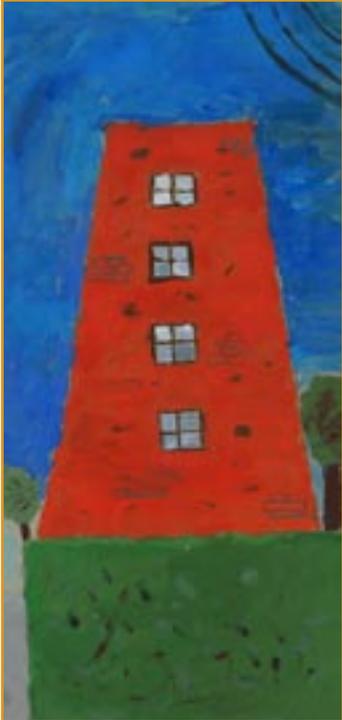


Harby Parish Plan

2005
to
2015



Cover pictures by :

Elliot Fearn – Harby Shop & Post Office
Lewis Sharrock – Queen Eleanor information board
Alex Walker – Harby Mill
Mollie Knight – All Saints' Church
Jamie Harvey – Queen Eleanor School
Matthew Davy – Harby Village Hall
Frank Davenport – view of High Marnham Power Station cooling towers

In June 2005, Year Six pupils at Queen Eleanor Primary School, Harby produced a splendid collection of paintings entitled “changing perspectives” for the cover of Harby Parish Plan. They depict changed perspectives of familiar Harby landmarks and views, symbolising the future vision of Harby Parish Plan.

Thankyou to Elliott, Lewis, Alex, Mollie, Jamie, Matthew, Frank and Queen Eleanor Primary School.

Photographs by :

Paul Marshall, Rose Ward, George Dickinson & Richard Croft

Harby Parish Plan Steering Group

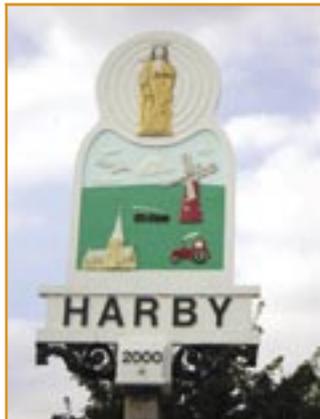
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About Harby Parish Plan



It is Government policy to increase individual participation in public life and for public bodies to consult communities about the delivery of services. As part of this policy of “active citizenship” the Government wants to give more power to parish councils to decide what’s best for their communities. Parish Plans are intended to help breathe new life into rural communities and help local people develop their neighbourhoods the way they want. Funding from The Countryside Agency and Harby Parish Council enabled us to develop a vision and a plan for our community for the next ten years.

Everyone in Harby parish aged 8 or older was consulted by questionnaire to find out what you thought about a wide range of local issues, which almost 70% of people completed and returned. Your responses were collated and the key issues & actions identified. The draft Parish Plan was presented to parishioners and stakeholders in early June 2005 and is presented here as the final Harby Parish Plan.

Harby Parish Plan addresses issues that affect the village, particularly those identified by you as most important local amenities, crime & safety, the environment, planning and education, but also health, leisure, employment and tourism. Harby Parish Plan sets out a vision for how our community wants to develop and the actions needed to achieve it.

Thankyou to the many people who have contributed to the development of Harby Parish Plan and to the many more who get involved in our community to make it happen.

Harby Parish Plan Steering Group, July 2005

Foreword

By consulting with the whole community, Harby Parish Plan for the next ten years has been developed by the steering group to represent the views and aspirations of everyone who lives in the parish. The plan requires action by many people, local clubs and organisations and by Newark & Sherwood District Council. As your elected District Councillors, Richard Shillito and I will continue to work with Harby Parish Council ensuring that the Parish Plan actions are realised.

