

Crowle

A Parish Plan

2008 - 2020



A message from the Chairman of Crowle Parish Council

The Crowle Parish Council asked the “2020” group to create a Parish Plan which represented the views of as large a number of parishioners as possible.

It was to give the Parish Council a direction for its work over the forthcoming years, as well as providing a document which could be adopted as a local information source for the local strategic partnership.

As chairman of the Parish Council, I endorse and welcome the contents of this plan for Crowle. The Council would wish to acknowledge the detailed and careful work done by the 2020 group, and in particular recognise the extraordinary amount of work done by the Chairman of the group, Robin Lowe.



Marie Eastwood
Chairman, Crowle Parish Council

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Crowle Parish Council

Why do we need a plan?

A carefully thought out plan which takes account of the thoughts and aspirations of parishioners, will help to ensure that future changes to Crowle will take account of those wishes.

Decisions on housing, transportation, infrastructure, community safety and public services are made by a variety of agencies which can be difficult for individuals to influence.

It follows that if our views can be clearly recognised and accepted as, “The voice of Crowle”, and that

they represent a wide democratic consensus of parishioners’ hopes and expectations, then they are more likely to be noticed and less likely to be ignored.

In order to manifest those views clearly and persuasively, we need to document them in an attractive and comprehensive manner, and demonstrate that those views represent the wishes of the majority of the residents of Crowle.

To do so, we need a “Parish Plan”.

What are the benefits of producing such a plan?

The plan must necessarily involve eliciting the communal views of as many parishioners as possible. Its compilation and subsequent publication will provide many benefits. Our aspirations from the plan are:

- *The views of the community will be recorded, understood and acted upon by others.*
- *There will be enhanced community spirit and support for parish organisations, events and activities.*
- *Local services and facilities should be improved.*
- *Housing will meet the needs of local people and will be of an appropriate scale and character.*
- *Everyone will have an opportunity to express their viewpoint.*
- *Everyone will be better able to understand the opinions of others.*
- *Public authorities, planners and agencies will be more likely to take note of and accept our wishes.*
- *Pride in the Parish environment will be enhanced.*
- *Apathy towards the future will be reduced.*
- *Property values are likely to be maintained or increased.*
- *Widespread unsympathetic development will be discouraged.*
- *Parishioners will feel that they and their property are safe.*
- *The Parish will retain its essentially rural character.*
- *To secure the adoption of the plan as a local information source for the local strategic partnership.*

In Short:

To preserve Crowle as a pleasant place in which to live and work.

Events leading up to the production of the Plan

Crowle Parish Council decided that a plan should be produced and notices appeared in the parish news letter of this decision.

Next a simple questionnaire was published inviting all residents to nominate issues which they believed were important. This questionnaire asked for volunteers to join a planning team which would eventually produce a parish plan.

12 people volunteered, and the “CROWLE 2020” group was formed and began work.

It was very fortunate that the membership was made up of parishioners from every part of the Parish, including Crowle Green and Sale Green, thus ensuring everywhere was well represented.

A 15 page survey in the form of a questionnaire was prepared with 51 detailed questions. This covered housing, community safety and anti-social behaviour, highways and transportation, environmental issues, facilities and services, communications, governance, household details, and it included a section inviting people to say what made them “mad, sad and glad” about Crowle.

Each member of the 2020 group was charged with delivering a questionnaire to every house in their area of the parish, and subsequently with collecting them when completed. Regular updates of progress were carried in the Crowle Cryer.

417 questionnaires were delivered and 279 (almost exactly 2/3rds) were completed and returned. It was a feature that the majority of respondents had gone to considerable trouble to provide full and detailed answers, and a great many compliments were received by the committee about the quality and comprehensiveness of the questionnaire.

The results from the 12 areas were combined into an 80 page report which included a reference to every respondent's comments.



These results were presented in graphic form at a major public exhibition in the parish hall in February 2007. Local clubs and societies also had displays of their activities and representatives from Wychavon District Council, the County Council and Community First also attended.



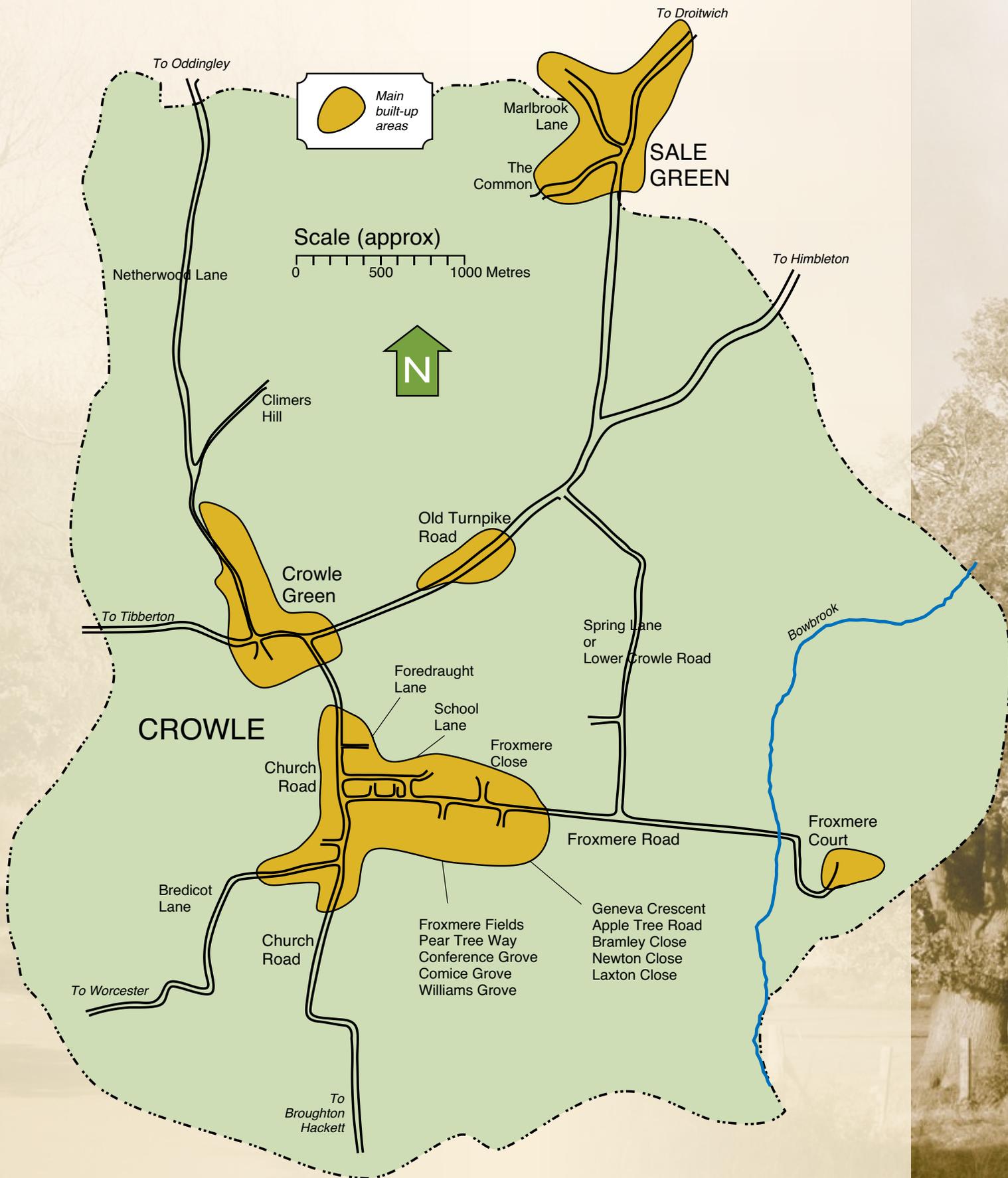
The exhibition which lasted most of the day, was attended by no less than 256 visitors, and was deemed very informative and a great success.



