

## **Humbleton & Flinton Community Led Plan**

What is a Community Led Plan?

“A Community Led Plan is a tried and tested approach that helps local people to explore the needs of their area, set priorities and plan actions.”

### **Community Led Planning has a number of important characteristics:**

- It is led, driven and resourced through grass roots action.
- The people working on Community Led Plans are volunteers, usually a mix of parish councillors and local people.
- It involves extensive community participation and engagement using techniques such as questionnaires, meetings, discussions and events.
- It results in a credible Action Plan based on in-depth consultation.

The Action Plan will set out how local problems and issues may be tackled. These will be a mix of activities which the community can undertake alone, coupled with actions which will need addressing in partnership with local authorities and/or other agencies.

The aim of a Community Led Plan is to give every resident the opportunity to participate in, and contribute to, improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of their local area. It relies on people coming together locally, researching local needs and priorities and agreeing a range of different actions which help to improve their neighbourhood.

Approximately 4,000 communities across England have already been involved in developing Community Led Plans since the late 1970s. These have allowed communities to take responsibility for making things happen locally, rather than waiting on others to do it for them.



*St Peter's Church across village fields*

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“Community-Led Planning (also known as Parish Planning) is a tried and tested process already completed by over 4000 parishes and communities nationwide. In our region this has given a voice to over 200 communities, who have used their plans to encourage community spirit and action and also help with funding bids.”

*Rural Action Yorkshire*



*Green in every sense*

## **ABOUT THE PARISH**

Ours is a small country parish situated in the heart of Holderness, which is the part of Yorkshire stretching between Hull and Bridlington southwards to the river Humber. The village is approximately 12 miles south of Hornsea and 10 miles east of Hull.

The main road through the parish is the B1238 which runs through Flinton and connects Sproatley to the west, with Aldbrough to the east. Several smaller un-numbered roads criss-cross our area and link us to small neighbouring villages. The only public transport available are the bus services that run relatively infrequently to and from Hull and Hornsea. The Holderness Loop cycle route (a National Byway) runs through Humbleton but off-road walking opportunities are limited due to the lack of footpaths in the parish. Our parish is one of the few parishes without any public footpaths or bridlepaths in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

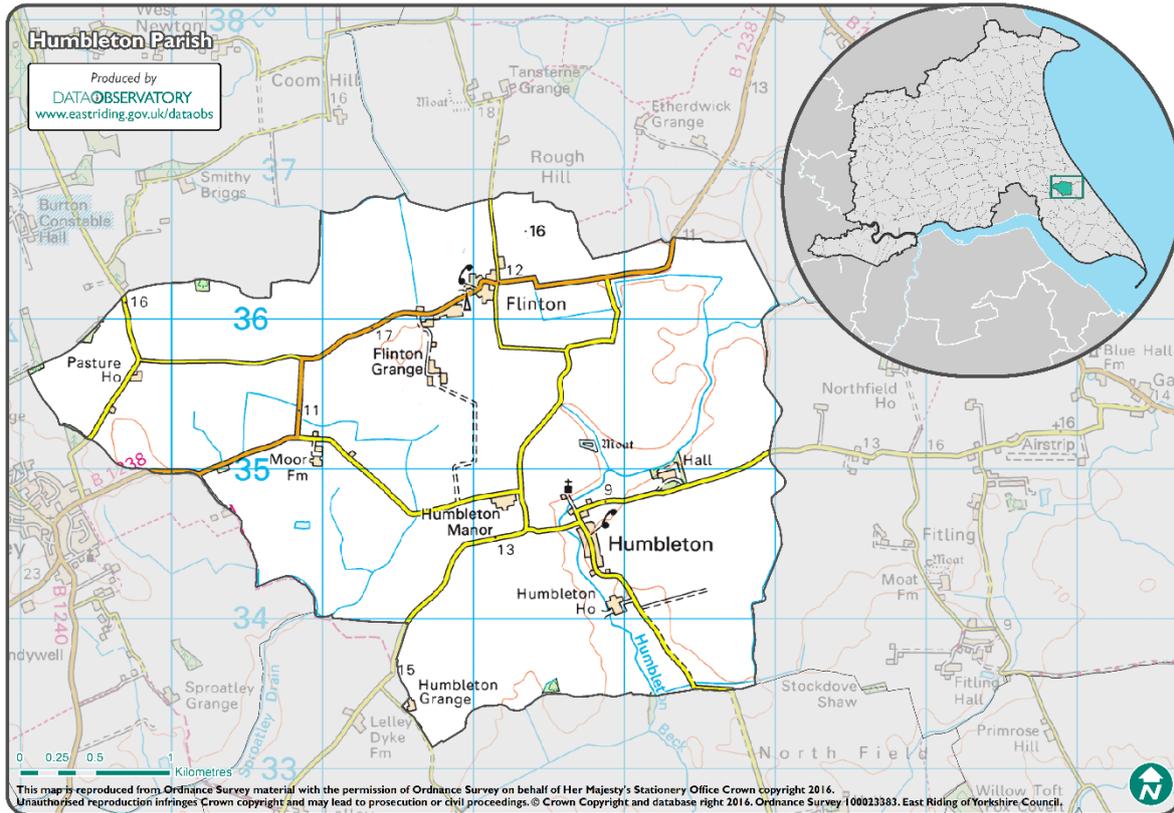
The predominant industry is agriculture. This is mainly arable with several large farms owning hundreds of acres each and generating some of the local employment. There are also several smaller companies in the area ranging from a large garage to 'home office' type companies employing one or two people. As is normal in our type of community though, the majority of residents commute to their workplace outside of the village. Due to the flat landscape, much of the skyline in our area has become dominated in recent times by renewable energy sites, consisting of multiple wind turbines and a new biomass power plant.

