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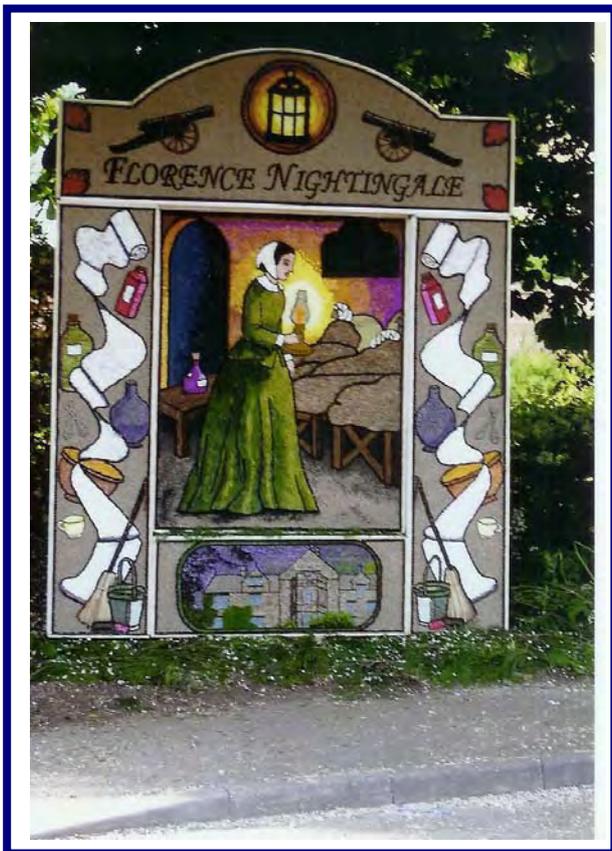
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Most of the residents occupy houses built in the 1950s and 1960s when the number of dwellings increased from around 100 to about 900. The influx of young families when the village expanded means that the age profile of the population forty years on is weighted toward the elderly. At present there are just over 1,000 houses in the village.

During the expansion of the village in the 1950s the site of the manorial hall was developed to house a pair of secondary schools and these, now combined, make up the John Port School, one of the largest comprehensive schools in the entire country. Each day almost as many people come into the village to the school as live there. The opportunities and problems posed by this situation are addressed in the parish plan.

The school is one of the factors that make Etwall more of a focus for the surrounding communities than might otherwise be the case. Traditionally, the parish church also served Burnaston and Bearwardcote while the shops and school drew in residents from nearby villages like Egginton, Hilton, Findern, Willington, and the western suburbs of Derby. The presence of the only swimming pool in the Northern Parishes of South Derbyshire has also served to make Etwall a hub of the local villages and this is expected to be increasingly evident as the impact of the new Etwall Leisure centre, opened in 2009, is felt. Offsetting this trend is the growth of facilities in the adjacent village of Hilton.



Since 1970 the village has staged its annual Well Dressing Festival on the third weekend in May, 2010 marking the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Festival attracts visitors from far and wide and is a major source of the village's sense of identity.

The well dressings are designed, produced and mounted by societies, clubs and groups of residents and celebrate a variety of themes.

The event raises money for prominent local charities and contributes substantially to the local sense of community.

**Well Dressing in Etwall**

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## WHAT IS A PARISH PLAN?

A parish plan is a statement from people living in the parish saying:

- how the future of the village can be safeguarded
- what is important to people in the parish
- what problems need to be tackled
- what facilities the parish needs for the future

The parish plan aims to consult everyone and give them a chance to say what they think about the economic and environmental issues affecting them and the parish, and how they would like to see their community improved during the next 5, 10 or even 15 years.

A parish plan identifies what action needs to be taken and who should take it.

## WHY CONSTRUCT A PARISH PLAN?

The benefits of constructing a parish plan are that such plans -

- make known the issues that affect the community
- identify and prioritize key issues within the community
- produce an action plan to promote the changes that members of the community would like to see at local, district and county levels
- enable communities to engage meaningfully with the local planning process
- are useful in influencing the planning system by:

identifying local needs for affordable housing

identifying local needs for community facilities

identifying open spaces needed and valued for community use

preparing the ground for design statements for new development

## HOW USEFUL COULD IT BE?

Parish plans do not have any statutory powers. However:

- they often influence district and county councils when they are making decisions and when they draw up future policy
- they can influence inspectors during public enquiries or other disputes

More importantly, they help members of the community to focus on key issues affecting them and help drive projects forward to sort out those issues.

