
Askrigg & Low Abbotside Parish Plan May 2005



CONTENTS

<u>WHAT IS A PARISH PLAN?</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>INTRODUCTION.....</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>1. YOU & YOUR HOUSEHOLD.....</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>2. LEISURE, SPORTS AND AMENITY.....</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>3. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>4. ENVIRONMENT</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>5. TRAFFIC ISSUES.....</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>6. SERVICES.....</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>7. SOCIAL ISSUES.....</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>ACTION PLAN.....</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>APPENDIX 1: Replies to Questionnaire.....</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>1. You and Your Household</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>2. Leisure, Sports and Amenity.....</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>3. Community Communication</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>4. Environment.....</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>5. Traffic Issues.....</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>6. Services.....</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>7. Social issues.....</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>APPENDIX 2.....</u>	<u>21</u>

What is a Parish Plan?

Parish Plans were introduced in the 2000 'Rural White Paper', setting out the Government's plans for the countryside. They are part of the Countryside Agency's 'Vital Villages' initiative.

A Parish Plan is a statement of how the community sees itself developing over the years; it reflects how the community sees themselves and future development. It considers employment, social and environmental issues and the built environment. It cannot decide planning policy, but can influence it with the community voice of the Parish Plan.

The Plan should:

- Reflect the views of all sectors of the community.
- Identify which features and local characteristics are valued.
- Identify local problems and opportunities.
- Spell out how residents want their community to develop in the future.
- Prepare a plan of action to achieve this vision.

In order to be influential and effective it is important that the Parish Plan complements and addresses policies in local strategy, such as the Richmondshire Community Plan, the National Park Local Plan.

The approach taken by the Upper Wensleydale Parish Plans steering group was to survey all the households of Upper Wensleydale to receive views on services and issues that are common across all of the parishes within the area of benefit. Each parish then consulted within its own communities, residents only, to identify those views and community services that are unique.

Introduction

The Askrigg & Low Abbotside Parish Plan Questionnaire comprises of 17 questions arising from four months of community consultation. It was posted to 246 households on the electoral role over the area of Askrigg and Low Abbotside Parishes, (see Appendix 2). There are 305 dwellings recorded for the Parishes, of which 236 are recorded to have residents ¹.

Respondents returned the completed forms to collection points three weeks later.

The following is the analysis of the data from the questionnaire.

Factual interpretative conclusions have been included; recommended action is listed in detail in the ¹

Action Plan.

The recommendations and Action Plan should be read in conjunction with the Upper Wensleydale Cluster Parish Plan and Action Plan.

¹: ONS, Census 2001.

1. You & Your Household

Total number of responses analysed: 87

This is a **35% return**, (based upon the number of questionnaires sent) representing the views of 87 **households** over the area of benefit. This is the highest return from the Upper Wensleydale Parish Cluster.

Most of those who filled in the questionnaire are female (52.4%).

Over a quarter of those who filled in the questionnaire are aged 55-64 years, 20% are aged 65-74 years and 19% are aged 45-54 years.

Over the surveyed area, 86% (74) of responses come from the Askrigg parish and 14% (12) from Low Abbotside parish.

2. Leisure, Sports and Amenity

Community vitality, the extent to which people participate and interact is reasonably high. Most of the households participate in 'Village Affairs', that is events such as the annual produce show. Similarly participation in 'Leisure and Recreational groups' is reasonably high.

Level of participation in the 'School governing body/PTA' and in 'Youth activities/club' is very low; this is a reflection of the elderly population and is to be expected.

Improvement to social, recreational, leisure, sports or educational activities

The questionnaire was distributed prior to the premature announcement of the closure of the Wensleydale Community Learning centre, an outreach provision of Craven College for adult learning. The Centre has since remained open; in the interim course provision has fallen off and courses moved to other locations. The results in this section may have been very different if the parish had known it was

Feel there are enough adult activities but would like to see more active youth facilities.

about to lose the educational facility it had.



Wensleydale Community Learning Centre, Askrigg VC School.

52 Households suggested further activities they would like to see provided in the area social and community activities could be improved in the village or parish. 3 Households felt that there is already adequate provision and no further is necessary.

65% of the comments are suggesting a desire for more sport and fitness provision, ranging from gentle exercise and dance classes, yoga, to use of Low Mill Activity Centre for local people.

There is good support for provision of a Fitness group or exercise class by 11 households. There is also support for local provision of Weight watchers/Slimming world meetings by 8 households; these are currently held at Leyburn.

There is good opportunity for organisations/businesses who deliver some of the provision to fulfil the need, for example yoga, circuit training and extra sports provision.

The leisure and educational activities identified by parish households vary widely. The Wensleydale Community Learning Centre previously provided some of the activities, such as flower arranging, dressmaking. This provision has fallen off. There is no one overwhelming need in this sector, just the desire that these types of activities should continue to be provided and improved upon.

There is strong support by 9 households for provision of a reading group in the parish.

Overall given the high level of response there is scope for a broader level of activity provision within the parish and some very good ideas as a starting base for the formation of groups.

Improvement of facilities in the area

Households were asked how they thought existing facilities such as the village hall, Yorebridge East End, Sports field and the new Games Area, Playground, Snooker Room be better used or improved.

There are 33 community comments.

The Children's Playground is highlighted as an area for Improvement, specifically regarding litter and vandalism in what is a secluded site.

Playground walls lowered to prevent vandalism and better litter bins. (Smashed bottles are often in the playground, which presents a major safety problem especially for younger children).

There are also suggestions for more activities to be held in the Village Hall. There are 6 comments regarding issues around the appearance of the hall and letting procedures. There are suggestions of upgrading it to make it suitable for performances and reviewing the lighting and décor to encourage more functions.

Some households feel that better advertising of existing facilities would also improve their use, as would more and regular functions/activities.

Other suggestions that are put forward are fixing of permanent nets on the football posts to encourage more use, provision of a gym area open on evenings and weekends, school holiday clubs, use of the school as a skating area for the children, putting a toilet in the church and the introduction of a summer Market (farmers/WI) in Askrigg.

Recommendation:

Action REF 2.1: Review working group for Children's Playground. Consider playground pattern of use and identify areas where measures can be taken to improve use and foster care.

Action REF 2.2: Support additional activity provision in all forms, and seek retention of existing provision. Encourage formation of groups that support those areas identified in the survey; fitness, walking groups etc. Seek partnerships with existing activity provision to explore ways in which that provision may be maximized for parish benefit.

