

MEETING OF THE LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 13 MAY 2021

ADDITIONAL PAPERS

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Eden Bistro Grant Application – Additional Information (attained since the issue of the Licensing Officer's report).

Since the closing date for representations on 14 April 2021, Terence Olaf (Environmental Protection officer for NWLDC) has attempted to negotiate an agreement with the applicant prior to the hearing. Mr Olaf's proposals were as follows:-

- 1. All licensing activities will finish at 23:00 hours.**
 - 2. A noise limiting device shall be installed, fitted and maintained in such a manner as to control all sources of amplified music at the premises. The levels shall be set to the agreement of the Licensing Authority. Once set such a device shall be inaccessible to the licensee or their staff.**
 - 3. All external doors / windows must be kept closed, other than for access and egress, in all rooms when events involving amplified music or speech are taking place.**
- Note to applicant:**
You may need to consider providing ventilation or air conditioning in warm weather.
- 4. There shall be no amplified music or voice played outdoors with the exception of incidental music (low level background music) to the licensed activities.**
 - 5. Prominent, clear notices shall be displayed at all exits / in the beer garden requesting customers and staff respect the needs of local residents by keeping noise to a minimum when using the outside area and when leaving the premises. All such signs must be in a permanent form, prominently placed and be legible.**
 - 6. Disposal of waste bottles into external receptacles where the noise will be audible to neighbouring properties must not occur between 07:30 hours and 21:00 hours.**
 - 7. The flat above the application premises will be occupied by would be employees of the proposed licenced premises, therefore ancillary to the application.**

These proposals were rejected by the applicant, who would prefer to present his case, before any determination at the forth coming hearing.

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MOIRA PLACECHECK 2014



ASHBY WOULD'S
TOWN COUNCIL

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1) Background

There are a variety of appraisal types for places carried out already within communities. Some define the character valued by residents and include places of visual qualities, such as Village Design Statements, others assess how sustainable a settlement is, a Parish or Community Led Plan, and then there are assessments that concentrate more on future development, the Neighbourhood Plan for example. 'Placecheck' attempts to contribute something new, it is a method of taking the first steps in deciding how to improve an area. 'Placecheck' can lead to anything from a litter pick at one end of a scale to neighbourhood plan at the other.

2) Format

The Moira 'Placecheck' was initiated in February 2014, following a successful submission to Leicestershire County Council's 'Big Society Fund' by the Ashby Woulds Town Clerk. The initiative was one of two 'pilot' projects in North West Leicestershire and involved partnership working between Ashby Woulds Town Council, North West Leicestershire District Council and the RCC (Leics and Rutland).

An officer from North West Leicestershire District Council addressed a Town Council meeting in March to give an overview of a 'Placecheck' project, and the Town Council agreed to back the scheme.

This was quickly followed by a project planning meeting at the beginning of April with an officer from the RCC, members of the Community Focus Team and the Planning department from NWLDC.

An initial consultation was held at Moira Community Day on 6th April to understand the topics most important to the community. The evaluation from this event to decide on popular topics for the settlement, these included opportunities for tourism, connectivity, public spaces, and community facilities. This was followed by 'desktop' research into local clubs, societies and businesses.

The next task was to define the areas of Ashby Woulds to be covered; the Town Council formed a working group who designed circular walking routes. It was agreed that the walks should take part on different days of the week and should be organised at varying times in order to attract a diverse demographic. The walks were advertised on the Parish Website, on the NWLDC Tourist Information website, RCC website and bulletin and the Leicestershire Villages website. Posters were displayed around the settlement and invitations were sent to local businesses, service providers including the County Council and the Police, and Community Groups including Children's Clubs, Youth Clubs, local walking groups, Heritage Groups, U3A, etc. NWLDC sent 'postcards' to Moira Primary School advertising the walks which were put into the children's school bags in May.

In the first instance three walks were arranged, all starting at the same point:

- Monday 16th June 2014, 6:30pm
- Tuesday 17th June 2014, 6:30pm
- Wednesday 18th June 2014, 3pm.

21 people participated, including representatives from Ashby Woulds Town Council, North West Leicestershire District Council, the RCC, the National Forest Company, Forestry Commission volunteers, Ashby de la Zouch Tourist Information, Friends of Beehive Wood, Heart of the Forest Action Group and residents.

A questionnaire was delivered 'door to door' in July to the whole settlement, the opportunity was given to respond on line or using 'free post' returns, an incentive of £50.00 shopping vouchers was given, however the return rate was very low, 19 in total out of a settlement of over 1600 dwellings.

Due to the low return rate of the questionnaires, it was agreed to organise another 'Placecheck' walk in Moira. The walk took place on Wednesday 15th October at 15:45pm. It is a deliberately later walk in the hope of attracting parents and guardians to join the walk with their children after school finishes. This time the walk started from Norris Hill shops and focused on the built environment. On this occasion 7 attended.

