

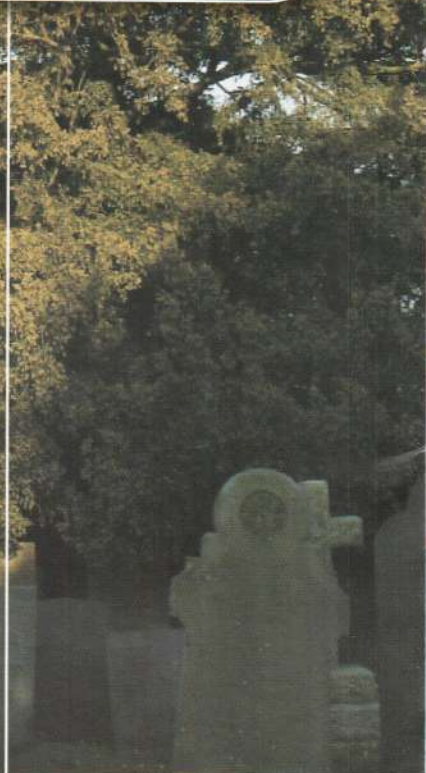
WHAT IS A PARISH PLAN?

A parish plan is a community's vision for its future. A plan addresses matters of greatest concern to residents and could include topics such as road safety, children's activities and schooling, health, housing development and planning, communications, transportation, recycling, dog fouling, and energy efficiency or enjoyment of the countryside.

Parish plans were announced in the Government Rural White Paper in 2000 with the intention of giving communities a chance to plan their future over the next 10 years. At the end of 2005, Hickling Parish Council set up a steering committee to investigate the need for a Hickling Parish Plan and, in 2006, a grant of £3500 was obtained from the Government to enable the plan to go ahead.

Parish Plans have the potential to influence the powerful forces that can control village life such as Councils and their planners, developers and traders. They give the village a collective voice, but cannot override Government Planning Policy. They contribute to local housing, environment and land management, roads and transport, services and planning initiatives.





THE PLAN IS A DOCUMENT WHICH:

- Reflects parishioners' views
- Identifies those parish/village features valued by the community
- Highlights local problems and identifies opportunities
- Includes a community action plan which identifies those parts of the parish residents want to see changed.

The parish planning process over the past few months has provided everyone with the opportunity to think about and discuss the social, economic and environmental issues associated with living in the rural community of Hickling. The key issues outlined in the following pages were gleaned from various consultations we engaged in including the Resident questionnaire, the Parish Map and mind map exercises at the Country Fair, Open Gardens and the Historic Walk, the Children's Picture Map and the Youth Event.

The final event before the publication of the plan was a well attended open day that gave residents the opportunity to make final comment on the content and action plans before adoption by the Parish Council and publication.

WHAT YOU HAVE SAID SO FAR:

Some of the comments received at the open day.

"It all seems very positive and exciting; I am willing to help where I can. Well done."

"Good effort"

"Good clear exhibition"

"Very good and lots of people involved today which is good"

"Pleased with the final suggested outcomes"

"We support the proposals outlined"



SO WHAT NEXT?

PARISH NEEDS YOU!

Now that the action plan has been published the parish residents need to tackle the actions identified within the action the plan. To achieve this, the Parish Council cannot work in isolation and the help of the community will be required to make sure the actions are completed. The result will be that we end up with an even better parish community. If you feel you want to help with any of the actions you should contact anyone of the project steering group and pledge your support.



