

A PROGRESS REPORT BY THE INDEPENDENT PARISH PLAN STEERING GROUP.

PENKRIDGE PARISH PLAN

ACTION PLAN

THE VILLAGE CENTRE

Implementation of better parking and delivery practice

Improvement of pavements and crossing facilities in Market Street

Review of congestion and parking and safety in the village centre

THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

Establish links with Partner organisations

Riverside Park

Maintenance of Green Space Network

Future provision

PROGRESS TO DATE

The Parish Council have sent a letter and copy of the Parish Plan to Staffs County Council (SCC).

SCC has consulted with the Parish Council with regard to improvements in Market St., Mill St., Crown Bridge, Church Road, Clay Street and Pinfold Lane and much of this has been achieved.

SCC has implemented traffic calming and extended waiting times to 1 hr during 2013/14 financial year.

There is now a 30 mph speed limit through the village centre.

There are good working relationships between the Parish Council, South Staffs District Council and Staffs County Council.

Parish Councillors represent the Council on the committees of various community organisations.

Nothing to report..

The Parish Council has been in contact with SSC who undertake a Green Space Maintenance Programme on a number of sizeable open spaces in Penkridge.

THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND TOURISM

Provide good quality tourist information boards on tow path and around village

Promote formal walks, heritage trails and cycle routes

Promote modern community website

Provide more wayfinder signage (in keeping with village identity) to direct people to places of interest

Develop promotional literature of places of interest to visit in Penkridge

Improve/provide more cycle routes, walkways and bridleways including conversion of former mineral railway line off Wolverhampton Road to cycle/footway to Huntington and Cannock Chase.

Resurrect group known as “Promoting Penkridge” to develop tourism in the parish

Tourism board now placed in small garden adjacent to Jaspers A1 copy of the map placed in SCC Tourism Boards in Haling Dene grounds, railway station and by Boscomoor shopping centre. A copy also to be placed at the Wharf.

The Civic Society has investigated re-printing the walks booklet but the cost is prohibitive. Further investigations will be made.

The Parish Council has a new website and there is also an independent community website. Regular reviews are made to ensure they are kept up-to-date.

Discussions are taking place on location of additional finger posts, costs and any restrictions. Civic Society to talk to Dr. Paul Collins (SCC Conservation)

On-going.

Letter and copy of Parish Plan sent to SSC. Use of the old railway line being considered with the Lyne Hill developers.

This group was disbanded 5 years ago due to lack of interest and at present there are no plans to resurrect it.

Promote a local discount card for local Penkridge people to eat at local venues like the Moathouse does in Acton

Parish Council to have a designated role for promoting the economy and tourism

Commission work to provide a “health check” of the local economy in Penkridge and the opportunities for further supporting the growth of the local economy

Upgrade canal towpath for people with disabilities between Cannock Road and Wolgarston Way

Improve pedestrian accessibility around the village/parish between places of interest

Resurrect entry into Best Kept Village competition

South Staffordshire College to expand their activities and attract more students and visitors

South Staffordshire Tourism Association feel that this would not be viable as the majority of public houses already have promotions.

There are no plans for the Parish Council to have a designated role for promoting the economy and tourism.

As above.

The Parish Council has been in contact with the Canals and Rivers Trust. There are no plans to upgrade the towpath at present.

The Parish Council has sent a letter and copy of the Parish Plan to SCC. Civic Society to talk to Dr. Paul Collins (SCC Conservation). New tourist board in place in village centre. Improvements in village centre referred to above have contributed to this.

Civic Society and Parish Council entered for 2012 and 2013 and in both were highly commended.

Continued expansion on site.

Bring back into economic use the railway station building

Create Gateways at the key entry points to the village

Exploit tourism potential of Otherton airfield

Parish Council to explore with the market operators ways of promoting enterprise through the creation of “business incubator” facilities for creative enterprises

HOUSING

Housing allocations in the Local Development Framework (LDF) to be reviewed to ensure they provide more smaller housing developments on brownfield, infill, or if not possible, edge of village locations.

District and Parish Councils raise awareness of Village Design Guide and promote its strict adherence by developers to raise standards of design in new housing
Developers and District Council to ensure all new developments

Review of the station building on-going. London Midland has no plans to re-open the building and commercial use is not viable as it is in too poor a state. Painting of the exterior is being pursued. Local MP taking on the challenge.

Four stone planters have been placed at entrance points to the village and planted by the Parish Council. Consideration is being given to new entrance signs to the village

Members of the Otherton airfield have opened a café and are publicising events held at the airfield

The Business Association has arranged with the market for there to be a monthly free stall for local businesses/organisations.

On-going and being considered with current Lynehill planning application.

Parish Council and Civic Society promote adherence in responses to planning applications and consultations.

Future developments must include 30% affordable housing.
The new development at the old Silverdene site now called

include a high level of affordable housing appropriate for the needs of local people and accommodation suitable for the needs of our growing elderly population (65 yrs+)

Pencric will open in 2014 with 82 apartments.

TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT

The Parish Council and all major traffic generators should be encouraged to promote walking and cycling

The Transport Working Group pursues this objective on behalf of the Parish Council in its liaison with SCC Highways Department.

Improved bus shelters are provided at well used stops

Some bus shelters have been upgraded.
Reviewed on a regular basis.

Later rail return service from Birmingham

There is now a train at 23.09
No plans at present to introduce any later trains.

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

The local schools are encouraged to work together to maintain the vitality of education in the village

The local schools do work closely together particularly with the recent formation of the Wolgarston Collaboration

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

Increase use of Fishnet for communication by Parish Council from bi-monthly to monthly

Presently no plans but under consideration.

Use of other Penkridge-based publications

Information/updates are placed in Penkridge Advertiser and other local magazines where appropriate.

Update and redesign website to include facility for residents to sign up for regular news and local information updates

The new website is updated regularly and other developments are being considered.

Encouragement of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes.

Penkridge Neighbourhood Network (PNN) group has now undertaken this responsibility.

LEISURE

An examination of the provision and use of the local leisure facilities

Results of an examination are still awaited.

September 2013