

Slyne with Hest Parish Action Plan Review March 2011

Environment

Environment Action 1: Replace and protect trees and ancient hedgerows

Action points;

- Gifts of endemic trees to residents
 - Promote awareness of local tree wardens
 - Continue maintenance of trees/hedgerows (2006 - Lower Bank Wood Hedge)
 - Enforcing T.P.O's
 - New wildlife area (with trees) on Recreation Area

Success criteria: Replanting & preservation of trees & hedgerows. Increased awareness of value of trees & work of wardens

What has been achieved;

- there are four tree wardens, who have been planting trees in the parish
 - there have been a number of trees with TPO's that have been damaged/lost
 - there is a lack of enforcement of TPO's by Lancaster City Council
 - The Parish Council have a good knowledge of trees in the parish with TPO's
 - the primary school have indicated that they would like to plant some new trees on their grounds
 - Lancaster City Council have planted trees on the former play ground at Manor Road
 - roadside trees have been damaged by utility works, trees are no longer planted on the roadside
 - the Parish Council is embarking on a project to redevelop the Rec. including the wildlife area

Environment Action 2: Reclaim village roads for walkers, cyclists and horse riders

Action points;

- Education reasons for calming traffic
 - Install signposts warning of other road users
 - Purchase land to make pavements e.g. Hest Bank Lane

Success criteria: Residents are aware of their driving habits and create a culture of driving with care & consideration

What has been achieved;

- LCC have made a commitment to introduce 20 mph speed limit throughout residential areas in Lancashire
 - inconsiderate parking is a problem in some areas e.g. Shady Lane, Station Road, outside Hest Bank Inn
 - some parking slows vehicles down
 - A6 has been reduced from 50 mph to 40 mph
 - activities to encourage cycling have been happening at school, part of cycling demo town initiative
 - signposting has improved
 - a virtual pavement has been marked on Hest Bank Lane
 - installation of a crossing point at VVV has linked the coastal cycle route with the promenade, it seems well used
 - School Travel Group has been active, yellow lines drawn and will be extended around the school

Environment Action 3: *Safeguard existing footpaths & bridleways*

Action points;

- Survey all footpaths & photograph them
 - Pass infringements to enforcement officer, Rights of Way Dept.
 - Lobby for new shared user path from Hest bank to Torrisholme adjacent to Hasty Brow Lane

Success criteria: *A log of the condition of all footpaths to provide evidence if infringed New path created*

What has been achieved;

- it is possible that Ramblers have a report on the condition of local paths
 - lengthsman carries out works for Rights of Way
 - complaint about the condition of styles on the fields over to Old Green Lane
 - problem of dumping of rubbish on the path from Coastal Road to canal
 - no new paths established

Environment Action 4: *Extend activities of the lengths man*

Action points;

- Employ second lengths man
 - Establish task force to carry out bulb planting, gardening, clean ups

Success criteria: Cleaner environment

What has been achieved;

- handyman to assist lengthmen employed
 - work carried out on the cemetery and pound amongst others
 - a task force of 10 people was active for some time
 - tubs have been installed and maintained
 - Beach Clean group meets regularly, 20+ people
 - overflowing dog waste bins on canal, is the responsibility with British Waterways?
- Street cleaning and refuse bin emptying has been generally good

Environment Action 5: *Restrict commercial cockling; protect the botany of the shoreline and beach*

Action points;

- Lobby MP for the continued restriction on the commercial extraction of shellfish
 - Restrict the amount of heavy vehicles
 - Continue beach cleans
 - Promote the beaches special designations via a new sign, re-designate area as an Open
- Space and contain parking to designated areas

Success criteria: Limit commercial cockling. Clean, litter free beach. Increased flora on shoreline

What has been achieved;

- Cockling has been restricted to certain times, cocklers moved elsewhere due to uneconomic fishing in Morecambe Bay
 - Heavy Vehicle access has been restricted
 - a Lottery bid has been made for beach cleans for the whole of the Bay area
 - fencing and new signage on the foreshore
 - the beach is cleaner

Environment Action 6: *Ensure all new building (including extensions) is in keeping with locality, of appropriate scale & design.*

Action points;

- Produce a Village Design Statement to quantify local character influence extensions control new build & prevent excessive infill and protect shoreline

Success criteria: Planning Authorities take village design into consideration

What has been achieved;

- VDS was produced and well received, used by Parish and City Councils
 - a number of significant properties have been redeveloped, some more sympathetically than others

Environment Action 7: *Protect the existing Green Belt from development*

Action points;

- Lobby to protect green belt as buffer between Lancaster & surrounding villages Lancaster City Council

Success criteria: Green Belt maintained at current size

What has been achieved;

- areas of the green belt are under threat, including land adjacent to Beaumont Farm for the M6 link road, land off Coastal Road in Bolton le Sands for 82 houses

Transport

Transport Action 1: *Reduce speed & create more crossings on Coastal Road/Marine Drive*

Action points;

- New refuges & hatching Coastal Road at Whitendale & Marine Drive at the footpath to
- Teal Bay
- Lobby for crossings on Shady Lane, Hest Bank Lane at Prospect Drive Junction, Hanging Green Lane near Memorial Hall

Success criteria: Reduction in casualties - R.T.A's. Ease of crossing road for

walkers.

