

# Grindleton Parish Plan

**Why do a Plan?** Parish Plans have been used in many villages to check what villagers want from their community, reconnect with local people and move forward with new vigour to tackle what the community recognises as its problems/opportunities. The Parish Council wanted villagers to lead the process to enable different voices to be heard. Grant assistance was available to undertake the study but the value of the process will depend on what can be achieved henceforth with the information collected. That's the hard bit! If you feel you can help at all, let the Parish Council know.

**The Process** The Parish Council with the guidance of Community Futures sounded out all known groups and individuals with an interest in the village at an open meeting in October 2006 before applying for the Grant from DEFRA (=Dept of Farming and Rural Affairs).

The grant was made at the end of February 2007. Parish Council elections then intervened. A further open meeting was held in June 2007 to engage with the community and set up a working 'group'. Throughout, membership of the working group has been open and somewhat ad hoc but despite this, the process moved forward to ask the community its views on wide ranging issues. The questions were asked openly and the responses have been wide and varied with many taking the trouble to express their own views. In total, the lengthy questionnaires (we tried really hard to reduce the length) were answered by 52% of households (with 180 being returned for analysis by Community Futures, for the Group). Very many thanks to all the responders.

Initial issues have been reflected back to the community at a sociable session on 21<sup>st</sup> April in the Parish Community rooms over a cup of tea and cake and biscuits supplied by the W.I. We were pleased to welcome some of the outside agencies who may be involved in bringing about some of the actions needed (like the LCC bus operator officer and a youth officer). Meeting informally and for these officers to see the community interest is likely to be particularly productive. Locals wanted to know what others thought.

Many of the issues will need further investigation and work with a variety of outside agencies as the Parish itself has only limited resources financially and in terms of personnel. No burning desire has been shown for the Plan group itself to implement the Plan and the Parish Council has tacitly accepted that it will be the driver/monitor of the Plan, reporting back to the community at its AGM and at other times if appropriate.

**The Findings-** These will be considered under each main issue identified, and as outlined in the following pages.

## Communications.

We asked-What opinion does your household have on the amount of information available about what is going on in the Parish?

Good .....	14.1%
Reasonable.....	40.7%
Fair.....	27.1%
No opinion.....	11.9%

We then asked-Where does your household usually get **information about events** taking place in the Parish?

Local paper .....	75.1%
Word of mouth .....	63.3%
Posters & Banners around the	47.5%
Church Parish News .....	45.2%
Parish notice board .....	23.2%
School notice board .....	6.8%
Grindleton website .....	6.8%
Mobile library.....	0.6%

Your responses showed that the "jungle drum" (word of mouth) was still one of the most effective methods (63%). How nice to think that the art of conversation is actively practised in Grindleton!

The highest rated channel was the local paper (75%) This is good to know as most local events are able to get a free mention in the Village Notes section of the paper. The Parish News, which is regularly published by St Ambrose Church, also features high on the list (45%). As did the posting of banners and flyers within the village (47%)

Well down the list was the Grindleton website (7%). As more residents go online, we would hope to make much more use of the website. It is hoped that we can revive an interest in the site and will consult with the Webmaster and the various local organisations that put on events. There will be a new Parish Notice Board installed at Cherry Tree corner - and the recent renovation of this area will make it more accessible. This can be a good source of local information.

We would like to think that these proposed improvements will help to keep you better informed about what is going on locally. And we hope that you will continue to spread information by word of mouth.

Action needed-

- Discussions with the webmaster on how local organisations can get their information onto the website.
- Put the findings of the Parish Plan on the website- others may be able to use the public information collected in specific ways-eg setting up groups from a known demand.
- Continue to use a variety of means of informing what is going on.
- Use the Website for more purposes- some being identified in the Plan

**Public Transport**

We asked -How often does your household use the following **transport services**?

	<i>Daily</i>	<i>Weekly</i>	<i>Monthl</i>	<i>Rarely</i>	<i>Never</i>
Local Bus	6.8%	11.9%	5.1%	26.0%	45.8%
Community	1.1%	1.1%	1.7%	4.5%	66.7%
Taxi (local)	0.6%	4.5%	18.1%	34.5%	26.0%
Train	1.7%	3.4%	13.6%	46.3%	22.6%
Coach	1.1%	0.0%	0.6%	16.4%	60.5%

Followed up by-Would your household like to see **improvements in the local bus service** in any of the following areas?

