

CONONLEY VILLAGE SURVEY 2011

Results of the questionnaire survey

Your say about your village - Cononley Village Survey 2011

There was a good response to the questionnaire survey with 83 forms returned, with an even split between those completing the form on-line and those completing the paper copy. There was a good cross-section of people who gave their views with a spread throughout the village. More women than men responded and few responses from the under 25 year old age group. However, there was also an additional 10 responses to the young peoples' questionnaire which was aimed at the under 18s.

Aireside / Aireside Avenue/Riverdale Ings	8	Crosshills Road	26	Main Street	16
Meadow Lane	22	Netherghyll	2	Skipton Road	7
Woodside		Outlying houses	2		

Male

Female

Age groups that responded.

Under 18	<input type="text" value="1"/>	45 to 55	<input type="text" value="13"/>
18 to 25	<input type="text" value="1"/>	56 to 65	<input type="text" value="21"/>
25 to 35	<input type="text" value="9"/>	65 to 75	<input type="text" value="14"/>
35 to 45	<input type="text" value="20"/>	Over 75	<input type="text" value="5"/>

There was a strong impression from the returns of the pleasure people took in living in the village – the countryside setting, friendly people, the range of businesses and amenities, village activities and good access to surrounding towns and cities using the train were seen as key points.

What do you think is / are the best thing(s) about living in Cononley?	
Countryside, river, canal. Pleasant unspoilt environment. Attractive village. Beautiful location	44
Good mix of friendly people	39
Good access to train	37
Village events and activities help to keep people in touch with each other. It is a thriving and lively community. Community spirit. Lots going on	36
Amenities - shop, post office, school, pubs, park, sports ground, hairdressers, range of small businesses	34
Great for bringing up children	6
Peaceful	9
Safe environment.	10
Good footpaths and walking	6
Working farms	2
Good but small Christian community	2

A wide range of concerns were also raised by people, but there were three dominant issues. The speed and volume of traffic were brought up by many people. This is somewhat disappointing as these were seen as key issues in 2002, but since then the 20mph speed limit and traffic calming measures have been introduced – unfortunately with little impact on the perception of this problem. Parking is also seen as a continuing

problem and one to which there is no obvious solution. The third key concern is that of dog fouling – this appears to be a far greater concern now than in 2002.

What concerns you most about living in Cononley?	
Speed of traffic	24
Volume of traffic. Through traffic and heavy vehicles	14
Lack of parking and inconsiderate parking, especially on pavements.	20
Dog fouling	20
Litter	8
New houses being built and the village expanding. Trying to squeeze more houses into the village centre	9
House prices That the young people growing up here will find it difficult to live here if they want to.	5
Erosion and limited bus service	8
Railway barrier down for long spells of time	7
Anti-social behaviour (noise, language, petty theft)	8
Campsite issues - loss of privacy, and with regards to strangers walking about.	3
Lack of road clearing in winter snow and ice	5
Road junction on to A629 - turning right is impossible as is crossing by foot.	2
The behaviour of one or two young children can make others reluctant to be at the park. Noise from the Park at night.	3
That the village shop, pubs etc are lost	2
Disappearance of farms	1
Poor quality or lack of pavements	3
Racist and insular attitudes	3
Lack of footbridge over the railway	1
Preserving the conservation area and the general appearance of the village	1
No doctors or pharmacy library or bank	1
Mobile phone coverage poor	1
Lack of sheltered housing	1
Resources in school unavailable for community use	1
Hate the yellow and numerous streetlights	1
Cow muck	1

Traffic speed and volume

There was a strong impression that the 20mph limit was widely ignored even by people living in the village. The evening rush hour appears to be the time of day which gives greatest concern as the village is used as a rat run through to Crosshills. A number of locations were mentioned as being particularly problematic for speeding – Skipton Road, Meadow Lane and Crosshills Road being the most mentioned.

Parking

A number of issues with regard to parking were mentioned. Cars parking on pavements is a frequent concern with the impact this has on pedestrians. The two locations which give the greatest concern are around the level crossing and the school. It was felt that the parking outside of Greens Mill and into the village due to people using the railway and businesses in the area caused a potential safety hazard as vehicles struggled to get

through. One other concern was the damage vehicles were causing to the grass verge between the Mill and Aireside. There were suggestions around extending the double yellow lines and the introduction a new car park.

Litter

Litter seemed to be a general problem although a number of locations were more frequently mentioned such as around the Playing Fields and in the beck. There was frequent mention of litter being thrown from cars and ending up in the verges around the village.

