

THE PARISH PUMP

The occasional Newsletter of Trimley St Martin Parish Council August 2003



**From the
Chair**

It was never envisaged when the idea of a newsletter was first suggested that by the second issue it would be dominated by matters of such importance to the future of the village, namely: – **The Trinity College Planning Framework Report.**

There is no doubt that if any significant part of the Trinity College 'vision' was adopted by future local plans life in Trimley St. Martin would go through a major change, greater even than the building of the Barratt estate in the 1970's. However I think at this stage, it is important that the Parish Council reserves judgement until members of the village have had a chance to see the plans in detail and to weigh up the pros and cons of such a development for themselves. It is also an opportunity to put forward any views of your own on the future of your village. To help in this, we have arranged for Bidwells (the Trinity College Agent) to be available for any questions you may have, at the Memorial Hall, on the morning of the second Saturday - 9th in August. Points you may like to consider are listed on Page 7, and the original submission by the Parish Council (in December 2002) on their ideas for the village plan are detailed in full in this newsletter. Remember that at this stage Trinity's proposals are just ideas put forward by a landowner and nothing in their vision has been as yet endorsed by any local authority. Please be assured that this Council will do its best to reflect the wishes of the Parish on this matter, but we can only do this if we have your responses. The contact address for the parish council is shown on the back of this newsletter.

Other Matters

Link Road Planting

As you will have seen, much of the work has been completed. Most of the planting has grown well. Those areas that have not taken, will be replanted in the autumn along with more bulbs to give extra colour in the spring.

New Village Signs

There will be new 'Welcome to the Trimleys' signs being erected later in the year. I hope you will agree that the approach to both villages is looking much better than a year ago.

Nigel Smith

Clerk's Corner



Well this is the second issue of the Newsletter and it makes for very interesting reading! On the 1st April, we held our Annual Parish Meeting and it was disappointing to see so few members of the public in attendance. This is the chance for residents to put forward their views with regard to the village in which they live, to their parish council. Doubtless the enclosed editorial regarding the future of the Local Plan will create some strong views and we welcome your views, whatever they may be.

There are currently four vacancies for Councillors, these may be filled by co-option. If you are interested in becoming a Councillor for Trimley St Martin, please contact me for further details.

Before our June meeting, Councillors walked down to the foreshore to look at possible sites for a new wooden seat that was purchased in recognition of the 25 years that George Harlow was the Clerk for both Trimleys. The views in this area are quite stunning and on a summers evening, with the sun going down on the river, it was very serene and peaceful. If you have not been down there for a while or have never walked down that way, try it, it's a great place for children to play and appreciate their environment and it beats sitting down in front of yet another soap, any day of the week!!

Tracey Hunter

River Care Scheme



The River Orwell foreshore 'Clean Up' took place on Sunday 6th April and proved to be an outstanding success. About 30 volunteers turned out and worked extremely hard filling up 50 large bin bags. Various large items were also picked up including a large plastic oil container and a water tank from a boat!

Encams provided the gloves and pickers and their representative Andrew Walters came along to help after providing a short safety talk. We were grateful to both him and Nigel Smith who provided a tractor to transport the bags back up to the village for collection.

On the following Sunday, another small group cleared eight bags of rubbish from the newly flooded section by the nature reserve and judging by the type of litter picked up, this almost certainly originated from passing boats, so if any boat owners are reading this, please ensure items do not go overboard!!

Since then, good people have continued to pick up litter as they have walked along the foreshore, although certain people have obviously still not got the message since as I write this, I have been told of about a dozen beer bottles, some broken, which have been found and cleared up by a good Samaritan.

To all of those who volunteered and continue to care, my sincere thanks on behalf of all those people who enjoy our beautiful riverside.

Keith Slaughter

Revision of Suffolk Coastal District Council's Local Plan submission by Trimley St Martin Parish Council to Suffolk Coastal District Council - Dec 2002

Introduction

The Council has been considering the provisions of the local Plan as it affects Trimley St. Martin and whilst it continues to support much of the Plan's contents there are now sections that need addressing and bringing up to date to reflect the needs of the parishioners.

In general the Council feels that there is now a need, after about 12 years of virtually no growth, to recognise the need for some additional housing to help particularly those younger parishioners now seeking to set up homes of their own at prices that are more affordable. The Council does not want to see a migration of its young people from the village and the members consider that the provision of affordable housing will help to counter this.

