

# Neighbourhood Planning support: Appleton Wiske

## Background

Appleton Wiske is a small village which lies some ten miles north of Northallerton and dates from Saxon times. The path of a Roman road runs close to the village and Appleton has always marked an important crossing of the River Wiske, from which it takes its name. The Parish has an electoral roll of 390 people who live in 190 houses and farms.

Roughly 85% of the population live within the village boundary. It is within Hambleton District in the County of North Yorkshire. Neighbourhood Planning is seen as a natural follow-on and update to the village's previous Parish Plan.

## How did Planning Aid England help?

Planning Aid England (PAE) was initially approached by the local planning authority, as it was also supporting Huby, a Neighbourhood Planning Front Runner in the same district. A support package was drawn up and embodied in an agreed support document. As well as attending meetings of the Appleton Wiske Neighbourhood Planning Group, two PAE volunteers acted as critical friends, commenting on the group's draft discussion document before it went out to consultation.

PAE's support was also helpful to the local planning authority, which had limited staff time to assist the Parish Councils in their plan making. As Graham Banks, Planning Policy Manager at Hambleton District Council said "Planning Aid England's role has proved invaluable especially in getting [the group] on the right lines with early community engagement and in attending their various meetings and community events (held outside normal work hours), plus responding to many phone calls and emails, helping with draft documents and surveys, etc."

"We are comforted to know that our Neighbourhood Plans are being prepared with your support and guidance as this will make their future progress with this Council so much easier to handle and hopefully deliver sound plans for adoption."



**What difference did PAE's support make?**

Scott Wilson, from the Appleton Wiske Neighbourhood Plan group, explains: "I have been greatly impressed with the assistance we have been provided by Planning Aid England (PAE), and do not feel we would have been able to progress as far down the Neighbourhood Plan route as we have without their input.

As a group of people with little or no previous experience of formulating planning policy and adhering to regional and national frameworks, PAE have helped to make a daunting procedure seem manageable.

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They have always been extremely professional and prompt in their dealings with us and were crucial in terms of us developing the raw data we received from our various consultations into a framework that will hopefully lead to an adopted Neighbourhood Plan.

[PAE staff member] Mike Dando has been to at least three of our meetings and has always been able to keep us on the right track and we have also been assisted by volunteers who were able to comment on our draft consultation document and make suggestions for improvements and flag up potential problems."

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**Planning Aid England provides free and independent advice on neighbourhood planning. Call: 0203 206 1880 or Email: [info@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk](mailto:info@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk)**