Action REF 2.3: Review present use of Village Hall with consideration of potential use for sustainability.

3. Community Communication

Interest in joining a 'parish register'

21 Households expressed an outline interest in being on a 'Parish Register' that would record those people with some time, skill or interest that they would be willing to share to help social, sporting or community activities or events.

Parish newsletter/website/ information leaflet

There is support for increased communication within the parish. 50 Households (69% of those who responded) think that a Parish Newsletter would be of benefit to the villages/parishes, with 11 Households undecided and 11 in the 'no' category.

Only 34 Households (51%) are in favour of a Community Website, with 17 households 1 indicating 'no' for this.

57 Households (84% of those who responded) are in favour of a Village Information Leaflet as having the greatest benefit.

Recommendation:

Action REF 3.1: Parish Councils consider facilitation of 'Parish Register'.

Action REF 3.2: Support for development of Village information leaflet and/or Parish specific newsletter.

4. Environment

71 Households responded when asked how they would describe the appearance of their village or parish.

31 Households are positive about the appearance of their local area, with comments ranging from 'Reasonably tidy' to 'Beautiful'.

There is general concern with litter and dog dirt/fouling from 19 households (27% of those who responded). The

The footpaths need to be swept more often, there is far too much litter about and it makes Askrigg look dirty & untidy.

area around the Askrigg Village Market Place/Cross and the playground is specifically picked out for litter. Dog fouling is an issue over dog owners not clearing up after their pets.

The second largest area of issue is with parking and congestion, Askrigg village in particular.

This is raised by 15 households (21% of those who responded). Askrigg main street is likened to a 'car park' with the overall view that excessive on street car parking is detracting from the character of the village, causing pedestrian hazard (with pavement parking) and raising safety issues for pedestrians crossing the road from the church to the shops.

With an additional B&B opening on the main street there is a concern that the congestion will get worse.

A few households felt that more care by homeowners over general appearance would improve the look of the area; hanging baskets, tidy gardens, better maintenance of empty second homes/holiday cottages.

A selection of relevant feedback is included in Appendix 1.

Specified areas of environmental concern

With hindsight the issue of on-street car parking as a specified issue would have been very relevant to include in this section. Top concerns are for dog fouling, litter and off road vehicles.

70% of those householders who responded have concern over the level of dog fouling. 57% are concerned with litter, and 36% by 'off road vehicles'.

Vandalism, pleasingly, is of low concern overall. That said there is a very low level of young people in the area and this age group is typically the one charged with vandalism in most forms.



Askrigg Main Street.

Recommendation:

Action REF 4.1: Review litter bin provision/siting in Askrigg Market place; there are currently two opposite the cross and one at the Market Hall.

5. Traffic Issues

Parking

Both resident and visitor parking are an issue over the parish, more so in Askrigg than for Low Abbotside.

Visitor parking is an issue for 79% (55 households) who responded to this question. 63% (42 Households) have an issue with residential parking.

Deliveries' parking is of issue for 44% (22 Households).

Full results are in Appendix 1; there was a low level of 'no response' for this.



Parking at the church, Askrigg.

'Local residents only' parking

78%, 52 Households are in favour of designating certain areas of Askrigg village for local residents only.

15 Households were not in favour, 20 Households did not respond to this question.

'Danger Spots' on Parish roads

Danger spots within the parish are identified by 67 households, some recurring many times, such as Chapel corner in Askrigg village, and so must a take priority rating.

The main issue in a lot of cases is that drivers are not observing the speed limits going into the built up areas. The issue of speeding, coupled

On the chapel corner at bottom of village cars and WAGONS go very fast and often meet other large vehicles on corner. I'm amazed there hasn't been a nasty accident.

with congested parking on the main street means that traffic calming measures on the through road should be reviewed as a priority, both for road user and pedestrian safety.

In addition, conflict with pedestrians in West End and Mill Lane, which are both 'on street playgrounds' for the local children, is highlighted as a priority concern.

There is support for an out of village parking area; additional provision can be a self fulfilling prophesy in that it can reach capacity and not still solve the problem. Enforcement of existing parking restrictions may curb this. This also links with minimising conflict between children playing in areas of risk – roads, pavements, car parks.

Recommendation:

Action REF 5.1: Establish area for gritting along West End and Mill Lane to improve safety of access for elderly people.

6. Services Provision & maintenance

The level of satisfaction with winter gritting is the 'good' to 'satisfactory' for most households; most of the households who completed the questionnaire are well served in this area however 18 households have rated it as unsatisfactory to poor.

Largely the rating levels are satisfactory for all service provision; some households have issues with maintenance of minor roads, footpaths and bridleways, verges and street lighting.

Full details on the rating of community services is in Appendix 1

Recommendation:

As Action REF 5.1 in this Parish Plan.

Action REF 6.1. Strategically review the maintenance of minor roads, roadside verges throughout parish with a view to improvement.

Action REF 6.2. Review of maintenance of footpaths and bridleways.

7. Social Issues

Likes

The most important thing to households about living in their village/parish is the strong community spirit, support from neighbours, There are 42 feedback comments received that specifically mention this aspect is the most important thing to them about living in the area.

Knowing our neighbours and being able to rely on them if needed. Being a community. Having a village school, pub, shop and post office are very important to keep the village alive and a going concern.

Close proximity of services is also something that households like about the area, the two public houses, the Post Office, the village shop and the school.

It is important to Households that there is a feeling of safety in the area, both freedom of the fear of crime, feeling safe to let children out to play with their friends and to bring up their families.

The peace and rurality of the surrounding area is also important to the community.

A selection of these comments can be found in Appendix 1.

Dislikes

Of those that had issues or areas of discontent, some of these re-enforce some of the concerns from earlier feedback and within the Cluster Parish Plan. Traffic and transport issues are raised within most of the feedback comments, ranging from parking, to poor public transport service. Dog fouling and stray dogs are also something that residents dislike about their parish/village.

Other areas arise from conflict between residents and tourists; conflict between 'locals' and those who have moved into the area. Linked in with this is the quiet discontent with housing in the parish; high house prices, 'affordable' housing, high council tax, too many holiday and/or second homes.

Cars parked in the village street - another car park please, for locals and their guests. Light pollution from Parkins Garth. Dog fouling in back lane - dog bins please - people put dog poo in plastic bags and throw it into the garden.

