

GRASSMOOR PARISH PLAN



Grassmoor Parish Plan

1.0 Foreword

The ‘parish plan’ is a government initiative aimed at obtaining the views of a community about the place they live in, to help shape plans and developments for areas such as health, crime and safety, education, industrial and residential development, the environment and so on.

In 2008 the Grassmoor Parish Plan Steering Group was formed. Made up of local residents, the purpose of the group was to create and distribute a questionnaire to obtain the views of the local community and then collate and analyse the feedback to produce a report and action plan outlining the wants and requirements of the village. Questionnaires were distributed in the autumn of 2008 and face to face discussions took place with residents at the Carnival in the same year. Results from the questionnaires and verbal feedback was collated and a draft report produced.

As we have compiled the Parish Plan, many things have been learnt about the people of Grassmoor and the place, a clear fact is that what may appear to be very important to one person is of little significance to another. Everyone has their own priorities, although there are a number of recurring themes which are detailed within the report.

Changes to Government, Council and grant funding are likely to have a major impact on timescales and what will be achievable as part of the Parish Plan Process and in many ways publishing the Parish Plan is the easy part, although it didn’t always feel that way. The plan identifies actions which are necessary to deliver the changes the community want and we need to identify key partners such as Grassmoor, Hasland & Winsick Parish Council and Derbyshire County Council. We must remember that the plan is not a “quick fix” and just by identifying issues doesn’t always mean they can be solved easily, in reality Parish Plans cover a medium to long term timescale and many action points and requirements may take many years to achieve, by which time the process needs to start all over again. Finally, thank you to all of the army of people who helped in distributing the questionnaire, manning the stand at the carnival, all the members of the action group who spent many hours putting the questionnaire and plan together. I would like to particularly like to single out Roy Ackrill for his tireless support and hard work which has helped us get to the final stage of publishing the report. We hope this plan can make a difference to everyone who lives and works in the Parish, so a big thank you to all who took the time to assist us in answering the questionnaires.

Rob Whitehead
Chairman Grassmoor Parish Plan Steering Group.

Background

2.1 What is a Parish Plan

The aim of the Parish Plan is to improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the local community forming the Parish Council area of Grassmoor, Hasland and Winsick. It is about local people coming together to look at the problems which face their communities and to seek solutions to these problems through working together and also in partnership with other local agencies.

The result of the Parish Plan process should be the production of an Action Plan which sets out proposals to improve the lives of local people. The Plan should identify those responsible for implementing elements of the plan, timescales for implementation as well as funding and resource implications.

Parish Plans are not something which, once produced is forgotten and allowed to gather dust. It is a dynamic document which should be regularly updated in order that it remains the blue print for improving local life. It should inform local councils and agencies working in the area what local residents want to happen in their locality. Within realistic boundaries no ideas should be discounted although some will be given greater priority than others.

2.2 The Parish Plan Steering Group

The Parish Plan Steering Group was established at the outset of the process following an open meeting held on 27 February 2008. There is no fixed membership of the Steering Group and the local people on it represent local organisations and some are simply members of the public with an interest in the future of the Parish. Some members of the Group have had a greater input than others and some have joined the Parish plan process part way through.

The following people have contributed in some way to the work of the Steering Group in putting together the Parish Plan:

Mr R Whitehead (Chair)

Mr A Woolven (Vice-Chair) – Grassmoor Cricket Club

Mr W Dart – Grassmoor Events Committee

Mr I Woolven – Grassmoor Sports Football Club

Mrs C Woolven

Mrs P J Hemsley – Grassmoor, Hasland & Winsick Parish Council

Mrs E A Hill – North East Derbyshire District Council

Mrs L Thomas – Grassmoor Friendship Club

Reverend M Ainscough – St Pauls Church, Hasland

Mr J Reeve – Grassmoor Methodist Church

Mrs M Parrott – Grassmoor Friendship Club

PCSO James Land – Derbyshire Constabulary

Ms J Sheppard

Mrs S Cartwright

Mr R Ackrill - Secretary

3.0 The Parish Profile

3.0.1 Location

The Parish of Grassmoor is situated approximately 2 miles south east of Chesterfield covering some 687 hectares. It is made up of the areas of Grassmoor, Churchside, Winsick and Corbriggs and is part of the North East Derbyshire District Council area. The population of the Parish was 3863 at the time of the 2001 National Census.

3.0.2 Grassmoor

The area owes its existence to the seams of coal upon which it stands. The early extraction of coal from these seams was restricted to those which lay close to the surface. Following the industrial revolution, which stimulated demand for coal, deeper mine workings were sunk in the mid 19th Century by the Barnes family. Coal mining would dominate the lives of the majority of inhabitants until the closure of the Grassmoor Colliery in 1971 and the wider demise of the coal industry in general in the 1980s.

The Avenue Coking Plant in the neighbouring parish of Wingerworth provided a major source of local employment until its closure in 1993. However, the closure left an unwanted legacy for Grassmoor as the site has been classified as the most contaminated in the country and a multi-million pound clean project is currently being undertaken. Another major clean-up exercise is about to start to clean up the Grassmoor Lagoons. The costs of the clean up of the Lagoons will cost an estimated £5m. There is no major employer in Grassmoor although there is stationary and office supply company and a building contractor.

There is a limited selection of shops including a post office which cater for everyday needs mainly situated on North Wingfield Road which is the main road through the village. There is no supermarket or bank or cash point facilities and shopping for other than everyday items requires travelling to Chesterfield or other nearby towns. Grassmoor has its own Doctors Surgery and Dispensing Chemist. There is no permanent library facility in the village although the mobile library van does visit every Thursday. There are currently only 2 public houses along with a Working Men's Club in Grassmoor as the Miners Arms has recently closed. Grassmoor is situated on a main bus route with a regular service running to and from Chesterfield.

Grassmoor has its own Primary School which is currently being refurbished. The School teaches children between the ages of 5 and 11. Secondary education is provided outside of Grassmoor mainly at Deincourt School, North Wingfield, Tupton Hall School and Hasland Hall School. Deincourt School is however, due to close in 2011.

Recreational facilities in Grassmoor are limited. Grassmoor Community Centre was completely refurbished in 2003 using significant grant funding. A range of activities take place at the Centre which is the main meeting place in Grassmoor. The Methodist Church in Grassmoor has recently added a new hall which can also be used as a community facility. Barnes Park has play equipment for younger children and a ball court play area for older children and teenagers. The Park also has a cricket pitch

and a football pitch with changing facilities in the Pavilion which is in a very poor state of repair. The War Memorial which has recently been refurbished by the Parish Council is also located in the Park. There is a privately owned golf course.

Grassmoor Country Park sits to the east of Grassmoor and forms part of the Five Pits Trail. The Park is owned and maintained by Derbyshire County Council and it is popular with the local community. The main activities undertaken in the Park are walking, dog walking, horse riding and cycling with Williamthorpe Angling Club utilising the ponds for fishing.

There are two allotment sites in Grassmoor on Gill Lane and Mill Lane. Both sites are owned by the Parish Council but are run by separate Associations. Grassmoor Country Park is located partly in the Parish. The Park is owned by Derbyshire County Council and it has the Five Pits trail running through it.

Grassmoor is now a predominantly residential area. Most of the housing is located on streets leading off North Wingfield Road. The majority of the housing is mainly terraced and current or former council housing. An estate was built however in the 1980s which included larger detached houses.

3.03 Churchside

Churchside is situated immediately to the north of Grassmoor on the B6038 which is on the route to Chesterfield. It adjoins Hasland part of which used to form part of the Parish but which is now in the Chesterfield Borough Council area. Churchside is on the same regular bus route as Grassmoor.

Churchside includes St Paul's Church and the Cemetery. The Grassmoor, Hasland & Winsick Parish Council pay for the maintenance of the Cemetery. There are no other facilities in Churchside.

3.04 Winsick and Corbriggs

Winsick and Corbriggs are situated to the east of the Parish on the B6039. Again it adjoins parts of Hasland which were formerly in the Parish and includes the Corbriggs travellers site. There are two public houses, the New Inn and the Winsick Arms along with a garden centre. Winsick and Corbriggs is served by a regular bus service.

Winsick Park is a relatively small park owned by Grassmoor, Hasland & Winsick Parish Council. It has play equipment for younger children and it also contains the Winsick War Memorial.

3.1 Socio-economic profile of the Grassmoor Ward

The statistics contained within this section are taken from the Office of National Statistics unless other wise specified.

3.1.1 Population

The 2001 Census gave the population of the Grassmoor ward as 3,863 made up of 1,890 males and 1,973 females.

3.1.2 Age profile

Age band	Numbers in Grassmoor Ward
0 to 4	189
5 to 15	545
16 to 24	423
25 to 64	2094
65 and over	614

3.1.3 Ethnicity

The ethnic breakdown of the Grassmoor Ward is set out below.

