

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Community Plan has been prepared by the Northallerton and Villages Community Plan Steering Group as a vehicle to bid for monies from a variety of funding sources in the area. The plan will also be used to influence existing budget spend at a more strategic level through the Hambleton Community Plan.

1.2 The Northallerton and Villages Community Plan Steering Group was established on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2001. The Steering Group is made up of local people, the voluntary sector and representatives of the County, District and Parish Councils. A full list of members and the organisations represented is on page

The first public meeting was held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2001 when 46 organisations were invited. Since then, information about the meetings and activities has been made available via the Hambleton District Council website.

1.3 The plan covers a wide range of issues affecting the community of Northallerton and surrounding villages. These have been identified by work that has already been undertaken by other organisations, the views of those working and living in the area, and the work of community and voluntary organisations in the area.

1.4 The plan is a moving document to cover a ten year period. There is plenty of scope for voluntary groups new and old, and people with a special interest in matters of community concern, to get involved in doing something about those concerns and including these in the plan.

1.5 The Community Plan follows this format:

Section 2 Provides a Healthcheck summary based on the Countryside Agency's Market Towns Healthcheck Handbook, April 2001. Also includes cross references to the Action Plan.

Section 3 Outlines the process of consultation and community involvement undertaken to inform the Community Plan

Section 4 Sets out the projects put forward by the Steering Group, with proposed timescale, sources of funding and partners.

Section 5 Summarises the process and identifies plans for the future. *To be completed following consultation in November 2002.*

Section 6 Provides details on how people can become involved in the further development of the plan, and/or delivery of the action plan.

**2.0 NORTHALLERTON AND DISTRICT TODAY**

**2.1 Environment**

***Character and Vitality of the Town***

- Northallerton is one of a number of market towns, characteristic of the Vale of York, as much in terms of its townscape features as its economic base.
- It is the ‘County Town of North Yorkshire’, formerly the North Riding, which is reflected in its rather grand stock of public buildings.
- There are 9 conservation areas within the Northallerton and Villages Community Plan area.
- The character of the Town Centre is reinforced by the large concentration of Listed Buildings in the centre of the High Street.
- Areas of poor landscape include The Mount (Grade II Listed Building), the former Great Mills site, the subway close to the Library and the backland to the east of the High Street.
- Pedestrian routes leading onto the High Street need enhancing. Good examples are the Market Row and Garthway Arcade.
- Northallerton Town Centre is fairly diverse in its mix of retail, office and entertainment uses. Particular entertainment type uses are absent these include a theatre, museum, art gallery and cinema.

***Priority actions and action plan references***

2	Encourage the protection / enhancement of key sites in Northallerton town – e.g. Applegarth, The Mount, Parish Church, Porch House, The Fleece Inn
6	Encourage Parish Councils to produce a Vital Villages Parish Plan - (Parish plan in progress - Appleton Wiske)
13	Improve pedestrian routes between car parks and town centre. Requires tidying, lighting and signage
26	Encourage members of the community to be involved in the monitoring and protection of listed buildings in their own communities via publicity
65	Protect the ambience of the town and all surrounding villages of Northallerton (e.g. village greens)

***The Countryside***

- The area is rural in nature with Northallerton being the key settlement surrounded by smaller villages and hamlets.
- The Vale of Mowbray comprises the majority of the landscape character, which is gently undulating and mainly comprises small fields used for pasture with some larger arable areas.
- Osmotherley lies at the east of the area and here the landscape character changes from the Vale of Mowbray to the more dramatic landscape of the North York Moors National Park.

- Due to the high fertility of the Vale of Mowbray farming is a major industry and has had a considerable impact on the landscape quality producing an open and less diverse landscape.
- The District Council has given a high priority to landscape policies and will seek to protect and enhance the landscape throughout the (district wide local) plan area.
- There are 5 Sites of Nature Conservation in the Northallerton area.

***Priority actions and action plan references***

57	Actively promote the Hambleton Biodiversity Plan
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***Links between town and country***

- Northallerton, as a typical rural market town, has a number of communication routes which provide physical as well as visual links into its surrounding hinterland.
- There are good links with larger towns (York, Darlington and Middlesbrough) in the area through the railway network and good A class roads to the North and South of the town.
- The historic commercial links between Northallerton and its Hinterland are still apparent through the existing cattle market and the lairage and Railway Hotel close to the station. A little known watermill also survives in part on Mill Lane.
- The approach by rail to the town from York to the South provides a very significant key opportunity to enhance first impressions of the town for visitors. As yet this has not been taken up.
- In terms of other non-motorised links with the Hinterland important cycleways come into the town from Borrowby and Brompton and the footpath network west of the Castlehills area is locally important.

***Priority actions and action plan references***

10	Encourage promotion of the town (signage etc) for visitors including the approach by rail from York to enhance first impressions for visitors
39	Improve / enhance gateways into the town from the Northwest and Southeast directions. Possible scope for enhancement planting etc.
58	Promote Northallerton to be included on the National Bus Routes
68	Improve / develop the Station House

## 2.2 Economy

### **Employment**

- Employment in Hambleton is 87.3% of the working age in employment, which is 12.7% higher than for Great Britain as a whole.
- Labour Participation Rates for the district are higher than the national figures with a lower proportion of the population in the district identified as of working age compared with the national figures.
- Northallerton's major employers are in the public sector departments, North Yorkshire County Council, Hambleton District Council, DEFRA, the Health Services, the Prison, Police and Fire Services.
- The majority of businesses in Hambleton have 1 – 4 employees.

