



NORTH FERRIBY PARISH PLAN STEERING GROUP

LOCAL BUSINESSES RESPOND TO SURVEY

At the end of last year a list was compiled of almost sixty businesses based in the village and a concise, two-page questionnaire was delivered to each, seeking their views on the business-related aspects of life in North Ferriby. These views will provide considerable help to the Steering Group in ensuring that the concerns of local businesses are taken into account in the Parish Plan. Nineteen businesses responded, covering a wide variety of activities, all in the service and distributive trades sectors.

Most of the responses showed a positive view of the individual businesses' future in the village. All but one indicated that they saw a steady, long-term future here - the exception being a business owner who was planning to retire. However, there were some perceived hindrances to expansion and these will be looked at carefully to see whether any of them can realistically be overcome.

The problems identified included the fact that, while village residents paid lip service to the idea of supporting North Ferriby businesses, they did not always do so in practice. A lack of suitably skilled staff was also highlighted by some respondents, as were concerns about the price of premises, parking problems, and a planning system perceived to be over-rigid. Although not all of these can be solved locally, their existence can be used in discussions with the bodies which may be able to help alleviate them. Additionally, constructive suggestions were put forward by respondents on measures which would help them to expand, for example in relation to the promotion of local business.

One of the means available to local businesses would be for the village website (www.ferriby.info) to carry a link to the business' own website and a majority of respondents said that they were in favour of this. As a result, the idea is currently under consideration by the Parish Council.

The suggestion of a local business exchange was also welcomed. This would provide an opportunity for businesses to share information, to pool their resources in order to increase their purchasing power (e.g. with energy suppliers, stationery etc.) and to work together in various other ways. Details of how this would be set up and operate will require further study, in conjunction with those interested in the scheme, who are invited to contact the Steering Group Secretary on 633848.

The Steering Group was very gratified to receive a number of donations from recipients of the questionnaire towards the costs of the Parish Plan exercise. The generous contributions of the businesses concerned will be acknowledged in the Parish Plan report, and they are listed on the village website (www.ferriby.info/parishplan.htm).

Margaret Swindin
Honorary Secretary
Parish Plan Steering Group