

# Ovington Parish Plan 2009

## CONTENTS

Foreword and Introduction by Peter Pescod, Chairman, Ovington Parish Council	1
Acknowledgements	2
Ovington Parish	3 - 7
Top Three Issues and Findings	8 - 18
Summary of Actions	19 - 23
Appendices	
1	Maps of Ovington
2	Base Line Data
3	Example of Questionnaires
4	Questionnaire findings and analyses
5	Notes from Consultation groups

# FORWARD AND INTRODUCTION

**By Peter Pescod, Chairman Ovington Parish Council,  
Chairman Ovington Parish Plan Steering Group.**

In order to reflect the needs and aspirations of the Ovington community now and in the future, the Parish Council decided to engage with the village residents and prepare a Parish Plan. The purpose of the plan is to enable the Parish Council to formulate a strategy for future developments in the village and surrounding area. It will also allow the Parish Council to make informed decisions based on clearly identified issues.

The Plan is a dynamic and living document. It will be used to monitor and manage the action plan, which will, in turn reflect the aspirations of the whole community. The Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis to validate the aims and objectives and to add new ideas and actions when appropriate.

A Steering Group of 8 residents, supported by another 30 who formed an outer consultation group was appointed after a public meeting. The process of collecting, analysing and presenting the Plan has been the result of a communications strategy, which embraced the whole of the parish community.

Over 80% of the parish residents have been involved to some degree in the preparation of this Plan, via questionnaires, discussions and meetings. The Chalet users, who are occasional residents, were also consulted and their views have been taken into account.

The Steering Group used a mixture of methods to engage with the Parish community, including:

- Questionnaires to every household distributed and collected by local representatives for every street or area.
- Questionnaires were also made available to all chalet residents through distribution, posters, and the social club support.
- Targeted meetings for young people, business/self employed residents, over 60s, chalet owners, club members and general residents
- A sequence of newsletters to all residents with invitations to meetings and a 'Plan' progress report.
- A public meeting to which all residents were invited, at which the Steering Group presented the 'Plan' and gained agreement for the Action Plan.

The Plan has recommended actions to implement and initiate improvements in the Parish. The Parish Council has endorsed these recommendations and is committed to managing, monitoring and resourcing, where possible, the outcomes.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The creation of this plan has been possible thanks to the contributions of many people from the parish.

### **Steering Group - responsible for the production of the Parish Plan:**

Peter Pescod  
Barbara Pescod  
Adrian Smith  
Cliff Thornton

Jean Thomas  
Mike Johnson  
Andy Russell  
Rae McCormack

### **Supporting the process, have been a host of other individuals and groups including:**

The Parish Council  
The Outer Steering Group  
The Social Club Committee  
The Community Group

Attendees at all the consultation meetings especially the children of the parish. All those who delivered and collected the Questionnaires

### **Of particular help, have been:**

Pat Straughan  
Alan Hicks  
Ken McCombie  
Rosemary Cook  
Justine Russell  
Ann Robson  
Terry Muckian  
John Little  
Neil Ramsay

Diane Bunn  
Judy Hicks  
Margaret Davenport  
Sandra Knowles  
Ann Kelly  
Angus Armstrong  
Penny Bailey  
Steph Robson

Dorothy Walton  
Len Thomas  
Irene Pigg  
Dawn Jordon  
Tony Jordon  
Councillor Paul Kelly  
Margaret Williams  
Ann Cowperthwaite  
Rosemary Gilbert

Thanks to Community Action Northumberland for their advice and financial support.

## **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PLAN**

Please contact:

Peter Pescod  
Jean Thomas

01661 832358 email: peterpescod@hotmail.com  
01661 836429 email: jean-thomas@talktalk.net

## OVINGTON PARISH

The parish of Ovington lies in southern Northumberland, on the north bank of the River Tyne. It is one of the smallest parishes in the county. The parish extends from the River Tyne in the south to the A69 trunk road in the north. In the east the boundary is marked by the Whittle Dene. To the west the boundary is the West Dene and northwards along the edge of the Nursery.

The parish is part of Tynedale District in Northumberland.

### **History**

Although there is evidence of prehistoric settlement the main period of growth as we know it today started in the Middle Ages. The village lies on the ancient Carelgate road running east-west and almost parallel to the Roman Wall. The earliest buildings in Ovington seem to have been built in the 16th and 17th centuries. Following this the 18th and 19th centuries were a fairly prosperous time for the border region and fine buildings such as Ovington Hall were built. As farms developed so did industry and Ovington grew as a brewing centre. A number of families in the village were involved in mining and quarrying. In the last forty years as farming and local industry have decreased the village has become a commuter settlement serving Tyneside.

## **People**

The parish has a very mature and gender balanced population. Young people below the age of 18 comprise about a fifth of the population. The number of young people is declining as a proportion of the village. Younger adults (19-35) are the smallest group. Older adults (36-64) are the dominant group accounting for half the population. People over the age of 65 are a significant group comprising a fifth of the population. This group can be expected to increase as a proportion of the village.

The population is very stable with a long-term commitment to the village. Many of the residents have raised families in the village and, as their children have left to develop their own lives and careers, they have remained. This trend can be expected to continue.

Half of the population are working. The locations vary with more than a third working in the village or locally. Two thirds are commuters mainly in the Tyneside area.

**Housing**

The older part of the village, mainly stone built, makes up the conservation area. Many houses in this area have been extended and improved, and new houses have been built in infill areas.

Housing was added in the 1930s and the 1960s with the building of The Green, Leazes View and Greenrising. Further development took place in the 1970s with the addition of Springfield.

**Facilities**

The village has a restaurant, a social club, two bed and breakfast establishments, holiday cottages, a post box, and a telephone box. Newspapers and milk are delivered.

Over recent years the village has lost a post office, shops, an inn and the village hall.

Ovington Social Club

**Transport opportunities**

Buses provide a daily service approximately every hour during weekdays but do not run in the evening. This has reduced significantly over recent years lessening opportunity to access leisure activities. Train services are available from Prudhoe but the reduction in bus services causes difficulty of access. The village relies mainly on the use of the car.

Looking towards old Village Farm

## **Environment**

The parish is situated on the south-facing slope of the Tyne valley occupying a significant bluff above the river floodplain at a height of 70m. The village lies in an extremely pleasant rural setting surrounded by fields and woodland. The Green Belt completely surrounds the built environment of the village restricting any further outward development. Holiday chalet sites are located near to the River Tyne around the area known as Ferry Landing, within Whittle Dene and near to Overdene. The village has a sunny aspect with a large amount of open space for the enjoyment of residents and provides areas for informal play. The older part of the village forms a conservation area and significant new housing is over thirty years old so a maturing environment is developing. Future growth of the built area of the village is unlikely as it is constrained by Tynedale's sustainable development policy.

Springfield

## **The Parish Council**

Is the first tier of Local Government covering the village. It has 5 members, elected or co-opted for a 4 year term. It holds 6 meetings a year in the Club. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meetings.

