

SUTTON UPON DERWENT  
COMMUNITY LED VILLAGE PLAN

2022

PRODUCED BY SUTTON-UPON-DERWENT PARISH COUNCIL



## Sutton upon Derwent

Sutton upon Derwent is a small village, just 3661 acres and 34 feet above sea level with a population of 607 and a civil parish on the River Derwent just 8 miles to the south-east of York. It is less than a mile from the larger village of Elvington which, unlike Sutton, is included in the City of York boundary. Sutton upon Derwent is on the B1228 which starts at Grimston Bar and ends about a mile beyond Howden. The land is predominantly agriculture and farming and is mostly Crown Property. Following the banks of the River Derwent there is a small community of people on barges, and further down the river lies Sutton Woods: 82 acres of mixed woodland featuring maturing Scots and Corsican pine and mature broadleaves, including beech, oak and sycamore. This wood is privately owned and has permissive paths indicated for walkers.



### Beginnings

The area around Sutton upon Derwent probably lies on one of the routes linking the Roman city of Eboracum (York) to the south of the country. This route ran from York to Brough where the Humber could be crossed, bypassing the marshes to the west, and picking up the road to the South.

Roman remains have been found in the Sutton area and a geophysical survey of an area southeast of Sutton farm in 1997 found some evidence of a possible Roman settlement.

The first written record of the Sutton area appears to be of the river Derwent which was recorded by Bede in the 8th Century. He notes the DERUENTIONIS FLUVII which is from the Celtic meaning "river where Oak trees grow abundantly".

## The Village Hall

The Village Hall was built in 1929-31 and was the legacy of the Reverend Pimm; it has been a prominent feature of village since the late 1920s and has remained the hub of village community life. The hall now houses the Post Office (4 days a week) and a drop in café twice a month. It is available to book for indoor sport clubs (including badminton and bowls), keep fit, community events and private family celebrations.



The village hall is sited within the wider Beacon Green grounds which include an open space for the community with recently installed picnic benches and community planters. The beacon on Beacon Green is part of the wider network of UK and global beacons which are lit on special occasions such as Queen's Jubilee. The Beacon Green hosts regular community events including annual bonfire night, car show, village fair and beer festival.



## **Sutton upon Derwent Lawn Tennis Club**

The Village Hall also provides a home for one of the most prestigious tennis clubs in York. The club has high-end facilities which include two all-year round artificial tennis courts, and two excellent grass courts for the summer season.



## **St. Michael and All Saints Church**

The parish Church is a Grade 1 listed building, and it is considered to be a highly significant historical building. The oldest part is early 12th century (nave) and there have been additions in the 13th, 15th, and 16th century. The tower was built in the 14th century. There is evidence of some re-used Roman bricks to the chancel, near the altar. It is thought that the first Stone Church was built at about 1080-1100 by Picot de Percy. Attendance stood at 40-50 in 1906-14. The Church was valued at £100 in 1650. One of the oldest parts dated 1080 is the stoup (a holy water basin) to the right of the door. Sutton church was first mentioned

between 1161 and c.1170, when it was given by Robert de Percy to Whitby Abbey.

The graveyard holds a Cenotaph to the fallen of two world wars and a War Grave. The War Grave lies to the rear of the Church and holds the name of John Henry Jeffery 1892-1918. He was a shepherd and served in the Yorkshire Regiment 3rd Battalion, the son of James and Susan Jeffery and husband to Ethel. He was not quite 23 when he passed in October 1918 from his injuries, having been discharged to convalesce in Whitley Bay in 1917. He left 3 children, the last girl born in July, four months before he died. There are 10 names listed on the Cenotaph, four of whom were the Ellis brothers.



## **Sutton upon Derwent School**

We know there was a school with 33 pupils in 1819. A new school building was erected in 1844 supported by subscription and the school was enlarged c. 1906. The school now provides for all children from 3-11 years old, and there are at present 72 pupils.



## Public Houses

There was at least one alehouse in Sutton in the early 18th century and two or three licensed houses later in the century. By 1823, the Cross Keys and the Ram's Head were in existence. The latter was replaced by the Clarges Arms by 1840 and renamed The St. Vincent Arms by 1879. The St Vincent Arms is owned by the Hopwoods who have been in situ for 30+ years. The Cross Keys closed c.1970 and a newly built house on the site was opened in 1974 as Turpin's Tavern and since replaced again by a private house.



## History of the Lock

The River Derwent was improved for navigation in the early 18th century and by 1723 a cut with a lock was made at Elvington, bypassing a new weir across the river. A lock-keeper's house had been built by 1782 but the present house dates from the 19th century.



