



# **Simonstone Parish Plan**

*This document was approved by Simonstone Parish Council on 05/03/2026.*

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## 1. What is the Parish Plan

The Simonstone Parish Plan is a community-led plan that endeavours to improve the infrastructure and services of the community. The Parish Plan documents those issues and aspirations identified by the residents of the community and where feasible their proposed remedies. Any remedies are to be delivered in accordance with an action plan.

The Simonstone Parish Plan is produced in order to contribute to and influence the decision making and planning of the Borough Council and the County Council, *and when appropriate, the Unitary Council*. The Plan is essential to ensure that any future changes take into account the wishes and needs of the Simonstone local community.

The Parish Plan development process includes, in order:

- a parish appraisal – to determine the issues of most concern to the residents ie the ‘Needs and Wants’ of the community;
- a participatory appraisal – a questionnaire to determine the specifics of the ‘Needs and Wants’, and the relative levels of demand for those ‘Needs and Wants’;
- the provision of relevant data for the planners – to support the type, the demand, and the relevance of the responses to the questionnaire;
- the subsequent creation of an action plan for delivery.

**For the Plan to have weight, it needs to be able to demonstrate that all the residents have had an opportunity to give their input, and that the key conclusions are those of the parish and not personal opinions of the authors ie the parish council.**

The development of the Plan, at its various stages has been managed by the parish council. The council kick-started the process by inviting the residents and businesses to identify their key issues (termed ‘Needs and Wants’). These key issues, in the form of required services and/or infrastructure, or improvements to existing services and/or infrastructure were recorded. The parish council produced questionnaires based on ALL the issues raised. The questionnaires were distributed to all residences and businesses within the parish, and the responses were collated.

The questionnaires completed and returned were 27% of those distributed (474 in number), which is considered to be a reasonable response to an exercise of this nature, and one in which it is incumbent upon the residents to hand deliver their completed forms to a number of collection points.

The completed Parish Plan, reflecting the wishes of the parish, is shown at the Appendix to this document. The parish council will make best endeavours to ensure that the Plan is implemented. Residents have been made aware, via the questionnaire, that the parish council has limited powers and funding available to bring certain aspirations to fruition. However, it should be noted that the parish council can in exceptional circumstances request an increase to the parish precept (council tax) to finance specific developments. This would follow consultation with residents.

## **2. Objectives/Purpose**

The objectives in preparing this plan are:

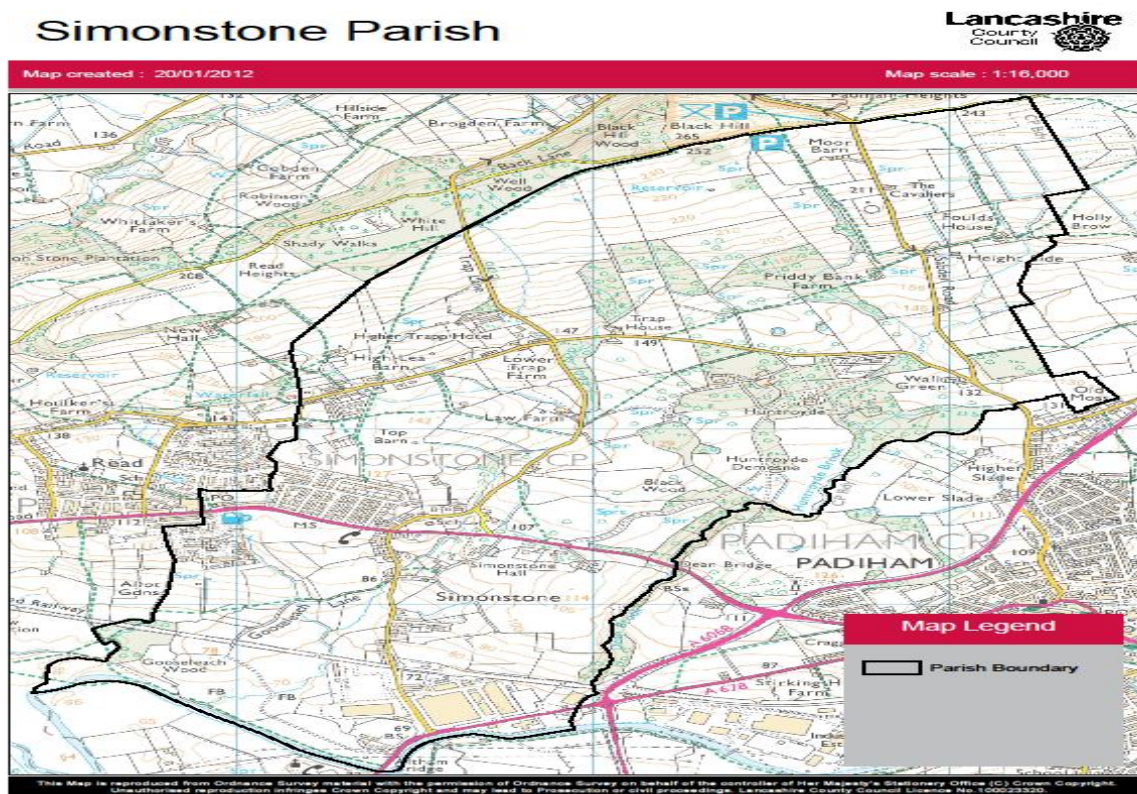
- To have consulted the residents on the content of a parish development plan.
- To prepare and finalise a Parish Plan by 31st December 2025
- To identify and put forward to relevant authorities and/or bodies recommendations relevant to the community on issues identified by the residents.
- To submit the Plan to the local planning authority (Ribble Valley Borough Council)..
- To share parts of the Plan with any other relevant authorities
- To provide a focus for community action on key issues over the coming years.

This Plan provides an opportunity to identify local priorities, so that residents can express their vision for facilities, services, and land usage.

### 3. Simonstone Parish

Simonstone is a small parish located in the south-easterly corner of the Ribble Valley and dates back to the 13th century. The historical centre of the parish straddles the A671 between Padiham and Whalley and is located at the junction of School Lane and Simonstone Lane. At this location can be found the village church and school. These latter named lanes are the oldest roads in the locality being part of the former "King's Highway", joining Lancaster and Manchester. The house at the school cross-roads is the former Toll Bar. The parish centre, in terms of housing and activity would probably be recognised as being at the junction of Whalley Road and Fountains Avenue where the local pub, shop, and garage can be located.

'Greenspace', as in agricultural land and woodlands etc, occupies approximately 85% of the area of the parish. Land dedicated to businesses and industry represents approximately 6% of the area, and that occupied by houses and gardens some 4%. The remainder is taken by roads, footpaths, water etc. Land to the north and east of the Simonstone village is primarily farming land; the farms being tenanted from the Huntroyde Estate. On land to the south can be found technology and business parks accommodating Fort Vale Engineering , Dept of Work & Pensions, Seaways Services, the Time Technology Park, and the Simonstone Business Park. The latter two parks each accommodate many small(er) businesses.



## **4. The Wider Background**

The government has introduced or increased emphasis on three (amongst others) countrywide issues. The County Authority is developing a Transport Plan for the whole county. These developments will impact upon local conditions and they provide some background to this parish plan.

### **4.1. Local Government Reorganisation**

The objective of this initiative, which is to be enacted in April 2028, is to remove the current organisation of three levels of local government and replace it with parish councils and unitary councils. Our current borough council will disappear and the parish, along with the other settlements of the Ribble Valley will exist within a unitary council.

