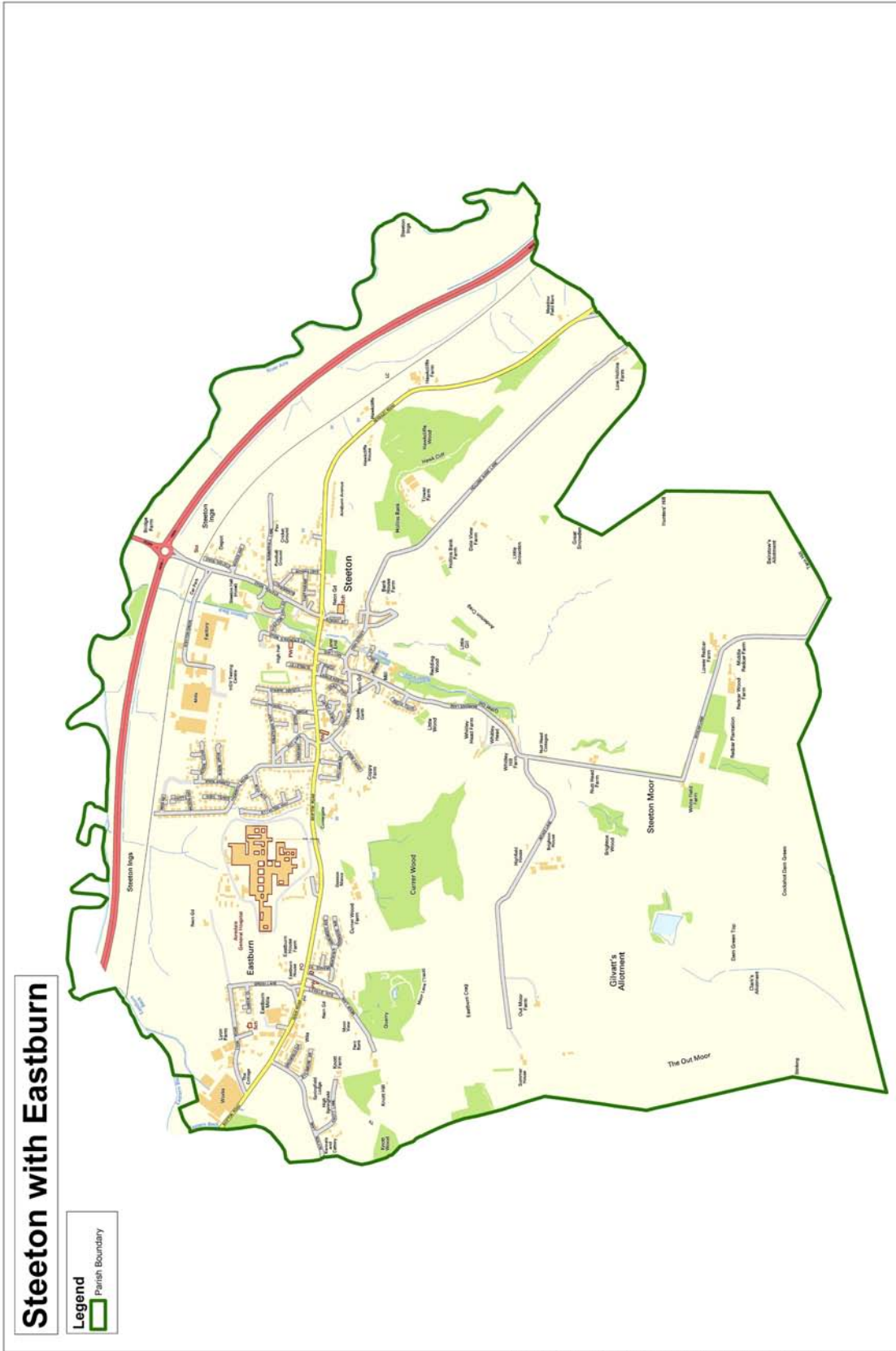


Introduction



Steeton with Eastburn

Legend
 Parish Boundary

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Introduction

Steeton and Eastburn are two villages nestling in the Aire Valley in the Craven ward of the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council (BMDC). The villages are between Keighley and Skipton and along the B6065. They also form a gateway from both East Lancashire and North Yorkshire with West Yorkshire.

The villages have now evolved to provide homes for a blossoming community, a large number of whom travel outside the area for employment. There are several employers located in the villages, the largest of which are Airedale NHS Trust, Cinetic Landis Grinding and EchoStar Europe. There are also many other smaller employers such as nursing homes, a bakery, a call centre, warehousing, pubs and local shops.

There are two excellent primary schools, Steeton Primary School and Eastburn Junior and Infant School which feed in to South Craven School, just over the border in North Yorkshire.

The current population of the villages is 4264 (census 2001)

In early 2006 Steeton with Eastburn Parish Council decided to embark upon the production of a Parish Plan. A public consultation took place in the form of a drop in meeting. Letters were sent to local businesses and organisations to determine whether they would be interested in joining the steering group.

The Parish Council called a meeting and from this a steering group was formed comprising councillors, residents and representatives from local businesses, schools and Airedale NHS Trust.

The steering group formulated a questionnaire. This was completed in April 2007 and hand delivered to over 1800 households; every address in the two villages. Returns were made either by use of the freepost envelope provided or one of the many collection boxes placed around the villages. We received over 450 (26%) completed questionnaires.

The analysis of the information from the returned questionnaire took a long time due to the excellent level of response. (Appendix 1)

The returned questionnaires came from respondents aged as follows,

Under 16 age group 182 respondents or 17.8 %

17 to 44 age group 297 respondents or 29.0 %

Over 45 age group 545 respondents or 53.2 %

Children between the ages of 7 and 11 also completed their own questionnaire at school.

(Appendix 2)

The steering group have used these responses to formulate the Parish Plan. A qualitative analysis of comments was also painstakingly compiled (Appendix 3). A Housing Needs Survey was also circulated with the questionnaires and a separate report is included for information. (Appendix 4)

The replies have helped to highlight the distinctive character and qualities that make our villages what they are. They have also identified steps necessary to sustain and improve community life.

The finished plan is intended to act as a vehicle to identify common policies and priorities with neighbouring authorities, agencies, and particularly with Bradford Metropolitan Councils 2020 vision.

The plan will also be incorporated in to Bradford Council's Local Development Framework and as such will influence decisions made by the unitary authority which will affect the future of the area.

Many people have been involved in the writing of this plan, the aims of which are to preserve what is valued in the villages and to provide a framework by which the villages can go forward and thrive.