Ethnic Group	Numbers in Grassmoor Ward
White	3,816
Mixed	21
Asian or Asian British	5
Black or Black British	6
Chinese	16
Total	3,864

3.1.4 Health

The table below indicates the general health of people in the Grassmoor Ward:

	Population	% of Population
Good Health	2,339	60.5
Fairly Good Health	1,016	26.3
Not Good Health	508	13.2
Total	3,863	100

Statistics also show that 943 people which represents 24.4% of the population of the Grassmoor Ward have a limiting long-term illness. A limited long-term illness is considered to be health problems or disability which limits daily activities and the work a person can do and it includes problems which are due to old age.

3.1.5 Housing

The following table sets out the households by tenure of residents of Grassmoor Ward.

Type of tenure	Numbers
Owner	981
Social Rented	548

Private Rented	67
Living Rent Free	17
Total	1613

3.1.6 Education

In 2004 the statistics showed that out of 2,874 Grassmoor Ward residents, 1243 had no formal qualifications at all. 540 people had qualifications to level 1, 457 to level 2, 151 to level 3 and 251 to level 4/5 (Please see index below).

No Qualifications: No academic, vocational or professional qualifications.
Level 1: 1+'O' level passes, 1+CSE/GCSE any grades, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ
Level 2: 5+'O' level passes, 5+CSEs (grade 1). 5+GCSEs (grades A-C), School
Level 4/5: First degree, Higher degree, NVQ levels 4 and 5, HNC, HND, Qualified Teacher status, Qualified Medical Doctor, Qualified Dentist, Qualified Nurse, Midwife, Health Visitor

3.1.7 Employment

In 2005, of the people aged 16 or over in the ward, 373 were employed in higher and intermediate managerial/professional/administrative jobs. 750 were employed in supervisory/clerical/junior managerial, administrative and professional jobs. This compares to 606 who were employed as skilled manual workers and 778 as semi-skilled manual workers. 622 were on state benefit.

Of those people who were not in employment, 82 had not worked for 3 years, 149 for 4 years, 77 for 5 years, 55 for 6 years – table form.

3.1.8 Deprivation

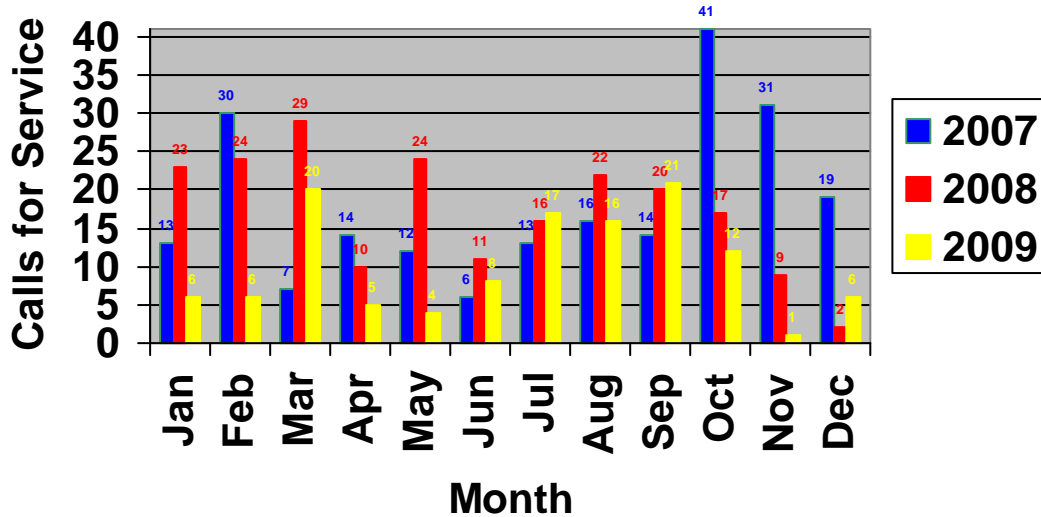
The Office of National Statistics produce the Indices of Multiple Deprivation which is essentially a national scoring system using a range of indicators such as employment, health, education and skills and crime and disorder based on Super Output Areas (LSOA). Grassmoor Ward is split in to 3 LSOA – Grassmoor (Mill Lane/Shakespeare Street/Broom Drive), Grassmoor (Vernon Rise/ Norfolk Avenue/Cross Street) and Hasland (Churchside)/Grassmoor (Oak Road/Cotswold Drive). The lower the score the higher the level of deprivation so 1 represents the highest level of deprivation out of the 486 LSOA in North East Deryshire.

According to the Indices, Grassmoor (Mill Lane/Shakespeare Street/Broom Drive) ranks 25th out of the LSOA in North East Derbyshire. Grassmoor (Vernon Rise/ Norfolk Avenue/Cross Street) is ranked 88th and Grassmoor (Vernon Rise/ Norfolk Avenue/Cross Street) is ranked 184th.

3.1.9 Nuisance and Crime figures

The graph below shows the nuisance and disorder figures.

Grassmoor Nuisance & Disorder Figures - 2007-2009



The average number of crimes in the Eastern area has decreased from 52 to 38.7 (25.6%)

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Average
2008/2009	58	51	47	52
2009/2010	47	39	30	38.7

Crime rates* in this area for the last 12 months



The average number of Anti-Social Behaviour incidents has decreased from 48.7 to 36.7 (24.7%)

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Average
2008/2009	46	52	48	48.7
2009/2010	28	39	43	36.7

Anti-social behaviour rates* in this area for the last 12 months



* Crime rates show number of crimes per 1000 people.

The table below shows the total crime and anti-social behaviour figures for December 2010, January and February 2011:

Type	Dec 10	Jan 11	Feb 11
Burglary	2	3	6
Anti-social behaviour	31	27	22
Robbery	0	0	0
Vehicle Crime	0	2	0
Violent Crime	10	5	3
Other	8	10	12
Total	51	47	43

4.0 Information Gathering

4.1 Love It/Hate It Questionnaire

The Steering Group decided that it would collect information to support the Plan by utilising a “Grassmoor Love It/Hate It” questionnaire. The questionnaire asks respondents to provide 3 answers each to the following questions:

- What do I hate about Grassmoor
- What do I like most about Grassmoor Parish Council
- What would I most like to see improved about Grassmoor.

A copy of the questionnaire was distributed in October 2008 to all households in the Parish with a return envelope provided. Members of the Parish plan Steering Group also attended the following events to publicise the Plan and to ask local people to complete the questionnaire:

- Grassmoor Carnival
- Derbyshire County Council Youth Service Climbing Wall Event

4.2 The Response

In total 267 questionnaires were completed and returned which represents 17% of households and 7% of the population of the Parish.

Set out below are the top 5 responses from each question.

3 things I love about Grassmoor

	Number	Percentage
Community spirit/people/family/friends	167	24.4%
Facilities/Activities	155	22.6%
Country Park/Pits Trails/Countryside	94	13.7%
Sports facilities/amenities/activities	71	10.4%
Transport inc. buses	47	6.9%
Location	42	6.1%
Other	109	15.9%
TOTAL	685	100%

3 things I hate about Grassmoor

	Number	Percentage
Dog fouling/Litter/Other	226	38.0%
Speed bumps/Traffic control/Parking/Speeding cars/Road safety/Traffic/Motorbikes	111	18.7%
Teenagers hanging around/Gangs/Policing	106	17.8%
Facilities/Activities	60	10.1%
Sports facilities/amenities/activities	50	8.4%
Other	41	6.9%
TOTAL	594	100%

3 things I would like to see improved in the future

	Number	Percentage
Dog fouling/Litter/Other	173	25.4%
Facilities/Activities	165	24.2%
Speed bumps/Traffic control/Parking/Speeding cars/Road safety/Traffic/Motorbikes	130	19.1%
Sports facilities/amenities/activities	105	15.4%
Teenagers hanging around/Gangs/Policing	70	10.3%
Other	38	5.6%
TOTAL	681	100%

5.0 Key Themes

Arising from the outcomes of the consultation exercise, the Steering Group identified the following 6 key broad themes:

- Local facilities
- Local activities
- Highways Issues
- Sports facilities
- Nuisance and anti-social behaviour
- Litter, dog fouling and the Streetscene

The following sections provide information about each key theme. A SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) Analysis has been undertaken in respect of each theme and each section contains recommendations which link to the Action Plan which is appended to the report.

5.1 Local facilities

The consultation exercise showed that there was a mix of views regarding the facilities available within the Parish. This section looks at the facilities currently available within the Parish and puts forward recommendations to address the issues raised.

SWOT Analysis – Local Facilities

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern community centre • Barnes Park in general as a community resource • Well run and improving allotment gardens (Mill Lane) • Newly refurbished war memorial • Barnes Park/Winsick Park in the ownership of the Parish Council • Proximity to Grassmoor Country Park • New Methodist Church Hall • Popular multi-court play area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Badly run down sports pavilion • The state of the Primary School • Lack of funds to develop new facilities • No place for teenagers to meet • Park designed over several years on a piecemeal basis • Vandalism and anti-social behaviour putting people off using Park facilities
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regenerate Barnes Park by creating a new blue print • Design out anti-social behaviour feature in new facilities • New Primary School to be built • Utilisation of section 106 monies from developments to fund new facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local community not supporting local facilities • Anti-social behaviour causes activities not to be put on in the Ward • Provision of new facilities and activities attract people from surrounding villages causing trouble

5.1.1 Grassmoor Community Centre

The Community Centre had undergone a major refurbishment which was completed in 2003. The consultation showed that in general the local community were happy with the facilities at the Centre following its refurbishment. There were issues however, about the activities taking place at the Centre. Firstly, there was a view that the activities taking place there were not well advertised within the local community. Secondly, there was also a view that the activities taking place at the Centre were

possibly not what the local residents wanted and that the views of local residents were not taken in to account when deciding on the activities to be organised.

