

# **Review of the Aberford and District Parish Plan 2003**



*Aberford and District Parish Council  
April 2009*

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## 1. Introduction to the Review

The following Vision Statement and objectives are taken from the 2003 Parish Plan:

*“...Our Vision is to create a community which is both attractive and safe for residents, young and old, to live and work in. Aberford will grow into a centre which provides for the needs of all its residents whilst maintaining its; essential character as an agricultural village, surrounded by highly valued farm and parkland...”*

We want Aberford to:

- ✓ Be a safer community for all residents, particularly our children.
- ✓ Be place which encourages more communal activity and have a very real and visible “community spirit”.
- ✓ Have more facilities for use by residents.
- ✓ Have better public transport links with nearby “market” towns.
- ✓ Maintain its farming identity; resisting expansion into the Green Belt and protecting the valuable countryside that lies within that Belt.
- ✓ Suffer less from the impact of traffic, whether through the village or bypassing it on the motorway.
- ✓ Become more self reliant with decisions and actions taken by the community and its representatives locally.
- ✓ Have cleaner streets and footpaths – become a more attractive village.
- ✓ Welcome development only where it respects the character of the place and adds value to our community.

Now, 5 years on from the publication of the Parish Plan, this document provides a review of progress that has been made and some indications of where work remains to be done in the future, and how the Plan now needs to be thoroughly reviewed in order to provide a template for growth over the next 5 years for Aberford.

**The Review is for the period January 2003 to the end of 2008.**

The review below uses a 'traffic light' system to highlight progress:

- **Red** – more to be done! A lack of progress since 2003 now means this objective needs urgent attention.
- **Yellow** – good progress. More work can be done to fulfill our 2003 aspirations.
- **Green** – excellent progress made. We now need to build on these successes.

## 2. Progress with the Strategic Objectives

The following sections provide our assessment of how well the Council and its many community partners have worked over the past 5 years in achieving the goals set out in the 2003 Parish Plan.

### 2.1 Objective One

**Improving our Transport and Roads:** To create a higher quality, safer transport infrastructure serving the Parish and connecting us effectively to our neighbouring towns and villages, for the benefit of all users.

#### Achievement

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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#### What went well:

- Main street resurfacing

#### Even better if .....

- Progress had been made on A1/M1 noise reduction measures.
- We had an improved bus services to Garforth and Wetherby.
- The Community minibus project had been progressed.

#### Overall

Limited achievement has been made against this objective to date, primarily because of a change of heart by government to resurface noisy concrete surfaces on the bypass to the south of the village and a lack of willingness on behalf of Leeds City Council and the Highways Agency to recognize that motorway noise causes problems in the village.

A community minibus scheme is likely to be a priority for the future to enable the school in particular to access opportunities outside the village on a regular basis.

Similarly, progress has been made recently with LCC with regard to noise monitoring for the village.

## 2.2 Objective Two

**Enhancing the natural and built environment:** To ensure that future growth and development generates benefits for residents and visitors through the protection and enhancement of the environment throughout the village and surrounding countryside.

### Achievement

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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#### What went well:

- Village gateway signs
- Gas sub station landscaping
- New litterbins
- New railings on Main Street
- Improvements to Pump Hill

#### Even better if .....

- Our Lengthsman had not been reallocated to Wetherby.
- A Village Design Statement had been undertaken, informing new housing in the village (for example the houses along Beckside).
- A regular clean up day had been instituted, although to an extent the need for this has been offset by Leeds City Council initiating a fast response to litter hot-spots.

#### Overall

The environment of the village has generally improved and, slowly, grasscutting and cleaning services from LCC have resulted in improved maintenance. However, significant progress is still possible in terms of making Aberford generally more attractive and free of litter. The Parish Council continues to lobby LCC to have our Lengthsman reinstated permanently and new opportunities may emerge through "Compact" arrangements with LCC to enable the Parish to take greater control of its own affairs in this area.

### 2.3 Objective Three

**Better facilities for the whole community:** To provide greater opportunities for residents to access a wider range of economic and social benefits within the Parish.

#### Achievement

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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#### What went well:

- New benches installed through the village.
- New play area created at Beckside and the establishment of Aberford Recreation and Childrens Committee (ARCC)
- Beckside south landscaped.
- New classroom installed at school.
- Investment in Sunbeams equipment and at the Chapel.

- Website, newsletters and the new notice board at Pump Hill have improved communications significantly with the community.
- New disabled access ramp at Jessamine Cottage surgery.

**Even better if .....**

- The village hall had seen more comprehensive renovation and willingness to provide a more welcoming facility for community use.
- Access to Parlinton estate had been resolved.
- The tennis court and playing fields on-going negotiations had been finalized.

**Overall**

This was the most ambitious objective in terms of projects proposed, with a total of 12 in all. However, a key project was achieved with the new play area – and significant progress made with the negotiations towards eventual renovation of the tennis courts and playing fields (albeit these have been hampered significantly by ownership and access problems).

**2.4 Objective Four**

**A better future for our young people:** To involve our young people in the process of change and ensure their voice is heard in order to invest in facilities which will be of benefits to them and to future generations.

**Achievement**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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**What went well:**

- After school club set up and well used.
- Children's council established at the school.
- Youth bus facility instigated by LCC Youth Services.

**Even better if .....**

- A youth council to 'mirror' the Parish Council had been established.
- Improved facilities at Aberford Albion or at the Playing Fields had been created.



- A formal Youth Club had been established.

