



Village Action Plan Monthly Report to the Parish Council

January 2012

For noting by Parish Councillors please:

Road Safety and Public Transport

Road Safety

The VAP Road Safety Team was pleased to be represented at the recent Parish Council's 'Strengthening Local Relationships' meeting with ESCC, our District Councillor and County Councillor. Amongst other matters, the meeting concluded that a programme of raising 'safety awareness' and gathering data about routine maintenance requirements on the parish's roads is required, and VAP was invited by the meeting to help the PC in this regard. There was a clear desire from all parties to work together to find solutions to safety, speed reduction, carparking, etc, which is much welcomed by VAP and it looks forward to assisting the PC Highways Committee as appropriate.

Paul Nicholson, Kathy Baker and Steve Hayman may wish to elaborate further at the meeting.

Environment

Plumpton Goes Green

a) Community Energy

The VAP Plumpton Goes Green Team is hosting an evening event on 13th February in the Village Hall for the community to determine whether there is sufficient enthusiasm and buy-in to explore a range of possible initiatives further. Examples could be collective ordering of oil, or a community-wide insulation scheme, or a district-wide heating scheme. As this is an issue that affects all residents, it would be much welcomed if Parish Councillors were in attendance. James Anwyl has been instrumental in organising this and in addition is putting together an application to the Energy Savings Trust for funding to carry out a study into the most appropriate energy efficiency scheme for Plumpton and to explore potential renewable energy options for Plumpton.

b) Plumpton Ancient & Modern

Representatives from 'PAM' as well as a number of other residents are working with the University of Sussex to conduct an oral history study in Plumpton under the banner 'Hidden Histories'. Training is being given by the University, with the aim of the first phase of interviews being conducted and transcripts available for the Jubilee celebrations.

Kathy Baker may wish to elaborate further at the meeting.

Business

a) Broadband

Further to the report in December, the VAP Business Team hosted a meeting with Parish Councillors and LDC to explore how best might Plumpton demonstrate demand for super-fast broadband. As a consequence a Super-Fast Broadband Working Party of Parish Councillors and the VAP Business Team has been established which will publicise the opportunity for Plumpton and conduct a survey of the Business community and households.

Darryl Bailey, Kathy Baker and Paul Nicholson may wish to elaborate further at the meeting.

Policing & Community Safety
Low-Level Lighting Solutions

The February 2012 parish magazine will contain an article seeking residents' views on whether the community would like any low-level lighting in one or two locations. This is an item from the original Plan that requires application and the article seeks to reach a conclusion to this issue.

At the time of the original Village Action Plan survey, residents made it very clear that the vast majority of people living in Plumpton (some 70% of households out of a total of 440 that responded) did not want overhead street lighting. The likelihood is that this is almost certainly the same position! The article makes it very clear that no-one is suggesting that street lighting is being considered as an option anywhere!

What was clear, however, was that some 30% of residents felt that in a very small number of places visibility at night was poor and would appreciate some thought being given, if a low-level lighting solution could be found. The areas mentioned the most were: a) in the pavilion carparking area (22% of respondents) and b) on exiting the village hall area and out into Station Rd (24% of respondents).

The results of the research will be shared with the Parish Council.

Carole Nicholson
Vice-Chairman, Plumpton Village Action Plan

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