

SUBJECT: NEWBOLD PACEY AND ASHORNE PARISH PLAN

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**LEAD MEMBER/
PORTFOLIO HOLDER: CLLR BEESE**

SUMMARY

This report sets out the assessment of the Newbold Pacey and Ashorne 2006 Parish Plan. Newbold Pacey and Ashorne Parish Council formally adopted the Parish Plan at their meeting on 3rd January 2007.

RECOMMENDATION

- (1) That the Parish Plan is adopted as a local information source to offer advice to the relevant departments of Stratford-on-Avon District Council.**
 - (2) That the Parish Plan is adopted as a material consideration in processing planning applications, in accordance with Policy COM.1 of the Local Plan Review.**
 - (3) That the Parish Plan Working Group, Parish Council and the residents of Newbold Pacey and Ashorne be commended for preparing their Parish Plan and that they are encouraged to implement and review their Action Plan.**
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1 BACKGROUND/INFORMATION

- 1.1 Parish Plans are community-led projects identifying and surveying the assets, needs, opportunities, problems and solutions of a community. Through 'Capacity' and 'Consensus Building', Parish Plans provide communities with a framework to take stock of the present and to plan for the future.
 - 1.2 The momentum for Parish Plans is continually increasing with half of the communities in the District having completed or in the process of undertaking detailed Parish Plan or Appraisals with associated recommendations and Action Plans. Further background information on the process is included in Appendix B.
 - 1.3 **Background to the submitted Newbold Pacey and Ashorne Parish Plan**
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- 1.3.1 A Parish Plan Working Group, open to anyone, was formed with volunteers and Parish Councillors. The initiative was funded by a Vital Village grant from the Countryside Agency, and contributions in kind from many volunteers. Throughout the project, progress was communicated to the community using the Village Hut magazine, Parish news and Parish Council meetings and notices.
- 1.3.2 An initial Consultation Event was held at the Village Hall, where around 60 villagers created a "graffiti wall" of views on village life and enjoyed a fish supper. The comments were collected and analysed, with young people's comments identified separately. Further preliminary information was gathered through contact and meetings with local organisations such as WI, allotments, parish church, local schools and the police. The Housing issues were discussed with WRCC Rural Housing Enabler. All this informed the development of a survey sent to all households in the parish. It was decided to distribute a separate Housing Needs Survey at the same time, with a few housing questions also included within the main survey.
- 1.3.3 The survey achieved an excellent response rate of 74% of all households (80% of residents). The results and information was analysed and an Action Plan developed based on the key findings. The results and draft Action Plan were presented at a second Consultation Event, and circulated to Parish and District Councillors. The final report and Action Plan were completed taking comments into account. The Parish Plan was printed and a copy given to every household.
- 1.3.4 The Parish Plan presents a clear picture of the needs and issues facing the community. The Parish Council has agreed to take the Action Plan forward. Every action has an implementation date, and progress will be reviewed at each Parish Council meeting.

1.4 **Newbold Pacey and Ashorne Parish Plan findings**

- 1.4.1 The findings of the Parish Plan, which have informed the Action Plan, cover:
 - Household
 - Village matters
 - Transport
 - Traffic
 - Environment
 - Housing
- 1.4.2 The Parish Plan has been prepared employing a range of community participation techniques, including questionnaire surveys, public forums and a transparent process of reporting back to the community on progress. The process has generated a range of statistical data and qualitative material that has informed the Action Plan and which provides a useful information source.
- 1.4.3 Suggested response: Endorse – that the findings of the Newbold Pacey and Ashorne Parish Plan be endorsed as a true representation of the topics addressed by the Parish Plan.

1.5 Newbold Pacey and Ashorne Parish Plan Action Plan

- 1.5.1 Analysis and responses to the Action Plan are provided in Appendix C, and the following analysis and comments should be read in conjunction with the Parish Plan Action Plan.
- 1.5.2 The policy position of the Local Plan Review is supportive of the Action Plan points relating to planning, the environment and land use. Many of the actions identified can be undertaken entirely by the village itself. The District Council may be able to offer advice and support in undertaking some actions, and offer help in locating funding.
- 1.5.3 A Housing Needs Survey was undertaken in parallel to the Plan, but insufficient need was identified to make a local needs scheme viable. The local community is encouraged to keep the matter under review and consider undertaking a fresh housing needs survey in the medium term.
- 1.5.4 Progress has already been made in taking forward actions, for example the access issues at the cricket field have been resolved.

