



Harbury Parish Plan

Update 2012



Executive Summary

Over the next five years the Parish Council will:

- ✿ *Promote and support adult education and training.*
- ✿ *Formulate a neighbourhood plan and support “Village with a Vision”.*
- ✿ *Encourage and support the work of the Harbury Energy Initiative.*
- ✿ *Continue to support youth-related activities.*
- ✿ *Support the retention of vital services.*
- ✿ *Support community buildings.*
- ✿ *Encourage sustainable business development.*
- ✿ *Campaign for high speed broadband.*
- ✿ *Investigate extending the Village Hall car park.*
- ✿ *Establish a scheme to “Keep Harbury Tidy”.*



Dr. Tim Lockley
Chairman, Harbury Parish Council

February 2012

Introduction

Harbury Parish Plan was published in January 2005 after a long and rigorous process which involved many groups and individuals from within the village. This process ultimately resulted in a document that provided planners and developers as well as village organisations and individuals with the information on what Harbury residents wanted. The Parish Council was committed to updating the plan at regular intervals.

In 2011 the Parish Council agreed to undertake a Parish Plan Update Survey in order to get residents’ feedback on a number of important issues. In particular, the objective was to receive residents’ views on current facilities and services in Harbury, and to ensure the requirements of the village as a whole are identified.

The Parish Plan Review Group developed the questionnaire, with Stratford District Council designing the final version. Residents living in Harbury and Deppers Bridge were invited to complete an online questionnaire; paper copies were also made available at Harbury Library, Harbury Post Office and the Parish Office.

262 questionnaires were completed by villagers between March 4th and May 31st 2011. This was not as many as those who completed the original Parish Plan survey in 2005, and represents about 25% of households in the parish. We know that the views of older retired people are over-represented in the results we have, while the views of younger people (children and adults with school-age children) are under-represented. We have taken this into account when analysing the results.

Education and Training

Since 2005 some additional educational training has been provided in the village including a martial arts class and French classes. The results of the survey suggest that there is continuing interest in the provision of evening classes in foreign languages, art and craft and computing (both beginner and non-beginner). Most households have a computer at home, but not everyone knows how to use it for more than basic functions.

Action Plan: *To increase the provision of adult education and training in the village.*

