

Oxenhope Parish Plan 2006



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The Parish

Oxenhope is a small Pennine valley community, centred on a Victorian mill village, but including many smaller settlements, and rising to the surrounding moor lands. It is an area of great diversity and natural beauty with a distinctive character, but also close links to the Worth, Aire and Calder valleys. The village is the terminus for the Keighley and Worth Valley Steam Railway and the centre of a network of routes in the surrounding countryside. From a community dominated by mills and chapels, the village has evolved to provide homes for a modern community where the majority of the working population travel outside the parish for employment. However, there are also a number of employers and key enterprises based in the village, including the Sue Ryder Manorlands Hospice, and several pubs, local shops and businesses.

The current population is approx 2,423 (*census 2001*)



The Parish Plan

A Parish Plan Steering Committee was established at the start of 2005 by the Oxenhope Parish Council to co-ordinate the work of preparing a Parish Plan. Funding support was secured from Bradford Vision.

A series of consultation activities have been carried out to seek public views and to involve and engage local residents and organisations in the Plan. This has included the wide distribution of a questionnaire and events held to consult with local people. The views obtained have formed the basis for the Parish Plan and have highlighted the distinctive character and qualities that make Oxenhope attractive and flourishing as a local community. They have also identified the steps necessary to sustain and improve community life. The Parish Plan builds on the pioneering publication of the Oxenhope Village Design Statement in 1999, and is intended as a vehicle to identify common policies and priorities with neighbouring authorities and agencies, and particularly with the Bradford Metropolitan District Council's (BMDC) 2020 Vision.

The involvement of many people has helped produce a Plan which aims to conserve what is valued about Oxenhope, and to provide a framework for change where it is needed.



Our Vision for Oxenhope

- Oxenhope is a community, not just a place, where people are tolerant and neighbourly, and welcome diversity and change as well as conserving what we value.
- Oxenhope should be a community which offers a real quality of life to all its residents, young and old, regardless of wealth, interests and location.
- Good transport links, affordable housing, effective communication, accessible information and a rich social and civic life are all essential components of this quality of life.
- The village supports local enterprises and businesses, and is proud to support the Manorlands Hospice within its community. The School is a key element of the village community and should play a central role in its life.
- Oxenhope welcomes visitors and those who share and respect its wonderful landscape, diverse ecology and local amenities.
- The village offers ready access to the cultural, economic and social life of the area and region, and seeks to work in partnership with other communities, agencies and organisations to foster better links, greater co-operation and wider opportunities for all.
- There is a challenge to make the most from the various and sometimes fragmented components of village life.
- People in Oxenhope want a safe, viable, clean and green local community and environment which can develop and grow without losing its distinctive, friendly and welcoming character.



The Parish Supports

- **The development of a comprehensive village website to provide information for the village community and for the wider public.**
- **Action to overcome the lack of awareness of local services.**
- **The development of good neighbour schemes.**
- **The extension and co-ordination of village facilities to enable more activities to be provided locally.**
- **Greater adult education facilities to reflect existing demand and interest.**
- **The extension of health provision with a local connection, improving access and promoting healthy lifestyles.**
- **The development of under used and derelict sites for affordable housing.**
- **The development of facilities and services for older people within the parish.**
- **Encouraging participation in village activities from all sections of the community.**
- **Supports the creation of a Upper Worth Valley Youth Council.**
- **Better facilities for children and young people, to provide enjoyable social and learning opportunities at all ages.**
- **Activities, organisations and opportunities that bring people together, encouraging co-operation and mutual support and learning from each other.**
- **A clear transport and traffic management strategy for the village which ensures safety and improved access around the village.**
- **Sustaining the Village Design Statement as a cornerstone of local planning and development policy, influencing Bradford MDC to support and encourage proactive measures to support village life.**
- **The creation of an Oxenhope Sports Association and the development of better shared facilities for a range of sport and leisure activities, supporting local clubs and encouraging wider participation in healthy lifestyles and leisure activities.**
- **The development of an Oxenhope Conservation Initiative to give greater prominence to the rich biodiversity of the parish, and to provide practical steps for all to support our local ecology.**
- **Access to our landscape in a managed and positive manner which respects different uses but also encourages responsible tourism.**
- **Measures to encourage the local and rural economy, encouraging diversification and promoting e-businesses and home employment.**

Oxenhope Parish Plan 2006

Community Services 1

THE ISSUES	BACKGROUND	ACTION	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
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Education

Limited opportunities for life long /adult learning

Make the most of the school's contribution to village life.