To increase the number of questionnaire responses, the Headteacher of Moira Primary School was contacted. It was agreed that the RCC would undertake a workshop with the Youth Council (Years 5 & 6) at the school and a questionnaire was put in every school bag. The school also used the 'Parentmail' system to promote the fourth and final 'Placecheck' walk which would take place the following week. But despite all this effort only a further 27 completed replies were received, a total of 46, which represents less than 1% of households in the Ashby Woulds Parish.

The walkabouts, questionnaire and workshops with the children has captured a variety of responses, actions and comments. A number of actions are already being addressed:

- Tidying the area behind the shops at Norris Hill, including a bin enclosure and weeding.
- Remedial repairs to the tarmac car park area behind the former Ashby Woulds public house.

Qualitative information can be difficult to capture and difficult to interpret, but there are quite a few things that have been learnt about how to use the Placecheck model, and by using it, communities will be better as a result. Hopefully the Service Provider's perceptions of the area and the people living there has changed in a positive way and the residents are gaining a better knowledge of responsibilities of the different tiers of local government and a better understanding of who to contact if there is a problem.



Road junctions of Shortheath Road, Ashby Road, Rawdon and Measham Road.

3) Results

Most valued

Moira Furnace and the immediate surrounding area is the most valued asset in Moira according to questionnaire responses and also noted on the Placecheck walks. The site is used for a number of community events including the Moira Folk Festival, Vintage Festival, Canal festival etc.



Moira Furnace

This was followed by the Hicks Lodge (including the lake and cycle centre), Conkers, Sarah's Wood, the village hall, the cycle paths, footpaths and green open spaces, Shortheath water and the cafe/ bistro. The canal and canal walks are extremely popular; the canal is used for a variety of leisure activities including cycling, walking, horse riding, kayaking etc.

The Lime Kilns are valued from a historical perspective, but also for nature and provide a good network of paths. The Heritage Trail (Albert village to Measham) along the former railway line provides an excellent link for villagers between Measham, Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe, Moira and Albert village.

Dislikes

- **Village centre.** A number of people refer to the lack of a village centre; the Post Office, shop, the Railway Inn, Rawdon Arms, Moira Replan and Gillivers are in close proximity to each other, but would this be classified as the centre of the village? Comments received included: *'I find the village lacks a heart- everything is very spread out, from the post office to parks, maybe something needs to be in the centre'*. *'Moira needs a centre'*.
- **Dog fouling.** The greatest 'issue' according to questionnaire responses, typical of most settlements. Dog fouling is a nuisance and a health hazard. Instances of dog fouling can be reported to Environmental Health at NWLDC. A number of responses refer to *'bring back the dog bins'*. This may be a public misconception by the public because in 2008, dog waste was re-categorised as non-hazardous waste which meant its disposal could be combined with general litter, and therefore it may be the case that dog waste 'type' bins have been replaced with general litter bins? The number and location of dog waste/ general bins needs to be reviewed and installing more general waste bins should be considered at particular locations mentioned in the questionnaire returns including Briton Lodge Close and Norris Hill. It is estimated that 25% of UK homes have a dog, and so looking ahead, consideration should be given to future CIL (community infrastructure levy) payments towards street cleansing and litter bin provision. An awareness campaign in conjunction with NWLDC street wardens could be considered too. If offenders were made more aware of the financial penalty dog fouling incurs they might be more inclined to clean up after their pets! *'Dog fouling patrols with positive action'* as one respondent stated.

- **Speeding issues.** Particularly a problem on Ashby Road according to questionnaire returns and mentioned on the 'Placecheck' walks. There used to be a very active 'Community Speed Watch Group' in Moira, although they may have disbanded? Consideration should be given to re-establishing the group. Several responses queried why Ashby Road could not be a uniform 30mph?



