

HARVINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE WORKING GROUP

Memorandum of Meeting held Friday, 17.4.15 at 4.30 pm

Venue: 'Crooked Walls', Church Street

In attendance: Clive Allen; Julian Rawes; Joy Rawes; Edith Capell; John Langley; Alan Hirst; Tony Grey; Maureen Hall

Apology received from Bill Burford.

This initial meeting of the Working Group considered the following:-

1. The Brief

It was felt that 'Environment and Leisure' covered a very wide field. As other groups will be considering the Leisure aspect, it was decided that this group should initially concentrate on the Environmental area of the brief.

2. Aim of the Group

To provide a report to the steering committee on the following:

- PAST: Historic Harvington – boundaries; buildings; farmland; water courses, ponds and known aquifer; footpaths; wildlife; hedgerow and trees; transport links (i.e. railway); geology and mineral extraction - with supportive evidence.
- PRESENT: To survey and report on the current situation regarding Harvington's environment, considering all of the above issues. Evidence to be gleaned from research conducted by the Working Group and consultation with the village residents.
- FUTURE: To identify those sites that should be protected from future development because of their importance to the village's ambience and ethos. To suggest sites where development could take place without detriment to the rest of the village.

3. Starting Points:

- 1. Gathering of Information.** Clive Allen had enquired as to the possibility of having Worcestershire County Archives conduct a full neighbourhood search (cost £129), to provide us with old maps and evidence for Harvington's past. Clive had already got approval from Chris Haynes for this expenditure, and undertook to pursue this on behalf of the Working Group.

Much research concerning buildings and maps had already been undertaken by Julian Rawes, who agreed to pass some of the most useful website links on to the other members of the group.

It was felt that an A3 map on which the Group could mark information would be useful. Clive Allen had one which would be suitable, and it was suggested that The District Council or Worcestershire Archives might assist us in reproducing this. Clive would investigate.

- 4. Waterways and Aquifers.** John Langley has a professional background in this area, and considerable knowledge of the Parish, due to long residence. The group therefore requested that he put together as much information as he could concerning this.

3. Current Environment: The Group decided that it would be useful for the members to 'walk the Parish' to establish where there were current footpaths (whether Council designated or not) and to identify ancient hedgerow, significant mature trees, wetland areas and wildlife habitats. Many of these were already known to some of the members, the following areas being mentioned:

- Old disused orchard behind 'Thatchways' in Stratford Road
- Area of land behind 'Bramblings'
- Behind Bank House in Stratford Road
- Area around Harvington Brook and the Pond
- The disused Orchard and field between Station Road and Crest Hill

4. Footpaths.

- Mo Hall undertook to do some research into footpath law to establish where the members could walk without falling foul of the law – e.g. if a footpath had once existed but was no longer indicated on any map, would we be allowed to follow it over private land?
- Julian and Joy Rawes had already walked most of the footpaths in the Parish and would therefore lead walks. Tony Grey suggested that splitting into two walking groups would facilitate and speed up the process. This was agreed.
- The first walk (for any of the Group who wished to come along) was arranged for Sunday morning, 19th April, meeting at The Coach and Horses at 10.00 am and walking an area located on the village side of the by-pass.

5. Next meeting:

The next meeting was arranged for Tuesday, 19th May 2015; at 7.00 pm.

Venue: Crooked Walls, Church Street.

The meeting closed at 5.30 pm.