

Swinton Parish Plan 2017



An Update To The
2011 Plan

Thank You!

Thank you again to all who responded—the time and effort taken to complete and return your questionnaire is very much appreciated.

All the responses have provided a wealth of valuable information for us to plan future events and activities, and for us all to keep working to make Swinton an even better place to live.

A sub-group of the Swinton Community Group have used all the information and feedback provided, and combined it with a review of the 2011 Parish Plan Action Plan to create a new Action Plan for the next few years which has been fully endorsed by the Swinton Parish Council. A full version of the plan follows this summary.

All residents are encouraged to get involved and help turn some of the ideas and aspirations into reality. If there is something in particular which you would like to get involved with, please contact Jan Anderson Chair of the Swinton Community Group on 696544 / jananderson1@msn.com, or Paul Cuthbertson, Chair of the Parish Council on 694138 / paulcuthbertsonplg@hotmail.co.uk.

Many thanks, Swinton Community Group Parish Plan Sub-Group

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Introduction

The original Swinton Parish Plan was published in 2011 using information gathered from the questionnaire circulated to households in 2010. It contained a history of the village along with many photographs and is still available on the village website.

The 2017 update is looking at what has been achieved since the original plan was produced and whether the residents have differing priorities now than in 2011. This new version of our Parish Plan has been produced from the responses received to a questionnaire sent to all households in June 2016. The Community Group were pleased that so many people responded although the response was slightly lower than last time. This can partly be attributed to some of the houses being empty or residents having just moved in. The volunteers distributing and collecting the questionnaires did not open the forms returned—each was strictly anonymous and in a sealed envelope. All the responses were collated by Maggie Farey of Rural Action Yorkshire. For the statistically minded, we can only look at trends as the sample is not identical, and depending on where you live in the village this may determine your views on some questions eg: speeding and drainage.

Achievements

Some of the biggest achievements of the 2011 Parish Plan were the setting up of the Swinton Village Action Group (now the Swinton Community Group) who produce and edit the village newsletter and website, and run village events including the bonfire, picnics, a fete, open gardens, senior citizens lunches, carols in the pub and the harvest festival; along with holding beetle drives and bingo for younger children.

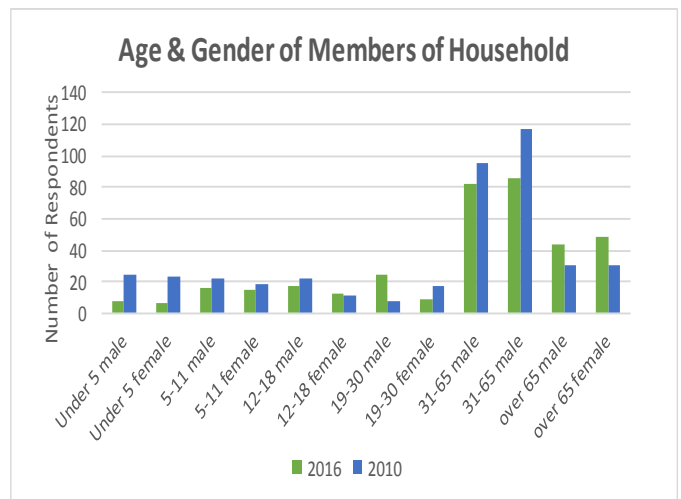
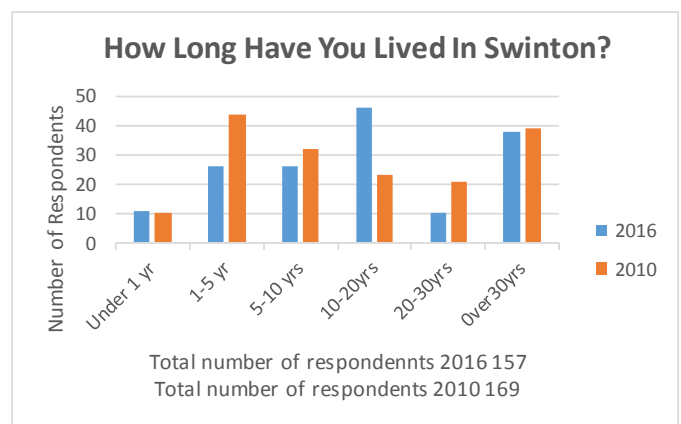
The Parish Council has also taken action on matters which are within their remit and have made Swinton's views known to both Ryedale District Council and North Yorkshire County Council. As an outcome of the 2011 plan, the Parish Council have amongst other things arranged for 'Caution Children Playing' signs to be put up on East and West Street, installed dog fouling bins, salt bins and an extra

litter bin on Swinton Grange.

Businesses within the village have also been extremely supportive by contributing to the cost of grass cutting.

The Village and its People

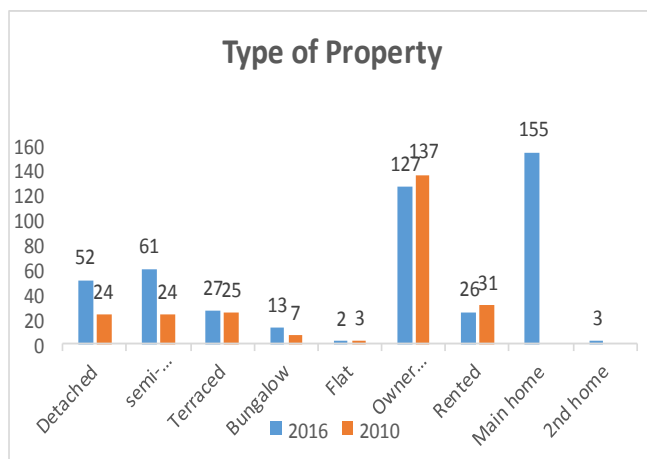
Of those completing the questionnaire people seem to be living in the village longer, with the biggest change in those staying 10-20 years in the village. There were only 10 houses built or converted since 2009; the two newish major developments Pearsons Yard and Meadowfield being built shortly before the original plan.



