



# SADBERGE PARISH PLAN 2007



## **Contents**

- 1 Introduction
- 2 A Key Issue – Change in the characteristics of the village population
- 3 Vision for the Future of Sadberge

## **Specific Issues**

- 4 Planning and Development
- 5 Traffic
- 6 Access to Services
- 7 Maintaining a Village Community
- 8 Village Environment
- 9 Law and Order
- 10 Environment and Energy Efficiency

## **Contact information**

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## 1. Introduction

The aim of this Parish Plan is to provide a vision for the future of Sadberge over the next twenty to thirty years and to establish an agreed set of actions that we will take to protect and improve the quality of life for Sadberge residents.

This Parish Plan document is the outcome of two years' work, including:-

- Holding an initial Open Meeting to (i) agree the key issues that the Parish Plan needed to address and (ii) set up a Steering Group to guide the preparation of the plan.
- Preparing and distributing a Background Document intended to ensure that all local residents share an understanding of the history and characteristics of Sadberge and the main external factors that influence its future.
- Preparing, distributing, collecting and analysing a Parish Plan Questionnaire to obtain information about (i) the demographics of the parish and (ii) the local resident's views on the issues facing Sadberge and the priorities for action. It is worth noting that the response rate was over 70%, which is truly remarkable.
- Carrying out a traffic survey to establish the volume of traffic passing through the village and the patterns of traffic flow.
- Holding a series of four Open Meetings to discuss particular issues.
- Holding a final Open Meeting to finalise and approve the Parish Plan.

Copies of the Background Document, the notes of the Open Meetings, the results of the Parish Plan Questionnaire and the results of the traffic survey are available on the Sadberge web site (at [www.sadberge.org.uk](http://www.sadberge.org.uk)) or from Alastair Mackenzie.

Further information about how this Parish Plan was produced is in Appendix 1.

The rest of this Parish Plan document is laid out as follows:-

- Section 2 outlines one of the key issues facing Sadberge – the change in the characteristics of the village population – and describes how we intend to address the implications of that change.
- Section 3 gives the vision for the future of Sadberge.
- Sections 4 - 10 describe specific issues facing Sadberge and the actions that will be taken to address these issues.



Sadberge Village Green

## **2. A Key Issue Facing Sadberge**

### **2.1 Change**

As for many other communities, the main challenge facing Sadberge in the early years of the twenty-first century is how to cope with change.

Some changes have already happened. For example, the shift in the characteristics of the village population and the closure of the village school.

Some changes are still happening. For example, the increase in the volume of traffic passing through Sadberge, the decline in the bus service through the village and the threat to the future of the village Post Office.

### **2.2 Change in the Characteristics of the Village Population**

One of the most significant changes is the shift in the population of Sadberge. In the past, a significant fraction of the village population consisted of people who had grown up in Sadberge and who expected to live in Sadberge for their whole lives. Most village residents knew each other, and there was a strong sense of community.

The increase in mobility brought about by ever-increasing access to cars has caused significant changes to many villages. The majority of Sadberge residents are now commuters who have been attracted to live here because Sadberge is a very pleasant place to live and has excellent road connections to Darlington, Teesside and other centres of employment. To these commuters, Sadberge is primarily a very nice dormitory village. They drive off to work in the morning and return home in the evenings. If they need to visit a doctor or a dentist it is more convenient for them to do so near where they work rather than near Sadberge. They can use their cars to access shops, leisure facilities and social activities outside the village. It can generally be said that their lives are focused more outside the village than within it.

There are, however, a number of long-standing residents whose lives are very much focused within the village. Many of these people do not have access to cars, so they rely on a combination of the facilities within the village and public transport.

There are now comparatively few children living in Sadberge and, since the closure of the village Primary School, it is unlikely that large numbers of families with young children will move into Sadberge in the foreseeable future.

### **2.3 Response to the Change in the Characteristics of the Village Population**

We recognise that it is not possible to turn the clock back to the days when Sadberge was a traditional rural village. For better or for worse, it is clear that for the foreseeable future the majority of Sadberge residents will be commuters who have moved to Sadberge because it is a very pleasant and convenient dormitory village. The Parish Plan objectives and actions therefore need to take account of the fact that the Sadberge population is going to consist of:-

- A majority of commuters who have access to cars and whose lives are mainly focused outside the village.
- A minority of residents whose lives are mainly focused within the village. Most of these people will be elderly. Some will be long-standing village residents and others will be people who moved into Sadberge as commuters and have chosen to remain in the village during their retirement.

### **3. Vision for the Future of Sadberge**

Taking into account the shift in the village population described above, the main objectives of the Sadberge Parish Plan are:-

- 1.1 To maintain a sense of village community.
- 1.2 To ensure that those village residents who do not have access to cars have access to facilities and services.
- 1.3 To keep Sadberge a safe and pleasant place to live.
- 1.4 To be environmentally responsible, and in particular to make a contribution towards combating climate change.

#### **3.1 Maintain a Sense of Village Community**

We want everyone in Sadberge to feel that there is a village community, even if they only engage with that community on an occasional basis.

A village should be more than just a locality. "Social cohesion" is important from a quality of life point of view. An opportunity to be part of a village community is particularly important for people whose lives are focused within the village, and even commuters whose lives are mainly focused outside the village will benefit from a sense that there is a village community that they can participate in when they choose.

#### **3.2 Provide Facilities and Services for Village Residents without Access to Cars**

We want everyone in Sadberge to have ready access to facilities and services such as shops, libraries, health care, financial services and leisure and social activities.

People with cars can easily access these facilities and services outside the village, and commuters will often choose to access facilities and services near where they work rather than where they live. However, village residents without cars have to rely on the facilities and services available in the village and on public transport to access facilities and services in Darlington and elsewhere.

#### **3.3 Keep Sadberge a Safe and Pleasant Place to Live**

Sadberge is a pretty village, with plenty of open spaces and trees. From most places in the village there are glorious views out over open countryside around the village. There is very little crime or anti-social behaviour, and people feel safe walking around the village at any time of the day or night. We want to retain these pleasant qualities.