### **Priority actions and action plan references**

11	Help young people to access work and training by supporting the Wheels 2 Work scheme or other transport grants
14	Develop strategies which keep young people in the area by offering good employment opportunities
15	Develop strategies which attract back to the area young people who have left to attend Higher Education
16	Promote inward investment with links to infrastructure (eg. Transport / business rates)
22	Promote Northallerton to attract more diverse / larger businesses to counter the over reliance on Local Government as an employer
27	Undertake niche marketing of local products to support agricultural businesses – farmers markets
40	Identify and deliver skills gap training, creating an up-to-date workforce which will attract knowledge based industries
41	Promote local opportunities for training craftsmen to meet skills demand e.g. electricians, bricklayers, plumbers
42	Promote support for micro businesses (i.e. 5 or less employees) which form the vast majority of local economy
43	Introduce an integrated transport system co-ordinating timing for employment within Northallerton from outlying villages

### ***Retail and Town Centre Services***

- The market town of Northallerton is the main shopping / service provider for area, although people will travel further afield to Thirsk, Stokesley, Darlington, York, Leeds etc.
- Small shops, sometimes incorporating post offices mainly serve the villages although some areas have no shopping facilities.
- The area is well serviced by Northallerton town with all the major service providers located in the town, this includes the Local Authorities, Health Services, Emergency Services, Banks, Libraries, Post Office and variety of shops.
- The main gaps in service provision relate to cultural facilities in that there is no cinema, theatre or museum.
- There has been an increase in retail space in the town over the past two years, although there are currently 5 vacant properties with town centre locations.
- There is a twice-weekly market, a monthly farmers market and a weekly livestock mart, none of which are under any imminent threat.

### ***Priority actions and action plan references***

3	Actively promote Northallerton market
28	Promote farmers markets
44	Investigate ring fencing monies received from Northallerton market to be re-invested in the Northallerton area
45	Develop a retail strategy to improve the range of retail services. Commission a retail survey
46	Develop the yards into the town from the main car parks using Market Row and Garthway arcades as an example

### ***Training and Education***

- Two schools in Northallerton deliver secondary education. Pupils aged 11 – 14 attend the Allertonshire School and pupils who are 14+ attend Northallerton College.
- Pupils attending Northallerton College taking 5 or more GCSE/GNVQ at Grades A\* - C are above the national average for England.
- In comparison with other schools in North Yorkshire, pupils have been at or above the County average for 2 of the last 4 years for GCSE's.
- The percentage of pupils with 5 or more GCSE's (A\* - C) for Northallerton College was 51% in 2001 and 56% in 2002 which, for both years, are above the national average.
- The Allertonshire School and Northallerton College have technology status.
- The expenditure on nursery and pre-school pupils under 5 in North Yorkshire in the year 2000/2001 was £1853.00, the lowest of

comparable authorities and almost 50% of the highest spending authority.

- Non vocational courses are available in Northallerton and in the villages.

***Priority actions and action plan references***

17	Encourage public debate and raise public awareness of the current and future of secondary and further education
18	Implement strategies to engage traditionally non-participant groups in learning
23	Support schools in tackling disaffected and disadvantaged students whose underperformance and disruptive behaviour is an increasing cause for concern
25	Support training / learning opportunities for people with learning disabilities and mental health. Existing projects include Workcrafts and Chopsticks
47	Diversify existing Adult Education provision to provide further opportunities for formal and informal learning at all levels
48	Target local skills needs through focused training and learning opportunities

***Commercial and Industrial Property Needs***

- Not yet available

***Tourism and Visitor Services***

- The main tourist attraction in the Northallerton area is Mount Grace Priory, near Osmotherley, which is the best preserved 14<sup>th</sup> Century Carthusian priory in the Country.
- The town is mainly promoted as a shopping destination with regard to the variety of shops and twice weekly market.
- There is a wide range of accommodation available in the area for visitors.
- There is a Tourist Information Centre in the town centre which is reasonably well used.
- Tourism figures for the third quarter in 2000 show that there was just over 2000 enquiries made, compared to 16,000 for Thirsk in the same period suggests a low number of visitors coming into the area in relation to Tourism.
- Northallerton Town enters the Yorkshire in Bloom competition each year, however outlying villages are more inconsistent in entering the Village of the Year and Village Ventures competitions, which are both, run every three years. Northallerton's entry into Britain in Bloom in

2001 has led to an increased level of sponsorship for planning in the town.

**Priority actions and action plan references**

4	Support the development of a town trail, promotion and local artists could support this – links to cycle paths, heritage trails, walks etc.
19	Increase promotion of Northallerton as a tourist destination – e.g. development of a bed & breakfast guide for the area
29	Improve signage and information in the town centre
30	Raise profile and increase the community involvement of the area including design of a good quality community website
49	Improve signage of Northallerton in towns outside the area (i.e. Middlesbrough) and on entry routes into Northallerton
59	Provide a museum / art gallery in the town

**Business Support**

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**No actions identified for this theme**

**2.3 Social and Community**

**Population**

- Northallerton, Romanby and Brompton wards - 18,110.
- Appleton Wiske, Morton-on-Swale, Osmotherley & The Cowtons - 6,270.
- 74.28% of population in Northallerton CIP area live in the Town with 25.72% living in the hinterland.
- Number of residents aged 60+ in area = 5,500 (22.56% of population).
- Number of residents under 16 in area = 4,600 (18.87% of population).
- Employee jobs in area = 14,500 (59.47% of population).
- There has been an increase in Population of the area of 5.8% over 8 years.