Harby is a vibrant community with excellent amenities for a small village, made possible through the voluntary efforts of the Village Hall, Playing Fields, Football Club, Bowls Club and many other organisations. You have an excellent primary school, pub, shop, post office, nursery school and toddler group serving not just Harby, but surrounding villages too.

It is always a pleasure to visit your village whether it’s for a Parish Council meeting or some other social function, and for that we are very grateful.

Councillor Kevin Rontree - Collingham & Meering
Newark & Sherwood District Council

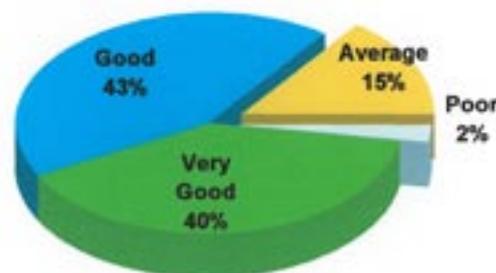


Information & Communication

Harby & Wigsley Newsletter

The vast majority (83%) of respondents thought the Harby and Wigsley Newsletter either “very good” or “good”, containing most of the information required.

46% of people said they would be willing to contribute to the Harby and Wigsley Newsletter. Numerous comments asked for greater notice of forthcoming events and publication on time.



Newspaper

63% read the daily paper The Lincolnshire Echo, 39% read the weekly Newark Advertiser.

Internet

The majority (64%) of people in Harby have internet access
Only 25% of people have visited the Harby website www.harby.org.uk
55% of people would subscribe to broadband internet access if available

Public Telephone

Although 82% of people never use it, an overwhelming majority (81%) thought the BT public telephone box an important asset to the village.

Public Notices

88% of people read the notice board occasionally or regularly

Actions

- Appoint a forthcoming events editor to coordinate notification of events for the Harby & Wigsley Newsletter. Ensure publication on time.
- Encourage contributions from all the Newsletter readership.
- Public Notices, e.g.. planning notices may be more appropriately advertised in Lincolnshire Echo rather than Newark Advertiser, notify Newark & Sherwood District Council Planning services.
- Publicise the available internet access via the Village Hall IT suite.
- Publicise the re-launched Harby website and publish greater content on it.
- The parish notice board is still a very viable means of communication. Limit the use of the notice board to public / parish notices, commercial advertising should be done through the Harby & Wigsley Newsletter.
- Develop a “welcome pack” for village newcomers providing information about all the village amenities, events, clubs and organisations.

Sport, leisure and tourism

Indoor sports

Indoor sports facilities were considered to be poor by 45% of respondents

Outdoor sports

Outdoor sports facilities were considered to be reasonable by 45% of respondents

There were numerous suggestions for an all weather outdoor surface for the playing fields

Children's play area

The children's play area at the playing field was felt to need refurbishment by 40% of respondents, or additional play equipment required by 44% of respondents

Tourism

There was a very strong positive response to the Queen Eleanor connection, 96% of people thought this was important and a majority (87%) requested that more information be made available.



Actions

- Discuss the possibilities for developing indoor sport facilities with Harby Playing Fields Committee and Harby Village Hall Committee
- Develop an all weather outdoor playing surface for the playing fields
- Refurbish and / or obtain additional play equipment for the children's play area
- Harby History Group to provide further information on Queen Eleanor and the manor house site.



Environment & Wildlife

Recycling

Only 16% thought there were adequate recycling facilities so 84% thought there should be greater provision in the village. Newark & Sherwood District Council twin bin recycling scheme has been introduced since the parish plan questionnaire was done, much can now be recycled.



Conservation

64% of people thought that not enough was being done in the parish to encourage wildlife conservation, 94 people said they were willing to participate in projects to encourage wildlife conservation.

58 people expressed an interest in participating in a fuel delivery syndicate and 52 people said they would be willing to use a community composting scheme.

Considerable interest was expressed in participating in a best kept village competition.

