

Hognaston Parish Plan

The Parish

Hognaston lies within the Derbyshire Dales District Council some 6 miles from Ashbourne and Wirksworth, 8 miles from Belper and 12 miles from Derby. It has 247 residents and 126 households; 82% of the houses are owner occupied while the remainder are either council/housing association owned or privately rented. The school was closed in 1983 and children living in the parish attend primary schools in the area and for their secondary education, Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Ashbourne. There are General Practitioner services in Hulland Ward, Ashbourne and Wirksworth.

There is archaeological evidence of Early Neolithic occupation while in the Domesday Book, Hognaston is described as 'Ochnavestun'. Hognaston has always been an agricultural community although lead mining once took place near the village. There is also evidence of a brick kiln on the other side of Big Lane. Many trades were practised providing employment for a stonemason, a tailor, three bakeries, a woodyard, a corn merchant and a blacksmith. A bus service also operated from the village.

Until the 18th century, Hognaston lay on the main road from London to Manchester and had three coaching inns. Hognaston gradually lost all its trades, its shops and all but one pub. The bus service has become less regular while traders such as a fishmonger and butcher no longer visit. Although farming is still carried out in and around the parish the residents of Hognaston are now mainly commuters. It does however retain its character as a village, helped considerably by the Village Hall, the Church and the Red Lion which all provide important focal points for residents to meet.

St Bartholomew's Parish Church dates back some 800 years. It is currently within a benefice of 5 parishes – Atlow, Bradley, Hognaston, Hulland and Kniveton. The United Reform Church built in 1882 was closed in 1999. The Primitive Methodist chapel, built in 1827 and renovated in 1898, closed in 1982. Both are now private houses.

The greatest single change has been the building of Carsington Reservoir. This was officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II in May 1992.

The dam and much of the land lie in Hognaston Parish. A by-pass was constructed which has greatly reduced the traffic through the village. There is still a debate as to whether the reservoir has been beneficial or not to the village but it has produced advantages such as a sailing club, some enjoyable walks and other recreational activities.

The Parish Council comprises 5 members and meets on a regular basis, as does the Village Hall Committee. Other village activities include the Hognaston Play Association, Hogwalks, a Bowls Club, a Ladies Lunch Club and a Drama Group. An annual Flower Festival and Harvest Supper are organised by the Church. A village newsletter is circulated to all households for 10 months of the year.

The Parish Plan

The decision to develop a Parish Plan for Hognaston was agreed by the Hognaston Parish Council (HPC) with the support of the Derbyshire Rural Community Council (DRCC). The PC held an open meeting facilitated by DRCC to discuss the proposal. As a result a Parish Plan Steering Committee was established in January 2007 to undertake a consultation and prepare a report.

The objectives of the Parish Plan were to identify the key issues affecting residents and to publish a Report with recommendations on behalf of the Parish Council. Acceptance and implementation is the responsibility of the HPC in partnership with other public bodies and organisations. It is hoped that the views of parishioners will be given appropriate emphasis in relation to strategic and planning decisions. In particular it is recommended that issues receiving strong support be adopted within the time frames identified in the Report, for the current and future benefit of residents.

Consultation Strategy

The Parish Plan Steering Committee members met on 17 occasions. A strategy was developed and a bid for funds from the Rural Social Community Programme proved successful. The grant received was £3,303. In order to identify the key issues important to residents a consultation process was built around a variety of events. These included an open meeting for the parish; meetings held in conjunction with regular village activities such as the Village Hall Committee 'Fun Day'; Parish Plan sponsored events that included a Photographic

Competition with the theme “Hognaston – my village”; a football match and “Hogwalk”. The issues identified as a result of these consultative activities provided the framework for the Parish Plan Questionnaire which was distributed to every household in the parish.

Parish Plan (Questionnaire)

The Questionnaire was designed around six Key Areas:

- Planning
- Recreational facilities
- Traffic, Highways, Transportation and related issues
- Children and Young Adults
- Recycling facilities
- Shopping and retail facilities

In addition to seeking views on specific issues the opportunity for ‘free text’ responses was actively encouraged.