**No actions identified for this theme**

**Housing**

- The District Council Housing Needs Survey 1999 confirms that there are 7,284 households in Northallerton, Romanby and Brompton with a further 2,420 in the Northallerton Villages.

- In the District as a whole the tenure split is 70% owner occupied, 15% Local Authority / Housing Association rented and 15% private rented / other.
- There are low levels of smaller property availability and affordable housing for younger people with house prices rising from between 10% and 15% over the last year.
- In Northallerton, Romanby and Brompton and outlying villages some 384 households were in unsuitable accommodation at the time of the survey and 291 households were in housing need.
- As part of the District Council Local Plan review additional land will be sought for further housing development in the area.
- Northallerton town centre is predominately retail including space over properties, although development of these into flats in the future should be encouraged.

***Priority actions and action plan references***

5	Give support in identifying suitable properties/sites and encouraging young people to stay in the area.
37	Lobby to lower the threshold for new housing developers to provide affordable housing

***Health and Public Safety***

- Mortality rates for Hambleton are below the national and North Yorkshire average except for stroke conditions, which are higher. For suicide, the rates are higher than for North Yorkshire as a whole but on a par with the national average.
- The main health care services are available in the town, although some people find it difficult to access NHS Dentists, and some find it difficult to get to the Doctors surgery due to lack of public transport provision. There is however a shortfall in the provision of drug clinics.
- The crime rate in the area is low but the fear of crime is high. There are problems with vandalism and drug-related crime particularly in the open spaces in the town.
- There are concerns about pollution from standing traffic particularly when the crossings are down and poor water quality.

***Priority actions and action plan references***

20	Develop Youth Work projects to enable young people to identify risk taking in health issues and to engage in positive behaviour reducing youth crime (vandalism etc)
24	Develop systems to reduce flooding
31	Engage in further research into accident black spots especially involving pedestrians, cyclists and motor cyclists to identify how to prevent accidents in future

32	Support projects that will reduce the fear of crime in the area, e.g. Neighbourhood Watch promotion
50	Support projects that will reduce vandalism in the area.
60	Provide better public transport facilities to medical services (to Middlesbrough, Darlington and Northallerton)
69	Provide a mobile health unit to isolated villages

### ***Local Government and Community Organisations***

- Northallerton has very good access to the Local Authority (County, District and Town) although County and District Councillors do not have local surgeries.
- There are 134 voluntary organisations in Northallerton and District. Support for community activities is high in some villages, i.e. Appleton Wiske.
- The level of political involvement is about average for Hambleton. The voter turnout is above the national average.
- There are Community Development Officers available in the town to support communities based at the District and County offices. There is also a Local Development Agency based in Northallerton, which offers a range of support to voluntary and community organisations.

### ***Priority actions and action plan references***

6	Encourage Parish Councils to produce a Vital Villages Parish Plan - (Parish plan in progress - Appleton Wiske)
7	Promote community planning process. Encourage wider involvement
30	Raise profile and increase the community involvement of the area including design of a good quality community website
33	Develop community venues as ICT access points and learning centres
56	Provide suitable accommodation for voluntary / community organisations. Identification of need required (survey / consultation)
70	Extend the expansion of community offices to outlying villages using existing community buildings and opportunity to influence locations

### ***Sport, Leisure and Open Space***

- There is a wide range of sports facilities available within the Northallerton area, however people in outlying villages face barriers in

terms of accessing some of the facilities due to rural isolation and poor public transport networks.

- Many of the sporting activities in Northallerton are membership clubs / organisations therefore people can find it difficult to ‘try out’ certain activities before committing themselves to such membership.
- Northallerton Town Council and Hambleton District Council manage the existing open spaces in Northallerton. Local people have expressed the need to improve facilities available on the Applegarth.
- There are currently projects for a skatepark and all weather pitch being developed in Northallerton.

***Priority actions and action plan references***

8	Create a youth council for consultations / feedback etc. Needs to be a diverse representation of young people
21	Support the development of Northallerton Skatepark
34	Undertake a feasibility study to investigate the need for a mobile cinema facility to be used at local community centres / halls etc
35	Lobby for concessionary rates for young people / students to use local leisure facilities
61	Give support to outlying villages for recreation facilities
62	Sustain existing Internet provision in Northallerton District and support developing service in line with client needs
64	Encourage organisations to offer ‘taster sessions’ within their clubs for leisure activities
66	Research need for internet provision in Northallerton and surrounding villages
71	Preserve and enhance green space in the town and village greens / playgrounds, e.g. The Applegarth Park

***Culture and Heritage***

- To be completed

***Priority actions and action plan references***

54	Improve public access to archives and libraries
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***2.4 Transport and Accessibility***

***Ease of Travel outside Northallerton and the Local Area***

- All of the settlements in the Northallerton area are within 7 miles of the A1 or A19.

- Darlington is the nearest large town to Northallerton, a typical car journey takes 32 minutes compared to 13 minutes by train and 49 minutes by bus
- Northallerton station on the east coast main line is half a mile from the High Street.
- Northallerton is only served by one long distance scheduled coach services.
- An area by the Buck Inn on the High Street serves as a bus terminus in Northallerton.
- Direct bus services are available from Northallerton to York and Darlington but not Stockton or Middlesbrough. York, Darlington and Middlesbrough have direct train services.

