

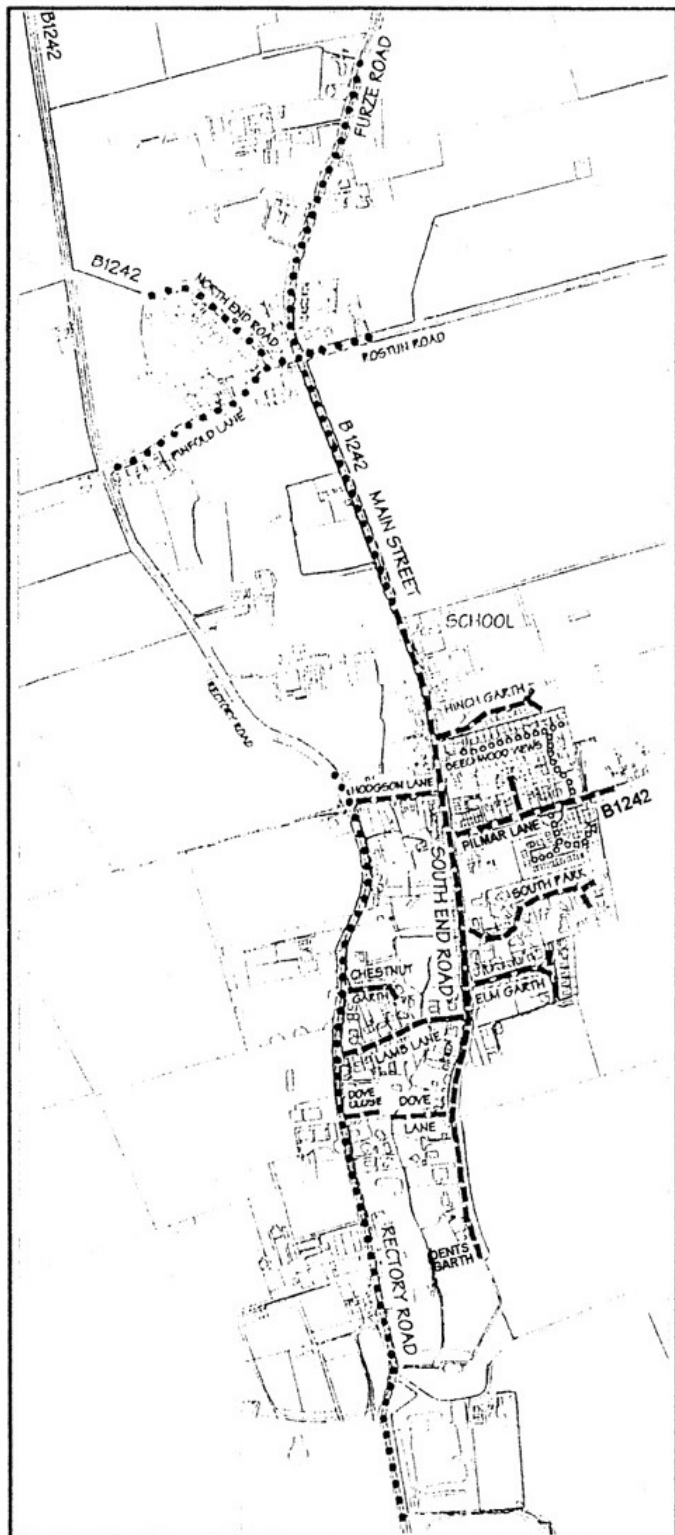


THE ROOSTER

Roos Village Newsletter

No. 61

May 1999



Slow-down at last

It looks as though Roos may soon have the speed limit that has been sought for many years. At their May meeting the Parish Council learned that the East Riding is to take the decision later in the summer.

A further bonus is news that the proposal now is to introduce a 30 mph restriction within the built-up parts of the village. A previous proposal was to set the limit at 40.

A letter read out at the meeting formally notified councillors of the new proposal so that - if they wished - they could register an objection to the change. No objection was raised! Indeed, the lower level was naturally welcomed.

What restriction where?

As the map shows, the original proposal for a 40 mph limit will still apply at North End and there will be no restriction at all on most of Rectory Road north of Hodgson Lane.

40 mph

From the Tunstall Road crossroad :

- Pinfold Lane; North End Road to North End Cottage.
- Hilston Rd to a point between Carr Farm & Glebe Farm.
- Tunstall Road (Rostun Road) as far as Northlands.
- Main Street southwards to just north of the school.
- Rectory Road from just north of Hodgson Lane southwards past the church to the start of Halsham Road.