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## **THE DEVELOPMENT OF ETWALL'S PARISH PLAN**

### **Beginning of 2008**

The decision to draw up a parish plan was taken. The Parish Council invited representatives from all village clubs, societies, businesses and the schools to a meeting at the Frank Wickham Hall where the intention and procedure were set out. The meeting was advertised in the local 'Express' and on notice boards throughout the village. More than 60 people attended that meeting.

Meetings of the volunteer Steering Committee have taken place regularly since 10<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

### **May 2008**

Consultation on the Plan began at Well Dressing with the distribution of about 600 questionnaires to those visiting the wells. 75% of the 135 returns came from village residents and 90% of the others from people living within a few miles of the village.

### **Late May 2008**

The responses to the questionnaire were analysed and presented to a second public meeting where they were the subject of a lively discussion. It must be stressed that the response and the comments reflected satisfaction with the village overall and much of the plan is concentrated on developing the facets of village life that enthuse its residents.

It was clear that the major areas of concern relate to traffic and parking, the provision of facilities for young people in the village and a number of unrelated issues where there is fear that support for improvements to village life might slip between the areas of influence of the local authorities. In addition to the overall Steering Committee in charge of the plan, three working groups were formed to tackle these three main types of question.

The plan is laid out to reflect the work of the groups and other questions that were raised at meetings of the Steering Committee.

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## Response to the Parish Plan Questionnaire May 2008

### What we like about the village

### What we dislike

Strong sense of community, active village life	71	Parking – JPS collection/drop off of students and 6 <sup>th</sup> formers' cars	38
Shops well run and obliging	41	Parking generally	34
It has a village 'feel' and size and a real centre	39	Vandalism	14
Good schools and a pre-school	25	No doctors' surgery	13
Leisure Centre and facilities	24	Traffic – noise and speeding	12
Pleasant looking buildings in the village centre	16	JPS pupil behaviour – see notes	10
Good pubs, especially the Hawk and Buckle	16	JPS too big and poorly integrated into the village	8
Bus Service	15	Late night drunkenness	8
Churches and clubs active and well supported	13	Condition of toilets	7
Library	12	Other issues with the toilets	4
Play areas	9	Road noise – A50	3
Cleanliness	9		
Well Dressing	6		

**The numbers in the right hand columns indicate the number of mentions that each point got among the 135 returned questionnaires we analysed. The numbers do not, of course, reflect the intensity with which feelings were expressed.**

**The words used in summary of people's responses in these lists and in the suggestions set out below group together things that were differently expressed by different respondents.**

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## The Suggestions Made in the Responses

Improve/Introduce youth facilities	26
Keep the village to its present size	24
Parking - provide more space	21
Visible police presence	15
Road and pavement surfacing	14
Doctors' surgery on set days for routine checks	13
Parking – JPS to accommodate pupils' cars	9
Re-introduce hanging baskets	6
Better youth facilities	5
Better integration of JPS into the village and/or restrict size	5
Upgrade Sandypits Lane playing field and scout/cadet area	3
Provide 'affordable' housing	2
Parking for Primary School	2
Access to school – cycle and drop off	2

These returns need to be read in conjunction with the complaints and praises. Not everyone who complained about something specified an associated improvement. Others did and the decision whether both references should count was inevitably a little arbitrary. In this case the wording of the response had some effect so the resultant 'scores' are indicative, not defining. The wording by which the replies are collated also inevitably draws together ideas which are not all expressed in the same way.

There were other items, not shown, that have been accomplished or put in hand in the meantime. Examples are the upgrade of the Leisure Centre, the refurbishment of the learner pool and the provision of better cash withdrawal facilities in the shops.

## The Action Plans

The action plans set out below are specific ideas arising from the consultation. The column headed 'Priority' is not definitive and the scores given in it are meant to reflect both the importance of the issue and its urgency

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## Planning

The suggestions for retaining or improving the village as a place to live were dominated by a desire to restrict its size. It was clearly felt that significant extension of housing into the open countryside towards Derby or either of the adjacent trunk roads could cause a change of character from village to dormitory suburb. The prime movers on this issue are clearly South Derbyshire District Council as both the planning and the housing authority. The hope is that the wishes of the village are expressed in the local development framework being developed by that council. The retention of a rural setting for the village is seen as central to its character.

