

## Bleasby Parish Plan Consultation November/December 2018

### What is this all about ?

- This is your chance to give feedback on the draft parish plan circulated to all homes with the Bleasby News in August.
- We need to know that we have correctly identified the main community needs and for your help in setting priorities for the outcomes
- Some areas will require specific more focussed consultation – for example the future of our open spaces. This will take place in the New Year and everyone will be given the opportunity to participate in these sessions
- You will find opportunities to get involved and help make a difference at various places during this short questionnaire

### Next steps

- Your feedback will be reviewed by the steering group and any necessary adjustments will be made to the draft, prior to forwarding to the Parish Council for review
- Our goal is for the plan to be adopted by the Parish Council to provide them with a framework to work with over the next 5-10 years
- We are not planning to produce a glossy publication due to cost, environment, keeping it up to date however some basic hard copies will be available upon request
- When we looked at the last parish plan, some really important things had been implemented. We are aiming to build on this and ensure momentum is continued by having a live document
- We hope to establish working groups for some of the larger actions in the plan. These will most likely include:
  - Communications
  - Transport and Highways
  - Properties (Jubilee Ponds, Glebe Field and Ferry End)
  - Emergency Strategy and Welfare
- We will need volunteers to support this, as you can see there are some big things to work on
- Please let the team have feedback, *we need the whole parish's support to bring the plan to life*

## **Bleasby Parish Plan, the story so far and why**

- A steering group was formed in Spring 2016 to produce a new parish plan for the Parish
- With the support of RCAN (Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire) a questionnaire was issued to the parish in summer 2017
- The questionnaire consisted of 85 questions and aimed to cover all aspects of living in Bleasby
- 308 Questionnaires were delivered and 195 returned, (153 paper, 42 on-line)
- The team analysed the results to produce the draft plan – there was a lot of data! (statistics and comments!)
- The full results (excluding comments to keep it anonymous) were made available to read on the village website
- We collated all the actions into categories and prioritised these into High, Medium and Low priority.
- As a direct result of the analysis of the parish plan and comments from the questionnaire, some community groups have been initiated:
- Events Group – delivered Royal Wedding Event in May, Bleasby Bike Festival in July, Air Crew Memorial Event in September and are busy organising a Christmas Bauble Hunt & Carols Event
- Countryside and Footpaths Group
- Neighbourhood Watch
- To keep parishioners informed of our progress we have “drip-fed” updates through P.C. references, Steering Group Articles and information leaflets in the Bleasby News
- In August 2018, a draft copy of the parish plan was delivered to every home with the Bleasby News

## Community Spirit

The Community Spirit section covered clubs, classes and groups, community events and community support for residents.

### You said...

- 84% of respondents cited that Community Spirit was an important
- 88% of respondents value and enjoy community events
- 160 people said they would be prepared to/already help a neighbour
- 27 people said yes to hearing more about the defibrillator
- Suggestions throughout questionnaire on how to enhance our village included village sign, flowers at entrances to village, litter picking, more festive feel at Christmas, etc.

### What can be done about this?

- Events team established – 3 events delivered in 2018 – exciting plans for 2019!
- ‘Help a Neighbour’ scheme to be set up in Bleasby
- More defibrillator training to be carried out
- Appeal for help with general village maintenance, purchase additional relevant lights/decorations, recruit residents to focus on monitoring, maintaining & improving defined areas or features

### How you can help

- Volunteer at events
- Join a group to establish the ‘Help a Neighbour’ scheme?
- Sign up for defibrillator training – you could save a life ♥
- Volunteer to help join a database to be contacted for help with general village maintenance

## Getting Around

The Getting Around section covered Footpaths and Bridleways, Walking, Cycling, Horse Riding, Speeding, Parking within the parish plus Public Transport.

