

# SADBERGE PARISH PLAN REVIEW 2013

## Comments from the Questionnaires

### Is there anything that would increase your use of the village hall?

More social events; e.g. talks, cream teas.

The Coffee Shop should open at weekends.

Youth club for teenagers.

Wider choice of afternoon or evening classes on varying subjects.

Get rid of the draconian committee and start again.

I don't think that there is anything that would increase my use of the village hall, as I generally don't have time to go by.

More activities to do with children in the 6 - 10 age range.

Youth club or youth activities for younger people. More for older people. Films / dances, etc.

Not working the hours I do.

Open on an evening for the teenagers in the village to use more.

Indoor bowls? Slimming class?

Changes in (reduction of) my current mobility.

Open longer hours for school students.

I have a two-year-old who will attend nursery next September. More flexibility of nursery hours would allow me to use Sadberge nursery facilities; e.g. wrap around club to fit with my working hours.

Maybe some additional sports clubs (e.g. table tennis) or a scrabble / chess club.

I would use the village hall more if I was a single person / bereaved.

More activities available on an evening / weekend, especially in the winter / autumn months.

More activities on an evening when I am not at work.

No. Good range of facilities.

A youth club or social gathering for teenagers in the village.

Tuck shop needed for village kids. Also weekly meeting place for the kids as nothing is available in the way of other activities.

Music lessons.

Make it more attractive and inviting.

More social activities on a weekend, which would attract a wider variety of people in the community.

Classed during the day at the weekend.

Children's activities.

Youth club.

A good coffee machine.

An evening aerobics class (not keep fit) or yoga.

More events aimed at mature persons.

I have only lived in the village for 8 weeks, therefore do not feel this will be a true reflection on Sadberge as we are still getting used to the move.

A variety of classes.

Promotion.

Activities / facilities for younger people; e.g. basketball nets.

It could be improved if the atmosphere was lightened. It is not particularly welcoming. Regular users are not made welcome and in fact, occasionally pushed out of the room they use every week for some extra event without permission being asked first!

A more friendly welcome, especially to people who have worked and are still working for the village hall.

Hire charges are okay for a single room hire, but the bond / deposit for a child's party is too much.

Coffee Shop open at weekends or outside work hours.

Selling sweets (more varieties) and drinks.

Sports / youth clubs.

More things for young people (teenagers).

More adult oriented activities. Discos / dance nights. Quizzes. Lotteries / prize draws, etc.

More evening classes.

Village shop / coffee shop open on the weekend or evenings.

More evening classes.

More educational classes.

If postal services could be provided ..... but I realise that this is a big ask.

Reduced and quicker repayment of deposit.

New kitchen.

New kitchen.

Bridge sessions.

Patchwork and quilting group with regular daytime meetings. Tai Chi daytime classes. Digital photography and IT update skills.

More regular – and timely – information about events. We can find out about classes from the boards periodically, but it is often too late to re-arrange things when we find out about 'events'.

I'd like to see more 'meal' occasions – like the Christmas meals, possibly with live music, a quiz or other activities. It would be great if we could have film nights if it was possible to hire equipment. I enjoy attending craft events with a wide range of stall-holders, and would welcome more of these. It's good to have community events, and I recognise the hard work people put in; e.g. flower displays. I welcome these, and perhaps photographic exhibitions, painters or other crafts – local or otherwise.

Slimming class. Dance class. Coffee Shop open on a Saturday morning.

Longer hours to shop and open on a Saturday morning for coffee (catch passing trade) and Sunday?

Any extra events would be of interest.

Events for kids.

Not much for people in 40's and 50's. Lots for pensioners.

More events for younger people; e.g. bands on.

Interesting and, I think, enjoyable and variable activities take place. I just haven't got around to going.

Ability to buy more from the shop.

If I was to have another child, through use of the nursery. If / when I get more time I intend to visit the Coffee Shop more!

More time to do things. (Not possible.)

Wider variety of merchandise available in the shop (food related mainly).

More evening functions. A wider range of produce. Saturday morning coffee shop – to extend social opportunities for "the workers".

Live drama; e.g. visits from North Country Theatre (rural touring company).

A table tennis facility – if anyone else is interested.

Basic simple set of weight(s) gear and a cycle machine.

A facility to 'dove-tail' in with bike shop recyclers (linked in with night stop charity) to hire a bike at weekends; i.e. the village hall acting as a central collection point.

More basic shopping content

A micro brewery.

Youth club for older children. Activities for both parents and children.

Mother and toddler group for under 5's. Longer opening hours of coffee shop. Light lunches daily in coffee shop.

Me being retired!

A variety of keep fit classes on an evening. Evening leisure courses; i.e. cookery, etc.

Lower cost would make more likely to use for parties, etc.

Ability to play badminton. (Hire hall.)

Make the hire charges less. Make the cost of a cup of tea cheaper.

More keep fit activities on an evening.

Yes. A less gossipy atmosphere, which most people find intimidating and not comfortable to be in. Certain cliques in the village are formed and ruin any social atmosphere in the village hall.

Once I am retired and have more time in the day.

Country music events.

Social gatherings ..... especially if the pub closes.

More activities for children.

Rhythm & Blues night.

More events.

Lack of personal use due to time rather than facilities offered.

I have not long moved to Sadberge so I am not currently aware of what goes on there.

The bar in the coffee shop to be opened once or twice a week, in the evenings.

Latin American dance classes.

Youth club. Children's activities in Sadberge are limited.

Bands. Social nights.

Youth club. Children's activities in Sadberge are quite limited.

Bands. Social events.

Work-life balance. I think the village hall is a great asset to our village.

Not really, as my work prevents me from doing so, plus I am only visiting my parents and staying at home occasionally.

If I am at home, having the hall as a live music venue on a frequent basis would allow more attraction for my second line of work and put forward as a venue worth using and visiting on more frequent occasions, but due to village rivalry I don't think this could happen so I live out of area now due to both lines of work due to village rivalry.

More activities based on the teenagers of Sadberge, bringing them together.