30 mph

- Main Street from the school southwards; South End Road as far as Dents Garth.
- Side roads : Hodgson Lane, Chestnut Garth, Lamb Lane, Dove Lane, Dove Close, Orchard Close, Hinch Garth, South Park, Elm Garth, Cherry Hill Park.
- Pilmar Lane to a point just short of Eastfield House.

Key to Map symbols

- — — — — Proposed 30 mph speed limit by order.
- Proposed 40 mph speed limit
- o o o o o Existing 30 mph speed limit by virtue of street lighting.

Good sense prevails

There has long been concern at traffic speeds in Roos and there have been arguments at parish meetings to press for a speed limit. Some years ago a group of us organised a traffic census and presented a petition to the the Highways Department. More recently pupils checked on traffic speeds on the road past the school.

The case was always bedevilled by the issue of street

lighting, which would automatically have required a speed limit. Many residents wanted a speed limit but not street lighting, which they felt was inappropriate in a rural village.

When lighting was introduced in Eastfield and Beechwood Views it would have been daft to have a 30 mph limit there but not in the rest of Roos. The new proposals prevent that nonsense. (And most of us can still see the stars after dark.)

Parish Council vacancy

Three ex-councillors decided not to stand for re-election: Alan Bowden, Leslie Helliwell and John Lamplugh. There were too few nominations to require an election and all those who were nominated automatically became councillors without a ballot - i.e. the remaining former members and two new ones, Mrs Barbara Kirk and Mr Christopher Jackson (Tunstall). The vacant place will be filled by co-option.

No questionnaire on wind farms

Last November a packed meeting in the Memorial Institute showed the strength of local feeling opposed to any wind turbines near to Roos. Parish councillors were asked to request the East Riding of Yorkshire Council to initiate a Holderness-wide referendum on the matter. At their next meeting the Parish Council sent a letter with this request.

At their May meeting parish councillors heard the reply from Mr John Crook, the East Riding's Development Control Manager (Strategy). Mr Crook wrote:

"Although I have some sympathy with your request, it is not the policy of the Council to hold ad hoc referendums on individual planning applications. The planning system allows Parish Councils, local residents and the public at large to make representations to the Council. These views are reported to the Councillors who, based on officers' recommendations, make a decision to refuse or permit the application."

"I note the general opposition to wind farms expressed at the public meeting held on 23rd November 1998."

Different ball game / Moving goalposts

Mr Crook's letter ignores - perhaps deliberately - the fact that the request was for a Holderness-wide referendum, not for a referendum on an application for Roos alone. He also failed to mention that the procedure he describes will not now operate. Things have moved on.

First, the East Riding has commissioned consultants to help decide on wind-farm applications. Second, the matter has been taken over by John Prescott, Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions. The consequence is that the arguments for and against wind farms in Holderness will be heard not by the East Riding Council but by an inspector at a public enquiry.

The Rooster

I am delighted to report that a volunteer has come forward to take on the editorship of "The Rooster": Dr Brian Wells. Brian and his family lived for many years in Roos before moving to Glebe Farm, Hilston. He used to supply free film processing for newsletter photographs. Many people know him personally but most will remember his pharmacy in Queen Street in Withernsea. Though he has given up the

pharmacy he is by no means retired. We are fortunate that in spite of his busy life he is willing to edit the newsletter.

Brian expects to continue the present practice of producing the newsletter from time to time, as occasion demands, and not monthly. He will need to pick up the contacts who have provided me with information in the past and the support of those who help deliver the copies.

More deliverers are required, especially for North End and Pilmar Lane. At present contact me with offers: 670291. In the short term I may continue to manage the distribution.

Leslie Helliwell.

Home is where the heart is

We live in Roos either because we were born and brought up here or because we chose to settle here. All of us have a view about the village that is our present home. We want to conserve and enhance the things we value in Roos.

This newsletter has a supplement on the Roos Village Design Statement (Roos VDS), first publicised in "The Rooster" in the issue of July 1997.

The supplement is an attempt by the committee to illustrate how we could tackle some of the topics that must be covered. It is only that - an example. The final version will need input from the village as a whole.

An introduction by Willis Ainley sums up the purpose of the project and the progress so far. It is a means by which we can put on record the sort of place that Roos is. By doing this we can hope to influence planning policy and the future development of our village.

Willis Ainley stresses the need for support from residents. This is necessary not only to make a good job of the project. It is also a condition of acceptance by the East Riding and therefore of subsequent funding.

