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Meeting	CABINET
Time/Day/Date	5.00 pm on Tuesday, 9 June 2020
Location	Remote meeting using Microsoft Teams
Officer to contact	Democratic Services (01530 454512)

AGENDA

Item	Pages
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	
Under the Code of Conduct members are reminded that in declaring disclosable interests you should make clear the nature of that interest and whether it is pecuniary or non-pecuniary.	
3. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION	
4. MINUTES	
Minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2020.	3 - 6
5. DISEWORTH VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT	
Report of the Strategic Director of Place Presented by the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure	7 - 22
6. AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR DATA CENTRE, NETWORK AND CLOUD SERVICES	
Report of the Strategic Director of Housing and Customer Services Presented by the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Property and Customer Services	23 - 26
7. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC	
The officers consider that the press and public should be excluded during consideration of the following items in accordance with Section 100(a) of the	

Local Government Act 1972 as publicity would be likely to result in disclosure of exempt or confidential information. Members are reminded that they must have regard to the public interest test and must consider, for each item, whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption from disclosure outweighs the public interest in making the item available.

8. PROCUREMENT EXEMPTIONS IN RELATION TO THE COUNCIL'S FLEET GARAGE AND CCTV SERVICES

Report of the Strategic Director of Place
Presented by the Portfolio Holder for Community Services

27 - 30

Circulation:

Councillor R Blunt (Chairman)
Councillor R Ashman (Deputy Chairman)
Councillor R D Bayliss
Councillor T Gillard
Councillor N J Rushton
Councillor A C Woodman

MINUTES of a meeting of the CABINET held in the Remote Meeting using Microsoft Teams on TUESDAY, 26 MAY 2020

Present: Councillor R Blunt (Chairman)

Councillors R Ashman, R D Bayliss, T Gillard, N J Rushton and A C Woodman

In Attendance: Councillors

Officers: Mr J Arnold, Mrs T Bingham, Mr T Delaney, Mr C Lambert, Mrs M Long, Mrs B Smith and Miss E Warhurst

104. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

105. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Non-pecuniary interests were declared in relation to Item 6 – Marlborough Square Funding by Councillor Rushton as a member of the LLEP Board and Councillor Ashman who had submitted an application to be a member of the LLEP Board

These Members remained in the meeting for the debate and vote on this item.

106. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

No members of the public had requested to speak at the meeting.

107. MINUTES

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March 2020.

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2020 be approved as a correct record.

Reason for decision: To comply with the Constitution.

108. APPLEBY MAGNA CARAVAN PARK

Councillor Bayliss presented the report to the Committee. He took Members through the report in detail and emphasised the challenges, all of which were set out in the report.

He explained that when he first saw this site a number of years ago, he saw a tired and underinvested property but there was no noise being made about this. Whilst this Council has a responsibility for the site, the dwellings themselves are the responsibility of the tenants, some of which were in a state of disrepair and incapable of being moved. One of the early considerations was to dispose of the site to a private operator, after a number of fire risk assessments. This was resisted at the time as Councillor Bayliss reported he had reservations about this and the way some operators work. It was then that work on the current proposal began; the history of which was set out in detail in the report. Councillor Bayliss advised that his personal preference was Option D but he was happy to support Option E as it finds favour with the residents, the scouts and the Scrutiny Committee.

The Leader thanked Councillor Bayliss for his comprehensive report and took questions and comments from Members. There were none.

The recommendations as set out on page 7 of the report were moved by Councillor Bayliss, seconded by Councillor Blunt and subsequently

RESOLVED THAT:

- (1) the comments received from Community Scrutiny Committee on 6 May 2020 be noted;
- (2) the proposal for the improvement of Appleby Magna Caravan Park, using option E as detailed in the report, and supported by the Community Scrutiny Committee, be approved;
- (3) authority be delegated to the Strategic Director, in consultation with the portfolio holder and the Section 151 Officer, to engage architectural, building and related services to allow the implementation of Option E.

