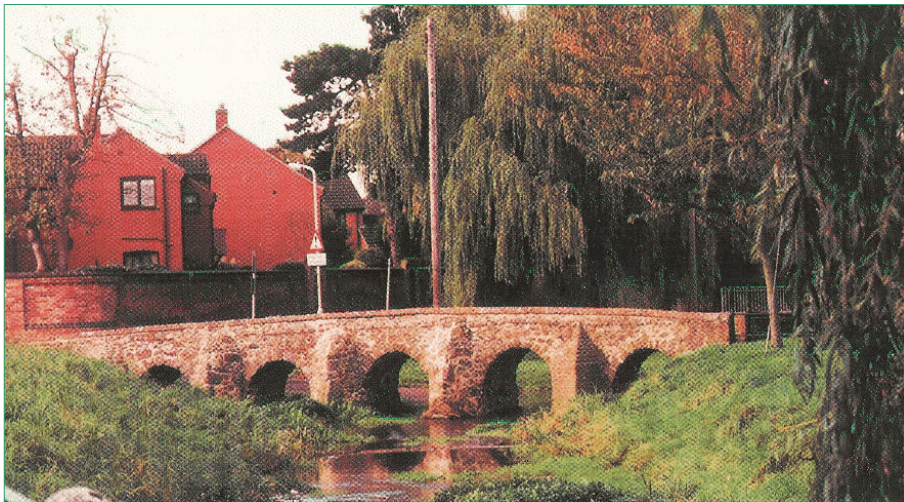

Rearsby Parish Plan



Report, Recommendations & Action Plan



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Introduction

In September 2003, at an open meeting in the village hall, the idea of a parish plan was first introduced to Rearsby by the Leicestershire & Rutland Rural Community Council. Following this initial meeting, and the endorsement of the Parish Council, a Parish Plan Group was formed consisting of volunteers from the village whose remit was to develop such a plan. They have been pursuing this project since that date.

In October 2004, a questionnaire was sent round to all residents in Rearsby asking for their opinions on a number of key issues facing the village. The results of that questionnaire have now been analysed and form the basis of this report, its 48 recommendations and action plan.

A parish plan is a strategic document to enable a village to have a say about how it wishes to develop in the future. It tackles social, economic and environmental concerns such as housing, education, health, heritage, traffic and transport, policing, and services and amenities. It is an important document because it reflects local views, guides local policy making, galvanises people into action, and can be used to solicit funding from local providers.

The Rearsby Parish Plan is firmly based in the opinions of the people of Rearsby. 248 households completed the questionnaire out of a total of 387 properties, a response rate of approximately 65%. This is a high response rate for a questionnaire and provides substantial backing for the recommendations found here. Quite a number of people have also offered their help in driving some of the initiatives in the plan – a heartening sign of the collective strength of our community, which first became apparent during the bypass campaign.

The answers from the Village Hall Redevelopment Questionnaire, which was distributed to all villagers in January 2004, have also been integrated into the plan at certain points as a redeveloped hall will enable the village to provide some of the new services and activities people in the village require. (A summary of the results of the Village Hall Redevelopment Questionnaire can be found after the action plan at the end of the document.)

Taking into account the levels of response to both questionnaires, the Parish Council have now formally adopted this document to guide its decision making and, in partnership with other village groups and service providers, will seek to ensure that its recommendations are implemented within the appropriate timescales.

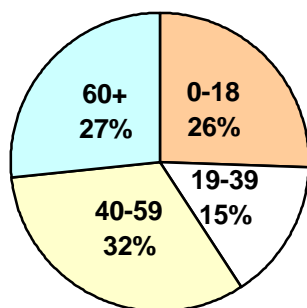
Should you have any questions about the parish plan, please contact the Chairman of the Parish Plan Group, Brian Frodsham, on 01664 424427 or email johnbrian@frodsham95.freeserve.co.uk. The Parish Council can also provide appropriate information – contact the Clerk on 01664 424009 or email suenorledge@hotmail.com.

The population of Rearsby

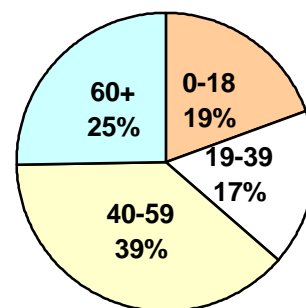
Questions 1-2 were about the population of Rearsby. Results were as follows.

- There are 520 adults and 141 children living in the 248 households who responded to the questionnaire – a grand total of 661 people.
- Approximately two-thirds (68%) of households have two adults living there.
- Two-thirds (67%) of households have no children living there.
- 325 males and 326 females were identified – virtually a 50-50 split.
- The highest number of both males and females are in the age group 40-59 – 105 males and 126 females representing approximately 32% of all males and 39% of all females.
- The second and third highest age categories for both males and females are the 60+ age group which has approximately 27% of all males and 25% of all females and the 0-18 age group which has approximately 26% of all males and 19% of all females.

Male population by age group



Female population by age group



Conclusions

Although the most represented demographic group is aged 19-39, the Parish Plan Group notes that, generally speaking, people aged 19-39 are likely to be more robust and less vulnerable than the 60+ and 0-18 groups, who between them comprise nearly 50% of the population.