It is possible that current responsibilities of parish councils will be changed under the new regime.

Currently, typical Parish Council responsibilities include:

- ✓ Community representation
- ✓ Community facilities: allotments, village hall
- ✓ Local environment: village green, public rights of way (acting for LCC Highways Department)
- ✓ Local Planning: feedback on proposed planning applications
- ✓ Awarding grants for local voluntary organisations and events

Currently, typical Borough Council Responsibilities include:

- ✓ Planning applications
- ✓ Waste management
- ✓ Environmental health
- ✓ Leisure and culture, baths, parks etc
- ✓ Inspection of food premises
- ✓ Street cleaning & dog waste
- ✓ Bus shelters
- ✓ Public premises

Whilst the government plan does not have any immediate impact upon our parish, it is reasonable to assume that there will/may be some changes to the parish council's responsibilities and financial arrangements.

### **4.2 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**

This sets out the framework for the government's planning policies. the primary objective being a planning system contributing to sustainable development delivering more houses in shorter timescales. The Ribble Valley must now plan for the development of 330 dwellings per year with a five-year buffer of building land, resulting in a capability for a five-year supply of 347 dwellings annually.

One piece of land at Haugh Head, Whins Lane, Simonstone and Read has been identified for development in the 'RVBC Housing Land Supply (31<sup>st</sup> March 2025)'. The potential development is for twenty houses. RVBC will prioritize the types of dwellings most needed in the Ribble Valley, ensuring developments reflect community-specific requirements.

The proposed NPPF housing development *in the village* is not considered significant. However, it should be noted that the vehicles per household ratio in the Ribble Valley is relatively high. The impact on daily life from the additional vehicle traffic through the village generated by the NPPF in the wider Ribble Valley will be significant.

### 4.3 Net Zero

There are no current major developments of the National Electricity Grid within the Ribble Valley. Locally there are no wind turbines and no solar panel farms. The single infrastructure development that will affect the local community is the development of electric vehicle charging points. Meeting supply of public charge points to local need.

The current Lancashire County Council focus is on the provision of accessible and affordable charging points for those residents without off-street parking through a combination of public charging points and innovative solutions such as cross-pavement cable channels. On-street charging in Simonstone will have the potential to cause unwanted traffic associated problems.

### 4.4 Lancashire Local Transport Plan

Lancashire Combined Authority has produced a plan that intends to improve travel and transport for the area, covering the whole county including Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Lancashire County and all twelve districts.

The draft plan explains:

- What is to be achieved with transport (for example, safer streets, better public transport, cleaner air)
- Why these changes are needed (driven by a vision to support a stronger economy, with fairer opportunities and a sustainable future)
- How the plan will make these changes happen (through policies, investments, and working with communities, partners and stakeholders)

Once finalised, the Local Transport Plan will guide decisions about all types of travel, including walking, cycling, buses, trains, cars and freight – helping to create a transport network that works for all.

*At this early stage of its development there is no information on whether the plan will incorporate our local requirements, nor what the plan will deliver for Simonstone.*

## 5. Determining The Parishes' Requirements (Plan Process)

### Stage 1: Determining the Needs & Wants

1. A 'Needs & Wants' invitation was issued to all residences and businesses in the parish. The invitation requested them to identify and list the issues within the parish that they considered needed addressing and/or also to list those things that they considered would be beneficial ie to identify perceived essential requirements, and advantageous requirements. **No business specific responses were received.**
2. The issues described in the 'Needs & Wants responses (the residents' issues) were categorised into a number of groupings of common characteristics eg the 'Services' category includes issues concerning bus services, policing, mobile library service etc.
3. The percentage volumes of the identified issues within each category were determined. Approximately fifty percent (50%) of the identified issues concerned wants and needs related to the 'Traffic & Highways' category. The remaining identified issues were spread relatively evenly across the other six categories of 'Housing', 'Pavements', 'Streets', 'Services', 'School', and 'Other'.

### Stage 2: Detailing & Quantifying the Requirements

4. Questionnaires were issued to all residences and businesses in the parish.
5. Each questionnaire included questions relating to each of the categories listed above. Every question addressed an issue raised in Stage 1 above: no issues were consciously omitted. **For the benefit of simplification 'closed' questions (answers restricted to Yes or No) were used wherever possible.**
6. The residents determined that 'Traffic & Highways' issues are their main priorities within the Plan.

### Stage 3: Producing a Plan

7. The responses to the Questionnaires were recorded, counted and summarised.
8. Each category of questions is prioritised.
9. Deliverables for each of the categories were determined by the Parish Council.
10. The Parish Council produced a PLAN to deliver the required Needs and Wants.

## 6. The 'Needs & Wants' of the Parish Residents

Results from the 474 questionnaires of which 133 were completed and returned. Yes/No questions were posed where possible, to retain simplicity. The volumes of Yes/No responses are shown in the tables of this section 6 as percentages of the 133 responses.

### 6.1 Housing

#### Housing: Questionnaire Responses

Question 1	Yes %	No %
Is there a need for additional housing in Simonstone?	23	70
Question 2	Yes %	No %
Should there be new housing on local greenfield sites?	4	45
Question 3		
If there had to be additional housing in Simonstone which would be your preference?		
Question 3.1	Yes %	
Affordable housing	26	
Question 3.2	Yes %	
Sheltered accommodation	29	
Question 3.3	Yes %	
Social housing	2	
Question 3.4	Yes %	
Larger family sized housing	21	
Question 3.5	Yes %	
Other	7 (Bungalows)	

#### Housing: Comments of the Residents

Note: the following is a sample of the responses to the questionnaire.

1. Starter homes for local families who cannot afford the larger properties.
2. Limited availability of brownfield sites.
3. Smaller houses required for older people, freeing up larger properties for families.
4. Infrastructure inadequate for additional housing (roads, schools, health services etc)
5. Commercial and brownfield sites to be used for small(er) bungalows.

6. Bungalows for over 65's only.
7. Apartments and bungalows for over 65's.
8. The smaller terraced housing in Read is becoming unaffordable.
9. Provision of sheltered housing for older people allowing family homes to become available for larger families
10. One bedroom ground floor flats for people needing sheltered/social housing.
11. New houses should be in keeping with existing properties.
12. Sheltered accommodation for local people.
13. Stop property purchases for a rental market.
14. There is no wish to see the character of the village changed by the construction of more houses in Simonstone.

