

A rural landscape featuring a green field in the foreground, a fence line, and several trees. Some trees have green leaves, while others are bare. The background shows rolling hills under a cloudy sky.

# Read Parish Council Parish Plan

August 2012

# Introduction to the Read Parish Plan

Preparing a Parish Plan has been an interesting exercise for the Parish Council. Most people that live in the parish believe that Read is an enjoyable place to live and have views about the issues that affect community life, both now and in the future.

The central part of the Parish Plan process was the preparation, distribution and analysis of a questionnaire survey. This asked what residents felt about the environment and facilities for which Read Parish Council is responsible or has legitimate concern about.

The survey covered the following areas:

- **Housing**
- **Bus services**
- **Traffic**
- **Parking**
- **Dog fouling**
- **Community facilities**
- **Lack of bridleways**
- **Martholme Viaduct footpath link**

The survey was also designed to highlight facilities in the village – especially for newcomers. The Parish Council hopes that the survey will encourage more people to get involved in improving village life and become the councillors of the future.

The survey questionnaire was distributed by hand during March 2012 to all 595 households within the parish. We asked that completed survey questionnaires were completed and returned by 1 May 2012. We received 120 completed survey questionnaires and the parish council then analysed the results and invited all residents to attend a public meeting on 4 July 2012 to discuss the results. This process enabled the Parish Council to set priorities and formulate a Parish Plan.

## Respondents indicated that:-

- 1) Nearly 82% were happy with housing availability in Read
- 2) Nearly 71% felt traffic and parking regulations should be more rigorously enforced
- 3) Nearly 52% were happy with bus services through the village
- 4) Most people felt that the playground did not meet the needs of children and adults over 14 years
- 5) Over half the village did not use the playing field and kick about area and 65% did not use the car park
- 6) 71% were satisfied with opportunities to hold community activities and 52% felt there were enough indoor facilities
- 7) Nearly 84% wanted the council to approach landowners with a view to creating bridleways
- 8) Nearly 84% wanted the council to continue to press Lancashire County Council for a footpath/bridleway creation order to link Dunkirk Farm Lane across the Martholme viaduct to the Lancashire Cycleway
- 9) 60% felt that dog fouling regulations were not adequately enforced

## READ PARISH PLAN

TOPIC	PRIORITY 1low-5high	PROPOSED TIME SCALE	ACTION	PROGRESS
<p><b>1. HOUSING</b> Are you happy with housing availability in Read?</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Responses</u> Yes 82% No 1%</p> <p><u>Key Themes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Residents want to preserve rural nature of village</i></li> <li>• <i>Need for more affordable housing</i></li> <li>• <i>Need for more housing for the elderly</i></li> </ul>	<b>2</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to monitor all planning applications</li> <li>2. Continue to lobby re: Core Strategy</li> </ol>	
<p><b>2. TRAFFIC</b> Does your household feel that preventing parking on yellow lines, parking on pavements, and speeding in Read should be more rigorously enforced?</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Responses</u> Yes 71% No 17%</p> <p><u>Key Themes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Street parking is a growing problem</i></li> <li>• <i>Traffic and parking regulations should be more rigourously enforced</i></li> <li>• <i>Speeding through the village is a problem</i></li> </ul>	<b>4</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. More efficient use of Fort Street garage site</li> <li>2. Request more rigorous enforcement of regulations</li> <li>3. Request traffic survey to measure speed</li> <li>4. Ask PACT to look at back street parking</li> </ol>	
<p><b>3. PUBLIC TRANSPORT</b> If members of your household use buses that serve Read, are you satisfied with the service (routes, timetable, cost, reliability, bus stop location, easy access)?</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Responses</u> Yes 52% No 13%</p> <p><u>Key Themes</u></p>	<b>1</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain good service</li> </ol>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High cost of public transport</li> </ul>				
<p><b>4. PLAYGROUND</b>  If members of your household use the Read and Simonstone Children’s playground, do you feel it meets the needs of:  Children (aged 3-14)?  Young people (aged 15-20)?  Adults(accompanying parents/visitors)?</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Responses</b>  <b>Yes 15%</b>  <b>No 55%</b></p> <p><b><u>Key Themes</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equipment not suitable for older children</li> <li>Need more seating</li> <li>Need for toilets on site</li> <li>Equipment old and tatty</li> <li>Need for cycle track &amp; skate park</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>	<b>Within 12 months</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement improvement programme – new equipment to be purchased and installed. Existing equipment to be properly maintained.</li> <li>Consider providing additional seating</li> <li>Possible use of Cricket Club toilet facilities once refurbishment is complete</li> <li>New signage to be erected incorporating new age groups</li> <li>New sign to ban cycle riding in the playground</li> </ol>	
<p><b>5. PLAYING FIELDS</b>  If members of your household use the playing field/kick-around area (near the Cricket Club and allotments), are you happy with the current provision?</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Responses</b>  <b>Yes 22%</b>  <b>No 53%</b></p> <p><b><u>Key Themes</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents didn’t realise the area was available to everyone</li> <li>Pitch in poor condition</li> <li>Request for seating</li> </ul>	<b>3</b>	<b>Within 12 months</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider improving facilities on kick-around area to include fencing and floodlights if funding allows</li> </ol>	
<p><b>6. CAR PARK</b>  Does your household/visitors use the Village Car Park (by the children’s playground)?</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Responses</b></p>	<b>1</b>	<b>Within 2 years</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider re-surfacing in the future if funding allows</li> </ol>	