There is also a need for additional sheltered housing for the elderly now that private provision for the care of the elderly is being reduced.

The Council want to see areas designated in the revised Local Plan for affordable and sheltered housing. It also wants to see a provision for some general housing too. In any house building applications a balance of all types of houses must be achieved to satisfy all needs.

Current Local Plan Policies

Those policies in the current Plan protecting the environment, restricting undesirable development, retaining the village status of Trimley St. Martin and its separation from its neighbours are generally acceptable, although some minor amendments now seem sensible.

Design - The Policies for good design should be set out in any revision of the Local Plan. In any proposals for development new buildings must incorporate the latest building materials, the latest heating arrangements and be as environmentally friendly as possible. Provision for the parking of motorcars must be off road and within the curtilage of the buildings being erected. The use of parking compounds has proved unsatisfactory and should not be considered in the future.

LP25 The restriction on estate type development is broadly acceptable but some infilling and small groupings of new housing will be needed to answer the local need for housing, particularly of the affordable type.

LP27 The present areas for infilling and small groups are restricted to within the current physical limits boundary except for local needs housing. The council's view is that many of the children that moved into Trimley St. Martin when the Barratt estate was developed in the 1970's and 1980's are now adult, employed locally and wanting to set up their own homes but are frustrated, not only by the price of existing houses but by the shortage of affordable houses being built. There is therefore pressure for local needs housing in the village.

LP150 and LP154 The policy to keep Trimley St. Martin as a village separate from Felixstowe and Trimley St. Mary should be enshrined into any revision of the Local Plan. Whilst it is becoming the practice to work together with its neighbours, particularly Trimley St. Mary, the Council is adamant that the two Trimley parish councils and the Felixstowe Town Council should be separate authorities for some of the reasons stated in the current Plan - they are:

- to protect their individual character, and to
- maintain the open character of the land, which separates them from each other and from Felixstowe.

1LP153 This Policy recognising the need for another access road to the Port of Felixstowe should remain unaltered. Despite many assurances from the Felixstowe Dock and Railway Company that it has no intention of putting an access road across open countryside in Trimley St. Martin the Council feels that any third access to the Port should be within existing physical limits and not across areas of open landscape. The current Policy must be carried forward into the new Local Plan to reassure the Council that the district council will support this.

2LP156 Except for the development allowed under the Felixstowe Dock and Railway Act 1988 (now underway) the District Council will resist any further development west of the Dock Spur rail link and south of the physical limits of Trimley villages in order to safeguard the landscape of the Orwell Estuary in general and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in particular. That too needs restating.

3Any proposals for the parking of lorries overnight outside the confines of the Port in Trimley St. Martin, put forward, at one time, should be refused. The Council would like to see areas set aside on the Felixstowe peninsula to which the police direct lorries when accidents or inclement weather close the A14 or the Port of Felixstowe. Such areas should help ensure the free movement of private vehicles but prevent lorries clogging up the Trimley villages and parts of Felixstowe.

4LP190 and LPI96a Felixstowe Urban Fringe. The Trimley St. Martin Parish Council view the area north of the A14 as being of the highest environmental value that should be free of inappropriate development and that area includes the area within the Felixstowe and Trimley St. Mary parishes with common boundaries. The Policies recognising the vulnerability of this area and its attractiveness particularly for residential developments should certainly continue and the need for the closest scrutiny and the cumulative affect of any small-scale proposals should, if anything, be strengthened. Work now being undertaken to create community woodlands from The Grove to the Trimley 'Pits' should be encouraged by planning controls and extended into

Trimley St. Martin for community leisure use.

5 Physical Limits

6 The Council's view is that the way the current physical limits are drawn leaves nowhere for future development to take place and it therefore asks for the easing of the physical limits for some growth to take place in the village. The Council's view, however, is that any amendments to the physical limits should in no circumstances take the line in a northerly direction beyond the A14 trunk road or south beyond the Felixstowe - Ipswich Railway Line. However, within those parameters, some easing of the physical limits should be considered.

7 General Points

8 General Development. - Trimley St. Martin Parish Council seek to encourage developments that will result in improved employment opportunities for local people in as far as that is compatible with the residential enjoyment of the village.