On the other hand, the peace in the village is now being spoiled by the volume of traffic passing through the village (particularly during the early morning and the early evening), the speed at which vehicles enter the village, and heavy goods vehicles passing through the village.

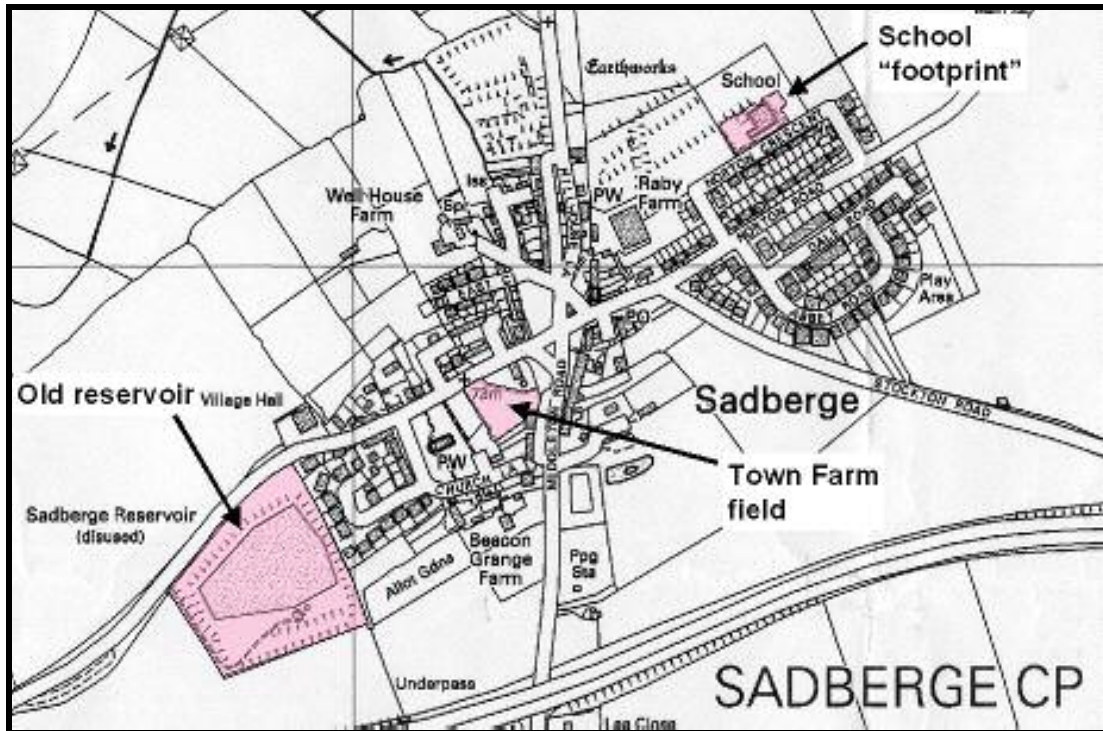
#### **3.4 Combat Climate Change**

We want to feel that we are part of an environmentally responsible community that is doing its bit to contribute to the fight against climate change.

#### 4. Planning and Development

The future development of the village – including the possibility of expanding the development limits to include the old reservoir site – was one of the top priority issues identified at the initial Open Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2006.

The development limits (often called the "village envelope") for Sadberge are defined in the Borough of Darlington Local Plan dated November 1997. Darlington Borough Council is currently working on a Local Development Framework that will replace the Local Plan. See the Background Document for quotes from the "Core Strategy: Preferred Options" document.



The issue of Planning and Development was discussed at the Parish Plan Open Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2006. The Parish Plan Steering Group presented four scenarios for the future of Sadberge, ranging from Minimum Development through Moderate Expansion to Larger Expansion. The discussion hinged around the question of whether expanding the village would enable Sadberge to retain or regain services such as the village Post Office, a school and a frequent bus service. In the end, the conclusion was that allowing Sadberge to expand would not protect the services, so the village development limits should not be expanded to include the old reservoir site.

For more information see (a) the Powerpoint presentation on the "four scenarios" and (b) the notes of the Open Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2006.

##### Specific Actions

- ACTION 4.1** Sadberge Parish Council will ask Darlington Borough Council to retain the current development limits for Sadberge in the new Local Development Framework. In particular, the village development limits should not be expanded to include the old reservoir site.
- ACTION 4.2** The Clerk to the Parish Council will monitor the production of the Local Development Framework and will draw the Parish Council's attention to any proposal to change the development limits for Sadberge.
- ACTION 4.3** Sadberge Parish Council will ask Darlington Borough Council to keep Town Farm Field as an open space for recreation.

- ACTION 4.4** Sadberge Parish Council will lobby for any housing development within Sadberge to include affordable housing suitable for young families.
- ACTION 4.5** Sadberge Parish Council will lobby for any new houses built in Sadberge to be offered to local residents first.
- ACTION 4.6** Sadberge Parish Council will monitor any planning applications to build new houses in Sadberge, and will try to ensure that any such houses have adequate off-road parking.



The centre of the village

## 5. Traffic

Traffic in the village was the other top priority issue identified at the initial Open Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2006.

The issue of Traffic was discussed at the Parish Plan Open Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2006.

