

The Parish Pump

The occasional Newsletter of Trimley St Martin Parish Council

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From the Chair

In the last edition of Parish Pump (the LDF Special) we devoted the whole edition to the "LDF — Blobs on the Map Consultation".

As you probably know SCDC, LDF Task Group decided to hold a meeting in public at the Orwell hotel on 4th August. They only published the meeting papers for this on the 25th July. These papers contained 6 options, based on the 5 "blobs on the map" areas plus an additional area — blob 6, this is the area proposed by Felixstowe Town Council. From the SCDC consultation document, I have extracted a summary description of each area. Remember these words are those of the SCDC Head of Planning not mine:

Option 1 — North-East of the A14 — *This general area is located between the Trimley and Dock Spur interchanges, north east of the A14. It consists of agricultural fields generally of grade 2 quality. The landscape is well contained by hedges and topography. It does not abut the AONB and views from the AONB are likely to be unaffected. The farmland, with its set-aside and peripheral hedgerows, does create important wildlife habitats in open countryside. A designated county wildlife site abuts the area. Integration with the existing community will be difficult given the separation by a dual carriageway. This separation means that development will generate considerable trips by car. The close presence of the A14 gives easy access to the Port by car but is likely to create issues related to noise.*

Option 2 — Land Between The Trimley Villages — *This general area falls into two parts, east and west of Trimley High Road. The east is bounded by the A14. The west side is potentially larger and bounded by the railway line. Overall it is 'greenfield land' being predominantly farmland of grade 2 quality with some opportunities for 'brownfield' development. There are two landscape types — to the east of the High Road it is more con-*

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tained with hedgerows and trees a prominent feature. To the west it is more open and exposed. This affects the biodiversity value – the eastern side being the better. Both areas provide instant access to the countryside for a lot of people and contrast with the urban form. There are no designated areas. The presence of the A14 on the eastern side and the railway on the western create potential issues of noise. The proximity to the Trimley villages and Walton has advantages in respect of community integration and access to services on foot or by public transport. In terms of potential detrimental impact on existing communities Area 2 has generated considerable objection given its role in separating the Trimley communities.

Option 3 – Between Walton And Trimley St Mary — This area consists of the 'gap' between Felixstowe and the Trimley villages. It straddles the High Road and extends between Candleet Road and the railway. It represents 'greenfield land', being predominantly paddocks and agricultural land generally of grade 2 quality. Separation of Felixstowe/Walton is considered to be important by many although this will still be maintained by strong presence of the Dock Spur road.

Option 4 – North Of Candleet Road — This area lies on the northern edge of Felixstowe, between the Dock Spur roundabout and Garrison Lane, north of Candleet Road. There are two distinct parts, east and west of Gulpher Road. It is 'greenfield land' of a mixture of type but predominantly farmland of grade 2 quality. It also contains allotments, stables, and a golf driving range. Area 4 is also not intrinsically attractive but is visible from a number of points. The landscape to the west of Gulpher Road has more capacity to absorb development than that to the east, which contains components of a wildlife 'corridor'.

Option 5 — North of Old Felixstowe — This option lies north of 'Old Felixstowe' and the residential areas around Upperfield Drive. It extends east-west from Ferry Road to Eastward Ho. This is 'greenfield land' that is predominantly farmland. The quality of the agricultural land is grade 2. Area 5 is the closest to the AONB and the most exposed in landscape terms. It does, however, benefit from proximity to the facilities in Old Felixstowe and town centre. At the eastern end are allotments that are well-used. An archaeological assessment of the site will be required.

Option 6 — North of Trimley St Martin — Felixstowe Town Council has asked that a further option be considered. This is not a recommendation to the effect that this alternative is the Town Council's favoured option. It is merely a request for consideration. The option consists of land at Innocence Farm, between Trimley St Martin and Kirton, north of the A14. This is largely agricultural land of grade 2 and 3 quality. It is possibly the least able to be integrated into the existing communities given its distance from them and separation by a dual-carriageway trunk road. Development could only be successful if designed as a new, self-contained settlement of considerable size. It is a long way from the town centre and Port but has good road connection to the latter, the major source of

employment. The A14 presents a problem of noise.

Public consultation has also not been possible although some respondents did react unfavourably to the suggestion from the Town Council. Trimley St Martin Parish Council and the community action group 'Save Trimley Against Growth' (STAG) both expressed serious concerns. The Felixstowe branch of the Liberal Democrats party conducted its own survey of the options, including new option 6. This consisted of a questionnaire, focused on residents within the north ward, and asked them to show their preferences. New 'option 6' was 'strongly preferred' by the most respondents. On the other hand, an almost equal number 'strongly objected' to it.