Suggestions that might improve life in the village/parish

Most householders are positive in their approach and offer good 'grass roots' suggestions to issues that are of individual, or in the case of parking conflicts, community, concern. Some of the suggestions are beyond the delivery of the Parish Councils; these can be passed to other organisations.

Most of the suggestions by householders are individual comments, some however do have a common theme, such as traffic congestion, parking problems, lack of activities/place to 'hang out' for young people.

Bus shelter ie. against church wall to shield children (especially in the winter) while waiting for school bus.

There is strong support for a 'village car park' to help to solve some of the congestion and parking problems that Askrigg has, 5 suggestions relate to this, with one suggesting part park, part car park. Suggestions can be found in Appendix 1.



Moor Road, Askrigg.

Recommendation:

As Action REF 2.2 in Cluster Parish Plan

As Action REF 4 to 7 in Cluster Parish Plan-
Not necessarily a specific sector park given transient nature of 'in' sports.

As Action REF 8 in Cluster Parish Plan

Action REF 7.1: Encourage young persons involvement in community decision-making.

Action REF 7.2: Provision of Dog bins be explored at named areas; back lane going down to Parkins Garth, Cringley lane for example.

ACTION PLAN

LEGEND: **LEGEND:** A&LA PC: Askrigg and Low Abbotside Parish Council, A&D PC:Aysgarth & District Parish Council, BPC: Bainbridge Parish Council, H&HAPC: Hawes & High Abbotside Parish Council, LSC: Learning and Skills Council, NYPA: North Yorkshire Police Authority, NYCC: North Yorkshire County Council, RDC: Richmondshire District Council, TBA: The Business Association (Wensleydale) Ltd, UW: Upper Wensleydale, UWCP Ltd: Upper Wensleydale Community Partnership Ltd, UWPC: Upper Wensleydale Parish Cluster, YDNPA: Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, YSDA: Yorebridge Sports Development Association.

PRIORITY: 1: high (up to 6 months), 2: medium (6-12 months), 3: low (within 2 years).

REF	RECOMMENDATION	ACTION	PRIORITY	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	LEAD
2.1	LEISURE, SPORTS & AMENITY Playground Review working group for Children's Playground.	Reconvene meeting with Playground committee	1	A&LA PC & Community	On going	A&LA PC
2.2	Activity Provision See to maximise use of existing and new provision.	Medium term this has been achieved. Recommendation to be passed to YSDA activity co-ordinator.	On going	Local user groups	On going	Local sports clubs
2.3	Use Askrigg Village Hall	Pass comments to relevant Hall Committee	On going		On going	
3.1	COMMUNICATION Parish Register Formation of sub committee to set up Parish Register .	A&LA PC to initiate necessary steps	2	Community	12 months	A&LA PC
3.2	Parish Newsletter Formation of sub committee to develop Village information leaflet or Parish newsletter	A&LA PC to initiate necessary steps	2	Community	12 months	A&LA PC
4.1	ENVIRONMENT Litter Review bin provision/siting in Askrigg Market place;	Carry out survey	1	RDC	6 months	A&LA PC
5.1	TRAFFIC ISSUES Gritting Support for winter gritting along West End and Mill Lane	Consult with NYCC Highways	On going	NYCC Highways contractors	On going	A&LA PC

6.1	SERVICES Roadside Increased maintenance of minor roads and roadside verges.	Consult with NYCC Highways	On going	NYCC Highways contractors	On going	A&LA PC
6.2	Footpaths Increased maintenance of footpaths and bridleways	Consult with YDNPA	Ongoing	YDNPA	Ongoing	A&LA PC
7.1	SOCIAL ISSUES Inclusion Improve young persons involvement in community decision-making.	Refer to RDC	2	RDC	12 months	A&LA PC
7.2	Dog fouling Provide dog bins in Askrigg village.	Identify locations and increase precept to cover cost.	1	RDC	6 months	A&LAPC

APPENDIX 1: Replies to Questionnaire

1. You and Your Household

Q1 and Q2:

The gender balance of respondents to the survey is 47.6% (159) Male, (175) 52.4% Female with one no response.

The age group of the person filling in the survey is as follows:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Responses</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
20-24	1	(0.3%)
25-34	16	(4.8%)
35-44	39	(11.6%)
45-54	62	(18.5%)
55-64	86	(25.7%)
65-74	68	(20.3%)
75-84	48	(14.3%)
85+	15	(4.5%)

The gender of householder completing the survey within each age group is as follows:

GENDER	AGE (years)						
	20-24	25-34	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
Male	0	2	6	13	8	6	1
Female	1	4	7	8	6	10	3

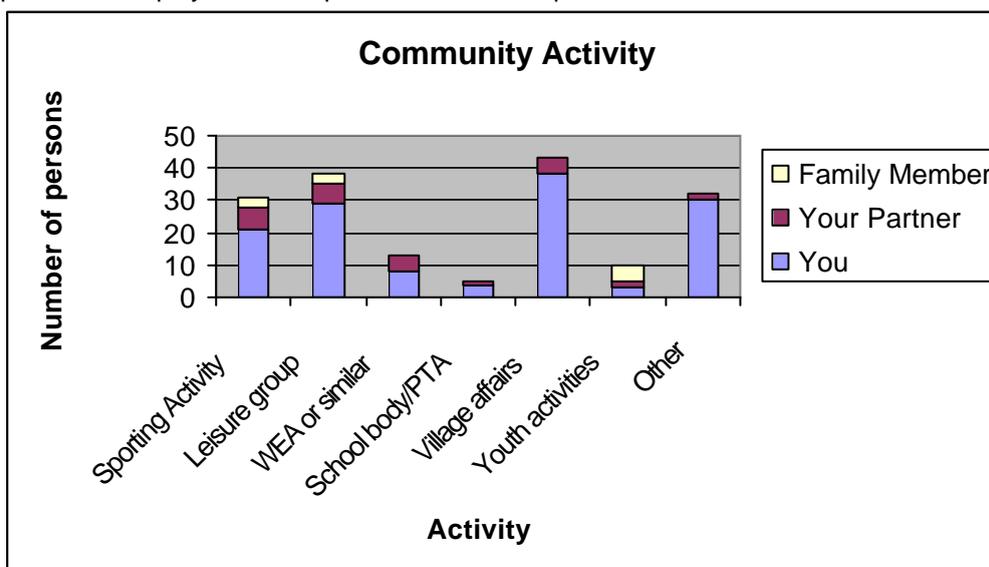
Q3. In which parish area do you live?