### **Housing: Data**

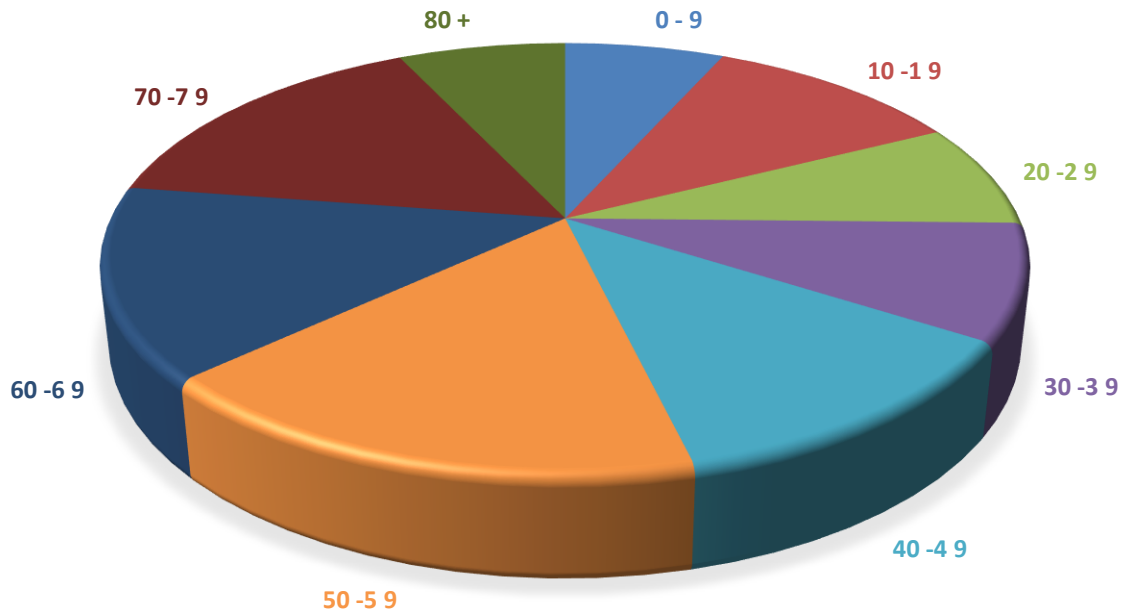
The housing stock of 474 units (including working farms and halls) comprises:

- Detached house or bungalow            309
- Semi-detached house or bungalow    58
- Terraced house or cottage            103
- Halls    2
- Farms (active)                            2
- There are no flats no apartments
- 38% of the households have 4+ bedrooms
- 23% of households are single occupancy; 59% of these are over 65 years of age
- 437 households are owner-occupied, with 37 private rented properties.
- There is no affordable housing or sheltered housing.
- Only two new houses have been built in Simonstone in the last ten years.

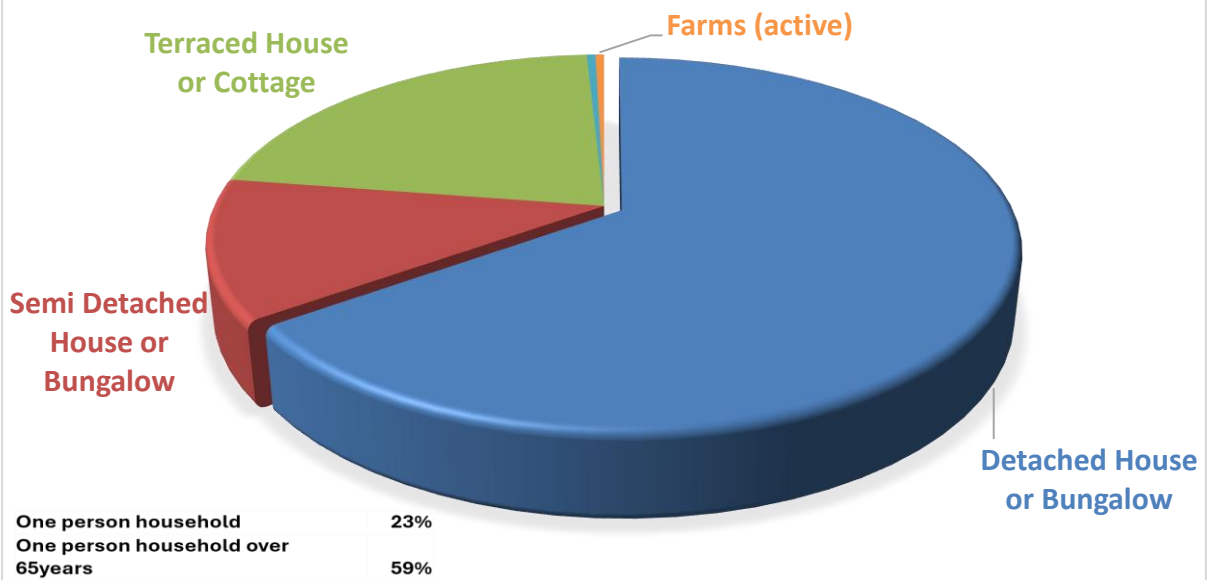
The Borough's response to the government's NPPF indicates a growth of twenty new houses in the foreseeable future; located at Haugh Head (Read and/or Simonstone). The type(s) of housing is(are) unspecified, but will include affordable units.

In order to assist the determination of the types and numbers of houses required in Simonstone the following chart is included outlining the age demographic.

### POPULATION BY AGE



### HOUSING



### **Housing: Summary for Planning Purposes**

- There is little demand for additional housing. Any new housing should primarily constitute 'Affordable' and 'Sheltered'.
- There is little demand for developments on greenfield sites. In the event that additional houses were to be built 'Infill' or 'Brownfield' land should be used.
- Simonstone has an older population compared to the UK average.
- The statistics show that there is an ageing population that occupies a significant proportion of the larger houses.
- Smaller properties (bungalows) for elderly residents would free up larger family sized homes. The demand reflects the change in local population ie families with children alongside an ageing population.
- The parish requirements need to accommodate the development plans of RVBC and the government's plans for NPPF.

## 6.2 Pavements

### Pavements: Questionnaire Responses

Question 4	Yes %	No %
Are the pavement surfaces generally in acceptable condition?	57	37
Question 5	Yes %	No %
Are any of our pavements unsuitable for wheelchairs or prams?	38	32
Question 6	Yes %	No %
Are any 'drop kerbs' required?	7	53
Question 7	Yes %	No %
Does any street furniture eg telegraph poles prevent easy passage on our pavements?	11	65
Question 8	Yes %	No %
Does the foliage alongside Simonstone Lane provide an obstruction?	48	34
Question 9	Yes %	No %
Are protective railings required at the kerb edges of School Lane, Simonstone Lane/Whalley Road junction?	62	25

### Pavements: Comments of the Residents

Note: the following is a sample of the responses to the questionnaire.

- Car parking on School Lane prevent the passage of prams and wheelchairs.
- Cars parking on pavements blocking passage of prams.
- 'Lollipop' person needed at the school gate.
- Pavements breaking up exposing tree roots
- Foliage overgrown and unmanaged on Trapp Lane.
- Lack of continuity of pavement on Simonstone Lane.
- Pavement from Dean Clough bus stop to Simonstone Lane needs cleaning.
- Many pavement surfaces have seen no maintenance since their development.
- Foliage over pavement and HGV's passing on carriageway make for dangerous walking on Simonstone Lane.
- State of pavements on Carleton Avenue estate are problematic for pram pushers.
- Drop kerbs needed near the school on Whalley Road.
- Protective railings, or pavement bollards, required to protect children at junction of Whalley Road and Simonstone Lane.

- Broadband poles are unused and unsightly, especially when there are underground services in place.
- Salt bin on Harewood Avenue located in middle of pavement.
- Clough Lane bus stop unsuitable for prams and wheelchairs.
- Camber of footpaths (towards the roads) on several avenues make it difficult for walking and especially for prams.

