

Keswick and Intwood Parish Plan



All Saints Church Keswick



Reading Room Keswick



Keswick New Hall

2007



All Saints Church Intwood

Keswick and Intwood Parish Plan

Keswick and Intwood

The rural Parish of Keswick and Intwood came into existence in Saxon times and were formed into a single benefice in 1602 by the agreement of the then lay impropiators¹. Intwood was a separate civil parish in 1923 as it is shown as such on the parish map in the Norfolk Historical Atlas but by the time of local government reorganisation in 1974, Intwood had been absorbed into Keswick as a single parish of that latter name. In recognition of the two parishes the name will be modified to Keswick and Intwood from July 2007. The parish is situated some 3 miles south of Norwich City centre and extends to 552 hectares (1,364 acres). In 2001 the parish had a population of 431, split as to 200 males and 231 females in 248 households with 360 having electoral voting rights.

Keswick accounts for 93 % of the population with 67% residing at Keswick New Hall which comprises 186 residences. The Hall is also occupied by some nine small office type businesses. Intwood only has 13 households and has no amenities or utilities save for electricity and telephone lines. Each Parish has a church and Keswick a small Reading Room.

The Parishes are unique compared to many of Norfolk's rural villages as they do not have any public amenities such as shops, post office or a public house. The Parishes manage adequately due in the main to their proximity to the City of Norwich and amenities in the neighbouring Parishes. The Parishes are:

1. within a mile of the A47, Norwich's Southern by-pass affording excellent East to West links and a similar distance from the two main roads leading south from Norwich, namely the A140 to Ipswich and the A11 to Thetford and London
2. close to two Park and Ride facilities one on the boundary of each village (Harford Bridges for Keswick and Thickthorn for Intwood) with traditional bus services about half to three quarter mile away
3. near to shopping facilities, Keswick has on its eastern boundary a large supermarket open 7 days a week 24 hours a day save for Sunday and like Intwood has within a mile a wide variety of shops incorporating another well known supermarket, 3 estate agents, home furnishing, dry cleaners, opticians, veterinary surgery, 2 public houses with dining facilities, post office, hairdressers and a large builders merchant
4. each within a mile of a doctors surgery and have easy access to Norwich's main hospital some 3 miles away and the neighbouring BUPA hospital
5. close to a primary school.

Background to Plan

In 2006 the Parish Council circulated a questionnaire to find out what the community thinks of living in Keswick and Intwood and what they think could be done to make it better, bearing in mind the large community expansion in the nearby villages.

The Government's Objectives: "We want to give rural communities a bigger say in managing their affairs and the chance to give every one in the community a say in how it develops."

The Plan aims to:

- Reflect the views of all sections of the community;
- Identify which features and local characteristics people value;
- Identify local problems and opportunities;
- Spell out how residents want the community to develop in the future;
- Prepare a plan of action to achieve this vision.

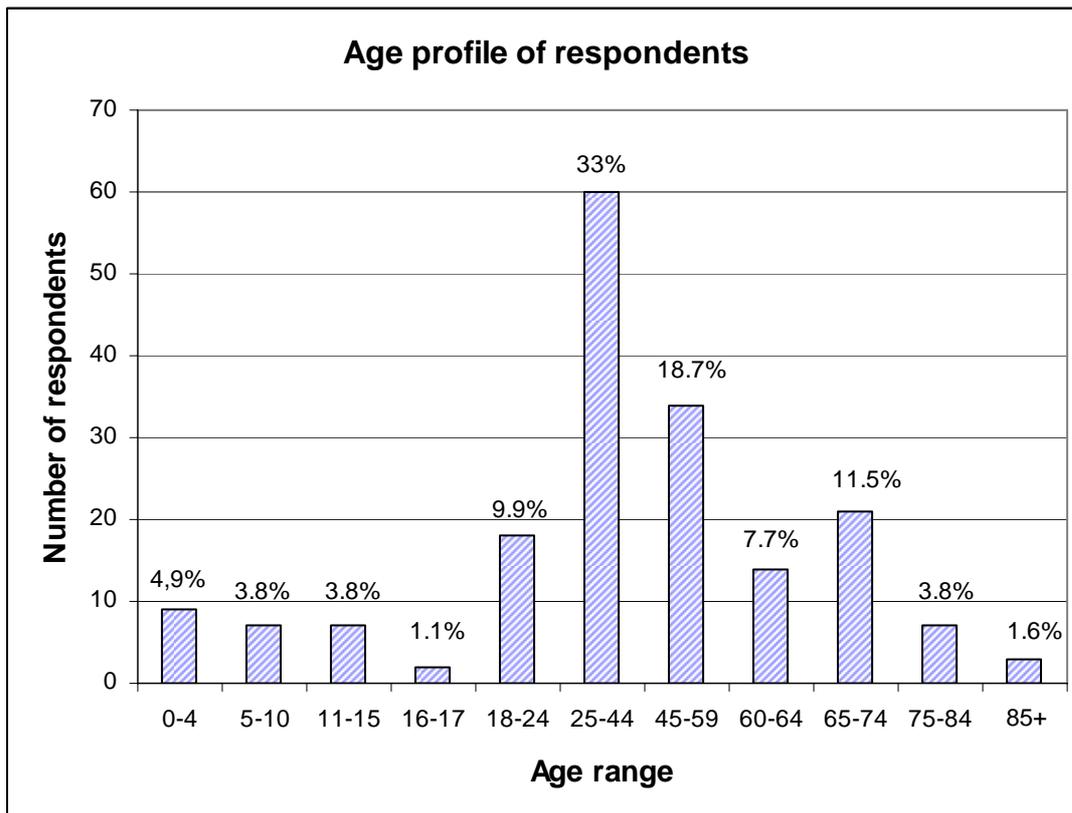
¹ The full story is set out in the histories of the two parishes in Francis Blomefield's Norfolk, volume 4