2 OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE

- 2.1 A) Adopt the Parish Plan fully: This is a good, well-prepared Parish Plan that would be a valuable local information source and material consideration.
- 2.2 B) Adopt parts of the Parish Plan: If there are any concerns with certain aspects of the Parish Plan, this option would allow the District Council to use selected aspects of the Plan in its decision making and as a local information source. No reasons have been so far identified to make this option necessary.
- 2.3 C) Not adopt the Parish Plan: The District Council would miss the opportunity to adopt a useful source of local information, and a material consideration to aid planning decision-making.

3 IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

3.1 Financial

- 3.1.1 Projects developed through this Parish Plan may need funding to take them forward and the recommendations contained in this report should be contained within existing budgets. The District Council operates a Community Grants Scheme aimed at funding these types of projects, and the Community Grants team may be able to help search for appropriate funding sources. It is hoped that the Parish Council and local residents will consider and pursue funding in order to develop their identified action points.

3.2 Environmental

- 3.2.1 Many of the actions within this Parish Plan aim to improve the local environment of the village and its surroundings. A few actions could increase the environmental sustainability of life within the Parish by reducing local people's need to travel for leisure activities, and promote recycling.

3.3 Corporate Strategy

- 3.3.1 The Parish Plan is a useful source of information about local community perception of their locality. The Community Plan and Corporate Strategy

for the District support the range of topic areas and policies in the Action Plan. The Parish Plan also complements and helps move forward the District Council's Agenda 21.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The actions recommended in this report are to commend those involved in the preparation of the Plan, adopt the Parish Plan as a local information source, and adopt it as a material consideration. There are no identified major risks associated with these actions.
- 4.2 Choosing to not adopt the Parish Plan would risk losing the chance to adopt a valuable source of local information and a useful material consideration to aid planning decision-making.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Parish Plan Working Group, the Parish Council and residents of Newbold Pacey and Ashorne should be commended and congratulated for completing their Parish Plan, and are encouraged by Stratford-on Avon District Council to implement and periodically review the Action Plan.
- 5.2 The Newbold Pacey and Ashorne Parish Plan is a good example of how a rural community can prepare a Parish Plan that is both a good source of local information, and provides a sound basis through the Action Plan to address the needs and aspirations of the community.

HEAD OF PLANNING SERVICES

Background papers:

Newbold Pacey and Ashorne Parish Plan 2006

Stratford District Community Plan; the future to 2015

Stratford-on-Avon Local Plan Review 2006

Appendix A - Guidance for the Assessment of Parish/Town Plans

1.1 In assessing Parish Plans, the following considerations should be taken into account:

Evidence and extent of research work to justify conclusions.

Evidence and extent of analysis related to conclusions.

Public involvement and endorsement at local level.

Level of implementation available to District Council services, (e.g. the District Council Planning Authority, Leisure and Arts etc.).

Conformity with District Council's policies, (e.g. Planning policies etc.).

1.2 The above five criteria will enable the production of recommendations regarding the acceptance of each of the Parish Plan's detailed conclusions and Action Points.

1.3 A response to each of the detailed conclusions and Action Points will be one of the following:

(A) ENDORSE

The specific recommendation will be accepted and taken into account on the decision making of the District Council. (For example, "Small scale development with a 'craft' emphasis should be looked at sympathetically").

(B) ACTION

The specific recommendation will be accepted in principle and, subject to financial, procedural and legal constraints, implemented by or with the support of the District Council. (For example, "A social housing scheme of ten units on land next to the Green should be provided").

(C) INVESTIGATE

Further information to be obtained by the Parish/Town Council or other agency may be required in order that the District Council may establish if the specific recommendation can be supported. (For example, "An existing Conservation Area should be extended").

(D) SUPPORT

The specific recommendation relates to a matter which is not the responsibility of the District Council. However, the proposal is supported and will be forwarded to the appropriate authority. (For example, "Traffic calming measures are required and the County Highway Authority should prepare a scheme").

(E) NOT SUPPORTED

The specific recommendation relates to a matter which is in contrary to the policy of the District Council or is beyond the powers of the authority or that insufficient and/or unsatisfactory information has been submitted to substantiate their commendation. (For example, "No development of any kind should take place within the settlement").