**Overall**

The Parish Plan set out to attract young people to air their views and was very successful in this regard. However, the Parish Council was not successful in persuading the Village Hall committee to open its doors to young people and efforts by LCC Youth Services and others has failed to resolve the issue of a permanent 'home' for young people to congregate in the village.

A key priority for the future must be to extend the excellent work of the school 'in school' to creating opportunities for our children 'out of school'.

**2.5 Objective Five**

**Making our community safe:** To reduce the fear of crime and actual crime in the Parish so that Aberford remains a safe and secure place for people to live, work and visit.



**Achievement**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

**What went well:**

- Improved community policing.
- Gateway speed signs to be installed imminently.
- Walking bus scheme very successful.
- New street lighting planned for 2009.

**Even better if .....**



- Lower speed restrictions had been created in the heart of the village.
- Weight restrictions could have been established to keep HGVs out.

## Overall

Crime levels have remained reasonably static over the period and, despite some 'blips', Aberford has maintained its reputation as a safe and secure neighbourhood. Although traffic levels have increased over the period – inevitably – there has been no rise in accidents reported. However, 'low level' speeding through the village remains a serious concern, exacerbated by some anti social parking at the school and Pump Hill.

## 2.6 Objective Six

**Planning the future:** To build the capacity of the community to take charge of its own affairs and to take control of decisions affecting the future development of the Parish.

### Achievement

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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### What went well:

- Contact with the City Council has improved considerably, largely through more responsive Ward Councillors since the move to Harewood Ward, the instigation by LCC of the NE Outer Parish and Town Councils Forum, and the development of a Sub Committee structure at the Parish Council whereby Councillors have a more direct relationship with LCC officers on issues such as Planning.

- A key outcome of the Parish Plan process was the amalgamation of the 3 parish councils covering the village as one by the time the Plan was published. This has led to a fundamental change in the way the Parish is governed locally, with proper co-ordinated action across the whole Parish for the first time.

**Even better if .....**

- The Parish Plan had been adopted as supplementary planning guidance by the City Council.
- The momentum established at the time of creating the Plan had been maintained through active 'theme groups'.
- Annual reviews of progress against the Plan had been undertaken.
- There were more Parish Councillors to fill present vacancies as well as to represent everyone in the village and to provide more people to actively manage and champion projects.

**Overall**

The Parish Council has, for the first time, a co-ordinated set of policies and projects to drive forward improvements in the village pro-actively, rather than responding to change. Consequently, the Plan has enabled the new 'united' Parish Council to make significant strides forward in managing its affairs, engaging with the community and communicating with the City Council. There are clearly significant steps still to be taken and major challenges ahead if the Parish Council is to take real responsibility for the community in the form of delegated powers from the City Council.

**2.7 In conclusion**

The Aberford and District Parish Plan 2003 was the first of its kind in the Region and amongst the first in the country to be produced. Since then, many hundreds of Parish Plans have been produced and opportunities exist for us to revise our early effort in the light of the cumulative experience of Parish Councils across England.

The planning process was extremely successful in bringing people together, discussing options and ideas for the future of the village and developing a consensus approach to how the village should grow. The process was also successful in bringing the 3 parish councils (Aberford, Lotherton cum Aberford and Parlington with Sturton Grange) together as one united Parish Council.

However, less successful has been the process of implementation, which has varied across the Objectives but commonly projects that have not been taken forward have stalled because:

- Action Groups were not established to drive forward each Objective/priority.
- No one organization was named as responsible for taking a project forward.
- A lack of commitment from the City Council to seize the opportunities the Plan presented.

So, five years on, the Plan has been reviewed and we can report that significant progress has been made towards its overall vision and objectives, which remain broadly relevant today. However, much has changed over the past 5 years – for example, the threat from the proposed windfarm at Micklefield, new families moving into the village as a result of new housing development, and the closure of the post office, village stores and fish and chip shop.

Now is the time to revise the Action Plan to reflect these and other changes – a new set of projects are required to direct the thinking of the Parish Council and other authorities with an interest in the village, supporting a refreshed set of objectives.

### **3. ABERFORD 2008 - OUR PARISH, PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY**

#### **3.1 In summary**

***Aberford is still a small village but...***

The local population increased from 1,298 to 1,706 between 1991 and 2001, a 31% increase. The number of under 16s rose by over 75% to 356. Since 2001 the population has continued to grow, although 20% of the Parish population actually lives in Garforth!

***Aberford now has broadband internet access but ....***

Internet access and related services have improved, but most local retail outlets have disappeared. The newsagent/general store, post office/general store and the fish and chip shop have all closed.

***More housing is becoming available in the Parish but ....***

From 2003 to the end of 2007 planning permission has been granted for 38 new dwellings but very little of it is affordable housing and no sites have been brought forward for new social housing.

***Aberford is still a safe place to live but...***

Local police statistics point towards a rising level of car crime, burglary and scrap metal theft over the past 5 years. Vandalism and problems with some younger members of the community have diminished but issues remain about how our young people can play a more active and positive role in village life.

***The village now has an excellent playground for our younger children but ...***

Facilities for our older children have not improved. There is an urgent need for this to be addressed and for the present playground to be maintained 'vandal free'.

***Traffic through the village is relatively light and we have good motorway access but ....***

There is concern over the speed of traffic through the village and noise and air pollution from the A1/M1 link road continues to blight many parts of the Parish. Noise pollution may be further increased by the proposed Micklefield windfarm.

### **3.2 Our Parish**

The Parish today consists of a largely rural area with two significant residential areas, firstly the village of Aberford that comprises roughly 75% of the Parish population and a

small part of the town of Garforth that comprises about 20% of the population. The remainder of the population is spread out around the farms and estates in the area.