<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Yes 19%</b> <b>No 65%</b></p> <p><b><u>Key Themes</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Poorly maintained (pot holes)</i></li> <li>• <i>No 'space markings'</i></li> <li>• <i>Signage poor</i></li> <li>• <i>Lack of lighting</i></li> </ul>				
<p><b>7. OPPORTUNITIES TO HOLD COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IN READ</b> Are members of your household satisfied with the community opportunities in Read? (Cricket Club, United Reform Church Hall, Playground, playing field and kick-around area, Bowling Green, Allotments, Read library, Read and Simonstone Constitutional Club)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b><u>Responses</u></b> <b>Yes 71%</b> <b>No 12%</b></p> <p><b><u>Key Themes</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Want dedicated village centre</i></li> <li>• <i>Want more information about what is happening in the village</i></li> <li>• <i>Maintenance and development of existing facilities</i></li> <li>• <i>Longer opening hours for library</i></li> </ul>	<b>2</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To continue to work in conjunction with Simonstone Parish Council regarding any proposed developments</li> <li>2. To support and monitor the development of facilities at Read Cricket Club</li> </ol>	
<p><b>8. PROPOSAL FOR A BRIDLE PATH (FOR HORSE RIDERS, CYCLISTS AND WALKERS)</b> Would you like the Parish Council to approach local landowners for permission to open bridleways (to allow access to horse riders, cyclists and walkers)?</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b><u>Responses</u></b> <b>Yes 66%</b> <b>No 8%</b></p> <p><b><u>Key Themes</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Welcome opportunity to cycle and ride off busy roads (several suggested routes given)</i></li> </ul>	<b>2</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To write to Lancashire County Council in the first instance to establish current provisions</li> <li>2. Possible creation of 'Quiet Lanes' within the village</li> </ol>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Manage existing areas to ensure they are maintained (free from rubbish and dog fouling)</i></li> </ul>				
<p><b>9. MARTHOLME VIADUCT</b>  Would you like the Parish Council* to continue to press Lancashire County Council for a creation order to link the footpath 11 Dunkirk Farm Lane across the Martholme Viaduct to the Lancashire Cycle Way?</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b><u>Responses</u></b>  <b><u>Yes 84%</u></b>  <b><u>No 6%</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Key Themes</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Strong support for this issue</i></li> </ul>	<b>3</b>	<b>Within 12 months</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To take this matter forward by contacting SusTrans and Lancashire County Council and continue to lobby with determination on this issue</li> </ol>	
<p><b>10. DOG FOULING</b>  Dog fouling is a nuisance and a health hazard. The Parish Council provides 6 dog bins and Ribble Valley Borough Council provides 2 bins. The Dog Warden Service fines offenders. Do you think that regulations are enforced adequately?</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b><u>Responses</u></b>  <b><u>Yes 18%</u></b>  <b><u>No 60%</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Key Themes</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Dog Bins are an excellent facility</i></li> <li>• <i>Dog Warden – more visible presence</i></li> <li>• <i>Identified areas where problem persists</i></li> </ul>	<b>4</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To continue to be vigilant regarding this problem</li> <li>2. Request further input/advice from RVBC Dog Warden</li> <li>3. Support PACT in any campaigns</li> <li>4. To include reminders in the Annual Newsletter</li> </ol>	