5.1.2 Facilities for Teenagers and Young People

Grassmoor has no dedicated facilities in which young people can meet and enjoy activities. However, the Community Centre could be utilised for this purpose although this raises the issue of supervision which would be essential if the provider of the facilities and activities are to meet their duty of care under safeguarding legislation. Utilising the Centre to provide a facility in which young people can meet and socialise and take part in activities would go some way to help reduce anti-social behaviour and nuisance in the village. Any such provision would however, need to be accompanied by funding to provide supervision in the form of a dedicated youth worker. This in itself presents issues both in identifying and successfully bidding for such funding and also sustaining the provision in the longer-term, particularly given the current financial constraints. Funding would tend to be for short-term periods of say 3 years which would be a problem if bids to continue funding failed and provision had to be stopped. The viability of obtaining funding for a youth worker in the current economic climate may also prove problematic.

Recommendation 1

The Parish Council look at possible sources of funding to provide a dedicated youth worker to support the provision of activities for teenagers and young people in the Parish

5.1.2 Schools

The existing Grassmoor Primary School is housed in two separate buildings. The upper building is in a poorer state therefore resources have been targeted on the lower school building. The whole site has been fenced which has led to a large decrease in nuisance and vandalism which has also enabled improvements to the outside environment.

Just prior to the consultation exercise, Derbyshire County Council announced that Grassmoor Primary School was to be replaced with a new building on the same site. The existing building is very run down and unsuitable for education in the 21st Century. Had the announcement not been made, the level of dissatisfaction with the school facilities would have almost certainly been a major issue.

After the consultation exercise had been completed, the County Council also announced that Deincourt School, the main secondary school feed for pupils living in Grassmoor, is to close in 2011 due to poor educational standards at the School and also falling pupil numbers. There was a degree of anger at the decision which owing to the timing of the announcement is not reflected in the consultation results. The pupils from Grassmoor were to be moved to the new Tibshelf School built as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme. However, the change of Government at a national level meant that many projects under the BSF programme were shelved. At the time of writing this report, the final decision as to whether a new school at

Tibshelf had not been taken. One of the main concerns raised was the transport of pupils to Tibshelf.

5.1.3 Allotments

There are 2 allotment sites in the Parish, Mill Lane and Gill Lane. Both sites are owned by the Parish Council but are run by separate Associations. Mill Lane, the larger of the two sites, had been a source of concern for the Parish Council over its condition and management. The Association Committee has worked tirelessly to improve the situation with the support of the Parish Council. It is pleasing that the Association now has a waiting list for plots. There are now strong links between the Association and the Grassmoor Primary School who now have their own plot and direct access to the site from the School playing field. In 2009, the School Allotment attracted national television coverage on the BBC news.

In 2010, the Allotment Association joined forces with the local Garden for All project to provide raised beds for disabled gardeners. It was hoped the project for the raised beds which had received financial support from the Parish Council, would be completed by May 2011. Other projects were also being planned.

Gill Lane allotments are a lot smaller than their neighbours on Mill Lane. Part of this site is rented directly by the Parish Council to a local farmer. The remainder is run by the Association and is used mainly for the keeping of livestock rather than traditional allotment gardens.

5.1.4 Barnes Park

The results of the survey showed in general terms that local people felt that Barnes Park was a valuable community resource. At the same time however, it also showed that local people considered that the facilities within it should be improved and updated.

Barnes Park is in the ownership of the Parish Council. Over recent years the Council has spent a considerable amount of funds providing facilities in the Park, particularly for young people. It has provided a new play area for 3 to 8 year olds and also a new multi-play area for all ages which has proved particularly popular. This facility is used by the School on a daily basis at lunchtimes. A teen shelter has also been provided.

New seating has been provided to replace those seats which had suffered irreparable vandal damage or which had simply broken due to their age. New park gates have been installed along with some new fencing along the boundary. In May 2009, the Parish Council also funded the refurbishment of the area around the war memorial.

The Pavilion is in a very poor state of repair and is a constant target for vandals. It is in need of replacement. This matter is considered in more detail in section 5.4.1. Cricket and football is played in the Park by local teams which also raises some issues which are considered in sections 5.3.2.

The Park has been a regular problem area in terms of anti-social behaviour and has been a source of many complaints from properties in the near vicinity of the play equipment, multi-court area and teen shelter. Underage drinking is a regular and considerable problem and glass bottles are often smashed on the play areas making them unusable until cleared. Vandal damage amounting to hundreds of pounds has also been caused to the equipment and litter bins in the Park. The problem of anti-social behaviour is dealt with in section 5.5.1.

The Steering Group considers that the problems in the Park can only be resolved through a holistic approach being taken to address them. It would like to see a detailed review of the activities and facilities in the Park undertaken and plans drawn up for its regeneration. This will not be a quick fix solution to the problems in the Park. It will take time and require very careful planning and consultation. It is likely that as the works to improve the Park will be significant, that they can only be funded through grant applications. This in turn is a complex and time consuming process with no guarantee of success.

Recommendation 2

The Parish Council undertake a detailed review of the facilities and activities in the Park in order to develop a master plan for its regeneration.

5.1.5 Public seating

Grassmoor and Churchside used to have several public seats on roadsides at various locations. Mainly owing to vandalism, the seats have been removed over the years. In 2009 there is only one seat at Churchside remaining. The Steering Group felt that the reintroduction of public seats should be considered as part of the overall plan to improve the streetscene and look of the Parish which is considered in more detail in section 5.6.7.

5.1.6 Grassmoor Country Park

As detailed above, the Country Park is owned and maintained by Derbyshire County Council and it is popular with the local community and the wider community as it forms part of the Five Pits Trail. The reclamation works to clean up the Lagoons has presented an opportunity to look at other possible activities that could be developed in the Park. One of the options, as detailed in xxx, would be to relocate the cricket and football pitches in to purpose built facilities in the Park.

As part of the discussions with the County Council, consideration is being given improving the entrances to the Park, providing a community activity area, improving the conditions of the pathways, improving signage and a fitness trail. All of the above would require funding.

Recommendation 3

Discussions continue with the County Council and other local partners with a view to submitting joint funding bids to improve the facilities available in the Country Park.

5.2 Local Activities

The consultation exercise showed that there were several issues relating to activities taking place in the Parish details of which are presented below.

SWOT Analysis – Local Activities

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support given to local groups by the Parish Council • People have strong family and friendship ties within the area. • Evidence that on specific issues the local community can work together 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of community organisations to organise and provide activities • Small number of volunteers to run facilities and activities within the local community • No dedicated support to organise activities for young people
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide new activities to meet the needs of the local community • Encouragement given to establish new voluntary groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local community not supporting local facilities and activities • Local community groups folding due to lack of local support and volunteers • On-going funding of local voluntary groups • Anti-social behaviour caused by activities not to be put on in the Ward • Provision of new facilities and activities attract people from surrounding villages causing trouble • Local residents go elsewhere to participate in leisure activities

5.2.1 Current Activities taking place within the Parish

Set out below is a list of activities taking place in the Parish as at May 2010:

Grassmoor Luncheon Club – Club providing a 3 course meal to local people of all ages on a Monday and Wednesday at the Community Centre.

Grassmoor Friendship Club – Social meeting club for the over 55's which meets at the Community Centre every Tuesday.

Grassmoor Cricket Club – Runs a First XI and Second XI and also a Junior Team.

Grassmoor Sports Football Club – Runs a First XI and Second XI.

Grassmoor Methodist Church Ploughman's Lunch – is organised once a month on the first Tuesday.

Grassmoor Women's Institute – meets on the second Wednesday of every month at the Community Centre

New Street Tots – meets every Thursday morning at the Community Centre

Derbyshire County Council Youth Bus – see below

Ringwood Bridge Club – meeting on several occasions per week at the Community Centre for bridge matches as well as training sessions.

Derbyshire County Council Mobile Library Van – every Thursday.

5.2.2 Youth Bus

The Derbyshire County Council Youth Bus comes to Grassmoor every Monday to provide a service for young people in the village. There have been issues with the behaviour of a minority of young people attending the bus. The situation was so bad at one point that the County Council threatened to withdraw the provision. Inter-agency work has meant that the situation has improved and the Youth Bus continues to visit Grassmoor.

5.2.3 Community Spirit and Sustaining Local Activities

Community spirit is difficult to define. It is a statement which means different things to different people. To some it means friendship, close family relationships and about being proud to belong to and come from a local community. To others it means all the above but also it is also about communities working together to solve local problems and about local people volunteering and getting involved.

In the consultation survey, community spirit in terms of the limited definition was the most popular thing that people loved most about living in Grassmoor by some distance. It is clear that many people have been born and brought up in the Parish and many have lived there or in close proximity all their lives. This is a positive statement about the Parish.

