

# Countesthorpe Plan Report

## Chapter 1: Introduction

### Welcome

The Countesthorpe Parish Plan Group is pleased to welcome you to the pages of the Countesthorpe Parish Plan Report. We hope you find the Report interesting.

Two years ago a small group of Countesthorpe people came together to formulate a Questionnaire, which would be delivered to every house in the village, this became known as the Countesthorpe Plan. In October 2004 the Questionnaire was delivered and over 700 hundred replies from the 2,600 houses were received alongside the views of over 200 young people. This offered a 25.5% return rate, which the remaining members of the Planning Group and the Parish Council thought to be acceptable to get a good view of Parishioners thoughts.

Now the results of the Questionnaires are known it is the Countesthorpe Parish Council's responsibility to produce a Report and then an Action Plan, which will be sent to The Countryside Agency and made know to the residents Countesthorpe.

### The Parish Plan

#### *Why do it?*

There are a number of reasons for undertaking the Parish Plan but the most significant is that it gives residents of the village an opportunity to not just have a say but to become involved in making positive changes because they know what is best for their village. The Plan is a blue print for the future that will:

- Help to protect the environment by using the evidence gained from the questionnaire.
- Have more influence on planning decisions,
- Improve facilities and recreation by directing limited funds to where they are most needed,
- Improve liaison between services and other organisations,
- To find out what people think of the village both positively and negatively,
- Promote residents involvement in improving the village.

#### *How approached?*

A 'Parish Plan' was considered by a group of interested residents who met along with several young people. From this meeting it was agreed to pursue the Parish Plan option and the Parish Planning Group was subsequently formed from those attending the meeting. At the first meeting the Group had the benefit of the Leicestershire County Council Rural (RCC) to guide them. Over the following weeks the aims of the Plan were discussed which led to the following main points being agreed.

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## Aims

- Better facilities
- Bring the village back to a community village not a commuter village
- Get new/young families involved?
- Make them aware of what is available
- Improve facilities
- Improve facilities at the village hall
- Need facilities for young people
- Find out what local people want
- For adults to listen to young people as they know what they want
- Improve environment, particularly rubbish and appearance
- Improve traffic situation - amount and speed
- Improve parking provision - currently lack of space
- Find out what people thought of the traffic situation through the village.

## *Bad things about Countesthorpe*

- Traffic volume and speed through village
- Lack of parking provision
- Traffic calming has forced vehicles through Gwendoline Drive
- Lack of facilities for young people
- Litter, particularly outside shops and on the way to the College and High School
- Fly tipping
- Lack of pride in the village
- Not enough shops
- Too many cars make it dangerous around Greenfield School
- Parking at the side of the road
- Disabled struggle on footpaths due to vehicles parked on them
- Dog fouling
- Nowhere for people to get a reasonably priced meal during the day
- No dentist
- Condition of footpaths
- Fear of extending the village beyond its present size.
- Antisocial behaviour mainly by young people in the evenings or late at night

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## *Good things about Countesthorpe*

- Health Centre, Chemists, Post Office, All that Glitters, Coop, Rainbow Shop, etc
- Library
- Good bus service to Leicester
- Dustbin service good
- Friendly welcoming church
- Mother, toddlers and other groups
- 2 children's play areas
- Modern Village hall
- Friendly place to live
- Countesthorpe Herald
- U3A
- Flower baskets in the Spring and Summer
- Schools and College
- Playgroups

## **Planning Parish Plan Steering Group Constitution**

### *Objectives*

A constitution was formulated which stated that, "The objective of the group is to provide a Parish Plan for Countesthorpe having due regard to consensus of opinion. A member of the Parish Council will fill the role of Vice Chairperson and their responsibilities will be to strengthen the communication between the group and the Parish Council". The meetings were all to be open to any member of the village. Formal Minutes would be kept for a proper audit trail should the need arise. Funding would be made available by Countryside Agency in association with the Leicestershire County Council Rural Community Council but would also be dependent on the provision of a Formal Report and Action Plan that they will audit. The Parish Council will pay for the Questionnaire and subsequent Report from monies provided by the RCC.

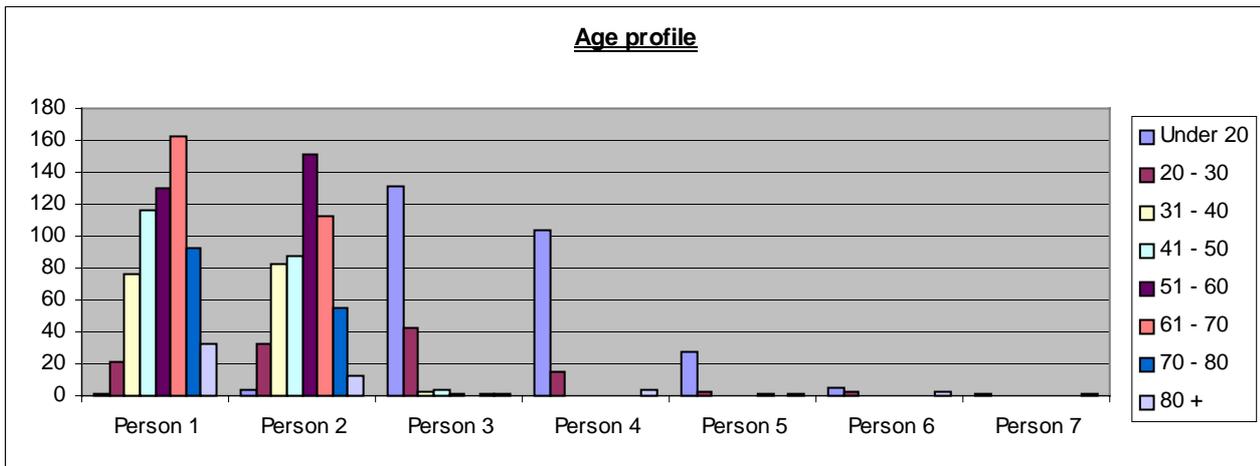
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## The Questionnaire

