



Casterton Plan 2030

Casterton Village Hall, Thursday 24th September 2025 at 7.00 P.M.

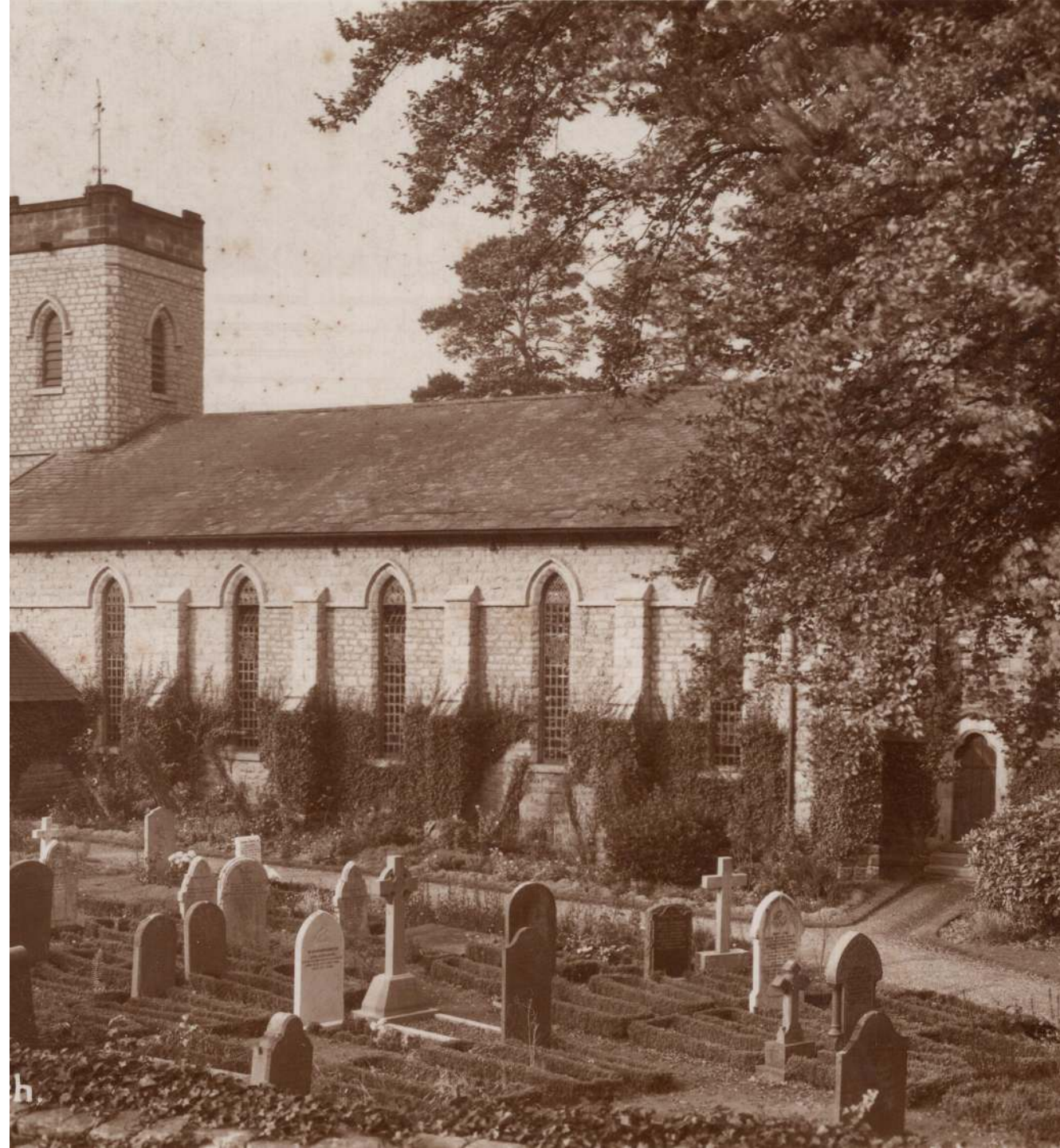


This Meeting

- Introduction by Councillor Steve Richmond
- Presentation of survey results by Simon Drakeford
 - Present survey results
 - Review possible project arising from survey
 - Next steps
 - *Feel free to ask questions during presentation, they will be noted and included in the*
- Question and answer session

Background

- A Casterton village plan was last updated and published in 2013
- Since the publication of the plan, much has changed across society as a whole and within the Casterton community
- In November 2024, the Parish Council established a team of councillors and residents to undertake a consultation process with a diverse range of stakeholders
- The information obtained will be used to develop a new plan which will provide strategic direction for the next 5 years, providing a framework of large and small projects to deliver an improved experience for residents