Free function room. We have a 21<sup>st</sup> this August, and an 18<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> next year. Also mother-in-law's 70<sup>th</sup> this year. If the room was free, money could be made on food and drinks.

**If you don't use the children's play area off Abbey Road, why not?**

We use the football pitch.

Access with pushchair.

Lack of easy access for pushchairs.

Too near the A66 for children. Plus there is no longer anything to use there.

I don't use the children's play area as much as other parks as it is poorly maintained. We often drive to Middleton St. George.

Wrong place.

I don't know Abbey Road.

Difficult to access over too many busy roads.

They have taken down the swings and climbing frame and not replaced them.

We would use the children's play area more if it was moved next to the church.

I only just found out that the children's play area exists!

The swings are dirty – made from old rubber, which leaves clothes and children covered in black. Not much choice of apparatus.

The children's play area is not very good. It's not in the centre of the village.

It's an excellent facility, but my children have grown up and left the village.

People take dogs down (and leave mess). Also waterlogged a lot of the year.

Because it needs updating. We go to Middleton St. George park because it is much better. It is a shame to have to get in a car to go to the park.

We rarely use the children's play area as it is of poor quality and poorly maintained. Could do much better! We currently go to Middleton St. George as it is much better.

Where have the swings gone?

We do use the children's play area. It should be improved, though.

We do use the children's play area, but it needs a lot of attention and updating to make it more modern and tidy.

I have never known a play area as bad as this one.

We very rarely use the children's play area, as it is out of the way, a good place for kidnappers to steal our children. A better place would be Town Farm Field or the area near the church.

We don't use the children's play area that often as it is out of the way. A better place would be the field at the side of the church.

I live out of the village most of the time, but wet and long grass (boggy areas) and no paths prevent access for small children and push-chairs. Safety of equipment (not good). When I last visited not parent friendly.

Run down / unsafe.

Not much there.

I only just found the children's play area after three years of living here, and my children are too old for it now.

**Should Sadberge Parish Council be prepared to pay for the maintenance of the community composting facility?**

Must be able to be done for less cost than that.

Volunteers do all of the good work for Sadberge.

I don't use the community composting facility. Too much pressure from the current volunteer. Too controlling!!

Sadberge Parish Council should fund the community composting facility if it is extended to take all garden rubbish in the light that we have no garden bins.

**It there anything else that Sadberge Parish Council should be doing?**

There has been no-one using the speed monitoring devices in the village. If we have no-one to do this surely the police should be here with their speed guns, etc. I've certainly not seen any in the village this year.

The parish council should be ashamed at the state of the village. Wasting money on bollards obstructing the pavement in the middle of the village. No services in the village. Old and disabled people having to walk two miles to get to the doctor and food. No parish councillor or ward councillor will get my vote.

Leading the fight for transport and underlining the fact we are part of Darlington and pay Council Tax for facilities we want access to.

Looking to the future for the children, not keeping the place in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. More affordable council and association houses, not fancy eyesores that no-one can afford.

As a new resident to the area I have not had the chance to learn what the parish council does – yet!

Oppose any major building developments which would only add to traffic / parking problems.

Stopping any building on Phase 4.

No. The parish council works hard for the village.

No. Fantastic esprit de corps. Lots of events. Beautiful village. Keep up the great work.

Organise a bus for the elderly, who are very isolated living here without a shop.

Moving the park or adding some play equipment to the field near the church, which is more central for all children.

Limit traffic though village. Improve Middleton Road surface. Limit weight to 3 tonnes and police this. Review how some local businesses abuse Middleton Road constantly. Implement community speed patrols again. Bring back buses for those with no access to cars. Encourage new businesses in to the village – shops, pubs, etc. No longer encourage social housing in the village.

Helping to oppose wind farms in the area and resist housing developments near the village.

Play equipment / activities for kids.

Bus service to Darlington.

The parish council should be taking notice of what villagers think – as you seem to be doing with this questionnaire. But will you be?

Making the village more fun for kids.

Sort out the children's play area. It's the worst one in the country.

As a long term member of the Sadberge community for over 30 years, I am extremely disgruntled with the removal of the village bus service, which is a vital life-line for people without transportation.

1. Potholes.
2. Dog fouling.
3. Parking.
4. Un-taxed vehicles parked.

Try to get public transport back into Sadberge for the elderly and underprivileged.

Parish councillors more visible and accessible.

Speed limit flashing signs approaching the village.

Potholes to be filled in in Beacon Hill Road (opposite No. 8 access). I sent an email to the Council several months ago to request this. No response.

Keeping up the good work on transport, wind turbines and unwelcome "housing" developments.

Limiting the enthusiasm of the Garden Group.

Removing the community composting facility.

It would be useful for the Parish Council to explore the options for improving Internet access. Currently it is very poor.

Produce a flier on its priorities and on what has been achieved. I am aware of the Parish Plan, but prefer a flier to looking on the web site.

Speed signs.

More dog dirt signs around the village. "No cycling on the path" notices.

The solar PV project has been an excellent example of how the Parish Council can support the community and local residents.

Try to reduce the speed of traffic through the village.

Attempt to reduce the speed of traffic through the village.

Get some better footpaths to Middleton St. George and other surrounding villages, and more cycleways to Darlington avoiding close proximity to the A66.

No, but Darlington Council should provide better roads to enable people to get to their destination and stop high speed lorries going through Sadberge. Darlington Council is non-existent to Sadberge.

Re-phrase it "Is there anything Darlington Council should be doing?". Yes.

What about a catalogue of people skills in the village? I.e. local electrician, plumber, etc., tuition, gardening. And/or a register of people who might exchange one skill for another; e.g. an hour's gardening for an hour's tuition? Etc.

The implementation of a positive traffic calming system.

Make us more visible and a place people from other areas may wish to visit; e.g. car boot sale / farmers' market on the village green.

If ever only one pub exists, have a community buy-out and include a shop on the premises with an Irish style pub.

Ask Darlington Borough Council to re-visit the wind farm decision in the light of recent media news suggesting a stop to onshore development if residents are against it.

Set up a "Bank of Sadberge".