The Planning Group spent many months researching the type of questions they thought needed to be asked as well as the actual size of the final document. It was decided, as this was a one-off opportunity, it would be more sensible to include a wide variety of questions so that as much knowledge as possible could be gained from the replies. The Questionnaire was delivered by hand to every house in Countesthorpe and then returned to the Parish Council Offices in the Village Hall. The results were sent away for collation in numerical and graphical format. The results will be made available and delivered to every house via the Countesthorpe Herald with the Report also made available at the Parish Office and Library.

## Respondents to the Questionnaire

From the returned Questionnaire's households there were 769 males and 816 females recorded. The age range in these houses is shown in the graph below: -



The responses show that people initially moved to Countesthorpe because the price of housing was affordable. Other fairly strong reasons were to be close to relatives and closer to work.

54% have lived in the village over 20 years and 46% under 20 years with 29% now retired.

87% of the replies were from owner-occupier with 71% of those responding to the Questionnaire travelling to work by car. 77% travelled less than 20 miles to work with 82% of the village's young people travelling under 4 miles to their school.

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## Chapter 2: Questionnaire Results

### Buildings

There is strong opposition to more housing developments in the village. The village is surrounded by open countryside and green spaces that have been eroded by previous development. In any future development 69% of respondents were of the opinion that this should be restricted to no more than a few buildings, which should be a mixture of starter, family and retirement homes. A majority were also keen to ensure that the current conservation area be maintained and, where feasible, extended.

Comments indicate that there is however an in-balance in the housing within the village. The vast majority of the houses have 3 bedrooms, either semi-detached or detached. There are more 4 bedroom properties following the development of the Leysland Estate in the early 1990's but there's still a shortage of low cost housing and housing for the elderly. The survey shows a strong demand in these two areas. The fact that over 50% of the replies were from people aged 60 or more distorts these results but also supports the demand for housing for the elderly.



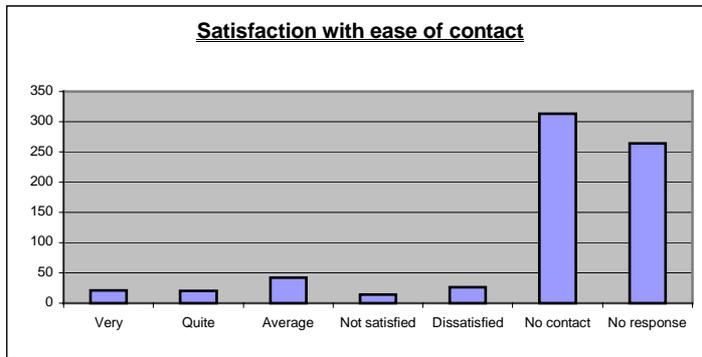
This area of the survey therefore can be summarised as being against any large scale developments but such applications that do come forward should be encouraged to increase the supply of low cost housing and housing for the elderly (but not necessarily on the same sites). These findings should be advised to Blaby District Council as the relevant planning authority to inform their future policy wherever possible.

Nature conservation was an important issue where 75% of respondents considered that this should be incorporated within future projects and 58% also wanted natural habitats to also to be included. There was an interest by 27% of respondents keen on joining a local heritage group. A Heritage Group has now been formed.

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## Crime and Safety

71% of respondents feel strongly that the village needs CCTV at appropriate locations with 64% wanting better overwhelming visibility 'beat' officer observation of be bought, houses. A of policing the 59% not aware



street lighting. An 97% want greater police particularly with a local coupled with closer places where alcohol can particularly the local public massive 94% felt the level village was too low with how to contact the police

should the need arise although 51% have not had the need. 83% of would like to be able to contact Blaby Local Police Unit directly through the present 2222222-telephone phone number, with 29% preference for using email. Those that had contacted the police on whether the speed of reply was adequate or not.



respondents rather than having a held a 50% view

53% felt the local Neighbourhood Watch scheme to be a good idea with some people wanting to join. It was also said that talking to schools and youth organisations on crime and disorder was worthwhile. There are also many comments regarding anti-social behaviour and under age drinking. (See comments) Some safety items are covered in 'Traffic' and 'Environment' further on in this Report.

