

Monk Hesleden Parish Plan



Crimdon Viaduct
Photograph courtesy of Stan Gray

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Thanks and acknowledgements

Foreword

I am pleased to introduce Monk Hesleden's first Parish Plan. It has been written following consultation with the households of the Parish and is intended to represent their views and provide the Parish Council with an Action Plan that will steer us over the coming years.

The results of the consultation are both pleasing and disappointing. On the one hand, they affirm the priorities that the Parish Council has been pursuing over recent years, and in fact the Action Plan at the end of the document shows that some of the issues raised by residents have already been addressed in the time between the consultation taking place and the publication of the Plan. In particular, two issues to come out of the consultation were dissatisfaction with the quality of the Welfare Park changing rooms and the children's play provision at Blackhall Rocks. I am pleased to say that the Parish Council has worked successfully on these projects and both the replacement Welfare Park Pavilion and the new Hart Crescent play area are now open and in use.

On the other hand, decisions by Durham County Council subsequent to the consultation go against the views of residents. There is strong support expressed in the Plan for a rail halt in Blackhall, but despite this the Parish Council have been unable to change the decision to site the proposed new railway station at Horden. Further, the closure of Blackhall Youth Club will worsen the provision of facilities for young people, which was already a source of great dissatisfaction, while residents reveal very high levels of satisfaction with library provision, but Blackhall Library is now under threat of closure.

The Parish Council intends to continue to address the issues raised in this Plan, while it is hoped that this may be the start of more regular direct consultation with community of Monk Hesleden Parish.

Councillor Dave Carr
Chairman Monk Hesleden Parish Council

Executive Summary

The consultation for the Monk Hesleden Parish Plan began in 2008. A questionnaire was distributed to all households to discover the views of residents. Approximately 20% of questionnaires were returned, and these give a representative response across all settlements within the Parish. The responses have been analysed and are presented within this Plan.

Some of the issues raised are common throughout the Parish, but settlement specific issues can also be identified. Speeding vehicles are cited by many residents as a problem, but especially so in High Hesleden, while daytime parking around Middle Street in Blackhall Colliery is a common complaint. A majority of residents are happy with the provision of public transport, but not in Hesleden, which has a less frequent bus service than other parts of the Parish. The level of nursery and primary school provision is highly valued throughout the Parish.

In general, satisfaction with the provision of public services is high, but there are some exceptions. With regard to the Parish Council, residents are most satisfied with the cemetery provision, but most dissatisfied with dog bin provision. Similarly, for the County Council, satisfaction with the library service and refuse collection are high, but youth provision is much criticised.

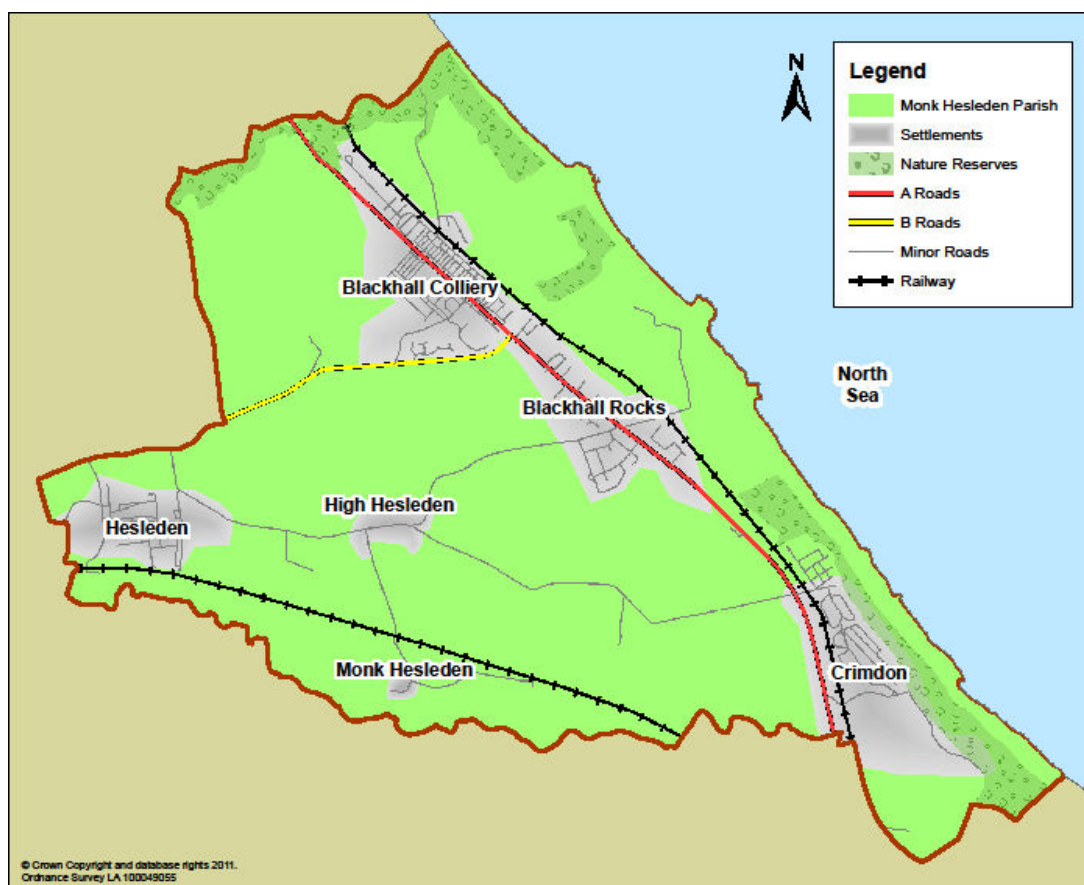
Anti-social behaviour and dog fouling are most commonly given as the worst aspects of living in Monk Hesleden, while the coastal location of the Parish and its community spirit are considered to be the best.

