



North Rode Parish Plan

19/06/10

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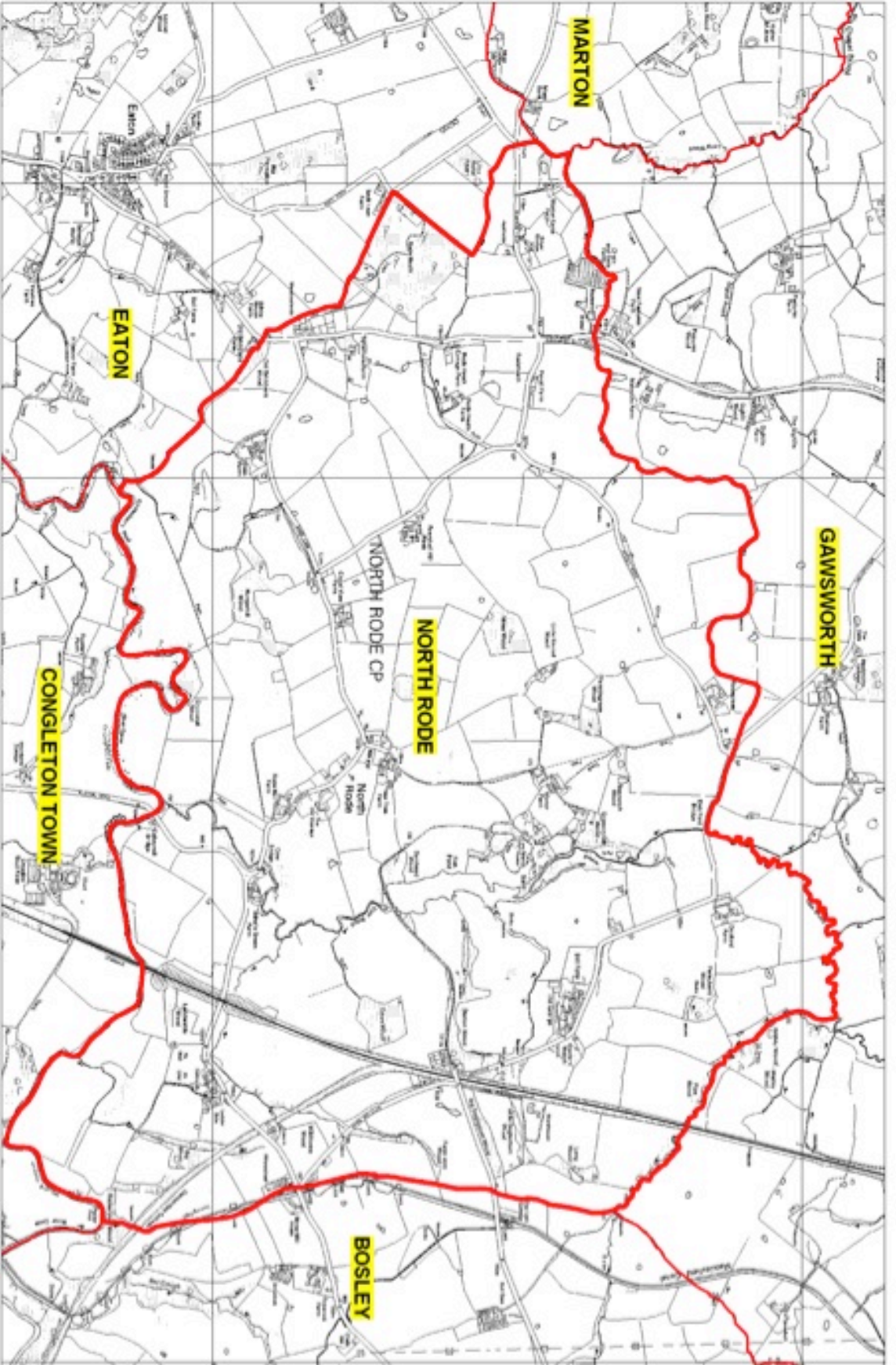
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Introduction

Well here we are at last with a North Rode Parish Plan, having sweat blood and tears writing up the results collected from the feedback forms, the questionnaires and the village meetings.

What is the Parish Plan?

The North Rode Parish Plan is an attempt to reflect the views of the residents of North Rode and the businesses in and on the borders of North Rode. Out of the ninety odd households in North Rode we received 80 completed resident questionnaires, 26 business questionnaires and 11 from friends of North Rode.

Why Produce a Parish Plan?

If a community wishes to influence policy formulation and propose improvements and changes, it needs first to have a clear idea of its own demographic make-up, the strengths and shortcomings of current services and facilities and the opinions and attitudes of its residents and workers

The Parish Plan attempts to address what developments, if any, are felt to be desirable and which the community should try to resist. Even those who would like no change recognised that North Rode is, nevertheless changing and the Parish Plan provides an opportunity to try to shape those changes in a direction reflecting the views of the community.

Working Together

The North Rode Parish Council instigated the formation of the North Rode Community Group and have supported the whole process of producing the Plan.

The process of gathering the information was a great opportunity to meet residents and friends of North Rode, even though it took a little longer than anticipated to produce. Sadly a small number of residents preferred not to engage with the process and so their views cannot be reflected in the plan.

What next?

Along the way huge support has been shown by many people in different ways for the project. The next step will be the formation of focus groups to work with the organisations indicated in The North Rode Action Plan (enclosed) to explore possible solutions to the issues identified from the questionnaires. Already the social events group and the Daintry Hall Working Group are making a difference

The actions in the North Rode Action Plan have been prioritised to reflect the responses to the questions, but in reality, in a small village, the first issues to be tackled will be determined by the people willing to get out there and get their hands dirty.

LETS MAKE IT HAPPEN TOGETHER

To get involved , please email Sheila@aol.com or telephone her on 01260 223250

Parish Plan - Methodology

May 2008

Parish Council called a village meeting to consider the benefits of a Parish Plan

A proposal to investigate the interest in North Rode was unanimously supported.

