

Parwich Village Action Group

(In conjunction with the Peak Park Authority and Parwich Parish Council)

Parwich Action Plan Review

Background

The initial Parwich Village Action Plan was agreed in 2001, and five Groups set up to implement its aims. In October 2003, an update of the work of each group was circulated to each household in the village along with a questionnaire designed to review this Action Plan (see appendix ii). Additional copies were available in the Shop and the Pub. Information on the review was printed in the October parish magazine; also the Ashbourne Telegraph ran a front-page article on the Review. People were asked to return their completed questionnaire to the Shop or to one of the Co-ordinating Group within two weeks. As the initial response was poor this was extended by a week.

Response Rate to Questionnaire

Some 350 questionnaires were distributed but only 32 completed responses were returned. It is difficult to quantify a return rate as some responded as a household and others responded as individuals. In the Parish there are some 220 households including second homes, but excluding holiday lets, and approximately 520 people (adults and children). But no matter how the return rate is calculated it is very low. This poor return rate means that the questionnaire results alone can not be used as a justification for further action.

Review Outcomes

The responses to each question along with the views of each sub-group are set out below. The figures given are percentages of those responding to that question. The comments/suggestions are given in full in appendix i. Changing the aims and further action has only been suggested where the questionnaire responses are in agreement with the suggestions from the relevant sub-groups.

Environment

Response to current aims

- | | | | |
|------|--|------------|--------------|
| i. | Protect and maintain the green and open spaces in and around the village. | | |
| | <i>Further Action Needed:</i> | YES | (80%) |
| | | NO | (20%) |
| ii. | Protect village heritage and lifestyle. | | |
| | <i>Further Action Needed:</i> | YES | (82%) |
| | | NO | (18%) |
| iii. | Identify and promote specific improvements to enhance the village environment. | | |
| | <i>Further Action Needed:</i> | YES | (81%) |
| | | NO | (19%) |

Sub-group's comments

This was the issue that produced the strongest response in the initial questionnaire. The environment group has undertaken a range of projects, including three village workdays. Since 2002 they have obtained £10,469-93 in grants from the Peak Park for restoring the well in Creamery Lane, improving the brook course through the churchyard, planting trees in the church yard, for further tree work in the church yard and on the football pitch, for walling repairs at Nether Green and in the churchyard, and for new benches. The group wishes to continue preparing a statement of what is valued in the village that will after consultation be lodged with the planning authority. They also have a number of improvements they wish to pursue, including restoration of Staines Trough, more benches around the village and improving the diversity of plants on verges and 'waste' ground.

Conclusion

The outcome of the questionnaire, including the comments in the appendix and the recommendations of the sub-group support the Environment Group should continuing with the same aims.

Action

-Continue with the same aims.

Affordable Housing

Response to current aims

- i. Ensure provision and continued availability of low cost housing in the village.

Further Action Needed:

YES (86%)

NO (14%)

Sub-group's comments

This need was strongly emphasized in the responses to the initial questionnaire. The housing group has achieved remarkably prompt results, with agreement to build three 3-bedroom-house on the schoolhouse site. These when built will be available for rent from Nottingham Community Housing Association. The group wishes to continue while the houses are being built, then review the need for further action.

Conclusion

The responses to the questionnaire strongly reinforce the need for this group to continue active, with the same aims. At present the group has it's hands full supporting the progress of the planned houses. The need for further developments will be reviewed when the current project is complete.

Action

-Continue with the same aims while the current houses are being built.

-Review the need for further action after the current houses have tenants.

Community Hall & Sports Hall Facilities

Response to current aims

- | | | | |
|------|---|------------|--------------|
| i. | Development of a multi-use community hall in Parwich, providing additional facilities to the existing hall. | | |
| | <i>Further Action Needed:</i> | YES | (64%) |
| | | NO | (36%) |
| ii. | Improve sports pavilion facilities. | | |
| | <i>Further Action Needed:</i> | YES | (52%) |
| | | NO | (48%) |
| iii. | Explore a combined solution to both the above. | | |
| | <i>Further Action Needed:</i> | YES | (78%) |
| | | NO | (22%) |