The village generally sits on either side, north – south, of the valley of the Cock Beck. It is not therefore elevated above the surrounding countryside and the countryside is generally not seen from the village, Aberford being in a dip. However, views down into and across the village may be had from all directions, but particularly north-south along the Great North Road. The village, has a main hub that runs from the school and church to Pump Hill and the Arabian Horse over the other side of Cock Beck. The village itself is rather elongated through the linear development of the village. The main landmarks in the village are St Ricarius Church, the Almshouses and the Swan Hotel. The village is surrounded by the remains of old estates that include Lotherton Hall, Becca Hall and Parlinton. The Almshouses have recently been converted into offices. Lotherton Hall is now a museum, bird garden and leisure park run by Leeds City Council. Becca Hall has been converted into offices. The Parlinton Estate, more than 2,000 acres of beautiful woodland, pasture and farmland, is owned by an Insurance company. The A1/M1 provides a more contemporary landmark, although the village itself of course follows the line of the Great North Road and this is still an important lateral feature running through the parish North-South..

Houses are primarily built from magnesian limestone, quarried locally, with blue slate roofs. This use of magnesian limestone as the primary building material and slate for roofing in both village and countryside provides a common design element. Several properties along Main Street display central archways and there are also a number of three storey properties throughout the village. A considerable amount of development over the last five years has meant that many previously dilapidated buildings have been renovated and there are no specific buildings or areas of land that are in need of attention. The Village Hall has been improved since 2003 and the main thoroughfare, Main Street, has also been restored since the first version of the plan.

The village boundary is now defined by 4 entrance stone name signs. Gateways have been improved with the new Name signs. However, the entrance from the north end is spoiled by an unsightly Gas sub station and currently by the workings of the gas pipeline project. Cattle Lane and Main Street south are both attractive entrances to the village. The roads leading out of the village to Barwick in Elmet (Cattle Lane) and Lotherton Lane could do with some minor restoration. Street furniture is receiving attention but for the most part is in fair condition. The main pedestrian routes are well maintained and safe to use during day and night.

The line of the former colliery railway between Aberford and Garforth known as “The Fly Line” leads out into the Parlinton Estate from the village and is a popular bridleway. Cock Beck runs east-west and can be followed across country into Selby District. The Leeds Country Way used to run through the village entering along Becca Lane and exiting along the Flyline although this was realigned in 2006 and now goes directly from Barwick to Garforth.

However, there are few clear boundaries to the remainder of the Parish as development has created new 'unofficial' boundaries, for example the motorway, which do not correlate with traditional political boundaries. The east of the parish bounds North Yorkshire (Selby District) and a section of the ancient earthwork known as The Rein marks this boundary in part.

In the original plan, it stated that there was very little retail in the village – a newsagent/general store, post office/general store and a fish and chip shop. Today, none of these remain, all have been closed and not replaced. The majority of the built up area continues to be residential, although other industries do exist, notably architects practices, internet companies, other office based businesses and three pubs, one of which is primarily a restaurant.

The countryside of the Parish is primarily farmed for sheep and arable, with some cattle. The landscape is formed by the magnesian limestone geology, characterized by open farmland, managed woodland and Estate parkland. The landscape is formed by two escarpments of Magnesian Limestone, which stretch from Bedale in the north to Derbyshire in the south. At Aberford, the escarpment forms a narrow ridge between the industrialized built up area of Leeds to the west and the lowland Vale of York to the east. The limestone has a unifying effect on the landscape due to its widespread use as building material and effect on the ecological character: The well drained soils and low altitude has created a landscape of rolling landform, fertile farmland and well-wooded estates cut by dry valleys. The parish maintains an essentially agricultural identity despite the proximity of Leeds and the changing nature of the community in recent years.

The countryside is not being actively managed (e.g. Countryside Stewardship schemes, Environmentally sensitive areas or countryside access scheme) but the landscape is designated “Special Landscape Area” in the Leeds Unitary Development Plan, and there is a Site of Special Scientific Interest at Hook Moor, notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The SSSI comprises 5 sections of roadside embankment along the A1. These embankments provide ideal habitat conditions for the nationally rare thistle broomrape (*Orobanche reticulata*), present here in relative abundance. Hook Moor is one of the top two sites for this species in the Britain. Additionally, there are Sites of Ecological or Geological Importance (SEGI) designated at Becca Banks and Parlinton Hollins.

There are a number of areas of historic importance in the Parish The village is built along the Great North Road – originally of Roman construction. The Parish is crossed by a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Class 1) in the form of an earthwork known as Becca Banks and The Ridge. There are Class 2 Archaeological Sites in the form of the Market Cross, located outside St Ricarius church and Becca Mill.

The former Parishes of Aberford, Lotherton cum Aberford, Parlinton and Sturton Grange merged in May 2002 to form the current parish, known as Aberford and District. Since then the Parish has moved to the Ward of Harewood but the Parish boundaries have remained the same.

### 3.3 Our People

Between 1991 and 2001 the population of the Parish increased from 1,298 to 1,706, a 31% increase. A key feature of the increase is the growth of the number of young people in the Parish where the increase in the number of under 16s has risen by over 75% to 356 in 2001. Since then the number of children received in the reception class at the village

School Reception Class Intake	
2001	9
2002	11
2003	14
2004	16
2005	9
2006	16
2007	18

school each year indicates that this is a continuing trend. Demographic data provided by Leeds Education shows that this trend is predicted to continue over the next few years. Overall population figures are not available after 2001 until the next census which is due in 2011, however, anecdotal evidence and development in the village suggests that the overall population is continuing to rise. A table showing the Parish demographic profile is at Annex One.