## Health and Welfare

79% of the respondents benefited from having their GP in the village but the picture was opposite when asked about a dentist where everybody had to go any) treatment in neighbouring places such as Blaby, The Countesthorpe Health Centre was roundly praised and very professional were often used. 95% of with others who felt the Health Centre was just



outside of the village for NHS (or Wigston or even further a field. where words like fantastic, great respondents were very satisfied average or below. 34% were happy

with NHS contact. 82% with 14 respondents 86% of the overall



Direct 22% thought it was just average with the rest having no thought the Health Centre Web Site was reasonable or better thinking it was poor. However these figures are misleading as total of respondents gave no opinion. 34% of respondents are

interested in a patient participation group. A small number of respondents in this category would be happy for some home help in cooking, gardening or shopping.

Comments were also made about the need for more dog fouling bins and that Green Lane was a forgotten 'area' when cleaning was concerned.

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## Traffic

This is a large area and generated lots of comment but the salient points are as follows: -

As Countesthorpe has its own transport, which Questionnaire



no rail link people have to rely on bus services and their is generally a car. People who responded to the replied that they used their cars for business 37%,

Transport to work 55%, Leisure 78%, Shopping, Public transport, (bus) route 85 runs mainly every Fosse Park every hour. These are regularly used. used public transport was quite mixed as some good for commuting to work and for general daytime or early morning. Very few people were aware of the Community bus service.



80% and medical visits 61%. 20 minutes and Route 45 to The opinion of those who considered the bus was travel, but not good at night

There is a demand from those who cycle for dedicated cycle paths and also for secure cycle lock up point outside shops. The lack of road parking particularly outside shops was detrimental to using the shop. However, in general, people are against widening the roads as a solution but very much for improving the quality of pavements. 84% thought the level of pollution caused by vehicles going through the village needed to have a dramatic reduction.

People commented on the volume of HGV through the village even though a restriction has been put in place. The traffic calming 'humps' now in place in several parts of the village had a mixed reaction where some thought they had worked well but many more thought they had not but had made things worse. Cars still go far too fast through the village. Signs flashing 'too fast' were thought to be a much better option particularly when used in conjunction with safety cameras. This area generated lots of comment, often strongly worded. Some people thought the introduction of traffic calming had only made the parallel road Gwendoline Drive much busier.

Few people responded to questions about the 'school run', which causes potential danger at Greenfield School although from other areas of the Questionnaire it is clear many think something has to be done to alleviate this danger.

Parking is an issue that gives rise to some strong views. 'White' vans parked partly on the pavement are a major hazard particularly for people pushing pushchairs or those who use wheel chairs as they are forced on to the road.

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## Retail

The graph below demonstrates people's thoughts on the shops on Countesthorpe the majority verdict as only reasonable as many saying they are good as bad.



There was a positive reaction to the question "If there were more shops in Countesthorpe would you use them"? 53 people said always, 213 frequently and 333 replying sometimes with only 25 replies saying rarely or never. Negative comments about the number of 'Take Away's' (and the litter dropped in the streets often because of them) and lack of a DVD/Video shop were made. Poor parking was also mentioned as reasons for not shopping locally.

Many comments from people wanting somewhere to buy a reasonably priced meal during the day were common as were comments about the local pubs. Many people said they took friends out of the village to have a drink, as the pubs in Countesthorpe were not very good or too noisy. New shops such as 'All that Glitters' would be appreciated.

## Litter and Pollution

There was a general 'thank you' to the Council staff who worked hard to keep the streets clean in the face of many whose thoughtless acts work for them. From the respondents far from happy about the overall answer to the question "Is there a litter 'dreadful', 172 'big' and 273 'average', only



of throwing away their litter created more replies it is easy to detect that people are cleanliness of the village for instance the problem in Countesthorpe"? 57 replied 32 thought there was not a problem. The

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'school trails' were very bad with litter and chewing gum outside the paper shop in Station Road a prime example even though the manager does his best to keep the area free from litter.

There is a call for more dog fouling bins with 89 people thinking the problem of dog fouling was 'dreadful' and 158 replying 'big'. manure left on the road and in some mentioned several times.

109 people thought there was a wanting just a few more. Most with the 2005 extension of glass, this should meet the need.



There is also concern at the amount of horse cases on the pavement with Willoughby Road

need for many more litter bins and 408 people wanted more Recycling Centres but cans, tins and plastic bottles household bins

26 people said noise pollution from people was severe with 194 respondents thinking noise was above average. 64 respondents thought noise pollution from traffic was excessive and 244 agreeing traffic noises were above average. 56 people thought noise pollution from pubs was severe with 150 saying it was too high.

Mobile masts came in for severe criticism with 75% of the respondents believing they should be excluded from residential areas completely with the other 25% split between those who have no view, those who are happy with them where they are and the don't cares.