Ninety-nine completed questionnaires were received and analysed. This therefore reflects the views of approximately 50% of parishioners. This is an excellent result and reflects the high level of interest generated by the consultation. The findings are presented by Key Areas which in turn has formed the basis for the Action Plan included in this Report. The percentages cited refer to the proportion of villagers responding to the issues or questions included in the Questionnaire.

Key Area 1 – Planning

Changes to the planning system have increased the requirement for public consultation when documents such as Regional Development Strategy and Local Development Framework are being prepared and reviewed. The information obtained in the Parish Plan Report should assist the Parish Council to robustly represent the views of residents and provide a basis for future consultations.

The Questionnaire confirmed that residents are generally very happy with the appearance and composition of the Village. There was resounding agreement on the importance to parishioners of public rights of way (98%), trees, well maintained hedgerows and verges (98%), the Church (97%) and Village Hall (96%).

In relation to features in the Parish, 99% of respondents considered the retention of the public wells and 89% the two red telephone boxes, to be important. Although not specifically addressed by the questionnaire other features mentioned by residents during the consultation process, and in 'free text' comments, were the hedges and stonewalls, the black corrugated iron workshops, petrol pump, water pumps on Cockayne Lane and Knowle House and the Red Lion public house.

In relation to housing stock 89% of respondents considered there were an appropriate number of houses. More specifically, 85% indicated there to be an adequate number of family homes and mix of differently sized houses. However, some considered there to be an inadequate number of single person dwellings (29%) and single level dwellings (23%).

Although the questionnaire contained only a single question on social housing provision, 61% of respondents considered that this was appropriate. Social housing is estimated to be 4% of Hognaston's housing stock.

With regard to the development of new homes 95% had a preference for the use of traditional materials of stone and reclaimed brick; 81% considered any new development should be within the existing village settlement boundary and 71% want the predominantly linear nature of the village to be maintained. When considering design, only 28% of respondents supported the inclusion of more contemporary designs.

Key Area 2 - Recreational Facilities

Recreational activities are important for the health, well-being and social interaction of individuals. Parishioners value and enjoy the surrounding countryside and the facilities provided by Carsington Water. The lack of a village recreational facility for field sports, exercise and other leisure pursuits was repeatedly identified during the consultation process. The adjacent villages of Brassington and Kniveton have their own sports field, while those living in Hognaston must travel to Wirksworth, Ashbourne and elsewhere. Currently, a group of villagers meet regularly for 5-a-side football which must be played at pitches in adjacent venues. The Children's Play Area is popular but age limited. While the Village Hall courtyard is often used as a recreational area, it is not designated as such.

The questionnaire sought information on current recreational pursuits and the use made of local facilities. Public footpaths, rights of way and the facilities of Carsington Water are used by more than 90% of respondents, Carsington Sailing Club by 25%, while the Children's Play Area is used by 50%. Indoor leisure facilities include the Village Hall and Red Lion which more than 75% make use of emphasising their importance in village life.

On the specific question concerning the creation of a designated recreational field 80% of respondents were in favour. To clarify what type of facility would be welcomed a grass or mixed grass/hard surface for field games gained similar and substantial levels of support.

There was also significant support for the provision of more public benches for use by villagers and visitors alike. Other specific questions concerning the availability of a barbecue or picnic area, community garden and allotments did not attract support, although a tennis court met with equivocal enthusiasm.

Conclusion:

It is clear that recreational facilities are considered important by residents with the provision of a playing field identified as a high priority. By careful planning such a facility could address a breadth of interests and activities for the sporting, leisure and social needs of children, young adults and older residents. It would also provide a focus for social and sporting interaction with adjacent rural communities.

Key Area 3 – Traffic, Highways, Transportation and Related Issues

Introduction

The importance of issues related to traffic highways and transportation to residents emerged early and forcefully during the parish consultation process. They included concerns about speeding traffic, parking and dog fouling, all of which gave rise to a variety of issues. For these reasons the questionnaire was designed to identify as accurately as possible the nature of parishioners concerns as well as providing them with the opportunity to identify possible solutions. Respondents were also encouraged to make free text comments and provide suggestions which they did in considerable measure!