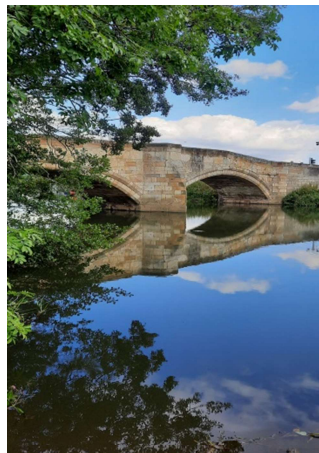
## The Old Mill

The Old Mill was built in 1826 and was very important to the local economy producing large amounts of flour. It was in use up to 1960 but fell into disrepair and was partially demolished in 1989.



## **Sutton Bridge**

The road (B1228) from York is carried over the Derwent by a bridge mentioned as early as 1396. Built in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, the bridge may have replaced a ferry recorded in 1368, but another ferry (*passagium*) between 'the probably head' of Sutton and Wheldrake mentioned in 1218 was presumably situated south of the village. The bridge also carried coal from Elvington and Wheldrake by horse drawn carriage. Near the bridge the road was said to be frequently damaged by flooding in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.



## **Hagg Bridge**

Although not in Sutton upon Derwent, the bridge is on the B1228 between Sutton and Melbourne and is Grade II listed. It is a pre-1840 canal structure and is one of a group crossing the Pocklington Canal. It was designed by George Leather, a well-known navigation engineer and designer. There are two explanations as to why it was named Hagg: it was thought witches came out of the hedges at night, or more probably because “hagg” means a firm spot in a bog.



## **Woodhouse Grange Cricket Club**

Woodhouse Grange Cricket Club was formed in 1942 during World War 2 as a recreational place for farmers and farm workers. It was started by the farmer and leading pre-war cricketer Tommy Hobson when he took over Woodhouse Grange Farm. Today it is recognised as one of the best clubs in Yorkshire and welcomes any ages and abilities to its family friendly environment.



## **Introduction from the Chair**

The Parish Council is passionate about Sutton Upon Derwent and its parishioners. We want the best for the village and all who live here and take our responsibility to serve the interests of the Parish very seriously. Through listening to Parishioners, gaining feedback through the Parish Survey and being active members of the community, we have a clear understanding of the



priorities where focusing our efforts will bring the biggest benefit to the community.

- 1) Road safety
- 2) Litter and dog fouling
- 3) Improving and maintaining the outdoor facilities such as the playing field, Beacon Green and footpaths
- 4) Flooding and drainage
- 5) Parishioner engagement

We will continue to focus on these areas and this plan sets out some of the activity we will undertake to do so. As you would expect this document will continue to evolve as activity does. We are here to serve you and the community, and your feedback is important to us so please do let us know your views.

## **The Parish Survey**

In order for the Parish Council to appropriately represent the views of its parishioners, in February 2020 it carried out a survey of opinion, receiving 98 responses from an estimated 270 households. Views were sought on housing and development, local investment priorities, key facilities for retention / development, and on how we can make our streets safer.

In the graphs below, we show both mentions of support for a particular item, but also the relative preference: from a list of five options, for instance, the priority receives 5 points, the second 4 points, and so on.

### **Housing and development**

The majority of support is for in-fill development or housing schemes which are incentivised for local people. Verbatim commentary was limited but highlighted holiday accommodation as undesirable for the parish, and there is also little support for new estate development.

The Parish Council is keeping these views in mind when considering current and future planning applications, as well as to pro-actively feed into ERYC planning in the longer-term.

### **Local investment priorities**

Two questions in the survey related to local investment priorities: where investment should be prioritised from an environment and sustainability perspective, and secondly where the Parish Council itself should focus its energies.

The two stand-out priorities for environment and sustainability were woodland walks and public rights of way, along with public transport. There is also clear support for renewable energy developments and electric car charging points. Additional comments from the village identified the best place for a community charging point – other than on individuals' own drives – to be the village hall. Respondents also mentioned planting wildflowers and maintenance of the grass verges.

