

ROOS PARISH COUNCIL

LOCAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT –Roos Parish Prepared by Chameleon Consultancy - January 2019

A RESPONSE TO THE FINAL REPORT

Section 12: Summary of Issues and Recommendations (pages 65 – 73)

“12.1 This section summarises the evidence from all methods; questionnaires, discussion groups, engagement with local groups and services.

12.2 The overall population growth is in line with the county and region, although the mix of age groups shows a growth in the older age groups for the parish, those aged 65 and over accounted for 16% of the parish in 2001 but account for 22% of the parish in 2011. The 30 to 44 age group has declined by 21% when comparing 2011 to 2001.

12.3 The parish is an attractive place to live with 20% of respondents migrating into the area in the last five years and 18% migration out of the area mainly for employment and further education. There is some concern that without attracting younger people the parish will become a retirement village. Residents are keen to protect the rural environment and many aspects relate to this.

12.4 The household composition shows 46% of households are comprised of two-persons, reflecting the elderly population. While detached homes account for 50% of the housing type and there is very little property available to rent. A third of respondents will need to move in the near future and the main reason cited is to downsize. No specialist housing needs are demanded.

12.5 The housing stock needs to be addressed such that there are smaller properties for elderly couples to downsize into and the detached family homes are available to attract young families either through a mortgage or privately renting. The community-led housing options support this approach with self-build being favoured by older residents in two-person households who perhaps wish to build their own smaller property to move into. A community land trust was favoured by 55% of respondents, particularly younger age groups and families, supporting a need for affordable housing. While house prices were only an issue for 11% of respondents this increased to 25% for 18 to 24-year olds and 31% for 25 to 34-year olds who are first time buyers and young families.

Response: A clear distinction needs to be maintained between reasonably priced 'starter homes' and Affordable Housing. Affordable Housing comes under National

Planning Policies and such housing is administered by a Housing Association or the ERYC. The level of demand is established through ERYC's Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2016-2021 and, ERYC Affordable Housing Addendum July 2016. ERYC maintains a register of requests and the level of demand.

- 12.6 The proposed development off Beechwood Views is the greatest concern for the future of the parish. Respondents feel that lodges do not meet the need of the parish and this is supported by the evidence in this needs assessment. The parish plan recommended affordable homes would be built and these would bring children into the village. Beechwood Views is populated by young families with one point of access. There are valid concerns that it would impact on the community spirit as leisure owners would not contribute to the parish. A similar development by the same company does not fit the profile of the parish.

Response: This particular planning application lies outside the normally understood definition of housing development and is a major concern for most residents and the PC. Strong representations have been made to ERYC about the application 'for change of use' from a conventional building development to a residential caravan park. The original application for conventional housing was approved by both ERYC and Roos PC and included provision for a small number of Affordable Homes. These would be administered by the appropriate body. This application has yet to be considered by ERYC.

Many residents have stated on numerous occasions that they do not want further housing development in Roos. However, the ERYC Local Plan has determined that some modest development is planned to meet the future housing needs for Roos Parish. The level of demand is determined by the outcomes of the ERYC Housing Needs Survey, which takes into account demographic trends and identified needs. Presently the land required to meet a five+ year housing need has been identified. Suggestions, such as 'community land trust' developments lie outside the remit of the PC. There are no such designated sites identified for such development within the Local Plan.

- 12.7. There needs to be a clear vision of who the parish represents, which would then drive decisions on the provision of housing, facilities and activities. The present offering has deficits for all age groups; notably access to facilities for older generations and restrictive housing and clubs for younger age groups. If younger families are to be encouraged to stay in the parish there needs to be a greater provision for both adults and children.

Response: Roos Parish Council has a very 'clear vision' that it represents the whole parish without any form of discrimination.

The “drive for decisions on provision of housing” lies outside the remit of Roos Parish Council to determine.

Settlements across the Parish are currently well represented by Councillors who reside in Owstwick and Hilston. Unfortunately residents of Tunstall have not stood for election and do not normally attend parish council meetings to present their concerns.

12.8 What is most important to all residents is feeling safe and the strong community spirit. This was reflected in the survey, focus groups, clubs and by school children. It is positive that these two factors require least improvement in the parish, although those aged 25 to 34 felt community spirit needed improving, perhaps because this age group experiences most of the issues raised such as accessible housing, employment opportunities and provision for young families. Half of respondents are retired whereas a fifth of respondents who work have to travel more than 20 miles.