Reason for decision: To allow the improvement work to the caravan site at Appleby Magna to be progressed, using the existing approved budget.

109. MARLBOROUGH SQUARE FUNDING

The Leader presented the report.

He reminded Cabinet that the Marlborough Square project formed an important step for Coalville's regeneration work and it implemented work from the Prince's Foundation for Coalville going back to 2009.

The report sought approval to accept a grant from our Leicester and Leicestershire Economic Partnership (LLEP) and it provided an update on the progress being made to deliver the project, which the Leader believed to be even more important, given the current situation with COVID 19 and the need for our Council to support recovery.

The Leader stated that he had personally wanted to ensure that the highest quality project possible could be delivered for Coalville and the report set out how this had been achieved with the detailed design work; ensuring the aims could be balanced with the functioning of the highway network. A skilled team was being used to support this detailed design with quantity surveyors advising on the budget.

Once Highway approval, which was expected imminently, had been realised, officers would seek the necessary planning approvals and tender the works to obtain a fixed price. The report, the Leader stated, set out how reserves had been allocated for the forecast cost but it was noted that a further report to Cabinet would seek final approval for the scheme and budget; at which time he would be in a position to confirm the start date.

The Leader invited questions and comments from Members.

Councillor Gillard expressed his support for the recommendations as it demonstrated how the Council was working towards providing local jobs for local people. Councillor Ashman welcomed the report as being a step in the right direction for smartening up this part of Coalville and welcomed the support of private businesses. Councillor Woodman also welcomed the scheme, which saw a direct link to the improvements introduced by the Newmarket scheme.

The recommendations as set out on page 31 of the report were moved by Councillor Blunt, seconded by Councillor Gillard and subsequently

RESOLVED THAT:

- (1) authority be delegated to the Strategic Director of Place to enter into the Grant Agreement to receive £360,000 from the Leicester and Leicestershire Economic Partnership for public realm work at Marlborough Square;
- (2) progress on the redesign and implementation of the project be noted;
- (3) the earmarked reserve for the acquisition and redevelopment of property in Coalville be retained in full, as set out in the report for the Marlborough Square project.

Reason for decision: Approval is required to reallocate an earmarked reserve and to accept the grant of £360,000 as there is a requirement to enter into a contract with the Leicester and Leicestershire Economic Partnership.

110. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was moved, seconded and subsequently

RESOLVED THAT:

In pursuance of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the business to be transacted involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and that the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

The Chairman explained that it was necessary to move into confidential session and he thanked those who had joined the meeting for their participation.

Reason for decision: To enable the consideration of exempt information.

111. FUTURE HIGH STREETS FUND SUBMISSION PROPOSALS

The Leader presented the report.

He referred to a letter of support from Councillor Angela Black and invited Councillor John Legrys to comment following his formal request to do so.

The Leader invited Cabinet Members to make a comment or ask a question.

A summary of the Leader's report and Member's questions and comments are attached to these minutes as a confidential appendix.

The recommendation as set out on pages 44 and 45 of the report were moved by Councillor Blunt seconded by Councillor Rushton and subsequently

RESOLVED THAT:

The recommendations as set out on pages 44 and 45 of the report be approved.

Reason for decision: To inform Cabinet of the content of the Coalville Future High Streets Fund full business case submission and outlining the requests for Council co-funding as set out in the recommendations.