#### **Pavements: Data**

- With the exception of the Whinfields estate, the pavement infrastructure on the estates in Simonstone has remained almost unamended since its original construction. The highways authority has carried out no recordable improvements, and the only significant repairs have been implemented by the broadband providers, following their cable and ducting installations. The only other infrastructure development(?) on our pavements has been the installation of broadband cable-carrying poles. *It should be noted that the government decree for the development of broadband networks by the various telecommunications companies DOES NOT require them to obtain planning permission.*
- Where prams and push chairs etc are used the easy(easier) movement from pavement to roadway is achieved via 'drop kerb' infrastructure.
- Residents should be aware that wear and tear of pavements and carriageways, and the management of roadside (not gardens) vegetation, is the responsibility of the Lancashire Highways Authority and serious defects can be reported via the smartphone application 'Love Clean Streets'.

#### **Pavements: Summary for Planning Purposes**

- Residents views of the general condition of pavements, and the suitability of them for prams and wheelchairs, are fairly evenly divided. There are many locations at which the pavement surface is broken and cracked.
- There is little demand for additional 'drop kerbs'.
- Street furniture such as telegraph poles does not appear to be a significant problem.
- Foliage alongside Simonstone Lane is found to be a frequent problem..
- The majority of respondents consider protective railings at the junction of Simonstone Lane and Whalley Road to be a necessity.
- Car parking on pavements is a general problem, especially for prams and wheelchairs.

## 6.3 Streets

### Streets: Questionnaire Responses

Question 10	Yes %	No %
Is the general cleanliness of our streets acceptable?	83	10
Question 11.1	Yes %	No %
Are there adequate numbers of Waste Bins?	54	33
Question 11.2	Yes %	No %
Are there adequate numbers of Dog Bins?	48	32
Question 11.3	Yes %	No %
Are there adequate numbers of Grit Bins?	50	34
Question 12	Yes %	No %
Are dog bins in suitable locations away from benches and bus stands?	50	18
Question 13	Yes %	No %
Are trees and/or hedges in private gardens overhanging and obstructing pavements?	66	24
Question 14	Yes %	No %
Are bus shelters kept clean?	59	17

### Streets: Comments of the Residents

Note: the following is a sample of the responses to the questionnaire.

1. One waste paper bag not sufficient: need a bin for cardboard.
2. Dog bins required at Whins Lane and at parish garden bus shelter.
3. Rubbish in and around bus shelters.
4. Overhanging hedges at bus shelters
5. Dog bin located adjacent to bench at Stork Hotel
6. Hedges at junction of Whalley Road and Haugh, Lawrence etc avenues restricting views at road junctions.

7. No dog bins on Simonstone Lane & overhanging hedges on that lane.
8. Absence of footpath in both directions at Clough Lane bus stop on south side of the road. Overhanging tree branches restricting view of approaching bus at the same stop.
9. Badly positioned dog bins; hedges need trimming at road junctions.
10. Dog bins at bus stops health hazard and foul smells.
11. Need new bus shelters to replace old ones.
12. Grit bin required on Furness Avenue.
13. School Lane hedges restricting pedestrians.
14. Cars parked on pavements on many avenues.
15. Shelter needed at Stork bus stop.
16. Grit bin required at Woodfield and Southview.
17. Bins not emptied often enough.

## **Streets: Data**

### ***Street Cleanliness***

- The borough council is responsible for street sweeping, litter picking and removing fly-tipping litter. Cleanliness of the village streets is helped by a local volunteer group. Cleanliness of the streets is considered acceptable.
- Bus shelter cleaning is the responsibility of the borough council but can be managed locally by the parish council. Requests for bus shelter cleaning are made to the parish council. Cleanliness of the bus shelters is considered acceptable.
- Overhanging trees and hedges from private gardens are the responsibilities of the garden owners and are considered to be overhanging and obstructing the pavement in several locations.

### ***Street Bins***

- Street bins are generously provided across the parish; provision being based upon local needs. The table below shows the location and usage of each bin in Simonstone.
- ‘General Waste’ bins and ‘Dog Waste’ bins are the responsibility of the borough council and are emptied weekly. Any additional bins are requested via the parish council.
- ‘Grit Bins’ are maintained and refilled by the County Council. Any additional bins and/or grit is requested via the parish council.

## Street Bins

<b>Waste Bin Location</b>	<b>Usage</b>
Trapp Lane/PROW Whitehill Entrance	Dog Waste
Whalley Road Bus Shelter at Parish Garden	General Waste
Whalley Road Bus Shelter at Layby	General Waste
Whalley Road bottom of Scott Ave & Haugh Ave	Dog Waste
School Lane St Peters Church	General Waste
Harewood Avenue/Top of playing field	Dog Waste
Fountains Avenue/Village Green	Dog Waste
Fountains Avenue/Village Green	General Waste
Blackburn Rd jcn Simonstone Lane	General Waste
Simonstone Lane/Bank Terrace	General Waste
Outdoor Elements Trapp Lane	General Waste
Blackburn Rd jcn Simonstone Lane	General Waste
<b>Salt/Grit Bin Location</b>	<b>Usage</b>
Haugh Ave	Salt (Yellow)
Scott Ave	Salt (Yellow)
Lawrence Ave	Salt (Yellow)
Beaughley Ave	Salt (Yellow)
Harewood Ave	Salt (Yellow)
Fountains Ave (damaged)	Salt (Yellow)
Harewood Ave	Grit (Green)
Fountains Ave	Grit (Green)
Tintern Close	Grit (Green)
Furness Ave	Grit (Green)
Woodside Ave	Grit (Green)
Tintern Close	Grit (Green)

### **Streets: Summary for Planning Purposes**

- There is general satisfaction with the cleanliness of the streets and bus shelters.
- The numbers and locations of waste bins and grit bins are considered to be adequate, but there are requirements at certain locations.
- Locations of some dog bins near bus stands and street benches are considered unsatisfactory.
- Overhanging trees and vegetation at private gardens is considered a significant problem. The view of vehicle drivers' is restricted at junctions of the local avenues and Whalley Road.

## 6.4 Services

### Services: Questionnaire Responses

Question	Yes %	No %
Question 15		
Do you require additional bus services?	17	67
Question 16		
Does the parish require additional local policing?	58	27
Question 17		
Do you require additional waste collections?	12	83
Question 18		
Are you satisfied with the local Health Services?	68	22
Question 19		
Do you require mobile banking services?	16	72
Question 20		
Do you require mobile library services?	19	68
Question 21		
Does the village need accessible public toilets?	15	75

### Services: Comments of the Residents

Note: the following is a sample of the responses to the questionnaire.

1. Collection of food waste is desirable.
2. People need to feel secure.
3. We never see police in the village.
4. Village definitely needs public toilets.
5. Public toilets are only needed for walkers and cyclists.
6. Better communications to/from local police.
7. Getting to see a doctor is hopeless.
8. Traffic wardens needed to focus on local car parking on pavements.

9. More doctors and school services needed.
10. Waste bin collection could be every two weeks.
11. PCSO phone number should be posted on notice boards.
12. Bus services not frequent enough, especially to/from Clitheroe at weekends.
13. Green bins should be emptied weekly in summer months.
14. GP surgery needed in the village as per Whalley, Sabden, Padiham.
15. Difficult to get GP appointment: Chemist could be more helpful.
16. No police presence in the village, but increase in car theft and burglary.
17. Need bus service on Simonstone Lane.
18. Improve bus services on Whins Lane.
19. Lack of NHS dentist.