Askrigg	74	(86.0%)
Low Abbotside	12	(14.0%)

2. Leisure, Sports and Amenity

Q4. Do you play an active part* in any of the following?

Number of persons who play an active part in leisure and sports within the communities is illustrated below.



Q5. What social, recreational, leisure, sports or educational activities would you like to see provided in the area? For example, fitness groups, weight watchers, reading groups etc.

Specific suggestions are included below

Health and fitness

- Fitness groups/exercise class (11 Comments).
- Weight watchers/Slimming world. (8 Comments).
- Walking group (4 Comments).
- Outdoor activities through Low Mill for local people.
- Community gym/gym equipment (2 Comments).
- Dance groups - tap, jive, salsa, ballroom, old time, line dancing, tea dances. (4 Comments).
- Pilate's (4 Comments).
- Yoga (6 Comments).
- Jogging.
- Cycling.
- Tai chi.
- Aerobics, (3 Comments).
- Circuit training, (2 Comments).

Sports

- Netball.
- Swimming pool. (4 Comments).
- Tennis courts (2 Comments).
- Recreational activities for 60+ age group - badminton /table tennis? (2 Comments).
- Sports for children of all ages e.g. basketball, hockey, running, football. Cubs for children.
- Basketball, hockey.
- Cricket club.
- Bowling green.
- Golf.

Leisure/recreational/social

- Pub quiz team in a league. (2 Comments).
- Flower arranging.
- Dressmaking / sewing/patchwork (2 Comments).
- Cake icing.
- Gardening club/allotment society, (2 Comments).
- After School Clubs.
- Regular family ceilidhs.
- Baby-sitting club.
- Bingo.
- Bridge club not on Thursdays.

Educational

- Reading groups (9 Comments).
- French speaking class.
- IT class (with better computer facilities).
- Intermediate Italian in Askrigg School.
- Industrial archaeology, e.g. Mill histories, lead mining etc.
- Creative writing.
- Geology.
- Book club (2 Comments).
- Environmental group, Natural history study (2 Comments).

Music and the arts

- Music club (2 Comments).
- Music/concerts - classical, world music, blues and jazz.
- Painting. Photography.
- Film club.
- A weekly rather than fortnightly Art Club.
- Art film club.

- Music Society.
- Music lessons (piano).
- Pottery.
- Theatre - such as North Country Theatre.
- Cinema.
- Amateur dramatics.

Q6. How could the existing facilities in the immediate area such as the village hall, Yorebridge East End, Sports field and the new Games Area, Playground, Snooker Room, etc, be better used or improved?

Village hall

More leisure activities in village hall e.g. Tai chi, yoga. Floodlights for outside facilities e.g. football/tennis. The viability of the village hall is in danger as other new facilities are developed in the area. Already some meetings, events, receptions and clubs have moved to 'swisher' premises. Regular funding support is needed. The village hall - my children would like to be able to practice badminton when hall not in use - but the committee don't like them doing so!

Use of village hall for films, drama, music, occasional lectures or short courses on various topics.

Village hall - Travelling players would be appreciated.

Upgrade village hall so that it can be suitable for performances.

Village Hall - lighting & decor could be improved to provide a better atmosphere for functions.

Dance in village hall every season.

Village hall is very expensive compared to Bainbridge /Carperby / Thornton Rust.

Sports areas

By adding changing rooms.

They could provide an area such as a gym area open of an evening / weekends - or gym/socialising area as people 16+ don't really have anything to do. Also this would be beneficial for people of many ages.

Let us get the present ***** finished and then see what the situation is like.

Tennis courts, basketball facilities.

Permanent nets on the football posts to make casual football easier for children / visitors.

Children's playground

The children's playground equipment needs reviewing for adventurous 2 year olds (direct access to slide!).

Regular control of litter and emptying of bins.

Askrigg playground is an appalling condition – mainly because of neglect.

All adequate, but users of playground area could either stop littering it or clear up after themselves.

School holiday clubs! Before and after school care for kids IN the village i.e. not in Hawes, too far. Regular litter collection in the playground. Market (summer) in Askrigg (WI, farmers etc).

Other suggestions

Plenty of events.

Evening use.

Children using area at school rather than new housing development to skate board and roller skate.

Advertising to encourage more usage. Advertise all activities. Better marketing.

Church have a toilet (it is planned I believe).

Would be better used if more people attended.

3. Community Communication

Q7. Would you, or other members of your household, be interested in being on a 'Parish Register' of people with some time, skill or interest they could share to help local social, sporting or community activities or events?

(a) Yes

You	20	(95.2%)
Your partner	1	(4.8%)
no response	66	

(b) No		
You	22	(91.7%)
Your partner	2	(8.3%)
no response	63	

(c) Possibly		
You	24	(75.0%)
Your partner	8	(25.0%)
no response	55	

Q14. Do you think the village/parishes would benefit from having their own website, newsletter and information leaflet?

(a) Community website		
Yes	34	(50.7%)
No	17	(25.4%)
Don't know	16	(23.9%)
no response	20	

(b) Parishes newsletter		
Yes	50	(69.4%)
No	11	(15.3%)
Don't know	11	(15.3%)
no response	15	

(c) Village Information Leaflet		
Yes	57	(83.8%)
No	3	(4.4%)
Don't know	8	(11.8%)
no response	19	

4. Environment

Q8. How would you describe the appearance of your village or parish area?

71 Households responded when asked how they would describe the appearance of their village or parish. 31 Households (44%) are positive about the appearance of their local area, with comments ranging from 'Reasonably tidy' to 'Beautiful'.

There is concern with litter and dog dirt/fouling from 19 households (27% of those who responded). The area around the Askrigg Village Market Place/Cross and the playground is specifically picked out for litter. Dog fouling is an issue over dog owners not clearing up after their pets.

The second largest area of issue is with parking and congestion, Askrigg village in particular. This is raised by 15 households (21% of those who responded). Askrigg main street is likened to a 'car park' with the overall view that excessive on street car parking is detracting from the character of the village, causing pedestrian hazard (with pavement parking) and raising safety issues for pedestrians crossing the road from the church to the shops. A few households felt that more care by homeowners over general appearance would improve the look of the area; hanging baskets, tidy gardens, better maintenance of empty second homes/holiday cottages.

