

Addendum of Results from Day of Ideas

The following are comments made, either verbally or on the post-It sheets, by parishioners who attended the Day of Ideas held on Sunday, 6th October 2013 in the Village Hall. Some parishioners wrote letters, as they were unable to attend the Day of Ideas, and these can be viewed at the end of this addendum.

1. Housing & Development

Homes for older people to downsize and still live in the village. This would free up their larger family homes for sale to families.

On the basis no one wants to leave the village the provision of housing for elderly would free up larger properties for families. Thus the age mix is maintained in the village.

I have no problems with new houses affordable for elderly and young but in keeping with the village.

I agree local affordable houses and retirement properties would be an asset to Gotherington.

Perhaps bungalows for the older villagers to downsize.

Bungalows for older people are needed to free up family houses but sheltered accommodation may not be necessary, people keep an eye on each other in Gotherington.

I don't know if there is any issue with the provision of affordable housing for younger people with an established connection to the village who might wish to be resident here but are unable to afford property prices. If there is then perhaps some thought should be given to this sort of provision. The provision of sheltered accommodation to which villagers might downsize would create an additional stock of property some of which, however, would again be unlikely to be affordable.

I also feel affordable housing is essential.

Demolish skittle alley and make rent more affordable build a couple of small bungalows there for older people - free up family houses.

Demolish the restaurant as well and make the rent even more affordable the kitchen can service the tables in the bar which is probably enough - the pub is never full. Another two bungalows in the space.

New housing. Can you satisfy the percentage that advocate sheltered housing and the percentage that need 3 to 4 bedroom houses. Hopefully everybody can be accommodated.

Luxury bungalows only.

Define luxury.

I agree that the housing does not need to be sheltered. Just smaller homes for people to downsize.

Retirement bungalows much more important than sheltered housing.

Small homes needed. Most of the existing stock has been enlarged.

No further development is my preference however if we are forced to accept building bungalows would be better than three or four bed houses. I doubt we will have any influence. We are probably already too late.

There should be a referendum to decide whether any development is permitted. Other land owners should be approached to see if they are willing to have their land sold for development. Questionnaire seemed to have already decided that the raspberry patch would be developed. Building outside the village envelope should not be allowed.

The character of Gotherington's linear form should be preserved. Special landscape area should be preserved. Development of the ends of the village should be preferred solution.

In my opinion it is unrealistic of the parish council to request development on the Raspberry field without threatening the security of the parish boundary in the future. I feel it will open the floodgates to building outside the boundary.

No sheltered housing.

No more developments.

There should be no development behind the houses on fields. Or else I'll have to move house.

When considering what the housing requirements are let's remember that 1000 new homes are being built down the road.

No housing is needed at all.

No building in fields behind existing houses.

Restrict all future development to within the boundary plan.

2. Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour

Crime

People do not perceive much crime in Gotherington and they knew little about the function of Neighbourhood Watch. Generally people had a false sense of security.

One person said: Occasional evening bonfires made from toxic materials.

People said that we need a bigger presence of Neighbourhood Watch, more signs and more publicity. They wished to know who organises Neighbourhood Watch and who are the local coordinators?

Noise

Noise was only a problem in certain areas.

Barking dogs was mentioned.

Dog barking in Shutter Lane area

Barking dogs late at night

Low flying aircraft.

Parking

Parking on pavements is being dealt with by talking to police

Anti-social parking by users of the Village Hall and sports fields

Parking outside school and the amount of traffic at school times

Parking in Malleson Road is dangerous, especially on bends.

Fouling by dogs

Dog fouling issues were mentioned, but are being dealt with by the Parish Council

People felt very strongly about dog fouling and said the following:

Dog warden needed

More threatening signs everywhere

Dog fouling on fields and paths around the village

Dog mess on grass verges along Malleson Road

Dog poo found in waste bins, who monitors this?