June 2008

Volunteers distribute feedback forms door to door and at North Rode Sheep Racing

The feedback forms showed clear support from the village for the development of a Parish Plan

November 2008

Parish Council called a village meeting and formed the North Rode Community Group

The questionnaires were drafted and reviewed and reviewed and reviewed and reviewed

December 2008 – Christmas Cards

January 2009 - Village History Day

March 2009 - Cheese and Wine evening

The North Rode Community Group distributed Christmas Cards throughout North Rode and organised Social Events, to publicise the Parish Plan, and to enable residents to provide comments and suggestions

June 2009

Questionnaires were distributed throughout North Rode to residents, businesses and friends

The questionnaires were collected and then divided into sections and collated separately by volunteers

September 2009

Village meeting called by Daintry Hall Management Committee

The North Rode Community Group presented a summary of results derived from the questionnaires

June – July 2010

Draft of Parish Plan made available to village for comments at sheep racing / on website

The Parish Plan was written up by the North Rode Community Group

September 2010

Launch of the Parish Plan

Parish Plan revised to reflect comments

Parish Plan distributed to all residents and businesses in North Rode

North Rode Today

North Rode lies almost exactly between the towns of Macclesfield and Congleton, both being effectively some 5 miles away in opposing directions.

It is a very rural parish with the 90 houses spread across the whole area which leaves the village with no easily defined centre. The Parish has a strong historic farming tradition and whilst this is still very important, the number of practitioners who rely on it as a sole means of income is diminishing.

The population of around 190 people includes a mix of those who have lived in the village for many generations and those who have arrived in the last 10 – 15 years. People resident locally travel to work in many varied locations using a mixture of private and public transport (primarily the railway stations in Macclesfield and Congleton). Work destinations include London, Manchester, Buxton, Leek, Winsford, Congleton and numerous other Cheshire towns and villages.

The small sub post office in the village recently closed, leaving no regular shops or services in the village. There is no rail public transport other than as outlined above and a very limited bus service on certain days of the week. All other public services, e.g. GP surgeries, are located in either Macclesfield or Congleton.

St Michael's Parish Church is located near to the geographical centre of the parish and adjacent to that is Daintry Hall, owned by a local village trust. Daintry Hall was the village school originally but is now rented to a private day nursery on a permanent basis during the week but is available for local village use at evenings and weekends. The Hall is also home to the North Rode Women's Institute which meet in the Hall once a month.

The Parish has an excellent recent history of "community events" to which a large number of local people voluntarily contribute their time and effort, often to raise funds for good causes. The bi-annual local "Sheep Racing & BaaaBQ" event is one such notable success. Similarly the Village "Hoe Down" is now a yearly function. The village also competes in the Cheshire Village Quiz which is run by Cheshire Community Action.

The Residents (Questions 51 to 56)

Introduction

These questions sought to find out a little about the demographics of the village, such as ages, employment, education, pet ownership and internet access.

Summary of Key Issues

- Most residents are aged 30 – 69 and are working
- The 28 Primary and Secondary school Children from North Rode attend a wide variety of schools and colleges, with only 11 attending their catchment schools.
- One in four households have a dog

A Description of the Questionnaire Results

Of the 80 respondents to the questionnaire 64 or 80% filled in these questions, of those who did not provide answers ,5% commented that the questions were too intrusive. Charts follow of the results.

The majority of residents who responded to this question were aged 50 to 69 (34%), closely followed by ages 30 to 49 (29%). There were 18 children between 11 and 19, 9 between 5 and 10 and 7 under 4.

The majority are employed, (35%), with 21% self employed, 16% retired, and 23% in full time education.

Preschool children attend Bosley Bobkins, Marton preschool and Daintry Hall Day nursery.

Primary school children attend 4 different local authority schools: Marton (catchment school), Gawsworth, Bosley, Blackfirs.

Older children attend a variety of schools including Eaton Bank (catchment) Falibroome, Tytherington, Kings Macclesfield, Macclesfield College, Greenbank, Northwich.

The majority of households have 2 cars (27).

The most popular pet is a dog with 19 households having one or more, closely followed by cats (14 households). There are 5 horse owners, 4 rabbit owners and one fish.

[refer to chickens!]

Most people have internet access (49). Out of the 6 who indicated they did not have internet access, 3 were over 50 and 3 were over 70.

Proposed actions in connection with resident information

- Advise the catchment schools of the numbers attending[delete?]
- Suggest that the social group considers ways to bring the children together via events. [move to relevant section]
- Follow up with people who expressed interest in helping/participating in a working group ie traffic/history/environment /social[move to relevant sections]

History of North Rode

The village of North Rode originally developed at the point where the River Dane could be crossed at Colley Mill. The mill used the power of the river for milling and with many paths leading to it, was a source of income for the manor owners.

There is little mention of North Rode in early written accounts and no known pre-history, other than North Rode (Rodo) is mentioned in the Domesday book.

The section, translated from Latin, reads:

'The same BIGOT holds RODO. BERNULF held it, and was a free man. There is half a hide rateable to the gelt. The land is ii. carucates. It was waste, and so found. In KING EDWARD'S time it was worth viii. shillings. There is a wood i. league long and half a league broad.'

After Bigot North Rode passed to the Lords of Arden and Aldford, the Mainwarings of Warmingham, and their successors the Trussels. In Edward II thirteenth year (1309) the Prince of Wales granted the owners rights to enclose and cultivate the wastes of the manor of Rode.

Ownership for the next two hundred years essentially remained with the Trussels until 1510, when Elizabeth Trussell, aged 13 married the Earl of Oxford (Veres). From The Veres it eventually passed to the Crewes of Crewe. In circa.1808 John, Lord Crewe sold the manor to Michael Daintry whose family owned silk mills and had moved into banking and so began the Daintry Family era when North Rode developed rapidly.

The Daintrys began by building model farms, such as Bell and Dobford in 18 XX

A school already established by bequests and deeds from 1780 was moved into a new home in 1835 when the present Daintry Hall was built. St. Michael's Church was then consecrated in 1846. Other developments included the Macclesfield Canal passing through in 1831 closely followed by the Railway in 1848.

The Daintry estate was sold at auction in April 1923. Many tenants bought their properties, and so farming continued to be the dominant form of employment for residents until recent times. Now there are only XX working dairy farms left in the PARISH. Some Daintry family members remained in North Rode.

. North Rode retained its Station, the narrowest platform on the Staffordshire line, until it closed in 1965.

The Parish Plan Focus Groups

Developing the Action Plan

This section provides a summary of the key issues arising from the questionnaires, and highlights the action plans that are being developed to address these concerns.

The residents have a high level of enjoyment and satisfaction with the Parish. Residents enjoy the rural setting, the safe environment and all elements of the local countryside.

