

Oxspring Neighbourhood Development Plan Project

Social Sub Group

Notes from meeting held at Brookfield 4th September 2013, 7pm.

Present;

Jonathan Jordan – Chairman

Mathew Joy

Ian Yems

Anthony Tomlinson

Julia Brown

Ann Walker

Apologies from John Shepard due to family commitments.

The group discussed in detail the following issues, to be proposed in the overall neighbourhood plan, aimed at developing and improving the Social elements of the village, and the wellbeing of current and future residents.

1. School – the School is considered to be a success within the Village and one of the best examples of 'Community spirit' working at it's best. However it is at capacity (despite the web page stating that it isn't), and resources are under stress. Proposed are suggestions about the future of the school –

Build a new school at the heart of the community, which is inclusive of sports, health and leisure facilities (to follow), possibly to include a preschool nursery, which would develop the community even further. **Concern** – there is a suggestion that the school could be closed and pupils moved to a Penistone based facility, as such Oxspring needs to grow, develop, and improve.

If a complete rebuild of the school does not take place then significant investment in buildings and resource need to be allocated to the current site (physical space is an issue). It was noted that there is the possibility of government funding for new schools – more details required.

2. Developing a community spirit – It is felt that Oxspring is seen by many residents and visitors as a crossroads and place to simply pass through. However during recent resident's group survey, community spirit is an often mentioned as a priority. It is proposed that in future building and community projects, we should drive towards creating a 'heart' to the village. This could be achieved with a new development that included –

- School
- Pre School
- Sports and fitness – Gym, Tennis, badminton etc
- Changing rooms / toilet facilities (for visitors to the village as well/Pennine trail)
- Community Meeting and function facilities (possibly using a private company to run the non educational facilities)
- Youth Club / After School club
- Health care (as Thurgoland), with drop in facilities for Dentist, Chiropody, Opticians etc.
- Post Office/ Cash and banking facilities

Note – the preference for a site would be central, that could be developed to be the 'Heart of The Village'

Note - Church to be used for meetings etc, as now and the HOTV centre to be used for sport/recreation based activities, so that both ends of village have some activities.

3. Youth (10 – 17) – It was felt that the village offered very little for younger people to become

involved in. A School/Heart of the Village will assist in this, however, in the short term, proposals were made to look at the following –

- Skate/BMX facilities in Bower dell
- BMX/SKATE at Anthills – this is a part built area that has been purpose built, but is rarely used, a small investment may potentially make the facility more popular. (Question – why is it unused now).

Note – it was suggested that the subcommittee should undertake a consultation with members of the younger Oxspring community to discover what they would like to see. + contact Barnsley Youth Council to discover what ideas have worked in other areas and what funding/resource is available.

4. Older Residents – Suggestions were that the Village needs adequate, retirement apartments, with meeting rooms and facilities (not retirement homes). This should include a warden system, and a ‘community hub’. A community health care facility, either as part of Heart of Village project or individual (as Thurgoland). It is felt that this would allow independent older people to remain as part of the community.

5. Sports and Leisure – School /Heart of Village project would include much of this, ;

Cycling – we have an amazing cycling facility, and should maximise this. Required are - Better access for all, but particularly families and larger cycles. Cycle Hire/Repair/Accessories. Improved signposting and advertising. Lock and leave areas.

Aligned with Cycling – camping, caravan parking, toilet, and accommodation, along with catering and refreshment. Parking for people wishing to join the trail at Oxspring.

The Trunce is the largest regular gathering in the Oxspring/Penistone area – maximise it, signpost it, advertise it and create facilities around it – Changing, parking, Toilets , catering etc. This could be used as an important landmark for Oxspring.

General Changing rooms and keep fit facilities, indoor and outdoor.

Good Companions, Gardening Clubs (allotments used), and Films clubs as suggested as possible ideas.

6. Safety – It is a widely held belief that road safety in Oxspring is poor. There are a number of major speeding and traffic congestion areas, and no permanent crossing between the school and playground. Many examples of dangerous parking. More housing and tourists would make this potentially worse.

Potential to include, pedestrian crossings and mini roundabouts to slow traffic, and to reduce speed limits towards/from Cheese Bottom, slowing traffic more quickly before it enters the village.

Parking for school. Pub and Trunce is inadequate. Suggest HOTV project or other developments include provision for safe parking.

7. Crime– whilst crime would not seem to be a major issue, it was felt that the project could be seen as the catalyst for a neighbourhood watch scheme. Crime figures for Oxspring to be gained and reviewed. Consult on setting up a neighbourhood watch scheme.

8. Bower Dell – Another excellent facility that could be used more often and to better community . Propose toilets, and electricity. Heart of the Village of days of Celebrations, such as Jubilee, Street party days, Music/theatre occasions etc. Parking needed. How to book it?

9. Communications – It was felt that we could handle village communications in a more effective manner, with the goal to build an improve community spirit;

- Community Notice board – and simple method of use and maintenance
- Web site - method of use, and maintenance
- Penistone radio
- Newsletters (hopefully lots of good news to be included in the future)
- Welcome to the Village leaflet/welcome pack – new residents, school starters, tourists
- Around the Village advertising and banners
- Encourage all to contribute and keep news fresh and relevant

10. Housing/ Accommodation – it is clear that Oxspring will have more houses/accommodation, within a short space of time, and around the table the position taken was that if handled correctly , this may be a positive process, and strengthen the community, whilst importantly providing significant funding for the neighbourhood projects.

To be considered –

- Affordable housing for less economically well off that wish to stay in Oxspring.
- The potential of a larger amount of smaller sites, rather than one large estate,

encouraging farmers to sell of small portions of land, or offer conversation opportunities.

- Central position (heart of the village), rather than look at the distance of Roughbirchworth.

Other points –

- Publish New Map of Oxspring boundaries on the next newsletter
- New parking and lights at St Aidan's urgently required.
- The river and banks offer a significant opportunity to open up, develop footpaths, picnic areas, etc
- Village shopping facilities, possibly tea room/coffee shop, are vital in developing a social heart to the village.