

Long Whatton & Diseworth PARISH PLAN 2008

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LONG WHATTON AND DISEWORTH PARISH PLAN 2008

Introduction

In November 2005, Diana Cook from Leicestershire & Rutland Rural Community Council addressed a small group of interested residents from Long Whatton and Diseworth on the possibility of producing a Parish Plan. She explained the aims of such and the importance of community consultation and involvement in the whole process. It seemed a daunting task and indeed proved to be one, but an extremely rewarding one, both for the team that set out and stayed with the idea and for the residents of both villages.

It is interesting to note that the hopes and concerns of both villages were not dissimilar and in the process of planning the details, setting out the questions, delivering the questionnaire, and analysing the results, the team which comprised residents from both villages came to a better understanding and appreciation of each other.

In February 2006, the Parish Plan theme was launched, the event hosted by the Rural Community Council and attended by County Council Service Providers as well as local residents. In February 2008, after many deliberations and much hard work, the Parish Plan was launched, together with an Action Plan for the future.

In producing the Plan, the team records with gratitude, the constant support of Leicestershire & Rutland Rural Community Council, in particular, Diana Cook, Jennie Beeby and Charlotte Burt, and the financial support of Long Whatton & Diseworth Parish Council. The Youth Questionnaire could not have taken place without the enthusiasm and support of Youth Worker Ro Riley and the assistance of local schools. The interest shown to the Plan from officers at Leicestershire County Council is much appreciated, in particular the support of Dr. Matthew Kempson.

However the wonderful efforts of the residents of Long Whatton and Diseworth, in persevering when it seemed we were never going to complete, the encouragement and work of volunteers when called upon, and the determination of a small group to ensure that the voice of the two villages was heard has culminated in our Parish Plan.

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

AIMS	ACTION	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
Speed Reduction through villages	1 Apply for speed-watch in both villages 2 Traffic Control at Hathern Turn	LCC Highways Parish Council Police Volunteers	As soon as possible
Parking in both villages controlled	Yellow lines / parking restrictions	LCC Highways	By end of 2008
Community bus service for all	More publicity Details of providers and routes	Parish Council CD & Shepshed CVS Village Magazines	Throughout 2008

'Traffic calming urgently needed around both schools'

'How many more accidents before we get lights at Hathern Turn'

'Parking measures near Long Whatton Post Office needed'

'Stop heavy lorries using Diseworth as a short cut'

'How can we stop airport travellers from using our village as a car park?'

'Create safe tracks for cyclists and walkers between the two villages'

Post World War 2 has seen many changes in Long Whatton. Mechanisation came to farms with tractors and combine harvesters, thus reducing the number of farm workers needed. Farms amalgamated and now number 3 from 11.

ENVIRONMENT

AIMS	ACTION	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
More recycling facilities	Further options for recycling in both villages	NWLDC	Throughout 2008
Less noise and pollution created by aircraft	Continued monitoring Continued watch by village pressure group	NWLDC Wings	Ongoing
Less litter and dog fouling in both villages	More litter bins Dog Bins in each village Notices	NWLDC Parish Council Residents	As soon as possible
Improved pathways and pavements	1 Cut back vegetation 2 Cut back overhanging trees 3 Clean pavements on a more regular basis	Local Residents NWLDC NWLDC	Ongoing
Ensuring no flood problems	1 Regular checking of the brook in both villages 2 Regular maintenance of brook through villages	Environment Agency Local residents	Every six months and after heavy rain
Improve footpaths in both villages; improve access to Millennium Meadow	Regular maintenance	NWLDC Parish Council	Ongoing checking

'No footpaths on the Whatton Road'

'Whatton Road unsafe for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders due to blind bends and speeding traffic'

'Lack of pavements in areas of the village'

'We know where the Millennium Meadow is but there are no footpaths to get there'

'The smell of fuel from the airport can be extremely unpleasant'

'How can we control night flying?'

'Is it true that our pavements are never cleaned?'

'Parents with prams often have to step into the road to avoid overhanging branches'

1941 Without any warning the air ministry started building the aerodrome. The main runway was soon concreted past the farm and another pegged out leaving us within 100 yards from touchdown. We decided we had to move.....