Fifty-eight per cent of respondents indicated that they had experienced a problem with speeding traffic. Two-thirds provided views on a variety of traffic calming measures. Those gaining strong support included:

- a large 'SLOW' at the entrances to the village (66% in favour)
- a '7.5 tonne vehicle' limit (deliveries excepted) within the village (88% in favour)

The response to speed sensitive or flashing signs was equivocal, while there was only minority support for a range of other options that included chicanes, speed bumps, more signage, speed camera(s) and verge 'gates' at the entrances to the village. The need to improve road safety was supported by 62% of respondents. Free text comments gave witnessed examples of speeding on entering and through the village as well as along the bypass. Accidents have occurred (dog killed). Solutions ranged from lowering the speed limit to speed traps, fines and rumble strips. Specific junctions, bends and blind spots were also identified as needing attention.

Two other thorny issues covered in the questionnaire were dog fouling and car parking in the village.

Dog fouling

In the case of dog fouling 72% of respondents considered this to be a problem and two-thirds felt that the availability of publicly provided disposal facilities for dog waste was inadequate.

Parking and related issues

The proportion of respondents concerned about parking in the village was 57%. Most (87%) indicated that they had adequate space for off road parking at their place of residence. With regard to the ability to park near their home for those using street parking, the number of respondents was much smaller but the majority indicated that they were able to do so.

On the broader question of restricting street parking 60% were against this.

The issue of public road maintenance showed only 40% felt that there was a problem. This contrasted with the maintenance of hedges and verges where some 55% expressed concern.

A large number of free comments and suggestions were provided. These identified specific problems, such as pot holes and poor road maintenance, notably in Green Lane, the need for better care of hedges and verges in season, especially at difficult junctions (Stonepit Lane/Dirty Lane) and Hognaston Bridge, and narrow pavements at certain sites, especially for pushchair owners.

Transportation

Public transportation for villagers is limited to buses (including school bus) and taxi services. Only 15% indicated that they currently use the bus which is partly a reflection on the infrequent nature of the current service. Two-thirds indicated they would welcome a more frequent service. The possibility of participating in a car pool/car sharing arrangement attracted little support.

In conclusion, residents are very concerned about speeding traffic through the village and provided a variety of suggestions to improve the situation. Equally forceful were the concerns raised about the issue of dog fouling. Car parking and public transportation are of concern to a minority of residents. However, there was considerable support for a more frequent bus service.

Key Area 4 - Children and Young Adults

There is a substantial and increasing number of children and young adults in our community. While there is a play area for young children there are no facilities for teenagers and young adults. Given that transport in and out of the village is an issue, and the roads are unsuitable for young people to walk or cycle on their own, it is important that facilities be provided for the children and young adults of Hognaston.

While the play area is adequate for young children (ages 2–7), and older children (8–12) go there just to 'hang out', it is the teenagers and young adults who have little to do in Hognaston. The Hognaston Play Association is very diligent in providing activities for the young and a proportion of older children, with events such as the Christmas party, Easter Egg hunts and holiday activities during the summer held at the Village Hall. The provision of a sports facility would be of major benefit for many children and teenagers as well as adults and has been covered elsewhere in this report.

Teenagers and young adults often use two facilities within the village: the Village Hall grounds and the bus stop. These locations provide the young people with a place to meet with others, but are not ideal as far as security is concerned, provide no indoor facilities and raises issues of appropriate supervision and insurance in relation to the Village Hall.

The questionnaire sought information on developing facilities for young adults, a youth blog on the parish website and transport to venues outside the parish. 88% of respondents were in favour of developing facilities for young adults, in particular a youth club of some description. Only 18% of respondents would be prepared to contribute to a youth blog, although 43% would be prepared to take young people to events held outside the parish.

Specific comments were made about providing more equipment in the Play Area and the provision of an open grassy area to play ball games. A suggestion was made that more use of the Village Hall should be made as is done in the neighbouring village of Hulland Ward.

Conclusion:

Young children use the equipment in the Play Area; older children go there to use the space. However the current facilities in the village are inadequate for most of the children and young adults in the parish. Provided the regulatory requirements of adult supervision, insurance and Health & Safety legislation can be met greater use of the Village Hall and grounds could address the needs of teenagers and young adults. With agreement of the Village Hall Committee this could be done on a trial basis to establish the level of interest. It would also be sensible to consider other venues either in or near the village. Teenagers and young adults should be canvassed about activities in neighbouring locations that they would visit, if transport were to be provided.