The issues raised by residents are summarised in the Action Plan, which gives the proposed action to be undertaken to address them. It is intended that this will help the Parish Council to prioritise its activities in future years. In addition, the Parish Plan will provide evidence of community support for the Council to use when engaging with other organisations to address the needs identified.

1. Introduction

Monk Hesleden Parish lies on the County Durham coast north of Hartlepool. The Parish consists of six identifiable settlements: Blackhall Colliery, Blackhall Rocks, Hesleden, High Hesleden, Monk Hesleden and Crimdon. It has a population of 6,153 individuals in 2,618 households, the majority of whom live in the former coalfield village of Blackhall Colliery and the adjoining settlement of Blackhall Rocks.

This section provides background information on the Monk Hesleden Parish. It begins by outlining the history of the Parish, which has existed since, but has been defined by the coalmines. This is followed by discussion of the social and economic context of Monk Hesleden in 2011.



Map courtesy of Durham County Council

1.1 The History of Monk Hesleden Parish

It is possible to trace the origin of Monk Hesleden Parish to 780 A.D. at which time a saxon village existed at Monk Hesleden. The name Hesleden is believed to be derived from *Hesle*, a corruption of Hazel, and *Dene*, meaning a deep forested Valley, so the original connotation may have been, "*Forested Valley of the Hazel trees*". The 'Monk' element of the name may apply to the village's early monastic connections;

However, the development of the Parish to as we know it today can be more commonly linked to 1841 when Castle Eden Colliery was opened at Hesleden. This led to an increase in the population, and although the life span of the pit was very short and it closed in 1893, it shows how the Parish has been intrinsically link to the coal industry.

On the 18th December 1894 Monk Hesleden Parish Council held its first meeting in Castle Eden Colliery Boys School, at this time the parish included the villages of Hutton Henry, Hulam and Sheraton. Population and boundary changes over the years have changed the Parish dramatically so that while it no longer includes Hutton Henry, Hulam or Sheraton it now has Blackhall Colliery, Blackhall Rocks and Crimdon.

The sinking of pits in the neighbouring villages of Horden and Easington, the completion of the railway bridge and viaduct at Crimdon Dene and the opening of the Blackhall Rocks railway station in 1905 meant industrialisation was moving nearer to Blackhall. In 1909 the sinking of Blackhall Colliery pit shaft changed the "social mix" of the parish, as the development of coal mining brought an influx of people from other parts of the county and country. In particular many Cornish people came at a time when their own tin and copper mining industries were coming to an end. Blackhall became an important and thriving colliery until in 1981 when it was closed because of problems of flooding.

1.2 Social and Economic Context

Monk Hesleden Parish in 2011 is inescapably defined by the demise of coal mining and the closure of Blackhall Colliery in 1981. This impacted enormously on the community and resulted in high levels of social deprivation. The following section provides a brief overview of the Parish with regard to common social and economic indicators.¹ Overall, it can be seen that the Parish is well below the national average in terms of economic activity, educational achievement and quality of health.

Population

At the time of the 2001 Census the parish had a population of 6,153 living in 2,618 households. The population's age structure is shown below in Table 1.1. This is close to the national trend, but with a higher proportion of elderly people and fewer aged between 16 and 44. In terms of ethnic composition the Parish has a large majority of White British residents, with ethnic minorities accounting for just 3.5% of the households in the area (ONS, Census 2001).

Table 1.1: Population by Age (%)

Age	Monk Hesleden	North-East England	England
0-4	6.0	5.5	6.0
5-15	13.6	14.3	14.2
16-24	9.5	11.1	10.9
25-44	26.5	28.1	29.3
45-64	24.7	24.5	23.8
65-74	10.4	9.1	8.3
75+	9.3	7.4	7.5

Source: Census 2001, Office for National Statistics

The communities within the Parish Council boundaries can be described in terms of Super Output Areas (SOAs) and the following SOAs make up the Parish area: EO 1020736, EO 1020737, EO 1020738, EO 1020739 and part of EO 1020772. The 2001 Census statistics for the Parish have been used as they are consistent with the ward boundaries prior to the change.

Economic Activity

The failure to replace the coal industry with an alternative local employer of comparable scale has obviously impacted upon the levels of economic activity in the Parish, with parts of Monk Hesleden within the worst 2% of England for levels of unemployment and employment related issues in the country (ODPM, Indices of Deprivation 2004). Table 1.2 details economic activity within the Ward in comparison with Durham County and England.

Table 1.2: Economic Activity

	Blackhalls	Durham County	England
Employed (full time)	33.47	38.48	40.81
Employed (part-time)	10.42	10.73	11.81
Self-employed	3.73	5.38	8.32
Unemployed	3.75	3.74	3.35
Full-time students	1.19	1.84	2.58
Retired	16.92	14.81	13.6
Looking after home/family	7.06	6.32	6.52
Permanently sick or disabled	16.76	10.32	5.30
Other economically inactive	3.89	3.32	3.10
Limiting long-term illness	32.75	24.53	17.93

Source: Census 2001, Office for National Statistics. **Note:** Percentage of Residents aged 16-64 years.

Education

Table 1.3 below shows the high percentage of Blackhalls Ward residents with no qualifications in comparison with both Easington and England. It also shows the low level of Blackhalls residents qualified to degree level or higher. The Parish has three primary schools (Blackhall Colliery Primary School, St. Joseph's R.C. Primary School and Hesleden Primary School). Older pupils typically travel to secondary schools in Wingate (Wellfield) or Peterlee (St. Bedes).