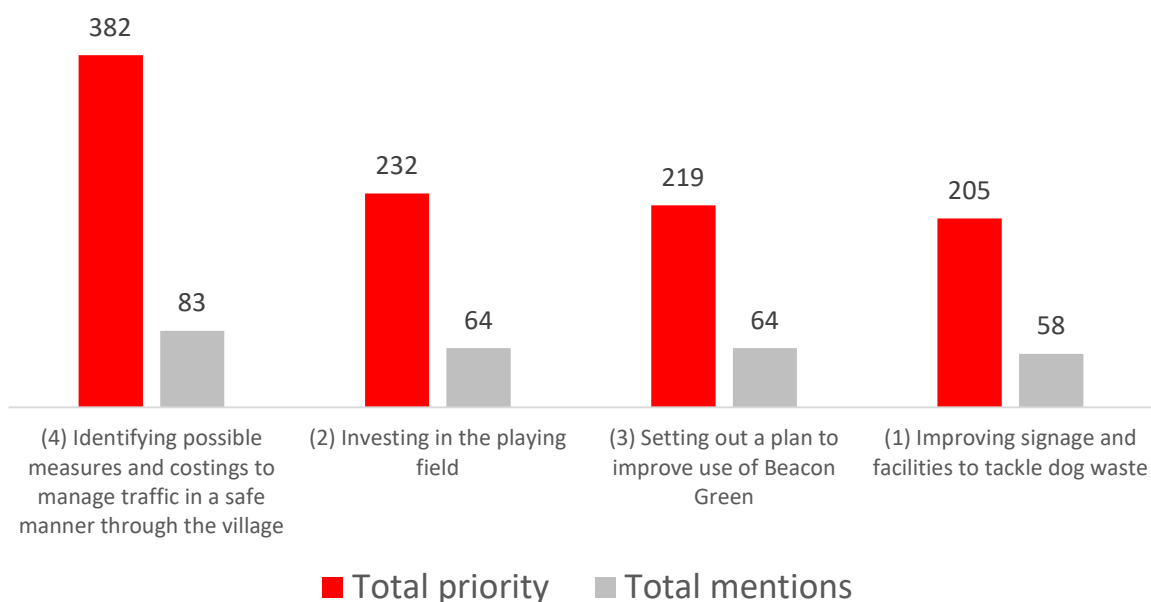
The Parish Council is therefore considering the following actions:

- Short-term – Print maps of local walks and make them available on notice boards and in the post office with a QR code to the website version. Ensure regular cuts of the verges as per ERYC schedule are completed and supplement these where necessary.
- Medium-term – Explore grants to support renewable energy and charging point projects ensuring these are applied for or promoted to residents where applicable.
- Long-term – Identify and lobby for routes which are commonly used but not officially recognised as Public Rights of Ways to become so. Lobby ERYC and bus companies to maintain and build upon existing services.

To the question of prioritising the parish council's efforts in the short-term, respondents clearly identified road safety (covered separately below), investment in the playing field, improving use of Beacon Green, and signage / facilities to tackle dog waste.

Use of Beacon Green was supported by a clear majority for picnic and village fetes, just over half supported its use for private use (which would need to be in line with the leasehold agreement). Responsible dog walking on Beacon Green was only supported by 21% of respondent, and therefore no change is envisioned by the Parish Council.

Q5: Short-term priorities: how would you like the parish council to prioritise its efforts in 2021?



The Parish Council has therefore been working on the following:

Action	Progress to date
Ensure ongoing maintenance budget to take good care of existing facilities at the playing field	Handyman was engaged and budgeted for, currently seeking a replacement handyman due to their other commitments
Source benches for Beacon Green 6 picnic benches around the Green (completed) and installing four raised bed planters (completed).	6 picnic benches installed, kindly donated by St.Vincent Arms.
Install planters for community use	Four raised bed planters installed, two of which are designated for use by the community as “snip your own” herb beds, with support from the community to maintain them
Review funding opportunities to develop the playing field further, whether we can provide improved disabled access and facilities	Two grants of £6k and £8k have now been secured for a disabled access swing (now installed), to upgrade the pathways in the playground, and install a rain shelter

Review the lease for Beacon Green to identify further opportunities for use	Further investigation required, including engagement of parishioners that live adjacent to Beacon Green
Identify appropriate sites for dog waste to be collected, and put these facilities in place	The Parish Council has engaged with East Riding to have these installed in key locations

