



EARITH

**COMMUNITY PLAN
SURVEY/QUESTIONNAIRE 2016**

BACKGROUND TO THE EARITH COMMUNITY PLAN – 2016

What is a Community Plan?

The plan is a document developed from responses to a detailed survey of all households in the community that creates a vision for how the community wants to develop over the coming years.

The plan will address topic areas that are relevant to the community and will represent the views and priorities of the community as a whole.

Please complete the questionnaire so that your views can be incorporated into the overall assessment.

Why do we need a COMMUNITY PLAN?

A questionnaire was commissioned in 2008 which resulted in a Parish Plan published in 2011, and a copy of the **2011 CONCERNS AND OUTCOME SUMMARY** is at pages 6-11.

At that time Local Government was still undertaking many services that residents and communities could reasonably do for themselves. The current and future lower levels of Government and County resources (people and £) will mean that unless communities develop better levels of local support the quality of village life could deteriorate and/or some services could be reduced.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO DATE?

In 2015 the Earith Parish Council set up a Working Party to consult with a cross section of local people and assess how best within the EPC Precept (funding allocated to Earith via your rates) can be maximised and directed towards issues which are of most concern to residents.

During 2015/16 Working Party members informally consulted with approximately 70 residents and a summary of their views is set out below.

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Communication | Download speeds/internet response in the Village need to be quicker. |
| Public health | More “dog bins” are needed in the Village |
| Public health | To have more surgery opening times in Earith. |
| Public health | What do you think of the Bin/waste collection services in the Village? |
| Road safety | Drainage covers rattle and need upgrading. |
| Road safety – calming | Speed bumps should NOT be part of any traffic calming measures in the Village. |
| Road safety – calming | Traffic slowing/ calming measures need improving especially on the High Street. |
| Road safety – drainage | Poor drainage in some areas - Hermitage - Bridge End |
| Road Safety – movement | Make the pedestrian crossings by the Village Shop and Nursing Home safer. |
| Road safety – movement | Temporary traffic lights at Bridge End at commuter times. |
| Road safety – speed | Have a 20 mph speed limit throughout the High Street. |
| Road safety – speed | Install “average speed” camera on the High Street. |
| Road safety – speed | Minimise Heavy Goods Vehicles using village as a “rat run” |
| Road transport | A better bus service is required to St. Ives, Somersham and Cambridge. |
| Road transport | A cycle path to Bluntisham is needed. |
| Road transport | More footpaths are needed e.g. - to Bluntisham - over the River |
| Roads - Parking | There is a shortage of parking areas throughout the Village. |
| Social amenities | “Day Centre” and “Over Sixties” need renaming and relaunching to attract a wider age group. |
| Social amenities | Improve standards of riverside access and green spaces e.g. - Clear river area by Village car park and install seating |
| Social amenities | Improve/provide a Pavilion for inside sports activities. |
| Social amenities | More play equipment is needed by the Village pond. |
| Social amenities | Need more good local restaurant/pub. |
| Social amenities | To have e.g. - swimming pool, zip wire. |
| Social events | Have e.g. - Music festival, village fete, events in Village Hall |
| Social events | Tea dancing at Village Hall Snooker/table tennis at Village Hall, Youth Club, Bingo, Football/cricket club, rowing boats, improved Village parking. |
| Village standards | The Village appearance needs to improve - cleaner/tidier – overall standards are down e.g.- river banks more cutting back, as they are over grown, pathways/pavements to be cleared of weeds and rubbish etc |

What can be achieved at a local level?

In the foreseeable future because of Governmental financial restraints Communities will need to consider how they can be more self sufficient. Theoretically the Parish Council can do or seek authorisation to do almost anything from any County or National department. However realistically at Parish level the only way to finance a “project” would be to:-

- a) Increase your local rates
- b) Seek funding donations from local business/benefactors
- c) Use building levees if generated from new builds
- d) Use a combination of a), b), and c).

Here are some examples of estimated costs for some ideas:

- building a bypass – although the costs make this an unrealistic goal
- pursuing the possibility of banning HCV's through the village and/or traffic calming measures (£ to be determined)
- a set of traffic lights - £30k - £150K
- a cycleway from Bluntisham to Earith £350k+

In particular social care services are likely to be the most noticeably affected.