ABOVE ALL IT IS YOUR PLAN FOR THE FUTURE



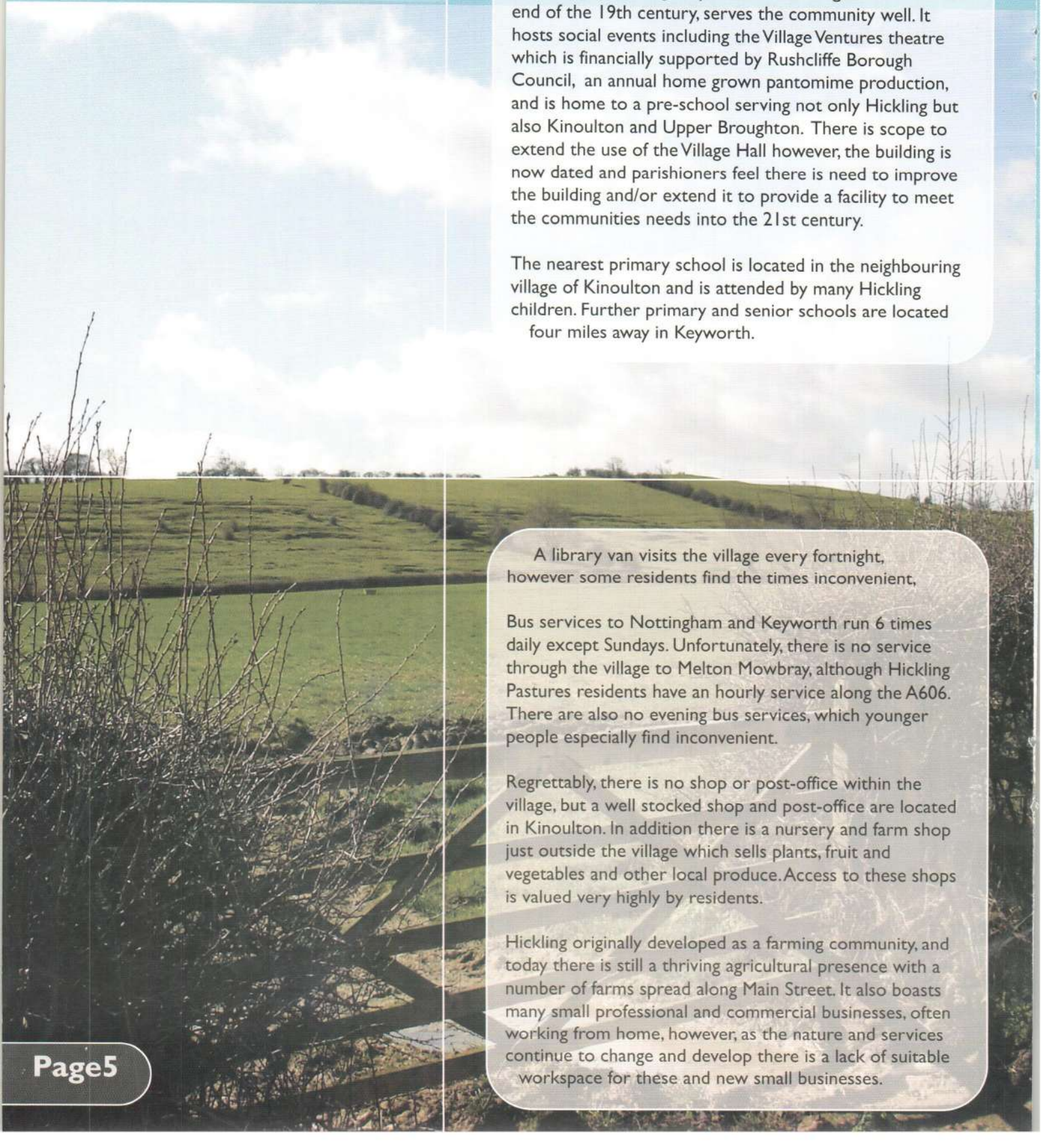
FACILITIES

Hickling parish is a rural community close to Melton Mowbray and is within commuting distance of Nottingham and Leicester. Whilst not the only industry, arable and dairy farming is still a significant part of village life.

At the beginning of the 20th Century, Hickling boasted 7 hostelries and off-licences, but now only the Plough Inn situated on the Canal Basin remains. .

The Village Hall, originally built as the village school at the end of the 19th century, serves the community well. It hosts social events including the Village Ventures theatre which is financially supported by Rushcliffe Borough Council, an annual home grown pantomime production, and is home to a pre-school serving not only Hickling but also Kinoulton and Upper Broughton. There is scope to extend the use of the Village Hall however, the building is now dated and parishioners feel there is need to improve the building and/or extend it to provide a facility to meet the communities needs into the 21st century.

The nearest primary school is located in the neighbouring village of Kinoulton and is attended by many Hickling children. Further primary and senior schools are located four miles away in Keyworth.

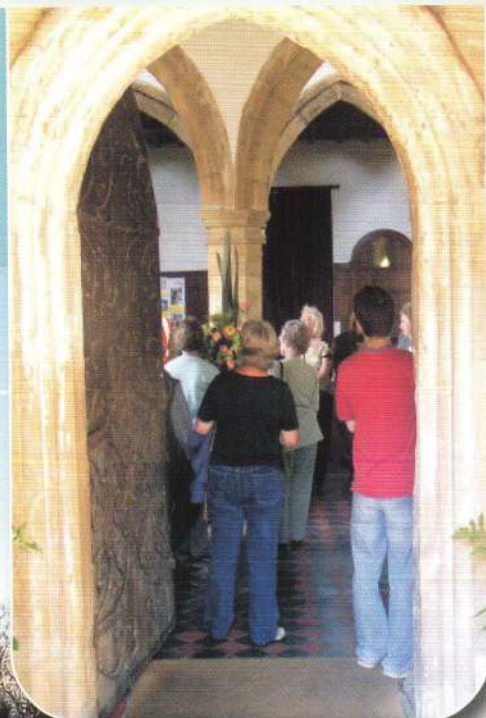


A library van visits the village every fortnight, however some residents find the times inconvenient,

Bus services to Nottingham and Keyworth run 6 times daily except Sundays. Unfortunately, there is no service through the village to Melton Mowbray, although Hickling Pastures residents have an hourly service along the A606. There are also no evening bus services, which younger people especially find inconvenient.