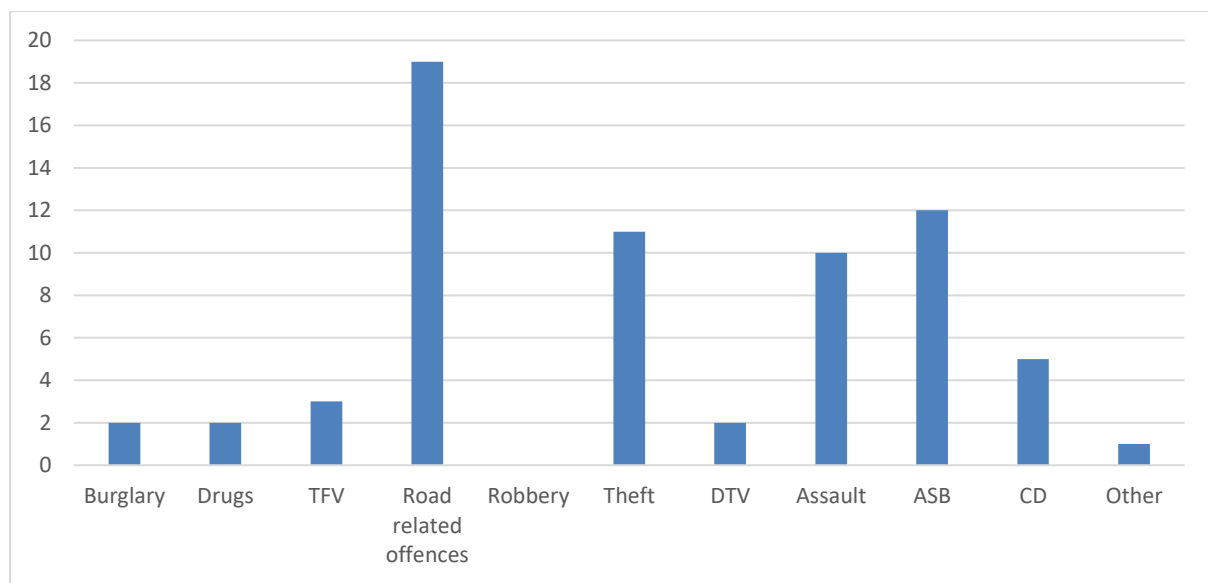
### Services: Data

#### Local Policing

The named PCSO providing the local service is based at the Lancashire East Division in Blackburn, and takes primary responsibility for Whalley, Simonstone, Read and Sabden. The team also covers Billington, Langho, Ramsgreave, Mellor and Balderstone. Local crime statistics are shown below.

Simonstone has a low crime rate compared to the UK average and to the Ribble Valley average. 53 crimes per 1000 residents is low for the local area: Ribble Valley crime rate is 57.8 per 1000 residents.

### Police Crime Statistics for Year Ending August 2025



### ***Mobile Services***

There are no mobile services (banking, library, health) in Simonstone.

### ***Health Services***

There is no GP surgery and no Dental services in Simonstone, however in addition to general pharmacy services, the Read pharmacy also participates in the NHS ‘Pharmacy First’ service. This service provides advice and treatment for common minor illnesses directly from the pharmacy without seeing a GP, including treatment for seven (7) common conditions, blood pressure checks, flu vaccines, and contraception service.

General wellbeing is enhanced via local commercial fitness facilities. Our village hall offers indoor sessions of Tai Chi, Yoga, and Ballroom Dancing. Outdoor sports are also available via the Tennis Club and Whitehill Equestrian.

### ***Bus Service***

Simonstone is served on several local bus routes, including:

- M2 service to Burnley and Clitheroe (via Whalley Road)
- 152 service to Burnley, Preston (via Blackburn Road)
- 891 service to Barrowford, Fence, Padiham and Clitheroe (via Blackburn Road)
- 113 to service Whalley, Read, Simonstone (via Whalley Road), Higham and Nelson & Colne College
- CG1 service to Nelson, Burnley, Simonstone (via Whalley Road), Clitheroe
- Little Green Bus provides ‘door to door’ service for the elderly and vulnerable.

### ***Streets: Summary for Planning Purposes***

- There is general satisfaction with the cleanliness of the streets and bus shelters.
- The numbers and locations of waste bins and grit bins are considered to be adequate, but there are requirements at certain locations.
- Locations of some dog bins near bus stands and street benches are considered unsatisfactory.
- Overhanging trees and vegetation at private gardens is considered a significant problem. The view of ‘vehicle drivers’ is restricted at junctions of the local avenues and Whalley Road.

## 6.5 School

### School: Questionnaire Responses

Question 22	Yes %	No %
Should the school be enlarged?	6	71
Question 23	Yes %	No %
Should the school accommodate pupils from outside Read Simonstone?	20	55
Question 24	Yes %	No %
Should parking be allowed on School Lane?	30	51
Question 25	Yes %	No %
Should the adjacent field be used as a dedicated car park?	56	28
Question 26	Yes %	No %
Should a permanent footpath be installed across the playing field?	51	26

### School: Comments of the Residents

Note: the following is a sample of the responses to the questionnaire.

1. The playing field is the safest route to school, but more attention to existing footpaths before creating new ones.
2. Permanent footpath is a good idea except nearby residents may have cars parked outside their premises.
3. Residents need places to park.
4. The area cannot cope with school expansion.
5. Formal road crossing required on Whalley Road.
6. Allocate parking spaces on School Lane and police them.
7. The adjacent field has far more potential for parking.
8. School should be enlarged but not to the detriment of pupils from Read & Simonstone.
9. Stop double parking at the bottom of Trapp Lane.
10. Village children to be given first choice of places.
11. Residents parking only on School Lane via permits.

12. Encourage parents to walk to school with children.
13. Adjacent field should be used as a car park as it is not used for anything else.
14. School Lane should be one-way linking into Clough Lane.
15. People can walk down Haugh Avenue; footpath not a priority.
16. Admissions at the school are in accordance with the admissions policy.
17. The unmade road as part of footpath is in poor condition & not fit for small children and prams etc.
18. School parking affects Haugh Avenue and Harewood Avenue & damages pavements.
19. Pupils transported in from other villages adding to traffic problems.

#### **School: Data**

- St Peter's CE Primary School is situated on School Lane on a piece of land that is bordered on all sides by roads. Whalley Road forms the southerly border, Clough Lane is to the east, and School Lane to the west and north..
- The school's catchment area covers Read and Simonstone. The yearly intake being 20.
- The school has expanded its intake to its current maximum of 144 pupils.
- Whereas the original intake was from Read and Simonstone, the current intake includes more distant conurbations such as Padiham and Sabden.
- There is no current School Travel Plan, and no car parking policy, except for staff vehicles.
- In addition to staff vehicles it is estimated that approximately 60 parents owned vehicles need parking space.
- **The school and its service to pupils is the responsibility of the Lancashire Education Authority.**

#### **School: Summary for Planning Purposes**

- A significant majority are against expansion of the school.
- Any increase in the intake should be from the local catchment area.
- Parking on School Lane is unwanted
- Car parking on the adjacent field is wanted.
- The development of a footpath across the Playing Field is wanted.
- Safety concerns extend to the crossing of Whalley Road. There is no road crossing infrastructure.
- There is no 'lollipop' person.

