

# POTTERS PURY PARISH PLAN 2014



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## INTRODUCTION

The Potterspury Parish Plan is based on the responses to the questionnaire that was issued to every household in the village in May 2013. Residents were asked their views on housing, transport, village facilities, leisure, business and healthcare. The response rate was 36% and the results can be downloaded from the Parish Council website, <http://www.potterspurypc.org.uk>. Printed copies are available on request.

The Parish Council has hosted two public events. The first in February 2013 shared their aims regarding the questionnaire with the village, and the second, in February 2014 displayed the results of the survey and invited further comments. During this period, residents have been kept up to date with progress through regular reports in the village newsletter, The Old Mail.

We hope that this community consultation will ensure that the views of the residents of Potterspury will be recognised by planners at South Northamptonshire District Council and assist them when considering future planning matters relating to our village.

This report includes a summary of the key points addressed by the village survey and a prioritised action plan.

Potterspury is a Northamptonshire village of some 1,500 residents, located mainly to the east of the A5, 6 miles north of Milton Keynes and 5 miles south of Towcester. Village facilities include: a primary school, a village shop and post office, a church, a chapel, two pubs, a village hall and a sports and social club. Other businesses within the parish include Churchill Motors, Cherry Lane garden centre, the Super Sausage cafeteria and the small shops on the Wakefield Estate. The Number 89 bus service runs between Milton Keynes, Towcester and Northampton.

## POPULATION

According to the 2011 census, the village population was 1,453. Since 2011 Potterspurys housing stock has increased by 10%, or some 70 dwellings, so the village population (May 2014) is likely to be in excess of 1,500.

## RESIDENTS' VISION FOR POTTERSPURY

The resident's survey of May 2013 showed that the community has a vision for the future of their village. Their vision is:

- A thriving community that values and respects its environment, rural landscape and heritage.
- A village where residents of all ages feel safe, valued and able to enjoy a range of facilities and activities.
- A community with strong links to local towns and villages via well-maintained roads and sustainable transport.
- A village with well-supported local businesses, shops, and a primary school, as well as the infrastructure (such as high-speed broadband and additional small business units) to support their economic growth and to provide opportunities for employment.
- A community that acknowledges the need for small-scale housing development to meet local needs, in appropriate locations within the village confines and in design and materials sympathetic to existing village buildings.

## PART 1: PLAN NARRATIVE

### HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN

- The majority of residents are opposed to large developments (over 15 houses).
- Potterspurty has distinct boundaries and residents do not favour expansion on the edge of the village beyond the confines.
- Residents would prefer small developments of less than 15 properties on infill sites.
- New buildings should reflect both the character of the existing street scene and the character of the village.
- Historic features should be retained and preserved in a sympathetic manner.
- Open spaces in the village must be preserved and protected, while sympathetic landscaping is advocated around new dwellings.
- Provision should be made for off-street parking.

#### *Influences on changing housing needs*

The largest cohort of Potterspurty's population is aged 45-64. There is already significant demand for suitable housing for older residents and this need is likely to increase within the next 10–15 years.

Residents value the historic buildings of the village and would like to encourage their sensitive and efficient re-use where appropriate in order that they can be preserved.

Following the recent construction of affordable housing, there is low demand for affordable housing by families with a strong connection to the village (see correspondence with South Northants Housing Officer, Laura Welch, April 2014).

#### **ACTION**

*The Parish Council will use the planning process in an effort to ensure that any development follows these broad guidelines:*

*Development remains within the confines of the village*

*Development is sustainable, i.e. the impact will not overwhelm the village infrastructure and facilities*

*Development will reflect the character of the village*

*When considering future developments, we would favour those with accommodation for older residents*

*The Parish Council believes that Potterspurty needs time to absorb the new housing that has been constructed since 2011 before the village can consider further development.*

## TRANSPORT AND ROAD MAINTENANCE

The majority of residents use cars as their main form of transport for commuting, social activities and shopping.

- Some 250 cars are parked on the village streets.
- Fewer than half the respondents use the No. 89 bus service. Having said that, this service is vital to the sustainability of the village, being used by a significant number of secondary school children to access Sponne School in Towcester, as well as those without access to private motor vehicles.
- There is a strong demand for better facilities for cyclists, including a cycle path along the A5.
- Many residents have remarked that village roads need better maintenance, and that the needs of disabled residents should be considered in the construction and upkeep of village pavements and footpaths.
- The speed of traffic passing through the village is an area of concern.