Sub-group's comments

The issue of whether to redevelop the existing Memorial Hall or to build a new facility on/near the sports fields has proved a contentious one. The original 2000 survey had not asked this question but a number of respondents had suggested the idea of a new hall on the sports fields. Investigating the feasibility of a joint sports & community hall providing pavilion facilities was agreed as an aim of the Action Group at an open village meeting in early 2001. A subsequent questionnaire specifically addressing this issue in 2001 was sent to local groups and indicated a split response on the issue of moving the hall, with a small majority in favour of it remaining where it is. This group felt they had come to an impasse: the Peak Park Authority planners were not sympathetic to extending the existing hall because of the parking problems, but were keen on the idea of a new build on the Parson's Croft site. Despite this there is not a consensus locally on moving from the Memorial Hall site. The issue of building a separate sports hall was investigated, but since the original questionnaire facilities in Ashbourne are undergoing a major redevelopment potentially reducing demand for similar resources in Parwich, and the Bowling Club have been successful in their grant application to Awards for All for new pavilion. Also it is doubtful that the village could support two halls. The existing sub-group felt it could not continue with the current aims.

Conclusion

The questionnaire results support the aims drawn from the initial questionnaire, but the comments reveal an ongoing split on how to implement these aims. This in the light of the poor response rate does not give us a basis to alter the initial aims or to re-start the sub-group. (It should also be noted the existing Memorial Hall Committee have now set up a sub-group to re-address the issue of improving the existing hall.)

Action

- Leave the aims as they stand but set no current objectives.
- Discuss these issues with the people who volunteered to support them.
- Reconsider the situation if anything new arises or when the Action plan is next reviewed.

Children's Play Area

Response to current aims

- i. Improve existing children's play facilities

Further Action Needed:

YES (55%)

NO (45%)

Sub-group's comments

The children's play area group together with the Parish Council has raised £11,207 with a £5,000 Awards for All Lottery Grant to improve the play equipment on the Green opposite the Sycamore Inn. This equipment is now in place. They have indicated a need for a bench here, which has been included in the environment group's scheme. Members of the group are willing to support teenagers wishing to develop a skate boarding area.

Conclusion

The responses together with the comments indicate an appreciation of the achievements of this group and broadly the feeling that in its current form it has achieved its aim. The lack of consensus relates to the fact that many of the people recommending further action went on to suggest action in relation to a skateboard area. See below for discussion of the needs of older children and teenagers.

Action

-Abandon the current aim (see below for recommendation to for a new sub-group looking at the needs of teenagers and older children).

Roads, Traffic & Parking

Response to current aims

- i. Ensure traffic in the village does not exceed safe speeds

Further Action Needed:

YES (87%)

NO (13%)

- ii. Investigate solutions to parking difficulties

Further Action Needed:

YES (79%)

NO (21%)

Sub-group's comments

Only a small number of people volunteered to enable a sub-group to be set up to work on these issues following the adoption of the Action Plan in 2001. This made action difficult, and their contact with the authorities responsible for these issues met with the response that all the available funding was required for road repairs. The Group felt that they were too small to be able to create the public pressure required and went into abeyance pending further volunteers.

Conclusion

The results of the questionnaire support the initial aims, but only one person put their name forward to support action. We should retain the aims, but can not undertake any

action unless there are more volunteers. In real terms any action we could take would be confined to creating public pressure on the appropriate authorities.

Action

- Discuss with the one volunteer whether they are willing to seek out further people to set up a sub-group.
- Pass the results of this questionnaire on to the Parish Council.

Issues from the original questionnaire not covered by the Action Plan

Respondents were asked to comment on the following issues raised in the original questionnaire, but not included in the Action Plan.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| a. Facilities for Teenagers | <i>Action required:</i> | YES (87%) |
| | | NO (13%) |

The majority of respondents were in favour of action being taken with comments focusing primarily on the need for a skateboard area. Also some five people volunteered to support this. In addition to this the Play Area Group recommended investigation of the needs of older children and teenagers. Further at the Open Meeting of the Parish Council earlier this year the lack of facilities/resources for older children and teenagers was raised and the Action Group were asked to look further at this. Two further people at that meeting had volunteered to support action on this issue.

Although the response to this questionnaire was low the responses to this issue were consistent with the recommendations of the Parish Council and the Play Area Group. Further there are a number of volunteers to take action. Therefore we propose that a group be set up with the following aims:

- i. To look at ways of meeting the needs of older children and teenagers in the village, including the development of a skateboard area.
- ii. To involve children/teenagers fully in implementing this aim.

