

## **Plumpton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Business and Employment Topic Group**

### **Report on the outcome of data collection**

**16<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

1) **Data Sources.** Data has so far been collected in four separate ways:

- A Business and Employment survey questionnaire (Appendix 1) emailed in 2014 to 75 businesses located within the parish and drawn from a database originally constructed by the Plumpton Village Action Plan Business Team;
- The Neighbourhood Plan Parish Survey distributed in January 2015 and which included four questions specifically related to business and employment;
- A meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014 between Paul Nicholson and Chris Burgon of the Plumpton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and Des Lambert, Principal of Plumpton Agricultural College, and Michael Maloney, Chief Executive of Plumpton Racecourse, the two biggest employers in the Parish.
- An email exchange with the owner of the Old Brickworks business site.

2) **Business and Employment Survey.**

Nineteen completed questionnaires have been completed, an adequate but not spectacular response rate of 25%. The questionnaires were supplemented by interviews with some of the businesses. A spreadsheet detailing the responses to each question (Appendix 2) has been completed and some useful conclusions can be reached.

- Nine (47%) of those who responded work from home which is what we might expect bearing in mind the relatively small number of business premises in the parish.
- Fifteen (79%) had been in business more than five years which might suggest most parish businesses are doing well enough to justify keeping going for a significant period.
- Only three (16%) dealt with their customers mostly online. Perhaps the arrival of high speed internet will affect this in future. A similar number said their customers came mostly from the village which suggests most businesses rely on marketing their services elsewhere.
- Fourteen operated from an office, six also had a workshop and three were working on the land (responders were able to tick more than one location).
- Somewhat disappointingly 13 (68%) had no plans to expand and only six were looking for additional premises.
- A total of 39 other business in the parish were used by our responders (some of these may be the same business used several times by different businesses e.g. the Post Office)

- The total number of people employed part time was 253 and full time was 234 but these figures were greatly influenced by the college which was the biggest employer by a very long way.
- Forty of those employed live in the village which suggests local businesses are a significant source of employment for village residents.

### **3) Neighbourhood Plan parish survey**

The Neighbourhood Plan parish survey included four business and employment related questions and the results supplemented the information we have from the local businesses

- 69% of those who responded would like to see more opportunities for employment in the village with 31% against.
- Respondents were asked which areas of employment they would like to see increased. The highest number of suggestions (176) was for agriculture, possibly reflecting a desire to retain the rural nature of the village. The second highest (145) was for trades of various kinds. Some way behind these were retail, leisure, tourism and business support services. A wide range of alternative types of business and employment were suggested, the most frequently mentioned being catering/restaurants/cafes.
- Interestingly, in spite of all these suggestions 57% of those who responded were against any land being made available for business and employment development and only 43% supported it.
- Business owners were asked to rate the importance of seven potential benefits from the Neighbourhood Plan. By far the most important was high speed broadband with better public transport and more patronage from villagers coming second and third.

### **4) Meeting with the Principal of the Agricultural College and the Chief Executive of the Racecourse**

Two main issues emerged from this meeting:

- Accommodation. The College needs more accommodation for its students and the Racecourse needs accommodation both for staff and visitors. Taking into account our proximity to the National Park there must surely be some business opportunities here bearing in mind that the village has only one bed and breakfast facility at present and a small holiday home accommodation.
- Transport. This is a particular issue for the students at the College which can only be made worse by the withdrawal of most of the ESCC-subsidised bus services.

## **Appendix – Letter to business owners and questionnaire**

### **Plumpton Parish Neighbourhood Plan**

Dear Business Owner/Manager

You may by now have heard that Plumpton Parish Council has started preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish. Neighbourhood Plans have been introduced by the Government to give Parish and Town Councils more local control of what happens in their communities and especially how any land that becomes available can be used.

The process for producing the plan is rigorous and detailed, requiring extensive consultation with possible interested parties and stakeholders. In its later stages we will be developing policies for the use of land in the Parish which have to be backed with evidence. The plan is subsequently reviewed by an independent inspector and is then the subject of referendum and has to be passed by a simple majority of residents in the Parish.

As a first step we held a consultation day for the whole village on the 29<sup>th</sup> April and from that came a wealth of good suggestions about what the plan should include. We now want to approach specific groups within the community to ask them what they would like to see in the plan.

We would like to hear directly from business owners or managers in Plumpton and have attached to this email/letter a very brief questionnaire which will give us a better understanding of how businesses in the Parish can be helped to thrive and develop.

We would much appreciate it if you could complete the questionnaire and either email it to [burgon923@btinternet.com](mailto:burgon923@btinternet.com) or post it to Chris Burgon 23 West Gate Plumpton Green BN7 3BQ. We will then carry out an analysis of the responses and use this to inform our next steps which are likely to include some face to face interviews with individuals or groups

Yours sincerely

Paul Nicholson

Chair Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

## Plumpton Parish Neighbourhood Plan

### Local Businesses Consultation Questionnaire

<b>Name of Business</b>	
<b>Address</b>	

**WHERE THERE IS A BOX, PLEASE MARK WITH AN “X”**

<b>Name and address of person completing this form?(if different from above)</b>							
<b>How would you describe your business?</b>							
<b>Is your business base at home?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>						
<b>How long have had you had a business in Plumpton?</b>	<table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>Up to 2 years</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>Over 2 and up to 5 years</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>Over 5 years</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	<b>Up to 2 years</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Over 2 and up to 5 years</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Over 5 years</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Up to 2 years</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>						
<b>Over 2 and up to 5 years</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>						
<b>Over 5 years</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>						
<b>Are your customers mostly from within the village?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>						
<b>Are your customers mostly on line?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>						

<p><b>What type of premises does your business use/occupy/operate from?</b></p>	<p>PLEASE TICK ONE OR MORE</p> <p>Office <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop <input type="checkbox"/> Land <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>Do you have plans to expand your business?</b></p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>If yes to the question above will you require larger premises and/or more land?</b></p>	<p>PLEASE TICK ONE OR MORE</p> <p>Larger premises <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>More land <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>What are the benefits of being based in Plumpton Parish?</b></p>	
<p><b>What are the difficulties of working from Plumpton Parish?</b></p>	
<p><b>How many other businesses in the parish are used by your business?</b></p>	
<p><b>How many people are employed by your business? (excluding yourself)</b></p>	<p>Part time/casual <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Full time <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>How many of them live in Plumpton?</b></p>	
<p><b>Are there any other business services you would like to see in Plumpton (to assist your business)?</b></p>	

<p><b>Is there anything else that would make Plumpton more attractive to your business eg better parking, easier access, more buses or trains</b></p>	
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**If you would like to be kept in touch with progress on the Plumpton Parish Neighbourhood Plan please give us your contact details:**

<b>All Plan matters</b>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Business matters only</b>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Tel no:**

**Email:**