### Education

The majority of young people attend school or college within the village. Of those responding in this category to their respective situations 80% of primary age young people, 91% the Leysland High School and 68% Countesthorpe College. Most families said they obtained their first choice and the majority who expressed a preference either said they were satisfied or very satisfied with the education provided. Greenfield School had 89% satisfaction, Leysland High School 88% and the College 78%. The exception to this is found in special needs schools with 50% of those responding in this category airing a view of dissatisfaction with the education and opportunity provided. This is mirrored by 75% of respondents not getting their 1<sup>st</sup> choice school for special needs.

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Of those responding 55 households have their children in pre school education. A need for a holiday play scheme was highlighted with 25% of respondents wanting this for the age range between 5-11. 65 respondents are taking part in local further education with 47.7% at university full time and 15% part time. 7.7% are in full time training at an FE College. 93 adults attend further education with 59% of these calluses taking place in the village.

U3A in Countesthorpe is very active with 48 responding households saying they take part in U3A events. Satisfaction with U3A runs at a very high 91%. However some people are under the impression that U3A does not apply to the 50 to 60-age range.

### Employment

Countesthorpe is similar to the majority of villages on the outskirts of Leicester in that the majority of residents work outside of the village. The most obvious disadvantage is that this then increases the use of cars for people to not only drive to work but also to take their children to school by car so as be able to then travel to work between the 8:30am and 9:00am

Over the last ten years several local firms have either ceased trading or moved away from the village reducing the opportunities for residents to work within the village. One of the factors involved is that when the businesses vacate their premises the land is lost to business usage given the high value of the land for residential development.

The survey shows good support for encouraging small business development with some obvious concerns over the impact of industrial development on residential areas. For this reason one aim should be to attempt to retain existing industrial land for business use, with the appropriate controls over hours of work etc, where possible.

There is good support for the principle of working from home utilising I T where appropriate. The recent expansion of Broadband access to the whole village by BT in September 2004 should make this aim more achievable. Approximately one third of the village can only access Broadband at 500k per second as opposed to the full speed option of 1mbps. This is because they are outside of the limit of 6 kilometres from the exchange. Hopefully BT may overcome the technical issues involved and should be encouraged to do so by the evidence of this report. However, this needs to be looked into, as there are conflicting views that suggest this problem no longer exists.

### Environment

The quality of our countryside is over 90% of respondents. Questions affecting the environment within the atmosphere or appearance of the village,



extremely, important, or reasonably important to under this heading fell into several related areas parish. These areas cover the general including general tidiness and maintenance; and

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facilities for exercise and recreation, including footpaths and bridleways.

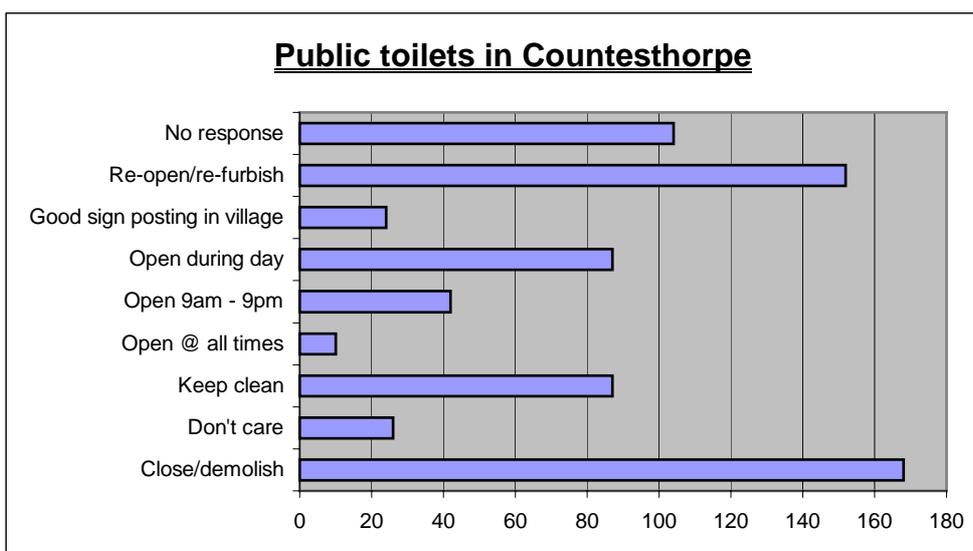
72% of respondents would like to see more trees, 73% more flower beds, 63% more hanging baskets, 73% flowers at approaches to the village with 77% wanting the roadside verges kept mown and tidy. Maintenance of roads, pavements, verges and street lighting were thought to be adequate or quite good by about 75% of respondents although approval for upkeep in the alleyways fell to only 50%.

More seating in the Square and particularly around the village would be appreciated. The existing recreation areas were considered well maintained by 50% of people (see Parish Council statistics and comments)

But facilities in the village playgrounds were only judged excellent, good or adequate by 37%.