Table 1.3: Educational Achievement

	Blackhalls	Durham County	England
No qualifications	44.73	35.97	28.85
Qualified to degree level or higher	8.19	14.50	19.90

Source: Census 2001, Office for National Statistics **Note:** Percentage of Residents aged 16-64 years.

Transport

The location of Monk Hesleden Parish, between Peterlee and Hartlepool and immediately to the east of the A19, make it a commuter settlement, requiring the majority of residents to travel to work and demonstrating the importance of transport. The Parish is relatively close to A19, but more than one-third of households do not have a car. (2001 Census, ONS).

A regular bus service runs to Peterlee, Hartlepool, Durham and Sunderland, although there are no direct buses to Teesside or Newcastle. Buses run from Hesleden into Blackhall every hour during the day, but do not operate after 8pm; there is no service on a Sunday. Although a train line runs through the Parish there are no station stops, so that the closest stations are Seaham and Hartlepool.

Health

By most indicators the health of the Parish is very poor. Approximately one in five residents aged between 16 and 64 years claim incapacity benefit (Dept. of Work & Pensions, May 2007), while 32.5% of the total population of Monk Hesleden Parish had a long-term limiting illness (ONS Census 2001). Overall, the Parish falls within the worst 1.5% of locations in England for health problems (ODPM, Indices of Deprivation 2004).

Crime

In comparison to other social indicators, the Parish fares relatively well in terms of crime, which is lower than the national average (ODPM, Indices of Deprivation 2004). The most commonly reported crime is anti-social behaviour, particularly in Blackhall Colliery which tends to see increases in the summer months due to the influx of young people from neighbouring communities.

2. The Parish Plan

2.1 The Initiative

In 2008 Monk Hesleden Parish Council agreed there was a need to consult the community to learn its opinion on the Parish at is and their ideas for how they would like to see it improve. The consultation would be used to form a Parish Plan that could help the Council to prioritise its activities in future years. In addition, the Parish Plan would provide evidence of community support for the Council to use when engaging with other organisations to address the needs identified.

2.2 The Process

In February 2008 the Parish Council hosted two public events at Blackhall Community Centre and Hesleden Community Centre. These information gathered from these events achieved two outcomes:

- Steering group members were recruited
- Feedback given at the events was collated and was used to form the basis for the questionnaire.



Public Meeting at Blackhall Community Centre



Public Meeting at Hesleden Community Centre

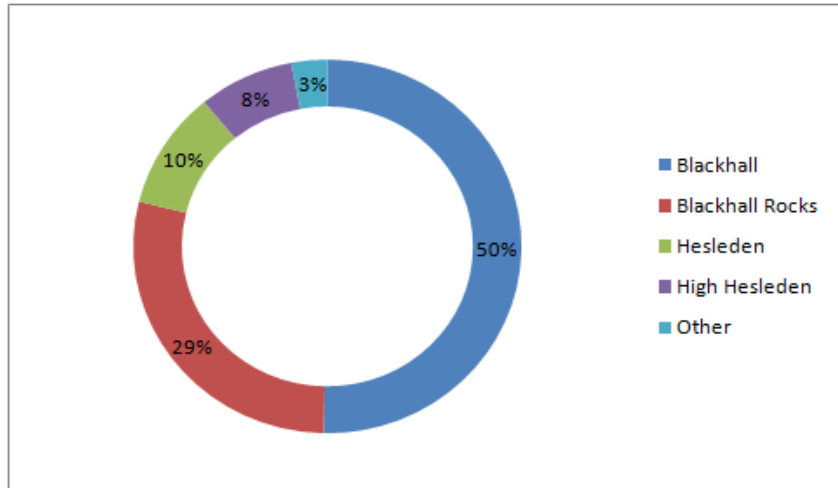
The Parish Plan Steering Committee was formed and it met to prepare and agree the questions which feature on the questionnaire and to determine the process for distribution and collection of the questionnaire. It was decided that it would be delivered to all households within the Parish. In preparing the questionnaire members of the committee endeavoured to ensure the content was of a generic nature, which could be completed by all six settlements.

2.3 Response Profile

In total 501 questionnaires were completed and returned. This means that the response rate was just less than 20% of all households. This was considered a satisfactory return of sufficient numbers for the results to be meaningful.

Figure 2.3 shows the percentage of responses by settlement. Half of all responses were submitted from Blackhall Colliery, but overall the responses are representative of the total population spread between in each settlement. Responses were received from a diverse set of households within the Parish, so that the all ages are well represented, as are all categories of economic activity including the employed, unemployed and retired. There are also a good number of responses from households with individuals in full-time education, from children in the infants school to adults in higher education.

Chart 2.1: Percentage Response by Settlement



3. Responses

In this section of the Plan the results of the questionnaire are presented and recommended actions are proposed based on these results. The section follows the format of the questionnaire, so that each of section of the questionnaire is considered in turn. The largest sections are those concerning traffic and transport and public services, and it is in these sections that a majority of resident concerns are raised. However, the responses also shed light on attitudes towards community safety and housing.

