

CANWICK PARISH PLAN



**Canwick Parish Plan Steering Group
November 2011**

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INTRODUCTION

What is a Parish Plan?

A Parish Plan is a statement of how a community sees itself and how it wants to develop over the next decade or so. It includes the things which are relevant to the people who live here, and reflects *their* concerns and aspirations - not a set list of topics imposed from outside.

How is it done?

The project has involved almost everyone in the parish in one way or another. A detailed survey went out to every household, and over 80% returned a completed form. Then further research (with individuals and small groups of parishioners) was carried out to drill deeper into what people liked and disliked, and what they wanted for their community in the future. Whilst these findings were being distilled into a report, a detailed survey of the village was made to produce a Village Design Statement to help us plan future development.

The last stage has been to take the range of issues which are of real concern to residents and build them into a draft Action Plan which will be adopted by the Parish Council to take forward. Add in a fascinating summary of the long history of Canwick and you have this document.

Consultation

After the first draft of the Plan was completed it was put out to formal public consultation. Everyone in the parish was invited to comment, along with local organisations, clubs and groups, and other bodies such as District and County Councils. Responses have been carefully considered and have informed this final version.

Does It End Here?

Not quite. The Parish Council will maintain the *Action Plan* (a list of key 'things to do') as a living document, regularly reviewed to ensure it continues to reflect the community's needs and aspirations.

Who did it?

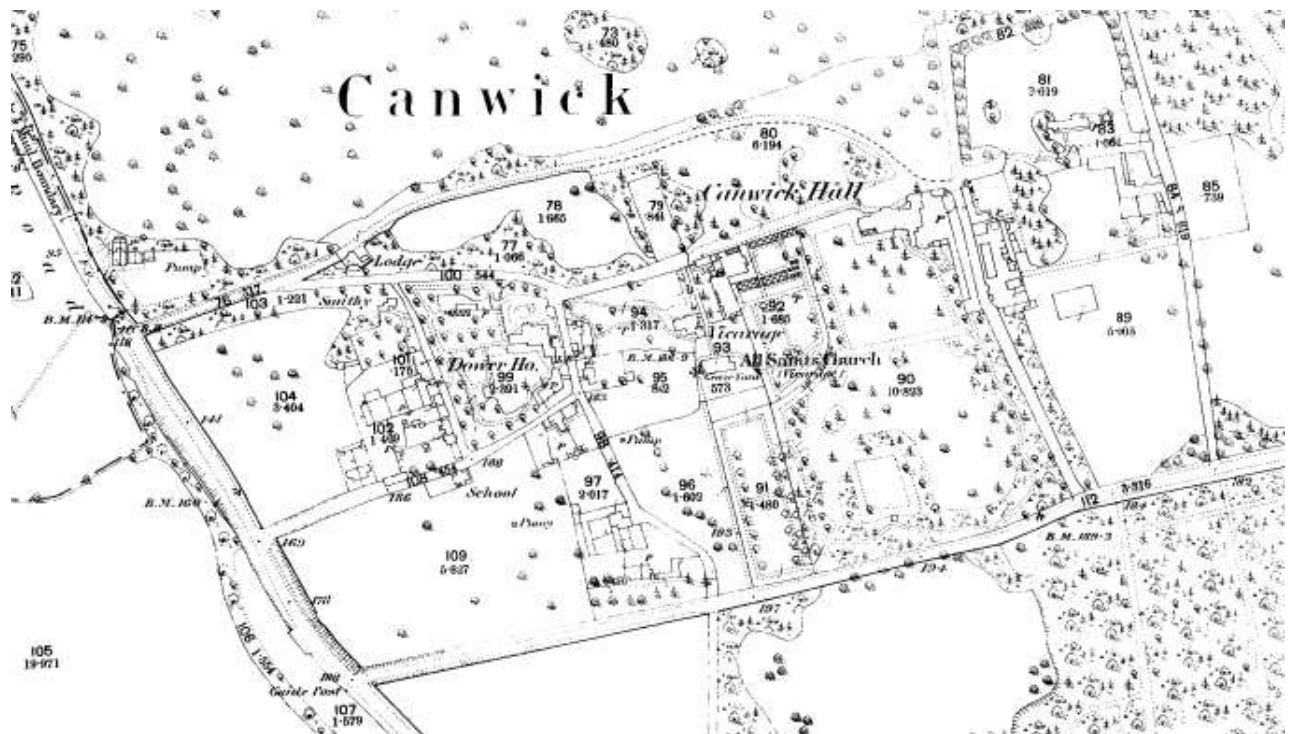
In effect, with 80% of households taking the time to complete the survey pretty well everyone has done it! But at the outset a Steering Group was set up to organise things, and a range of people have at various points made big contributions to getting the job done. It seems unfair to single out individuals, but it would be even more unfair not to give especial thanks to some very hard-working parishioners who have been there through thick and thin - Christine Griffin, Malcolm Hales, Robin Narborough, Peter Allen-Williams, Karen Scarcliffe and Alexander Carrington - as well as to Sandra Rudolf, who was the invaluable Parish Clerk for most of the period when the Plan was produced.

IAN CARRINGTON

Chairman, Canwick Parish Plan Steering Group

November 2011

MAPS



Canwick village from the 1889 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map



Canwick village today

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PART 1: CANWICK HISTORY

First Settlement

Canwick – called in different documents Canewick or Kanewick, is from two Old English words *Cana*, a personal name and *wīc* a dwelling, a specialised building or a dairy farm. But in many cases, 'wick' is derived from the Roman 'vicus', or settlement – often associated with an adjacent Roman garrison, farm or centre of industry. This appears to be the case with Canwick, which developed close to the sites of two former Roman villas.

The first people to roam Canwick were hunters and gatherers in the Mesolithic period approximately 8500-5300BC. The first settlers arrived in the Neolithic period, approximately between 4500 – 7000 years ago, and then a more structured settlement came here in the Bronze Age, with a Barrow cemetery near the river Witham. Canwick village nestles on the crest of a limestone scarp, on which is All Saints church, and under the chancel in 1814 a Roman tessellated pavement was found, suggesting a site of a villa. Most villas were grand country residences for the local aristocracy, and such a building has been discovered nearer to the river Witham, with its high status columns and a hypocaust system. The site was in occupation between the 1st and 4th centuries, increasing in size and structure between the 3rd – 4th centuries. On the same site shards of Late Iron Age pottery have been found, suggesting the site was occupied prior to the building of the Roman stone structure. The nearby marshy river margins would have been full of wildlife as a food source and the river Witham was an important navigational route, with the Roman city of Lincoln across the Witham valley. Eventually the farmstead fell into decay but the site was then used by the Anglo Saxons. Further west on the banks of the river Witham in 1848, a 10th century inscribed Viking sword was found.

The Middle Ages

Canwick has seven entries in the Domesday Survey of 1086. The most interesting are that William the Conqueror's half brother the Bishop Odo of Bayeux had land here as did Bishop Remigius of Lincoln, who built Lincoln Cathedral. Later this land was given to St. Catherine's Priory by Bishop Robert de Chesney (1148-66).

All Saints Church Canwick dates from the Saxon / Norman times having late Norman additions circa 1150 of which the north aisle-arcade and richly moulded chancel arch remain. It has no conventional foundations and its walls rest on a Roman pavement which extends beyond them. The church has a list of incumbents dating from 11th C; the Priory and Convent of St. Catherine's (founded 1148) were the patrons of Canwick Church. They appointed the priests, one of the earliest incumbents being Alan de Canewic who died in 1274. After the Reformation it came under private patronage and eventually to its present day patrons, the Mercers' Company, the oldest of the London Guilds.

Canwick parish was connected with two monastic Granges, Sheepwash Grange and St. Catherine's Grange, which held about 800 acres of Canwick land. Granges were outlying farmsteads belonging to monastic houses. St. Catherine's Grange was a demesne manor belonging to the Gilbertine Priory of St. Catherine's, situated about one and a half miles to the west of Canwick. One of the endowments given to the priory was the prebend of Canwick: this is the rectorial income used to fund one of the prebendaries or clergy of the Cathedral. St. Catherine's Grange was situated within the village of Canwick. Village Farm was built on this site circa 1750.

In 1306 the Convent of St. Catherine's applied to the Crown for a licence to bring a conduit from the spring or 'holy well' in the fields of Canwick, to their house, to supply water, which they were granted. In 1367 St. Catherine's priory received a grant of 500 acres in Canwick to maintain a gallows and pay for a public executioner. The site was eventually levelled in 1846, after a deep cutting was made into Canwick hill to ease the gradient, and the vicarage built on the gallows site.

Sheepwash Grange belonged to Kirkstead Abbey, 15 miles to the south-east on the River Witham. The land is known to have been owned by Kirkstead Abbey before 1184, and Sheepwash Grange was located about a mile from Canwick village near the River Witham and was Kirkstead's principle port facility including warehouses and wharves. Fleeces were collected here and sent to Flanders as part a wool trade which was of huge importance to the national and local economies.

Sheepwash Grange was constructed from material salvaged from the adjacent ruined Roman building. Adjoining Sheepwash was Calscroft a medieval wharf, where ships loaded and unloaded goods and tolls were collected by the bailiffs of Lincoln on behalf of the crown. Sheepwash and Calscroft may have shared access to the river or may have been quite separate. Five hundred sheep were allowed pasture on the common fields around Sheepwash. The present day Sheepwash Grange is in a different location to the medieval one. At the dissolution of the monasteries in 1538, Henry VIII granted Sheepwash and St. Catherine's Grange to Charles Duke of Suffolk.

One of the earliest mentions of the Manor of Canwick is in a Chancery document dated 1320, where Elias Martel and Maud his wife hold the manor of Canwick. In 1445 when Henry VI was visiting Lincoln, he gave the citizens permission to buy the Manor of Canwick, and a farm of 200 acres, which they did in 1456. In 1466 Edward IV added Canwick and some neighbouring villages, into the jurisdiction of the County of the City of Lincoln, to bring extra revenue into the decaying city. It also placed Canwick within the jurisdiction of the city justices.

In 1590 Thomas Emonson, Alderman and a Tanner, bequeathed in his Will, the lease of his Mansion house, along with other leases including the 'Lordship House of Canwick'. The inventory shows a large house, with one of the rooms being the 'ould halle', suggesting that it was built onto an older building.

One of the oldest surviving buildings in Canwick today is Hall Farm, a stone house which may date from the 15th century.

Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries

During the Eighteenth century two main events were to change the face of the village. These were the purchase of a 'capital messuage about 300 acres and a mill', in 1730 by Mary Sibthorp widow of John Sibthorp, and the Enclosure Act.

The Enclosure Act brought huge changes to the countryside by consolidating or extending land-holdings into larger units. This included the partition of large areas of land communally farmed under the open field system into small fields farmed by individuals, the conversion of arable land to pasture and the occupation of commons by large landowners, excluding other users. In 1786 Canwick Enclosure Act was passed enclosing 2000 acres of open fields, pastures, meadows and waste lands. At enclosure, land was exchanged by the Sibthorps to create a neat block of land around the hall. After enclosure small parcels of land and their individual cottages were bought up by the Sibthorps, and several lanes were closed to the public or rerouted in creating their estate. The Sibthorps never acquired the entire village, but they remained unchallenged as the resident gentry.

Lincoln City Council acquired the paramount manor in Canwick in 1456, which stood on the site of the present day council houses in School Lane, and today they are still in principle the lords of Canwick manor. At the Enclosure it was replaced by Manor Farm, on the way to Heighington. But after the Enclosure this title ceased to have any practical meaning.

After Enclosure, Canwick Common (now South Common), became part of the city instead of belonging to both Canwick and Lincoln. The Sibthorps built and left a town house in Lincoln and moved to Canwick in 1730. John Sibthorp (1669-1718) had risen to the ranks of lesser gentry and was the first to serve as MP for Lincoln (1713-14), and it was his widow Mary who purchased the Mansion House in Canwick. From there she helped to launch her son Coningsby I (1706-79) into the country gentry. He became County Sheriff in 1733; the first of several Sibthorps to be Colonel of the South Lincolnshire militia, and MP. On his death the estate passed to his brother Dr. Humphrey Sibthorp (1712-97), who was Sheridan Professor of Botany at Oxford University. He had two sons, John who succeeded him as Professor of Botany, but died in 1796 of consumption and Humphrey II (1744-1815) his eldest son, who was MP for Lincoln and Boston and took on the name Waldo Sibthorp. Colonel Humphrey Waldo was his successor in the 1800 election, and to celebrate he invited 2,000 local inhabitants to dine with him at Canwick. But this was one of the worst years of the Napoleonic wars and the hungry rabble stole joints of meat, tearing them out of the hands of the carvers. The kitchen and larders were broken into and the food pillaged and furniture destroyed. In 1811 Col. Humphrey rebuilt much of Canwick Hall including the frontage; he took down the Red Lion tavern from almost opposite the hall circa 1805 and bought Village Farm in 1811.

His son Colonel Coningsby Waldo Sibthorp M.P (1781-1822) bought Hall Farm with 400 acres in 1821, before dying prematurely in an accident when a lynch-pin was removed from one of his carriage wheels. Coningsby was succeeded by his brother Colonel Charles De Laet Waldo Sibthorp (1783-1855), the infamous arch-Tory M.P.

for Lincoln for almost 30 years. He displeased Queen Victoria by persuading Parliament to reduce Prince Albert's allowance. He opposed most of the progressive measures in Parliament – Catholic emancipation, free trade and railways. He campaigned for 3 years against the Great Exhibition of 1851, calling it in one of his speeches 'an exhibition of the trumpery and trash of the nation'. It is said that the artist Peter De Wint painted beautiful views of across Lincoln from Canwick Hall circa 1849.