A community farm on the old school site football field.

Promote a time-team dig – given (Roman) archaeological importance.

If the library van has stopped visiting, try to re-introduce it.

Press for bi-annual 'well persons' clinics in the village hall.

Press for Age Concern / Citizens Advice Bureau surgeries periodically in the village hall.

Consulting residents on raised issues prior to blanket letters being sent out. This would get the views of many instead of the views of a few.

The village hall or a shop would be beneficial on evenings and weekends welcoming new residence people into the community instead of encouraging people to continually complain and cause problems for people trying to live peacefully.

They should NOT be getting involved and taking sides in disputes between residents; i.e. those of Norton Crescent and St. Andrew's Park – especially where the law is not clear and where there is actually NOT a problem if all residents use their drives first as we do.

I don't know what they do, their powers, etc., so have little comment on what they should do. They obviously need to be more visible more often.

Get a footpath to Middleton St. George and get a much better children's play area.

Maybe publicise their role in the village to those who can't attend meetings, etc.

I don't know what they do!

The Parish Council should be interested in promoting Sadberge Village. Not, as appears to be the case, of looking after self interests on the Parish Council or promoting it to appear more important than it really is. Less publicity – more action. If the Parish Council intends to note comments made by the public at meetings it should listen to what the public have to say and not ride "rough shod" over valuable comments. Should obtain a programme of mechanical street sweeping and gully emptying. Cannot remember seeing a ? ? ????? in the village.

Stop cars parking on pavements and grass.

Trying to get a reduction in Council Tax as there are hardly any services by the Council.

Keeping on the Borough Council's back on our services cut-backs.

Sort out parking around the crossroads in the centre of the village and the brow of the "hill" opposite Tit????? House. Restricted views for motorists using Hill House Lane / Middleton Road are very dangerous.

They should be trying to get buses to run from Sadberge to main places such as Yarm, Darlington or at least to other bus routes / trains.

Getting trees cut down from Juniper House. It is a disgrace.

Deal with issues when asked by residents or shouldn't exist at all, as I don't feel issues are taken notice of or dealt with adequately.

Make the park more well known and a safer place to go. I wasn't aware of it until after two years of living in Sadberge.

Help to maintain Chapel Row. The road is disintegrating. In winter it is terrible. Now that wheely bins are provided, how are the elderly or infirm going to manage, dragging a bin down. Help!! Maybe fundraising to tarmac the road.

### **Are there any other problems that are not in the list?**

Please take note – the Parish Plan 2007 3.2 states provide facilities and services for village residents without access to cars. I saw my mother forced out of the village into a care home through the actions of village people. I do not want to go the same way.

Very busy during peak hours. Traffic using Sadberge as a cut through to the A66 and A1(M).

A rat run for traffic.

A good community spirit. The communal gardens are amazing.

Sadberge is a strong, vibrant and caring community, very conscious of its environment and strengths.

Sadberge is dying a death. It has nothing. Most of the people that live in this village now don't give a damn.

A perfect place to escape from big cities.

Quiet and relaxing.

Much of the activity and social interaction is based around St. Andrew's Church. I am not an Anglican and have felt that I have been excluded on this account.

Sadberge is a lovely small village to live in. I do not think that it would be improved by development.

Sadberge is a pleasant small village to live in and I would not like it to grow any larger.

Good vicarage. Spoilt by too much traffic and lack of amenities.

Needs more activities for the younger kids and teenagers.

Needs a decent play area. Too muddy. Old equipment. No good. A total revamp would be good.

Old people have no way of going out of the village unless they drive.

Sadberge, through no fault of its own, has nothing to offer the resident or the family wanting to move here; i.e. school, shop, bus service, doctor's.

Nice and pretty village but terrible traffic! You really need to do something about the traffic.

There are traffic issues in Sadberge. Speeding. 'Rat run' danger. Central crossroads. Junction between Stockton Road and Norton Road. Illegal parking, and parking that makes exiting West Row very dangerous.

Lack of parking spaces causes danger at the exits to West Row. The central crossroads is dangerous at busy times.

Sadberge is a good place for older people. However, it would be so much better for them if we had an adequate bus service and could bring back the doctor's surgery which used to be held in the village hall.

No bus service means that teenagers and young adults who don't have a car can't get out of the village by themselves.

A village which has, sadly, lost most of the amenities which it had enjoyed in past years. To encourage new people to move into Sadberge this situation needs to be reversed!

There should be more for the older children in Sadberge.

Sadberge is a friendly attractive community to live in and I feel personally the small intimate feel of this village would be lost if housing estates were build, increasing the size of the village. Individuals know each other and a larger village would spoil this. We moved to Sadberge for the village life and if we wanted a busier lifestyle we would have moved nearer the town centre.

Sadberge is idyllic in my opinion. My only drawback is the lack of amenities – ????????, a school, local shops or take-away / chip shop, etc. We sought the village out as a desired place to live, work and child care dictate that we find it hard to contribute to the community work – but we fully appreciate the community work ethic and spirit.

Caring. Attractive.

Very central for moving around the area ..... with your own transport.

Very central for all of NE England and Yorkshire.

Good main transport road links to main routes.

Since the school closed, fewer people with school-age children choose to live here, so we are becoming a village of older residents who, generally speaking, do not like change.

Lack of transport is a problem. Quiet and secure is an asset.

Sadberge is a quiet village except when the pugs have music blaring from their open doors. The Three Tuns was the main culprit. However, it does happen also at the Buck Inn occasionally.

A major traffic route due to Darlington Borough Council's unwillingness to take appropriate calming measures; e.g. 20 mph limits.

No shops. No school. Half a church.

A rat run along Norton Road, Middleton Road, Darlington Road and Sedgfield Road. Anyone living on these routes is subjected to speeding traffic every day. Away from these routes, Sadberge is a quiet, comfortable place to live.

Sadberge was a better place to live 50 years ago.

OK

An excellent commuting village if you own your own transport.

Sadberge would be a good place to bring up children if the school had remained open.

