Introduction

Ryton on Dunsmore Parish Council through the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee organised a drop-in event on Neighbourhood Planning on 18 November 2017. The event took place between 10:00 am and 12:30 pm at the Provost Williams Church of England Primary School.

The aim of this event was to help engage the community in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan and to seek comments on the emerging topics – including Local Green Space and environment; community facilities and amenities; housing and design; transport and employment.

The drop-in event was promoted in a variety of ways:

✓ Posters – placed on parish and community noticeboards, leaflets delivered to each household.
✓ Social Media – Parish Council website.
✓ A sandwich board was in place outside the venue on the day.

A total of 68 people attended the event.
Format of Event

Members of the Advisory Committee welcomed attendees on arrival and asked them to complete a contact sheet to record attendance. The arrangements for the day were explained.

The first displays introduced neighbourhood planning and described the process that is being followed by the Advisory Committee on behalf of the Ryton on Dunsmore Parish Council. Copies of explanatory booklets were available on the display stands.

Copies of finalised Neighbourhood Plans were available for people to read as they walked around the displays and enjoyed the refreshments that were available.

Consultation on key issues

A series of display boards were spread across the room, each of which focused on a different topic related to planning and development, including:

✔ Vision for the Plan lifetime
✔ Housing – mix, design, location and heritage
✔ Environment – existing designations and Local Green Space criteria
✔ Transport, Employment and Community Facilities Displays

People were invited to read the displays and the information available and to make comment on ‘post-it’ notes.

The logos produced by local children were on display and people were invited to choose their favourite.
In addition, people were invited to identify open spaces which are important to them by placing up to 3 green stickers on a map of the parish which they value for views; and up to 3 blue stickers on areas good for recreation.

A further map of the parish offered people the chance to identify sites where housing development is not welcomed, and sites where residential development would be acceptable.

People were also encouraged to identify land ownership in the Parish.

Information about the community questionnaire was available to participants and people were given the opportunity to sign up to a series of Theme Groups to develop the Neighbourhood Plan further.

**Display Boards**

The following pages give a flavour of the boards that were on display at the event:
Having read the displays, attendees were asked to comment on each topic using post-it notes and to place them on flip-chart paper alongside each display.

A large map of the Parish was available, and people were invited to place up to 3 blue dots on areas of recreation and up to 3 green dots in places enjoying good views. A further map was available for people to indicate where they would prefer housing development to be located.

The following is a summary of the comments made:

**Do you support this vision?**

- Yes X 22
- Yes definitely!
- Yes, traffic calming not good enough.
- Good starting point.
- Yes; I would and medical/dental facilities.
- Would like to see more rented housing post office more days and time at doctors.
- Improved fencing around the school field.
- Some sort of doctor’s surgery if only part time like we had years back.
- Agree, it’s important the village character is maintained.
- Yes. More bungalows needed for elderly.
- Yes. And starter homes?
- Fully support.

**Housing**

- Consider building impact on local residents/traffic (movement times etc.).
- Too many houses will destroy Ryton as a village.
- New developments should not be too dense.
- More houses for young “working” people – should not have to move out of village.
- Parking spaces.
- If there is to be more housing then facilities in village need to cater for this e.g. roads, schools etc.
- More council housing association houses available to local people.
- Not building more than two stories high. Houses only, no flats!
- In keeping with vicinity.
- Not too dense.
- Avoid tall fencing causing an eye sore e.g. top of Church Road/Trinity Road.
- Windows too small. 2 stories high. Costs: about £200,000 and below.
- Please build more bungalows especially at Warren Close field, it would release quite a few houses for families.
- If more housing – support services to enable the increase in population of Ryton i.e. GP services, shops.
• Don’t build near A45. Keep a buffer zone.
• Affordable for young people.
• Affordable for young people. Not over 2 storey build.
• Affordable housing vital to keep people in the village.
• Affordable first-time buyer housing and priority to local people.
• Affordable housing for young families. Respect green belt increase services, shops, buses etc.
• Should be quality built, range 2 bed +, parking, electric car points.
• Affordable housing for young people.
• Agree to new housing but it has to be in keeping with the rest of the village – but not because it can make cash for a developer e.g. Connells but because there is demand.
• Try to respect current green belt land.
• Good sized family homes.
• Avoid heavy traffic through village.
• Affordable housing for younger families as they are the village’s future. Also, homes for the elderly.

