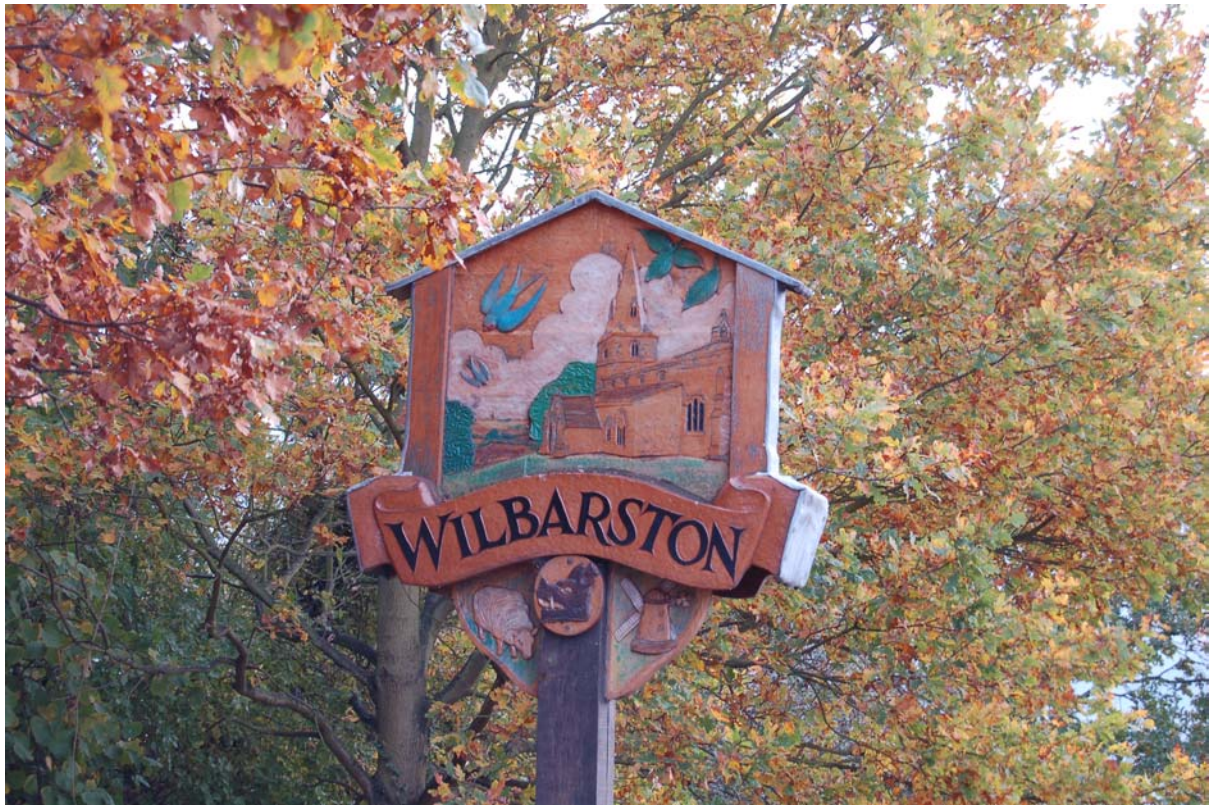


WILBARSTON PARISH PLAN



2010

FOREWORD:

This Wilbarston Parish Plan was produced for the Parish Council by a volunteer Steering Committee which worked between May 2008 and February 2010. Its membership met almost monthly over this period and undertook the work on preparing the Parish Survey and the Open Meetings which provided much of the evidence supporting the views expressed in the Plan. Many village residents in Wilbarston and Pipewell took the time and trouble to express their views on the wide range of topics which the Plan covers.

The purpose of the Plan is to act as guidance to Wilbarston Parish Council, Kettering Borough Council and other bodies with responsibility for achieving the objectives set out in the Plan.

These objectives follow from the Open Meetings, Parish Survey and written comments received from local residents and the deliberations of the Committee. The Committee believe they properly reflect the wishes of the Parish residents.

The Committee members were Nick Richards, Lawrence Dale and Delyse Silverstone (Wilbarston Parish Council), Charles Amies, Jeremy Burrell, Sophie Crowley, Mike Goldsmith, Tony Hill, Janet Mackenzie, Fiona Marshall, Bill Marshall, George Perry (until January 2009) and Keith Walkling. The Committee was chaired by the undersigned, for whom it was a pleasure to serve and who thanks all those who assisted in the work of preparing a Parish Plan which it is hoped will meet the Parish's needs for the foreseeable future.

Mike Goldsmith, February 2010.

WILBARSTON PARISH PLAN

INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of the plan is to give a clear view of what local residents value about Wilbarston to those with responsibility for the future of the parish.

This plan has been developed in the context of the North Northamptonshire Local Development Plan and other planning documents produced by Kettering Borough Council.

In recent years, the Parish Council has conducted two major surveys seeking the views of villagers on a wide range of topics. At this time, the Parish Council felt it particularly appropriate to formalise the results into a Parish Plan so that villagers' views could be made known to decision makers at all levels.

The Parish Plan is intended:

To identify what is valued and what we want to preserve.