Supporting the school in activities and opportunities for school-age children.

The school is seen as a key part of village life, but one that could be developed further as well as extending broader educational opportunities particularly for computer skills, rural crafts, landscape / ecology skills

Improved access to cultural and educational opportunities for all



Oxenhope CE Primary School VE day 2005

The redevelopment of the Haworth surgery provides a key opportunity for the better co-ordination of local health services. Para medical and social care support will now be based at the same location for the Worth Valley

- Set up day and evening classes
- Improve transport links
- Provide information
- Promote and support existing clubs and groups to extend their range.

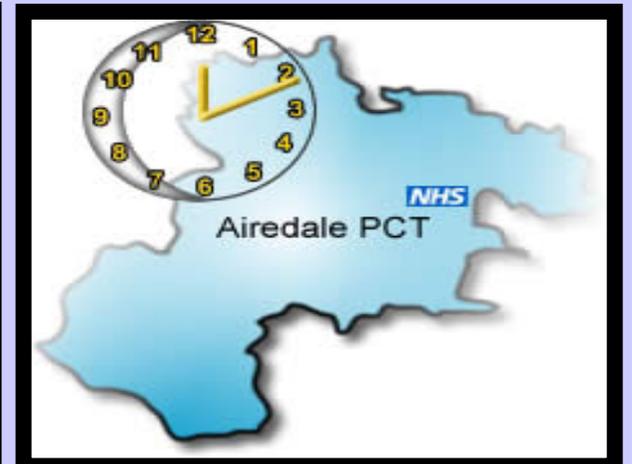
- Improve transport links
- Contribute to the patient's forum
- Encourage the provision of local clinics and classes in the village
- Link health and social care provision to local and informal schemes
- Promote carers network in village
- Develop provision for elderly care in the village including possibly residential / nursing care, extra care housing, home from hospital support
- Promote keep fit, healthy lifestyles etc

Oxenhope CE Primary School
Bradford Education
Keighley / Craven colleges
Other local schools
Village website

2007

Health

Improving access and extending the health options available to people of the village



Haworth Surgery
Airedale PCT
BMDC
Carers & voluntary organisations

2007 / 08

THE ISSUES	BACKGROUND	ACTION	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
<p>Neighbourhood Watch and Good Neighbour schemes</p> <p>Generating local support networks, particularly for isolated people, and that engage with those who commute</p>	<p>Small scale, street level associations can play a key role in welcoming people to the village, providing social support to the ill, elderly and house bound, and can also be linked to more formal arrangements to tackle crime and 'liveability' issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Overhaul the Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the village ➤ Promote at least two Good Neighbour schemes ➤ Gather and share better information about support needs in the community 	<p>NH watch coordinators West Yorkshire Police Parish Council</p>	<p>2007</p>
<p>Village Facilities</p> <p>More comprehensive use of local facilities</p>	<p>A multi-use centre for the village would allow a wide range of local facilities to have a home.</p> <p>Simple amenities need to be maintained and improved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promote the development of a multi-use centre for the village ➤ Seek to widen the use & access of the community centre ➤ Link the social / meeting facilities provided by the pubs and social club ➤ Develop / integrate meeting and activity facilities around the village – promote common booking and advertisement arrangements, via greater use of the website ➤ Improve disabled access to village facilities / amenities ➤ Provide a "Superloo" 	<p>Community Centre Trustees Local Pubs Social Club BDMC</p>	<p>2007</p>



Millennium Green Fete 2004

THE ISSUES

The encouragement of communication, participation and enjoyment of village life.