The village would be much enhanced with a small shop or café or facilities on offer similar to those in Sedgefield.

This section (Your Village) only applies if you have your own transport.

No school. No shop. No buses. No doctor's surgery.

Sadberge is becoming a satellite, abandoned and potentially 'slump and dump' village.

Very good place to live – just lack of facilities / access to amenities.

Some people very friendly and welcoming – others very unwelcoming. Letters x 3 at least about parking from Parish Council from the point of moving in very unwelcoming – spoilt our move into the village. No attempt by council to determine the facts. Just took word of the complainant whose case was without cause.

Sadberge is a beautiful, pleasant place to live with good people all around. A small group do more than their share. The majority muddle along. But there is a small group of people who undermine at every turn.

This is a fabulous village to live in. But I do worry about living here when I am older and not being able to get to the doctor's or shops.

A good place to live, as long as you can drive and have a car. I don't know how the Council can get away with no buses.

Just the right size.

Sadberge would be a great place to bring up children and for the elderly to live if there was a regular bus service.

Attractive village.

Sadberge village is an inconvenient place to live for young people / elderly. There's no buses, therefore people are forced to have cars which increases Sadberge's carbon footprint.

It used to be a lovely village?

Sadberge should be a very good place for older people because of the community. However, we / they need public transport and a shop (if possible) in order to maintain independence.

Not young person friendly any more. Adequate for travel convenience – access to A1 north / south, flight accessible.

Roads are too busy during rush hour.

There are no facilities for older people, which makes it difficult for them to live in Sadberge.

There is an excellent sense of community and lots for people to do. This is all down to the hard work put in by what is probably a minority of residents.

Unfortunately Hill House Lane is used as a thoroughfare for traffic. The bottom of Chapel Row is dangerous when trying to join the road on Hill House Lane at busy times.

The village needs a shop and more activities for teenagers.

Lack of parking spaces would be less of a problem if people parked properly.

If there is no improvement in this village soon I will be contacting the press and television. Councillors need to get out of their cars and see what life is like. This is discrimination against the elderly and disabled. Action will be taken.

With regards to parking – coming out of the junction at the end of West Row can be very dangerous due to the cars parked on the road and the speed of cars coming off the A66. It's very difficult to see on-coming cars.

No speed limit on Beacon Hill! Some people come flying up the street even when children are playing. There is no speed limit sign, so technically it's still national speed limit.

Speeding vehicles.

We need a toilet in St. Andrew's Church for making it useful for wedding receptions, services and other activities.

Excessive speed of traffic on Stockton Road leading on to the A66 eastbound.

Lack of public transport.

Doctor's service.

Shop / post office.

Northumbria Water taking action to resolve the reservoir. If they say "it's not a reservoir" then release it to "be something"; a meadow, a space for houses. Something that gives life to the village.

Volume of traffic going through Hillhouse Lane is a HUGE problem. Speeding is another problem!

We have never known so much poo in a square metre. The kids call Church Road "dog poo alley".

Use of village roads as "rat runs".

When I get the school bus it is hard to cross the crossroads and may take a long time with traffic.

As I am currently unemployed and am endeavouring to find work (2½ years) I believe it is extremely unfair that I have to pay council tax for no bus service and have to walk everywhere, which is scandalous. This problem needs to be rectified.

I do think more dog owners should pick up their dog mess. I have a dog and I pick it up every time.

Speed violations.

Vans parked opposite the Three Tuns obstruct the view at the crossroads.

The car parked on the road near the Buck Inn restricts the free flow of traffic, especially during busy times.

Traffic speed is a problem, especially going east between the A66 and the village centre.

Pub noise, especially at weekend closing times.

Speed on heavy lorries on Darlington Road heading east shake our house.

Recent inconsiderate parking by people who car share to work.

Re "inconsiderate parking". As ref in your letter to St. Andrew's Park residents. Could it be considered that the car that is parked next to the pub bus stop is parked "considerately" (though legally). It is parked there 80% of the time.

Inconsiderate parking. Residents of Norton Crescent make us feel unwelcome due to their perception of inconsiderate parking.

Sadberge being a 'rat run' for traffic heading to Darlington, creating congestion and a traffic risk at the crossroads.

Open mind.

Lack of signs stating no lorries, wagons or heavy vehicles to be allowed to enter the village. This makes it very dangerous for children playing.

Excessive speed, at all times of the day, of through traffic.

Poaching.

Poorly maintained road surfaces in some areas.

Dogs barking.

No bus.

Car vandalism.

My refuse bin has not been emptied again today as the refuse wagon could not gain entry to St. Andrew's Park due to one inconsiderate resident of Norton Crescent parking on the junction. We intend to erect parking signs pointing out that this is a private estate.

Getting bins emptied on St. Andrew's Park. Several times they have been left because the van cannot get into St. Andrew's Park from Norton Crescent due to inconsiderate parking!

Lack of public transport.

The amount of off-street parking in Norton Crescent has become a major issue with so many houses having more than two cars and hamper anyone who is disabled getting access to their own homes.

Feral cats fouling gardens.

Cats – too many – wild and captive. Control needed for both.

Parking on grass. Not appropriate when others take care of the areas.

Parking on pavements. Access required for all including push-chairs, mobility and pedestrians.

Hedges encroaching on pavements, which make the above problems worse. Pedestrians have to walk on the road in some areas.

Parking on pavements and grass.

Some gardens and fronts overgrown.

Litter is a major problem down Sadberge Road – people throwing McDonalds rubbish out of cars.

Car break-ins.

Gritting issues / grit boxes.

The number of cars and other vehicles blocking sight from major junctions around the village is likely to cause a serious accident or even fatality if allowed to continue.

Safety from village junctions turning in and out of East Close up and down Hill House Lane seriously needs reviewing. Parking on the junction at the top of Hill House Lane needs reviewing. Accidents are likely to happen.

Feral cats fouling in gardens.

The road on Chapel Row is full of holes and could do with being made equal.