Recommendations

- R1 As there is a substantial elder and younger population in Rearsby, their needs should be well represented in local policy and decision making.

Quality of life

Questions 2-6 dealt with what people like and dislike about Rearsby.

- What people most like about Rearsby are in order of preference:
 1. The countryside
 2. Village life
 3. Peace and quiet
 4. Safe environment
 5. Community spirit
 6. Quality of housing
 7. Heritage and history
 8. Facilities and amenities
- Amongst additional likes are the school, accessibility of the village for work, travel and nearby towns, and the friendliness of the village.
- What people most dislike about Rearsby are in order of least preference:
 1. Traffic
 2. Lack of facilities and amenities
 3. Anti-social behaviour
 4. Litter and rubbish
 5. Urbanisation
 6. Standard of public transport
 7. Lack of community spirit
- Amongst additional dislikes are dog fouling and the lack of a village shop.

Conclusions

There are clear benefits to living in a village, most notably the relaxing and peaceful pleasures of the countryside situated away from the hustle and bustle of the town. Village life and community spirit are clear pluses and the level and type of crime are altogether less significant compared to a town. However, there are some drawbacks to living in a village. There are less services and amenities in a village, but then villages would be towns if they were overrun with services and amenities. A village shop, however, would be most welcome. Traffic can be an unwelcome intrusion, though less so now we have a bypass, and anti-social behaviour is unacceptable whether you live in a town or a village. (Most of the dislikes which came up here are mentioned more specifically in other sections of this plan, and further conclusions and recommendations are deferred to these other sections.)

Recommendations

- R2 A series of 'countryside values' should be developed on living in Rearsby. These would be a guide to policy and decision making in line with the values featured in the Village Design Statement (VDS).

Heritage & environment

Questions 7-14 dealt with heritage and environmental issues.

- 74% of respondents are satisfied with the state of the footpaths (pavements and rights of way) through Rearsby; 21% are not satisfied.
- 67% are satisfied with the state of the village hedgerows and trees in and around the village; 29% are not.
- 85% are in favour of projects to enhance the appearance of the village; 9% are not.
- 57 residents wish to take part in heritage and conservation initiatives.
- Amongst the parts of the village that require improvement from a conservation or environmental point of view, residents listed: the buildings opposite the Wheel, the barn on Brookside, the coppice area on the left of Station Road (near the bridge), the railings alongside the brook and the brook itself.
- 63% of respondents think visitors to the village should be encouraged; 22% are against.
- 8 residents are prepared to offer accommodation to visitors.
- 62% are against a twinning arrangement and 23% in favour.

Conclusions

Residents are generally happy with the environmental state of the village including hedges, trees and footpaths, and many of the areas highlighted for improvement are already on the Parish Council's agenda such as the railings alongside the brook. However, more can be done and, in this respect, it is very encouraging to note the numbers of people who are in favour of projects to enhance the appearance of the village and are prepared take part in heritage and conservation initiatives themselves.

Although there is a clear majority in favour of visitors to the village, a twinning arrangement with a village in another country is not favoured.

Recommendations

R3 A larger heritage group is needed with a remit to develop environmental and heritage improvements.

Pathways, coppices, trees & hedges

R4 Our pathways and footpaths need better maintenance including the removal of moss and nettles and the cutting of grass verges. This should include Conker Field, Station Road near the bridge, and the paths around the Church.

R5 New trees and hedges should be planted throughout the village and its outskirts and existing trees and hedges maintained. Owners should be encouraged to maintain their trees and hedges. (VDS Guidelines 7, 13, 14, 15 & 16 apply.)

The brook environment

R6 The arrangements for maintenance of the brook including the state of its banks should be reviewed.

R7 The railings alongside the brook should be replaced with fencing of a more rural aspect. (VDS Guideline 44 applies.)

R8 Ways should be found to alleviate traffic congestion around the school and improve safety.

R9 Parking on the grass verges by the brook on Mill Road should be discouraged.

Buildings

R10 Owners should be encouraged to maintain their property, particularly old and/or public buildings, where they are falling into disrepair and affecting visual amenity. (VDS Guidelines 29, 30 & 31 apply.)

Litter and dog fouling

R11 An initiative on litter-picking is needed to clean up the village.

R12 The number of litter/dog fouling bins in the village needs reassessing.

R13 A new dog fouling initiative is needed.

Visitors & twinning

R14 Accommodation to village visitors should be publicised.

R15 Rearsby's heritage and history should be publicised to a wider audience.

R16 A twinning arrangement should not be pursued as it requires official endorsement from the Parish Council and therefore a majority of residents/respondents need to be in favour of it.

Services & amenities

Questions 15-29 dealt with services & amenities.

