youth Club which could incorporate some of the other ideas mentioned.



## Comments from residents in the questionnaire

- Many comments made regarding improvements needed to the refuse collection service, both from a health hazard and for being more environmentally friendly.
- Many comments re public transport, with no buses at convenient times and especially later in the evening. Need to improve gritting during bad weather.
- There were also comments on the need for school buses to drop children off down the village, not always on the main road.
- There were many comments regarding the speed at which vehicles travel through the village and requests for some sort of traffic calming measures.
- The conditions of pavements were of major concern to many people, especially those with prams and small children.
- All respondents were adamant that they didn't want any more housing developments, apart from possibly some housing for older/less able people at the top of the village.
- The lack of adequate drainage system was of major concern to many.
- Varied response to village lighting with some wanting more and some wanting less!
- There was a wide variety of requests for village events, especially Bonfire Night and more activities for children and young people, as well as clubs/lunches for older people.
- People felt that they were unsure where to get information from – hopefully the newsletter and website will address this problem as well as perhaps the installation of further notice boards.

# ACTION PLAN

Action	Lead Body	Outcome
<b>Environment</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Liaise with relevant bodies with regard to foul and surface drainage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Parish Council</li> <li>· North Yorkshire CC</li> <li>· Yorkshire Water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Improve drainage</li> <li>· Sewage not on road at bottom of village</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Discourage Dog Fouling</li> <li>· Encourage reporting of mess</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Parish Council</li> <li>· Ryedale District Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Reduction in dog fouling</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Ask for doorstep collections of cardboard and plastics</li> <li>· Better provision for separation of waste</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Ryedale District Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Collection of cardboard and plastics</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Investigate possibility of land and grants for provision of allotments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Parish Council</li> <li>· Local landowners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Allotments available</li> </ul>
<b>Local Transport</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Parish Council and residents to lobby for improvements to bus services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Parish Council</li> <li>· NYCC</li> <li>· Residents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Increase in reliability</li> <li>· Increase in frequency</li> <li>· Early and late bus services</li> <li>· Bus service on Sundays and bank holidays</li> <li>· Services to Malton synchronise with trains and Coastliner buses.</li> <li>· All buses to have disabled access</li> <li>· All buses to go down village</li> <li>· Service to Helmsley restored</li> <li>· Storage for pushchairs and groceries</li> <li>· availability of time tables</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Request School buses to drop off children down village</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Residents</li> <li>· Parish council</li> <li>· NYCC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· School buses go round village</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Press for Cycle Path between Amotherby and Malton</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Parish Council</li> <li>· Ryedale District Council</li> <li>· Safer and Plesanter Action to Malton group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Cycle path to Malton and Amotherby</li> </ul>

# ACTION PLAN

## Traffic & Road Safety

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Press for reduction in speed limits</li> <li>· Enforce speeding limits on B1257</li> <li>· Introduction of suitable traffic calming measures after discussion</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Parish Council</li> <li>· Police</li> <li>· NYCC Highways</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· B1257 speed limit 30mph</li> <li>· Village speed limit 20mph</li> <li>· Lower limit on Swinton Lane</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Lobby for flashing matrix signs on B1257</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Parish Council</li> <li>· Police</li> <li>· NYCC Highways</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Installation of matrix signs</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Enforce speeding limits on B1257</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Police</li> <li>· Parish Council</li> </ul>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Reduction in speeding</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Investigate suitable traffic calming measures</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Parish Council</li> <li>· Police</li> <li>· NYCC Highways</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Reduction in speeding</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Lobby for refuge or crossing on B1257 and children/people crossing signs</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Parish Council</li> <li>· Police</li> <li>· NYCC Highways</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Able to cross B1257 safely</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Ask for signs to improve safer access to East and West Street</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Parish Council</li> <li>· Police</li> <li>· NYCC Highways</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Safer Access</li> </ul>  |

## Pavements, Footpaths & Bridleways

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Improvements to pavements</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Parish Council</li> </ul>                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· pavements clear of overhanging vegetation</li> <li>· pavements resurfaced where necessary</li> <li>· pavements not obstructed by cars</li> <li>· Pavement alongside B1257 improved</li> <li>· investigate railings where steep drop</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Residents to inform Parish Council where problems</li> </ul>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Residents</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Parish Council can take forward problems</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Investigate of wider footpath West Street to Amotherby Church suitable for pushchairs</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Parish Council</li> <li>· NYCC</li> </ul>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Child friendly path to Amotherby Church so children can be walked to school</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Improve footpaths</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Parish Council</li> <li>· NYCC</li> <li>· Landowners</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Vegetation cut back</li> <li>· Potholes filled in</li> </ul>   |