We need to demonstrate such wide village support. If you like the thrust of what has been written and see the point of it, please complete and return the reply slip attached. The more signatories we can quote, the more likely we are to have the project approved and funded.

PMJ COMPUTERS MOBILE REPAIR SERVICE

Your local business for local people

- On-site repairs for most systems.
- Hardware / software sales and support.
- Small business system networking.
- Maintenance contracts.
- Private and commercial work undertaken.
- Systems built to your specification.
- Inkjet refills, CD ROMs, modems, soundcards, etc.
- See us at Saturday Market, Beverley, and also at Skirlington Indoor Market.
- For immediate attention call the numbers below.

01964 - 671170

Mobile 0378 - 106 - 940

E-mail allan@pmj.karoo.co.uk

"The Rooster", May 1999 : Supplement

The Roos Village Design Statement

Introduction by Willis Ainley, Chairman of the VDS Group

In early 1997 the Village Design Statement (VDS) initiative was presented to the Parish Council. In late 1998 a Parish Meeting set up a small group to progress the issue and report back to a future meeting which would decide whether Roos should proceed with a VDS or not.

Subject to other commitments members of the group have met regularly. However, the Wind Turbine issue came to the fore and - to avoid any undue conflict of interests - it was agreed to suspend discussions for a time. This has been the cause of some delay.

We are now at the stage where additional support and contributions are needed from individuals and village organisations.

But first let us remind ourselves and newcomers to the village of the nature and purpose of a VDS. It is part of a government initiative developed by the Countryside Commission through which village communities are invited to examine the nature of their environment, its architecture and general design. They then produce a printed document - the Village Design Statement - which, if adopted, has the status of Supplementary Planning Guidance and will be used by developers and planning authorities in their decision-making. A financial grant is available.

Initially, the group considered broad issues. It was soon clear that the VDS could not simply be a "wish list" or dictate policy : it had to work *within* existing planning legislation. But what it *could* do was to establish a context within which planning decisions would be taken.

A great deal has been done. We have consulted with East Riding officers and examined Village Design Statements from other villages (notably Burton Pidsea) and have drafted many of the documents - including a constitution and budget - that are needed to support a grant application. We have also considered some of the topics that the Countryside Commission requires a VDS to cover :

- **the village in its countryside or landscape setting;**
- **the form of the settlement as a whole;**
- **the characteristics and details of the buildings and spaces in the village.**

(Some views on these are offered on later pages.)

The statement must answer the following questions :

- **What does this say about the character of our village?**
- **Will it help to inform the design decisions of designers and developers?**
- **Will it be compatible with local planning policies?**

We hope to set up small working groups to consider these topics. Individuals and representatives of village groups are warmly invited to take part.

Even if you are unable to participate directly, you may be able to loan photographs or documents to identify and illustrate features of the village. Such help will be very welcome - as will assistance from people with experience of graphic design, desktop publishing and image manipulation.

Please return the reply slip if you are in favour of the VDS project, not least if you can offer help.

Roos, a rural village

“Roos is in the south-eastern housing market area and has a population of about 1100; it seems strangely secret, isolated in the midst of farmland and secluded behind ancient trees.” These were the opening words of the Inspector’s Report in 1998 on modifications to the Holderness District-Wide Plan.

The Inspector continued : “All Saints’ Church (a Grade I Listed Building) stands apart from the village beyond a yew-lined avenue. The ancient settlement pattern (two long parallel streets), the jumble of cottages, farmsteads and the Manor, the wooded areas, and the sixteen Listed Buildings create an attractive place, though there is no designated Conservation Area. Small estates of more modern development lie to the east. The village supports a store / newsagent, a butcher, a public house (*in fact, two*) , a doctor’s surgery, a village hall, a new primary school, and playing fields.”

Location

Roos lies some two miles from the Holderness coast in East Yorkshire. The sound of breaking waves can often be heard in Roos, especially on quiet nights. The nearest coastal towns - both relatively small - are Withernsea, four miles to the south-west, and Hornsea, twelve miles to the north. Inland, Hedon is nine miles away and the city of Kingston upon Hull lies fifteen miles to the west.

Nature of the landscape and environment

The land consists of boulder clay, reddish brown in colour. The coastline is subject to erosion, a threat to livelihoods and property. Over the centuries many villages have been lost to the sea.

The landscape is generally flat and low-lying, though shallow undulations prevent undue monotony, as do the plantations of mature trees in parts of the village as well as the many thriving trees in private gardens. Roos stands on one of the low rises.