### **Any additional comments**

Sadberge would, in my view, only benefit if it would attract families with children, retired people or those due to retire in a few years' time. Unfortunately, those type of people who would benefit the village would not consider living here. If new houses are built it would be a further move to create a commuter village, possibly if this step had been taken, say, 25 years ago it may have been a different story.

The village is only suitable for people with cars and their friends.

Darlington Borough Council wasting money. £54,000 lost though the watchmaker's shop under the town clock being empty for 12 years. One million on wheeled bins. Four million on Local Motion. This is the third time this has been done. Taking away wood that should be on the village bonfire. Two visits. No wonder we have no money for a bus service. The only way to describe this village is "absolute hell".

Note: There are houses which have been empty / unsold in the village for more than 5 years.

Why build new houses when we have so very few amenities – school, shop, post office, bus service?

There is little point in building more houses in Sadberge when we have no facilities; i.e. post office, school, doctor's surgery, bus service, shop.

If any additional houses are built then significant parking spaces should be proposed. For example, space for at least 2 cars per household ..... excluding parking inside garages, as people rarely use garages for parking these days.

I have lots of additional comments, but I don't think you would take any notice. Who is collating the findings? An independent body or the parish council? Say no more.

I would not like the idea of new houses being built, as one of the main reasons to love and live in Sadberge is the small village and countryside. I would, in fact, be very against this happening.

I love Sadberge for being a small friendly village. Please don't go making it another place where people don't know or talk to their neighbours. I think if it gets too big Sadberge will lose its charm.

If new houses are going to be built, they should be priced so that young ones can afford them ..... but this would not happen. If builders were allowed to build they would not build affordable houses. There are no facilities for the average person. Therefore it would not attract the right type of people. It would be executive housing only.

I feel that there is a general assumption that increased houses equals better services. I am sure that this is the case for a few hundreds of houses but frankly, I did not move to Sadberge to live in a small town! When you consider the services we have lost I do not accept that this has been caused by the size of the village. For example, I would have visited the post office more often but they never opened at the times that suited people who worked – it seemed to me to exist to service mainly retired people. The bus service has been lost because most people have cars and the pub does offer food, but not of the quality that you might expect from pubs in smaller villages such as Thorpe Thewles. Basically, I feel that the best way to protect services is for people who manage these services to take more responsibility – and stop blaming the people of Sadberge! The ridiculous 'use it or lose it' campaign from the post office – well, I would have used it if it was open either before or after work!

Before coming to Sadberge I have always lived in built up areas with great services but all the negative aspects which come along with it – mainly gangs of teenagers making people's lives a misery. I have come to Sadberge to get away from this and I would urge the parish council to be grateful for the great community we have and not risk losing it!

I am sure that the majority of the people who live in Sadberge do so because it is such a pleasant small village to live in. Major development may well "spoil" this and ultimately cause current residents to move out elsewhere, with new people moving in who are not so friendly, quiet, law abiding, community spirited, and ruin the ethos of the village. I understand that development may have some advantages, but I believe that the disadvantages will far outweigh these.

I do not think any significant development in or around Sadberge would be of any benefit to the existing community / village.

Over the past 30 years I have lived in Sadberge. The things we need have gone – i.e. shop, post office, school, busses – but the amount of things we don't want have increased – i.e. traffic, parked cars and wind turbines (imminent). I feel that Darlington Borough Council have concentrated their funds on the "town" and neglected the village and rural communities.

If new houses were to be built in Sadberge how would you guarantee people renting / buying them? The village has no shop, one pub, no (decent) play area, no entertainment for kids. It doesn't have a guaranteed stable bus service. Will these houses be a waste of money?

I cannot see any benefit of more houses, as Sadberge has nothing to offer. Who would want to live here if they do not drive? The village has nothing to offer.

1. Traffic needs to be diverted from the village.
2. Village shop with post office.
3. Village shop expanded or another one added.
4. Restaurant to be opened in village.
5. Footpath for Hillhouse Lane.

No school. No buses. No shop. More choice of goods in Coffee Shop.

I only feel a little 'locked in' to the village at the moment but in snow and ice, when I am unable to get the car up the road / drive then I very much feel 'locked in' due to lack of bus service and shop. I stock up for a week when snow is forecast.

Regarding the question about the community composting facility, it seems very expensive for the time involved.

There are very poor communications between some parts of the Borough Council and the community.

As there is no bus service, how can people living in affordable housing travel between Sadberge and urban locations where jobs are to be found?

Compost facility will become more important due to wheelie bins.

At present we are elderly but active with the use of a car. As we get older Sadberge will not be an easy place to live in due to lack of facilities.

Prevent residential planning approval outside the planning boundary.

I'm not sure about the question about the composting facility. I feel that given the amount of gardens in the village and the percentage of elderly residents the Council should provide "green" bins to be collected from householders.

Through the efforts of a number of active and charismatic individuals, Sadberge is a lovely village. I just hope the next generation step up soon, as the active individuals seem to be 60 - 75 !!!

The village needs to try to encourage young children to do things in the village. The village needs to think more about the younger generation. For example, decent play parks, sports clubs like football, cricket, etc. and some form of youth club for all ages of children on a Friday night from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m., or something like that.

We only moved into the village 8 weeks ago, therefore I do not think these answers will be a true reflection on Sadberge. It would be interesting to maybe have this questionnaire again in a year's time. Many thanks.

We only moved to Sadberge 8 weeks ago.

I feel that if more housing was to be built around the village it would spoil the village and the outlooks around the village.

I would like to see facilities for children and adults to use for playing and sports; e.g. sports field with nets for tennis or basketball or netball to be used by villagers and for young people to meet at and use.

Middleton has far better facilities, buses pass through there regularly, so why not Sadberge as many people don't have cars!

As an option to "housing", perhaps a retirement hall for 20 - 40 occupants could be considered. First consideration could be existing villagers taking up the rooms. This should then release existing properties for newbies!

With regard to the question about the composting facility, we have lots of people around the village willing and able to do community gardening, and this should be encouraged.

Darlington spent a lot of money building an entrance into the children's play area from Stockton Road to "bring in the lawn mowers"! Why? They continue to use the entrance from Abbey Road! They also lied about the school closure.