The work of the Council is largely related to the maintenance and improvement of the village environment and facilities such as transport and rights of way. It is consulted by the planning authority on all planning applications within the parish and by the County Council and Government bodies on broader issues affecting the area. The Council is frequently the first contact point for suggestions or complaints from within the village.

The Council sets a small annual rate (known as a precept) for its expenditure in the village and it is envisaged that the council will have a continuing role in co-ordinating the delivery of recommendations in the Parish plan and in the development of a village hall.

## **THE TOP THREE ISSUES**

As a first step responses were drawn together from the consultation to see if any main themes emerged. Three broad headings stood out which seem to capture the main thrust of what residents want to see happening in Ovington.

**They are:**

- 1. Increasing Community Life and Integration**
- 2. Improving Access Opportunities**
- 3. Improving the Village Environment**

In addition to these three main themes a number of other important matters requiring attention in the village were also raised

- Affordable heating
- Affordable housing
- Support for those working from home

Villagers in 2000

# 1 Increasing Community Life and Integration

## FINDINGS:

- The Social Club is the best-used facility within the village. Nearly a quarter of those completing the Questionnaire visit the Club at least once a week
- Winships Restaurant is also well used, but not as regularly as the Club - about a third of respondents visit Winships at least once a month.
- However there are still sizeable numbers who do not visit either - just over half of the respondents hardly ever or never visit the Club, and the same is true in respect of Winships for just over a quarter of the respondents
- People clearly like the current sense of community within the village but the opportunities to grow community are limited - lack of a shop, pub, village hall where there are opportunities for organised and informal contact
- The Questionnaire asked what activities respondents would support if Ovington had a village hall (possibly created in the Club's concert hall pictured below). A wide range of activities were put forward including - cinema, yoga, keep fit, hobbies, dancing, IT/library, lunch club - indicating that there is degree of frustrated demand for a place for community activities that could be channelled into a village hall

Luncheon Club

- People already take part in many activities in and around the village that don't require a village hall, however, there would be community benefits if there were better ways of connecting people with common interests.
- Young people (teens particularly) are considered to be poorly catered for and many feel dissatisfied with aspects of village life. Apart from the use of the green for recreation and play all youth activities take place outside Ovington and require transport. This must have the effect of preventing some young people from taking part in activities that would be the norm in larger communities. There is a demand from young people in the village for better play facilities and efforts need to be made to accommodate this both within a village hall and outside.

Enjoying the snow

- Better communications are the key to community life but at present the main way in which people find out what is happening is by word of mouth, with the village notice board and the use of occasional flyers/newsletters providing a secondary means of communication for some.
- There was significant support for a village newsletter, a welcome pack for newcomers to the village and a village website
- Ovington has a "Community Group" which co-ordinates a number of regular activities including an annual litter pick, the Summer Fair, and Christmas Carol Singing. All the members of the Group are volunteers.

Enjoying the Village Green

## **SUGGESTED ACTION:**

a) An Ovington News Letter, Website and Welcome Pack  
Improving communication within the village must be at the heart of the Parish Plan, and is essential to increase community life and integration. It requires dedicated/funded time and cannot be wholly reliant on volunteers

b) An Ovington "Community Co-ordinator"

- Funding to be sought for the employment of a part time “Community Co-ordinator” to work from home. They will act as a focal point for the production and circulation of a monthly Ovington News Letter, the development and regular updating of an Ovington Village Website, and the preparation, updating and distribution of a Welcome Pack for newcomers to the village.
- Consideration to be given to the “Community Co-ordinator” assisting and widening the activities of the current “Community Group”
- The employment of the “Community Co-ordinator” to be the responsibility of the Parish Council

- 

c) The creation of a 'Village Hall' in the Club

- Set up a joint committee bringing together the Club, the Parish Council, and other members of the community to progress the idea of creating a village hall in the Club Concert Hall
- Prepare a list of the activities that would be accommodated in the Hall and seek the commitment of key individuals who would organise specific activities once the village hall becomes available
- Prepare a business plan and seek funding

d) The creation of better facilities for young people out of doors - using currently available funding of approximately £10,000 from the Highlander Development. One possibility would be a skateboard facility.

## 2 Improving Access Opportunities

The village is situated within a countryside environment and is relatively isolated from many of the expected services of modern day life. The results of the consultation show that access to work, education, shopping and leisure are important to the people of the village if they are to enjoy a full and meaningful lifestyle.

### FINDINGS:

- Buses serve Ovington and rail services are reasonably close at hand but the car provides the main means of transport for most people. The village is predominantly a car owning and car using society. A significant number of people make use of the bus, but train use is low. The healthy options of walking and cycling to access facilities are also low. Car use dominates over bus use for education purposes despite the provision of a free service being available.
- Bus services are at risk and subject to an annual review. Services were reprieved in 2008 with support from Nexus and NCC but the existing timetable cannot be guaranteed into the future. One fifth of households use the bus on a frequent basis of more than once a week and almost another fifth use the bus regularly within each month. However, almost half of households hardly ever or never use the bus.
- Rail services are used less frequently. Only about a tenth of households use rail on a frequent basis and almost another fifth use rail regularly each month.
- Non-drivers, older and young people are disadvantaged by the limited timetables available.
- Road safety is an issue for the majority of households and clearly there are parts of the village where this is a serious concern.
- Parking problems are limited to a few hot spots where residents consider it to be a serious concern. Overall the greater majority of households do not consider parking to be a problem.
- Just over half of all households are dissatisfied with the condition of footpaths within and around the village. Footpath access to Ovington is dangerous but could be improved. A considerable majority supports

the provision of an improved footpath between Ovington and Ovingham.

- Access to emergency and essential services is generally considered to be good, although there was less satisfaction with post and refuse services.
- Almost all households wanted a regular village newsletter and a 'Welcome pack'. Computer use is widespread and three-quarters of households would access a village website.

## **SUGGESTED ACTION:**

- a) Set up a village Access Group to identify needs and enter into discussions with the bus and train operators, Nexus and Northumberland County Council in order to improve services.
- b) Improve the distribution of information regarding public transport.
- c) Investigate ways of accessing transport for those sections of the community who are at present disadvantaged.
- d) The Parish Council to initiate discussions with Northumberland County Council to get footpath improvement to Ovingham into a capital works programme.
- e) The Parish Council to liaise with Royal Mail and the Northumberland County Council Refuse Services to bring about a positive response to many of the concerns of dissatisfaction.
- f) The Parish Council and the Access Group to initiate discussions with Northumberland County Council and the Highways Agency to see if slip roads in and out of the road junction on the A69 can be provided to improve road safety.

## **3 Improving the Environment**

Brewery Square

### **FINDINGS:**

The majority of residents have a positive opinion of the village and its setting; however, there were comments and suggestions relating to a wide range of subjects that, in some peoples' views, impact on the village environment.