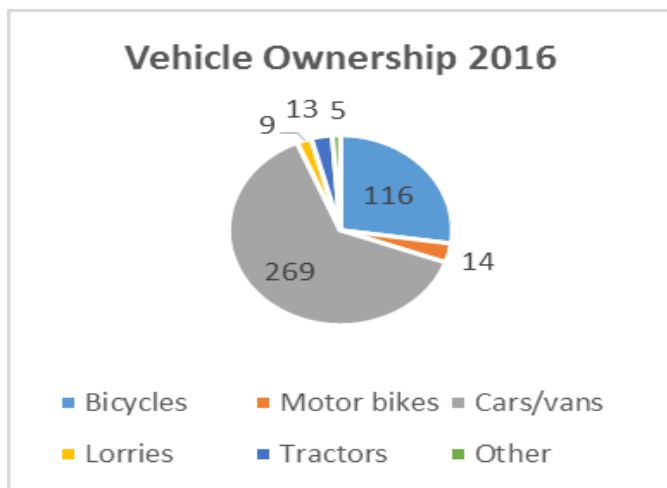
The number of children in the village appears to have decreased but this is a reflection of the householders replying. However Swinton still has a higher number of children than most villages of similar size and a higher proportion of households with occupants of working age such as Ebberston and Yedingham, and Slingsby.

Current Housing and Vehicle Ownership

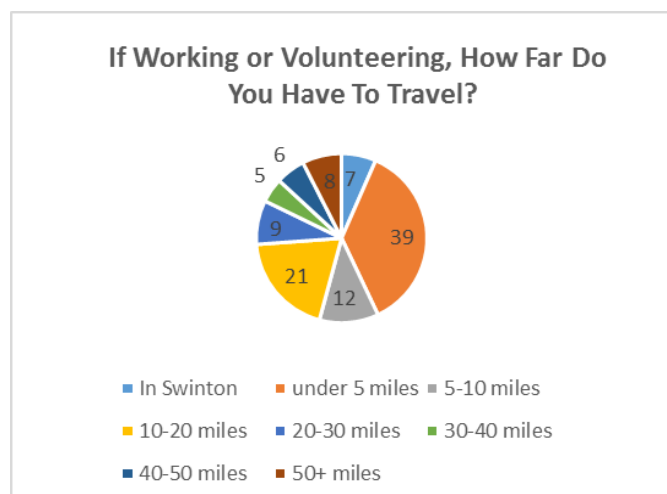
The majority of the houses are owner occupied.



As expected in a rural area most households have more than one vehicle. At least 15 vehicles are parked on the road at night and 20 respondents had not enough on street parking for visitors.



Only 13% work and volunteer within Swinton. The majority travel under 5 miles.



Environment

Refuse Collection: Far more people were happy with refuse collection than were not - 76% were satisfied and 10% sometimes satisfied, whilst 14% were dissatisfied. 22 people specifically commented that they were unhappy with the service. 12 wanted a weekly collection and 12 residents wanted a return to free garden waste, some of whom wanted garden waste to be collected earlier than March. There were a number of comments about recycling with some wanting fewer boxes, and others wanting to be able to recycle more plastics. Two households objected to being woken up early as their refuse was collected by 6.30am. There was a request that more people pick up recycling that has blown around.

Allotments: 23 people expressed a wish to have an allotment.

Sustainable/Eco Schemes: 38% expressed some interest in such schemes.