Key Area 5 – Recycling Facilities

Introduction

Recycling of materials such as glass, plastics, paper and other discarded material is now actively encouraged and plays an increasingly important role in protecting the earth's resources. There are regular collections of household waste, glass, paper and compostable materials.

More than 90% of residents were satisfied with the council's current arrangements and frequency of collections but were very much against any reduction in its frequency. There was only minority (< 20%) support for the provision of a regular collection of plastics and metal/cans.

With regard to the possibility of additional recycling services in the parish of a permanent or 'visiting' nature for plastics, metal, small batteries, printer cartridges, electrical equipment, clothes, books and shoes, less than 50% of those responding were supportive with the exception of plastics which gained 58% support.

The free text comments indicated that the recycling facilities in Ashbourne and Hlland Ward were more than adequate and pointed out the problems of the untidy and unsightly nature of unsupervised facilities.

Key Area 6 - Shopping and Retail Facilities

The availability of shopping and retail facilities are a key requirement of everyday life. From a village location the importance of readily accessible facilities takes on greater significance. The Parish of Hognaston, like many other rural communities, had in the past a shop, bakery and Post Office, all of which have long since gone.

The Questionnaire sought information on where people travel to shop; the diversity of these activities and what would facilitate retail needs. Shopping for regular household items is undertaken by 48% of respondents in Hulland Ward with 26% shopping once or twice weekly and 7% more frequently. Ashbourne attracts 87% of respondents with 62% shopping up to 3 times weekly. Belper is used less frequently but still by 39%, while Wirksworth and Matlock are only visited occasionally. Derby is also used by 43% of respondents with 18% at least once weekly.

Internet access at home is available for 75% of respondents. Of these 17% indicated that they internet shopped from Superstores while 8% had deliveries from local retailers.

Details of local retailers undertaking or willing to undertake regular deliveries to the village would be welcomed using the circulation arrangements of Hognaston News (65%), the Parish notice board (27%), or a Parish website (39%).

With regard to Post Offices Hulland Ward and Ashbourne were both used by 60% of respondents with 6% going to Wirksworth. If their preferred Post Office were to close 56% of residents would be seriously inconvenienced.

Conclusion:

The majority of parishioners source the majority of their basic needs at facilities in Hulland Ward and Ashbourne. It is important for these to remain available and be accessible.

There was significant use of home deliveries with up to 8% of respondents looking to local retailers and 17% utilising Internet/Home deliveries. With 75% of respondents being internet connected there is a strong case for making information more readily available to residents on

the range of local retailers, including those offering home delivery. Such information could be made available on the village website, in a 'Welcome Pack' for new residents and in leaflet form delivered in conjunction with the Newsletter.

Post Office facilities continue to be important to the majority of residents despite elements of their business being available by electronic means.

The issue of transportation for those needing to access local shops and services also needs to be considered.

Action Plan

The Tables in this section of the Report identify the major Topics within the 6 Key Areas; the various Actions required; their respective degree of Priority and Timescales for delivery as well as the Responsible and Supporting partners/Organisations considered appropriate for their implementation.

Hognaston Parish Council will be the major agency for the various actions. In addition, as the representative body of the parish, it will have responsibility for auditing and monitoring progress.

Glossary of abbreviations

HPC – Hognaston Parish Council
HPA – Hognaston Play Association
DCC – Derbyshire County Council
DDDC – Derbyshire Dales District Council
DDCVS – Derbyshire Dales Council for Voluntary Services
MPs – Members of Parliament
PCC – Parochial Church Council

Definition of timescales adopted in the Action Plan

Short Term – Within 1 year
Mid Term – Within 2 years
Long Term – Within 5 years

The Topic		The Action	Priority	Timescales	Responsible Organisation and (Supporting Partners)
PLANNING	Derbyshire Dales/High Peak Core Strategy	HPC to represent the views expressed by parishioners in all planning/development initiatives	High	Ongoing	HPC (DDDC)
		Use the Derbyshire Dales/High Peak Core Strategy to determine impact on the parish of Hognaston.			
		Define and protect unique characteristics of village.	High	Ongoing	HPC (Village groups and organisations) (DDDC)
	Village Amenities	Maintain village within existing boundary.	High	Ongoing	HPC, DDDC
		Traditional building material to be used.	High	Ongoing	HPC, DDDC
		Support Village Hall, Church and Red Lion as key components of parish values.	High	Ongoing	HPC, Village Hall Committee, PCC, and publicans.