***Priority actions and action plan references***

1	Provide bus shelters and travel information in the town centre and elsewhere (NYCC)
72	Encourage Parish Councils to carry out transport needs surveys as a pre-requisite to a parish transport grant

***Ease of Access to Services in Northallerton***

- Few settlements in the Northallerton area have no bus service to the town, villages such as Morton on Swale and Osmotherley enjoy a good service (suitable for travel to and from work) but Appleton Wiske has only one bus a day Monday to Friday.
- Only the new Stokesley service operates low floor accessible buses.
- Social car schemes and accessible minibuses are available in the Northallerton area.
- Various conventional and some wheelchair accessible taxis are available.
- Most services are within a reasonable walking distance of the High Street with the exception of the leisure centre and District Council Offices at Stone Cross.
- People with mobility problems have difficulty getting to the Friarage Hospital and the two health centres.
- Hambleton District Council and North Yorkshire County Council have user friendly websites providing information on a wide variety of services.

***Priority actions and action plan references***

9	Engage a full access audit of the town centre including all publicly accessible buildings resulting in planned improvements
11	Help young people to access work and training by supporting the Wheels 2 Work scheme or other transport grants
38	Develop a scheme to address the transport difficulties experienced by people visiting the Friarage Hospital, the leisure facilities and District Council Offices at Stonecross and 2 health centres

51	Develop transport services designed to provide access to evening leisure facilities
52	Investigate ICT connectivity issues for the area especially broadband provision and timescale
67	Investigate ways of addressing car parking issues

### ***Ease of Movement around Northallerton***

- The three railway crossings when closed quickly grid lock traffic in the town centre.
- Most of the car parks are full between 9am and 6pm every day throughout the year.
- There are less than 20 parking bays for the disabled (a small proportion of the total).
- An access audit on all council offices open to the public found NONE were fully accessible.
- Only about a third of shops are accessible to those in wheelchairs.
- The High Street can be congested on market day making crossing the road dangerous.

### ***Priority actions and action plan references***

12	Improve the availability of door to door demand responsive transport to those in need by funding the voluntary community transport sector
36	Introduce a shopmobility scheme offering electric scooters and other appropriate services to those with mobility problems
53	Establish a group to review signage to improve access and information in and around the town centre
55	Encourage the provision and promotion of cycling paths in, through and to the area. Produce maps of cycle routes, incl. Heritage routes. Taster sessions / guided cycle tours
63	Keep the level crossing issue on the agenda

### **3.0 PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Full detailed analysis of all the consultations has been included as appendices.

The group has undertaken a number of consultations with the public to encourage as great an amount of involvement as possible. The methods used were as follows:

1. 21<sup>st</sup> November 2002 - An initial questionnaire used at a Northallerton Charities Fayre exhibition (47 responses)
2. January – March 2002 - Distribution of a questionnaire to Northallerton College (332 responses)
3. 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2002 - Tour of 3 outlying villages using the Community Safety Partnership vehicle and visiting villages for an hour and half (30 visitors)
4. 8<sup>th</sup> May 2002 - Hosting an Exhibition in Northallerton in partnership with the key service providers in the area (Hambleton District Council, North Yorkshire County Council, Community Transport, Northallerton Town Council, Community Safety, National Farmers Union and the Chamber of Commerce) (100 visitors)
5. May 2002 - Circulation of questionnaire to local organisations working with traditional 'hard to reach groups' (8 responses)
6. December 2002 – Action Plan consultation distributed to over 50 organisations in the area, including Parish Councils, for feedback / input into the plan. (13 responses)

#### **3.1 Results**

All of the information was analysed by the group and broken down into themes that were based on those that were adopted by the Hambleton Community Plan Steering Group as follows:

##### **(i) Transport**

Older people and young people alike are concerned with the lack of public transport, especially from outlying villages. Transport needs to be more regular and reliable to encourage people to use it. Young people wanted better services on an evening, especially from transport that they could use to take them to and from nightclubs. Young people have also commented on the expense of public transport. There was also a need for more bus shelters identified, and even a suggestion that more people would use public transport if shelters were available.

The level crossings are an issue of concern for local people due to road traffic delays that they cause.

Lack of parking is a major issue for people in Northallerton Town Centre, with comments also being made about parking in Broomfield Avenue.

People in Brompton would like to see the railway station re-opened. Morton on Swale residents require a by-pass. Appleton Wiske residents are concerned about the road safety outside their school.

## **(ii) Leisure**

A number of leisure issues / needs have been raised by the local community.

A better pool is required that people are able to swim in. Also the pool should be available to the public more instead of for schools. Young people raised that they find the leisure centre expensive and would benefit from student discounts.

A number of people supported the need for a skatepark and astroturf pitch. Comments were received from young people and adults. Appleton Wiske has also identified the need for a skatepark in their village due to difficulties with rural access to town centre facilities. People would also like to see a cinema / theatre in Northallerton.

Older people would like more leisure facilities available, i.e. ballroom dancing and also places where they can sit and walk i.e. a public park. Concern was expressed over the slippage on the appeal for Applegarth Park.

People see cycle paths as very important and would eventually like to see them all joined up in the Northallerton area to make cycling even safer.

There needs to be more activities for the under 5's and young people. Better parks and a café for older children would be welcome.

## **(iii) Environment**

There have been a lot of comments received on litter and dog fouling in the area. People have suggested more litter bins being made available and an improved enforcement of dog fouling offenders.

People have requested more recycling facilities throughout the area, especially in rurally isolated villages. The new kerbside recycling scheme has been well received.