### Footpaths & Bridleways

#### You said...

- 86% of respondents use the local footpaths and bridleways
- 22% would like to join in/organise regular footpath walks
- 81% said that they would find a map of local footpaths and bridleways useful
- Dog fouling continues to be a problem within the parish

### What can be done about this?

- Countryside & Footpaths Group established April 2018
- Yellow map now available for Bleasby area thanks to steering group
- Regular appeals for people to 'pick up' in Bleasby News, stickers added to lampposts, more dog waste bins being considered

### **How you can help**

- Keep using local footpaths and bridleways
- Join the Countryside & Footpaths Group
- Report any problems with footpaths and bridleways to Bleasby Parish Council/Notts County Council (NCC)
- Pick up after your dog ! Report any persistent offenders to Bleasby Parish Council!

### **Pavements**

#### **You said...**

- Condition of some pavements within the parish were poor
- Narrow pavements or lack of pavements were highlighted as an issue
- Overhanging hedges/leaves on pavements cause a problem for pedestrians

#### **What can be done about this?**

- Pavement issues included in Highways Safety & Management document
- Highways Safety & Management document being discussed with Highways
- Reminders to keep pavements clear to be circulated in Spring & Autumn

### **How you can help**

- Keep your hedges trimmed and leaves swept outside your property
- Report any persistent problem areas to Bleasby Parish Council

### **Cycling & Horse Riding**

#### **You said...**

- 35% said that they would cycle/horse ride more often if there were safer routes
- 40% sometimes use a bike in Bleasby and 15% often did
- 8 people sometimes ride a horse in Bleasby and 3 people often did

#### **What can be done about this?**

- Consider applying for designated quiet lanes e.g. Gypsy Lane, High Cross/Goverton Hill & Gibsmere
- Reference to quiet lanes included in Highways Safety & Management document
- Highways Safety & Management document being discussed with Highways
- Identify possible new 'off road' routes for cyclists and horse riders ?

## **Speeding & Parking**

- 79% were concerned about speeding in the village
- 59% reported experiencing problems with parking on pavements
- 65% reported experiencing problems with vehicles parked dangerously
- 32% reported experiencing problems with vehicles blocking access to property

### **What can be done about this?**

- Speeding tube analysis carried out in Goverton & Bleasby, speeding stickers added to rubbish bins, speeding signs requested from NCC
- Appeals for people to park considerately communicated to parish & school
- Specific 'problem' areas referred to in Highways Safety & Management document
- Highways Safety & Management document being discussed with Highways

### **How you can help**

- Keep your speed well within the limit please!
- Do not park on pavements – it forces pushchair and wheelchair users onto the road and is actually an offence under the Highway Code
- Park considerately
- Report any persistent parking problem areas to Bleasby Parish Council

## **Public & Community Transport**

The Public Transport section covers bus service, train service and community transport.

### **Buses**

#### **You said...**

- A small number of people depend on the bus service however others said that the bus service was too infrequent and that running times were too inconvenient
- 15 walked to Thurgarton for connection to work/college/school and 77 for leisure/social
- 60 people said yes they would be interested in a local community minibus for residents to use
- 64 people would be willing to offer someone a lift occasionally, for example to get to the doctors or shopping

### **What can be done about this?**

- Bus times & regularity were improved after the questionnaire was issued
- Links to Thurgarton 100 service could be investigated
- Viability of community minibus could be investigated

- Community lift scheme should be launched

### **How you can help**

- Use the bus service – it is vital we keep the numbers up or service is under threat!
- Join a group to establish a 'Community Lift' scheme

### **Trains**

#### **You said...**

- 19 people use the train regularly & 116 people use the train occasionally
- Lack of parking cited as reason for not using train
- Service too infrequent

#### **What can be /is being done about this?**

- Sunday service has been implemented since questionnaire was distributed
- Investigate options for maximising train use, e.g. a more frequent service, parking at the station, late trains back from Nottingham

### **How you can help**

- Use the train service – if numbers decline service may be reduced even further!

### **Village Assets/Facilities**

The village assets section includes Glebe Field, Jubilee Ponds, Village Hall, St Mary's Church and other accessible open spaces in Bleasby

#### **Glebe Field**

#### **You said...**

- 20% of respondents made use of Glebe Field outside of organised events, mainly for playing with children or walking across it.
- Suggestions for improvements to Glebe Field included; playground equipment (41% of total comments), differing opinions on a meadow vs. more regular cutting of grass and hedges, additional seating/picnic tables and to leave as it is.