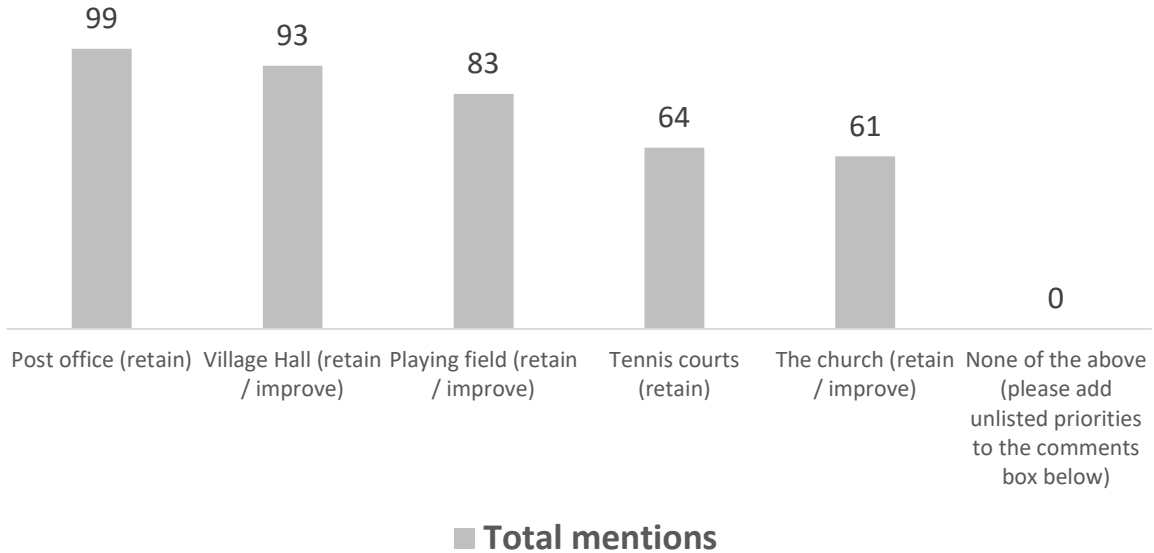
### **Key facilities for improvement / retention**

The majority of responses focused on the retention and improvement of the Post Office, Village Hall and Playing Field facilities within the village, with a smaller proportion focusing on the retention and improvement of the Tennis Courts and Church. Specific comments with respect to the Post Office and Village Hall highlighted the importance of these facilities to the community and suggested improvements for extending opening hours and introducing village shop and/or café type facilities to the village hall or as separate facilities.

With respect to the Playing Field, specific comments suggested improvements to the current equipment (e.g. equipment for older age groups) and improved drainage to minimise flooding/waterlogging. As noted previously, grant funding has been secured to improve access to facilities. A playground strategy document has been prepared, with the intention of recruiting a volunteer base to develop it further and identify funding opportunities. We recognise that provision for older children in particular (up to 12 years of age) is currently lacking and needs investment.

Other comments on this question included consideration for greater maintenance of the church yard and car park, use of tennis courts for non-members and support to the cricket club.

Q4: What facilities do you feel are an important part of the community that should be prioritised for improvement / retention?



A separate question found majority support for a community partnership project to deliver ultra-fast broadband speeds in the parish (over 10x faster than current speeds).

Action	Progress to date
Review the potential for ultra-fast broadband speeds in the parish	<p>The Parish Council worked with KCOM to develop a business case for the village, and sought registration of interested parish households (leaflets, door-to-door, KCOM tent at village fair, newsletter, Facebook posts). Unfortunately, uptake was insufficient to trigger a commitment, and then Openreach's installation of fibre down Main Street negatively affected the business case for KCOM (and other suppliers) to install further infrastructure. We are now working with FactCo, who have supported local villages with ultra-fast broadband, and are seeking further registrations of interest to establish the business case. Register here to help our case:</p> <p><a href="https://factco.co.uk/projects/sutton-upon-derwent/">https://factco.co.uk/projects/sutton-upon-derwent/</a></p>

Post-pandemic reopening of coffee morning groups at the village hall	The coffee mornings have re-opened, and additionally have now extended hours to allow parents with their children to attend after school.
Explore extended Post Office operating hours and other community hub services	Post Office hours are a matter for the Post Office itself. We would welcome further input on other hub services
Church maintenance given its age and historic value	The Parish Council engaged with Reverend Jackie Doyle-Brett to offer its support, where possible. Given the high cost of such maintenance, this is likely to be via grants to the Church

