

Shipton Parish Council Parish Plan 2015

Following the successful exhibition of posters in the Reading Room last year the Parish Council has considered the comments made by residents, both written and verbal, and agreed the following:

Sports Field

It was clear that many people think the Sports field is larger than the village requires and poorly sited to be easily accessed on foot by residents. However, in the absence of any alternative locations, the facility could still be used broadly for the purposes originally intended.

The Parish Council will explore the possibility of selling around a fifth of the Sports field to build some affordable homes for the benefit of residents of the Parish and their families, together with some open market houses. If successful, proceeds could be used to redevelop the facilities at the Sports field. While there were few suggestions for new sports activities to be developed it was thought that the Charity Board were already exploring positive ideas including bowls and outside gym equipment that would benefit older residents.

Housing

Following the Housing Needs Survey there was support for the provision of affordable housing for residents and it was agreed that the best solution to finding suitable and available land for this was to use part of the Sports field as outlined above. Although a considerable distance from the main village a new development here would be better placed for road and public transport facilities. It would also be within easy walking/cycling distance of the Primary school and other amenities at Andoversford along the bridal way and the Frogmill. A development in this area grouped around the cricket field would be attractive and provide additional demand for the facilities at the ground. This proposal has been discussed with the GRCC Rural Housing enabler and an outline proposal is supported by the CDC Housing Strategy and Enabling Officer who is preparing a case to put to planning officers.

Roads and Speeds

There is continued support for the measures taken by the Parish Council to raise awareness of speed in the village. It was agreed to borrow the portable speed indicator sign from the police at the earliest opportunity and to consider the purchase of our own speed gun. Continued efforts will be made to attract more volunteers to the Speedwatch group. In addition the availability of the Andoversford Post Office as a drop point for Amazon packages will be more widely publicised as a means to reduce the number of delivery vans in the village.

Transport and Travel

Although there are a number of residents who would prefer to reduce their use of cars, possibly by car sharing, the group hit hardest by the reduction of bus services are the old, ill and non driving younger people. The Parish Council will follow up the potential for involving existing voluntary groups such as Cotswold Volunteers and Cotswold Friends to assist with this as well as the wider issues affecting older residents.

Reading Room

There was strong support for the vital role of the Reading Room in village life, and for refurbishments to be made to it in order to preserve and improve the facilities. Although this is a matter for the Reading Room Committee to take forward it was positive to see the level of support for the facilities.

Shipton and Hampen Groups and Activities

There had been some surprise at the exhibition of posters as to the number and range of activities available in the village and the continued development of the website may help to improve awareness. However it was accepted that a larger dedicated notice board for the Reading Room events would also help. Generally it was agreed that there are sufficient activities although it was

felt that scope may exist in the future to have Boules and a basket ball hoop on the green, as well as a play area for younger children if a suitable site can be found.

A History of Shipton and Hampen

A number of people had expressed interest in growing the historical information available about the village and this initiative will be led by Emma Locke.