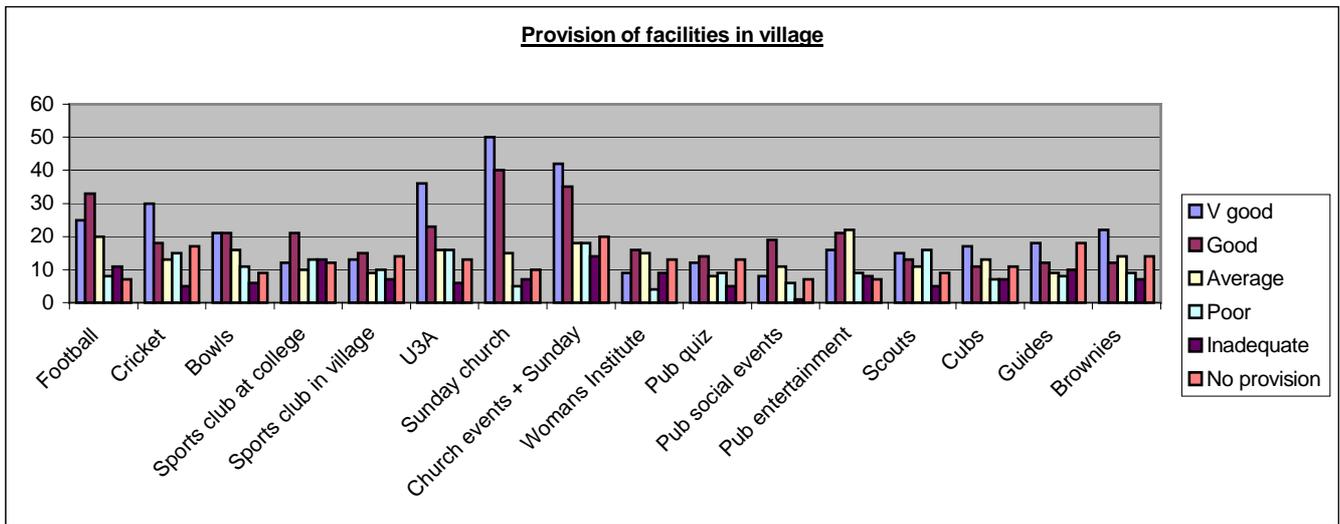
However, individual comments emphasised the need for attention to over grown hedges that obstructed pavements, sections of pavement in poor repair and the need for a footpath on Cosby Road to provide pedestrian access to Hill Lane and the adjacent field walk, and to reach the Whetstone Supermarket. This would also improve the safety of Whetstone young people coming to the Community College.

Over 50% of respondents use the existing footpaths and bridleways at least daily, weekly or monthly. Footpath access and upkeep were judged average or good by around 60% of users. Around 70% would like clearer way marking, a footpath around Countesthorpe, and an available map showing footpaths in Countesthorpe. Some 70% would also like to see the development of footpaths or bridleways between Countesthorpe and Willoughby Waterleys, Crow Mills in Wigston and Cosby/Broughton Astley (old Midland Railway). Interest was also shown for data on suggested walks and for guided walks. The Questionnaire also asked whether Countesthorpe people wanted the toilets in Central Street either renew or removed the following graph demonstrates their replies,



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## Sport Recreation and Religion



Although the graphical information is helpful as it shows respondent's thoughts on their chosen activities there are some people who indicate there is no provision for a *particular* function, this is not always a correct situation. For instance there *is* a Scout Group, and there *are* a Cricket and Bowling club. This may highlight lack of communication or lack of knowledge about the village. A good number of respondents enjoy the sporting and recreational activities the village offers. There are people who would join Chess, Archery, Bridge, Rambling or Amateur Dramatics therefore a need to communicate information from these organisations is apparent. Facilities for people in the village varied and are shown in the following table. It will be evident that ages below 26 are **not** well catered for.

Age range	% Good/Reasonable	% Poor
11-16	43%	57%
17-25	27%	73%
26-60	73%	27%
Over 60	78%	22%

From those people responding about the Rainbow Shop 56 thought it was excellent, 156 said it was good and 79 average and 8 thought it was poor with 34 who did not know it existed.

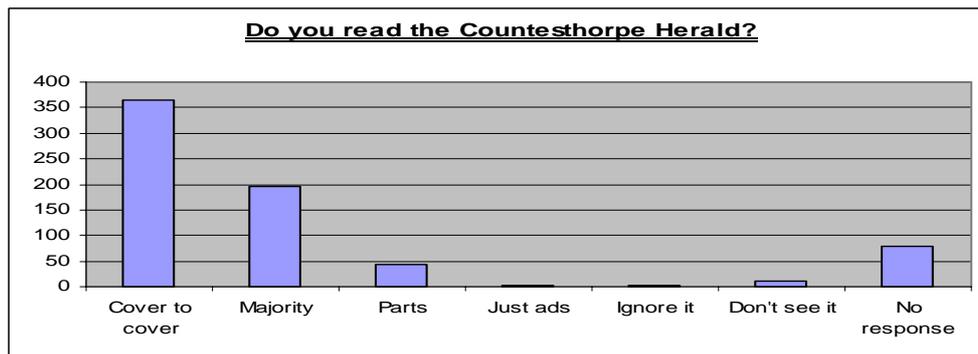
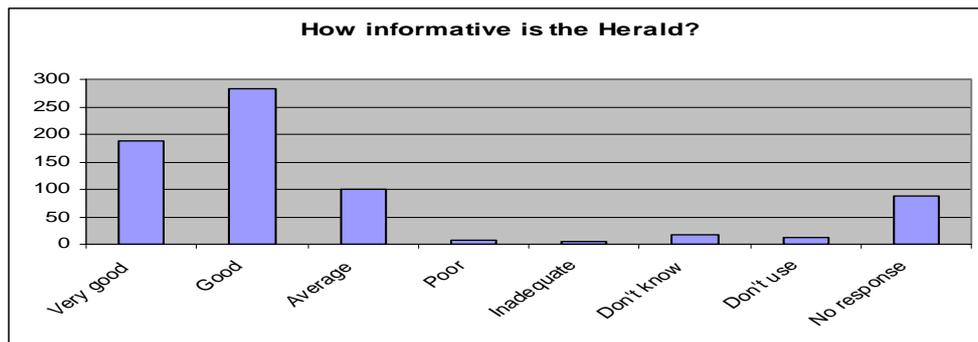
<b>Which church visited?</b>	
St Andrew's	148
Baptist	11
Methodist	38
Other	138
None	98
No comment	48
No response	219