The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 5.32 pm

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET – 9 JUNE 2020

Title of Report	DISEWORTH VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT	
Presented by	Councillor Robert Ashman 01530 273762 robert.ashman@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	
Background Papers	Diseworth Village Design Statement	Public Report: Yes
	The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 Statement of Community Involvement	Key Decision: Non-key
Financial Implications	The costs of consultation will be in terms of officer time as the consultation will be online. There are no financial implications otherwise.	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	Legal considerations considered in the drafting of the report	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	None identified	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	To consider a request from Diseworth and Long Whatton Parish Council to adopt a revised Village Design Statement for Diseworth as a Supplementary Planning Document.	
Reason for Decision	The Preparation of Supplementary Planning Document is a Cabinet function	
Recommendations	THAT CABINET REQUEST THE LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE TO AGREE TO UNDERTAKE CONSULTATION IN RESPECT OF THE REVISED DISEWORTH VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT SUBJECT TO BEING ABLE TO COMPLY WITH THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Diseworth Village Design Statement was adopted by the District Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance on 3 April 2000.
- 1.2 Following the adoption of the Local Plan in November 2017 a report to Cabinet in January 2018 considered the issue of which existing Supplementary Planning Documents /Guidance should be retained. This involved assessing the various SPD/SPG against a number of criteria to help determine whether it was still relevant.
- 1.3 The Diseworth Village Design Statement was one of two Village Design Statements (the other being Appleby Magna) which it was considered needed to be reviewed if they were to continue to be retained.

2. WHAT IS A VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT?

- 2.1 Village Design Statement (VDS) were introduced in the 1990's as a tool to be used by local communities as an expression of their aspirations for how future development should take in to account design matters.
- 2.2 Through the VDS process, local people can set out the pattern and shape of their settlement, landmarks and special features, distinctive features in design and local materials. VDS do not detail the type of development that a community wants in their area, nor do they focus on specific community projects. These goals are more appropriately pursued through neighbourhood plans or parish plans, respectively. The VDS is only concerned with the visual character of a village and how it might be protected or enhanced.
- 2.3 If a community can demonstrate that their VDS is compatible with the adopted Local Plan and has been produced with the involvement of the community and the appropriate statutory consultees, then the VDS can be adopted by the Council as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which means it can be used when determining planning applications within the area to which the VDS applies.

3. REVIEW OF VDS

- 3.1 Following the decision of Cabinet in January 2018, the Diseworth and Long Whatton Parish Council were contacted to advise them of the need to consider reviewing the VDS if it was to be retained.
- 3.2 An initial meeting took place with representatives of the Parish Council in March 2018 to discuss how a review could be conducted and what it needed to consider.
- 3.3 The Parish Council undertook a review of the VDS, updating and amending it as considered necessary (for example to take account of the adopted Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework).
- 3.4 It was agreed with the Parish Council that the revised VDS needed to be the subject of consultation before it could be submitted to the District Council. This consultation was undertaken between 28 May and 11 July 2019, facilitated via both the Parish Council website and the District Council's website. In addition, the District Council's database of contacts was used to consult with a range of stakeholders, including representatives of the development industry.
- 3.5 One response was received to the consultation. A number of changes were made to the draft VDS in light of these comments in order to ensure that the VDS was compatible with local and national policies.
- 3.6 The revised VDS was submitted to the Council with a request that it be approved as SPD. The draft VDS is attached at Appendix A of this report.

3.7 The VDS is considered to be compatible with the adopted Local Plan (for example, Policy D1 – Design of new development) and also the Council’s Design SPD, helping to provide a local dimension that these documents cannot do. In discussing the review, officers have also highlighted to the Parish Council where the previous VDS needed updating to reflect changes in national policies, particularly as the National Planning Policy Framework did not exist at the time that the previous version was prepared. These changes have been addressed by the Parish Council.

4.0 PROCESS FOR ADOPTING AS A SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

4.1 Best practice for adopting VDS as SPD has historically required that any VDS be subject to consultation with the local community and stakeholders before being submitted to the Council for approval. Whilst this has happened in respect of the review of the Diseworth VDS, there have been changes in respect of both legislation and regulations which mean that it is not possible to move to adoption of the SPD at this stage.