Dog mess

Dog fouling emerged as a key concern in this survey, and a more prevalent problem than the previous survey in 2002. In fact, for many people this is now the worst problem facing the village. Again many locations were mentioned – pavements, footpaths and people disposing of poo bags by throwing them in hedges, gardens and allotments.

Pavements

The issue of cars parking on pavements is a key concern. Also raised was the need for pavements to be resurfaced, and the crack in the pavement near to the Playing Field. There was a great deal of concern about the lack of a continuous pavement along Crosshills Road and in particular outside Aire View. The lack of a pavement in the area around the Institute was also raised.

Roads

One location in particular was mentioned as needing resurfacing which is Main Street in the area of the Playing Fields.

The Parish Council and its properties

There were a number of suggestions for improving how the Parish Council operates, and developments of the facilities and property owned by the Council. The facilities actually owned by Cononley Parish Council are:

- The Village institute
- The Playing Fields (but not the Sports Club and cricket field)
- Dead Eye Pond which is situated towards Woodside
- The allotments behind the school and Meadow Close
- The Pinfold (a small area off Netherghyll Lane)

Where property is actually owned by the Council, we can have far more control and input into its management, but even then need the support and enthusiasm of other people from the village. A good example of this is the developments at the Playing Field and Institute that have been driven by dedicated volunteers who give up their time to raise money and organise works. The Council also funds the village newsletter.

Parish Council

There were several positive comments where gratitude was expressed to the councillors and members of the trust committees for the time they commit.

There were also a number of comments suggesting that there needs to be more publicity on who the councillors are, and a greater level of reporting of council business through the Craven Herald.

Playing Fields

There were many very positive comments about the new play area which was just being completed as this questionnaire was distributed. People feel they have a top class facility. There were a few negative comments concerning dropped litter and glass, and occasional disturbance when the park is used late at night.

Dead Eye Pond

There were a number of people who commented that they were unaware of the existence of the pond or where it is. Most of the people who knew the site felt that more should be made of it, although a few felt it should be left as it is now. Ideas surrounded:

- Providing benches
- Providing a bird watching hide
- Improving accessibility
- Improving information
- Making it into a local nature reserve

Allotments

There was recognition that the allotments are a valuable facility and a number of comments that splitting up some allotments was a good idea in reducing the waiting list. The most common comment with regard to the allotments was that there should be reallocation of allotments if underused or not looked after. In a similar vein a number of people wanted to see more allotments provided, or the number of allotments held by people to be reduced.

Village Institute

The responses further confirm the importance of the Institute as a village facility with the vast majority of people making some use of the Institute for classes or village events. There were many comments that the Institute was good value for money and well looked after. People were appreciative of the recent redecoration and the re-varnishing of the floor. The questionnaire asked for detailed comments about improvements that people would like to see at the Institute. Many comments surrounded the lack of accessibility and the congested nature of the entrance area and cloakroom. The poor state of the heating system was also mentioned by many – this is due to be addressed this year. These comments have been passed to the Institute Committee to see if they can be addressed as part of plans for improvements to take place in 2012.

General appearance / upkeep of the village

There were many comments about how to improve the general appearance of the village, and this is something that many people said they would like to be involved with. A key suggestion was to employ a lengthsman once again to assist with tackling the issues of littering, dog fouling and general upkeep of the village. However, there were a number of comments about community litter picks.

A number of people felt that there could be more planting around the village including old water troughs, and that consideration should be given to entering Britain in Bloom or a similar competition.

The Sports Club and Ground

The Sports Club and grounds are managed by the Sports Club Management Team. Once again this is a well respected facility which people are really pleased to have access to, and felt should be helped and supported. People felt that it was good to see that the different sports are encouraging those who live in the village to play in the various teams - cricket, bowls etc. There were a number of suggestions as to how this excellent facility could be further improved:

- Perhaps the sports teams could extend more open invitations to training
- Perhaps a bit more seating to encourage more spectators around the cricket pitch. This was felt to particularly useful for older residents.
- The sports club could use a refurbishment, lick of paint, new furniture. It would be far more likely to be used for social occasions.
- Provide some tennis courts

Again all the comments made have been passed on to the Management Team for consideration.

St Johns Church

People were asked whether their family/household was linked with a religious congregation in the village or elsewhere, and the results were:

St Johns Church	21
Other/outside the village	11
None	46

There were a number of suggestions for how there could be more community use of **St Johns Church**. By far the most popular suggestion was that it could be used for concerts. Other suggestions were:

- Wildlife garden
- Social events
- Debates and meetings
- Films and plays
- Children's activities and services
- Poetry readings
- Coffee mornings
- Cake stalls

The alterations people would like to see made to **St Johns Church** to enable it to have a greater variety of uses for the community were mainly related to providing easier access and to provide flexible seating in place of the pews.

