

Environment and Carbon Footprint Action Group

First Meeting

Date held: 18.06.12

In attendance: Rolland Munro, Kate Darby

We proposed a first draft of a mission statement for the group which we see as a starting point for discussion and comment by the community:

The Parish should be a safe, attractive, working settlement seeking a balance between sustainability and affordability that takes advantage of contemporary technologies and funding schemes to preserve its heritage and enhance its environment.

Comments were made at the Open Meeting in March. These were discussed and added to by Kate and Rolland and are listed below in the following categories:

Safety

The parish is divided by B4362. It was suggested that safe crossing points could be designed at intersections with footpaths and roads for pedestrians and cyclists.

Parking areas are required to prevent roads from being blocked to emergency vehicles and poor visibility.

Walking between the village hall and the shop/church could be made safer.

It was suggested special flags denoting danger zones should be used at the Real Event to ensure they are identified all over the parish.

Control of dogs-dog mess.

Clearing of hedgerow cuttings.

Resolve sewage problems.

Attractive environment

Do not suburbanise the villages. How do you solve problems (such as those mentioned above) without 'suburbanising' the villages? I.e. without introducing excessive signage, street lighting, painted lines on roads. Shared Space initiatives such as those designed by Ben Hamilton Bailey (<http://www.hamilton-baillie.co.uk/index.php>) were discussed.

Development should be limited to sensitive, integrated, infilling type development.

Working Settlement

Small scale tourism should be encouraged to provide income within the village and business for the pub and the shop. Holiday lets and caravans are already available. Bed and breakfast provision should be encouraged.

Provision of work units such as studio or office space would be desirable.

Sustainability

How sustainable does the Parish aspire to be?

The Transition Network was discussed as an organisation helping communities to become sustainable. The parish could borrow ideas from this movement or even join the network.

(<http://www.transitionnetwork.org>)

There could be community energy generation (photovoltaics, ground source heat pumps, community biomass etc) which could be combined with other amenities such as a car parking area covered by photovoltaics or a football field covering a ground source heat pump.

Community energy could be used for private homes, community buildings or to make affordable housing more affordable.

A car pool could be created for a Parish car share scheme and/or an all terrain wheelchair pool could be created to enable people with mobility problems to access the Common and surrounding countryside.

In addition to creating a wish list for the parish it was discussed how solutions might be generated. Some initiatives may be achieved simply by raising funds others may require an interesting design solution. It was suggested that a series of public talks could be organised to present to the community ways in which these issues are being tackled elsewhere. Invited speakers could be environmental consultants, landscape designers, shared space

consultants, sustainability experts, eco kit sales reps, transition network members. It was thought that on the whole people could be persuaded to speak in exchange for a meal and accommodation and perhaps transport costs. Perhaps the talks and costs could be shared with neighbouring parishes who are also working on their parish plan.

There is clearly some overlap with other action groups. If this is an issue it was agreed that it could be resolved in the Steering Group meetings.