Dispersed Development

- Many respondents referred to the possibility of spreading the development over a number of sites thus reducing the immediate impact on a particular area. This was advocated by the two Trimley parish councils which identified particular locations.
- This approach does address the issue of impact (although residents overlooking the areas chosen will still be affected). However, it hinders full investment in a particular area in order to achieve the infrastructure necessary, such as a primary school. It also denies the opportunity to consider the longer term options and future growth of the town of Felixstowe beyond 2025.

The Preferred Option

The preferred option is: **Option 3 – land between Walton and Trimley St Mary and Option 4 – land north of Candlet Road.**

Together these can form a package to create a mixture of uses to be developed to the benefit of the long term interests of the town. Such uses would include housing (including affordable housing), employment, community facilities and recreation. However, development of this option must be guided by a masterplan and delivery plan.

Following the publication of the papers, Trimley St Martin Parish Council met to discuss its response. We felt that our prime duty was to focus on our residents. In our opinion the case to build 1720 dwellings on the Felixstowe/Trimleys Peninsula had not been made; but it was important for us to make a response in order to minimize the effect of any chosen option on our residents. We decided to support the "officers recommendation to the LDF Task Group members", i.e. options 3 and 4. We did realise that the members were entitled to dismiss the officers' recommendations and choose any other option or combination thereof or even to dismiss them all. A recommendation would be going to the SCDC Cabinet meeting in October.

I attended the LDF Task Group Meeting on the 4th of August to give evidence on our behalf, also giving evidence were pressure groups, e.g. STAG, Save Felixstowe Countryside, as well as potential developers, Landowners, parish council chairmen. Felixstowe town councillors and Suffolk Coastal Council Ward councillors. Written evidence was also presented.

A detailed illustrated presentation of all options was given by Steven Brown, SCDC Planning Policy Manager. This was followed by the above giving evidence — some for the officers recommendation and some against. Members of the Task Group then had an opportunity to cross-examine those who spoke. For my part I was asked for the council's view on affordable housing. Both Bryan Frost (Trimley St Mary Parish Council Chairman) and myself focussed on the effect on the villages if option 2 was selected. We also spoke on option 3 as we felt that this could have much increased traffic implications for Trimley High Road/Walton High Street if the accesses and exits from the development were not carefully planned. Councillor Graham Harding spoke in our support.

When this was complete, the LDF Members discussed the officers' recommendation and the evidence that had been presented. At this stage only members of the LDF Task Group could speak, additionally with the permission of the Chairman (Andy Smith), any other SCDC Councillor present could also speak.

It quickly became evident that some members were not happy with large scale development on one or two sites, despite the Chairman favouring the large-scale development. The debate was vigorous with most member contributing. The "officers' recommendations were not even discussed in detail". The debate rapidly moved to members speaking for small-scale developments over a number of sites. **Members unanimously voted to "support the organic and the evolutionary growth of a minimum of 1720 dwellings in the Felixstowe and Trimley area, over a mixture of sites, whilst preserving, as far as possible, prime agricultural land for essential food production."** The core strategy consultation document together with his recommendation will go to SCDC Cabinet.

We must remember that the fight is not yet over, Cabinet could disagree and approve a different option — following this, consultation will begin on site specific locations, this, to my mind could include locations in any of the options already mentioned or elsewhere in the "Felixstowe and Trimley Area". This could include Kirton and Falkenham. Much mention during the debate was made of affordable housing. We were told that this would be affordable in perpetuity, managed by a housing association, some would be "shared equity" whilst the remainder would be straightforward rental under tenancy agreements. Ivan Jowers, a member of the

Task Group”, and also Chairman of the SCDC Planning Committee, did say that it should not be possible to externally identify affordable homes from the other type, also they should be dispersed throughout the development and not form a “ghetto” on their own. The affordable homes, must by planning law, be at least a third of the total development.

The Next Steps

Your council will now have to work to identify acceptable potential sites within the parish for small-scale development. We will need to look again at **The Old Poultry Farm** – This land runs alongside Howlett Way and therefore has ease of access to this road and onto the A14, thus taking traffic away from the High Road. We were suggesting a small-scale development to include the redundant poultry farm buildings area but not stretching back as far as Church Lane, as we felt this would become a further ‘mini estate’.

We also need to look at other sites in the village which might accommodate some small developments. We do need some affordable housing but this comes at a price, i.e. 30 house should produce 10 affordable!

However we are determined to preserve the character of the village and would not wish to see the revival of the large-scale Trinity visions or the equally large and horrendous Trimley Estate Masterplan.

Trimley Carnival 2008

This year’s carnival was a great success, held on Saturday 12th July - and thank goodness again, the weather was very kind.

In the procession, 25 individual units paraded, consisting of seven large floats, four majorettes troupes and the rest made up of individual businesses parading their various wares.

After the parade, an afternoon was enjoyed by about 1200 people at “the Trimley Sports & Social club, with various forms of entertainment.

This year’s financial takings have exceeded £4000 and these monies will be presented to various organisations.