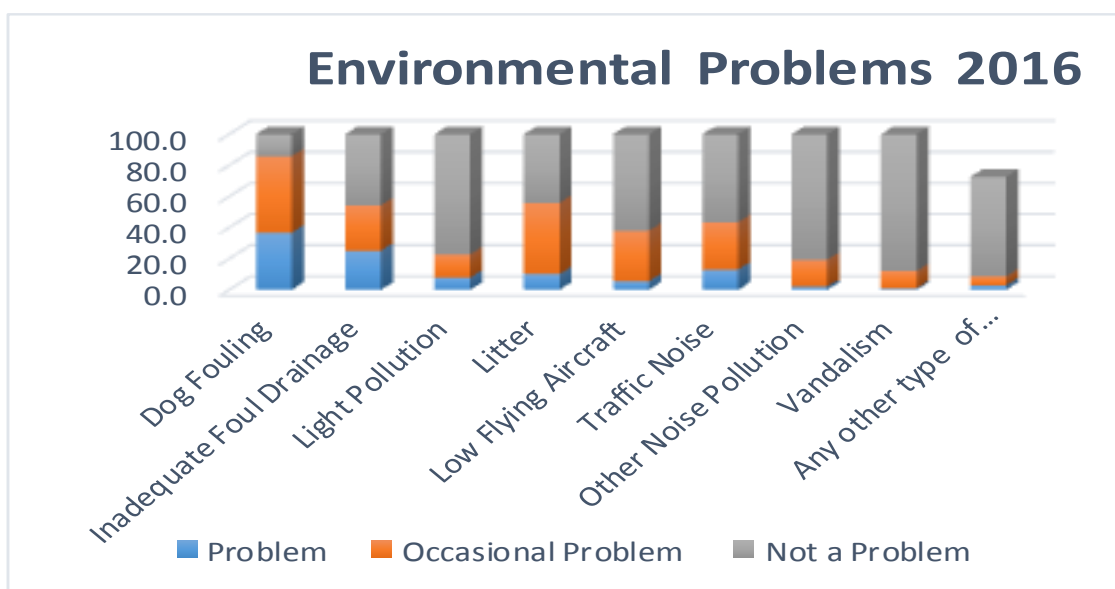
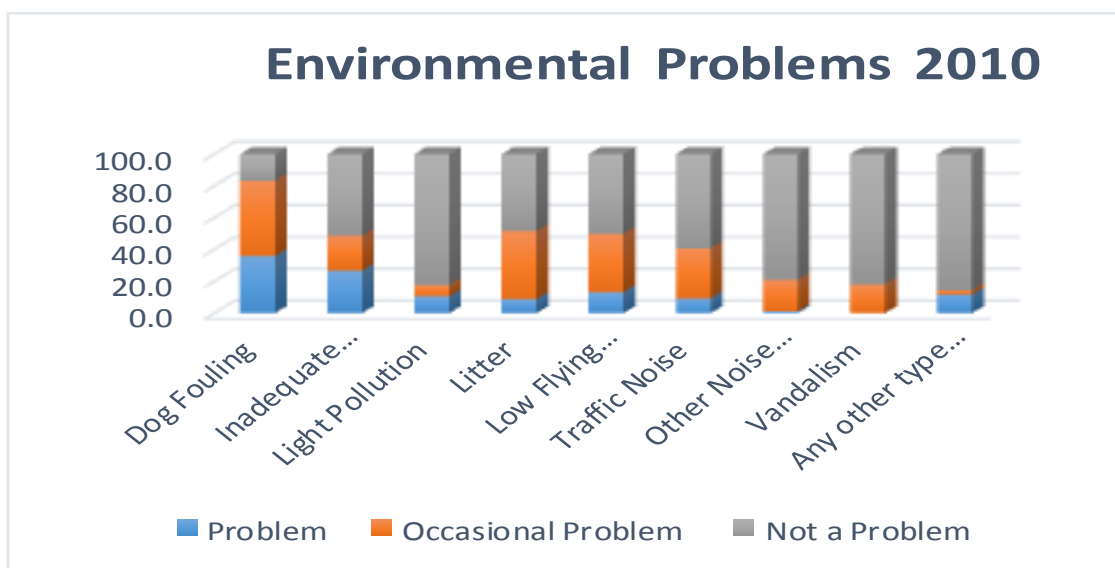
Environmental Problems: The major complaint is dog fouling. Since the 2011 Parish Plan additional dog bins have been installed and anti-dog fouling posters put up but it is still seen as a major issue. Most dog owners do pick up and the problem may not be Swinton owners. Inadequate foul drainage is the second highest concern and is similar to the 2011 plan with many problems being reported at the bottom of the village.

Surface Drainage: 56% now consider it a problem compared with 43% in 2011. The comments show that this now affects all parts of the village and is leading to potholes.

Litter: 11% reported a significant problem and 50% an occasional problem often after recycling is put out on windy days.

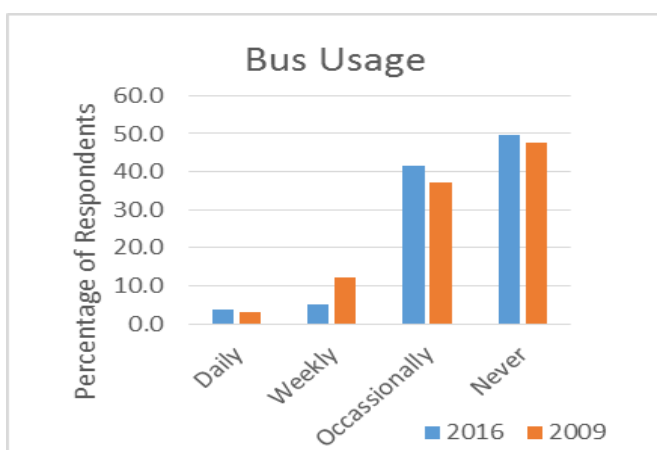
Complaints about traffic noise have increased slightly, but there has been a less concern about low flying aircraft noise, and questions about light pollution, vandalism and other disturbances brought a few complaints, but is not a major issue.

The following two graphs highlight the similarities and differences in responses to this question between 2010 and 2016.



Local Transport

Only 10 respondents cited difficulties in getting to shops, the GP surgery, places of work, and out of the village for leisure activities. Public transport is not an option in the evenings and on Sundays, making private transport the only option. The cuts in bus service in April 2016 have made it even more inconvenient to use. Several people suggested smaller buses would be cheaper to run. People would like the bus to better connect with trains and Coastliner services in Malton. Five people would like the service to Helmsley reinstated.



Ryedale Community Transport Scheme (Ryecat): 58% are aware of the scheme.

Cycling: Currently 20% of respondents cycle from the village but this would increase to 50% if there was a dedicated cycle path. 46% would use it either daily or weekly, and 45% occasionally.

Traffic and Road Safety

The speed limits remain the same as in the previous Parish Plan - 40mph on the B1257, 60mph on Swinton Lane, and 30pmh in the rest of the village. Swinton Lane is becoming a rat run for drivers looking to avoid hold ups going into Malton.