This population lives in 674 households, an increase of 30% since 1991 in line with the population increase. Of these, 153 are single person households, 215 consist of a couple only and 186 of couples with dependent children. There are a small number of lone parent households but this is well below the national average, although a significant increase over the decade, and the majority of lone parents are in employment. However, an issue that is not measured well is the increasing number of children in split families where they are no longer living with both natural parents but are not in lone parent households.

Planning data suggests that a further 38 households have been added to the Parish since 2001 and indicates a continuing significant rise in population as these are likely to be above the average Parish household size of 2.53 persons.

Household car and van ownership was a feature of the 2001 census, in this Parish, 89 households did not own a vehicle and, of these, 66 were pensioner households. Thirty eight percent of households (254) continue to rely on a single vehicle. The average number of vehicles per household was 1.5.

A breakdown of household profiles is included at Annex Two.

The following key points about the people of the Parish have also emerged from the 2001 census returns:

- Unemployment at 2% remains well below the national average
- 2% recorded their ethnicity as non-white

For the last few years there has also been a significant transient population of student workers from the new member states of the EU, primarily from Eastern Europe. They are



employed throughout the summer as agricultural workers and while they live and work in the Parish, they look primarily to the town of Garforth for services.

### **3.4 Our Community**

Most regular events in the village centre around the activities of school and church. The annual school gala, church craft fair, chapel gala and the Horticultural Society Show are all events that endeavour to bring the community together. Other community socialising is largely confined to the three public houses and the sporting clubs mentioned later.

The village hall provides the main community venue. This facility has recently been improved and there is the will to encourage use by new groups and to facilitate the coming together of the community for regular events, for which there appears to be strong demand judging by recent activities held there.

None of these readily extend to the Garforth part of the Parish and it is presumed that they will largely identify with the town of Garforth.

The village has one regular newsletter published by the Church. The Parish Council newsletter has only been issued sporadically. These, along with noticeboards throughout the village have been the only means of communication in recent years. The Parish Council website has also been very patchy but it is planned to improve communication via this medium. This website is the only means of communicating with the Garforth part of the Parish.

However, increasingly there is becoming a wealth of information about the parish and the village on the internet. The following websites are prominent:

[www.aberford.net](http://www.aberford.net)

[www.aberford.info](http://www.aberford.info)

[www.parlington.co.uk](http://www.parlington.co.uk)

[www.aberfordonline.com](http://www.aberfordonline.com) (homepage of the Parish Council)

[www.aberford.leeds.sch.uk/homepage/](http://www.aberford.leeds.sch.uk/homepage/)

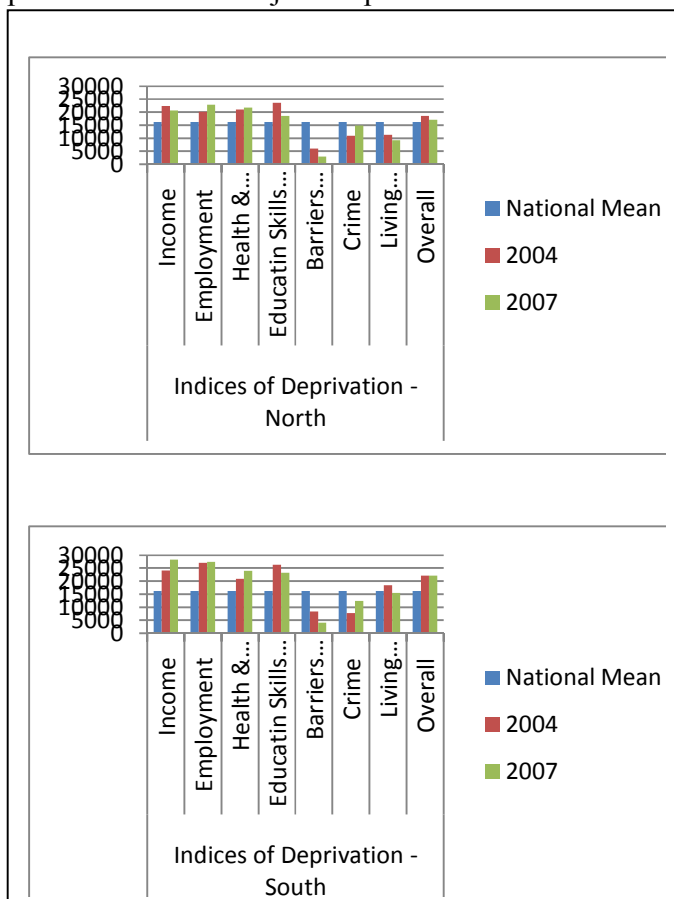
## 4. Statistical profile of Aberford 2008

### 4.1 In summary

The National Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007<sup>1</sup> combines a number of indicators, chosen to cover a range of economic, social and housing issues, into a single deprivation score for 32,482 small areas of England. This allows each area to be ranked relative to one another according to their level of deprivation. 32,482 is top and the least deprived area, 16,241 is the area in the middle. The overall Index is made up of the seven categories shown in the tables below. The Parish of Aberford is covered by two separate areas in the index broadly divided by North and South at the Cock Beck bridge.

**The Indices are used widely to analyse patterns of deprivation, identify areas that would benefit from special initiatives or programmes and as a tool to determine eligibility for specific funding streams.**

The overall index shows that the Parish, although still in the upper half of the table is falling behind when you compare 2007 results to 2004 results. The North has fallen 1,428 places and the South just 77 places.