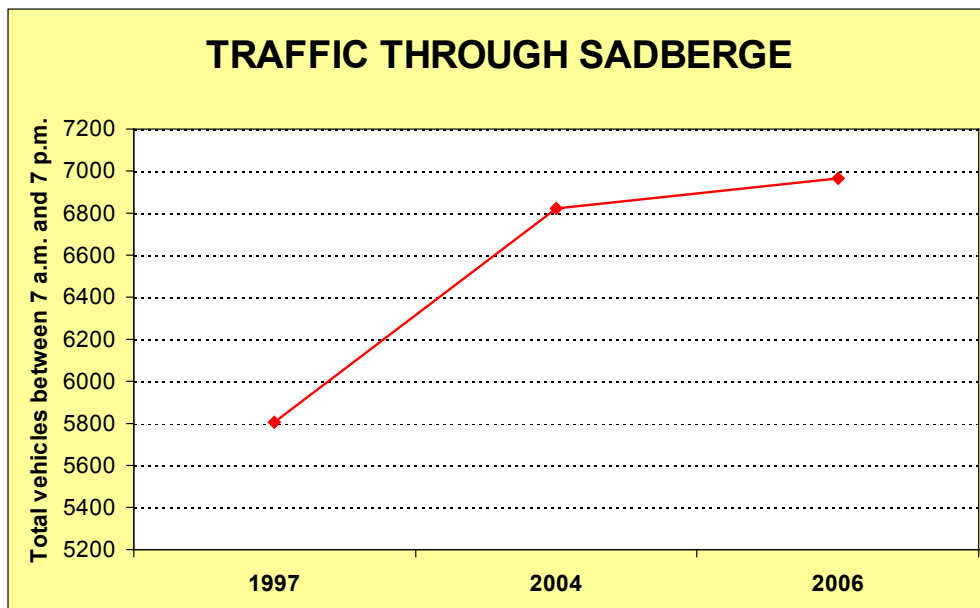
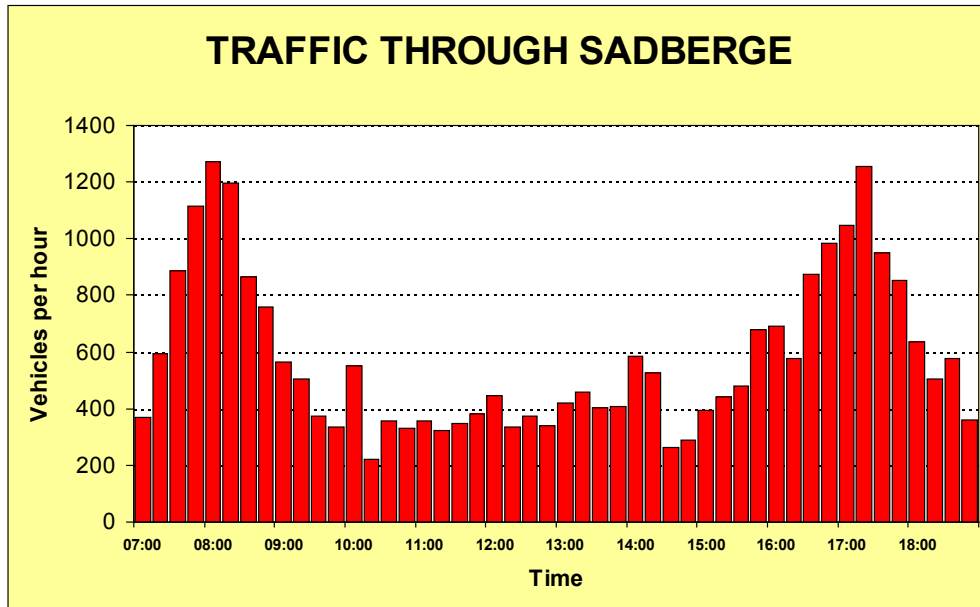
There are three distinct elements of the traffic issue:-

- The volume of traffic passing through the village.
- The speed at which vehicles are driven in the village.
- The number of heavy vehicles passing through the village.

In the Parish Plan questionnaires:-

- 71% of respondents identified traffic volume as a "significant" or "major" problem.
- 78% identified traffic speed as a "significant" or "major" problem.
- 77% supported the idea of having a 20 mph speed limit in the centre of the village.

Traffic surveys in 1997, 2004 and 2006 have shown that there was a significant increase in the volume of traffic in Sadberge between 1997 and 2004, and that the high volume of traffic has been maintained since then. During the traffic survey in July 2006, the traffic through the central crossroads peaked at a little over 1,200 vehicles per hour during the morning and evening busy periods. That is one vehicle every three seconds.



At the Open Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2006 it was stated that quality of life in Sadberge is being eroded by the volume and speed of traffic through the village. People are finding it difficult to cross the roads in the centre of Sadberge during the busy periods.

Analysis of the traffic patterns recorded during the traffic survey in July 2006, supported by anecdotal evidence, suggests that:-

- Sadberge is being used as a "rat run" by north-south traffic trying to avoid the congestion round the north-east and east edges of Darlington.
- Sadberge is being used by drivers wanting to avoid the dangerous right turn on to the A66 at Long Newton.

- (c) Middleton Road between Middleton and Sadberge is being used by drivers wanting to avoid the congestion at the Morton Park roundabout.

Although speed surveys by Darlington Borough Council indicate that the average speeds on Middleton Road and Hill House Lane are only a little above 30 mph and that very few vehicles go faster than 40 mph, local residents believe that vehicles do travel at excessive speed in Sadberge, particularly on Middleton Road, Hill House Lane and Norton Road.

Sadberge Parish Council and Ward Councillor Brian Jones have asked Darlington Borough Council to implement better traffic calming measures in Sadberge. However, the Borough Council is required to give priority to work aimed at reducing the numbers of injury accidents, and there have been very few injury accidents in Sadberge over the last five years.

A number of traffic calming measures have been implemented during 2006 and 2007, including "rippleprint" on Middleton Road and Hill House Lane and a 40 mph buffer zone on Middleton Road to the south of Sadberge. There is anecdotal evidence that implementing the 40 mph buffer zone has reduced the speed at which vehicles come into Sadberge along Middleton Road.

Local residents believe that too many heavy vehicles travel through Sadberge. There is a "plug" 7.5 tonne weight restriction on Hill House Lane to the north of the village, but this does not prevent heavy vehicles from travelling through the village on Middleton Road, Darlington Road and Norton Road. Following the Open Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2006, Sadberge Parish Council prepared a proposal demonstrating that (i) it is possible to define a 7.5 tonne weight restriction zone that would prevent unnecessary HGV traffic through Sadberge while allowing appropriate access to local businesses and (ii) there are suitable alternative routes for the heavy vehicles that currently travel through the village. The Parish Council has asked Darlington Borough Council to implement the proposed weight restriction zone.