#### **What can be /is being done about this?**

- Focus group to meet initially to outline restrictions (which include in Conservation Area, residential areas, adjacent to graveyard & access for inland drainage) on its usage & development prior to wider consultation
- Public Meeting to be held to understand the diverse opinions on how Glebe Field should be used & maintained by the community

## How can you help

- Sign up to email alerts at [www.bleasbycommunity.uk](http://www.bleasbycommunity.uk) to find out date of public meeting
- Attend public meeting and share your views

## Jubilee Ponds

### You said...

- 30% of respondents visit Jubilee Ponds regularly, 61% occasionally and 9% never
- Jubilee Ponds is mainly used for family walks, gentle exercise and pleasure, dog walking and nature and wildlife interests.
- Suggestions for improvements to Jubilee Ponds included; dog waste bins, differing opinions on use by dogs, additional benches, to feel safer, child friendly area, wheelchair access, a range of issues with some fisherman, bird watching hide.
- 30 respondents would help around Jubilee Ponds occasionally and 37 for special projects.

### What can be done about this ?

- Focus group to meet initially to understand the relationship between fishermen and other users, the restrictions on its development and maintenance prior to wider consultation.
- Public meeting to be held to look into how Jubilee Ponds could be used & maintained by the community
- Database of volunteers created to help with jobs at Jubilee Ponds.

## How can you help

- Join the database of volunteers to be called upon when help is needed to maintain Jubilee Ponds
- Sign up to email alerts at [www.bleasbycommunity.uk](http://www.bleasbycommunity.uk) to find out date of public meeting
- Attend public meeting and share your views !

## Village Hall

Bleasby Village Hall is maintained by a Village Hall Management Committee. It is not owned by the Parish Council and has to raise enough income to maintain the building.

### You said...

- Opportunities to use the village hall further were; clear and easy booking system, calendar of events and Wi-Fi

- Ideas to further improve the village hall; increase size, increased parking, Wi-Fi, village open night, IT training sessions, review décor (Thurgarton village hall as inspiration?!).

### **What can be done about this?**

- Questionnaire information shared with the Bleasby Village Hall Management Committee - much of feedback has already been considered and implemented where appropriate including redecoration (limited physically and financially)
- Online booking system to be investigated when new village website commissioned.

### **How can you help**

- Keep using the Village Hall!

## **Church**

### **You said...**

- 60% of respondents attend, visit or use the church - mainly through school services, Christmas Eve/Day, regular worship, concerts, occasional worshippers and funeral.
- People would visit the church more if there were music events, exhibitions and child friendly family services or activities at the church.
- Suggestions of ways the church could be used more or developed further to create community engagement included; music, plays, choirs, talks, coffee mornings, film screenings and as a venue for when the village hall is too small.

### **What can be done about this ?**

- Questionnaire information shared with Parochial Church Council
- Village Hall could consider recommending Church for larger events (where appropriate).
- Royal Wedding event held at church to publicise its use and potential as a venue – discussions re further use already taking place with Parochial Church Council and Events Group

### **How you can help**

- Attend church services and other events such as exhibitions/concerts/celebrations
- Covenant a regular sum to St Mary's and help us maintain our church
- Join the volunteers to be called upon when help is needed to maintain the church grounds

## **Environment & Services**

The Environment & Services section covers local business services and the perceived threat of flooding and crime within the Parish

## **Flooding & Sewerage**

### **You said...**

- Flooding is a worry within the village with 52% of respondents claiming they are concerned by the prospect - and nearly a fifth having experienced direct effects.
- Despite proximity to the river over 70% of these households (27 residences) were affected by pluvial (rainfall) flooding from a number of separate weather incidents.
- Nearly 50 separate households reported issues with securing insurance due to the NG14 postcode and the Environment Agency flood maps.