EDUCATION

AIMS	ACTION	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
Provide Adult Education locally	Make contact with providers	LEA Community College U3A	Before new education year
Encourage village Pupils to attend village schools to ensure survival of both schools	Provide a two-tier system with transfer at 11+. Possible survey to discover why pupils are sent to other schools	LEA Head teachers Parents Head teachers	As soon as possible When deemed fit or necessary

A huge selection of adult classes was requested, Art, Languages, Cookery, Sport based subjects, Embroidery, Keep Fit, Leisure Activities, Culture, Photography, Car Maintenance, Crafts, Literature and General Education being some of them. The largest request was for Classes in all forms of IT.

Much concern was expressed about the lack of numbers attending the village schools and many commented on the system whereby young people move at the age of ten to another school and then again at the age of fourteen years.

1935 All the school children went down with chicken pox. But the celebrations for George V Silver Jubilee went ahead with a marquee in the playground, spots and all!

HOUSING

AIMS	ACTION	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
Provide affordable housing	Work with Rural Housing Enabler	LCC NWLDC Parish Council Planning Committee	
Provide sheltered accommodation for senior citizens	Work with Rural Housing Enabler	LCC NWLDC Rural Housing Enabler Parish Council Planning Committee	
Object to more executive housing in both villages	All plans to be carefully considered	LCC NWLDC Parish Council	

'We are driving young families away from our villages – there is no affordable accommodation for them'

'The beauty of our village lies in its small friendly size'

'If building must take place consider our senior citizens and older population'

'With no families through extortionate house prices, the schools will close and the young people will be lost to the village'

'We will become a dormitory village, with no village atmosphere'

'Stop building executive houses, the occupants are not interested in the village'

'Too many large houses on small plots'

'Cost of houses prohibitive for first time buyers'

'Developers are destroying the character of the village'

CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

AIMS	ACTION	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
Improve awareness of Neighbourhood Watch	1 Publicise Neighbourhood Watch Teams 2 Hold Public Safety Meetings 3 Support and Advice for older people and those living alone	Police Parish Council Local Neighbourhood Watch Teams Village magazines	Before end of 2008
Greater Police presence in both villages	1 Police walking (not just driving) through villages, especially in evenings Community Police Patrols 2 Stationary Police car at certain times	Police	Immediate

'Police not visible in villages, no apparent evening patrols'

'Regular police patrols needed'

'Police contribution to village magazines would be helpful'

'Damage to vehicles and property but no one apprehended'

'Foot patrols of police would be very welcome'

P.C. Huffer was the local policeman and he used to cycle round to keep an eye on us. We cycled to work and during the war cycle batteries were virtually unobtainable so we often went without lights, but he would soon catch up with us. 1943

FACILITIES AND SERVICES

AIMS	ACTION	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
Library Service more accessible	1 Better publicity for route and times 2 Additional service – evening/weekends	LCC. NWLDC Parish Council notice boards Village magazines	As soon as possible
Local buses Local trains	Times, frequency, routes publicised	LCC. NWLDC Parish Council Village magazines	Within the current year
Postage stamps available in Diseworth	Possible venues - Diseworth Heritage Centre, Barber's shop, local public houses	The Post Office	Immediate

'Postal services in Diseworth'

'Newspapers available for purchase in Diseworth'

'Longer free parking at EMA for villagers to use services and facilities'

'Evening visits from the mobile library'

When we moved to Long Whatton in 1942 we had electricity and could change to machine milking, also enjoying the facilities of 3 churches, 6 shops, 3 pubs, a school within walking distance and a bus service.

In 1952 we moved to Smithy Lane and had a house with an inside toilet.

2008 There have been a lot of changes over the years; there are only a few farms now, no Post Office or Shop and only our Church left. But I am retired now and very happy to be a part of and involved in village life.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

AIMS	ACTION	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
Improve access to Doctor's surgeries	1 Make greater use of telephone conversations 2 Create a nurse - led filter in surgery 3 Improve appointment system in particular surgeries	Primary Care Trust Surgery Managers General Practitioners	As soon as possible
Support Residents who have no means of private transport	1 Arrange appointments to match bus times 2 Offer District and Community Nurse facilities 3 Provide inexpensive transport service	Surgery Managers General Practitioners	As soon as possible
Arrange a prescription delivery service	Surgeries to provide information for village magazines	Surgery Managers	As soon as possible
Better accessibility to local hospitals	Later appointments	Local Hospitals	Immediate