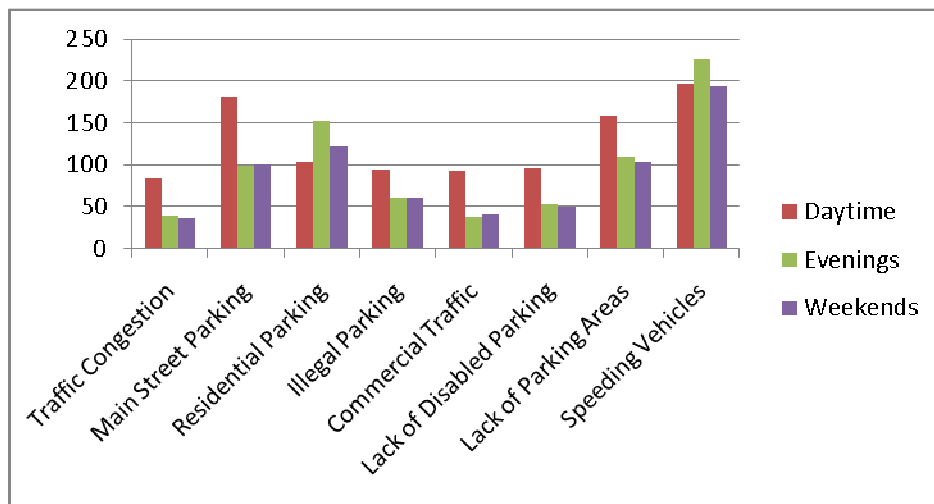
3.1 Traffic and Transport

The section of the questionnaire concerning traffic and transport elicited some of the most detailed comments, with many residents expressing opinions on traffic and parking issues and the provision of public transport.

First, respondents were asked to identify whether they felt particular traffic and parking problems existed in the Parish and if yes, at which times of the day the problems were present. The responses are presented in Chart 3.1, which shows that speeding vehicles is the traffic issue of most concern to residents. This is evident across all settlements, but especially in High Hesleden where 75% of residents identify it. The problem is also a concern at all times of the day, although in Blackhall Rocks it appears to be worst in evenings.

The second most cited issue is parking in the daytime. A large number of residents in Blackhall Colliery and Blackhall Rocks comment on the difficulty parking in and around Middle Street and near St. Joseph's School, while others complain about illegal parking on double yellow lines in this area. Finally, many respondents identify residential parking in evenings as a concern. This is identified in all settlements, but especially Blackhall Colliery where one-third of respondents are dissatisfied.

Chart 3.1: Traffic Problems

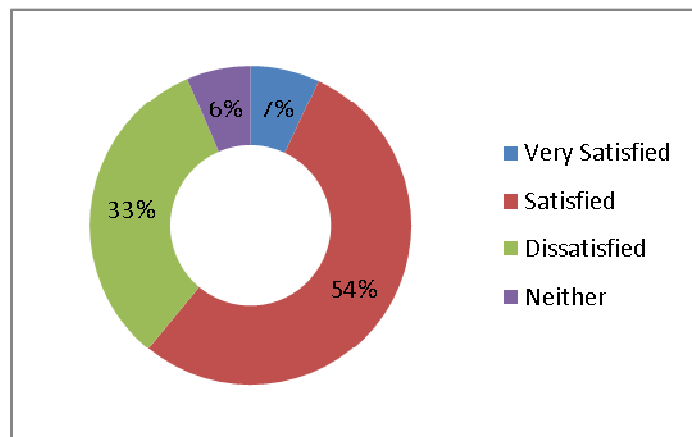


Following the high levels of concern about speeding vehicles it is no surprise that a small majority (55%) of respondents would favour additional traffic calming measures. The most popular locations for these are: Middle Street and, to a lesser degree, West Street in Blackhall Colliery; Mickle Hill and Coast Road in Blackhall Rocks; and the main road through High Hesleden. Road humps are the most commonly proposed type of traffic calming measure, although these are not unanimously popular. Alternative measures include the use of chicanes for Mickle Hill and High Hesleden, speed cameras on Middle Street and Coast Road, flashing speed signs on the entrance to settlements, and a reduction of the speed limit along Middle Street.

A majority of respondents, approximately two-thirds, believe there are sufficient pedestrian crossings in the Parish. However, of those who would like to see more, the most popular location is at the bottom of Middle Street, near the Co-op supermarket, with more than forty respondents identifying this location.

When asked about public transport provision, 61% of residents are either satisfied or very satisfied, while 33% are dissatisfied, see Chart 3.2. However, the level of dissatisfaction is much greater in Hesleden (69%). The main causes of dissatisfaction are the times and destinations of buses, the latter especially in Hesleden, while in Blackhall there is a problem of no timetables at bus stops.

Chart 3.2: Satisfaction with Public Transport



In the final question in this section, residents were asked whether they would use a rail halt if one existed in Blackhall. In total 84% said that would use a rail halt. This proportion was almost constant across settlements, ranging from 78% in Hesleden to 85% in both Blackhall Colliery and Blackhall Rocks.

3.2 Education and Training

Overall, there appears to be high levels of satisfaction with the provision of education and training available to Parish residents. The provision of education for youngest children is especially highly valued with only 6 and 3 (of 470) respondents indicating dissatisfaction with nursery and primary education respectively. Levels of satisfaction with secondary education are a little lower with 47 (10%) of respondents expressing dissatisfaction, although of these only 13 have children attending secondary school. The most common complaint is that while parents can exercise choice over secondary schools, free transport is only provided for the nearest suitable school, which in most cases is Wellfield Community School. This potentially prevents parents from exercising choice over secondary schools, but it is in accordance with Durham County Council's 'Home to School Transport Policy', which in turn follows central government policy.

In terms of adult and further education, satisfaction is again relatively high with dissatisfaction levels of just about 7% in both cases. Where respondents are

dissatisfied this tends to be due to lack of choice, difficulty of access and the cost of adult education. When asked which adult education subjects they would like to see, the most popular response was computing. Beyond this there was some support for languages and lifestyle classes such as flower arranging, art and gardening.