These results together with the many and varied additional comments have now been combined into this plan which it can be said with complete confidence, truly represents the views of the majority of parishioners.

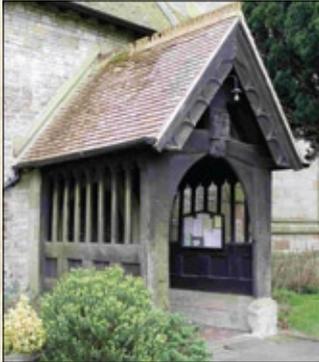


Crowle Parish Map



Crowle's Past

The earliest known reference to Crowle is in AD 836 when, in connection with a gift of land at Hanbury from the Bishop of Worcester to King Wiglaf of Mercia, one Mucl the caldorman "received 10 hides at Crowle". From that date through Domesday (1086) and beyond, there are many references to Crowle. For long periods, the manor of Crowle was held by the Bishopric of Worcester - a relationship which, although changing through the centuries, ended only with the departure of the Bishop of Worcester's private residence from Froxmere Court to Hartlebury Castle as recently as 1950.



The main centre of the village as it developed would have been the church and Crowle Court. Both have changed drastically: the Church was completely rebuilt in the 1880's, and Crowle Court was destroyed by fire about 1864 although much of its moat is still well-defined at Court Farm.



Today's village has a total of 36 listed buildings, mainly timber-framed houses or agricultural buildings, the oldest of which include three 'cruck-framed' cottages and the ruins of the medieval tithe barn (recently converted into two dwellings) at Court Farm.



Throughout its early history, Crowle has been an agricultural community, most likely to have originated as a clearing in the forest. Developing into a small settlement by the time of Domesday, its open fields were partially enclosed by the time of the 1808 Enclosure Award.



Agriculture continued to dominate villagers' lives through the 19th Century, but increasing numbers of village women became out-workers of the nearby Worcester glove industry; some of the older cottages in the village still have their 'gloving windows'. The last glovers ceased working in the late 1960's.

The 19th Century also saw the building of the Turnpike Road through Crowle Green, possibly taking advantage of the holloway in the (still, to this day) notorious Crowle Bank as an easier route for the horses, but also effectively bypassing the centre of the Village as it is today.

As with so many country villages, the greatest changes followed the Second World War: the livestock sales at The Chequers Inn, four shops and two bakeries, and Crowle Races have all gone; the last races were held in 1939.

The building of the M5 Motorway only 2 miles away in the 1960's led to the biggest social change of all, with a series of house building developments and the population being doubled almost overnight.

This increase, in common with similar changes in many other villages, and coupled with near universal car ownership, means that only a small minority of parishioners work in Crowle, and property prices are such that those wishing to live where they have grown up, can seldom afford to do so.

Crowle at Present

The parish of Crowle comprises three quite distinct settlements: Crowle itself, Crowle Green about a ½ mile to the north of the centre of Crowle village, and a part of Sale Green hamlet located about 1 mile to the north-east of Crowle Green. They are referred to collectively as “Crowle” throughout this report, except where other specific references are made.



Geographically, Crowle lies on the top of a hill known locally as Crowle Bank, and situated about 5 miles due east of the centre of Worcester. It has an area of approximately 900 hectares, (approximately 2,200 acres), most of which is predominantly agricultural and woodland. The soil is underlain by heavy clay, as evidenced by the remains of several clay pits used for marl and brick-making.



Today's agriculture is mainly dairy and beef farming, while the several fruit farms that flourished through the late 20th Century have been driven out of business by cheaper imported produce.



Crowle is some 2½ miles from Junction 6 of the M5, which may account for its popularity as a base for those wishing to work elsewhere. It has some 400 dwellings, and a population of about 1000, of whom 850 are on the Electoral Roll.

Internally, Church Road (Crowle's main north-south axis) has mainly longer established houses over its ½ mile length; Froxmere Road (running east from Church Road) includes much of the more recent housing development. Crowle Green (separated from Crowle by a short strategic gap) comprises a cluster of old and newer houses, and the part of Sale Green in Crowle Parish is a similar mix of old and new houses. In 1969, parts of the centre of Crowle were designated as a Conservation Area.



Of Crowle's principal facilities, the Church, the Church of England First School, Parish Hall, playing field and playground are all in Crowle itself, whilst the Post Office and The Old Chequers public house are located in Crowle Green.



Socially, Crowle supports a substantial number of clubs, societies and activities, many of which have been in existence for a number of years. Some however have gained new prominence or came into being following the opening of the new hall (2000) and playing field (2002).