Charles' sons included Gervaise Tottenham Waldo M.P (1815-61) and Coningsby Charles (1846-1932) who became a member of the newly formed Kesteven County Council. Gervaise did a lot to develop the Canwick estate, building the Heighington Road from the top of Canwick hill to the end of Grange Lane, laying out the surviving carriage drive and probably completing the park. During Coningsby's years changes to Canwick continued with the building of the Dower House in 1876 and several estate cottages in the 1870's. In 1872 trials were undertaken on behalf of the Sibthorps searching for Ironstone on the Canwick estate, but insufficient ore was found, otherwise a different landscape may have been around us today. Areas of limestone were quarried around the village providing building materials, as can be seen by the dips and hollows in the area of woodland known as the Pitts. Coningsby mainly lived at one of the other family estates that of Sudbrooke Holme and at Canwick Dower House. His younger brother Montague lived at the Hall with his family of three daughters.

Changes continued on the estate with the Gamekeepers house being built in 1908. In 1913 new wings were added to the Hall and The Grange was built in 1927 as the estate house for Oscar Bates, the Sibthorps' agent.

In March 1942 an Avro Lancaster bomber crashed into Canwick Hill, killing four crewmen who were all from 207 squadron based at RAF Waddington.

The last of the Sibthorp Line was Montague's youngest daughter Evelyn who had married Major Dudley Pelham. She and her sister Mrs. Lambert decided to sell the Hall and estate of 1148 acres to Jesus College Oxford in 1945. During the war the Hall was partly used by Army Officers and in 1947 Jesus College converted it into thirteen flats.

Mr & Mrs. Dudley Pelham lived in the Dower House until the Major died in 1953, when Evelyn moved back into Flat 1 at the Hall and remained there until her death in 1973.

PART 2: CANWICK LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

CANWICK IN ITS SURROUNDINGS

LOCATION AND ACTIVITIES

Canwick is located some 1.5 miles south of the city of Lincoln. The largely agricultural parish contains one settlement, the village of Canwick itself. This is a small and tranquil residential community, with significant proportions of both Lincoln commuters and senior citizens. The absence of its own shopping facilities contributes to the peaceful character of the place.

GEOLOGY AND LANDSCAPE SETTING

The parish of Canwick lies on the spinal ridge of undulating high ground which runs through Lincolnshire from Grantham to the Humber. The underlying bedrock is Middle Jurassic Lincolnshire Limestone, with some ironstone deposits. Soils are typically well-drained loam, though heavy blue clays can be found, especially on the northern edge of the parish. There is only one very small surface stream, though a line of springs on the northern scarp mark the junction of the limestone and the clay.

The parish is roughly rectilinear on a north-south axis, occupying some 1,629 acres (659 Ha). The majority of the land is open countryside, with the greater part of this being arable farmland. Large, open fields are separated by mostly well-kept hedgerows, and this open landscape is complemented by long views eastward to the Lincolnshire Wolds and northwards to Lincoln itself.

Apart from some isolated farms almost all the housing in the parish is in Canwick village, and although this can give the landscape a rather empty character, it is balanced by the well-maintained appearance of intensive arable farmland.

A mile to the west of the parish the high ground falls away to the lowlands of the Trent valley at the Lincolnshire "Cliff", a sharply defined limestone scarp running north through most of the county. Canwick marks the point where this feature is dramatically interrupted where the river Witham (with the help of glacial action during the last Ice Age) cuts through the ridge. Both river and escarpment abruptly swing 90 degrees east, with the scarp forming the northern border of the parish which drops over 100ft toward the Witham valley in around a quarter of a mile.

Canwick village is sited in this north-west corner of the parish, with the northern settlement boundary running along the top of the scarp. A mile further to the north beyond the river the land rises sharply again and the ridge resumes its march to the Humber, with Lincoln Cathedral and old town prominently overlooking the valley.

The predominantly rural nature of this landscape character summary contains the seeds of both Canwick's attractiveness and the challenges which confront it. Seen from above, the city of Lincoln has the appearance of an irregular clock face, with development spreading out from the hub in all but one quarter. Only to the south east does a salient of countryside remain, where in other directions urban sprawl reaches out far from the centre. And it is to this quarter (the so-called "South East Quadrant")

that planners now look to locate thousands of new houses. To follow the clock-face analogy, Canwick village is at roughly five o'clock – but rather than safely at the end of the minute hand, it sits perilously close to the centre.

TREE COVER AND VEGETATION

Unusually, the parish has none of the open countryside shelter belts and coverts which are so typical of this part of Lincolnshire. There are two significant wooded areas to the immediate south and east of Canwick village, but perhaps the most important trees are those in and around the village itself, which powerfully define its very distinctive character.

The pattern of large, open arable fields is separated by hedgerows and contains some individual specimen trees. The hedgerows are a significant resource in biodiversity terms.

ACCESS

The B1188 Lincoln – Sleaford road bisects the parish, and in descending the escarpment at Canwick Hill forms one of the busiest routes into the city. In terms of traffic volumes – if not in road standards or maintenance levels – this is an arterial route.

The B1190 Washingborough Road forms much of the northern boundary of the parish, also carrying a significant level of through and commuter traffic. The less heavily used C113 Heighington Road runs east to Heighington and the fenland beyond, and marks the southern boundary of Canwick village.

Finally, the junction of B1131 with the B1188 is just south of the village, from where it runs through open countryside to Bracebridge Heath.

Whilst B1188 Canwick Hill touches the edge of the village, and the Heighington Road forms its southern boundary, there are no significant through routes in the middle of the village itself. This contributes greatly to its largely peaceful and pedestrian-friendly character.

PART 3: VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT APPRAISAL & RECOMMENDATIONS

This section refers to Canwick village only

3 A. THE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT

1. Form and Boundaries.

The overall shape of the modern village is defined by its past as well as its present. Canwick Hall, the church, Canwick House and the Dower House (and the land immediately around them) strongly influence today's layout. The old coach drive from Canwick Hill to the hall still forms the northern border of the village, whilst the B1188 Canwick Hill and the C113 Heighington Road define its western and southern limits. The eastern boundary largely follows the former estate track which ran north from Heighington Road onto what is now Canwick Park Golf Course.

2. Street Layout

The street layout evolved to fill the rectangular area defined by these boundaries. The northern axis of Hall Drive became available when the gates formerly sealing off Canwick Hall were removed, thus allowing through access to the eastern axis of Grange Lane and the creation of the modern cul-de-sac development at Hall Garden. Similar cul-de-sacs were developed off Heighington Road (Sibthorp Gardens and The Paddock) and Grange Lane (Grange Close and Hall Garden).

School Lane and Pelham Lane have provided open access to the western part of the village for much longer, though as the intensity of development has picked up each has seen formal or informal spurs emerging to provide access to housing sited further back from the roadway.

The nature of its roads – mostly narrow, some cul-de-sacs, all with bends or sharp corners and few with good sight lines – serves to slow most of the village's traffic to acceptable speeds. Heighington Road and Canwick Hill are notable exceptions. And the layout of those roads – informal, organic, varied – creates hidden places and interesting discoveries for the visitor whilst providing a character at once neighbourly and private for residents.

3. Patterns of Movement

Vehicular

Traffic patterns can be divided into two very different categories. The B1188 Canwick Hill sees very heavy levels of traffic, with pronounced peaks in the morning and evening rush hour. A significant number of heavy goods vehicles use the route, and although recent improvements at nearby junctions have reduced queuing, the resulting increased speeds have made joining this road from the village a stressful process. The C113 Heighington Road also experiences peak hour flows, though on a

much smaller scale. However the straightness of the road as it runs past domestic housing means that speeding and noise are frequent problems.

Other than these two examples, all other roads serve residential development in the immediate vicinity with low levels of traffic made up primarily of private cars. There is some residual use of Grange Lane/Hall Drive as a rat run, but the level is a fraction of what it was before the Canwick Hill improvements of 2004. Speeding on these roads is rarely an issue.

Pedestrian

Pedestrian activity is low, and primarily occurs for short journeys within the village. There is a small but steady flow of pedestrian commuters into Lincoln (especially in the summer months), but most local residents appear to rely on their private cars for transport into and out of the area. Although Lincoln is close, the lack of appropriate pedestrian facilities at the key Washingborough Road/Canwick Hill junction is a significant deterrent to potential foot traffic and a brake on “greener” access to the city.

4. Night-time Appearance

At night the appearance of the area is typical of a small rural village with low levels of light coming from three common (and one less common) sources:

- Street lights. A mixture of old concrete and more modern metal lamp standards is complemented by lamps on shared use poles, with one or two examples of lamps fixed to domestic buildings. An exception to this pattern is Canwick Hill, where Lincolnshire County Council has installed full size highways standard lighting.
- Security lights outside private homes
- Light visible from the interiors of buildings
- “Borrowed light” from nearby Lincoln, especially when reflected by low cloud

Most street lamps are orange, but a long-term programme will see these gradually replaced by more energy-efficient white lamps.

5. Trees - A Unique Contribution to Village Character

Introduction

There are key areas of woodland on the southern and eastern edges of the settlement, but it is the trees within the village curtilage which give Canwick its extraordinary wooded nature – unique in Lincolnshire - and justify its long having been known as “the village in the trees”.

Trees are crucial in determining the character of the village, and provide a vital public amenity both within and beyond its boundaries. They allow a rare level of biodiversity within the village itself, with woodland and edge-of-woodland wildlife sharing space with more open-country species. Critically, Canwick’s trees also define the relationship between its built and natural environments, a factor discussed in more detail at Section 3 B1 below. Quite properly there is an extensive list of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) in force.

Species

Pine (Scots and Corsican), yew and holly are the “marker” species, with significant numbers of lime, beech and oak both as individual specimens and in groups.

The richness and diversity of tree types owes much to the Sibthorp family who held Canwick Hall for over 250 years. They were keenly involved in horticulture for several generations, as is attested by the number of plant varieties which to this day carry the suffix “*sibthorpii*”. The Sibthorps planted many valuable and often rare trees in and around Canwick over the years with today’s parishioners reaping the reward of their investment. Many of those trees survive, representing a living link to the period and process which defined the shape and character of the village we enjoy today.

Additionally there are specimens which have historic connections in their own right. Near Canwick House is a Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) reputedly planted by Rudyard Kipling, whilst in a private garden off Sibthorp Gardens stands a mature Scots Pine believed to have been planted in 1926 by Princess Mary the Princess Royal.

Location

The ubiquity of Canwick’s trees is as important as their species or location. Canwick has little publicly owned land, and many of its trees are on privately owned non-domestic space which is either publicly accessible or visible from public space. Moreover few garden plots lack a tree, and most have more than one. A good deal of the pre-war tree population was preserved during the building boom of the 1960s and 1970s, and in consequence many modern houses have fully mature woodland trees in their gardens or close by.

In addition to providing amenity for individual households, when taken together the trees in these individual plots combine to generate the wooded character of the village as a whole. Therein lies both a strength and a vulnerability: for Canwick to continue being “the village in the trees” its residents must both manage the existing stock and invest in its future.

Given the importance of its trees “being everywhere” it seems unfair to single out any particular specimens or groups. However the following are perhaps of especial value in terms of public amenity within the village envelope:

- The area of woodland on the north side of Hall Drive at its western end. Predominantly comprised of yew and black pine, with some lime, there are over 80 mature trees with a range of saplings and shrubs.
- The site opposite Canwick Hall on Hall Drive, which includes some of the most significant trees in the parish. These include three veteran beeches (with trunk circumferences ranging from 3.9m to 6.3m) and examples of yew, chestnut, *Paulownia tomentosa* (Foxglove Tree) and *Ailanthus altissima* (Tree of Heaven).
- The nearby sites off Hall Farm (currently in three group TPOs).
- Trees on both sides of the south part of Grange Lane
- Trees overlooking The Paddock near its junction with Heighington Road

Just beyond the village curtilage but essential to its character are

- Woodland to the south of Heighington Road
- Trees on the perimeter of the playing field
- Trees to the east of Hall Farm and Grange Close
- Trees on both sides of Canwick Hill between its junctions with Heighington Road and Washingborough Road

Biodiversity

The wooded nature of the village supports a particularly wide range of wildlife. The presence of many native and evergreen species (in addition to the more commonly found garden ornamentals) makes for an especially rich habitat.

This richness manifests itself most noticeably in the diversity of birdlife, but can also be seen in the range of invertebrates and mammals. There can be few other examples of villages which contain woodland, woodland-edge and open-country environments within the building line. The biodiversity of Canwick is of course an end in itself, but additionally it is an important contributor to the character of the village and to the amenity and well-being of its residents.

Public Amenity

Even where sited in domestic gardens, the legacy of large mature trees in relatively compact spaces means that almost all of Canwick's trees can be seen by the public, and therefore almost every specimen has an amenity value to residents.

However the trees *in* Canwick also have a major amenity value to the wider world *outside* Canwick. They are situated centrally in the view south from Lincoln, and help define the nature of the Lincoln Edge for the city's residents and its visitors alike (see below).

6. Village Approaches

First impressions count, and settlement character can be strongly influenced by the nature of the approaches. In Canwick's case the transition from countryside (or city) to village foreshadows what the visitor will find within: for Canwick, all roads lead through trees.