With regard to the question about the composting facility, what do we get from the Council for the money we pay in rates???

Darlington Borough Council was not very truthful about the closure of the school. One meeting the school was sustainable. But the next day it closed.

The majority of people do not use any of the facilities.

The village hall should not be a commercial enterprise. Many smaller villages have a voluntary system of running their halls and facilities. Smaller villages have a "mobile" post office. Smaller villages have voluntary shops, etc.

Many people do not take part in any of the village activities. It is a dormitory village for newcomers.

There are already too many empty houses / flats for sale or to let in the village. Building more won't bring back a shop, school or post office.

There are a number of properties for sale or to let around the village. These properties include starter homes up to executive homes and cover a wide range of budgets. Many of the affordable / starter homes have been empty since they were built and have been empty or unsold for at least 2 years. Clearly there is no market or demand for this type of property in the village at present and no sign of a significant demand for these properties in future.

Building affordable homes for low income families will not bring back bus services, post offices, shops or other amenities.

I use the children's play area. I don't like the fact that you have taken most of the equipment away, though. It is not as much fun.

There is a significant number of volunteers who work for the benefit of the village hall, the village environment and the village church. Most of their resources are provided by their own efforts – this in itself is a strong statement about the community spirit in the village, which could change or be diluted if the village size changed.

Without a bus service I do not think Sadberge is likely to attract families / older people to live here. I already know of one young couple who were put off buying a house here when they found out there was no bus service. If there is only one car available in a household and that car is used to get someone to work, then the other people in the house are left stranded all day.

I had to complain to Darlington Borough Council last year as the park was seriously overgrown; i.e. the grass was right up to the swing seats. The Council have replaced grass with wood chippings, only to remove the swings!!! We pay far too much council tax to Darlington Borough Council for what we get here. My teenage daughter can now not access independently any facilities throughout the town. It is disgraceful not having a bus service – especially in view of the fact that Darlington Borough Council has bent over backwards to help High Conniscliffe with their temporary situation.

I am upset that there is no bus, because I have to rely on my mum to take me places (e.g. town to meet my friends). Therefore, I feel locked in and that I am missing out. Bus services on Monday and Wednesday are no good for me and other young people in the village as they won't be of use during term time.

I am upset that, since I cannot leave Sadberge, there is no decent park. Nothing was done to look after it last year and there is no improvement this year except new wood chippings. Also, the climbing frame and big swings have been taken out with no hint of replacement. The grass is usually overgrown and everything is rusty / broken.

The children's play park is in ruins. We can't get to the "super parks" in town due to lack of a bus service. A limited bus service should include a Saturday when youngsters need to get into town. They are stuck in the village with nothing to do. The school at Long Newton is only accessible by car – the cycleway / footpath ends abruptly on the eastbound side and starts up again on the westbound side with no means of getting across!

Good community spirit. A tidy well-kept village, but not a place a family would move to unless two cars were available.

Inadequate parking on St. Andrews Park is causing overflow on to Norton Crescent, leaving (elderly) residents without parking.

To reinvigorate the village and reintroduce facilities – e.g. convenience store and bus service – over 100 new houses will have to be built over the next 10 years.

For the village to thrive and facilities to be maintained / re-introduced, the present population needs to grow significantly – from the present level of 750 to approximately 1,500+. This will require 150 - 200 new properties.

This level of population would sustain a convenience store, bus service and village pub, would maintain and expand the village hall and church and, if enough young families were attracted, an infant / junior school.

Suggested site for development: The land between Middleton Road and Stockton Road which has a southerly boundary with the A66. A service road running parallel to the A66 would minimise traffic passing through the village centre, and would have little to no effect on the character of the present nucleus of the village.

There is no point building new homes when there is a shortage of service such as shop, post office, bus service, school and GP's surgery.

At the present time there is a great shortage of affordable homes. Sadberge could help to alleviate the problem, albeit in a small way, by allowing some to be built just outside the village envelope. It would enable young people, including residents' children, to get on the housing ladder. The alternative is to live in a town, which many do not want to do if they have been brought up in a rural community. We have embraced renewable energy in the form of solar panels and soon there will be wind turbines, so why not have some affordable housing at a time when there is a real shortage?

Rented / affordable homes are needed in the village to enable young people to stay there and get on to the housing ladder.

Time would tell, but if there was a safe, off-road footpath between Sadberge, Middleton St. George and Darlington I'd like to think that I would use it fairly regularly. I support the idea of such a development.

I would not mind the development of the existing reservoir area and to include houses.

I would like to see the centre-of-village composting facility removed.

Although I am impressed by the skill of the craftsman, I do not like the wood / tree carvings on Sadberge green

The efforts of the Garden Group are often not to my taste.

This is a very well thought out and constructed questionnaire.

We have been members of the Village Hall Association since we came in 1985. We have also donated money to the Village Hall Association. We have not paid this year – apologies. No-one collected and I have not handed any money in.

We use Town Farm Field to access our hedge for twice-yearly cutting and occasionally with our daughter's dog.

Housing should be designated (position) by the Parish Council after consultation with residents. There should be a garden for each house. The houses should be built to best environmental standards – i.e. passive if possible – and should be provided with space for cars separate to people.

When I first came to Sadberge in 1970 there were three shops, one being the Post Office. We had bus services to Saltburn, Redcar, Stockton, Darlington, Hartlepool and Middlesbrough. We had a school, with children coming from Middleton, Haughton and Bishopton. Now there is none.

In another comment I said that we have "half a church". That may sound harsh, but we had a Vicar, and a Vicarage which could reach out to young and old people.

Sadberge Village Hall had a Youth Club, and the play area was well used by my children.

There appears to be a small minority of dog owners who seem happy to leave their dogs outside to bark whilst they are either at work or don't want them in the house. This is a dreadful form of noise pollution.

I am concerned that dogs are being frequently left outside (in garden) to bark for long periods of time.

The village would benefit from a village shop that would be open at weekends.

The village would benefit from a non-biased opinion of resident parking at Norton Crescent.