Positive

Very nice. Very good.

Satisfactory.

Delightful, stunningly beautiful, awesome at times.

Pretty much OK . OK . It's OK .

A very pleasant place to live and work around. Very pleasant. Pleasant.

Generally tidy. Most residents take pride area surrounding their properties.

Clean. Clean & tidy. Lovely, clean.

Attractive.

Quaint. More developed for tourists than residents.

Generally well maintained. Neat and tidy, clean, well maintained.

Very pleasant - at first glance!

It's fine - would rather not go down the 'Britain in Bloom' line of thinking as everything would be TOO tidy and twee!

Beautiful, picturesque, welcoming and alive!

Reasonably tidy.

Good. Good. Relatively good. Good in parts.

I love it.

A pleasant village - good to live near and still with the amenities of post office, village shop, eating places and two pubs.

Beautiful. Beautiful - and this goes for family and friends who visit us.

Attractive, unspoilt.

General feedback

Askrigg village centre is improving as cottages are renovated, repainted, with flowerpots being placed outside Permanent residents houses. The Wynville Hotel will soon no longer be an eyesore. The recycling containers area can be a problem - overflowing bottle bins and boxes left despite notices.

Clean and tidy but more flowers in the form of hanging baskets and pots and tubs would make it more pretty.

Drab - a monochromatic appearance, although individual buildings are interesting. Lack of any green or colour.

Bit dowdy - more plants and flowers would brighten things. There are too many unused houses and buildings in a poor state of repair.

Parish area - generally tidy but not TOO tidy (i.e. not Cotswolds!). Village is fine - again, tidy enough but not too 'groomed'!

Generally good without being too manicured. Rubbish bins (e.g. outside village hall) are unsightly colour

The village could do with more greenery, large planters / trees in churchyard. Hire a landscape architect to come up with a scheme!

On the whole good and it will be a lot better when Winville is not an eyesore.

Poor design of new housing on Mill Lane due to incompatible colour of stone, especially as main route to waterfalls. Poor maintenance of some pathways e.g. route to Mill Gill.

Idyllic on a sunny spring day, a lovely place to live most days and sadly dismal on wet and muddy, dead bird/rabbit strewn winter roads.

We accept farming activities must take priority, but very large tractor/trailers on roads make them dangerous and an eyesore.

Reasonably tidy except for some holiday cottage gardens.

Too much **unnecessary grass cutting** destroying wild flowers in the back lane, costing the environment and costing money.

Some little used 2nd homes looking shabby.

Walking paths are now subject to heavy use and in wet weather prone to serious erosion and spread of *****

Parts of the village look empty for most of the year.

Too many properties in the main street are in a neglected state - their owners must have no pride.

Litter issues

Fairly good except for the usual litter.

Attractive - inevitably roadside litter which I do collect locally.

Quite littered - especially round the pump.

Bit of a litter problem - could we have litter days where a group goes out to clean up?

Generally satisfactory but litter getting worse.

Mostly excellent - some litter problems in summer.

Very tidy. Sometimes a litter problem. 'Askrigg' millstones could be more attractive.

Can be litter-y at times. Otherwise pretty good.

1) A minor problem of litter at area of the cross & in play area. (Litterbins not emptied on regular basis). 2) Some problem of dog fouling.

Usually very pleasant. Occasionally a problem with people not moving dog mess on street.

Litter appears everywhere over the parish - on the whole untidy.

Generally very good. Occasional litter problem.

Litter around the cross and the Market Place.

Quite good, except for the occasional litter found around the village seats.

Can have too much casual litter sometimes.

Rubbish on pavement is left too long before being cleared.

Nice and clean - perhaps there could be more litter bins provided around the village to stop littering.

Too much dog fouling. Maybe two or three bins around the village for this purpose.

Good but could do with less dog muck.

Traffic/parking issues

Attractive and pleasant EXCEPT that wide HGV's and tractors or other agricultural vehicles continually **erode grass verges** and so spread mud during wet weather, especially in winter, so making roads more dangerous as well as less attractive.

Concerned about even more cars once Manor House opens up as a B&B. Could there be a sign for car park at other end of village (i.e. Public free car park 400yds).

Overall effect spoilt by parked cars (of which mine is one!)

Too many cars on view - solution?

Cars obstructing pavements much worse.

Cars parked on pavements.

Generally very good, but car parking is often untidy, particularly when it's on the pavement.

Congested!

Too congested with cars. Pedestrian crossing needed between church and shop.

Askrigg is an attractive village although it's appearance is marred by excessive on-street parking.

Too many cars parked along the street.

Main Street like a car park! Generally clean & tidy.

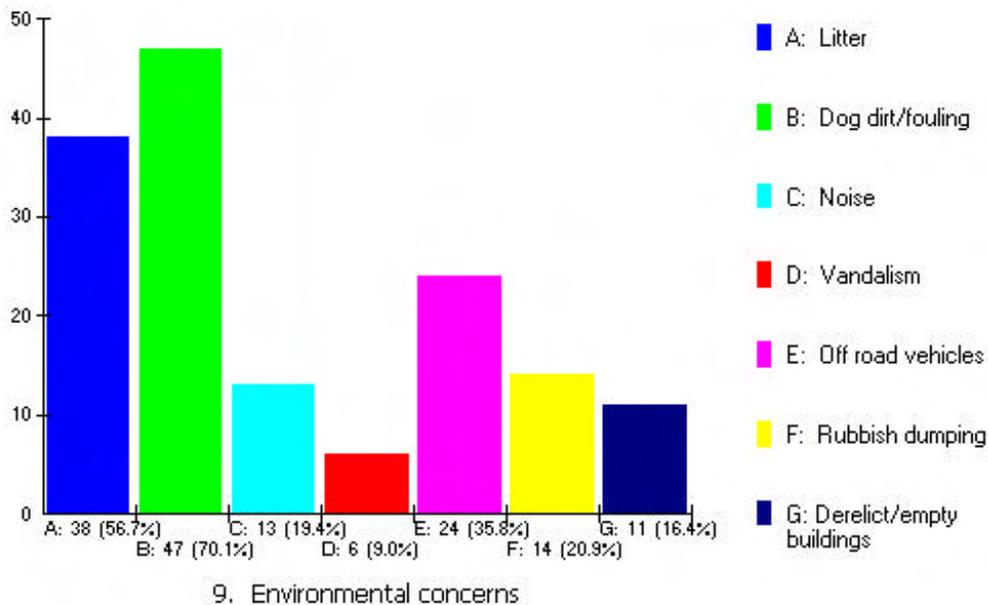
Generally, clean & tidy - though parking is an eyesore.