There are very few facilities in the parish other than the church (and the phone boxes that now or will house defibrillators). We no longer have a school (although we still have the old school building) or public house and there is no shop or post office although all of these are available in neighbouring villages. There is however a cricket pitch / playing field used by the Humbleton Recreation Club, which has a thriving cricket club with two men's teams, and a multi-use games area.

In the 2011 census, there were 208 people living in the parish with 146 of those of working age (16-64). Approx 37 were aged 0-15 with 25 people aged over 65. The total area of the parish is 1,164.7 hectares.



*The predominant industry*



## Our History

There has been some form of settlement in Humbleton and Flinton for over 900 years and both were mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1096.

### Humbleton

The village is surrounded by rich agricultural land and there are five farms all bearing the village name - Humbleton Manor, Humbleton Hall, Humbleton House, Humbleton Moor and Humbleton Grange.

In 1823 inhabitants in the village numbered 136 and occupations included three farmers, a shoemaker, a tailor, a carpenter and a blacksmith. A carrier operated between the village and Hull on Tuesdays and Fridays. There was a public school for poor parish children, the school teacher receiving a salary of 21 shillings. The parish is the birthplace of Admiral John Storr (1709-83).

The village school was known as the Herons endowed school and belongs to the Herons Trust. The building dates back to the early 1800s and, although it was partly rebuilt in 1905, it still resembles the original design. Children travelled from the surrounding villages of Elstronwick, Lelley, Fitling, Flinton and Danthorpe until it was closed in 1960. Since then the building had been used as a village hall for the local community although it has been allowed to decline and is now not safe for public use.

St Peter's church was rebuilt in the 13th century and further modifications and restoration were carried out in the 15th century. The oak pews and present pulpit were installed at the turn of this century and hot-water heating was installed in 1899 at a cost of £75. The 65 ft tower is said to be the best-proportioned tower in Holderness. There are three bells in the belfry dating from 1594 but ringing of the bells ceased in 1935 as the bell rollers became in need of extensive repairs. The clock was installed in 1920 with money raised by the parishioners with the intention of creating a long-lasting memorial to those who served and gave their lives in the First World War. Unfortunately the parish clock is in need of repair and has not worked for several years. The well-equipped organ has two manuals and was built by T. Hopkins and Sons of York who installed it in 1910; the air was pumped by hand until 1950 when an electric blower was installed. Humbleton did have a Methodist Chapel but this was converted to a private residence many years ago.

The development plan created by East Riding of Yorkshire Council has clearly defined the opportunities in the village for any residential building and this is limited to the current available green areas within the village itself. There are no opportunities in Flinton to develop housing according to the development plan.

The Green in front of Townend Villas has limited parking and all the utilities serving the village are retained there, affecting any opportunity to increase parking facilities for the growing number of vehicles in the village.

Approximately half the village are on mains sewerage with the rest of the residents on private septic tanks.

The villages are surrounded by gas lines from Middlesbrough feeding into Saltend, however there is no main gas in the villages, meaning that residents are restricted to other sources of utilities including electricity, LPG and oil.

Speed limits within the village are mainly restricted to 30 mph, however the village has lots of large farm traffic and children playing in the village around cars parked on the roadside.

