

FRECKLETON PARISH PLAN



JUNE 2005

AN ACTION PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

What is a Parish Plan

In November 2000 the Government's Rural White Paper 'Our Countryside — The Future' launched the concept of the parish and town plans whose purpose is to: "... **set out a vision of what is important, how new development can best be fitted in, the design and quality standards it should meet, how to preserve valued local features and to map out the facilities which the community needs to safeguard for the future.**"

Plans should "identify key facilities and services, set out the problems that need to be tackled and demonstrate how distinctive character and features can be preserved."

The Government wishes to give rural communities a bigger opportunity to run their own affairs, and to set out a vision for their town or village to guide its future development. Some communities have already prepared Village Design Statements or carried out a Parish Appraisal. Many have looked at local housing needs and the allocation of land for industrial and commercial development.

But a Parish Plan is more than a design statement or survey of housing needs. It should cover everything of relevance to the people who live in the Parish including social, economic and environmental issues. It will need to address the needs of the entire community and everyone should have the opportunity to participate in its preparation.

In short the Parish Plan: -

- Will identify the issues that are important to that community.
- Highlights the needs and the aspirations of the community.
- Pinpoints the opportunities that exist for improvement.
- Ensures every household and business in the Parish will be consulted giving them the chance of being heard, not just those who speak up at local meetings.
- Will enable future projects to be planned with the knowledge that the community will support them.
- Through working towards a common goal, brings groups and individuals in the community together.

In January 2004 Freckleton Parish Council formed the Freckleton Parish Plan Steering group under the chairmanship of Cllr Bill Ellicott. In April 2004 the Parish Council was successful in obtaining a grant from the Countryside Agency to finance the production of a Parish Plan. Bill's untimely death resulted in Cllr Colin Robb taking over the Chairmanship. Over the following 12 months, opinion and public comment was sought, and resulted in a questionnaire being circulated to every household in September 2004. A public open day was held in February 2005 to display the results obtained from the questionnaire.

A positive feed back was obtained from the open day.

The results of this work, and actions arising, are outlined in this document.



The Children's memorial

Erected on memory of those who died in the air crash of 23rd August 1944

*Copyright © 2005 Freckleton Parish Plan Steering Group
All Rights Reserved.*

CONTENTS

What is a Parish Plan?	Page 2
Foreword	Page 3
Introduction	Page 4
About Freckleton	Page 5
1. Sources of Information	Page 8
2. Health	Page 10
3. Shops and services	Page 12
4. Housing	Page 13
Sketch map of the Parish	Page 14/15
5. Police	Page 16
6. Roads, Traffic and parking	Page 17
7. Environment	Page 19
8. Sports Leisure and Multipurpose centre	Page 20
9. Business	Page 22
10. Freckleton Village Design Trust	Page 23
The Children's Statement	Page 23
Appendix 1 - Action List	Page 24
Acknowledgments	Page 27

ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations have been used in this report:

FPPSG – Freckleton Parish Plan Steering Group	NHS -PCT - National Health Service - Primary Care Trust
FPC – Freckleton Parish Council	LEA – Local Education Authority
FBC – Fylde Borough Council	CAB – Citizens Advice Bureau
LCC – Lancashire County Council	PROW – Public Rights Of Way
FVDT – Freckleton Village Design Trust	

Note – Bold black italics type are comments made in the questionnaire

Foreword

As a result of the Rural White Paper 2001; 'Our countryside: the Future', Parish Plans have become a very significant process in deciding the future direction of Parishes and Villages.

The Freckleton Parish Plan has been going on for the best part of two years. I never imagined the amount of work that would be involved to bring it all together.

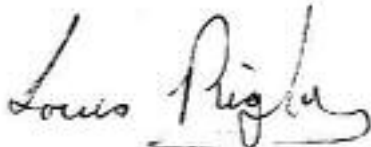
Cllr Colin Robb and the Freckleton Parish Plan Steering Group (all volunteers) have worked very hard and put in many hours to bring the Freckleton Parish Plan to the people.

The people of the Parish have spoken through the Parish Plan and it will take some time to carry out the results of the Plan. The power of the Parish Plan lies in the fact that it is based on true consultation with effective engagement of the local community, and provides an effective road map to the management of future change and development for Freckleton.

The process of trying to make Freckleton a better place to live, work and visit will require more hard work over the coming months and years.

I would like to thank all those involved and it is my privilege to be able to commend to you, your Parish Plan for Freckleton.

Louis Rigby,



Chairman; Freckleton Parish Council (2004-2005)

Introduction from the Freckleton Parish Plan Steering Group.

Dear Resident,

Welcome to the Parish Plan for Freckleton.

This plan is the culmination of over twelve months' hard work, initiated by Councillor Bill Ellicott in late 2003, and following his untimely death in April 2004, by the Freckleton Parish Plan Steering Group. Collectively they have put in well over 700 man-hours, attending meetings/discussions and delivering and collecting the Parish Plan Questionnaire and inputting the data for analysis, as well as organising the Open Day display in February 2005.

This is your Plan for the future of Freckleton, not the Parish Council's. 33.5 % of the residents, representing 1696 individuals, responded to the questionnaire circulated in September 2004. The Plan is an ongoing document, subject to annual review and amendment as circumstances change as we progress with the activities highlighted. Central to this is the proposal to form a **Freckleton Village Design Trust** as a successor to the Freckleton Parish Plan Steering Group.

Many of the activities listed can and will take place within the existing financial structures, these items may simply require reprioritising of existing commitments by the service providers be they the Parish Council, Fylde Borough Council, Lancashire County Council or other bodies such as the Constabulary, Fire and Rescue, NHS PCT or other government bodies. Other activities may require the local organisations/clubs to re-evaluate how they communicate and/or interface with each other and the residents of the Parish.

Some actions, for example the Multipurpose Centre, will require external funding. The existence of a Parish Plan will help to obtain this funding. However, some external funding is not available to Parish Councils, but only to registered Charities/ Trusts, hence the proposal to form the **Freckleton Village Design Trust**.

We are all familiar with the moan that Council Tax raised in Freckleton is spent disproportionately on Lytham St Annes for tourists, services and infrastructures that do not benefit Freckleton residents. The Plan is one step towards achieving Quality Parish Council Status. Achievement of Quality Parish Council Status will for example determine to what extent revenue raised by the Council Tax is devolved to the Parish to meet local needs.

In relation to financing we also recognise the importance of working in collaboration with other agencies, such as
Lancashire County Council (LCC)
Fylde Borough Council (FBC)
The various Government organisations; such as The Department for Environment, Food and Rural affairs, (DEFRA)
Environment Agency,
Department of Transport and the Regions (DTRA),
The Countryside Agency.
Various Charity Organisations; such as English Heritage, Townscape Heritage Initiative and National Lottery.
Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB)

We will also be collaborating with Fylde Borough Council's 'Kirkham and Fylde Rural Partnership' initiative, the aims and aspirations of which are complementary to the Freckleton Parish Plan.

As described in the next section, the Parish of Freckleton covers an area of approximately 15 square miles, not just the village of Freckleton, consequently the actions/activities extend outside the village itself.

We all know that Freckleton is a good place to live and work. We want to make it better, catering for all from toddlers to pensioners. We believe this Plan is a first step to seeking these improvements for all.



Colin Robb

Chair, Freckleton Parish Plan Steering Group.

June 2005



About Freckleton

Location

The Parish of Freckleton lies on the north bank of the River Ribble, about 7 miles west of the city of Preston and 5 miles east of Lytham St Annes. About three miles to the north lies the town of Kirkham.

Freckleton is reputed to be the oldest village in the Fylde, certainly it had connections with the Roman Garrison at Kirkham, Dow Brook at Bunker Street being used as a supply port, and it is mentioned in the Domesday Book.

Up until the Second World War, the main industries were agriculture, weaving, (Balderstone Mill), rope making and shipbuilding. During the Second World War, our American allies established the BAD 2 airfield, which is now BAe Systems. Following the war, the population of Freckleton increased rapidly; with new housing estates being built on the disused service quarters (Brownfield sites) such that the population increased to 6045 people as indicated by the 2001 census. Today Freckleton is the largest village in the Fylde.



Drawing by Larry Carr

Although agriculture and boat building are still practised, the Balderstone weaving mill no longer exists. Apart from the adjacent BAe Systems complex, there are no large scale manufacturing industries in Freckleton, although the Parish is well served by small business, operating from the two privately owned industrial estates and others such as Freckleton boat yard. Other businesses in the region centre around the BNFL complex at Salwick, Government Departments such as the Land Registry and insurance companies and manufacturing industries based in Lytham St Annes, Blackpool and Preston.