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St Andrew's Church has the highest attendance according to those responding but roughly the same amount of people attending St. Andrew' found their spiritual home outside of the village. This would include Roman Catholics who have no church within the village. There were positive comments about the friendliness and warm welcome found in our churches and positive comments about Alpha and Home Groups.

## Communications

Countesthorpe is served by a free community newspaper called "The Countesthorpe Herald". Six editions are produced each year and funded by raising revenue from adverts. In addition the Parish Council has erected a number of Notice Boards around the village that are used to publish the time and dates of Parish Council meetings as well as being available to residents. Residents will typically advertise meetings of clubs and associations together with a variety of personal notices such as lost cats etc. The survey showed that The Herald is extremely popular with only a few residents believing it to be poor or inadequate.



Despite the general approval of the Herald, 320 out of 700 residents still felt better information is required. Solutions need to be looked into, which could include greater usage of the Internet, and/or more efficiently used notice boards.

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The other area that could be improved is the Village Directory. This is now out of date not having been revisited since 1991. The Parish Council looked into this some years ago but an almost total lack of response to several requests for up-to-date contact details made an attempt for the various clubs and societies led to it being abandoned. The council have recently started to look into this again but no way forward has yet been resolved. A Village Directory would be an advantage but by its very nature it should be updated every one or two years and needs a concerted effort to bring together the various elements. There could be scope for producing this alongside a website as some of the information would be common to both.

### The Parish Council

Countesthorpe Parish Council meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. The agendas are one week before the minutes are included in Countesthorpe Herald. The Survey showed that when the council meets actually attended the meetings,



displayed on the village notice boards meetings and the main points of the the bi-monthly editions of the only 50% of the residents were aware although 74% were aware they could 184 residents or 26% of the replies had

People generally felt that the Parish Council handled matters such the amenities, environment, finances, village appearance, open spaces and recreation well. A small percentage (5%) felt that the council did not handle such matters satisfactorily. Some 28% felt that the members of the council were not aware of locals concerns. There were some mixed comments made about the Parish Council that can be seen in the comments section.

The Parish Council were commended by the respondents replies in the way they handled the affairs of the village as they were awarded 95% from those who thought their performance was reasonable and above - 97% in the way they kept the Cemetery - 89% for their upkeep of the parks - 92% for the way they manage open spaces and 82% for the way they manage the Village Hall.

A more telling challenge for the council is that the last two elections have been uncontested as less people than the eighteen seats available have stood for election. The council should seek to attract more people to stand for election. As the vacancies have normally been filled quite quickly by co-option after the event, it may be that rather than not being interested people are hesitant to stand for election in case they face rejection. In any event a contested election would give greater credibility to the council.

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## Young People

From the information already obtained the facilities for young people are not thought to be good. When asked whether or not they would be interested in a Youth Club 68 said 'Yes' but a resounding 347 said a definite 'No'. 48 would/are, interested in a Boys Club with 361 again with a definite No. It has already been seen that the under the age range below 26 feel they are neglected so it is necessary to explore what they feel is missing and if anything can be done about it. This can be done in through Action Plan formulated from this Report. There is a recognition that young people do not in general want to take part in any activity in the school buildings they attend on a daily basis so this does cut down the possibilities. Ideas such as a Leisure Centre in the village are difficult to fund and they are Centres in neighbouring villages already. Some young people would like a wall built in one of the parks so they can kick a ball against it and a skate park. There are few places apart from the pubs and streets for young people to congregate so once again research is needed to begin to address this issue. There is a full time youth worker funded by church people and by organisations such as the Parish Council who is well known at the High School and College but one person can only do so much.

## Outcome

Results	Via Herald	Via public meeting	Via public report	Via information sheet
Yes	576	97	187	334
Maybe	14	158	131	89
No	6	136	95	82
No interest	1	21	22	7
No response	102	259	240	178
Don't know		28	24	9

As can be seen from the previous table the people of Countesthorpe want the Final Report to be included in the Countesthorpe Herald, which is delivered to every household.