Ashby Road

- **Norris Hill shops, flats and surrounding area.** Received the second greatest number of 'dislikes'. Described as dirty and run down, and in desperate need of a 'make over'. The former Ashby Woulds public house was singled out for criticism too, '*unattractive*', '*should be knocked down*', '*terrible*' to name but a few. Very sad when a need for a family friendly pub has been identified in the questionnaire returns. Others suggested that the site be demolished and used for housing or a Doctor's surgery.
- **Litter.** Again the Norris Hill area was mentioned, plus Ashby Road and Willesley Woodside. '*Litter in hedgerows, left on trails*' and '*bins overflowing in summer at picnic areas in parks*'.
- **The traveller's site.** Which comprises of standing for two mobile caravans, one static caravan and an amenity facility, is disliked. However it is unclear from the questionnaire responses whether the principal of a permanent site is the issue or its proximity to the Furness Tourist attraction?
- **Anti- social behaviour.** An overlap with speeding complaints. Vandalism to the telephone box at the village hall and children out late at night. '*Encourage the Rawdon Arms to provide a seating/ seating area at the back of the pub- I find some customers who congregate at the front of the pub/ pavement, intimidating; their language is foul and anti- social and I don't think it gives a good impression of Moira*'. Anecdotal evidence of problems at the flats on Woodlands Way, the Impact Team from LCC have been involved. Koppe Close was also mentioned.
- **Parking issues.** Particularly around Moira School, mentioned in the questionnaire returns and during 'Placecheck' walks. There were suggestions to get rid of the parking area on Hazel Grove at the back entrance to the school. Also a proposal to '*make a larger parking area within the school grounds to stop parking all around the school and 'Illegal parking all around the school and on the junctions on the estate*'. Someone else suggested using the existing parking to the rear of Blackfordby Lane shops as a '*drop off and go zone*' for the school. '*More car parking space needed at Hicks Lodge, and the car park surfacing at Moira Furnace*'. '*Vehicles parked on verges on Blackfordby Lane and Whitworth Close*'. '*Better parking and picnic areas around entrances to parks/ National Forest areas*'.
- **Former Cresswell Coaches site.** There is a planning application currently lodged with the planning department for 24 dwellings, ref: 14/00237/FULM.



Former Cresswell Coaches site off Shortheath Road

- **Other eyesores/ issues.** Norbury Farm described as *'an eye saw and probably a health hazard', 'looks like a tip', 'smelly'*. The former 'Secure Labels' site on Measham Road mentioned twice in responses and was discussed during the walkabout. Ownership of the former Secure Labels site is unknown. It appears to have older buildings to the rear and a more recent flat roof extension fronting Measham Road. The older buildings may have been residential originally, residents attending the community walks advised that the site had been unoccupied for 15- 20 years. Is there any potential for the former factory to be utilised as an activity/ outward bound centre perhaps? 'Gillivers House' is prominently located, but sadly boarded up and described by a few as *'an eye saw'*. The fenced area and former flower- beds at the junction of Norris Hill and Ashby Road are severely overgrown. There was a planning application for housing on this site, but no one seems to know what the outcome was?
- **Overgrown hedges and unkept areas.** *'Lack of cutting to hedges', 'Overgrown hedge along Measham Road- owner should be made to cut it'. 'The Council owned gardens and hedges going onto Norris Hill' (at junction with Ashby Road). 'Areas where paths are overgrown with trees and bushes (difficult to walk/ use a wheelchair or pushchair)'. 'The hedges and verges are half way across pavements BUT when cut, please clean up the mess afterwards'. 'The woods are Moira Furnace need maintaining'. 'Daybell island'. A corner plot on Cedar Grove is also overgrown but it was unclear whether this was part of a garden or public space?*
- **Street lighting.** Part night street lighting considered dangerous by some *'by switching lights on that the Council (in their wisdom) have turned off to save money but also putting elderly people's lives in danger', 'night lighting to be left on'*.
- **Loss of the Fire Station.** Closed in July 2014.

What or where do you think could be improved in Moira?

- **Community Engagement.** What Moira appears to lack is a monthly newsletter or village magazine, which would have helped to inform the residents about the 'Placecheck' project for example. (The Ashby Woulds Town Council produce a quarterly newsletter). Some requested a 'facebook' page for the village or a community website. A Town Council website exists, as does the Leicestershire Villages.com website, which is used very effectively in some settlements but doesn't have a site administrator in Moira at present. There are still a lot of people who are unable to access the internet and therefore a village newsletter might be a more effective way of reaching them. Better use of the noticeboard at Norris Hill was suggested too.
- **Re- open the railway.** A very long term suggestion or *'utilise the Ivanhoe Line for passenger traffic'*.
- **Canal.** Reconnection to the Ashby main network, possibly utilise 106 monies? Anecdotal evidence from one of the walks stated that a housing development in Measham was withdrawn at the last minute (reason unknown); however it is important because 106 monies could have been used

towards the restoration of the canal. *'Could connecting the canal network to Conkers waterside be a pre-requisite for HS2? As the area absorbs another infrastructure change, make industry finance the regeneration and linking the canal network, making Moira a real recreation centre with a marina, bringing further tourism to Moira'*.



A group of young people enjoying an organised kayaking event on the canal.

- **Substance misuse.** *'Deal with drug users and alcoholics'* but it wasn't stated where?

How can the community make Moira a more special/unique place?