Routes.....	13.0%
Timetable .....	19.2%
Cost.....	12.4%
Reliability.....	9.0%
Bus Stop Location.....	4.0%
Access for those with	6.8%
No opinion.....	52.0%

Preliminary follow up has already begun and we will be having discussions with the bus company and LCC who subsidize some local services. The main point that has to be made is that services have to be used or they will be taken off.

There appears to be a need for one or more services into Clitheroe after 6pm, and better week-end services for locals and visitors.

Allied to these questions, we also asked -

From your house, how easy is it for members of your household to reach the following using their usual means of transport?

	Very easy	Easy	Fairly Difficult	Very difficult	Not available
Public transport	50.8%	27.7%	6.2%	1.1%	2.8%
Petrol Station	28.8%	50.8%	3.4%	0.6%	2.8%
Nursery/Childcare	5.6%	15.3%	2.3%	1.1%	11.3%
Primary School	21.5%	21.5%	1.1%	0.0%	3.4%
Secondary School	17.5%	23.7%	3.4%	0.0%	4.5%
Further Education	5.1%	19.8%	14.7%	5.6%	6.8%
Training	4.5%	11.9%	8.5%	4.0%	10.2%
Hospital	13.0%	29.4%	29.9%	14.7%	1.7%
GP	27.1%	54.8%	9.6%	0.6%	0.0%
Dentist	23.2%	47.5%	11.3%	6.2%	1.7%
Pharmacy	23.7%	55.4%	9.0%	0.0%	0.0%
District Nurse/ Ante Natal	13.0%	28.8%	5.6%	0.6%	5.1%
Specialist Health Services	14.7%	34.5%	9.6%	0.6%	4.0%
Post Office	28.2%	53.1%	8.5%	1.1%	3.4%
bank	21.5%	53.7%	10.7%	0.6%	2.3%
Cash Point	22.6%	52.0%	7.3%	1.1%	2.8%
Food Shop	23.7%	58.2%	4.5%	0.0%	5.1%
Community hall	17.5%	33.3%	5.6%	1.1%	6.2%
Library	18.6%	53.7%	6.8%	1.1%	1.7%
Advice Services	11.9%	34.5%	10.2%	1.7%	4.5%
Sports/ Leisure facilities	16.4%	40.7%	7.9%	2.3%	2.3%

From these responses, we felt that we should focus on the problem of transport links to local hospitals. As a secondary issue, we could look at ways of improving access to other amenities/services possibly through car sharing.

Allied to public transport, we asked- What are the main means of transport used by your household to get to **work, training or study**?

Personal car	74.6%
Public bus	11.3%
Walking	11.3%
Van or Business vehicle	10.2%
Train	9.0%
Private / School bus	6.8%
Bicycle	5.6%
Taxi	1.7%
Motorcycle Scooter or Moped	1.1%
Not Applicable	18.1%

In this rural location with limited public transport links, these findings were not unexpected. They do make requests difficult for more public transport as the current usage is not very great. We may have to show that an increase in public transport provision will reduce the high dependence on private transport, before we can press for changes.

### Traffic Issues

We knew this subject was of serious concern in the village from a previous traffic study. Some improvements have been made since then. We have had additional signage and road marking to encourage slower driving through the village, and shared use of a 'Smiley Face' speed recorder. But had enough been done?

We asked - Does your household think that any of the following cause **traffic problems** in the Parish?