- 73% of respondents are in favour of an all-purpose village shop; 19% against.
- 35% are in favour of a community village shop; 46% against.
- All the current services offered by the post office are well used apart from loans & car insurance.
- 77% of respondents are satisfied with the current range of services provided by the post office; 11% are not satisfied.
- The main suggestions for additional services are: general food shop (20), car tax (14), newspapers (12), banking (8), photocopying (7), Saturday opening (5), dry cleaning (2).
- Only 22 people use the mobile library service, although more would probably use it if it visited at more conducive times and offered DVDs/CDs and videos.
- 56% do not know what travelling shops/mobile services are available in Rearsby; 43% do.
- Of suggestions for additional mobile services, 14 indicated they would like a greengrocer/general food service, 6 fast food, 3 a hairdresser and 2 a newspaper service.
- 40% are in favour of a LETS scheme for the village; 39% against. 20 people are willing to help develop a scheme.
- 33 people wish to use a public allotment.
- 59% think the play park should be enhanced with extra equipment and picnic benches; 32% are against.
- 76% are in favour of a 'welcome pack' for new residents; 15% are against.
- Of other services & amenities the village could use, the main suggestions were: a shop (14), a youth/teenage group (10), a retired group (5), a doctor's/medical centre (4).

Conclusions

There's a clear demand for an all-purpose village shop (as opposed to a community shop). The post office is performing an excellent multi-service to the village and must be retained at all costs; it may perhaps be able to offer one or two additional services, though its size makes it unsuitable for an all-purpose shop. Travelling shops/mobile services need to be better publicised including the mobile library.

A significant number of people would use a LETS bartering scheme and a public allotment, and extra amenities in the play park would be welcomed.

The demand for other types of services & amenities such as a doctor's surgery were highlighted in the Village Hall Redevelopment Questionnaire and are dependent on getting funding for the redevelopment. Services & amenities for younger people are dealt with in the youth section of this document.

Recommendations

R17 The requirement for a village shop, but not a community shop, should be pursued.

R18 The post office should be advised of the questionnaire results.

R19 The current travelling shops/mobile services in the area, including the mobile library, and the services the post office offers should be more widely publicised, and an assessment made for further such services.

R20 A LETS scheme should be developed.

R21 Provision of extra allotment space for villagers should be pursued.

R22 Extra equipment and picnic benches should be provided for the play park.

R23 A 'welcome pack' should be developed for all new Rearsby residents.

R24 The provision of new services in a redeveloped village hall should be pursued in line with the requirements of the January 2004 Village Hall Redevelopment Questionnaire.

Health & social services

Questions 30-34 dealt with health & social services.

- 43 people indicated they were disabled including 9 at Rearsby Residential Home. No disabled children were indicated.
- 36 people have general poor health including 9 at Rearsby Residential Home. No children with general poor health were indicated
- 7 people indicated they needed help of one sort or another excluding Rearsby Residential Home who also put in a general plea for help.
- 33 people offered to help elderly, infirm or disabled people with simple day-to-day tasks.

Conclusions

The incidence of disability and general poor health is low in Rearsby, although there may be some who would not classify themselves as 'disabled' or 'infirm' but who might benefit from greater awareness of the support services available. Rearsby Residential Home is a special case and needs support from the village.

Fortunately, there are a large number of people who are willing to help our elderly, infirm and disabled people.

Recommendations

R25 People who indicated they needed help in the village, especially Rearsby Residential Home, should be supported by volunteers.

R26 The help and support services in the area should be publicised.

Economy, employment, training & education

Questions 35-44 dealt with economy, employment, training & education.

- 57% of respondents favour the development of small businesses only in the village, with 36% favouring no businesses at all.
- 52% support the expansion of business development around Rearsby Business Park; 42% are against.
- 6 people want information on training/retraining. 27 are interested in learning for interest/pleasure, 20 in IT training, 3 in retraining, 3 in qualifications, 2 in return to work training, 1 in language learning.
- 113 people are satisfied with the pre-school facilities; 10 are not. The lack of a voucher system was mentioned by 4 people. Others want longer sessions encompassing more age groups.
- 84 people stated their expectations of the primary school were being met; only 5 said they were not. The general feedback was extremely positive.
- A variety of education and other training services were suggested for the village such as an after-school club, adult learning/evening classes and computer courses.

Conclusions

Respondents support small business development or no development, and are happy to see (small) business development around Rearsby Business Park on the other side of the bypass.

The pre-school facilities and the school itself are very well received and appreciated. There is a small but significant interest in adult education and training, which could be catered for.

Recommendations

- R27 The preference for small business development and the support for expansion around Rearsby Business Park should be brought to the attention of planning authorities with a view to influencing business planning policy in Rearsby.
- R28 The people interested in training/retraining should be directed to appropriate learning resources.
- R29 Education and training providers for the region, including pre-school and after-school providers, should be widely publicised.
- R30 The school and pre-school should be advised of the findings of the questionnaire.
- R31 The provision of training and education services in the village hall should be assessed especially learning for interest/pleasure and IT training.
- R32 The provision of training and education services in a redeveloped village hall should be pursued in line with the requirements of the January 2004 Village Hall Redevelopment Questionnaire.

Housing

Questions 45-47 dealt with housing issues.

- 82% of respondents support resistance to housing infill between the bypass and the village; 13% did not.
- 61% of respondents support small-scale housing developments only (defined as 3-4 houses at a time); 31% do not.
- Of the type of housing villagers favour (if any), preferences are (in this order):
 1. Affordable housing
 2. No housing at all
 3. One/two bedroomed flats/houses
 4. Semi-detached, three bedroomed houses
 5. Sheltered housing
 6. Housing association accommodation
 7. Four bedroomed detached
 8. Five bedroomed executive

Conclusions

There is a clear majority in favour of resisting housing infill between the village and the bypass. Most people favour small-scale housing development only (3-4 houses at a time), and they favour affordable housing as their preferred type of housing development.