The issues raised fall into three main headings:

- Rubbish and animal fouling
- Maintenance of the village

- Parking and roads

In order to implement any of the suggestions put forward or to have any impact on environmental changes in Ovington, there will need to be a commitment by all the residents to take responsibility for the changes.

Some examples of the key concerns were as follows:

- Dog fouling on footpaths and green areas used for walking and playing
- Litter/fly tipping on lanes around the village
- The case for a bottle bank in the village
- More regular and managed grass cutting
- Maintenance and clearing of ditches and drains around the village
- State of roads, parking and speeding problems

There are many suggestions offering solutions for the above problems e.g.

- Signage re dog fouling, more animal waste bins, attach dog bags to lampposts.
- Extra clean up days and litter picks, dump rubbish back in offending gardens, encourage children to pick up litter. More litter picks.
- Place a bottle bank on one of the following alternative sites: the club car park, on the west road where buses turn, on the village green, on Coal Lane, on Springfield.
- Identify the need for traffic calming measures and support improvement through the appropriate agencies
- Identify the need for car parking or restrictions and support improvement through the appropriate agencies.

These are the concerns of the majority, but they are not the full list identified on the Questionnaires.

Beautifier looking west

### **SUGGESTED ACTION:**

A small group of people representing each section of the village could be encouraged to form a Civic Group in 2009. This Group could take forward the issues raised in this section and other related recommendations emerging from this plan. In this way, the concerns of the residents can be dealt with collectively and improvements made to suit the majority. Local authorities and representatives such as Northumberland County Council and the Parish Council can be lobbied accordingly where changes require their authority.

## SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

1. Increasing Community Life	2. Improving Access Opportunities	3. Improving the Environment
<p>a) Improve communication by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a regular newsletter</li> <li>• a village website</li> <li>• a welcome pack for newcomers</li> </ul> <p>b) Appoint a Community Co-ordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• part time role for a local person</li> <li>• focal point for improving communication</li> <li>• assisting the current Community Group</li> <li>• seek funding</li> <li>• employed by the Parish Council</li> </ul> <p>c) Creation of Village Hall in the Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• joint committee to facilitate</li> <li>• prepare a list of activities</li> <li>• identify and seek commitment from key individuals</li> <li>• prepare business plan</li> <li>• seek funding</li> </ul> <p>d) Better outdoor facilities for young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develop a skateboard facility</li> <li>• Improve Joiner's Bank facility</li> </ul>	<p>a) Village Access Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ongoing dialogue with NCC and public transport providers</li> </ul> <p>b) Information on public transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• input to newsletter and website</li> </ul> <p>c) Improved access for disadvantaged</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ongoing dialogue with NCC and public transport providers</li> </ul> <p>d) Footpath improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• initiate discussions with NCC</li> </ul> <p>e) Improving services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• initiate discussions with NCC re refuse services</li> <li>• initiate discussions with Royal Mail re timing of mail delivery</li> </ul> <p>f) Improved access to A69</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• initiate discussions with NCC and Highways Agency</li> </ul>	<p>f) Civic Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• formation of a Civic Group to initiate a wide range of actions to address the environmental issues</li> </ul> <p>b) Specific issues to be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• signage re dog waste bins</li> <li>• additional clean up days/litter picks</li> <li>• provision of a bottle bank in the village</li> <li>• increased traffic calming measures</li> <li>• improved car parking arrangements</li> </ul>

## ACTION ON COMMUNITY LIFE

1. Increasing Community Life	Issues	Who	Time objective
a) Improve communication by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a regular newsletter</li> <li>• a village website</li> <li>• a welcome pack for newcomers</li> </ul>	a) Improve communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• set up and on-going funding</li> <li>• support group/committee</li> </ul>	Community co-ordinator	Within 12 months
b) Appoint a Community Co-ordinator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• part time role for a local person</li> <li>• focal point for improving communication</li> <li>• assisting the current Community Group</li> <li>• seek funding</li> <li>• employed by the Parish Council</li> </ul>	b) Co-ordinator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• on-going funding</li> <li>• selection process</li> <li>• employment terms and conditions</li> <li>• management arrangements</li> <li>• expenses</li> </ul>	Parish Council	Within 6 months



## ACTION ON ACCESS

2. Improving Access Opportunities	Issues	Responsibilities	Time Objective
<p>a) Village Access Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ongoing dialogue with NCC and public transport providers</li> </ul> <p>b) Information on public transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>input to newsletter and website</li> </ul> <p>c) Improved access for disadvantaged</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ongoing dialogue with NCC and public transport providers</li> </ul> <p>d) Footpath improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>initiate discussions with NCC</li> </ul> <p>e) Improving services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>initiate discussions with NCC re refuse services</li> <li>initiate discussions with Royal Mail re timing of mail delivery</li> </ul> <p>f) Improved access to A69</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>initiate discussions with NCC and Highways Agency</li> </ul>	<p>a) Village Access Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>forming the group</li> </ul> <p>b) Information on public transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>link to Community Co-ordinator</li> </ul> <p>c) Improved access for disadvantaged</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>status of transport group</li> </ul> <p>d) Footpath improvement</p> <p>e) Improving services</p> <p>f) Improved access to A69</p>	<p>Parish Council</p> <p>Community Co-ordinator</p> <p>Village Access group</p>	<p>Within 6 months</p> <p>Ongoing after 9 months</p> <p>Ongoing after 9 months</p>



# OVINGTON PARISH

Baseline data May 2008

## 1.1 Description

The parish of Ovington lies in southern Northumberland, on the north bank of the River Tyne. It is one of the smallest parishes in the county. The parish extends from the River Tyne in the south to the A69 trunk road in the north. In the east the boundary is marked by the Whittle Dene To the west the boundary is the West Dene and northwards along the edge of the Nursery. The parish is part of Tynedale District in Northumberland.

There are a number of important planning policies that control development and the use of the area. Green Belt completely surrounds the built environment of the village. The area around Ovington Lodge and The Old Chapel are completely within the Green Belt.

The older part of the village is within a Conservation Area (see map-Appendix 1)

Its nearness to the Tyneside conurbation places it within a Commuter Pressure Area.

As it lies within the western approach route to Newcastle Airport the airspace is controlled within an Aeronautical Safeguarding Area.

The village is divided into a number of distinct areas;

The older original village occupying the south east part of the settlement,

An older outlying area to the west centred on the old brewery complex and Hall,  
(These areas make up the Conservation Area. They contain new housing located on infill or redevelopment sites.)

An inter-war 1930s council development forming the Leazes View and The Green housing,

Post-war 1960s council development forming Greenrising,  
1970s private housing development forms Springfield.

There are outlying settlements to the main village within the parish.

In the south-east there is the area around Wellburn adjacent to Ovingham village which includes the First and Middle schools.

To the north there area number of houses and a farm at Overdene.

Holiday chalet sites are located near to the River Tyne around the area known as Ferry Landing, within Whittle Dene and near to Overdene.