The village festival and flowers around the village are outstanding and really ensure that we feel proud to be part of the village.

I do not wish to be negative, but I do not think Sadberge will benefit from further expansion beyond the village envelope. The facilities – such as they are – are inadequate and are unlikely to improve or increase. There is no school, bus service, shop or doctor's surgery. All journeys must be made by private car (or taxi) and further development would only serve to increase the volume of traffic, whatever the mix of housing. Extra housing would not necessarily revitalise the village and it would become even more of a dormitory village than at present. In addition, I do not agree with the continuing erosion of green-field sites / areas for development.

What is the point of expanding the number of houses in the village when we have lost the school, and Middleton St. George school is no longer treating Sadberge children as one of the priority groups, so there's no guarantee of local schooling. We no longer have a shop. One pub has closed and the other is struggling. The village hall coffee shop is struggling too. What do we as a village have to offer people? Even if we build extra homes, would this mean these people / families would use the village facilities? We have no guarantee of this.

Sadberge has no bus service, no school and no shop. To build further houses without these services Sadberge cannot go much further ahead. Families will struggle for work and school. I cannot stress enough the point about a village without transport. When I have to give up my car (which is my only ability of getting around) I shall move somewhere that caters for transport. I do not wish to be house-bound in Sadberge. No future here for the younger generation. Now no church!! (Sometimes in life you need spiritual guidance and the church can give that.)

There is a need to improve connectivity to the Internet.

The question of new houses in Sadberge depends entirely upon additional services based on the additional population. If no additional services, no houses please.

Connectivity! The bus service is so meagre as to not really be usable on a regular basis. Taxi services to nearby conurbations are relatively expensive – but we have problems using the Internet, which would enable some shopping, etc. to be done on-line, eliminating the need for trips out and reducing the 'feeling' of being cut off. Telephone lines to services, including the Council and the doctor, seem to be being moved to premium rate lines these days. Reliable Internet access is one of the things that would make living 'out of centre' easier.

Affordable housing, for younger people to be able to come to or stay in the village, would be welcome, but shouldn't alter its character. There seems little point, however, in building houses that are affordable if the prospective buyers would have to have their own car, or other transport. I would suggest that a condition of any development be that a bus service be provided, or subsidised by, the developers, be they private sector or public.

Also, with the problems of both village pubs in recent years, might consideration be given to a communal take-over of one (the Three Tuns is on the market with no obvious takers) by subscription of residents or other fundraising method?

New houses should be affordable; e.g. bungalows / care home / adapted housing or flats for elderly and single people.

The Summer festival attracts people from the surrounding area to visit Sadberge. Perhaps an Autumn event or Winter event should also be considered – perhaps something more linked to Bonfire Night or Christmas. There was a lot of discussion regarding activities linked to the church, but I have not seen an increase in music or drama events. There is scope to include these in the church, from amateur to semi-professional artists.

I see no point in building more houses in Sadberge. It has "nothing going for it". No transport. No school. No shop. No post office. No doctor. And in the near future no church!

No new houses should be built in Sadberge! No bus service! No school! No shop! No point in building new houses!

If I wanted to live in a large village I would move to Middleton.

Most problems for public transport, village amenities, etc. could be alleviated if the size of the village was increased (in a controlled manner). Additional housing would make existing businesses more sustainable and would make public transport more viable.

If affordable housing is built it should be accessible and purpose-built for older people.

The lack of a shop (open after 5 p.m. and on Saturday mornings, etc.) is a real challenge for future sustainability.

The old school field behind St. Andrew's Park Should be utilised for use by the village. Could the play area be moved to this field?

#### Darlington Council is non-existent to Sadberge.

1. Potholes on all roads leading to Middleton St. George. Disgrace. Roads not maintained whatsoever. No proper footpaths round village that can be safely walked on. Never maintained. Lack of vehicle maintenance cleaning.
2. Lack of tree pruning.
3. Darlington Council do not allow any funding for flooding on roads to Middleton St. George roundabout. Have to ring and inform Darlington Highways of the situation which is constant in winter. Total of every week.
4. Hump near blue bridge and road which is a disgrace. Put small repair on the road which is virtually the size of a postage stamp. Two days later traffic has destroyed it back to normal of non-existence.
5. The island which is opposite the Farmhouse Inn is absolutely ridiculous. Whoever had this idea wants sacking. Because the road has many curves and people do not know it's there, they overtake cars and suddenly brake, causing others to do so. Maybe one person a year will use this crossing. The money this has cost could be used to better advantage.

Sadberge is another continent to Darlington because it is impossible to walk from the outskirts of Sadberge to Middleton St. George due to no pavement. Very restricted.

No facilities for new houses to be build. No shops. No buses. But lots of wagons going through the centre of the village. Should not be allowed.

Sadberge looks after Sadberge. Council of Darlington does not exist.

The amount of money spent on the island at the Farmhouse Inn is absolutely ridiculous and dangerous.

Since the closure of the school and post office, the village has become a clump of houses!

The village hall and church are a lifeline.

A small shop like Tesco Express or the Co-op might help the older residents and give passerss-by the idea that the village is alive.

There's not really a walk apart from through the fields. I don't know why anybody would want to walk to Middleton St. George (see question 4.3).

If houses are to be built, there should be more here for the village "centre" such as mentioned above, in particular a shop.

Organisers of village activities such as the fayre do a fantastic job!

How can you honestly 'plan' to expand the village boundary when the village is deficient of the fundamentals that would attract "new blood" into the community. There is no

- School. What age group are you honestly targeting?
- Transport. How are people without their own cars supposed to commute?
- Post Office / shop. The hub of any community!!
- Mean age of the village? How many houses are currently for sale? Unsold?

How will the Parish Council sell the commercial spin of the village to any potential inhabitants with no pub (both up for sale), no shop, no school and with no transport?

No! to gypsies.

No! to housing association.

No! to wind farms.

At the moment I am very busy working with the elderly (24 nursing homes) and people aged 19 - 50 with varying disabilities, so I am not able to take up the social life in Sadberge, but in the future I hope to do so.