There was an overwhelming response in favour of more community events and getting people to take pride in where they live, initiating *'village spirit'*. *'So many tourist attractions on our doorstep' but so little community spirit it would appear!* Again, as with so many other settlements it is apparent that the same people volunteer to organise events, sit on committees and steering groups. *'Better communication and good leadership that encourages everyone in the community to get involved and feel part of the community'*. *'We need something that can start via the schools and youth groups and then draw in families and others into the event'*. *'A little bit of old fashioned pride. Start by keeping your own garden and paths clean'*. *'Volunteer litter pick days'*. *'Hold Moira specific community events'*. *'Taking pride in Moira as a distinct place'*. *'Free events/ concerts'*.

How can the community make Moira a greener place?

- **Waste.** District Council waste collection was criticised on two separate occasions *'refuse collectors should pick up the rubbish they drop'* and *'Get the bin men to clean up after spilling rubbish'*. *'A big recycling area is required'*. *'Ability to recycle food waste and more types of packaging'*. *'Community to share resources with share schemes, recycling and bins in open areas'*. *'Local free-cycling'*.
- **Litter picks.** Numerous suggestions for community litter picks, improving communication. *'By educating, promoting and taking pride in where we live'*.
- **Alternative energy.** Responses to alternative/ solar energy favourable, but it would need to be in the right location; it would appear that the general consensus is that the proposed site along Shellbrook Straight would have a detrimental visual affect for visitors to National Forest. *'Improve subsidies for solar power and energy efficient housing. Sharing resources, Letts scheme (co-operative)'*.
- **Visual appearance.** More tree planting, especially along the roads and streets e.g. Ashby Road *'it looks barren as it is'*. It was noted on route two, that frontages of properties are predominately residential up to the public highway (pavement then road) so there is little opportunity for public realm improvements as private gardens. It was agreed on the walks that the appearance of Moira is deceptive, *'visitors should be made aware of all the great footpaths and green open spaces surrounding the settlement'*. From a safety perspective, a number of people suggested keeping

vegetation cut back, particularly at the junction of the Daybell Estate and the junction of the Ashby Road. However on Rawdon Road the industrial units have good tree coverage.

- **Airborne pollution.** The New Albion landfill site has recently applied for a license for extension of time of operation, although it is unpopular with residents. Could 106 contributions from their pending planning application be used directly for the village? *'Closure of landfill site and control of methane smells'*. *'Dredge and improve water quality in areas and walkways between Little Smelters car park and Moira Furnace'*.
- **Community growing initiatives.** *'Youth/ school projects'*.
- **Habitats.** *'Erect bird and bat boxes in places like Sarah's Wood'*.

Do you think the streets and other public spaces in Moira could be made safer and more pleasant for pedestrians?

- **Speed restriction and road safety.** *'Enforce restrictions on B5003, Ashby Road. Reduce the speed limit to 30mph for entire length of Ashby Road, including the section of road from the railway bridge to Dorset Drive'*. *'Speed cameras'*. *'Willesley Woodside/ Ashby Road junction, speed restrictions and warning signs for Hicks Lodge'*. *'Busy thoroughfares such as Measham Road need some form of traffic calming'*. The island near Daybell Estate/ village hall gets a number of mentions. A number of suggestions for a zebra crossings to access the Furnace site, near the Daybell Island and speed humps or a pedestrian crossing near the school. *'Provision of road crossing facilities for pedestrians at canal bridge and near to Post Office'*. *'If the fire station site is developed, could monies be directed for a zebra crossing to the Furnace?'* Speeding is also seen as an issue on Shortheath Road, Donisthorpe Lane and Bath Lane. It is unlikely that Highways would agree to install speed humps on the Ashby Road. Whilst most accidents happen on "A" and "B" class roads which are the busiest and most important roads in the highway network. These busier roads carry more heavy vehicles as well as buses and are also very important for emergency services, therefore it is usually deemed that these roads are unsuitable for speed humps.
- **Road improvements.** The junction of Poplar Avenue with Donisthorpe Lane has a very poor visibility splay, requests for a mirror at the junction. Also a deterrent to stop vehicles parking on the junction of Poplar Avenue and Donisthorpe Lane *'As impossible to see oncoming traffic when turning RIGHT on to Donisthorpe Lane from Polar Avenue completely BLIND'*. *'Junction improvements at Blackfordby Lane and Ashby Road junction, difficult turning circle for buses'*.
- **Unadopted roads.** The topic of a proper road surface for Poplar Avenue which is an unadopted road was mentioned in questionnaire returns and on the 'Placecheck' walks. The Poplar Avenue issue apparently stretches back more than 30 years. In 2001, Leicestershire County Council offered £70,000 as a contribution to bring the road up to an adoptable standard - this included road surfacing, drainage and junction improvements. The rest of the cost would have to be paid for by the Poplar Avenue property owners, based on the length of their frontage, the amounts payable varied. A few owners would not accept the charges and for years, little progress was made. Approximately 6 years later, Councillor Sheanan became involved and it was discovered there was a little known procedure through the magistrates courts that if 85% of property owners agreed to pay, the County Council could apply for a court order compelling the remainder to pay or accept a charge on their property. There was a well attended public meeting at the church hall on Donisthorpe Lane, attended by County Highways Officers. The plan was set out, with an explanation of the financial arrangements, including a reduced charge for people on Donisthorpe Lane who benefitted from a vehicular access to the rear of their properties, who would be charged £250.00 per household. The County Council sent out requests for people to contribute to the scheme, however there was a miscalculation in the amount requested and a second letter was sent