## 1.2 Population and demography

The population structure based on a local survey in **2008** is as follows;

Total population Wellburn)			Village	397		Parish 439 (+32	
	<5	5-10	11-18	19-64	65-75	75+	
Village		11	23	30	255	55	23
Parish	12	23	34	286	58	26	

Households	Village	207	Parish 226		
		Village	%	Parish %	
Households with <5s		8	4	( 9)	4
Households with 5-10		14	7	(14)	6
Households with 11-18		23	11	(23)	10
Households with family groups		42	20	(46)	20
Households with sole residents 19-65		93	45	(104)	46
Households with sole residents >65		49	24	(54)	24
				(+32 Wellburn)	
Households with incapacitated		7	3	(7)	3

These figures are supported by the **2001** Census figures for the parish and show particular trends.

Population 537                      Male 247    Female        290  
Households 210

The ethnic diversity of households is 100% white.

Structure	0-4	5-15	16-64	65-74	75+		
	32	68	333	49	55	(These figures include	
c30	%	6	13	62	9	10	at Wellburn)

The following trends are apparent;

A reduction in the total population.

A 50% reduction in <5s.

A similar reduction in the school age population.

A significant increase in the number and proportion >65. (exc. Wellburn)

## 2 Landscape features

The parish is situated on the south-facing slope of the Tyne valley. The site of the village is on a significant bluff above the river floodplain at a height of 70m. The underlying geology is part of the Carboniferous Limestone Series, which is composed mainly of limestone and sandstone, with occasional coal seams. The rock is very close to the surface. This is covered by boulder clay, which produces clay soils. On the flood plain the soils are much lighter with a greater proportion of sand and gravel.

The main watercourse in the village is the Cockermere Burn that appears to have been fed by the Blackguard well on the site now occupied by Springfield. This also seems to have been the source for the Top Tap.

### **3 Historical context**

Very little has been found from prehistoric times except for a cup and ring marked stone at Hunters Hill. It had an extraordinary range of symbols carved on it and is our only clue to the people who lived here in the Neolithic. There is a big gap in the evidence for the rest of the prehistoric period, as well as the Roman and early medieval periods. The next hint of life in the parish comes in medieval times. Ovington Hall has some 14th century stonework in its outbuildings and may have an old building at its core.

At a time when northern England was suffering the ravages of war with Scotland, Ovington seems to have escaped without mention. Likewise, it has no trace of the 16th and 17th century defensive farmhouses, called bastles that are found elsewhere in the county. The earliest buildings in Ovington seem to have been built in the 16th and 17th centuries. Village Farm may be one of the earliest and, although it is a little like a bastle, its walls are much thinner and would not have withstood any prolonged attack. Hunter's Cottage is another 17th or 18th century farm and is a rare survival of an earlier type of farm.

The 18th and 19th centuries were a fairly prosperous time for the border region of England and fine buildings such as Ovington Hall were built. As well as developments in farm methods and practice, new industries developed, such as brewing at the Old Brewery.<sup>1</sup>

The village lies on the ancient Carelgate road running east-west and almost parallel to the Roman Wall.

## 4 Built environment

### 4.1 Housing stock

A local survey in **2008** suggests the following number of dwellings;

Village	213	Parish	226
Second home/holiday let			4

The **2001** Census shows 217 dwellings in the parish.

Detached	106
Semi/D and Terraced	110

Homes complete with central heating, bath/shower, and toilet  
202

Tenure	Owner occupied	161
	Rented, Council/Association	32
	Rented, private	17

A considerable increase in house prices in recent years has placed many homes beyond the reach of first time buyers and lower income groups. This will have a significant effect on the nature of the population in the village. There is a lack of affordable housing.

House prices (£)	Low	High
2008	145,000	350,000
2007	135,000	370,000
2006	115,000	285,000
2005	80,000	315,000
2004	89,000	339,000

Listed buildings  
Old Brewery

Ovington Hall and attached stables  
Village Farm  
Hunters Cottages

#### **4.2 Utilities**

Water supply to the village was improved in 2008 with the laying of new pipes in the older part of the village to replace the old deteriorating network. Water pressure and quality has improved.

Electricity supplies to the village and outlying areas have seen gradual improvement in recent years and are now reliable without the occasional power cuts experienced in the recent past.

There are no gas supplies to the village. A gas main runs along the north bank of the River Tyne about ½ mile south of the village. The dominant heating fuel is oil. The cost has risen considerably recently and given the nature of world prices this trend is likely to continue. As a result it is probable many households now spend more than 10% of their income on fuel and are therefore considered to be in fuel poverty.

## 5 Economic Development

### 5.1 Employment

Employment opportunities within the village have fallen as businesses have closed or reduced their labour requirements. Main employment is now at Winships, the Social Club, the Nursery and the three farms. Near to the boundary with Ovingham at the edge of the parish reasonable numbers are employed at the First and Middle schools, and Wellburn House

The 2001 census records for economically active persons 16-74

		%
Employed	233	62
Unemployed	12	3
Inactive	129	34

Employment sectors	Extractive and manufacturing	51
	Service	188

### 5.2 Farming

There are three farms in the village, Ovington Hall, Ovington Lodge and Overdene.

Halls of Heddon have a well established plant nursery.

### 5.3 Business

There are a number of small businesses;

Garden Design June Drage  
 La Stone Therapist Val Thornton  
 Therapist Anne Dolphin  
 Wellburn House

### 5.4 Tourism

Tourism supports a number of businesses;

Evenwood Cottage Bed & Breakfast Margaret Oram

Ovington House Bed & Breakfast Lynne Moffitt  
 Holiday Lets  
 Winships Restaurant/bistro Keith Jarvis

Ovington has been a holiday chalet centre since the 1920s providing access to the countryside for people from the industrial areas of Tyneside. In recent years they have declined but there are still substantial numbers at Overdene, Whittle Dene, Ferry

Landing and along the Ovingham road. They are mainly occupied in the summer months and in the past have provided additional demand for village businesses and transport.

### **5.5 Retailing**

There are no shops in the village. The last closed in early 2007. This followed the loss of the post office in 1994.

Travelling shops include the weekly visit of Lawson's the butcher, a grocery van twice a week, a fish van once a week, Library van once a week and Ringtons tea from time to time.

There are also frequent afternoon visits of the ice cream van. Major supermarkets provide a home delivery service.

Newspapers and milk are delivered.

The nearest shop and Post Office is in Ovingham. The local service centre is Prudhoe.

## 6 Leisure and recreation

### 6.1 Events and activities

The village hosts a number of activities to celebrate important events and maintain community spirit;  
E.g. Millennium, Jubilee  
Village Fete  
Carol singing  
Litter picks

### 6.2 Facilities

These include;  
Winships  
    Dining rooms and bar  
Ovington House  
    Bed & breakfast , holiday let  
Evenwood  
    Bed & breakfast  
Ovington Hall  
    Holiday let  
Brewery Square  
    Holiday let  
Ovington Social Club  
    Quiz nights

Various – Easter bonnet competition, make-up evening (for charity), Northumbrian evening, etc.