Housing

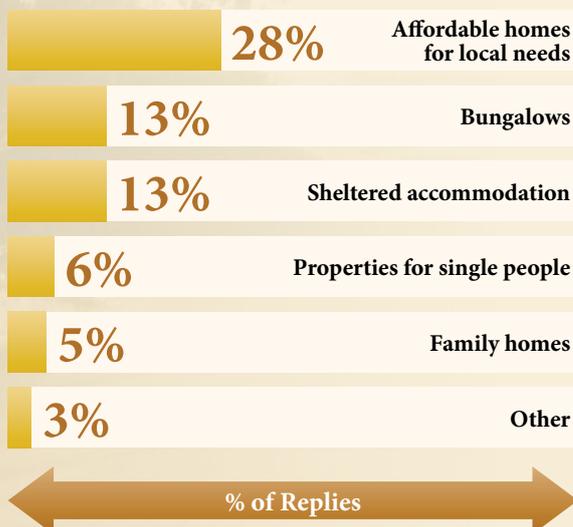
Crowle boasts almost every type of housing common to an English village.

Some previous developments have not been in keeping with the early style of the village, but they have now become mature and established. However, most parishioners felt that, because the local infrastructure is already stretched, further development should be carefully restricted, and hence further medium to large developments would be unlikely to be sustained. It was felt that appropriate land was not available, and village facilities such as schools, shops, transport and parking are barely adequate for the current population.



The results of the survey (shown in the chart below) demonstrate a very limited need for more housing developments.

Q1: Thinking of the Parish as a whole, do the members of your household believe there is a need for more of the following types of housing?



28% of the 279 respondents felt there was a limited need for affordable housing, but only for local needs. A small number wanted properties for single people and for sheltered accommodation.

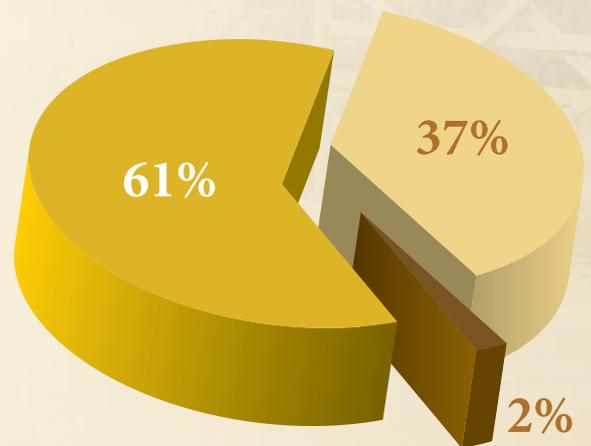
61% of respondents did not want any more development and 37% wanted only sufficient new housing to accommodate affordable houses for local needs only.

Only 2% were happy with the prospect of new housing developments.

The questionnaire invited comments on housing and housing developments.

The following chart illustrates the response.

Q2: Would members of your household welcome a new housing development?



- 61% No, not under any circumstances
- 37% Yes, but only to meet a need I identified in question 1
- 2% Yes, unconditionally

67% supported the introduction of design guidelines for future developments, and 80% expressed concern about developments being carried out without planning permission being first obtained.

Other frequently made comments were as follows:

- *“There is a need to keep tight control over houses built in the countryside.”*
- *“Existing development boundaries should be maintained.”*
- *“Restrictions should be imposed on the future development of affordable houses to prevent them being extended into a non-affordable state.”*
- *“Low cost houses should be held in perpetuity for local needs.”*
- *“Affordable housing should be in keeping with surrounding property, and small cottage type properties are preferable to town houses.”*
- *“Any new build on the site of a demolished dwelling, should respect the scale of the original building and reflect the surrounding architecture.”*
- *“All new houses should have parking space for at least two cars.”*

Conclusions

The results of the survey indicated the following:

- *New houses should be in keeping with existing developments.*
- *Planning agreements should be consistent with existing architecture with tighter building control.*
- *Affordable housing should be for local needs only, and should be capable of being retained as “affordable”.*
- *All developments should be capable of being supported by the existing infrastructure.*
- *Developments should not fundamentally change the character of the village.*



Community Safety

This part of the plan embraces crime, antisocial behaviour, speeding and traffic calming.

Crime

Crowle is extremely fortunate in experiencing very little crime and antisocial behaviour.

In the past three years, 10 households experienced abusive behaviour, nine damage or vandalism, five household burglary, five theft from out-buildings and only three from business premises and vehicles.



Police

74% of respondents were either fairly or very satisfied with the response from local police if they had reason to contact them, but 21% were dissatisfied.



Neighbourhood Watch

66% liked the idea and 31% actively supported it. Only 3% did not.



Antisocial Behaviour

Apart from speeding, fly tipping caused the most concern amongst residents (46% of respondents), and dog fouling (32%), litter (22%), and fireworks (17%) were causes for concern.

Noisy dogs, late night revellers, noisy children and the noisy use of the recreation facilities were also cited.

Speeding

This created perhaps the greatest and most emphatic response, with over 60% of respondents (167 households) complaining bitterly about speeding in almost all parts of the village.

41% supported traffic calming measures, but this reduced to 29% if it meant introducing street lighting.



41% supported mobile speed traps and 20% permanent ones, with only 39% against speed traps.

Conclusions

The results of the survey suggested the following:

- Reduce speeding through the village to improve safety.
- Maintain a low level of crime.
- Discourage antisocial and noisy behaviour.
- Reduce litter and fly tipping.
- Reduce dog fouling.
- Neighbourhood Watch needs to retain a high level of support.

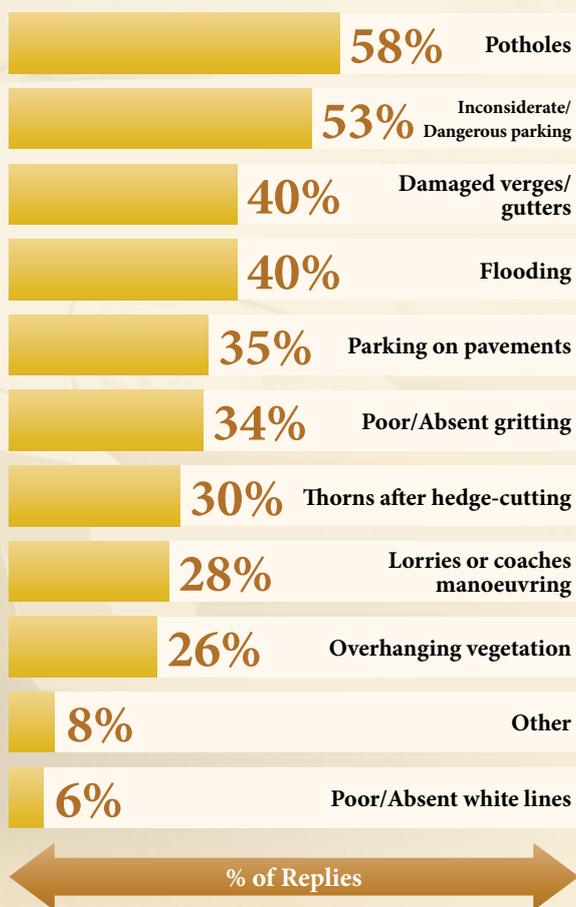
Highways, Transport & Public Rights of Way

Roads & Footways

The question about public roads and footways exacted a vigorous response, with potholes coming top of the list of grumbles.