Parking.....	76.8%
Traffic speed .....	44.1%
General Congestion .....	27.7%
Inadequate pavements.....	26.6%
Lorry Traffic.....	24.9%
Through traffic.....	18.1%
Pedestrian/ Vehicle conflict .....	10.7%
Need for traffic regulation.....	9.0%
Need for more public transport	4.0%

We asked a number of questions about traffic and speeding and your responses highlighted a number of problems. The fact is that there is a high level of traffic on the roads within the parish - much of which is locally based. It came as no surprise that the traffic "hot spots" include Main Street and Sawley Road. However, there are physical constraints on these roads that limit our ability to resolve some issues. A previous Traffic Study came up with a scheme that would create a passing place on Main Street, but it was not taken up because it required a no parking zone to be created. . There is little support from vehicle owners to give up their "right" to park close to their homes, We cannot resolve problems such as these without compromise.

Traffic levels have also influenced your opinions on any future development within the parish. New businesses, new housing, and even tourism are not viewed favourably perhaps because they are likely to add to the problem.

We grouped your concerns under two main headings:

- a) Problems associated with school traffic, and
- b) General traffic problems

### School Traffic

From the 'free comments' that were made on the returned questionnaires we are aware many of you have concerns about school traffic. We accept that there is a lot of traffic within a short space of time and that it creates its own pressure points. But this does not justify a disregard for speed limits and safety. The greater proportion of school traffic is generated by Bowland High School, which is served by a narrow rural road. The school was much smaller when it catered for a local catchment area but now it buses in pupils from far and wide. This traffic does impinge greatly on Grindleton and it also affects Chatburn. We were surprised to learn that of the 500 pupils attending Bowland School, 474 use school transport.

We have already begun discussions with Bowland High School about better management and control of traffic. We want them to consider options such as a one way route through Chatburn, Grindleton and Sawley (or vice versa). They could also explore the possibility of staggering school traffic by changes to arrival and departure times. We have also made your views known about buses arriving early and blocking access to neighbouring houses.

Realistically, we cannot reduce the volume of this traffic. Even if we were able to create a footpath between the Village and the school, the most it could do is reduce some of the school journeys made by car from the village. Those arriving by bus and taxi would not be affected.

Our efforts must therefore be put into seeking solutions through the School and the Education and Highways Depts of LCC.

Whilst changes such as those listed above would have to be negotiated, there are other problems that can be resolved using existing rules. We must stop the incidences of reckless speeding that many of you have commented on. We shall seek the active co-operation of the police in ensuring that that school traffic adheres to speed limits. We intend to get this actively monitored and controlled.

#### General traffic problems

Your responses produced a predictable list of problems - and traffic hot spots.. These were:

Main Street (no passing places due to parked cars)

Agricultural traffic

Horse boxes

Horses - often two abreast.

Sawley Road

Bank Cottages (Parked cars)

Top of the Brow

Meadowside

We live in a rural parish and we must accept the existence of agricultural traffic. We know that horse traffic features high on your list. Again, we have a major equestrian centre just outside the village and horse boxes frequently use the road. What we can look into is the use of the roads by horse riders. If this is simply due to a lack of bridleways then we may be able to find ways of reducing this hazard.

## Speeding

This was a concern raised in many of your responses. We tried to assess your 'appetite' for speeding controls by asking- Would your household support any of the following **speed control measures** in the Parish?

Introduction of a 20mph speed limit	50.3%
Children at play signs .....	40.1%
Traffic calming .....	32.8%
Speed Cameras.....	24.3%
Extension of the speed limit.....	20.9%
More road warning signs .....	19.8%
None of these .....	13.6%

We will make these views known to the Police and the Road Safety Partnership and work towards improving the situation. We will contact LCC about speed limits in and around the village and revisit the idea of road humps to slow traffic down. We shall also consider these responses when erecting the shared 'Smiley Face' to make the most impact.

### Action-

- Discussions with Bowland High School about reducing speed/congestion. We may need to monitor speeds at school times
- Consider the speeding areas when putting up the 'Smiley Face' speed device
- Work with the police for occasional speed checks
- Review the Traffic survey and take up points still outstanding/of use with L.C.C.
- Raise the issue of 20MPH zone with Road Traffic Partnership

## **Parking**

This was identified as the biggest factor in traffic problems but quite the hardest to address! The main difficulty is that it is other people's cars that cause the problem!

We asked -Do members of your household experience any of the following **parking problems** at home?