Car parking is a real problem. Cobbled areas particularly in front of St Oswald's require maintenance and should not be used as car or van parks. **Heavy commercial vehicles** - other than those visiting feed mill should not be permitted to pass through the village. Enforce the limit signs!

More car parking off roads.

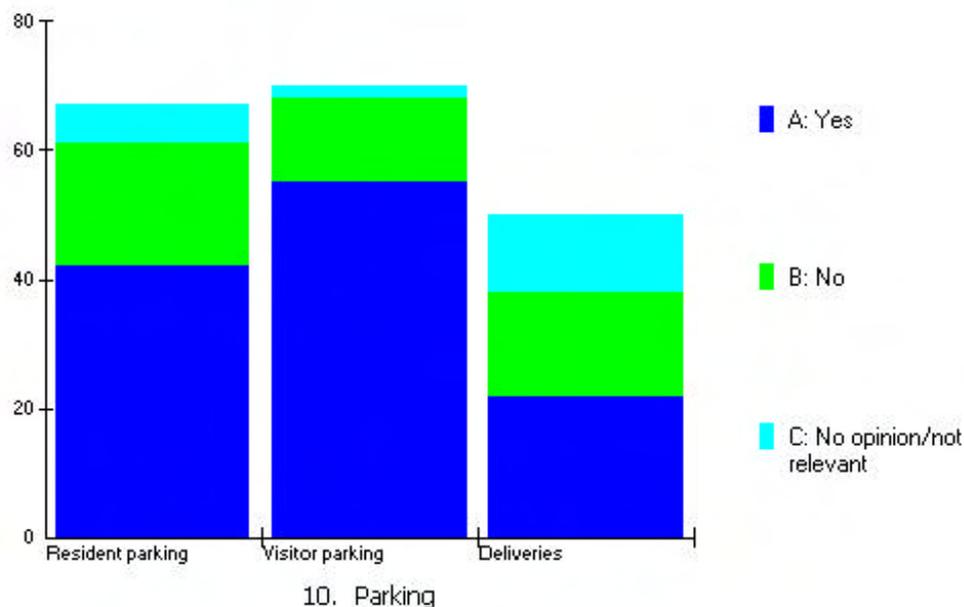
Q9. Are you or your family concerned about any of the following?

Full results are shown below:



5. Traffic Issues

Q10. Do you see parking as an issue where you live?



Q11. Would you be in favour of designating certain areas of Askrigg village for local residents parking only?

Yes	52	(77.6%)
No	15	(22.4%)
no response	20	

Q12. Do you think there are any major 'danger spots' on the roads in the parishes? If so, where are they?

Major 'danger spots' within Askrigg & Low Abbotside are identified below as follows. Where a particular danger was mentioned, this has been recorded also.

ASKRIGG

Askrigg Main street; parking on brow of hill and all the way down the street, often on both sides, obscuring oncoming traffic, pedestrian hazard, difficult for heavy vehicles to negotiate Chapel Corner at bottom of the village, exiting Village Hall Car Park, speeding traffic, traffic in centre of road, no pedestrian footway Corner near Cringley and Askind, speeding traffic, roadside parking.

Parking outside Askrigg village hall, poor visibility.

Along Leyburn Road to the Crown Inn/Moor Road Junction, speeding traffic.

'The Square' at West End, dangerous bend, lines to prevent unsuitable parking, parking blocking access by Fire and Emergency services (therefore risk to elderly residents).

West End, no gritting in winter therefore access into the village by elderly residents not possible.

Cemetery Junction, Parking on the cobbles at the church, obstruction to traffic and pedestrians.

School Entrance, speeding traffic.

Parking outside Sykes House, obscuring traffic, pedestrian danger, children playing.

Parking along Moor Road, loss of access.

Corner at Vicarage crossing the road, speeding traffic.

West End and Mill Lane, speed and volume of traffic, hazard to children playing.

Carr's Billington Junction, no white lines, clearer slow signs.

Beck Bits Bridge, car parking making road very narrow.

Junction at Woodhall/Low Lane, traffic speeds make exiting dangerous.

Nappa Scarr Junction, warning signs ineffective, traffic speeding (this is mentioned within the Upper Wensleydale Parish Cluster Action Plan also).

LOW ABBOTSID

Alms Houses corner.

Speeding vehicles overtaking on the stretch from Askrigg to Bainbridge.

Skellgill Lane Junction, speeding traffic often on wrong side of road.

Dale Grange, speeding traffic a danger to children walking to school as there is no footway.

Parking outside Old Police House, obscures oncoming traffic.

Breconbar Lay-by, visibility.

Breconbar junction, vehicles parking up obscuring field of view.

Narrow road with poor visibility about 300 yards W of the Camms junction on the Breconbar to Harddraw road.

Narrow bend on the same road near the junction with the track to Brookholes and just W of Camms junction.

OTHER AREAS:

Bainbridge junction system not completely clear for all traffic.

Areas Not Sure Where They Are

- The road right outside the house (Ballowfield) is too narrow to allow HGV's / buses to pass without stopping.

This could be rectified simply by widening the road, achieved by taking out area to the feet of the bank opposite the house. The bank is also being eroded and is in danger of collapsing into the road.

- Main road by Newstead very narrow for 2 cars/lorries (poor road edge too).

- The corner going towards the 'Gate House' from Askrigg to Carperby.

6. Services

Q13. How do you rate the provision or maintenance of the following?

