

The village plan 2030

Introduction

The last village plan was published in 2013, with resulting benefits for the community. It was thought that there was a need to see if residents and business owners of Casterton Parish felt there were any areas that could be further improved. A working party was set up including 3 members of the parish council and 4 further Casterton residents who volunteered to bring expertise from previous careers.

The Village Plan Survey Group first met in December 2024 to agree a project outline and initiate the following steps:

- The development of an initial letter to all residents
- From suggestions submitted by residents an online survey was produced
- A letter indicating how each household can access the survey was then distributed
- All results were received anonymously, and any email address information has been removed from published reports
- Results were analysed after the closing date in May 2025
- There were 32 questions, a mixture of multiple choice and written suggestions and 96 responses received. Six paper copies that were then entered onto the web-based survey and 90 entries entered directly by the respondents

There are 3 options to assess the results (all available on the village web site):

- This document gives a summary along with the plan agreed and the next steps to be taken
- The raw data from the village plan survey - available for complete transparency with all of the comments in full
- A copy of the presentation to village residents on 24th September 2025 for those who want the shortened version

Results of the Survey

Results are summarised in this document, the full responses including all of the ideas and suggestions made in the survey are available on the village web site in the raw data report.

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Demographics

This indicated a good variety of backgrounds. A typical respondent is retired and has lived in their main home in Casterton for more than 10 years

(Questions 30, 31 and 32)

30. Are you:		
Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1 At school / in full time education	2.25%	2
2 Working full or part time	33.71%	30
3 Unemployed	2.25%	2
4 Retired	56.18%	50
5 Other	5.62%	5
answered		89
skipped		7

31. What is your connection with Casterton?		
Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1 I live here in my main home	76.40%	68
2 I own a second home here	10.11%	9
3 I own a holiday let here	1.12%	1
4 I work here but live elsewhere	0.00%	0
5 Something else	12.36%	11
answered		89
skipped		7

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32. How long have you lived, worked or otherwise had a connection with Casterton?		
Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1 <1 year	6.74%	6
2 1-3 years	10.11%	9
3 4-10 years	29.21%	26
4 >10 years	53.93%	48
	answered	89
	skipped	7

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Roads and Safety

1. How safe do you feel walking or cycling around the roads and lanes of the village?

Answer Choices	Very safe	Fairly safe	Unsafe	Response Total
A683	6.25% 6	30.21% 29	63.54% 61	96
Local small roads and lanes	38.54% 37	56.25% 54	5.21% 5	96
			answered	96
			skipped	0

63% believe the A683 is unsafe for those who walk (through the village or join a footpath) or cycle on it.

2. What might improve safety in and around the village?

55 suggestions received including different speed limits, more signage, alternative walking routes etc.

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3. Whilst there is no space for raised footways on much of the A683 through the village, would you like to see improved facilities for pedestrian safety such as:

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Painted footways (as per photo) between The Pheasant and the garage	53.01%	44
2	Painted footways between the church and Greenber Lane	46.99%	39
3	Warning pedestrians' signs	53.01%	44
4	Anything else (please specify):	31.33%	26
		answered	83
		skipped	13

Roughly equal support for roadway marking and warning/pedestrian signs on the main road. "Anything Else" prompted 26 responses but no further new ideas

See raw data report for access to these answers in full.

4. Considering the balance between convenience, safety and dark skies, do you think the level of streetlighting is:

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Too little	9.38%	9
2	About right	81.25%	78
3	Too much	9.38%	9
		answered	96
		skipped	0

Most people felt the lighting was about right.

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5. Are there any improvements or repairs to the roads you'd like to see? Please refer to this map to check where each road or lane is located.