The following chart illustrates the detailed and varied response.

Q12: Thinking of the whole Crowle Parish area, which of the following problems do members of your household encounter on the public roads or pavements as motorists, cyclists, pedestrians or wheelchair/pushchair users?



Thus, the residents have a pretty poor opinion of the state of the roads and footways in the Parish.



Conclusions

The results of the survey illustrated the following:

- Roads in the parish need to be better maintained.
- Inappropriate parking should be addressed.
- Verges, hedge cutting, and overhanging vegetation need regular attention.
- Regular gritting should be extended.
- Ditches and culverts need regular attention to reduce flooding.

Transport

Only 20 to 30 people said they used the public bus services for shopping trips and school. Only 24% wanted bus shelters.

104 (37%) of respondents felt that the public transport service to and from Crowle was adequate. Only 35 (12%) felt the service was inadequate, but the “inadequacies” were spread over a dozen different destinations.

Dissatisfied respondents mainly requested more daily and evening services, and more services to Pershore, Droitwich, Tesco, Warndon, and the Worcestershire Royal Hospital.

However, on the basis of such an apparently minor requirement for better public transport, it would be easy to dismiss it as unnecessary. But given that some cannot drive or do not own a car and perhaps do not have friends who can help, this “minority” should not be ignored.

Conclusions

- Ensure the providers of public transport keep “up-to-date” with requirements.
- Ensure parishioners are kept informed about the availability of buses, and about timetable changes.



Public Rights of Way

75% of respondents used public rights of way, 22% daily and 18% weekly. That response demonstrates their level of importance, and the following table describes people’s concerns.

Q13: Bearing in mind that most public rights of way cross land important for farming, which of the following problems on rights of way are members of your household concerned about?



The Parish has recently recruited a new Parish Paths Warden.

Conclusions

- Ensure that public rights of way are well maintained and accessible to all.
- Encourage users of rights of way to help with their maintenance.



Environmental Issues

The Parish Environment

Crowle is surrounded by attractive Worcestershire countryside. The village itself comprises a wide variety of dwellings and features, and has a pleasant rural character highly valued by everyone who responded to the questionnaire.



Loss of Rural Character

A large number of respondents aired a wide variety of reasons as to why they were concerned about potential threats to the character of the village.

The main concerns were:

- *Traffic increase.*
- *Creeping urbanisation.*
- *Ugly and excessive signage and road markings.*
- *Decline in agriculture.*
- *Too many houses.*
- *Too much industrial development.*

A total of 70 different concerns were aired, and details can be found in the full survey report.

Street Lighting

This topic also aroused a robust response. 88% of respondents said they did not want street lighting in Crowle.

Several complained about very bright private security lighting occasionally left on overnight. And while many asked for traffic calming measures to be introduced, most withdrew that request when it was pointed out that most schemes could only be implemented if street lighting was installed.

Historic Buildings & Environmental Features

Only a small number of people offered to help with their upkeep. Perhaps this is a manifestation of the current state of “busyness” of people and families in general, rather than a lack of interest in preservation.

However, help to preserve the much loved church came top of the list with 26 offering financial help, 31 with maintaining the churchyard, and 31 offering to help with church fund raising events.



24 offered help with The Green Pool, and several with help for the Parish Hall, the Parish Garden, recreation facilities, and miscellaneous events and facilities.



It is thought that because “on the surface” it may appear that “all is well”, too few residents are fully aware of the need for much greater voluntary help and participation.

Conclusions

The results of the survey suggested the following:

- *Maintain the rural character of the village and preserve the countryside.*
- *Minimise housing and business developments.*
- *Reduce light pollution.*
- *Restrict excessive signage.*
- *Waterways and ponds should be maintained and preserved.*
- *Woodland should be well managed and protected from development.*
- *Sites of special interest, such as Crowle Court, should be protected.*
- *Make more parishioners aware of the need for their support and help.*

Facilities & Services

Parish based Businesses & Services

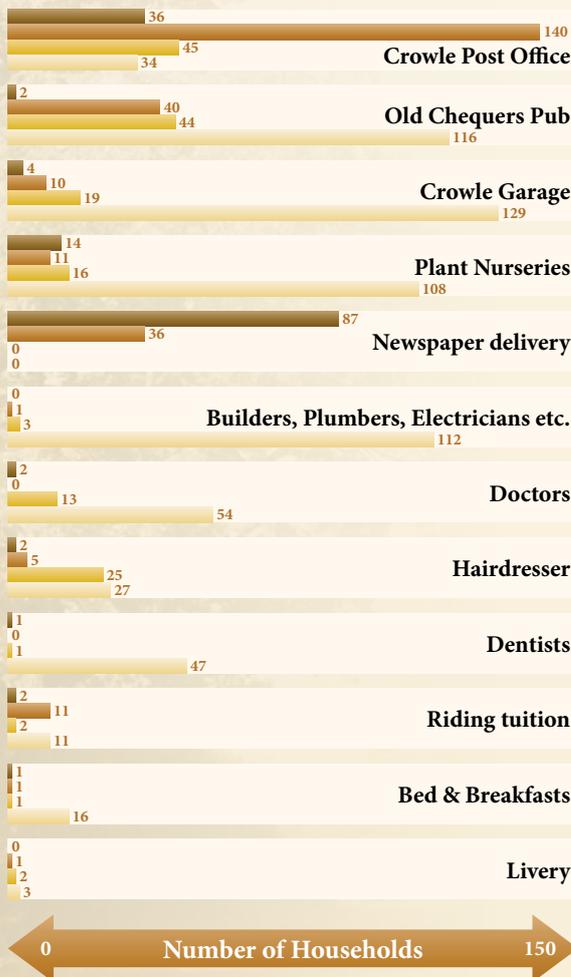
The survey illustrated a surprisingly large number of businesses available in the parish, most of which were used frequently by a large number of parishioners.

The following chart illustrates the responses.

Q21: How often on average do members of your household use the following parish-based businesses and services?

Daily
 Weekly
 Monthly

 A few times a year



The Post Office was the most popular with virtually every respondent saying they used it, with no less than 140 using it every week.