Action

- Call a meeting to bring together all interested in implementing these aims. Since the first draft this Group has now been established.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| b. Employment Opportunities | <i>Action required:</i> | YES (39%) |
| | | NO (61%) |

The responses indicate that respondents felt that either no action was required on this issue or it was outside the scope of the Action Group. (Note: the Local History Society is looking at several projects on the theme of 'A Celebration of Rural Life & Landscape'. One of the projects they hope to seek funding for in 2004/5 looks at commercial life in the village and could include, in addition to the history, a current trade directory and a workshop with the Peak Park New Environmental Economy Project on the future of rural businesses.)

Appendix i: Lists of the Comments/Suggestions in the Responses

Environment

Comments/Suggestions:

- The group should continue with the current aims.
- (*Further Action*) Not at present.
- I think a bench at the play area would be lovely. Also, the planting of native plants is great.
- Keep tidy what we have, give tax rebate to any who keep around own property clear & tidy. This would cost less, sample length of time Croft Ave sign has been left off looking untidy.
- (*Further action needed*) Suggest 'continued' rather than 'further'.
- Ensure grass is cut regularly.
- Re-set steps on Pump Hill. Hand rail fitted is a help, but bad wear and algae still make dangerous.
- Ongoing need.
- Finish projects in progress before starting new ones.
- Ongoing.
- The only further action I can comment on is to maintain the environment as it is for the moment.

Affordable Housing

Comments/Suggestions:

- It is a tremendous achievement to have got so far; once the new houses are complete the housing issue can be left for a year or so and then reviewed.
- Await outcome of the present project.
- Liase more closely with Dales Housing Ltd. to review provision/sites for potential housing.
- I think we need this, but it is pointless if it doesn't stay low cost. What about rental units? (price/rent controlled)
- Sounds like being done, provided only local Parwich area young people only can live in new homes you plan now, not from Nottingham.
- Council Houses should not have been sold. If they had not there would have been plenty of houses for renting.
- Housing for local young people will remain an issue for years to come.
- (*Further action needed*) Pressure on authorities etc.
- Test the success of the old school house project first.
- Double check any clauses to be included in legal documents to keep properties affordable now and in the future. The clauses were missed out of documents to properties on Smithy Close- hence they could be sold on the open market (only one out of the six houses had the clause included).
- The building of the 3 new Housing Association houses has been a real success, but I am sure there will always be a need for further affordable housing in the village.
- (*Further action: No*) unless former School House is insufficient to needs.

- Build housing on current Memorial Hall site, or field adjacent to the village.
- Low cost housing essential- otherwise no young people can afford to live here and eventually the School would shut.
- I am aware the School house project is ongoing but maybe a short distance in the future a similar project could be followed.
- Not sure how this is sustainable. Every house has a market value.
- Important to continue with this, especially for our young children growing up in rural communities.

Community Hall & Sports Hall Facilities

Comments/Suggestions:

- But it is difficult to see how you can get round the current impasse.
- Consider the Hulland Millennium Hall as a good example.
- It would be nice to have a super-duper hall, but not my personal top priority.
- (*Pavilion facilities*) I do not know.
- I am all for making anything serve more than one purpose, providing it is tidy, safe, provides clean air inside & out. That does not create waste of present material and is fire, theft, and vandal proof & could serve as a disaster centre in case of power/water (outage) or accident. Keep all dogs at home or on a lead, and clean up after them. Extra bin by hall or shop might help. (Maybe we could provide back labels to put on lazy selfish people.)
- Support the idea of possible sale of present hall site for other development, build new hall on Parson's Croft.
- (*Improve sports pavilion facilities*) In the short term, Yes.
- We believe the existing hall is unsuitable for further developments due to lack of space/parking etc.
- The development of a Community Hall/Sports Centre would improve facilities for all.
- Inaction? Do we wait until Memorial Hall falls down & get a quote to shift the rubble? Or work for best alternative – Parson's Croft.
- As indicated in your update it is highly unlikely that the village could support both a redevelopment of the current memorial hall and a project to construct a second facility, and then support both of these facilities into the future. One of the principle messages that I took away in 2000 regarding a sports hall was that this was too ambitious a project, there were excellent sports facilities in the village already, other sporting facilities were provided in Ashbourne, Buxton and Wirksworth. Circuit training is running successfully in the current village hall and short tennis is planned for children. The idea of a single general-purpose facility clearly makes more sense. In addition there was a clear statement from the village in the 2000 survey (*not strictly true, see main text*) that it did not want to relocate the village hall anywhere else in the village. It is also worth noting the following: (1) that there are funds (£000s) in the memorial hall coffers that have been raised and can only be used for the improvement of the memorial hall, (2) there are existing plans to extend the village hall that would upgrade facilities and enhance the quality of space provided by the hall. What is clearly missing in the desire to improve village facilities is clear direction and for the initiative to be seized. I would suggest that the Village Action Group engages directly with the existing village hall management