Answer Choices	More passing places	Better drainage	Salting in winter	Road name signs	Road surface / potholes	Other (please specify)	Total
A683	10.34% 9	18.39% 16	19.54% 17	6.90% 6	43.68% 38	1.15% 1	87
1. Bents Lane	22.22% 14	19.05% 12	23.81% 15	7.94% 5	25.40% 16	1.59% 1	63
2. Flush Brow	23.40% 11	10.64% 5	29.79% 14	6.38% 3	25.53% 12	4.26% 2	47
3. Greenber Lane	21.74% 10	8.70% 4	30.43% 14	8.70% 4	26.09% 12	4.35% 2	46
4. Langthwaite Lane	18.37% 9	10.20% 5	26.53% 13	12.24% 6	30.61% 15	2.04% 1	49
5. Unnamed	22.03% 13	16.95% 10	22.03% 13	10.17% 6	25.42% 15	3.39% 2	59
6. Unnamed	18.18% 6	12.12% 4	21.21% 7	6.06% 2	36.36% 12	6.06% 2	33
7. Fern Croft	19.35% 6	12.90% 4	19.35% 6	9.68% 3	32.26% 10	6.45% 2	31
8. Smithy How	21.74% 5	13.04% 3	21.74% 5	8.70% 2	26.09% 6	8.70% 2	23
9. Wandales Lane	14.44% 13	25.56% 23	25.56% 23	5.56% 5	25.56% 23	3.33% 3	90
10. North Heads Lane	15.52% 9	10.34% 6	27.59% 16	13.79% 8	27.59% 16	5.17% 3	58
11. Collier's Lane	29.55% 26	9.09% 8	26.14% 23	1.14% 1	30.68% 27	3.41% 3	88
12. Gateheads Brow	16.00% 8	8.00% 4	40.00% 20	8.00% 4	26.00% 13	2.00% 1	50
13. Fell Road	22.73% 15	15.15% 10	27.27% 18	6.06% 4	27.27% 18	1.52% 1	66
14. Unnamed	20.93% 9	9.30% 4	32.56% 14	6.98% 3	27.91% 12	2.33% 1	43

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15. Laitha Lane	13.89% 5	13.89% 5	38.89% 14	0.00% 0	22.22% 8	11.11% 4	36	
16. Well Lane	16.67% 10	21.67% 13	21.67% 13	6.67% 4	30.00% 18	3.33% 2	60	
17. Chapel House Lane	28.21% 22	15.38% 12	23.08% 18	1.28% 1	29.49% 23	2.56% 2	78	
18. Long Lane	17.95% 7	12.82% 5	30.77% 12	2.56% 1	33.33% 13	2.56% 1	39	
							answered	77
							skipped	19

Road surface problems gave the greatest concern, along with a greater need for some roads (particularly Gateshead Brow) to be salted in winter. One comment suggested that a map showing the roads and names (where they aren't signed) to be made available. This has already been done and is available on the village website and noticeboards.

See raw data report to access these answers in full

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Village Environment

6. Do you think the number and location of benches, litter/dog-poo bins and salt bins is:

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Too few	28.13%	27
2	About right	59.38%	57
3	Too many	1.04%	1
4	Don't know	11.46%	11
		answered	96
		skipped	0

There were 22 suggestions

Although 59% of people felt these were about right there were some suggestions about where new benches or litter bins could be added. These could be considered as part of future work streams to look at logistics and funding for any additions. See raw data report to access these answers in full

7. Are the hedges, verges and village green cared for enough?

Answer Choices	Yes	No	Don't know	Total
Hedges	76.04% 73	17.71% 17	6.25% 6	96
Verges	69.79% 67	18.75% 18	11.46% 11	96
Village Green	59.38% 57	15.63% 15	25.00% 24	96
			answered	96
			skipped	0

Most respondents happy with all 3

25 comments but no emerging common themes. See the raw data report to access these answers in full

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8. Would you help to manage Green Spaces?

22 people indicated that they would be interested in helping out with green spaces, to support pollinators and wildlife and have given their emails. These people will be contacted when future working groups are set up

9. Do you have any concerns about overhead cables?		
Answer Choices		Response Percent
1 Yes		13.54%
2 No		78.13%
3 Not sure		8.33%
		answered
		96
		skipped
		0

The majority of respondents had no problem with overhead cables, a few individual concerns were mentioned in the survey

See raw data report to access these answers in full

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Village Facilities and Events

10. Which venues, facilities and businesses in the village and wider parish do you use (please answer for each one)?

Answer Choices	Regularly	Occasionally	Never	Not aware of this	Total
The Pheasant	27.08% 26	62.50% 60	9.38% 9	1.04% 1	96
Village Hall	21.88% 21	47.92% 46	29.17% 28	1.04% 1	96
Church	3.13% 3	31.25% 30	63.54% 61	2.08% 2	96
Town End Garage & shop	37.50% 36	50.00% 48	11.46% 11	1.04% 1	96
Village Green	1.04% 1	23.96% 23	73.96% 71	1.04% 1	96
Pavillion (school)	1.04% 1	16.67% 16	68.75% 66	13.54% 13	96
Golf course (to play golf)	14.58% 14	28.13% 27	56.25% 54	1.04% 1	96
Golf course café	20.83% 20	38.54% 37	38.54% 37	2.08% 2	96
Over 50s swimming (school)	4.17% 4	3.13% 3	65.63% 63	27.08% 26	96
Mulberry Bush nursery	1.04% 1	3.13% 3	86.46% 83	9.38% 9	96
Brownthwaite Hardy Plants	2.08% 2	41.67% 40	48.96% 47	7.29% 7	96
Pilates (village hall)	4.17% 4	9.38% 9	72.92% 70	13.54% 13	96
Devil's Bridge Snacks	2.08% 2	47.92% 46	48.96% 47	1.04% 1	96
Daleside Fabrication	1.04% 1	16.67% 16	59.38% 57	22.92% 22	96
Woodclose Caravan Park	1.04% 1	6.25% 6	89.58% 86	3.13% 3	96
Casterton Community Trust	2.08% 2	13.54% 13	68.75% 66	15.63% 15	96
				answered	96
				skipped	0

