

The village of
HARBY
in the Vale of Belvoir



COMMUNITY CONSULTATION
2006
ACTION PLAN

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INTRODUCTION

by David Lepper, chairman of the Harby Community Consultation Group

Harby is situated in the middle of the rural Vale of Belvoir, served by the nearby surrounding market towns of Bingham, Melton Mowbray and Grantham. More comprehensive shopping, leisure and service opportunities are available in the cities of Nottingham and Leicester, where many people work. Harby sits within the combined Parish of Clawson, Hose and Harby, with a single Parish Council covering the 3 villages, with 3 Councillors representing the village. It is situated within Melton Borough Council's administrative area in northern Leicestershire, and to the north borders onto Nottinghamshire. Harby has a population of 864 individuals, 698 adults on the electoral register in 2001-2, consisting of around 376 houses including outlying dwellings. The surrounding countryside is an attractive landscape setting which includes the Grantham Canal, part of which is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest, some permanent pasture "ridge and furrow" fields, together with improved pasture and arable fields, all bounded by a framework of hedgerows, containing a local rights of way network.

Harby has a range of local services including a Village Shop and Post Office, 2 Public Houses, a Garage with a shop and cafe attached, an historic Church dating back to the 13th century, a Chapel, a Primary School, a Village Hall, a recreation ground with children's play equipment and 2 allotment areas. In addition there are a number of local organisations such as the Women's Institute, a Pre-school group, the Harby Harlequins amateur dramatic society, and the Village Hall Committee where local people get engaged in community activity.

Our village is a good village, but we recognised that by working together through a community consultation process, we can make the quality of life better for local people. The Parish Council convened a public meeting in the spring 2005, with a representative from Leicestershire & Rutland Rural Community Council, to see if the community would be interested in producing a Parish Plan.

A Community Consultation Group was formed, which has helped facilitate an Adult (over 18), a separate Youth (11 to 18), and a Primary School Questionnaire (5 to 11). 463 residents of the village completed

the adult questionnaire, a response of 66%.The information gleaned from these questionnaires provides the most comprehensive review for some 20 years on the needs and aspirations of the local community. This is not merely a stocktake of the present state of our community, but has produced an Action Plan, which provides a list of future projects and activity that can be pursued. The Group then worked with the Rural Community Council of the County Council for a Service Co-ordination Event in May 2007. Service providers to the village met with us and talked over the action points identified in the Action Plan. From this ways forward to achieve the wishes of the village began to appear and be followed up. The RCC produced an Action Table from this and it is this Table which we presented to the village at the Launch on 25 September and reproduce here. The Group began to implement the report after the Launch and already there has been movement on 20 of the 28 action points.

Some issues can be resolved locally within the community in the short term. Others will require working in partnership with a variety of local service providers from the Parish Council, Leicestershire County Council, Melton Borough Council, Leicestershire Police and other relevant organisations who have a duty to consider the results. We cannot guarantee that they will do everything that we request, but they have to have good reasons why they are unable to fulfil our requirements.

The Parish Plan is not an end in itself, but rather the start of an ongoing process that will engage a wide cross section of the community in a variety of future activity. Progress will need to be monitored, and reviewed in the light of the changing policy context, and opportunities and threats that will arise. This document should provide an informed foundation to positively influence the future development of our community for the next decade or so. This will depend on an ongoing commitment from local people helping to make proposals become a reality.

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ACTION TABLE

Abbreviations : **LCC** Leicester County Council, **HCCG** Harby Community Consultation Group, **PC** Parish Council, **MBC** Melton Borough Council. The full report is available on the website <http://www.oakleaves.org.uk/reports.asp?ProjectID=2>