The pub, the garage and the plant nurseries were also used regularly, and the provision of a daily newspaper delivery was highly valued.

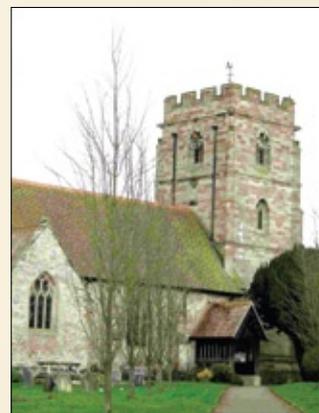


88 respondents wished the village had a shop, but 81% did not support the development of more business units in the parish. Of the many additional services mentioned by them, no more than two people asked for any one of those suggested services.

It is therefore concluded that apart from the lack of a village shop, business services in the parish are adequate.

The Church

We have an Anglican Church and a small chapel. 60 parishioners said they attended the parish church regularly, and 123 occasionally, but only two said they attended the chapel in Old Turnpike road.



The Parochial Church Council has recently launched an appeal for more support for the Church which is struggling to pay its running expenses. It is also hoping the Parish Council will contribute to the cost of maintaining the churchyard.

Alternative Energy Sources (Wind Turbine)

135 respondents did not support the construction of a wind turbine, but 107 did. However, when asked "Where?", 21 different locations were suggested. Those against cited between them 20 reasons why it was not a good idea.



Thus, while there was a fair degree of support for a wind turbine, (but not by a majority), few could agree on its location.

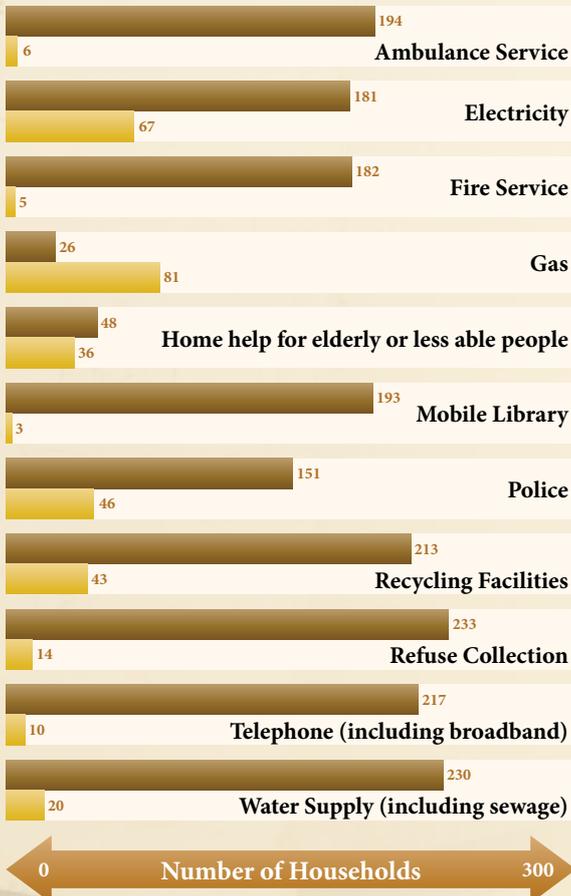
Public Services

In general, the public services illustrated in the following chart, were thought to be mostly adequate. The non-availability of gas aroused criticism, as did the frequent interruptions to the electricity supply. Over 150 respondents thought policing was adequate, but 46 said it was inadequate. 43 thought re-cycling facilities could be improved, but over 200 thought they were adequate. Since the survey, fortnightly glass collections have been introduced.



Q26: Do members of your household believe that the following public services to the Parish are adequate?

■ Adequate ■ Not adequate



Schools

The local primary school is full, and of the respondents with children under 11, 56% attended Crowle First School, 27% Crowle Pre School and 17% other first or prep schools.



An overwhelming 81% felt that the maintenance of a first school in the parish was very important, 3% quite important and the remaining 16% did not express a view. No-one expressly thought it was not important.

Public Facilities

The following facilities are all used regularly:

- Recycling bins at *The Old Chequers*.
- *The Post Office*.
- *The Parish Hall*, which provides the following:
 - A large hall for concerts, plays, dances, social events and club activities.
 - Space for play groups and parents and toddlers.
 - A committee room for up to 30 people.
 - A doctor's surgery.
 - Changing rooms and toilets.
 - Storage facilities.



The community of Crowle, sponsored and supported by the Parish Council worked together not only to build the Parish Hall, but also to provide the following facilities:

- *Children's playground.*
- *Football pitches.*
- *Tennis courts.*
- *Cricket nets.*
- *Bowling lanes.*
- *Cricket pitch.*
- *Allotments.*



A further 39 new facilities were proposed, but apart from a strong requirement for a shop, a keep fit class (5 suggestions), none had more than 3 or 4 sponsors.

Thus the facilities provided in the parish are thought to be largely adequate.

However the following were suggested for consideration:

- *More facilities for teenagers.*
- *More educational facilities.*
- *Improved changing facilities.*
- *A cricket pavilion.*
- *A small library.*
- *More help for the elderly.*
- *A local taxi service.*

The local pub, The Old Chequers, apart from providing food and drink, also provided a venue for quiz nights and crib competitions.



Conclusions

- *Encourage support for the Post Office.*
- *Support the church.*
- *Retain the school.*
- *Encourage more recycling.*
- *Greater use of local services should be encouraged.*
- *The installation of a large wind turbine was not supported by the majority.*
- *Maintain and improve all public facilities.*
- *The use of local businesses should be encouraged.*

Communications

The Crowle Cryer

This is the main vehicle for communications in the Parish. It is a 12 page monthly news letter published by the Parish Council.



It details forthcoming events and news from the Parish Council and other groups, and is sponsored by advertisers of local services. It is delivered to every household in the parish and the results of the Parish Plan survey indicate that it is read by one or more members of almost every household.

A tiny minority claim not to have seen it or don't have time to read it, and only 16 people felt there was little or nothing of interest in it.

There are however many topics which a variety of Parishioners would like to see included, including more information about Parish Council meetings, and planning applications. The editorial staff endeavours to satisfy as many requests as possible, and the number of pages has since been increased.

Notice Boards

There are several notice boards in the parish. 17% of respondents to the questionnaire asked for more but 83% felt there were sufficient. Perhaps more



colourful headings of important announcements would make them more noticeable.