For more details see (a) the document summarising the results from the traffic survey carried out on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2006, (b) the Powerpoint presentation on traffic and (c) the notes of the Open Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2006.

#### Specific Actions

- ACTION 5.1** Sadberge Parish Council will support improvements to the local road network that are likely to reduce the volume of traffic passing through Sadberge.
- ACTION 5.2** The Clerk to the Parish Council will monitor progress on the new grade separated junction on the A66 at Long Newton and will draw the Parish Council's attention to any indication that this project may be postponed or cancelled.
- ACTION 5.3** Sadberge Parish Council will monitor development proposals in the local area – particularly at Durham Tees Valley Airport and on the east and north sides of Darlington – and will oppose any developments that are likely to increase the traffic through Sadberge.
- ACTION 5.4** Sadberge Parish Council will continue to press Darlington Borough Council to implement a 7.5 tonne weight restriction covering the whole of Sadberge village.
- ACTION 5.5** Sadberge Parish Council will review the situation after the installation of the 40 mph buffer zone on Middleton Road on the southern edge of Sadberge village and, if traffic speeds are still too high, will continue to (a) lobby Darlington Borough Council to install better traffic calming measures and (b) lobby Durham Constabulary to provide effective enforcement of the speed limits.
- ACTION 5.6** Sadberge Parish Council will monitor the development of devices that could be used to make drivers aware of their speed when entering the village and will consider buying and installing such devices if and when they become affordable.

- ACTION 5.7** Sadberge Parish Council will consider undertaking a limited traffic survey (central crossroads only) after the completion of the grade separated junction on the A66 at Long Newton and the Darlington Eastern Transport Corridor.
- ACTION 5.8** Sadberge Parish Council will consider options to improve the safety of the junctions at the centre of the village.



The Buck Inn

### Parking

Sadberge grew up when there were very few cars and the layout of the centre of the village reflects a time when there was no need for a lot of parking spaces. Now there are typically two or three cars per household and people generally travel to the village pubs by car rather than by public transport. The result is that there is now a severe shortage of parking spaces in the centre of Sadberge.

Recently, there has been a particular problem on Stockton Road near the Three Tuns, where vehicles parked on both sides of the road have caused traffic congestion during busy periods of the day.

- ACTION 5.9** Sadberge Parish Council will investigate the possibility of using the grassed area between 1 Hillside Terrace and Stockton Road to provide off-road parking spaces.
- ACTION 5.10** Sadberge Parish Council will ask Darlington Borough Council to consider implementing parking restrictions (e.g. double yellow lines) on one side of Stockton Road near the Three Tuns.
- ACTION 5.11** Sadberge Parish Council will ask Darlington Borough Council to consider using part of Town Farm Field as a car park.
- ACTION 5.12** Sadberge Parish Council will investigate whether it might be possible to use the northern end of Hampass as a car park.

## 6. Access to Services

### Overview

There are two aspects to access to services:-

- Services available within Sadberge.
- Availability of transport to services outside Sadberge; e.g. in Darlington or further afield.

Most Sadberge residents have cars and can therefore access services outside the village. In fact, people who commute to work in Darlington or Teesside probably find it more convenient to access services close to where they work rather than in Sadberge.

However, a significant minority of residents do not have access to a car and therefore rely on public transport and the services available in the village. 11% of the respondents to the Parish Plan questionnaires – equivalent to about 50 to 60 people in Sadberge – reported that they do not have access to a car.

The people without access to cars are predominantly young people under the age of 18 and older people aged 65 and above. From the Parish Plan questionnaires:-

- 4% of respondents in the age range 25 - 64 do not have access to a car,.
- 19% of respondents aged 65 and above do not have access to a car.

This is reflected in the extent to which people feel "locked in" to Sadberge; i.e. unable to travel outside the village to access services and to take part in social activities.

- 5% of respondents in the age range 25 - 64 said that they feel "very locked in" to Sadberge.
- 8% of respondents aged 65 or over feel very locked in.
- 42% of respondents aged 11 - 17 feel very locked in.



St. Andrew's Church, Sadberge

### Services in Sadberge

Services were discussed at the Parish Plan Open Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2006 and the future of St. Andrew's Church was discussed at the Parish Plan Open Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2007.

At present (December 2007) the following services are available in Sadberge:-

- Post Office and Village Shop.
- St. Andrew's Church.
- Two pubs – the Buck Inn and the Three Tuns.
- Sadberge Pre-School Group is open five mornings per week in the Village Hall during term times.
- A weekly minor ailments clinic in the Village Hall.
- Various activities and classes – e.g. badminton, Morris dancing, keep fit, stable core, etc. – in the Village Hall.
- A weekly Coffee Shop in the Village Hall.
- A monthly lunch in the Village Hall.
- A mobile library visits Sadberge once every three weeks.

It is unclear whether the Post Office will survive the current round of Post Office closures, and the Village Shop would not survive without the Post Office.

If things continue as they are at present, St. Andrew's Church will face a financial crisis within the next 5 - 6 years. For more information, see the notes of the Open Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2007.

The frequency of minor ailments clinics in the Village Hall was reduced from two per week to one per week in 2006, and remains under threat of withdrawal.

Darlington Borough Council's Libraries & Community Learning Team used to put on adult education classes in Sadberge Village Hall, but these were discontinued in the first half of 2006 due to financial constraints.

For more information see (a) the Powerpoint presentation on Services and (b) the notes of the Open Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

As it stands, we do not have a solution to the problem of erosion of services in Sadberge. One of the underlying causes of the problem is the fact that the majority of Sadberge residents are now commuters who generally find it more convenient to access services near where they work rather than where they live. This means that from the point of view of service providers the "effective" population of Sadberge is much smaller than its actual population of about 600.