### **ACTION**

*The Parish Council will continue to lobby NCC for the maintenance of village roads, the retention of the bus service and provision of improved facilities for cyclists.*

*The Parish Council will continue to insist through the planning process that any new houses must include adequate off-street parking for motor vehicles.*

## SHOPS AND BUSINESSES

- The village post office and shop (Cottage Stores) are highly valued and used regularly by the majority of residents.
- Other business, such as the two pubs, Cherry Lane Garden Centre, the retail units on the Wakefield Estate, Churchill Motors and the Super Sausage Cafeteria are all well used by village consumers. They also provide a source of employment, along with John Hellins Primary School.
- A significant minority of residents are self-employed or run small businesses from home. The provision of superfast broadband would be welcomed by a large number of residents. In addition, the provision of small workshops or business units would encourage small business and improve employment opportunities.

### **ACTION**

*The Parish Council will encourage and support the Superfast Potterspury Campaign, and continue to lobby Superfast Northamptonshire and local providers for an upgrade to the village broadband capability.*

*The Parish Council will consult with landowners about potential sites for workshops and storage provision.*

## LEISURE FACILITIES

The Village Survey produced a strong demand for the provision of better play facilities for older children and the Parish Council is supporting this.

### **ACTION**

*A steering group, supported by the Parish Council is actively pursuing the renewal of the tennis court area behind the Sport and Social Club with a view to providing new sports facilities for the whole community.*

## ENVIRONMENT

- Residents appreciate Potterspury's rural character and the historic local landscape. Local footpaths are well used and villagers value the green spaces within and around the village, such as the play areas, the church yards and the playing field.
- Many villagers are frustrated by the amount of dog mess on the streets and paths of Potterspury.

### **ACTION**

*The Parish Council will install more bins and support efforts to encourage dog walkers to clear up after their dogs.*

## PRIMARY HEALTHCARE

Potterspury residents use primary healthcare services in both Milton Keynes and Northamptonshire. Although the Parish Council has minimal influence over healthcare provision, we will pass the results of the survey to local healthcare providers and planners.

### **ACTION**

*The Parish Council will make primary healthcare providers aware of the results, particularly the negative opinions concerning appointments at the Stony Stratford surgery.*

## EDUCATION

John Hellins Primary School is popular, highly regarded and operating near to full capacity. Residents believe that all children in Potterspury should be able to access the village school if their parents wish.

### **ACTION**

*The Parish Council will seek to ensure through the planning process that adequate financial provision is made for education when new housing is under consideration.*

## OLDER RESIDENTS

The Parish Council wishes to support efforts to improve provision for older residents. This could include support for leisure groups, teas, or setting up a support network of volunteer helpers. Many pointed out that their lives would be easier with the provision of healthcare in the village.

### **ACTION**

*The Parish Council will work with groups within the village to provide increased levels of support for older residents. Targeted provision could be considered.*

## YOUNGER RESIDENTS

It was cheering to read younger residents' views on the village and how they could be involved in the community. Younger residents' have expressed their wish for better leisure facilities within the village, especially for those of secondary school age. The Parish Council is actively supporting efforts in this area.

### **ACTION**

*Although the survey failed to provide clear data regarding the views of younger residents, the Parish Council will continue to engage with groups representing young people to seek to ensure suitable provision of facilities, particularly for leisure activities.*

## PART 2: PRIORITISED ACTION PLAN

Category	Issue	Parish Council Response (With references to the Parish Plan Consultation May 2013)	Parish Council Action	Priority 1 – highest 5 - lowest
Housing	Demand for more housing	The parish has undergone significant development over recent years and whilst not ruling out further development in the future, Potterspury now needs a period of consolidation to absorb the newcomers into the community and enhance local services to support them.  In-filling with small groups of dwellings (Q16) would be acceptable.	Resist, through the planning process large-scale development.	1
	Demand for affordable housing	Potterspury has three affordable housing developments and currently there is not a significant need for more (SNC Housing Needs Survey 2013).	Continue to monitor need by liaison with South Northants Council, but indicate that locally generated need is largely met.	2
	Village confines	Potterspury has distinct boundaries. Residents do not favour significant expansion of the village confines (Q16, 17, 18, & 19).	Object to large-scale developments through the planning process.	1
	Demand for housing for an ageing population	Potterspury's population is relatively static and ageing. There will be a growing need for suitable accommodation for elderly and less able residents. (Q14)	Highlight the problem to South Northants Council and indicate to those involved in planning policy how this needs to be addressed.	2