Local vistas

As a result, there are vistas to distant horizons in most directions. From some nearby roads it is possible to see up to twenty miles towards the Lincolnshire Wolds and the petrochemical industries and docks on the south bank of the Humber. To the west can be seen the distant cooling towers of the BP Chemicals complex at Saltend near Hedon, the cranes of Hull docks, the funnels of North Sea Ferries and - beyond Hull’s high-rise buildings - the Humber Bridge and the edge of the Yorkshire Wolds.

Nearer, two miles to the east, a cluster of mainly static caravans on a cliff-top site provides holiday homes for people from Hull and West Riding towns, for whom this coastline has been popular since Victorian times. Withernsea’s redundant lighthouse and the water tower at Halsham, both visible from Roos, provide landmarks for travellers over a wide area.

In general, the sweeping panoramas are interrupted only by lines of electricity pylons which punctuate the vastness of

the skies. The sky itself has a luminous quality caused by light reflected off the sea.

Drainage, fields, and roads

Originally Holderness was very swampy. Low-lying wet areas are still identified as “carrs”. Over the centuries the land has been progressively drained. The complex system of dykes follows the contours (and the boundaries of the old parish fields) and has affected the roads, which seldom go in a direct line for long; they more often go round dykes than cross them by bridges. In spite of modern drainage, some notable wet areas remain and the area is on the migratory flight path for many species of birds, which rest at Spurn Point, a nature conservancy area.

Farming

The land is now productive and extensively farmed. The fields are mainly cultivated for arable crops, though there are also many intensive pig and poultry units. To make efficient use of modern machinery, many ancient hedges have in the past been removed, though some boundary hedges are now being replanted, thanks to government inducements. Dutch Elm disease some years ago destroyed a large number of mature trees.

The atmosphere is generally regarded as clean, except when the wind is from the south-west when occasional odours from the BP chemical works at Saltend can just be detected. There is less cattle and dairy farming than in the past and consequently fewer traditional farmyard smells but the spreading of pig slurry on the fields can be offensive at certain times of year.

Building / Industry

There are few buildings in the open countryside, usually only farmhouses and associated structures. Residential building is now controlled by planning regulations : Roos has a “village limit” beyond which consent for new building depends on strict criteria. Consequently buildings in open country are usually isolated and well spaced.

Industrial premises are usually related to farming and

“light” in nature. The area generally - but not Roos - has large-scale greenhouses for the intensive growing of salad crops.

In Roos, the two industrial premises, a garage and an abattoir, stand side by side at the north of the village.

The nature of the settlement

Roos does not conform to the romantic notion of an English village, with a green and cricket pitch and village pond, backed by the ancient church cushioned in trees, a place where it never rains. Its virtues have been summed up differently :

- Not pretty - but pleasant.
- Not charming - but has “character”.
- Not architecturally striking - but has overall appeal.
- No ostentatious properties - but no eyesores either.

Layout and development

Roos straggles between its North End and South End, linked by Main Street, at first a long straight road with fields on each side. It has no single easily-identified focal point. Its church - at the centre of many villages - is at the southern perimeter, closer to the boundary with Halsham and Rimswell than to many dwellings in the village.

Most of the housing is built on or between the two roads, Main Street and Rectory Road, that run roughly parallel from north to south. Between them are connecting roads like the rungs of a ladder - Pinfold Lane, Hodgson Lane, Lamb Lane, and an ancient track, Dove Lane. East of Main Street another road, Pilmar Lane, takes off at right angles towards Withernsea.

This linear structure has allowed the building of small estates, cul-de-sacs (or garths), tucked unobtrusively away off the through roads : Chestnut Garth, Dove Close, Orchard Close, Hinch Garth, Beechwood Views. South Park, Elm Garth, Cherry Hill Park. Roos was developing “infill sites” before the term was fashionable.

Social contact and amenities

In practice the social centre of Roos - where people greet and meet each other - is the stretch of the Main Street between the school and the Memorial Institute. Here are the commercial outlets : the supermarket and post office, the two pubs (“top” and “bottom”), the butcher’s and baker’s. Improvements to the commercial premises have enhanced the appearance of Main Street, which has a convenient bus stop and a traditional red telephone kiosk.

Shift of former focus

The church is to the south of all this because in former times that was where the power lay. There are the buried foundations of a castle beyond the church. To the north of

it stood the Rectory, on the site of the present Elms Farm. Nearby is The Elms itself, one of the grandest houses in Roos, and land thereabouts constituted the lord’s demesne. Not far to the north is The Chestnuts, within living memory the doctor’s house. Gentry, landowners and the professions were clustered here.