Project Team

Councillors

- Ken Humphris
- Rob Leese
- Steve Richmond

Residents

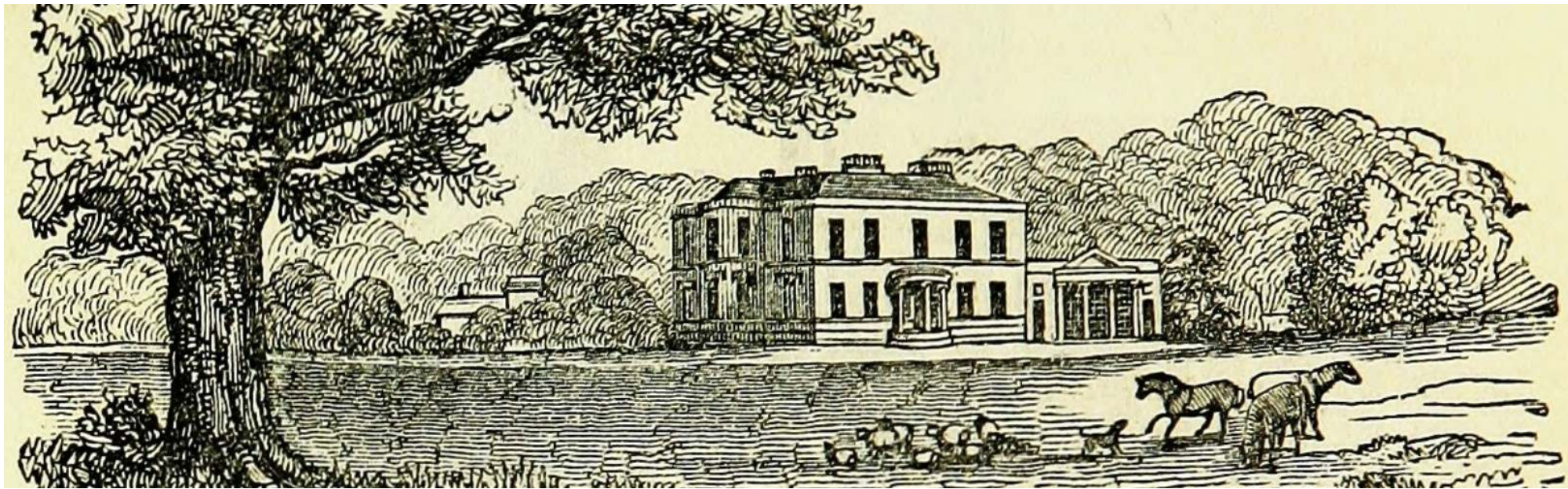
- Sharon Blake
- Simon Drakeford
- Ian Hodge
- Veronica Wilkie





Progress

- The project team first met in December 2024 to agree a project outline
- An initial 'introductory' letter was distributed to all residents February 2025
- Using suggestions submitted by residents, an online and paper survey was circulated April 2025
- It comprised a total of 32 questions, a mixture of multiple choice and written suggestions
- By end of May 2025, an encouraging 96 responses were received, mostly online, a few in written form



Demographic s of Responders

- 56% were retired
- 34% were working
- 76% live here permanently
- 11 % have a second home or a holiday let here
- 54% had connections with Casterton for more than 10 years
- 29% had connections from 4 – 10 years



Roads

Question 1 – Safety of roads.

- 63% believe that the A683 is unsafe for pedestrians and bikes,
- 95% believe that the village roads are either fairly safe or very safe

Question 2 – Action re safety of roads.

- There were many suggestions about improving the safety of the A683. For example, a) reducing and changing speed limits, b) introducing calming measures, c) encouraging people off the road to use pedestrian routes, d) providing off road options

Question 3 - A683 through the village

- A majority supported painted roadways and warning pedestrian signs to improve safety

Roads and Lighting

- **Question 4 – Street lighting**
- More than 80% of respondents agree that the extent of village lighting is fine as it is
- **Question 5 – Condition of specific roads**
- There are no clear patterns derived from this question. Too many potholes and more salting bins were the emerging themes
- There were however 28 comments in this section which indicates a significant interest in making improvements to the road network through the village





Question 6 – Village Environment

- 60% of responders are happy with the numbers of each of benches, litter/poo bins and salt bins
- In the comments, further improvements were suggested such as;
 - complaints over dog poo,
 - suggested more benches
 - a salt bin be added in the area between village hall and village green

