

Wanlip Parish Plan 2005.



Report, Recommendations and Action Plan.



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Introduction

The idea of producing a Parish Plan for Wanlip was discussed at a Parish Meeting in May 2004. With the endorsement of the Parish Meeting and the support of the Rural Community Council, a Parish Plan Steering Group was formed and has been pursuing the project since that date.

The Parish Plan Steering Group was made up of 14 villagers and actively supported throughout the process by numerous others. In April 2005 a questionnaire was distributed to every resident asking for opinions on a number of issues facing the village. The results were analysed and form the basis of this report, the recommendations and the action plan.

A Parish Plan is a strategic document to identify issues currently affecting the village and to enable the village to have a say in how it wishes to develop in the future. It is developed in consultation with our local Service Providers and addresses a range of issues including housing, development, environmental issues and service provision. It is an important document because it represents the views of the entire village; it guides local policy and planning decisions and can be used to identify a need and acquire funds for local projects.

Questionnaires were distributed to all of the adult residents within the village – 139 in total - of which 117 were returned. This amounts to a response rate of almost 85% and it is therefore fair to say that the Wanlip Parish Plan represents the views of the vast majority of the village. There were also 9 responses from young people – a similar response rate to the main questionnaire. The response rate far exceeds any other in Leicestershire and provides substantial backing for the recommendations identified throughout the Plan.

The Wanlip Parish Plan was formally launched and adopted by the Parish Meeting in September 2005. It will remain a 'living document' and will be the main focus for all village activities and development. The Parish Meeting, supported by the 5 newly formed Working Groups and the Service Providers, will seek to ensure that the recommendations and actions are pursued and completed in the timescales identified.

Any questions relating to the Parish Plan should be directed to either Ian Harrison (Chairman of the Parish Meeting) or Alan Corner (Chairman of the Parish Plan Steering Group).

The Village

Wanlip is a small but ancient village of only 67 properties and less than 180 residents. Mentioned in the Domesday Book, the village is dominated by a medieval church (1393), stunning parkland and the remains of 2 working farms. It is bordered to the south and east by Watermead Country Park and the River Soar, and to the north by the A46. Despite its close proximity to Leicester and 2 main roads, the village retains the charm and character of a farming village and is best described as a 'rural enclave'.

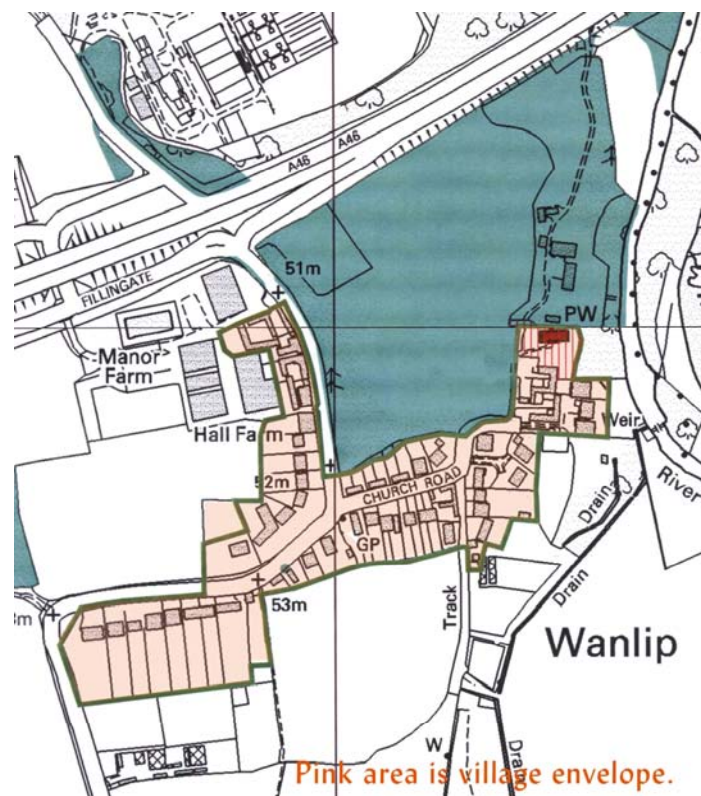
Demographics

A total of 117 villagers returned their questionnaire, of which 113 were completed.

Respondents were 47% male against 53% female. The largest proportion of respondents was over 60; a similar number were aged between 40 and 59 and approximately 25% of the village adult population were under 40.

The vast majority of respondents (68%) had lived in the village for more than 10 years, although almost 20% had moved into the village during the past 3 years.

A total of 9 questionnaires were received from young persons aged between 10 and 18 years. There were 5 male and 4 female respondents, 5 were aged 13-15; 3 were aged 16-18 and one aged 10-12 years.



The Parish Meeting

The village is 'managed' by a Parish Meeting; meetings are held 6-monthly in the Church Hall to which the entire village is invited and can participate. The majority of the village community were aware of the purpose and structure of the Parish Meeting and over half had attended at least one meeting. Respondents were asked what would encourage them to attend more meetings; some respondents suggested that the seating in the Hall needed to be improved and others suggested that the frequency of the meetings should be increased to three times per annum, or that the day on which the meetings were held should be reviewed. It was also suggested that the previous minutes should be circulated with the Agenda. One respondent suggested that if people could not make the Parish Meeting their views could be submitted in writing.

