



## **Rural Penistone**

### **Peaceful and cut off**

The reality of living in the country in  
2011

## Contents

Acknowledgements.....	2
Executive summary .....	3
Introduction: Why Rural Penistone .....	4
Chapter One: Rural disadvantage .....	6
Chapter Two: Key findings in rural Penistone.....	11
Chapter Three: How rural Penistone compares to recognised areas of deprivation .....	23
Conclusions and potential ways forward.....	28
Methodology .....	31
Appendices.....	32

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## Executive summary

***“We want a better awareness from the outside world that we do exist. We are usually an area that is ‘walked’ or just passed through. We deserve the same importance as Penistone; we are twice as interesting and equally as old!”***




This report by Barnsley Association of Community Partnerships, funded by the SYOF Legacy Fund research grant outlines the findings of a study into the views of people living in the rural areas to the west of Penistone and a review of the issues they face. It has been developed by a mixture of direct research with people across the area to gather their views plus a compilation of other research undertaken by a range of organisations.

The study has been based on three simple questions:

-  What do you enjoy about living in the country?
-  What are the problems about living in the country?
-  What are your ideas for change or improvements?

Everyone who commented enjoyed living in the country and many had not lived anywhere else. In particular, the beauty, closeness to nature and peace were highlighted. Generally people felt that they were supported by their local community and could rely on their neighbours.

However the findings also reflected the challenges of living in the country. The key issues are:

-  transport – lack of public provision and the cost of private
-  lack of amenities – shops and services, and activities for young people
-  cost of living including transport costs and housing

Comparing our study findings to those of a study in areas of known deprivation rural Penistone shared almost all the same issues despite it generally being regarded as ‘affluent’ – the only major difference was in crime levels where the deprived areas often suffered high levels of crime and drug taking.

These issues are as serious for the people in rural Penistone as for anyone in the most deprived area. If they are not addressed people will become isolated and potentially suffer hardship even if it is hidden because of the rural location.

## Introduction: Why Rural Penistone








We commissioned the research with local people in Penistone and the surrounding areas to find out the main issues and problems that people face living in these areas. While other areas around Barnsley are known for their economic deprivation, the issues faced by rural communities are often overlooked and we wish to highlight any social deprivation in the communities in what is usually termed the affluent areas in Barnsley.

Many people think of Barnsley as just a former industrial northern town, however, 20 per cent of people<sup>1</sup> in the Metropolitan Borough of Barnsley live in rural areas, and about 60 per cent of land in the borough is classed as rural.

The Ward of Penistone West<sup>2</sup> covers the western 24% of Barnsley Borough and most of the area is of an upland rural character. However, most of the population are town dwellers since the whole of Penistone town (pop. 7,000) is within the ward. The neighbouring villages of Thurlstone and Millhouse Green add a further 2,300 people. The remainder of the population are scattered over a wide area, including the small villages of Ingbirchworth, Crow Edge, Langsett, Dunford Bridge and Carlecotes.

Penistone West is dominated by dramatic upland landscapes and has by far the highest altitude of any ward in Barnsley Borough. The east of the ward is hilly Pennine fringe, indented by the Don Valley. In the west, the land rises to the high moors of the Dark Peak, reaching over 1,600 ft. Over a third of the ward lies within the Peak National Park.

The primary focus of the research has been the following rural villages to the west of Penistone:

-  Carlecotes
-  Dunford Bridge
-  Thurlstone
-  Ingbirchworth
-  Langsett
-  Cawthorne
-  High Hoyland

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<sup>1</sup> Giving Rural Clout in Barnsley – Voices from Experience April 2010  
Yorkshire and Humberside Empowerment Partnership

<sup>2</sup> One Barnsley

- 🌱 Millhouse Green
- 🌱 Crow Edge
- 🌱 Gunthwaite

Particularly Carlecotes and Dunford Bridge are both very sparsely populated.

Our research builds on some of the discussions at the conference Exploring Rural Barnsley run in January 2010 by One Barnsley (the Local Strategic Partnership). This conference of a wide range of local people interested in rural areas aimed to:

- 🌱 raise the profile of rural Barnsley
- 🌱 start defining what and where was rural in Barnsley
- 🌱 debate the differences and similarities between rural and urban areas
- 🌱 look at ways Barnsley could make the most of its rural assets

***“The council’s definition of rural deprivation can be different to those at ground level”*** (Conference participant)

One of the main things discussed at the conference was the fact that technical definitions don’t take into account other things that people find important in defining where they live, such as the look and feel of a place so the aim with our research has consciously been to be very open to allow people to convey what they feel as accurately as possible.

The report was also prompted by concerns that with reductions in services the needs of the rural community might be overlooked. It takes into consideration the potential impact of the recession and many of the comments of local people were made in the context of the on-going discussions about closure of one of the key bus routes.

## Chapter One: Rural disadvantage





*“Many rural communities voice their frustration at the assumption by many that well off equals no problems; ....there’s more to deprivation than the financial aspect, and it is important for rural communities to have this clearly stated”<sup>3</sup>*

Rural areas frequently suffer from the misperception that on the whole its residents are better off in economic terms. There are often large differences in income in rural communities. This means that measuring average earnings does not reflect the reality faced by deprived households in any given rural place. In addition, there are additional costs linked to living in rural areas.

*“A range of cultural attitudes in rural locations such as self-reliance, coping traditions, traditional values, pride and stigma has been shown to lead to disadvantaged people not wishing to draw attention to themselves. This in turn can have a bearing on what sources and kind of support rural people access.”<sup>4</sup>*

### *Issues for rural populations*

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- Low income**  one in six working-age adults in rural districts lives in low-income households<sup>5</sup>
-  average full time wage is somewhat lower in rural areas, with a greater proportion of the workforce earning £7.00 or less per hour<sup>6</sup>
  -  a quarter of rural households living in poverty are pensioners living on the basic state pension
  -  Farm incomes have been steadily falling in real terms with the result that a number of small and medium farms are forced to operate at a loss
- 

<sup>3</sup> CountryAir – The Newsletter of Rural Action Yorkshire Spring 2011

<sup>4</sup> CRC, 2006, Rural Disadvantage: Reviewing the Evidence

<sup>5</sup> According to the most recent data made available on The Poverty Site ([www.poverty.org.uk](http://www.poverty.org.uk))

<sup>6</sup> *ibid.*

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- Higher costs**
- extra costs of transport in accessing essential services
  - cost of heating homes that may be off the gas network and less energy efficient
  - higher costs of necessities such as fuel and food due to delivery costs and lack of competition
- 

- Ageing population**
- the proportion of older people who live in rural areas is higher than the overall proportion of working-age people or children and that the rural population is ageing fast<sup>7</sup>
  - dependence on services provided by the community, their friends or their neighbours as they become more frail
  - isolation and vulnerability for the elderly with no informal support networks and no access to services
  - undiagnosed need among older people, who may not tell anyone about the day-to-day difficulties which they encounter
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- Transport problems**
- lack of adequate public transport
  - a lack of access to their own transport
  - high cost of transport
  - People have to make more use of transport because of the lack of services. As a result, residents in rural areas often pay a high proportion of their income on travel costs
  - traffic growth due to poor public transport
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<sup>7</sup> Recent data for Yorkshire and the Humber commissioned by Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE)<sup>7</sup> on the Rural Share of Deprivation

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**Lack of affordable housing** 📶 in-comers drive up prices of housing leaving local residents unable to enter the housing market

📶 37% of rural residents have to spend more than 50% of their income on mortgage repayment on an average home. The comparable figure for urban areas was 25%<sup>8</sup>

📶 lack of social housing - only 13% of the housing stock in rural areas, compared with 22% in urban places<sup>9</sup>

📶 hidden homelessness including young couples living with parents

📶 young people are forced to move away

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**Poorer digital connectivity** 📶 lack of mobile phone signals

📶 lack of fast and reliable broadband

📶 the internet connections that are available in some rural areas frequently cannot support video conferencing or live streaming

📶 poor internet affects simple things such as paying bills online or filling in forms or children and young people who are unable to do online research or to engage in social networking

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<sup>8</sup> The Arthur Rank Centre (2008) Rural briefing 216 on Rural Disadvantage

<sup>9</sup> Rural Advocate Report 2010

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**Lack of services** 🌐 shortage of services such as:

- shops
- petrol stations
- post offices
- banks
- free cash machines
- pubs and restaurants
- general practitioners
- dentists
- schools
- further education colleges
- job centres
- advice services
- libraries
- leisure activities
- voluntary sector support groups

🌐 time and expense to travel to services

🌐 distance decay” meaning that people who live at a distance from health service providers use these services comparatively less. This in turn can result in significant health inequalities.

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**Restrictions for children and young people** 🌐 cinemas, clubs, or other facilities are not easily available

🌐 due to lack of transport, also less likely to access extra-curricular activities

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- Poor employment prospects**
- Qualified jobs with opportunities for development are especially scarce
  - Reducing numbers of unskilled jobs
  - worklessness is a larger issue than evidenced by raw unemployment figures<sup>10</sup>
  - For those who are registered as unemployed and actively seeking work, the absence of a nearby JobCentre means that it takes much time and effort to browse offers or to access benefits
  - Distance, combined with the lack of transport and broadband, impact job seeking
- 

Rural disadvantage is made harder because none of the individual issues tend to exist in isolation. Transport underpins many of the challenges. The public and private sectors are sometimes unable to meet the needs of individuals and communities in rural areas.