Therefore, while the action plans discussed below address those areas that were identified as needing development or improvement, the underlying objective, is to maintain and support all the features, characteristics and services of North Rode that residents currently enjoy and appreciate.

Traffic problems and what public transport? (Question numbers 1-3)

Introduction: These questions asked what if any traffic issues caused problems and if so how frequently. Any danger spots were also to be identified and suggestions as to how public transport could be improved were sought.

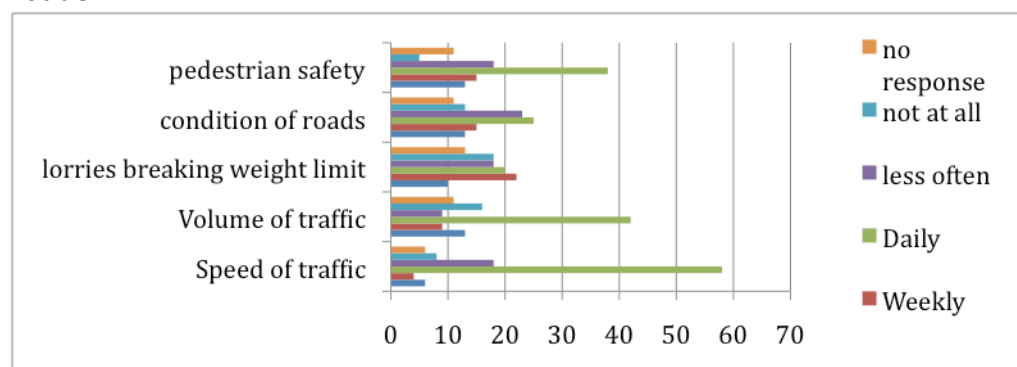
Summary of key issues

- Concerns about speed and volume of traffic
- Danger spots on the roads

A description of the questionnaire results

Traffic clearly causes a concern to residents in North Rode as less than 20% experience no problems at all. More than 50% of residents said that they had concerns about the speed and volume of traffic on a daily or weekly basis. Whilst over 70% expressed concerns about lorries breaking the weight limit, the condition of the roads and pedestrian safety, they were in general experienced much less frequently.

How concerned are you (if at all) about the issues below in respect of local roads?



A large list of potential danger spots on the roads was provided; Church Lane was by far the most commonly noted (listed 46 times), followed by Pexall Road (21 times) and the Bank Lane / Bramhall Hill junction (4), Station Road (5), the A54(3), Dobford bridge(2), and Cocksmiss lane(2) were also cited by more than one person.

Public Transport.

Most residents would appear not to use public transport at all however useful suggestions as to how public transport may be improved were made; such as simply improving the accuracy and awareness of times, routes and bus stops.

Proposed actions in respect of traffic and public transport

- To ask the Parish Council to support the formation of an action group to investigate solutions to traffic problems
- To provide the Parish Council with suggestions as to how public transport could be improved
- [Support any other initiatives from the Parish Council or members of the Community

Developments

- [Diane Rigby initiated an investigation into HGV vehicles]
- The Parish council met with the Police in April 2010 to discuss HGV usage of Church /Bank Lane .[There was discussion of the potential for speed limit introduction.]
- Parish Magazine and the North Rode web-site contain guidance as to how to produce evidence of mis-use of roads by HGV

Do you know what's happening in North Rode? (Questions 29 to 32)

Methods of communication in North Rode

Introduction

Questions 27 to 31 dealt with the way in which residents receive their information about what is going on in the village, whether they receive sufficient information, and how they would like this communicated.

Question 32 asked whether they thought that a village information pack containing information about local businesses, what's on in the area, key contacts for residents etc was a good idea

Summary of Key Issues

- Parish Magazine is the most effective method of communication
- The high percentage of communication by word of mouth indicates the importance of maintaining the excellent community network within the village.
- There will be growth in those wishing for information electronically.
- Residents would welcome an information pack.

A description of the questionnaire results:

Diagram? The most effective method of communication in the village is the parish magazine (76%) followed by word of mouth (73%)

Less than 25% of respondents relied on the local paper, e-mails or the parish website. [we didn't ask for them to tick e-mails – only web-site so only free suggestion = e-mails]

The majority (81%) are happy with the level of information they receive about local activities, organisations, events and news. The respondents that required more information would like it via email (9%).

Over half (54%) thought that a pack containing information about local businesses, what's on in the area, key contacts etc were a good idea.

Other sections of the questionnaire (results reported elsewhere) indicated requirements for more information e.g. on Public Transport, the availability of Daintry Hall as a Village Hall, and the workings of the various village committees.

Proposed actions in connection with communication in North Rode

- Help the Parochial Church Council to distribute the Parish magazine to as many residents as possible
- Set up working group to investigate the development of the North Rode website, to include for example content from the Parish magazine, information pack and local advertisers to create an integrated communication strategy.
- Further develop the communication network in North Rode incorporating the Parish Magazine notice boards, the web site and the use of emails to promote events and services and to provide village alerts in North Rode.
- Consider how to ensure those without internet access will not be excluded

Do you use your village hall, mobile library or door stop deliveries? (Questions 10, 11, 12)

Introduction

This section of the questionnaire was designed to discover whether local facilities are known about and their use, what would encourage more frequent use and whether there are any additional facilities residents would like.

Summary of key issues:

- The use of Daintry Hall for village events
- Communication of village information
- Only doorstep deliveries (99%) and the day nursery (99%) were widely known and on average 11% of respondents did not know that the other facilities existed.

A description of the questionnaire results:

Demand for better access to the Daintry Hall for both village and private events was expressed in 10 responses to requests for general suggestions. Although regular income from the nursery maintains the building residents feel excluded from using the hall by the current layout and nursery furniture.

Improved communication of information about village events and services was raised as an issue by 37% of respondents. The majority of people were aware of most facilities but on average only 6% of residents used local facilities except for the delivery of milk and newspaper service which is used by 55% of residents. but about 10% were unaware of the Post Office at Oaklands, the Mobile Library, and Gate Hall.

The most frequently requested item on the wish-list of additional new facilities was a village shop and/or tea room and is discussed further in Questions 44-50 [on page].