Village Environment

(cont'd)

Question 7 – Verges and hedges

- Strong indications that people are happy with the current state of verges and hedges

Question 8 – Green spaces

- 22 people indicated that they would be interested in helping improve our green spaces, pollinators etc around the village

Question 9 – Overhead cables

- Nearly 80% are OK with the current status of overhead cables



Community

Question 10 – Village organisations

- The action arising is to communicate with the organisations / owners the results of the table, with a summary table included in the report

Question 11 – Finding out about village events

- The village WhatsApp group should be made more widely available. People are accessing information in a wide range of ways including new ways such as WhatsApp, Facebook and old ways such as AKL and posters. Catering for all

Question 12 – Ideas for social events

- There were some great suggestions and an interest in a range of activities in the village. Need to coordinate and identify volunteers to try to start up groups / arrange events



Community (cont'd)

Question 12 – Ideas for social events (cont'd)

- The top 5 selected from the list were
 - Beer festival
 - Walking group
 - Coffee morning in village hall
 - Concerts in the church
 - Tennis (with permission from school)
- Other suggestions in comments
 - Running group
 - Annual village fair
 - Community garden
 - Craft Club / Chess Club

Question 13 – Helping out

- 20 people offered to help in initiatives



Footpaths

Question 14 – Using footpaths

- 70 % of the village use our footpaths at least weekly, many of them daily

Question 15 – State of footpaths

- The survey indicates that there is a general level of satisfaction with the state of the footpaths
- Comments identified specific issues with some footpaths with lots of ideas to improve

Question 16 – New footpaths

- Various ideas suggested to have new footpaths

Question 17 – Walks around Casterton available to visitors.

- Improve knowledge for visitors about our walking routes

Question 18 – Improving knowledge of footpaths

- There were several interesting suggestions about improving knowledge





Transport

Question 19 – Car usage

- Responders generally content to use their cars rather than public transport

Question 20 – Volunteer driver scheme

- 66% of responses were not aware of the volunteer driver scheme

Question 21 – Volunteer drivers

- 8 people indicate their willingness to be volunteer drivers

Question 22 – Buses

- The Kendal bus was the most popular option by far



Emergency!!

Questions 23 and 24 – Emergency events

- 12 people did not have somebody who could help them collect shopping / prescriptions, etc if required
- Nearly 30% responders did not know or were unsure who could support them in an emergency such as power outage