The village itself lies predominantly south of the A584 between Preston and Lytham St Annes, and about two miles inland from the River Ribble. There are several hamlets/settlements; to the east is Greenfield Park, to the north are The Mede and the Lower Lane Estates, and to the south, The Crescent and the Naze Industrial Estate. In the west the village of Warton adjoins the Freckleton Parish boundary. In addition there are several working farms, mainly of a dairy nature. The village is surrounded by a designated green belt.

To the east is the Ribble Estuary flanked by broad salt marshes and reclaimed marshes. Large flocks of lapwing and golden plover winter in the area. The many seeds produced by salt marsh plants provide winter food for flocks of finches and buntings which in turn attract birds of prey such as hen harrier, peregrine falcon, merlin and sparrowhawk. In the summer you should look out for yellow wagtails, and also the black-tailed godwit; now fairly scarce breeding birds, they favour the marshes at Warton and Freckleton.



The Lancashire Coastal Walk follows the River Ribble to Naze Point and through the eastern part of the Parish towards Preston.

There are only two main roads serving Freckleton, the A584 between Preston and Lytham, and Kirkham Road (unclassified) linking the A584 to the A583 Kirkham bypass.

Schools.

Within the Parish itself are two primary schools, Strike Lane LCC Primary School, and Freckleton C.E Primary School. Freckleton is also served by the Holy Family Catholic Primary School located in Warton.



There are also several playgroups, The Holy Family Play Group based in the Holy Family Church hall, The Blue Bears Play Group, based in the Methodist Church, and the Freckleton Play Group based in the Village Hall.

LEA secondary schools are located in Kirkham and Lytham St Annes, as are fee paying grammar schools.

The Freckleton After School Club, which is based in the Holy Family Church Hall, also serves the Parish.

Religion

There are four main religious groups, The Methodist Church dating back to the 1860's, the Church of England Holy Trinity Church, The Holy Family Catholic Church on the Freckleton/Warton boundary serving both Freckleton and Warton, and the South Fylde Community Church which meets in the Village Hall.



Drawing by Larry Carr

Recreation

Recreational facilities are provided by The Memorial Park, with children's playground and Freckleton Bowling Club, the Bush Lane Sports field, with the Rawstone Centre, which caters for cricket, football, netball basket ball and other outdoor activities. There are no indoor sports facilities.

Allotments

Croft Butts allotments cater for market gardening whereas the Bush Lane allotments cater for animal husbandry.

Both allotment sites and also the Bush Lane sports field were willed to the Parish of Freckleton in the early 1900's to be used for the sole benefit of the residents of Freckleton.

Organisations and Clubs

There are at least 24 organisations within the Parish, catering for a wide range of tastes; Cubs, Brownies, Scouts, Guides, Church groups, Women's Institute (W.I), dance groups, the Over 60's club, football, cricket and other outdoor sports. There are also the Freckleton Musical Festival, Freckleton Brass Band, and Old Has Been's Brass Band.

The Youth Club is currently inactive due to their meeting place (the old cricket club pavilion) being condemned on health and safety grounds.

Sheltered accommodation/ residential rest and nursing homes

Freckleton has three sheltered accommodation complexes, Naze Court, Croft Court, and the privately owned Croft Manor, two residential rest homes and one nursing home for the elderly.

Library

There is a Lancashire County Council library based in the centre of the Village. It has internet access, but the hours of opening are limited.

Shops

There are several shops located in the Village, which cover basic every day needs of the village residents. There are no supermarkets within the parish, but such facilities are available within a five to 7 mile radius, in Preston, Kirkham and Lytham St Annes.

Health Care

There is a Health Centre, based in Douglas Drive, maintained by the Fylde NHS Primary Care Trust. The Health centre serves both Freckleton and Warton.

There are two opticians in the village but no Dental facilities are available.

At the time the Parish Plan survey was carried out, the Health Centre was being redeveloped and this made it difficult to obtain meaningful views about the facilities that will be on offer. Certainly its location is not in an ideal spot, being in a residential area with narrow access roads and no easy link to bus services.

Catering

Freckleton boasts three public houses, all serving food and drink, although at one time it could boast 8 public houses serving a population of 900! This was in the days when Dow Brook, next to Bunker Street, was a busy port of call for the shipping industry many many years ago. There is an Italian restaurant and several takeaways (Chinese, Cantonese, Indian and Traditional Fish and Chips and pizza), as well as a tea shop.



The ship

Transport

Public transport serving Freckleton is confined to bus services running between Preston and Lytham St Annes and Kirkham. Apart from the south of the Parish most people live within a mile of a bus stop.

Long distance bus services also run through the village.

The nearest railway stations are in Kirkham, Lytham St Annes and Preston (West Coast main line.)

Village Hall

The Freckleton Memorial Village Hall was opened in 1977 and consists of a central hall with kitchen facilities, stage and a side room called the 'Committee Room'. During school term, in the mornings and afternoons (9.00 to 3.15pm), the main hall is used by the Freckleton Play Group, and from about 3.30pm onwards by various other groups such as children's dancing classes. In the evening it is taken over by adult activities such as dance, yoga and judo classes etc.

This means that during the weekdays the hall is not available for afternoon activities for the elder generation, such as afternoon tea dances.

The Committee room is used by the Parish Council for its monthly meetings, but it also doubles as a meeting room for other small groups and activities. (Note; Recently due to the noise of evening activities in the main hall of the Village Hall disturbing the Parish Council proceedings, the Parish Council have decided, on a trial basis, to hold their meetings in the Rawstorne centre.) The Village Hall does not cater for indoor sports activities, such as badminton, due to limitations in height and floor area. Further development of the village hall is not possible due to its location next to residential property.

Lower Lane Community Hall

There is a small Community Hall located on the Lower Lane Estate. This is primarily for the use of residents of the Lower Lane estate, but is much vandalised.

Annual events

There are several annual village events. In June is the Club Day Church procession followed by the Club Day Sports events, the children's sports in the afternoon and adult sports held in the evening. The half marathon (the oldest in the United Kingdom) is held the day following the Club day sports. The Horticultural show is held in September, the Remembrance service in November and the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony in December. Throughout the year there are also the activities of the Freckleton in Bloom Committee.

Parish Council

The Parish Council consists of 12 councillors, 6 each for the East and West Wards of Freckleton. They meet on the first Monday of each month at 7.00pm in the Village Hall, (but see note under Village Hall above), except during August.

The Parish Council owns several buildings, including the Scout and Guide huts, the Rawstorne Centre, the Memorial Park and the Croft Butts and Bush Lane allotments, as well as the Bush Lane Sports fields.

Population

According to the 2001 census, Freckleton has a population of 6045 living in 2542 households.

The age group distribution was: -

Age	Percentage both sexes
Under 16	19.85%,
16-19	4.55%,
20-29	8.75%,
30-59	42.8%,
60-74	15.85%
75 and over	8.2%.

These figures show a very close resemblance to the actual age distribution obtained from the Parish Plan Questionnaire, and indicate that, although the questionnaire response rate was 33.5% of the population over the age of 11, the responses are representative of each age group.



Further reading: - A history of Freckleton, by Peter Shakeshaft, ISBN 1-85936-084-X

1. Sources of Information

We were interested in how the community obtains its information about community affairs and events, and whether the community was satisfied with the current methods of dissemination of information, be it from local organisations, churches, CAB, FBC, Social Services and the Parish Council.

Although 50.6% of the respondents said the information they obtained relating to general information about community affairs and events was satisfactory, 42.5% said the Parish Council did very badly in publicising its decisions and activities, 75% of respondents stating they would like more information about Parish Council matters.

The actual written comments made were more revealing than the responses to the set questions.

Many people asked for a web site, both for Community and Parish Council matters, not realising that these are already up and running. www.freckletonparishcouncil.org.uk, and www.freckleton.org.

‘As two full time working individuals it is often difficult to observe information in Freckleton. Both of us particularly my husband use the internet daily. A Freckleton web site may be useful.’

Conversely other people said they had great difficulty in finding out information about the various organisations, in which they would like to be involved. Others said they only found out by word of mouth after the event.

‘Quite often you only find things out by word of mouth.

I would have loved to have taken my children to the remembrance service for the plane crash victims, but I knew nothing about it until the day after. I work in the village, and have lived here all my life, but people who work elsewhere and full time or who have only just moved to the area miss out on events’

The overall impression gained was that the various Parish organisations and the Parish Council are not very good at communicating, tending to concentrate on their immediate members rather than the Parish at large, and then complaining about apathy. It was very clear from the comments made that, while there was the odd cynic, the majority of respondents really do want to know.

‘I am not aware of any co-ordinated information source’

Currently within the Parish there are two Parish Council notice boards. There is a community notice board outside the Village hall which very rarely shows much useful information and the library has a notice board which never seems to be up to date and, due to the limited opening hours of the Library, is not easily accessible.