Recommendations

- R1 Parish Meeting to consider increasing the frequency of Parish Meetings to three per annum.
- R2 Parish Meeting to consider reviewing the day on which Parish Meetings are held.
- R3 Parish Meeting to consider circulating the minutes of the previous meeting with the Agenda.
- R4 Parish Meeting to identify ways of further increasing attendance and participation at Parish Meetings.

Community Facilities

Other than the Church itself, the only community facility in the village is the Church Hall. The majority of the village were aware of and valued the Church Hall. Many felt that it was under-used and suggested that more village social functions, special interest groups and other events could be arranged.

There was a general feeling that the Hall needed upgrading and re-decorating. It was also felt that the playgroup materials should be stored away when not in use and the presence of the group tended to dominate the Hall.

Recommendations

- R5 Parish Meeting to approach the Church to discuss upgrading/improving the Church Hall.
- R6 Working Group to approach the Church to seek a way of making the Church Hall more accessible for non-playgroup activities.

The Church

The majority of respondents stated that they were Christian, but only 16% attended church regularly. 26 out of 83 respondents felt that it would be desirable to increase the number of services. The majority of the village were aware of the existence of a Birstall and Wanlip Church Magazine.

Recommendation

R7 Working Group to make Church aware of findings of the questionnaire.

Community Activities and Development

Communication

The Village Newsletter, the Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter, the Birstall Post, the notice board and word of mouth were the most common ways villagers found out about what goes on in the village. 30% of respondents stated that they obtained information from the Parish Meeting and a further 21% stated that the Church Magazine was a useful source of information.

The least useful ways were local radio (4%) and the Loughborough Echo (7%). 2% of respondents stated they kept in touch with village activities by 'other' means.

67 out of 93 respondents felt communication could not be improved, although 26 thought it could. Ideas for improvement were:

- Informal social occasions including church and village fetes.
- Website or e-mail.
- Better use of the notice board, or perhaps a second, centrally located notice board.
- A 'welcome pack' for people moving into the village.
- Awareness of the location of some of the houses within the village to ensure those houses receive any circulars being distributed.
- Improvements to the Village Newsletter such as frequency, presentation and longer length.
- It was noted by one respondent that a central focal point was missing from the village, such as a pub/shop.

Social Events

Numerous suggestions were provided for social events within the village. General interest events, such as fetes, bazaars, bonfire night, Christmas events and open gardens were suggested by more than 50% of respondents. More specific interests, such as wildlife/nature events, musical events and books and films also appealed to some respondents. Only 7% of respondents said they would not be interested in attending any activities in the village.

The following types of activity were also suggested:

- Craft fairs and art exhibitions.
- Meals and wine tasting.
- Children's events.
- Quiz nights.
- A village dinner or barbecue.
- Barn dance.
- Coffee mornings/evenings.
- Bridge club.
- Hog roast.

One respondent suggested that activities with local relevance could be arranged, possibly in conjunction with Severn Trent Water, the Country Park Wardens, local history groups or the local archaeology department.

When asked whether people would like the opportunity of joining, forming or sharing their knowledge with an interest group within the village, 36 respondents indicated that they would. 64 indicated they would not. When asked what interests people had, 29 respondents replied and identified the following: walking, gardening, security, sport (cycling, golf, and football), theatre/dance/performing arts/ opera, jewellery, collecting, reading, wine, birds/wildlife, fireworks, music, history (general, local and natural), sailing, computers, aviation/travel, photography and films.

Community Spirit

92% of respondents indicated that community spirit was important to them. Suggestions were invited as to how it could be further improved. These included: more social events, a monthly 'drop in' occasion in the Church Hall at a weekend and group participation events.

There was some evidence that a few respondents felt alienated, mainly due to diversity in sizes of houses.

One respondent felt that a village rector who called upon people in the village may encourage participation. Village improvement schemes, such as litter picking or bulb planting might also encourage participation. Provision for children was also suggested as being an improvement which could be made.

Heritage

When asked for views concerning the heritage of the village, over two thirds of respondents said that they would like to know more about the history of the village and would be interested in supporting events to conserve historical aspects of the village.

Conclusion

The vast majority of the village stated that community spirit was important. Many shared interests and were keen to increase the number of social events or interest groups which could further develop community spirit. There was also a clear majority of villagers who were both interested in and would like to support historical conservation in the village.

There was some evidence of alienation which, given the size of the village, could be addressed.

Recommendations

- R8 Working Group to consider inviting people to join or form an interest group, and identify potential members. Identify whether any of the respondents would be willing to give a talk on their chosen interest. Give thought to whether any general interest social events could be organised for the village.
- R9 Working Group to identify projects of specific interest within the village and Parish Meeting to work with archaeological services and landowners to carry out conservation work.
- R10 Church to consider publicising availability of Church Hall for local groups such as art groups. Also see whether a programme of talks could be organised with a local theme.
- R11 Working Group to consider whether anything specific can be done to try and overcome concerns about alienation.
- R12 Working Group to create a 'welcome pack' for new villagers.