Equally those involved in local life will say that in terms of the wider definition of community spirit, there is a problem. This is not a problem unique to the Parish it a problem in other areas locally and also nationally. Like other communities, the Parish has a limited number of “pillars of the community” who voluntarily help organise local facilities and activities. Unfortunately, many of these volunteers are ageing and are scaling down or giving up their volunteer activities. If new volunteers do not come forward there is a danger that local facilities and activities will close.

Volunteering can impact on the ability to claim benefits and the increasingly litigious society in which we live has turned many people away from volunteering. Local organisations such as the Luncheon Club, Friendship Club, New Street Tots and the Community Centre have all experienced a fall in the number of local people volunteering. In some cases in the not too distant future, the viability of some local voluntary groups could be in serious jeopardy. For the first time year in 2009 there was no Grassmoor Carnival as there were insufficient volunteers to organise the event. The Brackenfield Residents Association has recently formed by the residents of the new Brackenfield Close development off Birkin Lane.

There is evidence however that local people can work together towards common goals particularly in respect of single issue matters. In 2007 for instance, the “No Campaign” was successfully launched by local people to fight against the proposal of

the County Council to locate an in-vessel composting plant on the former Cory Coal site between Grassmoor and Churchside.

At the same time however, the local community has not been supportive of local events and activities put on by the Community Centre and the Parish Council. The Community Centre and the Parish Council has organised many events and activities which have to be cancelled owing to a lack of interest or which have been very poorly supported. Examples include carol services and brass band concerts and activities for both young and old.

The Steering Group are concerned that the extent of voluntary groups organising activities for local people as detailed above are limited for a community the size of Grassmoor. It is considered that the Parish Council and local groups work together with voluntary sector support groups to strengthen existing local groups and to establish new groups wherever a need can be demonstrated. This should include looking at examples of best practice from existing successful local groups and also lessons that can be learnt from organisations in other areas.

Similarly, for communities to be successful it is important that all elements of the community work together to support each other and make plans for improvement a reality. This includes local councils, local voluntary groups as well as shops and local businesses. The Parish Plan in itself represents a step towards this goal. At present however, there is no mechanism through which all the local groups and businesses are brought together to work towards common goals. Attempts to engage local businesses have largely been unsuccessful and to do so in the future may prove difficult given the current state of the economy.

The Steering Group considers that it is important that attempts are made to engage with all groups and businesses and get them working together for a better Parish. This could include a scheme to encourage local people and organisations to shop locally with businesses in return having a greater input in to local community affairs. This may take the form of an “award” for businesses demonstrating a commitment to support the local community.

Part of the funding bid for the refurbishment of the Community Centre included provision for a full time Community Development Worker to be based in the Centre. Unfortunately this element of the bid was not successful. The Steering Group recommend that funding opportunities be explored with a view to employing a development worker for the Parish who could be used to build community spirit and encourage joint effort. If successful the development worker could also support the provision of activities for children and young people (see 5.2.5 below).

Recommendation 4

(a) the Parish Council should seek to facilitate closer links with local voluntary organisations to look at ways to make them more sustainable and to strengthen partnership arrangements.

(b) the Parish Council should continue to assist and encourage new local groups to become established.

- (c) the Parish Council to look at ways to better engage with local businesses with a view to them working together more for the benefit of the community.**
- (d) the Parish Council look in to the possibility of obtaining grant funding for a Community Development Worker to help facilitate the above recommendations.**

5.2.4 Publicity for local activities

The fact that activities are not always supported by the local community may in part be due to poor publicity surrounding the events, although it is difficult to believe this can be a reason in all cases. The Community Website has been developed and receives a regular number of visits. Similarly, the Community Newsletter has also been produced. The Parish Council has also replaced its old noticeboard with a new much larger version which is situated in the Methodist Chapel grounds. The noticeboard is used to publicise activities taking place at the Centre and also elsewhere in the Parish. The Parish Council is also making more effective use of its noticeboard outside the Boot and Shoe to publicise events in the Parish.

Also during the course of the preparation of the Plan, the Community Centre Management Committee was successful in obtaining an Awards for All grant which included provision for advertising the activities taking place at the Centre. Part of this funding was used to advertise in the Hasland Shoppers Guide which is distributed to households in Grassmoor and other villages in North East Derbyshire. The Community Centre Co-ordinator has indicated that this has led to several additional bookings at the Centre. It is noted that only limited use has been made of local newspapers such as the Derbyshire Times. In particular, it is felt that greater use could be made of the “Grassroots” section of the paper where Grassmoor appears to have less copy space than other local villages. This is of course because the paper only receives limited local news from Grassmoor so people who could regularly contribute to Grassroots would need to be identified.

It was noted that attempts to utilise local businesses to publicise local events by putting posters up in their premises had met with mixed success. Some businesses are supportive whilst others were less so. The Steering Group were disappointed that some local businesses were not prepared to assist and it was considered that this should be addressed. It is felt that this matter and others raised in this Plan warranted the development of a closer partnership arrangement between local businesses and local organisations such as the Parish Council, the Community Centre and voluntary groups. There could be mutual benefits to both with businesses receiving publicity in return for them doing the same for local activities (see section 5.2.3). A list of local organisations who support local activities could be published in the Community Newsletter, the Community Website and on noticeboards.

Recommendation 5

The Parish Council, the Community Centre and other local organisations to better publicise the existing facilities and activities on offer in the Parish.

5.2.5 Activities for children and young people

Anti-social behaviour and the lack of facilities and activities for children and young people, particularly teenagers have gone hand in hand for several years in the Parish. Save for the Youth Bus provided through the County Council Youth Service, there is no dedicated activities for young people in the Parish. A Youth Club was organised several years ago through volunteers although this has since ceased to operate. The Community Centre has in the past organised short-term activities for young people such as kick boxing, Olympic wrestling and X-box sessions as have the Police . The lack of such facilities and activities was an outcome of the “Love it – hate it” survey.

The provision of sustainable activities for young people has been hampered by the lack of dedicated support to organise and supervise activities as detailed in section 5.1.1 above. The Community Centre would be a suitable venue in which to provide activities for young people. However, the Community Centre does not have the capacity to provide qualified support to staff activities for young people.

As detailed in Recommendation 1 above, the Steering Group would recommend that funding be sought for a Community Development Worker to support youth activities and other activities in the Parish. This would be a pre-requisite to the use of facilities for activities for young people.

5.2.6 Youth council/forum

Communicating and engaging with children and young people is an issue generally not least in Grassmoor. It is difficult for providers of services such as the Community Centre and the Parish Council to know exactly what children and young people actually want them to provide.

The Steering Group suggest that the feasibility of establishing a suitable means of communicating with young people such as a forum or a youth parish council should be investigated. There are obviously resource issues concerning the running of such a body which would need to be considered and addressed. It is important that if established a youth body is managed effectively ostensibly by young people in order to provide them with a credible and meaningful voice through which to air their thoughts and views. If it is not properly managed young people will quickly become disillusioned and it will fail.

Recommendation 6

The Parish Council be asked to consider the creation of a youth council or youth forum.

5.2.7 Grassmoor Community Website – www.grassmoor.org.uk

The Community Centre Management Committee and the Parish Council jointly manage the Community Website which has been established since 2004. The website aims to provide a range of information relating to local organisations and local life. It currently receives around 50 “hits” per week. There will be possibilities to develop the website further to take account of recommendations 3 and 4 above.

5.2.8 Grassmoor Community Newsletter

The Community Centre Management Committee and the Parish Council also produce the Community Newsletter which is distributed at least 3 times per year to every household in the Parish. The newsletter aims to provide information about the Parish and activities taking place at the Community Centre and also the wider community. Again the information on the Newsletter may be developed take in to account of recommendations 3 and 4 above.

During the course of the development of the Plan, the Parish Council identified problems with the distribution of the Community Newsletter which advertises activities taking place at the Centre. As a result, changes have been introduced which mean that the Newsletter is distributed by post directly to every household in the Parish.

5.3 Highways Issues

The consultation exercise showed that there were several issues relating to highways and traffic management.

SWOT Analysis – Highways Issues

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing traffic calming measures in place in Grassmoor and Winsick • Good road links to Chesterfield • Grassmoor, Churchside, Corbriggs and Winsick on major bus routes • Parish Council grit bins (x7) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drivers travelling at excessive speeds • Existing traffic calming measures only cover part of the Grassmoor • Traffic calming measures were introduced and later withdrawn owing to public complaints • No footpath on road between Grassmoor and Winsick • Lack of off street parking leads to dangerous and inconsiderate parking in residential neighbourhoods • Problems with supply of grit to fill grit bins during extended periods of adverse weather
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in Parish Plan may lead to co-ordinated effort to introduce traffic calming measures • Reducing speed and increasing off-street parking to create a safer environment for local residents • New School present opportunity to look at measures to reduce car use during school drop off and pick up times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed public reaction to traffic calming measures • Serious injury caused as a result of speeding vehicle • Funding of traffic calming measures • Developments could lead to increased traffic particularly of HGVs

5.3.1 Speeding

Speeding in Grassmoor was identified as a major issue arising from the consultation exercise. The main route through Grassmoor, the B6038 has limited traffic calming already in place from the junction with Birkin Lane to the junction with Wingerworth Street and Chapman Lane, travelling north. The traffic calming consists of speed ramps and some road narrowing to allow on-street parking.