What has been achieved;

- refuges have been installed at Whitendale and Marine Drive near VVV
 - crossing not possible on Marine Drive near footpath due to sight-lines
 - LCC Highways Authority and Police have issued a statement that they aim to introduce 20 mph speed limits in all residential areas (not arterial roads) within three years

Transport Action 2: *Reclaim roads for walkers, riders & cyclists & support School Traffic Group proposals*

Action point;

- Lobby for the introduction of 20 mph areas on Hest Bank Lane, Hanging Green Lane
 - Quantify features e.g. tight blind bends, lack of pavements, canal bridges
 - Install barriers where needed e.g. chicanes, pinch points, sympathetic in design

Success criteria: More people walking, less car use within village, fewer rats runs through village

What has been achieved;

- 20 mph in residential areas is the stated aim of LCC
 - virtual pavement has been marked out on Hest Bank Lane
 - people generally against street features. Sympathetic features likely to be part of 20 mph initiative

Transport Action 3: *Promote awareness of existing public transport & increase use*

Action points;

- Provide information to residents
 - Investigate “real time information” system

Success criteria: More residents aware of and using buses

What has been achieved;

- bus service has reduced to 1 bus an hour
 - bus leaflets are available in the Memorial Hall and previously in

Parish magazine

- new bus shelter outside Memorial Hall, with facility to display real time information if and when it is activated by LCC
- free bus passes for over 60 has increased usage

Transport Action 4: *Residents aware of the proposed M6 - Heysham Link Road*

Action point;

- Publicity campaign regarding facts & implications of new road

Success criteria: Residents aware of facts & contribute to debate

What has been achieved;

- debate has been well covered in local media
 - MP has lobbied in favour of the road
 - new plans will require consultation
 - display in the Memorial Hall for local residents is planned for July 2011

Transport Action 5: *Investigate the reopening of Hest Bank Railway Station*

Action point;

- Parish Plan transport group to contact Richard Watts LCC regarding likelihood of reopening station & publicise results

Success criteria: Residents aware of chances of reopening

What has been achieved;

- LCC were contacted and 5 years ago the chances were very slim
 - re-look at in view of potential new service between Lancaster and Carnforth

Transport Action 6: *Reduce dangerous and inconsiderate parking in the village*

Action point;

- Letters/flyers re. parking on Shady Lane, Pub & private swimming pool, Hanging Green Lane, Memorial Hall, A6 Beaumont College

Success criteria: Residents park on driveways/use garages where available

What has been achieved;

- problem still continues
 - problem increasing at Beaumont College
 - other areas include Station Road (top and bottom)
 - parked cars do force cars to slow down
 - zig zag and double yellow lines to be extended around school on Hest Bank Lane
 - new issue of parked cars waiting for private coach on Manor Lane. Cllr Peter Millard will approach church leader

Economy

Economy Action 1: *Prepare a directory of businesses and voluntary groups*

Action point;

- Write to all businesses & vol. orgs. regarding idea

Success criteria: Residents aware of local businesses and voluntary orgs. Businesses & vol. orgs. report increase interest

What has been achieved;

- work on directory was started and results are listed on the Parish website, 3 businesses and majority of the voluntary organisations and churches are listed
 - much effort has been spent attempting to maintain an up to date list of community events on the website, this has proved difficult
 - a further attempt will be made by John Leach to contact local businesses

Social & Community

Social & Community Action 1: *Prevent nuisance, encourage tolerance*

Action point;

- Diversionary activities for youth
 - Raise parental awareness
 - Invite young people to community events
 - Encourage reporting
 - Efforts to combat adult nuisance (litter, dog fouling, noise)

Success Criteria: Fewer complaints and less dissatisfaction from all sides

What has been achieved;

- reports of anti social behaviour by Police to Parish Council have been on a downward trend in recent years
 - removal of youth shelter has reduced problems
 - more youth groups are operating in the village e.g. Scouts, Urban Saints, Karate
 - the local youth enjoy the May Fair
 - dog fouling still continues to be a problem, reported cases have been dealt with by Dog Warden
 - emptying of dog waste bin on canal has been a problem
 - suggestion to publicise procedure for reporting littering and dog fouling in Parish magazine and on website
 - area that has been cleared in hanging Green Lane wood will be discussed at next PC meeting

Social & Community Action 2: *Improve the Recreation Ground*

Action points;

- Improve drainage
 - Improve paths (disabled access)
 - Create new wildlife area
 - Provide new seating. litter bins
 - Provide new play equipment, sporting surface

Success Criteria: More people using recreation ground

What has been achieved;

- drainage works have been carried on the field
 - a wooden walkway has been installed over to the playarea
 - proposals are being developed by LCC to redevelop the whole Rec. ground in partnership with the May Fair committee

Social & Community Action 3: *Create a new village Event*

Action point;

- Get committee together to discuss ideas - Beat the Bounds, kite festival, Family Coat of Arms

Success Criteria: New event

What has been achieved;

- May Fair began five years ago and has proved very successful. It is now self financing but volunteers are needed

Social & Community Action 4: *Pilot a voluntary organisations coffee morning*

Action points;

- Contact all district & local voluntary organisations re. idea
 - Hold pilot between 3 groups & evaluate

Success Criteria: 1st coffee morning. Residents meet and vol. groups raise money

What has been achieved;

- the community coffee morning is held every month in the Memorial Hall and goes from strength to strength
 - an extra focus could be added by local voluntary group having a rota of providing stalls at the morning

Social & Community Action 5: *Support to improve Memorial Hall including improvements to access to the Library*

Action points;

- Toilets, décor, kitchen improved
 - Friends of Memorial Hall
 - Library, new build/extend requires a long term holistic plan

Success Criteria: Happy users. Resources to fund improvements. Whole village agrees on way forward

What has been achieved;

- toilets and kitchen of the Memorial Hall have been upgraded
 - Friends raised funds but was poorly supported. This could be resurrected.
 - The Library has closed following the withdrawal of funding by LCC, replaced by a van which visits once a fortnight. Could the dates be put onto the website?
 - Wholesale redevelopment of the Memorial Hall has been put on hold due to lack of funds, piecemeal improvements are being planned