BACKGROUND

Currently the St Mary the Virgin "Outreach" magazine is delivered to every household in the village. 88% of respondents to the Parish Plan questionnaire are also aware of the St Mary's / village website and 83% would support the production of a village welcome pack with the primary aim of helping to integrate newcomers to the village. Less than half felt the DAB, TV and Mobile phone signal strength was adequate and 65% would be supportive of the commencement of week day commuter services on the KWVR.

ACTION

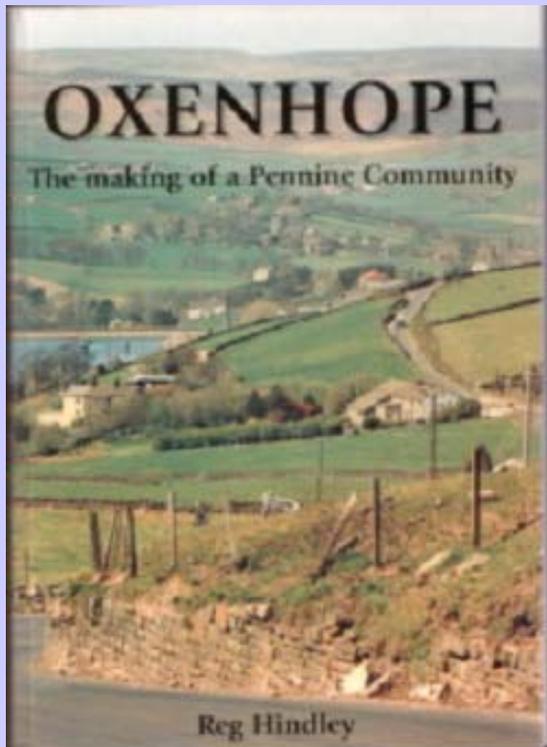
- Form a welcome pack working party
- Encourage increased contribution to Outreach and support the development of a village website
- Encourage METRO to use suitably sized vehicles for Oxenhope services
- Increase the awareness, through additional Parish Council notice boards, of clubs, associations and societies
- Influence BMDC to consider the re-introduction of commuter services on the Worth Valley Railway
- The quality of digital TV, Radio and Broadband service is sporadic. Work with the service providers to get improvements
- Support the development of an annual village book

PARTNERS

Parish Council & local clubs, churches, associations and societies
Keighley & Worth Valley Railway (KWVR), METRO & FIRST Calder bus companies
Haworth PC and Keighley Town Council
Mobile Phone companies
TV transmission operators
DAB transmission operators
Broadband internet providers

TIME SCALE

Ongoing



THE ISSUES

How do we develop the housing stock of the village providing more affordable and retirement homes ?



Perseverance Mill site Denholme Road

BACKGROUND

A housing needs study was undertaken by Bradford Rural Housing Enablers in conjunction with the Oxenhope Parish Council in 2004 and its conclusions that there is a definite need within the village for both affordable housing and accommodation for the elderly are fully supported by the parish.

The parish also welcomes and supports the guidance offered by the BMDC Unitary Development Plan (UDP Policy No H10) & Supplementary Planning Guidance PPG 3.

ACTION

- Encourage the use of under-used or derelict sites for affordable housing and or sheltered accommodation, within the confines of the UDP
- Identify underused sites
- Identify site owners or those holding legal title
- Encourage development by housing associations & retirement home specialists

PARTNERS

Parish Council
Bradford Rural Housing Enablers
ODPM
BMDC - Planning Department
Bradford Housing Group
Housing Associations (Headrow, Home Housing etc)
Developers
Retirement homes specialists

TIME SCALE

Ongoing

THE ISSUES

BACKGROUND

ACTION

PARTNERS

TIMESCALE

Traffic Strategy for Oxenhope

BACKGROUND

The Parish Council carried out a survey in 1999 to determine the needs of the village regarding traffic. Many of the suggestions made have now been implemented by BMDC, but others still require action as the problems highlighted still remain. The Village Traffic Strategy has now been updated and approved by the Parish Council.