The stretch of the same road from Chapman Lane northwards to the junction with Westhill Lane had previously had traffic calming in the forms of speed humps introduced by Derbyshire County Council. However, local residents complained vigorously about the noise that lorries made travelling over the humps particularly early in the morning. In 2000, they successfully campaigned to have the humps removed with no alternative measures being introduced in their place.

A significant proportion of residents of Churchside also raised the issue of speeding vehicles on the B6038. There is currently no traffic calming measures in place along this stretch of road.

The B6039 between the Parish boundary and the roundabout at Winsick was subject to the introduction of traffic calming measures immediately prior to the consultation survey being carried out. This followed a campaign by local residents regarding the speeding problems on the stretch of road which had resulted in vehicles being damaged. The road has effectively been narrowed by the use of white lines and to provide on-street parking. The speed limit has also been reduced from 40mph to 30mph along this stretch of road.

The stretch of the B6039 between the roundabout and Corbriggs has not had any physical traffic calming measures. However, the speed limit on this stretch of road has been reduced to 40mph from the junction with Hassocky Lane to the roundabout.

The issue of speeding is obviously of concern to the local community. It is also a difficult matter to successfully address as previous attempts at traffic calming in Grassmoor have proved. Traffic calming measures may well cause some local residents inconvenience or annoyance and therefore, may be unpopular. Current traffic levels through Grassmoor would not justify speed cameras on cost grounds. The solution will not be easy but the Steering Group would wish to work with the County Council as highway authority to explore what if any measures can be introduced to reduce the speed of vehicles through the village.

Recommendation 7

Discussions to take place with the County Council with a view to introducing traffic calming measures other than speed humps in Grassmoor.

5.3.2 On-Street Car Parking

On-street parking was raised as an issue in the survey in two respects. Firstly, residents on Broom Drive have for some years complained to the County Council,

District Council (as several properties remain in Council ownership) and the Parish Council. The complaint is that vehicles parked on the road make it difficult for other vehicles to pass (particularly delivery vehicles or the emergency services) and also they present a danger to pedestrians, particularly children who regularly play in the area. The residents are seeking off-street parking places to be created on the grassed areas on Broom Drive.

The matter has been taken up on behalf of the residents by the Parish Council and the local District and County Councillors although to date no solution has been found and the position is unlikely to change in the near future. The situation is noted by the Steering Group, although it is considered that as the issue is obviously a matter of concern it should remain as an item on the Parish Plan Action Plan.

The second issue of car parking concerns parking in the vicinity of Barnes Park and the Primary School when cricket and football matches are being played. The main problem areas are along Birkin Lane East, North Wingfield Road and Gill Lane. When the School pitch is in use the playground is now used to help alleviate the problems. The Cricket and Football Clubs also ask their players and visiting clubs to park responsibly.

The Steering Group are of the opinion that the redevelopment of Barnes Park as proposed in section 5.1.4 represents an opportunity to address the car parking issues that are connected with the playing of football and cricket in the Park. Plans for off-street parking should be considered as part of the overall plans to develop the Park.

Recommendation 8

The Parish Council to continue to raise the issue of parking in the Broom Drive area with both the District Council and the County Council with a view to finding a solution to the parking problems.

5.3.3 Journeys to and from School

Traffic through Grassmoor was identified as an issue in the Love it/hate it Survey. The situation is bad at School dropping off and leaving times. The School has produced a School Travel Plan which will look to address the issues of traffic congestion around the School. The School will monitor the Plan through an action plan. Any issues arising in the Action Plan will be fed where appropriate, in to the Parish Plan process.

Recommendation 9

The Parish Council liaise with the Grassmoor Primary School to identify any issues of joint concern and take action jointly where appropriate.

5.3.4 Furnace Hillock Way

Furnace Hillock Way is a relatively new road to connect the B6038 at Churchside and the B6039 at Winsick. Unfortunately, the new road was constructed without a

footpath. The Parish Council has received numerous representations over the years since its construction about the provision of a footpath. Vehicles travel along the road at considerable speeds presenting an obvious danger to pedestrians. Representations have been made to the County Council in the past but to no avail.

Recommendation 10

The Parish Council to continue to press the County Council to provide a footpath on Furnace Hillock Way.

5.4 Sports Facilities

In addition to comments made in relation to facilities in the Parish in general, reference was also made specifically to the sports facilities in Grassmoor.

SWOT Analysis – Sports Facilities and activities

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent Cricket wicket • Established and well run cricket and football Clubs • Barnes Park and Winsick Park are owned by the Parish Council making development easier • Established Golf Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor condition of Barnes Park Pavilion • Car parking on match days • Nuisance and danger caused to neighbouring properties particularly by cricket matches • Other than cricket, football and golf there are no other sporting facilities
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chance to start afresh and design new facilities • Chance to look at other locations such as the Country Park for cricket pitch • Chance to look at additional sports provision including the possibility of a skate park • Utilisation of section 106 monies from developments to fund new sporting facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of funding to provide new facilities • Obtaining permissions to relocate cricket pitch • Sports provision in neighbouring towns

5.4.1 Relocation of Cricket and Football Facilities

Cricket has been played on Barnes Park for over 100 years and the cricket club is very well run and established. Similarly, football has been played on the Park by local teams for many years and the football club is equally well run.

In recent years however, the Parish Council has received a number of complaints about cricket balls being hit in to neighbouring properties, particularly on Durham Avenue causing damage and also a potential danger. The Parish Council has investigated measures to mitigate the problems some of which have been

implemented. Other measures considered such as the erection of safety netting have been discounted owing to the costs involved and also the likelihood that they would not prevent the problem. The Parish Council has also received numerous complaints over many years about car parking when cricket and football matches are being played.

One long-term solution put forward to help solve the problem is to relocate the cricket and football pitches to the Country Park. The land at the Country Park is in the ownership of Derbyshire County Council. Permissions and funding for such a scheme may be a problem. However, the Steering Group consider that the feasibility of relocating the cricket facilities to the Country Park is worthy of further consideration. There is a potential opportunity to link the clean up of the Grassmoor Lagoons with the development of the Country Park which could include the provision of new cricket and football facilities.

At the time of writing initial discussions are being held with the County Council regarding the feasibility of the idea. The decision is a pre-requisite to other proposals contained in the Plan which relate to the future development of Barnes Park for instance.

If relocation is not feasible, then measures to mitigate the problems caused by stray cricket balls should be considered as part of the overall redevelopment of facilities in the Park.

Recommendation 11

- (a) The feasibility of relocating the cricket facilities from Barnes Park to the Country Park be examined.**
- (b) If it is considered feasible to relocate, work with the County Council to produce a project plan and to seek funding.**

5.4.2 Barnes Park Pavilion

As detailed in section 4.4.5, the sports pavilion in Barnes Park is in a very poor state of repair and regularly suffers from acts of vandalism. The fabric of the building has large cracks appearing in the walls and the showers do not work properly. The Parish Council owns the building and is responsible for its upkeep. The condition of the building is so bad that consideration has been given to closing the building down and providing temporary changing accommodation. At present however, the building remains open and is used by the cricket and football clubs.

The Steering Group consider that attention needs to be given to the Pavilion and that this should be undertaken as part of the overall review of facilities in the Park referred to in section 4.4.5. The state of the building is such that there would appear to be little option but to demolish it and replace it with an alternative structure of some type. The opportunity exists to fund this as part of the wider development works to the Park.

Recommendation 12

Subject to Recommendation 10 (a) and (b) above, if the relocation of the cricket and football facilities it is not feasible, the Parish Council to seek funding for a replacement Sports Pavilion in Barnes Park as part of the wider regeneration project detailed in recommendation 2 above.

5.5 Crime, Nuisance and Disorder

This section relates to matters relating to concerning crime, nuisance and disorder in the area.

SWOT Analysis – Crime, Nuisance and Disorder

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good relationship with local PCSO and the Police in general• CCTV system providing coverage for key areas of the village• Limited activities put on to keep young people from getting involved in ASB (GIG Project)• Track record of agencies working together to tackle problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Danger of displacement of problems to areas not covered by CCTV• Changes to Policing arrangements• Links to policing Winsick which is covered by Hasland• No place for teenagers to meet• No dedicated on-going support to organise activities for young people• Brick built bus shelters is a haven for anti-social behaviour
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chance to make the Parish a better safer place to live• People working together to make the Parish a better place• Chance to “design out” anti-social behaviour problems in new facilities developed• Possible extension of CCTV coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of funding to expand CCTV provision or maintain the current system• Changes to policing arrangements in Grassmoor• Local businesses move out of the area• Anti-social behaviour causes activities not to be put on in the Ward• Anti-social behaviour causes play equipment to be closed owing to health and safety issues• Parish Council being unable to fund repairs to vandalised play equipment• People, particularly the elderly are intimidated and don’t go out and become socially isolated.• Negative perception of the Parish in terms of crime and disorder becomes the norm with local

	<p>residents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects of health of young people binge drinking • Provision of new facilities and activities attract people from surrounding villages causing trouble
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5.5.1 Anti-social Behaviour in Grassmoor

Anti-social behaviour is a problem in Grassmoor and it has been for several years. The situation reached a peak in 2005 when the situation became so bad that a Dispersal Order was issued for a 6 month period which banned young people from gathering in groups of more than 2 in Grassmoor. The Dispersal Order proved to be a very successful short-term measure and the process of issuing the Order demonstrated an ability and willingness on the part of local agencies to work together to solve local problems.

