



## Village Action Plan Monthly Report to the Parish Council

November 2011

I would ask that the Parish Councillors be made aware of the following please:

### **Public Transport**

Following the Plumpton Station Partnership Scheme's award of £1,000 from Southern as 'Station Partnership of the Year' to further improve the customer experience and the survey conducted of station users, volunteers and attendees at the VAP Annual Meeting, a meeting was held with Southern to review the options. Further seating will definitely be introduced (which was a very popular request by users). Other items being negotiated for which pricing quotes are being sought, include community display boards for external and internal use, walks leaflet dispenser, and wildlife interpretation board. Various other requests such as improvement to the visibility of the 'Fast Track' ticket machine have been requested.

During November the planters will be replanted for the winter season. Garden Pride (through its wholesaler) will provide the plants; however, for the first time students from Plumpton College will carry out the actual planting. This is a useful way of bringing the College closer into the community.

### **Environment**

#### **Footpaths**

##### **a) Walks leaflets**

The celebratory walk on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, which started at the Half Moon, was enjoyed by nearly 50 residents on probably the last warm and sunny day of Autumn. The walk of 5.5 miles took in the Plumpton Bostall, Blackcap and Ashcombe Bottom, returning to the Half Moon for a delicious, well-earned, cream tea. The Team has thanked the Half Moon for its support of the event.

##### **b) Maintenance**

Catherine Jackson, Team leader for the VAP Footpaths Team, was pleased to join Sue Akers at a meeting with ESCC Rights of Way recently. Further liaison with the Monday Group will follow.

*(Sue Akers may wish to elaborate).*

### **Plumpton Goes Green**

Following the VAP PGG Team's successful bid for grant funding from the SDNP Sustainable Communities Fund for the purchase of a community Apple-press, the equipment has now arrived in Plumpton. The team is hoping to organise a low-key apple and pear picking day on 12<sup>th</sup> November, with a trial-run apple pressing day late November or early December, prior to a larger-scale event in Autumn 2012.

### **Recycling**

Liaison is continuing with Sarah Osborne, District Councillor, to try to identify a transfer site for the 'holding' of cardboard prior to transportation to the recycling centre. Every effort is being made to ensure that Plumpton is one of the first communities to benefit from the kerbside recycling system that LDC hope to introduce next Spring.

## **Policing and Community Safety Team**

### **a) Streetwatch**

Following discussions earlier in the year, Reg Stone and Carole Nicholson were invited to a more detailed discussion with Lewes Police to review a nationwide scheme called 'Streetwatch'. Volunteers from Hampshire that have operated the scheme in their own parish were present to take questions. Plumpton has been chosen to be a pilot scheme for the Lewes District for a year. As the pilot, small-scale costs such as insurance, visibility-jackets, etc will be covered by Lewes Police. Whilst a national scheme, it is intended very much as a community scheme for the community. Experience elsewhere has indicated that communication with the Police services are substantially improved in those communities that have the scheme – something which is recognised as needing improvement in Plumpton. A meeting to explain the initiative to Raymond Young (VAP Policing & Community Safety Team Leader) and Ali Christie (Neighbourhood Watch) has been held. There was general agreement that a pilot running collaboratively with the introduction of a new Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Plumpton, may be worth pursuing. Whilst this has not yet been discussed through the usual VAP processes with the usual consultation with Team Leaders etc, it is believed that Reg Stone will be seeking Parish Council support at the November meeting.

*(Reg Stone will want to elaborate).*

### **b) Defibrillator**

Further discussions have taken place with our local hospital Trust and a recommended supplier of defibrillator equipment. Funding options are being explored. It is hoped that a formal proposal can come to the December Parish Council meeting. There will be no funding implications for the Parish Council.

## **Facilities**

### **Playpark**

Mike Murphy kindly updated both VAP and Clare Eastwood from the PC on the progress he has made with designing a possible playpark in conjunction with children attending the Primary School, Honeybees and the Activity Scheme. A draft design is awaited from one potential supplier. It is intended that the school council will present their thoughts to the rest of the school – hopefully before the end of the current school term.

Obviously it is important that this possible project is worked in conjunction with the thoughts progressing on the pavilion.

## **Business**

The Plumpton Festive Fair will take place on Saturday November 28<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon to 4pm. The Plumpton Primary School's award-winning choir will be performing at the Fair. There are well over 30 stall-holders taking part, demonstrating the depth of support for this event. If any Councillors are able to offer help in the morning of the event to help set the hall up it would be very gratefully received.