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<sup>10</sup> Jobless in rural areas struggling (21.03.09)  
[www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/Jobless-in-rural-areas-39struggling.5095823.jp](http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/Jobless-in-rural-areas-39struggling.5095823.jp)

## **Chapter Two: Key findings in rural Penistone**

We have split this chapter into the key themes that emerged from the research. The complete research findings are included in the appendices.

### ***The joys of country living***

***“The hills and green fields; Pleasant walks; Feeling of space; Knowing many people who are ready with a smile”***

Every person we talked to enjoyed living in the country despite many recognising there were issues. Generally people felt that they lived in supportive smaller communities and enjoyed a life of peace and privacy, closer to nature and the changing of the seasons, with ‘superb scenery’ and less crime. Several people mentioned a sense of freedom.

Many people had only known country living so could not compare it to what you might get in a more urban setting. East Peak for Young People Project Consultation identified that young people also value the countryside and the environment, the wildlife and fresh air.

### ***Transport***

Transport is by far the major issue identified across the consultation and other research. As well as public transport, road safety and maintenance of roads and footpaths were also critical issues. The area is hilly with many narrow roads on steep inclines which make walking difficult and potentially dangerous particularly for people who are less fit.

***“Worst thing - footpaths because of the rubbish and state of them = safer on the road.”***

The Dunford Bridge Parish Council research sums up dominance of the issues on transport:

***“from the list of themes some could be conjoined into broader themes, e.g., road safety (25%), road maintenance (7%) and gritting (7%) could be brought together under a ‘roads’ theme, thus totalling a massive 39% of all contributions. If we were to add public transport (10%) to this theme, 49% of all***

**contributions would be accounted for. These figures are comparative to the local authority's findings (48.68%).<sup>11</sup>**

**Clearly road safety, highway maintenance and transport are major areas for concern and by far the people's top priorities.**

**Public transport is high on the list of priorities for Parish residents with 10% of the comments being about the level of service and reliability. For people who live in the more remote areas of the Parish, public transport is often the only link to the outside world and they are dependent on the bus for their shopping, health services, paying their bills, access to leisure facilities and socialising."**

Being rural, people also commented that in bad weather they could be cut off for many days particularly in snow because of the lack of gritting.

The research identified particular concern about the 300/301 bus route which was under review during the period the research was being undertaken. A spokesperson for Thurlstone Community Group summed up the importance of bus services to villages:

**"the bus is a lifeline for the village allowing access to doctors, socialising at the luncheon club and involvement in the bowling green at Millhouse. In fact going on the bus itself is a social event for the elderly people passengers. Thurlstone has no facilities for holding events, the single shop has only the bare essentials."**

However usage of the 300/301 service at an average of less than 10 passengers a trip does not cover the cost of operation and the subsidy for the service ends on the 31st July 2011. Some of the villages and hamlets in the area already have no bus service.

In addition, for people with disabilities many of the buses are not accessible by wheelchair. However the community transport service Dial A Ride which is accessible is not free and one person commented:

**"Tried Dial a Ride but charged £5 for a journey of less than a mile between Oxspring and Thurgoland"**

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<sup>11</sup> Local Area Review 2010, South West Area Partnership, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, p.9

Another issue highlighted for public transport was the problem of boundaries. The area is next to West Yorkshire and a bus into Upper Denby could be useful and effective, but there is currently no funding for cross boundary services which impacts Upper Denby. There is no route to Huddersfield.

Generally the infrequency and the lack of connection to the rail station reduced the value of the bus service. Even taxi services can be difficult to get in the area.

***“I don’t think a bus every 2 hours is adequate and everybody does not own a car. It is very difficult for the elderly”***

This respondent on the on-line questionnaire sums up the range of issues for public transport, facilities and roads:

***“Transport is a major issue. Getting to work when I did not have a car was a nightmare. We have one bus an hour to Barnsley, one bus every two hours to Holmfirth and another bus every two hours to Stocksbridge. Buses to Barnsley do not link up with the trains going to either Sheffield or Huddersfield, it is really not practical to use them for going to Barnsley Town Centre. In addition the buses are generally old and have a reputation for breaking down. The journey time to Barnsley takes 45 to 50 minutes as compared to twenty minutes maximum into the Town by car! The train service is reasonable (one per hour in each direction) but of course we need to drive up to the railway station and there are insufficient parking spaces.***

***Employment is difficult. More and more houses are being built, sometimes in the most inappropriate places but as there is very little industry this means there are more and more commuters and more cars on the road. Another issue is the lack of a Community Resource Centre. There is nowhere for people to meet in Thurlstone, most local activities take place at either Millhouse Green Chapel or Millhouse Green Institute. The Church no longer has a Church Hall and so many people, older people particularly are excluded from meetings, clubs etc. There is very little for the young people; again youth activities take place mostly in Penistone or Millhouse Green.”***

On the positive side many people mentioned how much they enjoyed walking in the country, and if people had access to a car some mentioned that they felt the area was good for communications with it being easy to get to Barnsley, Huddersfield and Sheffield. However even people with cars are concerned about rising costs, pot holes and parking:

***“We have one family car. My husband and I are retired and have a busy social life, however we have to use the car every day as there is only one shop in the village, no paper delivery service and the nearest post office is one and a half miles away. It is possible to walk on a fine day but in the winter the pavement has been impassable for weeks at a time. Similarly, we are making at least two and often four journeys a week (mostly evenings) into Barnsley for social activities e.g. jazz club, Embroiderer's Guild, Art Club, Voluntary work; this is all in addition to local clubs such as bowling and the WI. It all has a cost and we are fortunate that we can just about afford to maintain our lifestyle. However, if petrol costs rise in line with current predictions this will mean that we will have to curtail our current level of activity.”***

***“petrol costs are a major concern. Roads are very poor at the moment, better roads and improved parking would make a huge difference”***

## ***Housing***

The housing is quite mixed in rural Penistone with many terraces and semis, as well as detached houses. There are some less affluent pockets of council and terraced housing areas in Thurlstone, Millhouse Green and Crow Edge.

Home ownership levels are high. In-migration has caused the population to grow by about 1% each year and maintains strong housing demand. However there is concern that about the impact on the local community because of the consequent increase in road usage and congestion, and the demand for facilities.

***“In Ingbirchworth they are building a new estate and there will be a need for transport and facilities”***

Housing costs are recognised as higher than in other parts of Barnsley which also means that Council Tax is higher and this leads to some discontent that the area contributes more to the council and feels it gets less. In 2007 the

average house price in the Penistone area was £211,569 compared to the Barnsley average of £129,779<sup>12</sup>

The following comment sums up the impact of housing and the tensions about development in the countryside:

***“This village is dying because of no low-cost housing available and some residents do not want any houses built as it will affect their aspect/views.”***

## ***Healthcare***

The only pharmacy in the area is in Penistone and the only doctors and dentist are in Penistone.

Access to healthcare is dependent on access to transport and getting appointments at times that fit with transport and work:

***“Appointments are a problem as they have to tie in with whether we have a car available. Parking costs for attending any hospital are now an issue. It is a tax on being ill particularly for those of us living in Rural Areas who have to use a car because getting to any of the Barnsley, Sheffield, Leeds or Huddersfield Hospitals is tortuous by public transport necessitating a change of buses and a lot of waiting around.”***

***“Use Penistone / Barnsley health services and have to use a car to access them - public transport not feasible”***

***“Getting a doctor’s appointment to fit around work is a nightmare. There should be bookable appointments from 8am and the surgery should open late. You shouldn’t have to take time off work for routine doctor’s appointments”***

Despite this the data for the area indicates the health of the population is generally good with lower than the national average having any long-term illness, health problem or disability which limited their daily activities or the work they can do<sup>13</sup> and higher life expectancy rates than Barnsley as a whole<sup>14</sup>.

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<sup>12</sup> Barnsley Area Forum Profile 2007 Penistone East and Penistone West

<sup>13</sup> Source: BMBC New Ward Profiles, 2001 Census

<sup>14</sup> Source: Barnsley PCT and Office for National Statistics

## ***Crime and community safety***

Across Penistone West Ward the Think Local Act Local survey results 2010 identified the priorities as:

- 🌿 Anti-social behaviour
- 🌿 Feeling safe in your neighbourhood
- 🌿 Crime levels

According to the police UK website crime rates are average in the area with the following levels of crime for the first third of the year:

	<b>January</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>Total</b>
Carlecotes	0	0	0	0	0
Dunford Bridge	0	0	0	0	0
Thurlstone	8	6	6	14	34
Ingbirchworth	2	1	6	2	11
Langsett	0	0	0	0	0
Cawthorne	3	6	4	8	21
High Hoyland	2	1	3	0	6
Millhouse Green	4	6	2	6	18
Crow Edge	2	1	2	1	6

Most people feel safe and that there is a lack of crime

***“This fortunately is not a big issue at the present times. We have periodic spates of cars being stolen or damaged but this has reduced over the last year or so.”***

Several people mentioned minor offences such as dog fouling and fly tipping and rubbish.

## ***Community spirit and community cohesion***

The report “Rural Priorities: Key work areas of rural voluntary and community organisations in Yorkshire and the Humber” published in 2010 by the Yorkshire and Humber Forum commented that:

***“Rural communities in Yorkshire and the Humber have long demonstrated a culture of self-reliance and self-governance. In fact, rural communities are often characterised by an extraordinary amount of voluntary activity. These are undertaken as a matter of course by local residents who engage in all sorts of projects in response to the needs that arise in their communities. Life in rural communities is shaped by people who are engaged in shaping their own future. The sheer volume of time and effort invested by rural residents in***

***designing and delivering community projects is a very significant factor in the development of rural areas in Yorkshire and the Humber.”***

There are 49 different groups and organisations listed on the internet for the Penistone area predominately on Penistone Online, the majority of which are volunteer run. This suggests a high level of community involvement which reflects the national statistics that there are more voluntary organisations per 10,000 people in rural areas than in urban ones (up to and just over 3 times more in the most sparsely populated local authority areas).