Question 25 – resilience plan

- A resilience plan would be appreciated by 68% of responders

Parish Council

Questions 26 and 27 – Parish Council awareness

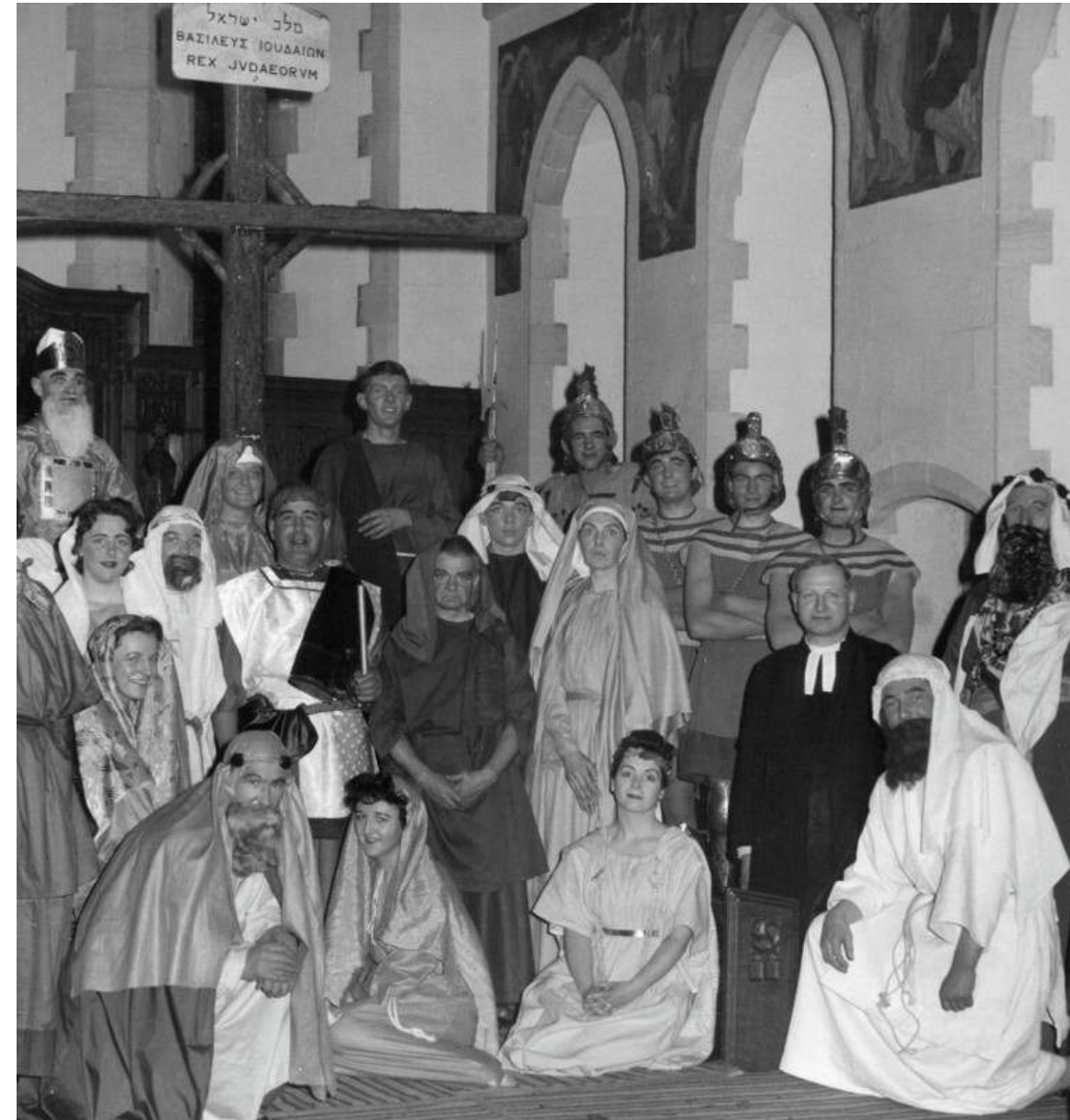
- There is a low level of awareness about what the parish council does
- Many comments identified things that the Parish Council had done, and things that they hadn't done!

Question 28 – Finding out what the Parish Council does

- A wide variety of methods are used by villagers to find out what goes on in the Parish Council

Question 29 – Improving Parish Council engagement

- Some good ideas were suggested about how to improve community engagement with the Parish Council
- Several comments specifically mentioned the negative impact of some vociferous, over assertive residents in Parish Councils meetings, putting them off attending



Possible Projects

- **Possible** projects have been identified from the survey feedback
- The Parish Council will provide oversight of projects
- Volunteers will be identified to take on projects
- The project team will prepare a project plan
- Progress will be reported back to a nominated councillor from the Parish Council at each Parish Council meeting
- The minutes of Parish Council meetings will be used to formally inform the village about each projects' progress



Possible Projects (cont'd)

Caveats

- Some projects will be quick wins, others longer term
- Some projects will require support / input from third parties such as Westmorland & Furness Council and Yorkshire Dales National Park
- Projects may require third party funding from sources such as;
 - The council tax local precept
 - Casterton Community Trust Fund
 - Other grants



Possible Projects

Theme 1 - Road Safety

- Improving Safety on A683 – calming initiatives
- New / improved foot paths
- Communication about safer walking routes

Theme 2 - Highways and Transport

- Review of safety of overhead cables
- Road names
- Casterton volunteer driving scheme
- Kendal bus stops at Casterton



Possible Projects (cont'd)

Theme 3 - Environment & Wildlife

- Bench on way to Brownthwaite Pike
- Dog poo bins review
- Village Green maintenance and improved / safer usage

Theme 4 - Footpaths

- Footpaths around Village Hall, lighting and gritting
- Communication about responsibility for current footpaths



Possible Projects (cont'd)

Theme 5 - Resilience

- Produce a village resilience plan including use of village hall as central support point

Theme 6 - Communications

- Communication re road repairs
- Initiative to promote local businesses
- Formalise and increase the use of the current 'Village WhatsApp group'
- Improve community understanding about the role of the Parish Council



Possible Projects (cont'd)

Theme 7 – Events

- Community litter pick
- Community garden
- Village interest groups such as running, chess, cycling, walking, craft, tennis, darts
- Beer festival
- Coffee mornings in village hall
- Annual village fair
- Village history board on village green or QR codes on interesting locations