Other places where information is displayed are the Post Office, local shops and the notice board inside the Village hall. These unfortunately are not always up to date and are generally only available during opening hours. The notice board inside the village hall cannot be accessed during day time due to the need for security locks while the playgroup is in session. The churches have their own notice boards, but normally only relate to church matters.

‘The Post Office notice board is full of leaflets, but again very much out of date.’

The Parish Plan web site www.freckletonparishplan.org originally hoped to include information about the various organisations in the village. The only organisations which responded were the Club Day Committee, the Freckleton in Bloom Committee, and the Women’s Institute. A similar situation arose with the community web site www.freckleton.org.

The Parish Council issues a quarterly newsletter, which is available for collection from the Library, the Post office, the Co-op and other places. Many people were not aware of this. Those who were aware were complimentary about it, others asked for a mail drop, on the basis that mail dropped through their letter box was more likely to get their attention than if left in various central locations.

The use of other information services such as CAB, (55.5%), Benefits advice (33.6%) and a One-Stop shop for FBC (53.3%) services was high on the respondents list of ‘would use if available’.

Action Plan

- 1.1 The provision of a large roofed double sided community notice board in a central location. The centre of the notice board should have a map of the Parish, highlighting areas of interest e.g. public footpaths etc. On either side of this should be notice boards allocated to the various organisations or groups of organisations. The opposite side of the centre panel should be reserved for Parish Council matters. At least two display areas should be reserved for Police and FBC matters. This notice board should be additional to the current Parish Council notice boards located in Tom Crofts car park and on Balderstone Road.

There is no intention of preventing the local organisation from displaying their information elsewhere; the intention is to give the organisations a chance of informing every person in the village about their organisations and activities at a common central point.

- 1.2 The Parish Council to make arrangements for the quarterly newsletter to be delivered to every household in the Parish. There is no reason why delivery of the Parish newsletter cannot also include leaflets from the various organisations at the same time.
- 1.3 The needs of the residents north of the bypass, (Kirkham Road, The Mede and Lower Lane) need to be considered. All too often they feel ignored.
- 1.4 Discussions with FBC to provide a 'one stop shop' in Freckleton. (Kirkham has such a facility; the population of Kirkham is about the same as Freckleton.)
Such a shop could also be used as a focal point for the Freckleton Community beat officer.
- 1.5 The Parish Council to continue to promote its web site www.freckletonparishcouncil.org, and the community website www.freckleton.org.



2. Health

Under this heading we covered three areas:

Use of Health Service Facilities, Access for people with disabilities and Public toilets.

Health services.

Under this heading, 56.7% of the respondents rated the Doctors as 'good' while 18.2% said they never used the doctors. This latter response was from those people who said they used the Kirkham health facilities rather than the Freckleton Health Centre.

Of the remaining services listed, meals on wheels, district nurse, physiotherapy services etc, between 61 to 71% of the respondents stated they had never used the facilities, surely a sign that as a whole we are a healthy village.

One topic that did crop up time and again in the comments was the lack of a dental surgery in the village. Interestingly, no differentiation was made as to whether this should be a NHS dentist or a private practice.

Mr G Proctor of Lytham's Martin J Kenyon's dental practice was at one time holding a surgery at the Freckleton Health Centre one day a week but only for those patients registered at the Lytham practice, to save them the trouble of travelling to Lytham.

'A dentist in the village is required'

This is a common national problem which needs to be dealt with at government level. Certainly, representation needs to be made to the Fylde NHS Primary care Trust to make this a priority item for the new health centre.

Complaints about the current health centre were mainly about the opening hours, out of hour's calls and the difficulty of obtaining an appointment that was convenient to the patient.

'The surgery needs to be open on Wednesday afternoons, and possibly Saturday morning'

For the future, the Parish needs to monitor the New Health Centre and make representations when the service does not meet expectations. After all the health centre is there to serve our needs.

Access for people with disabilities or push chairs

65% of respondents said they had problems in accessing premises, 40% said that pavement obstructions such as ornamental tubs/seating and advertising placards caused them problems.

Complaints about the existing health centre entrance doors being difficult for the physically disabled were high.

'Spar – clutter around the doors and ramps. Chemist – door too heavy for everyone. Doctors surgery, doorways – hopefully that will be gone soon. Good buys – step too high.'

Comment wise, many people complained about the standard of the pavements making it difficult to use a push chair or wheel chair or a disabled motorised scooter.

'Very poor quality pavements, dangerous and uneven, broken away in places, an accident waiting to happen'

Certainly the standard of our pavements is poor and a danger to both the physically infirm as well as the abled bodied

Complaints about thoughtless parking on pavements were rife, since they often make it impossible for pushchairs and wheelchairs to pass without going onto the road, or scratching the vehicle.

'Access problems caused by endemic problem of cars parking on pavements, straddling double yellow lines and blocking both pavement and shop access'

This topic is dealt with again under section 6 Roads Parking and Traffic.

Public toilets

The majority of respondents (30%) to this question said: - 'They are poor', 'Did we have any?' and 'Where are they?' Of those who were aware of their existence, most people thought they were disgusting. 41 % of the respondents said they never used them.

'The toilets in the village are disgusting, a definite health hazard'

The only real option here is to recommend that they are pulled down and rebuilt. However in common with many Councils, Fylde Borough Council is considering closing public toilets as a cost saving exercise. This may be acceptable for a town area with stores which provide alternative toilet facilities, but not for a village.

Most villages in the Fylde and Lancashire provide toilet facilities adjacent their park areas or car parks. There is no reason why Freckleton should not.

Action Plan

2.1 Health services

1. To monitor the new health centre and make recommendations to Fylde NHS PCT on shortfalls, be it opening hours, lack of dental facilities, waiting time for appointments , ease of access and parking etc.
2. The potential for the provision of a dental surgery should be explored by Fylde NHS PCT.

2.2 Access

To set in motion a dialogue with local shopkeepers regarding the disability discrimination act and access for wheel chairs, the physically disabled and others, with a view to improving life for such people. The issues regarding pavements are dealt with under Roads Traffic and Parking.

2.3 Public Toilets

To consider refurbishing the existing facility, with provision for disabled and baby changing room, or to consider a new facility, either on the present site or elsewhere.



Dibb's Pocket



Drawings by Larry Carr

3. Shops and services

The majority of people (51%) thought the range of shopping facilities within the Village were reasonable while 28.1% thought they were good.

The local shops were used on a daily basis by 45.1% of the respondents, while another 41.1% used them weekly.

‘The village offers a wide range of shops and it is pleasant to do your shopping in the village’

The library was used weekly by 18%, and another 18% said they used it monthly. However 20% said they never used it. A common complaint was about the user-unfriendly opening hours, particularly for those people who were working.

‘For a village this size, the library should have wider opening hours, six days a week full time’

The post office was used weekly by 35.9% of the residents.

The Chemist was used weekly by 15.8% of respondents and monthly by 33.4% of respondents. Several respondents thought the chemist should be sited in a more central location. The new Health centre proposes to include dispensing facilities; this might well affect the viability of the present chemist.

The comments, however, ranged from could do with more shops, not fully realising that such shops need a large cliental to stay viable, to the poor visual appearance, Spar on Lytham road, and the shopping area around the Co-op and Bargain Booze came in for particular criticism in this respect.

‘Freckleton would benefit from a delicatessen, café, book shop gift shop, clothes shop health food shop’

Parking around the Co-op and Bargain Booze came in for very strong criticism, not just the private car parks behind these shops, but the thoughtless parking in and around the pedestrian crossing outside the Co-op and on the opposite side of the road.

‘The shopping complex on Lytham Road is a disgrace, - dirt, parking hazard and generally run down’

Concern was also expressed about the number of empty shops in the village, but shops can only survive if the local population supports them.

There were complaints about articulated lorries delivering to the Co-op and Bargain Booze. Some asked for these types of delivery vehicles to be banned from the village. The problem is that these shops can only survive by bulk deliveries. Removing the wall between the Co-op and Bargain Booze will make it easier for this type of vehicle to make deliveries, without the need to reverse up narrow access passages.

Action Plan

3.1 Discussion should be held with the LCC Library service re extending the opening hours of the Library.

3.2 Throughout the village, a code of practice needs to be established by the Parish Council regarding the standard and uniformity of the shop fronts.

3.3 Particular attention needs to be paid to the Lytham road shops. While it is appreciated that these are private concerns, the first step is for the Parish Council in conjunction with FBC and LCC is to clear the congestion caused by the present usage and then approach the owners for co-operation.

- First, the crossing outside the Co-op could more usefully be moved to the corner of Balderstone Road.
- Secondly the whole of the forecourt outside the Co-op should be designated a no parking zone with bollards to prevent parking. It is appreciated that the forecourt is private property, but the congestion currently caused by parking half on the footpath and the forecourt merits this.
- Thirdly the north side of Lytham Road from Balderstone Road to the first house at the end of the Bargain Booze complex should be double yellow line marked.
- Fourthly, the owners of the Co-op and the Bargain Booze complex should be invited to remove the wall between the Co-op and the Bargain Booze complex to encourage people to use the private parking facilities behind the shops. This would make entry and exit much easier.