### Specific Actions

- ACTION 6.1** Sadberge Parish Council will continue to contribute towards the costs of maintaining the St. Andrews churchyard.
- ACTION 6.2** Ward Councillor Brian Jones will ask Felix House Surgery to continue to hold minor ailments clinics in Sadberge Village Hall.
- ACTION 6.3** The Sadberge Village Hall Association will continue to explore ways of providing adult education classes.
- ACTION 6.4** The Sadberge Village Hall Association will continue to run a Coffee Shop on Wednesdays and a Lunch in the Hall on one Wednesday per month.

### Transport to services elsewhere

The public transport available to residents of Sadberge is very limited. Arriva withdrew its No. 98 bus service from Sadberge at the end of April 2006, and at present (December 2007):-

- Darlington Borough Council subsidises a bus service (No. 17) that runs between Darlington and Sadberge approximately every two hours between about 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays.
- Bus service No. 97 – running between Heighington and Bishopton – passes through Sadberge approximately every two hours between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Mondays to Saturdays.
- There is no bus service to Sadberge during evenings or on Sundays.
- There is no bus service between Sadberge and the Felix House surgery in Middleton St. George.

Because the majority of Sadberge residents have their own cars, from a bus company's point of view Sadberge is effectively a hamlet of about 50 - 60 potential bus users rather than a village of about 600 residents.

The problem is that, although a bus service is irrelevant to the majority of Sadberge residents, it is vitally important to the significant minority of residents who do not have access to a car. A regular bus service would also enable some people to use their cars less frequently.

### Specific Actions

- ACTION 6.5** Sadberge Parish Council will investigate the possibility of providing transport from Sadberge to Felix House during designated surgery times for Sadberge residents.
- ACTION 6.6** Sadberge Parish Council will investigate the possibility of setting up a scheme in which volunteers offer lifts to local residents without access to their own cars.
- ACTION 6.7** Sadberge Parish Council will investigate how an effective Dial-a-Ride scheme can be provided for Sadberge residents.
- ACTION 6.8** Sadberge Parish Council will lobby Darlington Borough Council to maintain the subsidy for a bus service between Sadberge and Darlington.
- ACTION 6.9** Sadberge Parish Council will investigate whether a nearby supermarket might be willing to set up a courtesy bus service for Sadberge residents.



Maypole dancing on the village green

## 7. Maintaining a Village Community

### Overview

Despite the changes in its population, Sadberge has successfully retained a sense of community. We believe that this makes a significant contribution to the quality of life of Sadberge residents, and a key objective of this Parish Plan is to find ways to maintain and strengthen that sense of village community.

### Village Post Office

As well as providing a direct service, the Village Post Office and shop provides an extremely important focal point for the village community. This is recognised by people who, because they commute to work outside Sadberge, have no need for the actual services provided by the Post Office. From the Parish Plan questionnaires, although only 58% of respondents said that closure of the Post Office and shop would have a "large" or "very large" impact on themselves as individuals, 88% said that closure of the Post Office and shop would have a "large" or "very large" impact on the village community.

Similarly, although only 38% of respondents said that closure of the Village Hall would have a "large" or "very large" impact on themselves as individuals, 83% said that closure of the Village Hall would have a "large" or "very large" impact on the village community.

We very much want the Village Post Office to continue to operate, but we recognise that its future may be determined by factors that are beyond our control. If the Post Office closes then we will need to try to find ways to fill the gaps that would be left in important aspects of community life.

### Sadberge Village Hall

Given the possible threat to the future of the Post Office, it is even more important to maintain the Village Hall, both in terms of the physical building and the programme of activities that it provides for local residents.

Over the last few years the Sadberge Village Hall Association (SVHA) has been able to improve the condition of the building.

- The toilets were refurbished in 2004.
- The entrance hall was been refurbished in 2005.
- A new central heating system was installed in 2006.
- A real community effort resulted in the construction of a very attractive barbecue patio in 2007. Together, the donations of cash, materials and labour amounted to well over £10,000.

The Village Hall now provides a very attractive venue for a range of functions and activities, and income from hiring out the hall facilities covers the Village Hall's day-to-day running costs. However, any significant projects need to be funded by grants and donations.

As well as managing and maintaining the Village Hall, the Sadberge Village Hall Association plays an important role in holding the village community together by working with other local groups – such as the Church, the Parish Council and the local Morris dancing troupe – on activities across the whole of Sadberge.

The SVHA Management Committee recognises the need to maintain a balance between generating income by hiring out the hall facilities and using the hall to provide social and other services to the local community.

**Note:** The Sadberge Parish Council Steering Group would like to encourage all local residents to join the Sadberge Village Hall Association and to support the activities in the Village Hall.



Sadberge Village Hall



The barbecue patio at Sadberge Village Hall

### Specific Actions

- ACTION 7.1** The Sadberge Village Hall Association (SVHA) will continue to maintain and run the village hall. This will involve (a) keeping the fabric of the hall in good condition and (b) maintain, and where possible improving, the decoration and facilities so that the hall provides an attractive venue for a range of uses.
- ACTION 7.2** The SVHA will continue to organise fundraising / social events on a regular basis.
- Annual events. Dinner dance. Christmas market. Sing-along-a-Christmas.
  - Other events. Music concerts.
- ACTION 7.3** The Buck Inn Racing Club will continue to organise fundraising / social events.
- Annual events. Summer barbecue and dance.
- ACTION 7.4** Sadberge Parish Council will take the lead in organising an annual Village Festival each summer.
- ACTION 7.5** Sadberge Parish Council will continue to maintain the Sadberge web site ([www.sadberge.org.uk](http://www.sadberge.org.uk)). The web site will include:-
- Information about Sadberge.
  - News and information relevant to local people.
  - An up-to-date list of forthcoming events in Sadberge.
  - Information about Sadberge Village Hall.
  - Information about the Parish Council's activities.
  - A directory of businesses in and associated with Sadberge.
- ACTION 7.6** Sadberge Parish Council will appoint a volunteer Press Officer, whose role will be:-
- to establish links with local newspapers and radio stations;
  - to act as a first point of contact for reporters wishing to find out more about potential news stories relating to Sadberge; and
  - to ensure that Sadberge features in the local media where appropriate.
- ACTION 7.7** The Parochial Church Council (PCC) will continue to produce and distribute the "Roundabout" newsletter on a monthly basis.
- ACTION 7.8** The SVHA will produce and distribute regular flyers giving information about events in the village hall.
- ACTION 7.9** Sadberge Parish Council will produce and distribute a quarterly newsletter.
- About four pages. Letters to the editor. Regular columns about Sadberge village life.
- ACTION 7.10** Sadberge Parish Council will organise a video record of Sadberge during 2007.
- ACTION 7.11** Sadberge Parish Council will organise a group photograph of Sadberge residents in 2010 and then every five years thereafter.
- ACTION 7.12** Sadberge Parish Council will consider setting up a photo archive of Sadberge life.

