

Action	How it will be tackled	Progress
1. Buildings / (Planning consultations)	Meet with planning officers at Blaby District Council to discuss recommendations for :- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Retaining usage of commercial buildings (b) Provision of affordable housing (c) Provision of housing for the elderly (d) No further large scale development. 	Public Meeting took place on October 19 th 2005. Questions were asked from the Council and from parishioners. This was an opportunity for Countesthorpe people to voice their concerns on items a-d and hear how Blaby District Council responded. In the foreseeable future very little new housing would take place that was not on a brown-field site. BDC advised the Parish Council to write to them with some ideas about the future of the now closed toilet. Working Party recommendation is to close this Action Point as items can be transferred to Parish Council Meetings as and when necessary. Agreed by the Parish Council at their April Meeting.
2. Crime and Safety	Review of village policing arrangements in particular:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Anti-social behaviour (b) Pedestrian safety, vehicles parking on pavements, more pedestrian crossings? (c) Higher Police presence / visibility 	Public Meeting linked with Crime and Safety with a Public Meeting planed for March 2006. The PC do, though, have regular contact with the police over a variety of matters. Working Party to arrange a meeting with a representative from BDC to discuss most productive way forward. Also to include Action Points in item 4. Agreed by the Parish Council at their April Meeting.
3. Health and welfare	Local Health and Welfare concerns including:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Discuss formation of a Patient Participation Group with Village Health Centre. 	Parish Questionnaire indicated a very high level of satisfaction with our Health Centre. The formation of a Patients Forum has now been raised with the Health Centre. The Health Centre Administration has given thought to this idea before and, as it has now been raised again and will give further consideration. The Parish Council Working party will raise this topic again later in 2006. Working Party recommend this Action Point to be closed as discussion has taken place and the Health Centre are considering forming a Patient Participation Group. Agreed by the Parish Council at their April Meeting.
4. Traffic	Review of Traffic Calming scheme to reassess existing scheme and discuss any alternatives including:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Safety cameras / “Too fast” signs (b) Mini-roundabouts (c) Investigate concerns of rat runs e.g. Gwendoline Drive (d) Parking problems at Greenfield School 	Public Meeting linked with Crime and Safety with a Public Meeting planned for March 2006 or late Spring. Working Party to meet in late February to discuss furthering this Meeting. See Action Point 2
5. Retail	Areas for improvement:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Lack of a DVD/ Video shop (b) Too many fast food shops (c) Pubs in village do not cater for “a quiet meal with friends” (d) Poor parking facilities – limits shoppers. 	The Parish Council are aware of this issue but not in a position to make any improvements. Working Party recommends this Action Point should be closed as Parish Council have no control over this subject. Agreed by the Parish Council at their April Meeting.

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6. Litter and Pollution	<p>Generally seen to be good with some notable exceptions near the schools and shops:-</p> <p>(a) Gain co-operation from Head teachers / Principal to reduce perceived problem of litter from students.</p>	<p>Still a big problem as the litter is dropped quicker than it can be picked up. Letters to the local College and High School have been sent - it is a national social problem as well a local one. The Parish Council do not feel able to enter The Best Kept Village Competition until this situation has been remedied. This decision will be communicated to the Village in the near future. The Council request everybody to take responsibility for keeping their Village tidy.</p> <p>Working Party recommends a Parish Council discussion to agree a way forward. Agreed by the Parish Council - discussion to be arranged.</p>
	<p>(b) Target areas for litter picking</p>	<p>Still a big problem as the litter is dropped quicker than it can be picked up. Letters to the local College and High School have been sent - it is a national social problem as well a local one. Everybody in the Village should 'own' this problem and be part of enabling a litter free Countesthorpe.</p> <p>Working Party recommends a Parish Council discussion to agree a way forward Agreed by the Parish Council - discussion to be arranged.</p>
	<p>(c) Dog fouling also seen to be an issue, as number of bins increases seek to encourage and if necessary enforce clean street campaign</p>	<p>Over the last few years the PC has been providing additional dog fouling receptacles and will continue to do so. The streets are now noticeably cleaner from dog fouling. When dry more dog signs to be sprayed on the pavements. Also a dog warden on BDC can be contacted.</p> <p>Working Party recommends this item be closed. Closure agreed by the Parish Council at their April Meeting.</p>
	<p>(d) "Pollution" was also seen to include Mobile phone masts. Strong feeling against these particularly near the schools and residential areas</p>	<p>BDC make decisions on this so PC can only flag up residents concerns as and when there they are made known. Understanding is that the recent complaints have now been heard and a ruling from BDC has been published.</p> <p>Working Party recommends this item be closed. Closure agreed by the Parish Council at their April Meeting.</p>