to all addresses for the higher figure. The reaction was almost unanimous, and residents on Donisthorpe Lane refused to pay the higher figure of £400.00. The County could not compromise on this and were unable to make an application to the magistrates' court. In the current climate it is unlikely that the County Council would be able to allocate any monies to the scheme, however on a positive note the residents appear to have a friendly arrangement to buy hardcore now and again to fill in ruts and potholes. The road surface on Newfield Lane is uneven with potholes, it is unclear whether this is a private/ unadopted road or not?

- **Improve pavements.** *'Increase the width of the pavement along Ashby Road, which is part of the 'safe' walking route to the village school'. 'More work needs to be done on the pavements. The surfaces are uneven in many places'. 'Resurface pavements'.* A written response suggested *'A pavement along Willesley Road to Hicks Lodge or alternatively a route from the village away from the roads'.* Ironically it was decided not to walk along this road as part of route two of the organised walks because it was considered to be a safety issue.
- **Cycling improvements.** More cycling paths required, and specifically joining Hicks Lodge with the rest of the cycling network. *'Safer access for pedestrians and cyclists from the Daybell Estate to Hicks Lodge'. 'If there were better access into current green spaces i.e. Beehive Wood, Hicks Lodge people would be able to easily get to these places and use them'. 'For most people Hicks Lodge is a car drive away, but then there is parking charges to walk around the lake'. 'Moira has good cycle routes, it would take very little to join it all up with Ashby'. 'You can just about get to Swadlincote using off road cycle paths- would be nice to be able to get to Ashby without going on the roads too'. 'A direct cycle route is required from Hicks Lodge to Moira Furnace'.*
- **Footpaths.** The later section of the Ivanhoe Way leading to Newfields from Measham Road is Forestry Commission owned, but the initial section is privately owned, but by whom? Maintenance is good to start but the access deteriorates. Nettles and other vegetation to sides have been cleared and some paving slabs have been placed where the path evidently gets muddy. At the time of 'Placecheck' walk route two (June 2014) a planning application (14/00330/FUL) had been lodged for the construction of a 3M compacted stone footpath linking bridleway P108 at the Hicks Lodge cycle centre to Newfields Lane, this has since been approved. During the same walk there was discussion about the possibility of creating a link between Hicks Lodge and Beehive Woods, Sweethill, Moira. Access to Beehive Woods has apparently been enjoyed by the public for the last 14 years, it was planted with native shrubs and trees under a section 106 agreement for the (Daybell Housing Estate). However it was recently sold and public access blocked, but it is for sale again. From anecdotal evidence, a serious buyer wanted to use the land as a natural burial ground, however a covenant has come to light which means that nothing can be done with it until 2033, therefore the buyer pulled out. There was a suggestion to *'Make footpath on Shortheath Road from canal to park entrance'.* Access and connectivity to the village hall was an ongoing theme, mentioned on all four walks and in the written responses. There are uneven and broken slabs along the 'jitty' which links the area behind the Ashby Woulds public house and Blackfordby Lane. The path would also benefit from lighting.
- **Grit bins.** *'Winter months are an issue, we get very little gritting and as most people commute out of the village, this can make accessing work very difficult'.* The requirement for a grit bin was also noted on walking Route 1, at the junction of Park Road.

Do you think public spaces in Moira can be improved?

- **Play grounds and public spaces.** There are currently play areas near the Moira Furnace, Via Devana, and in the village hall grounds. The Crescent play area was formerly a housing estate, but suffered badly from subsidence and all properties were demolished. It is still possible to see where individual gardens were. It is well used, a great facility with lots of fruit trees. However the land is poorly drained and not well maintained. Amongst written responses there were requests for

improvements to the 'Keepers Close' play area, which was described as inadequate, and a new park/ playground for Norris Hill/ Ashby Heights area, Holly Close was suggested. In addition 'a play area in the centre of Moira and the Daybell Estate'. Other suggestions included 'more picnic areas, seats/ benches, sculptures, designated bbq areas around the furnace and Sarah's Woodland a skate park at the village hall'. 'Keep open spaces for local use- but not ALL of them need to be overrun by dog walkers'.