Proposed actions in connection with local facilities

- With the Daintry Hall Management Committee investigate and prepare a long term plan for Daintry Hall and adjacent land and buildings.
- Improve communication (see)

Developments

- A working group has been created and investigations are underway.[to do what?]
- Since the questionnaire the Post office has been closed and Gate Hall is not available to hire(as at May 2010)
- The availability of Daintry Hall for hire has been advertised in the Parish Magazine and on the Village web-site

Do we have a focal point in North Rode? Do we need a meeting place? (Questions 13 to 16)

Introduction

Questions 13 to 16 dealt with the need in North Rode for a meeting place and a focal point and asked respondents to make comments.

Summary of Key Issues

- A meeting place and a focal point are desirable
- A need for clarification regarding the use of Daintry Hall and surrounds

A description of the Questionnaire Results

The majority (65%) of villagers think it is important to create a meeting place in the village.

Half (52%) think it is important to have a focal point such as a children's play area and or a village green.

Various suggestions and comments were made the most common being (respondent numbers in brackets):

- Improved usage of Daintry Hall and surrounding areas (15) These areas comprise the land used by the nursery, the school house, the car park and some waste land.
- New commercial venture such as pub, shop or tea room (6)
- Dual usage of church (5) there were suggestions for more community use of the church which could necessitate removal of pews, and provide toilet and kitchen facility accommodation.
- Improved usage of Chain and Gate and Gate Hall (5)

41% of respondents are prepared to invest their own time and support

Proposed actions in connection with a focal point in North Rode

- Investigate the options surrounding the creation of a meeting place and introduction of a focal point

Developments

Support social events / use of Daintry Hall to identify what a village needs and will use

A working group has been formed to evaluate all potential options in conjunction with the Daintry Hall Management Committee.

How important is St Michael's Church to you? (Questions 7,8,and 9)

Introduction

These questions attempted to discover how residents perceived the role of St Michael's in the life of the village at the beginning of the 21st century.

Summary of key issues:

- Maintaining an attractive historic building as a focal point for the village
- Continued use as a church
- The church is valued highly by the village but not for regular worship

A description of the questionnaire results:

The church is seen as a positive choice for celebrating religious festivals, baptisms, funerals, weddings by 60% of respondents, and as a community focal point and historic building by 76% of respondents.

A common theme expressed in response to questions 8 and 9, which asked for general comments about the church and suggestions as what would encourage increased attendance, was that we were very fortunate to have such a beautiful church and it was an important focal point in the village, which too few people attend regularly. The issue of using the church for secular activities e.g. concerts, talks was raised too.

Respondents highlighted the need to make the church more welcoming with more modern music and livelier family orientated services

Proposed actions in connection with St Michaels Church

- To report the questionnaire findings to the Parochial Church Council
- To continue to assess with the Parochial Church Council the feasibility of dual usage at St. Michael's

Developments

- The Parochial Church Council put a flyer in the Parish Magazine incorporating the issues raised.
- The results of the questionnaire were fed into the Growth Action Plan (GAP); a diocese scheme to encourage church attendance.
- The Parochial Church Council have distributed a GAP questionnaire via the Parish Magazine

Where and what do the people of North Rode like to do when at play? Social Events and Clubs (Questions 17 to23)

Introduction

The questions dealt with residents' interests and current involvement in clubs; the frequency of and other ideas for social events.

Summary of Key Issues

- Huge breadth and diversity of interests of residents
- Maintain the good community spirit in North Rode

A description of questionnaire results

There are wide and diverse interests amongst the residents of North Rode. The most popular were walking and exercise classes; others include clay pigeon shooting, wine tasting, brownies and young farmers.

Most (68%) feel that the number of social events is about right.

There were many original suggestions for new social events such as community walks, tea dances, beetle drives and pub visits.

Most (67%) are willing to help with social events

Most (72%) thought that North Rode has a good community spirit.

Proposed action in connection with social events and clubs

- Set up a social committee to coordinate events, help to promote new events and to support any interest groups that develop.

Developments

- A social committee has been formed and is trying to co-ordinate the village social events to fall throughout the year.

What are the services like in North Rode and what's the difference between the PCC and the PC? (Question 24 to 28)

Introduction

Questions 24 to 26 dealt with the satisfaction levels of existing services, asking how services could be improved and what extra services residents would like.

Question 27 asked whether residents would like to know more about existing committees – The Parish council, The Parochial Church Council and the Daintry Hall management committee.

Question 28 asked whether residents required further information on imminent changes in local healthcare provision.

Summary of Key Issues

- Residents were interested in information regarding the changes in the health service provision in Congleton
- Most people are happy with the service level provision, but there are some minor issues.

A description of the Questionnaire Results

There are no major issues with the services provision in North Rode. The greatest issues, (at just under 20% dissatisfaction) were poor refuse collection and poor mobile phone reception.

Many respondents commented that they would like plastic recycling

Almost half of all respondents wished to find out about the merger of the Health Services in Congleton.

Between 10% and 20% of respondents wished to find out more about the activities of our Parish Council, The Daintry Hall Committee, and the Parochial Church Council.

Proposed actions in connection with local services and local committees

- Liaise with PCT and PC re change in Health Services
- Lobby Cheshire East to improve recycling
- Lobby Parish Council to investigate, with liaison from neighbouring parish councils, how telecommunication services can be improved
- Encourage Village committees to be more transparent, for example by publishing minutes of meetings.

Developments

- Funding for new health services is in doubt.(as in May 2010)
- Parish Council minutes on North Rode Web-site.
- Daintry Hall Management Committee's minutes available on written request

I Violence, robbery and anti social behaviour and what are the emergency services doing about it? (Question numbers 4-6)

Introduction

The questions in this section established how often North Rode residents experienced criminal behaviour and what experience they have had of the service provided by the emergency services

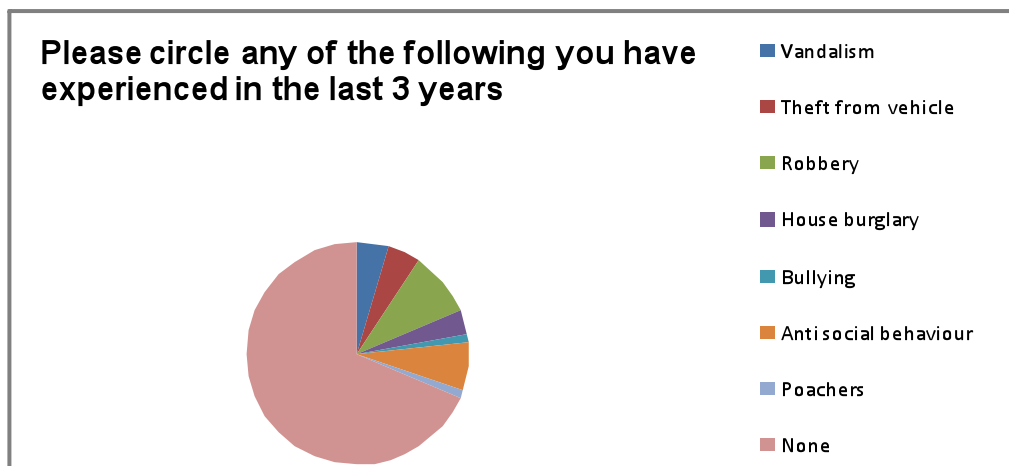
Summary of key issues

- Low crime rate
- Interest in neighbourhood / farm watch.