Environment

Waste collection is the responsibility of Craven District Council, and people were asked how satisfied they were with the arrangements for recycling waste, and on the whole the results show that they are reasonably satisfied.

Very poor		←————→				Excellent	
1	2	3	4	5	6		
4	4	19	22	26	7		

There was a strong dislike of the blue bags for recycling paper. There were also a number of comments concerning the facility provided at Meadow Croft. There was concern over the poor quality of this facility with the lack of surfacing and the fact the bins are often full. There were also a number of people who would like to see tetra pack recycling to be introduced at this location.

Transport

The availability of public transport is clearly an important feature of the village for many people, with use of the train being particularly important.

Daily	19
Several times a week	18
About once a week	8
Several times a month	12
Rarely/Never	24

The main factor which would make people use trains or buses more frequently would be lower cost.

Many people were concerned about the erosion of bus services which has occurred over recent years and the potential for services to be reduced further. There was particular concern about the lack of services at either end of the day, and the lack of accessibility to Airedale Hospital.

People were also asked whether they would be interested in a **car-sharing scheme** or a **car club** becoming available in the village, and 18 people responded positively.

Cycling and particularly walking are popular ways of getting around.

	Bicycle	Walk
About once or twice a day	3	28
Several times a week	9	21
About once a week	4	8
Several times a month	9	13
Rarely/Never	34	5

Many of the suggestions for encouraging people to **walk** or use a **bicycle** more often are going to be difficult to achieve such as flattening the hills and making the sun shine more often! However, the ideas which might be more feasible are:

- Shared use pavement/cycle path between Cononley and Skipton x 3
- Improve canal towpath and crossing at Cononley Lane Ends x 6
- Footpath along road before Gibside x 3
- Provision of cycle lanes x 7

Housing

Respondents felt that when/if new homes are built, should they be mainly:

	Tick one		Tick one
Detached houses	6	Mainly 2 bed	20
Terraced/semi-detached houses	22	Mainly 3 bed	48
Single storey homes	3	Mainly larger	6
Flats or apartments	4	Mixture	3
A mixture of the above	52		

There was strong support for one of the priorities to be for low cost, affordable dwellings for local people when new homes are built.

Yes No Don't know

There was also a strong feeling that any new housing should blend in with existing housing [e.g. local stone/slate], in accordance with the good design principles.

Not very important ←-----→ Very important					
1	2	3	4	5	6
1		3	5	12	62

Crime and safety

The vast majority of villagers feel safe in the parish environment.

Yes No Mostly

The vast majority has not suffered from crime or anti-social behaviour in the past 12 months, with the most common complaint once again being that they have been affected by speeding traffic.

Tick all that apply

Speeding	16
Vandalism	9
Car crime	5
Burglary or theft	5
Drunkenness	5
Bullying	3
Racism	2
Assault or mugging	0
Other	9
None	42

Clubs and societies

A large number of people are actively involved with clubs and societies with Cononley Singers and sports and exercise groups being the most popular.

Cononley Singers	17
Exercise groups [e.g. Aerobics, Moving to Music, Pilates, Yoga]	16
Sports groups [e.g. Cricket, Football, Tennis]	9
Art group	6
Beavers, Guides, Scouts etc	3
Local History group	2
Mothers Union	3
Parents and toddlers	5
Women's Institute	8
Environmental/conservation group	1
Tuesday Cononley Walking Group	4
Bowls Club	4

There were also suggestions for new groups and clubs:

Book club	8
Walking group	7
Gardening group	2
Knit and Natter (otherwise known as stitch and bitch)	2
Birdwatching/wildlife walks	1
Chess club	1
Outdoor club - cycling / climbing	1
Youth club	1

Information

When asked how people find out about village events and issues the most common places were the notice board and the window of the Post Office.

Parish Council Notice Board	70	Craven Herald	38
Website	20	Post Office Window	65
Attendance at Parish Council	6	Word of mouth	11
Newsletter	27		

Possible Actions

One of the main points of conducted the questionnaire is to get peoples' ideas on what developments they want to see to make the village an event better place to live and work in. Below are the suggestions that have come through the survey with what could be done about bringing them about. Some are within the power of the Parish Council, but others will rely on being able to influence other bodies such as the District or County Council. Some others are going to rely on volunteers coming forward to take them on – if there is something you would particularly like to see happen then get in touch with Stephanie Wheelhouse initially:

s.e.wheelhouse@btinternet.com, 01535 636209.