The Topic		The Action	Priority	Timescales	Responsible Organisation and (Supporting Partners)
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES	Sports facilities	Form recreation field committee; identify lead individual(s)	High	Short-term	HPC (HPA; DRCC)
		Seek advice on community playing fields, from relevant agencies (DDDC; DRCC) HPC to contact Sports Development Officer and National Playing Field Association	High	Short-term	HPC and Recreation Field Committee (DDC) HPC, DCC
		Consider funding implications	High	Short-term	HPC (DDDC; DRCC; DCC)
	Children's play area	Maintain existing children's play area	Medium	Ongoing	HPC and DDDC; (HPA)
	Recreational facilities	Maintain footpaths and rights of way	Medium	Ongoing	DCC, HPC and Hogwalks

The Topic		The Action	Priority	Timescales	Responsible Organisation and (Supporting Partners)
TRAFFIC, HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORTATION & RELATED ISSUES	Dog Fouling	Reinforce responsibilities of dog owners	High	Ongoing	HPC Dog owners (Dog Warden)
		HPC to request provision of dog waste bins at various sites in village	High	Short-term	HPC (DDDC)
	Speeding and inappropriate traffic	Traffic slowing measure to be considered	High	Short-term	HPC DCC Police
		Introduction of 7.5 tons limit	High	Short-term	HPC DCC
	Support for local bus service	Improve links with local and rural transportation services	Moderate	Ongoing	HPC and DCC
	Maintenance of verges and hedges	Regular seasonal maintenance at junctions, bends & other dangerous sites	High	Ongoing	DCC, (HPC)

The Topic		The Action	Priority	Timescales	Responsible Organisation and (Supporting Partners)
CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS	Social and leisure facilities for youth	Identify the needs of children and young adults and involve them in developing projects	High	Mid-term	HPC HPA (Parents) (Young People)
		Arrange a joint meeting of parents & young persons to discuss options for support. Identify volunteers to lead & participate in the process.	High	Mid-term	HPC HPA
		Visit existing youth club(s)	High	Mid-term	HPC HPA (Parents) (Children and young adults)
		Investigate Youth Leader support to parish	Medium	Mid-term	HPC HPA (DCC youth services) (DDCVS) (Community Safety Officer)

The Topic		The Action	Priority	Timescales	Responsibility (Lead and Partners)
RECYCLING	Maintain current levels of waste collections and local recycling facilities	Negotiate any future proposed changes	Medium	Long-term	HPC and DDDC

The Topic		The Action	Priority	Timescales	Responsible Organisations & (Supporting Partners)
SHOPPING & RELATED ISSUES	Provide information on retail and home delivery services	Develop parish website (75% internet connected) Identify local expertise Review other village websites Ensure site has user acceptability Identify funding support Develop a plan for website maintenance	Medium	Short-term	HPC Local expertise (DDCVS) (DRCC)
		Develop 'Welcome Pack' for new residents and holiday visitors	Medium	Medium	HPC Local volunteer(s)
		Create lists of local businesses, deliveries etc. Circulate with Hognaston News and add information to website	Medium	Ongoing	HPC Retailers (e.g. Ashbourne Partnership)
	Provide village information	Maintain support for Newsletter, leaflets, and Notice Boards	High	Ongoing	HPC Newsletter editor
	Post Office Service	Maintain support for local Post Offices; support transport links as required	Medium	Ongoing	HPC Local customers (DRCC) (MPs)

Grateful Appreciation

Our grateful thanks goes to all those who have helped in the process of developing and publishing this Parish Plan. They include all who have actively contributed to the Parish Plan Steering Group, the representatives of the various village organisations and Helena Stubbs, Rural Officer (DRCC) for advice and guidance. In particular thanks go to all villagers who have responded with enthusiasm to this consultation. The Plan has provided all parishioners with the opportunity to voice their views about a wide range of issues that affect their lives in Hognaston both now and in the future.

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We thank Roger Finch, Rick Manning and Kath Stapley for permission to publish their photographs and Ashbourne Secretarial Services for their excellent assistance in the printing of this Report.

Published September 2009