

## MOOR MONKTON VILLAGE PLAN

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## **MOOR MONKTON VILLAGE PLAN**

### **Foreword**

Dear Resident,

We are pleased to present the Moor Monkton Village Plan. This has been promoted by the Moor Monkton Parish Council and has been prepared by a group of Parish Councillors and village residents.

This is very much your Village Plan. It is an expression of your wishes and is based on what you have told us over the past 3 years. It reflects the needs and aspirations of our community and gives effect to the views, opinions and information you have provided on how you wish to see the parish and village of Moor Monkton develop over the coming years.

You don't have to live in the parish long to realise that it is a special place and that we are all rather fortunate to be part of this community. Most of us agree that it should be kept that way whilst making provision for the changing and growing needs of people.

The vision is to maintain Moor Monkton as a distinct settlement between Harrogate and York offering a safe and attractive place in which to live and provide the broadest range of opportunities and facilities for all sections of the community whilst preserving the character, setting and identity of Moor Monkton.

The Village Plan aims to realise that vision.

We realise that our aspirations, and those of the villagers, will continue to change and evolve and welcome feedback to be incorporated into future iterations of this document.

Yours,

Moor Monkton Parish Council

June 2017

The Village Plan has been put together with the help of the following people:

David Kirkham, Ann Johnson, Ian Pickering, Paul Harrison, Debbie Horner, Warren Philliskirk  
Stephen Asquith, Rod Goddard and Jacqueline Duncan

## MOOR MONKTON VILLAGE PLAN

### Summary

The Moor Monkton Village Plan 2016 has been produced by Moor Monkton Parish Council. It has been prepared by the Parish Councillors and villagers based on 62 responses to a questionnaire circulated to 126 dwellings within the parish in early 2015.

The questionnaire was to gather information from residents and businesses within the community to help steer the Parish Council with areas that could be addressed to help improve the village, the parish and village life moving forward.

The Moor Monkton Village Plan is pro-growth but its principle aims are to:

- Maintain the character, setting and identity of Moor Monkton
- Address areas of concern raised by villagers
- Provide aspirational goals for the Parish Council and its villagers to work towards
- Support and develop community facilities, organisations and activities

The plan covers the parish and village as illustrated in the map below.



Map kindly provided by Robin Gordon ([www.moormonktonmercury.co.uk](http://www.moormonktonmercury.co.uk))

### **Highways and traffic**

This section of the questionnaire possibly generated the most focussed responses of all the questions raised and rightly so as the safety of all road users in and around our village has to be of paramount importance.

Concerns regarding all the roads within the village and including the A59 which passes through it, the types of traffic using them, their speed and awareness, together with the state of the road surfaces and the adjoining verges, their upkeep and maintenance were all raised. It would therefore be a sensible approach to continue to lobby the various agencies who are responsible for the general maintenance and upkeep of the roads to continue and do so on a regular basis but also to have in mind any general or specific improvements which could be made in conjunction with those works.

There are many areas for possible improvement which should be considered. Signage potentially could be one such area. Unfortunately, as many of you are aware, due to the status of the roads within the village any proposed signage could only be advisory and therefore not enforceable but it could be that a scheme of well positioned signage or additional road markings could contribute to better driver education and awareness, assist in reducing the speed of some vehicles and therefore create a safer overall situation on our roads.

We have seen the installation of some traffic calming measures by way of road markings on Church Lane and the question of verge cutting, both in extent and frequency has been advanced and clarified. By virtue of this village plan it would be intended to continue to seek improvements of that type.

### **Conclusion**

To be able to achieve solutions to all the issues raised there is a realisation that there has to be a prolonged course of action as not everything is instantly achievable but the Parish Council, with the help of the villagers, will continue to promote and encourage the instigation of measures to improve the safety and maintenance of our roads, canvassing the support and action by, where appropriate, the local council, highways department, and local landowners, etc. to achieve the long term goals.