The importance of trees in the setting of the village in the landscape cannot be overemphasised. On the approaches mature trees mark the boundary and frame the entrance. On the streets entering the village itself the roadside trees, having been allowed to retain their natural form and overhang the roadway, make a physical gateway and stamp the character of the village on the entry point.

The main approaches are from the north leaving Lincoln, from the south on the B1188 and from the east on the C113 Heighington Road.

The City Approach

Leaving Lincoln the Victorian industrial landscape of Canwick Road opens up as South Common and Canwick Road cemetery are passed. The wooded escarpment is ahead, with Canwick Hill rising through the trees.



The wooded character of Canwick Hill is maintained from the parish boundary at the lower end to the Heighington Road junction at the top. In addition to defining landscape character, the trees play an important role in attenuating both noise and pollution on one of the most heavily used routes in and out of Lincoln.



First entrance to the village from the city is Hall Drive (above L). The trees are mostly evergreens, so whatever the season the entry to Canwick is by a shady woodland drive. The smaller School Lane entrance (above R) shows a similar character.

The Southern Approach

Approaching from the south trees both set the character for those visiting Canwick and screen it from the many more that pass it by on the way into Lincoln.



Woodland lines the east side of the B1188 for over half a mile before the village entrance is reached (above L). From the Heighington Road junction the road enters the cutting of Canwick Hill, heavily wooded on both sides (above R).

The Eastern Approach

Approaching Canwick the village is marked by a line of woodland on either side of the Heighington Road – the entrance is a green tunnel.



The Heighington Road (above L) leaves open countryside to enter the “green tunnel” which marks the village boundary (above centre looking E). For deeper access into the settlement the first turning is the even more heavily wooded Grange Lane (above R).

7. Views, Landmarks, Focal Points

Views In

The key views into the village are from the north. From the Lincoln side of the Witham valley, the wooded character which Canwick presents is a vital component in setting the character of the “Lincoln Edge”. This view is seen by hundreds of thousands of visitors to Lincoln from sites in the uphill tourist quarter, as well as by Lincoln residents from Carholme in the west to the hospital in the east, and including most of the Abbey ward of the city.



From this perspective Canwick is truly “the village in the trees”. At first glance the village appears as a wooded band running along the escarpment. The houses seem to reveal themselves gradually: after the first most obvious examples become apparent, more subtly camouflaged dwellings repay the curious eye. Everything is subservient to the tree line: no one structure dominates

and buildings half concealed give an impression of depth and interest.

Viewed from other directions the village is well hidden. Shielded by trees from the east, it is equally invisible from the west where the busy Canwick Hill runs in a wooded cutting. The B1188 road affords only scarce glimpses, and even motorists on the C113 Heighington Road get only a brief impression of a few houses set back from the highway as they skirt the village edge. For a settlement so close to the city and passed by busy roads, Canwick manages the difficult feat of revealing itself from a distance whilst remaining remarkably well hidden from close by.

Views Out

As would be expected, the view northward to Lincoln is the most prized. Ruskin described Lincoln Cathedral as among the finest in Europe, and there is no better place from which to view it than Canwick. It is seen flanked by Lincoln Castle and the

other buildings of the historic uphill quarter of the city, with the modern commercial centre and industry in the valley below.



Lincoln Cathedral from Canwick

The village also offers long views out to the north west across the Trent valley to Derbyshire and Yorkshire, and to the north east to the Lincolnshire Wolds. From within the village views to the east and south are limited by buildings and woodland. However from the eastern edge on the Heighington Road or from Canwick Avenue a huge

panorama opens up, looking over open countryside and past the Witham valley fenland to the distant line of the Wolds - one of the 'Big Sky' views characteristic of Lincolnshire.

Views Within

Views within the settlement are mostly non-linear, reflecting the irregular, organic street pattern. With many houses set back from the roads the trees and shrubs in front gardens break up the vista and add variety and interest. Where dwellings do front closely onto the highways they tend to be small in scale - an individual cottage or a short row - so the eye is drawn to individual points of interest rather than along lengthy composite vistas.

Everywhere the presence of trees provides a structural context in which the buildings (large or small) are contained, and which gives a sense of unity to the disparate architectural styles. The contrast between these points of interest and the irregular street pattern combines into an element of surprise and contrast which is among the most appealing characteristics of the village and which contributes to its special identity.

Focal Points

No single building or feature stands out as a dominant focal point. Canwick Hall is offset to one side of the village, and for all its bulk it is visible only from close range. Canwick House and the Dower House are effectively screened, and although the church is a gem, it is a well hidden one. The Village Hall, with modest open space before it and a traditional telephone kiosk and post box, probably comes closest to being a central focal point though in a rather retiring manner.

In a village which is characterised by quietly revealed surprises, that is perhaps appropriate.

8. Noise

With limited traffic in the village itself, vehicle noise is limited other than on Heighington Road. There is some background traffic noise from Canwick Hill, and

though in most parts of the village this is not obtrusive an occasional emergency vehicle siren or loud motorbike does break through.

The sound of a train can occasionally be heard from the valley below. Aircraft heading into RAF Waddington pass nearby, though as no fast jets are based there the noise is usually muted.

For the most part the sounds typical of Canwick are bird song and the wind in the trees.

B. THE VILLAGE BUILDINGS

1. Two Environments - “*The Village in the Trees*”

In assessing the character of the settlement and its buildings it is necessary to understand the very singular relationship between the built and natural environments in Canwick. This relationship has defined how the present village has evolved in a more direct way than in most communities, and is central in devising guidance for future development.

As is discussed in Section 3 A5 above, trees are everywhere in Canwick, both within the settlement and around much of its boundary. They provide a natural backdrop for Canwick buildings, and a reference point for their scale.

There are only three full three-storey dwellings in the village. *Canwick Hall*, *Canwick House* and *Canwick Dower House* are very large houses built in the 18th and 19th centuries for the family of the then land-owners, and set in their own substantial grounds. Together with All Saints church they form an east-west spine around which the modern settlement has been developed. Yet seen either from nearby or from a distance even these largest of Canwick’s buildings fit into – rather than breaking out of or above - the context of the wooded village. A further significant building – the former farm house at 12 Heighington Road – is a dormered two-storey dating from the 19th C.

Of the remaining hundred plus dwellings within the village curtilage none is a full three floors, and roughly one third are single storey. Although the vast majority of houses in the village have been built in the last 50 years, only a single new dwelling with any second floor accommodation at all has been built in Canwick in more than a century.

The village character is overwhelmingly of single- and two-storey dwellings. The consistent scale of the buildings unifies the diversity of styles, and gives coherence to the village character. That scale is given a natural yardstick by the relationship of the houses (both in terms of massing and height) not only to the built environment, but to the trees which provide their backdrop.

In Canwick not only is the scale of buildings subservient to the natural context, but the built environment is subservient to the natural environment. Careful planning choices will be necessary to preserve that rare heritage.

The 'Village in the Trees' in Pictures

The relationship between the built and natural environments – between the village and the trees – works in many practical ways.

Trees can conceal:



Old trees can hide an old house..... or a modern one...

Trees can reveal:



The spur development at Hall Farm is opening and welcoming – once the visitor has entered it. The combination of trees and street pattern make this just one of Canwick's "revealed surprises".

Trees add interest and dimension to formal entrances:



The entrance to The Paddock: mature woodland trees provide the framework; ornamentals and boundary treatment in the first garden set the wooded but open tone. Trees plus the simple curve at the entrance make what could have been a bleak rectangular estate a place of interest which reveals itself gradually.



A similar effect at the corresponding entrance to Hall Garden

Trees add interest and dimension to informal entrances:



A shared driveway off Pelham Lane

Above all trees provide the yardstick for scale for Canwick's buildings:



Low modern buildings...



...taller modern buildings...



...smaller older buildings.....larger older buildings...



...buildings converted from other buildings.....and buildings which are very purpose-built indeed!

There are no buildings in Canwick which are not framed by trees, and it is the village's trees which provide it with its sense of scale and proportion. It is near impossible to look at any building or group of buildings without trees providing the backdrop, and in most cases the foreground interest as well.

The built environment - characterised by one or two-storey dwellings - has evolved to fit into the context of this possibly unique natural environment, and is subservient to it. No part of Canwick, including its modern developments, feels like just another housing estate.

2. Pattern and Density of Buildings

Plot sizes vary throughout the village. When in the 1950s Jesus College (Oxford) began to sell off land in Canwick for housing the majority of plots were standardised at a quarter of an acre. Some were larger (such as on the north side of Hall Drive), whilst existing housing often occupied smaller plots. Over time some of those original quarter acre plots have been sub-divided, whilst infill development and the conversion of old outbuildings have further added to the variety.

The result is that although the backbone of quarter acre plots survives (and the post-war building period accounts for most dwellings in the village), the impression given is organic and diverse rather than of a homogenous, planned settlement.

Just as plots vary in overall size and shape, so there is no consistent building line. Whilst most properties developed in the key 1960s/1970s building period are set deep, others are well forward. Thus a large front garden with mature trees partly shielding the house may be opposite another which is little more than a parking area for a dwelling open to the street and whose recreational garden is private to the rear. And the modern development is never far from older construction such as short cottage rows where the dwellings front directly onto the highway.

Further diversity comes from the housing mix. Development took place on a piecemeal basis, with little speculative building. Dwellings went up to the design brief of their first occupiers, with different sizes and patterns sited next to each other.

The street layout existing at the start of the post-war building period helped cement a diverse pattern of housing. This was reinforced by the trend for development to involve new small cul-de-sacs or even informal stub roads and shared driveways to access or serve potential building land. There are nine of these, accounting for 45 of some 120 dwellings within the village curtilage. This number rises to 50 if the dwellings built in the former grounds of Canwick House and the Dower House (and which use their original drives) are counted.

(Formal: Hall Farm, Grange Close, Sibthorp Gardens, The Paddock, Hall Garden, Glebe End. Informal: Canwick Hall Mews, Hall Drive; St Andrews Lodge/Bienvenido, Heighington Rd; Gables/Elysium/Coach House, Pelham Lane; Morven to Uppingham, Pelham Lane)

This complex and varied layout is essentially non-linear in character, and may give an impression of high building density, particularly toward the village centre. In fact the overall density is relatively low due to some significant green spaces within the village envelope, and the variations in density are crucial to the character of particular locales.

3. Type and Style of Buildings

With the exception of Canwick House (originally a Victorian vicarage, now a care home) all the buildings within the village curtilage are private dwellings. The main types of building found are:

- The “Big Houses” – Canwick Hall, Canwick House, the Dower House
- Cottage dwellings of the 18th/19th C – e.g. Pelham Lane cottages, Stone Cottage, Grange Lane and School Lane cottages, supplemented by later conversions and additions such as Canwick Hall Mews cottages
- More substantial 18th/19th C houses e.g. Hall Farm, 12 Heighington Road and the Old Vicarage
- Larger post-war detached houses e.g. some of those on the north side of Hall Drive
- 1960s/1970s detached houses
- 1960s/1970s bungalows
- Conversions e.g. Hall Farm barn conversion; Canwick Hall Mews cottages; Stone Cottage outbuildings conversion; Dower House stables

4. Details and Materials

A closer examination of some of the more frequently found dwelling types is valuable in assessing village design character.

Cottage Dwellings – Typical Design Features

- Two storey construction
- Pitched roofs with end gables
- Pantile roofs
- Brick or stone chimney stacks off the main ridge punctuate the roof profile but are not a dominant part of the design
- Windows have a vertical emphasis, usually sash or Yorkshire sash
- Plan form is rectangular
- Occur in short rows, with original units sometimes knocked together or extended
- Front directly onto highway with small rear gardens
- Stone construction using locally quarried limestone

Some examples of cottage-style dwellings:



A row of estate cottages front onto Pelham Lane



“Yorkshire sash” windows. Framing varies – the window on the left has no sill



Replacement uPVC windows echo the appearance of the originals, but are not authentic to their functional type. The shutters were once a common feature on estate cottages.



Canwick Hall Mews: the former stables are now fully converted to cottage dwellings. Original vertical sash windows are retained.



The late 18th C Stone Cottage retains its character despite evolving to meet changing needs. Built originally as two cottages, it is now a single dwelling sporting a side extension, added or replacement chimneys, non-matching Victorian chimney pots, dormers and uPVC windows. Yet it still has tremendous charm and is perfectly integrated into the streetscape.



Scant inches of pavement separate these School Lane cottages from the roadway. Those joining the corner house are original estate cottages – those closest to the camera were added in the 1990s.



Accommodation in the former Estate Office faced away from Grange Lane, as do the two cottages into which it has long been converted. The one closest to camera has no street door; the first entrance shown being to the second cottage. The third (and larger) dwelling is a later addition to the row.

Post-war Houses – Typical Design Features

- Detached (there are no purpose-built semi-detached dwellings in Canwick)
- Two storey
- Pitched roofs with end gables
- Tiled roofs
- Small brick chimney stacks off the main ridge or end gable
- Windows have a horizontal emphasis
- Glazed entrance
- Open or enclosed porch
- French windows or sliding glass doors giving access to rear garden
- Integral or free-standing garage
- Plan form is rectangular
- Brick construction, sometimes in red but more commonly in buff

NB: There are a number of architect designed individual houses in the village, some of which differ radically from this feature-set.

Some examples of post-war detached houses:



Two modern detached houses facing each other across Grange Close give differing takes on most of the typical design features of the type.