However the listings of local activities on the web for the area with their contact information include some that are out of date with email addresses that are no longer valid – 14 bounced back of the 25 groups that had emails listed.

There are active brass bands, artists, art groups, photography groups, theatre, reading groups and other volunteer groups with “generally high levels of participation and volunteering” Stephen Gould, East Peak Innovation Partnership Manager. Much of the activity is very practical:

***“neighbourhood watch, environmental work in the parish, playground funding, Christmas Teas, hedging, wall building, You name it, our parish is involved. We could do with more younger people, but they are working too hard to keep the wolf from the door”***

Generally the research indicated a lot of informal support from neighbours

***“There is a community group that has formed within the last year but in the main people help each other on an individual basis and according to need. Of necessity people in Rural Areas have learnt to be self reliant.”***

Even some people who did not feel so positive about organised community life accept individuals still help:

***“No community spirit really. The church is poorly attended, many of the school's pupils are from outside the village, the pub is on its last legs. All the shops are closed (they were always a good place to collect). Most people are very independent but neighbours do help each other very willingly when required.”***

However some people worry that they do not know the new people who just live in the village and work elsewhere:

***“There is little or no community spirit the majority of village residents sleep in the village and leave for work”***

### ***Attitudes towards decision makers, development and the future***

Attitudes are mixed about the impact people can have on decision makers and developments in the area. Those who are involved in Parish councils or voluntary groups think they can influence events and many people attended the public meeting to try to influence the decision on the bus route.

One person commented that an improvement would be:

***“Penistone Town Council regaining independence from BMBC”***

Others felt it would be nice to be heard more:

***“It would be nice for Barnsley council to listen to us more and take notice of what we want”***

### ***Employment***

Socially, Penistone West has similarities with Penistone East, although it has more manual workers. However, most workers commute to surrounding cities and towns, notably Sheffield. Local employment is in manufacturing, agriculture, forestry and water supply. Hepworth Clayware at Crow Edge draws workers from a wide area.

There has been a net reduction in local employment opportunities with manufacturing and engineering works closing.

***“Lack of jobs, many local medium sized firms having moved, selling land very profitably for housing”***

As with most issues travel is important:

***“I travel approx 20 miles round trip to work each day. I don't find that this is a problem except during bad weather when I work at another base”***

***“If I had no car I would not be able to work”***

***“affects where you can choose to work unless you have a car”***

With the changing nature of work there is concern about those who are not academic living in the area:

***“What do unqualified young men do for jobs?”***

However the latest data for the Penistone West Ward shows lower levels of benefit claimants than the national average.

### ***Education, children and young people***

Penistone has one of the best secondary schools in Barnsley, Penistone Grammar ALC, with a 6<sup>th</sup> form so pupils can study until 18. Thurlstone and Millhouse have primary schools.

Consultation<sup>15</sup> with young people living in rural areas stretching from North Sheffield to Denby Dale identified that young people would like to change the following:

Better park facilities	14%
Free events and fairs	15%
More sports facilities	13%
Wild/adventurous activities	10%
Cheaper travel	9%
Improved Safety	9%
More wildlife	9%
More work opportunities	7%
More youth/community centres	7%
More youth workers	4%

Research undertaken at the Penistone skate park, funded by a Leader programme, identified that young people from the rural areas were using the park but generally had not come to Penistone by public transport.

Dunford Bridge has a youth club on a Friday night in the Community Centre in Crowedge run by volunteers with no

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<sup>15</sup> East Peak for Young People Project – Sheffield Wildlife Trust 2010  
NB the consultation events did not track where young people were from so it is not possible to identify which were from the rural area west of Penistone

statutory support. This attracts about 20 young people that have to be brought by their parents because there is no transport.

The organisers believe that given funding they could successfully run a second youth club night each week.

Adults consulted felt that:

***“facilities for children are minimal”***

***“Poor. Youth clubs closed, many antisocial behaviour issues. Good play areas marred by antisocial behaviour”***

However this was not felt to be particularly a rural problem but one which exists everywhere and the research with young people suggested that many appreciated the opportunities the countryside provided such as playing outside and getting closer to nature.

### ***Shops, amenities and leisure***

The most remote parishes of Dunford, Langsett and Gunthwaite and Ingbirchworth have no shops, post offices or schools. These are missed:

***“We need shops in the village”***

Even where there are still shops there are issues:

***“We only have one small shop, open for three hours each day, in the village, so of course accessibility is an issue.”***

***“No shops apart from a small bakery, where are they all?”***

***We were once a thriving community that needn't travel into Penistone at all unless needed”***

There are four cash points in Penistone – all free; one in Silkstone and one in Denby Dale but none in any of the villages around Penistone. Penistone has recently had a Tesco supermarket open, the consultation showed a mixed view on this. There is Penistone Farmers' Market 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in each month and a weekly Country Market each Thursday at St John's Community Centre

***“Penistone is an excellent centre for shops and banks etc. Usually accessed by car. Neighbours help each other out, especially in bad weather.”***






***“Tell the government to keep out of our post offices. In the rural areas, we need the post offices to be our banks for pensions etc. The changes to the collection of pensions was a distinct mistake. Why do governments fail so miserably to make the whole picture? Now we have the situation that pensioners cannot get their pensions at a nearby post office, and cannot travel by bus to collect it from elsewhere Shops, what local shops. Our nearest is three miles away Allowing of all people Tesco to open in Penistone was an error. Now we will have no local shops at all, despite what “they” say. You have only to look around to see what happens when a supermarket comes to town”***

***“Shops- good variety of local shops, excellent weekly market, new supermarket- no complaints at all!”***

There is limited choice in the shops even in Penistone:

***“No clothes or shoe shops in Penistone suitable for older people – have to go to Barnsley or Sheffield”***

Even within Penistone which provides the facilities for the local rural area there are limited indoor spaces for large activities, the drill hall. The recently opened Advanced Learning Centre at Penistone Grammar School has an element of public usage including a sports centre offering:

-  synthetic turf pitch
-  tennis courts
-  sports hall
-  gym/dance studio
-  fitness suite with technogym wellness system

There is also a lecture theatre and drama space available for hire.

There is a local authority youth centre and children’s centre in Penistone to support the town and surrounding area. There is a community centre in Crow Edge.

The AgeUK activities which used to take place in Penistone for the whole area currently appear to be on hold. They included a range of volunteer-led activities including a walking group, a line dancing group and a gardening group. The Agewell Centre was open Tuesdays & Wednesdays and provided older residents with further opportunities to socialise. Generally respondents felt that there were limited facilities for older people.

Many parts of the area cannot receive Broadband and have patchy mobile phone reception and this has been raised as an issue for example in the Dunford Parish Council research.

## Chapter Three: How rural Penistone compares to recognised areas of deprivation

In March 2009 a report was published “Qualitative Research into Rural Deprivation – Final Report for Commission for Rural Communities. (CRC Report)”. This examined issues faced in six recognised areas of rural deprivation consulting people specifically with lower incomes and other issues.

Generally rural Penistone is not regarded as an area of deprivation so it is useful to compare if in fact it does have any of the issues faced by recognised areas of deprivation.

Both studies were qualitative and as the following summary illustrates except in the area of crime and community safety in all cases the issues identified were very similar.

	CRC Report	Rural Penistone
<b>Employment</b>	<p>Lack of employment opportunities was an issue for most participants.</p> <p>Specific disadvantages relating to rural areas centred on: the decline in local industry, low wages, lack of suitable jobs for younger people and restricted access to job information and retraining opportunities.</p> <p>Few local employment opportunities meant people who wanted to work were not able to or had to travel long distances thereby making work less profitable.</p>	<p>Lack of employment was not an issue in our research as we did not specifically select respondents on benefits for example.</p> <p>However the specific disadvantages such as decline in local employers, lack of jobs for young people, need to travel applied in equal measure to Penistone as to the recognised areas of rural deprivation</p>

<b>Transport</b>	<p>Transport was the main disadvantage cited by research participants with serious implications relating to restricted access to employment and social opportunities.</p> <p>Public transport problems centred on poor timing, costliness and lack of information about services.</p> <p>An increased reliance on cars due to poor access to public transport led to higher fuel and maintenance costs.</p> <p>Inadequate infrastructure such as no street lighting, road drainage or road gritting added to a sense of isolation and disadvantage.</p>	<p>Lack of information about transport services was not mentioned as an issue nor was street lighting or road drainage. However rural Penistone reflects all the other issues.</p>
<b>Housing</b>	<p>Deprived rural locations that occupied isolated or peripheral locations faced particular challenges in relation to poor housing stock and the housing of challenging social housing tenants.</p> <p>Larger mixed areas tended to benefit from more mixed housing stock but faced difficulties relating to affordability of housing for local people.</p> <p>In-migration into some</p>	<p>Rural Penistone faces some of the same issues in terms of affordability and in-migration leading to local people being priced out of the market</p>

	<p>areas had also priced local people out of the housing market leading younger people to leave the area.</p>	
<p><b>Shops, amenities and leisure</b></p>	<p>Access to shops, amenities and leisure facilities was restricted in many of the research locations and there was concern about the continued closure of such facilities.</p> <p>Particular problems of short term funding streams or lack of dedicated professional staff hampered leisure activities.</p>	<p>While the same issues arise in rural Penistone some of the leisure issues have been addressed by volunteer led activities.</p>
<p><b>Healthcare</b></p>	<p>Access and quality of service provided by GPs was deemed to be of a high standard and was widely valued. Unsurprisingly, access to hospitals was more restricted and caused particular problems for both patients and visitors reliant on public transport.</p>	<p>Similar issues in rural Penistone as in the areas of recognised deprivation</p>

