



Richard Dumbreck's  
**SINGLETON TRUST**  
Preserving Singleton as a Community



A COMMUNITY VISION FOR  
**SINGLETON**

February 2021  
[www.singletontrust.co.uk](http://www.singletontrust.co.uk)



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## Dear Resident

As we take time to reflect on the challenges of 2020, I am sure that each and every one of us is looking forward to an easier and more normal 2021. I sincerely hope so.

When I took over as Chairman of the Trust in 2013, I wanted to better understand the needs of the community and the Trust commissioned a piece of work to do this. Working together with the residents of Singleton and other interested parties, the Trust was able to document the Vision of what the Community as a whole wanted. This document can be found on the Trust's website. Since then a good deal of progress has been made:-

**The Trust has created permissive footpaths** that have opened up Singleton Park and some adjoining farmland so that residents and visitors can enjoy the local heritage and this attractive natural environment. Their continued maintenance is funded by the Trust.

## Peace Garden

To mark the centenary of the end of the First World War, the Trust created the Peace Garden which is a quiet place for all to visit, sit and reflect.

**Singleton Church and the Primary School** are central to the community. In addition to making a significant contribution for the new hall, since I became Chairman, the Trust have provided financial assistance to the school for; a new heating system; a total rewire; reroofing; new toilets, as well as many other donations. Saint Anne's Church has also benefited from financial assistance provided by the Trust.

## Community Support & Youth Opportunities

Other village based groups continue to benefit from donations made by the Trust and the Trust also operates a youth opportunity scheme, details of which can be found on the Trust's website. The Trust shares the costs of litter picking with the Parish Council, and it also paid for one of the new speed indicators used in the village.



## Trust Property and Land

The Trust provides and maintains just over 30 residential properties in the centre of Great Singleton. These properties are rented out primarily to local people or people with connections to Singleton village mostly at 80% (or less) of the market value. Over the last 5 years, the Trust has invested over £700,000 in maintaining and renovating these properties.

## A 'Vision' for the Future

Using the "Vision" document as we plan for the future, a village green is now a high priority. Just prior to the latest set of Covid-19 restrictions, the Trust had been involved in discussions with the Parish Council to see how this can be realised. As part of our plans moving forward, the Trust will also be investigating; improved parking, easier drop-off points for the school, small business units and a shop. In line with the Vision, we have recently applied for outline planning permission for 4 dwellings in the village, with a decision expected soon.

Being asset rich, the Trust has many challenges financing all the elements of the Vision. Our aim, through prudent capital sales, has been and is to create sufficient cash to fund these. All our decisions are carefully considered taking account of; local, county and national requirements, whilst ensuring we maintain an appropriate balance.

Once restrictions allow, the Trust will arrange a communication event, to which you will all be invited. Until then, please send any questions/concerns you may have to the Trust's Land Agents Ingham and Yorke. All communications received by them are raised at the monthly Trust meetings, currently being carried out via 'Zoom'.

May I thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.

Please stay safe, with kind regards,

*Keith Walker*

Chairman of Trustees for Richard Dumbreck's Singleton Trust.