A description of the questionnaire results

Crime and Antisocial Behaviour

Whilst 47 incidents of crime or anti social behaviour were reported as happening in the last 3 years with the most common being robberies (6) and anti social behaviour(5), 59% of residents had not experienced any incidents.



30 households have had reason to call out the emergency services in the last 3 years and 25 of them were satisfied or very satisfied with the service. However 4 out of the 13 households who had to call out the police were dissatisfied with their response. Despite the low crime rate 32 residents (16 households) have expressed an interest in a neighbourhood or farm watch scheme and 2 households already belong to one.

Proposed actions in respect of crime and antisocial behaviour.

- To ask the Parish Council to support the extension of neighbourhood and farm watch schemes to other households and businesses

Developments

- Information about neighbour watch schemes is now available on the North Rode web-site

Preservation of North Rode landscape features (Questions 33, 34 & 35)

Introduction

These questions were aimed at identifying which features and characteristics of our Parish we wanted to preserve and to invite suggestions as to how. Question 33 canvassed views on 6 specific features, question 34 asked for identification of other features regarded as important and question 35 asked for suggestions as to how we could preserve the features we value.

Summary of key issues:

- How to preserve the key landscape features in North Rode
- How to ensure that changes that have to be made do not spoil the enjoyment of our environment more than necessary.

A description of the questionnaire results:

The features listed in question 33 were:

- Traditionally planted hedgerows and stone walls
- Un-kerbed unlit roads and lanes
- Native trees in hedges and boundaries
- Native wildlife and plants
- Historic features
- Cheshire railings

More than 90% wanted to preserve all of these features except for the un-kerbed and unlit roads and lanes where only 85% were in favour of preservation. Features that were given particular mention by a number of respondents include the Pillbox on the A54 near Station Road (6 comments), Cheshire railings (4 comments) and the recently painted gates at the entrance to Manor Park (3 comments).

Regrettably some of our historic features have recently disappeared; the traditional red telephone box opposite the Church has been removed without prior consultation and the Cyclists Union sign at the top of the hill down to Cow Brook has been stolen.

There were also several references to the use of our lanes by heavy vehicles resulting in damage to the verges and also danger to other users at times. This issue is addressed in the Traffic section (see page ??).

Proposed actions in connection with the preservation of North Rode landscape features

- To investigate the feasibility of creating a volunteer group to preserve landscape features
- Establish a cost effective system for cataloguing and maintaining these features

Are you happy about the state of the roads, fly tipping and roadside litter? (Questions 36, 37, 38 & 39)

Introduction

These questions addressed environmental concerns – question 36 aimed to assess the importance of 5 identified concerns; question 37 asked for additional areas of environmental concern. Question 38 asked whether respondents would be prepared to pay additional council tax to fund (in part or total) a lengths man to help address some concerns. Question 39 invited any additional comments.

Summary of key issues:

- Fly tipping & roadside litter
- Poor maintenance of road drainage systems
- Infrequent sweeping of roads
- Septic Tank outflow management

A description of the questionnaire results:

The five potential issues ranked in order of importance to the respondents:

- Fly tipping 95%
- Roadside litter 90%
- Upkeep of communal areas 82%
- Unofficial advertising signs 71%
- Fly posting 66%

The percentages are of all 80 respondents who rated the issue either 1 or 2 on a scale of 1 to 4 where 1 is very important.

In answer to question 37 there was concern expressed about the frequency of road sweeping and drainage maintenance (6 comments) and also about failing septic tank facilities (8 comments). There was also some concern about pollution of natural water courses. These comments have all been passed to the Parish Council.

In answer to question 38, 62% were in favour of employing a Lengthsman even if this meant an increase in the Parish precept.

A significant number (6 comments) felt that local people could be more involved in tackling some of these concerns.

Proposed actions in connection with environmental concerns

- Approach the Parish Council to discuss how best to maintain the local environment ,eg by lengthsman or volunteer group

Do you want more cycles, more horses and or more feet in North Rode? (Questions 40, 41, 42 & 43)

Introduction

Questions 40 to 43 addressed the community's views on footpaths, bridleways – how well advertised are they, how well maintained and are there enough of them.

Summary of key issues:

- Do we know where the existing paths are?

A description of the questionnaire results:

65% of residents would support the production of a local map of paths and bridleways.

In general respondents seemed to be satisfied with the marking and maintenance of the existing paths, with the exception of a specific routes that are difficult to access with larger dogs e.g. manor park through to Gawsforth.

There was some support (46%) for the creation of new footpaths; for example, to improve access to Bus Stops and Manor Park. However, most people were against creating new bridleways (58%) or cycle routes (59%).

Proposed actions in connection with footpaths, bridleways and cycle routes

- Produce a local map showing all existing paths and bridleways with a description of the direction, length and suitability of use by differing categories of users i.e dog walkers and wheelchair/pushchair access .
- Liaise with the Parish Council and the [footpath society }to identify and resolve issues arising from the production of the map.
- Put a printable form of the map on the village website.

To build or not to build that was the question. (Questions 44-50)

Introduction

The questions focus upon which commercial or residential developments would enhance the village and which would not.

Summary of key issues

Essentially two opposing sentiments prevailed –

- Leave the village as it is – no more development required/desired
- A focal point is needed – pub, tea shop, shop, community centre

Description of questionnaire results [table?]