<b>Crime and community safety</b>	Crime and safety was a problem. Lack of infrastructure in these places contributed to people feeling unsafe. Drug and excessive alcohol usage by some young people was felt to contribute to higher levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.	Rural Penistone does not have the same issues in terms of crime and community safety as the recognised areas of deprivation.
<b>Children and young people</b>	<p>A lack of activities for children and young people in rural locations was a central concern.</p> <p>Traditional reliance on voluntary staffing of youth clubs etc. meant that these services may no longer exist.</p> <p>There were increasing worries about access to housing and employment for younger people as they transitioned to adulthood and the out-migration of younger people to urban areas as a consequence.</p>	Exactly the same issues are identified in rural Penistone as in the areas of deprivation
<b>Community spirit and community cohesion</b>	Strong community links and ties were found in all research sites. In-migration was seen to be harmful to a sense of community in some areas with newer residents not using local services or taking part in village life.	Rural Penistone has very similar views

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**Attitudes  
towards  
decision  
makers,  
development  
and the  
future**

People often expressed feeling forgotten about or neglected by local decision makers and public services.

There was frustration about national and local policies having negative consequences for rural communities.

Generally, people's aspirations for the future revolved around wanting to protect the good aspects of rural living and counter some of the negative ones such as access to transport and employment.

Making rural life viable for younger people to enable them to stay in their local areas was also a central aspiration.

There were similar views about feeling 'forgotten' in rural Penistone.

However rural Penistone also had more concern that they were contributing more and getting less.

## Conclusions and potential ways forward

The views of the residents of rural Penistone make it clear that they like where they live and appreciate the beauty and quality of life they get from living in the country. They generally feel their neighbours are supportive and that it is a safe and peaceful place to live.

However the findings also reflected the challenges of living in the country. The key issues are:

- 🌱 transport – lack of public and cost of private
- 🌱 lack of amenities – shops and services and activities for young people
- 🌱 cost of living including transport costs and housing

Comparing our study findings to those of a study in areas of known deprivation rural Penistone shared almost all the same issues despite it generally being regarded as ‘affluent’ – the only major difference was in crime levels where the deprived areas often suffered high levels of crime and drug taking.

These issues are as serious for the people in rural Penistone as for anyone in the most deprived area. If they are not addressed people will become isolated and potentially suffer hardship which may be

### ***Potential travel solutions***

In the current economic environment it is unlikely that one single solution such as comprehensive public transport can be used to solve the transport needs of the rural areas of Penistone.

Instead a mix of solutions could include:

- 🌱 Encouraging usage of Barnsley MBC Carshare for both regular journeys and for traveling to the shops etc.
- 🌱 Promoting take up of Wheels2Work, the low cost transport scheme that lets people borrow a scooter to get to work, training or college
- 🌱 Working with Dial A Ride to develop services which are charged but realistic rather than £5 for less than a mile. These could involve using the web or a phone system to coordinate travel so people travel on the same day in the same area
- 🌱 Looking at the potential sharing of school buses with local people
- 🌱 Looking at the potential for post buses as used in Scotland
- 🌱 Build on the current informal support structures to develop a volunteer driver scheme particularly for emergencies, doctors visits etc

For any of these to be successful marketing will be critical with good communications and publicity so that they are well used and help the most isolated.

hidden because of the rural location.

In particular, the lack of amenities means that quality of life is dependent on-going access to affordable and reliable transport. If that is affected by bad weather, rising costs of motoring or changes in public transport provision then life can become a challenge.

### ***Potential ways to provide amenities***

Successfully setting up a commercial shop in the rural areas of Penistone would rely on that shop attracting customers from a wide area and is dependent on finding someone willing to take the risk, with an idea that will attract people from a wide area and with sufficient capital to be able to survive while developing the business.

Instead a mix of solutions could include:

- Encouraging and supporting the remaining pubs to diversify and offer additional services such as:
  - pharmacy collection point
  - post office
  - general store
  - cash point
  - delivery collection point
- Bring more mobile services into the area such as mobile shops and youth club facilities
- The provision of key services through bottom-up initiatives in which the rural communities themselves set out to deliver rural services. This can take the form of community owned shops, post offices, pubs or recycling facilities. This has been successfully piloted for example in North Yorkshire in Hudswell where the community have bought the George and Dragon and it is a pub and local shop. The community ownership of a local pub can also help address another issue, the lack of community space for community activities and would potentially provide a space for lunch clubs, voluntary groups, mums & toddlers, youth clubs etc.
- Encouragement for specialist stalls to come to the market in Penistone to address the gaps in provision specifically clothes and shoes for older people
- More use of technology, for example, for job centre contact and for monitoring by doctors
- Coordination of the provision of facilities with travel so that they are available at times when people can get to them
- Identify an organisation to keep data on local groups updated on Penistone Online

If these are to be successful they will need effective marketing and encouragement for people to “shop local” to make them sustainable.

For those without their own transport, including older people, the young and those with mobility issues, accessing key services can be a daily challenge. Without access to transport, even small distances can be an insurmountable issue or very expensive. The availability of services and jobs in neighbouring towns is irrelevant if people do not have access to transport to enable them to get to the right place at the right time.

The lack of basic amenities in most of the villages is striking with few shops, no health provision, no cash points and declining numbers of pubs. After transport this was the main issue for the community.

Other issues highlighted by people living in rural Penistone tended to be economic, for example, the cost of housing and general cost of living and the declining numbers of jobs.

### ***Potential economic solutions***

Rural Penistone's issues are part of the wider economic situation so can only be partially addressed at a local level. However there are some opportunities:

- Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council could, for example, include in any planning approval for housing developments the requirement for affordable housing for the local community
- Develop community owned initiatives for renewable energy that will supply the local community with electricity and potentially generate income from the national grid – this is particularly attractive in areas which do not have access to gas
- Coordinate bulk buying of fuel across the local community to reduce costs
- As broadband is made more available across the area encourage the development of technology based businesses within the local community
- Investigate the opportunity for 'green' based industries in the local community that capitalise on the interest in the environment
- Look at boosting tourism and increasing the provision for tourists thus creating more jobs

## Methodology

This research has been undertaken by inspire2aspire on behalf of the Barnsley Association of Community Partnerships and is being funded by the SYOF Legacy Fund research grant.

This study was designed to research the views of the rural people in the West of Penistone. The objective of this study is to provide robust and persuasive qualitative evidence that highlights key issues that affect the population of the rural area to the west of Penistone. The qualitative research exercise was designed to ascertain the issues, hopes and aspirations that most concern the population and bring together other existing research data.

A central comparison of the study was to explore the difference between the issues of the people in rural Penistone, regarded as a relatively affluent area and the issues in 'rural hotspots' recognised as being economically disadvantaged. The hotspot sites in question had been identified by earlier work conducted for the Commission for Rural Communities which analysed local level IMD Index 2007 data and highlighted twenty rural neighbourhoods where deprivation is especially prevalent.

The research was undertaken using a simple short questionnaire for face to face issues which asked three simple questions and the respondents' postcode:

- 🌱 What do you enjoy about living in the country?
- 🌱 What are the problems about living in the country?
  
- 🌱 What are your ideas for change or improvements?

To maximise response the research was piggy backed on to existing events such as reading groups, carers' events, council consultations and community meetings. In addition, some groups, such as the WI, submitted written questionnaires.

In addition, a fuller questionnaire was publicised on the internet.

Desk research and interviews with key individuals identified existing data and local research which has also been used in the study.

## Appendices

### Detailed research results

#### *Online survey results (7 respondents)*

##### **What do you enjoy about living in the country?**

- The fact that I can have a good walk straight from my door. People around are acquaintances that you can pass the time of day with. Less busy than towns.
- Not being in the middle of a town. Also the people are friendlier. Access to the countryside for walks and beautiful scenery.
- Easy access to open countryside.
- Peace and privacy
- The community, the feeling of being involved, the scenery and the general atmosphere
- The friendliness of the people Superb scenery  
Slower pace of life Caring atmosphere
- lots of facilities locally, remote but close to cities

##### **What are the problems of living in the country? -**

- Was lack of food shopping facilities but has been solved with Tesco. Bus services to Barnsley take a minimum of 45 minutes for a 20 minute journey!
- Not being in the middle of a town.
- No shops Poor public transport Ageing population set in ways
- In Hoylandswaine inconsiderate parking, people parking on and blocking footpaths and the lack of any control of speeding
- Lack of facilities, bus service is poor, sports facilities non existent,
- Litter Anti social behaviour Transport links Roads  
remote, no taxis, have to plan more for things

##### **Thinking about public transport, how does it affect you and your family? Please write about any issues including timings and cost, how it affects work and social life, what would make a difference -**

- Reducing the bus time to Barnsley.
- Transport is a major issue. Getting to work when I did not have a car was a nightmare. We have one bus

an hour to Barnsley, one bus every two hours to Holmfirth and another bus every two hours to Stocksbridge. Buses to Barnsley do not link up with the trains going to either Sheffield or Huddersfield, it is really in practical to use them for going to Barnsley Town Centre. In addition the buses are generally old and have a reputation for breaking down. The journey time to Barnsley takes 45 to 50 minutes as compared to twenty minutes maximum into the Town by car! The train service is reasonable (one per hour in each direction) but of course we need to drive up to the railway station and there are insufficient parking spaces. Employment is difficult. More and more houses are being built, sometimes in the most inappropriate places but as there is very little industry, this means there are more and more commuters and more cars on the road. Another issue is the lack of a Community Resource Centre. There is nowhere for people to meet in Thurlstone, most local activities take place at either Millhouse Green Chapel of Millhouse Green Institute. The Church no longer has a Church Hall and so many people, older people particularly are exclude from meetings, clubs et. There is very little for the young people; again youth activities take place mostly in Penistone or Millhouse Green.