4.2 Having taken legal advice, the legislative and regulatory requirements are:

- The adoption of an SPD is a Council function as per Schedule 4 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 (“2000 Regulations”). Under the Council’s Constitution Local Plan Committee now has authority to adopt SPD’s.
- The formulation or preparation of a SPD, however, is an Executive function (Cabinet function) as it falls within Regulation 4(1)(c) of the 2000 Regulations.
- An SPD is a ‘local development document’ which neither the 2012 Regulations nor the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 allows for a third party (in this case the Parish Council) to prepare and undertake consultation on behalf of the local authority. Reference within the legislation is only made to the local planning authority.

4.3 Put simply legislation does not allow the Council (which in accordance with the Council’s constitution means the Local Plan Committee) to adopt an SPD that it has not prepared or consulted on itself.

4.4 The legal advice has suggested that are two options open to the Council at this stage:

- Prepare the SPD itself and go out to consultation in accordance with the 2012 Regulations and the 2004 Act.
- Take the draft SPD prepared by the Parish Council to Cabinet recommending that the Local Plan Committee approve that the draft SPD go out to public consultation..

4.5 As noted above this situation has arisen due to changes in legislation and requirements since the previous VDS was approved by the Council as SPD. This is not unique to the Council, so a review of practice elsewhere has been undertaken. This review suggests that some authorities have simply adopted the VDS as SPD provided they have been subjected to some form of consultation by the group preparing the VDS as part of its preparation. However, a number of other authorities have, upon receipt of the VDS, undertaken their own consultation (irrespective of whether the group preparing it has previously undertaken consultation) before approving it.

4.6 The latter approach is similar to the first bullet point above at paragraph 4.4, other than the fact it is not the Local Planning Authority that has prepared the VDS, but rather the local community. This fact does represent a small risk, but the fact that the council would have carried out its own consultation would help to minimise this risk.

4.7 For the reasons outlined above it is recommended that the VDS be subject to consultation before consideration is given to adopting it as SPD. The process for this is considered in the next section of the report.

5.0 NEXT STEPS

5.1 In terms of governance, as noted at paragraph 4.2 above, formulation of an SPD, is an Executive function but adoption is a Council function which has been delegated to the Local Plan Committee.

5.2 Therefore, Cabinet are asked to request the Local Plan Committee to approve that the draft SPD go out to public consultation.

5.3 Following the public consultation a further report amending the draft SPD will then need to be brought back to Cabinet (amendments having been made pursuant to the consultation response) recommending that Local Plan Committee approve the revised draft SPD.

5.4 The next Local Plan Committee is scheduled to meet on 29 July 2020. Subject to the agreement of Cabinet, a report will be taken to that meeting seeking the approval of the Local Plan Committee to commence consultation as outlined above.

5.5 The Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), sets out how the Council will consult on planning issues (including SPDs). This states "*Copies of the SPD will be made available for not less than 4 weeks at the Council offices and other defined places and on the Council's website.*"

5.6 Members will be aware that because of the current Covid-19 pandemic the Council Offices are not currently open to visiting members of the public. Therefore, it would not be possible to comply with the SCI. Undertaking a consultation without making a hard copy available at the Council Offices represents a potential risk that could result in a Judicial Review if the VDS was subsequently adopted as SPD. However, if the SCI is not changed then this could result in a significant delay to the adoption of the VDS

5.7 Therefore, before any consultation can be undertaken it will be necessary for the SCI to be amended in light of Covid-19. It is intended that a report making the necessary changes to the SCI will be considered at the 14 July 2020 meeting of Cabinet (i.e. before the meeting of Local Plan Committee). It will then be possible to commence consultation after the Local Plan Committee meeting on 29 July 2020.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	Our communities are safe, healthy and connected
Policy Considerations:	The draft VDS has been assessed against both the adopted Local Plan and the Council's Design SPD and is considered to comply with their provisions.
Safeguarding:	None identified
Equalities/Diversity:	An Equalities Impact Assessment will need to be undertaken before the VDS can be adopted as SPD
Customer Impact:	The principal impact would be upon those submitting planning applications in Diseworth as they would need to take in to account the VDS.
Economic and Social Impact:	The VDS has been prepared by the Parish Council with input from the local community. As such it represents the aspirations of the local community as to how future developments should look.
Environment and Climate Change:	The VDS seeks to ensure that the local environment is taken in to account when designing new

	developments
Consultation/Community Engagement:	The draft VDS has been subject to consultation and if agreed by Cabinet and the Local Plan Committee will be ten subject of further consultation.
Risks:	As outlined in the confidential Appendix B to this report
Officer Contact	Chris Elston Head of Planning and Infrastructure chris.elston@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

