



Parish Plan 2011-2016

Report of First Community Event

19th February 2011 – Quarrington Hill Community Centre

Present:

Coxhoe Parish Council:

Ian Forster, Margaret Forster, Paul Dodsworth, Keith Pounder, Ron Mayo, Barbara Hepplewhite.

Durham County Council:

Maria Plews, Jane Bellis (AAP co-ordinator).

Quarrington Hill Village Partnership:

Bob Watts.

Quarrington Hill Community Association:

Bill Smith.

Durham Rural Community Council:

Lesley Millgate, Kat Beattie; Sue Graham; Carl Marshall, Ian Pillow, Ken Hazelwood

Residents:

Beryl Smith, Anne Yard, L Webster, B.Cook, JM Hogarth, B.Elmore, A Parsons, D.Cutty, RW Jones, Carol Parkes, Laurie Bray, Tony Plews

The Programme.

The event started with an exhibition of the successes of Parish Plan 1 and the emerging issues for Parish Plan 2. A looped powerpoint was projected during the event and also provided on a separate PC during the morning. The exhibition was left in place at the end of the event for a period of one week. Issues and solutions forms were available on all tables together with copies of the PP1 Final progress reports.

The Chair of the PP2 Steering Group opened the meeting and outlined the nature of the exhibition and the event.

Workshop One. The first workshop started at 10.45am and was brought to conclusion at about 11.45 am. This asked those present to outline issues and suggest solutions to them, facilitated by members of the Steering Group and scribed by members of the DRCC. The results of these are attached as Annexe 1. These results will be used to help develop the Household Questionnaire which is the next stage of the Parish Plan process.

Workshop 2. The results of the first workshop were analysed by the DRCC during a break and presented on Flip Chart sheets. Residents were then given 5 votes and asked to vote on what they felt were the most important issues. The issues were ranked as follows:

Public services -23 votes

- 8 general markers
- 6 – streetscape improvements
- 4 – communications
- 5 – employment

Leisure – 18 votes

- 1 general marker
- 7- allotments
- 2- changing rooms
- 5- village hall sustainability
- 2- community transport

Traffic calming – 10 votes

- 8- speeding traffic and parking Front Street
- 2 – parking football pitch

Children’s Play area and Youth provision – 6 votes

- 2- drop in facility
- 4- misuse of green play areas

Housing -5 votes

- 3 general markers
- 1 – more affordable homes
- 1- More involvement in planning

Environment – 4votes

- 1 general marker
- 2-Litter, dog fouling, etc
- 1-state of churchyard

Conservation area -2 votes

- 2 – keep/protect/conserve

This information will be used to help produce the questionnaire.

Residents were then asked for volunteers to help in the process in the future. The following individuals offered their help:

RW Jones,
Carol Parkes,
Laurie Bray,
Jane Bellis (AAP Co-ordinator)

Analysis

The attendance at the event was smaller than expected and there were few residents in attendance outside those engaged with the Parish Plan and the Community Association. While the turnout was disappointing, those that attended had a range of issues, outlined in Annexe 1 which ought to aid the next stage in the process. There was significant discussion and more time was allocated to discuss the issues and solutions.

Ian Forster
Chair, Coxhoe and Quarrington Hill Parish Plan 2 Steering Group.



Annexe 1: Results of Issues and Solutions Workshop.

Group 1

Issue	Solution
Traffic & Road Safety	
Volume of traffic	Carry on community speed watch
Traffic on David Tce onto View Bank (Pit Bank) Traffic on pavement Cassop School congestion 'Strangers' from Bowburn not knowing roads	Speed visor Bollards along pavements
Crime and Community Safety	
Big Improvements in this area	Keep on top Neighbourhood watch Support police Police Pact meetings
Health & Social Care	
No doctor's surgery, people to travel to Coxhoe and Thornley Poor transport to doctors	Flu jab sessions in Quarrington Hill Improved Health facilities in Coxhoe
Public Services	
Poor bus service, unreliable, old stock, evening service poor	Improve signs at Quarrington Hill Now Peterlee bus service No 57
Environment	
Lots of work done – benches, signage, won awards.	
Problems with litter and household litter, dog fouling	Work with Probation Service Neighbourhood watch issues Better signage on football field No dogs, no horses Publicise free dog poo bags
State of Churchyard – it's a mess	
Grass cutting – don't collect clippings	Improve grass cutting service
Poor street scene in village	Compete/review of street scene
Young people	
Lack of youth provision	Courses for youth workers Better provision/activities
Play facilities – small play area behind community centre	Proper consultation on new scheme 4-6 pieces of new equipment
Housing	
More new housing	Affordable homes, starter homes County Council to involve Quarrington Hill residents
Education	
Lack of community involvement at school	Get school involved in Parish Plan

