**MURTON PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

**Questionnaire Analysis 1C:**

**Businesses**

**Introduction**

There is a diverse portfolio of businesses in the Parish. Of these, farming has played a pivotal role for centuries and continues to do so, both commercially and as a key contributor to the broader living experience valued by residents.

Not surprisingly, many of the other businesses are related in some way to agriculture, but leisure, retail, food processing and recycling are also represented, along with several well-established home-based entrepreneurial businesses. All these activities provide employment, taxes and support to the regional and national economies.

A full list of business types is at the end of this report.

**Business locations**

Commercial activity occurs broadly in three areas within the Parish:

**Area 1** Murton Business Park, adjacent to the York-Stamford Bridge Road (A166) and the area close by;

**Area 2** An area along the Hull Road;

**Area 3** Moor Lane and Bad Bargain Lane.

The businesses in Areas 1 and 3 are physically separate from the two settlements but Area 2 is close to housing along the southern boundary of the Parish.

Most of the remaining non-residential land is used for farming.

**Home-based businesses**

Murton has a growing number of people working and running businesses from their own homes (reflecting employment trends across the UK). These include journalism, as well as livery stables and two animal breeding establishments, one for horses and the other for dogs, both with national recognition.

**An overview of the answers from businesses**

The business questionnaire asked for ‘three things in the Parish that are good for your business’ and ‘three things that you find disappointing for your business’.

Of the 50 questionnaires distributed, 12 were returned (24%) but with a useful cross-section stretching from four of the largest employers to three who worked at home.

**QUESTION ONE: ‘Three things in the Parish that are good for your business’**

**Location** emerged as the overriding advantage. **75%** commented on the ready **access to the national road system** via the A64 and the **closeness to the main national rail system**. The impression given is that location is not just an advantage but crucial to business operations.

**25%** specifically cited **Proximity to other businesses in Murton** as an advantage, with three saying that the location was ‘good for business’.

One mentioned that the **rural environment** was important to the business and another commented on ‘the pleasant area’.

**QUESTION 2: ‘Three things in the Parish that you find disappointing for your business’**

**25%** cited **speed of traffic** as an issue.

**42%** complained of the **poor broadband service**

**Other**

There was a wide range of comments about the **lack of some facilities**, including the lack of a nearby post box and a poor bus service. Also mentioned were **fly-tipping**, the **poor state of some hedges** and **problems with drainage**.

**Types of business in the Parish**

Businesses relating to agriculture include

* William Thompson (York) Ltd, part of the BATA Group and one of the largest animal feed companies in the North-East, and at which there is a Country Store (Area 1)
* Holmefield Farm Services, a veterinary service and animal food supplier (Area 1)
* York Auction (Livestock) Centre which serves farmers over a wide area of Yorkshire and further afield (Area 1)
* Yorkshire Handlers which deals with agricultural machinery (Area 1)
* The ABP Food Group, a major international meat processing company (Area 1)

There are also some number of specialised businesses which include:

* L. Clancey and Sons, an important regional recycling centre and a family business for over 150 years (Area 1)
* Trustspan, a national timber engineering company (Area 1)
* A host of small companies, several of which are specialist car maintenance companies with high expertise (Area 1)
* A small group of businesses at Moor Lane Farm (Area 3)

There is a diverse mix of businesses essentially for leisure and retail, including:

* The York Auction Centre with a wide sale range including farm machinery, horses and other livestock including rare breeds, cars and antiques. It also holds very successful Farmers’ Markets and Sunday car boot sales (Area 1)
* Stephenson and Sons, a leading independent auctioneer in Yorkshire, a company that is over 140 years old (Area 1)
* A national superstore for DIY goods (Area 2)
* An independent petrol station with a substantial convenience store (Area 2)
* The Yorkshire Museum of Farming and the Derwent Light Railway at Murton Station (Area 1)
* Moor Lane Farm, a member of the Caravan and Camping Club (Area 3)
* Beetle Bank Farm, an Open Farm and Education Centre (Area 3)
* Murton Grange: Self-catered holiday cottages (Area 3)