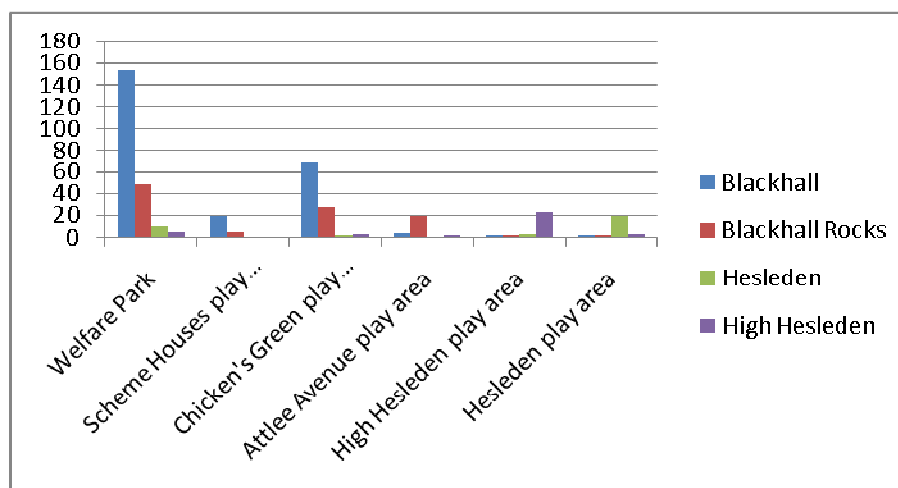
3.3 Leisure

The responses reveal useful information about the usage of and satisfaction with leisure facilities provided by the Parish Council. These facilities include the welfare park which contains a football, cricket and bowls facilities and a children's play area, and a further five children's play areas that are located across the parish. The total number of respondents who make use each of these facilities is shown in Chart 3.3. The Welfare Park is the Parish Council's largest and most diverse facility and so it is not surprising that this is the most used. However, it is encouraging that such a high proportion, 43%, of respondents visit the Welfare Park. Almost three-quarters of these visitors live in Blackhall, however significant numbers travel from other settlements. The chart also shows that the Chicken's Green play area is the most used with roughly four times as many people visiting this as opposed to the other play areas. The remaining four play areas, at the Scheme Houses, Attlee Avenue, Hesleden and High Hesleden all have a similar level of usage.



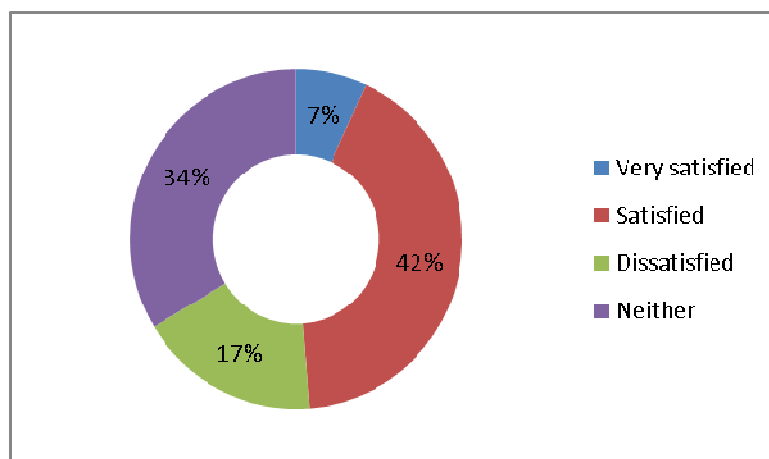
Welfare Park Changing Rooms opened April 2011

Chart 3.3: Usage of Parish Council Facilities by Village



Overall, residents are relatively satisfied with the Parish Council’s facilities. In total, 227 residents (49% of respondents) are either satisfied or very satisfied, while 82 residents are dissatisfied (18%), see Chart 3.4. Dissatisfaction is most evident in Blackhall Rocks, and the primary cause of this is the Attlee Avenue play area with residents being highly critical of the standard of this. Other common themes are that the changing facilities in the Welfare Park need to be renewed and that all play areas could benefit from a greater selection of play equipment.

Chart 3.4: Satisfaction with Parish Council Facilities

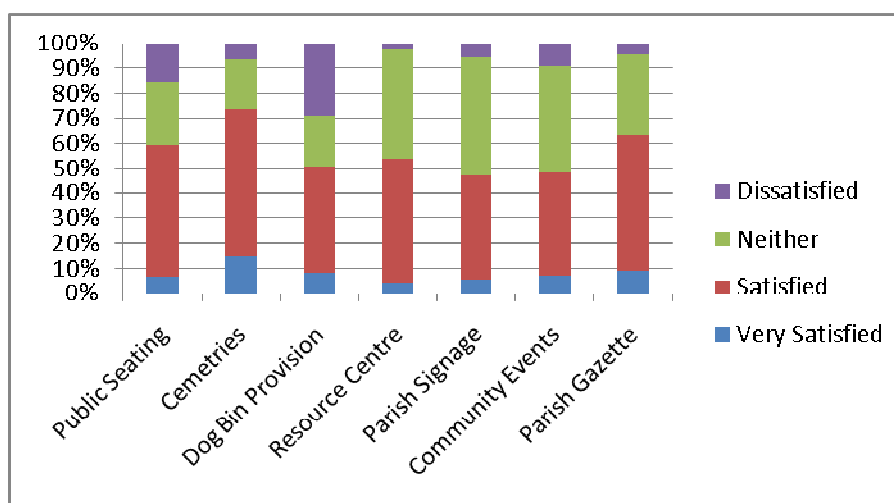


3.4 Public Services

The most extensive section of the questionnaire concerns attitudes towards the provision of public services. This section was split so that residents were asked first about their satisfaction with services provided by the Parish Council, and then about services provided by Durham County Council. In both cases satisfaction levels are generally high, but improvements are desired in some areas.