Services

Public Services

The Questionnaire also asked whether villagers felt they received all the services they required in respect of social services or healthcare. 34 respondents said they did, although 26 indicated they did not. 5 indicated they required more buses, or an improvement to the service and one said a better refuse collection was required.

Voluntary Services

The questionnaire asked whether anyone would be willing to help the sick, elderly or disabled people of the village, for instance, by offering transport to medical appointments or collecting prescriptions. Out of 3 respondents to the question, one said yes and 2 others indicated they would be willing to do so once they retired.

Schooling

The questionnaire asked for details of where the children of the village went to school/playgroup. Two respondents indicated they had a child under the age of 18 months. One respondent indicated they had a child under the age of 5, but that he or she was looked after elsewhere.

Eight respondents answered the question enquiring where children aged 5-11 went to school. Of those 8, 6 confirmed their children went to Riverside in Birstall and 2 confirmed their children attended Rothley primary school.

15 respondents indicated their children went to the following schools:

English Martyrs	4
Leicester Grammar	1
Melton College	1
Longslade	2
Stonehill	2
Stonehill School and Loughborough Grammar	2
Beauchamp College, Oadby	2
Ratcliffe College.	1

The primary method of travelling to school was by car. Some indicated they used the school or contract bus, but only one used a public bus. Some walked and others walked only if the weather was fine. One had their own method of transport.

Mobile Services

The village currently benefits from just one mobile service, which is the mobile library. Out of 109 respondents, only 9 indicated they used this service. Two indicated they would use it in future, and one would use it after 5.00pm.

Respondents were also asked what other types of mobile service were required. 25% of respondents indicated additional services would be welcome, and suggestions included the following:

- Fish and chip van.
- Ice cream van.
- Mobile Post Office.
- Shop (butcher/greengrocer).
- Video hire van.

81 out of 109 respondents did not want or require other types of mobile service.

Conclusion

There are few services available in Wanlip and 26 out of 60 respondents indicated that they did not receive all of the services they required. Although only 3 people responded to the question about voluntary service, a difference could still be made if those who volunteered could help even one or 2 residents.

The nursery in the village does not appear to be frequented by any of the village pre-school children and most older children travel by car to neighbouring towns and villages to attend school.

The mobile library is reasonably well used by some residents, and there is a possibility that additional mobile services would be of benefit to the village.

Recommendations

- R13 Working Group to attempt to identify those who feel they do not receive the correct services and put them in touch with an appropriate body/authority.
- R14 Working Group to seek to identify those who required more fundamental services such as a shop or Post Office and determine whether there is genuine difficulty in travelling to Birstall or Syston and/or sufficient demand for more mobile services.
- R15 Working Group to consider investigating the possibility of having a fish and chip van call.
- R16 Working Group to trace the person who said they would be able to help those with additional needs and discuss how to put them in touch with those in need.

Environment

Location

The vast majority responded to the question concerning their environment and what attracted them to Wanlip.

Reason	Good/Very good	Average	Poor/Very Poor
Rural position	93	13	4
Village appearance	68	32	5
Village history	68	25	2
Small community	84	18	2
Friendliness	64	31	8
Communication links	55	27	14
Access to countryside	94	9	0
Access to sport	31	34	23

In respect of what could be done to further improve the environment, the following responses were received:

Feature	Leave Unchanged	Increase	Remove Some or All
Road signs	73	20	
Grassy areas	77	21	
Planted areas	42	54	2
Woodlands	59	39	
Trees	51	44	2
Hedgerows	63	30	2

When asked if there were any specific changes that should be made, respondents suggested that additional screening should be provided next to the A46 and that hanging baskets should be introduced in the centre of the village. 89 respondents also agreed that improvements to the village signs and planting should be provided at the entrances to the village.

Villagers were also asked about how they rated the cleaning and/or maintenance of features or facilities.

Feature/Facility	Good/ Very Good	Average	Poor / Very Poor	Did not Know
Pavements	35	46	25	0
Street lighting	33	48	22	1
Road signs	26	62	13	1
Drains and gutters	22	50	30	5
Verges	34	52	16	1
Hedgerows	35	44	22	1
Trees	48	46	4	4
Footpaths	25	51	22	2
Cycle/bridleways	22	41	18	8
Churchyard	56	29	12	9

Several respondents noted that the road drains adjacent to Manor Farm were frequently blocked.

Pollution

The questionnaire asked villagers about how they were affected by pollution to which there were a large number of responses, as follows:

Cause/Affect	Badly/ Very Badly	Average	Mildly	Not Affected	Did not Know
Road traffic noise	54	26	11	15	0
Aircraft noise	8	16	25	57	0
Agricultural smells	14	21	29	39	0
Sewage smells	32	24	32	18	0
Light	23	23	19	34	2
Fly tipping	44	32	15	14	2
Dog fouling	16	35	21	30	1
Bonfire/chimney smoke	5	18	27	56	0
Watermead Country Park	4	5	7	87	3

Conclusion

Respondents were positive about most aspects of Wanlip, with the exception of 'friendliness' which did not score as highly as anticipated and access to sporting facilities where a substantial minority were dissatisfied.

The majority were content with their immediate environment and asked for either no change or for an increase in planted areas, trees, woodlands and hedgerows. They were, however, particularly keen for additional screening from the A46.