Young people were concerned over empty buildings not being used, and certain environmental features to be addressed, planting of more foliage and becks to be properly cleaned. People are against more pylons in the area. There has also been a suggestion to relocate the Auction Mart in Northallerton and replace with a bus station. The bus breakers yard in Brompton has been identified as an 'eyesore'. There is also call for a public park to be developed in Northallerton.

People have also commented on the lack of flood prevention mechanisms, and support in filling / moving sandbags in such events.

**(iv) Access**

Most people feel that it is important to protect local services in particular shops and post offices this was mainly from people in the outlying villages. Young people have complained about no facilities at all in their village. There was a suggestion for Tesco's to be properly monitored to avoid trade being taken away from smaller local businesses.

Support is required for existing facilities in villages. Sports, leisure and transport systems have developed in villages driven by the needs of the local community. Rather than try to relocate these to the town or developing new facilities, which may or may not be used, it seems much more sensible to support organisations which are currently providing this range of services. Clearly they are economic and supported by residents as users primarily pay them for with outside funding generally used for capital projects.

Lack of other amenities is an issue. There is no cinema, theatre or arcade in Northallerton, and limited access, especially from the villages, to visit these attractions elsewhere in the District and / or further afield. Reference has been made to lack of transport availability to leisure facilities. Limited childcare availability is an issue, although this wasn't elaborated as to whether this was related to affordable childcare. Another concern is the lack of access to NHS dentists in the area. Also a need for bus timetables to be available at all bus stops.

**(v) Prosperity**

People in the area, especially young people, have commented on the lack of variety of shops in Northallerton, especially clothes shops and that there are too many charity shops.

Young people also found it difficult to access employment if under 16 and requested better ways of advertising for positions that they could fill on an evening and weekend. They also had concerns about the lack of employment opportunities in the area, and fear they will have to travel further afield for employment when they have completed their education.

The cost of renting in Northallerton for businesses is deemed high by some. A suggestion of developing a scheme for growing and selling locally produced food was made, in support of the farming community and the foot and mouth crisis.

Northallerton History Society identified the need to develop the potential of using the Battle of the Standard as tourism project.

**(vi) Community Safety**

The majority of people contacted have concerns about the lack of police presence within the local community. Young people have identified Brompton and Osmotherley as trouble spots.

Speeding traffic is a particular concern for the village communities. Following a mobile tour of the area and visiting three villages, this was their main source of concern. Specific areas related to traffic parking and speed control restrictions near schools. Some areas have complained about poor street lighting, and not feeling safe and others have concerns about young peoples antisocial behaviour that can sometimes feel threatening. Brompton villagers would like to see their neighbourhood watch scheme re-started as they feel it has come to a standstill.

Great Smeaton identified traffic calming issues to improve road safety in the village, especially concerning young and older people in the village. They have identified the need for a village by-pass, puffin crossing, dropped kerbs for members of the community using wheelchairs / prams, a bus shelter, public footpath through the village and improved street lighting. They also identified the need for a police presence in the village, especially after dark.

Northallerton Town Council supported initiatives to reduce the fear of crime but also highlighted the need to increase policing in general as they felt this would reduce both fear of crime and actual crime.

**(vii) Community Involvement / Social Inclusion / Balanced Communities**

People were concerned about the lack of influence the local community has on decisions made (i.e. planning, new developments etc). There was also concern about the lack of communication by NYCC when enquiries have been made in the past.

Some members of the community are worried about the lack of support for the farming community in light of declining businesses and the foot and mouth crisis

**(viii) Health**

The main issues for people in the Northallerton area with regards health was lack of access to the relocated Doctors surgeries in terms of public transport and the lack of NHS Dentists in the area.

**(ix) Education**

Comments received in relation to education have been minimal. People have expressed concern that there are limited night classes available for people who do not want to actually work to a qualification. There has also been mention of providing first aid training to schoolchildren.

**(x) Housing**

People have commented that there are too many new housing developments in the area. People are more concerned about the cost of housing and expressed a need to ensure that affordable housing is made available to people to enable them to remain in their own communities and not move further away to where properties are less expensive.

**NORTHALLERTON  
AND VILLAGES  
COMMUNITY PLAN  
  
ACTION PLAN**

## NORTHALLERTON AND VILLAGES COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN - KEY

### Partners and Sources of Funding

<b>BT</b>	British Telecom
<b>BTCV</b>	formally know as the British Trust of Conservation Volunteers
<b>CA</b>	Countryside Agency
<b>CA PTG</b>	Countryside Agency Parish Transport Grant
<b>CA RTP</b>	Countryside Agency Rural Transport Partnership
<b>CITB</b>	Construction Industry Training Board
<b>EYP</b>	Early Years Partnership
<b>H&amp;R RTP</b>	Hambleton and Richmondshire Rural Transport Partnership
<b>HARCAS</b>	Hambleton and Richmondshire Community Addiction Service
<b>HDC</b>	Hambleton District Council
<b>HE</b>	Higher Education
<b>HERS</b>	Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme
<b>LTP</b>	Local Transport Plan
<b>NCTLS</b>	Northallerton College Training and Learning Services
<b>NTC</b>	Northallerton Town Council
<b>NVSA</b>	Northallerton Voluntary Services Association
<b>NY LSC</b>	North Yorkshire Learning and Skills Council
<b>NYCC</b>	North Yorkshire County Council
<b>PC</b>	Parish Council
<b>RANY</b>	Rural Arts North Yorkshire
<b>RDC</b>	Richmondshire District Council
<b>SRB</b>	Single Regeneration Budget
<b>TIC</b>	Tourist Information Centre
<b>WEA</b>	Workers Education Association
<b>YRCC</b>	Yorkshire Rural Community Council