PARTNERS

BMDC (highways) UDP
Policy UDP7

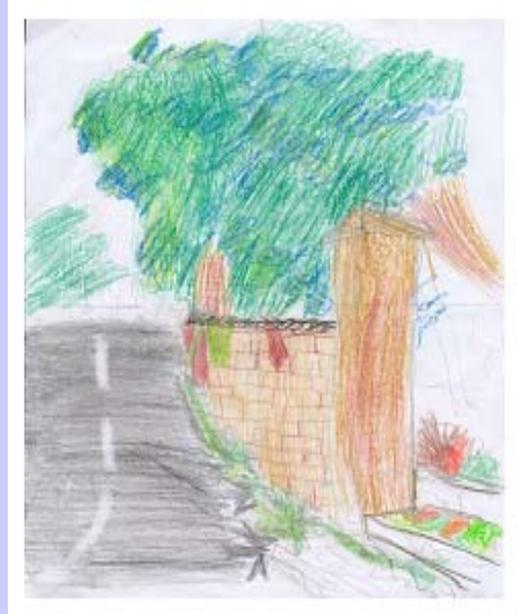
Parish Council. METRO,
KWVR,

ACTION

- Implement the Revised Village Traffic Strategy
- Review the implications of the Rural White Paper Nov 2005
- Improve pedestrian mobility around the village

TIMESCALE

2007



Speeding

90% of the respondents to the Parish Plan Questionnaire considered speeding a problem. 20 mph limits have recently been introduced in the centre of the village but these are not always being observed. Leeming, however would also like to have 20 mph limits. The Parish Council has subscribed to "Speed Watch" where volunteers use radar guns under police supervision in villages other than their own. This awaits implementation.

- a) Enforcement of speed limits
- b) Implement Speed Watch
- c) Provide illuminated speed indicators
- d) Extend 20 mph limits to Leeming

- a) Police
- b) Police, Parish Council, Volunteers, Oxenhope CE Primary School
- c) BMDC, Parish Council
- d) BMDC Highways

- a) Ongoing
- b) Urgent
- c) Medium term
- d) 2007

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Youth

THE ISSUES

Youth & the young people of the village

BACKGROUND

Young people can and should play a full part in local community life, which needs to recognise their aspirations. Youngsters have nowhere to meet socially. In places such as the Rose Garden or Recreation Ground they sometimes cause problems by leaving litter and behaving noisily, which is exacerbated by alcohol, often drunk under age. This causes annoyance to residents, and older citizens are intimidated by the large groups in which younger people feel safe. 78% of the respondents to the parish plan questionnaire considered antisocial behaviour a problem. 53% considered underage drinking a problem. 34% considered excessive drinking a problem.

ACTION

- Provide more activities for youngsters such as skateboard / bike park, all weather pitch & model car track in Recreation Ground
- Provide a shelter for youngsters which is well lit but away from residents
- Investigate the provision of a Youth & Sports Clubs for older teenagers.
- Develop outreach work with BDMC Youth Service
- Seek to involve young people and consult on their needs through a youth council
- Enforce stricter rules for sale of alcohol, review current alcohol licences
- More Police presence on foot



