

Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan- Huncote Primary School Consultation.

The consultation with Huncote Primary School took place on 31st October. Approximately 27 children from year 6 took part. The majority of children lived in the village, a few lived in the parish and only one or two were from outside the parish. The event was based around a map of Huncote parish with an enhanced map of the village itself. The children were in smaller groups on 4 to 8. Ms Rhydell Poole from the Parish Council attended and provided useful background on issues in Huncote and Mr Stuart Bacon also attended part of the session.

Huncote is a small village with a small older centre, there has been significant growth in the 70's and 80s and the school and recreation ground are located in the newer areas. There are a number of shops and a leisure centre (the Pavillion) and a variety of local employment sites. The parish has a population of approximately 1174, with 680 households. The majority of houses are semi-detached or terrace. The parish is has sites for quarrying and aggregates and is dissected by the M69.

The format of the event was a brief introduction to the purpose of the neighbourhood plan. This was followed by an the children identifying their own homes and key buildings on the maps. After this the children were asked to identify things they liked about Huncote and things they didn't like. Then they were asked to identify things that could be improved. As there was time at the end the children were asked to consider where new homes could be built in the village.

The Children were very positive about their village. They identified a large number of positive aspects, including

- old buildings
- Community centre
- recreation ground and BMX track
- countryside including Croft Hill and Croft Lake and the Brook
- sport facilities at the Pavilion and playing fields
- pubs and shops including a garage
- village green and the park
- allotments
- community events
- Quarry
- school
- Old peoples home
- Farms including an animal aid centre

The things they didn't like included

- heavy traffic – including lorries
- Speeding traffic and roads dangerous to cross
- litter and dog poo
- vandalism at bus stop and park
- difficulty cycling safely and problems of pedestrians affected by cycling in narrow alleys
- lack of school bus and other public transport
- Not enough variety of shops and empty shops
- the need for more sports facilities like tennis court
- Farm smells and some noise (including Church Bell)
- Changes to village facilities – including Pavilion changing to a golf range
- No doctor or dentist
- too many new houses

- Paths in forest poorly kept
- concerns about behaviour, including young people playing 'chicken'

The things they would like to see improved were:

- Traffic, including a village bypass or traffic calming or lights
- road crossing near shops
- disabled access
- more sports and recreation equipment, including tennis court and improved BMX track and tree house.
- more buses – including reinstating free bus to Brockington
- CCTV or other measures to stop vandalism
- New Park
- More leisure facilities, including tourism possibilities like outdoor pursuits
- off road car parking
- more shops -some wanted big shops, others only small shops including a cafe
- More events including a youth club
- public toilets
- kiosk on the park
- more litter bins
- bingo for older people
- Doctors and dentist
- Barefoot nature walk (to encourage visitors) and bird feeders
- Bigger school if village grows
- Other tourist recreation including petting zoo, cargo lift at Croft Hill and big attractions like snowdome

The children discussed some of the pros and cons of their ideas and realised some suggestions were not feasible. Ms Poole told the children some of the parish councils plans for a new park.

The final activity was for the children to consider where any new housing in the village could go. The children identified two main areas around the village. There is limited space for nfilling in the village itself. The first area was to the North of the village, east of Forest Rd and south-east of the village off the Narborough Rd. Both of these locations are currently being considered by developers.

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