Recommendations

R33 The village's rejection of housing infill between the bypass and the village should be brought to the attention of planning authorities with a view to influencing housing development policy in the area. (VDS Guideline 1 applies and local plan policies CT/1 & CT/2.)

R34 Our views on preferred type of development, ie 3-4 houses at a time, and preferred type of housing, ie affordable accommodation, should be brought to the attention of planning authorities with a view to influencing housing development policy in Rearsby.

R35 The implications of development in Rearsby in the near future should be discussed more thoroughly at local level with a view to influencing Charnwood Borough Council's Local Development Framework (2006-2016) and other development plans.

Information & communication

Questions 48-50 dealt with information & communication issues.

- 91% of respondents are happy with the information they are getting about what is going on in the village; 5% are not.
- Most people are happy with our communication and information outlets such as *Rearsby Scene*, the noticeboards, the post office, and the *Village Directory*. A strong majority are happy with the Rearsby.net website, the Parish Council website and the Parish Council as information and communication outlets, although quite a lot of people did not have an opinion one way or the other suggesting they weren't using these sources.
- As regards suggestions for improvements, these included better noticeboards, more leaflet drops and greater awareness of what the various information & communication outlets offer and where they can be found.

Conclusions

People are generally happy with the information they receive and the various communication outlets. Improvements can be made, however, such as the generation of more awareness and interest in the Parish Council.

Recommendations

R36 The siting and maintenance of noticeboards should be reviewed.

R37 The provision of information to the village from the Parish Council should be improved.

Traffic & transport

Questions 51-57 dealt with traffic & transport.

- 63% of respondents do not use public transport through Rearsby; 34% do.
- As to why people might use them, 72% did not answer, 13% replied better services/more information on services/cheaper fares, 7% replied 'nothing', and 6% replied with a variety of reasons.
- Two-thirds of respondents know about the public transport services provided for Rearsby including timetables and destinations; 29% do not.
- As to how transport services could be improved, 71% did not reply. Of those who did, the main suggestions were: more/better bus shelters, more frequent services, services along Station Road, services to Loughborough, more direct services to Leicester, train services from Rearsby.
- 74% approve measures to improve walking and cycling amenity in Rearsby; 12% do not.
- 73% approve of traffic calming measures in the village; 23% do not.
- As to the most favoured type of traffic calming, the preferences are (in order of most preferred):
 1. Environmental improvements, eg trees by road
 2. 20 mph speed limits
 3. Restrictions of road, eg by larger pavements
 4. One-way system for Brook Street and Brookside
 5. Coloured markings on road & priority system like at Ashby Folville/Asfordby
 6. Humps
 7. Mini-roundabouts

Conclusions

Public transport is an important issue to a significant number of Rearsby residents, though there is no clear consensus on the way forward, particularly as buses are currently fairly frequent on the main route between Melton and Leicester. We must preserve the services we have, but more research needs to be done on the future envisaged for public transport in our county before approaching providers for improvements.

A good majority want cycling and walking provision improved.

Following the completion of the bypass, traffic calming to stop speeding and potential 'rat-runs' through the village, especially at rush hour, is now seen as an important issue. A variety of traffic-calming measures should be considered based on the main preferences.

Recommendations

R38 The current state of integrated transport policy in the area should be assessed in order to clarify our attitude to public transport.

R39 A proper cycleway along the main road as a continuation of the projected one from Syston to East Goscote (Broome Lane) should be developed. (Local plan policy TR/13 applies.)

R40 Walking and cycling groups should be formed for Rearsby.

R41 Traffic calming for the village, taking into account the main preferences expressed in the questionnaire, which suggest a ruralisation of the main road, should be discussed with the appropriate authorities. At the same time, the overall design aspects of the main road should be discussed as part of a long-term plan to enhance its appearance.

Crime & policing

Questions 58-62 dealt with crime & policing issues.

- 45% of respondents are happy with the policing of Rearsby; 46% are not.
- The particular aspects of policing they are unhappy with (in order of most unhappy) are:
 1. Lack of police presence
 2. Dog fouling
 3. Anti-social behaviour by young people
 4. Vandalism
 5. Motoring behaviour
 6. Anti-social behaviour by others
 7. Theft and burglary
 8. Drugs and/or drunkenness
 9. Other
- Other aspects of crime & policing respondents are unhappy with include litter, dogs and noise.
- 48% of respondents know where to phone to contact the dog warden, police and our community police officer; 49% do not.
- 48% favour funding a Police Community Support Officer for Rearsby with other villages; 40% do not.

Conclusions

There are mixed reactions over the effectiveness of policing in Rearsby, opinion being fairly evenly divided. The lack of a police presence tops the list of concerns. There is little or no serious crime, anti-social behaviour and vandalism topping the list. (Dog fouling is dealt with in the 'Heritage & environment' section.) There is a majority in favour of funding a Police Community Support Officer.

