

CLOPTON PARISH PLAN OPEN MEETING held on May 12<sup>th</sup>. 2011 in the village hall.

Chris Angwin chaired the meeting.

Roy Compton & Gill Kimmerling attended as representatives of the Parish Plan committee.

27 members of the public attended the meeting and all were given copies of the draft 5 year Village Plan.

Mr. Angwin explained the background to the Village Plan. An initial constitution for the plan was drawn up in 2004 & a questionnaire compiled and agreed, but, for various reasons, including ill health, nothing was taken forward until 2010 when the questionnaire was delivered by hand to all households in Clopton.

170 responses were received to the main survey, one of the highest % in Suffolk. There were 21 responses to the children's questionnaire and 12 to the business one.

Suffolk ACRE had collated the results and a report had been produced by the Steering Committee. The draft 5 year Village Plan had been drawn up from this.

The most pressing issue which had come from the questionnaires was the perceived lack of community spirit in the village – partly caused by the fact that the village is well spread out and there are no annual events to bring the village together.

The steering committee had identified four project areas for discussion which were outlined by Mr. Angwin. (See attached) There were projects for the first year and longer term projects for years 2 to 5.

The children's play area had already been refurbished which covered some of the issues. It is hard to organise child care or activities as there are a lot of statutory requirements but the Parish Council would offer support.

The business survey did not raise any issues which the committee felt could be taken forward.

Mr. Angwin is able to e-mail a copy of the results to any one who requests them and two hard copies were available at the meeting.

Refreshments were served and time allowed for general discussion.

The following points were raised:-

- 1) Coffee mornings are held from 10 to 12 on the third Wednesday of the month and are a good way to get people together. It was agreed to combine this with visits from the Mobile Police Unit on occasions.
- 2) The Clopton Ladies Group meets monthly but few local ladies attend.
- 3) The website needs to capture more of what goes on in the village. Lucinda Pennington runs this and asked if people would supply their e-mail addresses so that information could be passed on.
- 4) Village footpath maps were a good idea & David Falk at SCC could assist with designing these. An indication of where the footpaths went was requested.
- 5) A village booklet was thought to be a good idea for all newcomers to the village.
- 6) People were encouraged to clear up litter from their areas, but regular litter picks in certain areas were thought to be a good idea. Another doggie bin in Shop Road near High House Farm was requested.
- 7) The Parish Council will look into the costs for maintaining the area by the village sign and for improving drainage here and on the playing field.

- 8) It was felt that speed restrictions on the B1078 should be included in the 2-5 year plan and people were encouraged to keep track of all problems associated with the junctions with Shop Road and Manor Road. It was suggested that the 30m.p.h. limit on the B1079 should be extended to cover the whole length through the village. The Community Speed Watch team monitor speeds here each month. They are unable to do Drabbs lane or Shop Road as the Police say there is no-where safe to stand. More volunteers are needed to allow Speedwatch to take place more often.
- 9) The hedges need to be cut back and reduced in height along the B1079 as they cause problems for lorries which have to drive away from the verges where the hedges are too wide.
- 10) More information about developments in neighbouring villages was needed, especially Otley College, as this affected Clopton.
- 11) Cricket coaching for children was offered as a possibility.
- 12) It was felt an evening meeting with the RSPB and Suffolk Wildlife Trust was a good idea.
- 13) People were keen for the annual Village Fete to be resurrected and volunteers put their names forward but an overall organiser was needed.

The meeting ended at 9.30p.m. and everyone was thanked for their comments.