Youth shelter – for guidance only

PARTNERS

BMDC (Youth Service) & local schools and colleges

Parish Council

West Yorkshire Police

Co Op, Public Houses & Social Club

Volunteers

TIMESCALE

Urgent & ongoing



Multi sports facility – for guidance only

BACKGROUND

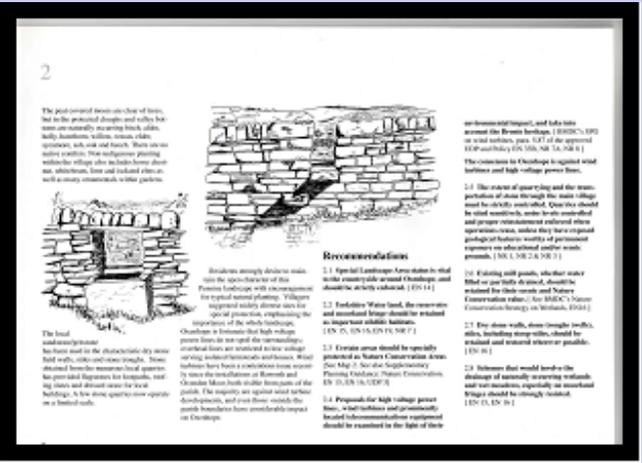
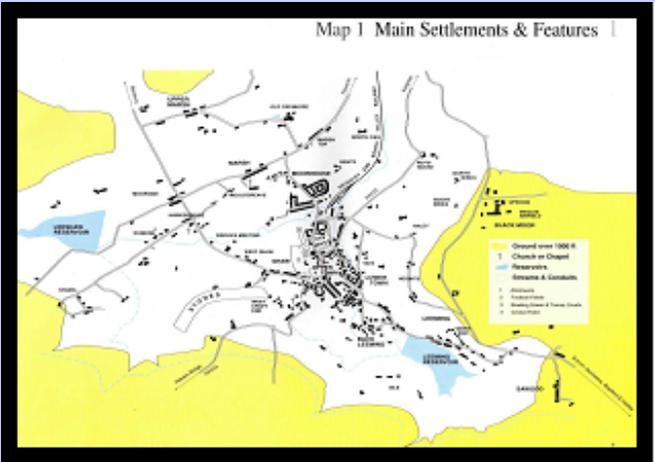
The Oxenhope Village Design Statement (VDS) was initiated by the Parish Council and published in 1999. Supplementary Planning Guidance was granted to this document by BMDC in 2000. Since then the document has been successfully used to influence the design of new development in the village.

Conservation areas proposed in the VDS have been included in the BMDC Oxenhope & Leeming Conservation Area Assessment in 2005.

Sites of Nature Conservation importance proposed in the VDS have been adopted by BMDC with one exception.

The additional Village Green Spaces proposed were adopted by BMDC in the Supplementary Planning Guidance with one exception.

Oxenhope has welcomed the retention of Leeming Field as Village Green Space.



THE ISSUES	BACKGROUND	ACTION	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE															
<p>Housing Development</p>	<p>76% of the respondents to the parish plan questionnaire considered that developers should contribute more to the infrastructure of the village.</p> <p>Too often development takes place without regard for the effect on the village in the way of roads, parking, drainage, schools etc.</p>	<p>➤ Negotiate with developers to improve the infrastructure of the village</p>	<p>Bradford Metropolitan District Council (BMDC) (UDP Policy CF2) Parish Council</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>															
					<p><i>Mallard View Oxenhope</i></p>					<p>Green Belt & Conservation Area status</p>	<p>100% of the respondents to the parish plan questionnaire rated highly the importance of green belt and conservation areas</p>	<p>➤ Maintain a watchful eye on development in these areas</p>	<p>Bradford Metropolitan District Council (BMDC) (UDP Policy GB1) Parish Council</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Village Design Statement (VDS)</p>	<p>Suggestions were made that the VDS should be updated and reissued to all newcomers.</p> <p><i>(It must be borne in mind that an updated VDS would have to be resubmitted to BMDC for approval and subsequent Supplementary Planning Guidance applied for)</i></p>	<p>➤ Consider updating and reissuing VDS with each copy of a welcome pack to newcomers.</p>	<p>Parish Council Bradford Metropolitan District Council (BMDC)</p>	<p>2007</p>
<p><i>Mallard View Oxenhope</i></p>					<p>Green Belt & Conservation Area status</p>	<p>100% of the respondents to the parish plan questionnaire rated highly the importance of green belt and conservation areas</p>	<p>➤ Maintain a watchful eye on development in these areas</p>	<p>Bradford Metropolitan District Council (BMDC) (UDP Policy GB1) Parish Council</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Village Design Statement (VDS)</p>	<p>Suggestions were made that the VDS should be updated and reissued to all newcomers.</p> <p><i>(It must be borne in mind that an updated VDS would have to be resubmitted to BMDC for approval and subsequent Supplementary Planning Guidance applied for)</i></p>	<p>➤ Consider updating and reissuing VDS with each copy of a welcome pack to newcomers.</p>	<p>Parish Council Bradford Metropolitan District Council (BMDC)</p>	<p>2007</p>					
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THE ISSUES