By far the most significant form of pollution was noise from road traffic on the A46. The number of villagers affected by light pollution from the water treatment facility, Longslade College and neighbours was also significant, as was problems with fly tipping and litter. In addition, 30% stated that they could be badly affected by smells from the water treatment facility.

87% of respondents said that they would oppose the erection of additional mobile telephone masts in the village.

Recommendations

- R17 Working Group to consider addressing issues relating to 'unfriendliness' and seek thoughts of village.
- R18 Working Group to make local sports clubs aware of perceived poor access and provide them with the opportunity to advertise locally.
- R19 Working Group to investigate the possibility of retaining or improving all natural areas and to increase planting, including hanging baskets.
- R20 Working Group to investigate the possibility of obtaining additional noise/visual screening next to A46.
- R21 Working Group to investigate the possibility of obtaining new signs and providing planting at the entrances to the village.
- R22 Parish Meeting to write to Severn Trent Water and Longslade College to discuss impact of light pollution.
- R23 Village Newsletter Editor to ask villagers to reduce unnecessary lighting and other pollution. Also ask villagers to be vigilant and to report any fly tipping to the appropriate authority.
- R24 Parish Meeting to write to Severn Trent Water to ask them to investigate smells leaking from the water treatment facility.

Development, Planning and Land Use

The overwhelming majority of respondents (99%) thought that 'village identity' was important in some way and 82 respondents stated that they would resist any development outside of the village envelope. Wanlip Park was cited as an important feature which was essential in defining the character of the village.

Commercial Development

When asked about commercial development, 78% stated that they would oppose it. Whilst 22% said that they would find commercial development acceptable, most cited offices and light or rural industry only, and many identified Manor Farm as a potential site. A shop or pub was also mentioned by a minority.

Housing

Respondents were asked about the type of houses the village required if residential development was allowed to take place. The majority of those not opposed to development favoured large detached or executive style homes or houses in keeping with the rest of the village, barn conversions were also identified as being appropriate by a few respondents, as were starter-style homes. Indeed, Manor Farm was again identified as the most suitable location and several respondents held the 'Riverside Mews' farm conversion as a good example of what would be appropriate for the village. The remainder of respondents stated that they would not find any type of development acceptable.

In terms of the impact of development, respondents stated that they were 'very concerned' or 'concerned' about the following:

Appearance	94%
Traffic	90%
Noise	88%
Loss of village identity	86%
Pollution	86%
Environment	82%
Flooding	61%

Conclusion

Wanlip is clearly important to the vast majority of its residents. The majority of respondents wanted neither commercial development in Wanlip nor development outside of the village envelope, although in the minority there was a reasonable number who would accept an appropriate commercial development of offices and/or rural industry. The majority wanted Wanlip to retain a similar character as it has at present and, as such, most would prefer to see more larger houses if any development were allowed to take place. Manor Farm was repeatedly identified as the only suitable site for a development of more than one or 2 houses, but general opinion was that this site should be restricted to the conversion of existing buildings.

Recommendations

- R25 Parish Meeting to oppose any development outside of the village envelope.
- R26 Parish Meeting to contact the owner of Manor Farm to discuss its current state and any future development plans.
- R27 Working Group to investigate the possibility of preserving Wanlip Park as Ancient Parkland.

Village Design Statement

There was a clear desire to maintain the character of the village and to ensure that the village was developed sympathetically if at all. Most respondents supported the need for a Village Design Statement.

Whilst the need for a Village Design Statement was clear, there was concern that if it was not formally adopted it would carry less weight. As the adoption process was currently being reviewed by Charnwood Borough Council, a Village Design Statement would be produced by December 2006 at which point the Parish Meeting would seek its adoption.

- R28 Working Group to produce a Village Design Statement by December 2006.
- R29 Parish Meeting to seek adoption of the Village Design Statement by Charnwood Borough Council.

Employment and Adult Education

Employment

The village has a healthy mix of both employed and non-employed residents. Of those who responded, 35% were retired, 34% were in full-time employment and 21% were self-employed. The remainder were either employed part-time, were voluntary workers or stated 'other'. Of those who worked, 30% worked in Leicester. A similar number worked in other Leicestershire towns. 14% worked in Wanlip and a further 13% worked in Birstall. The remainder worked elsewhere and as far afield as London.

Respondents were asked whether they would like to work in Wanlip if the opportunity arose – the majority (77%) said that they would not.

Skills Sharing

Given the size and nature of the village, the idea of skills and/or information sharing was suggested. 31% of respondents said that they would be keen to share a skill or information. Out of those willing, services most likely to be offered were related to IT, general computing, CV preparation, accountancy and desk top publishing. Other services included photography, social work, DIY and gardening. When asked what skill respondents would find most useful, the majority stated gardening or DIY. Other services such as childcare and cooking were also identified.

Adult Education

The village is fortunate to be located near to Longslade College. The vast majority of respondents were aware of the services on offer at Longslade; 14% stated that they were not aware and 23% stated that they would be interested in finding out more information.