Therefore it is likely that the community focus may need to be on local residents combining to support other more vulnerable local residents and taking part in local events/initiatives.

How can our community work towards providing local residents with local support?

This could be by a neighbourhood support network or by more structured locally funded actions. A voluntary/non funded “Good Neighbour Scheme” has operated in Needingworth for many years. A voluntary/funded by the Parish Council “Time Bank Scheme” has operated in Somersham for over 4 years. Both schemes are proving to be popular and successful.

How do “Good Neighbour Schemes” work?

The process is managed by a central co-ordinator who matches offers of help with needs. Part of the co-ordinator's remit is to try to integrate anyone feeling isolated or in need of help within the network.

Q.

Is volunteer participation (doers and/or receivers) totally flexible with no regular commitments required?

A.

YES. If you are fortunate enough not to need personal support but are willing to help that is great but time could be exchanged so that members of the community can help each other. Residents could bank and draw down a whole range of time 'favours' from other members. Volunteers for Neighbourhood Schemes would be DBS (previously CRB) checked at no cost to themselves.

Q.

What types of things are provided?

A.

One to one support and local social events/activities.

Examples include:

- lifts to medical appointments, shopping, errands, pet feeding, gardening, skill sharing, or just calling to check on someone for a coffee and a chat
- social activities such as keep fit/dance classes, wildlife activities, and guidance on how to get access to further specialised support

Q.

Who can be a volunteer?

- Any local resident no matter of their age, ability or disability as the aim is to ensure everyone is valued.
- Community groups can join and are encouraged to work together.

This combination of one to one and organisational exchanges, with added social activities means that through a Neighbourhood Scheme a community can become better connected and more resilient.

Earith Parish Council is considering the introduction of a local Good Neighbourhood Scheme.

What will happen next?

The Working Party now wishes to extend the consultation process and consult with as many local residents as possible.

Therefore attached is a questionnaire which we would be most grateful if you could complete and return to: The Parish Clerk, 29 Greenfields, Earith or The Post Office, High Street, Earith. Closing date for receipt of questionnaires 10th July 2016. Thank you in advance for taking the time to assist with this local initiative.

WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE 2011 PARISH PLAN?

2011 PARISH PLAN - SUMMARY of ACTIONS and OUTCOMES

| ACTION PLAN 2011 | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|-----------------|--|
| No: | ISSUE RAISED | ACTION | PRIORITY | LEAD & PARTNER ORGANISATIONS |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) |
| CHILDREN AND SCHOOLING | | | | |
| 1 | <p>Lack of a Youth Club in the village.</p> <p><i>(Since the Parish Survey was completed, a Youth Club has been established but the priority now is to make it sustainable. There is a lack of funding and adult volunteers.)</i></p> | <p>Ensure the future of the Youth Club by establishing adequate ongoing funding and a wider volunteer base.</p> <p>(Local Area Agreement Target NI 110 'Young People's Participation in Positive Activities)</p> <p>COMMENTS Funding was available but:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualified Leader left • Lack of Volunteer helpers • Recruitment attempts failed to find replacement qualified or volunteer helpers • Youth Club mobile bus initiated "Fun Bus" – discontinued – lack of helpers and attendees | HIGH | <p>Earith Parish Council</p> <p>and</p> <p>Earith Youth Club</p> |
| 2 | <p>Under-use of school facilities for other activities.</p> <p><i>(There is very strong support for the use of school facilities for other activities such as a Breakfast Club for children, adult education classes, keep fit etc.)</i></p> | <p>These ideas to be explored in conjunction with the school governors and other groups.</p> <p>(Local Area Agreement Target NI 8 'Adult Participation in Sport)</p> <p>COMMENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School response – would/could not fully co-operate • School & village Hall have reciprocal emergency event arrangements • | MEDIUM | <p>Earith Parish Council</p> <p>and</p> <p>Earith School Governors Friends of Earith School Community Education Service</p> |
| TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC | | | | |

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| 3 | <p>Lack of Public Transport.</p> <p><i>(A majority of people would like to make more use of the bus but are frustrated by lack of regular services.)</i></p> | <p>Explore the possibility of improved bus services or providing a community bus service</p> <p>(Local Area Agreement Target NI 177 – Local Bus Passenger Journeys)</p> <p>COMMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public transport not within EPC control Representations made by EPC on behalf of village HACTS (Huntingdon Association Community Transport Scheme) now in operation & EPC gave a one off donation to this scheme <p>Care ride scheme also in operation.</p> | MEDIUM | <p>Earith Parish Council</p> <p>and</p> <p>Bus Companies Earith Villagers Association (now disbanded)</p> |
| 4 | <p>Traffic Congestion.</p> <p><i>(The long term solution to Earith's traffic problems is a by-pass.)</i></p> | <p>Efforts to be made to have an Earith bypass included in the long-term traffic planning for Cambridgeshire.</p> <p>COMMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPC can only inform County of concerns as Parish Councils nationally do not have remit for bypass Local bids by EPC have been successful and improved road marking and extra signage | LOW | <p>Earith Parish Council</p> <p>and</p> <p>Cambridgeshire County Council Huntingdonshire District Council</p> |
| ROAD SAFETY | | | | |
| 5 | <p>Dangerous pedestrian crossings in the High Street.</p> | <p>Investigate the introduction of light-controlled pedestrian crossings in the High Street.</p> <p>(Local Area Agreement Target NI 47 – People Killed or Injured in Road Traffic Accidents)</p> <p>COMMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Halos on zebra crossing lights have been actioned | HIGH | <p>Earith Parish Council</p> <p>and</p> <p>Cambridgeshire County Council Cambridgeshire Road Safety Partnership St Ives Road Safety Group Speedwatch</p> |
| 6 | <p>Excessive speeding in the village.</p> | <p>Investigate the introduction of 20mph speed limits in Chapel Lane, School Road and Greenfields.</p> | MEDIUM | <p>Earith Parish Council</p> <p>and</p> |

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| | | (Local Area Agreement Target NI 47 – People Killed or Injured in Road Traffic Accidents) COMMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPC consulted with Highway but whilst a sign may be able to be put up the Police will not endorse/action any speeding in the area covered by such a sign. | | Cambridgeshire County Council Cambridgeshire Road Safety Partnership St Ives Road Safety Group Speedwatch |
| 7 | Excessive speeding outside the village. | Investigate the introduction of 40mph speed limits between Earith and Bluntisham and Earith and Earith Bridge. (Local Area Agreement Target NI 47 – People Killed or Injured in Road Traffic Accidents) COMMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPC informed that as it is a none residential area such an application would not be successful | MEDIUM | Earith Parish Council and Cambridgeshire County Council Cambridgeshire Road Safety Partnership St Ives Road Safety Group Speedwatch |
| 8 | Danger at George Corner. | Investigate ways of improving road safety at the Colne Road – High Street junction. (Local Area Agreement Target NI 47 – People Killed or Injured in Road Traffic Accidents) COMMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible improvements when “Minnaars” development takes place. CC (County Council) will not endorse traffic lights – too expensive & pavements not wide enough. | HIGH | Earith Parish Council and Cambridgeshire Road Safety Partnership St Ives Road Safety Group |
| CRIME | | | | |
| 9 | Minimise crime and the fear of crime. <i>(There was clear support for the following measures: Expand Neighbourhood Watch schemes.</i> | Explore minimising crime in ways supported by the community. (Local Area Agreement Target NI 21 – Dealing with Local Concerns about Antisocial Behaviour and Crime) | MEDIUM | Earith Parish Council and Cambridgeshire Constabulary |