### **Action**

#### **Within 2 years**

- Resolve the issue of highway's drainage down Church Lane
- Provide traffic calming measures down Church Lane to A59 through residential properties
- Provide reflectors at the A59 crossroads to define road entrances

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- Consider yellow line down one side of Main Street to stop parking both sides
- Liaise with NWF ref. speeding lorries
- Trim verges and hedges regularly to ensure good visibility
- Request hedge on Marston Lane be cut and are cleaned up
- Trim hedge on either side of A59 east as far as Turnpike House for better visibility
- Removal of Estate Agents signs at A59 junction they restrict the view of lorries and tractors

### **Within 5 years**

- Widen the entrance to Church Lane from the A59
- Solar powered, speed activated calming measures fitted down Church Lane
- Compulsory speed restriction on A59 at crossroads
- 

### **Within 10 Years**

- Provide lighting along the A59 where residential properties are located
- Roundabout required at crossroads
- Traffic lights at crossroads at peak times favouring the A59
- Create slip roads for left turning vehicles coming off the A59

### **Ongoing**

- Encourage the maintenance of Red House Lane

### **Not Possible**

- By Pass for S bend

### **Pathways, Cycle ways and Bridleways**

The village has the benefit of being in a rural setting and is enjoyed by villagers and visitors alike however the questionnaire did highlight the desire to see, in certain cases, a general improvement in the definition, maintenance and signage of existing pathways, the possible creation of new footpaths and cycle ways and the potential of other links to the wider area through existing or new recreational footpaths, cycle and bridleways.

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Of those that already exist there is an opinion that it is important these are well signed and that gates and pathways etc. are well maintained and there is a general feeling that they should be better documented with the appropriation or production of a map showing these routes for display on the village notice boards or possible inclusion on the village website. This will surely lead to a more enjoyable experience for all potential users as well as promoting safety and responsibility in respecting the wishes of all the landowners whose land these routes traverse.

The action plan could encompass, for instance, the formation of a defined footpath to Church Lane linking the properties at the Lane end to Main Street or the improvement and upgrade of the existing link to Poppleton. Both of these options dovetail quite well with the previous section on Highways and Traffic and the desire to increase road safety for everyone and have the added advantage of promoting a more pleasant and enjoyable experience for all recreational users.

The aspirations and implementation of such plans should be considered as a long term proposition and it is important that we continue to push for, on an ongoing basis, maintenance or general improvement of what exists as part of that master plan. For instance the issues with tree roots and the general maintenance of footpaths on Main Street are already on the Parish Council's agenda and have been reported as requiring remedial action.

### **Conclusion**

A proactive action plan should be developed to be able to achieve the improvement to the recreational routes in and around the village. It will be necessary to involve other authorities and landowners alike as well as liaising with neighbouring parish councils to solicit opinion, advice and assistance as to how best to improve the recreational facilities and pathways within the parish and to create or improve links to the wider area.

### **Action**

#### **At Present**

- Footpath required from Red House Estate to main Street

#### **Within 2 years**

- Check that no restrictions (electric fence) are preventing access to some routes (Now Clear)
- Ensure that all footpaths in the village are easily traversed
- Ensure that all bridleways are freely available for said traffic
- Provide map showing all Pathways and bridleways including those that are right of way

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- Post map of Moor Monkton with footpaths and bridleways clearly marked on the Web site and notice boards in the village
- Notices required on public footpaths asking users to keep to paths and close gates
- Gates need checking for ease of accessibility
- Some state that footpaths are being denied this needs checking out
- Dog fouling notices required along Main Street

### **Within 20 years**

- Create a defined footpath to/from the village of Poppleton

### **Not Possible**

- Define footpath at Red House junction/bend
- Define footpath on bend in Marston Lane
- Create a defined footpath from the church to the village
- Create a defined footpath from the A59 junction to Main Street for walkers, cyclists and horses.
- Cycleway needed from Thickpenny to Poppleton

### **Ongoing**

- Notice to dog walkers to keep animals under control when in fields.

## **Housing and Development**

The village plan questionnaire circulated covered a range of subjects 35 comments were received from villagers about development and housing of these 15 were against any further development and 16 made suggestions in favour of it. Those who objected cited views such as more housing would bring more problems and that the lack of infrastructure prevented any large development taking place. However there is a need for smaller 2/3 bedroom homes that could accommodate first time buyers, single people and those wishing to downsize from large properties in the village but not leave the village or their friends and colleagues. Such homes could be developed as infill properties and this would have little impact on the infrastructure also non residential buildings could be converted to accommodate this need. It was also mentioned that any development should be in keeping with the village. A number of suggestions were made as to suitable locations for any new development citing either end of Church Lane and the creation of a village green and houses surrounding it at the back of Main Street.

## **Conclusion**

## **MOOR MONKTON VILLAGE PLAN**

The erection of smaller properties is a must if we are to attract younger people into the village and allow older people to downsize. Large development is not possible unless work is first carried out on the infrastructure.

### **Action**

#### **Within 2 years**

- Press Harrogate Borough Council to ignore its infill policy with ref. to Moor Monkton and allow smaller buildings to be put up as infill.

#### **Ongoing**

- Encourage home owners to look at ways to create extra smaller housing.