- **Miners Welfare.** Super grounds, well maintained by Trustees of Moira Welfare. Football matches most weekends, well used.
- **Promote/ improve the outdoor activities/ attractions.** 'Make more of what we have. Publicise the walking routes'. 'Resources should be used effectively- try to encourage and make more rural walks available outside of the colliery'. 'Better use of football pitch area'. 'More events in wooded areas'.
- **Open spaces.** The Newfields Woods area was a former colliery and Hepworth Pipes site. It is a low land heath and the National Forest Company are working with the County Ecologist and exploring the possibility of a surfaced trail through the area with interpretation paths. At present there are no signs for Hicks Lodge. There is evidence that motorbikes use this area despite signs requesting that they don't. There is a pollination patch in one direction, funded by an award from the Coop community project grant 2013. The group that joined walk two, would like to see more wild flowers encouraged to grow elsewhere in Moira. The Blackfordby Lane Spinney is a valued public space, well maintained by the Town Council, although a resident complained that one of the trees overhangs her fence and obscures her view down Blackfordby Lane.
- **Rawdon Park.** The gate is permanently locked. Car parking is limited to fishing lake users and allotment holders. Previously the area could be used by riders, however access is now restricted to foot traffic only.
- **Maybury Wood.** Is valued for its small pond and picnic area.
- **Pit head wheel.** A prominent local landmark is in need of refurbishment. The brick copings have suffered from frost damage and the wheel needs decorating- what are plans for maintenance?



Ivanhoe Way footpath leading to Newfields

How could Moira be made more welcoming and easier for people to find their way around?

- **Signage.** There is no real identity to the village as you approach it, during one of the walks there was a suggestion of "Welcome to Moira" signs or a Moira 'gateway' on entry to the village, possibly incorporating planters, would make 'huge impact on visitors'. Main entrance sign to Sarah's Wood is overgrown. There are no brown signs (sites of interest/ tourist signs) so passing motorists would be unaware that the site has a play area, sensory garden, toilets and parking. There is a requirement to improve the signage to the junction of Willesley Lane to Hicks Lodge. Facilities like the village hall,

Moira Replan Centre and the canal could better sign posted. A permissive 'rights of way' sign is required from Rawdon Road to Maybury Wood. *'Footpath directional signs at the junction of Newfields Lane and Ashby Road are rather small and set at an odd angle, so they are unlikely to be seen by potential users'*. Signs are needed to encourage dog owners to clean up after their pets. *'Clear yet subtle signage'*. *'Erect information signs in woods and trails'*. Installing 'one way' signs to the parking bay in front of the shops on Blackfordby Lane was also proposed.

- **Tourism.** A number of written responses suggested the use of information boards for visitors in key locations to facilitate walking groups/ cyclists etc or a 'Moira Trail'. *'A village map in a central part of the village showing all of the local attractions, cafes, footpaths etc for visitors to see. This could be done with sponsorship from local businesses'*. *'Re- erect the signs that have been knocked down'*. *'Cleaner and bigger sign posts'*. *'More and clearer signs on trails'*. *'Get sign posts updated and pointing in the right direction'*. *'Better investment in our tourist attractions to bring more visitors in'*.
- **Leaflets.** Are required detailing bike routes and walking paths. These should include places of interest and where refreshments are available. *'Leaflet with map showing local walks, the furnace, Conkers, Cycle Centre. Could be available to buy for a small cost and available Conkers, Hicks Lodge cycle centre, PO, TIC to encourage people to explore further the village. We have 6 tea rooms and 2 pubs that all want business'*. Apparently Hicks Lodge promotional leaflets are not readily available to the Tourist Information Centre; they have to fetch them, themselves!
- **Floral displays.** Some nice planters "Welcome to Moira". Flower displays and hanging baskets throughout the village. Bulbs planting in verges. One response suggested a 'Village in bloom' initiative. Others also mentioned 'floral displays', 'a few more flowers for colour'.

How can Moira best adapt to change in the future?