Beginning with the Parish Council, satisfaction levels are shown in Chart 3.5. Overall satisfaction levels are high, with respondents being particularly pleased with the Parish Gazette and the quality of the cemeteries, although a number of respondents specifically identify the fence surrounding Hesleden cemetery as in need of renewal. However, it is clear that the biggest issue is the provision of dog bins, with 138 (29%) respondents declaring themselves dissatisfied with the current level of provision. Of the other issues, 16% are dissatisfied with the provision of public seating, of which the highest concentration is in Hesleden. The high numbers of people are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with the Resource Centre and community events suggests that many residents have little knowledge or experience of these.

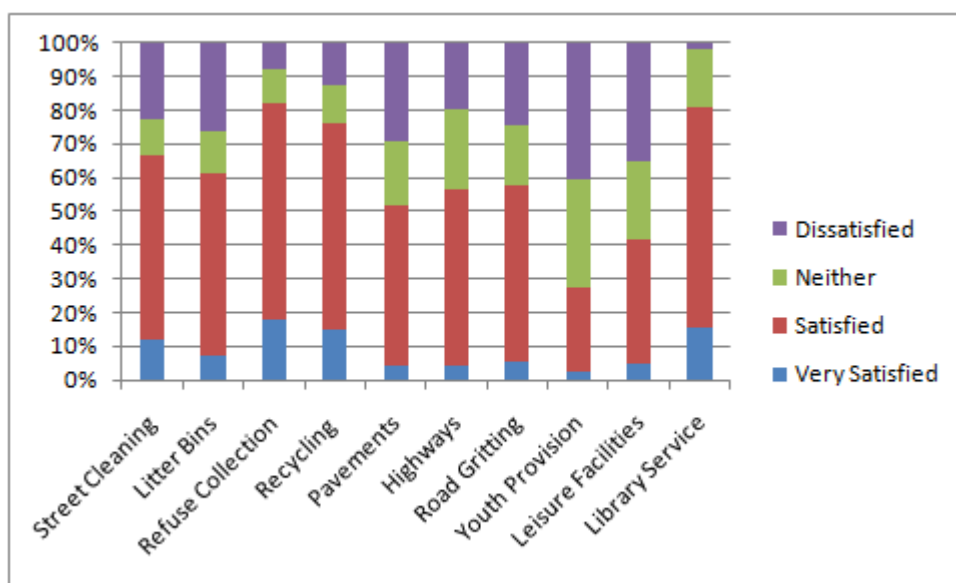
Chart 3.5: Satisfaction with Parish Council Services



Satisfaction levels with services provided by Durham County Council are similarly high in most cases. The satisfaction levels for some services are presented in Chart 3.6. The first four columns show that satisfaction is high with refuse collection,

recycling facilities and, to a lesser extent, street cleaning and litter bins. Responses regarding pavements, highways and gritting are more mixed, although a majority are satisfied with all of these. Of these, the condition of the pavements are the source of greatest dissatisfaction, particularly so in Hesleden and High Hesleden, where almost half of respondents are dissatisfied.

Chart 3.6: Satisfaction with County Council Services



By far the greatest dissatisfaction concerns the youth provision and leisure facilities. A majority of residents in Blackhall and Blackhall Rocks are unhappy with the level of youth provision, and in the case of Blackhall Rocks twice as many residents are dissatisfied than satisfied. More positively, the library service very well valued, with over 80% respondents either satisfied or very satisfied, and almost no-one dissatisfied.

3.5 Community Safety

Responses regarding community safety give a mixed picture of attitudes to crime in the Parish. Firstly, the residents of Hesleden and High Hesleden feel safer than those of Blackhall and Blackhall Rocks, with 80% of the former declaring that the Parish is a safe place to live compared to 60% of the latter (Chart 3.7). Overall, approximately

two-thirds of the Parish feel that it is safe. This compares with only 30% of residents who feel that the level of crime low (Chart 3.8).

Chart 3.7: Is the Parish Safe?

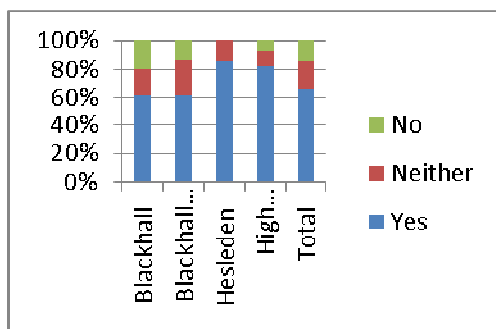
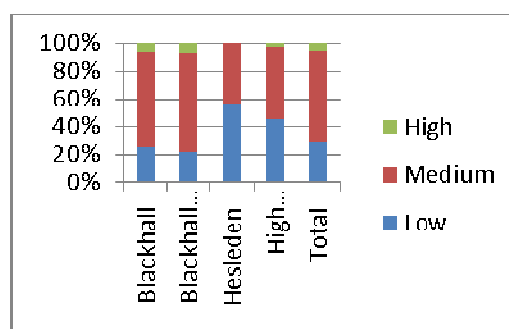
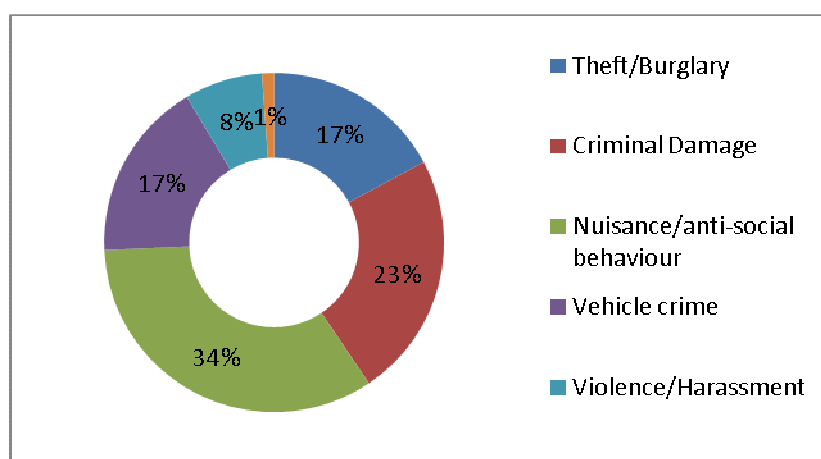


Chart 3.8: Level of Crime



When asked what could be done to make them, resident were most in favour of greater police presence. There was also fairly strong support for more community wardens and neighbourhood watch schemes, but mixed support for home security and better street lighting. Of the 99 respondents who said they had been a victim of crime 73 had reported it to the police, and of these two-thirds were happy with the police response time. The breakdown of types of crime is presented in Chart 3.9. It shows that the most common crimes are anti-social behaviour and criminal damage.