B1257

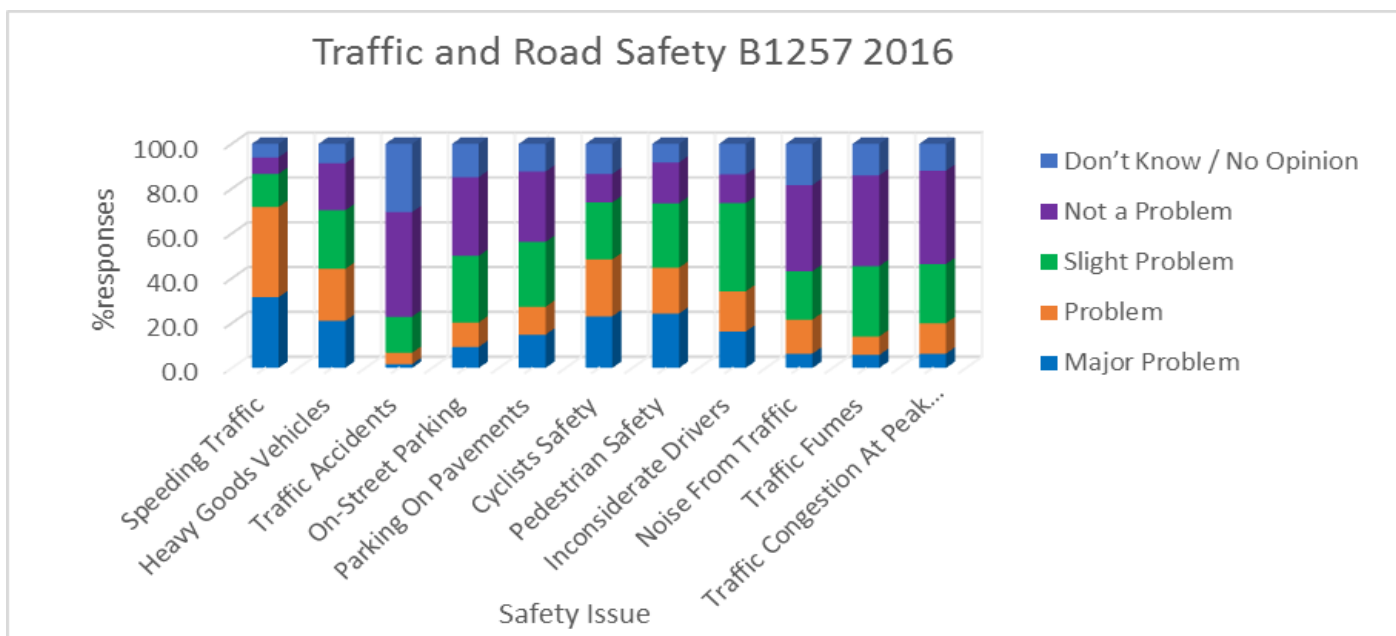
87% of respondents have concerns about speeding along the B1257. 32% consider it to be a major problem, 40% a problem, and 15% a slight problem. Only 6% consider it not a problem.

59% of respondents would like the speed limit on the B1257 reduced to 30mph, and 56% would like rest of village reduced to 20mph.

More than 70% of respondents have some kind of a problem with pedestrian safety, cyclists safety, inconsiderate drivers and heavy goods vehicles, but this is made up of a higher percentage of those responding 'slight problem'.

On-street parking and parking on pavements are not seen as a major concern - most of those concerned saw it as a slight problem. Parking near the turning to East Street does however appear to cause some difficulty. Traffic noise, fumes and congestion are of least concern.

Traffic accidents are not currently seen as a problem, but from the comments received, residents are worried about the potential for accidents.



Village Roads Other Than The B1257

The issues remain the same with speeding the biggest concern. Amongst the speeding comments were speed on Swinton Lane, West and East Street, and vehicles going to Sports Centre.

There has been a 10% reduction in people considering inconsiderate drivers to be a problem, but 51% still do have a problem. 49% have issues with heavy goods vehicles. This figure is made up of more respondents considering it a slight problem. Problems with on-street parking and parking on pavements is still a problem in East Street, West Street and West Close.

A new question asked in 2016 was about access to the B1257. 63% had either a problem or slight problem with this. The main concerns are access from East and West Street and there were

comments about queuing at peak times and visibility at the junctions.