Overall, many people mentioned dog fouling, neighbourhood watch, the village appearance and the gates! There was a comment that they never see any police in the Village, and do we have to pay for patrols? Also, too many hedges are hanging over footpaths. Can't the Parish Council cut them?

3. Traffic and Transport

There was concern about the rumour that bus routes are due to be rescheduled to take in Homelands. Contact providers to ensure continuation of 527 and D service.

People asked for an early evening bus service and a bus shelter at the Shutter Island.

It was said that there is currently no bus service between 5.30 and 8.00pm. Buses at this time would be helpful for young people going into Cheltenham.

There was concern over Malleson Road/A435 junction.

Many people requested a footpath and cycleway to Bishop's Cleeve and a paved way on Malleson Road to A435.

There were many requests for vehicle-activated signs. These were preferred to the gates. There were lots of criticisms of the village gateways.

People commented on the practice of wheelie bins being a hazard on pavements.

Notice board near the Shutters – last discussed at last day of ideas!

Peoples' comments on the signs were:

Gateways are a waste of money – flashing 30mph signs needed

Flashing 30mph signs and 'beware of horses'

'Slow your speed' automated signs needed

Flashing 30mph signs on all roads to the village

Flashing 30mph signs

Peoples' comments on the gates were:

Gates a waste of money – look awful

Really like the gateways!

Do not feel the gates are conspicuous enough.

Gates are a shocking waste of money. Make the village look cheap and shoddy.

Finish the gates!

Gates not required – look cheap

'Thankyou for driving carefully' on the back of the gates

Why spend money on gate? Better spent on village hall sound proofing

Peoples' comments on the Malleson Road/A435 junction were:

Improve Malleson Rd junction

Roundabout essential at Malleson Rd junction with the Cleeve developments

Roundabout or intelligent traffic lights are essential at Malleson Road junction.

How many more deaths do there need to be!

Keep the grass cut at Malleson Rd junction

Peoples' comments on the Gotherington Lane / Homelands were:

Some way to deter traffic from the new developments in Cleeve diverting through Gotherington.

Close Gotherington Lane at the farm.

*Improve access from Homelands to A435
Stop access from Homelands onto Gotherington Lane and remove chicanes
Gotherington Lane /Station Road junction very busy – traffic lights would make it safer
Get rid of chicanes in Gotherington Lane*

Environment and Communications

Environment

People were concerned with tidiness and leaves in drains and gutters. People said that each resident should be responsible for clearing the gutter in front of house boundary.

A bike rack near Rex Rhodes building was suggested

Younger residents would like swings, a bike rack, and ponds.

There was a very positive approach to a phone mast in the village, with many people saying that it is a great idea.

In general, residents would like a tidier looking village with safe passage on foot/bike out to Cleeve and the Evesham Road.

Many people felt that the gutters, kerb-edges and footpaths should be maintained, and the bus turning circle by the Shutters could be vastly improved.

Responses to the questionnaire indicated a heavy pre-dominance of older respondents. Some thought would need to be given to the perspective of a younger generation who will be the village's future. It would be unfortunate if, through the fault of nothing but inertia, the village were to become an enclave of older, and often more affluent, people.

Youngsters wanted a pond for: bird watching, pond dipping, education, biodiversity, wildlife.

There were many comments on Malleson Road footpaths in desperate need of attention. One person asked "Can we monitor the effectiveness of the repair to the pothole near to the school (by the big house with the monkey puzzle tree) over the winter. It's been repaired so many times but then leaked water again and it was a real hazard walking to school in icy weather as it's so shady it remained slippery nearly all day!"

People were concerned that there should be no wind farms or solar panelling.

Communications

People thought that the communications network could be improved and broadband was important to them.

There was a very positive response to having a phone mast located within the parish boundaries.

A few people suggested that we set up a Gotherington Twitter feed or Facebook page to include local news/updates etc.