The local pub and Post Office also provide opportunities to advertise, and major events (at the Parish Hall for example) are widely advertised with additional temporary display boards at entry points to the village.



Telecommunications

The village now has broadband access and the landline telephone service is adequate. However, the signal from all mobile service providers is poor and sometimes non-existent, and so it is often difficult to make and receive calls on a mobile phone. There have therefore been many requests for a telecommunications mast to be erected at a suitable site, and 20% of respondents asked for one. However, 80% were against it for a variety of health and environmental reasons.



Conclusions

- *Communications throughout the parish appear to be adequate.*
- *The Crowle Cryer is a significant and invaluable communicator.*
- *Residents should be given every encouragement to read it regularly.*
- *Notice boards must be well maintained and used effectively.*
- *The installation of a phone mast was not supported.*

Governance

The Parish Council

The council meets every two months and discusses a very wide variety of topics. Its members have to adhere to strict standards of conduct as defined by the national government in their “Model Code”.

The general public are admitted to these meetings but can only participate before and after formal business takes place. However, the meetings are rarely attended by more than one or two members of the public, for various reasons as illustrated on the following chart.

Q39: What would encourage members of your household to attend Parish Council meetings more frequently?



On the other hand, over 70% of respondents felt they were adequately informed about parish business, but 30% felt they were not.

When asked how parishioners would like to be better informed, 94% cited the Crowle Cryer as the preferred method, but the web site, notice boards and via clubs and societies were suggested modes of communication.

The council minutes are quite extensive, so it is not feasible to print them in full in the Cryer, and any attempt at summarising them could lead to misunderstandings and ambiguities.

Neighbourhood Groups

In the questionnaire, parishioners were asked if they would be interested in establishing local groups to discuss the concerns of residents in their specific area of the Parish. 25% said they probably would, 4% definitely.

Conclusions

- Residents need to be more familiar with the workings of the Parish Council.
- Residents' knowledge about Parish Council activities needs improving.

Mad, Sad, & Glad

Question 41 in the questionnaire asked:

What makes you Mad, Sad or Glad about Crowle Parish?

This question drew literally hundreds of replies (reply numbers shown in brackets below), the most frequent of which were:

Mad?

- *Speeding (95)*
- *Inconsiderate and illegal parking (55)*
- *Dog fouling (29)*
- *Fly tipping (13)*
- *Poor road conditions (13)*
- *Flooding (7)*

No less than 108 other “maddening” situations were described.



Sad?

- *Loss of village shop (30)*
- *Creeping development (22)*
- *New developments (10)*
- *Lack of support for the Church (10)*
- *Creeping urbanisation (9)*

A further 107 other “saddening” comments were made.

Glad?

- *The rural character of the village, a beautiful place to live, a relaxed place in the countryside (97)*
- *Friendliness (80)*
- *A good and safe community, secure for families (42)*
- *Wonderful facilities and hall (42)*
- *A good school and pre school (35)*
- *No street lights (27)*
- *Sports facilities (24)*
- *Village character (23)*
- *Quiet (22)*
- *Activities and clubs (20)*
- *Footpaths (15)*
- *Post Office (14)*
- *Village pub (14)*
- *Easy access to motorway (10)*

While many expressed concern over various aspects of Parish life, the overwhelming attitude was one of satisfaction and contentment with the prevailing situation.



Households

Demographics

An attempt was made through the questionnaire to identify the various age groups of parishioners.

The following chart illustrates the result taken from the 279 replies, and is compared to the age breakdown of the UK population in 2005. As this represents over 2/3rds of households it is thought to be reasonably representative of the whole Parish.

Q42: How old are the members of your household? (figures compared against Government statistics for the UK)

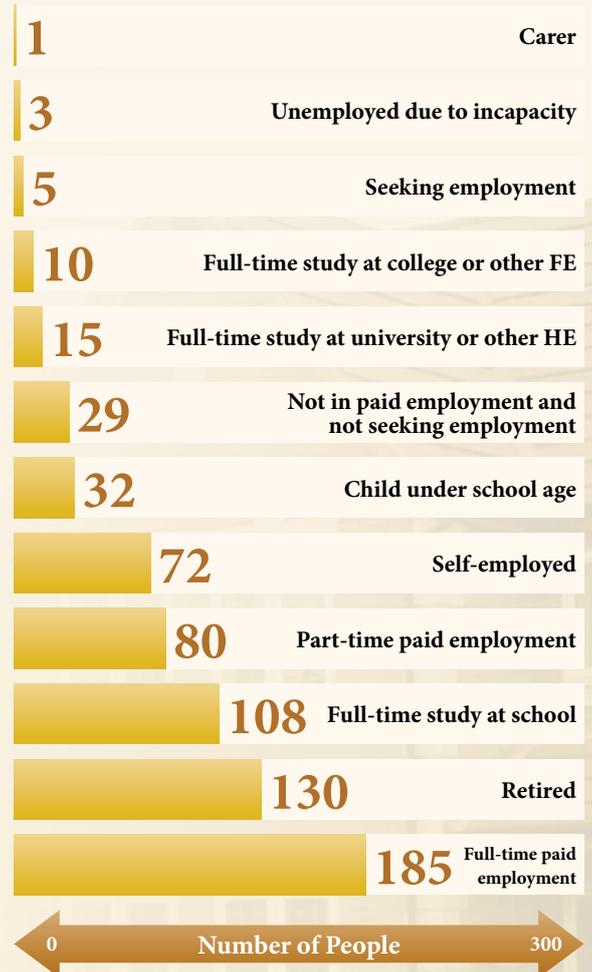


This seems to suggest a “healthy” cross section of the young, middle aged and old, although the fact that nearly 30% are over 55, but only 31% are under 25 does suggest that the population may lack enough young people in the future.

Employment

Unemployment in the parish is very low. The following chart illustrates the employment situation across the village population.

Q43: What are the main occupations of the members of your household?



This does not suggest any urgent need to find ways to create employment within the confines of the parish.

Points to consider

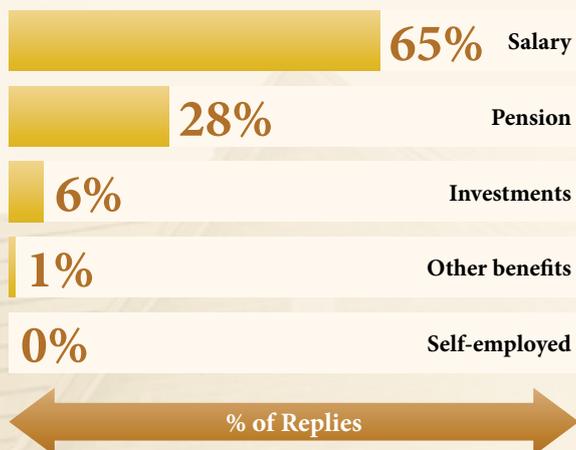
Working from home in Crowle:

- Reduces commuter traffic.
- Reduces pollution.
- Saves time.
- Reduces stress.
- Relieves parking problems in towns.