Slimming club weekly Thursday

## 7 Transport and communication

### 7.1 Bus

#### Timetables and connections

The main bus route serving the village is the 684 to Newcastle via Wylam and Heddon. There are six buses each day, each way (exc. Sunday). Outward 08.55 to 16.25. Return 09.40 to 18.30. There is no evening service.

An Ovington to Prudhoe service 686. There are four buses each day, each way (exc. Sunday). Outward 09.35 to 12.35. Return 10.00 to 13.00. There is no evening service.

Service 687 linking the village to Hexham and Horsley. There are four buses a day 09.30 to 17.41.

Service 685 runs a frequent service linking Newcastle to Carlisle. The bus stops are at Ovington road ends on the A69 and are difficult to access.

**7.2 Car ownership** (2001 census)

none	27	
one	85	
two	84	
three +		14
Pensioner households without car		16

### **7.3 Traffic control**

There is increasing concern about the volume and speed of traffic flowing through the village. The road is a link between Prudhoe and the A69 via Ovingham Bridge. Although weight and width restrict traffic there has been a significant increase in recent years with new business and housing developments in Prudhoe and the general increase in car ownership.

### **7.4 Parking**

Parking issues are of increasing concern. There are particular problems along the main route through the village as parking has increased over recent years.

### **7.5 Telecommunications**

#### **Phone box**

There is one telephone box located next to Winships. The village is fortunate in retaining one of the original Gilbert Scott designs.

#### **Broadband**

Broadband facilities are available but distance from the Prudhoe exchange limits speeds to approximately 2 Gbs.

### **TV and radio reception**

Signals are received from both the Fenham and Pontop Pike transmitters.

### **Mobile phones**

Reception has improved since the provision of masts in the Prudhoe area.

## **8 Community Services and infrastructure**

People of all ages in Ovington support and take part in the wide range of events and activities available in the adjacent village of Ovingham. This custom and practice is a long-standing arrangement over a number of decades. Participation is hampered by the lack of evening public transport services. Only those with access to car transport can now take part on a regular basis. (Appendix 2 – Ovingham Activities)

### **8.1 Education and learning**

Local education is organised as a three-tier system of first, middle and secondary schools. All require transport to Ovingham or Prudhoe. Since the closure of the village school in the 1960s the County Council has provided this on a free basis. This was accepted as a condition of closure in 1962 as no suitable footpath connects the two villages.

<b>Under 5</b>	Ovingham CofE First School
<b>First</b>	Ovingham CofE First School
<b>Middle</b>	Ovingham Middle School
<b>Secondary</b>	Prudhoe Community High School

Post 16 students can also access facilities in Hexham, Newcastle and Ashington for academic and vocational courses. However their access is severely hindered by available transport provision and cost.

**Learning and Leisure**

A variety of evening classes and sports activities are available at the first, middle and high schools.

## 8.2 Amenities

### Open space provision

The village is well endowed with open amenity space. The older part of the village has use of the green area in front of Ovington Hall, the Beautifier and grassed areas in front of the Social Club. The newer parts of the village had open space planned into their development. A large area exists in front of Greenrising. Springfield has the central green area and a number of smaller areas.

All of these areas are for the benefit of residents of all ages to enhance the environment and provide space for informal play.

A designated play area has been created in the corner of the village green. This was substantially upgraded in 2000 and provides equipment for the enjoyment of young people. As a play area it is managed to adhere to specific regulations governing health and safety conditions.

### Gardens

The Millennium garden was created from the old village refuse area along the course of the Cockermere Burn and provides a tranquil oasis with seating overlooking the valley.

Most of the houses in the village have gardens allowing personal leisure and recreational activity.

Allotments are located behind the Social Club. The number of allotments in the village has reduced in recent years.

## Sports and recreation facilities

A village sports field has featured at various locations in the village. At present an informal arrangement exists in Joiner's field behind Greenrising.

Occasional informal use also takes place on the village green.

The village is the focus of a variety of footpaths, bridleways and byways allowing many opportunities for walking, running, cycling and horseriding.

## 8.3 Religion

People who wish to take part are restricted by a lack of public transport on Sundays.

Local churches are;

St Mary the Virgin Ovingham Anglican

Our Lady & St Cuthbert Prudhoe Roman Catholic

Wylam Methodist

Stocksfield Baptist

Stocksfield Quakers

Ovington Ecumenical Service Ovington Club Monthly

## 8.4 Health and welfare

The population is served by doctors' surgeries and health centres in Prudhoe, Wylam and Corbridge.

The nearest hospital is at Hexham.

Dentists and opticians are available in Prudhoe

**Appendices**

- 1 Ovington village maps
- 6 Ovingham village activities

**Footnotes**

- 1 Source – Keys to the Past website

**Acknowledgements**

- 1 Council Map of village Ordnance Survey Tynedale

## Appendix 6 Ovingham village activities

### WHAT'S ON IN MAY?

<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Where</u>
Cubs	Mondays 6.30 to 7.30 p.m.	Old School
Scouts	Mondays 7.30 to 9 p.m.	Old School
Brownies	Tuesdays 5.45 to 7.15 p.m.	Old School
Rangers alternate weeks	Wednesdays 7.30 to 9 p.m.	Old School
Explorers	Thursdays 7.30 to 9 p.m.	Old School
Badger Club – every day (4 – 14 year olds)	7.30-9 a.m. & 3.00-6.00 p.m. (Nb. 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. during school holidays) <i>(ring Julie on 01661 833327)</i>	Old School
Youth Club (9-16 years)	Thursdays 7 to 9.30 pm	Playing Field Pavilion
Lunch and Chat Club	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed. each month 12 noon	The White Swan
Reading Room Committee	Wed. 21 <sup>st</sup> May (A.G.M.) 7.30 p.m.	Reading Room
Women's Institute	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon. – 12 <sup>th</sup> May 7.30 p.m.	Reading Room
P.C.C. Meeting	Wed. 21 <sup>st</sup> May 7.45 p.m.	Vicarage
Mothers' Union	Wed. 28 <sup>th</sup> May 7.30 p.m.	Methodist Church
"Uplifted" (Ladies Choir)	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday <i>Ring Kate Robson 830499</i>	Church
Ovingham & District Choir (for men and women)	Every Tuesday at 7.45 p.m. <i>Ring Ian Heslop 833071</i>	Reading Room
Keep Fit	Every Tues and Sun. 6.15 p.m. <i>(Be there early as the doors are locked before the session begins)</i>	Reading Room
Ovingham Allotment Association	every 2nd Wednesday 8pm	Bridge End Pub
Reading Room Toddlers	Each Tues and Thurs 9.30-11.30 a.m.	Reading Room
Yoga	Tuesdays in term time 2.00-3.00 p.m. <i>Ring Caroline Grinstead 844280</i>	Reading Room
Drama Group	Every Thursday 8 p.m.	Reading Room
Craft Group	Every Wednesday 7.30 to 9.30 p.m.	Reading Room
Parish Council Meeting	Thurs. 15 <sup>th</sup> May 7.15 p.m.	Reading Room
Little Giddings Service	Not being held for the time being	

**All the above organizations would welcome new members**

If you would like details of your group included here free of charge ring 832273 or post or e-mail information to the Editor – see details on Page 3

o00o

# Ovington Questionnaire Results Sep 2008

## Analysis

### Completion

178 households completed the questionnaire. This is a very high return of 79% (226 households in 2008).