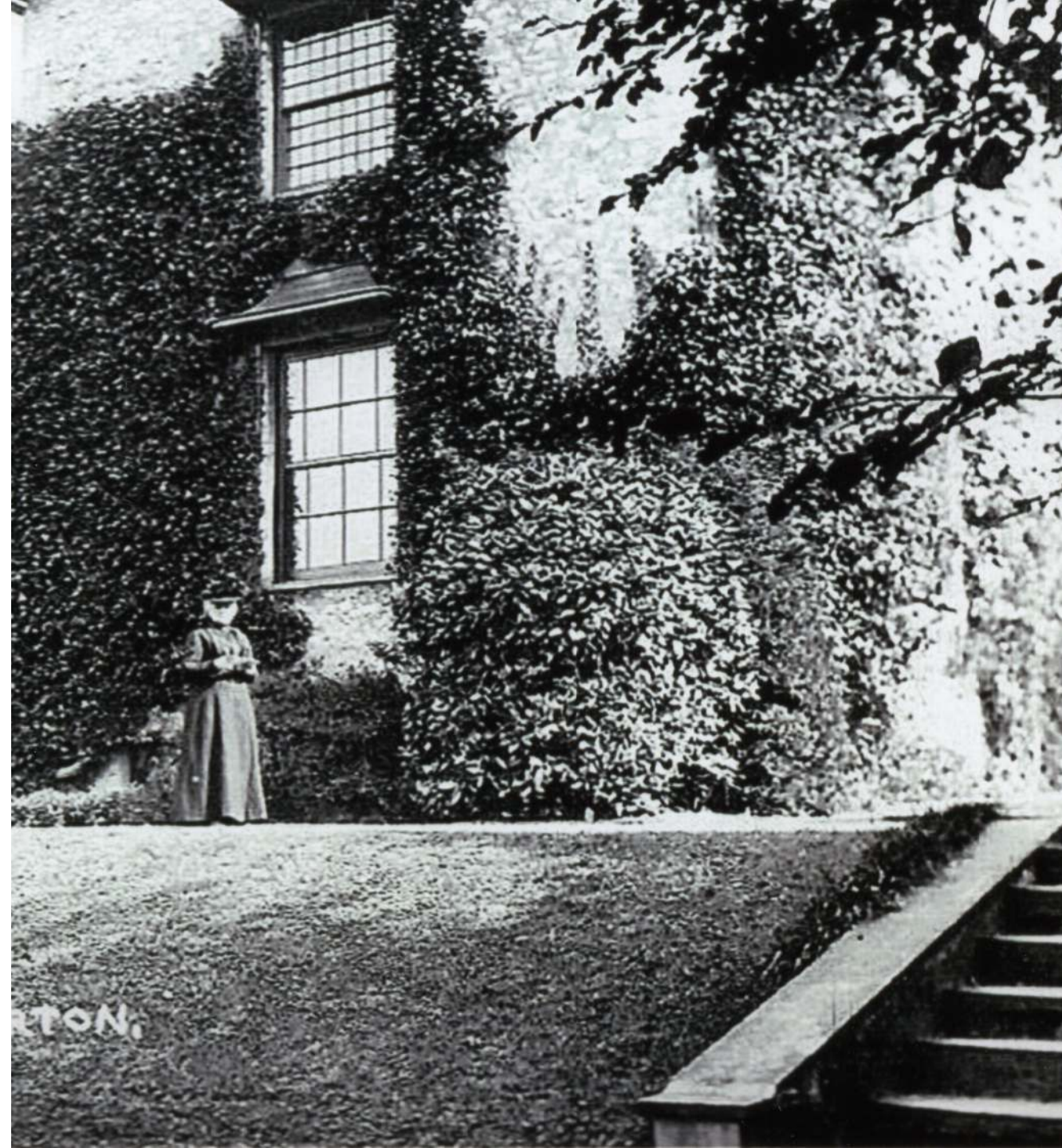
Next Steps

Communication

- The following documents will be posted onto the parish website
 - a. This presentation
 - b. Casterton Plan report with more detail than a) above
 - c. Complete fully anonymised 'raw data' report
 - d. Details of a) – c) with links to documents will be posted on the village website, Facebook and WhatsApp groups
 - e. Distribute to the community a list of possible projects

Volunteers identified

- Identify 'project leads' to manage each project
- 'Project lead' to identify project team and prepare a project plan for approval



Next Steps (cont'd)

Project Steps

- Classify project plans as 'small', 'medium' or 'large' according to governance protocol
- Distribute to the community the formal parish plan, with project outlines
- Project plan approval obtained to proceed according to governance protocol
- Commence project
- The 'project lead' to periodically report progress according to governance protocol
- Parish Council periodically update community on each projects' progress
- Project completed



Questions and Answers

villageplan@castertonvillage.org



The End