## 6.6 Traffic and Highways

### Traffic & Highways: Questionnaire Responses

Question 27	Yes %	No %
Are the volumes and speeds on Whalley Road acceptable?	22	75
Question 28.1	Yes %	No %
Are traffic speeds excessive on Simonstone Lane?	74	18
Question 28.2	Yes %	No %
Are traffic speeds excessive on Whins Lane?	54	22
Question 28.3	Yes %	No %
Are traffic speeds excessive on Trapp Lane?	65	18
Question 28.4	Yes %	No %
Are traffic speeds excessive on Whalley Road?	78	15
Question 29.1	Yes %	No %
Does car parking cause a problem on Whins Lane?	16	52
Question 29.2	Yes %	No %
Does car parking cause a problem on Simonstone Lane?	55	24
Question 29.3	Yes %	No %
Does car parking cause a problem on Trapp Lane?	25	50
Question 29.4	Yes %	No %
Does car parking cause a problem on Blackburn Road?	18	45
Question 29.5	Yes %	No %
Does car parking cause a problem on Whalley Road?	53	26
Question 30	Yes %	No %
Are formal road crossing infrastructures required on any of our roads?	81	8
Question 31	Yes %	No %
Are formal speed control infrastructures required on any of our roads?	67	16
Question 32	Yes %	No %
Do you want a bypass road?	64	25

## Traffic & Highways: Comments of the Residents

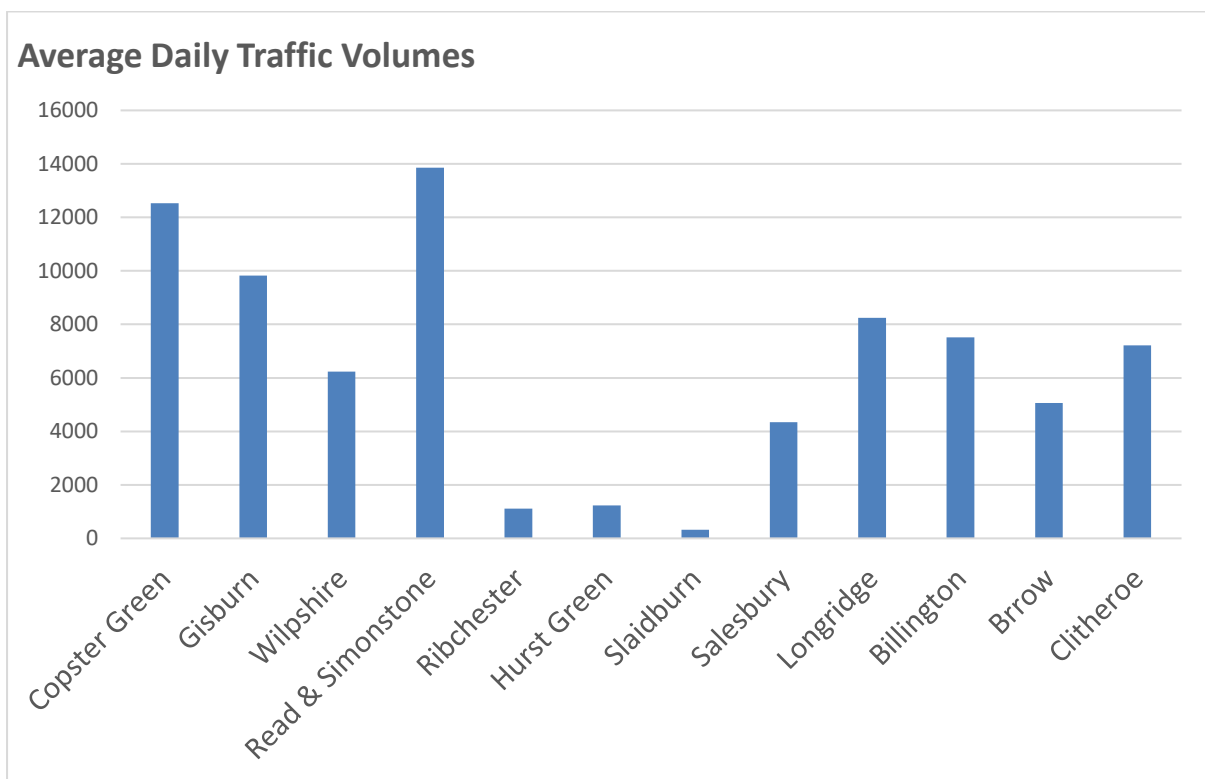
The following is a sample of the responses to the questionnaire.

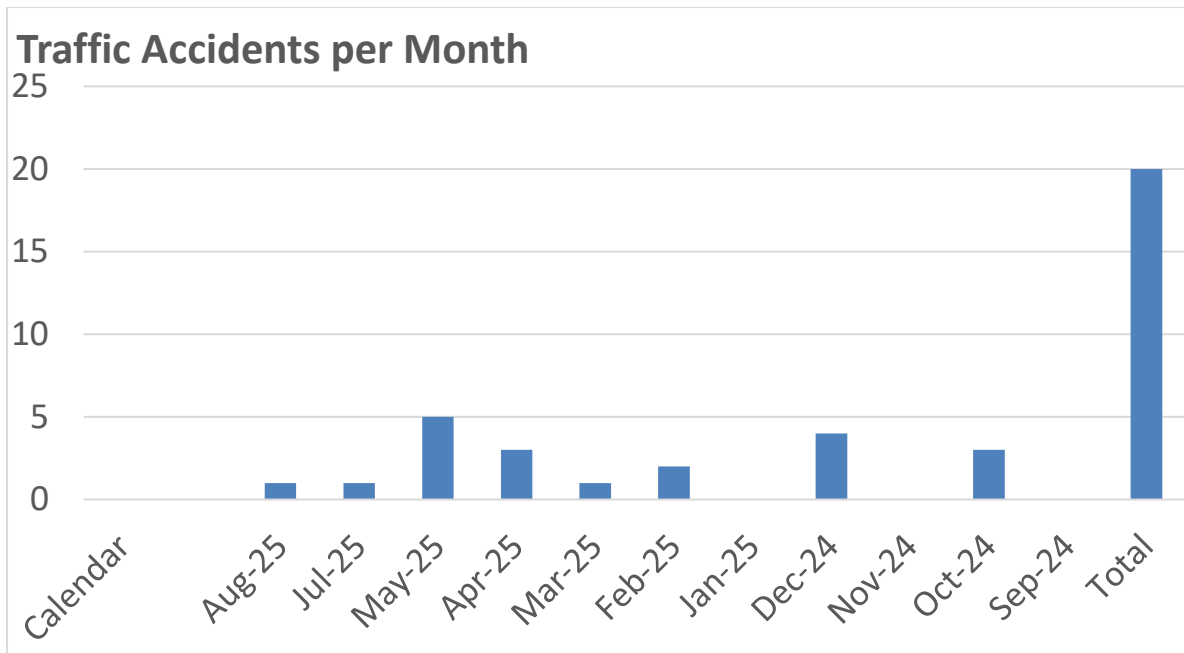
- The speeds on Whalley Road are absurd.
- Pedestrian crossings needed on Whalley Road at a) near the junction with Simonstone Lane and b) near the junction with Fountains Avenue.
- Speed bumps needed on Simonstone Lane.
- Speed camera needed on Whalley Road near School Lane.
- Speed controls needed on Trapp Lane at/near junction with Whins Lane.
- Does it require a child's death to get speed controls on Whalley Road.
- Double yellow lines needed on Haugh Avenue.
- Speed limit of 20mph needed through the village.
- Double parking on Trapp Lane should be prevented, and 20mph extended.
- Speed cameras needed at both ends of the village on Whalley Road.
- Mirror at Railway Terrace to be considered.
- Speed controls needed on Whins Lane as there are no pavements.
- School Lane to be one way only.
- Simonstone Lane not suitable for HGV's.
- Speed bumps to be redefined on Whalley Road.
- Bypass Road needed on route of railway track would solve many traffic problems.
- Car parking excessive on Blackburn Road outside Time Technology Park.
- ***Traffic on Whalley Road makes my house shake and even my bed. You are welcome to visit and monitor the house shaking. I have had the front of my house repointed three times and it needs doing again.***
- ***Saturday 10:30am. It took me 13 minutes to cross Whalley Road at junction of Simonstone Lane.***
- ***Speeding problem is of such concern to make us want to leave Simonstone.***