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## Summary

The remaining members of the Planning Group and the Parish Council felt that the response from the returned Questionnaires was very good and gave valuable information for future planning and vision seeking in the village. The Questionnaire was a large document that took respondents sometime and thought to complete and for that need considerable thanks.

Those Parish Councillors who decide on what needs to be done have to determine what is **perception** and what is **reality**. They also have to decide on the things that are financially within their power to do and the items that might need to be placed on a 'wish list' for later consideration. It is also quite evident that many people in the parish do not appreciate that the Parish Council has limited authority and can only 'strongly suggest' to either the Blaby District Council or LCC as they have overall responsibility in many areas.

Nevertheless, the contents of the Report offer some rich material that can be dipped into for many years to come. The Parish has the right to expect the Parish Council to be enthusiastic, energetic and open in the way it progresses the Action Plan produced from this Report. If this is done it will have therefore been a very valuable exercise and will have rewarded the time and money spent on it.

Obvious areas to look into are found in the sections that deal with Traffic, Environment, Crime and Safety, Recreation and Young People. There will also need to be closer liaison with Blaby District Council over many areas of concern. Underlying some people's misconceptions is either poor communications or not seeing or reading the communications that are already used. There is much to work on so a huge thank you to everybody who has taken part in the Parish Plan however small or large his or her part may have been.

**The Action Plan generated by this Report found in Chapter Four has been added to the end of this Report and was agreed and owned by the Parish Council on February 10<sup>th</sup> 2005.**

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## Chapter Three - Respondents Comments

The comments people have made have been taken from each returned Questionnaire were cut and pasted resulting in over 100 pages of residents comments. Many felt that Countesthorpe is a great place to live and these should not be forgotten when reading the other comments residents have made. The comments have been abbreviated hopefully without losing their meaning. The comments will be made available along with this Formal Report in the Parish Council Office and Library.

These are the main comments from residents in Countesthorpe. Comments are widespread but clearly the greatest strength of feeling falls into the categories of Traffic, Litter, Crime and Safety, Environment and Young people. Some comments fit into more than one category for instance, it was said that 'crime is not a big issue but there is a need for more activities for young people' which fits into Crime and Safety as well as Youth.

### Buildings

Homes for first time buyers are needed.

Houses suitable for retirement bungalows are needed to release larger housing.

Many expressed the view that the shops at The Bank are scruffy with the facades need repainting.

Many fears expressed that the village will grow too big.

### Crime and safety

Cars parked on pavements cause a potentially dangerous hazard to pedestrians and particularly prams, pushchairs and wheelchairs.

There should be regular patrols of uniformed police through the village particularly in the evening and early hours of the morning especially Friday and Saturday evenings.

Action should be taken against those people parking in the wrong place.

Youths hanging around the village are threatening to people.

People particularly in the centre of the village have to put up with anti-social behaviour particularly from young people.

Crime not a big issue but we need more activities for young people.

Late night anti-social behaviour by young people in the Village Hall car park.

Parking outside Junior School is dangerous

Cycling on footpaths is extremely dangerous

### Health and Welfare

More dog bins required.

Green Lane is 'forgotten' as far as cleaning is concerned.

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Comments on the Health Centre were numerous and included words such as, fantastic, great and very professional.

Health Centre - appointment scheme does not suit everyone.

Countesthorpe is in desperate need of an NHS dentist at the Health Centre.

Encourage parents to walk children to school.

### Traffic

Far too many cars through the village

Speed bumps damage vehicles and make it difficult for ambulances and buses.

Heavy goods vehicles should not be allowed through the village.

Speed bumps have worked.

Don't like speed bumps.

Remove speed bumps - a waste of money.

Speed bumps have just increased traffic - now greater fun for young drivers.

Electric speed indicators are better than bumps.

Introduce Safety Cameras particularly on Winchester Road.

More 30 MPH signs please.

Speeding cars on Station Road - bumps have done nothing.

Traffic calming on Penfold Drive and Gwendoline Drive required.

Should be mini-roundabout at the junction of Winchester, Cosby, and Willoughby Roads.

Yellow lines need extending at the Junior School.

Church Street should have right of way over Main Street.

Resident's only parking signs in Cul de Sacs on Gwendoline Drive.

Green Lane is becoming dangerous.

Gwendoline Drive has become busier now calming measures have been introduced on Station Road.

Cannot see round the corner of Cosby Road and Winchester Road.

Cars use roads through Countesthorpe as a 'Rat Run'.

Cars parked in Station Road are a great hazard and nuisance.

Should be mini roundabout at junction Hospital Lane and Leicester Road.

There should be a one-way system past the Junior School.

There should be speed cameras on Winchester Road Blaby side of Schools.

Zebra crossing near The Bank.

Double Yellow lines should be extended further at corners such as Penfold Drive and Gwendoline Drive.

### Retail Services

Need more 'quality shops'.

Too many Take-Aways' in village.

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Not enough shops.

Provision in village for films - no video/DVD shop now.