Sources of income

The following chart illustrates the main source of income for the respondents who were prepared to complete this part of the questionnaire.

Q44: What is your households main source of income?



Despite 11% saying they were self employed, surprisingly none counted this as their main source of income. Also the fact that 74 households depended on a pension for their main source of income was noteworthy.

The variety of employment types was large with almost every type of job was listed across all socio-economic groups.

This (healthy) situation augurs well for the future of the parish because it avoids any undue concentration of any particular activity, and hence, suggests future generations being provided with a wide variety of occupational opportunities.

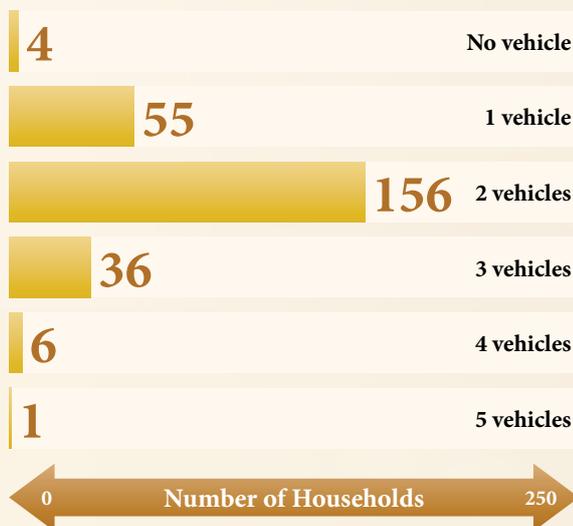
Getting to Work

96% of respondents get to their place of work by car. A tiny minority go on foot, by bicycle or motorcycle. No respondents reported using the bus!



The following chart demonstrates how many vehicles various households appear to need.

Q50: How many cars are there in your household including vans in regular use?



Thus 76% of households appear to need at least two cars.

Hence previous comments that any new houses should be provided with at least two parking spaces are confirmed. Otherwise several roads, already partially obstructed with parked vehicles, will become dangerously overcrowded.

Conclusions

- It seems important to appreciate that restricted public transport availability means most households would need to be able to afford more than one car.
- If more people worked from home, commuter traffic, and hence pollution, carbon emissions and traffic congestion would be reduced.
- While local businesses are beneficial and should be encouraged, those that require industrial type workshops, use toxic chemicals, create odours, make excessive noise or require frequent deliveries especially by heavy vehicles, would be unpopular and should be resisted.
- Existing local businesses should be supported.
- Local businesses which are associated with non intensive horticulture and agriculture should be encouraged.

Next Steps

The preceding pages have described the opinions, aims and ambitions of the majority of Crowle's households, and as such, comprise the basis of a Parish Plan for Crowle.

The following pages collate the actions required to achieve the objectives.

In each section, the aims indicated by parishioners in their responses to the questionnaire, which were deemed to be important to maintain and improve the parish, are clearly listed.

These aims require appropriate actions to achieve them, as well as defining who is responsible for carrying out those actions and the relevant agency with whom those responsible are expected to liaise.

The agencies which are listed will all receive a copy of this plan. It is hoped that they will all respond favourably to our aims and ambitions.

Thus, on the following four pages is a summary of what the majority of the residents of Crowle hope to achieve for their parish.

Key

WDC *Wychavon District Council*

WCC *Worcestershire County Council*



| AIM | ACTION | RESPONSIBILITY | AGENCY |
|--|---|---|--|
| HOUSING | | | |
| The styles of new houses should be in keeping with existing developments, and planning agreements should be consistent with existing architecture. | Liaise with relevant authority. Report any development which appears not to have planning permission. | Parish Council | WDC |
| Properties in Crowle should include affordable and social housing for local needs which can be retained for local use. | Commission a survey to identify and quantify local needs for affordable housing. | Parish Council | WDC Local committee Rural housing enabler |
| All developments should be able to be supported by the existing infrastructure. | Remind relevant agencies of the limitations of the existing infrastructure. | Parish Council | WDC Highways Agency Severn Trent WCC Eon PrimaryCareTrust |
| Retain the character of the village. | Secure the adoption of the plan as a local information source for the local strategic partnership. | Parish Council | WDC WCC |
| COMMUNITY SAFETY | | | |
| Reduce speeding through the village to improve safety. | Lobby the police to be more vigilant about checking speeds. Consider traffic calming measures which do not require street lights. | Parish Council | Police WCC |
| Maintain a low level of crime. | Actively support Neighbourhood Watch, and maintain close and regular liaison with local police. | Neighbour Watch | Police and NW co-ordinators |
| Reduce antisocial and noisy behaviour. | Regularly publicise warnings, complaints and advice about noise and fireworks. | Parish Council Parish Hall Trust Cryer editor | Crowle Cryer Notice boards Notices Police |
| Reduce litter and fly tipping. | Encourage residents to be vigilant and to report incidents. | Parish Council Cryer editor | Crowle Cryer WDC Highways Police |
| Reduce dog fouling. | Ensure dog bins are emptied. Remind residents of the importance of removing their pet's deposits. | Parish Council Cryer editor | WDC Crowle Cryer Notices Crowle residents |
| Ensure Neighbourhood Watch receives adequate support. | Make reference to Neighbourhood Watch matters a regular inclusion in the Cryer. | Neighbourhood Watch | Crowle Cryer Parish Council |