9 Apart from the above general points there are individual Policies that need amending and measures taken to alleviate particular problems as well as the need for new Policies.

10 Use of redundant agricultural properties - The Council considers that some easing of the restrictions on the use of redundant agricultural buildings would now be appropriate to allow occupation by a wider range of occupiers e.g. local craftsmen, holiday occupations etc.

11 Parking arrangements along Trimley High Road should be improved. Parking standards should not be reduced in any way and the present consultation paper suggesting lower standards countywide should be scrapped. To accept the county wide proposals put forward will result in the streets becoming more cluttered than now and parking areas within residential developments areas becoming dumping grounds for unserviceable cars, caravans and other sundry rubbish. .

12 Within a revised Local Plan provision should be made for a village centre. The Council fear that without a recognisable centre the future of the village, as a village, is in doubt. The Council feel strongly on this point and it wants to see the establishment of a sizeable village green. This should be such that rights of way run from and to the green so that access to the countryside is improved particularly from the village to the River Orwell. Any buildings around a proposed village green to be such that the character of any green created is not spoilt.

13 In considering planning applications the protection of the existing rights of way should be carefully protected and any new rights arising from development or diversion must meet the current British Standards as to access for the disabled and be landscaped and not simply narrow paths between houses or other buildings.

14 Recreational facilities - there is a need for recreational facilities in the village. Trimley St. Martin does not have a recreation ground and the local children only have access to play equipment as a result of agreements with the Trimley Sports and Social Club. That arrangement is most unsatisfactory since the children play at the rear of licensed premises. Suffolk Coastal's recent review of play areas highlights the inadequacy of the present facilities in Trimley St. Martin.

15 Safety in villages should be an essential consideration in planning applications. Older village streets are narrow, winding and many have visibility problems. New developments should bear this in mind. Traffic regulations can help but so too can the planning system.

16 Local Primary School - Future Local Plans should, and no doubt will, take into account the pressure of school places resulting from any enlargement of the population resulting from development.

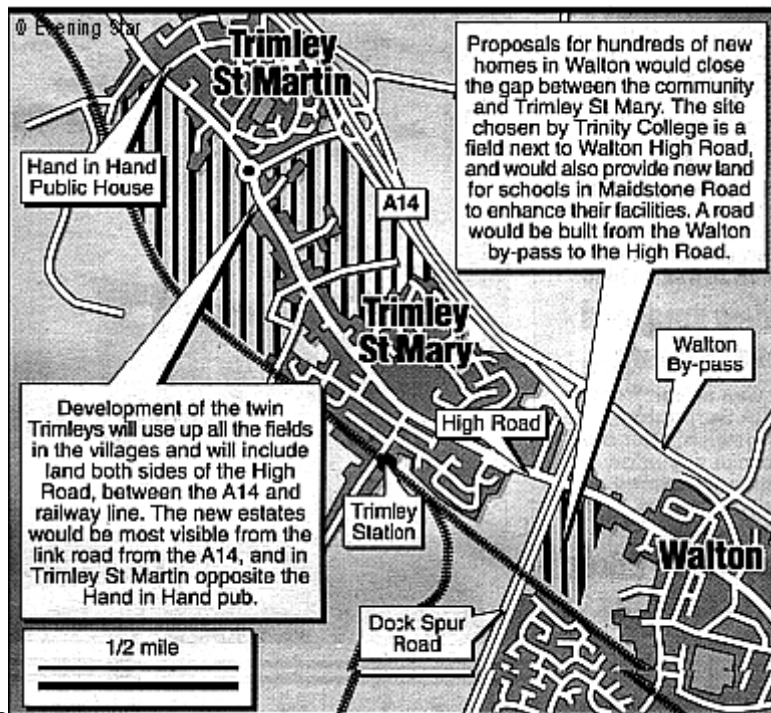
17 Landscaping - In all appropriate planning applications conditions should be sought to strengthen the provision of adequate landscaping not only from a visual point of view but also as noise buffers from the A14.

18 Conclusion The Council has considered carefully what, in its view, are the needs of the village and how some of those needs can be satisfied by the planning process. The present physical limits make it impossible for any development within them and they should be considerably eased. Therefore in all significant, or appropriate, planning applications to develop, the possibility of requiring conditions for a village centre; access to the countryside and river; play equipment facilities for children, recreation facilities for older children, teenagers and adults should be regarded as necessary.