### Flinton

Much of the land in the village was owned by Thornton Abbey (N Lincolnshire) from around 1150 until the Dissolution when it passed to the Crown. The lords of the manor were the Grimston family from the mid 14<sup>th</sup> to mid 17<sup>th</sup> Century and then the associated land passed to the Hildyard family until 1848 when it was sold to the Constable family (who had held some land in Flinton since the 13<sup>th</sup> Century) retaining the land as tenant farms to the Burton Constable estate until the 1960s.

At 65 feet, Pit Hills in Flinton is one of the highest pieces of land in Holderness and was used for stone extraction until Victorian times.

At various stages in its history, Flinton had a Manor House (with an associated chapel), a windmill, a Wesleyan chapel, a poor house and several alehouses. It is now without all of these and forms part of the parish of Humbleton and comprises a

number of farms dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> Century and smaller dwellings from the earlier 20<sup>th</sup>.

Flinton by its nature is a corridor based on the B1238 road through the village and does not have any central point, such as a village green, for the residents to congregate except for the recently adopted phone box.

There is no public sewerage in Flinton and, like Humbleton, mains gas is not available. The speed limit through the village is 30 mph, but the straightness of the B1238 for half the length of the village tends to encourage transitory traffic to go faster than this. Fortunately, residents do not need to park on the road and children do not play on or near it due to the amount of traffic.

## **The Consultation Process**

The first meeting of the volunteers who were interested in having a Community-led Plan took place in March 2016, they became the Steering Committee. At the meeting, it was agreed that a Plan would be useful as a means of capturing the aspirations and concerns of the villagers and thereby assisting in getting our voice heard when decisions were being made that would affect our community. Examples cited included planning permission, transport reviews, infrastructure enhancements and funding applications. It was decided that the next step to creating the Plan would be to engage with as many in the community as possible through a questionnaire and by seeking views at community events. The intention was that the entire process up to circulation of a completed plan would take approximately 18 months.

Engagement with the community started at the 'Family Fun Day' on 17 July 2016 where local residents were asked to identify issues (positive and negative) that mattered to them and to rate them Red (a concern or cease), Amber (needing to be done better) or Green (maintained or enhanced). These initial findings were then taken to the village Halloween Party where attendees added new issues and confirmed the validity of the earlier ones. The resultant data was then grouped into themes by the Steering Committee members to simplify analysis at subsequent meetings.

In addition to the 'in person' consultations, the Steering Committee drew up a questionnaire that was delivered to every house in the two villages by committee members in August 2016. Questions included requests for information about age, gender and employment status of residents as well as space for lists of issues and concerns to supplement the ones raised during the village events. The number of responses was in line with statistical norms for this type of consultation – providing indicative information from sections of the community rather than truly authoritative responses from all groups. That said, the information was very useful, enabled everyone who wanted to participate to do so and greatly helped in the assembly of the subsequent plan.



*St Peter's Church*

## **Report Conclusions**

The Steering Committee believes that this report has accurately recorded the opinions of those who attended events and/or answered the questionnaire. But not everyone replied to the questionnaire and not all of those who did reply answered all the questions. We cannot be certain that this report is fully representative of the views of the whole community, but it is likely that those who mind most about the environment in which they live have given us their comments.

Four overarching conclusions about the village population can be derived from the Consultation Process:

- We have a mix of Ages, Activity and Home Ownership
  - The needs of young, middle-aged and old will need to be taken into account
- There is no reported Unemployment
  - Generating new employment opportunities is likely to be less important to residents than maintaining what we have and enabling access to employment locations
- Most residents moved into the villages from elsewhere in the East Riding
  - They were very familiar with the area and its positives and negatives before they moved here
- Many people here are long-term (greater than 10 years) residents
  - People have a long-term stake in the future of our community

## **Survey Results**

The 'headline issues' from the Consultation Process were:

- **Speeding Traffic** – This came mostly (but not exclusively) from Flinton residents relating to the B1238. Traffic levels on our roads have remained

broadly unchanged in recent years, but there are enduring concerns about speeding through the village. At residents' request the Council (ERYC) conducted a survey on the B1238 in early 2017 to assess the level of speeding, but findings were inconclusive (partly due to the siting of the equipment). The Council's view was that, although the survey did provide conclusive evidence of speeding, it was not of a sufficient severity to warrant provision of a permanent facility or regular law-enforcement presence. We will need to continue to monitor this and re-approach the Council if it gets worse. On-road parking in Humbleton was also seen as a factor for traffic as it reduces the available road width and may obscure drivers' views of children on the roadside