Appendix B – Further Background Information

- 2.1. Communities produce Parish Plans for a number of reasons:
 - To increase the awareness of community issues, foster community spirit and encourage a sense of pride;
 - To act as a strong basis for local action (the Action Plan);
 - To collectively represent the views of residents, to positively influence others to the benefit of the community.
- 2.2. In the 1980s the concept and practice of Village Appraisals first emanated nationally from the Rural Development Commission in conjunction with the Countryside Commission.
- 2.3. Nationally, Parish Plans have a role to play within the 'modernising Local Government' agenda, for example, shaping local services, public participation, decision-making and greater democratic legitimacy.
- 2.4. One of the aims within Chapter 12 of the Rural White Paper (Our Countryside: the future – A fair deal for rural England) includes involving people living in rural areas in developing their community, safeguarding its valued features and shaping the decisions that affect them – developing a vision for the future. Parish Plans are a recognised method of achieving this aim.
- 2.5. In line with guidance from the Countryside Agency issued in August 2000 ('Planning tomorrow's countryside', advice to local planning authorities, government and developers on how the planning system should operate and evolve), Parish Plans are a recognised community planning method to help achieve key objectives. In March 2003 the Countryside Agency produced detailed guidance for parish and town councils on the preparation of Parish and Town Plans.
- 2.6. Policy RA3 in the Warwickshire Structure Plan 1996-2011 encourages local planning authorities to use 'Appraisals' when establishing the views of local communities and when identifying local housing and industrial development need.
- 2.7. Stratford-on-Avon District Council is committed to the encouragement of Parish Plans as a means of identifying local issues and will respond to them positively. Much faith has been placed by the Government, the County Council and the District Council on local appraisals and their role in assisting the formulation of strategic policy.
- 2.8. Parish Plans can now play a broader role within the production of the statutory Community Plan for Stratford District.
- 2.9. The recommendations and Action Plans can both inform and help deliver the Rural Strategy for the Stratford-on-Avon District.
- 2.10. Policy COM.1 of the Stratford-on-Avon District Local Plan Review 2006 states:

"The views of the local community as expressed preferably in a Parish Plan (or equivalent) or in its absence an alternative source of reliable evidence, will be fully taken into account in the planning process. In particular they will be used:

 - To help assess the merits of schemes promoted by communities to meet needs which they have identified;

- As a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and to assist in identifying the scope and nature of associated planning obligations which might be sought; and
- To identify opportunities for environmental and other forms of enhancement.

In the case of Main Rural Centres and Local Centre Villages only, as defined in Policy STR1, small scale schemes which meet housing (particularly affordable housing) and employment needs will be encouraged in this way...”

- 2.11. Nationally, Parish Plans are broad, holistic documents addressing local issues at a local level. Whilst in this District ‘appraisals’ have had a close association with planning, they are no longer ‘planning-led’. Parish Plans address both planning and non-planning related matters and this is reflected in their assessment at Committee.
- 2.12. Parish Plans can and do act as a tool to assist in giving many of the services provided by the District Council greater community focus. Vice versa, many of the services provided by the District Council can and do feed into the Parish Plan process creating more informed Action Plans.

Appendix C

Summary of key action points

Abbreviations

SDC= Stratford District Council

WCC- Warwickshire County Council

Recommended Action	SDC Proposed Response
Village Matters	
<p>Work with authorities and planners to conserve special qualities of the village.</p>	<p>Endorse - The Parish Plan and the community views expressed within it will be used as a material consideration when determining planning applications, as laid out in Policy COM.1 of the Local Plan Review.</p> <p>The community could do a project themselves, such as a Village Design Statement, to define what is special about the character of the area. This could be used in determining planning applications, in accordance with Policy PR.1 of the Local Plan Review.</p>
<p>Maintain access to village cricket field and parking area.</p>	<p>Support – the Community Plan aims to increase the number of people playing sport on a regular basis, and also supports local recreational facilities.</p>
<p>Financially support "Village Hut News" and consider special editions such as walks and footpaths, conservation areas etc.</p>	<p>Support – this action point can be supported. SDC may be able to contribute information, for example some analysis of the conservation areas.</p>
<p>Improve parish communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase use of village website as a channel for parish information. - Improve publicity regarding Parish Council activities, particularly Planning applications. - Develop Welcome Packs for new households. 	<p>Support – these action points can be supported.</p>
<p>Inform District and County Councillors, MPs and MEPs of residents' views of them – see pages 16 and 17 of NP&A Parish Plan.</p>	<p>Action – this report has been forwarded to the SDC Ward Members.</p>