- Overwhelmingly against most developments – especially caravan/chalets and those for young execs – 78% of respondents felt that these were not desirable
- Small scale affordable new homes for local people, however, were considered to be desirable by 52%
- 52% also felt that residential conversion of redundant farm buildings was desirable.
- 64% were against any new houses in North Rode
- 65% were in favour of a small scale commercial development e.g. a shop/ tea shop
- 53% of respondents would favour a “village design statement”
- Q 45 asked respondents to describe commercial or residential developments that would enhance the village. Of the 30 responses, approximately one third felt that the village was best left as it is and two thirds felt that some kind of village focal point was needed – a shop, a tea shop or a pub.
- Q46 asked about commercial or residential developments that would raise objections. The 37 responses covered three main areas –
 - no more holiday homes, caravans or chalets
 - no to new houses especially on green field sites
 - no to any development that would lead to an increase in traffic through the village.

Many respondents, over one third, have used Q50 – “Have we missed anything you would like to mention?” to reiterate their concerns about traffic/speeding/road hazard issues.

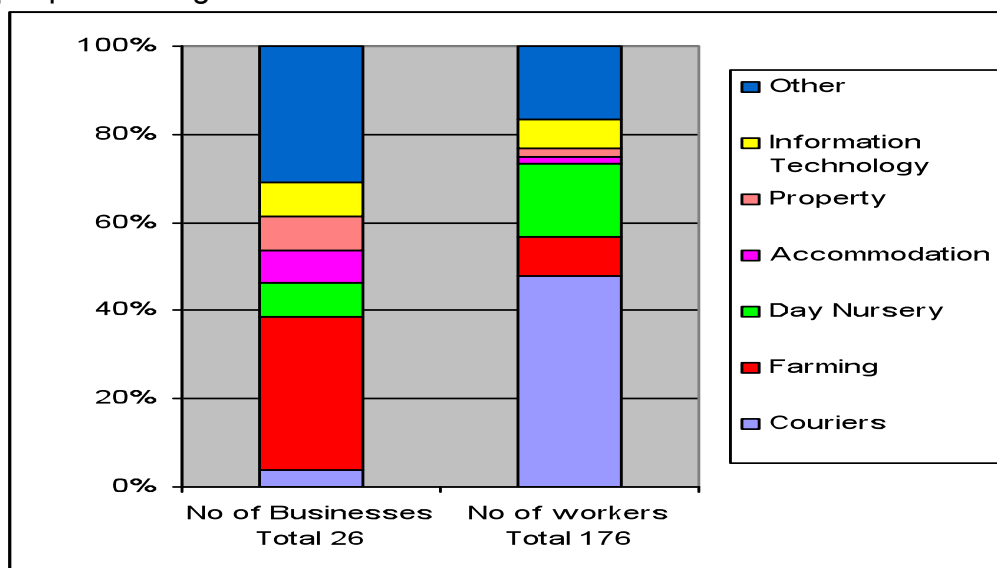
Proposed actions in connection with residential and commercial developments

- Convey the Village views on future development to the Parish Council
- Investigate the potential usefulness of a village design statement for North Rode.
- [Encourage the Parish Council to publicise all planning applications
- Encourage the Parish Council to ...forum to communicate views on any significant planning applications.

Who's working in North Rode? - Businesses in North Rode

Introduction: The questions were designed to enable the village to build a profile of the business activity located in North Rode and around the immediate borders and to identify any areas of concern or support required.

Summary of results: Twenty six businesses responded to the questionnaire from a variety of sectors including farming, property, accommodation, Information Technology and day nurseries. The diagrams below show the numbers of businesses by sector and also an indication of the numbers of people working in each sector.



The businesses which responded represented a total of 176 workers; the largest was UPS with 84 workers followed by the Day Nurseries with 29 people in total. The youngest business was established in 2009 and the oldest over 100 years ago. The traditional farming industry, upon which the community was based, is slowly diversifying to reflect the demands and trends of the 21st century.

When asked why their business was located in North Rode, 23% stated that it was an established family business, 35% chose North Rode for its rural location.

The businesses serve a varied customer base from North Rode and local communities to the wider Cheshire and North West and beyond to the rest of the UK and global markets.

There was some dissatisfaction with services provided; 23% highlighted poor mobile 'phone reception and 19% complained about late postal deliveries. 15% of the businesses who responded expressed a willingness to help with future village projects.

Proposed actions:

- Follow up concerns regarding mobile phone, broadband and postal delivery with the relevant providers.
- Follow up offers of help particularly in the development and maintenance of the village website.

The Next Steps – Implementation of the Action Plans

Completing the North Rode Parish Plan is really only the beginning of the process that will hopefully result in significant benefits for our community over the coming months and years. Successful implementation of the proposed Action Plans will be the true measure of achievement for the Parish Plan project.

The North Rode Community Group has prioritised the actions to reflect the results of the questionnaires. However the success of the focus groups depends on the number of people willing to volunteer and help to implement the proposed actions. The North Rode Community Group will be directed by which ever action attracts the most active support.

Although the North Rode Community Group is a separate entity from the Parish Council, there are likely to be many projects where responsibilities will overlap and the North Rode Community Group will therefore work closely with the Parish Council, as well as other key organisations. At least two members of the Parish Council will be members of the North Rode Community Group.

