

# Hovingham & Scackleton Communities Plan

## What is happening?

An independent steering group of local volunteers, backed by the Parish Council, is canvassing the opinions of all residents and local businesses and organisations.

The purpose is to identify common aspirations and issues of concern, and to summarise these in a Community Plan.

The Community Plan can be used by the Parish Council, and other representative bodies, as evidence of local need and local support when considering priorities and seeking funding for projects.

## What do I need to do?

A questionnaire will be distributed to everyone in October, built on the themes emerging in the recent initial consultation. This will be your opportunity to register your views and influence the direction of local decision making... and it should take no more than 15 minutes of your time to complete it.

The responses will be compiled centrally by specialist staff from the Yorkshire Rural Community Council. The anonymity of individuals will be strictly maintained and the statistical results from the questionnaire will be independently and verifiably calculated.

The results of it will carry greater weight if there is a high response rate, so it is really important that you register your views.

## What is the point of it?

Important reasons why it is worth having a Community Plan include:

- identifying *with evidence* projects that local people want to be implemented
- identifying *with evidence* issues of concern that local people want to be addressed
- securing funding and resources for projects and initiatives (indeed some funders *demand* clear proof of local need and local support)
- raising the profile of local needs and potentially encouraging volunteers to come forward

## Experience of Hutton-Le-Hole

Hutton-Le-Hole developed their plan four years ago, based on a questionnaire with an 87% response rate. Since then they have secured funding of over £50,000 for a number of projects, including:

- £27,000 for building work, heating, decoration and equipment for village hall
- £15,000 for landscaping work and boundary walls
- £8,000 for sports facilities, including basketball posts, goal posts and youth shelter
- £3,000 of grants for youth club

We can't necessarily expect funding at the same level – indeed some funding sources have disappeared (but, then again, other new ones have been introduced).

However, it shows us what sort of things can flow from the completion of a well-supported and well-thought through Community Plan. And one thing we can be sure of is that it would have been much harder for them to get these projects undertaken without the evidence contained in their plan.

**hovingham.org.uk**