Chart 3.9: Proportion of Crime by Type



3.6 Health and Care

The short section on Health and Care focussed entirely on whether residents find services difficult to access. The responses across health services (i.e. GP, dentist and hospital) are relatively constant, with approximately 5% of households indicating that they do have difficulty in accessing the service in each case. The most common given reasons for this are inadequate public transport and appointment problems. A number of respondents express concern over the proposed relocation of hospital services from Hartlepool to Wynyard.

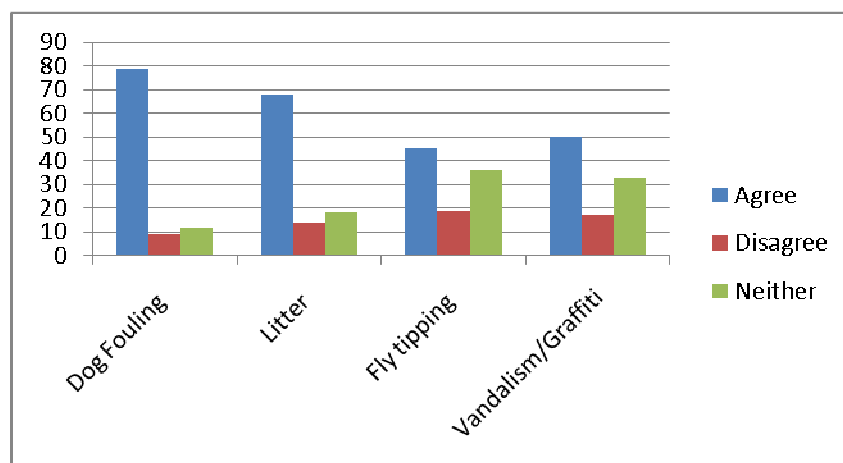
3.7 Housing

Overall, there is support for the building of new houses in the Parish (52% for, 25% against and 23% not sure), but this is not reflected equally across the Parish and it depends on the type of housing. Residents in High Hesleden are strongly opposed to building of any kind, while there is little support anywhere in the Parish for large scale developments, shared ownership schemes or the building of apartments. In general, residents would like to see more affordable homes, in particular bungalows and small family homes.

3.8 Environment

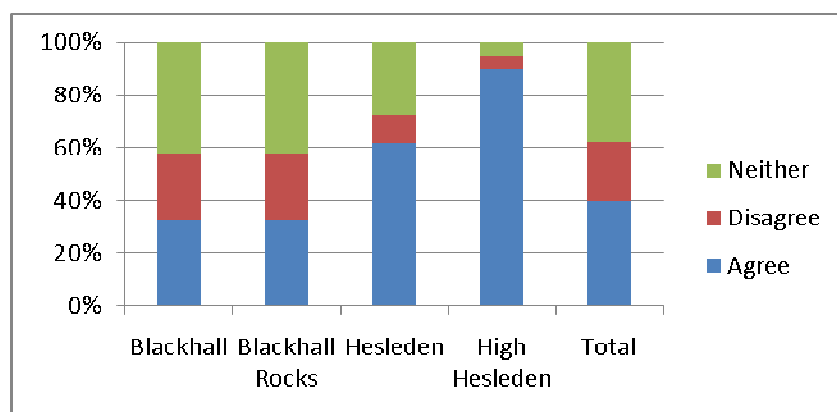
As part of the section on the environment residents were asked whether they felt four particular issues were a problem for the Parish. These are dog fouling, litter, fly tipping and vandalism/graffiti. The total results for these are shown in Chart 3.10. Again dog fouling is the issue of most concern to residents, with 79% agreeing it was a problem. This is followed by litter, which is a problem for 68% of respondents. There is less concern with fly tipping and vandalism/graffiti, but in both cases more people agreed it was a problem than disagreed.

Chart 3.10: The Following is a Problem:



A clear location difference is evident among respondents to the question of whether they consider their village to be an attractive place to live. A majority of residents in Hesleden and, especially, High Hesleden feel it this, but in Blackhall and Blackhall Rocks only approximately one-third agree, see Chart 3.11.

Table 3.11: My Village is an Attractive Place to Live



The questionnaire concluded by asking what residents liked least and most about living in their community. These questions are potentially some of the most useful since they allow residents to specify particular issues and to express strength of feeling. In general, two key themes emerge as the most popular aspect of the Parish, but there is less consensus on the worst issues so we begin with these.