19 There is a perception that observations and recommendations by parish councils do not carry enough weight in the consultation arrangements. Often the local knowledge seems to count for very little. Where planning guidance is issued by central government, parish councils should be kept informed of that guidance so that constraints put on planning authorities are known to local councils as they are consulted on planning applications.

20 The Council would welcome the opportunity of discussing in detail the views expressed above with SCDC officials particularly the designation of areas to accommodate what are considered to be current village needs and how they can be met.

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23 Trinity College Proposals with regards to Trimley St Martin to form part of a Revised Suffolk Coastal District Council Local Plan

24 Trinity College Cambridge, a major landowner in this area have produced a planning framework report of their vision for the Trimley Estate. The important points for Trimley St Martin are:

25 Large scale housing development between the existing Trimley Villages & within Trimley St Martin

- " A proposed new primary school.
- " A new area for local, light industry.
- " Provision of small green open spaces & proposed woodland planting

The full framework details will be displayed at the Memorial Hall on Saturday 9th August from 10.00am – 12.00 Noon and if you are interested in looking at the detailed plans, please do come along where a member of Trinity's managing agents, Bidwells, will be able to answer any questions you may have. A copy of the full document has been deposited at Trimley Post Office by your council. It is available for inspection within Post Office opening hours. We understand that a copy is also available at Felixstowe Library.

The initial reaction of this Council is that we would not wish to see any major changes to our December 2002 submission to Suffolk Coastal; however we wish to take account of villagers' views and amend our submission if so required, as necessary.

Your Views

The Parish Council would welcome the views of Trimley St Martin residents in order that we may include these with our next submission to Suffolk Coastal District Council as part of the consultation process.

Some of the points that you may wish to comment on could be:-

- 1] Is this level of housing development needed?
- 2] How important to you is that Trimley St Martin maintains its separate identity?
- 3] Is the loss of large open spaces between the villages of consequence to you?
- 4] How do you view the proposed developments of traffic calming, a new school and small green open spaces e.t.c. in relation to the level of proposed large scale housing that would accompany these features?

It is important that residents are aware that the Parish Council is in place to reflect and act upon the views of their Parishioners and we welcome all points of view in relation to the future of our village. Please make your views known to the Parish clerk by either letter or email, her address is on the back page. She will forward these views to SCDC at the appropriate time.

Evening Star Opinion Column Thurs 10th July 2003

Treasured community deserves answers

WHEN the consultants say their proposals for the future of the twin Trimley villages raise more questions than they answer, they are absolutely right.

But the biggest question - the one which needs careful consideration before this project goes any further - is what impact will it have on the people who have made the Trimleys their home?

More than doubling the size of the villages will change them forever, bring more social problems, put pressure on services, leisure facilities, health provision and so on.

It will also bring a huge increase in traffic.

High Road is already one of the busiest in the area and in these days of two and three car homes, the amount of vehicles, pollution and noise will increase dramatically.

This is against a background of proposed port expansion which will double the number of lorries on the A14 in the next few years.

It is right that we look to the future and there is a crying need for new homes. But we must be careful over where those homes are built or we will lose every bit of England's green and pleasant land.

We must also be under no illusions about wealthy Trinity College's reasons for setting itself up as the "think tank" for the future of the area and designing these plans - to make money. That's its business here.

There are people unhappy at how the port -Trinity-owned land - has transformed the area, brought in the traffic and ruined the foreshore. Some say Trinity has given little back to the community and they will want to see more this time - if it happens.

But most of all this plan must not be rushed. We are told it will take 15 years - it must not become five years. Trimley is a treasured community with deep historical roots and its people's needs and wishes must come first.

Footnote: The Evening Star declares an interest in this issue as the editor lives in The Trimleys.

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Summer Show The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas

Trimley Saints Players this year will be presenting this as their summer show at Trimley Memorial Hall, between 3rd - 6th September:

This is a fast, colourful musical with plenty of good songs (plus some risqué bits in the best possible taste!). Saints' mostly play to packed houses, so be advised and book your tickets early by phoning 274920. Profits will go to our usual charities, the local Multiple Sclerosis Group and the Memorial Hall



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