BACKGROUND

PARTNERS

Current facilities

Feedback from village children and members of existing sports clubs, together with questionnaire feedback, recognised the need for improvement to existing facilities and the provision of additional recreational areas.

Sports Clubs

Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Parish Council

Sports Council

Community Centre Trustees

ACTION

TIMESCALE

a) Formation of an Oxenhope Sports Association to facilitate the building of a new joint multi use sports hall/complex.

This option is considered preferable to upgrading existing changing areas, showers, toilets and kitchen facilities of the football, cricket and bowling clubs.

A new building would provide a "centre" point for the village and could provide facilities for other village needs such as educational courses, info centre, health contact point, meeting room. Self-financing elements to be incorporated.

b) Floodlighting to bowling area, all weather football pitch and tennis courts.

c) Seating areas around football pitch and bowling green.

d) Levelling of football pitch and provision of an all weather pitch.

e) Improvements to the bowling green playing surface

f) Skateboard park.

g) Upgrading of tennis courts/formation of Tennis Club

a) Long term
2008

b) 2008

c) 2007

d) 2008

e) Urgent

f) 2007

g) 2008



THE ISSUES

Access to the Moors

Opening up of countryside and moor land for recreational use/walks. Provide links with Pennine Way and Bronte Way in conjunction with BMDC Unitary Development Plan (UDP) Policy TM 8. Establish links with Haworth PC & Hebden Bridge TC regarding tourism opportunities.

BACKGROUND

PARTNERS

Bradford Metropolitan District Council
(UDP Policy TM 8)

Parish Council

Volunteer groups

Landowners

Yorkshire Water

Haworth PC & Hebden Bridge TC

ACTION

- a) Publication of route maps detailing walks/fitness trails
- b) Establish circular walks/mountain bike routes/horse trails around the village.
- c) Establish and promote Oxenhope as a "route stop" with relevant facilities.
- d) Open up conduit routes for level walks.

TIMESCALE

2007



Oxenhope Parish Plan 2006

Landscape & The Environment

THE ISSUES

How do we keep and enhance the village's natural and historical features now and in the future?

BACKGROUND

The vast majority of people felt that the natural features of the village are its greatest asset and should therefore be maintained. It was also felt that these features could be enhanced with the planting of more tree cover, repair of dry stonewalling and cleaning of the watercourses. Many villagers felt that dog faeces, litter, inappropriate planning consent and fly tipping in outlying areas spoil the village.

ACTION

- Encourage landowners to plant more trees and maintain walls
- The formation of Oxenhope Conservation Initiative to co-ordinate and carry out projects within the parish
- Enrolment of a Tree Warden, the Enforcement of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's), and some form of compensatory planting for unavoidable felling of trees (BMDC UDP Policy NE4 & NE5)
- Plant a parish wood
- Enhance current green space around village, including reservoirs
- Encourage dog owners to clear up after their dogs. Provide more dog bins
- Deter the dropping of litter and fly tipping. The possible employment of a local street cleaner should be considered
- Start an annual "spring clean" event
- The enforcement of current Unitary Development Plan (UDP) and Village Design Statement (VDS)
- The development of a local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) which will complement the BMDC's and the Environment Agency's BAP
- Meet the national and local waste management & recycling targets. (UDP P9&10)
- Ensure free flow of water through the village in severe weather conditions with minimum damage

PARTNERS

BMDC – including the Planning Department, the Rights Of Way Department, the Countryside Service, the Cleansing Department and the Dog Warden Service. (UDP Policies NE4, NE5, P9 & P10.)