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| | <p>Increase awareness of E-Cops. Increase the profile of local police.)</p> | <p>COMMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explored introduction of Neighbourhood Watch – insufficient volunteers. • Acknowledge anti social behaviour issues exist – PCSO when they are contacted is good. • EPC clean up – graffiti a.s.a.p. after being informed. • E-COPS report given at EPC meetings | | Neighbourhood Watch |
| HEALTHCARE, WELLBEING AND ENVIRONMENT | | | | |
| 10 | <p>Need for Environmental Improvements.</p> <p><i>(Most residents feel that the environment of the village could be improved and almost 50% are prepared to assist in this.)</i></p> | <p>A village environmental policy to be drawn up for improving the village environment with ideas on how residents could be involved. Specific actions requested by residents are to improve bus shelters and provide more rubbish and dog waste bins.</p> <p>(Local Area Agreement Target NI 197 – Improved Local Biodiversity</p> <p>COMMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Policy has yet to be produced & published. • Bus shelters – 1 demolished and replaced. Cooks Drove repainted and cleaned. • Bins – HDC will not agree to empty any more bins. • Extra bins put into Skate Park – emptied locally. • Dogs – no facility/person prepared to empty specific dog bins. Dog “poop” in suitable wrapping can be put in HDC bins | MEDIUM | <p>Earith Parish Council</p> <p>and</p> <p>EVA (now disbanded) Earith School Friends of Earith School Cambridgeshire County Council Highways Department</p> |
| 11 | <p>Lack of cycling infrastructure. Many more people would cycle if it were safe to do so.</p> | <p>A proposal to be developed by the PC to provide continuous cycle paths to St. Ives and Willingham in conjunction with other parishes and Cambridgeshire County Council.(Local Area Agreement Target NI 186 – Per Capita CO2 Emission in Local Area</p> <p>COMMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPC cannot fund such a path. | MEDIUM | <p>Earith Parish Council</p> <p>and</p> <p>Huntingdonshire District Council Bluntisham Parish Council Needingworth Parish Council Willingham Parish Council</p> |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPC will review if the "Pathways Project" is extended | | Cambridgeshire County Council Sustrans |
| 12 | Need to improve facilities, including the Pavilion, at the Earith Town Estates Recreation Field | <p>Develop a plan for improvement in consultation with groups concerned.</p> <p>COMMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pavilion updated but showers still to be done. | | Earith Town Estates and Earith Parish Council |
| 13 | Wish to improve facilities and access to the river at Earith Lode including a slipway and historical information board. | <p>Explore options for developing the area around the Earith Lode.</p> <p>COMMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slipway/Lode – hoped to join the Ouse Valley Washes Partnership but was too expensive. Improvements have included – lowering barrier, signage. Access has to be maintained for emergency vehicles. Highways will not fund slipways | LOW | Earith Parish Council and Huntingdonshire District Council Campaign for Protection of Rural England |
| 14 | Concern over the under-use of ECA field. | <p>Develop a plan to make better use of the ECA field which is only used for grazing at present.</p> <p>COMMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertised annually – is currently "let" on self funding basis. | MEDIUM | Earith Parish Council and Earith Residents |
| SOCIAL ACTIVITIES | | | | |
| 15 | Need to improve sports and leisure facilities in the village. | <p>Consult with sports clubs and groups on ways in which sporting and leisure opportunities in the village could be increased.</p> <p>COMMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skate Park opened Easter 2015 | LOW | Earith Parish Council and Earith Villagers Association Village Sports Clubs (now disbanded) |
| 16 | Desire to extend range of EVA (now | Earith Villagers Association (now disbanded) to look into | LOW | Earith Villagers Association (now disbanded) |

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| | disbanded) activities within the village. | how the range of activities could be extended. COMMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EVA disbanded due to lack of support – now POE's (produce pantomime) | | and Earith Parish Council Earith Residents |
| LOCAL GOVERNMENT | | | | |
| 17 | Lack of awareness of and participation in Parish Council business. | Increase awareness of Parish Council business via news reports in Earith Echo and other media such as the village website. COMMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> News letter and Web site extended. Other communication methods will be reviewed. | MEDIUM | Earith Parish Council |
| 18 | Dissatisfaction with the planning application process. | Parish Council to ensure adequate publicity is given to planning applications which would affect the village as a whole. COMMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite the fact that EPC only have to put basic information on its meeting agenda and the District council only having to put information on telegraph poles the EPC appreciate concerns raised and will in future put such information on the EPC web site as soon as practicable. | LOW | Earith Parish Council and Huntingdonshire District Council |
| 19 | Ensure the Parish Plan is implemented. | Parish Council to report on implementation progress at the annual parish meeting and via updates in the village newsletter and website. COMMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress is reviewed at EPC meetings | HIGH | Earith Parish Council and Earith Villagers Association (now disbanded) |
| 20 | Ensure the Parish Plan is a continuing process. | Parish Council to ensure that Parish Plans are renewed at regular intervals in the future. COMMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new Parish/Community Plan Steering Group has been formed. Various requests for volunteers were been very limited. | MEDIUM | Earith Parish Council and Cambridgeshire ACRE Earith Residents |