Regrettably, there is no shop or post-office within the village, but a well stocked shop and post-office are located in Kinoulton. In addition there is a nursery and farm shop just outside the village which sells plants, fruit and vegetables and other local produce. Access to these shops is valued very highly by residents.

Hickling originally developed as a farming community, and today there is still a thriving agricultural presence with a number of farms spread along Main Street. It also boasts many small professional and commercial businesses, often working from home, however, as the nature and services continue to change and develop there is a lack of suitable workspace for these and new small businesses.



OUTCOMES –WE WANT:

- The village hall to be used for a wide range of activities for all age groups;
- To maintain access to food and post office services for residents;
- Young People to be able to access facilities outside the village, including evenings and week ends;
- Hickling to be thriving economically

ACTIONS –WE WILL:

- Maintain the fabric of the village hall and investigate potential improvements to the structure of the building
- Promote development of new activities in the Village Hall
- Ensure the Post Office at Kinoulton provides for the needs of the community
- Take action to develop alternative services, ie a Community Shop in Hickling should Kinoulton P.O. close.
- Work with NCC and bus companies to identify potential services.
- Support small businesses and farming in the rural economy
- Work with Nottinghamshire Library Services to improve accessibility to the library van.

HIGHWAYS, BYWAYS AND WATERWAYS

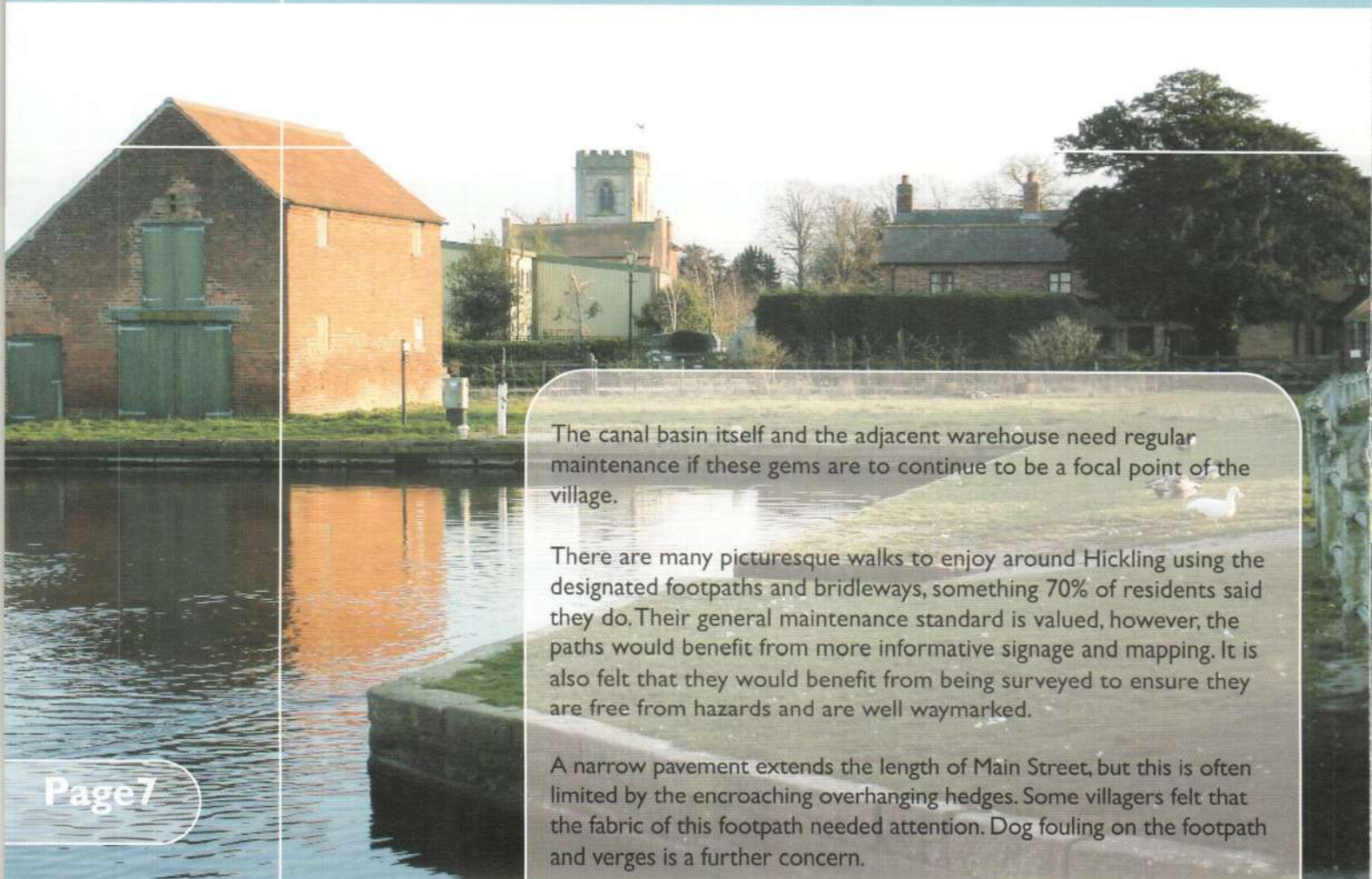
Hickling Pastures is a ribbon development along the A606 which was the former stage coach route and a drovers trail between Nottingham and Melton Mowbray. Over the past years, this road has become increasingly busy and dangerous and there have been campaigns to introduce speed controls some of which have been successful in slowing down traffic.