Those attending were invited to place a green dot where housing development would be acceptable and a red dot where it would be unacceptable.
Design

- Keep to two storey designs.
- Agree to new plans. Will need to include medical facilities to meet expansion at the area and population growth. Low rise accommodation only.
- To blend in with locality.
- Mix of outdoor garden sizes to appeal to all households.
- Existing road infrastructure cannot cope with increased traffic – especially around the school. Must be considered for future development.
- Good quality designs in keeping with a rural setting.
- Must fit in.
- No three storey houses. Suitable for two and three bedrooms.
- Should be high quality, attractive designs.
- Sympathetic designs to fit in with existing village.
- Take into account the charging of electric cars?
- Review of roads and how to manage speed on through roads such as High Street, Holly Drive and Leamington Road.
- Bungalows. A lot of older people in their own homes which are too big now could move but not out of the village. Also affordable for the youngsters.
- Solar power/easy access to feed power back.
- Housing in keeping with the style of the village.
- In keeping with the style and history of the village. Should ensure we are seen as a village not a small town.
- Bungalows for the elderly.
- Environmental efficient.

Heritage

- Move forward with Ryton house – what is happening?
- Do not build on Ryton house land. Conserve!
- Ryton house restoration could be converted to something for families to use.
- Restoration of Ryton house and garden.
- Restoration of Ryton house.
- Restore and preserve Ryton house.

Employment

- Small units for individuals to start new businesses.
- Encourage local residents to work in community projects.
- Starter units on old Peugeot site for small businesses.
- Create Ryton ‘whats app’ group – “local job opportunities”.
Environment

- Retain quality of views and richness of wildlife.
- No high fence. Plenty of green views to be kept.
- Enforce 20 mph limit!
- Parking at school – got much worse.
- High levels of traffic on A445.
- Difficult to access properties early evening.
- Difficult exiting properties early morning.
- Traffic congestion at peak times around the co-op. Parking issues – dangerous for pedestrians.
- Don’t put houses near the main roads because of pollution to families.
- Speed of traffic in and around Ryton is excessive; high street especially. 20 mph is not enforced and there will be a serious accident – act before this happens.
- No yellow lines on both sides of road in Warren Field opposite the co-op. With the amount/types of traffic coming into Warren Field when new development starts, safety measures need to be put into place before development starts – children at risk.
- Vital that countryside views are not impaired.
- No high fence. Trees and bushes more in keeping with countryside.
- Traffic congestion especially around the ridiculous traffic calming measure opposite the connection.
- Parking on the streets is not hampered by double yellow lines as the village expands.
- Take the chicane on Leamington Road.
- Well maintained and signposted public footpaths.
- Ensure all green area/verges are maintained frequently and not allowed to overgrow.
- Reduce traffic on the 'rat run' between Oxford Road and A45.
- Stop HGV’s on Leamington Road.
- No safe crossing points near the co-op or school where cars do speed.
- Remove chicane on Leamington Road. Causes more congestion.
- Cars speed down Holly Road, Leamington Road, High Street – what measures will there be to stop this? Also, at rush hour – the Leamington Road is at a standstill – add more houses – what will impact be?
- Traffic congestion already a problem without further housing. No pedestrian crossing!
- No high fences please, the areas on the new Church Road development are awful.
- Severe traffic congestion in Warren Field.
- Road traffic concerns on environment.

Those in attendance were invited to place up to three blue dots in areas good for recreation and up to three green dots where there are good views:
Community Facilities

- Need a post office full time.
- Improved playground features to cater for more ages.
- Need post office.
- Need for more buses.
- Ensure good village pubs are maintained.
- Better bus services.
- Less lorries along Leamington Road.
- Care homes and affordable housing, more bungalows for disabled and aged required.
- Residence association needed to inform people of meetings/events happening – not on Facebook. Need to appoint 1 resident in each area to update meetings e.g. didn’t know there was a meeting in village hall regarding fence on A45 until today.
- Drop in GP service at least one day a week.
• Improved bus service and post office if village getting larger houses.
• Post office!
• Use pubs, shops, village hall and church or they will change/disappear.
• Nursing home/care home.
• Buses poor. No doctors. Need more local facilities.
• Important to keep village status and feel. Don’t want significant development e.g. supermarkets.
• More independent retailers.
• Better bus service to Wolston as this is the closest doctor’s surgery.
• Increased local transport services are required into surrounding towns/city.
• Local care homes/facilities.
• Discounted ‘resident’ fees at spots connection.
• Facilities are needed if housing is to increase.
• Increased leisure facilities needed.
• Better bus service to Wolston and Rugby.
• Children’s clubs e.g. guiding and scouting. I know they were here once – how to offer opportunities for current children.
• No automatic receipt from CBS ATM machine at co-op.
• Improve public transport.
• Better drop off parking for school.