To indicate how we arrived at the present position

To clarify outstanding issues and what needs to be done to rectify them

To act as a signal to bodies such as the Parish Council and Kettering Borough Council and Northamptonshire County Council about what is needed and valued.

THE PROCESS OF PRODUCING THE PLAN:

A formal application for grant aid was submitted to Northamptonshire ACRE in February 2008 by the Parish Council. Following acceptance of the bid, the village newsletter, *The Chronicle*, advertised for members to form a Steering Group, and an initial meeting was held in May 2008. The Group planned a Parish Plan Open Day, which was held in October 2008. Attended by around 100 people, the issues they raised were used as the basis for producing a survey, which was circulated to every household in the parish. A response rate of just under two thirds was achieved, and the results provided the Steering Group with a clear indication of the major issues with which the Plan should engage.

Following the identification of a number of key issues, a second consultation morning was held in May 2009. Additionally the views of children at Wilbarston School were canvassed. This second round of consultation provided useful additional information, whilst the comments of the children confirmed many of the adult responses.

WILBARSTON IN ITS SETTING:

In common with most other villages in this area, Wilbarston dates from Anglo-Saxon times. An attractive village, its spine runs south from the church with some high quality older stone buildings to the west and forms the major part of the conservation area established in the 1980s. The conservation area contains a number of listed buildings. Additional local listings have recently been identified following work by the Rockingham Forest Trust.

Wilbarston village has grown considerably since World War Two, with a local authority estate built in the 1950s and two sizable private estates being added in the 1960s and 1980s. Additionally, there has been building on meadow and waste land within the village. More recently, there has been some very limited 'back garden' development, since there is little land left within the village envelope. Today there are over two hundred and fifty households in the village itself, containing a population of some seven hundred and fifty.

The village envelope has been a key element in limiting Wilbarston's growth in recent years because the countryside surrounding the village has been and continues to be highly valued. There was great opposition to the proposal for a quarry to take sand from a hill-top to the north of the village, whilst the villagers' opinion that the view across the Welland Valley is of outstanding beauty was confirmed by judges in the 'Village of the Year' competition (2005). Survey results confirmed the value residents placed on the countryside around the village and the opportunities it provided for various leisure pursuits such as walking and horse riding.

The Parish also contains the village of Pipewell, a small hamlet on the southern edge of the Parish. It is a small village with a distinctive identity recognised by villagers from all the villages in the area. It contains the site of a former Cistercian abbey and the Pipewell conservation area with two SSS1 woods. Containing fewer than thirty houses with a population of about seventy, it has grown slowly and organically over the years since 1945. The village has few facilities, but residents like its present charm and would wish to see it maintained as it is.

Additionally, there is an area known as the Pastures, a well-managed permanent site of fifteen plots for gypsy and traveller families. It lies just within the south-western boundary of the parish, between

the old airfield site and West Lodge Farm and Rural Centre. Positioned as it is, its residents tend to look to Desborough for local services, but are keen to have a place in the Wilbarston community.

WILBARSTON AND ITS FACILITIES



WILBARSTON VILLAGE SHOP AND POST OFFICE

Wilbarston village enjoys a good range of facilities, highly appreciated by local residents and those from surrounding villages. Its school serves not only the village but surrounding communities as well, and its admission limit has recently been raised. Together with the shop/post office, the survey respondents rated the school most highly. Indeed all the village facilities scored a high rating from over 95% of respondents. The Village Hall, whose activities are overseen by a volunteer Village Hall Committee, is used by a range of groups:- youth groups such as the Cubs, the Tuesday Club

(sponsored by the church) and a music group, 'Brass 2000', as well as adult groups interested in fitness and health, art classes, and short mat bowls. It is also available for hire.

The church has an enthusiastic and supportive congregation covering all ages. It supports a number of activities, such as musical events, harvest supper and a flower festival. There is a public house in the village, although, like many such pubs, it is *not* as well supported as it might be. There are a range of facilities on the playing fields for all ages. These are well used, and there is a thriving football club playing on both Saturdays and Sundays.

Respondents particularly stressed the value of this range of facilities and additionally commented on the friendliness of the village and the sense of community to be found in Wilbarston.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

To ensure that the present facilities within the village are maintained and where possible enhanced.

To ensure that the village envelope remains in place. Furthermore, only the highest standards of development should be promoted within the conservation area.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING:

Villagers clearly indicated that they find the character of the village attractive. Whilst they do not wish to see it preserved as a "chocolate box" village, they believe that any development should be carefully considered in terms of its effect on both the village character and the local environment.

Characteristics seen as particularly important include its rural location and the adjacent countryside, the old stone walls and warm stone buildings, the conservation area, and the layout of the village and mix of housing types.



TYPICAL STONE BUILT HOUSE – MAIN ST WILBARSTON

Survey results, written comments and matters raised at open meetings, clearly reveal that large scale development is neither wanted nor necessary. Nevertheless, there was no desire to have a blanket ban on all building. However, each proposal should be looked at on its merits, considering what is to be built, together with its scale, design and purpose. Any building should be sustainable and in keeping with the style of the village. Three considerations were seen as particularly important. First, parking must be a consideration with any new building, especially as on street parking is currently an issue for many. Second, building on gardens and other infill would not generally be welcomed. Third, building in the area around the church should not be permitted. If these considerations are to be taken into account, the Parish Council needs to make residents fully aware of planning applications and to encourage them to comment on them.

