



## Introduction

We report on the main findings from a questionnaire survey sent to all 259 Slaley households and findings from eleven focus discussions held with 131 Slaley people. The report gives important insights into life in and around Slaley. It tells us the really great things that we value, love and want to cherish and highlights problems and issues that we need to deal with and find solutions for.

The survey and focus discussions were done between December 2002 and April 2003. There was a very high survey response rate of 89% and the focus discussions were also well attended. Since there was such a high response rate and a high level of participation in the focus discussions, we can be confident that the findings in the report give a fair reflection of people's views and experiences.

An Issues Report was published and formed the basis for community consultation at a weekend event in September 2003.

The survey, the focus group work and the consultation were part of a process to help develop this Parish Plan for Slaley. Having a Parish Plan will make it easier to express the community's views and focus attention on key issues that are important to the community. Parish Plans can help inform the Parish Council, Tynedale District Council and the County Council on what should be in local, district and County Community Plans and local structure plans.

The Parish Council adopted the plan in January 2004 and we hope they will support a proposal to reconvene the Parish Plan group in three years time to update the Parish Plan.

## **Structure of the report**

The report has seven sections. There is also a methodology appendix.

*Section One* describes the background to the report including the reasons why it was decided to develop a Parish Plan, who has been involved and, the research and other work done so far to produce a Plan.

*Section Two* looks at who we are and where we live. It first gives facts and figures on Slaley's households showing their composition and length of residence here and some basic characteristics including age, types of employment and how people describe their occupation or economic status. Next, the section describes the neighbourhoods we live in. It identifies key problems where we live and considers what people said about services and local facilities including needs for play areas, leisure activities and facilities, sports and childcare.

*Section Three* looks at the wider environment and presents views on the aspects we value and enjoy and considers how we use and regard the wider environment and local heritage. The section also considers problems that affect the wider environment, the countryside, rights of way and roads and their upkeep.

*Section Four* turns to our community and local economy. It presents information on a range of services, needs and opportunities to develop and sustain our community and local economy. Aspects cover voluntary activity, communicating with each other and knowledge of our Parish Council. Also the need for low cost housing for young adults and families, accommodation and services to enable frail older and disabled people to continue to live in Slaley and interest in having local classes for hobbies, education, and leisure. The capacity of the community to volunteer and provide teaching or help to provide services and classes is also considered. Finally the section considers views on improving local facilities and the role of business and tourism in sustaining our local economy.

*Section Five* draws conclusions and summarises the main messages.

*Section Six* draws together key issues and questions which were considered by the community following circulation of the summary issues report at the consultation weekend.

*Section Seven* is The Action Plan itself with implementation recommendations.