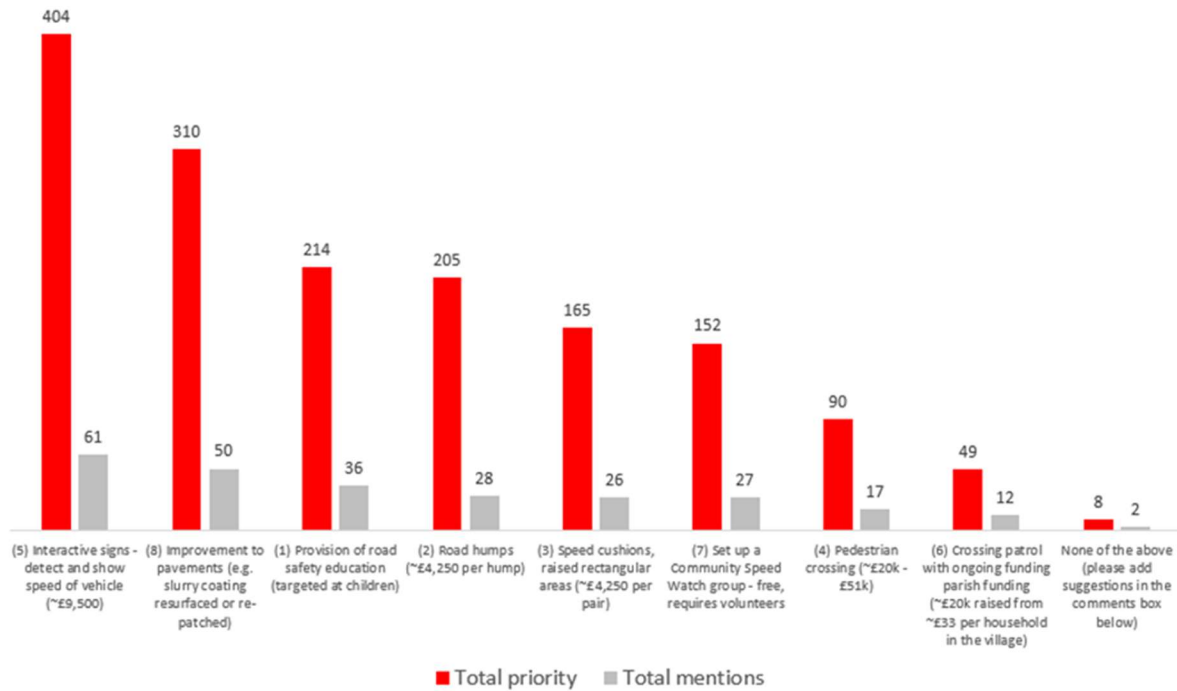
### **Safer streets**

The Parish Council fully recognises that traffic related safety concerns continue to be of the utmost importance to parishioners, fully supported by the Parish Survey results, and amplified following the reopening of Hagg Bridge. The Parish Council, for many years, has lobbied hard to implement traffic management / calming measures to combat a range of traffic related safety concerns including speeding, HGVs/Agricultural vehicles, pedestrian amenity and school/community-specific aspects.

The Parish Council continues to engage with Safer Roads Humber, following up on the assessment of traffic and speed through the village, as well as pushing to retain the existing speed camera provision on Main Street. However, although many of us have experienced or continue to observe near misses and incidents, there is currently insufficient statistical and evidential data to justify the local highway authority (ERYC) to consider further traffic calming measures through the village.

Where such data has existed such as the incidents at Hagg Bridge and records of speeding, traffic management measures have been employed to improve safety such as the implementation of traffic lights at Hagg Bridge and speed camera presence respectively.

Q7: what measures would you support to make our streets safer?



Action	Progress to date
Liaise with Humberside Police to identify sites for a community speed watch group, recruit, and train volunteers, start scheme	Complete, and remains in regular operation, as at 22/04/2022
Create a road safety working group with members of Elvington Parish Council to formulate a set of recommendations to address the issue of HGVs coming through the village, including a review of weight limits on the bridge between Elvington and Sutton	Currently working with Elvington Parish Council on a set of practical recommendations
Liaison with ERYC about road safety to understand how they may be able to help with the above	Ongoing. This has included encouragement to parishioners to report incidents that have happened



## Acknowledgements

Further details can be found at this link to Parish records held by the University of York archives. Key sources for this brief history were:

- Vol XIV 1970 Yorkshire Domesday Place Names - Horsfall Turner
- Encyclopaedia Britannica CD-ROM
- A History of the County of York, East Riding, Vol III - A Victorian History of the Counties of England; pp 173-9
- Y910.6 Yorkshire Archaeological Journal Vol 29 (1929)
- York Georgian Society annual report 1986
- Sutton upon Derwent Parish Registers
- The East Yorkshire Village Book - East Yorkshire Federation of Womens Institutes 1991
- Y942.74 History and Topography of the City of York: and the East Riding of Yorkshire. Sheahan JJ & T. Whellan. Vol 2 1856
- Chapters of Yorkshire History - Cartwright - 1872 (also called Chapters in the History of Yorkshire) - illustrating the County in the reigns of Elizabeth, James I, and Charles I
- The Place Names of the East Riding of Yorkshire & York - The English Place Name Society
- Reverend Jackie Doyle-Brett.
- Woodhouse Grange C.C