Preserving the village envelope (that is the boundary within which development is allowable) and whether or not building beyond that was needed provoked considerable comment at both Open Meetings and in written comments submitted with the survey. Views were mixed, but the overall feeling was that the village envelope should be maintained (52% of survey respondents opposed all new build within the village: over 85% opposed building outside the village envelope.) Doing so

leaves little room for development as nearly all the ground within the village envelope has been developed.

Nevertheless, the survey results and other comments suggested some particular types of properties were required, for which provision has not been forthcoming in recent developments. These are affordable homes for local people, particularly for the young (who need starter homes, including properties to rent), and the elderly (for whom bungalows and sheltered accommodation is required). Currently there is under-provision for both groups in the village.

Clearly there is a disparity between the need for affordable homes for local people and the desire to maintain the village envelope when the available land is almost exhausted. The provision of affordable homes may therefore mean that some development will be required outside of the envelope, for example, as occurred at Kendall's Close, where seven units were built some twenty years ago.

There is a need for the Parish Council to engage the villagers in further debate to try to resolve the conflict between these different objectives and determine a strategy which will meet the desire for homes whilst minimizing the impact on the local environment. The strategy should then be taken up with the Borough Council for adoption within the local plan.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

To publicise planning applications being considered by the Parish Council.

To ensure that the village plan is a source of guidance when planning applications are being considered.

To encourage residents to comment on planning applications to Kettering Borough Council.

To instigate further debate designed to resolve the conflict between the need for affordable housing and the lack of space within the envelope.

EMPLOYMENT AND SERVICES:

As has already been noted, Willbarston serves as a limited but effective local service centre, not only for the village, but also for many of the surrounding communities. The shop/Post Office is the only one between Corby and Market Harborough, and survey results ranked it the most important facility in the village. The Post Office is particularly valued for its ready access and easy parking, whilst the shop provides for a range of daily needs and is also used by many from outside the village.



HOW'S RACESAFE – MAIN SMALL EMPLOYER WILBARSTON

Survey results and other comments reveal there is concern amongst villagers about the future of the public house, *The Fox*, which for a variety of reasons has had a chequered history over recent years. We believe it has considerable potential, given that Wilbarston lies on the Jurassic Way, a popular route increasingly used by walkers. Because of its situation, Wilbarston has considerable potential for leisure and tourism activities. Both written comments and survey results suggest that villagers value the pub and want it kept, whilst recognising that the current level of business needs to increase. To achieve this goal, there needs to be some investment in the pub by its owner (Greene King) and its tenants, and efforts made to attract the local community into using it.



THE FOX PUBLIC HOUSE, WILBARSTON

Whilst only one working farm remains as a reminder of what was traditionally the main employment in the village, employment within the village is growing. The main employers are *How's Racesafe*; *Corby Graphix* and the school. A number of small enterprises are situated at Dallacre Farm, and the parish council recently supported a planning application to increase the number of units there.

Additionally, there are number of self-employed people within the village, increasingly providing a range of services and businesses from home. There are also a number of skilled artisans operating as small builders, carpenters, painters and decorators. To support both these and those working from home, the Steering Group has initiated the production of a *Directory of Local Businesses* (subsequently passed to the Parish Council due to Data Protection Act considerations) and also recognises that it will become increasingly important that the village enjoys first class electronic communications.

Well over 50% of the journeys to work are made by car, with commuting not only to local centres but further afield to places like Leicester, London, Birmingham, Nottingham and abroad. Parish residents have a high dependency on cars for transport: if such dependency is to be reduced, not

only must there be improved public transport to local centres, but also increased opportunities to work within the village have to be available.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

To ensure the long term future of the village public house.

To promote small-scale employment opportunities within the village.

To reduce wherever possible the dependence on the car for work and other journeys.

TRANSPORT:

Transportation issues are a major concern, as revealed by our survey responses and peoples' identification of their priorities in the parish plan. The existing bus service is highly valued, and there is a desire to increase both the frequency of services and the number of routes. But the current service is mainly aimed at retired people who may be flexible in their journey times. If villagers in full-time employment elsewhere are to be persuaded to leave their cars at home, then there needs to be more services able to deliver them to work on time. In particular, a route via Desborough to Kettering was one which many people suggested. A village car sharing scheme for workers could also be investigated.

Together with Stoke Albany, Wilbarston has a Community Care Scheme, a voluntary service whereby people without access to a car can call on someone to take them to hospital, a medical centre or dentist, or to collect an urgent prescription. Public Liability insurance is provided under the Parish Council's insurance. This service works very well, is highly valued by the community, and the vast majority of residents surveyed (98%) want it to continue. The possibility of extending the service to assist the elderly with shopping was suggested, but would obviously depend on sufficient volunteer drivers being available.