Actions

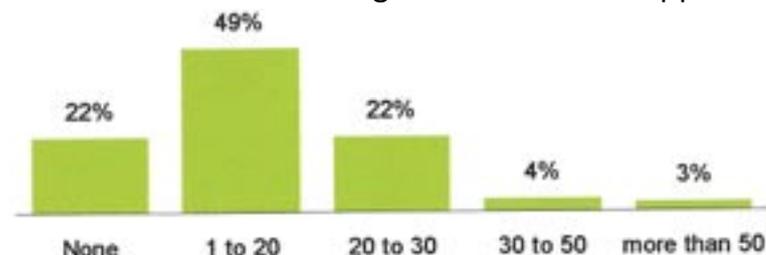
- Glass recycling facilities are required in Harby
- Harby Parish Council to appoint a Conservation Warden to coordinate conservation, wildlife and environmental projects funded through the Parish Council. Actively encourage volunteers to engage in projects within the parish.
- Ask the existing oil delivery syndicate to extend its scope further.
- Explore the viability of establishing a community composting scheme.
- Establish a “best kept village” group to manage activities towards future entry in to the competition.



Housing, planning & development

Generally, villagers were of the opinion that development of up to 30 houses would be desirable over the next ten years. 71% thought 1 to 30 houses appropriate, 22% favoured no growth and only 7% thought more than 30 houses were required.

The houses built should vary in size and should include some affordable type housing, some rentable property, some smaller two bedroom properties either bungalows or semi-detached houses and also some larger 3, 4 or 5 bedroom properties. Conversions of redundant farm buildings were also well supported.



Scale of housing development desired over the next ten years

The majority of people only wanted development on a small scale with a mixture of views as to what was acceptable to achieve development without having an impact. 85% of people thought that development should be limited to small scale housing of 1-3 houses, individual plots and some none at all.

15% of people thought that a small estate would be acceptable and only 2 people thought a large estate acceptable.

There are a small amount of people who would like to move house but stay in the village. 10% of the village responded to the question on affordable value with a fairly even split on how much they could afford.

Historically there has been a local demand for more houses to be built as a small number of people have had to move away from the village due to unavailability of suitable properties.

Actions

- Inform Harby Parish Council and Newark & Sherwood District Council of these findings for use as recommendations and guidance as to what the consensus of the villagers' opinions are on issues relating to planning applications for new properties and conversions of properties within the village. These conclusions are representative of the wishes of majority of the villagers and should be respected when considering applications for new building and development.



Highways

Roads

The state of the roads concerned many people, potholes, stones on the road and no gritting during icy weather were particularly highlighted.

The increasing number of large lorries passing through the village at speed was a big problem. Many people felt that the lorries were the cause of the disrepair.

Speeding traffic was a major concern for parents walking their children to and from school. Calming measures were suggested, however, because of the need for agricultural vehicles, a chicane or sleeping policemen were not considered suitable by some. Speeding traffic on Wigsley Road was also mentioned and more 'visible' speed restrictions were suggested.

69% of respondents would support traffic calming measures in the village.

The stones on the road were considered to be a hazard to the increasing number of cyclists passing through the village as well as pedestrians and drivers.

Harby Parish Council have provided salt bins at the appropriate road junctions, spreading by parishioners is required during icy road conditions.

Parking

Several people commented on the lack of secure parking and the need for more spaces at Millfield Close. However the issue of inconsiderate and dangerous parking drew by far the most response. The problem areas are: -

- The entrance to the cycle path at the foot of the bridge. (This problem is caused mainly by visitors to the village).
- Outside the nursery on High Street.
- At the 'T' junction of Low Street and Wigsley Road. Villagers are aware of the need for extra care but vehicles passing through do not realise there could be parked cars round the bend.
- Cars parked on the pavement on Wigsley Road.
- Outside the Pub (when there are spaces available in the car park).
- Cars blocking shared access was also commented on.