4. Facilities Leisure and Community Life

People emphasised the importance of continuing a dialogue with the village shop. A vegetable box scheme for the Village Stores was suggested.

It was suggested that more space be provided outside the nursery.

More facilities for teenagers were discussed, including a hoop for balls, suitable for netball or basketball. Also, small ramps or an outdoor gym were suggested.

Regular cinema screenings for adults, children/teenagers in the VH, pub or school was suggested.

Other items, which were suggested, included: A willow maze for kids, a zipwire and play equipment for teenagers. Some wanted a youth club for teenagers and a proper picnic area with a grassy mound. Another suggestion was a Rainbow group for girls.

People commented on the poor state of cleanliness in the Rex Rhodes building. It was suggested that we rent out the Rex Rhodes building to the nursery, but let them be responsible for repairs, cleaning etc.

People asked for improvement in acoustics in Village Hall, and for the Rex Rhodes building to be updated, allowing more space for indoor sports.

Many villagers asked about the cycle path from Shutter Lane to Bishops Cleeve.

Some wanted an indoor sports facility for playing badminton, gym and table tennis.

LETTERS FROM PARISHIONERS

Some parishioners wrote letters, as they were unable to attend the Day of Ideas. Here are some of those letters: -

Village Plan

- 1 I do not see the necessity for a new Village Hall. The current hall is adequate and intimate for the varied groups that use it regularly. On this basis the considerable expense cannot be justified. Most groups would rarely use a larger hall.*
- 2 A footpath continuing from the village to the main road along Malleson Road would be a good contribution to safety of pedestrians.*
- 3 With increasing traffic on the main Evesham Road, a roundabout is called for at the junction with Malleson Road,*
- 4 Large-scale housing development should be resisted. Infill of smaller houses and bungalows would ensure the provision of housing to suit all buyers.*
- 5 Gotherington Lane should be closed to vehicular traffic to prevent vehicles from Homelands development using the village as a thoroughfare.*

Jim Templeton

Thoughts on Gotherington Development Issues

The new 'orchard' development should be opposed primarily because of the transport infrastructure in Gotherington.

If there is approval for the development it should be restricted to sheltered accommodation / retirement bungalows.

The main issue other than this is the traffic situation, which is worsening due to the Bishop's Cleeve development (A key fact here is improving the Evesham Road access to the main road from the Homelands development which would discourage using Gotherington as a cut-through to Evesham and the M5).

Also the Malleson Road / Main Road junction should be improved before further fatalities occur.

We should support the Pub and Post Office and Garage!

Martin and Anne

16, Lawrence's Meadow

"No More Development!!"

from

Pam & John Greenall

Comments on some Village Matters

This note contains some comments on recent actions/decisions as a form of feedback to the Parish Council.

Village "Gateways"

The gateways look silly and ineffectual. They look like an attempt to treat what, to most people, is a non-existent problem. The history of road accidents and injuries within the village speaks for itself. There is a problem with inconsiderate parking and driving at certain times of the day, but habitual speeders will not be deterred by these insignificant arrays of plastic. Enforcement is the answer. The problem is that expenditure of £3000+ (which not too long ago would have been nearly a year's precept) on this project looks almost like finding a way to spend money.

Village Hall

It is hard to see what is wrong with the present Village Hall. It provides adequate space for most meetings. If we have to find room for the odd larger meeting then the school hall would suffice. When the County Council was consulting on giving itself planning permission to build the hall it was said that the village would be able to use it. Unfortunately the previous headmistress refused to give access to village activities. Perhaps the Parish Council's governor could pursue this matter.

Rex Rhodes Building

The value of the building as an asset to the village is greatly reduced by the state in which it is left. We do not know the formal terms on which the building is left to Garden House Nursery but we feel that if long-term use is to continue it should be on the basis of a formal contract covering cleanliness, repairs and general condition plus the fact that they are not allowed to help themselves to other village property.