4. Housing

The housing stock in the Parish of Freckleton is mainly privately owned, apart from Lower Lane Estate which is part of New Fylde Housing and North British.

The property ranges from old style terrace houses and cottages primarily centred within the original Village along Lytham Road, Preston Old Road, School Lane, Kirkham Road, Clitheroe's Lane and Bush Lane, to small estates, the majority consisting of bungalows, built since the 1960's, surrounding this central area. The properties on the west side of Freckleton were built on ex MOD land (Brownfield sites).

The majority of respondents, 65.7%, thought that Freckleton could not accommodate any more new housing, many saying that we did not have the infrastructure to support more housing, or that more housing would destroy the Village feel of Freckleton.

'Freckleton is already a large village. If expanded further it could lose the identity of a 'village' which it has managed to retain so far.'

One question we asked, *'Would you have objections in principle to new housing?'* resulted in a 46.1% response of 'No'. With the benefit of hindsight, we realise that the question was badly worded, since the responses did not agree with other responses to questions under this heading nor did it agree with the comments made.

'Please try to avoid building in what is a lovely rural area and turning it into a concrete jungle.'

Naturally the problem of 'affordable housing' arose in the comments. Some respondents asked 'What is affordable housing and for how long would it be affordable?' This is a question being asked elsewhere in the country.

The Fylde Borough Council has produced three documents covering planning and housing for the Fylde.

The first is the 'Adopted Local Plan 1996 -2006', which covers planning policies applicable to the whole of the Fylde. It is available in the form of an interactive map on the FBC website, www.fylde.gov.uk. This interactive map enables specific planning policies, such as greenbelt, conservation areas, Countryside areas and areas of Special Scientific interest, for the whole of the Fylde to be located and viewed quickly and easily. Most of the land north of the A584 is classified as greenbelt.

The second is the 'Alterations Review of the FBC Local Plan, 2001-2016' which is mainly involves changes to the housing section of the Adopted Plan. This document was, at the time of writing, ongoing, but the latest version may be viewed at www.fylde.gov.uk.

Finally there is the Housing Strategy document highlighting the need for housing, primarily in the Lytham St Annes Area. Warton and Freckleton show a very low need for more housing at present.

Throughout the Fylde there is currently a moratorium on new planning permissions with permission only being granted for a number of exceptions.

'My main reason for moving to this village was, it is a village, quiet and good to bring up children.'

In terms of planning, Freckleton Parish Council has recently established a Planning Committee, to better review local planning applications. (Planning applicants were previously dealt with during the monthly Council meetings.)

Most of the planning applications being submitted are for extensions to existing properties.

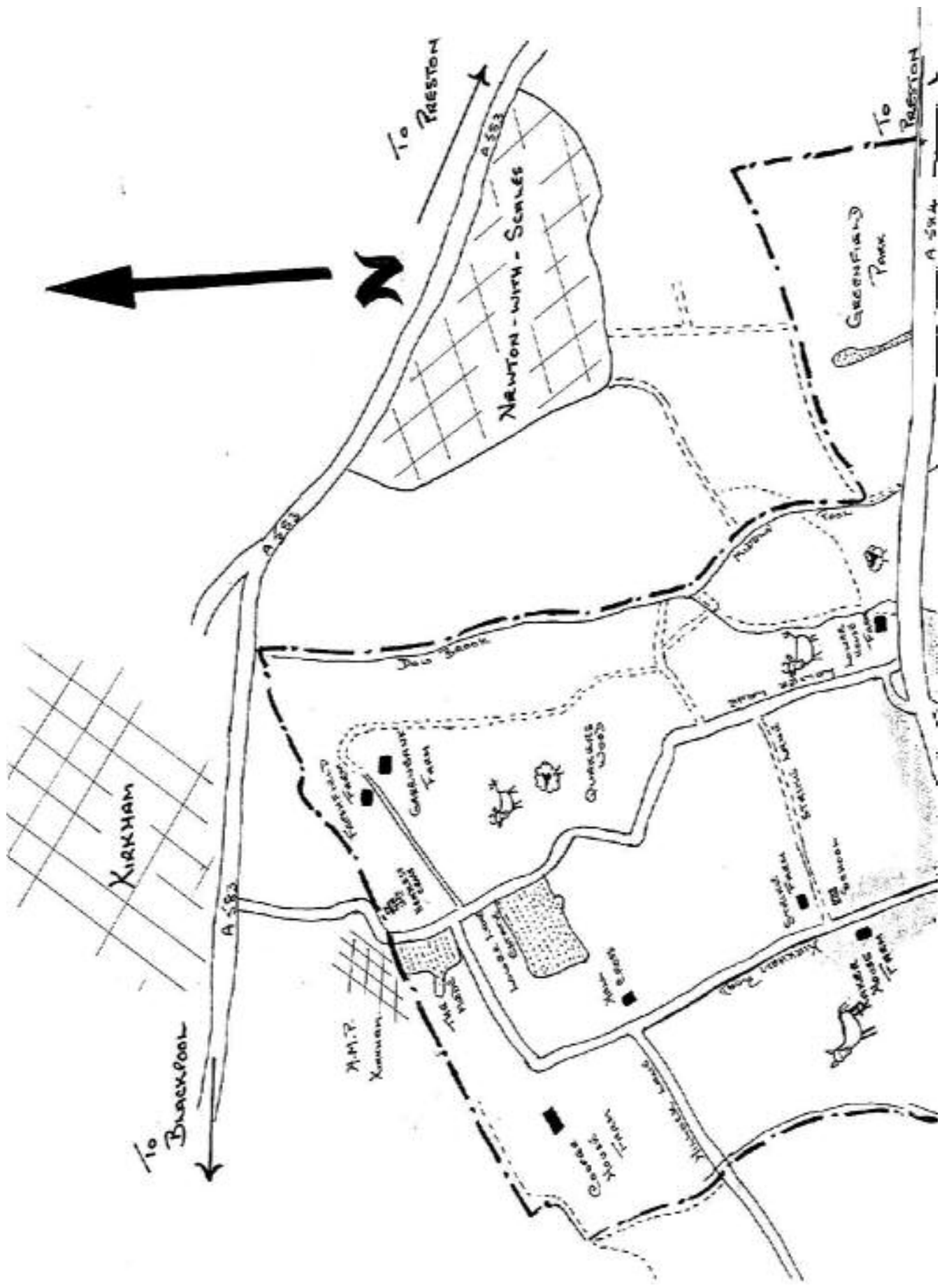
It should be noted, however, that the Parish Council can only make their views known to the Fylde Borough Council Planning Committee. There is no feedback mechanism from FBC on what their final decisions are. This needs to be addressed.