*Humbleton Streetside*

- **Old School Building / Village Hall facility** – There was widespread support for the provision of a Community building for functions, events and meetings in the village. There were also suggestions that such a building could house key facilities such as a shop, tearoom, cash point and/or post office. The most obvious candidate for this was the Old Village School (owned by the Herons Educational Trust – a charity whose trustees are mainly local residents) but this is no longer in a safe state of repair due to neglect and many residents expressed their concern about this loss of potentially useful village asset (and the unsightly impact on the village). As an alternative, Humbleton church (St Peter's) has been used for a number of village events (secular and religious) and proved to be very suitable as it has been well-maintained throughout its long history. If the church is to continue to fill the

role of Community building for all events however, some work will need to be done to provide toilets and kitchen facilities. Funding would need to be sought for this from numerous sources, as well as approval from the Diocese of York for any proposed changes.



*The Old School Building in disrepair*

- **Industrialisation** – This related to a general desire to maintain the quiet and agricultural ‘feel’ of our village and a specific concern about issues around the new biomass power plant on the parish border. When raising the issue of the new biomass power plant, most respondents were more concerned about the planned rise in heavy goods traffic bringing fuel (woodchip) to the plant along the parish’s roads than the other environmental aspects such as pollution and noise which seemed to be covered within the planning permission constraints. That said, monitoring all aspects of this new development and any future ones was felt by many to be important. On maintaining the ‘feel’ of the village, there was a general recognition that some level of development was inevitable and probably essential if the village was not to decline over time due to a lack of new (and younger) residents, but that any development should take into account the rural nature of the area and the limited facilities and infrastructure (the parish has no doctors’ surgery, school, shop, post office or public house and very limited on-road parking).



*The Biomass Power Plant*

- **Planning Applications** – It was felt that any new housing permitted should aim to balance ‘affordable’ dwellings with the more expensive developments given relatively low income levels for younger residents – a mix of rental and owner-occupier properties was generally felt to be most appropriate for the future. Again, on-road parking is a concern as was the lack of public transport and facilities. Aside from housing applications, there was an acceptance that the village could not attempt to ‘stand still’ and that some additional non-housing applications would be reasonable, although many felt that there are now more than enough wind turbines in our area which can be seen in almost every direction.



*Wind Turbines across the fields*

- **Street Scene and General Environs** – Respondents were generally very happy with the overall appearance of the village and were keen to maintain the rural atmosphere and enjoy the peace and quiet for which they moved here. Several people suggested placing seats on Humbleton Green to allow an opportunity to rest whilst enjoying the view – perhaps with the addition of planting boxes to enhance the scene. The provision of dog waste bins was also suggested as a way of ensuring that the environment of the village was maintained for the use of all residents. In the past, a Village Walk had compensated for the unusual lack of parish public footpaths but this facility had been withdrawn several years ago by the land owners. It was suggested that an approach be made to ascertain whether this, or a suitable alternative, could be made available to responsible walkers. It was felt possible that ‘Right to Roam’ legislation might enable this request to gain traction.



*Winter view into Humbleton from the church*

- **Play Facilities** – given the number of children in the parish it was felt that play facilities (swings, climbing frame etc) could be provided, perhaps on the conveniently sited Humbleton playing field (owned by Herons Educational Trust) where a similar amenity had existed in the past. Issues such as safety, litter and legal compliance would have to be addressed before external funding could be sought, although it was felt that nothing is impossible if parents were prepared to assist with oversight and maintenance with agreement from the Humbleton Recreation Club
- **General Safety and Security** – our rural location has meant that levels of all types of crime are lower than in the towns and cities but that does not mean that crime does not happen or that it is not a concern to residents. Whilst Humberside Police continue to assure us that they are ‘committed to the policing of Wildlife and Rural Crime’ the numbers of police personnel in our area means that response times can be long and crime prevention is likely to be more effective than subsequent detection activities. Suggestions to address concerns included rejuvenating the Neighbourhood Watch scheme (currently run as part of the Parish Council rather than a standalone group) and improving street lighting provision within village centres.
- **Broadband** – the Government’s plan to ‘provide superfast broadband coverage to 95% by December 2017’ has delivered some improvements to the service available in Humbleton (although not yet to Flinton). As of February 2018 the cabinet had been installed in Humbleton but some residents cannot access the new services and those that can are not yet seeing much, if any, increase in delivery speeds. Flinton appears to be subject to a different programme of works, the timescale for which is not yet clear. Many residents therefore continue to complain about the impact that this is having on both domestic and business activities. Whilst not the highest scoring concern from our consultations, this was felt to be because many

residents are waiting to see whether the promised improvements will be delivered by the recent or anticipated works before raising the criticality of this issue for modern living again.