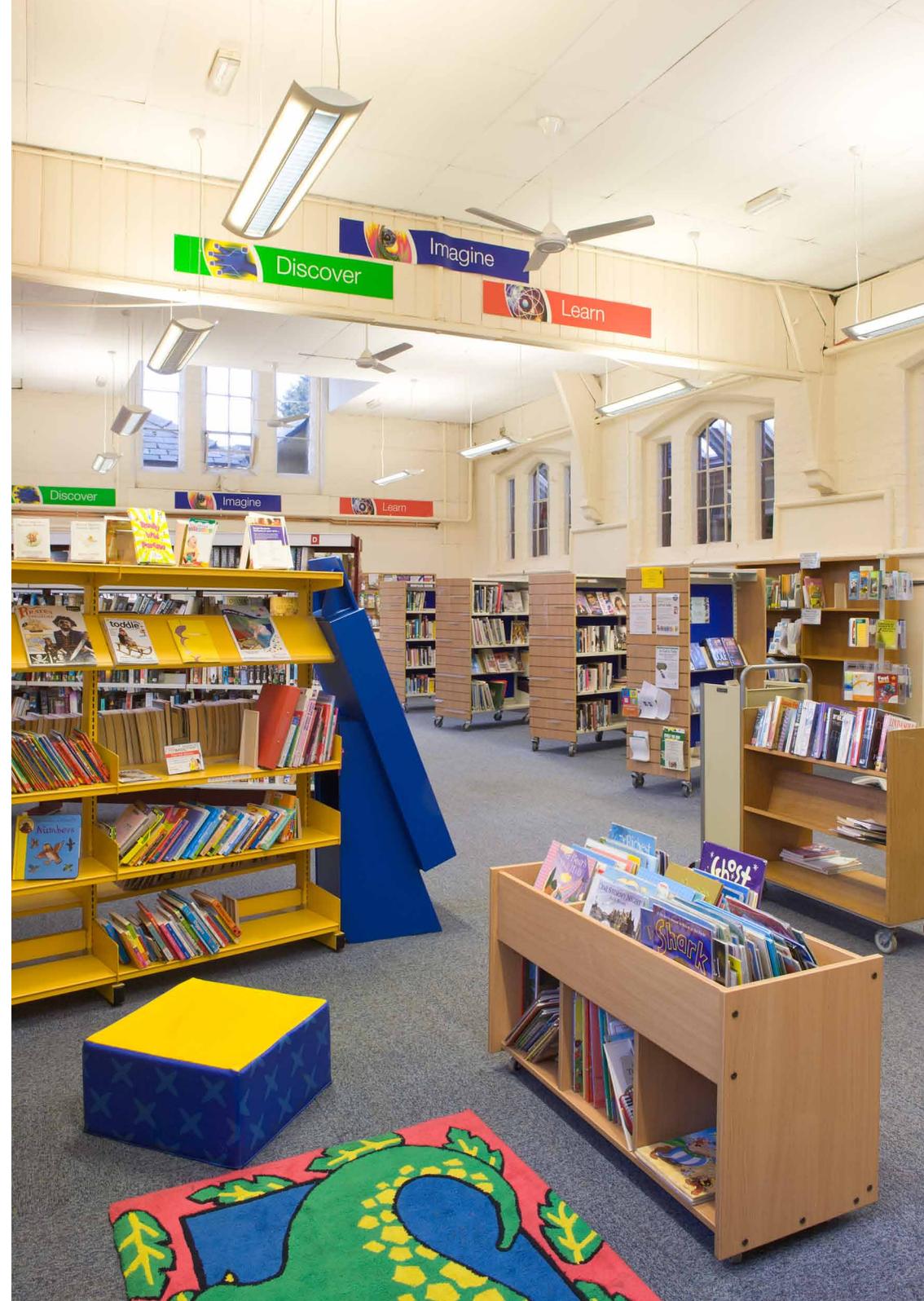
Community Safety

Harbury is a safe place to live and residents continue to feel safe and secure, despite the fact that visible police presence has declined in the past five years. It is apparent that there are on-going problems with anti-social behaviour at certain times and at specific locations in the village.

Action Plan: *To continue to work with Warwickshire Police and PCSOs to reduce the amount of anti-social behaviour in the village. To continue to support the Neighbourhood Watch scheme via the circulation of relevant information related to community safety.*

Harbury Library

Harbury library is clearly a highly valued community asset. It is well used and residents are prepared to assist by volunteering as it becomes a community-run library in 2012. Residents had some concerns regarding the book stock, the internet provision and opening hours. The new community library plans on increasing the current



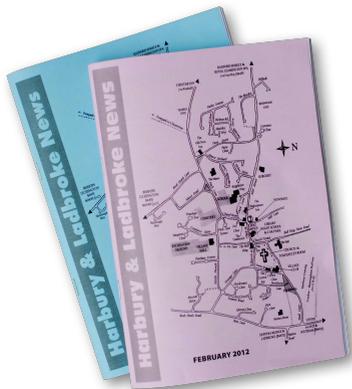
opening hours, expanding the provision of IT, but the book stock will remain the responsibility of WCC. Residents were overwhelmingly supportive of the Parish Council raising its parish rate to support the continuance of a library in Harbury.

Action Plan: *To maintain a library provision in the village, with support from Harbury Parish Council and Warwickshire County Council.*

Local Representatives

Parishioners clearly have the closest connection with Parish Councillors, but as units of representation get larger (district, county, parliamentary constituency, European constituency), the contact and influence that people feel they have over their representatives inevitably diminishes. A regular 'Councillors' Corner' has been established since the Parish Plan of 2005, where members of the public can talk to representatives from the Parish, the District and the County.

