Our survey indicated the need for limited additional housing in Rufforth, in particular to encourage young families to our Parish to maintain the community spirit and the sustainability of services. We have completed our first draft of housing proposals (see documents). You will see our thoughts on two potential sites in Rufforth along with other sites we have considered.

Policies within the plan will be aimed to support a thriving rural economy of agriculture and small businesses. We propose supporting existing small businesses to expand but within their current site curtilage and barn conversions provided they are of a scale and style commensurate with the current structure.  There is a proposal for limited expansion of Northminster business Park on the Parish Boundary and our views can be found in the documents.

A large number of residents commented on the need to extend the cycle path which goes round the boundary of Harewood Whin at both ends providing safe access to the villages of Rufforth and Knapton.

The Parish Council (with Helen Butterworth leading the project) have applied for planning permission for an extension into Rufforth. Agreement has been reached in principle with the landowner for this to be on the field side of the hedge along the B1224 and behind the bungalows and the Tankard Inn and on to the end of Milestone Avenue.  This will provide safe access for residents and families in particular.

Discussions are ongoing with regard to the Knapton end and we will keep you informed of progress.

We will continue to monitor progress to ensure that all conditions of the Planning approval are complied with.  We are also very pleased to inform you that Yorwaste have agreed to sign an Operating Agreement with the Parish Council. This will be supplementary to any Section 106 agreement (the legal agreement which is an integral part of planning approval) and will unambiguously detail commitments on vehicle movements and all other operational aspects of the site. The Neighbourhood Planning Group and the Parish Council will be drawing up this agreement for Yorwaste to sign with a view to it becoming operational by 1st April 2017 when the waste transfer station is due to become operational.