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Diseworth Village Design Statement

A VDS was prepared in 1998 and approved as a Supplementary Planning Document. However, following adoption of the new Local plan in November 2017, North West Leicestershire District Council considered that the VDS needed to be reviewed in view of its age. The VDS has been reviewed by the Parish Council and it was the subject of consultation between 28 May and 11 July 2019.

What villagers like most about Diseworth

When the original Village Design Statement was put together villagers were asked what they valued most about Diseworth as a place in which to live. They highlighted the following and we have no reason to suggest it's altered:

- The intimate scale of the village
- The relaxing environment
- The survival of the village as a working agricultural community
- Rural proximity - ease of access to open countryside
- The countryside setting viewed from surrounding hills
- The survival of many old buildings which emphasise the variety of vernacular architecture in the village

What villagers like least about Diseworth

- Through traffic
- Encroachment on open land
- Landscape urbanisation - e.g. garden design with non-indigenous trees
- Background noise from outside the village from the airport, major road networks, day to day and race track.
- Pollution of various kinds, for instance of the brook, and from road and air traffic
- New houses which are out of scale with the older properties - so-called "executive" houses rather than "cottages"
- Large garages which are obtrusive (that is, in front of the houses they serve)

Preface

This design statement tries to address these positive and negative features from a planning perspective. Planning matters can be addressed at two levels. There will be matters to be addressed through local and national planning and design statements. Diseworth is by no means the only village which faces the tensions caused by increases in traffic of all kinds; by the demand for large increases in housing in rural areas; or by the effects of economic changes, whereby agriculture requires a tiny workforce compared with the past, but still to a large extent determines the quality of the environment in which such villages are set.

National issues are set against the everyday requirement to make sound planning decisions which respect and reflect the architectural and environmental traditions of the area in general, and of Diseworth (in this instance) in particular. These are the responsibilities of our elected Councillors in the County and District Councils, and their respective officers.

There are expectations of villagers, to do with local feelings and influence. It is very hard, indeed probably quite inappropriate, for neighbours to approach a particular householder to criticise his or her choice of trees and shrubs to grow in the garden. Not everyone can be an expert on indigenous planting schemes, indeed so-called experts can themselves differ! But there are ways in which a culture of good practice can be established. The Local History Society, a Gardening Club. Open Garden events, displays and exhibitions, can all help people to be more aware of good practice, just as good Conservation exercises can help people to maintain and improve their existing buildings in a more appropriate and sympathetic way.

The people of Diseworth feel that there are detailed considerations that are particular to the character,

needs and setting of their village, which have not been (indeed could not be) addressed in the District Council's Local Plan, and national planning policy documents.

The statement has been endorsed by Long Whatton and Diseworth Parish Council.

The purpose of the Village Design Statement (VDS) is to inform planning proposals and decisions so as to ensure the effective and successful management of change on whatever scale, and as such it sets out to provide guidance for those individuals and organisations seeking to initiate change and development in and around the village, by identifying good quality in both traditional and modern developments. It is intended to supplement with local detail the Local Plan, which was adopted by the local planning authority (North West Leicestershire District Council) in November 2017.

What is a village design statement?

To this end the Statement sets out to explain the village in terms of its long history, and to articulate those features of the village that are seen by its residents as most attractive and distinctive, which deserve to be retained, and which together help to determine what is distinctive about Diseworth.