Post-war Bungalows – Typical Design Features

- Detached
- Pitched roofs, hipped or gabled
- Small brick chimneys, usually on the ridge line. Some examples of American-style feature chimneys external to the end of the dwelling and faced in stone
- Windows have horizontal emphasis
- Glazed entrance
- Open or enclosed porch
- French windows or sliding glass doors giving access to rear garden
- Integral or free-standing garage
- Plan form varies: rectangular, T-plan, L-plan
- Brick construction, sometimes in red but more commonly in buff

NB: There are a number of architect designed individual single storey dwellings which were not built to the bungalow pattern

Some examples of bungalows:



Believed to be the first dwelling built on Sibthorp Gardens, this classic English-style bungalow (c. 1960) perfectly preserves its original features, materials and design.



This later example is larger, its long, low lines perhaps showing some American influence.



A more compact bungalow presenting the open aspect characteristic of much of the modern village housing.



Space within a space. One of a small development of bungalows in the grounds of Canwick House integrates perfectly with the detailed English country garden created within its own curtilage.

5. Boundary Treatments

General

Boundary treatments make an important contribution to the character and appearance of the village.

Amongst the modern dwellings which comprise the majority of Canwick's housing stock, boundaries tend to be low, and often informal. With limited traffic on most village roads there is little need for noise attenuation, and the tranquil nature of the settlement seems to create a sense of security in which boundaries are not always used as defensive physical barriers.

Most areas of the village therefore combine small, often winding streets with an open, airy feel. There are examples of open plan front gardens in the American style, and many more where the front boundary is a low wall less than a metre high, a low clipped hedge or a combination of the two.



Mixed front boundary treatments still give an open and welcoming character.

There are some higher front-facing hedges, mostly in yew or its modern substitute, Leylandii, but hedging is more common separating rear gardens than fronting public space. Yew, leylandii, laurel and privet are commonly used species, and such (usually evergreen) hedging provides an important element in the natural habitat, particularly for nesting birds.

Significant stretches of original mid-19th C iron fencing can still be found, most notably on Hall Drive and Montagu Road. When selling off plots of land in the post-war building period, Jesus College used 3-foot high concrete posts linked by fencing wire to mark boundaries. Although upkeep of this fencing is usually required by covenant, on most properties this has largely fallen into disuse. Occasional stretches (or isolated fence posts) can still be found.

With the majority of dwellings built in an age of mass car ownership, most frontages include vehicle access. Many drives are ungated, contributing to the impression of openness and space, and although the vogue for electric gates has reached Canwick they are rare and almost universally fit well into the streetscape.

Boundary treatments therefore help most dwellings to present an open and welcoming face to the world, which contributes toward a welcoming sense of place for the village as a whole. However the arrangement affords individual homes more privacy than may at first be apparent. Although dwellings are typically very open

face on, the tendency to set houses back from the road and the maturity of most gardens means that a linear view of the streetscape reveals more trees and bushes than actual houses.



Substantial dwellings like this one on Heighington Road present an open face to the passing pedestrian...



...whilst a combination of partial hedging and front-garden trees and shrubs affords much privacy from passing traffic – the house above and its single- and two-storey neighbours effectively disappear in a linear view.

Pantile Walls

A particular feature of Canwick is its pantile-capped limestone walls. These are made from stone quarried locally (most of it in the now wooded area known as The Pits on the south side of Heighington Road), and during the 19th C spread as means of enclosing and delineating various areas associated with Canwick Hall and the other “big houses” – walled gardens, stabling areas, private spaces – as well as marking formal property boundaries. In design and appearance they echo the older cottage-style dwellings found throughout the village, and more substantial houses like 12 Heighington Road and Hall Farm.

As the modern village evolved so did the uses to which these old walls were put, with some being re-used to mark the dividing line between modern-day plots. This very characteristic style has also been used as a template in the modern era, with new dwellings building new pantiled walls in the old tradition.

These walls form a strong connecting element between different parts of the village, and also between Canwick and some of its immediate neighbours such as Heighington and Branston.

Some examples of pantile walls:



Part of one of the longest surviving pantile-topped limestone walls in Canwick – c.110m overall. Built in 1856 when this part of Hall Drive was cut into the chalk escarpment, it serves both as a property boundary and a retaining wall. The yew hedge is the longest in the village and complements Hall Drive's mature yew trees.



Another Victorian wall – this hedge is cupressocyparis leylandii, sometimes used in Canwick as a fast growing substitute for yew. Poorly controlled leylandii has a bad reputation, but this beautifully maintained example provides extra privacy to the domestic garden behind and a welcome year-round green edge to the public space, complementing the grass verge below.



Church Walk



An isolated stub wall on Montagu Road associated with the former Village Farm



New examples of pantile-topped limestone walls in modern developments at Hall Garden and The Paddock make practical and attractive boundaries whilst grounding recent additions to the village in their historical context



A varied history of repair and addition is written in brick and stone on this section near a former side entrance to Canwick House



This detached stretch of wall on School Lane is much older than the post-war housing to its rear

6. Open Spaces and the Public Realm

As discussed in Section 3 B4 above, an impression of open space is provided by the open-plan front gardens typical of much modern housing in the village. These give breadth to many village streets, and make the overall layout seem more generous. The tendency for properties to be set well back produces additional space for planting which, although private, adds considerably to the visual appeal. Although these are not spaces accessible to the public, they provide significant public amenity.

The village's largest publicly accessible open space is the playing field, immediately outside the southern curtilage but readily accessible. Covering some 3 hectares it is today less used for football and cricket than in the past, but retains tennis and bowls clubs. In addition to providing a communal area for walking, exercise and play, it forms an important buffer zone against the B1188, and determined planting over recent years is producing a belt of trees and hedging at the highway margin.

The Old Coach Road runs from The Lodge on Hall Drive along the northern village edge to Canwick Hall. This is not a public right of way, but has for many years been made available to village residents by the land owner, Jesus College, Oxford. Overlooking Canwick Park Golf Course, this well loved path offers impressive views of Lincoln and the country beyond. Two valuable wooded areas at either end of the coach road are discussed in Section 3 A5 above.

The golf course itself is in part publicly accessible via the public right of way (Sparrow Lane) running from Grange Lane to Washingborough Road - although outside the village curtilage, it provides an important visual amenity and buffer zone as well as a public right of way. A further footpath runs from Glebe End to Mill Lodge via the playing field, and whilst its open space area is just beyond the village boundary it serves (like Sparrow Lane and the cycleway from Heighington Road to Mill Lodge) to draw together the village and the open space immediately beyond it.

Roadside verges make an important contribution to the character of public space in some parts of the village. On Montagu Road and Hall Drive grassed verges without kerbstone edging reinforce the rural feel. They are vulnerable to traffic damage – especially noticeable near the village hall – but although technically in the public realm residents make great efforts to preserve and enhance them.



Grassed verge and Victorian fence on Montagu Road

Street furniture is limited. Other than on Canwick Hill lamps are set low, and sited where they are needed rather than conforming to a fixed standard. As is noted elsewhere (Section 3 A4) night time illumination is low, to a level appropriate for a rural rather than an urban community.

Road surfaces are in variable condition, with a history of problems in recent years arising from poor quality maintenance. Pavements are largely tarmac, and in some areas are much degraded.



Narrow and badly worn footway on Canwick Hill; very narrow footway on School Lane

3 C. KEY INDIVIDUAL BUILDINGS

Listed Grade I	All Saints Church, Hall Drive
Listed Grade II	War Memorial, All Saints Church Table Tomb, All Saints Church Canwick Hall, Hall Drive Canwick House, Hall Drive Canwick Hall Lodge (old laundry house), Hall Drive 12 Heighington Road Dovecote at Hall Farm, Hall Farm Dovecote at Elysium, Pelham Lane Park Lodge, Washingborough Road (outside village curtilage) Sheepwash Grange, Heighington Road (outside village curtilage)
Sensitive Buildings	Ivy Cottage, Grange Lane Grange Cottage, Grange Lane Canwick Cottage, Grange Lane Hall Farm (farmhouse), Hall Farm Canwick Hall Mews (inc. coach house) The Dower House, Hall Drive Dower House stables, Montagu Road/School Lane Elysium/The Gables, Pelham Lane Pelham Lane Cottages School Lane stone cottages (original) Lindum House, Montagu Road The Lodge, Hall Drive Hillside Cottages, Hall Drive/Canwick Hill Stone Cottage, Hall Drive The Old Vicarage, Heighington Road Keeper's Cottage, Heighington Road (outside village curtilage) Highfield House (outside village curtilage)

3 D. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Very few “green field” development plots remain within the village curtilage, and the District Council has to date been firm in maintaining that the curtilage should not be extended.

Against this background, and given the age and type of the settlement’s housing stock, the pattern of future developments can be considered:

- **Individual new homes**, using either the few remaining undeveloped sites, previously sanctioned curtilage subdivisions or (possibly) the demolition and rebuilding of existing dwellings
- **Substantial alterations & extensions** to existing dwellings requiring planning permission.
- **Smaller extensions** to existing dwellings only some of which will require planning permission
- **“Permitted Development”** requiring no involvement of the planning system

Land supply means new homes will be few in number, but have great potential for impact on the community.

The age of much of Canwick’s housing stock has given rise to a growing trend for alterations and extensions as householders (especially new owners) seek to bring the dwelling into line with the needs of modern families and today’s technologies. The impact of such works, individually and cumulatively, on both village character and neighbour amenity should not be under-estimated.



A substantial extension to a post-war house brings the accommodation into line with today’s requirements whilst respecting the original design and proportions, the neighbouring buildings and the natural setting

In theory the minor character of Permitted Development works should mean they are of least impact on the community. However many of the matters covered – some boundary treatments, windows and doors, minor extensions, paving and hard standing – may in reality have significant impact on village character, and also on neighbours. Being beyond planning controls such works cannot be directed or conditioned, and it will be necessary to gain the active participation of members of the community in voluntarily abiding by the community’s own design standards. Changes to the Permitted Development regulations in 2008 relaxed planning controls on a range of minor extensions and alterations.

3 E. VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT – RECOMMENDATIONS

New Development

1. The existing village curtilage should not be enlarged, and any additional development should take place within it.

Reason: To prevent sprawl; to preserve the character of the settlement; to protect the open countryside.

2. There should be no further sub-division of existing plots to develop new dwellings.

Reason: To prevent excessive development beyond the capacity of village infrastructure; to protect the character of the settlement; to protect the amenity of existing dwellings.

3. The design of new development should complement the character of the village. The style may be traditional or modern, but the high quality of design and architectural detailing should ensure the buildings are distinctively of their community.

Reason: to protect and enhance the character of the settlement; to encourage high quality design.

4. The scale, mass and layout of new development should be sympathetic to their natural and built surroundings and the character of the settlement. New building should be no higher than neighbouring buildings, and no higher than two storeys.

Reason: to protect and enhance the character of the settlement; to protect the amenity of existing dwellings

5. New buildings should not have dormer windows.

Reason: to protect the characteristic roof-line; to protect the amenity of existing dwellings.

6. New buildings should conform to existing building lines in the immediate locale. In locations where front gardens are typical of neighbouring plots, such provision should also be made.

Reason: To maintain the open and spacious appearance characteristic of post-war parts of the village.

7. New developments should have off-street garage/parking facilities appropriate for a rural community with few public transport links.

Reason: to limit further parking on village roads; to protect the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and other road users; to protect and enhance the character of the settlement.

8. Boundary treatments should be low or open. Where hard boundaries are erected, pantile-topped Lincolnshire limestone walling should be used and not fencing. Where they exist on neighbouring plots, green verges should be kept.

Reason: To protect and enhance the historical character of the settlement; to maintain the open and spacious appearance characteristic of post-war parts of the village.

9. New developments should not obstruct existing views and outlooks within or from the village.

Reason: To protect and enhance the character of the settlement; to protect the amenity of existing dwellings.

10. New developments should maintain existing mature trees, hedges and shrub planting.

Reason: To protect the natural environment; to preserve the distinctive character of the settlement.

11. New buildings should have permitted development rights withdrawn in respect of extensions; garages and outbuildings; vehicle parking spaces and hard standing; fences, walls and other boundary structures; additional vehicular access; additional windows or dormers.

Reason: To protect residential and visual amenity; to protect the character of the settlement.

12. New development should include microgeneration facilities capable of producing at least 10% of domestic energy requirements using visually unobtrusive technologies.

Reason: To encourage efficient domestic microgeneration; to protect the character and appearance of the settlement.

13. New development should include sustainable methods of surface water drainage and water re-use.

Reason: To minimise overall water use, to reduce impact of new development on existing drainage infrastructure and to reduce the environmental impact of new development

Extensions, Alterations & Outbuildings

1. Extensions and outbuildings should not be built in the front gardens of existing dwellings.

Reason: To maintain the visual character of the settlement; to maintain the open and spacious appearance characteristic of post-war parts of the village.

2. The scale, mass and height of extensions and outbuildings should be complementary to plot size and to the existing natural and built surroundings. Extensions should be subservient to the existing dwelling.

Reason: To protect and enhance the character of the settlement; to protect the amenity of existing dwellings.

3. The architectural design and styling of extensions and outbuildings should respect and integrate with that of the main dwelling.

Reason: To protect and enhance the character of the settlement.

4. Dormer windows should not be added to existing dwellings.

Reason: To protect the characteristic roof-line; to protect the amenity of existing dwellings.

5. Existing front gardens should not be removed to provide off-street parking.

Reason: To preserve the visual amenity and character of the settlement.