Shops at the Parade let the village down.

Local Pubs are horrible.

Have to take visitors outside of the village, as the pubs here are awful.

No ATM at lower end of village.

Not enough space to park for Post Office.

Would like a nice village pub where I can take the family for decent meal.

Should be a place where people can get a meal during the day or have a cup of tea or coffee.

More 'unique' shops like All That Glitters.

Need a place where local craftwork can be displayed.

### Litter and Pollution

Fly tipping is a disgrace.

School run - disgusting for litter and chewing gum.

Messy round schools, but much better when children are on holiday.

Area outside paper shop at corner of Gwendoline Drive is almost always untidy despite best efforts of the shopkeeper. The pavement is just a mass of chewing gum etc.

Miss the recycling bins at the lower end of the village now they have been removed from The Railway car park.

Horse manure on roads and pavements.

Dog fouling is still a problem but better than it was.

Not enough litter bins.

Take away wrappings left all over the place.

Householders need a third bin for garden waste.

Thanks to council workers who do a super job trying to keep the village clean.

### Education

Good educational, social and sporting opportunities.

Library too small - although helpful staff. Blaby have more books.

Need for more readily available information on wildlife.

Uniforms should be worn by school children.

Excellent Nursery 'The Drive'.

**Employment** - No resident's comments on employment.'

# Countesthorpe Plan Report

## Environment

There should be no more residential building projects.

Big thank you to those who try to keep our village clean and tidy.

Footpaths are in dire need of repair particularly first part of Willoughby Road.

Hedges allowed growing out over the footpaths causing a potentially hazardous situation with pushchairs, prams and wheelchairs sometimes having to go into the road.

A second mobile transmitter should not be allowed so close to residential homes in Willoughby Road.

Dog bins have reduced dog fouling but need more bins and more prominent signs.

Dog free play area like Broughton Astley have.

Bushes need cutting back so cars coming into Scotland Way can see properly.

An often made point - toilets should be renewed and reopened.

Caravans parked outside people' homes are an eyesore.

Dogs should be kept on leads.

Disabled have great difficulty enjoying the countryside, as they cannot use the footpaths.

Unadopted roads of Poplar and Glebe Drives should be adopted then have decent roads and lights fitted.

Fence around 1 Chestnuts should be removed as it inhibits motorist's views.

Like the new bus shelters.

Waterloo Crescent is scruffy.

Footpath required between Countesthorpe and Whetstone supermarket.

Present village boundaries should be maintained.

Hanging basket are lovely as are the old village signposts.

A pleasure to live here is a point echoed by many.

There should be more activities for all the younger people to join or join in.

A super friendly village with lots of smiling faces. Would not live anywhere else.

Far too many teenagers roaming about with nothing to do.

Orchard Lane needs better lighting.

Need a café in the village.

## Sport, Recreation and Religion.

Playgrounds need attention and more equipment.

Footpaths needed between villages.

Not enough for elderly to join in.

U3A is very good.

There is nothing for over 50's but not old enough for U3A.

Need place to get a good and reasonably priced meal each day.

St. Andrew's does some excellent work with young people but sad to see 11-14 year olds just sitting around village with nothing to do.

St. Andrew's Church people are very friendly and welcoming unlike any other village I have known.

Church and Alpha are good.

Youth work done by Matt Brown is excellent.

## **Countesthorpe Plan Report**

Village Hall is excellent – very well kept.

Need more functions that are not run by College or Church.

A kick/sports wall on the Paddock would be great for our kids.

Old Railway Line opened for walkers.

A place to go and have a nice family meal.

Recognition to Susan Holman for the work she does with her dancing school.

Need a Leisure Centre in the village.

More sports facilities including a running track.

Purpose built changing rooms for people using the Willoughby Road Recreation Ground.

### **Community Communication**

Countesthorpe Herald is good and informative but not always delivered on time.

Is there to be an AGM of the Countesthorpe Herald?

Communications in the village are poor.

Revue of 'Active Arts' made public.

Questionnaire is very good but needed a lead up in the Herald and on Notice Boards to encourage returns.

There should be a monthly paper showing village activities.

How do people 'get involved'? When they offer their offer should be accepted.

Village website would be tremendous.

Post box on Rosebank Road would be very helpful

There is appreciation for the efforts of councillors and schools in the area of communication.

Bowling Club should be on the village map.

### **The Parish Council**

Parish Council elections are not made public.

Does a superb service with regard to dealing with litter.

Council do not listen to the needs of the villagers.

Council in the main do a good job.

Too infrequent grass cutting.

Counsellors should respect the views of those they represent particularly in respect where mobile phone masts have created problems for local residents.

Judging by the Minutes of the Meetings in the Herald parish councillors make decisions based on their own personal views.

The Millennium Sundial is a waste of money and space.

Congratulations to Parish Council gardeners – they do a splendid job.

District Council should take more note of Local Council.

### **Youth**

## Countesthorpe Plan Report

Not enough to do in Countesthorpe outside Schools and Church: Provision for a Youth Club: Lack of facilities for all age ranges: Work done by Matt Brown appreciated.