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7. Education	Mostly favourable except:- (a) Special Needs provision, 75% of respondents stated they were unable to place their child in their 1 st choice.	Parish Plan Working Party not yet discussed this issue as it is not in a position to influence change. Working Party recommends this item be closed as this is not in the Parish Councils remit to change although Parish Council's help would be forthcoming if a need was highlighted to them. Social Services contacts available on both our website and in the Booklet. Agreed by the Parish Council at their April Meeting.
	(b) Further demand for Holiday play scheme / child care provision in 5/11 age group	Parish Plan Working Party not yet discussed this issue as it is not in a position to influence change. Working Party recommends this item be closed as this is not in the Parish Councils remit to change. Agreed by the Parish Council at their April Meeting.
	(c) U3A limited understanding that age range is from 50+	This will be made clear on the Parish Web site and Booklet to be launched in May 2006. Completed with information available on the web site and in the Booklet. Agreed by the Parish Council at their April Meeting.
8. Employment	Seek to retain existing industrial land for future employment. Seek to restrict change of use to residential.	Raised at the October 19 th meeting but as there is a lack of interest from employers to move to Countesthorpe it is not an easy issue to address. Working Party recommends this item be closed. Agreed by the Parish Council at their April Meeting.

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9. Environment	Countesthorpe is seen as a “Rural” village, every effort to enhance this and prevent urbanisation:- (a) More tree planting	This issue will be addressed as and when necessary by the Parish Council. Working Party recommends closing this A.P. To be dealt with in ongoing business. Agreed by the Parish Council at their April Meeting.
	(b) Preservation of green spaces within the village	This issue was raised with BDC who have no plans to change the status quo. A feasibility study is to be implemented to see if the old railway line could become a public walking area. Working Party recommends closing this A.P. as it has no control - any changes to be dealt with in the Council Meetings. Agreed by the Parish Council at their April Meeting.
	(c) Ensure school playing fields not sold off as a recreational assessment shows a shortfall of play areas.	This issue was raised with BDC who have no plans to change the status quo. Parish Council will support the retention of recreational areas. Working Party recommends this item be transferred to ongoing business. Agreed by the Parish Council at their April Meeting.
	(d) More seating around the village	Not yet addressed. A re-think is needed as the last new seat despite being fixed solidly was stolen soon after it was fitted. Agreed but where? Closed - transferred to Council Meetings. Agreed by the Parish Council at their April Meeting.
	(e) Maintain hedges and trees to prevent pavements becoming overgrown	All residents need to do is phone or email the Parish Office for this issue to be addressed. The Parish Clerk will ensure complaints are investigated and where necessary action will be taken to ensure remedial work is undertaken. Can be closed as information is on web site. Agreed by the Parish Council at their April Meeting.
	(f) Clearer marking of footpaths and right of ways around the village	Will be raised in March 2006. To be closed as ongoing work takes place. Agreed by the Parish Council at their April Meeting.
	(g) Toilets in Central Street to be reopened and preferably refurbished, e.g. new superloo, stainless steel and self cleaning, easier to maintain.	See Comment from the Planning and Environment Meeting held on October 19 th 2005. Is now on the Parish Council Monthly Agenda therefore the Parish Council will continue to lobby BDC. P.C. has now told BDC at the Parish Council meeting of February 9 th 2006, their wish is for a super loo to replace the existing toilet, which has become an eyesore. Await response from BDC.
	(h) Extension of footpath down south side of Cosby Road past Hill Lane to join river / nature walk	No progress to February 2006. No movement on this A.P.