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11. How do you find out about events, facilities and activities in the village (tick all that apply)?

Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Village website	30.21%	29
2 Village WhatsApp group	21.88%	21
3 Village Facebook group	25.00%	24
4 Posters	46.88%	45
5 AKL	62.50%	60
6 Online search	3.13%	3
7 Word of mouth	69.79%	67
8 None of the above	3.13%	3
9 Other (please specify):	5.21%	5
	answered	96
	skipped	0

The spread of results suggests that a future working group could look at communication strategies to ensure that village event information reaches as many people as possible.

See raw data report to access these answers in full

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12. Are there any other things you'd like to see happening if someone would be prepared to organise them and facilities were made available?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Total
1	Tennis (with permission from the school)	27.78%	20
2	Swimming for younger adults (with permission from the school)	15.28%	11
3	Beer festival (with help from The Pheasant)	51.39%	37
4	Coffee mornings at the village hall	34.72%	25
5	Concerts in the church	33.33%	24
6	Walking group	43.06%	31
7	Cycling group	22.22%	16
8	Allotments	11.11%	8
9	Children's play area	8.33%	6
10	Darts team (with help from The Pheasant)	18.06%	13
11	Anything else (please specify):	22.22%	16
		answered	72
		skipped	24

Several other good ideas in the "Anything Else" box. See raw data report to access these answers in full

13. Are you willing to help organise new events?

20 residents offered help, their emails have kept to form part of a future working group.

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Footpaths, Access and Rights of Way

14. How often do you use the footpaths and bridleways around the village and wider parish e.g. up Brownthwaite or Casterton Fell, or between different parts of Casterton?

Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Daily	38.54%	37
2 Weekly	32.29%	31
3 Monthly	11.46%	11
4 Occasionally	12.50%	12
5 Never	5.21%	5
	answered	96
	skipped	0

15. Are there any features of the footpaths which make them difficult to use?

Answer Choices	Yes	No	Total
Stiles	30.77% 24	69.23% 54	78
Gates	21.05% 16	78.95% 60	76
Signage	16.44% 12	83.56% 61	73
Surface	22.37% 17	77.63% 59	76
Livestock	15.07% 11	84.93% 62	73
	answered		87
	skipped		9

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There were a good number of suggestions about where access could be improved or where access was difficult

16. Do you have any suggestions for new footpaths?

There were many suggestions for new footpaths or improvements to existing ones.

17. How do you find out about, and navigate around, the footpaths and bridleways (tick all that apply)?

Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Ordinance Survey maps	64.04%	57
2 Online mapping e.g. Google maps	28.09%	25
3 Mobile apps	20.22%	18
4 Fingerposts and signs	51.69%	46
5 Tourist Information	3.37%	3
6 Other (please specify)	20.22%	18
	answered	89
	skipped	7

The "Other" category was mainly about local knowledge and exploring the area

18. What other information could be provided to help walkers?

A good response including suggestions for:

- Local maps
- Information points
- More signs
- Leaflets

The answers to Questions 16, 17 and 18 suggest that a future working group could look at working with The Yorkshire Dales National Park to improve information, signing and access

See raw data report to access these answers in full.

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Transport

19. If there were alternatives to using personal transport (e.g. car) to connect to the public transport available from Kirkby Lonsdale, would you use it?

