

# **VILLAGE CONSULTATION EVENT**

## **NEIGHBOURLINESS**

**WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2007**

### **MISTERTON METHODIST HALL**

#### **1. ATTENDANCE**

In attendance were 19 members of the public, including five Members of the Parish Council.

The Clerk to the Parish Council, David Wright, was also present, together with the following:

Ms. Melissa Pickance, Partnerships Officer at Nottinghamshire Police  
Sgt. Ian Pickering and P.c. Chris Gregson, Nottinghamshire Police  
Mr. Terry Reynolds, Chairman of Bassetlaw Neighbourhood Watch  
Mrs. Carola Jones and Mr. Jonathan Dawson, Rural Officers at Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council  
Ms. Jane Kilpatrick, Misterton Librarian

Councillor Hazel Brand, Chairman of Misterton Parish Council, chaired the meeting.

#### **2. INTRODUCTION**

Councillor Brand welcomed everyone to the meeting, and explained that it had been called by the Parish Council to consult the public on various initiatives involving neighbourliness.

#### **3. COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH IN BASSETLAW**

Ms. Melissa Pickance gave a presentation about Community Speedwatch. Such schemes arose from an idea to involve local residents in speed reduction in the village of Ash, Somerset. Three Bassetlaw parishes now have schemes in which trained community volunteers carry out speed monitoring, with follow-up work on education and enforcement by the police.

In essence, any village scheme must be recognised and supported by the Parish Council. The scheme must have at least six volunteers prepared to dedicate at least one hour per week. The Community Safety Partnership provides equipment and village signage. Active volunteers monitor traffic speed during daylight hours within the 30 and 40 mph zones. The Partnerships Officer writes to offenders identified, asking for their assistance in keeping speeds down. Details of persistent offenders are passed to the police for targeted enforcement.

#### **4. BASSETLAW NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Mr. Terry Reynolds gave a presentation on Bassetlaw Neighbourhood Watch, which, whilst in operation in a small area of Misterton, could usefully be extended throughout the village. Mr. Reynolds pointed out that Neighbourhood Watch is very successful, and that 70% of crime in Bassetlaw is recorded in non-Neighbourhood Watch areas. To assist with administrative overheads, each participating household is required to pay a subscription of £1 annually, although in many areas the parish council pays the subscription.

Generally speaking, each co-ordinator covers ten households, and decides whether to receive messages by Email, fax or telephone. Every household covered receives a free quarterly magazine.

#### **5. GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD SCHEMES**

Carola Jones and Jonathan Dawson gave a presentation on good neighbourhood schemes and how to set one up.

Good neighbour schemes are local voluntary groups, which offer a service in their community to those in need of help and support. The people in need of support may be the elderly, disabled, single parents, young mothers, those temporarily in need through illness, or anyone who may be isolated within the community. Such schemes are not there to replace the work done by Social Services and other professional care agencies. They operate on a more-personal level than many agency-led schemes, often starting as simple offers of help to an acquaintance in need. However, they can improve the quality of life for people living more isolated lives in rural communities.

Good neighbourhood schemes formalise informal arrangements, which might already be excellent, and provide safeguards for volunteers and beneficiaries. Formalisation encourages beneficiaries to ask for services they might ordinarily be shy to request.

In essence, good neighbourhood schemes require a committee, a co-ordinator and volunteers.

Ms. Jane Kilpatrick explained that, as Librarian at Misterton, she considered there was a need for a scheme in order to get library services out to housebound people.

## **6. COMMUNITY DIRECTORY**

Councillor Brand explained that, as she was aware of a number of village organisations that needed, and relied on, voluntary support, she proposed to take the lead in producing a directory of such organisations. It was important, therefore, that all organisations contacted either herself or the Clerk with full details of their requirements.

## **7. THE WAY FORWARD**

At the conclusion of a meeting lasting an hour and a half, it was evident that there was a general consensus that all the issues discussed should be supported, whilst it was acknowledged that it might not be practicable to pursue and implement them all concurrently. It was also acknowledged that there are many people who, whilst happy to act in a good neighbourly way, might not be prepared to participate in more-formal arrangements.

It was agreed that a report would be submitted to the Parish Council with a view to publicising the various initiatives in the Parish Council's winter newsletter.

Councillor Brand thanked the public for attending, and, before closing the meeting, updated those present on the imminent opening of The Misterton Centre, which would provide Parish Council, District Council and Police services locally in Misterton, with a possibility of future expansion of services to bring in other statutory and voluntary services.