- 🗣️ Very rarely use it, so cannot really comment. Always handy to have available but don't use it.
- 🗣️ I do not use public transport
- 🗣️ Being a non driver, I must either beg a lift, or use the infrequent bus service. As I am retired, the cost is not relevant (unless the government sees sense and stops the free bus journeys for old people). A recent change to the buses has left me with a choice of 1 A walk of a mile on the flat, 2 A walk of a mile up hill 3 A walk of 8 miles across country to my destination on the other side of the borough I prefer the latter, it takes me about an hour longer than using the bus! It is not feasible to have a bus service just for me, and in previous times I was often the only person on the bus, but perhaps a much smaller bus could be provided. Perhaps this would not cut the costs
- 🗣️ Timings are quite poor, cost is actually ok Socially I would appreciate a better evening and weekend service
- 🗣️ expensive, slow and impractical for daily commuting

**If you have access to one or more cars how does that affect you and your family? Please write about any issues including cost, roads, how it affects work and social life, what would make a difference**

- 🗨️ We have one family car. My husband and I are retired and have a busy social life, however we have to use the car every day as there is only one shop in the village, no paper delivery service and the nearest post office is one and a half miles away. It is possible to walk on a fine day but in the winter the pavement has been impassable for weeks at a time. Similarly, we are making at least two and often four journeys a week (mostly evenings) into Barnsley for social activities eg. Jazz club, Embroiderer's Guild, Art Club, Voluntary work; this is all in addition to local clubs such as bowling and the WI. It all has a cost and we are fortunate that we can just about afford to maintain our lifestyle. However, if petrol costs rise in line with current predictions this will mean that we will have to curtail our current level of activity.
- 🗨️ Really couldn't do without a car. Can you imagine doing a weekly shop and travelling by bus? Having a car was the only way to get to work on time. Try to shop locally or on internet to limit driving costs.
- 🗨️ My main concern is the speed of traffic in Barnsley Rd Haigh Lane and passed the village school. I have raised the matter with the authorities but nothing as yet been done
- 🗨️ Cost is not a problem, potholes are. As I do not drive, I need a driver, this is limiting, but C'est la vie!
- 🗨️ One car- petrol costs are a major concern Roads are very poor at the moment Better roads and improved parking would make a huge difference
- 🗨️ expensive to drive but it's an essential

**If you or your family are unemployed and want work what impact does where you live have?**

- 🗨️ No work in Penistone - none in Barnsley come to that!
- 🗨️ No longer applicable
- 🗨️ We are retired.
- 🗨️ Not unemployed
- 🗨️ N/A

**If you or your family are in work, is it local, do you have to travel far? Generally how does living in the country affect your employment, wages, types of job etc?**

- affects where you can choose to work unless you have a car.
- No longer applicable
- We are retired.
- Retired
- N/A
- I travel approx 20 miles round trip to work each day  
I don't find that this is a problem except during bad weather when I work at another base

**Thinking about housing, how does it affect you and your family? Please write about any issues including cost, availability, how it affects work and social life, what would make a difference**

- Housing costs higher than other parts of the Borough.
- Housing is much more expensive in the rural area. Local people often complain about this and the fact that whilst the area is the overall greatest contributor to the Council Tax total, very little is done for the rural community.
- This village is dying because of no low-cost housing available and some residents do not want any houses built as it will affect their aspect/views.
- Own my property
- No effect, I have been here in my home for 45 years
- I rent a council house- no problems at all

**Do you and your family use local health services? Please write about any issues including accessibility and what would make a difference -**

Yes - not affected.

- Of course we use local health services where else could we go? Appointments are a problem as they have to tie in with whether we have a car available. Parking costs for attending any hospital are now an issue. It is a tax on being ill particularly for those of us living in Rural Areas who have to use a car because getting to any of the Barnsley, Sheffield, Leeds or Huddersfield Hospitals is tortuous by

public transport necessitating a change of buses and a lot of waiting around.

- 📍 Use Penistone / Barnsley health services and have to use a car to access them - public transport not feasible.
- 📍 No problem with local health
- 📍 Local doctor's surgery. Excellent, but the changes to the times of doctors was a retrograde step. I am loath to call out the locum service, even if I am ill, because the trust that was built up over many years was not passed on to a person coming out of the blue, with no information and not the face I wanted to see. Emergency services, when I have used them have been excellent, prompt, skilful and professional
- 📍 Yes excellent local services, very accessible
- 📍 getting a doctors appointment to fit around work is a nightmare. There should be bookable appointments from 8am and the surgery should open late. You shouldn't have to take time off work for routine doctor's appointments.

**What do you feel about the local shops and services like post offices and banks or cash points? Please write about any issues including accessibility and what would make a difference**

- 📍 With Tesco the problem solved but not able to buy clothing, shoes etc...
- 📍 We only have one small shop, open for three hours each day, in the village. so of course accessibility is an issue.
- 📍 Nearest shops etc are in Denby Dale, which are very good. Penistone is also an excellent centre for shops and banks etc. Usually accessed by car. Neighbours help each other out, especially in bad weather.
- 📍 There are no shops in Hoylandswaine to have any feelings about
- 📍 Tell the government to keep out of our post offices. In the rural areas, we need the post offices to be our banks for pensions etc. The changes to the collection of pensions was a distinct mistake. Why do governments fail so miserably to make the whole picture? Now we have the situation that pensioners cannot get their pensions at a nearby post office, and cannot travel by bus to collect it from elsewhere. Shops, what local shops. Our nearest is three miles away. Allowing of all people Tesco to open in Penistone was an error. Now we will have no local

shops at all, despite what "they" say. You have only to look around to see what happens when a supermarket comes to town

- Shops- good variety of local shops, excellent weekly market, new supermarket- no complaints at all!

**What do you feel about the local facilities for leisure and opportunities for free time activities? Please write about any issues including accessibility, cost and what would make a difference.**

- Are there any apart from the Cinema which we regularly attend?
- There are several clubs/groups in the area that offer a range of activities but these are limited and run by volunteers. As the volunteers are mostly in their late sixties to seventies there will soon be a time when these groups are no longer able to function. The bowling club has applied to the National Lottery Fund for help towards extending the clubroom to incorporate a kitchen and also to provide a toilet. Despite having a membership ranging in age from 16 years to over 90 years they do not fit the criteria for help. This would make a huge difference and would attract more members. A meeting place where a luncheon club/ or activities could be held for retired people would be a great asset to the village of Thurlstone. The Church Hall could be renovated instead of being left to deteriorate as is happening at present.
- Penistone always seems to have a lot of things happening at a reasonable cost and the cinema is a very good asset to the community.
- The only local leisure in the village is provided by private local organisations
- First problem, find me some leisure time! I am very happy with what we have, I do not use the cinema except on rare occasions, the sports facilities are poor in Penistone, but perhaps the new share scheme with the school might go some way towards solving that
- Local cinema- no complaints at all Pubs-adequate Would like access to a swimming pool and an improved gym
- need a good swimming pool

**What do you feel about the facilities for children and young people? Please write about any issues**

**including accessibility, cost and what would make a difference.**

- Not much for kids to do hence the hanging about by the skate park. The problem exists everywhere.
- There is a park behind the Church but it is not well maintained and the majority of parents would be very wary about letting their youngsters go there. Other spaces could be made more attractive but money will always be a problem.
- Not many in this village. Only a pre-school playground and field. (Upper Denby)
- The facilities for children are minimal
- N/A
- Poor. Youth clubs closed many antisocial behaviour issues Good play areas marred by antisocial behaviour

**What do you feel about the facilities for older people? Please write about any issues including accessibility, cost and what would make a difference.**

- Are there any?
- Don't you feel that I have answered this in my responses to other questions?
- No facilities in this village.
- These are none existent
- I am an "old person", but being a bit antisocial, I am not involved in any "Old person" activities. Other groups, such as the local history society, twin town society, etc, I do use
- Good- drop-in groups, market, cinema clubs

**What do you feel about crime and other safety issues? Please write about any issues and what would make a difference.**

Probably not as bad as other areas in town.

- This fortunately is not a big issue at the present times. We have periodic spates of cars being stolen or damaged but this has reduced over the last year or so.
- Occasional problems but generally crime free. Seeing police on patrol occasionally would be good.
- Local police presence specifically early morning and late evening would be of help and prevent crime

- Drugs Prohibition in the USA showed the futility of trying to ban things that people want and will break the law to get. If the country could recognise that many people want drugs and this aspect of social life was treated as we do alcohol and tobacco, we might get away from all the crime that is associated with drugs
- Police, Visible policing. I know that the police visit our area, but they are rarely seen. If they would get out of their cars for a minute or two and walk round the streets, we might feel more charitable towards them and their mistakes
- Crime is a problem- vandalism in particular More police on the streets would help

**Do you feel you and your family can influence what happens in your community? Please give any examples and please write about any issues and what would make a difference.**

- No.
- We do our best and already undertake voluntary work both in our local community and in Barnsley. I'm not sure what you are really asking, a bad question.
- Yes Bringing high speed broadband to the village. (On-going)
- I am a member of the committee at the sports club and have been for many years
- Yes, but then we are a part of the local parish council and we have a channel to launch our worries. Also our local councillors (BMBC) are approachable and helpful
- Not really

**Finally do you feel that there is a community spirit and people help each other? Please give any examples and please write about any issues and what would make a difference.**

- Maybe.
- There is a community group that has formed within the last year but in the main people help each other on an individual basis and according to need. Of necessity people in Rural Areas have learnt to be self reliant.
- No community spirit really. The church is poorly attended, many of the school's pupils are from

outside the village, the pub is on its last legs. All the shops are closed (they were always a good place to collect). Most people are very independent but neighbours do help each other very willingly when required.