Conclusion

There is a healthy balance of working and non-working residents in the village. Most of those who work travel within the county and the remainder take advantage of the good communication links to travel further afield. The idea of a skills sharing scheme appeared popular; respondents offered a good range of skills which could make such a scheme viable. Most residents were aware of the facilities offered by Longslade College; however, it would be of benefit to both the college and the village if course details were made available to those who were unaware of the facilities.

Recommendations

- R30 Working Group to investigate the possibility of setting up a skills sharing database/scheme.
- R31 Working Group to make Longslade College aware of the results of the questionnaire.

Traffic and Transport

Traffic

Wanlip residents had been concerned about an increase in traffic and road safety for several years. Respondents identified several sites of particular concern and suggested possible solutions. Almost 90% of respondents were concerned about Manor Farm bend; large numbers also expressed concern about the turning from Rectory Road into Church Road and the junctions going towards the Church. Responses indicated that whilst most of the village was concerned about the Manor Farm bend, only those who lived in Church Road and Riverside Mews were concerned about the other junctions – this is unsurprising and as a percentage of those who were affected, the concern was similar to that relating to the Manor Farm bend.

88 respondents were also 'concerned' or 'very concerned' about the speed of vehicles through the village. A similar number were concerned about heavy goods vehicles passing through the village, and fewer respondents, but still a substantial number, were 'concerned' or 'very concerned' about pollution from traffic. Between 15% and 20% expressed concern about the noise, the number of vehicles passing through the village and mounting or parking on pavements.

Traffic Calming

Approximately 50% of the respondents wanted a 7.5 tonne weight restriction through the village and it was also suggested that the restriction should be made clearly visible to traffic before it reached the village to prevent vehicles having to turn around. The second most popular idea was a speed limit of 20mph. This was requested by just under 50% of the respondents. Around 20% were also in favour of flashing speed warning signs, and although 'sleeping policemen' were a popular choice, some were against them on health and pollution grounds.

Street Lighting

Approximately 75% of the respondents thought that Wanlip's street lighting was either good or satisfactory. 28 people wanted more lighting but a small number were against this on the grounds of light pollution. One person commented that the existing lights do not conform to CBC lighting regulations and several wondered why the new lighting in Wanlip Lane was not installed throughout the village.

Conclusion

It was apparent that all aspects of traffic were a cause for concern in the village. Effective traffic calming was seen as a priority, as was a solution to residents' parking on the pavement.

It also appeared that many villagers were unaware that there was already a 7.5 tonne weight restriction in force through the village. This might suggest the need for clearer road signs and more signs to Wanlip Industrial Park in Syston to prevent HGVs entering the village in error.

Recommendations

- R32 Working Group to consider options for dealing with perceived dangerous junctions and take the appropriate action.
- R33 Working Group to discuss traffic calming measures with neighbouring villages and appropriate authorities.
- R34 Working Group to consider options for dealing with parking on pavements.
- R35 Working Group to seek the provision of additional weight restriction signs and directional signs for Wanlip Industrial Park, Syston with the appropriate authorities.

R36 Working Group to discuss the quality of street lighting with the appropriate authorities.

Pedestrians

85 respondents thought the facilities for pedestrians in Wanlip were good or satisfactory, but approximately 20% thought they were poor.

There were numerous measures suggested to improve the problem. Four respondents suggested that overhanging hedges should be cut back, 3 suggested levelling or improving the surface of the footpaths. One respondent wanted the drainage improved outside Manor Farm and another wanted the path widened at this point. There were also 4 requests for a pedestrian crossing, although there was no suggestion as to where it might be located.

Villagers were also asked whether pavements were satisfactory for people with disabilities, wheelchairs or pushchairs. A small majority thought that they were not. Three respondents drew attention to the area approaching and near to the Church, but there were no constructive suggestions as to what could be done to improve matters. Eight respondents wanted more paths and 9 wanted a footpath on both sides of Rectory Road/Wanlip Lane or a continuous footpath on one side of the road. Seven respondents wanted wider paths and another 7 wanted the maintenance of the footpaths improved. A further 7 respondents wanted kerbs lowered and 3 mentioned the steep camber of the path opposite The Glebe.

Conclusion

There was no clear view about footpaths; however, the response rate was good and a small majority thought that some improvement could be made, mostly through routine maintenance.

Recommendation

R37 Working Group to further investigate issues and discuss/present possible solutions relating to footpaths to the appropriate authorities.

Cyclists

85 respondents thought that facilities for cyclists were either good or satisfactory, although 18 thought the facilities were poor. The majority of respondents did not want more cycle ways through the village and several stated that the roads and paths are too narrow to make improvements, but others indicated that this could endanger more vulnerable users and have an adverse impact on the environment, particularly if the grass verges were to be removed. Several respondents also suggested that in order to make cycling in the village safer the speed of motorised vehicles passing through needs to be reduced.

When asked specifically about the path between Wanlip and Birstall a small majority were in favour of modifying it to accommodate both cyclists and pedestrians.

Conclusion

Most respondents thought that facilities for cyclists were either good or satisfactory and there was therefore no requirement to install additional cycle ways through the village. There was a small majority in favour of upgrading the path between Wanlip and Birstall and this could be investigated by the Parish Meeting.

Recommendation

R38 Working Group to discuss the possibility of upgrading the path between Wanlip and Birstall with the appropriate authorities.