The questionnaires reflected strongly affection for the appearance of the village. This underscores the conservation standards that apply to development in the village centre.

The returns also touched on the related issue that houses in the village are so expensive that local young people find it difficult to get on to the property ladder without moving away. This makes a case for several initiatives that are outside the powers of the local community but have to be included in the plan as indicating the trend of local opinion. The chief of these is ensuring that a proportion of in-fill development is given over to affordable housing.



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Also, it is particularly relevant to the situation in Etwall that the non-residential planning applications should be subject to a rigorous regime to ensure that developments that call cars into the village should also accommodate them. This is taken up in greater detail in the section of the plan on traffic and parking.

<b>Intention</b>	<b>Action Required</b>	<b>Who should act</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Maintain Village “Feel”	Keep development inside current limits  Maintain the conservation status of the village centre	District and Parish Councils  District and Parish Councils– possibly Civic Society	High
Cheaper Housing	Exploit Social Housing provisions in legislation  Encourage Housing Associations to build	District Council  District Council	Medium
To provide adequate street lighting in all areas of the village	Resources for black spots in housing areas of the village  Reduced intensity on Main Street	Parish and County Councils	Medium
The A516 through the village was designed to carry full trunk load traffic, with the resultant road widths and lighting provision. The building of the A516 bypass has now made some of these features appear unnecessary and intrusive	Open discussions with planning authorities  Take advice from specialists	Parish Council and Village working group or Civic Society	Medium

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## Environment & Facilities

The questionnaires showed that many of the residents of the village put up with things of which they disapprove, often because it is not clear who is responsible for improving them. Some of these are environmental issues, such as the cleanliness of parts of the village away from its centre or the fact that hanging baskets are no longer put out to improve the look of the place. Other matters are frustration that appreciated facilities have been removed, like a doctors' surgery in walking distance, or that facilities that we do have are duplicated rather than extended. An example is that we have three food stores, three takeaways, three pubs but nowhere to get hardware, toys or flowers.

Some of the points in this section arise because they are not directly the job of any one authority or depend on several working together where they are under no statutory obligation to do so. Where this is the case, the plan calls for the formation of local pressure groups.

<b>Intention</b>	<b>Action Required</b>	<b>Who should act</b>	<b>Priority</b>
A more accessible Doctors' surgery	Identify village clinic site and have the surgery visit weekly for routine tests etc.	Patient Consultation Committee	High
An improved and more accessible library service	The library to survey the residents of the village	DCC	Medium
	More space for reading and local archive	DCC and a Users' Group	Medium
A clean, litter-free environment	More litter picking.	Parish Council and John Port School	High
	Increased publicity about litter picking	Parish Council	Medium
	Increased lengthsman's hours	Parish Council	Medium
	Lengthsman training in the removal of chewing gum, graffiti etc.	Parish Council and SDDC	Medium
	Better maintenance of jitties and pathways	Parish Council	Medium

Increased Verge cutting	Greater frequency	SDDC and Parish Council	Medium
To improve range of goods that can be obtained in the village	Investigate introduction of Farmers' Market	Independent Group	Medium
	Encourage shops to widen the services they provide	Parish Council and volunteer bodies	Low
	Emphasis on free cash points	Shop Keepers	High
To improve facilities for clubs using Frank Wickham Hall	To provide a hard standing area for outdoor children's activities, stalls and other outdoor exhibits	Parish Council	High
To reduce road noise from the A50	Improve screening of A50	Highways Agency – local pressure needed	High
	Improve surface of A50	Highways Agency	Medium
To improve public toilet facilities within the village	Seek finance – investigate other sites	Parish Council	High
To provide hanging baskets	Investigate legal implications of providing hanging baskets	County Council and councillors	Low
To provide adequate street lighting in all areas of the village	Resources for black spots in housing areas of the village.	Parish and County Councils	Medium
	Reduced intensity on Main Street		

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## Facilities for Young People

The most widespread and persistent reaction to the parish plan questionnaire in May 2008 was regret that the children and young people have so little to occupy them. This was surprising as there was evidence that most of the responses to the questionnaire came from the older age group in the village.