## 8. Village Environment

The Village Environment was discussed at the Parish Plan Open Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

Darlington Borough Council's Street Scene Team is responsible for providing a range of services related to the appearance of Sadberge. In particular, the Street Scene Team is responsible for refuse collection, street cleaning, litter picking, emptying litter bins and dog bins, gully flushing and cleansing, grass cutting, hedge pruning, minor repairs to roads and pavements, and maintenance of street signs and lights.

From the Parish Plan questionnaires:-

- Most Sadberge residents are satisfied with the refuse collection service.
- Opinion is divided over the question of black bags versus wheelie bins.
- 84% of respondents said that the grass is cut sufficiently frequently, but only 39% said that the standard of grass cutting is "good" or "very good".
- Less than half of respondents said that hedge and verge cutting is done sufficiently frequently, and only 22% said that the standard of hedge and verge cutting is "good" or "very good".
- Less than a third of respondents said that repairs to roads and pavements are carried out sufficiently frequently.

Other issues are:-

- Dog fouling. Despite the number of dog dirt bins in the village, people still leave dog dirt on pavements and the village green. In order to take action, the Environmental Wardens need information about who is failing to clean up after their dogs.
- Fly tipping, particularly in the lay-by on Middleton Road between Sadberge and Middleton St. George, in the lay-by near Beacon Hill and on the section of old road near the junction between Stockton Road and the A66.
- Litter along the roadsides outside the village.

For more information see the notes of the Open Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

There are a number of public footpaths in the countryside around Sadberge, but over recent years they have been difficult to use because they have been overgrown for most of the summer.



One of the planters on the village green

### Specific Actions

- ACTION 8.1** Sadberge Parish Council will monitor the services provided by Darlington Borough Council's "Street Scene" team and will prompt the Street Scene team to improve the standard of services where necessary.
- Grass cutting on the village green and other open areas.
  - Verge cutting on the roads into and out of Sadberge.
  - Hedge cutting.
  - Litter picking.
  - Minor repairs to roads, pavements and signage.
- ACTION 8.2** Sadberge Parish Council will ensure that the trees on the village green are pruned and maintained.
- ACTION 8.3** Sadberge Parish Council will arrange for the planters on the edge of the village green beside Hill House Lane to be maintained.
- ACTION 8.4** Sadberge Parish Council will lobby Darlington Borough Council to take proper care of the public footpaths in the countryside around Sadberge.
- ACTION 8.5** Sadberge Parish Council will ask Darlington Borough Council to consult the residents of Sadberge before any change is made to the waste collection service.
- E.g. a change from black bags to wheelie bins.
- ACTION 8.6** Sadberge Parish Council will organise volunteer "litter picks" on the roads into and out of Sadberge on an occasional basis.
- ACTION 8.7** Sadberge Parish Council will arrange for a map of the footpaths around Sadberge to be displayed on the village green and the web site.
- ACTION 8.8** Sadberge Parish Council will investigate the possibility of creating simple "village gardens" at appropriate places in the village.
- Opposite the Buck Inn.
  - Beside the garage opposite Pleasant View.

## **9. Law and Order**

Law and order was discussed at the Open Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2007.

At present Sadberge is fortunate in having a low level of crime. However, those present at the Open Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2007 agreed that the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme should be re-energised and extended to cover the whole of the village. This will involve recruiting additional co-ordinators.

### Specific Actions

- ACTION 9.1** Sadberge Parish Council will maintain contact with the beat officer responsible for the area including Sadberge.
- ACTION 9.2** Alastair Mackenzie will add local crime reporting to the Sadberge web site.
- ACTION 9.3** Sadberge Parish Council will monitor the level of crime in Sadberge.
- ACTION 9.4** Sadberge Parish Council will take action to re-energise the local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and will aim to extend it to cover the whole of Sadberge Village.



The Three Tuns



Church Lane in the snow

## 10. Environment and Energy Efficiency

### Recycling

Recycling was discussed at the Open Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2006, and energy efficiency and Sadberge's carbon footprint were discussed at the Open Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2007.

From the Parish Plan questionnaires, the majority of Sadberge residents would like the kerbside recycling scheme to be extended to include a wider range of materials. In particular the kerbside recycling scheme should include cardboard, plastic packaging, milk cartons, coloured plastic bottles and green waste.

At present (December 2007), the kerbside recycling scheme does not cover properties outside the village; e.g. along Middleton Road between Sadberge and Middleton St. George.

### Energy Efficiency

As was mentioned in Section 3, we want to feel that we are part of an environmentally responsible community that is doing its bit to contribute to the fight against climate change.

