

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
ON WEDNESDAY, 9th OCTOBER 2002**

Present: Cllr Mr I Griffiths (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs A Orton (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Mr R Hull
Cllr Mrs M Passey
Cllr Mr S Walker (arrived at 7.45pm)
Cllr Mr C Womble

Parishioners: 13

Apologies:

A summary of the Consultative Draft Parish Plan together with response sheet had been circulated to every household within the parish. The open meeting had been arranged to give parishioners an opportunity to make comment on the plan and to ask questions. The Chairman informed the meeting that Cllr Womble had initiated the Parish Plan and he asked him to explain the intentions of such a plan.

Cllr Womble explained that following information obtained from two Village Appraisals the Council had agreed to undertake a Parish Plan as part of the Countryside Agency's Vital Villages programme. He informed the meeting that the idea was to produce a plan of what parishioners either wanted or did not want to see happening in the parish, and that the overall intention was to improve the parish. Although the Chairman confirmed several responses had already been received, Cllr Womble confirmed the consultation period of the Consultative Draft Plan would end on the 2nd November. All responses and comments made would then be taken into account when producing the final document to be circulated to appropriate bodies and interested parties.

Parishioners were informed the cost of the plan was being jointly funded by a 56.5% grant from Countryside Agency, £103 in cash by the Parish Council and £800 in kind which included Cllrs time and expenses only).

Cllr Womble explained the plan had been divided into the categories: Environment; Housing; Business; Transport; Community Services and Recreation, and each category would be introduced by the Cllr that had written that section.

Environment

Cllr Walker outlined the aims of this section and the following points were raised:

1. **Pavements** - the need for one along Forest Lane between Barracks Farm entrance and Stanker Hill.

2. **Road-side Verges** – need for improvement.
3. **Mineral Extraction** – Chairman informed parishioners of the liaison committee set up between the Council and Tarmac with regard to the restoration of Bestwood Quarry II on the A60 once extraction completed.
4. **Refuse** – it was felt that adequate refuse collection was needed and should not be compromised by further recycling programmes, although recycling from every home in the parish was supported including the need for collection of garden waste.
5. **Litter picks** – to be carried out regularly.

Housing

Councillor Womble reported on the Parish Council's responses to the Ashfield District Council and Gedling Borough Council's local plans. The following comments were made:

1. **Affordable Housing** – the Council's definition was questioned. Cllr Womble explained the Council's support as detailed in Policy B2.
2. **Burglar Alarm Boxes** – problem experienced by residents discussed. Policy B8 refers.

Business

Cllr Hull confirmed the Council's support for farming and agriculture, the largest industry in the parish. Also for the many small business. The viability of setting up the following business in the parish was discussed:

1. **Retail Shop**
2. **Post Office**

Community Services

Cllr Hull introduced this section with the following facilities being discussed:

1. **Healthcare Facilities** – problems experienced as a result of the parish being covered by three healthcare trusts but the possibility of funding being available in this area.
2. **Community Nurse** – possible facility, e.g. at Village Hall.
3. **Burial Facilities** – Lack of available burial plots within the parish church. Parishioners were informed that the Council was in discussion with Linby, Ravenshead and Gedling.
4. **Public House** – Rewording of Policy E3 requested to state the Council's support for appropriate improvements, as opposed to the building being retained exactly as it is.
5. **Policing** – Support for an active Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.
6. **School** – Admittance policy explained.
7. **Church** – Suggestion that St James be open more often. Policy statement needed to support the Parochial Church Council, especially in the retention of a resident priest within the parochial parish.

Transport

Cllr Womble explained the Council's position on this important issue and gave information in respect of traffic calming schemes. Other topics discussed included:

1. **Traffic Levels** – extra traffic onto Moor Road from new housing at Grange Farm.
2. **Bus Fares** – Variation in fares from different parts of the parish
3. **Forest Lane/A60 Junction** – need for improvement discussed/status quo deterring users.
4. **Cycle Routes** – support for adequate pavement provision/cycle track along Moor Road in the vicinity of the proposed Grange Farm housing development.
5. **Weight Restriction** – enforcement.
6. **Speed Limit** – enforcement.
7. **Traffic Calming Gateways** – schemes discussed. Parishioners informed Notts. CC currently preparing schemes for both the Blidworth Way and Moor Road approaches to the village.

Recreation

Chairman introduced this section with the following points made:

1. **Open Spaces** – no facility for residents of Mansfield Road.
2. **Footpaths** – introduction of new footpath along Blidworth Way and aim to create a circular walk around the parish.
2. **Playing Field** – skateboard facility
3. **Cricket Club** – Council informed the ground had been re-levelled. Noted the success of the club with two boys playing for England.
4. **Pumping Station** – noted grant awarded for improved facilities.

Mrs Kerr congratulated the Council on producing the plan which she felt was an excellent idea and gave everyone a chance for input.

Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40 pm.