'Long Whatton is too big not to have a surgery'

'Appointment system at one surgery is a nightmare'

'Difficult to get a prescription when you cannot get an appointment for three weeks'

'Provide facilities for nurses to offer services in both villages'

'As a non driver hospital appointments are a major expedition'

'The PCT is committed to ensuring that local people have good access to the fullest range of safe, high quality health services in the community'
(Leicestershire County and Rutland NHS Primary Care Trust. Issue 3 October 2007)

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

AIMS	ACTION	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
More publicity of facilities available in both villages	1 Regular information to village magazines 2 Better use of notice boards	Premises Officers of buildings Parish Council Village Magazines	Whenever events occur
Maintain village churches	1 Increase community use 2 Take up offers to support churches financially	The Church Parochial Church Councils Village Residents	Ongoing

'In a village all community venues are valuable'

'More involvement in community buildings for young people'

'A Heritage Centre is an exciting prospect for both villages'

'Use the churches for more community activity'

'The churches are all of great historical interest'

'Many people still want the churches for celebration of births, marriages and funerals'

'Use the churches and community buildings for adult classes'

There were two chapels and our village church in Diseworth, we all went to Sunday School and Bible Class and were Confirmed, Revd. Nigel Turner was our vicar. While we were at school, Margaret Mills wrote little plays which we performed in the Parish Room. With the money we raised, the vicar took us in his car to Matlock to give to a Children's Home. 1958

LONG WHATTON AND DISEWORTH YOUTH FORUM

The Parish Plan - Youth Consultation

The Consultation Youth Questionnaire was written by young people of the Parish, distributed through the schools, completed by 11 – 18 year olds, returned and processed by the adult supporters and the Rural Community Council – and now, two years on, is ready to roll out as a draft Action Plan. It is quite an achievement!

To some young people in Long Whatton and Diseworth – February 2006 is a distant memory. To the present Youth Forum it has been and continues to be, a real chance for them to make a huge difference to the lives of young people in the parish.

It is almost two years since the first meeting. On a wet winter night in February 2006, at Long Whatton Methodist Church Hall, seventeen young people started to consider what things might improve the community for young people. Some doubted their own ability to make an impact, others believed that no-one would listen to them, and yet others said 'nothing changes around here'...but they have battled on in spite of their early doubts.

The draft Action plan is now written – based on the data obtained from the completed questionnaires.

This has been achieved because young people cared enough to get involved in the planning and more importantly, the majority of the young community took the time out to answer a very long and in-depth questionnaire. Thanks to them all – The future for Young People in the Parish is now looking good.

Since September 2007 the Youth Forum has met once a month at Diseworth Village Hall. During this time they have addressed the key issues, discussed possible solutions, written the Action Plan, as well as having a good time socially.

Members of the Forum have already bid for and obtained the money to purchase a Youth Shelter that will be sited on the Field at the rear of Diseworth Village Hall. Unfortunately, although they were also lucky enough to get a grant for Long Whatton, a suitable site could not be found. The Forum has great plans for their involvement in the new Heritage Centre, and on the Leisure side of things, they are organising an ongoing programme of trips and activities.

There is still much work to be done – It is an exciting time for us all. And we now know that we can achieve our goals.

If you are aged between 12 and 18, live in the Parish and would like to join the Youth Forum, or have any questions or ideas please Contact Ro Riley, Youth Development Worker, on 01509 676602.

Youth – SPORT AND LEISURE

ISSUE	Possible solution to explore	AIM	PARTNERS/ Possible Support
Football pitch Goal posts are broken	Establish costs and funding	To have a decent pitch with goal posts	Apply to YOF and airport to fund
Facilities on the park: Teen Shelter	Teen shelter, adult swings, basket ball hoop or a MUGA (multi use games area). Firstly to see if there is the room, then funding and support from other agencies	To have an area designated to young people	District Council Parish Council Village Hall committee
Not enough sports for young people to join in with – especially girls football	Advertise and promote	To establish a girls and a boys football team and set up competitive football with other Youth Groups	Youth workers to help facilitate Airport for sponsorship
Need for a Youth Club	Explore all local venues for suitable Youth Club.	Try to set up some kind of Youth Club	Village hall committee Church Public house