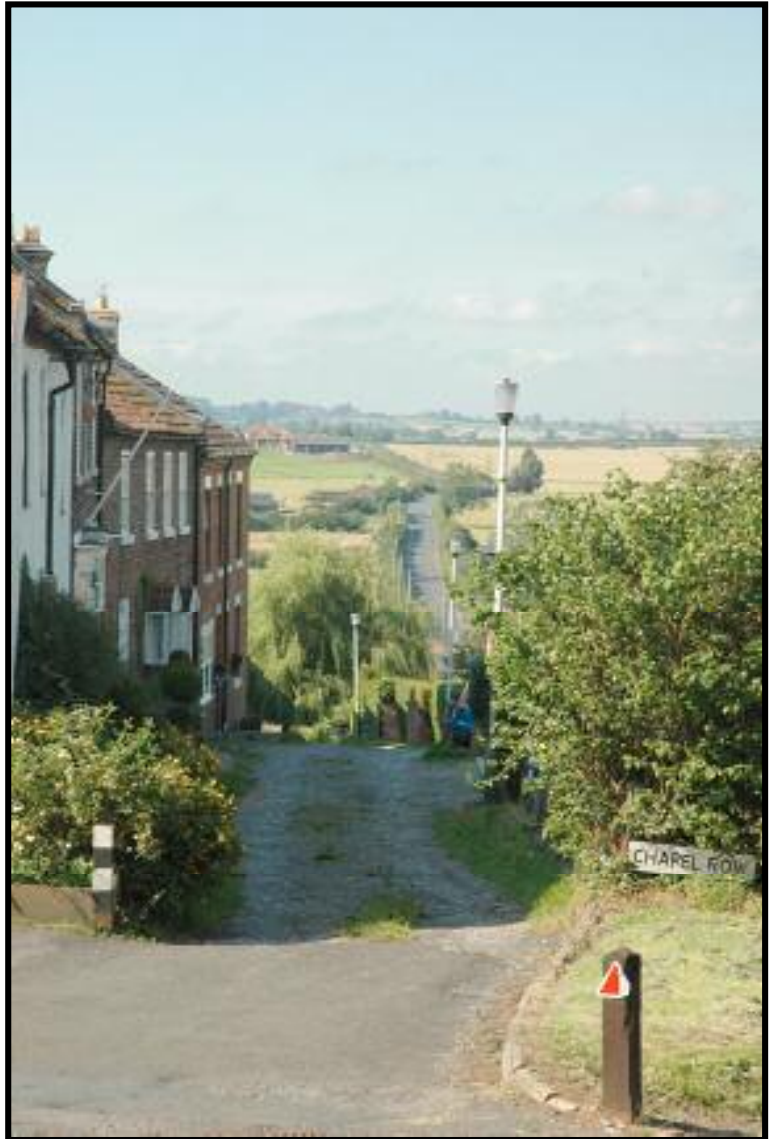
It is up to individual residents to decide what actions (if any) they wish to take to improve their energy efficiency and reduce their carbon footprint. However, there are things that we, as a community, can do to enable and encourage people to take relevant actions. For example:-

- Providing information about energy efficiency measures.
- Organising bulk purchasing schemes to reduce the costs of installing additional insulation, buying energy-efficient appliances, etc.
- Organising a car sharing scheme.

### Access to Darlington and Middleton St. George by foot or by bike

At present there is no good footpath between Sadberge and either Darlington or Middleton St. George. Also, the speed at which vehicles are driven on the roads around Sadberge makes the roads unsuitable for most cyclists. There is therefore no practical way of travelling from Sadberge to Darlington or Middleton St. George on foot or by bike.

The construction of Darlington's Eastern Transport Corridor will include the provision of a footpath / cycle path / bridleway between Middleton St. George and Darlington, following the route of the old railway line. There will be a new bridge – suitable for pedestrians, cyclists and horses – across the



Chapel Row and Hill House Lane

A66 bypass. Linking Sadberge to the bridleway between Middleton St. George and Darlington would therefore provide local residents with options to walk, cycle or ride from Sadberge to both Darlington and Middleton St. George.

#### Specific Actions

- ACTION 10.1** Sadberge Parish Council will lobby Darlington Borough Council to expand the scope of the kerbside recycling scheme.
- In particular, the scheme should include cardboard, coloured plastic bottles and garden waste.
  - The scheme should cover properties outside the village.
  - The scheme should cover local businesses.
- ACTION 10.2** Sadberge Parish Council will investigate options for recycling shredded paper.
- For example, do the Dogs Trust kennels need shredded paper?
- ACTION 10.3** Sadberge Parish Council will publicise the availability of subsidised compost bins and water butts from Darlington Borough Council.
- ACTION 10.4** Sadberge Parish Council will obtain electricity monitors and make them available on loan to Sadberge residents.
- ACTION 10.5** Sadberge Parish Council will investigate the possibility of obtaining free or subsidised low energy light bulbs.
- ACTION 10.6** Sadberge Parish Council will compile and publicise information about energy efficiency and tips about good practice. For example:-
- Is it better to switch your central heating off when you are out for a few hours, or leave it on at a low setting?
  - Do low energy light bulbs use more energy than ordinary light bulbs if they are switched on for only a short period of time?
  - Under what circumstances can washing machines be used at 30°C? What are the possible consequences of using washing machines at 30°C rather than the temperature specified in the care label?
- ACTION 10.7** Sadberge Parish Council will investigate the possibility of making "bulk purchases" of:-
- Loft insulation (including installation).
  - Cavity wall insulation.
  - Draught-proofing.
  - Radiator thermostats.
  - Condensing central heating boilers.
- ACTION 10.8** The Sadberge Village Hall Association will investigate the possibility of installing automatic light switches in the village hall toilets.
- ACTION 10.9** Sadberge Parish Council will invite the Energy Saving Trust (EST) to give seminars in Sadberge.
- ACTION 10.10** Alastair Mackenzie will set up a car sharing scheme on the Sadberge web site.
- ACTION 10.11** Sadberge Parish Council will ask the local planning authority to make it a requirement that any new houses built in Sadberge should comply with best practice in energy efficiency.
- ACTION 10.12** Sadberge Parish Council will ask Darlington Borough Council to provide a safe, off-road footpath / cycle path / bridleway between Sadberge and the bridleway running from Middleton St. George and Darlington.