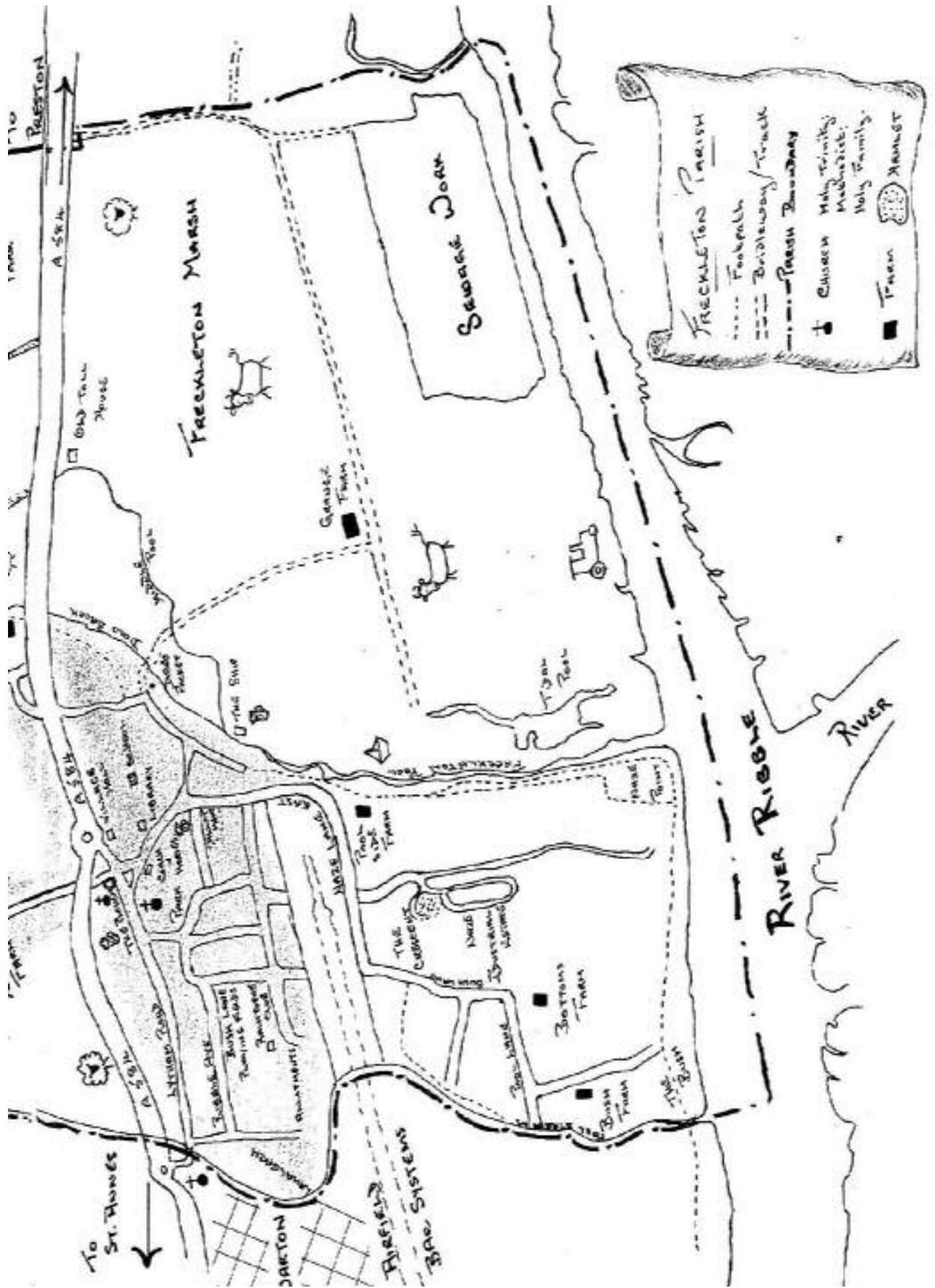
Action Plan

4.1 The Freckleton Parish Council should oppose any more large scale developments within the Parish, particularly on greenbelt sites. Also in conjunction with the comments made under Roads traffic and Parking, no development should be permitted unless off road parking is available.

4.2 A feedback system detailing the results of FBC planning decisions should be introduced.







5. Police

The responses to this section of the questionnaire gave rise to serious concern.

A large number of respondents, 45.8%, thought that police coverage was poor. Most people recorded vandalism, 69.4%, and drunkenness, 50.3%, as their biggest fear, followed by theft at 40.1% and mugging at 17.2%.

'More police are needed on the streets, pure and simple.'

Clearly people's perceptions and expectations are affected by press reports, both nationally and locally, and not by actual events in the Parish since records show that in Freckleton reported crime is one of the lowest in the Fylde, if not the country. Those of us who have regular contact with the beat bobby, the local Sergeant and Blackpool Inspector are more familiar with the actual situation than the general public are. These positions are currently held by :-

PC Andy Scarisbrick – Community Beat Manager

Sgt Jackie Hirst – Community Sergeant

Insp Derek Darwen – Fylde Inspector

In addition the area is also covered by a police Community Support Officer – Danny Porter.



'In general I have found the local police to be most co-operative and the level of crime seems to be fairly low, in comparison with other areas.'

Many respondents said they never see a policeman! Surely if you are away at work all day, return home and then stay indoors, you will never see a policeman! By the same token if the policeman's beat is publicised in advance, we would all know where and when to expect him, as would those persons intent on doing criminal mischief.

The police attend every meeting of the Parish Council and provide a report on their recent activities, keeping the Parish Council informed on crime preventative measures that are being put in place. For example, the Memorial Park has been fitted with a mast and CCTV to deter youths from drinking etc, while other areas of the village are being fitted with lights to deter street drinking in dark corners.

'Groups of youths in the park, leave a trail of empty bottles behind them, not good when children use the park.'

It is accepted that vandalism is a problem; this costs the Parish Council and Fylde Borough Council money that they can ill afford.

Street drinking and underage drinking is also seen as a problem.

'Street drinking ban is not enforced enough'

Drugs are a national problem, Freckleton is fortunate in that at the time of writing this is not a major problem, but it does still need to be addressed.

Surprisingly, in answer to the question, **'Would you join a neighbourhood watch scheme?'** 38.3% of the respondents said yes, but 40.0% said no! Some respondents made the point, ***'My neighbours and I watch out for each other anyway so why bother'***. This is precisely the point of the Neighbourhood Watch; neighbours watch out for each other, but they also have direct contact with the police, plus they have free advice on crime prevention measures.

No one seems to be aware that the police hold a local community contact meeting with the public (PACT) every first Wednesday of the month, at 5.00pm, in the Village Hall. This is a 'drop in service' where you are free to talk to the local policeman, air your views and obtain advice. This highlights the communications problems already mentioned under Section 1 Sources of information.

Action plan.

The local police have a strong commitment to neighbourhood policing which seeks to address all crime and quality of life issues. The basic approach appears to be better means of communication with the public and increased accessibility to local officers, accordingly the following should be put in hand:-

- 5.1 A local contact point for the beat policeman, such as already suggested for a One Stop shop in conjunction with FBC.
- 5.2 The community web site, www.freckleton.org should be supplied with the community beat policeman's quarterly newsletter, and contact numbers.
- 5.3 When the Parish Council proceed to deliver the Quarterly newsletter to every household in the Parish, the beat policeman's quarterly newsletter could be delivered with the Parish Council Newsletter at the same time.
- 5.4 Once the central Parish Notice Board is established (see 1.1) then the section of the notice board devoted purely to police matters could be usefully used to inform the public.
- 5.5 It has been suggested that the monthly PACT meeting would be more useful if held on a Saturday morning.
- 5.6 Visibility of patrol issues to be addressed.

6. Roads, Traffic and Parking

The questionnaire responses were as follows:-

Question	Yes %	No %	No opinion %
Are there any major danger spots?	63.8	22	14.2
Is street parking a safety risk?	59.4	29.6	10.9
Is speeding traffic a problem?	59.8	32.1	8.1

Standard of public parking facilities	Good	Reasonable	Poor	No opinion
Percentage response	47.9	41.8	6.2	4.1

Improve facilities for?	Pedestrians	Cyclist	Wheelchairs	Pushchairs	Partially sighted	Other
Percentage of 'yes' responses	57.9	39.6	49.8	33.8	32.5	2.1

This section of the questionnaire generated more comments than any other part of the questionnaire.

The by pass - A584

Calls for a reduced speed limit on the bypass were high on people's agenda. *It does seem strange that, as far as we are aware, this is the only stretch of dual carriageway in Lancashire which has a 70mph limit.*

Mention was also made that the 70mph stretch of the A584 was the only stretch of dual carriage way in the country with a cycleway alongside. While we cannot verify this, those of us who have ridden a bicycle down the A584 certainly find it safer to use the footpath rather than the cycle way!

Sadly recent events on the 50mph stretch have highlighted people's concerns, and the Highways Authority is working on solutions to this problem.

In addition to the by pass, a summary of the highlighted danger spots were:-

1. **Kirkham Road, around Strike Lane at school opening and closing times, due to parking on Kirkham Road. Instances of people turning up at 2.15pm, and sitting in their cars waiting for school closing time were given.**

Unlike Freckleton C.E School, Strike Lane School has no adjacent car parking facilities suitable for drop off and pick up. At the same time problems are also caused when parents' evenings or other school functions in the evenings are held. This problem needs to be addressed by the LEA, and parking facilities provided off Kirkham Road specifically for Strike Lane. At the same time a 20mph limit should be introduced at school start and finish times.

2. **Kirkham Road at its junction with Lower Lane. This presents a danger to cars coming from Freckleton turning right into Lower Lane. A roundabout is required.**
3. **Kirkham Road/ Preston Old Road. Parking on double yellow lines, half on and off the pavement in and around this area causes particular dangers to young and old alike. Two way traffic is also hampered by these thoughtless acts, particularly early in the morning, lunch time and from about 3.30pm until about 6.0pm. In fact traffic (buses, coaches and lorries) wanting to make it's way to the Naze Industrial Estate, has found an alternative route to Preston Old Road, which again causes danger. The alternative route is via Clitheroe's Lane, Naze Lane and Green Lane to link to Naze Lane East. The irony is that perfectly good parking is available within easy walking distance of this area.**

The traffic lights on Kirkham Road/Lytham Road while having pedestrian crossing lights for Lytham Road do not have any for crossing Kirkham Road to School Lane. This is the route that most parents take when taking children to Freckleton C.E School.

