

May 2006 - Blaby District Council are now looking again at the Village Plan to see where they can offer help, guidance and support to our efforts to improve the village facilities and environment. Report back from them due in the Autumn of this year.

Action	How it will be tackled	Progress
1. Buildings / (Planning consultations)	Meet with planning officers at Blaby District Council to discuss recommendations for :- (a) Retaining usage of commercial buildings (b) Provision of affordable housing (c) Provision of housing for the elderly (d) No further large scale development.	See April 2006 update - action points now closed.
2. Crime and Safety	Review of village policing arrangements in particular:- (a) Anti-social behaviour (b) Pedestrian safety, vehicles parking on pavements, more pedestrian crossings? (c) Higher Police presence / visibility	See April 2006 update - action points now closed.
3. Health and welfare	Local Health and Welfare concerns including:- (a) Discuss formation of a Patient Participation Group with Village Health Centre.	See April 2006 update - action points now closed.
4. Traffic	Review of Traffic Calming scheme to reassess existing scheme and discuss any alternatives including:- (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. To be arranged
5. Retail	Areas for improvement:- (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.	See April 2006 update - action points now closed.

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6. Litter and Pollution	Generally seen to be good with some notable exceptions near the schools and shops:- (a) Gain co-operation from Head teachers / Principal to reduce perceived problem of litter from students.	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. Working Party recommends a Parish Council discussion to agree a way forward. Agreed by the Parish Council - discussion to be arranged.
	(b) Target areas for litter picking	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. Working Party recommends a Parish Council discussion to agree a way forward Agreed by the Parish Council - discussion to be arranged.
	(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 style="color: green;">See April 2006 update - action points now closed.</p>
	(d) "Pollution" was also seen to include Mobile phone masts. Strong feeling against these particularly near the schools and residential areas	<p style="color: green;">See April 2006 update - action points now closed.</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.	See April 2006 update - action points now closed.
	(b) Further demand for Holiday play scheme / child care provision in 5/11 age group	See April 2006 update - action points now closed.
	(c) U3A limited understanding that age range is from 50+	See April 2006 update - action points now closed.
8. Employment	Seek to retain existing industrial land for future employment. Seek to restrict change of use to residential.	See April 2006 update - action points now closed.

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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	See April 2006 update - action points now closed.
	(b) Preservation of green spaces within the village	See April 2006 update - action points now closed.
	(c) Ensure school playing fields not sold off as a recreational assessment shows a shortfall of play areas.	See April 2006 update - action points now closed.
	(d) More seating around the village	See April 2006 update - action points now closed.
	(e) Maintain hedges and trees to prevent pavements becoming overgrown	See April 2006 update - action points now closed.
	(f) Clearer marking of footpaths and right of ways around the village	See April 2006 update - action points now closed.
	(g) Toilets in Central Street to be reopened and preferably refurbished, e.g. new superloo, stainless steel and self cleaning, easier to maintain.	BDC want to sell the land the toilets are on and have given the Parish Council first refusal on its sale. The Parish Council now awaits BDC’s valuation. If the price is acceptable, the Parish Council would want a debate or suggestions from within the village on what should replace the toilets.
	(h) Extension of footpath down south side of Cosby Road past Hill Lane to join river / nature walk	No progress to June 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.	See April 2006 update - action points now closed.
	(b) Develop disused railway between Countesthorpe and South Wigston as Public Amenity / Walkway / Footpath.	See April 2006 update - action points now closed.
	(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 May 2006.

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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	See April 2006 update - action points now closed. A new issue of the Parish Booklet is now ready. Delivery to every house in the village to be end of June or first week of July 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. Final draft of map approved in June and returned to the manufacturer for map/notice board construction.
	(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 have written again to see if any movement on this decision can be encouraged.

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<p>12. Parish Council</p>	<p>The Parish Council was generally considered to be effective however:- (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>http://countesthorpeparishcouncil.co.uk/councillors.html - See April 2006 update - action points now closed.</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>See April 2006 update - action points now closed.</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>See April 2006 update - action points now closed.</p>