	Yes	No
Nowhere to park within a reasonable distance	13.0%	65.0%
Vehicles blocking your entrance	16.9%	58.2%
Vehicles blocking the road	21.5%	56.5%

We also asked-Would your household like to see some form of **parking control** introduced in the Parish?

Yes.....	43.5%
No .....	19.2%
No opinion.....	24.3%

We must look into the problems caused from parking, but we cannot expect to achieve much. There is a high incidence of vehicle ownership and limited space for people to park. We had a total of 180 households responding to our questionnaire and these accounted for 310 roadworthy vehicles. This averages out at around two vehicles per household. We will look for any possible site that could provide additional parking within the village. The survey also showed that 75% of journeys to work, training or study are made by car.

We must also ensure that any proposed development within the village includes adequate off street parking. The Planning authorities must adopt a more realistic attitude to the provision of parking before passing any plans.

### Footpaths

We wanted to find out if there was a need for more walking/cycling facilities and asked- Would your household like to see any of the following in the Parish?

Cycle paths .....	23.7%
Pedestrian access to schools..	29.9%
More street lights.....	21.5%
More pavements .....	33.3%
None of these.....	21.5%

At this stage, our focus is centred on the pedestrian and not the cyclist as potentially this will affect more people. In view of the known congestion at Bowland High School from coaches and cars, some relief might be found for local pupils if an off road path could be made. The route from the village to St Ambrose School is already well used. What is felt to be needed is the link from opposite St Ambrose School to Hydro Lodge. Besides being a school route, it would be welcomed by all who walk in the village. There is a lack of relatively level paths for mums with prams and not so young to go for a saunter!

This is a long term aspiration as land would need to be acquired and rights granted. Surfacing for all weather use would also be needed. The cost would be high and grants would need to be sought.

As Grindleton has no local shop services and nearby Chatburn does, a safe walking route between the two villages is also seen as worth exploring further. This will always be an energetic walk with the steep Brow on the return journey.

#### Action

- Explore with landowners the provision of a route to Hydro Lodge from opposite St Ambrose School. If a route can be found, seek L.C.C support and pursue grants to make this happen.
- Explore a safe walking route to Chatburn as above.

#### Work

We were asked to include questions about work as part of a county wide survey, and the data has been passed to LCC. Some of you wanted to know where you could get advise on setting up your own business and the contact point has been included in the Action sheet. We found the list of places where you go for work or study very interesting and have attached it as an annex to the plan.

#### Leisure

We already enjoy a vast range of activities and want still more! We now know what because many of you took the time to tell us exactly!

We asked-Would your household like to see local schools/churches being used for certain activities, and your responses were very positive.

	Yes	No	No
Concerts	61.6%	4.0%	19.8%
Meetings	65.0%	1.7%	18.1%
Exhibitions	63.8%	4.5%	17.5%
Sport	48.0%	3.4%	32.8%
Youth Club	55.9%	1.7%	27.1%
Adult	62.1%	1.1%	21.5%

There is an obvious need for concerts and exhibitions, and it is hoped that this will be taken up by groups or individuals willing to arrange them. Bowland High School is very keen to open its doors to the community and share its facilities, on a paid for basis. It has ample parking available outside school hours when the facilities are to be open- we have a valuable resource capable of being used just on the edge of the village!

To explore this further in one swoop, we also asked what activities you would like. Your wide range of choices were as follows-

#### Sports oriented

Keep fit	20	Table tennis	3	Rugby	1
Badminton	11	Bowls (in and out)	3	Snooker	1
Football	7	Basketball	2	Trampolining	1
Tennis	6	Cricket/nets	2	Running club	1
Dancing	5	Volleyball	2	Squash	1
Netball	4	Indoor football	2		

It is hoped the Bowland School out of hours facility may be able to take some of these on board. The Playing field Committee can also consider if they can satisfy some of this demand. One local resident is already actively trying to organise a badminton group!

#### Languages and cultural

Modern languages	15	Local history	6
Book club	1	Literature	2

We suggest these need either small tutored groups or self help. Local tutors are sought- Are you willing and able to set up at homes or in a small rented room for tutoring or self help group. If someone is willing, the village web site and other local advertising could be used to advertise for the 'customers'. Costs need to be kept affordable. This is action



Scheme. Anyone interested should contact Mrs Mary-Ann Renton (Tel 01200 422062 for a possible scheme this Autumn/Winter).