# ACTION PLAN

## Housing & Development

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| · Produce a Design Statement for Swinton                        | · Parish Council  | · Design statement which would assist in planning      |
| · Make Ryedale Council aware Swinton is separate from Amotherby | · Parish Council  | · Accepted Bt Ryedale District Council we are separate |
| · Explore options for affordable housing for local people       | · Parish Council<br>· Ryedale Disctict Council<br>· Yorkshire Housing | · Houses available                                     |
| · More sheltered accommodation for elderly                      | · Parish Council<br>· Ryedale Disctict Council<br>· Yorkshire Housing | · Elderly residents can stay in village                |

## Security & Safety

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| · Make residents more aware of police presence | · Parish Council<br>· North Yorkshire Police | · Residents aware of the police role in village      |
| · Street lighting levels to be monitored       | · Parish Council                             | · Lighting is adequate<br>· Light directed downwards |

## Village Facilities & Recreation

- |   |  |                                    |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
| · Residents to be made aware of existing facilities and clubs | · Those responsible for Clubs, events and facilities<br>· Swinton Sports and Social Club | · Residents know what is available |
| · Raise funds for more equipment for top playground           | · Play Ground Committee<br>· Local residents   | · Equipment provided               |
| · Investigate formation of other interest group and classes   | · Residents  | · More involvement by residents    |

## Community Involvement

- |   |                                 |  |
|---|---------------------------------|--|
| · To encourage more involvement by residents to continue events started by Steering Group and consider new ones | · Steering Group<br>· Residents | · Village Bonfire continues<br>· Hold village BBQ<br>· Events held |
|---|---------------------------------|--|

# ACTION PLAN

## Communication

- |  |                                      |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| · To have a village newsletter                       | · Steering Group<br>· Parish Council | · Newsletter circulated regularly to all households                    |
| · Website to be set up and kept up to date           | · Steering Group<br>· Parish Council | · Website site created<br>· Web editor found                           |
| · Produce information pack for new residents         | · Steering Group<br>· Parish Council | · Information pack distributed   |
| · Internet speed to be improved                      | · BT                                 | · BT to install a relay exchange or fibre optic link to the village BT |
| · Investigate public internet access venue and costs | · Steering Group<br>· Parish Council | · Location found   |

## Local Businesses

- |   |  |                       |
|---|--|-----------------------|
| · Include all businesses in the new residents local directory   | · Steering Group                       | · Listed in Directory |
| · Encourage local businesses to support newsletter and web site | · Steering Group<br>· Local businesses | · support given       |

## Future Citizens

- |   |   |                                 |
|---|---|---------------------------------|
| · Investigate possibility of Youth Club and other activities for younger citizens | · Steering Group<br>· Parish Council<br>· Local Community | · Activities for young citizens |
| · Create an play ground suitable for 11-16 year olds                              | · Steering Group<br>· Parish Council                      | · Facility available            |

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## Thanks

The Swinton Parish Plan Steering Group is very pleased to have been able to produce this Plan which is the culmination of 18 months work by a number of people, including all the residents who took part in the consultation questionnaires and drop in sessions.

Without the support of so many people it would have been difficult to write a comprehensive and meaningful plan.

Many thanks must go to all the members of the Steering Group who have helped with comments, suggestions and articles for the Plan, Swinton Parish Council, as well as grateful thanks to Maggie Farey from Yorkshire Rural Community Council for all her help and advice throughout the process.

I would also like to thank HPE, the printers for all their advice and help during the compilation and printing of this Plan.

I would like to acknowledge the financial support received from the Yorkshire Rural Community Council towards the costs of printing the Plan and to the Howardian Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty for their grant towards publishing the first Newsletter which was very well received by residents and something which we intend to continue.

We hope residents find this Plan useful and informative and look forward to be able to achieve some of the tasks set out in the Action Plan – we certainly intend to work with the residents to provide more community events and get more people involved in organising and running things – we have loads of ideas but will need the bodies to make them happen!

Jan Anderson MBE  
Chairman, Swinton Parish Plan Steering Group





### Walnut Garth Holiday Cottage, Swinton

Walnut Garth is a self-catering holiday cottage set in the grounds of the owners property at the edge of Swinton

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