6. Extensions and outbuildings should maintain existing mature trees, hedges and shrub planting.

Reason: To protect the natural environment; to preserve the distinctive character of the settlement.

7. Where a dwelling has been altered or extended to a degree requiring grant of planning permission, consideration should be given to ensuring that a condition of that permission should be the withdrawal of further permitted development rights in respect of extensions; garages and outbuildings; vehicle parking spaces and hard standing; fences, walls and other boundary structures; additional vehicular access; additional windows or dormers.

Reason: By involving the scrutiny of the Local Planning Authority in further modifications to substantially altered or extended buildings, to protect residential and visual amenity; to protect the character of the settlement.

Planning Controls

- Examine the case for any unlisted buildings to receive additional protection via a Local List or Article 4 status

PART 4: THE PARISH BY NUMBERS: CANWICK PROFILE & KEY RESEARCH FINDINGS

4.1.1 Background to the Parish Plan Research

The Parish Plan pursued two strands of research to explore the community's concerns and aspirations. Firstly a survey questionnaire (based on a template developed by the University of Gloucestershire) was issued to every household containing 50 questions with additional opportunities for 'open ended' responses and general comments. Frequent reminders were sent out, with a subsequent door-to-door follow-up campaign to non-responders. The community were enthusiastic in returning the forms with over half of all households responding within a month of issue. The follow-up campaign worked hard to encourage remaining households to make their contributions, and the end result was a final response rate of just under 82% of all households. This is an extremely high figure for Parish Plan survey research, and one which makes the results as statistically robust as possible.

The second strand was a qualitative element using a number of in-depth interviews and mini-groups (2 - 3 parishioners) aimed at exploring in more detail key strands which emerged from the survey work.

North Kesteven District Council household survey field work data in the Four Parishes Cluster Group area (Canwick along with Washingborough, Heighington and Branston) obtained as part of its Healthy Lifestyles initiative was made available to the Parish Plan Steering Group. The results correlate very closely with the Canwick survey. Where relevant the North Kesteven data is also used in this section. Although 82% of households returned the survey, the limited scale of the overall sample universe in Canwick is acknowledged. The statistically robust Four Parishes data provides valuable context and reinforces the Canwick survey findings.

4.1.2 Baseline Demographic Profile

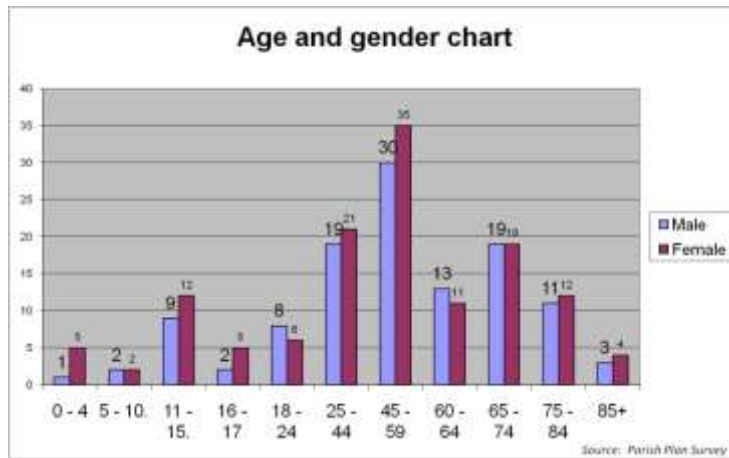
The baseline external data source remains the 2001 census. Interim updates to the census have been issued at various points since its completion but these cannot always be reliably extrapolated to so small a population as Canwick. However the census data can be cross-checked both against the Parish Plan quantitative survey and the North Kesteven Healthy Lifestyles Survey, which both suggest its key findings remain valid, though with some significant interim trend data emerging. As full 2011 census data becomes available an update to the Parish Plan figures will be inserted.

Canwick's population is strikingly older than average. The 2001 census showed nearly 39% of residents to be 60+, compared with 24% in North Kesteven overall and 21% for England & Wales.

Resident population (percentage)			
	Canwick	North Kesteven	England and Wales
Under 16	12.1	19.4	20.2
16 to 19	3.2	4.2	4.9
20 to 29	6.5	9.5	12.6
30 to 59	39.2	42.8	41.5
60 to 74	22.1	15.7	13.3
75 and over	16.8	8.3	7.6
Average age	48.9	40.8	38.6

Source: 2001 Census, ONS

However the census is likely to under-emphasise both the current position and its future impact, with the Parish Plan survey revealing a marked peak in age distribution between 45 and 59 years and a higher total (46%) for the 60+ cohort.



Source: Parish Plan Survey

Taken together the data suggest a rapidly aging population, and point to a community where half the population may very soon be retired. The 2001 census indicated 22% of residents were retired (compared to 16% for North Kesteven and 14% for England & Wales), but the more recent Parish Plan survey found 39% of respondents were retired.

Longer life-spans indicate that the very elderly (75 and over) will continue to increase rapidly as a proportion of the overall population. Even in 2001 the census found 20% of residents to be affected by a limiting long-term illness, and that 14% were providing unpaid care. Naturally other factors can affect these numbers, but age-related conditions are likely to be an important factor.

This demographic profile has major implications for the service requirements of the community as well as for the general burden of care. Canwick has very limited facilities within the parish, with residents having to travel (to neighbouring villages or to Lincoln) for all shopping, financial services and medical/dental provision. Whilst internet services may offer a partial solution, the fact remains that Canwick's rapidly increasing population of old and very old residents will either have to travel to access services or become dependant on others. Helping the very elderly to remain active within the community and hence limit dependence will become increasingly significant, and will require pro-active advance planning.

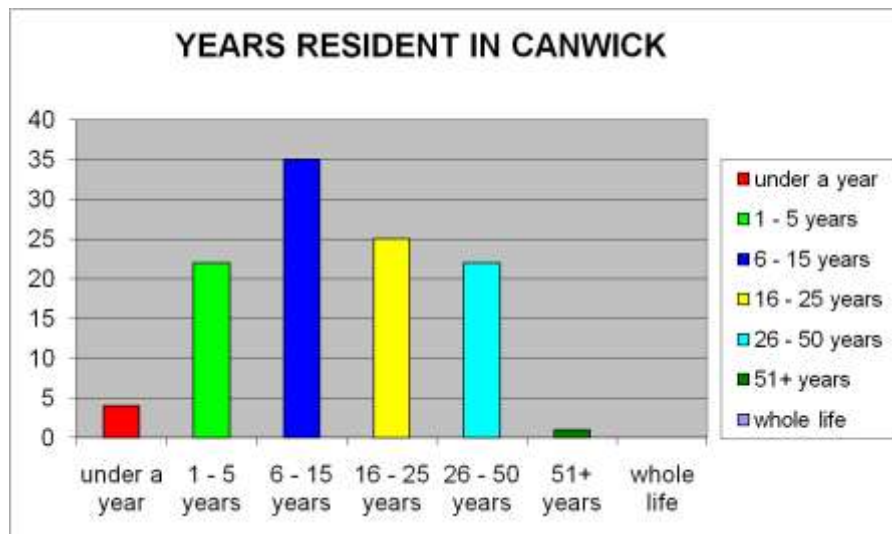
Issues for the Action Plan

- Identify dwellings occupied by elderly and/or disabled residents who might qualify for grant assistance for domestic improvements in concert with LCC First Contact service
- Establish where those with long term illness are resident to facilitate provision of information/assistance/support
- Ensure all village facilities and public areas are 'friendly' for the mobility restricted
- Work with partners to identify parish-level services and facilities which may help elderly and very elderly residents remain active in the community

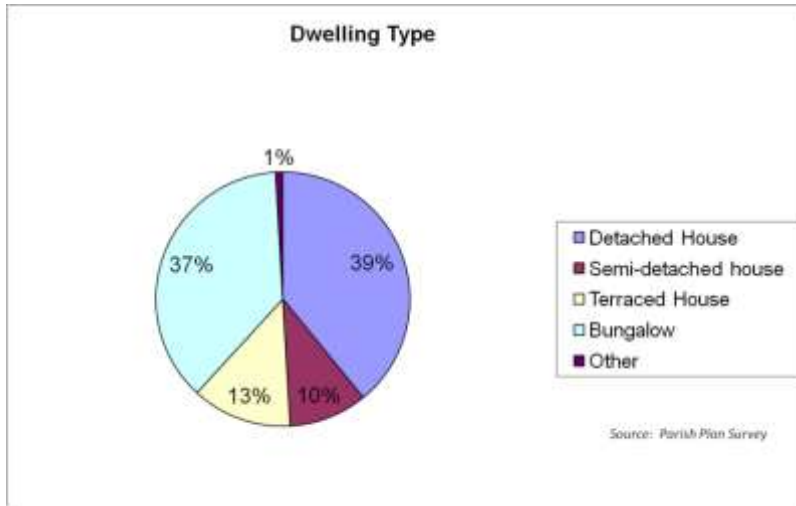
4.1.3 Baseline Housing Profile

The census records 150 households in Canwick, with a population of 331. A total of six new dwellings have been created since the census (five via conversions of existing buildings plus one new house) although not all of these are currently occupied. Over 85% of parish dwellings are in Canwick village.

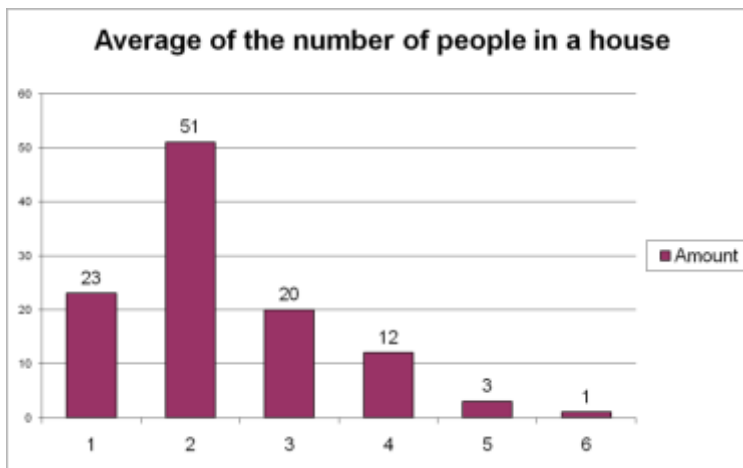
There are only three units of social housing, with 83% of dwellings being owner-occupied and 15% privately rented (Source: census/ONS). Proximity to Lincoln and other factors make Canwick a desirable location, and property prices are amongst the highest in rural Lincolnshire.



Canwick has a much more stable population than many communities, with 44% of respondents having lived in the parish for over 15 years. One result of this is that a large proportion of dwellings have not been on the open market or changed hands for a substantial period of time. This places a further constraint on an already limited housing supply, and the resulting low affordability levels make Canwick a challenging location for first-time buyers, or for young people from the parish wishing to set up their own homes near to their families.



There are few terraced homes, semi detached houses or flats, with 75% of dwellings being detached. These are split almost evenly between houses and bungalows.



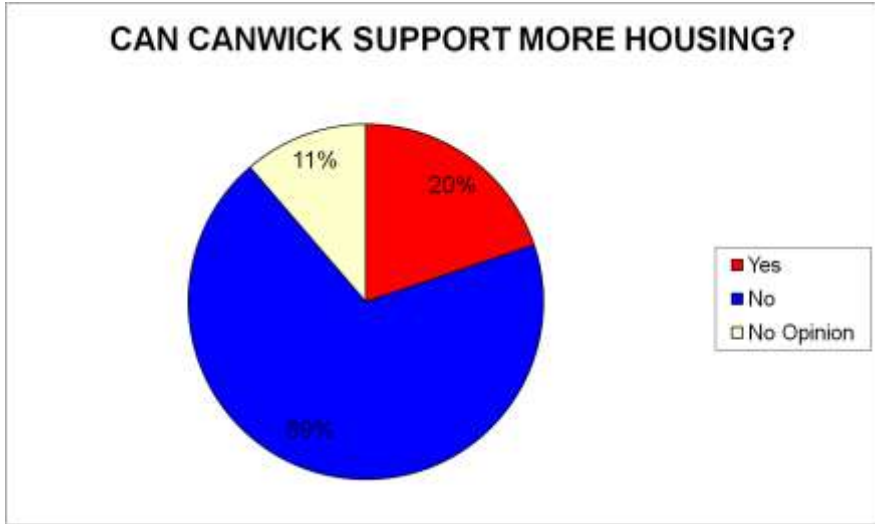
Source: Parish Plan Survey

The composition of households reflects the maturity of the population and in particular the relatively low number of under-16s (12% compared to a national average of 20%).