## **APPENDIX 1 – Production of the Sadberge Parish Plan**

The Sadberge Parish Plan 2007 is the result of an extensive process of consultation, analysis and planning that took place during 2006 and 2007.

The production of the plan has been enabled by a grant from the Tees Valley Rural Community Council (TVRCC), additional funding from Sadberge Parish Council, and a significant amount of volunteer effort from Sadberge residents.

The production of the plan has been guided by a Parish Plan Steering Group made up of some Parish Councillors, other local residents and the Darlington Borough Ward Councillor for Sadberge & Whessoe.

Getting the views and ideas of Sadberge residents was a very important part of the Parish Plan process. This was done by means of Parish Plan questionnaires and a series of consultative Open Meetings in Sadberge Village Hall.

It was important to get a good response to the Parish Plan questionnaires. Therefore, instead of just pushing questionnaires through letter boxes and asking people to hand them back in, a group of "questionnaire volunteers" visited every house in Sadberge to hand out the questionnaires and explain their purpose ..... and then returned to collect the completed questionnaires. This approach contributed to a truly remarkable response rate of over 75%. We can be confident that the data from the Parish Plan questionnaires gives a good, representative view of the characteristics of the Sadberge population and the views of the local residents.

Open Meetings were held as follows:

- 8<sup>th</sup> February 2006 Initial Open Meeting to launch the Parish Plan process, establish the issues and priorities, and appoint a Steering Group.
- 17<sup>th</sup> May 2006 Open Meeting on Planning & Development.
- 9<sup>th</sup> October 2006 Open Meeting on Traffic and Transport.
- 27<sup>th</sup> November 2006 Open Meeting on Services and Village Environment.
- 21<sup>st</sup> March 2007 Open Meeting on a range of issues, including Law & Order, the future of St. Andrew's Church and Sadberge's Carbon Footprint.
- 21<sup>st</sup> November 2007 Open Meeting to finalise and approve the Parish Plan.

A traffic survey was carried out on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2006. This counted the vehicle movements through the three main junctions in and near Sadberge between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Analysis of the traffic survey data included comparisons with the data from similar surveys in 1997 and 2004 to establish how the traffic through Sadberge has changed over the last decade.

Right from the outset we were clear that the Sadberge Parish Plan was not just going to be a brochure for the village or a report on the residents' views. Rather, it was intended to be an issues-based plan including specific, practical plans for addressing the key issues facing Sadberge over the next ten to fifteen years. We hope that this document satisfies those objectives.

### Implementation

The production of this Parish Plan document is not the end of the process. It's not even the beginning of the end. Rather, it's the end of the beginning. We now need to implement the plan.

The Sadberge Parish Plan Steering Group is going to continue to meet to monitor progress on the Parish Plan actions and, if necessary, to update the plan in the light of any significant changes to circumstances.

The Sadberge web site ([www.sadberge.org.uk](http://www.sadberge.org.uk)) and occasional newsletters will be used to keep Sadberge residents informed about what is being done to implement the plan, and at the Open Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2007 it was agreed that additional Open Meetings will be held once a year to report progress and discuss any relevant issues.

## Thanks

We would like to thank the following people and organisations who have contributed to the process of producing the Sadberge Parish Plan.

- Tees Valley Rural Community Council, which gave a grant of £2,853 towards the costs of producing the Sadberge Parish Plan.
- Sadberge Parish Council, which covered the remaining cash costs of producing the plan and provided practical support and encouragement.
- The Parish Plan Steering Group members, who put in a lot of work in planning the Open Meetings and guiding the production of the Parish Plan.  
Stuart Best, Ian Burgess, Richard & Shirley Bond, Beatrice Cuthbertson, Denis & Marjorie Dinsley, Sheila Hodgson, Brian Jones, Alastair Mackenzie, Margaret Moffatt, Millie Scaife, Malcolm Schott, Hazel Swallow, Pauline Tait, Joan Vickers
- The "questionnaire volunteers" who visited houses in Sadberge to hand out the questionnaires and then returned to collect the responses.  
Peter Bage, Stuart Best, Meg & Richard Bloodworth, Shirley Bond, Margaret Brennan, Ian Burgess, Janice Burrows, Pam & Joe Christer, Burt Clayton, Dennis & Marjorie Dinsley, Sheila Hodgson, Jean Hunter, Brian Jones, Alastair Mackenzie, Jean McKinnon, Millie Scaife, Hazel Swallow, Donald Taylor, Pauline Tait, Joan Vickers, Phyllis Wallis
- The volunteers who helped to collect data during the traffic survey.  
Unpaid volunteers: Joan Brown, Alan Burrows, Burt Clayton, Marilyn Heath, Sheila Hodgson, Millie Scaife  
Paid volunteers: Richard Best, Hollie Cockburn, Sophie Minto, Tom Minto
- Stockton Borough Council's Traffic Survey team, which provided a professional data collection service for the traffic survey.
- Brian Jones, Darlington Borough Ward Councillor for Sadberge & Whessoe, who took a keen and supportive interest in the Sadberge Parish Plan and was a member of the Parish Plan Steering Group.
- The Darlington Borough Council staff members who attended Parish Plan Open Meetings and provided advice and support.
  - Ruth Bernstein                      Head of Libraries and Community Learning
  - Carol Carter                              Street Scene Leader
  - Sue Dobson                                Principal Transport Policy Officer
  - Graham Farr                                Principal Planning Officer
  - John Herdman                              Senior Environmental Enforcement Officer
  - Paula Jamieson                            Sustainable Development Officer
  - Dave Winstanley                         Traffic Management & Road Safety Manager
- The other people who attended Parish Plan Open Meetings and provided advice and support.
  - PC Julian Brown                         Beat Officer for the area including Sadberge
  - Dr. Patrick Holmes                        Felix House Surgery, Middleton St. George
  - Colin Macdonald                         Energy Saving Trust (EST)
  - Rev. Paul Neville                         Rector of St. Andrew's Church
  - Michael Straugheir                        Traffic Management Officer in Durham Constabulary