Access and Highways

• Rethink of access to building on land at end of Warren Close.
• Ensure underpass remains well preserved.
• Reduce speed limit on main road “London Road” to 30-40 mph.
• Improve/create cycle paths.
• Bus service to Leamington spa.
• Better ways of controlling speeding along Leamington Road.
• Pedestrian crossings on Manns Close and Leamington Road.
• Bus service to Leamington spa.
• Speed humps on Leamington Road.
• Increase level of public transport required.
• Increase the effectiveness of the speed humps on High Street, police say it’s too difficult to control. Speed is increasing.
• More cycle paths.
• Stop heavy traffic on Leamington Road.
• Access into Warren Field needs to be addressed.
• Slow traffic on High Street.
• Reduce speed on London Road.
• More designated cycle ways around the village.
• Tarmac verge in middle of A45 – church road/high street. Access. Height of grass restricts
access when crossing causing potential for accident.

- Speed on the high street is too fast.
- Better cycle paths/options from village to surrounding locations and along A45 to Coventry.

**Developer Contributions**

- Medical Centres are a must for the village.
- Restoration of Ryton house and gardens. Preserve Ryton heritage!
- Give something back to the village.
- Restore Ryton house.
- Improved play areas. Improved bus service. Car parking for school.
- Safety on main roads and reduced speed limits through village to protect wildlife/children and local car/bike users.
- Financial contribution to parish council to develop village.
- Pedestrian crossings.
- We have a nice village. Please don’t spoil it!

**Anything else?**

- Set up a residence association for different areas within the village.
- Great idea! Happy to help in a theme group.
- Village newsletter is super! Keep it up.
- As much info on website and Facebook page please!
- Thank you! We greatly value the excellent job of the parish council. Happy to contribute to residents’ views.
- Can the key themes from the parish meetings be shown on Facebook with a link to the minutes?
- Not on Facebook! Great idea though.

**Summary of Findings:**

A variety of opinion was expressed in the comments made by the parishioners of Ryton-on-Dunsmore. Respondents were generally in favour of new development on a limited scale, with the proviso that the parish’s infrastructure increases in line with building levels. For example, an increase in capacity for the delivery of health, education, social, leisure and community services, along with the protection of existing well-used buildings and resources, as well as the alleviation of traffic congestion and road safety issues.

**Do you support the Vision?**

With a total of 33 comments, this section generated the highest response rate. Support expressed
was very positive, with 9 of the 33 respondents specifically supporting the Vision without reservation. 3 other comments highlighted the need for improved medical facilities and school-field fencing, more rented housing and a Post Office in the event of development.

**Housing**

27 comments were received on this section. 8 parishioners specifically supported the need for affordable housing for young people/young families, one respondent stating: “Affordable housing for younger families as they are the village’s future”. A further 5 comments asked that any housing development considered the number, density and design of new homes to be in keeping with the village’s character.

**Design**

Of the 27 responses, 6 parishioners called for any new development to be of sympathetic, attractive, high quality design to fit in with the existing village. 3 others highlighted the opportunity for renewable energy to be taken into account, such as solar power and charging points for electric cars.

**Heritage**

All 6 respondents called for the restoration and preservation of Ryton House.

**Employment**

Half of the 4 comments called for the creation of small, starter units to support new businesses.

**Environment**

There were 27 comments made on the environment section. The majority of the respondents were exercised by the potential impact additional housing will have on the current and future levels of traffic congestion and road safety, with particular reference to Leamington Road and Warren Field. 2 responses called for the protection of wildlife and green spaces.

**Community Facilities**

This section garnered the second greatest number of responses after the Vision section, with a total of 29 respondents. 6 parishioners highlighted the need for an increase in medical and leisure facilities whilst 5 others particularly called for the maintenance of the village’s current facilities such as the Post Office, village hall, pubs and shops. 7 respondents viewed the need for an improved local bus service as important. There were 3 comments stating the need for more care homes and housing appropriate for older parishioners and those living with disabilities.
Access and Highways

In the event of development, the majority of the 20 respondents highlighted the need to provide more traffic calming, traffic management and adequate, safe pedestrian crossing areas on the village’s roads. A number of specific areas in Ryton were named in relation to these concerns: Leamington Rd; High St; London Rd and Manns Close. 4 respondents called for an increase in designated safe cycleways, and 2 others cited access to Warren Close as a safety issue.

Developer Contributions

The tone of the 9 responses is best summed up by one parishioner stating that developer contributions should: “... give something back to the village”. Views reflected the wish for the restoration of Ryton House, and the improvement of play areas, bus services, school parking and enhanced road safety for all.

Anything else?

The 7 views expressed reflected a positive approach to community engagement, and a desire to directly support the parish council and Neighbourhood Plan theme groups in delivering the NP.