The condition of the roads and pavements through the village was the topic most frequently raised in comments at meetings and in the survey (over 80% considered this issue very important). Roads have been patched and re-patched for many years. The winters of 2009 and 2010 have demonstrated that, whilst this policy may seem cheap in the short term, repairs soon fail, and the overall road surface condition has deteriorated markedly. Full resurfacing is needed in place such as Church St, School Lane, Main St and Rushton Rd, together with the clearing/re-instating of blocked

ditches and culverts. While not in Wilbarston parish, the slip road off the A427 in Stoke Albany coming from Market Harborough is a very good example of a seriously neglected road. Given it is the main access road to the village from that direction, its poor condition is a matter of serious concern. Equally the slip road joining the A427 is assumed by some passing drivers to be a lay-by: proper signage is required to deter this practice.



TYPICAL POTHoles, CHURCH ST, WILBARSTON, 2009-2010

The poor condition of the roads is equally matched by that of many pavements in the village. Again complete resurfacing would be the only real satisfactory solution, especially for pavements in Church St; Main St and Rushton Rd.

Other transport-related issues of concern to parishioners include speeding traffic through the village and inappropriate traffic (articulated lorries). Most respondents (60%+) want some action to be taken to encourage drivers to respect the speed limit. However, support for measures such as speed ramps (55% of survey respondents felt these were not important) or speed cameras (62.5% not important) is limited. Most preferable would be the introduction of another warning sign on School Lane/Carlton Rd in the direction towards Corby to slow traffic going up hill through the village, whilst

the possibility of introducing other speed reducing measures, such as chicanes, might also be considered.

On -street parking, particularly on Main St and Rushton Rd, as well as at the school at the beginning and end of the school day, was a concern for many respondents (68%). Given the nature of the housing in the area, it may well be difficult to do much about the former, but it should be possible to take action to restrict the latter.



PARKING, - WEEKEND – MAIN ST, WILBARSTON

Last, but not least, both the survey response and comments at meetings indicated a desire amongst local residents for a paved footpath between Wilbarston and Stoke Albany. Over 85% of survey respondents indicated a wish for such a facility. Given cost and other considerations, clearly such an objective can only be long term one.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

To maintain existing bus service and to undertake a detailed investigation of potential use of new services.

To continue support for the community care scheme

To press for a major and long-lasting upgrade of roads and pavements.

To improve safety at the entrance to the village outside the school by introducing traffic restrictions and improving parking arrangements.

To encourage solutions to parking problems in the village.

To seek a joint solution with Stoke Albany Parish Council and the highways authority for the provision of a paved footpath between the two villages.

UTILITIES:

Over 90% of those who returned the survey or attended one of the Open meetings judged the reliability of the electricity supply to be important. This response reflected a period of uncertain power supply with a number of power cuts. However, following improvements to the power lines since the survey was undertaken continuity of supply has improved greatly.

The second main issue, widely reflected in the survey responses and at Open meetings and through written comments, concerned the current provision of broadband services. A high percentage (83.7%) of respondents to the survey thought that a better, faster broadband service was important. Broadband provision is clearly an important topic, especially given the increasing number of people in the Parish who work from home. The Steering Group has explored the situation with BT and Open Reach, and some mobile phone providers. The planned target date for the new 21CN (21st Century Network) upgrade of Rockingham Exchange has slipped twelve months to the fourth quarter of 2010. Whilst this upgrade should provide broadband speeds of 'up to' 24mbps, given the distance from the exchange, (6.5 km in a straight line), in practice the actual speed will be much slower than this figure. Furthermore, given that the current service is delivered along copper wire and that Open Reach vehicles are frequently seen in the area, there is an issue concerning reliability of the service. Local residents have suggested that BT be petitioned and that pressure could be exerted through local politicians. The postal delivery service produced mixed comments. A third of survey respondents thought that a more reliable/earlier post was very important, but conversely 25% did not consider this important. Businesses are more likely to consider reliable and early postal delivery important. However, the survey results, along with some written comments suggest there is some acceptance that the Parish is at the end of the line in terms of delivery routing.

Water supply, sewerage and rainwater drainage attracted only one observation commenting on the need for better drainage for rainwater, whilst one other comment suggested that over-head lines (electricity supply/telephone lines) should be buried underground.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

To monitor both electricity supply and the reliability of the postal delivery service.

To consider ways and means by which the broadband service could be improved as quickly as possible.

LEISURE AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES:

The parish of Wilbarston is well served by rural footpaths and bridleways, including the Jurassic Way long distance path, various formal rights of way and numerous small paths and informally accessible areas. In the village of Wilbarston itself, there is a village hall, associated open space, sports areas, children's play area and a public house.

The percentage of survey respondents who felt the various facilities were important for the village were Village Hall 82%, Footpaths and Bridleways 68%, Children's Play Area 68%, Pub 59%, and Sports Facilities 53%.

Respondents also stressed that there was a need for more events organised for the village as a whole (94%), and that there was a need to promote the country code for users of the footpaths and bridleways etc, (80%), as well as strong support for the establishment of a youth club (93%).

The Village Hall is well located in open space on the edge of the village. It is administered by a management committee, on behalf of the parish council who lease the property from Kettering Borough Council. The latter also currently maintain the adjacent sports and recreation area.