Actions

- Inform Newark & Sherwood District Council of the concerns regarding roads and speeding.
- Harby Parish Council to resolve the problem of stones in the road.
- Inform Nottinghamshire Police of the problems with speeding and parking.
- Inform Harby Parish Council about all the findings.



Transport



Public Transport

The replies to the questions regarding transport were split 50/50 with half of the people saying that bus services to Lincoln and Newark were important and the other half saying they were not. However many people made comments highlighting the need for more buses including a bus service to Saxilby and North Hykeham.

Overall the cycle path was very highly regarded and there were several requests for its expansion to Wigsley and Newark.

Actions

- Inform local bus companies of requests for further services.
- Inform Parish Council of findings.



Health, Social and Community services

The majority of villagers (89%) attend Doctor's surgeries in Saxilby and are happy with the services provided.

Although most villagers have no difficulty in attending health services, some have minor or major difficulty which could be helped by a bus service to Saxilby or use of the voluntary car scheme if they are eligible.



Of those villagers responding to the questionnaire who were elderly or ill

- 27 would benefit from someone to call to do shopping and check they are alright
54 villagers said they were interested in helping with this.
- 24 would benefit from someone to collect their prescriptions
- 22 would like to use the voluntary car scheme for doctor's visits
24 villagers said they were interested in helping with the voluntary car scheme and 6 already do so.
- 17 would benefit from having help with their gardening
20 villagers said they were interested in helping with this.
- 10 would benefit from a sitting scheme to give carers a break.
16 villagers said they were interested in helping with this.

Actions

- Liaise with the Voluntary Car Scheme organiser to recruit new volunteers and ensure that all those needing the service are catered for.
- Set up a Community matching service for those needing assistance and those wanting help due to age or ill health.
- Pass on the results of the Health and Social Service questions to GPs' and Social Services.



Facilities for people with mobility issues

The major areas for concern that were of particular difficulty for those with mobility issues were

- Pavements and roads – generally in a poor condition
- Lack of sufficient road crossing points
- Footpaths.

A minor area for concern was access to the Jubilee Pavilion which could be attributed to the need to cross the field to the entrance doors.



Actions



- Harby Parish Council to approach the County Council about the condition of the roads, pavements and crossing points asking for a comprehensive survey of these facilities and a programme of upgrading the pavements and the roads similar to that undertaken in Besthorpe etc.
- Pass on the relevant findings to the Harby Playing Fields Committee.



Crime and safety

A small percentage of people in the village have been affected by robbery and theft.

Vandalism is a concern, the village hall has been affected in the car park area. The playing field in the childrens' area has been damaged and this is still continuing.

Anti-social behaviour is the highest concern. Teenage drinkers on the playing field (especially at weekends) are affecting the play area by leaving beer cans, broken glass and litter scattered all over.

30 people are concerned and would like to see less anti-social behaviour.

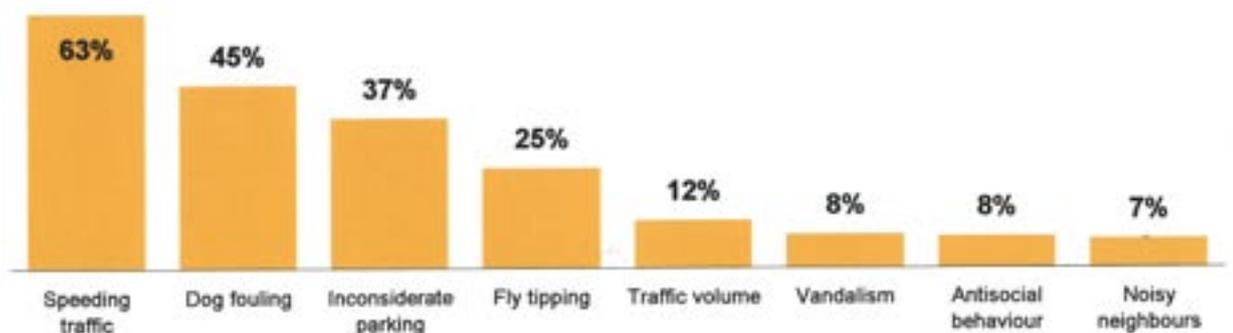
Better street lighting in and around the village hall and the entrance to Church Road could and would improve safety.