### Themes

<b>AS</b>	Ease of access to services
<b>BS</b>	Business Support
<b>C</b>	The Countryside
<b>CH</b>	Culture and Heritage
<b>CI</b>	Commercial and Industrial Property Needs
<b>CV</b>	Character and Vitality of the Town
<b>E</b>	Employment
<b>GC</b>	Local Government and Community Organisations
<b>H</b>	Housing
<b>HP</b>	Health and Public Safety
<b>MT</b>	Ease of movement around the town
<b>P</b>	Population
<b>RT</b>	Retail and Town Centre Services
<b>SLO</b>	Sport, Leisure and Open Space
<b>TC</b>	Links between the Town and Country
<b>TE</b>	Training and Education
<b>TLA</b>	Ease of travel outside the local area
<b>TV</b>	Tourism and Visitor Services

Ref. No.	Theme	Priority A, B or C (A being the highest)	Project Detail	Potential Partners & sources of funding	Timing
					Short 0-1 years Medium 1-3 years Long >3 years
1	TLA	A	Provide bus shelters and travel information in the town centre and elsewhere (NYCC)	NYCC have now installed bus shelters and timetable cases in the High Street and other locations in Northallerton	Completed
2	CV	A	Encourage the protection / enhancement of key sites in Northallerton town – e.g. Applegarth, The Mount, Parish Church, Porch House, The Fleece Inn	HDC, Allertonshire Civic Society, NTC, NYCC, TIC	Short
3	RT	A	Actively promote Northallerton market	Market Traders Association, NTC, HDC	Short
4	TV	A	Support the development of a town trail, promotion and local artists could support this – links to cycle paths, heritage trails, walks etc.	HDC, NTC, Parish Councils, SRB, TIC	Short
5	H	A	Give support in identifying suitable properties/sites and encouraging young people to stay in the area.	HDC, CA, SRB, Housing Associations	Short
6	CV GC	A	Encourage Parish Councils to access the Vital Villages scheme for parish plans to feed into the Community Plan document	Workshop / conference event with HDC, YRCC, Northallerton & Villages Community Plan group	Short
7	GC	A	Promote community planning process. Encourage wider involvement	HDC, Northallerton and Villages Community Plan Group	Short
8	SLO	A	Create a youth council for consultations / feedback etc. Needs to be a diverse representation of young people	College, Youth Groups, Youth Clubs, Connexions, Community Education	Short
25	TE	A	Support training / learning opportunities for people with learning disabilities	Lifelong Learning, SRB, Voluntary Organisations, Social Services	Short
9	AS	A	Engage in a full access audit of the town centre including all publicly accessible buildings resulting in planned improvements	Possibly in house by NYCC or HDC or NTC or a combination of these	Short

Ref. No.	Theme	Priority A, B or C (A being the highest)	Project Detail	Potential Partners & sources of funding	Timing Short 0-1 years Medium 1-3 years Long 3> years
10	TC	A	Encourage promotion of the town (signage etc) for visitors including the approach by rail from York to enhance first impressions for visitors	NYCC, Railtrack (Northallerton Station), Arriva / GNER, Wensleydale Railway Company	Short / Medium
11	E AS	A	Help young people to access work and training by supporting the Wheels 2 Work scheme or other transport grants	NVSA, H&R CTP, SRB, NY LSC, HDC, CA RTP & PTG, NYCC, RDC, Careers, Connexions, New Deal, NCTLS	Short / Medium
12	MT	A	Improve the availability of door to door demand responsive transport to those in need by funding the voluntary community transport sector	CA RTO and PTG, NYCC including via the LTP and Social Services, HDC, H&R PCT	Short / Medium
13	CV	A	Improve pedestrian routes between car parks and town centre. Requires tidying, lighting and signage	HDC, NTC, NYCC, Chamber of Trade, Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERS)?	Medium
14	E	A	Develop strategies which keep young people in the area by offering good employment opportunities	Yorkshire Forward, Northallerton College, HDC, NYCC, Chamber of Commerce, HE	Medium
15	E	A	Develop strategies which attract back to the area young people who have left to attend Higher Education	Yorkshire Forward, Northallerton College, HDC, NYCC, Chamber of Commerce, HE	Medium
16	E	A	Promote inward investment with links to infrastructure (eg. Transport / business rates)	NYCC (Passenger Transport), Hambleton and Richmondshire Community Transport Partnership	Medium

Ref. No.	Theme	Priority A, B or C (A being the highest)	Project Detail	Potential Partners & sources of funding	Timing
					Short 0-1 years Medium 1-3 years Long 3> years
17	TE	A	Encourage public debate and raise public awareness on the current and future role of Northallerton College	Northallerton College, Connexions, LSC, NYCC, NY LSC	Medium
18	TE	A	Implement strategies to engage traditionally non-participant groups in learning	Northallerton College Lifelong Learning, Connexions, LSC, Basic Skills Agency, NCTLS, EYP	Medium
19	TV	A	Increase promotion of Northallerton as a tourist destination – e.g. development of a bed & breakfast guide for the area	HDC, Tourist Information Centres	Medium
20	HP	A	Develop Youth Work projects to enable young people to identify risk taking in health issues and to engage in positive behaviour reducing youth crime (vandalism etc)	Northallerton College Lifelong Learning, Allertonshire School, Community Safety Partnership, Police, Primary Care Trust, HARCAS	Medium
21	SLO	A	Support the development of Northallerton Skatepark	Northallerton Wheelers, Northallerton College Lifelong Learning, NTC, HDC, SRB, Lottery Funding	Medium
22	E	A	Promote Northallerton to attract more diverse / larger businesses to counter the over reliance on Local Government as an employer	HDC, NYCC, Yorkshire Forward, Chamber of Commerce	Long
23	TE	A	Support schools in tackling disaffected and disadvantaged students whose underperformance and disruptive behaviour is an increasing cause for concern	All Northallerton Schools, NYCC Education, Connexions	Long
24	HP	A	Develop systems to reduce flooding	HDC, NYCC	Long