Questionnaire Section	Proposed Action	Issue Importance	Time scale to start
Traffic & Transport 1>3	To ask the Parish Council to support the formation of an action group to investigate solutions to traffic problems	1	1
Traffic & Transport 1>3	To provide the Parish Council with suggestions as to how public transport could be improved .	4	1
Developments	The Parish council met with the Police in April 2010 to discuss HGV usage of Church /Bank Lane .There was discussion of the potential for speed limit introduction.		
Crime & Antisocial behaviour 4>6	To ask the Parish Council to support the extension of such schemes to other households and businesses	3	2
Developments	Information about neighbour watch schemes is available on the North Rode web-site		
The Church Q7>9	To report the questionnaire findings to the Parochial Church Council	1	1
The Church Q7>9	To continue to assess with the Parochial Church Council the feasibility of dual usage at St. Michael's	2	4
Developments	The Parochial Church Council put a flyer in the Parish Magazine incorporating the issues raised. The results of the questionnaire were fed into the Growth Action Plan (GAP); a diocese scheme to encourage church attendance. The Parochial Church Council have distributed a GAP questionnaire via the Parish Magazine.		
Facilities Q10 >12	With the Daintry Hall Management Committee investigate and prepare a long term plan for Daintry Hall and adjacent land and buildings.	1	1
Facilities Q10 >12	Further develop a communication system incorporating the Parish Magazine, notice boards, the web site and use of emails to promote events and services and provide village alerts in North Rode.	1	1
Developments	A working group has been created and investigations are underway. Since the questionnaire the Post office has been closed and Gate Hall is not available for hire (as at May 2010)		
Focal Point 13>16	Investigate the options surrounding the creation of a meeting place and introduction of a focal point	1	2
Focal Point 13>16	Advertise the current availability of Daintry Hall for meetings / events.	1	1
Development	A working group has been formed to evaluate all potential options in conjunction with the Daintry Hall management committee.		
Social events Clubs 17>23	Set up a social committee to coordinate events, help to promote new events and to support any interest groups that develop.	1	1
Developments	A social committee has been established to co-ordinate and organise events [A history section has been added to the North Rode website]		
Services 24>28	Liaise with PCT and Parish Council regarding the changes in Health Services	3	1
Services 24>28	Lobby Cheshire East to improve recycling and be consistent within the region	1	1
Services 24>28	Consult with the Parish Council to investigate, with liaison from neighbouring parish councils, how telecommunication services can be improved.	2	2
Services 24>28	Encourage Village committees to be more transparent, for example by publishing minutes of meetings.	1	2

<i>Developments</i>	Funding for new health services is in doubt.(as in May 2010) Parish Council minutes on North Rode Web-site. Daintry Hall Management Committee's minutes available on written request		
<i>Communication 29>32</i>	Encourage the PCC to distribute the Parish magazine to as many residents as possible	1	1
<i>Methods of Communication 29>32</i>	To investigate development of North Rode website, to include for example content from the Parish magazine, information pack and local advertisers to create an integrated communication strategy	1	2
<i>Methods of Communication 29>32</i>	Further develop a communication system incorporating the Parish Magazine ,notice boards , the web site and use of emails to promote events and services and provide village alerts in North Rode	1	1
<i>Environment 33>35</i>	To investigate the feasibility of creating a volunteer group to preserve landscape features	2	2
<i>Environment 33>35</i>	Establish a cost effective system for cataloguing and maintaining these features	2	2
<i>Environment 36>39</i>	Approach the Parish Council to discuss how best to maintain the local environment ,eg by lengthsman or volunteer group.	2	2
<i>Footpaths 40>43</i>	Produce a local map showing all existing paths and bridleways with a description of the status of each one.	1	1
<i>Footpaths 40>43</i>	Liase with the parish council and the [footpath society }to identify and resolve issues arising from the production of the map.	1	1
<i>Footpaths 40>43</i>	Put a printable form of the map on the village website	2	2
<i>Planning/Devs 44>50</i>	Convey the Village views on future development to the Parish Council.	1	1
<i>Planning/Devs 44<50</i>	Investigate the potential usefulness of a village design statement for North Rode	3	3
<i>Planning/Devs 44<50</i>	Encourage the Parish Council to publicise all planning applications	2	1
<i>Planning/Devs 44<50</i>	Encourage the Parish Council to provide a village forum to express their views on any significant planning applications	1	1
<i>Residents 51>56</i>	Advise the catchment schools of the number of children attending	3	1
<i>Residents 51>56</i>	Suggest that the social group considers ways to bring the children together via events.	2	1
<i>Residents 51>56</i>	Follow up with people who expressed interest in helping/participating in a working group ie traffic/history/environment /social	2	2
<i>Developments</i>	Calendar of social events for all ages has been organised		
<i>Business 1>22</i>	Follow up offers of help particularly re development of web site and help with social events	2	1
<i>Business 1>22</i>	Follow up concerns re mobile phone, broadband and postal delivery services with the relevant providers .	3	3

Residents and non-residents questionnaire

TRAFFIC / PUBLIC TRANSPORT / POLICE / FIRE / AMBULANCE

Traffic

1. How concerned are you (if at all) about the issues below in respect of local roads? Please tick the relevant box to indicate your frequency of concern.

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Less often	Not at all
Speed of traffic					
Volume of traffic					
Lorries over weight limit					
Condition of the roads					
Pedestrian safety					

2. If you consider there to be any “danger spots” in respect of traffic in North Rode, please list the location(s) here:

Public Transport

3. Please indicate how often you use the bus service in the village: -

Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Less often	Not at all

4. How could public transport be improved?

Police / Fire and Rescue Service

5. Please circle any of the following that has affected you in the last 3 years:

- Vandalism
- Theft of or from vehicle
- House Burglary
- Bullying
- Robbery
- Physical assault
- Anti-social behaviour (e.g. neighbour problems / anti-social drinking / threatening behaviour)
- Other (please specify).....
- None of the above.....

6. If you have had cause to call out any of the emergency services in the last three years, please circle appropriately how you would rank the service where 1 is very good and 4 is not good.

	Very good.....	Not good
Police:	1	2	3 4
Fire and Rescue Service:	1	2	3 4
Ambulance:	1	2	3 4

COMMUNITY

St Michael's Church North Rode

7. Is the Church important to you for the following? Tick as many you think are appropriate:

	Yes	No
Sunday Worship		
Celebration of religious festivals		
Baptisms / Funerals / Weddings		
As a focal point for the community		
As a historic building		
Place for private contemplation		

8. What might encourage you to attend St Michael's Church more frequently?

9. Please add any other comments regarding the church and / or worship

North Rode Facilities and Organisations

10. In order to gain a picture of how some local facilities and organisations are used, tick which of the following applies to you:

Facility / Organisation	Not aware	Aware but not used	Used rarely	Used regularly
Chain & Gate public house				
Gate Hall (at Chain & Gate)				
Daintry Hall (eves/weekends)				
Day Nurseries				
Doorstep milk and newspaper				
Mobile Library				
Post Office at Oaklands				
Women's Institute				

11. What would encourage you to use any of the above facilities or organisations more frequently? Please specify:

12. What additional facilities (if any) would you like to see provided in North Rode?

Focal Point / Meeting Place

13. Interest has been expressed in creating a meeting place in the village, e.g. greater use of Daintry Hall, a new village meeting room, a new village hall, conversion of the church for dual usage.

