

Harvington Neighbourhood Plan – Social and Community sub-group – 29th April 2015

Present: Phil Bawn, Chris Davies, Jenny Grey, Ken Rowlands

Firstly, it was established that this group's remit has two dimensions. We need to look at:

- Facilities and opportunities in the village for community activities and leisure
- Facilities to help members of our community who are in some way disadvantaged

Using the list of suggested topics provided by Chris Haynes, the following points were raised:

Schools/play schools/after school clubs/holiday activities:

Provision of all these, as far as the group is aware, meets current needs. Activities outside normal school hours, including wrap-around care, is supported and partially funded by St James' church.

The only problem discussed relates to traffic congestion at both ends of the school day. No straightforward solutions to this were identified.

OAP/Care Home/Medical facilities/Pharmacy or drop-off point:

This is an important area of concern to the group (all retired!). The present provision for older people is insufficient and does not cover the range of needs experienced by older people. It would be good for the village to include:

- A complex of apartments similar to Yates Court, in Evesham, which offered some support to residents, and also provided facilities that could be enjoyed by non-residents eg day centre activities, hairdresser, some medical/health support, information centre. Yates Court is run by a charity, for Rooftop Housing Association, who own & maintain the building. This may be a good model for Harvington. This would also lead to an increase in employment in the village.
- In addition, some older residents would like the opportunity to purchase 1 or 2-bedroomed apartments in the village, with maintained, communal gardens but not requiring the level of support outlined above.

Clubs/groups – including children's activities

Harvington is well served with a wide variety of opportunities for leisure activities. The only gaps in provision identified were:

- A playground for children in the Leys Road area. Parents of small children are discouraged from using the playing field facilities, as it is seen as being too far from their homes. Would grants be available to help with funding this?
- Sports activities. It was suggested that some additional facilities would prove popular, eg tennis court, bowling green and setting up a football club for youngsters. Perhaps a site could be identified for the first two on or near the Cricket Club site?
- Would there be a demand for a Cub/Scout group in the village, as there are Rainbow and Brownie packs for girls?
- Film Club – now that we have the necessary equipment in the village hall.

Community Orchard/street lighting/public seating

- The community orchard is developing well, and negotiations continue to improve access to parking and to provide a link to established footpaths in the area
- There is a stretch of Station Road that needs an additional street light. Accidents have occurred there which could have been avoided. The group were aware of the need to keep lighting to a minimum. Are the lights set up so that they are switched off in the early hours of the morning, when few pedestrians are about? Is it possible to have lights that only come on as the result of movement nearby?
- In the past, public seating in the village has been vandalised and ultimately removed. It is now possible to obtain seating that is more 'vandal-proof'. It is therefore suggested that a seat on the green opposite the village hall would be much appreciated. Suggestions invited for other sites.

In addition, we recognise the desirability of gaining some indoor community space for the Leys Road area, if possible.

Note: Several of the items on the suggested list of topics will be addressed by other groups, in particular the Facilities group, also attended by two of our members. There may be a case for combining these two groups.