

Harvington Plan 2015 – Business Group - Meeting May 1st at The Bramblings Grange Lane.

Present Phil Bawn Co-ordinator, John Cocks, John Colebrook Mike Barber and apologies from Chris Hall.

Overall Objectives To have another “village centre” somewhere near the Golden Cross.

Engage Consultants to do the Village Survey.

Farm land—We have various businesses here in addition to farms e.g. Dr. Hugh Nunns nursery, nursery's at Anchor Lane, the Farm Shop and the Conifer Nursery in Ley's road (still active?). Some of these may have potential for development in other uses in due course.

Action needed to have a map of Harvington showing these types of business and talk to the owners to ascertain their thoughts for their future.

Fishing/Shooting---Well established shooting business covered over many acres by Bob Byrd and based at the Coach and Horses pub.

Fishing, Three lakes available and run by the Byrd family again well established and we can add in Golf here as well, nine and eighteen hole courses.

Tourists/Visitors---Information to be put on the website

Harvington may not currently be a “Tourist Destination” as such, but could become a Tourism Hub or Centre as a “Gateway to the Vale”.

To achieve this we would need to establish a “Brand” – perhaps the church steeple which is seen from far and wide could be our trademark. In addition, car parking and visitor information boards, website information and leaflets for distribution to VIC's and other visitor destinations, would be needed.

Anything that can encourage visitors to the Village will make the 2 pubs, and the shop more viable and sustainable

What can Harvington offer? We perhaps need to look more at the niche market tourist/visitor population – people looking for something different they have not done before or following a particular hobby/pastime

1. Church Tourism – to include visits to the church, developing the church as a start point for the Preedy Trail, Bell Ringing Groups, access to church registers for amateur genealogists
2. Walking Groups – develop Harvington as a start and finish point for a selection of walks of varying lengths and interests
3. Cycling Groups – as 2 above
4. Blossom Trail – a refreshment stop on the Trail for motorists and coach groups. Visit an Orchard and also involve the Jubilee Orchard with its varieties of interest as they mature
5. Encourage Caravanners, Golfers, Fishermen, Shooters and Boaters to use Village facilities more – a captive market on the doorstep
6. Work with Ellenden Farm shop on their seasonal Events
7. Develop a series of summer events to encourage visitors and locals to get to know the Village – Village Walkabout, Open Gardens, Asparagus Event linked to local Festival, Beer festivals, Scarecrow Trail

Shops--- We have an excellent convenience store in Leys Road recently refurbished inside and kept in excellent order by the young manager, these premises could be enlarged but since the Post Office will be relocating there we need to wait to see how that will be developed.

Business “Hub” facilities--It would be very useful to have a building where for example a part time Doctor/Nurse could operate from, parcels could be delivered to and collected(although that is done with Hermes at the aforementioned shop,

Suggest that the Cricket/ Football club could be relocated to a more “central” area and perhaps some light industrial units could go there on the ground vacated (could mean some jobs) there is of course Mill engineering in that area and also a site at the bottom of Crest Hill which just seems to be a storage area of some sort.

It would be useful to find out through a survey how many people run a business from home and what facilities they would like to have to perhaps expand and create some jobs.

Faster broadband-- of course we already have fibre optics now in the new BT cabinets which has improved things but in due course BT should replace the copper cable with fibre direct into homes and businesses.

What is needed urgently is a better mobile phone signal at least 4G, at present the signal is very variable in the village.

Waste facilities---- It seems the present system is satisfactory and there is a fairly local tip which surprisingly is still free to us. Again household need to be asked if it is satisfactory for them.