Public/Community Transport

Wanlip, whilst close to several large towns and villages, is fairly isolated in terms of public transport. Unsurprisingly, when asked about their main means of transport, 94% of respondents said it was a car. Other respondents also walked, cycled or made use of the limited bus service.

Almost a quarter of respondents stated that they often had difficulty getting out of the village. Some were able to use the buses from Birstall to get to Leicester, but it was more difficult to get to other villages. A substantial number of respondents said that if there were more reliable buses at different times and taking other routes they would use them.

There were a small but significant number of respondents who would be interested in car sharing. The numbers might be enough to start a viable scheme.

Conclusion

For those without cars, public transport is a concern. There is a fair amount of interest in additional bus services and some in a car sharing scheme. Both could be investigated.

Recommendations

R39 Working Group to explore the possibility of additional bus services with the appropriate authorities.

R40 Working Group to investigate the feasibility of establishing a car-sharing scheme.

Neighbourhood Watch and Policing

Neighbourhood Watch

Wanlip is fairly unique in that the Parish Meeting subscribes to the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme on behalf of all the residents. 97% of respondents supported Neighbourhood Watch; however, only two thirds of respondents knew the name of the 'contact person'.

Policing

Although Wanlip experiences little crime, 91% of respondents stated that they thought police visibility in the village was important and a similar number stated that they were unhappy with the police presence in the village and wanted more patrols. Three-quarters of respondents said that they would take advantage of free security checks.

78% of respondents had not had dealings with the police. Of those who had, the vast majority were 'satisfied' or 'satisfied in part', with only 2% rating the service they had received as 'poor' or 'very poor'. When asked for comments on how the service could be further improved, one respondent stated that the response time for incidents should be reduced; many wanted more foot patrols, particularly in Butchers Lane and the Church car park and others suggested that Watermead Country Park could be more actively policed and the Park Wardens given more powers.

Conclusion

Wanlip has a low crime rate and the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is well supported. The vast majority of respondents wanted greater police visibility and the possibility of extra patrols, even by use of a Community Support Officer, could be pursued.

Recommendations

- R41 Parish Meeting to retain 'village subscription' to the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.
- R42 Neighbourhood Watch 'contact person' to publicise his details to all residents.
- R43 Working Group to make local Police Authority aware of the results of the questionnaire.
- R44 Working Group to explore the possibility of more frequent police patrols with appropriate authorities.

Wildlife and Ecology

Policy

Wanlip is fortunate to be surrounded by open countryside and in particular Watermead Country Park. 84% of respondents said that the Parish should have a policy/plan of action to inform villagers about the importance of wildlife and ecology. 92% also stated that the village should promote 'good practice' for all aspects of wildlife and ecology.

Maintenance

The environment was important to the majority of respondents and more than half identified specific issues to be addressed either to maintain or improve the wildlife and ecology around the village.

Respondents suggested improvements should be made to specific areas in the village, including Watermead Country Park, Wanlip Park, the various spinneys and the 'Ice House'.

Respondents also suggested that trees, hedgerows, farmland, meadows and verges should be either improved or at least maintained, and that efforts should be made to preserve the bird life, bats and wild flowers.

There were several other suggestions, including drawing up and maintaining a bird list, carrying out a tree survey to ensure that Tree Preservation Orders are being enforced and to compliment some of the Severn Trent Water initiatives by providing hedgehog homes, nesting boxes and suitable trees to encourage birds.

Conclusion

The environment is clearly important to the vast majority of villagers and efforts should be made to maintain and/or improve it. There might be sufficient interest in the village to develop a village policy or plan; organise working groups or set up an 'interest group'.

Recommendations

- R45 Working Group to consider the possibility of creating a Wanlip Wildlife and Ecology Policy and Plan.
- R46 Working Group to seek volunteers to set up an 'interest group' to pursue some of the suggestions, possibly in conjunction with existing Tree and Heritage Wardens.

Young People

The village has very few young people and even fewer facilities for them. A separate questionnaire was produced for all 10-18 year olds, of which 9 were returned completed.

Respondents were asked what they liked and disliked about Wanlip. Many liked it for the 'tranquillity' and because it was friendly. There were also comments about the quality of the wildlife. On the negative side, most said that there was little for young people to do and that a village shop or an area to meet/play would be of benefit. A third of respondents were unaware of anybody else of their own age in the village.

Unsurprisingly, most young people had to travel out of the village to take part in activities – these included swimming, football, dance and drama. Only sailing and horse riding (the respondent having their own horse and field) could be pursued in the village. When asked what activities they would like to see in the village, 3 requested sports activities/club; one suggested canoeing and 2 requested a bonfire night celebration. On the subject of facilities, 3 wanted a shop, one wanted a park/all-weather pitch and several others wanted more buses.

There was a lot of interest in organised trips out of the village. Most wanted to go to the cinema or bowling but other suggestions included 'paint balling' and go-karting. Only 2 indicated that their parents would be willing to help organise an event.

Conclusion

There are only a limited number of young people and facilities in the village. It is apparent that, although there is little for them to do, most young people do like living in the village and that some simple changes could be made to improve their lives.

Recommendations

R47 Working Group to consider ways of improving activities for young people in the village.