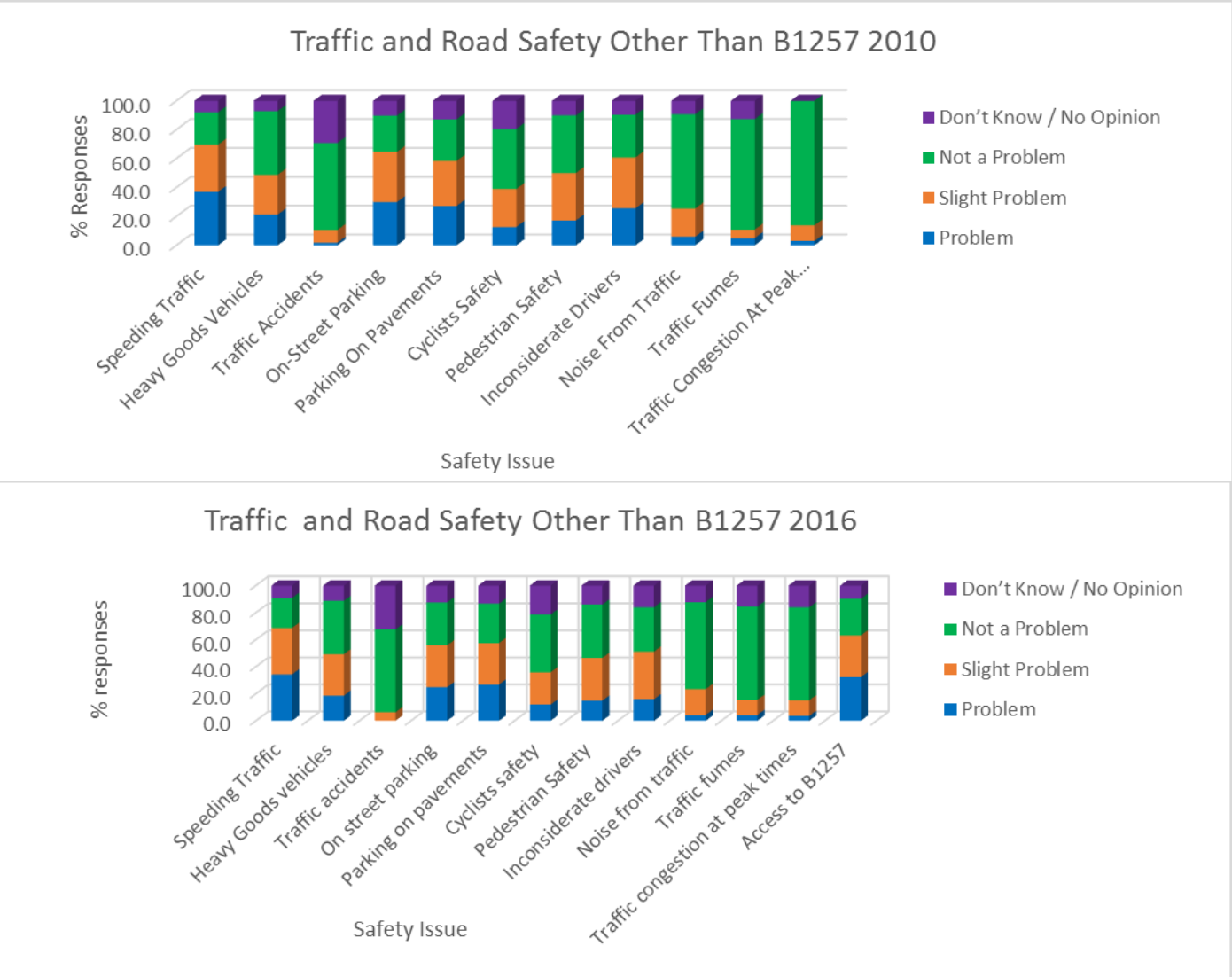
Pedestrian Safety was a concern where children play on pavements. Cyclist safety remains a concern with comments particularly relating to East and West Street.

Traffic Calming

We asked the question ‘Do you think that traffic calming measures are needed anywhere in the village?’, and the responses were evenly split. Reasons for wanting them mainly related to the safety of children playing, and both children and adults crossing B1257.

83% think flashing slow down signs at the entrance to the village would be effective. 33 people would not support the installation of speed bumps.

The following two graphs show the changes and similarities between the responses received in 2010 and 2016.



Pavements, Footpaths and Bridleways

90% of residents who responded use the pavements, and 65% were happy with the condition— an increase of 10% from the 2010 data. However there were many comments about them being uneven and badly maintained, and containing other hazards. In particular people commented about potholes developing, paths crumbling, narrow paths, vegetation encroaching onto path, and cars parking on pavements.

The results for use of the local footpaths/bridleways in and around the parish is similar to the previous survey, with 82% people using them. People are slightly less happy with maintenance and accessibility; the satisfaction rate is currently 67% which is 5% lower than 2010. Happiness with signage and paths being safe to use has also fallen by 4% to 76%. Problems with overgrown vegetation are reported and the path from Low Lane to Amotherby is felt to be hard to find and the gate difficult to use.

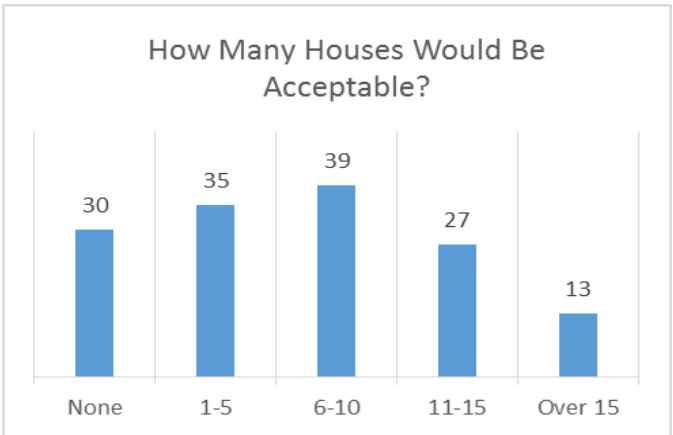
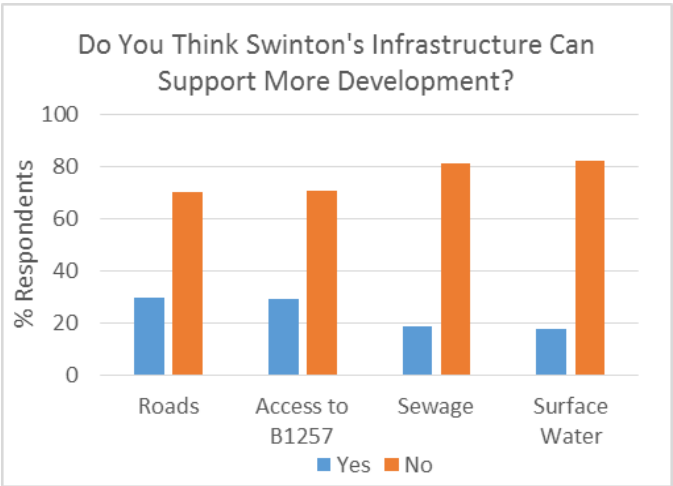
Housing and Future Development

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

One of the action points from the 2011 Parish Plan was to produce a Village Design Statement for Swinton which has not yet been done.