### Q1

This return represents the views of 453 inhabitants, 96% of the parish (a total of 471 in 2008).

The basic structure of the population based on the return is as follows. It is skewed by the presence of Wellburn Care Home and to give a clearer picture these residents are excluded from the following table.

Age group	Total	Percentage	Balance M/F
0-4	14	3.3	50/50
5-13	38	9.0	45/55
14-18	25	6.0	48/52
19-35	52	12.3	52/48
36-64	208	49.5	48/52
65+	83	19.8	47/53

The parish has a very mature and gender balanced population.

Young people below the age of 18 comprise 18.3% of the population. The age group figures show the number of young people is declining as a proportion of the village. Average year sizes are 14-18 (5.0), 5-13 (4.2), and 0-4 (2.8).

Younger adults (19-35) are the smallest group.

Older adults (36-64) are the dominant group accounting for half the population.

People over the age of 65 are a significant group comprising a fifth of the population. This group can be expected to increase as a proportion of the village.

### Q2

Length of time resident.

10% less than 2 years  
30% between 2 and 10 years  
60% longer than 10 years

This is a very stable population with a long-term commitment to the village. Many of the residents have raised families in the village and, as their children have left to develop their own lives and careers, they have remained. This trend can be expected to continue.

### Q3

50% of the population are economically active and work in a variety of locations. More than a third work locally. Two thirds are commuters.

19.5% of people work in the village, 18% from home.  
16.7% work within 3 miles of Ovington.  
11.7% work in the local area within approximately 10 miles of the village.  
32.9% work in the Newcastle/Gateshead area.  
19.2% work elsewhere.

### Q4

Judgements by households on Ovington as a place to live.

Age group

0-13 16% rated it as Excellent  
46% rated it as Good  
22% rated it as Average  
16% rated it as Poor  
62% rated it as Good/Excellent.

14-18 4% rated it as Excellent  
20% rated it as Good  
40% rated it as Average  
36% rated it as Poor  
76% rated it as Average/Poor.

19-35 20% rated it as Excellent  
47% rated it as Good  
29% rated it as Average  
4% rated it as Poor

67% rated it as Good/Excellent.

36-64 27% rated it as Excellent  
68% rated it as Good  
6% rated it as Average  
0% rated it as Poor  
95% rated it as Good/Excellent.

65 plus 31% rated it as Excellent  
48% rated it as Good  
21% rated it as Average  
0% rated it as Poor  
79% rated it as Good/Excellent.

There is a very high rate of satisfaction amongst the adult population comprising 82% of the village. Interestingly no group over the age of 36 rated it as poor.

The younger population is less satisfied. It was considered by over a third of those younger than 13 and three quarters of those 14-18 as being Average/Poor. There is a significant measure of dissatisfaction amongst young people.

## Q7

The use of facilities by households in Ovington

<b>Ovington Social Club</b>	More than once a week	22%
	More than once a month	8%
	More than once a year	17%
	Hardly ever (or never)	52%

While a significant portion of households in the village use the Club frequently, over half of the village hardly ever or never use it.

<b>Winships</b>	More than once a week	7%
	More than once a month	26%
	More than once a year	39%
	Hardly ever (or never)	27%

65% of households use Winships occasionally with a small number using it on a frequent basis.

<b>The Green/ Play area</b>	More than once a week	10%
	More than once a month	13%

More than once a year	19%
Hardly ever (or never)	58%

A quarter of households use this area frequently. Almost two thirds hardly ever or never use it. This reflects its use as the main facility for the younger members of the community.

<b>Joiner's Bank</b>	More than once a week	0%
	More than once a month	4%
	More than once a year	5%
	Hardly ever (or never)	91%

This is the least well used of the facilities. Many households did not know its location and were not able to give an answer.

<b>Millennium Garden</b>	More than once a week	4%
	More than once a month	12%
	More than once a year	20%
	Hardly ever (or never)	64%

This area has a very low use, only being used by a third of households.

### Other facilities

Specific mention was made of the Post Box, Telephone Box, footpaths and the mobile shop.

### Q8

The population of the village is involved in an extremely wide range of leisure activities.

The most popular physical activities are:

Walking	113	
Cycling		45
Golf	34	
Gym	26	
Dancing	25	
Football		23
Running	21	

Swimming 20  
Horse Riding 14

Others included cricket, netball, badminton, tennis, hockey, skateboarding, rugby, athletics, kite flying, climbing, skiing,

Also,

Watersports – sailing, canoeing, scuba diving,

Country pursuits – fishing, shooting, birdwatching, natural history, camping, hiking,

Spectator sports – football, motorsport

Interests and hobbies – pottery, gardening, geology, flower arranging, art & craft, photography

Pastimes – board games, card games,

Gym based – yoga, keep fit, gymnastics, indoor cycling, karate,

Age related groups include:

Youth associations – scouts, guides, brownies, cubs, youth club, toddler group, soft play

Over 60s club

The most popular cultural activities are:

Cinema	126
Theatre	103
Galleries	58

Other cultural activities include – drama, live music, reading, book club, choir, museums, historical visits

Church and religious groups  
Education courses  
Charity and voluntary groups

## Q10

Travelling to and from the village for a purpose.

### Work

Car 82%  
Bus 9%  
Train 5%  
Walk 3%  
Taxi 1%

### Shopping

Car 75%  
Bus 20%  
Train 2%  
Internet 2%  
Walk 2%  
Cycle 1%

### Education

Car 53%  
Bus 38%  
Train 5%  
Walk 5%

### Leisure

Car 69%  
Bus 11%  
Walk 8%  
Train 5%  
Taxi 4%  
Cycle 2%  
M/cycle 1%

The village is predominantly a car owning and car using society. A significant number make use of the bus. Train use is low. The healthy options of walking and cycling are also low.

Car dominates over the bus for education purposes despite the provision of a free service being available.

### **Q11**

One fifth (20.2%) of households use the bus on a frequent basis of more than once a week. Almost another fifth (17.3%) use the bus regularly within each month. However, almost half of households (47.6%) hardly ever or never use the bus.

### **Q12**

Rail services are used less frequently. Only about a tenth of households (8.9%) use rail on a frequent basis. Almost another fifth (17.3%) use rail regularly within each month. However the proportion hardly ever or never using rail is lower than bus usage at 40.8%.

### **Q13**

A third of households (32%) do not consider there is a need for traffic calming measures. Of those that consider it necessary over one third (37.6%) support interactive signs and about one fifth (18.5%) support road narrowing.