4. **Lytham Road at the Spar mini roundabout. This came in for harsh criticism. Through traffic on Lytham Road simply bounces over the roundabout mound without paying any attention to oncoming traffic wishing to turn right into Clitheroe's Lane, or traffic trying to emerge from Clitheroe's Lane. Coupled with this is the dreadful condition of the road surface.**
5. **Tom Crofts car park was also highlighted as a danger spot, in that traffic uses it as a short cut to and from School Lane and Preston Old Road, instead of using Jubilee Terrace.**
6. **The shopping area around the Co-op was also cited, with people parking on the zigzag lines at the pedestrian crossing, people parking on both sides of the road reducing the width to single track, and at the same time causing obstructions on the pavements. Where did these people park before the by pass was opened?**

7. Other areas of concern were

- *Lamaleach Drive, (speeding motor cyclists).*
- *Lytham Road (speeding cars).*
- *Ribble Avenue, (parked cars).*
- *Lower Lane came in for particular criticism, firstly where it joined the by pass both on the North and South sides, as did the mini roundabout at Hawthornes estate junction.*
- *On Bush Lane, cars parked on the bend on the road just before Ribble Ave.*
- *Junction of Douglas Drive with Ribble Avenue is a blind spot and concerns were raised about the use of this road to access the health centre. Concern was also expressed about emergency vehicles using Douglas Drive to access the health centre.*
- *The junction of Clitheroe's Lane with Bush Lane and Naze Lane was singled out as a particularly dangerous spot for the elderly and parents with young children, due to the narrow pavement.*

On the topic of parking several respondents remarked that people were too lazy to park their cars on their drives or in their garages. These residents need to be educated that thoughtless parking half on the road and pavement is anti social, causes obstructions and problems for parents with young children, the disabled and the elderly, and also damages the pavements.

However it is also apparent that people with a disabled parking badge do not fully realise that the disabled parking badge does not give them a licence to park wherever they want.

Pavements

Criticism was made of the standard of the pavements throughout the village. In some areas the camber is such that wheelchair users and pushchairs cannot safely use them. Other areas are in a dangerous condition for disabled people. Singled out was the drainage gully outside the post office on Preston Old Road.

The poor condition of the pavements can in part be attributed to cars and other vehicles parking half on and off the pavement, but lack of maintenance has also contributed.

Pavement furniture also causes problems in that it reduces the width of the pavement. A particular instance is the recently installed lamppost outside the Spar shop on Lytham Road.

Action Plan

- 6.1 To monitor any changes to the A584 and Kirkham Road.
- 6.2 To consider ways and means of improving peoples awareness of the problems caused by anti-social parking, both in the central village area and on the various estate roads within the Parish.
- 6.3 To work with the Highways Authority to improve the condition of the local roads and pavements, particularly in terms of access and safety for the elderly, disabled and parents with young children.
- 6.4 To produce a case for off-road parking at Strike Lane, and the introduction of 20mph signs at school opening and closing times. In addition the needs of Freckleton C.E School should also be considered, on relation to School Lane and Tom Crofts car park.
- 6.5 To introduce a pedestrian crossing across Kirkham Road between the Memorial and School Lane
- 6.6 To introduce a marked route for traffic accessing Naze Industrial Estate.
- 6.7 To introduce the changes detailed in 3.3 under Shops and Services on Lytham Road.
- 6.8 To consider ways and means of improving the mini round about situation, outside Spar, and at Hawthornes estate.



Drawing by Larry Carr



7. Environment

The questionnaire responses are shown in the following tables: -

	Yes%	No%	No opinion%
Do you know where the local footpaths are?	50.5	42.6	4.0
Can you use them without difficulty?	28.1	29.9	20.7
Are they well signposted?	19.3	46.7	16.5
Would you be willing to help maintain them?	12.1	45.3	19.4

Would you like to see:-	Maps of Local footpaths	Leaflets of walks available	Guided walks	Improved signposting	No Opinion
%age yes responses	66.9	52.3	32.7	54.9	19.6

Improve the environment?	Very Important %	Worth doing %	Not needed %	Don't know %
Look after woodland	37.3	29.8	4.7	5.9
Preserve single trees	32.1	32.5	8.0	4.3
Keep hedges short and tidy	51.6	29.3	4.9	2.1
Plant more hedges and trees	22.7	27.7	20.3	4.3
Plant more wild flowers	28.4	33.0	13.0	3.2
Introduce Nature trail	21.1	32.0	15.9	7.4

Protect wildlife?	Very Important %	Worth doing %	Not needed %	Don't know %
Create Local nature reserve	29.7	33.5	12.2	7.2
Campaign against litter	66.9	21.1	3.0	2.89
Look after marshes	44.6	34.0	2.8	5.1
Reduce pollution	61.7	20.3	1.9	4.6

A total of 45 people volunteered to help with the environmental activities.

The following is a random selection of comments: -

1. ***Dogs fouling pavements is disgraceful and a health hazard.***
2. ***Hedges should be not be kept short and tidy; they should be managed on a cycle to ensure wild life cover is not destroyed.***
3. ***Smoking chimneys (Clitheroe's area), rubbish being burnt in gardens when green bins are meant for this.***
4. ***I love to see the flowers by the road side.***
5. ***Noise pollution from BAe systems.***
6. ***Maintaining local footpaths is a council responsibility; it's what we pay rates for.***
7. ***Plant more evergreen trees or bushes, colour is needed in winter.***
8. ***Litter in ginnel at Bramwell Road and Goe Lane.*** (Lighting has now been installed, to stop teenagers using this as a 'hang about' place)
9. ***Too much litter.***
10. ***All very good and praiseworthy but none of this is any good if you cannot persuade the kids and yobs to stop throwing their litter all over the place.***
11. ***I would like to see those horrible railings around the memorial removed, making the centre more like a village.*** (Unfortunately these were installed to stop vandalism)
12. ***Freckleton in Bloom to work more closely with the Parish Council and Fylde Borough Council might be more useful. We both already do voluntary work for Freckleton in Bloom and would be interested in 'Country Ranger' opportunities to help maintain and improve the environment.***
13. ***Smell from the Marsh.***
14. ***We need a better park because the one we have is not a very safe place to go*** (Comment by a 13 year old).
15. ***I would like to thank the Parish Council for all the flowers they plant and water and maintain around the village. Long may it continue.***



The Parish Plan Steering Group agree with the majority of the comments made on this topic.

While it is true to say that we do pay rates for the council to maintain the local footpaths, etc, it is however down to us the users to help to keep them in a useable condition. This means, amongst other things, not causing damage, not dropping litter, and cleaning up any mess made by dogs or other animals belonging to them.

In the context of volunteers helping to maintain the local footpaths and habitats, surely, if these volunteers are seen to be doing such things, there is a better chance that other people who know them may respect what they have done, and maybe it will also help to educate



children and adults that these things don't just happen, people have to work to give pleasure to other people.

Certainly there is a great deal that can be done in and around the Parish to improve the environment for everybody, not just the annual 'In Bloom competitions' based in the village itself, but an all year round pride in the environs of the Parish, from the River Ribble all the way up to Kirkham prison.

In relation to the Freckleton in Bloom organisation, while all the comments made were complimentary about their efforts, most people seemed to be under a misapprehension that it was the work of the Parish Council or FBC, when it is actually the work of a volunteer organisation.

Action Plan

- 7.1 To liaise with LCC PROW regarding the signposting and up keep of the local public rights of way.
- 7.2 To investigate the possibility of producing a nature trail, possibly towards Naze Point.
- 7.3 To involve those people who volunteered to help with activities relating to the environment. The Parish Council's Open Spaces Committee should also be involved.
- 7.4 There are other bodies associated with the environment who should be contacted, e.g. Countryside Agency, RSPB etc.
- 7.5 The local environment, i.e. parks, roads, recycling, dog mess and litter, as well as pollution from various other sources needs to be included in any action plans for improvement. Educate the public littering (including dog mess) is illegal, and encouraged to use litter bins and the dog bins provided.
- 7.6 To ensure that the Freckleton in Bloom Committee receives the credit that it is due and ensure that their actual membership/volunteer base is increased. This should also include the younger residents..

8. Sport and Leisure including a Multipurpose Centre

Although the preamble to this report gives the impression of a Parish with all the necessary sports and leisure facilities, this is very far from true. Specifically there are currently no indoor sports facilities, no youth club facilities, and no facilities for afternoon events during the weekdays.

The responses to the question '*What are your views on social sports and leisure facilities for*' were as follows: -

Age group	Good	Reasonable	Poor	No Opinion
Up to 17	3.8%	14.6%	41.7%	25.5%
17 to 25	2.7%	13.9%	40.4%	26.1%
26 to 60	3.0%	25.7%	29.5%	26.9%
60 and over	5.7%	21.5%	26.9%	35.6%
Disabled persons	0.3%	3.3%	28.1%	47.5%

A total of 28 people have volunteered to help with Social, Sports and leisure activities.