The building is licensed and comprises a main hall (with stage) and meeting room, with the bar open to both, plus a separate kitchen, toilet facilities and changing rooms. All parts are available for hire, either separately or as a package

In addition to annual events, such as the November 5th Fireworks Display, and one off occasions, such as concerts, the hall is used regularly by local organisations for meetings, clubs, indoor sports, etc. However, there is a perception that the number of events held is falling, and that this needs to be addressed.



VILLAGE HALL, WILBARSTON

The recreational facilities adjacent to the village hall comprise a fenced children's play area, a fenced and floodlit all-weather surface used variously for 5-a-side football, tennis and basketball, a skate ramp, a football pitch, a practice pitch and open space. This is a good range of facilities for the size of the parish. They are moderately well used, although football tends to predominate. The floodlights were brought back into use in 2009.

Within and around the parish there is an extensive network of footpaths and bridleways, providing access to open countryside and some magnificent views, as well as to some 'hidden treasure'

settings within very easy reach. Whilst local residents and visitors use these facilities, there is potential for more extensive use, especially if they were better publicized and signposted.

The network comprises rights of way, permissive paths, and other informal paths which are tolerated by the landowners, who do an excellent job of keeping the routes open through the changing pattern of the agricultural year. There is a danger that users could take this attitude for granted and there is occasional evidence that accessed farmland is not being treated with due respect.

Adjacent to the shop and public house, the village green was a work in progress in early 2009. Now cleared and tidied up by volunteers, it has since attracted favourable comment. It is a central point in Wilbarston and could be used for small events and to enhance the character of the village. It has been suggested, for example, that a Christmas Tree could be located there or that seasonal lights could be hung in an existing tree, and that additional planting, for example of trees and flowers, would enhance the site. There has been planting of trees and shrubs in various parts of the village under the auspices of the tree warden and further work would enhance the village's attraction.

Wilbarston has had a youth club, but does so no longer, although it does have other young people's organisations such as cubs, scouts and the church sponsored Tuesday club. However, 94% of questionnaire respondents thought it very important that something akin to a youth club should be established to provide activities for young people in an appropriate environment. The topic also attracted a number of written comments and was raised at the Open meetings.

In a relatively isolated community the benefits of providing additional activities for young people without the need for car or public transport are evident, but the Steering Group recognizes that it would require the inspiration and time of a volunteer, or volunteers, with the knowledge and inclination to connect with younger people and create something which they would participate and also appreciate. From time to time the Parish Council has taken advantage of county and borough initiatives to provide something similar on a travelling basis.

'More Village Activities' was listed as very important by 94% of questionnaire respondents. Suggestions included various special interest groups, to supplement existing ones, and more pub-based activities, but there was an overall sense that more events which could be enjoyed by whole families, as is the annual bonfire, would be welcomed. Amongst suggestions made were variations on the theme of a fete to be organised around the village hall, including sports, stalls, entertainment, BBQ, etc.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

To open and maintain a dialogue with landowners to ensure continuation of the full network of footpaths and bridleways etc and promote correct usage through the active promotion of a country code.

To maximise the use of the hall, so providing funds to upgrade the hall's facilities and security.

To ensure the maintenance of the Village Green, investigate the possibility of some form of Christmas display, and to look for partner organizations/sponsors to mount small scale activities on the green.

To investigate – perhaps with other parishes - current initiatives which could be used and to seek volunteer(s) to establish a local youth club.

To form an organising committee for (a) village event(s) and to provide all possible support thereafter.

CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

Many residents considered the parish to be a place that is safe and where actual crime and fear of crime has been low, features which were recognised as important and valuable.

However, a number of concerns were raised. The most significant concern raised in the survey was vandalism. Many residents, including young people, feel unhappy about the level of vandalism that they currently see around Wilbarston, the topic being the third highest priority in the whole survey. Vandalism is focused on the village hall, playing fields, the bus shelter and the church. Associated with this vandalism is a wider range of activities that cause nuisance, such as revving of car engines in the village hall car park, fast cars and verbal insults. From time to time the damage is more serious and of a criminal nature. Nevertheless, some of this anti-social behaviour goes unreported to the authorities and police, for whatever reason. It is important that such behaviour is reported to the police so that action can be taken to reduce it.

The village hall is seen as the most vulnerable area of Wilbarston to suffer visible crime through vandalism. CCTV around the Village Hall is seen by some respondents as a potential solution, whilst the provision of a gate to the car park might help deter inappropriate car use. Such matters, and other options, are under consideration by the village hall management committee.

Residents' perception of policing in the village is mixed. Many see the need for more effective policing in terms of both presence and commitment to tackling issues when they arise. Some residents simply do not feel that the police give adequate attention to the parish. But the planning process has also revealed a lack of awareness of the Wilbarston neighbourhood watch scheme. This latter should be better publicised, with local residents being made aware of local organisers/contact persons.

Following several recent burglaries and break-ins, meetings of local residents, attended by police and Neighbourhood Watch personnel, have led to important developments in terms of better policing, a village patrol and a proposed reinvigoration of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and monitoring of speeding cars, with local residents volunteering to help with all three areas. Properly and carefully implemented, such developments ought to improve safety in Wilbarston, reduce vandalism and other anti-social or criminal behaviour, and safer driving. Nevertheless, these issues remain important.