Despite protests, Amotherby and Swinton jointly have been designated by Ryedale District Council a service village in its Local Development Framework. This means we are likely to have to accommodate additional housing in the next 10 years. Currently 30 houses are proposed for Amotherby and Swinton. Central Government is also relaxing planning rules.

68% of those responding to these questions thought that any development should be phased in. Most respondents also did not want the character and shape of the village to change, and did not want to see any large development.



The majority thought the current infrastructure would not be able to support further development.

In answer to the question ‘if there is expansion should priority be given to any specific type’, most comments requested more affordable housing to buy or rent, starter homes, and bungalows for downsizing. It was felt that any new housing needed to be in keeping with existing properties. 13 thought properties should be available to local people.

Any future development needs to meet the needs of the community and should seek to maintain a mixture of housing, with affordable housing so younger members of the community can remain in the village, and housing for the older members. Our community needs people of all ages.

Only 16% of respondents were aware that the Flood Zone in the area had been redrawn.

Fracking

When asked the question about whether fracking extractions should be allowed within the parish, 93% said no.

To the question ‘would you have any concerns about the possibility of fracking near the village’, 79% responded to say they would have concerns. 88% would like the fracking industry to be independently monitored rather than a self-regulated industry.

Security, Emergency Services and Lighting

Crime and security issues do not seem to be a problem in Swinton. When asked if they felt safe in the community, a total of 99% said yes. Only 4 households had been affected by crime in the last 3 years.

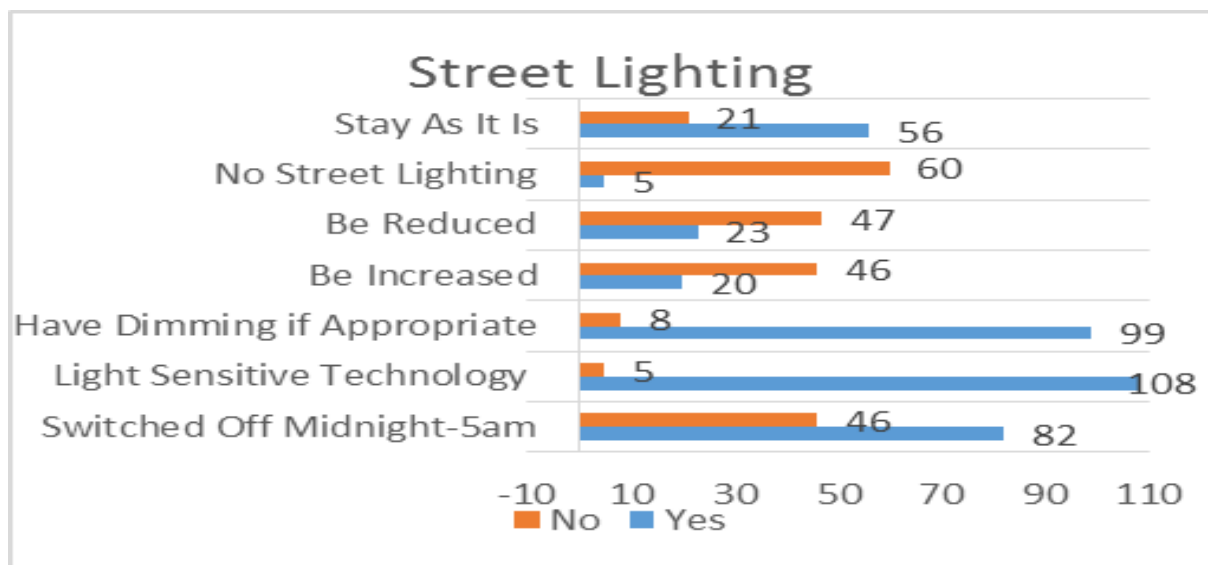
78% of households are aware of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, and 65% would participate in the scheme. Those willing to participate is down by 13%.

Regarding policing, there was a request for a police speed check on entering village from Malton, and with regard to other emergency services such as the ambulance and fire and rescue services, the general consensus was that they are good but the vast majority had never used them.

Street Lighting: Most households that answered the questions about whether technology should be used to control the street lights to either go off at dawn, be dimmed or switched off midnight to 5 am were positive about one or more of these measures being implemented. 40 fewer households answered the other lighting questions.

In 2011 the lighting of the more recent developments of Meadowfield Close and Pearsons Yard was considered to be excessive. Lighting here is the responsibility of NYCC and lighting has since been reduced. Swinton Parish Council is responsible for other lighting in the village.

Most comments were in favour of a reduction in lighting after midnight and there were comments to the effect of its easy to use a torch and mobile phones have a torch facility!



Village Facilities and Community Involvement

The 2016 questionnaire again asked about which facilities were used. The most used were the Post boxes and the pub, followed by the shop and the playground, with the Sports Centre and the Reading Rooms a long way behind. The response is much the same as in 2010.