The key areas where we score poorly are:

**Barriers to Housing and Services** – which includes such things as distances to primary schools, food stores, GP premises, Post Offices; access to owner-occupation; homelessness and overcrowding.

**Crime** – which measures the rate of recorded crime for four major crime types (for further information see below), although it records a significant improvement since 2004.

**Living Environment Deprivation Domain** – which includes such things as houses in poor condition; Combined Air Quality Index, Nitrogen Dioxide

<sup>1</sup> Source : Department of Communities and Local Government, Indices of Deprivation 2007

Index, Particulates Index (PM10), Sulphur Dioxide Index, Benzene Index, road traffic accident rates and incidence of central heating.

**Educational, Skills and Training** – where, although we score well compared to the national mean, we have fallen significantly since 2004.

In some instances it is easy to identify why we did badly – the Post Office and the Village Store closing for example – but in other areas some further work is required to understand why we did relatively badly and what we might do about it. Again this is evidence to support initiatives that might be proposed to ensure that as a Parish we are moving up the table not slipping behind. A more detailed table on our performance in this Index is included at Annex Three.

#### **4.2 Income levels**

According to the Income indicator of the Deprivation Index, the Parish scores well. Both the North and South of the Parish are ranked in the top 40% nationally, with the South of the Parish being in the top 20%. The South of the Parish has shown a relative improvement compared to the rest of the country since 2004. The North of the Parish, though, has shown deterioration and remains the lowest scoring of the 13 areas covered by the Harewood Ward.

There are two supplementary indices derived from the income data which measure Income Deprivation Affecting Children (IDAC) and Income Deprivation Affecting Older People (IDAOP). Both of these indices show that the Parish is ranked firmly in the top 40% nationally (showing improvements since 2004) except for the North of the Parish relating to children where it is declining relatively and falls just short of the top 40%.

#### **4.3 Employment and the economy**

According to the Employment indicator of the Deprivation Index, which measures levels of employment, both the North and the South of the Parish show a relative improvement since 2004. The South is in the top 20% nationally and the North is in the top 40%.

Local unemployment rates remain lower than the national, regional and local authority averages and have probably remained static since the first plan was produced. This suggests that non-employment due to incapacity or attendance on training schemes is probably reducing.

The local economy is dependent on two distinct areas of employment – local employment in the Parish and employment in the nearby cities of York and Leeds. The latter have effectively turned a large part of the Parish into a “commuter village” over the past fifteen years.

In the village itself there are a number of businesses that offer some employment opportunities.

INDUSTRIAL TYPE	NUMBER
Retail	5
Agriculture/supplies	10
Architects	2
Construction	6
Domestic supplies/services	3
Business services	2
Pubs/hotels/B&B	4
Other	3

There are also employment opportunities available readily in Garforth to those residents in the Garforth part of the Parish and those in the rest of the Parish who do not rely on public transport.

The number of jobs available locally has been increasing over the last few years with the expansion of new business in the village. However, this is partially offset by the decline in agriculture and employment opportunities in this sector and the decline of the retail sector in the village.

There are no economic development/inward investment grants available to encourage new/existing business development. There is no presence in the village of any business support service such as Business Link and there are no regular events which have the potential to draw the business community together at present.

Since the last plan was developed broadband services have become freely available in the village but can be limited due to the distance from the Barwick in Elmet Exchange. There are several IT based firms now operating in the village and broadband demand from the business sector is very high.

New commercial floorspace has been built at the North end of the village, releasing some existing floorspace to the south of the village. However, in general, premises for new businesses tend to either be farm based enterprises or they have taken advantage of property coming onto the market which is not suitable for housing, for example the Almshouses. However, an area covered by the Plan between Garforth and the M1, North Newhold, has been allocated for employment use in the Unitary Development Plan, ensuring that there will be new growth in the local economy for the foreseeable future.

Vacancy levels for commercial premises have remained static in recent years but it is not known whether there are there any planned expansions of existing commercial and industrial firms.

Tourism is largely restricted to Lotherton Hall which remains the No.1 “free” tourist attraction in the region, attracting over  $\frac{3}{4}$  million visitors annually. The Hall also holds a number of events and festivals throughout the year. Employment at Lotherton Hall is important both in terms of visitor facilities and in maintaining the substantial parks and gardens. Lotherton Hall is closed during January and February.

The village of Aberford also seems to attract people for walking, cycling and horseriding but not to stay. The Swan Hotel attracts large numbers of people particularly at the weekends and in the evenings for meals. It no longer provides overnight accommodation and there is only one other advertising Bed and Breakfast provider in the village. Most visitors to the village are day visitors only. There is no Tourist Information Centre in the village and no information freely accessible for visitors and no outlets in the village. There is neither a visitor guide or village trail/local walks leaflet and the village does not enter the ‘Best kept village’ competition.

#### **4.4 Health and disability**

According to the Health and Disability indicator of the Deprivation Index, this seeks to measure the relative health of an area, the Parish scores well with both areas in the top 40% nationally. Both show relative improvements compared with the 2004 results.

The village is served by two doctors’ surgeries, one of which includes a dispensary. Additional surgeries and dispensaries are available in Barwick and Garforth. No dental practices are available in the village but are in local adjoining towns and villages. The south of the Parish is served by doctors’ surgeries and dental practices in Garforth.

However, the 2001 census reported that the number of people with limiting long term illnesses has increased by 50% to 223 individuals. This may indicate a growing reliance on local services. The census also reported that 169 people were providing unpaid care.