Results of the questionnaire:

Who gave their views:

- A total of 104 questionnaires were returned a circa 42% return rate
- 173 respondents
- 64% of the returned questionnaires were from Keswick New Hall which as mentioned accounts for 67% of the population.

The age range of those living in households who responded to the questionnaire is given in the bar chart below.



Transportation:

The table below gives a breakdown of the number of vehicles kept by respondents:

Table 1: Number of vehicles kept by respondents

Car	128	Special adapted vehicles	0
Van	7	Lorries	0
Motor bikes	6	None	9

58% of the respondents stated they never had transport difficulties and 26% had occasional difficulties.

The majority 64% never used the Park & Ride bus and 24% used it monthly.
60% never used the Mulbarton bus and 15% used it monthly
91% never used the Cringleford bus

Bus services

The result when asked to rate the bus service is given in Table 2 below.

Table 2: How do you rate the old bus service?

Rate	Route	Timetable	Reliability	Cost	Disabled Access
Good	26%	23%	18%	12%	2%
Reasonable	17%	16%	25%	25%	11%
Poor	21%	27%	18%	23%	25%
No opinion	36%	34%	39%	41%	61%

The main response from people who answered the question (55) on improving the bus service:

- 22% wanted improvement in bus stop location,
- 18% wanted improvement in timetable and
- 15% wanted improvement on route.

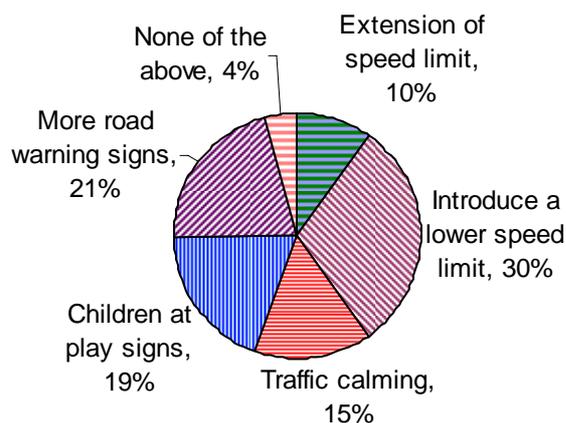
The lobbying by a resident of Keswick New Hall, supported by the Parish Council, resulted in Norfolk County Council funding a special service to Keswick New Hall, down to and along Low Road through to Cringleford. A once a day service only, to be monitored every 6 months via Norfolk County Council and/or Anglian Bus Company to establish if demand is sufficient to justify an extension.

Traffic

The majority of the respondents (61%) thought speeding traffic was a problem and 34% stated that they did not think there was a problem.

The table below gives the support for the different speed control measures.

Table 3: Support for speed control measures.



The vast majority (88%) supported action to improve the traffic flow on the Mulbarton Road at the traffic light junction with the A140.

The Norfolk County Council has just done a survey and have allocated a budget with a view to improve the traffic flow at the junction of the B1113 and A140.

Housing

A huge problem today is finding enough affordable housing to allow young people, some with families, to stay in the community where they have grown up. In response to Central Government's demands nationally landowners in Keswick have put forward three sites as possibly having potential for small level residential development, possibly up to 20 units if all progressed.

The main response from the questionnaire was 16% of the respondents thought affordable housing was good with 17% supporting small family homes and was 18% thought no further home development in the area is needed.