committee (and vice versa) to initiate a project to extend the village hall. The first step on this path is to put away any suggestions of developing any second facility or the relocation of the existing hall. This should be followed by a review of the design proposed several years ago. I would be happy to participate on an initiative such as this.

- If the existing Hall is to be altered, parking would become a problem because part of the car park would have to be used to make any real difference to the size of the existing Hall.
- (*Combined solution*) maybe! Dependent on what is allowed by planners.
- Any improvement to the kitchen facilities at the Village Hall would be a good idea.

Children's Play Area

Comments/Suggestions:

- Just want to say that the new children's play facilities make a real difference to us and are very much appreciated. The only other thing I would like would be a bench for parents to sit on whilst children are playing!
- Seating for parents.
- Well done to those people who have worked to provide the new equipment for children on the green near to the pub – provide seating for parents or visitors to use while supervising the children.
- Children would enjoy watching seeds grow into plants & produce they could eat, this would create better health, better progress in life, and better minds would not think of killing themselves or taking drugs.
- Fence around existing playground to prevent small children from running into the stream and on to main road.
- Fence around existing play area to prevent dog mess and ensure children's safety.
- If further need exists since latest provision.
- A bench nearby would be welcome. Provisions for maintenance of existing facilities will be required.
- Excellent- A good idea would be some benches (seating area).
- The new play area is excellent!
- At the moment – just to maintain the play area as it is.

Facilities for Older Children & Teenagers

Comments/Suggestions:

- More for teenagers – maybe a mountain bike course/ skateboard area.
- More facilities for older children or teenagers – Skateboard area. Table tennis, small snooker/pool table, table football in Memorial Hall.
- There is now the need to develop a skateboard area and activities for teenagers.
- We need to think about the older kids.
- Something needed for teenagers.
- (*Facilities for teenagers*) Teach how to work early, they learn to play soon enough.
- Provide an area for teenagers to use their skate boards, to get them off the roads.
- Provide a facility for skate boarders.

- There is a lack of facilities for teenagers in the village, and I would think this could be improved with consultation with teenagers themselves to see what they actually want.
- Definite need for something for teenagers: hard area for skateboards, assault course type apparatus.
- A skateboard area would be useful.
- I feel if a skateboarding area was built then the trend would then be something else & would be money wasted.
- Maybe a skateboard area for teenagers.

Roads, Traffic & Parking

Comments/Suggestions:

- Need to deal with the various blind corners & traffic going too fast. Also the problem of parking by the school & shop.
- Remove vehicles not licensed off the road.
- Investigate 'speed camera' or 'offset' islands & kerbing Nethergreen/Sycamore/Chestnut Cottages.
- People go v. fast up Creamery Lane. I think there should be no parking areas around the School (except for residents).
- (Ensure traffic does not exceed safe speeds)* Hardly possible maybe camera.
- Roads are not parking areas. People should be encouraged to make parking for own vehicles, or not have one.
- Parking on pavements should not be allowed.
- Speed bumps.
- Need further parking spaces at Rathbourne Croft. I feel that the large grass area could be made suitable for parking. Nowhere for ambulance or fire engine to turn round.
- Desperately need further parking spaces at Rothbourne Croft. Very dangerous if a fire engine or ambulances need to come up. Nowhere to turn or park. The big grass area is a mess most of the time. A lot of space going to waste. Used more for dogs' toilet.
- In future years parking issues will only get worse.
- What parking difficulties? So long as this does not extend to urban traffic calming.
- (Parking)* near shop.
- Provision of a car park in a field outside the village, signposted to attract walkers, rather than on road parking in the village.
- A problem sometimes that around the shop area can be congested. A parking area for visitors etc. would be a good idea.
- Visitor (2 hour) parking should be provided close to shop & church/chapel. (Walking is good for the health of us all. Less pollution also.)
- Just a little thought- the road immediately outside the Sycamore Inn – on occasions people park here and if a car speeds around also, it may be a potential accident area if a child runs off the play area green as it is not fenced off.