## Traffic & Highways: Data

- Average daily traffic through the village on Whalley Road is higher than that through any village in Ribble Valley. The average volume of daily bothway traffic measured in 2022 was 13,859 vehicles of which 518 were heavy goods vehicles, and 2053 were light goods vehicles.
- The impact of the government's NPPF (housing growth) is estimated to increase the volume on Whalley Road to 16,803 vehicles per day by 2045.
- In the year to date there have been 21 recorded road traffic accidents, of which 13 were damage only 6 minor injuries and 2 serious injury.
- There are NO pedestrian crossings in Simonstone.
- The only speed control infrastructures in Simonstone are speed bumps on the Whalley Road entry from Padiham, and the speed limit signs on our roads.

- Although traffic *speed* on Whalley Road is not considered to be a major problem, the excessive *volumes* result in congestion, delays and risks in exiting side roads. There is significant risk to pedestrians crossing Whalley Road.
- Trapp Lane and School Lane connect with Simonstone Lane to form a North-South route from/to the Ribble Valley through the village. The roads that connect Trapp Lane to Whalley Road are extremely narrow at School Lane and Clough Lane, such that HGV's (including emergency services vehicles) are unable to pass vehicles parked along these lanes.
- Simonstone Lane has been described as a 'rat run' for commuting motorists.
- To the north of the parish Whins Lane is a single lane carriageway that runs East-West, and carries relatively light local and commuter traffic, and is also a bus route.
- The junction of Trapp Lane and Whins Lane offers no view of either road from the other ie it is a blind junction.





#### Traffic & Highways: Summary for Planning Purposes

- *The residents clearly identified Traffic & Highways as the major concern in their 'Needs & Wants'.*
- Road traffic volumes are at a rate that makes crossing the road a difficult and dangerous task.
- Traffic volumes on Whalley Road are a negative impact on the health and wellbeing of the residents.
- Speeds on the through roads of Trapp Lane, Whins Lane, Simonstone Lane, and Whalley Road are excessive.
- There is insufficient speed control infrastructure on all through roads and junctions.
- There is insufficient road crossing infrastructure on Whalley Road.
- There is insufficient traffic control infrastructure at road junctions.
- The junction of Whalley Road and Simonstone Lane requires particular attention as children cross Whalley Road to the school at this junction.
- The junction of Fountains Avenue requires attention as children cross for their bus to school, and residents cross to both retail shop, garage services, and the local pub.
- There is a majority in favour of a Bypass Road.

## 6.7 Other

This is a 'catch all' category for issues and requirement that fall outside the other sections of the plan requirements.

### Other: Questionnaire Responses

Question 33	Yes %	No %
Are you satisfied with the general communications between residents and parish council?	83	12
Question 34	Yes %	No %
Do you want an extension to the Martholme Greenway ?	59	20
Question 35	Yes %	No %
Do you want a 'Dog Exercise' Area	23	56
Question 36.1	Yes %	No %
Do you want Adult Fitness facilities?	33	39
Question 36.2	Yes %	No %
Do you want a Youth Club?	46	33
Question 36.3	Yes %	No %
Do you want an Indoor Activities Centre?	32	4
Question 36.4	Yes %	No %
Other requests see comments		

### Other: Comments of the Residents

The following is a sample of the responses to the questionnaire.

- Plenty of areas around the village for walking a dog.
- Recreational facilities are available locally.
- There is a majority in favour of the extension of the Martholme Greenway.
- Make minutes of past meetings easier to access online.
- How do I contact a member of the council if I have a problem or need advice?
- The village hall is an ideal venue for most of the above; it needs people to organise activities.
- The Greenway is an excellent way to explore the area.
- Smaller houses for downsizing; location behind the garage?
- Dog fouling should be subject to fines.
- Quarterly parish news letters to be delivered to homes.

- It is clear that some councillors have their own agenda and are not representing the villagers.
- Would like email minutes.
- Surely it would be more efficient to merge the two councils (Read & Simonstone)
- There are many single senior citizens in Simonstone who would benefit from a knock on the door in the event of illness or other problem.

#### **Other: Data**

- The Read and Simonstone Village Hall currently provides the following indoor activities: Tai Chi, Yoga, Ukelele, Jazz practice, ballroom dancing, beetle drives, scouts meetings.
- There is no youth club; the village hall facility is available, but there is an absence of an organiser.
- Martholme Greenway: The disused railway line running from Great Harwood to Padiham and Rosegrove presents itself as a ready-made walkway and cycleway that could encourage reduced dependence on cars and promote a healthier lifestyle.
- There are several facilities for exercise in the village, including for general exercising, physical training in addition to outdoor facilities.

#### **Other: Summary for Planning Purposes**

- The Village Hall provides many indoor facilities but needs people to develop an organisation for youth activities.
- General communications between the parish council and residents is satisfactory, however there is a requirement for more frequent and user-friendly communications.
- There is a majority requirement for development/extension of the Greenway.
- Is there a demand for a single village of Read & Simonstone?

# Action Plan Version 3

## GENERAL NOTES:

1. This plan is subject to any changes to the parish councils' responsibilities that result from the Local Government Reorganisation.
2. This plan is subject to any changes that arise from the 'Lancashire Integrated Transport' Plan.
3. The categories of 'Pavements' and 'Streets', described in sections 6.2 and 6.3 in this document, were found to have much commonality and have therefore been included into a single category for planning purposes.

Issue/Objectives	Activities	Relevant Agencies	Priority	Timescales
<p><b><u>Housing</u></b></p> <p>Influence the 'District Plan'. To retain the current 'village' appearance, and to improve the availability of housing capable of meeting local needs.</p> <p>The demand regarding housing requirements and preferences will be provided to the District Planning Authority with a request that this information is included in the next update of the District Plan. Particularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there is no desire for any large-scale housing development, particularly on greenfield land.</li> <li>• given the response and the age profile of the Simonstone population there is evidential demand for sheltered housing.</li> <li>• the introduction and transfer to sheltered housing will subsequently make available some of the existing larger properties.</li> <li>• The development of bungalows for elderly residents downsizing would free-up larger properties for young families.</li> </ul>	<p>1.1 Specify housing requirements: sheltered housing, bungalows and starter homes</p> <p>1.2 Report requirements to RVBC Planning Dept</p> <p><i>(Provide Age/Occupancy data)</i></p>	<p>RVBC Planning Department</p>	<p>Essential</p>	<p>ASAP</p>

***Unless the council chooses to consider the planning for sheltered housing or similar development then the plan requires only administrative action. RVBC Planning Dept should be informed of any/all intentions ASAP.***