Planning

Based on a recent party political pamphlet, it looks as though Gotherington might be the target for another 60 houses over the next 10 years. The village should not take a King Canute approach to this but should develop now its own parish strategy on how to handle this.

The public should know what is to happen to the land between Homelands and Gotherington. If it is to be held in trust, who will the future trustees be? Who will have a say on the terms of the trust? One would certainly think that the parish should provide some trustees. Do we know what negotiations are proceeding and with whom? Please can the electors of Gotherington be told?

Returning to 'd, perhaps the parish should identify a site which could accommodate something like half the possible commitment of 60 dwellings and would not set a precedent, nor lead to unlimited extension of what was built there. On this basis, the southern side of Malleson Road leading to Evesham Road would be a definite "no-no", but the 'Raspberry Patch' might be a contender. There may be time for the Parish Council to develop a robust set of arguments in favour of the selected limited offer before an open-ended decision from elsewhere gets imposed.

The other half of the approach might be for the Parish Council to press strongly the argument that in a village, such as Gotherington, small developments and in-filling cannot simply be disregarded as "windfalls" but must count towards whatever total the village gets handed. Dwellings in these categories might, over 10 years, go some way towards making up the other half of the commitment.

As regards the type of dwellings, there might be a case for some smaller dwellings suitable for those wishing to "downsize", but one would feel that the low-cost/social housing requirement was being catered for in the "Homelands" development.

John & Anne Woolley

THE DAY OF IDEAS

TRAFFIC

I believe the most important problem we have over the next few years is to control as much as possible the traffic resulting from the new housing development in Cleeve. I fear that Cleeve Lane will become a 'rat-run' for traffic looking for an easy, but dangerous, route to the Evesham Road. If left uncontrolled this traffic will constitute, for residents of the village, a real problem at the main road junction.

I believe the only long term solution is to close Cleeve Lane to motor traffic by installing bollards at Home Farm. This would force all traffic to exit the developments through the estate. The Lane could then be made for the sole use of cyclists and walkers.

VILLAGE HALL

I would be completely against the construction of a new village hall. I think the current building has served the village well and meets the requirements of the village.

BUILDING ON THE RASPBERRY PLOT

Again I would be totally against any building on this plot. I don't think it is necessary and I believe any such building would immediately open the door to further building on Cook's Meadow. The entry roads are already constructed in Ashmead Drive and Aggs Lane.

Geoff and Janet Blunt

30 The Lawns.

Village Gates

Firstly, I would like to say that, for road safety and aesthetic reasons, I was fully in support of the Parish Council's suggestion to provide verge gates to the three entrances in the village. I assumed they would be large and striking in appearance as seen in many other villages.

However, I must say that the gates that have been installed are nothing short of ridiculous; they are far too small and have little visual effect. In fact, the tiny 'gate' hidden in the hedge on Gotherington Lane is a joke, and makes the village a laughing stock! As there is limited verge space, surely "L" shaped gates going across the verge and parallel to the road would have been more effective.

In addition, I understood from the Council's presentation earlier in the year that the gates would be funded from the £15/1600 won as the 'Most Vibrant Village' but I have heard from a third party that the PC's minutes of the meeting show that the costs have escalated to nearly £3000. To my mind this compounds the problem and appears to have been a waste of village funds. If this is the cost then I would have thought that electronic flashing speed warning signs would have been far more effective as a road traffic safety measure.

Les Howard

Other points made by people:

1. *Chalet bungalows or bungalows were definitely favoured over flats.*
2. *Mowing of grass verges from the main road junction right up to the gates is very important, and also to keep the hedges trimmed.*
3. *Re-introduce a monthly or quarterly skip at the village hall car park for large rubbish*

Edward Catchpole

I hope you have found the comments listed above helpful, and have read this addendum in conjunction with the one that lists the data derived from the questionnaire. Both are intended to support the data in the 2014 Parish Plan.

David Ward

Chairman of Parish Plan sub-committee