



Culworth Village *news*

This edition has been published by the Steering Group of the Culworth Village Plan.
<http://freespace.virgin.net/culworth.village>

Parish Council Meeting Monday 5th May 2005

New development - the meeting spent most of its time discussing its objections to the new development before sending in its objection to SNC. A number of issues were raised:

- those at the meeting felt that Culworth does not need a development of 47 four and five bedroomed luxury houses, although there was some support for the associated sporting facilities (particularly the swimming pool). It is not yet clear from the plans whether this would be available to non-residents on the complex;
- although the new complex would have a number of different designs, it was felt that the developers have made no attempt to match any of the existing building styles in the village;
- at the present time, Culworth does not have the facilities to cope with this many extra residents. Concerns were particularly expressed about the problems of parking, extra traffic, school places and speed;
- the development would rob the village of a valuable open area, and would ruin the views from a considerable number of houses;
- the tree warden confirmed that the development would involve the felling of a number of trees with TPOs;
- the footpath warden added that the locations of several of the houses would involve the closure of an existing footpath.

The Chair suggested that this could probably be the first of many similar planning applications in view of the proposed M1/M40 link, together with the new railway line. The residents of Culworth would have to make a concerted effort for their voices to be heard.

Well there is always a need to speak up. Okay, so the story on page one isn't true – but it could be and we hope it grabbed your attention, so that we could tell you about Culworth in Ten Years.

Culworth in Ten Years is intended to work towards a plan for Culworth that will contain what the people who live in and depend on the village think is most important. The benefits to the village could include the following:

- Promoting a shared vision for Culworth that over a period of time seeks to protect and improve the quality of life for us.
- A plan that will help us maintain and improve facilities in the village
- Preparation for applications that might be needed to attract funding for improvements
- Protection of our investment in our village
- Influencing planning issues that arise
- Better communication with councillors at District and County level should ensure we have a strong voice and an informed view of the decisions taken on our behalf.

Any plan should reflect what villagers want on projects and actions that should be taken to meet local needs and ambitions over the next decade.

Part of a Village Plan would be a Village Design Statement, which sets out clear and simple guidance for the design of all development in a village, based on its character.

A Culworth Village Design Statement would:

- describe the qualities that villagers value in Culworth and its surroundings
- show how this local character can be protected and enhanced in new developments
- be adopted by the planning authority to supplement their Local Plan policies and its recommendations would be taken into account when planning applications are assessed

Ideally it would be an advisory document produced by the village community, not by the planning authority, although South Northamptonshire Council is now producing Village Design Statements for every village in the district.

So, we could just let the council do it for us, but we have a great opportunity to go beyond this; to look at the village, celebrate what is good, and make suggestions for ways that this could be preserved and improved for everyone from the youngest newborn to the oldest member of the Culworth Gang.

The first thing is to **assess** current and future needs. A village gathering and exhibition are planned to help start this process

Culworth in Ten Years

Our Village, Our Future

Sunday 15th July 2001

Culworth Village Hall

from 2 pm

display of aerial photos and maps of the village
past and present

village history

a view of the village web site

Culworth School work on Our Village

photo montage of village houses - please bring yours to add to
the picture

**most importantly of all a chance for *everyone* to have a say
about our village**

Followed by a barbecue in the cricket field at 5 pm

(free burger for everyone who comes to the exhibition and makes comments)

The aim of the day is to seek everyone's views on issues such as transport, housing, the environment, health and social care, village facilities, and sports and recreation. On the day villagers will be asked to use post-it notes to express their views, identify difficulties to overcome, put forward ideas for improving village life, and aspects of the village they would like to preserve.

This is just the start. The next step, which will probably be in the autumn, is to get in some professional help. But we need your views first.

We'll see you there!



Village *news*

Where are we now?

First, a few statistics. Culworth has 170 homes in the village, 367 adults and about 115 children under the age of 18.

We are lucky in this village. We have a village hall which houses the Karate Club, Keep Fit, The WI, Culworth Gang meetings and events (30 members), village parties, jumble sales and Parish Council meetings. We have successful junior and senior cricket teams.

We run events such as the fete, the odd barn dance and a Harvest Supper, Carols on the Green, visiting drama groups and the odd village quiz.

People make their living here - the village shop and post office, the forge, a car repair business, the pub, the nursing home, the butcher's, and numerous home-based workers - about 56 people working from home or running a village-based business.

We have organisations that give our community a sense of continuity and identity - our church with our incumbent, the Parochial Church Council, our thriving primary school, the Parish Council and we still have affordable Local Authority Housing,

We have communal spaces: the green, the cricket field, the football pitch used by the school, the glebe field, the allotments, our churchyard.

We have services that make village life easier: a visiting fish-man, a milkman, the butcher's van, a limited bus service and the library van.

We communicate by: talking to one another, using the village shop, joining interest groups, reading the village newsletter, our section in the Banbury Guardian, notice boards, and NB. a new village web site. In addition many people put huge amounts of effort into supporting their friends and neighbours.

But there are also some important losses: in the last 20 years:

Our village petrol station, a shop, several pubs (if you believe historians), access to the railway station, a regular bus service, quite significant open spaces, the fruit and veg van, the baker, the video man, paper recycling bins, our resident village bobby, the Culworth Fun Run, several important trees, and lastly, some of our peace and quiet and knowing that our children can play out in safety.

See you on July 15th