- **Community input.** 'Keep asking for residents opinions on things. More communication= more ideas'. We need to get the children involved and get them at a very young age to respect their village. The children are our future.
- **Broadband.** According to written responses, a better broadband or high speed broadband is required. 'We really need better mobile and internet coverage without having to pay a lot extra'. However, Moira village is connected to Swadlincote 5 cabinet. This has been upgraded commercially by BT without public investment. Residents can check this, either by putting their BT phone line into our line checker at <http://www.superfastleicestershire.org.uk/when-and-where/> or use their Address through <https://www.btwholesale.com/includes/adsl/adsl.htm> - if it says FTTC they are able to access fibre broadband.
- **Raising awareness.** By making the most of what it already has, but nobody knows about. Realise that this is now a tourist area and not a coal field and present it accordingly'.
- **Planning and development.** *'Allow well planned re- development of unused sites such as Cresswells, and protect and encourage excellent areas that have been made such as Conkers, Sarah's Wood, the canal and Hicks Lodge'*. *'Do people know how lovely this area is and how good the colliery walks are?'* *Encourage some industry and business areas'*. *'Due to increase in housing Moira needs more opportunity to work within the local area, there has been very little increase in job creation, Moira is becoming a commuter village for Birmingham, Derby, Leicester and Nottingham'*.
- **Amenities/ facilities.** *'Diversity'*. *'Better facilities to accommodate the growing community'*. During the organised walks and in responses to the questionnaire a number of people stated the need for a Doctors surgery and/ or pharmacy. The majority of residents are registered with Doctors practices in Swadlincote and Ashby de la Zouch, but places are limited and residents are concerned about population growth and how this will impact on current places. Anecdotal evidence suggests that a recent planning application in Swadlincote 'The Beeches' included new housing and a medical practice, however it has 'stalled'. The Essential Small Pharmacy LPS' (ESPLPS) was established by the Secretary of State in 2006 and ensures that small pharmacies considered essential to their local

communities continue to operate. The scheme ends on 31st March 2015 and pharmacies with that form of contract will transfer to the standard pharmacy contract. At that point, most small pharmacies will cease to become viable and their ability to continue will be dependent on whether NHS England chooses to top-up funding. There was also reference to a need for a small supermarket (Tesco/ Sainsbury's Express) or a general store. Moira apparently used to be 'self sufficient' with a range of shops.

- **Eating out.** *'Consider why people would come to Moira and give people a reason to stay longer. If you want to eat you have to go elsewhere. Invest in businesses that compliment what is already here, and if tourism is the main draw then more needs to be done in this area'*.

How could Moira's existing resources be better used?

- **Moira Village Hall.** A well used and appreciated amenity on a very large site with good parking facilities, owned and maintained by the Town Council, the site incorporates a youth club building and a toddlers play area. The informal recreation grounds are well maintained, but there are no formal sports played on the grounds. The top car park needs a finishing coat. *'More activities in the village hall, such as community breakfasts'*.
- **Moira Replan Centre.** *'Shamefully underused. It is an excellent facility with a manager and lots of equipment'*.
- **Ashby Woulds Court.** *'Should reopen, and could be used as a children's centre with a Nursery/ Crèche and an after school club and possible a youth centre in the evenings'*.
- **Moira Furnace.** *'The cafe at Moira Furnace has so much potential, it has room for improvement'. 'Investment to update existing places e.g. Moira Furnace to make it more attractive to visitors'. 'Create more parking spaces and improve surface', there were also complaints about pot holes'*.



Moira village hall

What can be done to make the most of public transport?

- **Frequency of buses.** A well used service according to anecdotal evidence, however the frequency is limited to one bus per hour between Moira and Ashby de la Zouch and Moira and Burton on Trent, one resident described the infrequency as 'a disgrace'.
- **Bus shelters.** *'Provision of proper bus shelters with "live time" timetables/ information'*. Comments stated that more bus shelters are required along Ashby Road.
- **Ideas to encourage use of buses.** *'The community could encourage group bus days out on local transport- this could be discounted. You could have meeting times to all go to Ashby Market or other events'*. *'Increase frequency and/ or reduce the cost. We go on the bus as a 'treat' as it is expensive- it's cheaper by car....by far!'* A suggestion for *'Special bus fares for people visiting local tourist attractions'*.
- **Routes.** *'Provide a direct bus route to Measham'*. *'Link bus routes to walking routes, providing a 'hop on, hop off' service'*. *'Closer stops to key attractions'* was another comment.
- **Trains.** *'Re- connect the railway'*. *'Reinstate the train line'*. *'Open railway link to Leicester'*. *'Reopen Moira station'*. *'Open up the railway as a line for shoppers at weekends, with a halt at Conkers and the Daybell Estate'*.
- **HS2.** *'A fully functioning train station! With links to major cities. Does not help any local communities, be better connected to the full range of employment'*.

How could routes be better connected in Moira?

- *'Canal to be reconnected'. 'The canal network joined up'*.
- *'Many people need to get to Measham for the doctors. Some areas have a community bus, but I realise that this option is probably too expensive'*.
- *'A bus route connecting Moira to Tamworth'*.
- *'Bus to and from new Moira Community centre from Donisthorpe Lane'*.
- *'A direct bus route to Derby, rather than going via Burton, similarly for Tamworth'*.