Young people and the issue of anti-social behaviour are most commonly raised as the worst aspect of the living in the Parish. This affects residents in Blackhall and

Blackhall Rocks most, but a small number from Hesleden also comment on it. The comments often refer to large, intimidating groups of youths, and many respondents are concerned by drinking and littering. A number of respondents blame a lack of facilities for young people. A typical comment regarding this is *“There are a lot of teenagers roaming the streets causing havoc, drinking and making a nuisance of themselves. Some come from other villages.”*

After this, three further issues are raised in fairly equal numbers. The first is raised almost exclusively by residents in Blackhall and Blackhall Rocks and concerns social problems due to the renting of property to undesirable tenants. These comments frequently specify the renting of colliery street houses to residents not originally from the Parish. The other issues commonly mentioned are dog fouling and littering, which are cited across all settlements, and traffic and transport problems. This repeats some of the findings from the earlier section on this, with speeding traffic, poor transport links, bus services to Hesleden and High Hesleden and parking around Middle Street, Blackhall, all receiving multiple mentions, in particular the unsightly overhead cables and the condition of the “dirty” footpaths. Finally, a particular issue for residents in Crimdon is the dilapidated condition of the building formerly housing the Seagull Pub.

With regard to the aspects of the Parish that people most liked, two very clear trends emerge. The majority of responses focus either on the strong community spirit and having good neighbours or on the natural environment and the Parish’s proximity to the coast and countryside. Representative comments are *“friendly, community spirit”*, *“the people and being adjacent to sea and countryside”* and *“friendly community, lovely coastal views”*.

3.9 Summary

Some of the issues raised are common throughout the Parish, but settlement specific issues can also be identified. Speeding vehicles are cited by many residents as a problem, but especially so in High Hesleden, while daytime parking around Middle Street in Blackhall Colliery is a common complaint. A majority of residents are

happy with the provision of public transport, but not in Hesleden, which has a less frequent bus service than other parts of the Parish. The level of nursery and primary school provision is highly valued throughout the Parish.

In general, satisfaction with the provision of public services is high, but there are some exceptions. With regard to the Parish Council, residents are most satisfied with the cemetery provision, but most dissatisfied with dog bin provision. Similarly, for the County Council, satisfaction with the library service and refuse collection are high, but youth provision is much criticised.

Anti-social behaviour and dog fouling are most commonly given as the worst aspects of living in Monk Hesleden, while the coastal location of the Parish and its community spirit are considered to be the best.

4 Action Plan

Section	Issue	Parish Council Actions	Update
Traffic and Transport	Speeding Vehicles	<p>Request Durham Police carry out a traffic survey in High Hesleden and in Blackhall Rocks on an evening.</p> <p>Liaise with Durham County Council Highways to consider the best alternative for traffic calming measures.</p> <p>Consider the issue of speeding in Middle Street.</p>	
	Illegal Parking	Work with Durham Constabulary and Durham County Council to enforce yellow lines on Middle Street.	November 2011 Durham County Council will be responsible for enforcement within the Parish
	Lack of Parking	<p>Work with Durham County Council to conduct a full review of parking in and around Middle Street.</p> <p>Parish Council to approach Blackhall Community Centre to request signs be erected showing free public parking at the Centre.</p>	September 2011 Permission given, Durham County Council to erect signs as soon as possible
	Pedestrian Crossings	Consult with Durham County Council regarding an additional pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Middle Street.	

Section	Issue	Parish Council Actions	Update
Traffic and Transport	No Timetables at Bus Stops	<p>Check all bus stops within the Parish and contact Durham County Council to replace any missing timetables.</p> <p>Inform residents using the Parish Gazette and website that they can contact the Parish Council if timetables are missing in future.</p>	May 2010 Checks undertaken and information up to date
	Rail Halt	Use consultations on County Durham Development Plan and Local Transport Plan to push for a fair consultation on the location of a rail halt between Hartlepool and Seaham.	January 2010 Parish Council challenged the proposal to locate a rail halt at Horden, however decision has been upheld
Education and Training	Cost of sending a child to a local secondary school other than Wellfield, Wingate	Contact Durham County Council to challenge school transport policy	May 2011 Durham County Council has reviewed policy and will only fund to "feeder" school.
	Adult Education provision in the Community	Work in partnership with the Blackhalls & Hesledens Community Regeneration Partnership, East Durham Area Action Partnership and local community groups	
Leisure	Attlee Avenue Play Area	Remove this play area and site a new play area at Hart Crescent.	April 2011 Completed
	Welfare Park Changing Rooms	Build new changing rooms.	April 2011 Completed
	Play Area Equipment	Conduct a full review of existing equipment at all play areas.	April 2011 Review undertaken and included in Parish Council 5 year plan

Section	Issue	Parish Council Actions	Update
Public Services	Hesleden Cemetery Fence	Replace.	May 2011 Completed
	Public Seating	Full review of existing seating	March 2012
	Lack of participation in events	Events sub-committee to improve publicity and promotion	
Housing	Desire more affordable especially bungalows and small family homes	Parish Council to engage with Durham County Council to ensure community views are included in The County Durham Plan	November 2010 Completed
Environment	Dog Fouling	Full review of all dog bins within the Parish to ensure appropriate location.	March 2012
		Parish Council to continue to provide free dog bags to resident	March 2011 Completed
	Litter	Work with Environment at Durham County Council to address.	
		Review provision of litter bins	
Appearance of Middle Street	Make area around Pit Wheel more attractive.		
	Meet with Regeneration & Economic Development, Durham County Council		
	Investigate removing power cables.		
		Clean pavements.	

Section	Issue	Parish Council Actions	Update
	Seagull Pub	Lobby Planning Enforcement at Durham County Council.	
Community	Anti-Social Behaviour	<p>Parish Council to continue to liaise with Community Policing Team.</p> <p>Continue to promote monthly Community meetings.</p> <p>Continue to provide a venue for young people within the village</p>	

Thanks and acknowledgements

Monk Hesleden Parish Council wishes to thank the following for their assistance and contribution towards the production of this plan.

Parish Plan Steering Group

Mr K Averre
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Councillor S McDonald
Clerk to the Council, Mrs L Wardle

Lesley Milbank Durham Rural Community Council

Blackhall History Group

Groundwork North East

Photographs courtesy Stan Gray