Services (including Housing)		
Issues	Comments	Actions agreed
Maintain present internet provision (Q 40)	Need for continuing & improving broadband connection. Tina is in contact with BT over internet provision countywide.	Tina Britt will contact BT over Harby good use of broadband and need for improved speed and for future provision of best service. Questionnaire results to be sent to Tina Britt by Leslie Cram .
Promote religious education at school (Q 51)	Government legislation requires provision but not promotion. OFSTED checks on its provision. Schools current development plan is focusing on links with other cultures and religions. School is maintaining links with St. Mary's Church both via curriculum and through worship.	Multicultural links are to be developed in the future. PPG to action Valley Christian Centre input may be developed in the future as well as CofE. PPG to follow up
Maintain present use of Post Office (Q 62)	Tina suggested setting up a survey on the Leicestershire Villages website. Article on encouraging use of Post Office to boost figures in coming month in Harby Journal.	Nicole Rickard responsible for liaison with the Post Office and can use the figures from the survey to make the case for Harby to the Post Office. Leslie Cram to send details to Nicole Rickard .
Improve knowledge of elected representatives (Q 66)	Need to know where to get information.	Notice on village notice board – PPG to action. PC to promote councillors on http://www.leicestershireparishcouncils.org/clawsonhoseandharby
Advertise library delivery to door service (Q 68)	Julian said volunteers are needed for it to happen.	Article in Harby Journal asking for volunteers, text provided by Julian Crew .
Housing needs survey to agree need for housing for locals (Q 96, 97)	Housing needs to be in Harby for the school to be sustained. MBC has identified Clawson, Hose, Harby Parish as priority for looking at needs for affordable housing. For the character of Harby with population of all ages, with affordable housing for young couples for young children for primary school, the housing needs to be in Harby. Nicola Butcher in post (MBC - housing).	Separate survey for each settlement. Housing needs survey to go ahead with Parish Council support. Further discussion needed with Richard Windley and Nicola Butcher . PPG to action

<i>Access to nearby NHS dentist and provide well people clinic</i> (Q 98,100)	NHS dentist now available nearby.	Details from the questionnaire to be sent to Carole Fishwick (for her to contact surgeries involved) by Leslie Cram . Invite Long Clawson Practice Manager to future meeting. PPG to action
<i>Build Harby sports centre</i> (Q 120)	Position of new village hall is by present Leys playing field by village choice.	Liaise with other organisations in vale and review sports services availability. E.g. County Sports Partnership - Dave Stock , PPG to action Land for developing sports facilities in Harby needs to be acquired as it becomes available in the future. PPG to follow up
<i>Provide young people's meeting place</i> (Q Y1)	It would not be possible to have young people in village hall at same time as another user group. Names of lead young people are important for Adam to liaise in providing what he plans.	A mobile youth provision will be provided once per month for an initial 3 month period. This will continue if need is identified. Details of the Harby situation to be given to Adam McGlone by PPG .
Traffic and Transport		
Issues	Comments	Actions agreed
<i>Integrated transport system</i> (Q 1)	Time did not permit a full discussion on all transport issues i.e. long term integrated transport which would involve neighbouring counties and councils but progress was made in the area of Q1.	An alternative method that would enable the Cropwell Bishop surgery to be accessed now the No 22 bus has finished. Tony Kirk and PPG to action Time - weeks maybe even days.
<i>Radar operated speed signs and hand held speed guns</i> (Q 2,3)	Normally need a petition before they will instigate the issue of guns/training. There are 18 volunteers ready. TIME - weeks.	Mike Wilson to contact Bryan Colbourne regarding speed guns/training.
<i>Better provision of bus timetable information</i> (Q 10, 110)	The need for time table information was taken on board.	Laminated timetables attached to street furniture next to recognized bus stops (i.e. bus shelter, telegraph/electric posts). Tony Kirk and PPG to action Time - weeks