### **Broadband / Internet**

Moor Monkton is lucky to have access to a community wireless broadband service which was installed in 2012. Funding was available for a very short period of time to assist residents wanting a faster broadband service to join the network by subsidising the cost of the external wireless access point equipment.

Those who didn't wish to join the wireless community broadband continued to use broadband services through their existing telephone lines. Depending on location within the parish the user experience is generally poor with low connection speeds and reports of it connectivity dropping out completely at certain times of the day. These are physical limitations of delivering broadband from Rufforth telephone exchange over such a long distance over copper cables.

However, since the questionnaire was circulated improvements to the telecommunications network have been ongoing by BT and we now have fibre connectivity to the lane end street cabinets (diligent villagers may have seen the addition of a new cabinet next to the existing one which includes a large sticker stating that fibre broadband is now available in our area) which should help dramatically improve broadband speeds and reliability over the coming year for those residents who would like to upgrade.

### **Conclusion**

Villagers who require a faster and more reliable broadband experience are encouraged to discuss upgrading to a fibre package with their broadband provider now that it is readily available.

### **Action**

None



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### **Rivers**

The Parish boundaries are defined partly by the rivers Nidd and Ouse and the Dyke known as Killing Beck. As these rivers are not on public land, and there are no bridges over the Nidd or Ouse it is no surprise that the most (popular) frequent comment was that there should be a bridge to join Moor Monkton with Nun Monkton. However as the Nidd has no right of way on its bank the permission of land owners either side would be necessary to achieve this. It was felt that dredging the river might make flooding less of a problem as many trees and debris has collected over the years creating some blockages. Residents were in favour of picnic areas or a ferry to Nun Monkton but as private landowners no project is possible

### **Conclusion**

Due to the land either side of the rivers being privately owned no positive outcome can be achieved in this area.

### **Action**

None

### **Farm Traffic & Heavy Goods Vehicles**

The last remaining active farm in the centre of the village will shortly be moving out and re-locating to a new farmstead down Church Lane so reducing the activities of farm traffic and associated activities through the village and East Lane. Oakland's Industrial Estate have erected a new sign at the Church lane entrance that should stop heavy vehicles (42 ton) straying into the village and not being able to turn around. More cooperation is necessary to curb lorries driving fast at night and waking residents down Church Lane. Red House Lane needs attention and is subsiding badly due to York's Water and the Industrial Units use of heavy transport. Repairs have been requested and should improve the situation. New signage possibly solar powered speed active signs would benefit the area down Church Lane especially the junction with Red House lane which will hopefully have an effect on speeding and discourteous drivers to benefit horses, pedestrians and other road users.

### **Conclusion**

New signage is necessary to prevent lorries going towards the village and not being able to turn around speeding lorries at night also needs to be addressed. Farmers urged to slow down when travelling through the village, large tyres can cause damage if children are around.

### **Action**

#### **Within 2 years**

- Visit new world foods and speak with the management about new signs and the speeding problem.

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- New World Foods using 42 ton lorries and foreign drivers asked to consider residents especially at night time.
- Negotiate with New World Foods for signage to accommodate foreign drivers.
- Consider placing sign at entrance to NWF barring 42 ton lorries from proceeding further along Church Lane. Remind NWF drivers that they should look both ways prior to exiting site.

### **Ongoing**

- Encourage Farmers to clean mess if road is full of mud, very dangerous to traffic.
- Farm traffic with trailers to slow down when traversing through a residential area.
- Make farmers aware of the dangers when speeding with heavy vehicles.

### **Schoolroom**

The Village Schoolroom is managed by a group of trustees. In 1999 the villagers undertook a massive fund raising campaign to raise enough money to match that granted by the Lotteries board to re-build this facility for the villagers to use for their entertainment. Some felt that the schoolroom was not large enough to comfortably accommodate many of the villagers for a large gathering and bearing in mind the gradual increase in dwellings in the village it is inevitable that larger premises will need to be secured in the coming years. When parking on both sides of the road dangerous situations can arise and also cause difficulty with neighbouring properties when trying to access their drives. The Room itself is too restricted for large musical performances and functions and at most will probably only accommodate some 60 people at most, when one considers the population of the village (approx. 300) this is a rather small proportion. The seating is uncomfortable to many especially those of the older generation of which we have many and could be made more cosy and comfortable with a little thought, the upper room is now rather surplus since the computers were removed and effort needs to be made to create some sort of programme to cover use of all the facilities. It is with regret that the site of the schoolroom does not allow for any extension or car parking facility, short of selling this building in favour of larger premises with car park and play facilities there is little we can do at present only enhance as best we can what we have. The Parish Council and the Village Association are there to assist in any improvements and this should be considered forthwith.