Issue/Objectives	Activities	Relevant Agencies	Priority	Timescales
<p><b><u>Pavements &amp; Streets</u></b></p> <p>To improve safety and health of the residents, and the general appearance of the parish by improving the condition and maintenance of the village pavements and walkways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve condition of pavements on local avenues and streets.</li> <li>• Foliage throughout the village to be managed to allow pedestrians to pass unhindered on pavements and public roads.</li> <li>• Consider installation of protective railings at the junction of Simonstone Lane and Whalley Road.</li> <li>• Reduce car parking on pavements.</li> <li>• Ensure that numbers and locations of waste bins and grit bins are adequate.</li> <li>• Ensure that the locations of dog bins near bus stands and street benches meet public requirements.</li> </ul>	<p>2.1 Carry out survey. Report findings to Highways Authority.</p> <p>2.2. Report to landowner (residential) or on LoveCleanStreets App (highways related).</p> <p>2.3 Consult with Highways Authority</p> <p>2.4 Issue a communique to residents</p> <p>2.5 Carry out survey and report findings to RVBC as required.</p> <p>2.6 Request relocations where relevant to RVBC.</p>	<p>Highways Authority</p> <p>Landowner/ Highways Authority</p> <p>Highways Authority</p> <p>Parish Council</p> <p>RVBC</p> <p>Parish Council</p>	<p>Desirable</p> <p>Advantageous</p> <p>Essential</p> <p>Desirable</p> <p>Desirable</p> <p>Desirable</p>	<p>2026</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>ASAP</p> <p>2026</p> <p>By 11/2026</p> <p>2026</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request residents to trim overhanging trees and vegetation in private gardens bordering on pavements/roads. <i>(Particularly where the view of vehicle drivers' is restricted at road junctions).</i></li> </ul>	2.7 Issue a communique to residents	Parish Council	Desirable	Annually
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve road crossings for prams and mobility equipment</li> </ul>	2.8 Carry out a survey/ Request drop-kerbs at key road ends/corners for enforcement officers to monitor	Highways Authority	Advantageous	2027

*1. Grit bins require attention before winter conditions.*

Issue/Objectives	Activities	Relevant Agencies	Priority	Timescales
<p><b><u>School</u></b> To encourage the school and Education Authority to meet the needs of the local community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To encourage the school to take in local children first.</li> <li>• To pursue the development of a school travel plan including safer route(s) for walking.</li> <li>• Minimise car parking on Trapp Lane and School Lane and develop a long-term solution for the school's traffic problems.</li> <li>• Provide safe road crossing for children on Whalley Road and School Lane.</li> </ul>	<p>3.1 Request a statement from the school stating the maximum intake. Whilst the Parish Council is unable to dictate on intake policy, all efforts will be made to encourage a 'local children first' practice.</p> <p>3.2 Safer route(s) to school will be sought for those local parents wishing to walk their children to school whilst minimising car parking problems on local roads.</p> <p>3.3 Request a visit from the Education Authority to investigate the use of local land, adjacent to the school, for car parking.</p> <p>3.4 Provide road crossing infrastructure and 'lollipop' person.</p>	<p>School governing body.</p> <p>School governing body.</p> <p>Education Authority</p> <p>Highways Authority</p>	<p>Advantageous</p> <p>Advantageous</p> <p>Essential</p> <p>Essential</p>	<p>2026</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>2026 to 2030</p> <p>2026/27</p>

***Need to influence the Education Authority and get them to take responsibilities for the traffic/parking issues surrounding the school and the safety of the children.***

Issue/Objectives	Activities	Relevant Agencies	Priority	Timescales
<p><b><u>Services</u></b> To improve quality and availability of local services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop and maintain good relations between the residents and the police service.</li> <li>• To improve local health services, particularly for elderly residents.</li> <li>• To clarify the availability of local bus services and seek improvement where necessary.</li> <li>• To encourage and promote the availability and usage of local leisure services</li> </ul>	<p>4.1 Simonstone has a low crime rate compared to both the UK average and the Ribble Valley average. However, residents report that local police are not seen on our streets. The parish council will report this impression to the local police service.</p> <p>4.2 Local health services are considered inadequate, particularly GP services and dental services. Consult with Whalley GP Practice regarding a local GP Service within Read &amp; Simonstone (as per Sabden service)</p> <p>4.3 Parish Council to clarify the local demand for Bus services to Clitheroe and the extension of service(s) to Simonstone Lane out of peak times (weekend/evenings).</p> <p>4.4 Parish Council to conduct a survey on local activities and promote current resources and services through a What's On Guide (online brochure/distributed newsletter)</p>	<p>Police Services</p> <p>Whalley GP Practice</p> <p>Parish Council</p> <p>Read &amp; Simonstone Councils</p>	<p>Desirable</p> <p>Advantageous</p> <p>Desirable</p> <p>Desirable</p>	<p>2026</p> <p>2026</p> <p>2027</p> <p>2030</p>

Issue/Objectives	Activities	Relevant Agencies	Priority	Timescales
<b><u>Traffic &amp; Highways</u></b>				
<p>To reduce the volumes and speeds of vehicles through the village, and to improve traffic infrastructure thereby improving health and wellbeing of the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To reduce road traffic on Whalley Road, and thereby improve safety and lifestyles within the village, and the efficiency of a major route into and out of Ribble Valley.</li> <li>• To ensure safe road crossing on Whalley Road at Fountains Avenue and at Simonstone Lane.</li> <li>• To reduce accidents on the through lanes of the village.</li> <li>• Continue to monitor traffic flow through Parish</li> </ul>	<p>5.1 Pursue development of a Bypass Road by updating bid document and by lobbying.</p> <p>5.2 The development of safe road crossing infrastructure will be pursued with initial attention focussed on the junctions of Whalley Road with a) Fountains Avenue, and b) Simonstone Lane.</p> <p>5.3 To reduce the speeds on Whins Lane, Trapp Lane, Simonstone Lane, and Whalley Road through the development of traffic speed control infrastructure.</p> <p>5.4. Install SPIDS that measure volumes, lengths and size of traffic in more locations, including Simonstone Lane.</p>	<p>LCC</p> <p>Highways Authority</p> <p>Highways Authority</p> <p>Highways Authority</p>	<p>Essential</p> <p>Essential</p> <p>Advantageous</p> <p>Advantageous</p>	<p>2026 to 2040</p> <p>2026/2028</p> <p>2026/2030</p> <p>2026/2030</p>

Issue/Objectives	Activities	Relevant Agencies	Priority	Timescales
<p><b><u>Other</u></b> To improve the general wellbeing of residents and the communications between the residents and the parish council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To help residents develop other leisure objectives.</li> <li>• To assist the Group in developing the Greenway within the parish boundaries</li> <li>• To improve communications between the parish council and the residents.</li> </ul>	<p>6.1 Parish council will liaise with the Village Hall Trustees to assist residents to develop the activities they want, particularly youth activities.</p> <p>6.2 The parish council will continue support for the Greenway development.</p> <p>6.3 Explore the use of social media, email, and other forms of user-friendly communication with residents. ‘Snail’ mail still required.</p>	<p>Village Hall Trustees</p> <p>Martholme Greenway Group</p> <p>Parish Council</p>	<p>Desirable</p> <p>Desirable</p> <p>Desirable</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>2026</p>