Ref. No.	Theme	Priority A, B or C (A being the highest)	Project Detail	Potential Partners & sources of funding	Timing Short 0-1 years Medium 1-3 years Long 3> years
26	CV	B	Encourage members of the community to be involved in the monitoring and protection of listed buildings in their own communities via publicity	HDC, NTC, Parish Councils, Allertonshire Civic Society	Short
27	E	B	Undertake niche marketing of local products to support agricultural businesses – farmers markets	HDC, National Farmers Union, Sam Turners, Supermarkets, Local Shops, Chamber of Trade	Short
28	RT	B	Promote farmers markets	HDC, National Farmers Union, Sam Turners	Short
29	TV	B	Improve signage and information in the town centre	NYCC, HDC, NTC	Short
30	TV GC	B	Raise profile and increase the community involvement of the area including design of a good quality community website	NVSA, NTC, Northallerton College, Millennium Volunteers, SRB, European Objective 3	Short
31	HP	B	Engage in further research into accident black spots especially involving pedestrians, cyclists and motor cyclists to identify how to prevent accidents in future	NYCC, HDC, North Yorkshire Police	Short
32	HP	B	Support projects that will reduce the fear of crime in the area, i.e. Neighbourhood Watch promotion	Parish Councils, Community Safety Partnership, Northallerton College Lifelong Learning	Short
33	GC	B	Develop community venues as ICT access points and learning centres	Northallerton College Lifelong Learning, NCTLS, BT, NYCC	Short

Ref. No.	Theme	Priority A, B or C (A being the highest)	Project Detail	Potential Partners & sources of funding	Timing Short 0-1 years Medium 1-3 years Long 3> years
34	SLO	B	Undertake a feasibility study to investigate the need for a mobile cinema facility to be used at local community centres / halls etc	RANY, Hambleton Arts	Short
35	SLO	B	Lobby for concessionary rates for young people / students to use local leisure facilities	HDC	Short
36	MT	B	Introduce a shopmobility scheme offering electric scooters and other appropriate services to those with mobility problems	CA RTP & PTG funds	Short
37	H	B	Lobby to lower the threshold for new housing developers to provide affordable housing	Hambleton Community Plan	Short
38	AS	B	Develop a scheme to address the transport difficulties experienced by people visiting the Friarage Hospital, the leisure facilities and District Council Offices at Stonecross and 2 health centres	NYCC, H&R PCT, CA RTP & PTG and PC's	Short / Medium
39	TC	B	Improve / enhance gateways into the town from the Northwest and Southeast directions. Possible scope for enhancement planting etc.	NTC, HDC, Environmental grants	Medium
40	E	B	Identify and deliver skills gap training, creating an up-to-date workforce which will attract knowledge based industries	HDC, NYCC, Yorkshire Forward, Chamber of Commerce, NCTLS	Medium
41	E	B	Promote local opportunities for training craftsmen to meet skills demand e.g. electricians, bricklayers, plumbers	NCTLS, CITB, NYLSC	Medium

Ref. No.	Theme	Priority A, B or C (A being the highest)	Project Detail	Potential Partners & sources of funding	Timing
					Short 0-1 years Medium 1-3 years Long >3 years
42	E	B	Promote support for micro businesses (i.e. 5 or less employees) which form the vast majority of local economy	Yorkshire Forward, NCTLS, HDC, NYCC, Chamber of Commerce	Medium
43	E	B	Introduce an integrated transport system co-ordinating timing for employment within Northallerton from outlying villages	NYCC (Passenger Transport), Hambleton and Richmondshire Community Transport Partnership	Medium
44	RT	B	Investigate ring fencing monies received from Northallerton market to be re-invested in the Northallerton area	Market Traders Association, NTC, HDC	Medium
45	RT	B	Develop a retail strategy to improve the range of retail services. Commission a retail survey	HDC, Chamber of Trade, Business Forum?	Medium
46	RT	B	Develop the yards into the town from the main car parks using Market Row and Garthway arcades as an example	HDC, NTC, NYCC, Chamber of Trade, Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERS)?	Medium
47	TE	B	Diversify existing Adult Education provision to provide further opportunities for formal and informal learning at all levels	Northallerton College Lifelong Learning, Connexions, NCTLS, Learndirect, LSC, WEA	Medium
48	TE	B	Target local skills needs through focused training and learning opportunities	NCTLS, Northallerton College Lifelong Learning, EYP	Medium
49	TV	B	Improve signage of Northallerton in towns outside the area (i.e. Middlesbrough) and on entry routes into Northallerton	NYCC, Highways Agency	Medium
50	HP	B	Support projects that will reduce vandalism in the area.	Community Safety Partnership, NTC, Northallerton College Lifelong Learning	Medium
51	AS	B	Develop transport services designed to provide access to evening leisure facilities	CA RTP & PTG, Leisure Businesses	Medium