### **Conclusion None**

### **Action None**

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### **Sports Provision**

The village currently has no sports provision of its own, the facilities at Red House Estate have been kindly offered to villagers by the Gordon family. Sports day is an annual event which relies on private landowners offering a field to hold the event. Of all the responses the same word kept cropping up 'SPACE' Space for football, cricket bowling all that could over time be achieved save for the sustainability of such projects. A playground with swings was also mentioned. One has to always consider that some people move to the village because it has no facilities and is peaceful and quiet. Nevertheless out of 22 residents who responded positively to the question 9 of these were in favour of tennis facilities our major problem is in finding suitable land that could be purchased to provide this facility. Grants are available for the purchase of land and the construction of such, this could in turn offer tennis AND a kick about pitch (if a hard court) for the youngsters to kick a ball about. Also a side area could be used for children to play.

### **Conclusion**

If one is ever going to consider sports provision it needs to be kept as a multipurpose area as land and people do not allow for this sort of provision on a large scale. If a piece of land was to become available in a suitable place then we could proceed with this. Fund Raising and Grant Applications would follow.

### **Action**

#### **Within 2 years**

- Seek out land that is suitable and able to purchase.
- Research Grant Bodies for purchasing land and funding a Hard Court surface.

### **Amenities**

It is a fact that some residents choose to live in Moor Monkton because of the lack of facilities and the peace and quiet of the village but some would like to see some facilities to help them to function in a village where to get any consumables one has to travel at least 3 miles by car. Unfortunately facilities that were once in the village ceased because of lack of support and in this instance any new influxes would be unsustainable. The following comments give food for thought-

### **Conclusion**

The ideas put forward have mostly been tried in the past and as such were deemed unsustainable.

### **Action**

**Probably not possible due to the above statement.**

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- Re-Open Marston Railway Station
- Provide bus service from the village once or twice a week.
- Provide a post office as at Rufforth / Long Marston.
- Provide a bus service to P & R.
- Provide a Mobile library.
- Have a public House.
- Provide a Fish & Chip Van once a week.

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

The majority of residents were quite happy with the scheme as it stands with alerts being sent promptly out to villagers. Some concern was expressed about the Farm watch situation; this watch together with the rural watch has been incorporated into the NW alerts. The privacy of individuals e mail addresses needs rectifying as anyone who receives an alert has all the recipients' addresses to hand this is easily rectified by making the alerts "BCC" protected so as to protect identities. Any new NW leaflets or notices will be offered to those who come forward.

### **Conclusion**

Most residents were satisfied with the service provided at present and it is important that we find a volunteer to visit the new residents to pass on the necessary information.

### **Action**

#### **Within 2 years**

- Recipients on NW e mail list to be "BCC" protected for privacy.
- Signs to be obtained for no doorstep callers.
- Circulation of news, concerns and notices requested.
- 2 NW reps required to visit new residents and inform them of the scheme and offer any notices and information to hand.
- Appoint a NWC to visit new owners and offer the services we provide.

### **Ongoing**

- Encourage all residents to participate.

## **MOOR MONKTON VILLAGE PLAN**

### **Summary**

It is clear that no major works will be carried out on the A59 in the immediate future; however, with massive development in the planning stages, the Parish Council should continue to lobby both our district and county councillors and our MP Nigel Adams for improvements to the A59 between the York/Harrogate boundary and the Whixley crossroads. All the villages along this corridor have problems turning right with perhaps the exceptions being Nun Monkton and Kirk Hammerton where a 40mph limit is in force.

There will be no increase in planning permission for residential properties but the Parish Council should lobby HBC for an easement on their blanket policy of no infills. This would allow villages like ours the opportunity to build smaller homes for villagers wishing to downsize and for first time buyers and young families who cannot possibly afford the large 5/6 bedroom homes. We need these younger people in order to balance the occupancy in the village.

Residents asked for recreational space and with this in mind the Parish Council will continue its efforts to secure land and follow through with grant applications to fund such a facility. Tennis appears to be the sport most favoured by residents and the Parish Council will endeavour to secure land suitable for a hard court/all-weather kick about area,

We are very fortunate that the village we live in is, for the most part, peaceful and quiet and any changes the Parish council make will reflect this. We do not want major changes just one or two tweaks to make life a little more comfortable and enjoyable.

Ann Johnson

Chairman Moor Monkton Parish Council July 2017