Action Plan

Timescale (to implement the recommendation)

Short Less than 3 months
 Medium 3 - 12 months
 Long More than 12 months

Priority (importance of the recommendation)

High Less than 3 months
 Medium 3 - 6 months
 Low More than 6 months

No	Recommendation	Owner/Partner	Timescale	Priority	Action Taken
1	The Parish Meeting Parish Meeting to consider increasing the frequency of Parish Meetings to three per annum.	Chairman Parish Meeting	Short	High	
2	Parish Meeting to consider reviewing the day on which Parish Meetings are held.	Chairman Parish Meeting	Short	High	
3	Parish Meeting to consider circulating minutes of the previous meeting with the Agenda.	Chairman Parish Meeting	Short	High	
4	Parish Meeting to identify ways of further increasing attendance and participation at Parish Meetings.	Chairman Parish Meeting	Medium	Medium	

5	<p>Community Facilities</p> <p>Parish Meeting to approach the Church to discuss upgrading/improving the facility.</p>	<p>Chairman Parish Meeting</p> <p>Wanlip Community Working Group</p> <p>Village Halls Advisor, RCC</p>	Medium	Medium	
6	<p>Working Group to approach the Church to seek a way of making the Church Hall more accessible for non-playgroup activities.</p>	<p>Wanlip Community Working Group</p> <p>PCC</p> <p>Village Halls Advisor, RCC</p>	Medium	Medium	
7	<p>The Church</p> <p>Working Group to make Church aware of findings of questionnaire.</p>	<p>Wanlip Community Working Group</p> <p>PCC</p>	Short	High	

8	Community Activity and Development Working Group to consider inviting people to join or form an interest group, and identify potential members. Identify whether any of the respondents would be willing to give a talk on their chosen interest. Give thought to whether any general interest social events could be organised for the village.	Wanlip Community Working Group	Medium	Medium	
9	Working Group to identify projects of specific interest and Parish Meeting to work with archaeological services and landowners to carry out conservation work.	Wanlip Community Working Group Chairman Parish Meeting	Long	Medium	
10	Church to consider publicising availability of Church Hall for local groups such as art groups. Also see whether a programme of talks could be organised with a local theme.	Priest in Charge PCC	Medium	Medium	
11	Working Group to consider whether anything specific can be done to try and overcome concerns about alienation.	Wanlip Community Working Group	Medium	High	
12	Working Group to create a 'welcome pack' for new villagers.	Wanlip Community Working Group	Long	Low	

13	Public/Mobile Services Working Group to attempt to identify those who feel they do not receive the correct services and put them in touch with an appropriate body/authority.	Wanlip Community Working Group Leicestershire County Council Social Services	Medium	High	
14	Working Group to seek to identify those who required more fundamental services such as a shop or Post Office and determine whether there is genuine difficulty in travelling to Birstall or Syston and/or sufficient demand for more mobile services.	Wanlip Community Working Group Leicestershire County Council Transport Department	Medium	High	
15	Working Group to consider investigating the possibility of having a fish and chip van call.	Wanlip Community Working Group	Medium	Medium	
16	Working Group to trace the person who said they would be able to help those with additional needs and put them in touch with those in need.	Wanlip Community Working Group Syston Volunteer Bureau	Medium	Medium	

17	Environment Working Group to consider addressing issues relating to 'unfriendliness' and seek thoughts of village.	Wanlip Community Working Group	Medium	Medium	
18	Working Group to make local sports clubs aware of perceived poor access and provide them with the opportunity to advertise locally.	Wanlip Community Working Group Local Sports Clubs	Short	Medium	
19	Working Group to investigate the possibility of retaining or improving all natural areas and to increase planting, including hanging baskets.	Wanlip Planning and Environment Working Group	Medium	Medium	
20	Working Group to investigate the possibility of obtaining additional noise/visual screening next to A46.	Wanlip Planning and Environment Working Group Leicestershire County Council Highways Department	Medium	High	

21	Working Group to investigate the possibility of obtaining new signs and providing planting at the entrances to the village.	Wanlip Planning and Environment Working Group	Medium	Medium	
22	Parish Meeting to write to Severn Trent Water and Longslade College to discuss impact of light pollution.	Chairman Parish Meeting Wanlip Planning and Environment Working Group Charnwood Borough Council Environmental and Planning Departments Severn Trent Water Longslade College	Medium	Medium	

23	Village Newsletter Editor to ask villagers to reduce unnecessary lighting and other pollution. Also ask villagers to be vigilant and to report any fly tipping to the appropriate authority.	Wanlip Planning and Environment Working Group Village Newsletter Editor	Short	Medium	
24	Parish Meeting to write to Severn Trent Water to ask them to investigate smells leaking from the water treatment facility.	Chairman Parish Meeting Wanlip Planning and Environment Working Group Charnwood Borough Council Environmental and Planning Departments Severn Trent Water	Short	High	