	Use school for wider community activities
Communication	
Newsletter not much (?)	More stories What's on in the area Quarrington Hill News Timing to coincide with Chronicle Local people to contribute
No Durham Advertiser in Village	
Employment	
Empty factory Units	Get DCC to get them occupied
Sport Leisure Culture	
Sunday Morning football	Need changing facilities – possible use for factory units? Better communication on fixtures
Poor play facilities	Improve Promote local history Introduce art work to promote heritage
Community Centre	Keep centre More activities Cinema

Group 2

Keep/Issue	Change	How
Village ambience - keep		Rural peaceful, walks, access to work and elsewhere
Local shop - keep		Local groceries Good for older residents and social contact
Traffic –speed humps & chicane useful to slow traffic	Some vehicle abuse at night – speeding, loud stereos, racing Front Street, Church Street outside school	Make streets more attractive Extend speed bumps Use speed advisor signs Other means to slow traffic Address Front Street
Anti social behaviour	Generally no problem Misbehaviour of some older youths – but less families ,less youths	
New housing	Need to complete work on 14 new homes under construction	
Environment – ‘country village’	Old GB garage, old buildings are an eyesore Old chapel building	Need cleaning up, tidying up planting etc Needs renovating or demolishing
Village pub is really good – people still use pub	Landlord will extend to make restaurant	
Bus service is OK	Reliable	
Health care – surgery OK		
Leisure – allotments needed	Occupied by non Quarrington Hill residents	Get permission for other sites More land to make more allotments Use old garage plots/rough

		land/council owned
Communications	Newsletter circulated Web site well used Noticeboard	
Village Hall/ Resource Centre meeting room	Needs more use to keep viable May go with DCC review Need to combine to make one resource (VH)	Focus village activity around VH
Church Yard	Under XHurch council who are unwilling to spend	
Animal fouling is a problem	On village paths, villagers do not clear up after themselves	More strategically placed bins
Motor bikes on footpaths	Odd one around forest, not a big issue, maybe once or twice per month	
Horses on paths	Damaging paths and bridleways	Communicate issue widely to residents

Group 3

Issue	Solution
Safety	
<p>Pedestrian crossings – none</p> <p>Traffic calming not working- kids racing through village. AAP paid for speed advisor but people notice and slow down (?!)</p> <p>School coming out times people parking and people avoiding traffic – dangerous</p> <p>Bus drop off points – not at most appropriate location</p>	<p>Feel could do with pedestrian crossing near play park and bus stop for older generation to residential area and post office</p> <p>AAP have representative coming to meeting to speak about issue. Advised residents to go along. Work with DCC and AAP to address issue</p> <p>Petition bus company. Highways Agency and bus company to look at solution and improved signage</p>
Communication	
<p>Village Partnership, community centre</p> <p>Play park currently measuring up</p> <p>The play park will be scaled down</p> <p>Moles, horses and dogs currently on field</p> <p>Football changing rooms</p>	<p>Better communications informing what is happening.</p> <p>Chairmen of groups to come together to discuss what's going on</p> <p>No communication with residents. DCC are doing an exercise and will feedback but residents not aware at present.</p> <p>Older ones need things there. Need wider range for older youth.</p> <p>Needs to be fenced off. Not sure if people are complaining to owners. Need fining signs on field</p> <p>Any chance of some changing rooms? Club team and away team would use these. Issues around funding and ongoing maintenance</p>

Difficult to get residents to stand up to get things done in village	
Community Centre	
Poor lighting	Install better street lighting or floodlights for building
Better fund raising	Guidance on successful fund raising
Community need to make better use of the building	County Council /Parish Council support
Build interest in building	Need help from external sources to do this
Seating on path down side of community building and possible gate	Useful for older residents
Community Transport	
Local community transport scheme with volunteer drivers would be useful	Find local business prepared to fund service and training of volunteers. Could Parish Council facilitate

Group 4

Children's play area

Youth Facilities (drop in)

Tidiness of village

Parking in Front Street on pavement – can't park on football pitch now

More housing

Smell from tip

Smell from piggery

Flies (spray – keep doing it)

Make more of conservation area