Crime and Community Safety		
Issues	Comments	Actions agreed
<i>Improve local police service</i> (Q 77)		Maintain neighbourhood watch. Promote 'diversionary activities' e.g. sports development esp. in schools.
<i>Reduce burglary</i> (Q 78)		Burglary awareness and cold calling days / packs.
<i>Reduce vehicle related crime</i> (Q 78)		Continue with advice re vehicles.
Environment (including Access)		
Issues	Comments	Actions agreed
<i>Improve on existing waste collection</i> (Q 20)	People not aware that they can request large additional boxes Objection to extra charge for larger items Black bin collections not frequent enough. Nearest recycling facilities in Not- tinghamshire. Could this be publicised? People would like more types of plastic to be recycled	Brigitta Palinkas will send con- tact details of the Harby Jour- nal (Kevin Becken) to atten- dees. Find out more on large item collection. One collection a month? Publicise nearest recycling facili- ties in Harby Journal. Mat- thew Kempson to action.
<i>Reduce dog fouling</i> (Q 22)	Need additional waste bins in spe- cific places Bins need to be emptied more often	Provide additional waste bins (dog bins). PC to action
<i>Improve on quality of exist- ing light, noise, smell</i> (Q 24)	Security lights are too sensitive (wrong angle). Some of the street lights are too old type and shine upwards. Some dark spots - possible audit? Sewage works smell; affecting large part of the village. PC has tried to contact. At Langar Industrial Estate lights are angled into sky. Light pollu- tion.	PC to investigate the street lights issue. Matthew Kempson to investigate the sewage issue and contact the company. Matthew Kempson to look into possibilities. Support PC.
<i>Improving the use of foot- paths for push chairs and battery wheelchairs</i> (Q 26)	Flooding of roads in heavy rain. Hedge overgrown on Burdon Lane by school so that people with push chairs forced into road	LCC to action LCC to action
<i>Clearing litter</i> (Q 28)	Parish would like to organise litter pick - need advice / equipment	LCC to enquire with Borough Council re equipment

<p>Construct new paths to improve safety and ease of passage (Q 30)</p>	<p>Stathern Lane - would like to be continuous. Colston Lane - circular walk needed to access canal, strip of hard surface. Langar Lane - to give access to canal. At present it is unsafe crossing the bridge because of restricted visibility for cars coming from the south.</p>	<p>Leslie Cram to liaise with MBC regarding Colston Lane, Stathern Lane and Langar Lane and availability of funding.</p>
<p>Save energy (Q 31)</p>	<p>Do street lights need to be on all night? Low energy for community buildings. Set good example.</p>	<p>PC should consider the street lights / energy saving issue. (Safety issues)</p>
<p>Providing more, flowers, hedges, trees (Q 32)</p>	<p>Is any funding available for planting? Hedges - should they be part of planning permission?</p>	<p>Matthew Kempson to sent Andy Haynes's contact details to PPG PPG to contact Andy Hayes (LCC) re Shire Grants</p>
<p>Protect historic wildlife features (Q 35)</p>	<p>Review needed of listed buildings Vandalised bridge (where the public footpath crosses the Grantham Canal) has not been fixed for two years Review TPO's Siltng up of canal will effect habitats SSSI between L. Bridge - Redmile - no interpretation</p>	<p>PC to contact Environmental Agency. PC to recruit tree warden. LCC Rights of Way team to investigate the bridge issue and contact <i>British Waterways</i>. Fiona Walker (LCC) to investigate the issue of silting up the canal. Matthew Kempson to look through funding toolkit and let PC know options.</p>
<p>Promotion of canal walks (Q 118, 121)</p>	<p>Extra seating along canal (Langar Lane x Colston Lane)</p>	
<p>Link circular walks with rights of way (Q 122)</p>	<p>Disused railway lines could provide additional walks.</p>	
<p>Promote use of local rights of way (Q 123)</p>	<p>Byways + bridgeways often churned up or overgrown at Green Lane and Stathern Lane. Some routes are dead ends. Footpath access canal at Langar Bridge is dangerous - just needs gap in rails.</p>	<p>Matthew Kempson to contact Highways Managements re bridge. LCC to investigate rights of way. Matthew Kempson to provide map of rights of way for the PPG and contact Rights of Way.</p>
<p>Produce circular walks around Harby leaflet (Q 125)</p>	<p>Funding for parish walks leaflet.</p>	<p>Parish given contact in Rights of Way to enquire re parish walks. Matthew Kempson to action.</p>

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The cover picture is by Mike Weston.

Finally we mention ourselves who have made up the committee, a few who came once or twice and the regulars :- Bryan Colbourne, Leslie Cram, Ruth De Silva, Anne Dames, David Howley, David Lepper, Alan Semper, Sylvia Stafford, Mike Weston and Mark Wheeler.

This report is edited by Leslie Cram, secretary of consultation group.