Answer Choices	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Occasionally	Never	Response Total
Bus service	2.11% 2	10.53% 10	3.16% 3	50.53% 48	33.68% 32	95
Car share	0.00% 0	1.05% 1	1.05% 1	25.26% 24	72.63% 69	95
Taxi	0.00% 0	6.32% 6	4.21% 4	51.58% 49	37.89% 36	95
Volunteer driver	0.00% 0	1.05% 1	0.00% 0	16.84% 16	82.11% 78	95
					answered	95
					skipped	1

20. Are you aware of the local volunteer driver scheme?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	33.68%	32
2	No	66.32%	63
		answered	95
		skipped	1

21. Would you be prepared to help as a volunteer driver?

*66% of responders not aware of the scheme

*8% (8 individuals) might be prepared to volunteer

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22. If one of the existing public service buses that stop at Kirkby Lonsdale could have its route altered to call at Casterton, which bus route would be best?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Kendal (bus 567)	41.05%	39
2	Lancaster (buses 81 or 82)	10.53%	10
3	Settle (bus 581)	3.16%	3
4	Bentham (bus 583)	0.00%	0
5	No preference	45.26%	43
		answered	95
		skipped	1

A direct bus route to Kendal was the most popular option where respondents indicated a preference

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Community Support and Resilience

23. If you were unable to get out, would you have someone locally you could contact to help e.g. to collect some shopping or a prescription?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	71.28%	67
2	No	12.77%	12
3	Not sure	15.96%	15
		answered	94
		skipped	2

Most people do have a person they could call for help, but the “not sure” category (15.96%) may indicate a hidden need

24. In the event of an emergency e.g. prolonged power outage or heavy snow fall, would you be able to access assistance from the community?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	67.02%	63
2	No	7.45%	7
3	Not sure	25.53%	24
		answered	94
		skipped	2

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25. Would you feel reassured if there was a village resilience plan to help individuals in the event of prolonged utilities failure or severe weather?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	68.09%	64
2	No	10.64%	10
3	Not sure	21.28%	20
		answered	94
		skipped	2

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Casterton Parish Council

26. How aware are you of the activities and services provided by the Parish Council?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Not at all aware	21.28%	20
2	Not so aware	27.66%	26
3	Somewhat aware	35.11%	33
4	Very aware	12.77%	12
5	Extremely aware	3.19%	3
		answered	94
		skipped	2

27 . Which Parish Council initiatives are you aware of?

20 respondents commented on recent initiatives including

- Attempts to retain The Pheasant Inn
- Safe walking routes
- Jubilee Events
- The village plan questionnaire

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28. Where do you typically find information about Parish Council activities (tick all that apply)?

Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Village website	38.30%	36
2 Village WhatsApp group	12.77%	12
3 Village Facebook group	8.51%	8
4 Posters	31.91%	30
5 AKL	29.79%	28
6 Online search	3.19%	3
7 Word of mouth	43.62%	41
8 None of the above	8.51%	8
9 Other (please specify)	6.38%	6
	answered	94
	skipped	2

"Others" included Published minutes, family and friends, notices on the village noticeboards.

Questions 26, 27 and 28 indicate that there are a range of ways parish council activities are disseminated and publicised and that a future working group on communications could include this as part of a project

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29. What might encourage you to attend a Parish Council meeting (tick all that apply)?

Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Better publicity	22.34%	21
2 More convenient meeting times	3.19%	3
3 More relevant topics	9.57%	9
4 Chance to attend via Zoom or Teams	15.96%	15
5 Nothing	50.00%	47
6 Other (please specify)	13.83%	13
	answered	94
	skipped	2

Half of respondents are unlikely to attend, but some good ideas were suggested to improve engagement. There were several comments specifically about the negative impact of some vociferous, aggressive residents in parish meetings, putting people off attending

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Summary of the Village Plan after analysis of the questionnaires returned.

96 people responded with a very good number of suggestions made. 20 people gave their details indicating that they would be willing to volunteer for the working groups; 22 people gave their details to help with verges and wildlife. These will now be contacted with the aim of establishing working groups to progress the following themes and projects.

It is anticipated that the list of projects under each theme will develop as work progresses, implementing the plan.

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“Make Casterton a greater place to live, visit and work”

Theme	Projects (Additional projects may be added as implementation of the plan progresses)
1 - Road Safety	Improving safety on A683
	New / improved footpaths
	Communication about safer walking routes
2 - Highways and Transport	Review the safety of overhead cables
	Road names
	Casterton volunteer driving scheme
	Kendal bus stops in Casterton
3 - Environment & Wildlife	Bench on way to Brownthwaite Pike
	Dog poo bins review
	Village green maintenance and improvement / safe usage
4 - Footpaths	Footpaths around village hall, lighting and gritting
	Communication about responsibility for current footpaths
	Public Rights of Way
5 - Resilience	Produce a village resilience plan including use of village hall as central support point
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
7 – Events	Community litter pick
	Community garden
	Running group
	Chess group
	Cycling group
	Walking group
	Craft group
	Tennis
	Darts team
	Beer festival
	Coffee mornings in village hall
	Annual village fair
	Village history board on village green or QR codes on interesting locations

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Village Plan Team

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