### **What can be done about this ?**

- Feedback from questionnaire shared with Flood Action Group
- Information in regards to insurance & flood prevention shared with residents
- Ask NSDC to clean streets more regularly to prevent drainage holes blocking on Station Road
- Monitor planning applications for flood risk – Parish Council already do this
- Campaign for new/improved sewerage system

### **How you can help**

- See Flood Action Group sign for information on insurance & flood prevention
- Keep your adjacent gutters clear of debris and check that kerb drainage holes & road grates are clear
- Join a database of volunteers to be called upon to help in a flood emergency
- Ensure only appropriate waste flushed down toilets

## **Crime**

### **You said...**

- 9 people reported experiencing intimidation, 7 burglary, 6 theft, 3 vandalism and 1 car crime within the 12 months prior to completing questionnaire
- 54% of people reported the incident
- Out of 147 respondents, 129 people would like to see the Neighbourhood Watch Group re-established in Bleasby

### **What can be done about this?**

- Neighbourhood Watch Group re-established March 2018
- Regular meetings held and supporting advice provided through Bleasby News

## **How you can help**

- Sign up to become a coordinator/ member
- Ensuring your house is secure
- Dial 101 if you observe anything suspicious and 999 if crime is taking place

## **Update on services**

### **Mobile Phones**

Since questionnaire was distributed a new mobile mast to service the East side of Bleasby is being planned.

### **Broadband**

Brief overview of F4RN (Fibre for Rural Networks) given to Parish Council July 2018.

### **Shop**

The loss of our village shop has been felt by many villagers. Ideas to be explored for a sustainable shop facility within the parish included community run shop, franchise opportunities (with Fiskerton shop), initiative with the school or via milkman.

### **Local businesses**

#### **You said...**

- 91% said they would choose / use local businesses in Bleasby them in preference to others if they were more aware
- 78% said more visitors would be welcome in the parish for village events and to support local businesses - Ideas included open gardens to include an open local business day, scarecrow trail, a park / playground for children, permanent & temporary exhibitions, recreational use of the riverside, Bleasby in Bloom, wider advertising of village events and facilities, village PR
- 28% said they could see business opportunities to be developed – shop was proposed 30 times (incorporating farm shop, community shop, post office, coffee/cake shop at Gibsmere end, milk/fruit/veg box delivery) and a taxi service received 5 proposals
- Ideas to further support our farming community included water hose points for cleaning roads, open days, barn dances, village fete, vegetable competition, create opportunity to buy local produce at local farmers market

#### **What can be done about this ?**

- Create a village directory of local trades people and services

- Contact local businesses for ideas on how we can help support them – perhaps via a business questionnaire
- Share any relevant/appropriate feedback from questionnaire and any actions identified with local businesses
- Partner with local businesses for village events

### **How you can help**

- Support/continue to support our local businesses
- Volunteer to create village directory of local trades people and services

### **Housing**

#### **You said...**

- 6% of respondents stated they are planning to leave Bleasby in the next 5 years – this was mainly due to downsizing and relocation as well as lack of amenities and public transport
- 19% felt there was a need to build new homes in Bleasby, the majority being affordable smaller homes and accommodation for older residents e.g. 2-3 bedrooms
- 91% were in favour of a neighbourhood plan

#### **What can be done about this ?**

- Form a community steering group to create a Neighbourhood Plan in conjunction with the Parish Council once the Parish Plan is complete. Contact Thurgarton for guidance/feedback on their plan.
- Feedback shared with Parish Council

### **Keeping in Touch & Getting Involved**

The Keeping in Touch & Getting Involved section reviewed the methods of communications used within the Parish.

#### **You said...**

- Bleasby news, word of mouth, email and village notice boards were the most preferred communications vehicles to find out what is going on in Bleasby
- The majority of respondents would like to be kept informed through Bleasby News and an improved email service
- Communication methods requiring most improvement were an increased number of noticeboards, website content and usability, and access and use of email service

#### **What can be done about this ?**

- Commission new website and method for ongoing management of all on-line communications.
- Create a new Parish Council owned email service/contact list independent of website.
- Review feasibility of suggested village locations for additional noticeboards.
- Consider how best to communicate during an emergency
- Review and update existing welcome booklet at same time as website.

### **How you can help**

- Sign up to email alerts at [www.bleasbycommunity.uk](http://www.bleasbycommunity.uk) to keep informed of website development.