- **Road Maintenance** – the reliance on road usage for all aspects of life in our parish means that residents are especially vulnerable to the impact of poorly maintained roads. The damage caused by a pothole to the family car will have an effect on travel to work, trips to the shops and the daily school run whilst a road closure will result in a lengthy, time-consuming diversion. Fortunately our relationship with ERYC is good and they are very responsive to any reports of pot holes, which have usually been repaired promptly.
- **Local Environment** – the key positive factors that residents listed during the Consultation were centred around their enjoyment of the environment, peace and quiet and rural life. It is no surprise therefore that issues around fly-tipping, roadside litter, dog fouling and footpaths were raised by several households. While fly-tipping is unsightly and spoils the enjoyment of the countryside for some, for farmers it can cost many thousands of pounds per year to clean up the mess. Actions suggested to assist with this specific problem ranged from increased Council activities (patrols, collections, CCTV) to more vigilance by local residents to report suspicious activities. On litter more generally, regular village clean-ups could be a solution if properly organized, advertised and equipped.
- **Public Transport** – the numbers regularly using public transport amongst our respondents was small, but for those individuals with limited / no access to their own vehicle the lack of local facilities in the parish mean that a bus service is a vital amenity. The current service for Flinton provides for one (two on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays) early morning and one early afternoon trip to Hull, with one mid-day and one (two on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays) afternoon trip from Hull. Humbleton has one bus in the morning to Hull and one back from Hull mid-afternoon, but only on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays). Recent announcements on planned reductions on the current levels of bus services will exacerbate this problem and caused concern for those who rely on a level of service provision. Suggested solutions include local car- and taxi-share schemes and increased use of community solutions such as the Holderness Area Rural Transport (HART).



*Community Transport Option*

## Action Plan

Issue	Action	How to tackle it	Lead Organisations & Partners	Benefit	Priority	Timescale
Speeding Traffic	Monitor & Report any worsening of situation	Approach ERYC to issue volunteers with speed guns	Parish Council	Accurate monitoring of problem at limited cost to Council	1	12 months
Community Building - Church	Provide additional facilities (kitchen/toilet)	Additional Funding	Diocese of York – Parochial Church Council	Enhance utility of current building	3	12 months
Community Building – Old School	Hasten decision-making process	Lobby Herons Trust to make decision on future of old school building	Herons	Remove eyesore from centre of village	3	12 months
Biomass Power Plant	Monitor traffic and pollution levels (including noise)	Compare levels to those on planning permission	Parish Council in conjunction with ERYC	Ensure minimal impact	-	Review in Jan 2019
Planning Applications	Scrutinise new applications	Ensure that new buildings are in keeping with and sensitive to needs of village	Parish Council	Ensure appropriate growth and development	-	Review in Jan 2019

Street Scene	Addition of bench, dog mess bins & planters	Seek funding and volunteers (for planters)	Parish Council	Enhance current amenity	-	Review in Jan 2019
Village Walk	Increase off-road walking opportunities	Approach local landowners and Council	Parish Council	Create new amenity	-	Review in Jan 2019
Play Facilities	Provision of communal play area	Seek volunteers to monitor & maintain. If successful seek funding & location	Parish Council, Herons Trust, ERYC	Safe play area for children, enhance appeal of village	-	Review in Jan 2019
Security	Re-invigorate Neighbourhood Watch	Assess levels of interest in village	Parish Council, Police	Enhance security, deter crime	-	Review in Jan 2019
Broadband	Ensure improvements	Monitor rollout programme, contact local MP if unacceptable	Parish Council	Enable modern levels of personal and business internet access	2	6 months
Road Maintenance	Ensure safe roads	Report problems as they develop	Parish Council, Council	Safe driving, enhance access to facilities	-	Review in Jan 2019
Fly-tipping	Monitor & Report	Report instances, publicise contact numbers	Parish Council	Reduce incidents, target offenders	-	Review in Jan 2019

Roadside Rubbish	Remove	Organise and equip regular volunteer litter pick-ups	Parish Council,	Remove and discourage litter	-	Review in Jan 2019
Public Transport	Provide alternative options	Connect those in need to other individuals or HART	Parish Council?	Cost-effective alternatives	-	Review in Jan 2019
Community Plan	Monitor	Ensure Plan delivers useful effects	Steering Group	Community led planning	-	Review in Jan 2019