- There is little or no community spirit the majority of village residents sleep in the village and leave for work
- Yes, neighbourhood watch, environmental work in the parish, playground funding, Christmas Teas, hedging, wall building, You name it, our parish is involved. We could do with more younger people, but they are working too hard to keep the wolf from the door
- Very much so- e.g. snow clearing, neighbourhood watch

### ***Penistone Transport meeting – St Johns, Penistone (33 respondents)***

#### **General comments in meeting**

The meeting was to discuss the future of the 300/301 bus routes which have not been carrying enough people to cover their costs. The rural bus subsidy grant which has been funding the routes is due to finish at the end of the July 2011. On average the statistics indicate there are less than 10 passengers a trip. The bus has an important role in Thurlstone carrying a lot of elderly passengers in a hilly area. However a smaller vehicle that was run up the hills had an average use of only 3.7 passengers per journey from Thurlstone.

The area is next to West Yorkshire and a bus into Upper Denby could be useful and effective but there is currently no funding of cross boundary services which impacts Upper Denby. There is no route to Huddersfield. Other comments made at the meeting included:

- Services are vital
- There is a need to get community transport working better. Could there be a volunteer service or even a service part funded by Tesco's for example
- The service is so infrequent it becomes unusable
- If the bus service is stopped then children and the elderly will become isolated in Millhouse Green
- The bus to Meadowhall has been stopped but there is still a train service to Meadowhall
- Transport needs to be in a sustainable way

- Many buses are not very accessible for wheelchairs – contract should be for a minimum of 3 years so that the investment can be made in appropriate buses
- Inbirchworth only has the 301 bus; Thurlstone has a few other buses
- Drivers are very good and buses tend to be on time

Thurlstone Community Group commented that the bus was a lifeline for the village allowing access to doctors, socialising at the luncheon club and involvement in the bowling green at Millhouse. In fact going on the bus itself is a social event for the elderly people passengers. Thurlstone has no facilities for holding events, the single shop has only the bare essentials. The bus stopping running to the railway station has made it less useful as a means of getting to hospital. Elderly residents have indicated they would be willing to pay a small amount to help cover costs even though they have a pass (it was pointed out that it is against the national legislation for the bus company to take payment from an elderly person). Thurlstone is one of the highest council tax areas in Penistone.

An Inbirchworth meeting discussed the bus service and commented on the lack of connection to train services in Penistone. There is the potential to operate the service as a loop. There is the lack of a service at lunch time and no connection to Barnsley hospital from Inbirchworth and Upper Denby as it doesn't connect to the Penistone services to get to the hospital. The meeting wondered whether people could be allowed on the school bus

### Completed surveys

<b>What do you enjoy about living in the country?</b>	<b>What are the problems about living in the country?</b>	<b>What are your ideas for change or improvements?</b>	<b>Postcode</b>
Fresh air Friendliness of neighbours Living in a community	Lack of amenities BMBC only focusing on the town centre and not on rural areas	Penistone Town Council regaining independence from BMBC	S36 9RN
Community spirit The peace and contentment mostly felt by the public at large	Access to amenities i.e. the surgery, the library, the local and further a field hospitals Not everyone can or does drive or can afford to	Better public transport would not only help the people but the environment and the carbon footprint i.e. the roads would be less crowded and the air	S36 7GB

<b>What do you enjoy about living in the country?</b>	<b>What are the problems about living in the country?</b>	<b>What are your ideas for change or improvements?</b>	<b>Postcode</b>
		would be cleaner	
Freedom to roam safely	Limited public services		S36 9QG
Clean air and village life	Sometimes poor community services		S36 9RN
Lovely scenery Good views Peace Friendly people	For an old person, carrying heavy shopping from the main road now that I can no longer drive. I have to depend on a kind friend who is still a driver or use the 'little bus' which puts me off at the end of my road. I should lose my independence completely if this was withdrawn. It is usually very punctual. Post office has now closed, it means going to Millhouse or Penistone for stamps etc		S36 9RW
Smaller communities Countryside landscapes Friendliness Less crime so more security	Shopping (except for food) lack of choice Dependence on car or public transport	Green park replacements More frequent buses and/or more car parking Bus going to station	S36 9RW
Clean Fresh air Friendly people Easy to town for shopping	Shortage of transport	Keeping our bus, as I am an OAP (84) and need this bus to get out, every day Monday to Saturday (12 Westfield Avenue, Thurlstone)	S36 9RN
Beautiful views Very friendly people	Transport		S36 9SA
Lovely countryside to hand for walking	No public transport system to speak of Difficulty for those	Fairer share of council tax spending. More power for our	S36 6GT

<b>What do you enjoy about living in the country?</b>	<b>What are the problems about living in the country?</b>	<b>What are your ideas for change or improvements?</b>	<b>Postcode</b>
Friendly people in small communities Less nuisance from vandals Fresh air, peace and quiet	without cars to get to Barnsley, Sheffield, Huddersfield. In a small village no facilities i.e. library, post office etc provided despite the fact we pay council tax which seems to be spent solely in Barnsley	wonderful parish council. Road surfacing not repatching Improved public transport to connect with other buses and the train in Penistone. Action instead of constant excuses from Barnsley councillors	
Peaceful Low crime rate	Little or no amenities Poor public transport links	Fair share of the allocation of public spending that we contribute to by our council tax contributions	S36 6GT
I enjoy the peace and quiet of Thurlstone	In Thurlstone no shops, doctors, banks and little access to buses due to disability and hills	Bus (300) to remain to enable old and infirm to get to Penistone and Barnsley	S36 9QB
Riding my bicycle	I do not drive	To maintain the current level of bus services	S36 6HF
Lack of noise Open air	None if there are regular public transport	Leave the bus as is and carry on funding as a public service	S36 9RL
Peace and quiet Open spaces	Lack of local shops, doctors, chemist	None the bus is ideal as is and allows me access to things easy on hand in a town	S26 9RL
A good bus service to enable us to connect to the urban areas around!	Not enough public transport	Better communications	S36 9NB
Solitude and fresh air	Dog fouling Not enough buses	More cooperation between councils i.e. Penistone and Barnsley with the local community Better transport links	S36 9NB
The country life	Transport and access	Better access to all	S36 7EZ

<b>What do you enjoy about living in the country?</b>	<b>What are the problems about living in the country?</b>	<b>What are your ideas for change or improvements?</b>	<b>Postcode</b>
Its some where I've always lived A good bus service which is available for visits to doctors, libraries, dentists	to various services	services and better transport	
	Poor bus service	Better bus service	S36 9NN
	Poor service	Better bus service	S36 9RL
Fresh air No chimneys	Better bus service	Regular bus service. Bus services stop a war with each other to get fares	
Never ever lived in towns Clean environment and views to be looked after	Local Authorities only want to serve the town centre and only find ways of making money	Not everyone has a car and the aged citizens rely on the local transport	S36 8HW
Freedom The views The great walks Peace and quiet Friendly people	Transport (lack of it) No shops	BMBC to keep public walk ways clear and tidy (get rid of nettle)	S36 9RN
	Unreliable transport to Barnsley	To be deprived of the little bus would be a big set back – improvement – please not a backward step	
Freedom Heritage Tradition A “community” feel, one of safety and permanence The country way of life, a full seasonal year which follows the seasons closely. One knows/we all	Transport Extreme weather Being ‘cut off’ for many days of the year. Lack of gritting No shops apart from a small bakery, where are they all? We were once a thriving community that needn’t travel into Penistone at all unless needed	A better awareness from the outside world that we do exist We are usually an area that is ‘walked’ or just passed through. Our community group will cover these concerns and rectify them. We deserve the same importance as	S36 9RH

<b>What do you enjoy about living in the country?</b>	<b>What are the problems about living in the country?</b>	<b>What are your ideas for change or improvements?</b>	<b>Postcode</b>
know		Penistone, we are twice as interesting and equally as old!	
Scenery and fresh air but all the money is in cities	Transport to essential shops	Keep this bus service on – only shops and stores are in Penistone (OAP)	S36 9RN
Fresh air Rural area out of town living Less traffic Small town Don't have to live in crowded towns and cities Quality of life	Poor bus services/transport needs Community bus No shops have to travel into town Bad weather/snow Have to travel to town and city to work	Better local bus service provided by Tates bus group Need shops in village Better transport arrangements Local bus covers disabled people Very good service been put on by Tates bus group	S36 9RL
	Need public transport to get to Penistone shops	To keep the 300 bus service	S36 9RB
	Needing public transport to get to the shops	We would like to keep the 300 bus	S36 9RD
Some peace and quiet and friendly people	Lack of facilities	It would be nice for Barnsley council to listen to us more and take notice of what we want	S36 9RL
Always lived there	Lack of facilities	For Barnsley council to consider our needs first before Barnsley town	S36 9RN
Ingbirchworth	No bus	More bus	S36 7GH
Fresh air Open country Friendly people	Transport – hospital and rail connections Roads		S36
The hills and green fields Pleasant walks Feeling of space Knowing many people who are ready with a smile	Attached to BMBC we are the poor 'relation' for finances needed for things	No building on the green belt Need good roads More parking spaces	S36 9NA