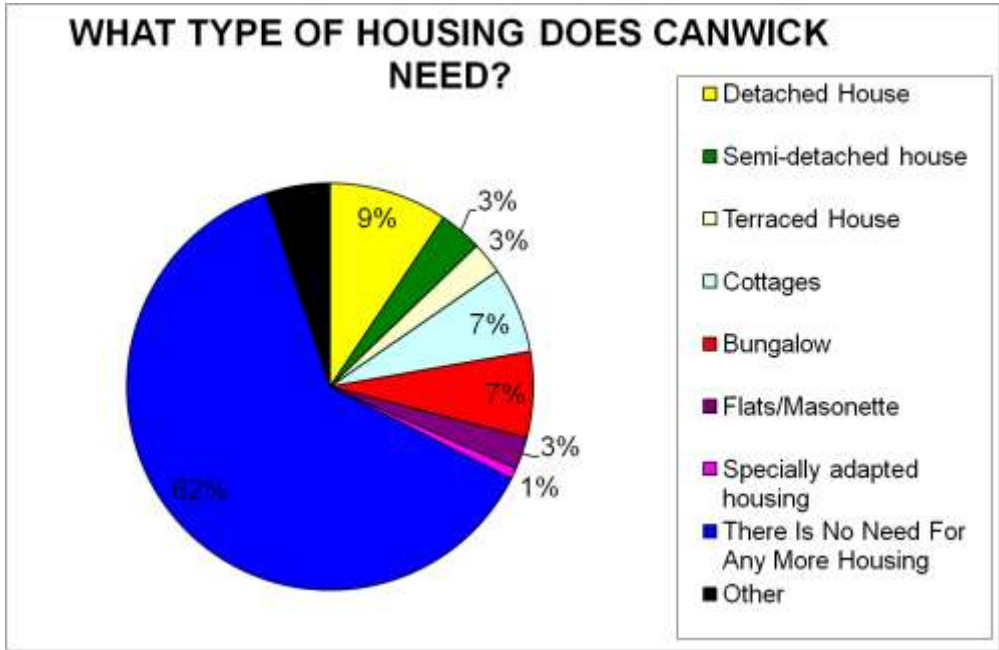
4.2 Canwick Now and Canwick Future: Residents' Views

4.2.1 Housing, Development & Planning

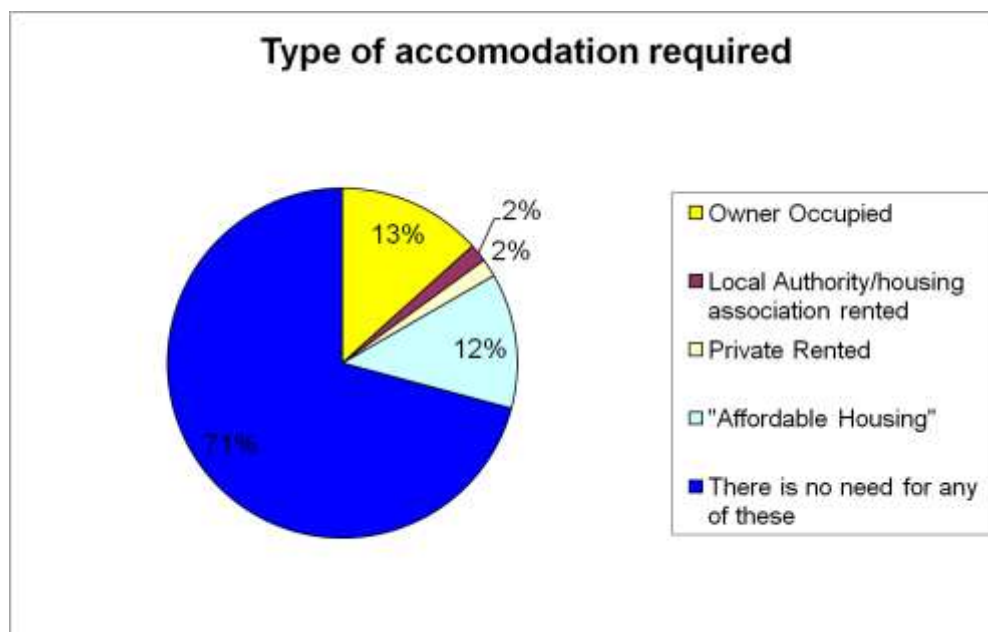
Parishioners were asked a range of questions about future built development in the parish, starting with the most fundamental issue of whether Canwick could support more new houses.



The high proportion saying 'no' is unsurprising given the very clearly defined nature of Canwick village and the fact that very few building plots remain undeveloped.



Slightly different phrasing produced a similar answer, but if housing was to be permitted the favoured types broadly match the existing housing mix.



Considering the need for *accommodation* (rather than new building) there was some acknowledgment of housing need in the community, with 15% in favour of 'affordable' or social rented housing and 13% seeing a need of owner occupied accommodation.

Residents were protective of the existing village boundary with 87% opposing development outside the built up area. Residents also wished to preserve the existing settlement character and prevent over-development. Many of the original half-acre plots sold by Jesus College in the 1950s and 1960s have been subdivided, a practice which has at times been controversial in the community. Residents views are now very clear, with 87% opposed further subdivision of plots to allow 'back garden' development of new homes, and 93% calling for better space to be left around new development.

Residents were equally clear about the size of any new housing, and in particular its height, with 93% saying that new development should be no higher than two storeys.

Just over half were satisfied with the performance of the District Council's planning system, though 56% felt that planning applications should be better publicised.

Issues for the Action Plan

- *Explore with District Council whether despite Canwick's size, opportunities exist for affordable housing linked to direct local community need*
- *Establish detailed development guidelines with District Council covering design, scale and local character (for details see Part B of the Draft Action Plan)*

4.2.3 Natural Environment

Residents are very aware of the rural setting of the village and value it greatly as a defining characteristic of Canwick. 83% regard the quality of this countryside as 'very

important' to them, and a total of 98% feel it is 'important' or 'very important. This is carried through into a desire to protect these spaces, with 95% wanting to see the surrounding land accorded Green Belt status to prevent coalescence with Lincoln or other communities.

Issues for the Action Plan

- *Continue to press District Council and other authorities to preserve existing 'Green Wedges' in the area and to prevent urban sprawl from Lincoln or the coalescence of surrounding villages*
- *Continue to work with District Council to preserve Canwick's unique wooded character in general, and individual trees in particular. Discuss extension of Tree Preservation Orders with Tree Officer.*
- *Protect and enhance appearance of existing green space within the village, and the character of the wider parish*

4.2.4 Recreation & Community Facilities

4.2.4.1 Footpaths & Footways/Cycleways

The value placed on Canwick's countryside setting is reflected in the Parish Plan survey results with 83% saying they knew where the local public footpaths were and 76% saying they could use them without difficulty. However only 63% knew the footpaths were signposted (which they all are), and whilst NK's Healthy Lifestyle survey showed walking to be the most popular form of exercise by far, Canwick's footpaths did not emerge as a high saliency feature in the Parish Plan qualitative research. Taken with local observation there is some indication that the rural paths may be valued but are lightly used, and given the great importance residents attach to rural aspects of the character of the parish there may be an opportunity to explore ways of improving both the path network and its usage rate. There are certainly difficulties in getting out of the village without conflict with motor traffic, both for access to Lincoln and to connect with neighbouring villages

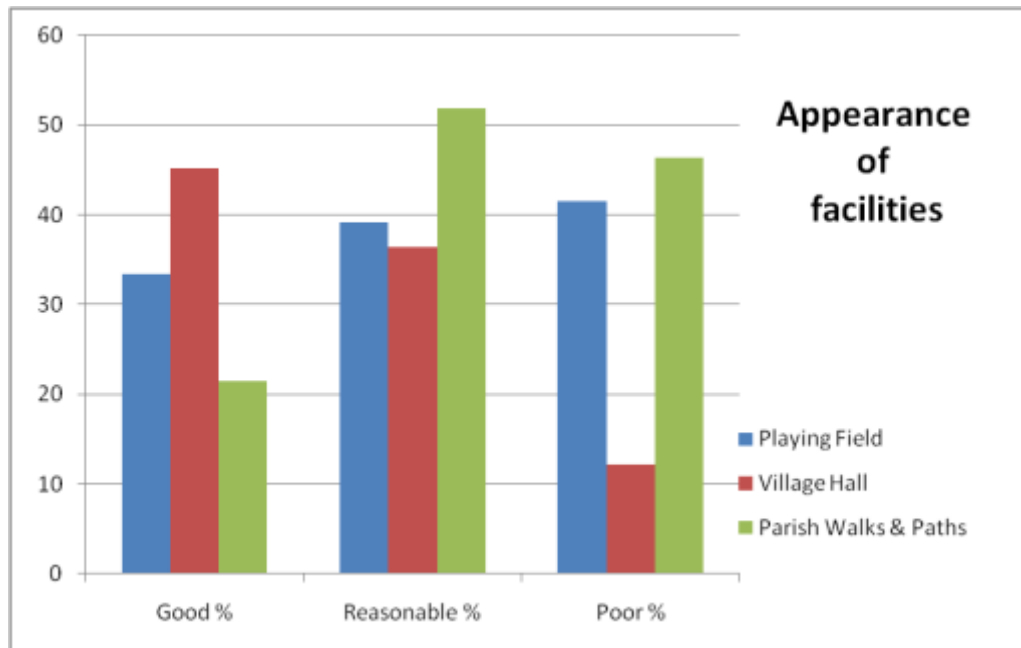
Issues for the Action Plan

- *Promote and encourage footpath network and usage within the community*
- *Explore means of extending the formal footpath network and adding further (perhaps informal or permissive) routes*
- *Press for greater safety for pedestrians and cyclists to enable more sustainable transport modes in line with higher level plans and strategies*

4.2.4.2 Other Facilities

In addition to the footpaths, key recreational facilities are the playing field and Canwick Village Hall. Each of these has a number of different uses, but the survey first gauged opinion on their general state of appearance and maintenance.

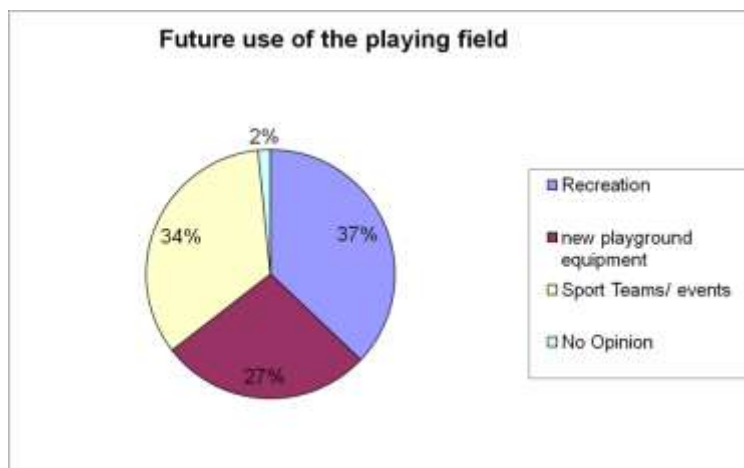
In general residents were content that the facilities appeared to be in 'good' or 'reasonable' shape.



Both the village hall and the playing field host a number of individual activities. For example the tennis courts and bowling green are on the playing field, and the village hall is used by Canwick Social Club but also by outside activity providers such as dance and keep fit. The Parish Plan research assessed these in terms both of current status, any reasons for *not* using a particular facility and residents' aspirations for the future.

4.2.4.3 The Playing Field

The playing field emerged as greatly valued but perhaps under used. Dog walking was the most common current use, but there was a strong feeling that as a resource it was failing to live up to its full usage potential. Many were worried that if under-used it would simply be used to build houses.



Source: Parish Plan Survey

A common request was for a children's play area, and since the fieldwork was carried out the tremendous efforts of the Playing Field Committee have secured not only a suite of new play equipment but also picnic tables and benches to form the dedicated family recreation area.

- *I don't know what the playing field is currently used for but I wouldn't want to lose it!*
- *Let's get sport back on the sports field*

In general, respondents simply wanted to see activity - almost any activity - on the playing field. Older parishioners looked back to the 70s and 80s and wanted the return of football and cricket, though present day demographics mean fielding home teams would be unlikely.

More attainable suggestions included organising summer events, inviting outside bodies to use the field, arranging tournaments, car boot sales, caravan rallies and fun days. The successful Canwick Fun Dog Show illustrates how well such events can work and a range of outdoor healthy recreational activities may be more appropriate today than the formal team sports prevalent when the Playing Field was first opened..

Complementing the call for children's play equipment there was strong support for increased provision for the elderly. A fitness trail for seniors was suggested, and if the main grassed area was no longer to be used for team sports there was a call for further tree and shrub planting (especially to screen the site from the B1182) and the creation of walks and a community garden on at least part of the space. There was lower level support for youth provision - basketball hoops, skate park etc.

Issues for the Action Plan

- *Explore options for future developments to increase and broaden usage and make the area as relevant as possible to today's residents. This may involve evolution in the character of at least part of the area, and should involve a focus on senior citizens and older children/young adults*
- *Support the successful work of the Playing Field Committee and ensure continued financial contribution for maintenance*

4.2.4.4 Tennis Courts

Although most people were aware of the tennis courts they did not emerge as intensively used. Demographic factors may be partly responsible, as amongst non-users age and/or health issues were the most common reason for not using given in the survey at 36%. A further 35% said they were simply not interested and 15% saying they did not have time.

Most interviewees had noticed the community efforts of the tennis club, for example with fund raising events. However some residents also reported difficulty in accessing the courts and not understanding the booking system, with a number saying they might be interested but did not know how to go about getting involved or expressing concern that they did not have a playing partner.

'The best activity in the village - I can't understand why more people don't use the courts'

Issues for the Action Plan

- *Explore means of intensifying publicity for the courts and making access easily understandable. Consider trial days*

4.2.4.5 Bowls Club

The bowls club was seen as a mystery. 98% of survey respondents indicated they had never used it, and residents had no understanding of how to go about getting involved if they wanted to, or even who to contact. The club was not perceived as welcoming, or even accessible, and although when prompted some residents thought it might be a good (and gentle) form of exercise they did not know how to take this forward.

