

Village Amenities Spotlight Group. Meeting 12/3/17

Present:

Sophi Berridge Simon Talbot, Jackie Nettleton, Christine Hall, Peter Ede, Polly Stainton

Apologies:

None

Discussion Topic: Education

Shelford School:

- Currently oversubscribed; some children in the village won't get a place. Children with siblings at the school and those closest will get priority.
- Buildings are 'far from ideal' (not listed) and serious access problems along that road. Continually congested at either ends of the day. Is this a 'good' thing? Does it encourage people to get to school by other means?
- Cannot expand any further on current site.
- Funding cuts will have a serious impact with regards to SEN provision and the loss of teaching assistants.
- Problems with recruitment of teachers. Most cannot afford to live nearby.
- Very popular local school. Currently LEA maintained but buildings are owned by Diocese.
- Any new site could not be too far away from the churches and would need to serve both Great and Little Shelford. Would have to 're-bid' for the 'new' school.
- Academisation is not desired but possibly inevitable.
- The school is not used as much as it might be for community use as there is a lack of storage space and money for additional caretaking/cleaning etc.

Stapleford School:

- Might have more capacity to expand. More space for building?
- We need to talk to representatives from this school. Bill French?
- Does this school have more external bookings?

Prospective Science Park Development:

- Polly had heard that there might be two new primary schools to serve the families of the proposed housing development.

Community Facilities:

- The Youth Group currently meets upstairs in the Memorial Hall which is not ideal – there is a bar etc.
- The Memorial Hall is fully booked all the time as is The Pavilion and the Church Hall.
- Could we consider a community hub? Meeting spaces/Halls, library etc.

Potential barriers to 'a good local school for every child' in our community: Space, Funding and Time.

Proposed Action Points:

We need to get more information from 'stakeholders' about the two schools and the nursery provision in the area. So we are going to try and get a meeting together with

representatives from each of these at **8pm on April the 24th** at the Shelford Community Room (in the churchyard at St Mary's) At this meeting, we will try and devise a survey of 10 questions to put to the parents and any other 'stakeholders' about the Education provision in the area.

Sophi will read up on the remit of the Neighbourhood Plan for Schools in particular. Other members of the group will try and find representatives of the 4/5 schools/nurseries to come to the meeting to devise the questions for the survey. Please get in touch as and when ☺

Date of next meeting of Spotlight Group: 2pm on the 2nd of April in the Rose. Topic: Health and Social Care.