Action Plan: *To publicise opportunities where the public can meet and talk with their elected representatives.*



News & Information

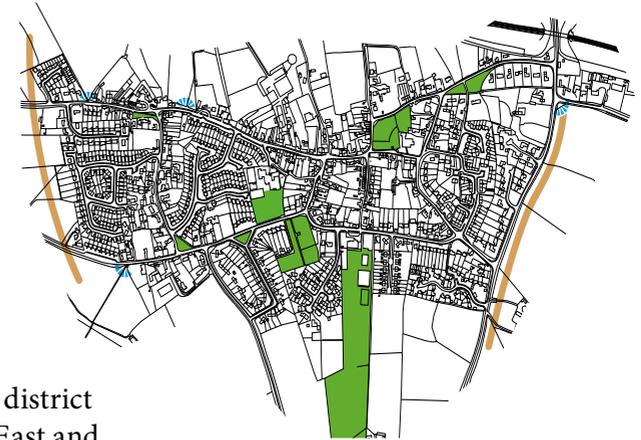
Since 2005, the online provision of information by local councils has expanded considerably. There is also more hard copy information in the Harbury News. Parishioners get most of their information from the Harbury & Ladbrooke News

(delivered to more than 85% of households) and from the notice boards. Smaller numbers of people use the websites of the Parish, District and County Councils.

Action Plan: *To continue to use the Harbury News and Parish notice boards as primary methods of communicating with the public, while maintaining and enhancing the provision of online information.*

Planning

Since the last Parish Plan we have undertaken a housing needs survey and have planned and developed the housing to carry this out at Bush Heath Lane. We have worked with Stratford District Council Planning Department and our local district councillors to protect the East and West boundaries of the village.



Residents were asked about a development for older people who needed extra care and support. Most said that it should be within the village and not too far from the centre. There were comments for and against possible sites with most suggesting we should preserve green spaces in the village and not build on the allotments. Village with a Vision will be able to study these figures when discussing possible sites with their partner developers.

Action Plan: *To support the aims of Village with a Vision. To respond to identified housing needs for phase two of the Bush Heath Lane development. To help formulate a Neighbourhood Plan, written by the local community to influence future planning considerations.*



Sustainable Community

Stratford District Council and the Parish Council support and encourage proposed new building plans to comply with a high standard of energy efficiency. The new homes at Hereburgh Way, Bush Heath Lane, have air source heat pumps and good insulation at the current level required by government. A majority of respondents have heard about the Harbury Energy Initiative and about a fifth have attended meetings to hear more about how they could benefit from further energy reduction in their own homes.

Nearly every respondent already had double glazing, most have loft and wall insulation and there was reasonable interest in more information to be made available with regard to photovoltaic cells and solar panels.

Action Plan: To continue to support HEI (Harbury Energy Initiative) and to encourage people to be more energy efficient.

Young People

In the previous survey young people said they would like a place to meet, a BMX track, a skateboard ramp as well as a proper Youth Club. To date we have built and continue to repair the skateboard ramp, built a BMX track and the church runs a small youth club.

We investigated a place for a youth shelter but could not find a suitable one to satisfy everyone. The cost was around £14,000 and it was felt we could use the money in a better way. This summer saw a youth bus visit the Village Hall car park for one evening a week. We continue to work with Warwickshire County Council in the severe financial climate to provide whatever is possible.

We have supported all the sports and youth activities in the village financially. These include the Rugby and Football clubs, Tennis Club,

Netball Club, Scouts, Beavers, Duke of Edinburgh Group and the Nursery and Pre Schools. We have also repaired and replaced worn out play equipment for our youngest members of the community both in Harbury and Deppers Bridge.

Action Plan: *To continue to support the provision of youth-related activities in the parish.*

Access to Services

Since the last survey the Co-op has a level entrance and the library has an access ramp. The exception is the Post Office. The owner of the Post Office has looked into the possibility of a ramp but, with the building arranged as it is, this is not a sensible option.

