

I was in Jane's field on Saturday, on car park duties...people stopping and telling me what a beautiful village, fantastically well-organised fete, etc. I had a mini 'garden of gethsemane' moment – do we really need a parish plan...isn't everything just fine as it is?

Then I considered some of the other once thriving institutions which once existed in the village, but are no longer around:

- The school
- Village shop and post office
- Chisenbury and Enford Flower Show
- Womens Institute
- Carnival Committee
- Scouts

(Read Fred Phillimore's book and you will find many more)

I also considered some of the close calls where the Football Club and The Swan Inn almost winked out of existence, but were saved by the efforts of a handful of individuals.

The bigger the community, the more people (and the more money) there is to sustain these sort of organisations, and the more stable they are however, in a parish the size of Enford (5-600) sometimes it only takes one or two key people to remove themselves from community activities and things can grind to a halt very quickly. Once an organisation dies, it can sometimes take a good while to replace it...if ever.

So in future years, when the village leadership probably looks entirely different than it does today, we hope they won't have to fly entirely by the seat of their pants and will be able to use this PP (and the ones that succeed it) as a guide to have the parish works and to the things we hold dear. A set of periodically updated handover notes if you like.

If we have our own agenda based on the results of a public survey , then it makes it harder for external authorities to override our democracy and impose one on us. Whereas without a plan of our own we will always leave ourselves just a little bit vulnerable.

I would just like to say that giving birth to the PP is akin to any other sort of birth. Its hard work, it can be painful (although I never experienced any pain when my wife was giving birth), there's some bellowing involved and perhaps even a bit of bad language – and that's all to be expected. Unlike other sorts of birth, happily there are no life-threatening consequences if we exceed the normal gestation period – and we on the steering committee are of the firm opinion that it is better to get it right than attempt to stick to any self-imposed deadline.

There are 2 elements to the PP: a narrative section which addresses how the parish functions, where we are today and how we got here. And an action plan which charts the way ahead.

We have to date concentrated on the action plan, however the narrative section of the plan is still at an early stage. We will be getting some speakers during the autumn and winter months to broaden our understanding and help to formulate a more rounded view of what's going on in the area: Wilts on-line, Wilts & Dorset buses, Wilts CC highways dept, housing planning, schools, Archaeology, Police, Politics, Environment, bustards, rivers, MOD activity and farming are all candidates.

Whilst the action plan continues to develop, we would also like to start to implement some of the more straightforward and uncontentious proposals – so if anyone is interested in supporting a specific activity then please write contact details and area of interest on a slip of paper and pop it in the box.

So...a particular thanks to the village committees for turning up today. We gave them the survey results a few months ago so they would have a bit of time to digest the information before we asked them to stand up here and talk about how they see their activities developing over the course of the next 5-10 years.

We all appreciate and value the work that they do, and that it can be a bit demoralising to take on board suggestions for improvement about your organisation, especially when its something you've already invested much time and effort into. However we felt that it was vitally important for them to hear all the feedback from the community, and for us to understand from them what is realistically achievable within the resources of our community.

Thank you also to the steering committee (Gill, Tanya, Anthony, Adrian and Terry) for taking on the job – when you stick your head above the parapet you expect people on the other side to take a shot at you. When you walk through noman's land you get shot at by both sides. We have heard occasional comments such as intrusive, invasive, interfering – and this a perception we are keen to dispel, however we wouldn't be doing our job if we didn't ask questions, and it wouldn't be a credible plan if it dodged the issues.

A special thanks to Belinda (from CF), who has been our 'touchstone', guide and mentor throughout this process and has been extraordinarily generous in providing her support.

Also like to thank Tony Pickernell for attending, who is the architect of the Tidworth Area community plan. Within which Enford will ultimately feature. Tidworth Area also jointly funded the Enford Plan to the tune of £300, which will help pay for printing costs when the plan is eventually published.

In a moment I will handover to Belinda who will remind us of what what the parish plan is all about.

After that Tanya will take a quick gallop through the survey results (it has to be a gallop, as we are limited by time, however we have put all the survey results on the newsletter website - look under archive or parish plan) so you can peruse at leisure after this meeting).

To those of you who have already seen this presentation twice, you will be relived to know that we won't be presenting again

We then have an opportunity for the village committees and parish council to give us their input. After which we will have a question and answer session.

On a point of procedure, to keep things moving along, I would ask that you write down any questions and save them for the Q&A session at the end. You then have a choice of either standing up and asking yourself or, if you want to remain anonymous, pop the questions in the box.

We will end the meeting at 9.30 pm so may not get time for them all however they will all be recorded and we will endeavour to post answers by one means or another.