12.9 Public transport is considered as important by 34% of respondents but 78% feel it needs improvement, this increases to 82% for 65 and over age group. This is of particular concern due to accessing services, especially medical services, outside of the parish and is the main reason given as to what respondents would improve if they could change anything. The removal of a bus to Hull is the greatest concern as buses now only go Withernsea and Hornsea where services are closing. Nearly all (95%) of respondents travel by car as the driver or passenger. Similarly, the loss of services is of concern for the future with respondents fearing the parish will become cut off from other areas. It was suggested the double decker service to Withernsea could use a minibus, this would also improve congestion issues.

Response: Provision of public transport is dependent upon passenger numbers and fare income. Whilst the ERYC has a positive rural transport policy, exemplified by the HART Service CB3, this particular service is presently subsidised by Wind Farm Community Funds. It remains a ‘pilot service’ from Roos, via Burton Pidsea to Hedon and then on to Sandhills Garden Centre and Asda, Bilton. There is a low passenger number take up from Roos and the service may not be sustainable over the longer term without on-going subsidy, particularly from renewable energy funds.

Access to medical facilities is provided by both ERYC and the NHS, through for example, e.g. Medibus - a pre-bookable ‘door to door’ service available for both patients and visitors. Information is published in the surgeries. Hospitals also have systems in place to deliver post operative patients to their home address. In practice, most people prefer either friends or family to take them in, or bring them home after consultation or treatment.

Mibus, a pre-bookable service has a pick up point in Roos – one day a week.

12.10 Roads and access to road networks is important to 41% with 29% feeling it needs

improvement and this was consistent across ages. Improved signage is required to alleviate the traffic/caravans to caravan parks away from smaller roads This is a key issue in Tunstall as the road to the sea is now a dead end. Traffic congestion is a greater issue for those aged 45 and over and particularly those who have lived in the parish over 10 years. This may be because they have noticed the increase in traffic over time.

Response: Suggestions for improvement of signage, particularly to Sand Le Mere are welcome. Perhaps, Seaside Road should have prominent signposting such as a 'road closed' or 'no through sign', or, 'no access to Sand Le Mere'. This is a matter that can be brought forward for consideration by the ERYC. Similarly, Sand Le Mere should update their 'How to find us' map as it still shows a road open along the cliff top. These matters have not been brought to the attention of Roos PC prior to this survey.

12.11 The increase in cars travelling through and to the parish is an issue. The impact of industrial development has partly attributed to the rise in larger vehicles travelling through rural villages and the development of chicken farms and wind turbines is listed as a future concern not just on traffic levels but as an impact on rural living. There is also a rise in traffic accessing the caravan parks and this brings the issue of caravans trying to turn around in village lanes due to poor signage and increased litter from holidaymakers. Restrictions on vehicle size and speed in key locations should be considered. Hodgson Lane is used as a cut through, speeding vehicles, large agricultural/industrial vehicles and parking at the junction with Main Street make this dangerous for all particularly as there is no pavement.

Response: Traffic through Roos is likely to increase over time, particularly as Withernsea is designated for both commercial and leisure industry development. Main Street, (B1242) through Roos is the main coastal road linking villages between Lisset and Withernsea and beyond. Rectory Road which by-passes the centre of Roos village provides a direct route, to Patrington to Easington and beyond to Spurn. Roos Parish is a working agricultural community and farm vehicles, however large, are an integral part of it. Additionally, local traffic levels will increase as two car households become more commonplace, bringing increasing pressure on available parking facilities, particularly in the centre of Roos. However, wind farm development in the area has been completed and construction traffic ceased. Transport to and from the chicken farm was evaluated and taken into account in its planning approval. Consideration of imposing vehicle restrictions (weight/length/volume) on particular roads can be raised with ERYC. However, speed restrictions are already in place according to current national criteria. Traffic speed surveys are now regularly conducted by ERYC on both Pilmar Lane and Rectory Road. The published outcomes are

within acceptable norms. Speed checks conducted near the school have resulted in several prosecutions.

Humberside Police is 'rolling out' community speed check training for selected residents and the PC has registered interest in becoming part of the scheme.

12.12 Those that travel to Roos and park in the village are creating issues at the school (at school run times), by the shops in Main Street and near junctions such as Pilmar Lane/Eastfield, Main Street/Hodgson Lane and impacting on verges. Off road parking in Eastfield Estate and Pilmar Lane could be resolved by removing the garages in Eastfield and creating additional disabled parking. The garages present a health and safety issue as the asbestos roofs are flaking and the garages are unused as mobility cars do not fit in. Additional space can be obtained by removing the unused oil storage container. The school have also tried to resolve parking by opening the school field to alleviate issues at key events, but a sustainable solution is required. Parking at the Pavilion could help ease congestion around the school. The impact on verges would be resolved by creating parking which allows traffic to flow. Maintenance of verges would improve visibility around Tower Road, Hilston and B1242 junction and Quaker Road/Aldbrough Road.