The shields which decorate our villages for 6 weeks of the summer are causing enormous interest, and we are informed that considerable income is derived from those who participate. This year 106 shields were erected, we are fast running out of lamp posts and wooden poles for future years, if the increase in numbers is maintained. We are of the opin-

ion, that the shields, are unique to our village carnival, it would be nice if this could be confirmed, as next year, the press and television media are considering presenting an item on this aspect.

Again, this year, the carnival committee of three, had to rely on 2 neighbours and various family and friends from all over the country to help us run the event on the day. it would be most helpful, if other people living in the villages offered some assistance to achieve your carnival.

If any out there would like to help on the committee for the actual day please ring me on (01394) 210721.

The winners for the best floats were:

- 1st — The Hand in Hand, public house
- 2nd — Trimley Sports and Social club

Best turned out majorettes troupe — Felixstowe Poloz.

Next years carnival will be held on Saturday 11th July — the theme being : "Old and New"

Hope to see you there.

John Sills

Trimley Saints Players



Following the huge success of 'Dads Army' at the beginning of May, we were pleased to donate 2 cheques, each for £500, one to the residents of Yetton Ward House, who sadly had the money they had saved to fund their minibus stolen, and one to the fund for re-surfacing the Memorial Hall Car Park.

We start rehearsals soon for our annual Panto - Aladdin - which will be staged 14th — 17th January 2009. Can you believe, we have already sold some tickets!

Box Office 671119

Trimley Twin Churches, are we alone?

Most other villages are accustomed to having a single focal point church and this tends to be their view of how a village should be. There are other examples where more than one church is present in a village or indeed where two villages adjacent to each other are joined at their Graveyards. This is actually more common than one might suppose with at least a dozen examples in East Anglia.

The first example is our own pairing. Trimley St Mary and St Martin churches are both mentioned under Trimley in Domesday, this means that there were churches at Trimley in or before 1066. The most popular explanation for the pairing is of two sisters who did not get on, the feud resulted in one sister building their own personal place of worship. This is a nice story but unfortunately a myth. It is likely that one of the churches started as a private chapel for a neighbouring lord and not as a result of an expanding congregation. The Parish split came later in time when the two villages became parishes in their own right.

Reepham in Norfolk actually had three churches, Saint Mary's, Saint Michael's, and All Saints. All Saints was destroyed by fire in 1543. Legend suggests that there were three feuding sisters each with their own church, this seems to be a common local explanation for multiple churches. Sadly the real reason is less romantic. It appears to have been a convenient piece of land at the point where three parishes joined.

Antingham, again in Norfolk, had two parish churches neither was mentioned in Domesday and only St Mary's still stands complete. St. Margaret's is in ruins and only a part of its tower now remains and it has been suggested that its stone was used to repair St Mary's when times were hard. Fortunately so far this cannibalism has not hit our churches.

Willingale in Essex has St Andrew's and St Christopher's. Yet again there is a tale of two sisters associated with the churches, but again this is just a nice story. It is more likely that at the time when the wool trade was booming the population out grew one church and another was built to accommodate the worshippers.

Our twin churches are far from being unique, there are lots of other pairings and even triplets in East Anglia. There are almost as many reasons for their situations as there are examples. The reason for the closeness is probably unique to each circumstance and is most likely influenced by local factors that could date back to medieval or even Saxon times but sadly not due to sisterly family feuds.

Berridge Eve

Safer Neighbourhood Community Police Team



May I take this opportunity to update residents of both Trimley St Martin & St Mary, with efforts being made by the Police officers and staff of the Colneis team.

Since our last article published in the parish newsletter, we have been trying to increase the accessibility of Police officers to the residents. We have tried to achieve this by have a visible presence at both primary schools during drop off or collection times. By maintaining a presence outside Trimley Post office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and by attending the coffee morning at St Martins church (Reverend Bev Butler, is keen to welcome anyone in for a coffee and a chat).

The idea being, people will know Police will be at these places on specific days and times.

If there is anything, no matter how small, you think we, your Police! should know about or you think we may be able to help you. Then please come along and introduce yourself.

In relation to vehicles parking on the double yellow lines at the junction of Church Lane and High Road. These lines are due to be repainted and then they will be enforced. Most people I move on are able bodied and have just got into the habit of parking there.

We have on several occasions had to speak to owners of motor vehicles advertised for sale, that have been parked along the High Road. Some on or near to junctions. Police consider this to be leaving a vehicle in a dangerous position. As it distracts the attention of other road users, when they should be concentrating on the junction.

Last but by no means least. Please close and lock all house windows when you go out. There have been instances of burglaries occurring, in our area, where access has been gained via insecure fanlight windows. Our website is www.onesuffolk.co.uk/safersuffolk/colneispeninsula/

Raoul Pidgeon — Pc 728.

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