### **Q14**

The greater majority of households (59.6%) do not consider parking to be a problem. However a small number (5.8%) have a problem all the time and over a third (34.5%) consider there is a problem.

### **Q15**

A considerable majority (85.4%) supports the provision of an improved footpath between Ovington and Ovingham.

### **Q18**

Almost three-quarters of households (70.1%) use a bottle bank. This would increase to 90.5% if one were provided locally.

### **Q20**

Of those households who expressed an opinion:

There was clear **satisfaction** with the following

Fire	94.9%	% satisfied
Ambulance	94.3%	
Education	93.2%	
Medical	90.7%	
Police	87.2%	

There was **less satisfaction** with the following

Post	80.3%	% satisfied
Refuse	71.5%	

There was clear **dissatisfaction** with the following

Roads	65.2%	% dissatisfied
Footpaths	52.6%	
Street cleaning	45.1%	
Grass cutting	36.8%	

## Q22

Households support the provision of communication by the following means:

Newsletter	95.5%
Website	78.0%
Welcome Pack	81.6%

## Q23

There is considerable support from households for taking part in working groups:

Village Hall	24.7%
Youth	12.4%
Older	14.0%
Climate change	11.7%
Heating	27.0%
Business	12.4%
Information	13.4%

---

# Ovington Chalet Questionnaire Results Sep 2008

## Analysis

### Completion

15 chalet users completed the questionnaire. This is a very low return of about 8% (c200 chalets in 2008).

### Q1

Length of time resident.

0% less than 2 years  
40% between 2 and 10 years  
60% longer than 10 years

Of those users who replied this shows a stable population.

### Q2

Judgements by chalet users on Ovington as a place to live.

Age group

0-14 22% rated it as Excellent  
33% rated it as Good  
11% rated it as Average  
33% rated it as Poor  
55% rated it as Good/Excellent.

14-18 0% rated it as Excellent  
33% rated it as Good  
11% rated it as Average  
56% rated it as Poor  
67% rated it as Average/Poor.

19-35 11% rated it as Excellent  
44% rated it as Good  
11% rated it as Average  
33% rated it as Poor

55% rated it as Good/Excellent.

36-64 21% rated it as Excellent

43% rated it as Good

7% rated it as Average

29% rated it as Poor

64% rated it as Good/Excellent.

65 plus            20% rated it as Excellent  
                          50% rated it as Good  
                          0% rated it as Average  
                          30% rated it as Poor  
                          70% rated it as Good/Excellent.

There is a high rate of satisfaction amongst the adult population. However about one third rated it as poor. The younger population is less satisfied. It was considered by a third of those younger than 13 and almost three quarters of those 14-18 as being Average/Poor. There is a significant measure of dissatisfaction amongst young people.

**Q5**

The use of facilities by households in Ovington

<b>Ovington Social Club</b>	More than once a week	21%
	More than once a month	0%
	More than once a year	14%
	Hardly ever (or never)	64%

While a significant portion of chalet users in the parish use the Club frequently, over three quarters hardly ever or never use it.

<b>Winships</b>	More than once a week	0%
	More than once a month	0%
	More than once a year	17%
	Hardly ever (or never)	83%

Winships is hardly ever or never used.

<b>The Green/ Play area</b>	More than once a week	0%
	More than once a month	30%
	More than once a year	15%
	Hardly ever (or never)	54%

This amenity is little used. Two thirds of chalet users hardly ever or never use it.

<b>Joiner's Bank</b>	More than once a week	0%
	More than once a month	0%

More than once a year	0%
Hardly ever (or never)	100%

This is hardly ever used.

<b>Millennium Garden</b>	More than once a week	0%
	More than once a month	9%
	More than once a year	9%
	Hardly ever (or never)	82%

This area has a very low use. Nine out of ten users hardly ever or never use the amenity.

## Amenity use

The figures reflect the location of the chalets on the periphery of the parish. Users appear to make use of the areas adjacent to the chalets. Location and transport facilities allow easier access to the neighbouring village of Ovingham.

## Q6

The chalet users are involved in a range of leisure activities.

The most popular outdoor physical activities are:

Bowling	2
Cycling	1
Walking	1

There is a marked preference for indoor activities.

Hobby/interest groups	4
Card/board games	3
Gym	2
Indoor bowls	2
IT	2
Table tennis	1

Many of these are social group activities.

Dancing	6
Coffee mornings	4
Lunch clubs	3
Evening entertainment	2
Village fete	1
Bingo	1

Age related groups include:

Toddler group	1
Youth club	4
Over 60s club	4

The most popular cultural activities are:

Cinema 1

Live music 3

### Q9

Bus services are little used by chalet users. Just over two thirds (69%) hardly ever or never use the bus.

### Q10

Rail services are little used by chalet users. Two thirds (67%) hardly ever or never use rail.

Most chalet users access them by car.

### Q14

There is some support from chalet users for taking part in working groups:

Village Hall	3	
Youth	2	
Older	4	
Climate change		2
Heating		1
Business	2	
Information	2	

---

## OVINGTON PARISH PLAN

### NOTES ON THE CONSULTATION MEETINGS

The following consultation meetings have taken place:

1. **03/04/08 Initial public meeting to inform residents of the purpose of the plan**
2. **03/07/08 Agreed information gathering process and with outer consultation group**
3. **13/9/08 Youth**
4. **18/9/08 Anyone**
5. **20/9/08 Anyone**
6. **27/9/08 Home workers and self-employed**
7. **28/9/08 Club members and chalet owners**
8. **03/12/08 Draft Plan presented to outer consultation group**
9. **28/01/09 Full public parish meeting to present the plan and gain agreement**

#### 1. Initial public meeting called by the Chairman of the Parish Council 03/04/08

The purpose of this meeting was to inform the parish residents of the intention and need to develop a Parish Plan, to seek volunteers for a steering group, and to agree a communications strategy, which would keep everyone informed. The steering group was formed from the 30 attendees with the remainder agreeing to form an outer consultation group, which would support the process of plan preparation.

#### 2. Outer Consultation Group meeting 03/07/08

17 attendees discussed and agreed content and layout of questionnaires. Agreed a collection plan, which involved all members of the consultation group as well as other volunteers from the village. (This ensured an inclusive approach to the collection of information with a high rate of return. Each street or area had a representative to deliver, advise, and collect the completed questionnaires.)

#### 3. Youth Meeting 13/9/08

This was a successful meeting attended by 12 young people aged between about 6 and 14 who come from all parts of the village. A map was completed showing where they live, where they play and where they would like to play but can't.

Present play areas (apart from the immediate area around where each child lives) are the village green and also the road in to Burnside and Greenrising where one of the paths is used as a skateboard ramp.

The principal place where, by a significant margin, they would like to play but can't is the area at the top of Joiners Bank. The reasons are that it is not level and that the grass is not cut.

The young people were very forthcoming on the good points of living in the village, safety, friendliness and a sense of community being the common thread in their answers.