Responses are presented in tabular form below



Full details are included below:

HOW DO YOU RATE MAINTENANCE OF?	GOOD	SATISFACTORY	UNSATISFACTORY	POOR	NO RESPONSE
Major roads	25 (33%)	44 (58%)	5 (7%)	2 (3%)	11
Minor roads	11 (14%)	41 (52%)	18 (23%)	9 (11%)	8
Pavements	13 (17%)	48 (63%)	11 (15%)	4 (5%)	11
Street Lighting	11 (15%)	47 (65%)	7 (10%)	7 (10%)	15
Verges	7 (10%)	49 (68%)	12 (17%)	4 (6%)	15
Footpaths/Bridleways	12 (16%)	50 (68%)	11 (15%)	1 (1%)	13

Water Supply	30 (40%)	41 (55%)	4 (5%)	0	12
Winter Gritting	33 (43%)	25 (33%)	12 (16%)	6 (8%)	11
Telephones	16 (24%)	45 (66%)	5 (7%)	2 (3%)	19
Electrical Supply	26 (34%)	46 (60%)	3 (4%)	2 (3%)	10

7. Social issues

Q15. What is the most important thing to you and your family about living in your village/parish?

67 comments are recorded for this section.

The countryside on our doorstep, low crime, and minimal job culture.

The development of harmonious community relations between all sectors.

Tidy village, local amenities such as the village shops, good parking. And it would be good to have a place to socialise for young people 16+ like a gym area and more village events - discos in the village hall to raise money for the village.

Peace of mind.

Church and Post office and petrol station not too far away. (School obviously, if I had a young family).

Friendly people and atom.

The general environment and the maintenance of it.

Privacy and respect by visitors for that.

Near relative. Sense of community.

Crime free area. Friendly people. Adequate facilities.

Friendly, peaceful, safe surroundings in beautiful countryside. Many activities to join if desired. Village shop and post office.

Peace and genuine people.

Peaceful, co**ly, friendly atmosphere.

Everybody is very friendly and kind.

Quietness and community spirit.

The community's kindness and willingness to help out when things go wrong - this you don't get in towns and cities.

Environment. Good neighbours and community.

General security.

The sense of community - well behaved children who care for each other. Adults who look out for each other.

Local amenities.

The environment, the peace, and the (current) low levels of crime.

The ability to enjoy the peace and quiet that this area affords.

Community sprit. Sense of safety.

Being able to let the children play outdoors, without worrying about their safety.

The familiarity and neighbourliness of the people rapidly being lost in the purchase of second homes.

Nice and quiet and tidy.

Feeling of 'community'.

Sense of community. Plenty of vigorous activity.

Mixed population (ages, backgrounds, types etc). Sensible planning controls for developing of village. People care about the village and each other and are prepared to get things done.

Sense of community spirit. Relative safety for children. Living near family.

Access to shop and post office. Community activities. Friendly residents.

Friends, relations and knowing people are looking out for each other.

Peace and quiet. Friendly community. Relaxed atmosphere.

Access to unspoilt country. Community spirit.

Lovely scenery. Good neighbours. Friendly village atmosphere.

Neighbourliness. Still basically a 'working village'.

Nice people, beautiful surroundings, lots of facilities/services in Askrigg. Good walking.

Being part of the community.

Quality of life provided by natural surroundings and spirit of the people.

Community spirit. Safety of children when playing out.

The community, friendliness of the people (Askrigg is special in this respect). Happy to bring up my son here.

Gorgeous surroundings. Pubs, school, shops and hall v. important. Great vicar.

Just living in a beautiful place.

Friendliness, people willing to help. Beautiful countryside. Good local shop. We love it.
 The environment in its broadest sense. Pleasant, peaceful.
 The wonderful sense of community and genuine caring of the villagers - and the way everyone joins in all the events.
 Low crime rate. Fresh air & countryside.
 Education. Safety - personal & road. Being part of rural community. Health. Sporting activities and local clubs.
 Having friends nearby.
 Close to extended family, and personal safety.
 Beautiful area, close to work, great people.
 That it is rural.
 Local countryside - enjoying it, especially on foot. It must be maintained - the relative peace and quiet especially.
 Position, scenery, fairly quiet.
 It's friendly, quiet - and it's home.
 The people - community spirit.
 Friendly neighbours. Scenery. Peace & quiet. Lack of crime/vandalism.
 Community, locality, 'roots'.
 Sense of community & neighbourliness - always someone to talk to, shops, village hall, church, school & pubs.
 Plenty of community activities.
 The friendly community, kindness & helpfulness in the village.
 Peaceful & safe environment for bringing up children.
 Pleasant community with a good 'spirit'.
 Safe environment. Community spirit.
 A good community spirit / respect for watch other & visitors. Safe environment.
 The community spirit we have in Askrigg.
 Safe environment to bring up a family & being part of a friendly small community.
 The sense of community & social life.
 Peace.

Q16. Is there anything you and your family dislike about living in your village/parish?

There are 59 replies, 13 of these had no dislike about living in the village/parish.

Dislikes that are the most popular are

- Dog fouling, stray dogs (7 Comments).
- Parking Issues (7 Comments).
- Motor Bike/vehicle speed/noise (6 Comments).
- Out of Hours GP provision/distance to Hospital (4 Comments).
- Inadequacy of public transport, making car use essential (4 Comments).
- Light pollution (3 Comments).
- Litter (2 Comments).
- Lack of childcare provision (2 Comments).
- Value for money regarding level of Council Tax (2 Comments).

Housing issues

The negative attitude of some locals towards people who have moved into the area, even though many non-locals contribute hugely in terms of volunteering with and supporting parish events / clubs / committees etc. Newcomers who impose their suburban standards & don't try to adjust their new environment - so upsetting locals & visitors.

There are no affordable houses for first time buyers - young couples. Some of the new houses were moved into by middle age/elderly people.

Too many holiday cottages.

Increasing number of 2nd homes / holiday cottages. Retired people coming in to live in village, so incr. average age - not good for the school!

Too many holiday cottages and poor parish council decisions. The same councillors forcing their own agendas through.

Too many second homes.

Too many 'holiday' cottages.

Far too many second homes/holiday houses, the balance has tipped too far.

All small cottages are holiday homes; if you want to live in an older character house they are all too expensive.

Transport issues

Bus stop notices showing only DEPARTURE times with no indication of when buses leave Leyburn and Hawes for one's return. (no need for full timetable, one could guess the intervening times).

Poor public transport, making the use of the car (with consequent environmental damage) virtually essential.
Cost of fuel to get to work! (Railway and buses unsuitable).
Local public transport seems inadequate.
Too many visitors – car-parking problems.
Having to rely on the car too much, speeding traffic, motorbikes.
The speed of vehicular traffic and congestion near Lodge Hall.
Numbers of cars / parking.
Pesky parking.
Motorbikes on Sundays - too noisy.
Pressure of our parking.
Motorbikes in summer.
Motorbikes using green lanes & bridal paths.
Dangerous motorbikes - speed restrictions needed.
Too many parked vehicles in the centre and main streets of Askrigg.
Being splashed by vehicles when walking to Askrigg.