The playground is very popular with younger children in the village and is much appreciated by older villagers when they have under 11's visiting. It continues to have a successful summer event and in 2016 it was so successful in raising funds for a zip wire that adult exercise equipment was also added.

Swinton Band has raised its profile and continues to play carols round the village streets in the weeks leading up to Christmas, at the Blacksmiths Arms on Christmas Eve, and garden concerts during the summer months. In 2015 the band held a mini fete to raise funds for travel as they had successfully reached the English National Brass Championships. In 2016 there was another free garden concert in the village and in January 2017 the band was promoted to the 3rd Section. New members of all abilities are always welcome, please see the bands website for more details— www.swinton-band.org.

The BSA Sports Centre is under used by residents but is a valuable asset to the community and needs to encourage more awareness and participation and use of its facilities. The Swinton and Amotherby football teams have now moved to the Malton Community Sports Centre but the BSA Netball Club, 5-a-side football, badminton and short mat bowls groups, along with North Yorkshire Police continue to play and train at the centre.

The Reading Rooms is currently used by the Swinton Playgroup on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays, with table tennis, a dyslexia group and the Parish Council also holding regular bookings. The main hall can be hired for £4.00 per hour, or there is a £10 fixed charge for children's parties.

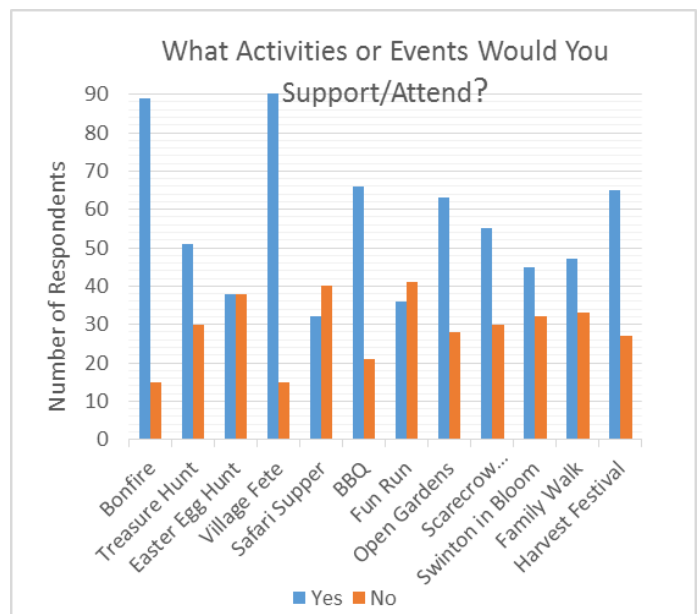
In response to the question 'do you travel outside the Parish for recreational facilities', 69% answered 'yes' (which was the same as in 2010), and of these respondents, 20% went to Amotherby Village Hall for these activities.

When asked what activity you would like to attend, interest levels in activities were greater than current participation numbers.

The bonfire remains an extremely popular event on the village calendar and is well supported.

In terms of new activities, a village fete appears to be something that a large number of residents would like to see.

More than 60 people suggested they would attend or support an Open Gardens event. When Swinton opened gardens jointly with Amotherby in 2013 it was very popular. The Community Group have since tried to organise the event in 2015 and again in 2016 however not enough people were willing to open their gardens. The event can only be run if at least 10 gardens are opened.



34 responded they would be prepared to help organise any of the events listed above.

Communication

One of the action points from the original 2011 Parish Plan was to improve communication within the village. As a result the Swinton newsletter was started and it has now become the most popular method of hearing about village news and events. Telegraph pole posters, e-mail reminders and the playgroup were all mentioned as other sources of information sharing.



15 households thought there should be more noticeboards in the village and there were lots of comments about the positioning of the boards, with some people unaware of where they were. The board next to the bus shelter caused most comment—many thought it would be better re-positioned nearer to the pub or shop, and that it should be unlocked. This noticeboard does need to remain locked as it contains Parish Council information which always needs to be visible and available but other village noticeboards are available for use.

In terms of other suggestions, 84% of respondents thought an information pack for new residents would be useful and 40 respondents would like a village internet facility.

Swinton Parish Plan Action Plan 2017

Some of the actions below are repeated from the 2011 Parish Plan but have been included in our new action plan as they are still of relevance and further work can be done. Where appropriate we have tried to give an update on what action has taken place since 2011.

Action	Lead Body	Outcome	Action Already Taken Place As A Result of 2011 Parish Plan
Liaise with relevant bodies with regard to foul and surface drainage	Parish Council North Yorkshire County Council Yorkshire Water	Improve drainage in relation to road surface water Sewage not on road at bottom of village	Parish Council has been in contact with Yorkshire Water. Response times have since improved.
Discourage Dog Fouling Encourage reporting of mess	Parish Council Ryedale District Council	Reduction in dog fouling	Parish Council has arranged for the installation of dog fouling bins around the village.
Ask for doorstep collection of a bigger range of plastic items	Ryedale District Council	Collection of more plastic materials	Since 2011 Ryedale District Council have started collecting cardboard as part of their general policy on recycling.
Investigate possibility of land and grants for provision of allotments	Parish Council Local landowners	Allotments available	No requests have been made to the Parish Council for allotments since 2011.
Local Transport			
Parish Council and residents to lobby for better services	Parish Council NYCC Residents	Earlier and later buses Reinstate hourly service or at least allow half an hour in Malton before return Reinstate bus at school time for Amotherby and Malton Services to be synchronise d with trains and Coastliner Restore service to Helmsley	In the current period of austerity measures and budget restrictions, NYCC has reduced some services.
Request Cycle Path between Amotherby and Malton	Residents Parish Council Ryedale District Council NYCC	Cycle path	Parish Council has investigated the possibility of a cycle path but no funding was available at the time.
Traffic & Road Safety			
Press for reduction in speed limits	Parish Council Police NYCC Highways	Speed limits reduced Continued liaison with Police and NYCC Highways	Parish Council has investigated the possibility of reducing the speed limit on the B1257 from 40mph to 30mph but we do not qualify for this as there is good visibility along the road.