| AIM | ACTION | RESPONSIBILITY | AGENCY |
|---|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT | | | |
| Ensure roads in the parish are well maintained. | Maintain a regular dialogue with WCC Highways department to report and monitor urgent repairs. | Parish Council | WCC Highways Department |
| Ensure the providers of public transport are kept up to date with village requirements. | Discuss with transport providers the importance of consultation before making changes. | Parish Council | Bus companies WCC |
| Ensure parishioners are kept informed about the availability of buses and timetable changes. | Publicise bus timetables and highlight any forthcoming changes. | Parish Council Cryer editor | Crowle Cryer WCC |
| Reduce inappropriate parking. | Ask the police to enforce legal parking. | Parish Council | Police WCC |
| PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY | | | |
| Ensure the paths and the signposts are well maintained. | Maintain support for the footpath officer. | Parish Council | WCC Parish Paths Warden |
| Encourage users to help with maintenance. | Remind parishioners that they also have a role to play. | Parish Council Cryer editor | Crowle Cryer |
| Ensure the public rights of way network meets the needs of parishioners. | Encourage landowners to maintain paths. Respond to applications for diversions and extinguishments. | Parish Council | Landowners WCC |
| ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES | | | |
| Maintain the rural character of the village. Minimise housing and business developments commensurate with the needs of local residents. Preserve the surrounding countryside. | Maintain a regular dialogue with relevant agencies to emphasise these aims. Remind them of the wishes of residents, and secure their co-operation in discussing proposed planned developments well in advance. Maintain constant vigilance over proposed developments. | Parish Council | WDC |
| Reduce light pollution. | Ask residents to carefully consider the effect and positioning of security and exterior lighting, in particular, the impact on neighbours. | Parish Council | Crowle Cryer WDC |

| AIM | ACTION | RESPONSIBILITY | AGENCY |
|--|--|------------------------------------|---|
| ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES (CONTINUED) | | | |
| Restrict excessive signage. | Ensure new and existing signs are necessary, well sited and not confusing. Ensure residents and societies remove advertising material once the event has passed. | Parish Council | WDC Highways agency Crowle Cryer |
| Maintain and preserve waterways and ponds. | Liaise with the relevant authority and remind them when remedial action is required. Regularly organise working parties to dredge and clear debris from ponds. | Parish Council | Environment Agency Local residents |
| Raise awareness of the need for residents to “do their bit” to maintain the village character. | Regularly publicise the need for help and involvement. | Parish Council | Crowle Cryer Parish organisations |
| FACILITIES & SERVICES | | | |
| Retain the Post office. | Encourage the maximum support from residents to justify its retention. | Parish Council | The Post Office Ltd. |
| Retain the Church as a viable institution. | Work closely with the Parochial Church Council to identify ways of preserving the Church. Remind residents of the need for their support. | Parish Council | Parish Council Parochial Church Council Crowle Cryer Notice boards |
| Retain and maintain the school. | Liaise closely with the local education authority. | Parish Council School Governors | Local Education Authority |
| Encourage more re-cycling. | Persuade residents of the importance of re-cycling as much as possible. | Parish Council | Crowle Cryer WDC WCC |
| Encourage greater use of local services. | Advertise local businesses at competitive rates. | Parish Council | Crowle Cryer |
| Avoid the installation in sensitive areas of wind turbines and telephone masts. | Liaise with relevant authorities. | Parish Council | Electricity and Telephone Companies |
| Encourage and improve local facilities where necessary. | Establish a working party to examine future requirements. | Parish Council | Parish Council |
| Improve residents’ knowledge about parish council activities. | Encourage more people to attend parish council meetings by publicising them more and by inviting people to attend. | Parish Council | Crowle Cryer Notice boards Parish Councillors |

| AIM | ACTION | RESPONSIBILITY | AGENCY |
|---|---|--|--|
| COMMUNICATIONS | | | |
| Ensure the Crowle Cryer is maintained and distributed to all households in the future. | Support the production and content of the Cryer as much as possible. | Parish Council | Parish Council |
| Encourage residents to read and exploit the opportunities the Cryer provides. | Make the content as appealing as possible. Encourage advertisers to exploit its circulation. | Editorial team of the Crowle Cryer Parish Council | Crowle Cryer |
| Ensure notice boards are well maintained and used effectively. | Regularly maintain them and keep notices up to date. | Parish Council | Parish Council |
| GOVERNANCE | | | |
| Ensure all residents are familiar with the workings of the parish council. | Make "Communications" an agenda item. | Parish Council | Parish Council |
| HOUSEHOLDS | | | |
| Encourage more people to work from home in order to reduce travelling and carbon emissions. | Stage computer literacy courses. Co-operate with local colleges in publicising educational and business courses. Encourage the improvement of broadband speeds. | Parish Council | Education authorities, and local colleges Telephone Companies |
| Collaborate with the development of local businesses, but not those which require industrial type workshops, use toxic chemicals, create odours, make excessive noise or require frequent deliveries especially by heavy transport. | Maintain close liaison with relevant authorities to ensure early communication of planning applications. | Parish Council | WDC WCC |
| Support the development of local businesses which are associated with non intensive agriculture and horticulture. | Liase with relevant authorities. | Parish Council | Local Chamber of Commerce |

Conclusion

This Parish Plan is what you, the residents of Crowle have indicated from the 279 questionnaires collected and collated.

It is the interpretation by the 2020 group of your conclusions, ideas, requests and suggestions.

You have said that Crowle is a wonderful place to be, and we should think ourselves fortunate to live here.

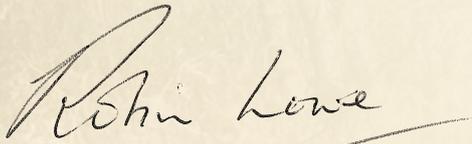
And we would like to keep it that way, but perhaps on occasions improve a few things.

The plan will be sent to all the councils, committees and services that we feel will benefit from understanding our community and our aspirations for its future.

We will be asking the Parish Council to go through all the actions we have recommended, and instigate working parties, lobby the councils and services and implement your requests.

This of course cannot happen overnight, nor can all the actions be possible. But if we do not ask, it will not happen.

Crowle is special; not only do we have to work together to keep it so, but do our best to ensure it is a prosperous and comfortable place for future generations.



Robin Lowe
Chairman 2020 Group



Acknowledgements

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The team also recognises the support and encouragement of Crowle Parish Council.

BRAMLEY CLOSE
BREDICOT LANE
BROUGHTON HACKETT ROAD
CHURCH ROAD
CHURCH WALK
COMICE GROVE
CONFERENCE GROVE
CROWLE GREEN
FOREDRAUGHT LANE
FROXMERE CLOSE
FROXMERE FIELDS
FROXMERE ROAD
GENEVA CRESCENT
LAXTON CLOSE
LOWER CROWLE
MARLBROOK LANE
NETHERWOOD LANE
NEWTON CLOSE
ODDINGLEY LANE
OLD TURNPIKE ROAD
PEAR TREE WAY
SCHOOL LANE
THE COMMON
WILLIAMS GROVE

Crowle

A Parish Plan
2008 - 2020