	Housing design	<p>Although Potterspury has a mix of building styles the local vernacular style is for houses built from local limestone laid to course with slate roofs. There are some thatched properties. The balance between modern and vernacular style needs to be preserved.</p> <p>There is strong local support for respecting the current street scene, preserving historic features, retaining open spaces, landscaping and tree planting. (Q17)</p>	<p>Continue to support the principles published in the SNC Village Design Guidance.</p> <p>Consider other methods of reinforcing the current guidance.</p>	2
	Provision of off-street parking	<p>Most vehicles are parked off the road (Q32) and most residents consider they have adequate parking (Q33), nevertheless there is a significant and increasing number of vehicles parked on the road (2011 Census) and there is strong support for proportionate off-street parking (Q17).</p>	<p>Continue to insist during the planning process that new developments are constructed with adequate off-street parking.</p>	2
Transport	Bus service	<p>There is a great reliance on private vehicles for all transport needs. The bus service is only used by a small proportion of respondents and this demand may come from those unable or unwilling to drive, or those with free bus passes.</p> <p>The users find the bus service easy to use. There were several comments on how it might be improved.</p>	<p>Feedback information to Northants County Council and bus provider.</p>	3
	Cycling	<p>There is a strong demand for better facilities and for cycle lanes on the A5 (Q29, Q30 &amp; ).</p>	<p>Feedback information to Northants County Council and Highways Agency</p>	3

	Pedestrians	There a demand for better maintenance of footpaths (Q35).	Feedback information to Northants County Council.	4
Business	Provision of small units	Although we have had housing growth, there has not been any provision of workshops and storage that would help small businesses and provide a more balanced community. (Q69)	Consult with land owners about potential sites for workshops and storage provision	3
	Broadband	Broadband speed is important for those running businesses in the village. (Q69)	See comments regarding Communication.	
	Support for key business	Support key local businesses, such as the Post Office, to ensure their sustainability.	Support key local businesses, such as the Post Office, through our influence in the planning process and with other agencies.	2
Leisure Facilities	Provision of Play Equipment	There is a strong demand for facilities for older children (Q50, Q51) based at Meadow View Playing Field.	Explore with the Potterspurty Sports and Social Club, and residents, plans for a multi-games area based on the tennis court area.	2
			Explore the refurbishment of existing play areas	3
Healthcare	Access to GPs	There are difficulties with accessing GP surgeries, particularly in Stony Stratford (Q57, Q58 & Q59)	Pass on results of survey to local surgeries.	2
Environment	Dog Fouling	Many villagers are frustrated by the amount of dog mess on the streets, paths and playing fields of the village (Q49).	Install more bins and support efforts to encourage dog walkers to clear up after their dogs.	1
Safety	Policing	Whilst most residents felt safe in Potterspurty there is a need to avoid complacency.	Support the local Neighbourhood Watch and encourage local Police officers to attend Parish Council	3

			meetings where possible.  Ensure that Police and Crime Prevention information is displayed on Council Notice Boards and the Council web site.	3
	Traffic	Residents wish to see a reduction of traffic speeds through the village (Q65)  There are concerns over parking on pavements (Q56).	Investigate the possibility of reducing the speed limit on the A5 from 50 mph to 40 mph, and from 30mph to 20mph in the village.  Continue to campaign through the Old Mail and other outlets for more responsible parking.	2  2
Communication		The most important method of communication within the village is The Old Mail. (Q62)  The lack of Superfast Broadband is beginning to negatively affect the village. (Q63, 64)	Ensure the viability of The Old Mail by continuing to provide a grant.  Support a Superfast Broadband group that can investigate all options, including setting up an independent provider for the village.	2  1
Older Residents	Support for our ageing population	Develop a support network within the village to enable older residents to remain healthy and active.	Work with groups within the village to provide increased levels of support for older residents including targeted funding.	3
Younger Residents	Improved facilities for younger residents.	Develop facilities for younger residents to embed them within our community.	Engage with groups representing younger residents. (see also Leisure Facilities)	3