Introduction of suitable traffic calming measures	Parish Council Police NYCC Highways	Continued liaison with Police and NYCC Highways	Parish Council has investigated the possibility of installed refuges in the middle of the road but have been told the road is too narrow to accommodate them.
Enforce speed limits	Police Parish Council	Reduction in speeding Continued liaison with Police and NYCC Highways	Police have undertaken a speed check in the village. Parish Council has the data from this.
Flashing matrix signs on B1257	Parish Council Police NYCC High ways	Reduction in speeding Continued liaison with Police and NYCC Highways	Flashing matrix signs were installed for a period of time, however the system we were provided with was not correctly set up for Swinton and its effectiveness was therefore limited.
Ask for signs on B1257 to make traffic aware of access problems from East and West Street	Parish Council NYCC Highways Police	More signage on B1257 Reduction of speed limit to 30 Better Access to village roads	
Investigate the possibility of mirrors to aid signage at the top of East and West Streets	Parish Council NYCC Highways Police	Better / easier / safer access from village roads onto the B1257	
Lobby for children and pedestrian crossing signs on B1257	Residents Parish Council Police NYCC Highways	Able to cross B1257 safely	No action to date
Monitor on-street and pavement parking	Residents Parish Council	Roads and pavements not obstructed	Parish Council taking action.
Pavements, Footpaths and Bridleways			
Improvements to pavements	Parish Council	Pavements Clear of overhanging Vegetation Pavements resurface where necessary Pavements not obstructed by cars Investigate railings where steep drop	Parish Council has written to occupants where over hanging vegetation is causing an obstruction. Pavement resurfacing on West Street is under a major works agreement with NYCC and is waiting to be done. Parish Council have looked for funding to install railings where there are steep drops but to date no funding has been identified. This action will continue.
Residents to Inform Parish Council where problems	Residents	Parish Council take forward problems	Residents are already doing this and they need to continue to contact the Parish Council who will take action where required. Potholes can be reported by all on www.potholes.org .
Improvements to footpaths	Parish Council NYCC Landowners	Vegetation cutback Potholes filled in	
Housing & Development			
Produce Design Statement for Swinton	Parish Council	Design statement which would assist in planning	No action to date

Residents concerns about any new housing – size and impact on infrastructure to be respected	Ryedale District Council Parish Council Residents	No large developments. Village infrastructure problems addressed if more development	There have been no new larger / multiple developments since 2011. Parish Council monitor any new planning applications. Residents are also able to lodge any queries with Ryedale District Council.
Explore options for affordable housing to buy and rent for local people	Parish Council Ryedale District Council Yorkshire Housing	Houses Available	Not currently aware of any need.
More sheltered accommodation for elderly	Parish Council Ryedale District Council Yorkshire Housing	Elderly residents can stay in village	Not currently aware of any need.
Monitor proposals for all extraction (including via fracking) within or near Parish	NYCC Parish Council	No fracking extraction	
Security, Emergency Services and Lighting			
Increase participation in Neighbourhood watch Scheme	Parish Council Residents	More participation	Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is still operating with a group of co-ordinators in the village. Parish Council has taken over the management of the group until a new Chair for the scheme is found.
Technology to be introduced to switch lights off between midnight to dawn	Parish Council NYCC	Lighting switched off	Ongoing with Parish Council.
Village Facilities, Recreation and Community Involvement			
Residents to be made more aware of existing facilities	Those responsible for clubs, events and facilities	Residents know what is available via newsletter and improved communications	Ongoing.
Investigate formation of other interest groups and classes	Residents	More resident participation	
Encourage more involvement of residents in Community Group and to put on events, help with communication etc	Residents	More residents involved organising events for village such as a BBQ, Fete and Bonfire night. Other events held.	A number of new volunteers have been involved in a variety of village activities but more are always welcome.
More equipment for 11-16 year olds	Parish Council Community Group Local Community	Facility available	Zip wire has been installed.
More activities for families and children	Parish Council Community Group Residents	Continue to organise	Village fete, beetle drives and Parish Council involvement in developing the play area have all taken place to date.

Communication			
Continue the Village Newsletter and website	Swinton Community Group	Newsletter produced and website maintained More residents to submit articles, information and news for inclusion	The village newsletter has consistently been produced and published since 2011. Please email swinton.newsletter@gmail.com if you wish to be added to the mailing list.
Produce information pack for new residents	Swinton Community Group Parish Council	Pack produced	No action to date.
Develop use of social media within the village	Swinton Community Group	Swinton village Facebook and / or twitter accounts launched and regularly used to promote events, share news and promote positive action within the village	



The Swinton Bike Tree

Created to celebrate the Tour de Yorkshire—April 2017

With thanks to the Swinton Parish Council, the Howardian Hills AONB and Rural Action Yorkshire for their help in preparing and publishing this document.