***Penistone WI (5 respondents)***

<b>What do you enjoy about living in the country?</b>	<b>What are the problems about living in the country?</b>	<b>What are your ideas for change or improvements?</b>	<b>Postcode</b>
Peace and quiet - views	Transport > Millhouse Green	Street cleaning and dog fouling	S36 8ZZ
Beautiful scenery Lovely walks Friendly and helpful people Fresh air	Transport facilities. I don't think a bus every 2 hours is adequate and everybody does <u>not</u> own a car. It is very difficult for the elderly	Better public transport	S36
Scenic views Rural footpaths Fresh air and tranquillity Seasonal changes in wildlife and farming Village communities	Infrequency of public transport High house prices Lack of jobs, many local medium sized firms having moved, selling land very profitably for housing High cost of running a car	More integrated public transport systems	S36
Lovely scenery Nice places to walk and enjoy the countryside Village life and the friendly people	Transport facilities could be better Better gritting in the winter on side roads so people can get onto the main roads. A land rover skidded on our road and crashed into our gate and fence and caused £1200 of damage besides the damage to the vehicle	Better bus service and to connect to train times	S36
Very little pollution Green space	In my part of S36 off road motor cyclists coming off the Transpenine trail onto a private access road and public footpath They don't have any thought for the people who live there	Improve public transport for the areas that need it. Make time tables so that trains and buses can be accessed easily	S36 8YR

***Memory Lane Café, Alzheimer's Society, St John's Community Centre (31 respondents)***

Consultation with carers and people who have problems with their memory

<b>What do you enjoy about living in the country?</b>	<b>What are the problems about living in the country?</b>	<b>What are your ideas for change or improvements?</b>	<b>Postcode</b>
Sheer habit, always lived in the country	Lots in incomers because of the school but the infrastructure cannot cope, no shop and narrow roads. Live in Thurlstone and the major problem is transport – it is quite rural and lots of people are totally stuck without the little village bus – totally isolated. Only got a tiny bakers. A girl who is a school cleaner won't be able to get to work if the bus stops. As an old person I can walk to the bottom of the hill to catch the bus but a lot can't and definitely can't come back up	Four years ago there used to be a shop and post office now nothing – got to come to Penistone	S36 9RH
Good to live in the country Lovely countryside Fresh air Plenty to see in the countryside, can take it in	Can't see any		S75 3LU
Love it Born and bred Not much crime Wouldn't move to more urban part of Barnsley		Roads Footpaths Cleaning up No clothes or shoe shops in Penistone suitable for older	Comments from 4 people

<b>What do you enjoy about living in the country?</b>	<b>What are the problems about living in the country?</b>	<b>What are your ideas for change or improvements?</b>	<b>Postcode</b>
		people – have to go to Barnsley or Sheffield	
Better than town Nice fresh air and fields Like to look at sheep and cows Penine trail No petrol fumes	Worst thing footpaths because of the rubbish and state of them = safer on the road. Will be problems if knock off buses. Lots of new people in bungalows who don't join in. There used to do Good Companions for 14.5 years but it was stopped because there were not enough people to do it	Improve footpaths	Comments from 7 people  Oxspring Crane Moor
Moved because right house Somewhere to retire to Pleasant atmosphere Helpful friendly neighbours	No problems that are insurmountable Quite isolated No shops Shopping a problem Only a couple of pubs in the village		Comments from 6 people
Freedom able to move about countryside See the changing seasons Less hustle and bustle 'hate to live in a town' 'just love living here'	No problems up to now but if buses taken off will be problems – can drive just now but otherwise pretty well cut off It 'isn't a bus it's a life line should be a priority'	Little bit more of a police presence	Comments from 4 people  Thurlstone Penistone
Quietness Scenery Always live in country, don't know what it is like to live in the town Never seen any yobos Feel safe – not	Bus No transport Buses can be unreliable sometimes never turn up – has happened more than once. Tried Dial a Ride but charged £5 for a journey of less than a	Awful if old, if can't drive really stuck Widows often depend on buses. In Ingbirchworth they are building a new estate and there will be a need for transport and facilities	Comments from 6 people

<b>What do you enjoy about living in the country?</b>	<b>What are the problems about living in the country?</b>	<b>What are your ideas for change or improvements?</b>	<b>Postcode</b>
like Rotherham where had to lock shut the door at 6pm	mile between Oxspring and Thurgoland		
Privacy Less pollution Quiet Fresh air and exercise	Can be too quiet No buses No facilities and shops		S72 8BL
Walking my dog and family Beautiful Convenience 5 minutes to Huddersfield and Dales	Can be dog fouling because they think it's the country Fly tipping		S75 5Np

### ***Penistone Readers Group – Penistone Library (14 consulted)***

Thurlstone has 2 buses an hour run within 5 minutes of each other and don't connect with the trains – would have to 'gallop' to catch the train – used to be a little bus from the station but doesn't run any more  
need more integration














### ***East Peak for Young People Project Consultation (1312 young people consulted)***

The main conclusion from the consultation was that young people do value the countryside and the environment, but have difficulty in linking it to their everyday lives. They see environmental issues as a global problem, but struggle to see how it impacts on them personally. It would appear that young people would benefit from natural, outdoor activities local to them that would encourage their understanding of their local environment and an increased use of their local green spaces.

The consultation events did not identify where the young people were from. Since the consultation report a further 61 young people gave their views at the Penistone Show and were asked what they thought was the most special thing about their area, and the most popular results are shown below. It is likely that most came from Penistone or the surrounding rural area.

#### **Penistone Show - What's the most special thing about your area?**

Lots of Wildlife

-  I like the fresh air
-  I like the things to do
-  Play football
-  Wildlife!!!
-  Plenty of things to do, places to go
-  Animals
-  Nature
-  Nature
-  Fresh air, sport centre, countryside Lots of wildlife and birds
-  Football pitches
-  We have a river
-  Park lol
-  Being close to places for good bike rides

- 🌳 Lovely countryside
- 🌳 I like ...countryside
- 🌳 Pizza Hut
- 🌳 Wildlife
- 🌳 Not very busy
- 🌳 Nice Greggs
- 🌳 It's one of a kind
- 🌳 10mins to the top of the hill (moorland = bilberries)
- 🌳 Picturesque views, people and landscapes and countryside and near town
- 🌳 I like the woods
- 🌳 Lots of things to do
- 🌳 there is lots of parks
- 🌳 biking on the track
- 🌳 I like the river and the wood
- 🌳 Nice Maccy D's
- 🌳 Topshop
- 🌳 Gigs, friends, families and vintage shops
- 🌳 Ducks
- 🌳 A park next door, bakery around the corner
- 🌳 I like my area because it's quiet and peaceful and not busy
- 🌳 Dancing
- 🌳 needs a skate park
- 🌳 I enjoy walking in the countryside
- 🌳 Tesco
- 🌳 There are lots of shops
- 🌳 We live near the leisure centre
- 🌳 I like watching TV and brownies
- 🌳 Close to the city but close to the country
- 🌳 I like the woods and the squirrels
- 🌳 Sport and gardening
- 🌳 Penistone is quiet and there are loads of animals around
- 🌳 Lots of places to hang out and there's a few shops
- 🌳 I like the swings and school, animals

56% of answers were based on local green spaces or wildlife, 24% based on sports or things to do and 16% on shops showing that young people living in and around the East Peak really value their local green spaces in making the area feel special.

In response to what was found, the East Peak for Young People project now focuses on working with young people in green spaces that are very local to them which they would still be able to easily access after the project has completed. Projects will include activities that the young

people can take away with them and replicate elsewhere to ensure that they can relate to the project and link it in with their everyday lives.

***Dunford Bridge Parish Council – meeting notes 5 respondents***

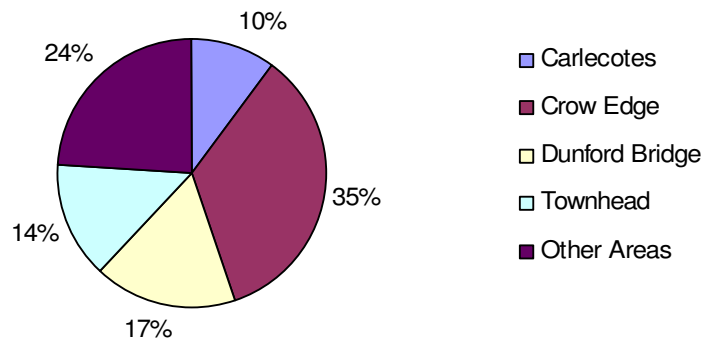
Dunford Bridge is deprived because of the lack of shops, bus service, mobile, broad band. People like to live in the area because they like it. The loss of the school has resulted in the loss of the community hub. People don't know each other that well.

***Dunford Bridge Parish Council research (122 respondents)***

**Summary**

Of the 264 forms sent out, 43 (16%) were returned accounting for 122 individual comments for analysis. Of these 29 (67% of returns) included contact details. These give an indication of the geographical spread of participants, which compares well with the population spread of the Parish:

Carlecotes	3
Crow Edge	10
Dunford Bridge	5
Townhead	4
Other areas <sup>16</sup>	7



<sup>16</sup> These include Hazlehead and other isolated farmsteads/properties

The percentage of participants (16%) is disappointing when compared to those of the 2003 survey when 138 out of 486 (28.4%) questionnaires were returned.<sup>17</sup> However, as mentioned above, the survey is not to be considered like for like.