Though not a major road, Hicklings Main Street does experience some heavy traffic, particularly vehicles taking a short route to Long Clawson and Melton Mowbray or servicing the business's within the village. Speed and weight of vehicles have been of increasing concern and have been a contributory factor in the erosion of the edges of the village access roads -Bridegate Lane and Clawson Lane.

Although there are marked lorry routes avoiding the village, it appears satellite navigation systems are not programmed to take account of these. A recent survey carried out by Nottinghamshire County Council suggests that commercial traffic levels may well have reached the point where some form of traffic control may be appropriate.

Hickling has a long standing relationship with the Grantham Canal. In 1797, when the canal was opened it was a major trading route with barges carrying coal, building materials, agricultural produce and wool. They also carried night soil out of Nottingham to be spread over the fields in the area. The Hickling Basin was the only place along the Canal where barges could turn and as a result the Canal and Basin were once an important part of the local economy.

Whilst of little commercial value, the canal is enjoyed by visitors and villagers alike as a recreational area for walkers, cyclists, bird watchers and fishermen. Parishioners are keen to maintain and develop the area around the Canal Basin and add extra parking. There are long term plans to once again make the canal navigable. In the meantime there may be opportunities to utilise the part of the canal from the basin towards Coles Bridge for boating activities. Along the canal is a lengthmans hut, one of the few remaining huts used by the canal workers to store their tools and in which to shelter during their meal breaks. Unfortunately, this is in a poor state of repair and at risk of being lost for ever if urgent refurbishment is not carried out.



The canal basin itself and the adjacent warehouse need regular maintenance if these gems are to continue to be a focal point of the village.

There are many picturesque walks to enjoy around Hickling using the designated footpaths and bridleways, something 70% of residents said they do. Their general maintenance standard is valued, however, the paths would benefit from more informative signage and mapping. It is also felt that they would benefit from being surveyed to ensure they are free from hazards and are well waymarked.

A narrow pavement extends the length of Main Street, but this is often limited by the encroaching overhanging hedges. Some villagers felt that the fabric of this footpath needed attention. Dog fouling on the footpath and verges is a further concern.

OUTCOMES –WE WANT:

- The Roads in and around Hickling and Hickling Pastures to be safe
- The Heritage of Hickling and the Grantham Canal to be preserved and enhanced
- Residents and visitors to enjoy the canal and the basin.
- Public rights of ways to be clearly identified and accessible
- Pavements to be clean and well maintained

ACTIONS –WE WILL:

- Take a range of actions to reduce speeding in the parish and restrict the inappropriate use by HGV vehicles
- Assess parking provision at the Basin, near the canal.
- Promote opportunities to enhance the visitor experience and heritage of the Grantham Canal, including the restoration of the Lenghtman's hut.
- Carry out a survey of the state of the footpaths in Hickling and improve signage and information
- Encourage responsible dog ownership and provide information about other animal fouling



ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND HOUSING

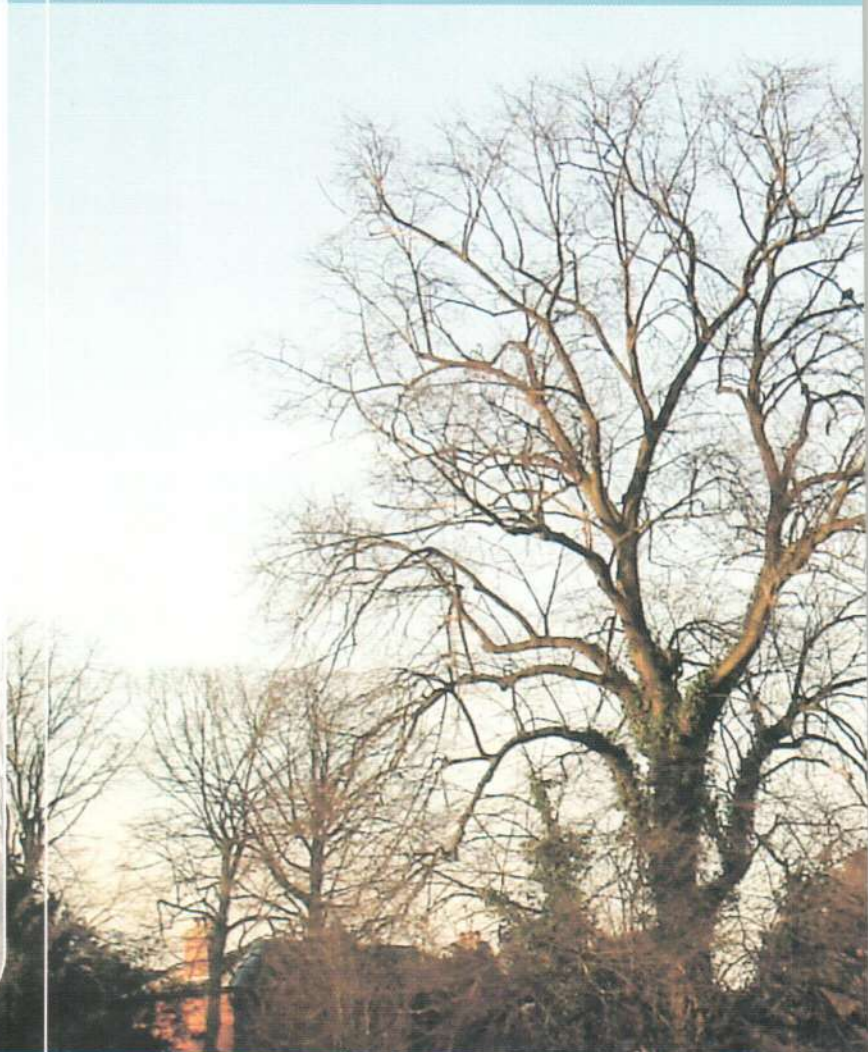
Most residents enjoy the rural setting and do not want to lose the open, green spaces remaining in the village, for those who came to the village from outside it was the most important aspect that attracted them to Hickling. Most of the village has been designated a conservation area and this means its distinctive characteristics will be preserved. As part of the Conservation Area there are planning guidelines to protect the village from overly intensive development.

Most properties are owner-occupied with a few available to rent on the private market, but there is no social housing provision (Council or Housing Association). Most residents would want the village to remain very much as present however; they do see the need for affordable /starter homes to encourage young people to stay in the parish and prevent the elderly leaving. It is felt that there would be benefit in conducting a housing needs survey.

To play its role in the changing rural economy, Hickling not only needs to accommodate the requirements of the agricultural businesses, it also needs workspace to enable people to set up their business in the village and the supporting technological infrastructure (high speed broadband for example)

Parishioners have embraced recycling in a big way and benefited from being part of a recycling incentive pilot scheme and would like to explore further opportunities in order to support sustainable living and reduce waste and emissions.

Although some residents grow fruit and vegetables in their garden, a significant proportion of villagers do not have a sufficiently large garden to accommodate this and have indicated they would welcome the creation of allotments.



OUTCOMES – WE WANT:

- The character of a rural working village to be maintained
- Young and older people to be able to remain in the village
- Residents to care for and protect the environment
- Residents to have access to allotments in the village

ACTIONS – WE WILL:

- Influence the review of the conservation area in Hickling.
- Carry out a housing needs survey.
- Investigate the need for affordable housing
- Promote recycling and the use of renewable energy sources
- Investigate the creation of allotments
- Explore the possibility of undertaking a Village Design Statement

COMMUNITY SAFETY, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Generally the majority of residents feel safe, however, a significant minority have concerns about security. Overall, the parish is perceived as relatively safe and secure. Crime and vandalism are not major issues, however making sure the village remains safe and the lack of police presence are major concerns. Some residents feel that reintroducing a neighbourhood watch scheme would be beneficial. Street lighting did not appear as an issue with some residents feeling there were too many lights.

Being near the border, residents can access health services from both Leicester and Nottingham Health Authorities. More than half of residents use Long Clawson Medical Practice, with the remaining split between Keyworth and Cropwell Bishop Practices. Satisfaction with the health services received was generally high.

There is a perception within the community that “999” calls are initially routed to Leicester rather than Nottingham and it was felt this might cause a delay in response.

The air ambulance is considered important to the village and this is one of the favoured charities for which the village holds events. Some parishioners felt that there was a need for a first response team within the village with training and access to a defibrillator.

A number of residents were concerned about access to disabled and elderly day centres, social services and emergency services and equipment. In addition, assistance with shopping, gardening and medical centre attendance was considered of importance. A small minority experienced problems accessing services such as a hospital, chemist, dentist and physiotherapy. Whilst there is a physiotherapy practice in the village, it is only available through the NHS for patients registered with Long Clawson Medical Practice.

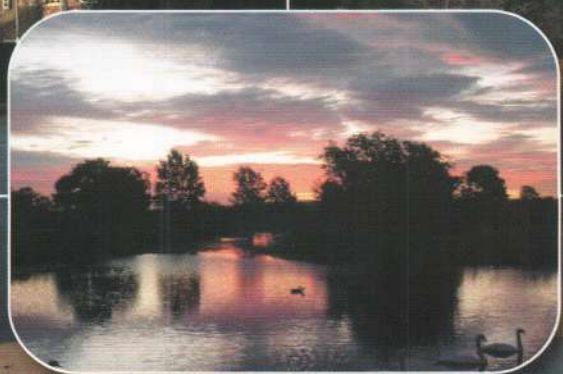
There is a view that there is little support for carers within the community and additional support was required.