The situation has calmed down considerably since 2005 although there are still issues. The main problems involve large gangs of youths congregating in the centre of the village and intimidating local shopkeepers and residents. Windows have been broken, garden walls knocked down, eggs thrown at shops and passers-by and objects thrown at buses and cars. Gangs of youths also congregate in Barnes Park particularly around the youth shelter and multi-court area. Bottles are regularly smashed on the multi-court area and litter bins and dog bins have been vandalised.

Under-age drinking fuels many of the anti-social problems in Grassmoor. Smashed beer bottles and beer cans are regularly collected from the Park by the Parish Council's Streetcleaner and wine and spirit bottles are also found. It is clear that at least some of the alcohol is being sold locally. Local shopkeepers have correct procedures in place to prevent the sale of alcohol to underage young people and there have been no prosecutions for underage sales. It is also clear that part of the problem is that alcohol is being supplied to children and young people by people old enough to purchase alcohol legally. This is a much more difficult problem to address and prove.

Recommendation 13

The Parish Council to encourage relevant agencies to take appropriate action to minimise under age alcohol sales in Grassmoor.

5.5.2 Anti-social behaviour in Winsick

The Parish Council became aware somewhat belatedly of considerable problems of nuisance and damage that was occurring on a fairly regular basis in Winsick. The problems mainly related to damage to cars either from people returning from nearby public houses particularly at weekends and also damage caused by other passing vehicles. The reason why the Parish Council were unaware of the problems at Winsick would appear to be that the Police who were dealing with the problem were from Chesterfield rather than Clay Cross.

Two actions have occurred to help address the problems. Firstly the Parish Council has installed a CCTV camera on a property in the area (making 17 Parish Council cameras in total). Secondly, the County Council has introduced speed reduction measures along the B6039. These measures appear to have significantly improved the situation in Winsick and the number of complaints have reduced.

5.5.3 CCTV Cameras

As the Dispersal Order was only a temporary measure for 6 months, the Parish Council was so concerned about the situation that it put together a successful funding bid of £50k to provide 16 CCTV cameras for Grassmoor. The Parish Council contribution was £20k as well as paying for the on-going maintenance of the system.

The situation has for the most part improved although there are a few occasions and usually for short periods where the situation worsens. In December 2009, the Parish Council conducted a follow up survey to the one originally undertaken immediately prior to the CCTV cameras being introduced. The results showed that fear of crime had reduced as had the fear of local residents going out alone at night in Grassmoor. The cameras have also been responsible for several successful prosecutions.

The situation was not helped by technical problems being experienced with the CCTV cameras in the period after their introduction which meant that the system has never been totally reliable. In September 2010, the Parish Council took the decision to replace the original system with a more up to date system managed through Advance Monitoring Solutions. Whilst the system makes use of fewer cameras than the previous system the coverage is better as is the quality of the recorded material.

The Steering Group recognise the financial implications of providing additional cameras to the CCTV system and it recognises that the Parish Council has already replaced the existing CCTV system. It also recognises the on-going costs of maintaining the system which fall to the Parish Council. The option remains for additional cameras to be provided where problems justify such a response and where funds are available to pay for the camera. This could possibly include grant funding.

Recommendation 14

The Parish Council to seek to maximise the coverage of the CCTV Scheme by periodically reviewing camera positions to take account of current “hot spot” areas.

5.5.4 Policing and Safer Neighbourhoods

Grassmoor is policed by ‘C’ Division of Derbyshire Constabulary and forms part of the Deincourt Safer Neighbourhood Team. Policing arrangements in the Parish like other areas in the County have changed several times in recent years to reflect changes in policing styles and financial constraints. The changes have not always led to better policing of the area, some have made it worse. One thing that is clear is that in general the standard of policing is reflected in the commitment of those involved. Recent changes have meant that Grassmoor has lost its dedicated PCSO.

The Parish Council has recently made representations at a senior level regarding the level of policing in the Parish. The local PCSO is now shared with other local parishes which has reduced the visible level of policing. It is clear to the Parish Council that public confidence in the Police in general is very low. Crime and nuisance and disorder figures for Grassmoor are relatively low compared to neighbouring villages which means that it is difficult to persuade the Police to commit resources to the area. The Parish Council would assert however, that the local communities faith in the Police is so low that they do not report incidents as they consider no action will be taken.

After considerable problems and delays a Police Office has been opened in the Community Centre. The idea of the office is that local people will be able to contact local officers in person and privately to report problems they are experiencing or to pass on information of use to the Police. The Police also now have information pages on the Community Website.

Policing of Winsick and Corbriggs is sometimes undertaken from the Hasland Police Office. This has in the past caused some difficulties in ascertaining information relating to problems in the area such as the anti-social behaviour and damage problems experienced at Winsick. The position with regard to the policing of this section of the Parish needs to be clarified in order that residents receive a consistent level of service from the Police from known officers. The Parish Council also need to be kept informed of crimes and anti-social behaviour in Winsick and Corbriggs on a consistent basis.

Recommendation 15

- (a) The Parish Council to continue to press for more Police resources to be dedicated to Grassmoor.**
- (b) The Parish Council to encourage the Police to look at measures which can help restore public confidence in the Police.**

5.5.5 Neighbourhood Watch Schemes

Grassmoor currently has one active Neighbourhood Watch Scheme covering the Oak Road area. A second scheme was established covering Southend and Birkin Lane areas but this has not been active for some time. Neighbourhood Watch Schemes are a proven means of helping reduce crime. They are also an effective way of getting local communities to work together to solve problems and they can also improve “community spirit”. The Steering Group would welcome the establishment of more Schemes in the Parish.

Recoomendation 16

The Police to be encouraged to promote the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes with a view to more Schemes being established in the Parish.

5.6 Environmental Issues

This section relates to matters impacting on the environment in the Parish such as litter and dog fouling. It also includes streetscene issues which are matters that impact on the visual appearance of the Parish such as street furniture, signing and the general condition of buildings and facilities in the area.

SWOT Analysis – Environmental Issues

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing litter bin provision • Existing dog bins provision • Parish Council Streetcleaner • Hanging baskets provided by the Parish Council • Majority of bus shelters are of modern design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing litter bins not necessarily in correct locations • Existing dog bins not necessarily in correct locations • Litter and dog bins not replaced following vandalism • Inability to enforce law on dog fouling and litter • Streetcleaner forced to concentrate on “hotspots” to detriment of other areas • Boarded up buildings and other unsightly buildings and sites are detrimental to the appearance of the Parish • Public seating removed owing to vandalism • 2 x Brick built bus shelters which are old, unsightly and a haven for anti-social behaviour
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to “audit” litter and dog bins provision and to locate them in the most needed locations • New powers given to local councils to tackle litter and dog fouling • Co-ordinated street furniture • The Parish Plan survey results provide evidence to support action being taken • Utilise CCTV system to secure more prosecutions for litter and dog fouling offenders. • “Redesign” of North Wingfield Road streetscene to provide more floral displays and seating areas • Chance to replace brick built bus shelters utilising 50% DCC grant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of funding to provide new litter and dog bins (including on-going costs of emptying) • Vandalism resulting in bins not being replaced once damaged • Local businesses not working together to improve the appearance of Grassmoor • The economic downturn impacting negatively on local business leading to less or no investment in anti-litter measures • Parks become no-go areas because of broken glass and play equipment is closed down • Streetlights not passing safety checks meaning that hanging baskets cannot be attached.

5.6.1 Streetcleaner

The Parish Council employs a Streetcleaner and handyperson who currently is employed for 26 hours per week. The majority of the Streetcleaner's hours are spent on streetcleaning, although he does undertake other duties as necessary. The Streetcleaner has a fixed rota of streetcleaning for North Wingfield as this is the main problem area and for other litter "hotspots" in the Parish. Other streets are cleaned as and when time permits although the Streetcleaner can be requested to respond to a specific problem.

5.6.2 Litter

There are several litter bins in Grassmoor which are paid for and emptied by the District Council. Several bins in Grassmoor have been vandalised in recent years both in the Park and on the highway. The Parish Council decided against replacing the vandalised bins in Barnes Park as it could not afford to keep replacing them. A decision was taken at the meeting in October 2009 however, to replace one if the bins in the Park. The exact location and number of bins in the Parish is not known. The Steering Group felt that an "audit" of litter bin provision should be undertaken to identify where bins currently are located and where there are gaps in provision. This audit should include litter bin provision by local shops and businesses.