The feeling was that the clubs in the village should have active youth wings, that the play and sport facilities should be upgraded and that we should make available young peoples' clubs and retreat areas. In following up these suggestions, the Committee consulted with pupils at both schools, by questionnaire and by focus group style meetings with representative groups of pupils who actually live in the village. The coincidence of these findings with the response to the questionnaires was perhaps the most striking feature of the entire consultation process.

The findings replicated the more detailed and extended results of similar surveys carried out by South Derbyshire District Council in 2004, 2005 and 2007, in one of which John Port School featured prominently.

***There are two major problems to be tackled – suitable buildings to accommodate club activities and a shortage of committed adults to be involved in setting up and guiding the youngsters as they run their leisure pursuits.***

The Committee considered carefully the possibility of finding space in one of the local pubs, in the library and at the new leisure centre. In each case there were problems of availability and exclusive use so interest finally centred on the Sandypits Lane playing field and the Scout hut. These conclusions are reflected in the objectives set out in our action plan.

Adult participation in making this possible is our most important and difficult challenge.

Intention	Action Required	Who should act	Priority
To improve play areas within the village	To ensure that Chestnut Grove play area is properly maintained at all times so that it can be used throughout the year  To ensure maintenance of play equipment on King George V playing field	District and Parish Councils	Medium

<b>Intention</b>	<b>Action Required</b>	<b>Who should act</b>	<b>Priority</b>
To upgrade and improve facilities at Sandypits Lane for sports and social activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve existing facilities</li> <li>• To investigate the provision of basketball facilities</li> <li>• To investigate the feasibility of a Skate Park</li> <li>• To investigate the feasibility of a BMX Track</li> </ul> <p>To investigate the feasibility of a youth football club within Etwall</p>	Parish Council and a Parent/Supervisor Group	High
To provide “chill” areas for the youth and children of the village	<p>Encourage the youth of Etwall to form a committee to work in conjunction with adults and parents to provide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a meeting place for the youth of Etwall</li> <li>• separate meetings for different age groups</li> <li>• various appropriate activities</li> </ul>	Parish Council, Scouts, SDDC Youth Service and Parents	High
Provide more activities in school holidays	To provide an improved hard standing area at the George V playing field and Frank Wickham Hall	Parish Council	High
To liaise with Youth organisations to provide activities during the summer holidays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day trips</li> <li>• Football tournaments</li> <li>• Sports activities</li> <li>• Arts and craft events</li> </ul>	Parish Council, Scouts, SDDC Youth Service and Parents	High High
Closer integration of John Port School and village	<p>To encourage community liaison by John Port School with the village e.g. community newsletter</p> <p>To encourage village participation in John Port School events by more active advertising</p>	John Port School, village clubs and communities	Medium

## Traffic and Parking

In the complaints about life in the village that the consultation provoked “parking” was the subject of more comment than all the other “evils” combined.

There are several reasons for this.

At the end of the school day Main Street is sometimes impassable. Residents actually time their journeys to avoid the village centre between 3.15 pm, when the parents start to arrive to collect pupils, and 4.00 pm.

Every afternoon buses turning out of John Port School come within inches of children crossing Main Street. Often the children are on bicycles.

At the primary school, traffic on Egginton Road is disrupted – not helped in the mornings by the number of motorists speeding into the village as a route to the A50.

In the car park adjacent to the primary school children and reversing cars intermingle without supervision or direction.

All these problems exist in less acute form between 8.30am and 9.00am every morning. At the primary school the hazards are not significantly lower at the beginning of the day.

During the school day, the appearance of the village is impaired by rows of parked cars and people from the outlying parts of Etwall or the surrounding villages often find it difficult to park at all. Many of the cars left about the village belong to pupils from JPS.

The anxieties expressed by the residents are more acute because the John Port School is expanding its activities and this usually adds to the number of older pupils attending the school. Many of them drive to school and leave their cars in the village, usually throughout the entire school day.

There is also a problem of speeding through the village. What makes the issue more acute in Etwall is that the specification of the road is derived from its time as the A516 so it looks like a major road although it leads traffic right past the schools, pubs and shops.