The Parish Council now has an office in the centre of the village which is open mornings Monday to Thursday and the councillors are all accessible on e-mail. These all help communication. The Clerk's central position means that she can offer help with access to services

and by giving advice to members of the public.

Nearly all residents confirmed they did not have difficulties getting to services but there was concern about lack of a direct bus to Warwick Hospital.



Action Plan: *To consider supporting the Community Links bus service that provides door-to-door services for those unable to use standard public transport. To publicise the volunteer driver's scheme. To support the retention of vital services (e.g. Post Office, surgery, chemist and bus).*

Village Hall

In 2005 the Parish Plan stated that “Harbury’s Village Hall is a much loved amenity, used by almost every resident at some time”. Several improvements have already been made as part of the Village Hall Committee’s planned programme, with the help of grants and the Sponsor a Brick fund raising. In accordance with present Health and Safety Laws new toilets with disabled access have been installed, along with replacement security doors, roof repairs and fireproof curtains.



Photovoltaic panels and improved kitchen facilities are to be installed in the next year. Fund raising will then begin for new changing rooms, and eventually a new heating system.

The Village Hall is used regularly for film nights, theatre productions, dance and singing groups, badminton, fetes and fayres, parties, dances and the Beer Festival. The outside facilities are used by tennis, netball, and football clubs as well as the local school. It is because of the increased volume of activities that some comments were made about the car park being too small.

Parishioners were strongly in favour of a regular contribution from the Parish Council towards improvements.

Action Plan: *To continue to support the Village Hall Management Committee in their redevelopment plans. To investigate the provision of a larger car park.*

Business Needs

The Parish Council has responded to a need for more business facilities in the village and purpose built business units are now at Churchlands Business Park and the Bull Ring Business Centre. People were divided about the need for further business development, and some reservations were as a result of concerns about parking.

Action Plan: To continue to encourage sustainable business development in the parish.

To continue to campaign for a faster broadband connection suitable for businesses and home-working.

Parish Pride

Since 2005 flower tubs have been maintained at the village entrance, and signs noting our twinning with Samois-sur-Seine have been erected. Many people commented on what a lovely village Harbury is, and how we need to work together to keep the community spirit and maintain the quality of life. A large majority of respondents confirmed that they would be prepared to help with keeping the Parish tidy.

Action Plan: To establish a volunteer 'Keep Harbury Tidy' group.

Transport

The bus shelter that people requested has been erected at the side of the Harbury Supermarket, but government cuts over the years have meant a reduction in the actual bus service. Overall the use of the bus service has declined among working-age people, but increased among retired people making use of their free pass, especially those travelling to Leamington. Since 2005, Deppers Bridge has lost its direct bus service



due the weight restriction on the bridge. The Community Links bus currently serves those who cannot use regular public transport.

Action Plan: To consider supporting the Community Links bus service from 2012. To publicise service changes as and when they occur.

Traffic and Parking

The Parish Plan of 2005 commented about the speed of cars through Harbury and Deppers Bridge and parking problems at various locations within Harbury.

Effective speed deterrents have been put in place at Deppers Bridge, although heavy lorries are still passing through the hamlet despite weight restrictions on the bridge.

Harbury had a traffic calming scheme implemented in 2009.

Parking problems still exist in the village simply because more people own cars. Many respondents felt that car parks at the School, Doctor's Surgery and Village Hall need expanding.

Action Plan: To work towards an appropriate level of traffic management, and a safe environment for residents.

To encourage walking and cycling instead of driving.

To discourage inconsiderate parking. To investigate extending the Village Hall car park.

The Parish Office

The Parish Office is open Monday to Thursday from 9.00 am to 12.45 pm in Bull Ring Business Centre, Church Terrace.

Tel: 614646

E-mail: clerk@harbury-pc.gov.uk

More information, including individual Councillors' contact e-mails is available on the Parish website, www.harbury-pc.gov.uk

Harbury Parish Council would like to thank all those who gave their time towards producing this parish plan update.



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