

April 2007

Complete Review of Parish Plan will take place during May 2007

Action	How it will be tackled	Progress
1. Buildings / (Planning consultations)	Meet with planning officers at Blaby District Council to discuss recommendations for :- (a) Retaining usage of commercial buildings (b) Provision of affordable housing (c) Provision of housing for the elderly (d) No further large scale development.	See April 2006 update - action points now closed. Unlikely to be any major/new building developments within the next 20 years.
2. Crime and Safety	Review of village policing arrangements in particular:- (a) Anti-social behaviour (b) Pedestrian safety, vehicles parking on pavements, more pedestrian crossings? (c) Higher Police presence / visibility	A meeting between the Parish Council's Police Liaison Working Party and the Police Reassurance Project took place on September 21 st . There is now to be an open Public Meeting to see how the village residents can assist the police in the major areas of concern namely anti-social behaviour and litter. This is now most likely to be in 2007. There is an ongoing issue of anti-social behaviour on and around the Spoil Bank and Leysland Estate which is drawing police attention. Recent weeks have shown a big improvement particularly on Friday and Saturday evenings but we await better weather to see if the improvement was not just seasonal.
3. Health and welfare	Local Health and Welfare concerns including:- Discuss formation of a Patient Participation Group with Village Health Centre.	See April 2006 update - action points now closed.
4. Traffic	Review of Traffic Calming scheme to reassess existing scheme and discuss any alternatives including:- (a) Safety cameras / "Too fast" signs (b) Mini-roundabouts (c) Investigate concerns of rat runs e.g. Gwendoline Drive (d) Parking problems at Greenfield School	Electronic speed signs to be installed this financial year on Winchester Road. Slight increase in vehicle usage noted in Gwendoline Drive. Foston Road 30mph has been investigated and more visibility with shark's teeth on the road has been agreed in the new year. The Parish Council has also requested the reciting of the 30mph before Glebe Gardens but we have been informed that this request has now been turned down.
5. Retail	Areas for improvement:- (a) Lack of a DVD/ Video shop (b) Too many fast food shops (c) Pubs in village do not cater for "a quiet meal with friends" (d) Poor parking facilities – limits shoppers.	See April 2006 update - action points now closed.

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<p>6. Litter and Pollution</p>	<p>Generally seen to be good with some notable exceptions near the schools and shops:- (a) Gain co-operation from Head teachers / Principal to reduce perceived problem of litter from students.</p>	<p>Still a big problem as the litter is dropped quicker than it can be picked up. Letters to the local College and High School have been sent - it is a national social problem as well a local one. The Parish Council do not feel able to enter The Best Kept Village Competition until this situation has been remedied. This decision will be communicated to the Village in the near future. The Council request everybody to take responsibility for keeping their Village tidy. See action point 2</p>
	<p>(b) Target areas for litter picking</p>	<p>Still a big problem as the litter is dropped quicker than it can be picked up. Letters to the local College and High School have been sent - it is a national social problem as well a local one. Everybody in the Village should 'own' this problem and be part of enabling a litter free Countesthorpe. See action point 2</p>
	<p>(c) Dog fouling also seen to be an issue, as number of bins increases seek to encourage and if necessary enforce clean street campaign</p>	<p>See April 2006 update - action points now closed.</p>
	<p>(d) "Pollution" was also seen to include Mobile phone masts. Strong feeling against these particularly near the schools and residential areas</p>	<p>See April 2006 update - action points now closed.</p>

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7. Education	Mostly favourable except:- (a) Special Needs provision, 75% of respondents stated they were unable to place their child in their 1 st choice. (b) Further demand for Holiday play scheme / child care provision in 5/11 age group (c) U3A limited understanding that age range is from 50+	See April 2006 update - action points now closed. See April 2006 update - action points now closed. See April 2006 update - action points now closed.
8. Employment	Seek to retain existing industrial land for future employment. Seek to restrict change of use to residential.	See April 2006 update - action points now closed.

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9. Environment	Countesthorpe is seen as a “Rural” village, every effort to enhance this and prevent urbanisation:- (a) More tree planting	See April 2006 update - action points now closed.
	(b) Preservation of green spaces within the village	See April 2006 update - action points now closed.
	(c) Ensure school playing fields not sold off as a recreational assessment shows a shortfall of play areas.	See April 2006 update - action points now closed.
	(d) More seating around the village	See April 2006 update - action points now closed.
	(e) Maintain hedges and trees to prevent pavements becoming overgrown	See April 2006 update - action points now closed.
	(f) Clearer marking of footpaths and right of ways around the village	See April 2006 update - action points now closed.
	(g) Toilets in Central Street to be reopened and preferably refurbished, e.g. new superloo, stainless steel and self cleaning, easier to maintain.	Blaby District Councils valuation of this land was too high for the Parish Council to make any offers so the sale of the land will now go to auction. As of December 2006 no further news available.
	(h) Extension of footpath down south side of Cosby Road past Hill Lane to join river / nature walk	No progress to July 2006. No movement on this A.P.

Up to date as of April 2007

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10. Sport recreation and religion	Youth provision is seen as poor. Good sports facilities exist but this does not serve everyone and has limited impact during the evenings when groups of youths gather. This leads to complaints of the lack of recreational facilities leading to anti-social behaviour amongst a minority:- (a) Investigate the need for extra facilities for young people.	See April 2006 update - action points now closed. Young people's 'Events Calendar' now added to the Parish Website
	(b) Develop disused railway between Countesthorpe and South Wigston as Public Amenity / Walkway / Footpath.	See April 2006 update - action points now closed.
	(c) Investigate facilities for senior citizens	No progress

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11. Communications	Whilst the Herald is very popular there is a need for better communications:- (a) Village web site & (b) Village Directory	See April 2006 update - action points now closed. Booklet now delivered to every house in Countesthorpe. Free copies held in the Library, Parish Office and Rainbow Shop.
	(c) Improved use of notice boards.	New Notice Boards and Maps have now been fitted outside the Village Hall and Cornerstone in Main Street February 2007.
	(d) Investigate the provision of a new post box on Rosebank Road	Letter sent to the Post Office from the Parish Office requesting a review of this item. No further news to report. Post Office reply indicates they will not provide any extra post boxes. Council have written again to see if any movement on this decision can be encouraged. Still awaiting reply.

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12. Parish Council	The Parish Council was generally considered to be effective however:- (a) There is a need for the Parish Council to improve awareness of the scope of their authority and publicise contact points for themselves and other relevant authorities.	http://countesthorpeparishcouncil.co.uk/councillors.html - Completed by the launch of website and Parish Council's 'Information Booklet'. Parish Council computers to be upgraded during 2007/8
	(b) The last two elections have not been contested. Every effort should be made to encourage interested people to consider standing for election.	No election will be held on May 3rd 2007 as nominations for Parish Councillors were fewer than 18 - which is the legal requirement of councillors for Countesthorpe.
	(c) A greater sense of purpose or a central vision would help focus people's perception of the work of the Parish Council	See April 2006 update - action points now closed.