#### **4.5 Education, skills and training**

According to the Education, Skills and Training indicator of the Deprivation Index, which measures educational attainment, absence rates and access to Higher Education, the Parish once again scores relatively highly. The South of the Parish is in the top 40% nationally and the South narrowly misses the top 40%. These are good scores when compared the 476 areas covered by Leeds Education. However, both areas show a significant relative deterioration compared with the 2004 results. The South has dropped 3,175 places nationally and the North 4,970 places nationally.

Aberford village has a Church of England Primary School which is church controlled thereby being LEA administered while maintaining its traditional links with nearby St. Ricarius Church. The School, which greatly values its village and family ethos, caters presently for around one hundred children in four classes. Two of these are in the main building and two in 'temporary' accommodation. This temporary accommodation has just

been replaced The school roll has gradually risen from seventy-nine, in 1996, to around one hundred at present and is predicted to continue to grow. The school does not have a nursery, the nearest being in a neighbouring village. However, a local toddlers club (Aberford Sunbeams) exists in the village and the school maintains regular contact with them.

The Garforth part of the Parish is served by primary schools and nurseries in Garforth.

Higher education is available in Garforth, Boston Spa and Tadcaster.

#### **4.6 Barriers to housing and services**

According to the Barriers to Housing and Services indicator of the Deprivation Index, which measures distances to various services, accessibility to owner-occupation, homelessness and overcrowding, the Parish is poorly served. Both parts of the Parish were placed in the bottom 20% nationally. They were in the 21 out of 476 areas in Leeds coming within that category. The North of the Parish was actually one of only 11 Leeds areas in the bottom 10%. Both parts of the Parish have dropped significantly since 2004, the North by 2,994 places and the South by 4,328.

Incidentally, the worst scoring area in Leeds for this indicator was Micklefield which was virtually bottom of the national scale. Overall the LCC areas have generally improved significantly relative to national performance in this indicator.

The Parish remains relatively expensive for housing. At present houses on the market are at the £200,000+ end of the market with little for sale below this. The rented sector is largely confined to the Council Estates with a few private houses and flats becoming available sporadically.

Between November 2001 and November 2002 there were 42 new dwellings granted planning permission. Since then planning permission has been granted for only 38 new dwellings up to the end of 2007 including 14 at South Lodge. Virtually all new housing in the village has been for “executive” style housing at the middle to top end of the market. No permanent affordable homes have been built recently and none are planned, although a caravan site is planned in the Garforth part of the Parish to provide temporary housing for migrant workers. The current housing stock in the Parish is in good condition and recent improvements to some dilapidated buildings have improved things further.

Aberford is a desirable location for the executive end of the market due its easy access to York, Leeds and beyond on the motorway and its attractive rural environment. Consequently, house prices are high little in the way of affordable housing exists outside the ever reducing stock of council housing.

Overcrowding and homelessness are not known to be a problem, but there may well be hidden homelessness and certainly cases of people having to leave the village due to lack

of appropriate or affordable accommodation. Local people still have priority in accessing affordable housing.

#### 4.7 Crime and disorder

The Crime and Disorder indicator of the Deprivation Index, which measures the rate of recorded crime for four major crime types, representing the risk of personal and material victimisation at a small area level, burglary, theft, criminal damage and violence. In this indicator, the two parts of the Parish hover around the bottom 40% mark. The North just above and unusually, the South performs less well and slips into the bottom 40% nationally. In the LCC area 200 of the 476 areas fall in the bottom 20% nationally. The South of the Parish is the worst performing area in the Harewood Ward. Both parts of the Parish show significant relative improvement since 2004.

However the indicator only measures down to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) Level.

TYPE	2002 (to 15/12/02)	2008
Burglary dwellings	22	
Burglary others	17	
Theft of motor vehicle	4	
Taking of motor vehicle	2	
Theft/damage vehicle	21	
Theft other	33	
Assault	7	
Drugs	26	
Other crime	5	
TOTALS	137	

High crime rates in 2002 were skewed due to 46 offences relating to an outdoor music event held at Lotherton Hall, accounting for all the drug offences and a majority of the Theft Other.

Some vandalism of public property does occur and littering and graffiti are a problem around bus stops and at the Play Area in particular. The village has a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in operation and a visible police presence has improved over the last few years but road safety continues to be a concern – see below.

Traffic Speeding and congestion are a concern in the village. Speeding continues to be a problem throughout the village and congestion occurs at the centre of the village from Moon Hill to The Swan Hotel particularly at school drop off and pick up times. Additionally, the section of Main Street north of the bridge to Pump Hill suffers from excessive and poor parking and a convergence of several roads causing access difficulties at peak times.



No road traffic accidents involving injury have been recorded recently, although minor bumps are relatively frequent. Heavy vehicles are a hazard throughout the length of Main Street.

#### **4.8 Living environment**

The Living Environment indicator of the Deprivation Index measures the “indoors” and “outdoors” living environments. The “indoors” takes account of social and private housing in poor condition along with incidence of central heating. The “outdoors” takes account of air quality and road traffic accidents. Of all the indicators, this seems to have the narrowest of measures. However, the North of the Parish falls into the lower 40% nationally, whereas the South falls within the lower 40-50% range. Both areas show significant deterioration in relative national performance since 2004, the North falling by 2,089 places and the South by 2,987 places.

Air quality and noise pollution are big issues in the Parish due to the proximity of the A1 and M1. This has been worsened considerably in recent years since the opening of the A1/M1 link road and consequent widening of the “by-pass”.