Environment issues

Too much lighting. Drains and ***** not cleaned.
Too much lighting.
Litter / glass in the playground.
Dog fouling on pavement and lanes.
Dog owners ignoring fouling laws!
Insensitive dog owners.
Too many visitors with dogs.
Dogs left to wander & foul the footpaths etc.
Same as most other places - I have a thing about noise, and dogs. Why do people assume that everybody likes dogs? Noise should be kept in your own air space wherever possible.
Frequent minor vandalism - to cars etc. Litter on pavement/street.
Low flying airplanes. Excessive chemicals on fields (leaching into waterways).
Smoky atmosphere throughout both pubs (Askrigg).

Service provision

Council tax too high for services we receive.
Council tax - bandings are too high therefore it costs so much out of household budget just to live here. Everything costs more here compared to town dwellings.
Long way to visit hospitals, cinema and supermarket.
Having to travel so far for most things.
Would like a local swimming pool!
Long way to swimming baths/cinema/supermarket.
Long way to swimming pool.
Lack of things to do.
There is not a lot to keep young people occupied.
Distance from hospital.
Concern over future of doctor coverage. No near swimming pool..
Lack of proper medical care at night i.e. doctors working.
Lack of childcare provision.
No professional childcare.

Miscellaneous

Intrusive behaviour of a minority of visitors.
Badly behaved teenage & young boys.
Lack of range of jobs/limited scope of employment.

Q17. Do you have any other comments and suggestions that might improve life in the village/parish?

32 additional comments are recorded.

In summary suggestions that might improve life include:

Traffic issues

Creation of a Car Park away from Village centre – 5 suggestions relate to this, with one suggesting part park, part car park.

Enforcement of parking restrictions.
Restrict/ban parking at village cross.

Environment

Reduce Low Flying Aircraft.
Limit 'urbanisation' of area, signs etc.
Reduce Light pollution.
Clearing of footpath between Woodhall Park and Throstlenest more frequently after floods.
Improved access to Whitfield Gill Force.
Provision of allotments.
Dog waste bin on Cringley Lane.
Clean pavements, specifically Askrigg Main Street, as many are holiday homes.

Service provision

Introduce Childcare.
Upgrade TV transmission (to give Channel 5 and digital).
Affordable housing to buy or rent.
Bus Shelter for children waiting for the school bus (with timetable).
Keep local notices up to date.
Local Art club.
Skate Park or similar play area.
Meeting place for young people to 'hang out'.
'Meals rota to provide decent food to older residents (meals on wheels is inadequate)'.
Better recycling provision, provision of recycling boxes (plastics, paper, garden refuse.).
Improve Out of Hours GP Service.
Nightly Youth club.

Other comments

Twinning with an (e.g.) eastern European community.
Initiative to encourage business to locate here.
Seek rotation of Parish Council Members.
Encourage a young person to join Parish Council.

Full Comments are recorded below:

Children at Parkins Garth always playing football or rugby / tennis around the parked cars - a lot of the cars have been hit and dented - mine included. I think they should play in a nearby field or down at school - People have complained in the past to no avail. They should make it a NO BALL PLAYING AREA - also these children trample over every bodies gardens when retrieving the ball. This is also very annoying.

Police the yellow lines.

I 'set aside' or other agricultural support actually made it financially attractive to farmers to make hay in at least some riverside meadows. The yellow wagtail – formerly abundant - vanished completely from the area when the present grass-cutting patterns began. Other species have been affected, though less spectacularly.

Car parking is an acute and growing problem. Lines of cars in the Main Street and elsewhere ruin the appearance of the street, make passage difficult, obstruct the pavements, and lead to disputes and bad temper. Buckden and Dent, and probably others, have large well-organised car parks away from the village centres. Why can't Askrigg do likewise? Some measure of compulsion might be necessary.

Limit urbanisation of the area. Example - sensitive new development - curbs / signs kept to a minimum.

Too much light at night - cannot see the stars because of light pollution. Speed of traffic passing.

Slow the traffic down - especially motorbikes. Tidy up some buildings. Better support for working families by providing organised childcare.

Out of village car park needed. Restrict / ban parking around village cross. Upgrade of TV transmission to give Channel 5 / digital.

The amount of litter that drifts down river during a spate is disappointing, particularly silage bags and fertiliser bags. In addition the river footpath between Woodhall Park and Throstle Nest, on the north bank, becomes blocked with driftwood. Perhaps the NPA could be asked to clear it more regularly?

Me and a lot of my friends in Askrigg don't have anywhere suitable to play on our skateboards. If there was some kind of free land in the village to build a skate park on we would use it all the time. The only flat surface we can play on at the moment are the pavements or roads.

A room for local young people to 'hang out'. I know it would be hard to manage but we spent hours in the Billiards Room.

Maintenance of local notices should be frequently reviewed and kept up to date. Provide good bus shelter giving up to the minute information on bus timings.

Yes. Get a village car park. But where? That is the problem! Easier said than done.

Meals rota to provide decent food to older residents (meals on wheels is inadequate). Provision of before and after school childcare. Better recycling provision (plastics etc.) Provision of allotments. Twinning with an (e.g.) eastern European community (NOT France, Germany etc). Thank you for doing this.

Improve the access to Whitfield Gill Force to create a more walkable route for visitors and publicise it.

1) Have a doctors out of hours service as good as it was in years ago. 2) Initiative to help/induce businesses to start up here & provide more local jobs.

Dog waste bin on Cringley Lane.

Rotation of members of Parish Council. Encourage at least one young person onto council (14-18) for pertinent discussions.

Could the pavements be cleaned? As so many houses in the main street of Askrigg are holiday homes the areas in front of these houses become very unsightly.

We must have recycling boxes for each house to collect cans, plastic, paper, garden refuse and 'others' .

A need for visitor car parks near the village to take pressure off the central area & reduce congestion.

Apart from pedestrian crossing & a thriving nightly youth club. A road from West End south to just east of Low Mill would solve the terrible congestion caused by new housing in the West End of Askrigg. Perhaps the field between Vicarage & Low Mill could be half parking & half park, perhaps with pond in its centre.

APPENDIX 2: Map of Parishes