Throughout the questionnaire a large number of comments were made about the lack of facilities for young people. It must be remembered that not everyone wants to be part of an organisation such as the scouts, guides, church groups, or even a member of a team sport organisation.

'There is nothing for kids up to the age of 16, variety is important they need sport/cultural/social activities'

It was against this background that we asked the question '**Would you support a Multipurpose Centre?**'

An overwhelming 72.4% of the respondents said 'yes'.

Several comments stated that this question should not have been asked until we had put a business plan in place. We beg to differ. Now that we know that a multipurpose centre would be supported by 72.4% of the Parish, we can proceed to putting a business plan/design together using existing expertise and facilities within FBC and LCC; in other words we have the evidence to say to the service providers that such studies are required.

The multipurpose centre is not intended to replace any existing facilities that are viable. For example the Village Hall would continue in its present role. However, it is difficult to get a booking at the village hall during weekdays mornings and afternoons, as the hall is fully booked by regular users during school term times.

The suggestion from a handful of respondents that we use the BAe Systems facilities ignores the point that the intention is to put in place viable facilities for the young as well as for the not so young, within our own community without the need to travel afield. Not everyone in the Parish is a member of the BAe Warton Sports and Social Club, nor wants to be.

The old cricket hut, previously used as a Youth Club, has been condemned on Health and Safety grounds. The Village hall is totally unsuited for a Youth Club base.

Considering the number of comments made elsewhere in the questionnaire about youths hanging around shops, the park and other areas, provision of facilities for the young people is of paramount importance. BAe System facilities do not and cannot cater for their needs.

It should also be remembered that, BAe Systems in terms of employment is in a state of decline and in the future may well be a different organisation to what it is now- what would we do then?

The library provides internet facilities, but as mentioned elsewhere, the opening times do not always meet residents' needs.

Many of the elderly would like somewhere social to go in an afternoon or evening. Many do not go out at night because they are afraid or are incapable of walking long distances. Provision of a teashop/café with social facilities, such as afternoon tea dances would be welcome, along with means of transport for this age group, and would make them feel safe and secure. Age Concern agrees with this view.

Residents who live in the village proper tend to forget that the Parish of Freckleton covers approximately 15 square miles.

Residents living at the Kirkham end of Kirkham Road, the residents in Lower Lane north of the by-pass, residents near Naze point and residents of Greenfield Park have some way to travel to attend events in the village.

Children also live in these areas and the provision of a mini bus service manned by volunteers would be of considerable help to these people.

Some facilities are beyond our resources, such as a swimming pool. BUT, now we know that there is a demand, we can make the case that FBC should provide an all inclusive fee for swimming sessions at either Kirkham or St Annes which includes transport to and from the swimming pools, on a regular basis.

Action Plan

- 8.1 To liaise with LCC Youth and Community service, to provide facilities for the young people.
- 8.2 To liaise with Age Concern re facilities for the elderly.
- 8.3 Investigate with FBC about the provision of inclusive swimming fees with transport provided.
- 8.4 To produce a business plan/design for the Multipurpose Centre, using FBC and LCC expertise. As a minimum, the Multipurpose Centre, based on questionnaire responses, needs to include the following: -
 - A central sports hall suitable for badminton
 - A small gym, suitable for adults and young persons
 - Changing rooms and showers for the above, and also for use by netball and tennis players, as opposed to the Rawstorne facilities for football and cricket.
 - A youth club centre, accessed independently of the main building.
 - An internet café, available to all age groups, which can also double up as an after schools club if needed.
 - A teenage café run by teenagers themselves.
 - A kitchen
 - A tea room/café
 - A snooker/billiards room
 - Meeting rooms, one at ground level and the others on a second floor, which could also be used as a conference centre.
 - Cloakrooms, with secure lockers.
 - Access and facilities for the disabled needs to be provided.
 - To consider the provision of a mini bus service, manned by volunteers.
- 8.5 To liaise with the various Parish organisations regarding existing facilities and promote improvements, and involve those people who volunteered to help with sports.
- 8.6 To identify areas of improvements in the existing outdoor sports facilities.
- 8.7 To seek funding to enable these objectives to be met. (See also Section 10, page 23)

9. Business

There were 71 respondents to the business questions covering shops, service industries, agriculture and manufacturing. 50% were one man businesses.

It is heartening to know that 50% of the respondents expected their business to increase over the next 12 months

The residents' views on industry were enlightening in that while some thought of BAe Systems and BNFL as the majority employers within the Freckleton area as a good thing, the more pessimistic thought it was a bad thing and development of more small industries would be to the benefit of Freckleton in the longer term.

One item highlighted in the responses is that around 25% of the businesses are agriculture, which tends to confirm that Freckleton is a rural area dependent on farming which should and must be strongly encouraged and supported.

The Steering Group is aware that there are many more one/two man businesses in the Parish who did not respond.

Certainly, in the longer term, the Parish of Freckleton should be looking to support and promote the local businesses as well as supporting diversification into other areas of business rather than relying on BAe Systems and BNFL.

Action Plan

9.1 The Parish Plan Steering Group wants to be seen to be encouraging local business and enterprise, be it shops, service industry, agriculture or manufacturing industry.

Perhaps the most logical approach would be at a future date to convene a meeting of all businesses within Freckleton irrespective of their size and their aspirations, to discuss how the Freckleton Village Design Trust and the Parish Council can best promote their business interests.

After all, the future of the Parish of Freckleton will depend on what they can offer in terms of employment, and this in turn will dictate the quality of life for the residents of Freckleton.



Freckleton Marsh – Freckleton pool in the foreground



Freckleton Boat yard

10. Freckleton Village Design Trust

It is proposed that a **FRECKLETON VILLAGE DESIGN TRUST** be established by the re-constitution of the Freckleton Parish Plan Steering Group.

This will enable funding to be sought from sources that are not open to the Parish Council

The **FRECKLETON VILLAGE DESIGN TRUST** will be independent of the Parish Council, but will work closely with the Parish Council, Fylde Borough Council Lancashire County Council and other organisations to ensure that appropriate funding is obtained and any necessary work carried out.

The terms of reference will be:-

1. To seek funding for projects outside normal Parish Council resources.
2. To produce business plans and costing in support of funding applications.
3. To manage any projects for which external funding is obtained.
4. To manage or make management arrangements for any facilities, ensuring that best practice and costing is followed.
5. To monitor the progress of the actions listed in this Parish Plan, and make recommendations as appropriate.
6. To update the Parish Plan on an annual basis, where necessary taking on board new arisings.
7. To keep the residents of the parish fully informed of progress or otherwise of the Parish Plan.

The membership will be drawn from the Parish Volunteer organisations/residents with two or three co-opted Parish Council members.

Action Plan

10.1 To establish the FVDI, the actual membership and constitution will be agreed with the residents of Freckleton, but must satisfy the needs of a charity/trust organisation.

10.2 Maintain and encourage the children's committee.

The Children's Statement

The children's committee have had a lot to say, their basic theme was '**There are no facilities for the 11 to 18 years old**'

The children would like to see the following;

- More sports activities for the 11 to 16 year olds
- An indoor sports complex
- More volunteers to work with the 11 to 18 years
- Homework club
- Youth group
- Older years disco's (no alcohol!)
- Internet café
- A safe place to meet
- Summer holiday activities club
- To help to raise money for a Sports complex.



Appendix 1 Actions

1. Sources of Information

Action number	How	Priority	Who	Timescales	Resources required
1.1 Central large roofed Notice board	Design and install new central notice board	High	FPC	Within six months	FPC/FBC funding.
1.2 Quarterly newsletter	FPC to produce and arrange distribution	High	FPC	July newsletter to be delivered with Parish Plan.	£110 per quarter. Plus volunteer distributors. If police newsletter also included may have more assistance to distribute.
1.3 Needs of residents North of the by pass	To produce an action plan	High	FPC	Within six months	FPC/FBC funding.
1.4 FBC One Stop Shop	Lobby FBC	Medium	FPC/ FBC/ LCC	Medium term	FBC funding and manning
1.5 Parish Council Web site	Monthly updates	Ongoing	FPC	Ongoing	£10 per annum plus volunteer time to assist Parish Clerk.