Recommendations

R42 Our local policing unit at Syston should be advised of the findings of the questionnaire regarding crime and policing, particularly our concerns over the lack of a police presence.

R43 Initiatives with the police to reduce anti-social behaviour and vandalism should continue.

R44 The contact details of the police, our police community officer and the dog warden need to be widely publicised.

R45 A Police Community Support Officer should be appointed for Rearsby where financially viable.

Youth issues

A separate part of the questionnaire was used to tackle issues purely to do with our 11-18 years-olds. There were 43 responses to the nine questions of youth questionnaire covering 69 young people.

- The number of respondents per age range were:
 - 11-14 year-olds – 33
 - 15-16 year-olds – 20
 - 17-18 year olds – 16.

- There were 34 replies as to what young people most liked about living in Rearsby: 13 citing the quiet nature of the village, 9 referring positively to the village location, plus many positive references to the fact that larger conurbations are within easy reach. 8 felt that Rearsby offers a pleasant environment and/or community to live in, and 8 valued their friends living in the village.

- There were 33 replies as to what young people most disliked about living in Rearsby. The main message was very clear – the young people of Rearsby feel strongly that there are not enough facilities for their age group, with 19 stating their dissatisfaction at the current level of provision. There was also a feeling that young people are treated with suspicion by adults for ‘hanging around’ near the bridge/on the park, but adults fail to recognise that they do not have any formal meeting place.

- Of the current playing facilities, 10 respondents use the half-pipe, 14 the football field, and 14 the basketball area.

- Regarding extra playing field facilities, 8 respondents mentioned tennis, 5 football, 3 hockey and 2 cricket. Several football answers asked for goals at the park or more organised activities. 5 respondents asked for improved skateboard/BMX/dirt tracks.

- There was significant support (12 replies) for the sorts of activities typically offered by a youth club (eg table tennis, pool). There was also a clear demand for organised trips (9), with theme parks mentioned several times. Football was mentioned 7 times and music featured 4 times.

- 6 parents said they would be interested in helping organise the activities specified above.

Conclusions

The answers and comments provide a contrasting picture – whilst many value Rearsby's quiet environment and sense of community, there is frustration at the lack of facilities. There are plenty of suggestions to plug this gap, mainly focused on outdoor sporting activities, organised indoor activities and trips outside the village. Young people want somewhere to gather, and there is a perception that adults don't understand their needs.

Recommendations

R46 A Youth Forum should be set up to represent the views of young people and deal with the issues raised by the questionnaire including new/alternative use of existing facilities, forming links with other local youth/sports clubs and group bookings and transport for theme parks/sporting events.

R47 The provision of activities for young people in a redeveloped village hall should be pursued in line with the requirements of the January 2004 Village Hall Redevelopment Questionnaire.

R48 The provision of a temporary and permanent meeting place for 12-18 years-olds should be considered.

Action Plan

PPG = Parish Plan Group
 PC = Parish Council
 CBC = Charnwood Borough Council
 LCC = Leicestershire County Council
 VHC = Village Hall Committee

Short term (ST) = 0-6 months
 Medium term (MT) = 6-18 months
 Long term (LT) = 18 months-3 years

Nos	Recommendations	Actions	Implementers	Timescales
1	<i>The population of Rearsby</i> As there is a substantial elder and younger population in Rearsby, their needs should be well represented in local policy and decision making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parish Council periodically review its policies to ensure the interest of older and younger people are being catered for. ▪ Parish Council and other interested stakeholders discuss with the Village Hall Committee the needs of younger and older residents with a view to making them priorities in future usage of a redeveloped village hall. 	PC, VHC, other stakeholders	ST-LT MT-LT
2	<i>Quality of life</i> A series of 'countryside values' should be developed on living in Rearsby. These would be a guide to policy and decision making in line with the values featured in the Village Design Statement (VDS).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parish Council draft a series of countryside values. 2. Parish Plan Group endorse the values. 3. Parish Council adopt and publicise the values, and use to guide policy. 4. Parish Council review its policies from time to time to ensure they are in the spirit of the values. 	PC, PPG	ST ST ST-LT MT-LT