OUTCOMES –WE WANT:

- Residents to feel safe in their homes and in the village
- Residents to be confident that emergency situations can be dealt with appropriately
- Residents to be satisfied with health and care services and aware of the services available to them
- To meet the social needs of residents within the community where possible

ACTIONS –WE WILL:

- Investigate re-establishing the neighbourhood watch
- Communicate to residents how “999” system works
- Investigate the setting up of a first response team
- Compile a directory of available social, health and care services
- Set up a Good Neighbour Scheme



COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE

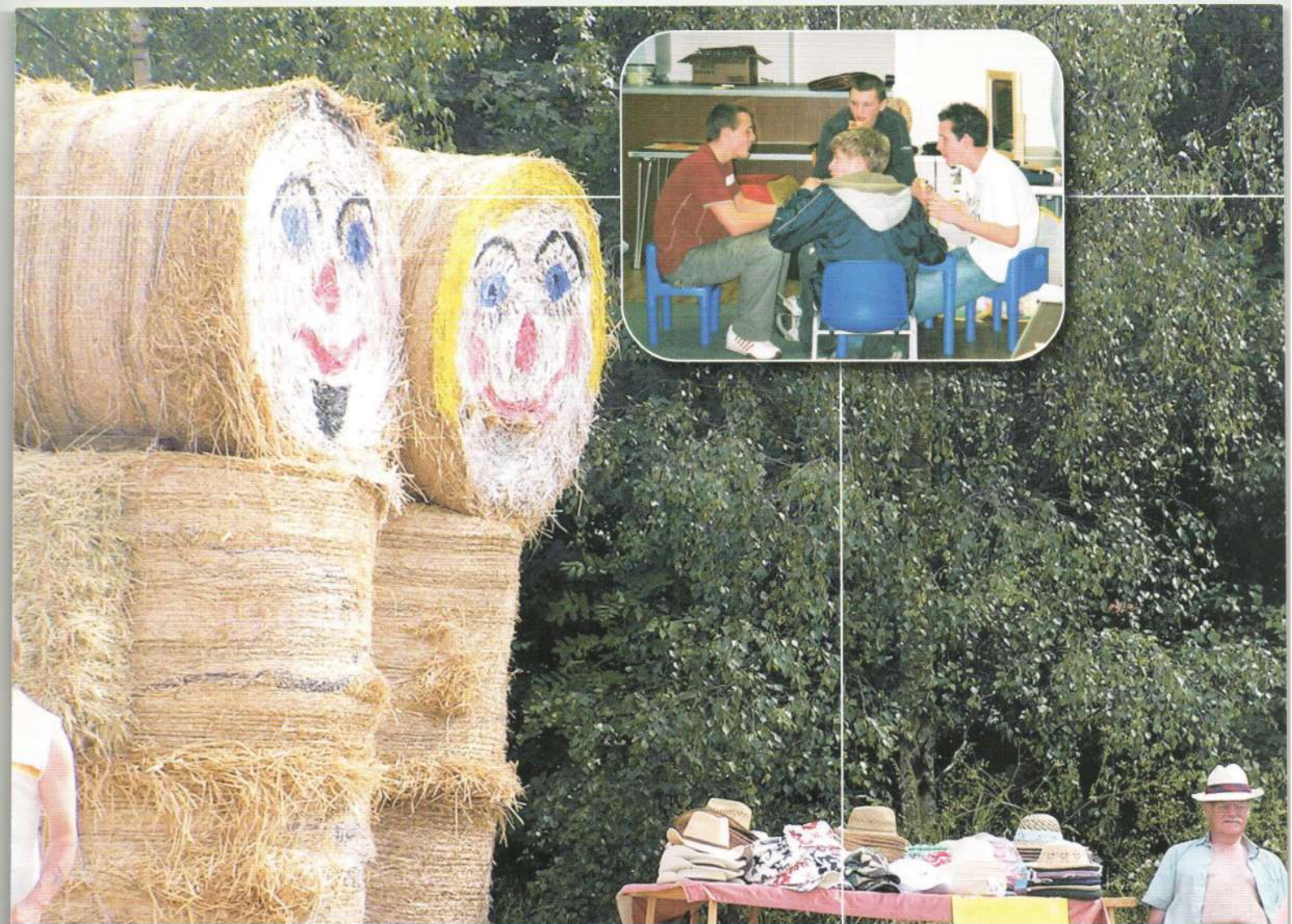
Community life in the parish is enthusiastically enjoyed. Annual events such as the renowned Scarecrow Weekend which attracts visitors from far a field, the Christmas Pageant, Summer Fayre, pantomime and church events are all looked forward to, and are a focus for the community spirit that is the life blood of the village.

