

Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan- Thurlaston Primary School Consultation.

The consultation with Thurlaston Primary School took place on 31st October. Approximately 34 children from years 5 and 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 Thurlaston parish with an enhanced map of the village itself. The children were in smaller groups on 4 to 8. Mr Trevor England from the Parish Council also attended and provided useful background on issues in Thurlaston.

Thurlaston is a compact village with a well defined centre, where the school, church and recreation ground are found. There is also a village hall. The parish has a population of approximately 750, with 310 households. The majority of houses are detached or semi-detached, so affordability is an issue. Fuel poverty is also an issue with 80 households identified as at risk. The parish is very rural with a number of large farms.

The format of the event was a brief introduction to the purpose of the neighbourhood plan. This was followed by the children identifying their own homes and key buildings on the maps. After this the children were asked to identify things they liked about Thurlaston 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

- church and nice buildings
- big houses and old buildings
- village hall
- recreation ground being near school
- countryside and walks
- sport facilities including football team
- pubs
- garden centre (including shop)
- good community
- events including carnival
- good play equipment
- shooting round and swimming at a local farm

The things they didn't like included

- heavy traffic – including lorries
- litter and dog poo
- damaged equipment in park
- difficulty cycling safely
- car parking makes it hard to cross roads
- lack of school bus and other public transport
- access problems due to private roads and animals in fields
- the need for more sports facilities like tennis court and skate park
- Localised flooding at T junction

The things they would like to see improved were:

- a new skatepark
- more sports and recreation equipment, including tennis court, zip wire, basket ball or rugby
- more buses

- speed calming
- garden patch or allotments
- statue or fountain
- toddler play area
- off road car parking
- more shops
- public toilets
- zebra crossing
- kiosk on the park
- more litter bins
- bingo for older people
- medical centre

Finally we briefly spoke about energy issues due to the high potential for fuel poverty. Ideas offered here included energy efficiency, solar panels on the school and small wind turbines.

Mr England offered some feedback on the issues identified and was able to feed back on some activities already underway. For example the drain causing the flooding had been repaired and cleared. He also agreed to take their ideas to the parish council for discussion.

The final activity was for the children to consider where any new housing in the village could go. The children identified a variety of areas all around the village. There is no space for any infilling in the village itself. We then asked for a vote on each are and the majority voted for sites to the south East of the village off main street and sites to the west off Moat Close or the Earl Shilton Rd.

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