3	<i>Heritage & environment</i> A larger heritage group is needed with a remit to develop environmental and heritage improvements.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parish Plan Group pass on contacts of new volunteers to Heritage Group. 2. Expanded group develop an action plan based on the VDS and environmental concerns expressed in the Parish Plan Questionnaire. 	PPG, Heritage Group	ST ST-MT
4	Our pathways and footpaths need better maintenance including the removal of moss and nettles and the cutting of grass verges. This should include Conker Field, Station Road near the bridge, and the paths around the Church.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parish Plan Group, in consultation with Heritage Group, identify exact areas of concern. 2. Parish Council hold a meeting with Leicestershire County Council's highways department to discuss state of pathways, footpaths and verges with a view to a plan of action. 	PPG, Heritage Group, PC, LCC	ST MT
5	New trees and hedges should be planted throughout the village and its outskirts and existing trees and hedges maintained. Owners should be encouraged to maintain their trees and hedges. (VDS Guidelines 7, 13, 14, 15 & 16 apply.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tree Warden and Heritage Group carry out a tree & hedgerow survey to identify new planting areas and maintenance requirements. ▪ Tree Warden and Heritage Group consult with local landowners on tree/hedgerow requirements. ▪ Tree Warden and Heritage Group implement VDS Guidelines 7, 13, 14, 15 & 16. ▪ Parish Council provide a budget for tree and hedgerow planting and repair. 	Tree Warden, PC, Heritage Group, local landowners, local authorities, residents	ST-LT
6	The arrangements for maintenance of the brook including the state of its banks should be reviewed.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Heritage Group identify areas of concern and make recommendations to Parish Council. 2. Parish Council discuss brook issue with Charnwood Borough Council and make new arrangements as appropriate. 	Heritage Group, PC, CBC	MT
7	The railings alongside the brook should be replaced with fencing of a more rural aspect. (VDS Guideline 44 applies.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parish Council discuss project with Leicestershire County Council and their Environmental Design Project team. ▪ Parish Council devise a funding plan for the project. 	PC, LCC, funding providers	MT
8	Ways should be found to alleviate traffic congestion around the school and improve safety.	Parish Council consult with Leicestershire County Council and school board of governors on general traffic management around the school including speed restrictions, visual markings and using the main road as a school entrance.	PPG, LCC, school governors	ST

Nos	Recommendations	Actions	Implementers	Timescales
9	<i>Heritage & environment (cont)</i> Parking on the grass verges by the brook on Mill Road should be discouraged.	Parish Council discuss the use of discreet signs with Heritage Group and budget for them as necessary.	PC, Heritage Group	MT
10	Owners should be encouraged to maintain their property, particularly old and/or public buildings, where they are falling into disrepair and affecting visual amenity. (VDS Guidelines 29, 30 & 31 apply.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parish Council discuss with owners the upkeep of the barn on Brookside and buildings opposite the Wheel. ▪ Parish Council implement VDS Guideline 30, and Guidelines 29 & 31 as necessary, in consultation with Heritage Group and other stakeholders. 	PC, Heritage Group, residents	ST-MT MT-LT
11	An initiative on litter-picking is needed to clean up the village.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Heritage Group develop and co-ordinate regular litter-picking activities in Rearsby involving a village team. 2. Litter-picking team publicise within the village their activities and ask everyone to help. 3. Parish Council discuss litter-picking with Charnwood Borough Council as necessary and consider funding litter-picking activities, eg purchase of bags, pickers etc. 	Heritage Group, PC, CBC, litter-picking team, all residents	ST
12	The number of litter/dog fouling bins in the village needs reassessing.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Heritage Group analyse need for more litter/dog fouling bins. 2. Parish Council provide funding if necessary. 	Heritage Group, PC	ST-MT
13	A new dog fouling initiative is needed.	Parish Council, in consultation with Charnwood Borough Council, consider new ways of encouraging dog owners to collect their own dog litter.	PC, CBC	ST-MT
14	Accommodation to village visitors should be publicised.	Parish Plan Group hold a meeting with those willing to offer accommodation to consider ways of advertising this amenity.	PPG, residents providing accommodation	MT
15	Rearsby's heritage and history should be publicised to a wider audience.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Heritage Group discuss the various ways of publicising Rearsby's history & heritage. 2. Heritage group develop a small marketing plan. 	Heritage Group	MT
16	A twinning arrangement should not be pursued as it requires official endorsement from the Parish Council and therefore a majority of residents/respondents need to be in favour of it.	Parish Plan Group reply to those who put their names down to organise a twinning arrangement that it doesn't have enough support.	PPG	ST

Nos	Recommendations	Actions	Implementers	Timescales
17	<i>Services & amenities</i> The requirement for a village shop, but not a community shop, should be pursued.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parish Council arrange a meeting with Charnwood Parish Council to discuss the planning implications/ramifications of a village shop. ▪ Parish Council consult with other rural authorities on the matter such as the Rural Community Council (RCC). 	PC, CBC, RCC	ST-LT
18	The post office should be advised of the questionnaire results.	Parish Plan Group present copy of written answers from the questionnaire to post office and ask for feedback on suggestions for new services.	PPG, post office	
19	The current travelling shops/mobile services in the area, including the mobile library, and the services the post office offers should be more widely publicised, and an assessment made for further such services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parish Plan Group, in consultation with current service providers, devise a leaflet advertising their services and circulate to all residents. ▪ Parish Plan Group provide feedback to the Mobile Library Service on the questionnaire results. ▪ Parish Plan Group research other possible travelling shops/mobile services for the village. 	PPG, village service providers, LCC (Mobile Library Service)	
20	A LETS scheme should be developed.	Parish Plan Group contact all those wishing to start a LETS scheme and encourage them to form a group to develop one.	PPG, LETS scheme group	ST
21	Provision of extra allotment space for villagers should be pursued.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parish Council discuss with Pochin Estate their current policy on private allotment allocation. ▪ Parish Council discuss with Charnwood Borough Council requirements for a public allotment as a matter of planning policy. 	PC, Pochin Estate, CBC	MT
22	Extra equipment and picnic benches should be provided for the play park.	Parish Council budget for extra equipment and picnic benches for the play park.	PC	ST-MT
23	A 'welcome pack' should be developed for all new Rearsby residents.	Parish Plan Group, supported by Parish Council, develop a 'welcome pack' for all new Rearsby residents.	PPG, PC	ST-MT
24	The provision of new services in a redeveloped village hall should be pursued in line with the requirements of the January 2004 Village Hall Redevelopment Questionnaire.	Parish Council and other interested stakeholders discuss with Village Hall Committee the usage of a redeveloped village hall and prioritise need.	PC, VHC, other stakeholders	MT-LT