Recommendation 17

- (a) An audit of litter bin provision in the Parish be undertaken.**
- (b) The Parish Council to look at additional litter bin provision as necessary and subject to available funding.**

5.6.3 Community Clean Up

The District Council organises Community Clean Up events. This allows residents to dispose of unwanted items by the provision of bin lorries collecting them on a given day. An event was held in Grassmoor in 2008 and it suggested that the District Council should be requested to provide these on an annual basis and that this should include Churchside, Winsick and Corbriggs as well as Grassmoor.

It is also considered that the Parish Council could organise clean up events on a smaller scale perhaps concentrating on a litter problem in a specific area.

Recommendation 18

- (a) The District Council be encouraged to stage community clean up events.**
- (b) The Parish Council to consider organising local clean up campaigns aimed at specific problem areas.**

5.6.4 Re-cycling

The only existing recycling facilities in Grassmoor are based in the Boot and Shoe public house car park at the Southend of the village which is not particularly convenient for many local residents to get to. The issue of recycling points has been

considered in the past and the main issue is finding a suitable location. One problem has been that it was felt that the recycling facilities, particularly glass recycling could be the target of those engaging in anti-social behaviour. The introduction of CCTV in Grassmoor may mean that there may be scope to increase recycling provision.

Recommendation 19

The District Council be asked to look at the provision of recycling facilities in the village.

5.6.4 Graffiti

The Parish has suffered from graffiti attacks sporadically over recent years. Problems tend to occur for short periods of time followed by periods when there are no incidents. The main target for the graffiti has tended to be the Pavilion in Barnes Park. The Parish Council has tended to use the District Council to remove the graffiti but this can be costly and it can also take time to action sometimes leaving offensive graffiti in place for all to see and read. A graffiti clean up kit has been supplied by the District Council and is stored in the Community Centre. The Steering Group would recommend that the Streetcleaner be utilised to use the graffiti clean up kit to remove any graffiti usually within 48 hours of it appearing.

Recommendation 20

The Parish Council be asked to give a commitment that the Streetcleaner can be called upon to use the graffiti clean up kit to remove graffiti within 48 hours of it being reported.

5.6.5 Dog Fouling

Dog fouling was raised as an issue in the survey. The Parish Council provides 8 dog bins located in the following locations:

- Mansfield Road – Winsick Park
- Barnes Park – Durham Avenue side
- Barnes Park – North Wingfield Road side
- Barnes Park – Birkin Lane side
- North Wingfield Road – approx 100m past golf club side of public footpath
- Westhill Lane – side of garage site opposite Shakespeare Street
- Mill Lane – side of phone box junction of North Wingfield Road
- Mill Lane – junction of Whitmore Avenue

The County Council also provides dog bins in the Grassmoor Country Park. The bins are emptied by the District Council although unlike litter bins there is a charge which is paid by the Parish Council.

The dog bins in Barnes Park have been subject to vandalism in recent years with some of the bins needing to be replaced. The Parish Council has recently agreed to move one of the bins from the Park to Mill Lane as it was continually being vandalised. As with the litter bins, it is suggested that an “audit” of bin provision be undertaken in order that any gaps in provision can be identified.

North East Derbyshire District Council used to employ two Dog Wardens part of whose role was to combat dog fouling. However, owing to the budgets cuts these posts have been lost. Grassmoor has previously had one successful prosecution for dog fouling as a result of the Dog Wardens. It is felt that local community should be encouraged to report incidents of dog fouling and where there is evidence the District Council should be requested to pursue prosecutions wherever possible.

Recommendation 21

The District Council be encouraged to be proactive in dealing with dog fouling issues in the Parish and to prosecute offenders where there is sufficient evidence to do so.

5.6.6 General Appearance/Streetscene of the Parish

Comments were made in the survey about the general appearance of the area particularly Grassmoor village itself. There was a general view that the village was run down. Particular reference was made to the boarded up former Miners Arms public house and the St John Ambulance building which had been damaged by fire and which was recently demolished. It is noted that the Miners Arms has recently been bought by new owners and is to be developed. The St John Ambulance hut has been demolished and planning permission is being sought for residential development on the site.

The Steering Group acknowledges that its ability to influence the condition of buildings in private ownership is limited. However, it considers that there may be measures that can be introduced particularly along the shopping area of North Wingfield Road which would improve the streetscene, some of which have been highlighted elsewhere in this report. This could include the introduction of new seating and other features such as floral displays which would enhance the appearance of the village. The appearance could also be improved by the co-ordination of street furniture such as litter bins and public seating.

Recommendation 22

- (a) The Parish Council to take account of streetscene considerations in organising and undertaking its activities**
- (b) The Parish Council to encourage local businesses and organisations to take account of streetscene considerations in undertake their activities and business.**
- (c) Action to be taken to improve the appearance of “eyesore” within the Parish.**

5.6.7 Roadside Seats

The Parish Council has in the past held licences for several roadside seats at various locations around the Parish. Over the years these have been removed either as a result of vandalism or complaints about youth congregating around them and engaging in nuisance and anti-social behaviour. The Steering Group understands the reasons behind the removal of the seats but it believes that the seats were also a place where people could congregate for legitimate reasons to socialise or for the elderly to break their journey and take a rest. It is recommended that consideration should be given to reinstating public seating at certain locations as part of the overall aim of improving the street scene of the village in 5.66 above. It is recognised that given the potential for such seating to be a magnet for anti-social behaviour, that any reinstatement of seating will need to be carefully considered although the introduction of the CCTV cameras may make reinstatement more practical.

Recommendation 23

The Parish Council to give consideration to reinstating some of the public seating in the village.

5.6.6 Hanging Baskets and other floral displays

The Parish Council currently provides 35 hanging baskets, the majority in Grassmoor but also in Churchside. The location of streetlights, road signs and trees hanging baskets cannot currently be erected along the residential area of Winsick. The age and current condition of streetlights particularly along North Wingfield Road means that they are not safe to attach hanging baskets to (this does not mean that they are unsafe as streetlights with no attachments). As a result streetlights covering a wider area of the village have had to be used for the displays. This has had the effect on reducing the visual impact of the displays particularly in the centre of the village.

When the hanging baskets were first introduced the Parish Council sought sponsorship from local businesses. This did not prove to be very successful with only limited take up. Indeed in some cases pledges of sponsorship were not honoured leaving the Parish Council to pick up the additional costs. The Steering Group consider that as the hanging baskets are now an established feature of the summer months in Grassmoor and Churchside, the idea of sponsorship should be pursued again in order that the number of hanging baskets and/or floral displays can be possibly increased. This would have the effect of enhancing the general appearance of the village and help achieve the objectives set out in 4.8.5 above.

The Steering Group also consider that the entrance to the village would be enhanced by the introduction of flower beds on the roundabout to the north between Grassmoor and Churchside. Floral displays on some roundabouts in the district are also sponsored. It was noted that the Parish Council had made some initial enquiries regarding permissions to undertake this.

Recommendation 24

- (a) The Parish Council to seek sponsorship of hanging baskets by local businesses as a possible means of increasing the number of hanging baskets provided.**
- (b) The Parish Council to continue discussions with the District Council regarding floral displays on the roundabout on the B6038 utilising sponsorship if possible.**

5.6.7 Bus Shelters

The majority of the bus shelters in the Parish are of relatively new design. The shelters have been replaced over a number of years by the Parish Council utilising a 50% grant from the County Council. A condition of the grant is that the Parish Council clean and maintain the shelters and this is currently undertaken by the Streetcleaner. There are two shelters however, which are of brick built design. Both are located on North Wingfield Road, one near the junction with Westhill Lane, the other near the Park. The shelters are a haven for those causing anti-social behaviour. They are brick built and enclosed on 3 sides and part of the front. The Streetcleaner regularly reports finding empty drinks bottles and cans in both shelters and it is clear that people are regularly urinating in them. The Parish Council has even received reports that someone has been sleeping rough in one of the shelters.

The cost of a new shelter including installation is around £5k for which if available the 50% grant County Council can be used. The Steering Group recommend that the Parish Council looks to replace the shelters as soon as is reasonably practicable when funds are available.

Recommendation 25

The Parish Council to seek to replace the existing two brick built shelters utilising if possible grant funding from the County Council.

6.0 Action Plan

In order to address the issues raised in the report and Action Plan has been produced setting out a series of recommendations in respect of the key themes identified above. The Action plan is attached as an Appendix to the report.

The Action Plan includes information on the suggested action, the priority to be given to the action, projected timescales as well as the agencies likely to be involved in delivery the actions. In terms of timescales, some projects will obviously take longer than others to deliver particularly where large funding applications are required. Some projects may never actually come to fruition but the idea of the Parish Plan is that different options can be considered.

Obviously not all projects can be pursued at the same time. It is important that the projects forming recommendations in the Plan are prioritised. The Action Plan therefore prioritises proposed actions on a scale to 1-5, with one being the highest priority and 5 the lowest. Some projects will have a high priority but a lengthy

timescale. Others will have a low priority but a short timescale in terms of implementation. This may simply mean that the idea can be implemented relatively easily and at little cost.

The Action Plan will be updated regularly to take account of progress against the actions proposed. The Plan will also be updated to add any new projects that may arise.