There were 122 individual comments within the returns that covered 17 themes that are considered in more detail within the main section of the Plan. These range from *employment, notice boards* and *phone boxes*, each accounting for just 1% of the contributions, to road safety which accounted for 25% of all contributions.

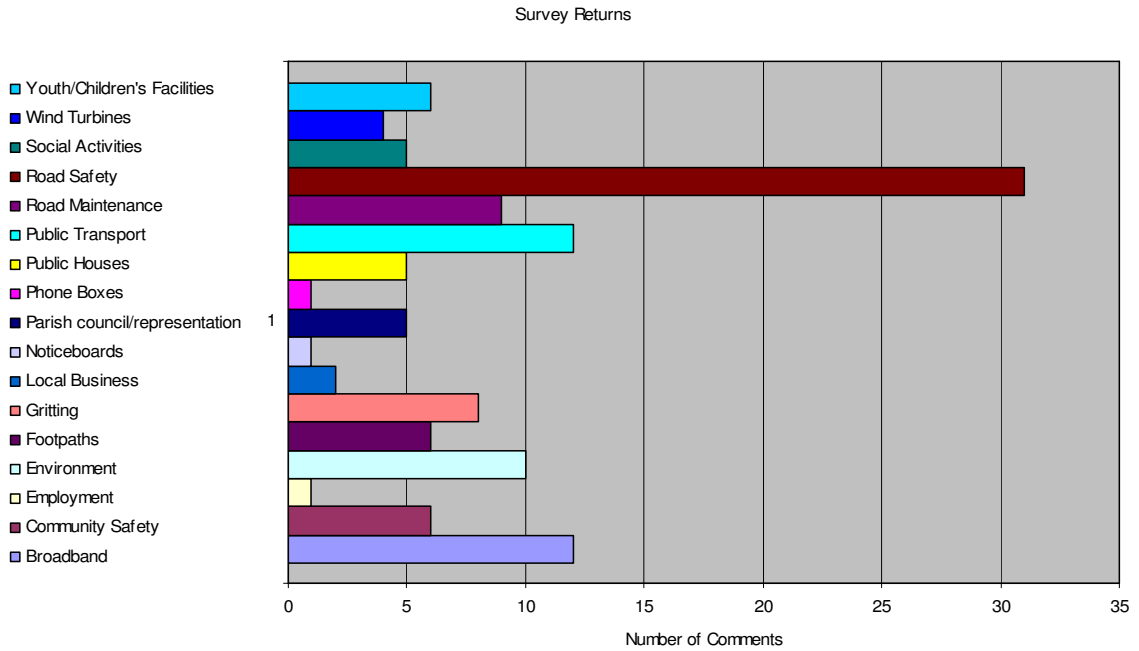
It will be seen from the list of themes that some could be conjoined into broader themes, e.g., *road safety* (25%), *road maintenance* (7%) and *gritting* (7%) could be brought together under a 'roads' theme, thus totalling a massive 39% of all contributions. If we were to add *public transport* (10%) to this theme, 49% of all contributions would be accounted for. These figures are comparative to the local authority's findings (48.68%).<sup>18</sup> Clearly road safety, highway maintenance and transport are major areas for concern and by far the people's top priorities. Each theme will be considered in detail in the main body of the Plan and action points determined accordingly.

The chart below shows the number of comments received for each of the 17 themes:

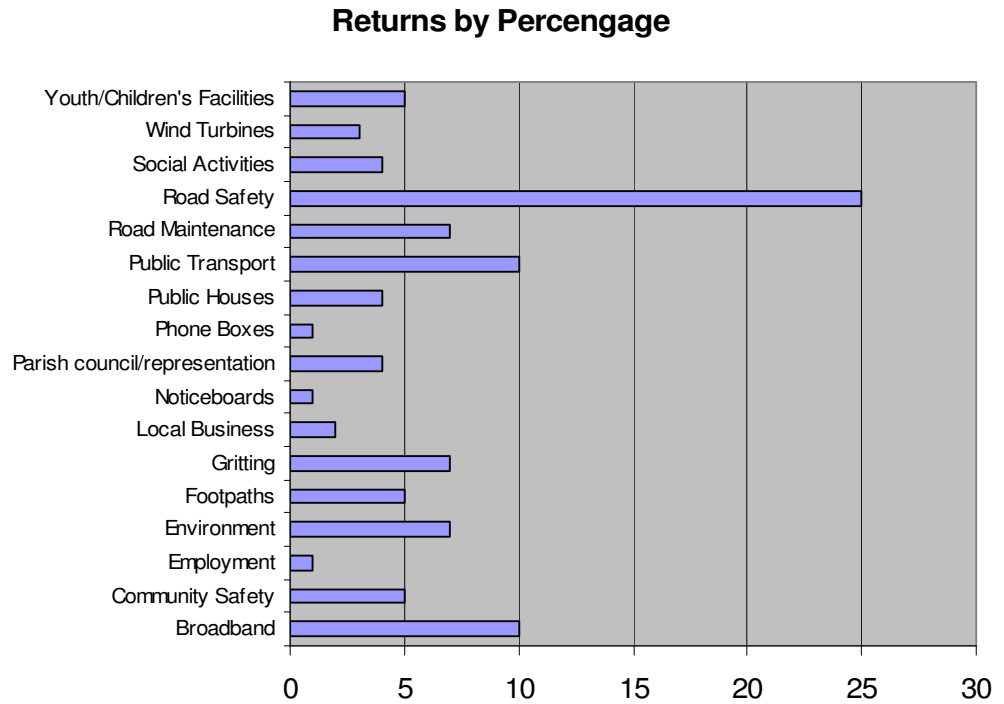
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<sup>17</sup> Dunford Parish Council Parish Plan 2004, p8

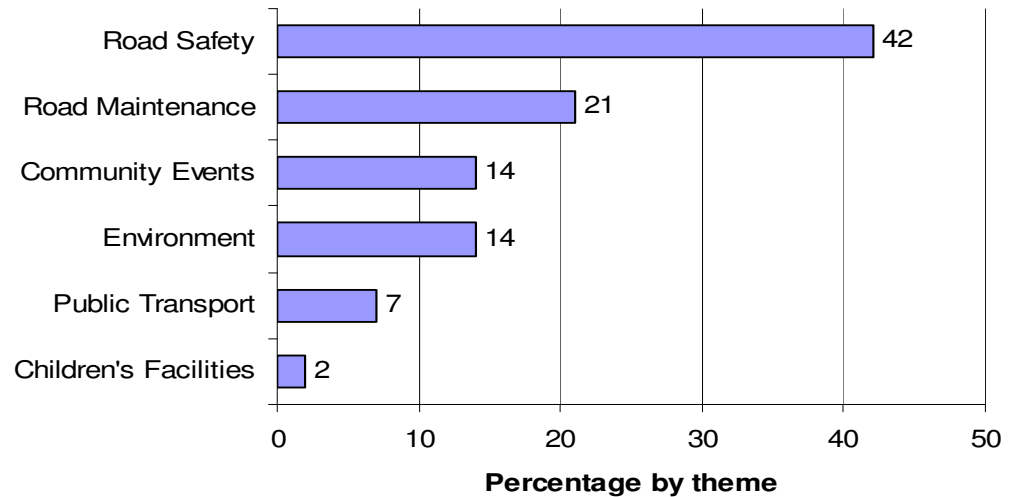
<sup>18</sup> Local Area Review 2010, South West Area Partnership, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, p.9



The chart below shows the returns by percentage:



The chart below shows the results from the pilot survey undertaken at the 2010 gala by percentage:



*Public transport* is high on the list of priorities for Parish residents with 10% of the comments being about the level of service and reliability. For people who live in the more remote areas of the Parish, public transport is often the only link to the outside world and they are dependent on the bus for their shopping, health services, paying their bills, access to leisure facilities and socialising.

*Broadband* was in its infancy in 2003 and didn't feature in the 2004 Parish Plan although the survey showed 40% of participants had access to the Internet.<sup>19</sup> The advance of technology in recent years has determined Broadband connectivity to be an essential part of 21<sup>st</sup> Century life and local economies are severely disadvantaged without it. Many parts of the Parish do not receive a signal capable of delivering Broadband and 10% of comments returned urged a solution to this deprivation.

*Gritting* is a perennial problem and seemingly every winter people have reason for complaint about the level of service in the Parish, which generally suffers the more extreme weather conditions with snow coming off the Pennines and temperatures dropping well below the average for the borough. Six percent of comments asked for improvements to the gritting programme and grit bin allocations.

The Parish being very much a rural area, the *environment* is expected to be high on people's priorities and 7% of the returns raised issues on this theme. If we add concerns about the proliferation of *wind turbines* (3%), which

<sup>19</sup> Dunford Parish Council Parish Plan 2004, p10

generally are about their impact on the aesthetic quality of the area, then the theme is covered by 10% of the comments (14% in the pilot survey).

It would be remiss of any society to neglect its young people and *youth/children's facilities* feature relatively high in the returns (5%).

*Community safety* and *footpaths* each register returns of 5% within the survey. Whilst footpaths could be included in the environment theme, they do warrant consideration in their own right as they are an important aspect of the English countryside.

*Social activities* and *public houses* each received 4% of the comments and could be conjoined under one theme.

It is notable, and welcome, that the *Parish Council* and *representation* feature in the returns (4%).

*Local business* (2%), *notice boards* (1%) and *employment* (1%) feature at the lower end of the returns.