Response: Parking is a matter of increasing concern, the issue was highlighted and illustrated in both Roos Parish Plans. These identified and illustrated a blind spot for traffic emerging from Hodgson Lane into Main Street by vehicles parked on Main Street by the Black Horse or Melbourne Butchers. Several residents have provided ERYC with photographic evidence in respect of a recent planning application in Main St. However, there have been no accidents or 'near misses' reported to the ERYC to justify the claim that parking is an issue.

Elsewhere, the maintenance of verges is subject to ERYC policy.

12.13 Improvements of pavements is required in Eastfield Estate where resurfacing is necessary and dropped kerbs added to enable residents using mobility aids to move safely and access their homes. South End also requires resurfacing but there is a great demand for a pavement to be added to Rectory Road between Hodgson Lane and Pinfold Lane. There is concern with speeding traffic and poor lighting down Rectory Road and the safety of pedestrians was raised in the survey and discussion groups as well as by clubs using the church. The path could link into the coastal footpaths.

Response: ERYC 'street scene' services inspect and review pavements and paths with parish council representation to a schedule.

Provision of a pathway on Rectory Road has been raised with the ERYC. Their estimated costs are prohibitively expensive. The opportunity to install street lighting was declined following a referendum some years ago. The majority of the community preferred to see night skies rather than have light pollution.

12.14 In Tunstall, coastal erosion and flooding are the greatest concerns with several residents needing relocating in the near future. The Village Hall is the emergency shelter yet is in need of improvements. There is no heating in either the village hall or the church and the hall also needs rewiring. The church also needs disabled access. Plans to locate a defibrillator next to the village telephone box were set back due to the removal of the box with the approval of the parish council. Sand Le Mere has grown from a small holiday park and has several people living there all year, running businesses using commercial vehicles. This puts a strain on parish services such as the GP, school and roads.

Response:

- *Coastal erosion forms part of both ERYC and Environmental Agency strategies. ERYC have established coastal management policies which include 'roll back' arrangements for affected residents.*
- *General improvement to facilities in Tunstall may be aided by application to renewable energy community funds. The settlement has previously benefitted from the Coastal Opportunities funding scheme.*
- *Communication is normally provided via the website, notice boards and the Rooster.*
- *Sand Le Mere Leisure Park is required to conform to its Licence for Operation. It is open all year and allows for a very small number of permanent residencies. However, for the majority a 50 week occupation is applied. Advertisements for purchase of homes on the site, includes the statement "Please note, your holiday home cannot be used as your permanent residence" Any factual evidence to the contrary should be brought to the attention of the ERYC.*
- *Residents are fully entitled to NHS provision, they may register on a temporary but re-newable basis.*

12.15 When considering anti-social behaviour, dog mess is the key issue in Roos and hunting is an issue particularly in Owstwick and Hilston. Fly tipping is a problem in Tunstall and Owstwick particularly around the clifftop on the Hilston Road and New Road to Owstwick. The parish council needs to work with Police Services and East Riding of Yorkshire Council to target key areas of littering/fly tipping. The dog walking area is seen as a positive initiative with most dog owners using this and the designated dog bins. However, there needs to be enforcement of dog control to target dog owners who exercise dogs off the lead and do not keep them off private land/sports field or collect the dog mess.

Response: Dog Fouling and Fly Tipping are major concerns. The parish council works proactively with the ERYC and relevant authorities. Whilst such activities are an offence, it is a matter for the Local Authority, rather than the Police, to address. Resolution of the problem is difficult without public participation in reporting incidents,

with evidence, to the Dog Warden at ERYC. The method and detail required is published on both the ERYC and parish websites. Incidents of 'fly tipping' are reported regularly to ERYC who will sift through the material for evidence that will lead to the perpetrators and their possible prosecution. Where possible, residents are invited to log the registration number of suspected vehicles.

12.16 There is a positive response to the pubs, shops and services in the parish, with all of these valued and reasons cited to live in the parish. The Roos Arms was raised as supporting younger people and an opportunity for teenagers to play billiards and meet up. The Post Office is also important for banking as the closure of branches in Withernsea and Hedon means nearest branches are in Hull and Beverley and difficult to access (68% cited this as difficult). The opening hours of the Post Office mean it is difficult for working residents to use this option for banking. Online banking is used by many respondents but access to branches is important.