Youth – SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE HERITAGE CENTRE

ISSUE	Possible solution to explore	AIM	PARTNERS/ Possible Support
Shortage of social activities for Young People	Young people to run and manage a coffee bar project at the Heritage Centre	1. Set up a safe and welcoming place for all young people to meet regularly 2. Set up a Young Business Enterprise Scheme to run it, allowing y/p to gain new skills eg. food hygiene, business plans, marketing	Heritage Centre Trustees Youth Workers Parish Council Villagers County Hall

Internet access and book access		Set up the Internet Café with access for all y/p with books to be loaned out at a small charge	Heritage Centre Trustees Youth Workers Parish Council Villagers County Hall
Advice for Young People over 13	Notice boards in village hall and heritage centre with all relevant information and advice/contact numbers	To allow young to gain information	Youth Service Youth workers Heritage Centre Trustees Village hall committee

Youth – ENVIRONMENT

ISSUE	Possible solution to explore	AIM	PARTNERS/ Possible Support
Dog Dirt	More bins, free poop scoopers Poster design competition	To make dog owners more aware of the damage dog mess can leave	Dog Warden for advice and support
Millennium Meadow	Invite whole village to a midnight picnic to raise awareness. Invite local celebrity	Promote it Get villagers to be proud of the countryside	Link with Primary school Parish Council Meadow Committee Youth Workers
Litter	More bins that are emptied regularly. Litter campaign and poster designed by primary school, supported by Youth Forum	To give a better understanding of the consequences of litter on the village. To involve other young people.	Primary school Youth Workers Villagers Parish Council District Council

Dark Jittys (footpaths)	Solar lighting Clearing Mapping exercise of area Promote wind-up torches	To make jittys safe to walk through. Explore sustainable energy ideas	Parish and District councils Youth workers Link with Primary school Grant sources for wind up torches
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Youth – TRANSPORT

ISSUE	Possible solution to explore	AIM	PARTNERS/ Possible Support
Public transport	Contacting all bus providers	To improve the rural transport system	Transport manager at County Hall
Extended bus pass	Who would use the service and would it be viable for the companies	To allow young people free travel after school	Education Department at County Hall
Use of community bus	Costings and viability	Promoting	Kegworth/Castle Donington Volunteer Centre
Cycle path	Contact Sustrans for advice	Making it easier and safer to cycle	Sustrans
Fear of speeding cars	Speak to Highways for advice and a solution (sleeping policemen and solar lighting)	Slow down traffic	County Hall

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The Way Forward

It is difficult to express sufficient thanks to the intrepid team whose two years of work has resulted in this report. It is really constructive and forward looking and I am sure reflects the feelings of the vast majority of residents in the two villages. On behalf of the Parish Council I am very grateful for all that has been achieved.

However I must also recognise the responsibility that is now handed on to the Parish Council. It is now our duty to try as hard as we can to ensure that the feelings of our parishioners are translated into action. I am sure that we will get help in this programme from many individuals and groups; but the Parish Council recognises that, having sponsored the Plan initially, we must take its findings forward.

I am particularly pleased that the youth survey came up with some really positive ideas, and that we have already been able to respond to some of them: a Youth Shelter has been funded by the Big Lottery for Diseworth, and a mobile skateboard has been bid for in Long Whatton. When the Heritage Centre opens in Diseworth, one of the first initiatives will be a coffee bar run by and for young people, overseen by Ro Riley, our Area Youth Worker.

You will see the names of the key players in this important exercise elsewhere. I would like to thank them most warmly for all the hours they have put in, and the efforts they have made to ensure that this Parish Plan gives us a local voice in all those issues that might otherwise be determined by those who are not residents, and do not fully understand the feelings we have about issues that affect our lives.

Martin Hening
Chair, Long Whatton & Diseworth Parish Council

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Also many photographs generously loaned.

Long Whatton & Diseworth Parish Plan has been a team effort from the very beginning, in its creation, planning, layout, delivery, collection and evaluation of responses and the enthusiasm and support of all involved has enhanced the whole parish.

Nikki Hening
Parish Plan Chairperson