

## **PANGBOURNE VILLAGE PLAN**

### **ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

#### **Notes of Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2005**

**PRESENT:** June Hughes, Roger Swainston, Derek Dutson, Kat Syfret, Jenny Holliday

#### **STATUS OF ORIGINAL PROPOSALS:**

##### **Village Design Statement:**

Following our proposal in the Village Plan in April 2003 to produce a Design Statement for Pangbourne, the final document was completed earlier this year and presented to West Berks Council at a Meeting of the Eastern Area Forum on November 16<sup>th</sup>, with the recommendation that the document should be approved as a material consideration in planning decisions. The purpose of this is to provide a guide, for developers and others, to local character, building types, materials, building design, landscape and features of local interest. Also the landscape setting, appearance, character and diversity of the built environment, thus complementing the Village Plan, current SPG's and the proposed SPD on Quality Design.

We are very pleased to report that the VDS was adopted by West Berkshire, in line with the recommendation, and will now be incorporated as a guideline for future Planning Applications and Decisions.

##### **Affordable Housing:**

A presentation was made to the Parish Council on 1<sup>st</sup> November by Arlene Kersley, Rural Housing Enabler, Community Council for Berkshire, who is the liaison between Parish Councils, Local Authorities, Housing Associations, Landowners etc. She advised that it may be necessary to repeat the previous survey on village requirements as the available results may now be out of date and also emphasised that anyone wishing to be eligible for Affordable Housing Schemes should be on the Housing Needs Register, even if there is no such housing planned for their area at present.

The Rural Housing Trust will be holding a Seminar in Hampstead Norreys on December 16<sup>th</sup> on Affordable Housing, which members of the Parish Council will be attending to obtain further information and advice on this subject.

##### **Recycling:**

West Berks are currently negotiating refuse collection facilities and the possibility of extending roadside collections to include garden refuse, cardboard, etc. If this does not materialise, we will investigate the possibility of a weekly or monthly collection vehicle at the Village Hall similar to the service provided by South Oxfordshire D.C.

Christmas Tree Recycling; we are investigating the cost of hiring a 'chipper' machine for one day for residents to dispose of Christmas Trees. The suggested date is Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2006, possibly in the Village Hall Car Park .

### **Village Appearance:**

Some of the existing hanging baskets require attention and winter planting, which we are hoping to rectify. We are also investigating the possibility of acquiring a small boat to be used as a floral container in the area in front of the George Hotel.

Pangbourne Hill Cottages (opposite Church) – the window boxes, which used to be very attractive, now need to be either replanted or even replaced. We understand the properties may be rented to the occupiers and will endeavour to establish if this is the case and, if so, the person to contact regarding this.

Litter still remains a problem even with the provision of additional refuse bins. It might be useful to place a bin outside the Chip Shop and also one beside the bus stop in Purley Way. However, it was agreed that our current Roadsweeper in Pangbourne is doing an excellent job of keeping the streets as clear as possible.

### **FUTURE PROPOSALS:**

To create a lay-by/pull-in bay in the area fronting the Post Office & Forrester's to provide a dropping-off/collection point for elderly/disabled residents etc. This would also provide space for deliveries/collections at the Post Office and Collins and prevent blocking the traffic along that stretch of the Reading Road. This could then be landscaped to create an attractive seating area for residents to meet or await collection etc.

To initiate a scheme to encourage residents to replace trees and hedgerows on their property if these have to be removed for any reason, eg. construction of extensions, conservatories, etc. or creating paved areas for off-street parking. This is important for the future conservation of wildlife habitats and to maintain the picturesque aspects of the Village.