

## **BRUISYARD PARISH PLAN**

First Meeting of the Steering Committee  
held 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 17th August 2004  
The Vestry, St. Peter's Church, Bruisyard.

Present:     Anne Smith           David Smith           John McKee  
              James Bassett       Wendy Brown        Eleonor Berwick ( P.C.C. ).  
              Peter Robinson ( Parish Council )     Michelle Gander

Guest Speakers:   Wilf Garford    }           Suffolk Coastal  
                          Mark Edgerley }           District Council

David Smith was proposed as Chairman by Eleonor Berwick, seconded by Peter Robinson.  
Acting secretary Michelle Gander

Following a recent, well-attended public meeting of Bruisyard Parish Council, the idea of a Parish Plan for Bruisyard was met with a positive response on a show of hands. The importance of the existence of a Village Plan to future community development was stressed, and a steering committee was set up. This is the first meeting of that committee.

Mark Edgerley and Wilf Garford from S.C.D.C. gave a presentation on the " what, how, and why" of a Village Plan.

In Brief ; The Planning system is about to undergo a major change in how planning applications are to be assessed, and it is important that the views of people from each locality within the planning areas are known, and can therefore be inculcated, where possible, into the overall plan in accordance with Members views.

A hand-out detailing the changes, prepared by Steve Brown, Planning Department, S.C.D.C. was distributed, and gives an outline of how the new 'Local Development Framework' is to be drawn up. ( Needs to be read in conjunction with this document. ). The idea of a village plan, reflecting local views, that can be updated as required, is expected to give the L.D.F. a degree of flexibility not available under the current system. 'Go East' is currently looking at the information requirements of a validated L.D.F.

The relevance of a Village Plan to Bruisyard was explained, as under the new system, each area is assessed with a view to sustainable development using five criteria, none of which Bruisyard satisfies at present, so unless the views of the village are known to Members, in theory Bruisyard becomes an area where no development at all will be allowed. This is certainly

contrary to the wishes expressed by Villagers at the earlier public meeting to discuss the wish for a Village Plan.

A village plan would fit into the Local Development Framework system at the level of those Supplementary Planning Documents that are considered in more detail when policy decisions relating to a particular locality are being drawn up, and therefore can provide more flexibility within the system.

Discussion then took place about the importance of ascertaining local views on providing affordable housing within Bruisyard. ( Maps had been brought giving detailed environmental information about the village, and land was highlighted where the potential exists for a small development of affordable housing. Land owned by S.C.D.C. ). The properties could be managed by a housing association, or similar body, with a covenant to ensure that they would remain in the rental / shared equity sector of the market in the future, to safeguard future villagers requirements for local accommodation.

A demographic breakdown of Bruisyard ( simplified analysis of household structure from the 2001 Census ) was also provided by S.C.D.C., and this prompted further discussion about the need for a village hall - this is one of the items that if Bruisyard were to have a document showing need, as well as expressing local opinion, there would be the possibility of access to grant aid via partnership agencies. This would also apply, potentially, to aid with environmental projects ( Suffolk Wildlife Trust / Environment Agency/ Suffolk County Council ), grant aid for improvements to play areas,( S.C.D.C.), etc.

Steve Brown ( not present ) has been involved with the preparation of several village plans more recently, and he is to be asked to send some examples of the type of things included on a village plan questionnaire. Keeping the questionnaires simple, short, and having them hand delivered and collected would be the likeliest way of getting a good level of response.

Suffolk Acre have also given presentations on village plans - to be contacted for anything they may have of use - their presentations were felt to be geared around villages with more amenities than Bruisyard.

Wilf Garford to look into what happened to plans for improvements to the sewage system and the road straightening schemes ( Rendham Rd ), that are non-active at present.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 7th SEPTEMBER, 7.30p.m. Same Venue.**