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<b>Intention</b>	<b>Action Required</b>	<b>Who should act</b>	<b>Priority</b>
To improve John Port School student car parking.	Investigate the possibility of student contracts.	John Port School	High
	Identify any private land which might be used for overspill parking	Parish Council/Working group	
	Investigate the possibility of allocating student parking within the leisure centre	John Port School/Leisure centre JMC/Parish Council	
To improve traffic congestion at school delivery and collection times.	Encourage walking, cycling and the use of full cars.	John Port School and County Council	High
	Investigate the possibility of free bus fares for all sixth form students.		Medium
To regulate parking at school delivery and collection times	Introduction of limited waiting areas	John Port School and Etwall Primary School	High
		Parish Council/County Council	High
To minimise the impact of the increased leaving age at John Port School	Regular monitoring of developments with John Port School and the Local Education Authority	Parish Council/County Council	Low
To minimise the impact of any further John Port School development	Regular monitoring of developments with John Port School and the Local Education Authority	Parish Council/County Council	Low
<b>Intention</b>	<b>Action Required</b>	<b>Who should act</b>	<b>Priority</b>
To minimise the	Optimise use of car	Leisure centre JMC/	High

impact of traffic and parking at Etwall Leisure centre	<p>parks to benefit leisure centre users and John Port School staff and students.</p> <p>Constant monitoring of the impact on the immediate areas</p>	<p>John Port School</p> <p>Parish Council</p>	<p>High</p>
To minimise the impact of traffic and parking at the new Children's Centre	<p>Monitor developments with John Port School and South Derbyshire District Council</p>	<p>Parish Council</p>	<p>High</p>
To eliminate speeding within the village	<p>Investigate possible solutions</p>	<p>Parish Council</p>	<p>Medium</p>
To investigate traffic calming measures	<p>Develop long term proposals based on best practice and specialist advice</p>	<p>Parish Council, District Council, County Council.</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>Main Street was once the A516. It is now too wide for its traffic and used as a car park. Build-outs should restrict parking to alternate single sides and enforced parking limits should ensure that two streams of cars can pass each other at all times. Build-outs should be designed for speed restriction.</p>	<p>Develop long term proposals</p> <p>Open discussions with planning authorities</p> <p>Take advice from specialists</p>	<p>Parish Council and Village working group</p>	<p>Medium</p>

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**Closing time at John Port School -**



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**and Etwall Primary**

## **Acknowledgements**

Our thanks are due to the volunteers who came to our committee meetings to give us the benefit of their advice, and particularly to Roy Newton, John Sandland and Brian Hague, who led the working groups.

### **Committee Members**

Joyce Baldwin	Roy Newton
Ian Bennett	Cliff Noons
Christine Bullock	Paul Patten
Stephen Churchman	John Pritchard-Jones
Karen Cresswell (Chair)	John Sandland
John Fox	Ivor Smith
Brian Hague	Wendy Smith
Viv Hunter	Norman Stansfield
David Muller	

We also wish to thank Seb Cauldwell for working on the analysis of the questionnaires, Julian Baker for his help in producing our interim report in April 2009 and Mark Lomas and family who delivered it around the village.

Terry Mottram and Derek Roome helped us with the design of the final plan document and the Neighbourhood Watch volunteers distributed it for us.

The printing and other costs involved in producing this plan were covered by a grant from Rural Action Derbyshire. That we retain a balance to fund our follow-up work is largely due to the help with printing that we have received from John Port School. Thanks are due to both organisations.

**The text of the plan can be found on the village website, [//www.etwall.org](http://www.etwall.org) along with some of the other evidence that we used.**

If you want a larger print version of the plan or have any other special requirements, please call the Clerk to Etwall Parish Council on

**01283 733077**

or leave a note with one of the Parish Council groundsmen.

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**Your comments and suggestions are still welcomed. Cut out this page, fill in the boxes and hand it to one of the contacts listed on page 18.**

Name	Address

**Planning**

Intention	Action Required	Priority

**Environment**

Intention	Action Required	Priority

### **Child and Youth Facilities**

Intention	Action Required	Priority

### **Traffic and Parking**

Intention	Action Required	Priority