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10. Sport recreation and religion	Youth provision is seen as poor. Good sports facilities exist but this does not serve everyone and has limited impact during the evenings when groups of youths gather. This leads to complaints of the lack of recreational facilities leading to anti-social behaviour amongst a minority:- (a) Investigate the need for extra facilities for young people.	The Parish Council held the first ever Youth Focus Evenings in the Village Hall on February 1 st . Almost 70 young people turned up to answer questions, enter a free raffle to win a DVD and Gift Vouchers as well and enjoy free food. The outcome has been a clearer understanding of what this particular group of young people would like to see in their Village. Following this event the Parish Council have now agreed to a trial 'Youth Café' in the Village Hall where they can drop in, enjoy each other's company and have a soft drink, or use a laptop computer. The 'café' will be open each Tuesday afternoon and be free. Supervision will be on hand as will an adult ear should the young people wish to explore any issues they might have. The opening date of the 'café' is to be April 25 th . A Youth Forum made up of young people from the Village will be formed in late March to decide the name and nature of the 'café'. The Parish Council Working Party is now exploring other areas where they may be able to help. One of these is to help organise a 'Personal Safety' course for teenage girls as this was a particular need raised by the Youth Focus evening. Transferred to the Parish Meeting Agenda.
	(b) Develop disused railway between Countesthorpe and South Wigston as Public Amenity / Walkway / Footpath.	A meeting in early February between representatives of BDC and Countesthorpe PC resulted in a joint venture initially to implement a feasibility study. All parties agreed opening this area for a walkway would be a very good idea. However there are obstacles to this happening even before funding becomes an issue. Highways funding issue. Transferred to the Parish Meeting Agenda.
	(c) Investigate facilities for senior citizens	Will be discussed in early 2006. Audit of present facilities to be undertaken by the Working party - report by next WP Meeting.

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11. Communications	Whilst the Herald is very popular there is a need for better communications:- (a) Village web site & (b) Village Directory	Officially launched 1 st February 2006 and followed up by an open day at the Library on Tuesday 14 th February. Web site now officially launched and will be kept up to date and informative. Completed - can be closed from Action Points. Agreed by the Parish Council at their April Meeting. A new issue of the Parish Booklet is ready for printing. Council have agreed funding for both these ventures. Ready for distribution mid-May 2006.
	(c) Improved use of notice boards.	The Parish Council have agreed to fund the first of three new Notice Boards in the village. The notice board outside the Village Hall will soon have a map of the Village on it as well as space for Parish and Public Notices. First Notice Board ordered and map of Countesthorpe has been sent by the Parish Council for use by the manufacturer. Data collation continuing for map.
	(d) Investigate the provision of a new post box on Rosebank Road	Letter sent to the Post Office from the Parish Office requesting a review of this item. No further news to report. Post Office reply indicates they will not provide any extra post boxes. Council to write again to see if any movement on this decision can be encouraged.

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12. Parish Council	<p>The Parish Council was generally considered to be effective however:-</p> <p>(a) There is a need for the Parish Council to improve awareness of the scope of their authority and publicise contact points for themselves and other relevant authorities.</p>	<p>This is dealt with on the new Parish Web site and soon to be published Booklet. Found on the Parish Web Site under Councillors - http://countesthorpeparishcouncil.co.uk/councillors.html -</p> <p>Website and Booklet deal with this - Completed. Completion agreed by the Parish Council at their April Meeting.</p>
	<p>(b) The last two elections have not been contested. Every effort should be made to encourage interested people to consider standing for election.</p>	<p>This will be addressed when the next Parish Council elections are due in 2007. Will be addressed in 2007 but can be closed from the Action Plan. Completion agreed by the Parish Council at their April Meeting.</p>
	<p>(c) A greater sense of purpose or a central vision would help focus people's perception of the work of the Parish Council</p>	<p>Hopefully through the Public Meetings, Web site and Booklet residents will see what their Council is doing on their behalf and have the capability to make their own views known. Village residents are always welcome at the monthly Council Meeting where at 08:00 they can 'have their say'. The Website and Booklet are beginning to develop this 'sense of purpose' - can now be closed from Action Points? Completion agreed by the Parish Council at their April Meeting.</p>