Environment Agency, Oxenhope CE Primary School, Millennium Green Trust, Parish Council, Aire Valley Recycling, Tree Council, Woodland Trust, Common Ground, DEFRA, RSPB, Forest of Bradford Team,

Landowners including Yorkshire Water, KWVR, Manorlands

West Yorkshire Police, KWIC

TIMESCALE

Other than the problem of flooding, all projects are medium to long term and will be coordinated via the formation of the Oxenhope Conservation Initiative



THE ISSUES

BACKGROUND

PARTNERS

- There is a lack of awareness of what Oxenhope already has to offer, e.g. an organic vegetable & fruit box scheme, dry cleaning service, farm walks.
- Nothing is done to promote the sale of locally produced food, goods and services.
- Heavy traffic has led to some farmers transporting stock by vehicle, which involves many trips.
- Local people are not always aware of local businesses.
- People have indicated via the questionnaire that they would support more shops if we had them.
- Diversification for farmers can mean new roles and more creative use of their land and buildings.
- Recognition of the amount of tele-cottaging being carried out, offer active support.

There is uncertainty about the number of registered businesses in our village. For all those which may easily be seen (e.g. guest houses, pubs, farmers, newsagents and fish shop), there may be many more 1- or 2- person operations quietly clicking away on computers at home. The questionnaire mainly focused on our shops and shopping habits and it appears that local shops are well supported by most people. We do not have information on the support that our village trades persons have from residents.

Current local businesses
Local shops, pubs & clubs
Oxenhope Parish Council
DEFRA
Local farmers
St Mary The Virgin Church
Keighley & Worth Valley Railway (KWVR)
Digital signal & internet providers

ACTION

- Publication of a village book (at least once a year) containing a list of all businesses, recent success stories, gripes, events calendars, competitions with a local focus, map, social events, club meeting dates etc
- A village show
- Farmers market
- Update of village website
- Improve visual, audio and internet reception within the village in partnership with providers
- More research on local working patterns, travel to work and working

TIMESCALE

Ongoing



Oxenhope Parish Plan 2006

Acknowledgements

Financial Support

Bradford Metropolitan District Council sponsored Bradford Vision, have kindly funded the development of this Parish Plan

Photographs & Artwork

Thanks to all those who entered the Parish Plan children's art and Adult photographic competition and gave their consent for their material to be used in the production of this parish plan

All images copyright protected

Supplementary Documents

The Oxenhope Village Design Statement 1999 (VDS), The Revised Village Traffic Strategy 2006, BMDC Unitary Development Plan (UDP) 2006, Bradford Rural Housing Enablers (BRHE) Housing Needs Survey 2004 & The Rural White Paper 2005

Parish Plan Committee

Derek Allen

Lynne Arrowsmith

David Ashcroft

Canon David Brierley

Chris Brown

Neal Cameron

Fiona Denby

Janet Hill

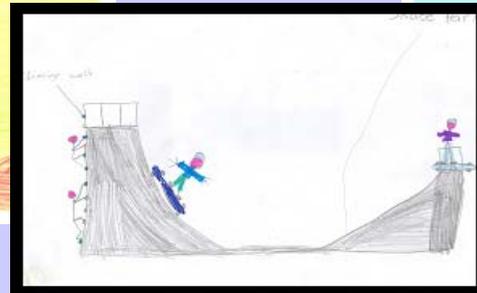
Derrick Hopkinson

Robert Mackley

Richard Metcalfe

Hilary Sommerlad

With help from Elaine Pearson, Clerk to the Parish Council





A collage of our favourite place in Oxenhope - Leeming Reservoir

Winning entry by Rosie Carr & Beth Atwood