The 13th century St Luke's Church is in the heart of the village and is widely valued. There are a small band of regular Sunday worshippers, but services of celebration, Christmas, Easter, Weddings and Christenings are well attended. During weekends the church remains open for the benefit of residents and visitors alike. Only limited use is currently made of its accommodation for exhibitions, concerts etc. and plans are in progress to make the space more available to the community.

Young people in the village generally appreciate and value living in the countryside and fishing on the canal is one leisure pursuit that is readily available. There are both Scouts and Guides, but these groups use Kinoulton Village Hall and Kinoulton School which is more fit for purpose than Hickling Village Hall. There are few organised social and sporting activities or facilities available for young people. There is a cricket club that plays in the village, but they do not actively support developing young players. The Kinoulton Villa play football on a pitch near the basin, but they have until the end of season 2008 to find an alternative site. Hicklings own football club plays at West Bridgford. Transport to other villages and towns therefore is a major issue to enable young people to seek a social life away from the village. The young people are also telling us they want somewhere they can simply "hang-out" with their friends within the village.

There is an active and well run toddler group and pre-school group which meet in the village hall. Otherwise, for younger children, facilities are limited and residents see providing a play/amenity area as essential to improving the quality of Hickling life.





OUTCOMES –WE WANT:

- The church building to be well used and maintained
- Young people to have access to facilities appropriate to their needs
- Children and families to have a place to meet and play
- An active and thriving community

ACTIONS –WE WILL:

- Investigate the wider community use of the church
- Provide a meeting place for young people and promote opportunities to develop activities and services for young people in the village, including extra bus services
- Set up a group to develop a recreation area appropriate to various age groups
- Continue to support community activities.



PARISH COUNCIL AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Parish Council holds open meetings approximately every 6 weeks and minutes are published in the "Hickling Standard" newsletter and also posted on public noticeboards. Most parishioners say they are happy with the way the Council functions.

The "Hickling Standard" provides a valuable means of communication, keeping residents in touch with events and activities and provides an opportunity for advertising local services.

The village fought long and hard to preserve the red telephone box, and now it appears redundant. A need has been established for internet connection, and the transformation into a text box would give it a new lease of life.

Internet and broadband access can be slow and unreliable owing to ageing communication lines and growing demand and this is a matter for action.

Work is in hand to develop the Hickling website with the help of local IT knowledge. It is appreciated that not everyone has internet access and public provision needs addressing, as does the question of computer training.

OUTCOMES -WE WANT:

- Residents to have access to relevant information and services locally
- Residents to have access to high quality ICT infrastructure

ACTIONS -WE WILL:

- Set up a community website
- Maintain the telephone box as a text box
- Lobby BT about fast Internet access and communication services

HICKLING

PARISH ACTION PLAN

Prepared by the Parish Plan Steering Group with support
From Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council

Hickling Parish Plan June 2007 Action Plan
HICKLING PARISH PLAN

INTRODUCTION

This document has been produced following consultation in Hickling during Spring/Summer of 2006.

The consultation was conducted by the Hickling Parish Plan Steering Group supported by Hickling Parish Council and The consultation was successful in acquiring a £3,500 grant from Defra and £800 from the Rushcliffe Community Partnership programme to produce a Parish plan.

A questionnaire went out in the spring, the Parish Map and mind maps were presented at the Country Fair and Open Gardens, a Historic Walk took place followed by a chance to comment, the children produced a Picture Map and young people were consulted around a pizza...

These all helped in the garnering of residents views and providing a basis for action.

An action planning event took place in November, attended by 50 people.

This document is an outcome of that day and is the immediate action plan for the parish plan launched in June 2007. It will be reviewed and updated regularly.

OUTCOMES AND ACTIONS

1. FACILITIES
2. HIGHWAYS; BYWAYS AND WATERWAYS
3. ENVIRONMENT; PLANNING AND HOUSING
4. COMMUNITY SAFETY; HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
5. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE
6. PARISH COUNCIL AND COMMUNICATIONS

Hickling Parish Plan June 2007 Action Plan

1. FACILITIES

Outcome	Action	Who	By When	Progress
The village hall is host to a wide range of activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the fabric of the village hall Investigate potential improvements to the structure of the building 	Village Hall Committee	Ongoing December 2009	
The Post Office at Kinoulton provides for the needs of the community	Publicise the facilities available at Kinoulton P.O. through –	Kinoulton Post Office and Village store owners Website/ Hickling Standard	December 2007	
Residents have access to food and post office services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor developments in post office closures. Advertise local mobile facilities Research the concept of a community shop in the case of the loss of the post office 	Hickling Parish Council Website Hickling Standard	Ongoing	
Hickling is thriving economically	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support small businesses and farming in the rural economy 	Hickling Parish Council	Ongoing	
Residents access information and books locally	Publicise the mobile library service Negotiate mobile library access for the pre-school	Hickling Standard Website	December 2007 December 2007	