On the whole I think Sadberge is a great place to bring up a family. There is a real sense of community, which is demonstrated through the annual festival, which is always a really enjoyable and well organised event. I am aware that, as is often the case, there are a few people who do a great deal within the village and given more time I would like to get involved a bit more personally.

I do feel the play area could be improved upon, and perhaps be relocated more centrally within the village.

We personally have had three burglaries to out-buildings since Christmas, so this is a real concern for us.

I do think the village hall is a fantastic facility for the village, around which much village life and activities revolve, and without it I feel there would be much less sense of community.

The reduction in activities in the village is a concern. If the village hall were to be affected it would have a real impact on the village.

The village needs to develop but it will never be big enough to get the facilities back we have lost.

We have personally had an issue with burglary in the past few months. We hop this won't continue.

More parking facilities required. "Line" marking to prevent inappropriate parking. Road repairs urgently required.

Enough affordable houses should be built to secure services and amenities such as transport, shop, medical facilities, etc. in future.

As many new houses should be built are as needed to reinstate amenities and services. Mixed affordable and others.

Parking where I live is okay – but any visiting friends and relatives do not have anywhere to park.

Traffic build-up in the morning and evening is quite concerning – very busy at peak times. Also travelling quite fast and queuing at the crossroads. Maybe cameras / CCSTV for security purposes at these junctions would be a good idea.

I think that the older villagers without their own transport need some kind of community transport – but having always lived in a village, by choice, I do expect to pay extra rather than a free service, which may be more sustainable than free travel.

There should be CCTV in the centre of the village, because it will have a 360° view of any wrongdoing.

There is already sufficient cheap housing.

New houses were built five years ago at St. Andrew's Park. The 'executive' more expensive houses were the first to sell. The more affordable (smaller) houses sold slowly and in fact there is still one unsold.

People who move to Sadberge will commute to work and need houses with adequate parking.

The village does not have sufficient amenities to sustain new housing development within or around the village, as there is no bus service, no school and no shop.

There is a lack of parking spaces for church services, where it is simply dangerous.

Any new housing should be built on the outskirts of the village. Houses or bungalows should not be squashed into existing green areas. In my opinion planning permission has, in the past, been given where it is clearly inappropriate – especially by guilders in it for a "fast buck".

I do not feel that the rural community is supported in the correct manner by Darlington Borough Council. Services of all descriptions are being reduced and the excuse is the same every time; i.e. a cutback by central government. Not all services need to be savagely cut.

No mention in the questionnaire about the mobile library and the village usage. I can visualise that being next to be cut.

The lack of facilities / transport is not currently a problem for us, but could increasingly become so after we retire within the next year or so.

Building new houses should be dependent on sensible plans; i.e. adequate parking for all new builds – not as St. Andrew's Park in Norton Crescent.

What is the term "affordable"?

"Executive" means mainly people buy into a "nice area" who don't want to be involved in a community.

Properties should only be built to enhance and benefit the village, NOT for the greed of developers.

Most things generally OK.

There are plenty of houses for sale and on the market for a long time, so no to more houses.

No more houses.

Not social housing.

Not rented houses.

If new houses are going to be built they should be "executive" as they will have off-street parking!

While there is no bus service in Sadberge, families need to be car owners / drivers to get to Post Office, doctor, hospital and shops. This will influence decisions on new housing and have a deleterious effect on a rapidly ageing population. If I become unable to drive, I will be isolated and this is a worry.

Only affordable houses should be built in or around Sadberge. This village is becoming a rich housing estate.

I cannot stress enough the need for a regular bus service. You need a car to live here at the moment. But what will happen to people in the village who are unable to drive? Relying on people who can is not an option in the long term. Neither is the taxi. Mr. Mackenzie, what would you do if for whatever reason you were temporarily unable to drive? If you want a mix of classes in this village then we must have a bus.

I believe the village is dying. No shop. One pub. No bus. If I could afford to leave then I would. In short, I believe (about Sadberge) – No bus equals no future. No shop, one pub, part-time church, no school, no post office, and no bus. So what do you and other parish councillors think the future holds for Sadberge?

Any bus route will significantly increase the quality of life for people living in Sadberge village or visiting the area.

There is not much for children to do in Sadberge. We have to travel out of the village for this.

This was a great village to raise a young family and as parents we were more active in supporting the Village Hall through attendance of Play Group, Youth Club and the various other community activities.

We have seen the demise of the village school, the local shop and Post Office – our children have now graduated and left the area to find work but if they wanted to live here they would be unable to find either a suitable place to rent or afford to get on the housing ladder.

Whilst we continue to work and are mobile we are not reliant on village amenities we will become so as we become part of the ageing / retired community.

This not a unique problem for Sadberge, but if we are to accept the inevitability of wind turbines, maybe the price should have been a greater financial contribution to the Parish Council to invest in infrastructure – such as affordable housing and a transport subsidy.

Having lived in the village almost 30 years, I have seen many changes to village life. Sadly, most seem negative. The loss of our village shop / post office had a major impact on village life as the on-going bus service issue has been for many elderly residents. I cannot envisage staying in Sadberge well into retirement as I do not think I could cope independently without these basic services. That makes me feel sad.

The community spirit which exists in Sadberge is indeed its strength and the efforts in maintaining / improving the local environment are very much appreciated! It is a delight to approach the village from any direction.

If we were to lose our Village Hall we could lose its heart, for so much has taken place there – so many memorable and significant events making history in Sadberge. The view from the coffee shop is our jewel in the Sadberge crown. I dread the day wind farms appear as a carbuncle on our landscape!

Sadberge is a great place to live if you know people and are able to attend occasions that happen at the village hall.

I am really concerned about the road on Chapel Row, with the amount of elderly people. We need new re-surfacing. When it snows, we have to dig out ourselves and neighbours. The fact that the road is disintegrating does not help!!

Also, big praise for Sadberge festival. It is the first time we have joined in and really enjoyed it. Thank You to all involved. Looking forward to next year. My parents from James Cook Hospital were cheering for my dog in the show from their hospital beds.