4) Recommendations

A number of suggestions made by respondents would need to be long term objectives, residents expectations need to be managed because of the current financial climate. However the following could be considered:

- Moira has never had a village square, or village green, or even a duck pond to give it a central focal point. Residents feel the village lacks a place to gather and visitors have no identifiable place to rendezvous. Moira needs a central location where people can gather in comfort and safety, daily and for special occasions. This area could be in the vicinity of Gillivers, which is in close proximity to Moira Replan, the Post Office and the two public houses. This 'heart' could incorporate a new bus shelter and the public space could be enhanced with trees, shrubs, seating and signage describing local heritage and present day amenities. Consider a funding application to the National Heritage Lottery to cover the fees of Landscape Architects to develop a set of plans and reference literature suitable for a planning application.
- Access and connectivity to the village hall site via Maybury Wood to enable an off road link should be a priority for the Ashby Woulds Town Council. Encourage formal use of recreational field at village hall site. Is the site big enough to accommodate a cricket field?

- Consider initiating a 'Moira in Bloom' committee. Encourage the planting of more pollination patches similar to the Newfields Woods scheme.
- Reinitiate 'Community Speed Watch'.
- Consider junction improvements at Poplar Avenue/ Donisthorpe Lane, Blackfordby Lane/ Ashby Road.
- Initiate a community litter pick.
- Investigate access to Maybury Woods via the Rawdon Road entrance, making it more accessible to all as opposed to just those accessing the allotments or with fishing permits. Could the car parking area be open to all? What about riders on horseback?
- Monitor the use of dog waste/ general litter bins. To establish if, currently, they are sited correctly, emptied regularly and are sufficient in number, particularly during summer months.
- Consider the provision of safe crossing points, to ensure that pedestrians can cross the road safely and are not put at risk by speeding motorists.
- Promote the attraction of Moira as a visitor destination to ensure that the individual character and natural uniqueness of the area is appreciated and preserved and continues to attract sustainable year round low key tourism.
- Investigate the provision of appropriate signage. To promote the attraction of Moira and to raise awareness of the facilities for visitors. To encourage motorists to stop for refreshment and rest thereby helping to sustain local businesses, refer to page no 11 for locations.
- Restore the pit head wheel.
- Provide information boards so that there is a central point for local people to view community information and so that visitors are informed of the facilities, amenities and attractions of the area.
- Produce a regular parish newsletter, village magazine and create a village website. To improve communication and to provide a central point for local information so that the community is kept informed of services, events, training courses, leisure activities/classes and local job opportunities. The inclusion of a parish events diary will help organisers to timetable effectively and encourage greater attendance levels.
- Produce leaflets that could be distributed through the TIC that provides a map with illustrating cycle paths and walking routes. To promote health and wellbeing for members of the community and to assist visitors to the area.
- Consider new village signs or 'welcome' signs with planters to give the village an identity.
- Investigate the need for an improved bus service. The results of the questionnaire evidenced that there may be a need for a school bus from the Daybell Estate. And so that those without a car are able to access services, entertainment, education and employment outside the Parish.
- Provide more bus shelters, particularly along Ashby Road.
- Establish a community events group similar to Donisthorpe and introduce 'community spirit'. Make the most of organisations already active, such as the local school and churches, Women's Institute, local gardening organisations, the village hall committee, youth group etc. Try to ensure these organisations are reaching out to the community, making their activities something in which the community can share in order to encourage potential new members. Seasonal activities such as Easter bonnet parades/ Easter Egg Hunts, summer fetes, harvest and Christmas fairs, provide ample opportunity for fun events. Music has always been a great way of bringing people together so consider organising an annual musical event, whether it be a tea dance, Christmas ball, or talent evening. Consider any relevant charity fund raising campaigns that would bring the community together at the same time as benefitting a good cause or consider a local project to celebrate the communities identity. There are plenty of national and local initiatives that can offer funding support to local communities for activities and events.

There are a number of sites that residents would like to see developed or used for an alternative purpose, these include:

- Former Ashby Woulds Public House site.
- NWLDC owned land at junction of Norris Hill and Ashby Road
- Former Secure Labels site on Measham Road.
- Woulds Court
- Former Cresswell Coaches site.
- Former fire station site.

Responses suggested the following ideas as 'developer contributions':

- Creating new or refurbishing play areas for younger children
- Help to fund pedestrian crossings on Ashby Road, which could also assist with traffic calming/speed reduction
- Restoring the canal connection
- More litter bins/ dog waste bins
- Developments along the Ashby Road, Sweet Hill for example, could incorporate a safer path away from the main road.
- More tree and shrub planting generally to 'break up' the hard landscaping
- Parking in the settlement is a real issue, could off road parking spaces for at least 3 vehicles be included in any future planning applications?

The RCC (Leics & Rutland) would be extremely happy to work on behalf of the Ashby Woulds Town Council assisting with further consultation & engagement e.g. Feasibility Studies or single issue consultations to further define some of the above recommendations.