Nos	Recommendations	Actions	Implementers	Timescales
25	<i>Health & social services</i> People who indicated they needed help in the village, especially Rearsby Residential Home, should be supported by volunteers.	Parish Plan Group contact the residents who are willing to help elderly, infirm or disabled people in the village and make them aware of how they can provide support through the Syston and District Volunteer Centre (SVC) – as a group if appropriate. People in need of help, especially Rearsby Residential Home, should then be targeted via SVC.	PPG, volunteers, SVC	ST
26	The help and support services in the area should be publicised.	Parish Plan Group publicise in the village the help services offered by Syston and District Volunteer Centre and any other volunteer organisation in the area.	PPG	ST-MT
27	<i>Economy, employment, training & education</i> The preference for small business development and the support for expansion around Rearsby Business Park should be brought to the attention of planning authorities with a view to influencing business planning policy in Rearsby.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parish Council discuss with Charnwood Borough Council our views on small business development, including expansion around Rearsby Business Park. ▪ Parish Council and Charnwood Borough Council take into account the views expressed on small business development and expansion around Rearsby Business Park when reviewing business planning applications. 	PC, CBC	ST-LT ST-MT
28	The people interested in training/retraining should be directed to appropriate learning resources.	Parish Plan Group contact the six people interested in training/retraining and direct them to appropriate learning resources.	PPG	ST
29	Education and training providers for the region, including pre-school and after-school providers, should be widely publicised.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parish Plan group consult with learning providers to assess provision and locations for education and training, especially learning for interest/pleasure and IT training. 2. Parish Plan Group put together a comprehensive leaflet of education and training providers for the region, including pre-school and after-school providers, and distribute it to all residents. 	PPG, LCC, education and training providers	MT
30	The school and pre-school should be advised of the findings of the questionnaire.	Parish Plan Group present the full results of relevant questions to the school board of governors and pre-school and point out any suggestions for improvements that were made.	PPG, school governors, pre-school	ST

Nos	Recommendations	Actions	Implementers	Timescales
31	<i>Economy, employment, training & education (cont)</i> The provision of training and education services in the village hall should be assessed especially with regard to learning for interest/pleasure and IT training.	Parish Council discuss with Village Hall Committee potential training and educational usage of the village hall especially with regard to learning for interest/pleasure and IT training.	PC, VHC	ST
32	The provision of training and education services in a redeveloped village hall should be pursued in line with the requirements of the January 2004 Village Hall Redevelopment Questionnaire.	Parish Council and other interested stakeholders discuss with Village Hall Committee the training and educational usage of a redeveloped village hall.	PC, VHC, other stakeholders	MT-LT
33	<i>Housing</i> The village's rejection of housing infill between the bypass and the village should be brought to the attention of planning authorities with a view to influencing housing development policy in the area. (VDS Guideline 1 applies and local plan policies CT/1 & CT/2.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parish Council discuss with Charnwood Borough Council our express wish not to have housing infill between the bypass and the village with a view to influencing housing development policy in the area. ▪ Parish Council and Charnwood Borough Council take into account the views expressed on infill when reviewing housing planning applications. 	PC, CBC	ST ST-LT
34	Our views on preferred type of development, ie 3-4 houses at a time, and preferred type of housing, ie affordable accommodation, should be brought to the attention of planning authorities with a view to influencing housing development policy in Rearsby.	Parish Council discuss with Charnwood Borough Council our views on our preferred type of housing development and our preferred type of housing.	PC, CBC	ST
35	The implications of development in Rearsby in the near future should be discussed more thoroughly at local level with a view to influencing Charnwood Borough Council's Local Development Framework (2006-2016) and other development plans.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parish Plan Group, with Parish Council, raise awareness in the village of potential future development issues by debate and publicity. 2. Parish Council discuss with Charnwood Borough Council maintenance of current protection for Rearsby from adverse development. (Local plan policies CT/1, CT/2, CT/4, CT/6, CT/7, CT/9 & EV/18 apply.) 	PPG, PC, CBC, other stakeholders including residents	ST-MT