12.17 Health services are cited as important by 65% of respondents, and 38% feel they require improvement. However, 27% of respondents find it difficult to access a GP due to lengthy waiting times and a new appointment system, with. There is some concern over residents from caravan sites using the GP service. While the GP is open until 1pm, prescriptions cannot be collected from the pharmacy until 3.30pm meaning two journeys are needed. 54% of respondents find it difficult to access hospital/medical services. Withernsea Hospital has reduced services, but Castle Hill and Hull Royal are a significant drive away and difficult to get to as there is no direct public transport. Some residents have to travel to Cottingham as Withernsea cannot administer pre-med care.

Response: To repeat, residents and holiday makers are entitled to use available NHS and GP facilities. They may register as a temporary patient with the GP and if necessary re-register to extend their entitlement. Medibus or equivalent services are available to take patients to the major hospitals in the area. See 12.9 above.

12.18 The current groups/clubs in the parish are well attended and enjoyed. However, although 18% of all respondents feel activities for teenagers are important, 38% feel they need improving (this rises to 75% of 18 to 24-year olds). Facilities for families with children were felt to need improving by 18% of respondents but data is skewed by high number of over 65's responding and rises to 39% of 35 to 44-year olds. Improvement of parks and open spaces is a concern for 15% but skewed by over 55's at 10%, it rises to 25% in the 35-54 age group with 25 to 34 age group at 31%. A key concern for the future of the parish is the lack of activities for teenagers. Only 29% of respondents are satisfied with the facilities/activities for teenagers. Activities suggested for teenagers and children include scouting/guiding groups, a youth club and sports clubs. More sports facilities at the playfield field would increase opportunities for younger age groups.

12.19 Additional groups/clubs include those for men, families and sports clubs plus more clubs at weekend for those who work. Clubs to consider are exercise groups, such as yoga and aerobics, for all age groups. It was noted that The Pavilion has a spring floor ideal for yoga. Playgroups/coffee mornings could coincide with the school runs to give parents and young children time to engage, this would also build links with the school who currently run several events with parents in school.

12.20 Key to the success of all clubs is the leadership and more volunteers are required to run clubs. This has meant the loss of previously successful clubs such as the parish youth club, Duke of Edinburgh, Guiding groups, Roos Young Farmers Club. An example cited in discussion groups is the successful Bell Ringing Club which has attracted several young members due to efficient and enthusiastic leadership. The parish council could lead a recruitment drive as well as supporting groups with health and safety, safeguarding and administration training sessions that put many people off getting involved. The feedback from members of all groups shows the social, health and mental wellbeing benefits of attending groups as well as the benefit to the community through fund raising and bringing people together.

Response: Previous experience suggests that clubs and associations “come and go” according to need, demand and the enthusiasm of those willing to initiate and run them. For some groups a ‘critical mass’ has to be established before they can become viable e.g. cricket or football team requires at least 11 players or more.

Some groups, for example, Cub, Scout or Guide groups require trained leaders who have been police vetted etc, who are fully versed in conducting risk assessments and who are Health and Safety trained etc.

However, the Parish Council, ERYC and leaders of successful groups can advise and assist with the legalities of setting up Constitutions and other legalistic requirements. However it should be noted that the parish population of only about 1,200 with an older age range profile is limited in its potential.

12.21 Although the Play Park in Roos is considered satisfactory more equipment is required to keep children occupied for longer.

12.22 The playing field has great potential for providing more activities for all age groups. Adding more trees would improve drainage as the field is often waterlogged. Adding hardstanding and all-weather courts for netball, tennis, basketball etc would increase usage and attract users from a wider area.

Response: Additional drainage and planting of trees in a predominately heavy clay soil would certainly help drainage over the longer term. However, developments requiring ‘hard standing’ may come up against the requirement to provide adequate drainage solutions for which ERYC planning approval may be required etc. Renewable energy

funds may be able to contribute towards such developments.

12.23 The pavilion is also seen as a positive aspect to the parish but underutilised and requiring attention. Improvements include repairing the access road and adding lighting and CCTV, a one-way system would also help traffic flow. Changing facilities for ladies is required as well as disabled access to the building and baby changing facilities.

Response: Use of the pavilion depends upon demand from groups and associations. The development of such facilities is for the management group to determine within its available finance.

12.24 There is no disabled access toilet at the Memorial Institute. All Saints Church in Roos needs a toilet, small kitchen area and extended ringing gallery to support wider use and the growing bell ringing group currently using the rather small and dangerous gallery. A smaller project to ensure the survival of St Margaret's in Hilston has also been drawn up. All of these projects require funding.