The young group also wanted local paid work - they may be able to offer baby sitting, dog walking etc. It was thought that the website or Parish Magazine may be the best forum for this.

## **GRINDLETON RECREATION GROUND**

The Recreation Ground in Grindleton was set up as a charitable trust in 1963. Its objective then was to provide, equip and maintain a Recreation Ground for the use of the inhabitants generally of Grindleton and the neighbourhood thereof, for recreation and leisure-time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life of the said inhabitants. Forty years later it meets the same remit through the provision of its three main facilities:

Children's Play Area

Tennis Court

Football Pitch and Changing Rooms.

The Recreation Ground is managed by a committee most of whom are representatives nominated from the various organisations and groups within the village. These include

St Ambrose Primary School

Bowland High School

Grindleton WI

Grindleton Football Club

Grindleton Cricket Club

St Ambrose Parish Church

Grindleton Parish Council.

This wide sphere of representation helps ensure that the Recreation Ground meets the needs of residents and users. It is always helpful to get a wide range of views on what facilities people would like, and this is why the Recreation Ground was keen to be involved in the Parish Plan.

The Recreation Ground needs around £3,000 per year just to cover its running costs. The main item of expenditure is public liability insurance followed by ground maintenance. This does not include the soccer pitch, which is maintained by the Football Club. Much of its income comes from social events such as Galloping Gourmet and the Summer Bash. These make a profit because of the time and effort put into them by the

Committee and other volunteers. The 100 club is also an important source of income, and for the past few years, the Parish Council has awarded an annual grant of £500.

Development projects involve a lot of work because of the need to obtain grants and launch special appeals. The Playing Fields Committee has just completed an ambitious development programme, where, over the past five years it has raised around £80,000. This has enabled it to upgrade the Children's Play area and to convert the old tennis court into a multi-user games area (MUGA). Whilst the committee is now taking a pause before embarking on any further projects, it welcomes the comments and suggestions that have come from the Parish Plan household questionnaire.

The Playing Field Committee is pleased to note that out of the 180 households that responded, 150 (over 80%) said that they would make use of the MUGA. The most popular sports were:

Tennis (76%)

5-a-side football (32%)

Basketball (26%)

Netball (18%)

We asked for your views on future facilities and listed a number of options. The positive response rate in favour of these options was:

50% Teenage Shelter/Club Room

47% More children's play equipment

46% New changing rooms

41% More picnic tables

38% Fitness Trail

38% Function Room

We have taken note of these responses and will factor them into future development plans. We were however surprised that more children's play equipment featured so high in the list after having spent a large sum on the recent upgrade of the play area.

One final point worth making, if you have a particular interest that you feel is not being catered for, why not get directly involved by volunteering to serve on the Recreation Ground Committee. It's a good vantage point from which to pursue a particular interest.

### Policing

We were asked to include a section on policing and asked if any member of your household been the victim of a crime that was not reported to the Police?

Yes .....	2.8%
No.....	94.9%

Do members of your household think that any of the following measures are needed within the Parish?

A neighbourhood watch.....	48.0%
More activities for young people	39.0%
A greater police presence .....	36.7%
Better consultation between police and	28.8%
Improved street lighting .....	21.5%
More drug/drink education/prevention	16.4%
CCTV .....	10.2%
Other .....	4.0%

The results have been sent to the Police authority, and we are nearing the end of discussions with them about setting up a Neighbourhood Watch

### General Issues

We asked - Do members of your household think that a **public toilet** is needed in Grindleton?

Yes .....	44.1%
No .....	30.5%
No opinion .....	21.5%

RVBC had discussions with the Recreation Ground some years ago about siting a toilet at the playing fields but it was not pursued. The general view at the time was that the

disadvantages outweighed the benefits. There are no funds available at present for such projects but the PC will keep it under review.

We asked- Does your household see a need for any of the following in the Parish?