The motorway may be responsible for higher than normal pollution levels for a rural location. The last Air quality monitoring was undertaken between July 2000 and February 2001. This monitoring noted that:

- PM10 particles exceeded the standard on 1 day out of 194 – well within government guidelines
- Sulphur dioxide did not exceed the standard of 100 parts per billion, although levels of 92 were reached.
- The average levels of Nitrogen dioxide equalled government limits of 21 parts per billion over the monitoring period.

The noise from the motorway affects most of the Parish. Noise maps produced recently for West Yorkshire, and Leeds in particular, for the strategic assessment of noise exposure did not extend as far out as our Parish. However noise maps are available showing noise from major roads and major rail outside of the major agglomerations. The one for the M1/A1 link road shows that the Parish is subjected to high levels of ambient noise pollution.

These noise maps were produced in 2006/07 to meet the requirements of the Environmental Noise (England) Regulations 2006 and Directive 2002/49/EC – more commonly known as the Environmental Noise Directive (END) – and are intended to inform the production of noise action plans, which are to be developed on a five year rolling programme. The action plans will seek to manage noise issues and effects

including noise reduction if necessary, based on the results obtained through the mapping process.

When the link road was approved details of noise abatement and landscaping were detailed in the Inspectors Report. However, many of the noise abatement measures were largely ignored with minimum standards being met in aspects of design and landscaping.

The village was promised that the old A1 North carriageway would be used to build a noise reduction mound but errors by the Highway Authority meant that not enough land was taken so the old northbound carriageway had to be used as a feeder lane for the now upgraded A1. An intermittent two metre high wooden fence was erected instead with the result that noise abatement is practically non-existent. The use of concrete as the road surface to the south of the village has also generated excessive noise and the equivalent stretch of concrete by neighbouring Garforth was tarmaced over within a year. The Government's Rural White Paper of 2000, "Our Countryside: the future", has promised to put "low noise surfaces on ... all concrete roads, over the next 10 years".

The increase in traffic on the motorway now the A1 from Ferrybridge to Hook Moor has been upgraded to motorway standard has led to more noise and air pollution. For the planners, the A1-M1 link road has been an undoubted success as Leeds continues to flourish as a city. For Aberford, the scheme has been an environmental disaster and this is likely to be compounded with additional noise pollution if the proposed wind farm at Micklefield goes ahead.

## 5. The draft Action Plan – proposals for comment

### TRANSPORT

No.	Where	Suggestion/problem	Who will act on this?
<b>Public transport</b>			
1	Transport to Garforth Station	Only way to travel at present is to go to Leeds or leave before 9am (Then full fare for OAP!)	Metro
2	Entire Village	Improved bus services particularly (1) An earlier First 64 on Sunday and (2) restoration of route 69 (circulars). Route 174 is just about adequate and must be retained as is (or even enhanced)	Metro
<b>Speeding/Traffic Calming</b>			
3	Main Street South - outside school	Safer zoning around the school and parking restrictions on the Zig Zag lines	Leeds City Council Highways
4	Main Street	Speeding – Village Centre 20 MPH zone	Leeds City Council Highways and Police
5	Lotherton Lane	Speed restrictions needed to slow down traffic into village (from Lotherton Hall direction).	Leeds City Council Highways
<b>Footpaths/Pedestrians</b>			
6	Aberford Bridge	Pavement (UNEVEN) and unsafe after poor re-laying of paving stones when fibre optic link run to house opposite Arabian House Pub circa 2000	City Services
7	Barwick Road	Main Road from Aberford to Barwick could do with a footpath, especially with no facilities in Aberford of people keeping fit	Highways
8	Main Street / School Lane	Needs a recognised crossing system – children at risk before and after school	Highways
<b>Parking</b>			
9	Parking on Main street	Parking on both sides of the road at key locations are causing obstacles. Yellow lines a solution?	Highways

## THRIVING COMMUNITIES

No.	Where	Suggestion/problem	Who will act on this?
<b>Youth Facilities</b>			
10	Youth Club for 10 – 16 year olds	Perhaps in village hall? Or alternatively a weekly event / trip to cinema / bowling etc	Parish Council Youth Services Police Area Management
<b>Sport and recreation</b>			
11	Making use of Tennis Court / Grass area at Aberford Primary School	Make this area suitable for cricket/ rounders / basketball? A place for 6+ years	Parish Council / School / Extended Services
12	Access to school field	Use of school facilities	Extended Services / Area Management / Education Leeds / Aberford Primary School
13	Use of field by the play area	Please can we use this part of Sheep Field to boys to kick a football around on. These facilities have been neglected for sometime. Currently use the playground.	Parish Council / Parks and Countryside / Area Management
14	Field at end of Highfield Lane	Use as playing fields/are for kids on Highfield estate/north end of the village	Parish Council/landowner
<b>Affordable Housing</b>			
15	Village	New low cost housing	Leeds City Council

## STRONGER COMMUNITIES

No.	Where	Suggestion/problem	Who will act on this?
Parish Council			
16	Parish	More delegated authority eg over grass cutting and maintenance of public footpaths under contract from Leeds CC	Area Management
17	Parish	Youth Council – give the young people more responsibility and involvement	Parish Council
18	Parish	Improved representation by filling our quota of councilors	Parish Council
19	Parish	Communications – new website up and running; parish newsletter produced and distributed.	Parish Council dx

## HEALTH AND WELL BEING

No.	Where	Suggestion/problem	Who will act on this?
20	Motorway	Noise reduction – resurfacing/new and more extensive fencing Improved planting to reduce visual impact Air pollution monitoring and appropriate action	Highways Agency Parish Council Leeds CC