Greater police presence was indicated by over a third of the village people.

A neighbourhood watch scheme was greatly favoured by 82 residents.

Actions

- Establish a neighbourhood watch scheme, recruit co-ordinators.
- Inform our community policeman of the villager's concerns and comments about policing issues.



Education & Amenities for young people

Education

Queen Eleanor Primary School has 38 children attending, including 11 from Harby, the majority from Wigsley, Thorney and surrounding hamlets.

At least 6 children of primary school age attend schools other than Queen Eleanor Primary School, the reasons for this are unclear.



The majority of older students attend Tuxford secondary school in Nottinghamshire, but the close proximity of Lincoln allows a wider choice of secondary schools.

Out of school holiday provision

Four times as many people thought there was inadequate provision of out of school holiday amenities as thought there was. The majority didn't know.

Evening classes

A large majority of respondents expressed a desire to see further educational and recreational evening classes in the village, popular suggestions included

Languages	Dancing	Fitness
Computer skills	Yoga	First Aid
Art	Cookery	Crafts
Weight watchers	Bridge	DIY

Actions

- The viability of Queen Eleanor Primary School should be enhanced by policies that attract more children.
- Pursue some of the evening class options through the village hall committee and encourage individuals to organise classes by hiring the village hall.
- Promote the I.T. suite in the village hall for computer classes.



Amenities



Questions in this area of the survey were devised to ascertain the present usage of and views held about the various amenities available for the people of Harby, so as to be able to advise the various service providers of the village's future requirements.

From the analysis of the responses, existing usage of an amenity is not always a good guide to the value we place on it. This is best shown comparing the results of questions, 1 and 3 which shows that our amenities are valued even if they are little used.

From all the amenities, only the playing field sports area had more asking for further development, the majority of people being satisfied with the facility and service provided with all our amenities.

Actions

1. With no areas showing a major dissatisfaction amongst the majority of people, it is best left for the service providers in all areas to develop their respective facilities to increase the satisfaction of existing users and address the concerns of the minority of dissatisfied clients.



Our vision for the future - What now ?

The way forward

Harby Parish Plan will now be submitted to the Parish Council for it to be formally adopted. The Parish Council will take the lead in ensuring implementation and chase up progress when other agencies or organisations are involved. The Plan will also enable the Council to make decisions knowing what the villagers really want in key areas such as housing, highways and the environment etc.



Action Plan 0 to 10 years

1. Inform all agencies, organisations, businesses and Councils who were mentioned in the questionnaire / plan of the findings and areas for action.

(All local businesses, bus companies, GP's, Social Services, Voluntary Car Scheme Organiser, Parish / District / County Councils and Councillors, Playing Field Committee, Village Hall Committee, History Group, Harby School and Governors, Education Department, Youth Department, Housing Department, Highways Department and Nottinghamshire Police).

2. Advertise 'Situations Vacant' for current voluntary jobs required and available in Harby.

- Conservation Warden - filled
- Conservation volunteers
- Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators
- Contributors - Harby & Wigsley Newsletter
- Sub-editors - Harby & Wigsley Newsletter
- Committee Members - Harby Playing Field
- Committee Members - Harby Village Hall
- Players and Members - Harby Bowls Club
- Voluntary Drivers – Voluntary Car Scheme
- Members – History Group

3. Set up new voluntary action groups, where needed, to implement the findings. Initially this will include a Conservation Group, an Environment Group and a Neighbourhood Watch Group. Other Groups will be formed as and when required to further implement.



Sunrise over Harby, January 1999



Aerial view of Harby, April 1995