2. Health

2.1	1. Health Services	Monitor traffic and other aspects	Medium	FPC/ FBC	Ongoing	Nil to FPC.
	2.Provision of dental services	Pressurise NHS/PCT	High	FPC	Ongoing	Nil to FPC
2.2	Access to services, Disability Discrimination Act	Educate local service providers	Medium	FPC/ FBC/ Age concern	Medium term	Minimal to FPC/FBC, may be costs to local businesses but grants may be available.
2.3	Public Toilets	Refurbish or rebuild	Low	FPC/ FBC	Medium term	Funding required

3. Shops and services

3.1	Extend Library Opening hours	Discuss with LCC Library service	Medium	FPC/ LCC	Medium term	Low cost to LCC
3.2	Shop facades	Produce code of practice	Medium	FPC	Six months	Minimal cost to FPC. See Kirkham & Rural Fylde partnership Action Plan 2004
3.3	Lytham Road shops Improvements to access and parking	See 6.7 under Roads traffic and Parking., for specific actions				

4 Housing

4.1	Future development	Oppose large scale development, No new development without off street parking facilities.	High	FPC	Immediate	Minimal
4.2	Planning feed back from FBC	Procedure to be established	High	FPC/ FBC	Immediate	Minimal

5 Police

Action number	How	Priority	Who	Timescales	Resources required
5.1 Local contact point for beat policeman	Include in FBC one stop shop? See 1.4	Medium	Police and FPC	Medium	Police resources, nil to FPC
5.2 Newsletter on Community Web site	Supply newsletter to www.freckleton.org	High	Police	Immediate	Police manpower.
5.3 Quarterly Newsletter	Distribute with FPC newsletter ?	High	Police/ FPC	July 2005	Police resources plus volunteer distributors, see also 1.2.
5.4 Notice board	Allocated space on Notice board,	High	Police/ FPC	Within six months	Police manpower. Completion of Action 1.1 re New Notice board by FPC
5.5 PACT meetings	Consider rescheduling meetings to give greater exposure	Medium	Police	Within six months	Police resources.
5.6 Visible patrol issues to be addressed	Prepare patrol plan targeted to increase visible patrol in the Parish	High	Police/FP C/ public via PACT	Three months	Local police resources, nil to FPC

6. Roads Traffic and Parking

6.1 A584	Monitor situation	High	FPC/ LCC	Ongoing	Minimal unless changes are proposed.
6.2 Anti social parking	Parkwise, and education	Immediate	FPC/ FBC	Ongoing	Existing FBC budget. (Parkwise)
6.3 Improvements to local roads and pavements	Liaise with LCC, agree plan	High	FPC/ FBC/ LCC	Short term/long term	Expensive, funding required by LCC
6.4 Strike Lane school, and Freckleton C.E School, and 20MPH limit.	Discuss with LEA and LCC	Medium	FPC/ LCC/ LEA	12 months.	Funding required. Expensive?
6.5 Crossing at Kirkham Road/School Lane.	Arrange with LCC road safety	High	FPC/ FBC/ LCC	Within six months	Funding required. Low cost
6.6 Route to Naze Industrial estate	Discuss with LCC	Medium	FPC/ LCC	Medium term	Funding required, for signposting.
6.7	1. Lytham Road shops, move pedestrian crossing 2. Bollards on pavement outside Co-op to prevent parking 3. Double yellow lines	Medium	FPC/ LCC/ FBC	Within nine months	LCC/FBC funding required
	4. Car parking	High	FPC / shops	Medium term	Private funding/ grants may be available?
6.8	Mini roundabouts improvements	High	FPC/ LCC	Within six months	Funding required by LCC

7. Environment

Action number	How	Priority	Who	Timescales	Resources required
7.1 Sign posting and up keep of local public rights of way.	Dialogue with LCC PROW	Medium	FPC / LCC PROW	Medium term	LCC funding required
7.2 Nature Trail towards Naze point	FPC to investigate	Low	FPC/ LCC	Longer term	Funding required sources to be investigated
7.3. To involve volunteers in activities relating to the environment	FPC to arrange meeting with volunteers.	Medium	FPC/ Freck. in bloom	To be determined	Minimal cost FPC
7.4 Liaison with Local Bodies, such as RSPB, Heritage groups	Discuss with interested bodies	Low	FPC plus others	To be determined	Initial nil cost, later funding will be required, sources to be investigated
7.5 Over view of the environment -parks, recycling/dog mess/ litter to set up group(s) with local bodies	To be discussed with FBC and LCC	Medium	FPC/ FBC/ LCC	Medium term	Funding available from existing resources.
7.6 Freckleton in Bloom	Freckleton in Bloom group to be proactive to encourage involvement.	High	FPC/ Freck. in Bloom	Medium term	Funding available from existing resources, plus increased volunteer participation.

8 Sport and Leisure and Multi-purpose centre

8.1 Facilities for the youth - to make arrangements on a temporary basis for a home for a youth club.	Discuss with LCC Youth and community	High	FPC/ LCC	Immediate	Funding required, consider sourcing a redundant portacabin, or similar.
8.2 Facilities for the elderly - to determine their needs and draw up an action plan	Discuss with Age concern	Medium	FPC/ Age concern	Long term	Nil, time only
8.3. Swimming	Discuss with FBC		FPC/ FBC	To be determined	Investigate possibility of inclusive transport/swimming fees
8.4 Draw up business plan and outline design for Multipurpose centre.	Dialogue with LCC and FBC	High	FPC/ FBC/ LCC/ FVDT	Short term	Funding required for business study and outline design. Make provision for progressive work, bearing in mind that the Youth centre is a priority.
8.5 Existing facilities and promote improvements	Liaise with local groups	Medium	FPC	Medium term	Initial costs minimal. Involve those people who volunteered to help with sports.
8.6 Existing outdoor facilities and promote improvements.	Liaise with Rawstorne sports club	Medium	FPC	Medium	Initial costs minimal
8.6 To seek funding,	FVDT, see Action 10.	High	FVDT	Short term	FPC grant may be required.

9. Business

9.1 Promote local business interests.	Convene meeting.	Low	FPC/ FVDT	Long term	Nil to FPC.
---------------------------------------	------------------	-----	-----------	-----------	-------------

10. Freckleton Village Design Trust

10.1 Establish the Trust and membership.	Convene a meeting	High	FPC/ FVDT	September 2005	Initial costs nil, later costs will require grant/funding from FPC.
10.2 Encourage children's Involvement	Maintain existing children's committee	High	FVDT	September 2005	Minimal funding, encourage fund raising activities and publicity.

Acknowledgements

This Parish Plan has been produced with the aid of a grant from the Countryside Agency Vital Villages fund (now administered by DEFRA), and a small grant from Freckleton Parish Council

Particular thanks are due to: -

- the unpaid volunteer members of the Freckleton Parish Plan Steering Group:-

Cllr Colin Robb (Chairman)
Mrs Maureen Sleeman (Secretary)
Mr Tony Parkinson (Treasurer)
Mrs C. Thomas (Co-ordinator)
Mrs Elaine Ballard
Ms Deborah Bland
Cllr Shirley Delany
Cllr Trevor Fiddler

Mrs Pat Knight
Mrs Sara Moreton
Mrs Alice Percy
Cllr Louis Rigby
Mrs Christine Slater
Mrs Diana Thomson
Mr Bob Walton

- the children's committee;- Simon, Martyn, Maxine, Amy, Lucy, Emma, James and Adam, under the watchful eye of Carol Thomas and Christine Slater, who provided a valuable insight into the wishes of the younger people.

- Community Futures who provided advice and guidance

- Freckleton C. E Primary School who permitted us to use their IT facilities, the school hall for the Children's committee meetings.

- Mr P Armitage of Sabretech Associates Ltd, who provided expert analysis of the data generated by the questionnaire.

- Studio D Blackpool for draw prizes and photographs.

- local shops and businesses for donating of draw prizes.

- Other people who provided behind the scenes assistance, specifically, Mr C Mayland, Mrs J Armitage, Mrs R C Robb, Mr Chris Holland, Mr A Hutton, and Mr D Thompson, not forgetting the children of the Steering Group members who helped to deliver the questionnaire.

- the 1696 people who completed the questionnaire, and the 300 people who attended the open day in February.

- The Rt Hon Michael Jack MP, for his enthusiastic support.

- the following service providers who contributed with information/assistance and manned displays on the open day;-

Lancashire County Council service providers
Fylde Borough Council service providers
Lancashire constabulary
Age Concern
Fylde NHS PCT
Lancashire Fire and Rescue
Lancashire County Council Youth and Community



Drawing by Larry Carr

- The Freckleton Parish Council has been very supportive through-out and at no time have they tried to influence the out come.

- The line drawings in this document are the copyright of the artist Larry Carr and are taken from 'A walk round old Freckleton' by Elaine M Bevan and Martin Ramsbottom. (ISBN 1898062048) Copies of the booklet are available from Freckleton library and from The Scroll Bookshop, 66, Poulton Street, Kirkham.

Without the help of all these supporters, The Freckleton Parish Plan could not have been produced.

TAKING CARE OF OUR FUTURE



Freckleton Parish Plan

The logo indicates;

Top left represents the community and people.

Bottom left represents road safety and the community.

Top right represents future developments.

Bottom right represents the peace, nature and the landscape of the community.

(Simon Thomas, age 16)



Freckleton Village Memorial Hall



Copyright © 2005 Freckleton Parish Plan Steering Group
All Rights Reserved.