Response: Installation of facilities in Roos Memorial Institute depends upon careful planning in a structurally sound but relatively old building set in a Conservation area. All Saints' Church Roos has a development plan in place and is seeking to raise financial support for it. Renewable energy community funding has previously provided financial assistance subject to the funding criteria applicable to each fund.

12.25 Although 81% of respondents feel well informed about what is happening, communication is an issue across all villages and age groups in relation to certain topics and in some locations, such as 47% of Owstwick respondents feel not well informed/not informed at all about what is happening in their village. The Rooster is the main method of communication viewed by 98% of respondents, however this falls to 93% in Owstwick and may explain why residents there feel less informed. Improved communication about groups would help raise awareness, by updating the club pages on the council website, promoting in The Rooster and sharing details from page 73. Improved communication about location of facilities would also be beneficial as, several respondents do not know where open spaces/parks are. Use of noticeboards in all villages should be encouraged and locations of boards shared with all clubs and services.

Response: Updating of information on club and association web pages is dependent upon submissions from individual groups.

12.26 The Roos Village Amenities Facebook page is popular (50% of respondents view this) but has evolved from its initial purpose. Improvements are required to the name to encompass the parish and include all villages and groups should be encouraged to post

regularly. Comments from the survey and discussion groups suggest that selling posts have become too prevalent and should be reduced. Some use is made of the 'Next Door' application although again, awareness is low. All methods of communication should be promoted to raise awareness of options such as Facebook pages. Promoting the online version of The Rooster increases access for those who preferred it to be emailed or have not received the hard copy. Similarly, all methods should link to each other to provide a co-ordinated approach.

Response: Roos Parish Council has now established a Facebook link on its website.

12.27 The Parish Council website is only viewed by a fifth of respondents therefore council issues need to be communicated via additional methods. The website needs to be updated on several pages if more users are to be encouraged. A review of parish council representation and roles is recommended to ensure all villages are considered in decisions and a consistent, transparent approach is applied. The council should provide regular updates and opportunities for engagement through social media feeds on the website, a dedicated parish council Facebook page which links to other pages and circulation of meetings/issues.

Response: Many of these issues are addressed in earlier paragraphs. National guidance suggests that parish notice boards remain the primary 'official' means of communication. Social media, including web sites etc provide additional or supplementary support. However, Social media is popular with younger age ranges.

12.28 Residents would like to be more involved in decision making processes, with several comments in the survey, discussion groups and clubs noting that some decisions were made by the parish council without engaging the community. This is of particular concern in Tunstall due to previous decisions involving the removal of the BT telephone box, broadband installation and wind turbines. Comments from discussion groups noted that raising issues at council meetings was not ideal as the public can only speak at the end of the meeting after decisions have been made. Circulating issues for discussion (including a draft meeting agenda) to Tunstall PCC, clubs and key services would allow for a wider input. Minutes are a month out of date when they appear in The Rooster, circulating by additional methods as well as providing key dates for project actions, would be beneficial to enable people to respond prior to the circulation of the minutes.

Response: Many of these issues are answered in 12.7 above. The PC operates within its legal requirements and obligations. The council does not discriminate between settlements. Parish Councillors are elected to represent the whole community and have a mandate to speak and take decisions on behalf of all residents. However, the PC consults with relevant bodies and sections of the community, where appropriate.

Residents may present their concerns at a PC meeting or in writing.

12.29 Broadband is too slow for 28% of respondents, however this is a subjective topic and seems better in some areas of the parish than others. Mobile phone networks are poor for 41% of respondents particularly in some areas. The preferred mobile provider is EE although Vodafone users were most satisfied with coverage.

Response: Provision of Broadband is determined by Government legislation supported by grants to BT and the ERYC for Rural Broadband roll-out across all rural communities. The first phase of the policy has seen significant improvements.

12.30 The Parish has a rich and interesting history which could be used to build the community by educating younger generations via a history trail or similar.

Response: Wilbraham's History of Roos, is well researched, transcribed and was published in early editions of The Rooster by Leslie Helliwell. It may be viewed via the website. Volunteers are required to initiate and undertake such projects. Applications for financial support from renewable energy funds may be considered.

SUMMARY

There are a number of specific concerns emanating from individual groups and settlements. There are many suggestions for consideration. Some lie within the remit of the PC, others not. Where possible the PC will lend its support.

Three themes run consistently throughout the Report for the Parish Council to consider:

Communication.

The perceived need to extend publication beyond traditionally understood means such as Social media such as Facebook and Twitter.

Consultation.

A wish and need to contribute to discussion prior to decisions being taken.

Transparency.

Publication of the roles and responsibilities of Councillors and more information about policies and procedures.