Bowls is nationally popular with seniors, and it is noteworthy and unfortunate that notwithstanding Canwick's up-age demographic profile this facility would appear to be almost unused by residents of the parish. The Club responded to the draft Plan by stressing a number of ways in which efforts were being made to publicise the facility and extend its use. These comments are noted and it is to be hoped that the Club's efforts will be sustained and successful, but the fact remains that the bowling green is as yet not perceived by parishioners as fulfilling its potential.

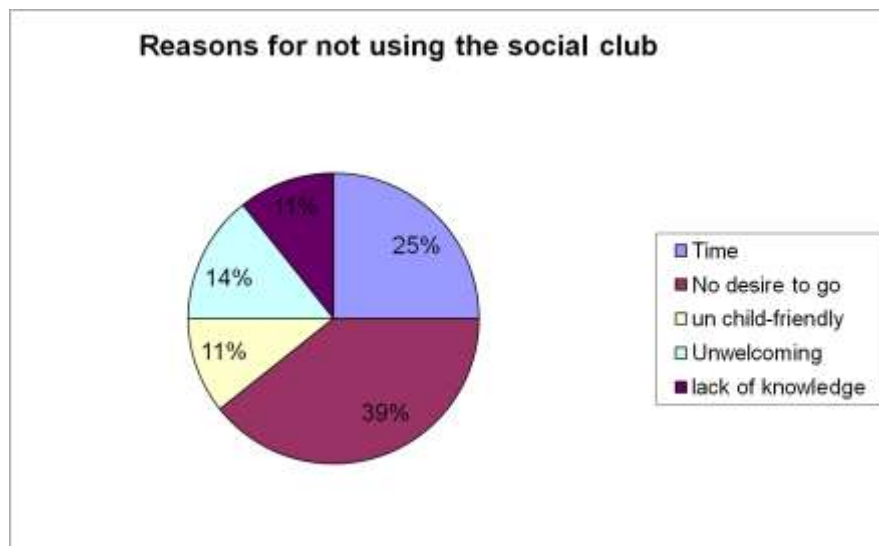
'Maybe if there was some sort of open day we could go along and be taught!'

Issues for the Action Plan

- *Examine options for increasing knowledge of and use of Bowling Green among Canwick residents and increasing practical accessibility - perhaps in co-operation with the Playing Field Committee or other village organisations.*

4.2.4.6 Social Club & Village Hall

Only 29% of respondents said they were 'regular' users of Canwick Social Club, with 42% reporting 'occasional' use.



Source: Parish Plan Survey

Reasons for not using it were uncontroversial, although given the size of the village the number saying they were unaware of it might be seen as surprisingly high. Interviews revealed a similar range of responses, and although some people did not find the club welcoming the chief reason for not using it was simply that 'it's not my thing'.

The most visible activity which residents associate with the Social Club itself is the bar, and as the widespread closures of village pubs show, there are limits on today's potential user base for rural clubs and pubs. The existing level of regular and occasional usership of the bar appears very healthy in this context, and the club's finances are robust and well managed. However perhaps the most important (though least visible) of the club's functions is the day-to-day running of the village hall, and acting as letting agent for the other activity providers who use it.

Few residents were aware of this vital background role played by the Club, or of the role played by the Village Hall Trustees. However there were very positive opinions about the village hall itself. Most used it at some time or another, and there was a virtually universal desire to see it well maintained and well used. Residents spoke warmly of the Friday coffee mornings, and the dance and keep fit activities were well known and well regarded although local patronage may be limited. There was strong support for further activities aimed at senior citizens. Whilst not exclusively for the elderly the coffee mornings were perceived as largely a seniors event, but a considerable number of the residents interviewed focussed on more provision for the elderly - dedicated seniors keep fit and computing classes were among the suggestions. The programme of physical improvements to the hall recently completed by the Trustees should make this easier to achieve as the hall is now fully

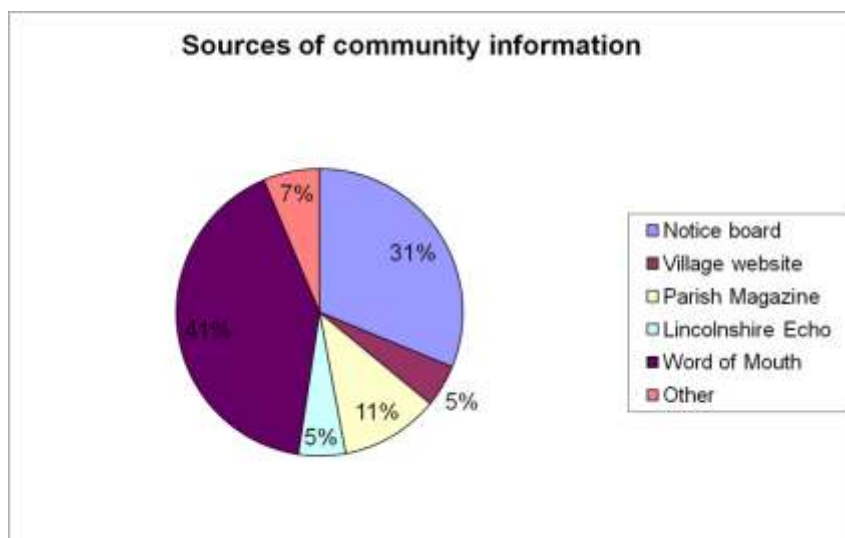
compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act and is very much more 'user friendly' for mobility restricted and disabled users.

Issues for the Action Plan

- Continue to seek intensified usage and extended activity base, especially with programmes for senior citizens during the day time
- Continue to support the Village Hall Trustees in their efforts to improve the building.

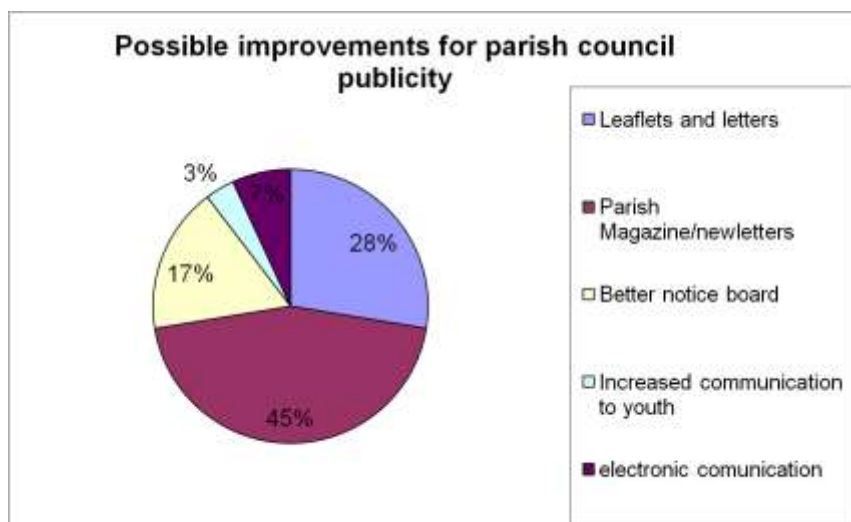
4.2.5 Parish Council and Community Information

Unsurprisingly, in a small community 'word of mouth' was the most common source of information about parish matters.



Source: Parish Plan Survey

The parish council was seen as publicising its proceedings 'reasonably' well by 59%, but both the survey and interviews found people wishing to be generally better informed about local affairs.



Source: Parish Plan Survey

Canwick has not had its own parish magazine for some years, although it features in a Three Parishes publication, and the former magazine (*Canwick Now*) was fondly remembered by many. There was strong support for a new Canwick newsletter of some kind, and/or for one-off communications about important matters. Although the parish website (www.canwick.org) had been little publicised at the time of the survey fieldwork, 57% said they were aware of it. Interviewees who had visited the site were positive about it, and given that 70% of Canwick households reported having internet access it is perhaps an underexploited asset.

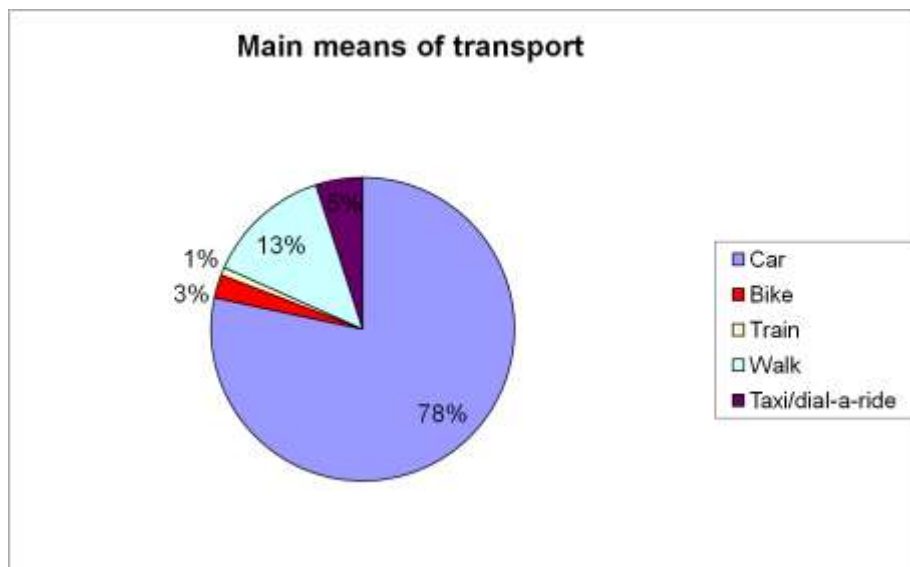
Overall there is clearly an opportunity for the parish council to strengthen its communications, perhaps in association with other community bodies.

Issues for the Action Plan

- *Examine possible ways of reintroducing a Canwick newsletter, or a Canwick section in other local publications*
- *Increase publicity for the website and use it as a means of providing more immediate information about the Parish Council, planning matters and other local news - for example a parish blog to supplement formal minutes, better liaison with parish organisations and links to the forthcoming electronic plans service at NKDC*

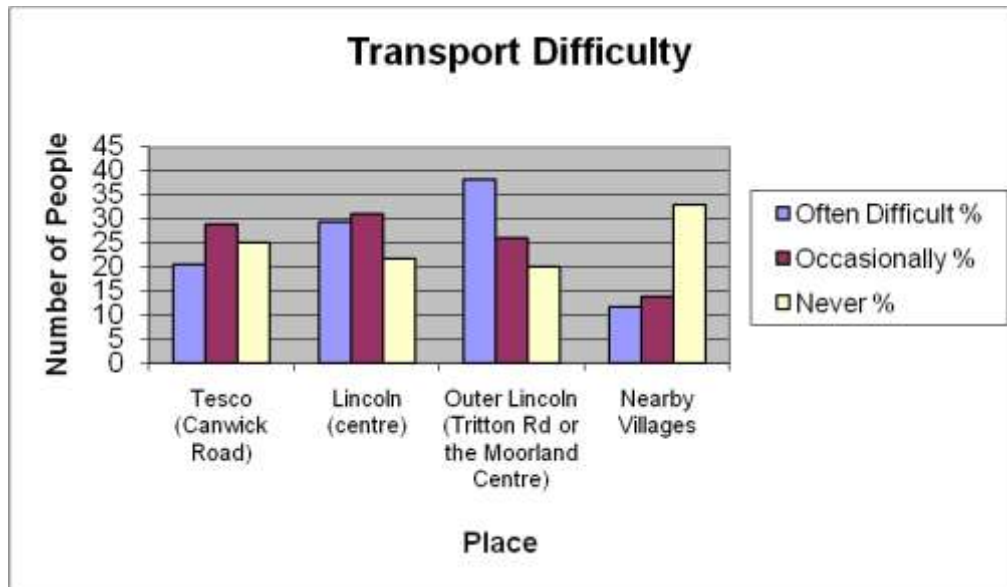
4.2.6 Travel & Transport

The most common main means of transport for Canwick residents is the private car. There is a bus service (roughly hourly during the day) on the Lincoln - Branston route from Canwick Hill, but its use is not significant for most residents and without the use of private transport access to Lincoln or neighbouring villages would



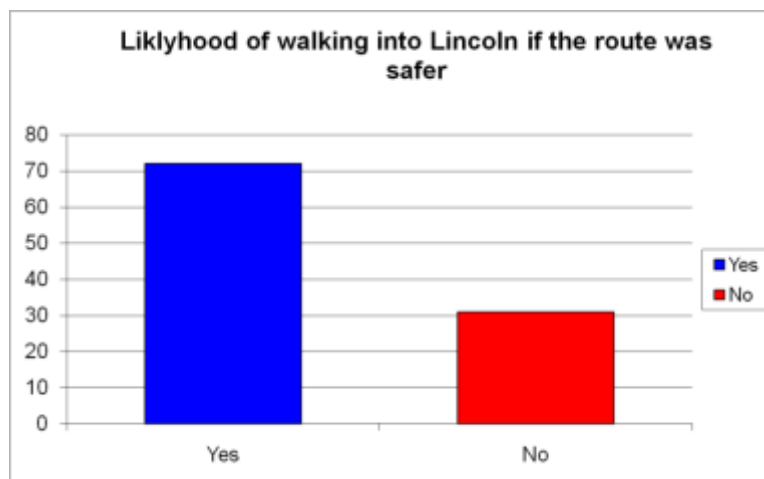
Source: Parish Plan Survey

be problematic for many, especially the elderly or those with small children. The survey investigated reported difficulty in accessing four popular destinations, and the results showed that even accepting widespread car use it is not as easy for residents to access key locations and services as the parish's geographical location might suggest, though access difficulties relating to urban site will include traffic problems.