Recommended Action	SDC Proposed Response
Increase use of allotments by being more flexible about allotment size.	Support – this action can achieve benefits for many of the Community Plan’s priority areas.
Support and develop additional activities in the Village Hut, such as fitness sessions and community education events.	Support and Action – the Community Plan aims to increase the number of people involved in local clubs and activities. The District Council Community Grants team offer help locating funding, and can advise if these projects may be eligible for the Council’s Community Grants scheme.
Create leaflet with map of footpaths to be available in public buildings and on noticeboards.	Support – the Community Plan aims to improve access and enjoyment to the countryside.
Transport and Traffic	
Establish a reduction in speed limit in Newbold Pacey and in Ashorne, and consider other speed reducing measures.	Support – the Community Plan aims to reduce the number of road casualties and traffic accidents.
Environment	
Improve lighting at exit of Village Hut.	Support – the Community Plan aims to improve confidence and public safety.
Increase awareness of District Council recycling services and ensure District Council provides collection services to all addresses in parish.	Action and Support – the Community Plan aims to increase the proportion of waste that is recycled. Information on waste and recycling has been included in Your Review which is delivered to each household in the district – perhaps the Parish could consider reproducing this information in their website/ magazine. The Cleansing Services Manager will phone the Parish Clerk to discuss concerns about missing collections. Residents can report missed collections by contacting Streetscene on 01789 260616 or streetscene@stratford-dc.gov.uk or submit an online missed collection form.

Recommended Action	SDC Proposed Response
Extend range of household waste materials collected for recycling.	Support and Investigate – plastic recycling facilities are available at WCC Wellesbourne Recycling Centre, Loxley Road. SDC are looking to introduce door-to-door plastic collection in 2008.
Identify ways to improve services supplied to the Parish including police, gritting, Severn Trent. Stop BT removing telephone box in Newbold Pacey.	Support – these action points can be supported.
Maintain current footpaths by working with County Council rangers and improve and increase “dog-friendly” stiles.	Support – the Community Plan aims to improve access and enjoyment to the countryside.
Raise awareness of dog fouling with owners.	Support and Action – SDC’s Dog Warden and Environmental Health team may be able to provide advice and support (phone 01789 260837 to discuss).

REPORT INFORMATION SHEET

Please complete and submit to Committee Services with draft report

COMMITTEE/DATE	STOUR AREA COMMUNITY COMMITTEE – 23 RD JANUARY 2007	
ITEM NO/TITLE OF REPORT	NEWBOLD PACEY AND ASHORNE PARISH PLAN	
CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN		
CONSULTEE	✓	DETAILS / DATE OF CONSULTATION / COMMENTS RECEIVED
WARD MEMBERS	✓	CLLR DAVID CLOSE/ 18 TH DEC 06/ ADVICE NOTED CLLR SUE MAIN/ 18 TH DEC 06 CLLR ROGER WRIGHT/ 18 TH DEC 06
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN/ PORTFOLIOHOLDER * <i>*Required</i>	✓	CLLR STEPHEN GRAY/ 18 TH DEC 06 CLLR STUART BEESE/ 18 TH DEC 06
FINANCIAL SERVICES * <i>*Required</i>	✓	RICHARD BURRELL/ 18 TH DEC 06/ NO FURTHER COMMENTS
LEGAL SERVICES * <i>*Required</i>	✓	SERINTHER ATKAR/ 18 TH DEC 06
OTHER SERVICES	✓	HOUSING/ 7 TH DEC 06/ SUPPORT, ENCOURAGE LOCAL HOUSING NEEDS SITUATION TO BE KEPT UNDER REVIEW. POLICY AND PR/ 7 TH DEC 06/ COMMUNITY SERVICES/ 7 TH DEC 06/
OTHER ORGANISATIONS	✓	NEWBOLD PACEY AND ASHORNE PARISH COUNCIL/ 18 TH DEC WARWICKSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL/ 7 TH DEC 06/ SUPPORT AND CONGRATULATE THE COMMUNITY WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL/ 7 TH DEC 06/
FINAL DECISION BY THIS COMMITTEE OR RECOMMENDATION TO ANOTHER COMMITTEE/COUNCIL ?		FINAL DECISION RECOMMENDATION TO : EXECUTIVE / COUNCIL COMMITTEE <i>Delete as appropriate</i>
DOES THIS REPORT CONTAIN EXEMPT INFORMATION? IF SO, UNDER WHICH PARAGRAPH(S) ?		No YES, PARAGRAPHS : <i>Delete as appropriate</i>
DOES THIS REPORT RELATE TO A KEY DECISION (REFERRED TO IN THE EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN)		No YES, FORWARD PLAN ITEM – SCHEDULED FOR (date) <i>Delete as appropriate</i>

