



Issue 3 of 7

## Your Village

## Your Say

6<sup>th</sup> May

In this third newsletter leading up to the Community Consultation Day, the focus is on **Community, Facilities and Wellbeing**.

The National Planning Policy Framework ('NPPF') recognises that the health and wellbeing of individuals and their community is linked to the buildings and the natural environment.

### COMMUNITY

You have told us that "community spirit" is one of the factors you value most about Exbourne and features prominently in your vision for its future. Whilst this may be difficult to define, there are various characteristics that lead to a sense of community e.g. the opportunity to meet with others in shared activities and interest.

### FACILITIES

The NPPF states that *"To deliver the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:*

- *plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports*

*venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;*

- guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs;*
- ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise in a way that is sustainable, and retained for the benefit of the community; and*
- ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services."*

Exbourne is relatively well equipped in terms of community facilities, with a primary school, shop, pub, village hall, playing field and two places of worship. There is great support for these facilities. All have been approached as part of our stakeholder consultation to determine how policies in the Neighbourhood Plan might help them with their objectives. Some of the key messages are set out below. Further details of their responses will be available on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

- The provision of additional parking around the High Street (and potentially limited stay parking near the Burrow) would help those facilities in that area.
- The Primary School is well attended but mainly with children from outside Exbourne. There is capacity for additional pupils.
- The Pre-School is at risk of closure given current attendance levels.
- The Playing Field is well used by the Primary School and its location is not regarded as a particular problem for the school. However, the Playing Field needs further investment to improve the facility. It has planning permission for a small car park, which the school believes may help relieve parking problems on High Street.
- The Village Hall is well used and considered sufficient for Exbourne's current population. It also needs further investment and may need new premises in the event of significant expansion of the village.

## What we'd like to know...

Where new development is likely to lead to pressure on existing community facilities, developers are in some cases expected to make contributions towards the provision of expanded facilities.

*(1) Are you in favour of more development to provide funds for improving facilities?*

*(2) Which community facilities do you believe should be prioritised for such investment?*

*(3) What else do you think can be done to improve the community facilities and preserve their existence?*

## WELLBEING

The NPPF states that “*access to high quality open spaces and opportunity for sport and recreation can be an important contribution to the health and wellbeing of communities*”.

### Open Spaces

The village has a recreational playing field and there are three areas that are currently designated as “Important Open Spaces”

- ❖ **Great Rookery Orchard**...next to the churchyard and opposite Court Barton
- ❖ **Coombe House Orchard**...behind Coombe House and adjacent to Duck Lane.
- ❖ **Part of Town Living**...The orchard area at the north end of Blenheim Lane, stretching from the farmstead to the back of The Red Lion

Under the NPPF, special protection against development can be given to certain green areas known as “Local Green Spaces”, which communities are able to be designate through a neighbourhood plan.

Local Green Spaces need to be special to the community, for example because of their beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity or richness of their wildlife. They need to be in reasonably close proximity to the community and cannot be an extensive tract of land. They do not need to be accessible to the public.

### **What we'd like to know...**

*We would like to know which green areas around the village are particularly important to you and why.*

***This is your chance to nominate any area or areas in or around the village, including the Important Open Spaces, you would like to see given special protection from future development.***

*Nomination forms and further information on what types of area can be identified as Local Green Space are available throughout the month of March in the Burrow, Village Hall, and on the Neighbourhood Plan website at [np.exbournewithjacobstowe.org.uk](http://np.exbournewithjacobstowe.org.uk)*

### **Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths**

The NPPF states that “*planning policies should protect and enhance public rights of way and access*”.

There are 3.13 miles of public rights of way and one permissive path within the parish of Exbourne. Rights of Way are part of the DCC Parish Paths Partnership Scheme and are managed by DCC in partnership with local volunteers. They provide an important means of accessing the surrounding countryside and improve links within the parish and with other parishes. They are valued by dog walkers and walkers alike.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR FEEDBACK ON 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY.** If you can't make it, send comments to the Parish Clerk or preferably via the Neighbourhood Plan website at [np.exbournewithjacobstowe.org.uk](http://np.exbournewithjacobstowe.org.uk)