Village Newsletter

Comments/Suggestions:

- A village newsletter would be good, but this could be part of the Group Magazine, if anyone was willing to take on writing a Parwich page.
- Very good idea!
- Seems fine but always ensure delivered out of sight of burglars when delivered.
- A village newsletter would also be nice to let everyone know what is going on.
- Not a priority.
- Could be a good idea.

Facilities for Older Adults

Comments/Suggestions:

- Bus drivers to remember older people may need a clean toilet more often.
- (*Facilities for older adults – further action*) Combined sports/community hall would do this.
- Maybe a lunch club for the elderly – could be at the School (only occasionally) it would be a social bridge between old & young & at a small fee for lunch it may help School funds? Just an idea.

Employment Opportunities

Comments/Suggestions:

- Lengthsman, mowing.
- Not your remit.

Social Opportunities

Comments/Suggestions:

- Smoke free.
- I would like to see more social opportunities for families with young children.
- Sufficient exists.
- Not sure it would be very well supported within the village.

New Issues

Comments/Suggestions:

- Smoke free events, as not really healthy for others. Road signs kept clean & free of overgrowth. Extra neighborhood watch sign needed above Parwich village sign. Police to encourage people to report suspect criminal action & public to have faith in police, most of all justice to fit crime.
- Public transport: a bus to Matlock/Wirksworth areas would be handy as well as the buses to Ashbourne.
- We need signs pointing to the public toilets.
- Road signs for home addresses for delivery purpose e.g. Church Walk, West View etc.

General

Comments/Suggestions:

- I'd be happy to help where needed. Sometimes evening meetings are difficult. I'm really impressed with all that has been achieved. Well done & thank you.
- Anything to prevent crime Parwich has been lucky to date
- Well done, team! Positive action at last.
- Support & long term viability a problem in all cases.

Appendix ii: Update & questionnaire

Action Plan Review

It is now time to review the Village Action Plan. The Action Group can only continue if it has your support. Indicate below which issues you feel require further action. Please return your completed form to one of the Co-ordinating Group or leave it at Parwich Shop by Friday 17th October 2003. If necessary continue your comments/suggestions on a separate sheet.

Current Aims

Environment

- iv. **Protect and maintain the green and open spaces in and around the village.**
*Further Action Needed: YES / NO**
- v. **Protect village heritage and lifestyle.**
*Further Action Needed: YES / NO**
- vi. **Identify and promote specific improvements to enhance the village environment.**
*Further Action Needed: YES / NO**

Comments/Suggestions:.....
.....
.....

Affordable Housing

- ii. **Ensure provision and continued availability of low cost housing in the village.**
*Further Action Needed: YES / NO**

Comments/Suggestions:.....
.....
.....

Community Hall & Sports Hall Facilities

- iv. **Development of a multi-use community hall in Parwich, providing additional facilities to the existing hall.**
*Further Action Needed: YES / NO**
- v. **Improve sports pavilion facilities.**
*Further Action Needed: YES / NO**
- vi. **Explore a combined solution to both the above.**
*Further Action Needed: YES / NO**

Comments/Suggestions:.....
.....
.....

*Please delete as appropriate.

Children's Play Area

- ii. **Improve existing children's play facilities**
Further Action Needed: **YES / NO***

Comments/Suggestions:.....

Roads, Traffic & Parking

- iii. **Ensure traffic in the village does not exceed safe speeds**
Further Action Needed: **YES / NO***
- iv. **Investigate solutions to parking difficulties**
Further Action Needed: **YES / NO***

Comments/Suggestions:.....

Issues from the original questionnaire not covered by the Action Plan

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| f. Facilities for Teenagers | <i>Action required:</i> | YES / NO* |
| g. Employment Opportunities | <i>Action required:</i> | YES / NO* |
| h. Facilities for Older Adults | <i>Action required:</i> | YES / NO* |
| i. Village Newsletter | <i>Action required:</i> | YES / NO* |
| j. Social Opportunities | <i>Action required:</i> | YES / NO* |

Comments/Suggestions:.....

New Issues

Please suggest any issues that you feel are now important for the village, but have not been covered under the headings above:

.....

Any progress requires action by people in the village. If you are able to support any of the issues raised in your response please complete the following:

Name:**Phone:**

Address:

Issue(s) that you wish to support:

**Please delete as appropriate.*