In answer to the “million pound question” of what facilities they would like to see, the most popular by a clear margin was a shop for purchase of sweets, drinks etc. The second choice was a skateboard facility. They indicated that a single ramp on a hard surface would be enough. A gym was the third most popular suggestion.

There was some discussion relating to the Joiners Bank area. The young people would like a flatter more well-maintained area with possibly a tarmac surfaced area with a ramp for skateboarding and a seat for spectators.

#### **4. Open Meeting 18/09/08**

Good points about living in the village were again, low crime, peacefulness and sense of community. Also good communications for those with cars and walks and access to countryside.

Key requests for facilities were better/safer access to Ovingham, a meeting place, and a shop. Other requests were for somewhere to watch children playing football, allotments and a keep fit class.

Most mentioned village hall uses were (1) village events, (2) drop ins (3) table tennis followed by dancing, language classes, music events, keep fit.

Public transport needs were identified equally as hourly bus to Newcastle, later last bus at weekends and more services to/from Hexham

Environmental improvements were prioritised as better drainage and road and footpath surfacing although drainage may have been brought to mind primarily because of recent flooding. It was mentioned that efforts should be made to improve grass cutting of the grassed areas within the village and grass collection. Lay-bys were mentioned as possibly providing parking improvements.

Parking problems were identified as existing in the Main Street and in The Green. A plan was marked with possible areas where additional parking could be provided by means of lay-bys. These identified possible areas as follows: The Green, the entrance to Greenrising/Burnside, The west road opposite the village green, Springfield Close behind the bus shelter, Littles Buildings/the rear of the beautifier, around the club.

The appearance of the village was generally regarded as satisfactory but the following improvements were suggested: better collection of grass cuttings, tree pruning, improvements to pavements and road surfaces. More dog bins.

There was no support for a bottle bank in the village. Siting a bank would be a problem. People use bottle banks elsewhere and a neighbourhood collection service was suggested to assist those who do not have their own transport.

Youth facilities in the village were seen as inadequate. It was suggested that there should be an improved areas for football and some indoor provision.

It was suggested that some allotments could be established on parish owned land at Burnside.

A complaint was made about loud music and about control of cats in the village.

## 5. Open Meeting 20/09/08

This meeting addressed the same questions as the meeting on 18/9/08.

The same points were made about the good points of living in the village, in particular safety, community, rurality and good road links with outside.

Like to do but can't produced familiar responses

- Better footpath to Ovingham
- More facilities for young and elderly
- Better access to public transport in evenings
- Drop in centre/shop/meeting place.

Village Hall

- Drop in centre/shop
- Coffee mornings
- Club activities e.g. book club, history/archives
- Dancing: Country/ballroom/rock
- Keep fit
- Yoga
- Classes e.g. craft/cookery
- Library/IT/business centre/reading room/newspapers
- Indoor games
- Functions/fetes/events

Public Transport

- Late bus
- Better service Hexham/Corbridge
- Links to A69 and train
- Subsidised taxis
- Dial a bus

Improvements in village facilities

- Village hall (most important)
- More Allotments one suggestion for the non built area to the south of the Green
- Better maintenance of paths etc
- Suggestion by one resident for hanging baskets etc.

Parking

Not a major problem if people park sensibly. Suggestions for more parking spaces/lay-bys shown in orange on the plan.

## Appearance of the village

Mainly content but some concerns re perceived inconsistency of planners in relation to decisions and enforcement

Concern expressed as to

- Grass cutting and collection
- Proliferation of waste bins

One resident mentioned overflying aircraft.

## Improvements to the appearance of the Village

### Suggestions made

- More frequent grass cutting / collection of grass cuttings
- Further tree planting at key points and more pruning of existing trees
- A group to look after appearance of the village
- More impressive entrances to the village
- Tidy up verges e.g. at the junction of the main road and Coal Lane.
- Improve the present state of the West Road
- Improve field drainage, particularly above Springfield
- One resident mentioned hanging baskets.

Bottle Bank. There was no enthusiasm for one in the village. It was recognised however that those reliant on public transport have difficulty in reaching bottle banks outside the village. There may be a need for some volunteer collection and delivery of bottles. This was suggested. Mention was made of the bottle bank at Crawcrook as a good example.

## Youth Facilities

Currently inadequate

Suggestions:

- Youth Club
- Improvements to Joiners Bank play area.
- Better footpath to Ovingham
- Homework Club

## **6. Meeting 27/09/08 Self employed and home workers**

Living and working in Ovington

- Good working environment
- Good communications by road and can travel at quiet times.

Changes which would help people in business or working from home

- Resource/business centre/photocopier/access to equipment/printers/memory sticks etc
- IT advice
- Ways of improving deliveries to the village e.g. nominated recipients and shared arrangements for late deliveries to Prudhoe PO etc.

Village Hall and business

- Business/resource centre
- Meeting room/meeting place

Directory of services and skills

- Would join
- Would expand scope to include equipment etc held by people in the village e.g. drain keys or draining rods.
- Would improve efficiency, self containment and wealth creation within the village

## **7. Meeting 28/09/08 with Club Members and chalet owners**

Attended by 15 village residents and four non residents including one chalet owner.

The meeting followed a different format from the others. It was chaired by John Little, secretary of the Club and part of the purpose was to address any particular concerns of Club members about the village Hall project.

There was considerable discussion about how a village hall might be used and how it would work alongside the Club. There was also discussion about whether sufficient enthusiasm and regular use would be generated.

Questions were raised about how the existing free use of the hall by club members would be affected by the hall being leased off to a separate Trust.

It was explained that a separate hall would have to cover its costs and that all users would need to be charged a reasonable rate for use. John Little explained that this was accepted in principle by the club as a necessity but that on some occasions the club would itself pay the hire charge as it would be benefiting from bar income. It was accepted that detailed arrangements were not yet worked out.

Suggestions for use.

- General entertainment functions, parties, wedding receptions etc.
- Club use as at present
- Community shop
- Lunch club
- Out of School Club. It was explained that the Badger club in Ovingham was seeking to expand its operation and that it might be interested in having regular use of the hall. It would still continue to have its main centre of operations at The Old School in Ovingham where it currently pays approx £400 pm.

The Chalet owner, whose chalet was at the Alders, had little contact with the village although he did come up to the fete and had used the Winships computers when they were available. He said that he rarely saw other chalet owners at the Alders which was very quiet. He had no specific points to raise about the village or the parish plan.

## **8. Presentation of draft plan to outer consultation group 03/12/08**

11 attendees to give feedback and agreement to the draft plan

## **9. Public meeting to present and agree the Ovington Parish Plan 28/01/09**

Prior to this meeting, all residents were delivered a copy of the plan summary and an invitation to attend the meeting. 49 adults and 6 children attended the public meeting held at Ovington Social Club. The Steering Group members made a full presentation on the Top 3 Issues. A positive discussion followed with detailed feedback and the steering group gained agreement to proceed with the final production of the plan.