

Annual Parish Meeting – 2014

Neighbourhood Plan

Hopefully all of you here today will know that this Parish Council is well into the production of a Neighbourhood Plan for the village. We have a working group of about 20 people, mostly residents, who are helping with the work of putting it together. The work involved is extensive, not least because it involves constant and detailed consultation with all residents and local businesses as well as landowners, neighbours and any other 'interested parties.'

What we are trying to achieve here is a document that, if passed by you in a referendum, will provide real and lasting protection to our village with regards to all future development. It is NOT a way to stop development completely but it is a way to give us a much better chance of getting it where and when we want it, in the appropriate quantity and with appropriate design.

The most recent piece of work we have done has been to send round a business questionnaire and a household questionnaire. The full analysis of both these will take us some time but I have some preliminary results here which I am going to share as it shows what direction our plan may well take once we begin to think about writing actual policies.

It is also useful to look at the stats we have already because we may well need them to show WHY a huge housing estate at the top of Woods Lane would probably be a bad idea.

(See NP Questionnaire stats doc)

So....From these conclusions we will start to write the policies that will form our Neighbourhood Plan, at which point we will consult with you again to make sure that what we are writing has the full support of the village.

Policies that we may well be looking at with regards to the results we have already might be as follows:

1. A policy which restricts major development anywhere where it will increase the already problematic flow of traffic along Woods Lane and down towards the railway crossing.
2. A policy which ensures that infrastructure (roads, services, transport etc) is in place for any new developments and is guaranteed as part of the development if not in place beforehand.
3. Policies protecting the 'green lung' of Melton village and keeping it rural and part of the countryside
4. A policy to protect and develop more bridleways and footpaths so that we have long circular walks around the green belt of the village as many paths finish on busy roads.

5. A policy which maintains the village identity of Melton and stops it becoming a big suburb of Woodbridge
6. A policy which makes sure we get good and appropriate DESIGNS for new developments

This is a very basic and early summary of what we MAY be focusing on based on evidence gathered so far. It is not definitive.

I want to thank everyone here very much for any input you have already had to this process and I hope very much you will continue to follow what we are doing and get involved. This is one of the most important things we can do for Melton right now as developers are always circling and the pressure on us to accept houses that we neither need nor want is increasing.

Please keep your eye on the website which will be constantly updated with any news.

More events will take place over the summer and for the rest of this year and there will be further opportunities for you to give your views and comment on the policies we will soon be working on.

Thank you very much.