Other concerns include dog fouling, litter and fly tipping at certain 'hotspots', such as the entrance gate to the airfield. The provision of more dog mess bins is one solution to the first of these concerns. A litter squad cleans up litter in and around the village, and reports problems with which it cannot deal with to Kettering Borough Council.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

To consider further the cost, practicality and appropriateness of measures to minimise possible damage in and around the Village Hall and elsewhere.

To encourage residents to report all incidents of criminality to the police or to crimestoppers.

To revive the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

To undertake a review of the availability of dog mess bins and review continuing incidents of litter and flytipping.

PARISH COMMUNICATIONS:

Not a topic considered in the original survey, it subsequently emerged that knowledge about village activities was not consistent and so it was specially featured at the second Open Meeting. Questions were asked about the importance both of knowing about developments *outside* the parish which were likely to affect residents and about knowing what was happening *in* the parish. Residents feel very strongly that they want to know what is happening in the parish and they want to know about anything taking place externally which is likely to impact them. It is also apparent that different people rely on different sources of information, depending on their routines and affiliations.

Currently seen as the most useful sources of information were *The Chronicle* magazine, *Signpost* Magazine, the shop window notices, and the blackboard outside the shop. Those seen as having the greatest potential for improved effectiveness were the Notice Board on the Village Green, (especially if re-sited slightly differently), the Church Notice Board and the external Village Hall Notice Board. In Pipewell there is a notice board by the church, and residents also receive such publications as *The Chronicle* and *The Triangle*.

The Need for a Website

There are a large number of internet users in the parish, who wish to extend their usage to a local parish website. An encouraging number of people indicated a willingness to assist with establishing and maintaining such a site, although training would be needed. Such a site might provide a large amount of information, ranging from local news and current events to details of local organizations and other information from Wilbarston and Pipewell, as well as surrounding places such as Stoke Albany, Ashley, and other neighbouring villages.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

To monitor events outside the parish and find the best ways to disseminate this information to local residents.

To investigate means of coordinating various notice boards so that key information can be displayed quickly and effectively on all sites to maximise the impact of publicity.

To establish a parish website. This will involve examining options for hosting as well as identifying volunteers to launch and subsequently maintain the site.

PIPEWELL:



VILLAGE SIGN - PIPEWELL

Whilst the survey response and comments received from the residents from Pipewell were lower than those from Wilbarston residents, their views generally supported those of Wilbarston residents on the issues raised. As far as Pipewell itself was concerned, the message is clear. A proposal to construct a wind farm on the border of the village in a neighbouring parish has caused considerable distress in the village, dividing the community, but with a majority strongly and vocally opposed to such a facility. Furthermore, comments received from local residents also suggest they would not wish to see any green field development, but would appreciate some extra facilities such as a bus connection to Wilbarston and beyond. There is also a wish to re-draw the parish boundary so that all the houses in Pipewell fall into a single parish. Currently a few are in Rushton Parish. So as to be able to address such issues and present their views directly to the relevant authorities, a village committee has been established as a community association with the specific aim of representing the village on all matters.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

To maintain the essential character of the village

To ensure proper representation on all matters concerning the village.

To ensure good communications on parish matters with Pipewell residents.

THE PASTURES:

Under the present management the site has been improved in recent years to a point where it is widely regarded as a model of how such communities can be organized. The environment is clean and tidy, with a good rural feel, and there is a substantial waiting list should any plot become vacant.

Kettering Borough council is required to increase the number of gypsy/traveller sites within its control. There is an expectation that part of this expansion will take place at the Pasture, and that any new residents will conform to the lifestyle which has been established. The manager and residents accept the need for growth, but want this to happen in a manner which will not jeopardise what has already been achieved. Currently with 15 plots, the residents believe that a further ten is the maximum which will ensure that the present success can be maintained.

Adjacent to the existing site is an area of 'industrial land.' Current activities include a scrap yard and a wooden pallet business, neither of which is directly connected to the Pastures. It is the wish of site residents that this area should continue to be allocated to industrial use.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

To maintain a safe, secure site appropriate to the needs of residents.

To raise awareness of the site and increase links with the local community.

To ensure that any expansion of the site is in keeping with its existing nature.

To review the options for secondary education, including the possible re-establishment of a dedicated unit on site. [Put objectives in box]

CONCLUSION:

This Parish Plan has been produced with the intention of identifying what is valued in the Parish and what we wish to preserve. It sets out to clarify outstanding issues and what needs to be done to rectify them. It is designed to act as guidance to Wilbarston Parish Council, Kettering Borough Council, Northamptonshire County Council and other public agencies in their decision making on matters affecting the Parish. The Steering Committee expects the Parish Council to report on progress with the implementation of the Plan's Objectives at its Annual Meetings over the coming years. Furthermore, it is the intention of the Steering committee to monitor progress on the implementation of the Plan on a six monthly basis for the foreseeable future, reporting its views to local residents through *The Chronicle*.

Clearly whilst most matters depend on the actions of public bodies, there is also a need for local residents to make their views known on the issues the Plan raises and where necessary and desirable to offer their assistance in dealing with them. Local residents can do so by contacting any member of Wilbarston Parish Council.