Please circle how important is it for the village to create a meeting place in North Rode on a scale of 1 to 4 (where 1 is very important and 4 is not important):

Very important.....Not important

14. Please circle how important is it for the village to have a focal point such as a children's play area, a village green etc. on a scale of 1 to 4 (where 1 is very important and 4 is not important):

Very important.....Not important

15. Do you have any other suggestions or comments in connection with a meeting place or focal point for the village?

16. Would you be prepared to invest your time and / or financial support in the development of the North Rode Community? Yes / No

Clubs and Social Events

17. Please tick any clubs you currently enjoy:

gardening	allotments	walking	cycling	canal boating	bird watching
music	drama	art	bridge	photography	history group
cookery	exercise	cinema	bowling	ten pin	pub meals
brownies/ rainbows	golf	guides	scouts /cubs	youth club	young farmers
adult learning *	trips to places of interest*	climbing	agricultural networks	social groups home workers	social groups mums & tots

Other (please specify).....

*Please provide details.....

18. What, if any, groups, courses or activities would you support if organised by the residents of the village?

19. There are on average two social events each year to which the village is invited:

e.g. Sheep Racing, Harvest Hoe Down, Valentine's Supper.

Please circle if you would like to attend more / less / same number of events.

20. Do you have any ideas for other village events that you would like to happen in North Rode and when?

21. Are you willing to help with social events in North Rode? Yes / No

22. Do you think North Rode has a good 'community spirit'? Yes / No

23. Would you pay £1.00 per week towards the running costs of Daintry Hall, to enable the North Rode community to use it as the village hall? Yes / No

Services

24. To what extent are you satisfied with the services provided for the residents of North Rode? Please tick the appropriate boxes below:

Service		Satisfied	Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	N/A
Doctor	Location:				
Dentist	Location:				
Mobile phone reception	Network:				
Broadband	Network:				
Congleton War Memorial Hospital					
Macclesfield Hospital					
Water					
Electricity					
Refuse collection					
TV reception					
Radio reception					
Postal service					

25. Do you have suggestions on how any of the above services could be improved?
26. What extra services would you like to be provided for North Rode residents?
27. If you would you like to know more about the North Rode Parish Council / Parochial Church Council / Daintry Hall Management Committee, please circle those organisations.
28. Would you like to know more about the proposed merger of Congleton surgeries and the Congleton War Memorial Hospital services? Yes / No

Communication of Information

29. Tick which of the following sources of information you use to find out about

North Rode events and issues:

Parish noticeboards	Parish magazine	Local paper	Parish website
Local radio	'What's On'	Word of mouth	

Other (please specify).....

30. Do you receive sufficient information about activities, organisations, events and news in the village? Yes / No
31. What would you like to receive more information about and how could it be best communicated?
32. Do you think a pack containing information about local businesses, what's on in the area, key contacts etc for residents is a good idea? Yes / No

ENVIRONMENT

33. Which of the following features of the North Rode landscape do you consider should be preserved?

Traditionally planted hedgerows and stone walls	Yes	No
Un-kerbed, unlit roads and lanes	Yes	No
Native trees in hedges and boundaries	Yes	No
Native wildlife and plants	Yes	No
Historic features	Yes	No
Cheshire Railings *	Yes	No

*The black and white iron railings are a unique feature of the Cheshire highway landscape dating back to 1929.

34. Please identify any particular features you feel should be preserved and list any other landscape features we haven't mentioned.....
35. If you have suggestions as to how such preservation may be achieved, please advise:

36. Please circle how important you think it is to deal with the following issues on a scale of 1 to 4 (where 1 is very important and 4 is not important):

Very important.....Not important

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| • Fly posting | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| • Fly tipping | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| • Roadside Litter | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| • Upkeep of communal areas | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| • Unofficial advertising signs | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

37. Are there any other environmental concerns, you think should be addressed?

38. Lengthsman: A Lengthsman would pick up litter from the local verges, trim the grass at the road junctions and bends, maintain the Cheshire Railings, etc. The cost could be shared with neighbouring parishes or be a part-time post.

Would you support increasing the Parish Precept to pay for a Lengthsman?

39. If you have any other comments please state.. ..

40. Would you support the production of a local map of footpaths and bridleways of the area?

41. Which of the existing paths are not particularly well marked or maintained?

42. Do you think there is a need for the creation of new paths?

For cyclists	Yes	No
For horse riders	Yes	No
For pedestrians	Yes	No

43. If yes where would you suggest?

44. North Rode has lost businesses and facilities including its shop, school and working farms. If the land in North Rode is to be developed please consider which future developments would enhance the village. Rank the following on a scale of 1 to 4, where 1 would be desirable and 4 would be undesirable.

Desirable.....Undesirable

Enter 1 2 3 4 in the box next to each type of development:

Erection of new agricultural barns in fields	Residential conversions of redundant farm buildings
New smallholdings (with houses)	Small scale new executive developments
New stables on fields	Small scale affordable new houses for local people
Small scale commercial development e.g. shop / tea room / school	Houses for rent
Caravan / Chalet sites	Retirement homes
New houses in North Rode	Starter homes for young families
Bed and breakfast	Holiday lets

45. Please describe any other commercial or residential developments that would enhance the village and why:

46. Please describe any other commercial or residential developments you would object to in the future and why:

47. A 'village design statement' would be a reference document to help define local architectural features that preserve the village character (e.g. style of gates, external lighting, fencing etc); do you think such guidance should be developed? Yes / No

48. Would you like to know more about the Planning Process? Yes / No

49. Do you think that Planning Regulations have had a positive or negative impact on North Rode in the last ten years. Positive / Negative / No opinion

50. Have we missed anything you'd like to mention?

If there is any additional information or issues you would like to add, please include below (continue on separate pages if required).

RESIDENT QUESTIONS

51. Please identify for each member of your household which age category and work sector applies and how long they have lived in North Rode:

Member	Age category (A – G)	Work sector	No of years in North Rode
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

Age categories

A	70 or over
B	50 – 69
C	30 – 49
D	20 – 29
E	11 – 19
F	5 – 10
G	4 or under

Work sectors

E	Employed
SE	Self employed
JS	Job seeker
R	Retired
H	Home maker
S	Full time education

52. Education – which schools or colleges do members of your household attend whether nursery, school, or further education?

53. How many cars are there in your household?

54. Please list any pets you have and how many

55. Do you have access to the internet at home? Yes / No

56. There will be an opportunity for children and young people to express their views at a future village event. If you have any ideas about how to involve the children, please specify below or on a separate page.