Ref. No.	Theme	Priority A, B or C (A being the highest)	Project Detail	Potential Partners & sources of funding	Timing Short 0-1 years Medium 1-3 years Long 3> years
52	AS	B	Investigate ICT connectivity issues for the area especially broadband provision and timescale	Northallerton College Lifelong Learning, NCTLS, BT, NYCC	Medium
53	MT	B	Establish a group to review signage to improve access and information in and around the town centre	HDC, NYCC, TIC, NTC	Medium
54	CH	B	Improve public access to archives and libraries	County Archive, Local History Society, NYCC	Medium
55	MT	B	Encourage the provision and promotion of cycling paths in, through and to the area. Produce maps of cycle routes, incl. Heritage routes. Taster sessions / guided cycle tours	NYCC, HDC, Department of Transport, Northallerton Cycling Working Groups. Sustrans will be able to give advice	Medium / Long
56	GC	B	Provide suitable accommodation for voluntary / community organisations. Identification of need required (survey / consultation)	NYCC, NVSA, NTC	Long
57	CV	B	Actively promote of the Hambleton Biodiversity Plan	HDC, Parish Councils, BTCV	Long
58	TC	B	Promote Northallerton to be included on the National Bus Routes		Long
59	TV	B	Provide a museum / art gallery in the town		Long
60	HP	B	Provide better public transport facilities to medical services (to Middlesbrough, Darlington and Northallerton)	CA RTP, H&R PCT, Charitable Trusts, NY LSC, HDC	Long
61	SLO	B	Give support to outlying villages for recreation facilities	Parish Councils, HDC	Long
62	SLO	B	Sustain existing Internet provision in Northallerton District and support developing service in line with client needs	Northallerton College Lifelong Learning, NCTLS, Learndirect, Local On-line	Long

Ref. No.	Theme	Priority A, B or C (A being the highest)	Project Detail	Potential Partners & sources of funding	Timing Short 0-1 years Medium 1-3 years Long 3> years
63	MT	B	Keep the level crossing issue on the agenda	NYCC, Railtrack, NTC, HDC, Emergency Services	Long
64	SLO	C	Encourage organisations to offer 'taster sessions' within their clubs for leisure activities	HDC, Local Sports Clubs	Short
65	CV	C	Protect the ambience of the town and all surrounding villages of Northallerton (e.g. village greens)	HDC, Parish / Town Councils	Medium
66	SLO	C	Research need for internet provision in Northallerton and surrounding villages	HDC, NYCC Schools	Medium
67	AS	C	Investigate ways of addressing car parking issues	Already being addressed by HDC	Medium
68	TC	C	Improve / develop the Station House		Medium / Long
69	HP	C	Provide a mobile health unit to isolated villages	H&R PCT, South Tees Trust, Parish Councils	Long
70	GC	C	Extend the expansion of community offices to outlying villages using existing community buildings and opportunity to influence locations	NYCC, Parish Councils	Long
71	SLO	C	Preserve and enhance green space in the town and village greens / playgrounds, e.g. The Applegarth Park	Parish Councils, HDC	Long

## **5.0 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

Partners of the Northallerton and Villages Community Plan were consulted on the draft action plan and comments were taken on board by the Steering Group. Subject to some amendments the Steering Group endorsed the plan on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2002.

The steering group plan to undertake a more in depth consultation during February and March 2003 before an official launch of the plan in April 2003.

The group will ensure that the plan is updated on a regular basis to take into account Parish Plans or new priorities for the area.

## **6.0 HOW TO GET INVOLVED**

6.1 If you are interested in becoming involved with the development and implementation of the Northallerton and Villages Community Plan please express your interest in joining the Northallerton and Villages Community Forum which will be established in the autumn. For further details contact Lisa Bennington, Community Link Officer, Hambleton District Council, Civic Centre, Stone Cross, Northallerton, DL6 2UU, tel (01609) 767212 or email [lisa.bennington@hambleton.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.bennington@hambleton.gov.uk)

6.2 Parishes are also encouraged to research and produce their own Parish Plan. Funding is available from the Countryside Agency ([www.countryside.gov.uk](http://www.countryside.gov.uk) or telephone (0113) 2469 222) to support Parish Councils in delivering these projects. Local guidance and advice is provided by the Yorkshire Rural Community Council, telephone (01904) 645271. Completed plans will be incorporated into the Community Plan to ensure that it continues to identify the needs and priorities for the area.

6.3 Copies of the plan and regular updates of meetings are available on the Community Hambleton website, [www.communityhambleton.org](http://www.communityhambleton.org)

## **7.0 MEMBERS OF THE NORTHALLERTON AND VILLAGES COMMUNITY PLAN STEERING GROUP**

Judith Aird  
**Community Education**

Councillor Sally Anderson (Chair)  
**Northallerton Town Council**

Ken Blackwood  
**Appleton Wiske Parish Council**

Paul Brand  
**Yorkshire Rural Community Council**

Councillor John Coulson  
**Hambleton District Council**

Simon Cross  
**Northdale Horticulture**

Councillor Tony Hall  
**Hambleton District Council**

Shiela Gallagher  
**Northallerton CAB**

Peter King  
**Northallerton Youth Centre**

Hazel Kirby  
**Northallerton Voluntary Services Association**

Nancie McDougle  
**Community Member**

Erik Matthews  
**Brompton Village Design Statement Group**

Cllr Brian Phillips  
**Hambleton District Council**

Revd Keith M Phipps  
**Methodist Circuit**

Rhona Pringle  
**Hambleton District Council**

Lesley Shaw  
**Over 50's Forum**

Colin Walker  
**Chopsticks**