	Lead body or organisation	Comments	Timescale
Greater publicity of who are Parish Councillors	Parish Council	Through the newsletter and website	2011
More consistent reporting in the Craven Herald	Volunteer	A new volunteer has taken this on	2011
Keeping the village website more up-to-date and make better use of it	Parish Council and others	Publicise through the newsletter and make clear how to make amendments. Consider whether it is possible to have several administrators.	2011
Investigate the employment of a lengthsman/parish caretaker	Parish Council	Look at possible methods of employment and cost, and what should be in the specification.	2011/12
Institute: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of heating system • Investigate incorporating suggested improvements as part of Institute plans 	Institute Advisory Committee		2011 2012
Consider taking part in a Britain in Bloom or similar competition.	Volunteer	No action unless a suitable volunteer comes forward	
Consider clean up days/litter picks	Volunteer	No action unless a suitable volunteer comes forward	
Pressure the Police to take enforcement action on speeding, and make use of the camera part funded by the Parish Council	Parish Council	Letter has now been written to the Chief Constable	2011
Greater clarity that Meadow Lane is included within the 20mph zone, such as through the use	NYCC Highways		

	Lead body or organisation	Comments	Timescale
of roundels.			
Discuss with the school parking issues caused by people dropping off and picking up children	Parish Council/Cononley Primary School	Has been addressed several times before, but will be reinforced again.	2011
Look at options for providing additional car parking		Has been looked at, and no options have been identified.	
Improvement to the canal towpath	NYCC	Look at opportunities through the Local Sustainability Transport Fund (LSTF)?	2012
Crossing the A629	NYCC Highways	Road safety scheme being looked at by NY Highways, but this may not include a crossing point.	
Resurface pavements in the village	NYCC Highways	Work complete	Complete
Resurface Main Street in the vicinity of the Playing Fields	NYCC Highways		
Make the pavement between Cononley Lane Ends and Skipton into a shared use facility	NYCC Highways		
Consider using uncultivated areas of the village as mini orchards. This would help wild life (bees in particular) and make the village more attractive	Volunteer	No action unless a suitable volunteer comes forward	
Some provision for teenagers eg. monthly youth centre/cafe or regular youth event at the institute. More involvement of the younger generation in village plans/life.	Volunteer	No action unless a suitable volunteer comes forward	
Shared investment in community energy generation.	Volunteer	No action unless a suitable volunteer comes forward	
A simple map of walks around Cononley – maybe displayed as a board	Parish Council/volunteer	Investigate possible designs and potential cost	2012
Playing fields – consider the provision of an enclosed dog exercise area	Playing Fields Committee	This has been debated, but is forbidden under the governing documents of the playing fields.	

	Lead body or organisation	Comments	Timescale
Playing Fields - consider methods to reduce glass and litter in playing fields	Playing Fields Committee	Recruit volunteers to help with playing fields upkeep. This has now been done.	Complete
Dead Eye pond: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing benches • Providing a bird watching hide • Improving accessibility • Improving information • Making it into a local nature reserve 	Volunteer	No action unless a suitable volunteer comes forward	
Allotments – ensure that there is tight regulation of allotments and reallocation of neglected plots	Parish Council	Procedures in place to inspect allotments twice a year and to take back allotments which are not maintained	Complete
A bridge over the railway, even if it is only for pedestrians rather than cars, people miss trains because the barrier doesn't go up between trains and they are trapped on the wrong side.	Network Rail	Considered unlikely although desirable. Parish Council to write to Northern Rail about the possibilities, and will also approach Greens Mill about a path to the road from Moorfoot Bridge.	2011
Sports Club: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perhaps the sports teams could extend more open invitations to training • Perhaps a bit more seating to encourage more spectators around the cricket pitch. This was felt to particularly useful for older residents. • The sports club could use a refurbishment, lick of paint, new furniture. It would be far more likely to be used for social occasions. • Provide some tennis courts 	Sports Club Management Team	Planning gain money is available to contribute to some improvement work.	
Investigate an alternative to blue bags for	Craven District Council	Is under investigation	

	Lead body or organisation	Comments	Timescale
recycling paper			
Signs at railway crossing to urge people to switch off motors while waiting	Network Rail		
Promotion of Freecycle	Parish Council	This could be done through the newsletter	2011
Consider whether street lights can be turned off in some locations through part of the night	NYCC	Being considered	
Introduction of a car club	Volunteer	No action unless a suitable volunteer comes forward	
Footpath along road before Gibside	NYCC	Could only be taken forward through landowner agreement and funding being available	
Reducing the incidence of cars parking on pavements	NYCC	Currently enforcement of this kind of issue rests with NYCC, but it is possible that responsibility will pass to Craven District Council.	