WILBARSTON PARISH PLAN – ACTION PLAN

Objective	Responsible Lead	How It Will be Done	Priority	Timescale	Accountability Mechanism	Resource Implication
Village Facilities: To ensure that the present facilities within the village are maintained and where possible enhanced.	Parish Council	P.C. will monitor all developments, including planning applications impacting on key facilities, and liaise with appropriate authorities e.g. K.B.C; Village school, brewery	High	Ongoing	Annual Parish Meeting	Low
To ensure that the village envelope remains in place. Furthermore, only the highest standards of development should be promoted within the conservation area.	Parish Council; Kettering B. C.; Northamptonshire County Council.	P.C. to liaise with Kettering B.C. to ensure maintenance of village envelope and to ensure that development, if any, is of the highest standard. P.C. to raise objections to planning applications for unsustainable development outside the village envelope.	High	Ongoing	Annual Parish Meeting	None
Housing and Development:						
To publicise planning applications being considered by the Parish Council.	Parish Council Kettering B. C.	All planning applications to continue to be publicised on Village Notice Boards.	Medium	Ongoing	Annual Parish Meeting; Newsletter	None
To ensure that the village plan is a source	Parish Council; Kettering B. C.	P.C. and Kettering B.B. to use Parish Plan as an major reference point in considering	High	Ongoing	Annual Parish Meeting	None

<p>of guidance when planning applications are being considered.</p>		<p>planning applications</p>				
<p>To encourage residents to comment on planning applications to Kettering Borough Council.</p>	<p>Parish Council</p>	<p>P.C. to continue to encourage residents to comment and to arrange special meetings as appropriate</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Newsletter; Parish Notice Boards; Annual Parish Meeting</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>To instigate further debate designed to resolve the conflict between the need for affordable housing and the lack of space within the envelope.</p>	<p>Parish Council</p>	<p>PC to organise meetings in village hall</p>	<p>Medium-High</p>	<p>Short Term and Ongoing</p>	<p>Annual Parish Meeting</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>Employment and Services:</p>						
<p>To ensure the long term future of the village public house.</p>	<p>Parish Council; Brewery; Residents</p>	<p>PC. To encourage support for public house amongst residents by whatever practical means –e.g. publicity in Newsletter and on village website when established</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Short Term and Ongoing</p>	<p>Annual Parish Meeting; Newsletter</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>To promote small-scale employment opportunities within the village.</p>	<p>Parish Council; Kettering Borough Council</p>	<p>P.C. and Kettering B.C. to look favourably on planning applications. P.C. to promote local businesses through Business Directory.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium Term and Ongoing</p>	<p>Annual Parish Meeting</p>	<p>None</p>

	Parish Council Kettering Borough Council	P.C. to investigate possibility of establishing a car sharing scheme.	Medium	Ongoing	Annual Parish meeting	
Transport:						
To maintain existing bus service and to undertake a detailed investigation of potential use of new services	Parish Council; Bus companies; Northamptonshire C.C.	P.C. to investigate with Northamptonshire C.C. how both these might be achieved	Medium	Ongoing; Medium term	Annual Parish Meeting	None
To continue support for the community care scheme	Parish Council; Residents	P.C. to continue liaison with scheme management committee and to publicise scheme via Newsletter	High	Ongoing	Newsletter; Parish Notice Boards	None
To press for a major and long-lasting upgrade of roads and pavements.	Parish Council; Northamptonshire CC	P.C. to continue dialogue with Northamptonshire C.C. and its sub-contractors with a view to establishing a programme for upgrading roads and pavements.	High	Short- medium term	Annual Parish Meeting; Newsletter	High
To improve safety at the entrance to the village outside the school by introducing traffic restrictions and	Parish Council; Northamptonshire C.C.	P.C. and school to monitor implementation of recently agreed C.C. plans.	High	Short term	Annual Parish Meeting; Newsletter	Medium

improving parking arrangements.								
To encourage solutions to parking problems in the village.	Parish Council;	P.C. to review parking within planning applications and to liaise with Kettering B.C. to evaluate all means of improvement that might be available	High	Medium term	Annual Parish Meeting	None		
To seek a joint solution with Stoke Albany Parish Council and the highways authority for the provision of a paved footpath between the two villages.	Parish Council/Stoke Albany Parish Council	P.C. to hold appropriate meetings with Stoke Albany P.C. and highways authority.	Medium	Short- medium term	Annual Parish Meeting	None - High		
Utilities:								
To monitor both electricity supply and the reliability of the postal delivery service.	Parish Council; Utility Suppliers	P.C. to monitor both through liaison with both types of service supplier..	Low	Ongoing	Annual Parish Meeting; Newsletter	None		
To consider ways and means by which the broadband service could be improved as quickly as possible.	Parish Council; BT Openreach; Other providers	P.C. to liaise with BT Openreach and other providers, and to write to M.P.	High	Short Term	Annual Parish Meeting; Newsletter; Parish Notice Boards	Low		
Leisure and								