Care for older people .....	31.6%
Nursing home.....	4.5%
Sheltered Housing .....	17.5%
Baby Clinic .....	1.1%
Family Planning Clinic.....	2.3%
Residential provision for those with disabilities	9.0%

These results have been reported to RVBC and to be sent to the new Housing Association operating in Ribble Valley for further consideration.

We also asked -What are your household's views on the standard of the following **services** in the Parish?

	<i>Good</i>	<i>Reasonable</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
Mains Water	72.9%	16.9%	3.4%	2.8%	3.4%
Mains Gas	60.5%	10.7%	0.6%	2.8%	19.8%
Mains Electricity	75.7%	19.2%	1.7%	2.3%	0.6%
Refuse Collection	68.9%	27.1%	2.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Recycling	15.3%	15.8%	50.8%	3.4%	6.2%
Street Lighting	31.1%	42.4%	9.0%	2.3%	10.7%
Dog bins	7.9%	21.5%	29.9%	17.5%	13.0%
Litter bins	5.6%	31.1%	32.2%	12.4%	5.1%
Roadside care/Street Cleaning	19.8%	45.8%	22.0%	4.0%	2.8%
Snow clearance/ Gritting	39.0%	40.1%	10.2%	5.6%	0.6%
Broadband	28.2%	24.3%	13.0%	8.5%	13.6%
Mobile phone reception	35.0%	36.2%	13.0%	3.4%	5.6%

On recycling, the interest is very encouraging and the imminent introduction of the wheelie bin service with fortnightly recycling collections may satisfy this need. The Parish Council will review this at its next AGM by which time the new system will have 'bedded in'.

Dog bins and rubbish bins are still contentious despite some extra provision. The locations of these essential facilities are vital and these will be re-evaluated. The issue of litter at Bowland School has been raised with them direct. The W.I. initiative of communal litter pickups is much appreciated and we hope that it will continue and get wider participation.

## **VOLUNTARY SERVICES**

We appreciate that volunteers play an important part in our society, which is why we asked if you would be willing to help with certain tasks. We were very encouraged by the positive response as shown below:

% yes	Voluntary Activity
30	Protecting wildlife habitats
28	Litter Picking
26	Tree Planting
25	Maintaining footpaths
12	Maintaining public spaces

We are eager to tap into this pool of volunteers and will consult with agencies responsible for footpaths and wildlife to work out ways of integrating a voluntary workforce into their schedules. It is envisaged that for some tasks supervision and possibly some training will be required.

There will be other tasks for which volunteers will be sought on an ad hoc basis. We would not see the need to have any formal arrangements in place for community projects like the biannual litter pick and clean up. We would hope that when the time comes those who are willing to help would answer the call.

## **FINALLY, IN CONCLUSION**

From the many comments made in your responses to our survey, it is apparent that you have a very positive attitude about living in Grindleton. We sensed a high level of pride in the community and an eagerness to help improve our environment. We will do everything possible to keep this spirit alive. So if you see something amiss do bring it to the attention of the appropriate agency. But do also take some positive action if it is within your ability to do so. There will always be people who don't give a damn. We would like to think that they are far outnumbered by those who do. Together, we can make a difference!

**ANNEX - Work and study places for Grindleton residents**

Accrington 9
Barnoldswick 5
Billington 1
Birmingham 1
Blackburn 20
Blackpool 1
Bolton 3
Bolton by Bowland 1
Burnley 9
Bury 1
Carlisle 2
Chatburn 2
Chorley 1
Clitheroe 48
Dorset 1
Egypt 1
Flint, N Wales 1
Gisburn Forest 1
Great Harwood 2
Grindleton 17
Haslinaden 1
Hevwood 1
Hurst Green 1
Ilkley 1
Inalewhite 1
Lancaster 1
Leeds 1
Leeds 1
Liverpool 3
London 3
Manchester 7
Middlesborough 1
Middleton 1
Nelson 1
Oldham 1
Oswaldtwistle 1
Padiham 1
Preston 11
Rawtenstall 1
Rochdale 2
Sawley 2
Settle 1
Skipton 4
Sri Lanka 1
Waddington 2
Wales 1
West Bradford 1