

## **Thurlaston Parish Plan**

### **1. Introduction**

In March 2006 the RCC presented the Parish Plan process to the residents of Thurlaston. There was a good turn out for the size of the Parish. However, the first meeting after the event was not so impressive with just four residents, two of which volunteered to be on a steering group. As part of the move to develop and expand the community consultation project, the RCC offered additional and more comprehensive services to Thurlaston to enable those residents concerned to partake in some form of consultation.

Previously the Parish Plan process has been initiated in communities where there is a perceived threat to the community. In the case of Thurlaston, the Rural Community Council (Leicestershire and Rutland) took a more involved role in the consultation process. Using the pre-set themed questionnaires, as agreed with the Leicestershire County Council, the CDO for Blaby conducted the consultation throughout the parish with the help of those residents keen to offer their services. This method gave the interested residents the support they needed to conduct consultation whilst at the same time retaining the emphasis on local – a vital element in the process.

After meeting on a number of occasions with the two keen residents, and the Parish Council the RCC has enabled, constructed and delivered two types of questionnaires to every household in Thurlaston.

At the open meeting two key issues emerged; traffic and young people. These issues were strongly voiced by the residents and those on the steering group. It was decided to action consultation solely on these two issues, and from that, with the commitment of the two residents and the RCC two separate questionnaires were created.

### **2. Questionnaire feedback**

#### **○ Thurlaston Traffic Questionnaire**

The traffic questionnaire was delivered to all households and received a 19% return rate. The results of the questionnaire have been analysed by the CDO and an action plan has been created. The action plan overleaf was created by the RCC followed by input from the two committed residents and the Parish Council. It was vital the residents played a key role here to ensure the actions were local and relevant to their Parish and community.

#### **○ Young People Questionnaire**

The young people's questionnaire focused on likes, dislikes, traffic and transport, youth activities, and crime and safety. With only 10 questionnaires returned this section of the action plan is less comprehensive. None the less, the responses

will still be valuable in providing potential to carry out further consultation in order to justify the action plan. Despite the low response rate the results give a distinct impression that more facilities for teenagers would be welcomed, even if this was an initial 'quick fix' such as the creation of a basketball hoop or football post. However, it is likely that the need for other larger projects would need more detailed consideration.

### **3. The next steps**

Once the action plan has been reviewed by the County Council it will be distributed to the service providers.

At present the RCC is creating a summary leaflet outlining the results and this will be distributed to households in the Parish. It is hoped a more detailed report will follow.

Discussions are taking place between the RCC and the Parish Council about holding an event to publicise the results and recruit volunteers for activities, such as Community Speed Watch.

## DRAFT ACTION PLAN

The actions detailed below highlight the concerns regarding traffic issues in the Parish of Thurlaston.

<b>Facilities for cycling, pedestrians, runners, wheelchair and pushchair access</b>					
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Narrow/inaccessible or overgrown footpaths. Kerbs too high for wheelchair and pushchair access.	Assemble evidence for improving walking and cycling facilities around the Parish. Identify areas of concern (Namely Desford Road, Church Street). Target areas to lower footpaths, reduce parking on pavements.		Parish Council, Blaby District Council, Highways Department.	Parish Council	

<b>Traffic blocking the road/illegal parking</b>					
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Parking in the centre of the village, illegal parking and traffic blocking the road.	Investigate measures to reduce parking on Desford Road in particular around school times.		Parish Council, Highways Authority, Police.	Parish Council	High

<b>Speeding traffic/ issue of Thurlaston being a rat run</b>					
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Speeding traffic through the village/ address issue of 'rat run'.	Investigate implementation of speed restrictions such as flashing signs Desford Rd, Croft Rd, Earl Shilton Road. This could be complemented with Community Speed Watch.		Community Speed Watch Group, Parish Council, County Council, Highways Authority	Parish Council	High

<b>Road safety</b>					
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Concerns of road safety on Desford Road.	Reduce speeding and parking on pavements. See action point above.			Parish Council	

The actions detailed below were brought up by the young people in the Parish.

<b>Young people</b>					
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Facilities	Assemble evidence for providing facilities for older youth. Identify location for these facilities. Identify facilities at Huncote Leisure Centre and establish how youth can use the Leisure Centre easily.		Parish Council, Huncote Leisure Centre.	Parish Council	
Access – dependence on family car	Investigate the need for direct buses to major centres.				
Safety - on Thurlaston Lane  Profile of police officer	Raise profile of local police constable or consider arranging a drop in event with local police officer and youth.		Parish Council Community Support Officer	Parish Council	