Variety and qualities of private properties

A feature of Roos is the diversity of its buildings, varying in both size and type. Houses are in a mix of individual styles with a good proportion of self-build dwellings that blend easily with the older houses. The overall appearance of the village is enhanced by the pride that people have in their properties and the care they take of them.

Another factor of benefit to the village is the perception of developers that Roos is just too far from Hull to attract most commuters. (This is not true of Burton Pidsea - the comparison is worth making.) Some developers have been careful to attract the discerning buyer by building houses with individual character.

Building materials and styles

The older, larger, and traditional properties are evenly distributed through the village. They are constructed of brick, which - because local clay was used - is variable in colour and of uneven texture. Roofing is mainly of terra cotta tiles. The brickwork and tiles indicate a Flemish or Dutch influence - indeed, many of the tiles came as ship’s ballast from those countries.

Brickwork has often been colour-washed, mainly in white but also in other “soft” colours. Most roofs are pitched, though a number of add-on features have flat roofs, some of which are in reinforced concrete.

Housing density /space

Many of the older houses - including quite small cottages - have relatively large gardens. This reflects the self-sufficiency of a time - well before the advent of the motor car - when each cottager grew vegetables for his own table and kept poultry and perhaps a pig. The sizeable gardens help separate the buildings and create a feeling of space.

Over the years local people have come to regard this as a feature that enhances the quality of life. Such a valuation is at odds with the modern urge to exploit every inch of space to maximise profit, the result of which is high-density development - more houses to the acre. High densities may be appropriate in towns but offend rural tradition. It is significant that even large urban developments now have to include open areas or leave a “green belt”. People need space, a commodity not to be valued only in terms of cash.

Vanished landmarks and amenities

Roos has lost some its former landmarks. The windmill at the eastern end of Pinfold Lane (formerly Mill Lane) was

demolished and its bricks were used to build the playground wall at the old school. Two nonconformist chapels have disappeared within the last thirty years and their sites have been used for housing. Several shops have gone : Miss Hornby's at the junction of Rectory Road and Hodgson Lane, the baker's in Main Street run by the Jubb family and, on the opposite side of the road, Harry Hinch's shop.

Harry Hinch is remembered in the naming of Hinch Garth. This is only the latest example of the naming of streets after local people who lived or owned land in an area : compare Dent's Garth, Dove Lane, Lamb Lane, and Hodgson Lane (formerly Ellerby Lane) and Coltman Row. Other names refer to buildings or structures : Mill Lane / Pinfold Lane and Rectory Road. (*What is the origin of Pilmar Lane and Rostun Road, which most of us call Tunstall Road?*) Such names reflect the history of the village and its people.

Some surviving buildings

Some valued buildings remain. The ancient church of All Saints, with its yew-lined walk leading to a steep flight of stone steps up to the porch and tower, has a station that invites approach. Inside, the proportions of the building inspire reverence : the sightline down the nave to the wooden screen, up the chancel steps to the sanctuary, the altar and east window. The building has been well cared for. Its features reflect centuries of devotion.

The Memorial Institute, built after the first world war (thanks to the Rev. Edward Milsom's generosity), is another inherited building that continues to serve a modern purpose.

(*Roos has about a dozen Grade II listed buildings. An account of them could be included here.*)

New for old

Of course, new public buildings replace the old. The new school provides children with a far pleasanter environment than the old one and its presence strengthens a sense of community. The nearby playing field and its new pavilion are another asset. Currently nearing completion on Hodgson Lane is the new surgery, attractive in itself and a valued amenity in any rural village.

Here the present specimen ends. More could be added to the topics introduced above and it needs illustrations - photographs and maps. Please comment.

There are also other topics to explore. Please offer help to produce additional material or to join a workshop group to survey and photograph particular areas of Roos or particular aspects of its characteristics.

Please return the slip by Monday 14th June.

Please return this slip by MONDAY 14th JUNE to :
Leslie Helliwell, Canwick, Lamb Lane, Roos. (670291)

Roos Village Design Statement

All in each household are requested to respond.

Names :

Address :

Phone :

Please tick boxes as appropriate

I / we support the Roos VDS project and wish to see the final version adopted by the East Riding as Supplementary Planning Guidance

☐

I / we can offer practical help as follows :

Loan of materials : photographs, maps, old documents, etc.

☐

Taking part in a workshop : making notes, taking photographs, etc.

☐

Assistance with : graphic design

☐

desktop publishing

☐

image manipulation by computer

☐

Signed :

Date :