<p>Community Facilities:</p>	<p>To open and maintain a dialogue with landowners to ensure continuation of the full network of footpaths and bridleways etc and promote correct usage through the active promotion of a country code.</p>	<p>Parish Council; Northamptonshire C.C.; Landowners</p>	<p>P.C. to continue liaison with local landowners</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Short term and ongoing</p>	<p>Annual Parish Meeting</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>To maximise the use of the hall, so providing funds to upgrade the hall's facilities and security.</p>	<p>Village Hall Committee</p>	<p>P.C. to encourage Village Hall Committee to explore and utilise all external funding possibilities.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Short Term and ongoing</p>	<p>Village Hall Committee Annual Meeting</p>	<p>None</p>	
<p>To ensure the maintenance of the Village Green, investigate the possibility of some form of Christmas display, and to look for partner organizations/sponsors to mount small scale activities on the green.</p>	<p>Parish Council; Volunteer Groups</p>	<p>P.C. to establish volunteer groups to undertake this work via publicity in village newsletter and on Notice Boards</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Short Term and ongoing</p>	<p>Annual Parish Meeting; Newsletter; Parish Notice Boards</p>	<p>Low</p>	

<p>To investigate – perhaps with other parishes - current initiatives which could be used and to seek volunteer(s) to establish a local youth club.</p>	<p>Parish Council; Kettering B. C.; Northamptonshire C.C. Other agencies</p>	<p>P.C. to explore funding opportunities for organised youth group with youth leader to promote village awareness and involvement. Also to use all means to publicise youth activities, and to promote where possible parental involvement and responsibility.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Short term</p>	<p>Annual Parish Meeting; Newsletter</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>To form an organising committee for (a) village event(s) and to provide all possible support thereafter.</p>	<p>Parish Council; Voluntary groups</p>	<p>P.C. to encourage voluntary group to undertake this work.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>Annual Parish Meeting; Newsletter</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour:</p>						
<p>To consider further the cost, practicality and appropriateness of measures to minimise possible damage in and around the Village Hall and elsewhere.</p>	<p>Parish Council; Village Hall Committee; Police</p>	<p>P.C. and V.H. Committee to continue liaison with the police.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Short – Medium term</p>	<p>Annual Parish and Village Hall Meetings</p>	<p>Medium-High</p>
<p>To encourage residents to report all incidents of criminality to the police</p>	<p>Parish Council; Police; Neighbourhood Watch organisers</p>	<p>P.C. to continue publicity through Newsletter, Notice Boards and website (when established)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Newsletter; Notice Boards</p>	<p>Low</p>

or to crimestoppers.								
To revive the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.	Local Residents	Done	New Scheme started Jan 2010.	Short term and ongoing	Newsletter; Parish Notice Boards	Low		
To undertake a review of the availability of dog mess bins and review continuing incidents of litter and flytipping.	Parish Council; Kettering B.C.	P.C. to review number of existing bins and request additional facilities if required.	Medium	Short term and ongoing	Parish Notice Boards; Newsletter; Annual Parish Meeting	Low		
Parish Communications:								
To monitor events outside the parish and find the best ways to disseminate this information to local residents.	Parish Council	P.C. to continue current monitoring activities	High	Short term	Annual Parish Meeting; Newsletter; Parish Notice Boards	Low		
To investigate means of coordinating various notice boards so that key information can be displayed quickly and effectively on all sites to maximise the impact of publicity.	Parish Council	P.C. to liaise with those responsible for various notice boards.	High	Short term	Annual Parish Meeting	None		

To establish a parish website.	Parish Council	P.C. to seek guidance on establishing a website and to establish voluntary group to develop and maintain site.	High	Short- Medium Term	Annual Parish Meeting; Newsletter	Medium
Pipewell:						
To maintain the essential character of the village	Parish Council; Kettering B.C.; Northamptonshire C.C	P.C. to respond appropriately to all planning applications.	High	Ongoing	Annual Parish Meeting	None
To ensure proper representation on all matters concerning the village.	Parish Council	P.C. to liaise with local residents to establish best means of ensuring representation.	Medium	Ongoing	Annual Parish Meeting; Newsletter; Parish Notice Boards	None
To ensure good communications on parish matters with Pipewell residents.	Parish Council	P.C. to liaise with local residents to establish best means of ensuring good communications.	Medium	Ongoing	Annual Parish Meeting; Newsletter; Parish Notice Boards	None
The Pastures:						
To maintain a safe, secure site appropriate to the needs of residents.	Parish Council; Kettering B.C.; Managers Residents	P.C. to liaise with all parties.	High	Ongoing	Newsletter	Low

To raise awareness of the site and increase links with the local community.	Parish Council; Kettering B. C.	P. C. to continue meetings with managers and to publicise site through Newsletter and Notice Boards.	Medium	Short term and ongoing	Annual Parish Meeting; Newsletter	None
To ensure that any expansion of the site is in keeping with its existing nature.	Parish Council; Kettering B.C.	P. C. to continue liaison with Kettering B.C.	Medium	Ongoing	Annual Parish Meeting	Low
To review the options for secondary education, including the possible re-establishment of a dedicated unit on site.	Kettering B.C.; Northamptonshire C.C.	Managers to liaise with Northamptonshire C.C.	High	Short term	Annual Parish Meeting	Medium

Timescale: Short Term – Up to 1 year; Medium Term 1- 5 years; Long Term 5- 10 years; P.C. - Parish Council;