## ENVIRONMENT

No.	Where	Suggestion/problem	Who will act on this?
Recycling			
21	Location would need to be identified	Provide village recycling facilities.	Parish Council/Leeds City Council recycling team
Paving/roads			
22	Paving – Main Street (west) – Swan Hotel to Moon Hill)	Improvements to sub standard and potentially dangerous paving	City Services

23	Hook Moor Road Junction	Dangerous junction requires a substantial amount of tree reduction and new footpath (old one reinstated?) on west side.	City Services/landowner
<b>Parks/Allotments</b>			
24	Aberford – locations to be found	More pocket parks and communal barbecue sites and lots more benches or other seats	Parish Council
25	Aberford – locations to be found	More allotments - but there needs to be an officer or a support network to get people gardening who have no experience – promotion and then advice, otherwise they would be wasted.	Parish Council / Parks and Countryside / Allotments Team

### **CULTURE / ENTERPRISE AND ECONOMY**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>Suggestion/problem</b>	<b>Who will act on this?</b>
<b>Shopping</b>			
26	Main Street	Shop needed in Aberford or at least somewhere to buy milk / bread / papers. Currently three empty premises/shop fronts. Other potential opportunities to use "public" buildings e.g. pubs	Parish Council Arabian Horse
27	Anywhere in the Village	Sports centre / cricket club	Parish Council/Leeds City Council

### **OVERARCHING/STRATEGIC**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>Suggestion/problem</b>	<b>Who will act on this?</b>
28	Parish	Aberford and District Masterplan	Parish Council
29	Parish	Parish Transport Strategy	Parish Council
30	Village	Village Design Statement	Parish Council

**Other issues to be addressed –**

- The Community minibus project
- Regular village clean up day
- Village hall comprehensive renovation
- Christmas Lights
- The tennis court and playing fields project
- Street lighting renewal



## Annex One

### THE DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

#### Aberford Parish Demographic Profile : Changes since 1991

Parish Profile - People	Aberford 1991	Aberford 2001	% change
All people	1298	1706	31%
All males		844	
All females		862	
People living in households	1298	1706	
People living in communal establishments	0	0	
People aged 0-4	58	109	88%
People aged 5-15	144	247	72%
People aged 16-24	see note	133	-
People aged 25-44	see note	571	-
People aged 45-64	see note	409	-
People aged 65-74	188	120	-36%
People aged 75 and over	90	116	29%
Aged 16 and over in households		1350	
Aged 16 and over in households: Living in a couple		974	
Aged 16 and over : Single		300	
Aged 16 and over : Married		860	
Aged 16 and over : Divorced or widowed		190	
People with a limiting long-term illness	149	223	50%
People whose health was good		1253	
People providing unpaid care		169	

Note: The age categories in the 1991 census were different and so cannot be compared.

*Source: The National Census 2001*

## Annex Two

### THE HOUSEHOLD PROFILE

	Aberford CP	Aberford %	Leeds	England
All households	674		..	..
One person household - Pensioner	94	14%	14%	14%
One person household - Other	59	9%	17%	16%
One Family and no others: All pensioner households	59	9%	8%	9%
One family and no others: Couple households with no children	156	23%		
One family and no others: Couple households with dependent children	186	28%		
One family and no others: Lone parent households with dependent children	21	3%	7%	6%
One family and no others: All children non-dependent	74	11%	..	..
Other households	25	4%	..	..
Households with dependent children and no adult in employment	9	1%	..	..
Households with one or more persons with limiting long-term illness	183	27%	..	..
Lone parents in part-time employment	12	2%	..	..
Lone parents in full -time employment	3	<1%	..	..
Households with one family and no others with dependent children and with the sole use of bath / shower and toilet and central heating	194	29%	..	..
Households with one family and no others with dependent children and no car or van	11	2%	..	..
Households with one family and no others with dependent children in owned tenure	175	26%	..	..
Lone pensioner and all pensioner one family households with sole use of bath / shower and toilet and central heating	134	20%	..	..
No cars or vans	89	13%	34%	27%
One car or van	254	38%	42%	44%
Two cars or vans	270	40%	20%	24%
Three or more cars or vans	62	9%	4%	6%
Lone pensioner and all pensioner one family households without a car or van	66	10%	..	..
Lone pensioner and all pensioner one family households in owned tenure	76	11%	..	..
All cars or vans in the area	998	-	..	..
Ethnic group of Household Reference Person: White	661	98%	..	..

*Source: The National Census 2001*

## DEPRIVATION INDEX 2007

Index	North of the Parish			South of the Parish		
	2004	Change	2007	2004	Change	2007
Income	22453	▼ 1819	20634	24078	▲ 4172	28250
Employment	20123	▲ 2715	22838	27066	▲ 408	27474
Health & Disability	21072	▲ 711	21783	21023	▲ 2918	23941
Education Skills & Training	23559	▼ 4970	18589	26398	▼ 3175	23223
Barriers to Housing and Services	5960	▼ 2994	2966	8459	▼ 4328	4131
Crime & Disorder	10896	▲ 3917	14813	7803	▲ 4651	12454
Living Environment	11290	▼ 2089	9201	18417	▼ 2987	15430
Overall	18541	▼ 1428	17113	22199	▼ 77	22122

The numbers relate to National Ranking where the 20 % of least deprived areas will rank between 25987 and 32482 (highlighted in green) and the 20% of most deprived areas will be ranked from 1 to 6496 (highlighted in red) with number 1 being the most deprived area.

Source: Department of Communities and Local Government, Indices of Deprivation 2007