Nos	Recommendations	Actions	Implementers	Timescales
36	<i>Information & communication</i> The siting and maintenance of noticeboards should be reviewed.	The Parish Council reassess the siting of noticeboards and progressively replace them with more durable ones.	PC	ST-LT
37	The provision of information to the village from the Parish Council should be improved.	The Parish Council publish its own newsletter on a quarterly or bi-monthly basis, posted to all residents, to make everyone aware of what they do and to encourage participation in local democracy.	PC	MT
38	<i>Traffic & transport</i> The current state of integrated transport policy in the area should be assessed in order to clarify our attitude to public transport.	Parish Council research the current state of integrated transport policy in the area, in consultation with Leicestershire County Council as necessary, in order to clarify its attitude to public transport and identify any appropriate future action.	PC, LCC	MT
39	A proper cycleway along the main road as a continuation of the projected one from Syston to East Goscote (Broome Lane) should be developed. (Local plan policy TR/13 applies.)	Parish Council discuss with Leicestershire County Council and other providers the provision of a proper cycleway through Rearsby.	PC, LCC, other providers	ST-MT
40	Walking and cycling groups should be formed for Rearsby.	Parish Plan Group advertise in the village regarding the formation of walking/cycling groups.	PPG	ST
41	Traffic calming for the village, taking into account the main preferences expressed in the questionnaire, which suggest a ruralisation of the main road, should be discussed with the appropriate authorities. At the same time, the overall design aspects of the main road should be discussed as part of a long-term plan to enhance its appearance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parish Council speak to Leicestershire County Council about the most appropriate form of traffic calming for the village. ▪ Parish Council discuss the overall design aspects of the main road with Leicestershire County Council and others including pavement design, new lighting schemes and sign decluttering. 	PC, LCC, CBC (sign decluttering)	ST-MT ST-LT

Nos	Recommendations	Actions	Implementers	Timescales
42	<i>Crime & policing</i> Our local policing unit at Syston should be advised of the findings of the questionnaire regarding crime and policing, particularly our concerns over the lack of a police presence.	Parish Council present the findings of the questionnaire to our local policing unit at Syston for their feedback.	PC, police	ST
43	Initiatives with the police to reduce anti-social behaviour and vandalism should continue	Parish Council maintain its drive, in consultation with the police, to reduce anti-social behaviour and vandalism involving greater surveillance and the use of bye-laws.	PC, police, Neighbourhood Watch, residents	ST-LT
44	The contact details of the police, our police community officer and the dog warden need to be widely publicised.	Parish Council send a leaflet round to all residents with contact details of all our enforcement officials.	PC	ST
45	A Police Community Support Officer should be appointed for Rearsby where financially viable.	Parish Council, in consultation with neighbouring parish councils and the police, investigate the feasibility of deploying a Police Community Support Officer.	PC, neighbouring parish councils, police	MT
46	<i>Youth issues</i> A Youth Forum should be set up to represent the views of young people and deal with the issues raised by the questionnaire including new/alternative use of existing facilities, forming links with other local youth/sports clubs and group bookings and transport for theme parks/sporting events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parish Plan Group set up a Youth Forum to deal with the issues raised by the youth questionnaire. The Forum to include young people and their parents, people from the village with specific expertise or interest in young people's concerns, a representative from the Parish Council and a representative from the Village Hall Committee. ▪ Youth Forum create an action plan for dealing with the issues mentioned in the youth questionnaire. 	PPG, PC, parents, young people, VHC, LCC, other stakeholders, Youth Forum	ST-MT
47	The provision of activities for young people in a redeveloped village hall should be pursued in line with the requirements of the January 2004 Village Hall Redevelopment Questionnaire.	Parish Council and other interested stakeholders discuss with the Village Hall Committee the usage of a redeveloped village hall for youth activities.	PC, VHC, young people, other stakeholders	MT-LT
48	The provision of a temporary and permanent meeting place for 12-18 years-olds should be considered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parish Plan Group discuss possible locations for a youth club including one or two evenings in the village hall. ▪ Youth Forum discuss possibilities of permanent accommodation for a youth club including a redeveloped village hall, or seek other alternatives. 	PPG, VHC, young people, LCC, Youth Forum	ST MT

Results of Village Hall Redevelopment Questionnaire

The Village Hall Redevelopment Questionnaire was sent around in January 2004 and asked residents what activities and services they wanted in a redeveloped village hall. These are the answers and the numbers of people who requested each service/activity.

Over 30 new uses of the hall were suggested. Additionally, the questionnaire indicated that 25 people were prepared to help organise new activities.

Activities people want	Nos
Youth club	70
Fitness group	133
Yoga class	86
Gardening class	110
Drama Group	36
Music group	53
Games-table tennis, pool/snooker, darts	93
Games-chess, scrabble, cards	58
Children's games	35
University of Third Age	40
Martial arts class	45
Coffee mornings	72
Senior citizens/luncheon club	77
Club meetings eg art	98
Heritage/environmental groups	65
Homework groups	20
Scouts/Guides	61
Charity activities	30
Services people want	
Computer/IT training	124
Internet access point	44
Doctor's surgery	279
Children's after school club	53
Information point-staffed by Parish Council clerk	97
Language classes	93
Literacy classes	12
Day/evening classes	145
Special needs/support/day care services	20
Community arts events, eg drama, dance, music	102

The following other new activities were also suggested: meeting venue for visually impaired, dance club for senior citizens, badminton club, photography club and mobile cinema.

Acknowledgements

This document has been developed by the Parish Plan Group in consultation with Rearsby residents, local service providers and the Leicestershire and Rutland Rural Community Council.

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Further copies of the Rearsby Parish Plan are available on request from the Clerk of Rearsby Parish Council or can be downloaded from the Parish Council website at www.leicestershireparishcouncils.org/rearsby. Full details of the answers to the questionnaire are available on request from the Clerk of Rearsby Parish Council or can be downloaded from the Parish Council website.