Hickling Parish Plan June 2007 Action Plan

2. HIGHWAYS; BYWAYS AND WATERWAYS

Outcome	Action	Who	By when	Progress
Roads around the village are clean and safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the weight and speed of HGVs with Nottinghamshire County Council 	NCC	December 2007	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the setting up of a village gateway 	Hickling Parish Council		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate Community Speedwatch Speed Flashing Signs Investigate traffic calming measures 	Hickling Parish Council Hickling Parish Council County Council. Hickling Parish Council	December 2007	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage responsible dog ownership Provide information about other animal fouling 	Hickling Parish Council	Ongoing	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess parking provision at the Basin, near the canal. 	Hickling Parish Council Grantham Canal Partnership. Rushcliffe Borough Council	December 2009	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify piece of land next to the water. 		December 2009	
Pavements are well maintained	Carry out a survey Follow up with NCC	Residents Nottinghamshire County Council	December 2009	

Hickling Parish Plan June 2007 Action Plan

Outcome	Action	Who	By When	Progress
Residents and visitors enjoy the canal	Restoration and development of projects	Hickling Parish Council Rushcliffe Borough Council Grantham Canal Partnership	December 2012	
Public rights of ways are identified and accessible	Put up explanatory boards and maps	Nottinghamshire County Council Hickling Parish Council	December 2009	

3. ENVIRONMENT; PLANNING AND HOUSING

Outcome	Action	Who	By When/review	Progress
The rural character of the village is maintained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor planning applications and development. Influence review of conservation area in Hickling Explore the possibility of undertaking a Village Design Statement 	<p>Hickling Parish Council</p> <p>Hickling Parish Council and residents</p> <p>Hickling Parish Council and Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council in liaison with Rushcliffe Borough Council</p>	ongoing	
Young and older people can remain in the village	<p>Investigate the need for affordable housing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For rent For first time buyers 	Hickling Parish Council Rushcliffe Borough Council		
The environment is cared for and protected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide up to date information on recycling on a regular basis Investigate alternative energy options Insist on energy efficient new homes 	Hickling Parish Council	December 2009	
Allotments	Investigate amount of need and interest and availability of land.	Parish Council	December 2009	

4. COMMUNITY SAFETY; HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Outcome	Action	Who	By When	Progress
Residents have timely access to emergency equipment and treatment	Investigate the setting up of a First Responder Group If unsuccessful, explore Vale of Belvoir First Responders	Volunteers East Midlands Ambulance Service	December 2007	
Residents are confident that emergency calls are routed appropriately.	Communicate to residents how 999 system works. Monitor merging of fire services	East Midland Ambulance Service officer to attend parish council meeting. Communicate via "The Standard"	December 2007	Publicised in Hickling Standard Subject to on-going debate
Residents can access NHS physiotherapy locally	Discuss with Nottinghamshire teaching Primary Care Trust	Local physiotherapist Patient involvement officer, Nottinghamshire Teaching Primary Care Trust	December 2007	
Residents can contact a range of services in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire	Compile a Village Directory Develop a website	Volunteer group	December 2007	Website: www.hicklingvillage.org.uk
Improved satisfaction with health and care services	Identify need and volume Provide directory Teaching Primary Care Trust booklet delivered to all households	Patient involvement officer, Nottinghamshire Teaching Primary Care Trust		

Hickling Parish Plan June 2007 Action Plan

Outcome	Action	Who	By When	Progress
Residents feel safe	Investigate re-establishing the neighbourhood watch	Contact Neighbourhood Watch Support Worker	July 2007	
Residents' social needs are met within the community	Set up a Good Neighbour Scheme Identify needs. Working party directory/volunteer helpers/website	Rushcliffe council for voluntary services. Age Concern. Rushcliffe Handy Person Scheme First Contact	December 2007	

5. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Outcome	Action	Who	When	Progress
The church's role in the community is recognised The building is well used and maintained	Continuous need for upkeep Investigate wider community use of the building	Parochial Church Council	ongoing	
Young people access facilities appropriate to their needs	Investigate interest in holiday activities.	Hickling Parish Council	December 2009	
Young people are able to access facilities outside the village evenings and week ends	Work with NCC and bus companies to identify potential services.	Hickling Parish Council Nottinghamshire County Council.	December 2009	
	Investigate the provision of an evening bus to Keyworth. Investigate the possibility of a flexible service.	Hickling Parish Council	December 2009	
	Identify opportunities for out of school activities for young people	Young people Rushcliffe Youth Action Network	December 2007 and ongoing	
Children and families have a place to meet and play	Set up a group to develop a recreation area appropriate to various age groups Provide a meeting place for young people	Hickling Parish Council and volunteers Hickling Parish Council and young people		

6. PARISH COUNCIL AND COMMUNICATIONS

Outcome	Action	Who	When	Progress
Residents have access to information and services	Set up a community website	Volunteer with appropriate skill.	December 2007	www.hicklingvillage.org.uk
	Also directory, see health			
	Maintain the telephone box as a text box	Hickling Parish Council	Ongoing December 2008	
	Lobby BT about fast Internet access and communication services	Hickling Parish Council and residents	December 2009	Parish Council has written letters and has started discussions with BT