25	<p>Development, Planning and Land Use</p> <p>Parish Meeting to oppose any development outside of the village envelope.</p>	<p>Chairman Parish Meeting</p> <p>Wanlip Planning and Environment Working Group</p>	Short	High	
26	<p>Parish Meeting to contact the owner of Manor Farm to discuss its current state and any future development plans.</p>	<p>Chairman Parish Meeting</p> <p>Wanlip Planning and Environment Working Group</p> <p>Charnwood Borough Council Planning Department</p>	Medium	High	
27	<p>Working Group to investigate the possibility of preserving Wanlip Park as Ancient Parkland.</p>	<p>Wanlip Planning and Environment Working Group</p> <p>Conservation Officer, Charnwood Borough Council</p>	Medium	High	

28	<p>The Village Design Statement</p> <p>Working Group to produce a Village Design Statement by December 2006.</p>	<p>Wanlip VDS Working Group</p> <p>Charnwood Borough Council Planning Department</p> <p>Rural Community Council</p>	Medium	High	
29	<p>Parish Meeting to seek adoption of the Village Design Statement by Charnwood Borough Council.</p>	<p>Chairman Parish Meeting</p> <p>Wanlip VDS Working Group</p>	Medium	High	
30	<p>Employment and Education</p> <p>Working Group to investigate the possibility of setting up a skills sharing database/scheme.</p>	<p>Wanlip Community Working Group</p>	Medium	Low	
31	<p>Working Group to make Longslade College aware of the results of the questionnaire.</p>	<p>Wanlip Community Working Group</p> <p>Longslade College</p>	Short	Medium	

32	<p>Traffic and Public/Community Transport</p> <p>Working Group to consider options for dealing with perceived dangerous junctions and take the appropriate action.</p>	<p>Wanlip Traffic and Transport Working Group</p> <p>Leicestershire County Council Highways Department</p>	Medium	High	
33	<p>Working Group to discuss traffic calming measures with neighbouring villages and appropriate authorities.</p>	<p>Wanlip Traffic and Transport Working Group</p> <p>Leicestershire County Council Highways Department</p>	Medium	High	
34	<p>Working Group to consider options for dealing with residents parking on pavements.</p>	<p>Wanlip Traffic and Transport Working Group</p> <p>Local Policing Unit</p>	Medium	Medium	

35	Working Group to seek the provision of additional weight restriction signs and directional signs for Wanlip Industrial Park, Syston with the appropriate authorities.	<p>Wanlip Traffic and Transport Working Group</p> <p>Leicestershire County Council Highways Department</p> <p>Channwood Borough Council Planning Department</p>	Medium	High	
36	Working Group to discuss the quality of street lighting with the appropriate authorities.	<p>Wanlip Traffic and Transport Working Group</p> <p>Leicestershire County Council Highways Department</p>	Medium	Medium	
37	Working Group to further investigate issues and discuss/present possible solutions relating to footpaths to the appropriate authorities.	<p>Wanlip Traffic and Transport Working Group</p> <p>Leicestershire County Council Highways Department</p>	Long	Medium	

38	Working Group to discuss the possibility of upgrading the path between Wanlip and Birstall with the appropriate authorities.	Wanlip Traffic and Transport Working Group Leicestershire County Council Highways Department	Long	Medium	
39	Working Group to explore the possibility of additional bus services with the appropriate authorities.	Wanlip Traffic and Transport Working Group Leicestershire County Council Transport Department	Long	Medium	
40	Working Group to investigate the feasibility of establishing a car-sharing scheme.	Wanlip Traffic and Transport Working Group	Long	Low	
41	Neighbourhood Watch and Policing Parish Meeting to retain 'village subscription' to the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.	Chairman Parish Meeting	Long	High	

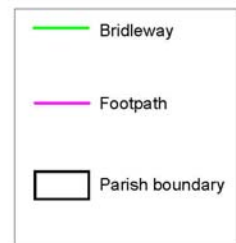
42	Neighbourhood Watch 'contact person' to publicise his details to all residents.	Wanlip Community Working Group Neighbourhood Watch Contact	Short	High	
43	Working Group to make local Police Authority aware of the results of the questionnaire.	Wanlip Community Working Group Local Policing Unit	Short	High	
44	Working Group to explore the possibility of more frequent police patrols with appropriate authorities.	Wanlip Community Working Group Local Policing Unit	Medium	Medium	

45	<p>Wildlife and Ecology</p> <p>Working Group to consider the possibility of creating a Wanlip Wildlife and Ecology Policy and Plan.</p>	<p>Wanlip Wildlife and Ecology Working Group</p> <p>Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust</p> <p>Leicestershire County Council Country Parks Service</p>	Long	Medium	
46	<p>Working Group to seek volunteers to set up an 'interest group' to pursue some of the suggestions.</p>	<p>Wanlip Wildlife and Ecology Working Group</p>	Medium	Medium	
47	<p>Young Persons</p> <p>Working Group to consider ways of improving activities for young people in the village</p>	<p>Wanlip Community Working Group</p> <p>Charnwood Borough Council</p> <p>Leicestershire County Council Youth Service</p>	Medium	High	

Wanlip Parish



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Acknowledgments

The Wanlip Parish Plan was developed by the Wanlip Parish Plan Steering Group in consultation with the residents of Wanlip, local Service Providers and Leicestershire and Rutland Rural Community Council (RCC).

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Further copies of the Wanlip Parish Plan are available from the Secretary of the Wanlip Parish Meeting or from www.leicestershireparishcouncils.org/wanlip.