**GRASSMOOR PARISH PLAN
ACTION PLAN**

Aim:1.0	To improve local facilities in Grassmoor				
Lead					
Contributors					
Rec	Suggested Action	How	Priority	Resources	Timescale
1	Possible sources of funding be identified to provide a dedicated youth worker to support the provision of activities for teenagers and young people in the Parish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify source through which dedicated support can be resourced Apply for funding if necessary 	2	GPC	
2	Detailed Review to be undertaken of the facilities and activities in Barnes Park in order to develop an action plan for its regeneration (Links to x and y below)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation exercise to establish needs Develop a “master plan” for the Park taking account of all needs and facilities Consult on proposals Apply for funding 	1	GPC (Funding required. Possible use of Section 106 funding.)	
3	Discussions continue with the County Council, North East Derbyshire District Council and other local partners, with a view to submitting funding bids to improve the facilities available in the Country Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial discussions with interested parties to discuss feasibility and expression of interest “Business Plan” to be formulated Consultation exercise Funding applications submitted 	1	DCC/GPC/ Funding Providers	July 2011 Oct 2011 Nov 2011 Jan 2012

Aim:2.0					
To improve local activities in Grassmoor					
Lead					
Ref:	Suggested Action	How	Priority	Resources	Timescale
4(a)	Closer links to be facilitated between the Parish Council and local voluntary organisations to make them more sustainable and to strengthen partnership arrangements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signposting to sources of funding and advice • Possible assistance with funding • Establish a local co-ordinating group 	4	GPC/VG	On-going
4(b)	Encouragement to be given to new local groups to get established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signposting to sources of funding and advice • Possible assistance with funding 	4	GPC/VG	On-going
4(c)	Examine ways in which the Parish Council and local businesses can work together more to the benefit of the local community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular meetings between Parish Council and local businesses • Encourage local business to “sponsor” activities jointly with the Parish Council 	4	GPC/LB	On-going
4(d)	Possible sources of funding be identified for a Community Development Worker to facilitate the above recommendations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council to examine possible sources of funding • Possible support and advice from NEDDC/DCC 	3	GPC/NEDDC/DCC	On-going
5	The Parish Council, Community Centre and other local organisations to better publicise existing facilities and activities on offer in the Parish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through Community Newsletter/Website • Through dedicated publicity for specific events • Use local shops • Local media such as the Derbyshire Times • Church Magazines 	3	GPC/LB/VG	On-going
6	Consideration to be given to the creation of a youth forum/council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council to consider practicalities of establishing YC particularly in terms of support. 	3	GPC	Tbc

Aim:3.0	To improve highways matters generally and speeding and car parking				
Lead					
Ref:	Suggested Action	How	Priority	Resources	Timescale
7	Discuss with the County Council the introduction of traffic calming measures other than speed humps in Grassmoor.	Possible introduction of traffic calming measures	2	GPC/DCC	
8	The Parish Council to continue to raise the issue of car parking on Broom Drive with both the District Council and the County Council.	Possible on-street parking spaces could be created on part of grassed amenity areas.	3	GPC/NEDD C/DCC	
9.	The Parish Plan Group to liaise with the primary School to identify issues of joint concern and take action jointly where appropriate.			PPG/GPS	
10.	The Parish Council to continue to press the County Council to provide a footway on Furnace Hillock Way		3	GPC/DCC	

Aim:4.0	To improve the sports facilities in Grassmoor				
Lead					
Contributors					
Ref:	Suggested Action	How	Priority	Resources	Timescale
11 (a)	The feasibility of relocating cricket and football facilities to Grassmoor Country Park be examined.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial discussions with interested parties to discuss feasibility and expression of interest • “Business Plan” to be formulated • Consultation exercise • Funding applications submitted 	1	GPC/DCC/ NEDDC	July 2011 Oct 2011 Nov 2011 Jan 2012
11 (b)	If the answer to 10(a) above is positive, work with the County Council to produce a project plan and to seek funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the idea is to be pursued, draw up business plan and make applications for funding. • Identify sources of funding including possible Section 106 monies. 	1	GPC/DCC/ NEDDC	September 2011
12	Subject to the outcome of 10 (a) and (b) above, the Parish Council to seek funding for a replacement Pavilion in Barnes park as part of the wider regeneration project detailed in recommendation 2 above.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form joint working group with cricket and football clubs and other interested parties to jointly pursue funding opportunities. 	1	GPC/DCC/ NEDDC	September 2011

Aim:5.0					
To reduce the level of nuisance and anti-social behaviour					
Lead					
Rec	Suggested Action	How	Priority	Resources	Timescale
13	The Parish Council to encourage relevant agencies to take appropriate action to minimise under-age alcohol sales in Grassmoor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council to ask Trading Standards (DCC) to undertake test purchases and publicity campaigns • Encourage the local Police to be pro-active in visiting and monitoring sales from local off licences and public houses 	2	GPC/DCC/ POL	
14	The Parish Council to seek to maximise coverage of the CCTV system to take account of current “hot spot” areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review camera positions regularly to ensure coverage of “hot spots”. • Undertake targeted monitoring at specific locations and at specific times of known problems • Consider additional cameras if necessary 	3	GPC/DCC/ POL	On-going
15 (a)	The Parish Council to continue to press for more Police resources to be dedicated to Grassmoor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Police to ensure Police coverage is centred around times it is most needed. • Liaison with the police through SNT meetings and other forums 	1	GPC	On-going
15 (b)	The Parish Council to encourage the Police to look at measures which can help restore public confidence in the Police.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articles on the Website and in the Newsletter • Local “forum” meetings involving voluntary groups business etc 	1	GPC/VG/L B/GPS	On-going
16	The Police to be encouraged to promote the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes with a view to more Schemes being introduced in the Parish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canvas local communities to establish schemes in their areas • Provide support to help establish and maintain 	3	GPC/POL/ VG	On-going

Aim:6.0	To reduce the level of litter and dog fouling in the village and improve the Parish “street scene”				
Lead					
Ref:	Suggested Action	How	Priority	Resources	Timescale
17(a)	Undertake an audit of litter bin provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review existing litter bin locations to identify gaps in provision 	2	GPC	
17(b)	Subject to (a) above, the Parish Council to look at additional litter bin provision as necessary and subject to available funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible additional provision (including provision from local shops) 		GPC/NEDDC/LB	
18(a)	The District Council be encouraged to stage community clean events in the Parish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with District Council to arrange suitable date and consider making it an annual event. 	3	NEDDC/GP C	On-going
18(b)	The Parish Council to consider organising local clean up campaigns aimed at specific problem areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using young people from the village organised through the Youth Service. 	3	GPC/DCC	
19	The District Council be asked to look at the provision of recycling facilities in the Parish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publicise existing facilities Work with County/District/Parish Councils to additional facilities such as for plastics Publicity campaign to encourage use 	3	GPC/NEDDC/DCC	
20	The Parish Council be asked to give a commitment that the Streetcleaner can be called upon to use the graffiti clean up kit to remove graffiti within 48 hours of it being reported.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim to clear graffiti within 48 hours Purchase clean-up equipment if economical Utilise PCs Street cleaner using kit supplied free 	3	GPC	

21	The District Council be encouraged to be proactive in dealing with dog fouling issues in the Parish and to prosecute offenders where there is sufficient evidence to do so.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review existing dog bin locations to identify gaps in provision • Possible additional provision • Encourage local people to report offenders • Greater publicity and use of signage 	2	GPC/NEDD C	
22(a)	(a) The Parish Council to take account of streetscene considerations in organising and undertaking its activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan purchase a street furniture to ensure greater co-ordination 	3	GPC/NEDD C	
22(b)	The Parish Council to encourage local businesses and organisations to take account of streetscene considerations in undertake their activities and business.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with local providers to agree on style of street furniture. 	2	GPC/NEDD C/LB	
22(c)	Action to be taken to improve the appearance of “eyesores” with in the Parish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sights considered to be eyesores • Action to be taken with property owners, local businesses, the Parish Council, the District Council and the County Council to improve problem areas. 	3	GPC/NEDD C/DCC/LB	
23	The Parish Council to give consideration to reinstating some .of the public seating in the village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible locations identified • Programme of replacement established. 	3	GPC	
24(a)	The Parish Council to seek sponsorship of hanging baskets by local businesses as a possible means of increasing the number of hanging baskets provided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify possible locations and obtain necessary permissions • Examine funding options including sponsorship by local businesses. 	4	GPC/NEDD C/LB	
24(b)	The Parish Council to continue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify possible locations and obtain necessary 	4	GPC/NEDD	

	discussions with the District Council regarding floral displays on the roundabout on the B6038, utilising sponsorship if possible.	permissions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine funding options including sponsorship by local businesses. 		C/LB	
25	The Parish Council to seek to replace the existing two brick built shelters utilising if possible grant funding from the County Council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 		GPC/DCC Encourage the local Police to be pro-active in visiting and monitoring sales from local off licences and public houses	

Index:

- GPC – Grassmoor, Hasland & Winsick Parish Council
- NEDDC - North East Derbyshire District Council
- DCC – Derbyshire County Council
- LB – Local Business
- VG – Voluntary Groups
- POL – Police
- GPS – Grassmoor Primary School

June 2011