Local Services

The use of local service i.e. Doctor, District Nurse, Health Visitor, Home help, Ambulance, Maternity care, Chiropody, Loan of medical equipment, Meals on wheels, Counselling services, Physiotherapy services, was low and there appeared to be no problems accessing these services.

The majority had not used or had no opinion on Fire 85%, Police 69%, Ambulance 74%, Hospital transport 77%, Police (emergency) 86% and Police (community) 78% services.

Security

59% of the respondents wanted to expand the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and 86% stated they would support a scheme.

Highways

When asked about standards of environmental services the following responses were received:

- Refuse collection score high with 52% stating it was good and 44% stating it was reasonable.
- Street lighting was considered poor by 51% of the respondents and reasonable by 26%.
- Roadside care/cleaning was considered reasonable by 51% of the respondents and poor by 26%.
- The majority 43% of the respondents thought winter road gritting and snow clearance was poor and 35% reasonable.

Although street lighting was considered poor many respondents stated that they did not want more street lights as this was one of the main charms of the Parishes.

When asked "what do you think of roads, pavements, grass verges, hedgerows and overhanging foliage" respondents answered:

- 73% thought the roads were reasonable and 14% poor.
- 56% thought the pavements were poor and 32% reasonable.
- 49% thought the grass verges were reasonable, 28% thought they were poor and 14% thought they were good.
- 46% thought the hedgerows were reasonable, 28% thought they were poor and 19% thought they were good.
- 49% thought the overhanging foliage was poor and 31% thought it was reasonable.

The Parish Council is exploring ways of creating a foot path down from Keswick New Hall to link up with the one on Low Road leading to the bus stop.

Reading Room

Grants from the National Lottery and a private trust have facilitated a redecoration of all interior areas, a new kitchen, appliances and other fittings. Consideration must now be given, perhaps by way of the Parish Precept to providing a new sanitation plant and a small extension to the existing car parking area if the Reading Room is to fulfil its real potential and in turn the enjoyment of its users.

When asked about the adequacy of the Reading Room 43% had no opinion on the Reading Room and 35% thought it was adequate for the needs of the community.

Information about the Parish Council

When asked about the current information provided about the Parish Council on Notice Boards at Keswick New Hall, Reading Room, Intwood Church and in the Parish Newsletter 53% of the respondents thought the information provided was adequate with 27% not having an opinion and 19% said it was not adequate.

Further development

When asked about how Keswick and Intwood could develop, the main response was 67% would like Keswick and Intwood to stay as it is and 17% would like a working community.

Parish Council Action Plan

In response to the answers from the questionnaire the Parish Council has developed the following action plan to address issues in Keswick and Intwood.

Subject	Action	Time scale
Bus	Parish Council to monitor the bus service and feedback new information when available	Ongoing To review at the 2008 Parish Council AGM
Traffic	Parish Council to investigate the possibility of improving signage regarding speeding traffic	Action to feed back at the July 2008 Parish Council meeting
	Parish Council to continue to investigate the possibility of reducing the speed limit on Low Road	To feed back at the July 2008 Parish Council meeting
	Parish Council to lobby for improvement of traffic flow on the Mulbarton Road at the traffic light junction with the A140 (a survey has now been undertaken by Norfolk County Council the results of which are awaited)	To feed back progress at the July 2008 Parish Council meeting
Security	Parish Council to investigate setting up the Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the Parish and to link with the relevant bodies for assistance	To feed back at the July 2008 Parish Council meeting
Reading Room	The Reading Room Committee with the support of the Parish Council to hold an 'Open Night' for the villagers to create awareness and a better usage of the enhanced facilities.	Within the next year
	Parish Council to continue supporting improvement to the Reading Room	Ongoing. Activities will be summarised at the 2008 AGM and in the Annual Report
Information about the Parish Council	A Parish Council website is under construction to improve information flow to the Parishioners. Accessibility to the website will be published in the Parish Newsletter.	Autumn 2007
	Parish Council to invest in more attractive and accommodating notice boards, one outside All Saints Church Intwood and the other at the Reading Room in Keswick	To be installed by September 2007
Housing and further development	The Parish Council has taken note of the strong message that the Parishioners want Keswick and Intwood to fundamentally stay the same, i.e. a predominantly rural environment. Any plans on housing and further development will reflect this message	Ongoing This will be considered when all planning applications are received To be reviewed at the 2008 Parish Council AGM

Keswick and Intwood Parish Council Members:

Alan Gelder – Chairman
Joe Loades – Treasurer
Phillip Brooks – Parish Clerk
Cathy Cursons
Julian Darling
John Morrison
John Payne
Lars Tibell

This document can be made available in
large print, Braille or other translations

2007