Source: Parish Plan Survey

Walking to neighbouring villages may be less practicable, but interviewees and survey respondents made clear that many more would walk to Lincoln (a common destination for education as well as shopping and services) or to Tesco on Canwick Road if access was safer. The proportion already declaring walking to be their main transport mode is high for a

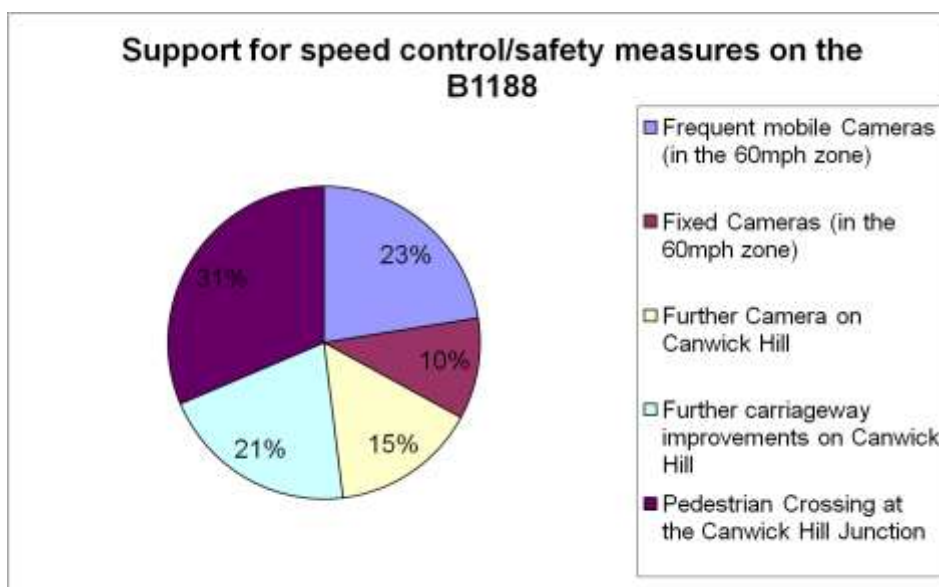


Source: Parish Plan Survey

rural village and points to future potential. Yet residents repeatedly complained that walking to Lincoln was an unsafe (often downright scary) business. Crucially, the crossing at the Canwick Hill/Washingborough Road junction has no pedestrian phase on the east side, blocking the direct route to town. The 'official' route (via the Sincil

Bank area and emerging behind the railway station) was not well understood, and when it was known people saw it as longer and involving some ill-lit stretches in what were perceived as insecure areas. There is great potential to increase walk-commuting from Canwick, and it is unfortunate that this is being obstructed by a single choke point.

An overwhelming majority - 79% - felt speeding was a concern within the parish overall. However this figure includes references to the B1188, a main access route for Lincoln about which there was widespread safety concern. This road was not seen as safe - especially at the access points from the village at the Heighington Road and Hall Drive junctions - and there was support for a range of measures to increase safety on this road.



Source: Parish Plan Survey

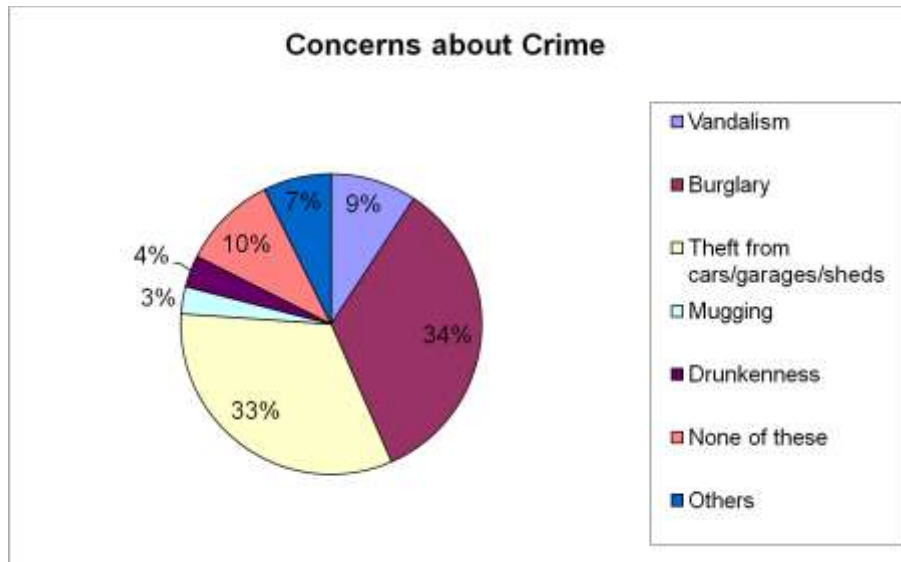
Heighington Road was also seen as unsafe, with speeding traffic and aggressive drivers. It is notable that the most popular improvement scheme was for better pedestrian safety at the Washingborough Road/Canwick Hill junction. Residents were restrained in calling for punitive control measures, and proposals such as traffic calming, improved signage and rumble strips elsewhere (such as on Heighington Road) received similar levels of support at 28%, 21% and 18% respectively.

Issues for the Action Plan

- Continue to press for a safe pedestrian crossing at the Washingborough Road/Canwick Hill junction to facilitate safer pedestrian/cycle access to Lincoln
- Continue to press for improved safety measures on Canwick Hill, especially regarding access via the Heighington Road and Hall Drive junctions, especially radar speed warning signs
- Improve frequency of police speed checks on Canwick Hill and Heighington Road
- Press for completion of 'missing link' in footpath on Washingborough Road
- Press for footpath/cycleway/safety measures on Heighington Road

4.2.7 Crime and Policing

In general Canwick is seen as a safe and secure place to live. There is little concern about the range of street safety issues which are often prominent in urban areas and larger villages, with worries about drunken behaviour or muggings at very low levels.



Source: Parish Plan Survey

Residents' concerns reflected the types of crime actually found in the village and focused predominantly on property crime, either in terms of burglary or theft from outbuildings and cars.

Issues for the Action Plan

- Continue to support and promote the successful Neighbourhood Watch scheme and the active involvement of the Police Community Beat Team

PART 5. RECOMMENDED PLANNING & DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR CANWICK VILLAGE

New Development

1. The existing village curtilage should not be enlarged, and any additional development should take place within it.
Reason: To prevent sprawl; to preserve the character of the settlement; to protect the open countryside.
2. There should be no further sub-division of existing plots to develop new dwellings.
Reason: To prevent excessive development beyond the capacity of village infrastructure; to protect the character of the settlement; to protect the amenity of existing dwellings.
3. The design of new development should complement the character of the village. The style may be traditional or modern, but the high quality of design and architectural detailing should ensure the buildings are distinctively of their community.
Reason: to protect and enhance the character of the settlement; to encourage high quality design.
4. The scale, mass and layout of new development should be sympathetic to their natural and built surroundings and the character of the settlement. New building should be no higher than neighbouring buildings, and no higher than two storeys.
Reason: to protect and enhance the character of the settlement; to protect the amenity of existing dwellings
5. New buildings should not have dormer windows.
Reason: to protect the characteristic roof-line; to protect the amenity of existing dwellings.
6. New buildings should conform to existing building lines in the immediate locale. In locations where front gardens are typical of neighbouring plots, such provision should also be made.
Reason: To maintain the open and spacious appearance characteristic of post-war parts of the village.
7. New developments should have off-street garage/parking facilities appropriate for a rural community with few public transport links.
Reason: to limit further parking on village roads; to protect the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and other road users; to protect and enhance the character of the settlement.
8. Boundary treatments should be low or open. Where hard boundaries are erected, pantile-topped Lincolnshire limestone walling should be used and not fencing. Where they exist on neighbouring plots, green verges should be kept.
Reason: To protect and enhance the historical character of the settlement; to maintain the open and spacious appearance characteristic of post-war parts of the village.

9. New developments should not obstruct existing views and outlooks within or from the village.

Reason: To protect and enhance the character of the settlement; to protect the amenity of existing dwellings

10. New developments should maintain existing mature trees, hedges and shrub planting.

Reason: To protect the natural environment; to preserve the distinctive character of the settlement.

11. New buildings should have permitted development rights withdrawn in respect of extensions; garages and outbuildings; vehicle parking spaces and hard standing; fences, walls and other boundary structures; additional vehicular access; additional windows or dormers.

Reason: To protect residential and visual amenity; to protect the character of the settlement.

12. New development should include microgeneration facilities capable of producing at least 10% of domestic energy requirements using visually unobtrusive technologies.

Reason: To encourage efficient domestic microgeneration; to protect the character and appearance of the settlement.

Extensions, Alterations & Outbuildings

1. Extensions and outbuildings should not be built in the front gardens of existing dwellings.

Reason: To maintain the visual character of the settlement; to maintain the open and spacious appearance characteristic of post-war parts of the village.

2. The scale, mass and height of extensions and outbuildings should be complementary to plot size and to the existing natural and built surroundings. Extensions should be subservient to the existing dwelling.

Reason: To protect and enhance the character of the settlement; to protect the amenity of existing dwellings.

3. The architectural design and styling of extensions and outbuildings should respect and integrate with that of the main dwelling.

Reason: To protect and enhance the character of the settlement.

4. Dormer windows should not be added to existing dwellings.

Reason: To protect the characteristic roof-line; to protect the amenity of existing dwellings.

5. Existing front gardens should not be removed to provide off-street parking.

Reason: To preserve the visual amenity and character of the settlement.

6. Extensions and outbuildings should maintain existing mature trees, hedges and shrub planting.

Reason: To protect the natural environment; to preserve the distinctive character of the settlement.

7. Where a dwelling has been altered or extended to a degree requiring grant of planning permission, a condition of that permission should be the withdrawal of further permitted development rights in respect of extensions; garages and outbuildings; vehicle parking spaces and hard standing; fences, walls and other boundary structures; additional vehicular access; additional windows or dormers.

Reason: By involving the scrutiny of the Local Planning Authority in further modifications to substantially altered or extended buildings, to protect residential and visual amenity; to protect the character of the settlement.

Planning Controls

- Examine the case for any unlisted buildings to receive additional protection via a Local List or Article 4 status

PART 6: THE ACTION PLAN

A LIVING DOCUMENT TO STAND ALONGSIDE THE PARISH PLAN - TO BE FORMALLY REVIEWED AT LEAST ANNUALLY. Rev. 1 November 2011

1. Demographics

- *Identify dwellings occupied by elderly and/or disabled residents who might qualify for grant assistance for domestic improvements in conjunction with LCC First Contact service*
- *Establish where those with long term illness are resident to facilitate provision of information/assistance/support*
- *Work with partners to identify parish-level services and facilities which may help elderly and very elderly residents remain active in the community*
- *Ensure all village facilities and public areas are 'friendly' for the mobility restricted*

2. Housing

- *Explore with District Council whether despite Canwick's size, opportunities exist for affordable housing linked to direct local community need*
- *Establish detailed development guidelines with District Council covering design, scale and local character (for details see Parish Plan Part 5)*

3. Natural Environment

- *Continue to press District Council and other authorities to preserve existing 'Green Wedges' in the area and to prevent urban sprawl from Lincoln or the coalescence of surrounding villages*
- *Continue to work with District Council to preserve Canwick's unique wooded character in general, and individual trees in particular. Discuss extension of Tree Preservation Orders with Tree Officer*
- *Protect and enhance appearance of existing green space within the village, and the character of the wider parish*

4. Footpaths

- *Promote and encourage footpath network and usage within the community*
- *Explore means of extending the formal footpath network and adding further (perhaps informal or permissive) routes in conjunction with LCC and others*
- *Press for greater safety for pedestrians and cyclists to enable more sustainable transport modes in line with higher level plans and strategies*

5. Playing Field

- *Explore with Playing Field Committee options for future developments to increase and broaden usage and make the area as relevant as possible to today's residents.*

This may involve evolution in the character of at least part of the area, and should involve a focus on senior citizens and older children/young adults

- Support the successful work of the Playing Field Committee and ensure continued financial contribution for maintenance

6. Tennis Courts

- Explore with Tennis Club/Playing Field Committee means of intensifying publicity for the courts and making access easily understandable. Consider trial days.

7. Bowls

- Examine with Bowls Club/Playing Field Committee options for increasing knowledge of and use of the bowling green among Canwick residents and increasing practical accessibility

8. Village Hall

- Examine with the Social Club/Trustees ways of intensifying usage and extending the activity base, especially with programmes for senior citizens during the day time
- Continue to support the Village Hall Trustees in their successful ongoing programme of improvements to the building

9. Parish Council & Community Information

- Examine possible ways of reintroducing a Canwick newsletter, or a Canwick section in other local publications
- Increase publicity for the website and use it as a means of providing more immediate information about the Parish Council, planning matters and other local news - for example a parish blog to supplement formal minutes, better liaison with parish organisations and links to the internet Planning Online service at NKDC

10. Travel & Transport

- Continue to press for a safe pedestrian crossing at the Washingborough Road/Canwick Hill junction to facilitate safer pedestrian/cycle access to Lincoln
- Continue to press for improved safety measures on Canwick Hill, especially regarding access via the Heighington Road and Hall Drive junctions, including radar speed warning signs
- Improve frequency of police speed checks on Canwick Hill and Heighington Road
- Press for completion of 'missing link' in footpath on Washingborough Road
- Press for footpath/cycleway/safety measures on Heighington Road

11. Crime & Policing

- Continue to support and promote the successful Neighbourhood Watch scheme and the Police Community Beat Team

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