The Statement is addressed to:

developers, architects, designers, and builders, to inform them of local views on design, materials and location of new and adapted buildings;
residents and landlords, to offer guidance on sympathetic approaches to maintenance, alterations and extensions within the village;
the local planning authority, providing local information and views to inform planning decisions which affect the village;
the Parish Council, to inform the comments it makes on planning applications; *the local highways authority*, (Leicestershire County Council), to offer them local evidence and views which will inform their planning.

The importance of Village Design Statements

In the past Village Design Statements have been successfully used as a tool to preserve the unique visual character of the village and surrounding area. A Village Design Statement aims to make sure that new development in the village respects the distinctive visual character of the place. Although planning policy says that the Planning Authority must respect the character of local surroundings when taking planning decisions, the hierarchical nature of the planning process can now be balanced by the increase in public involvement. The existence of a sound, well researched Village Design Statement is seen as an aid to improving the quality of planning decisions. As a small farming village, close to a major airport and with many links to major arterial roads it has survived with relatively little change, particularly in recent years. There is, however, a build-up of pressure on the road system and increasing expansions of the Airport and surrounding green field sites.

The context for Diseworth with reference to the Diseworth Conservation Area Appraisal and Study April 2001.

https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/files/documents/diseworth_conservation_area_appraisal_and_study/Diseworth%20Conservation%20Area%20Appraisal%20and%20Study.pdf

(i) The historical context

While the Statement is about Diseworth as it is now, it is important to know how the village got here. Rural settlements have a logical setting concerned with trade and economy, security, geography and often religion. Diseworth is no different. Its origins can be traced to Saxon times, its location close to a Roman road, astride a brook, and on a gentle south-facing slope. Ownership has been vested in a variety of landowners in the past, including Langley Priory and Christ's College Cambridge, and two of its five working farms are still owned by the heirs to the Langley Priory estate. The pattern of employment has changed little since the Enclosures Act two hundred years ago - small farms with a mixture of arable, sheep, dairy and cattle breeding, and even the survival of smallholdings. The pattern of the village and its surrounding landscape has also changed little in those two hundred years. Although the number of houses has increased, particularly in the last thirty years, the shape of the settlement remains much as it was, and the landscape is also little altered, with a majority of hedgerows surviving, and the pattern of fields, established then, still often apparent. The village itself, seen from the brows of its surrounding slopes, nestles

comfortably in its little valley, displaying a charming and distinctive mixture of brick and stone, tiles and slate, trees and other greenery.

The stone was quarried locally for many years and may have been a primary reason for the site of the settlement. There is considerable evidence that a mediaeval manor house stood at the end of Hall Gate, not least the existence of high-quality dressed stone in a number of walls around the village! There have also been three brickworks in the village until fairly recently and their warm red, if somewhat soft, products, survive in many cottages and farm buildings. Earlier buildings provide some fine examples of vernacular domestic architecture, in the timber frames, including several cruck beams; the thatched roofs; the stone plinths to many houses; and the detail of brickwork, doorways and windows exemplified later.

The settlement pattern, around what is known as the Cross, where the four principal streets, or Gates, meet, has long since lost its main purpose. Grimes Gate formerly led over what is now the airport towards Castle Donington and Derby; Clements Gate led to Long Holden and towards Long Whatton, now divided by the embankment to the M1 motorway, while Lady Gate leads to Longmere Lane, now a track carried on a bridge over the A42. The fourth street, Hall Gate, led possibly to the old Hall, and certainly to a ford which in living memory was used as a sheep-wash; thence it joins the Belton Road, built along the line of the Roman road.

A fifth road of some age skirts the southern side of the village, known for no obvious reason as The Green - there is no village green extant. It does however provide a clear boundary to the built-up area on that side of the village to which there are very few exceptions.

Within the village is also a network of footpaths of historic significance, and mostly still well used today. They indicate for example patterns of employment - taking labourers to the mill, or to a farm. Recent road and housing developments have utilised these paths to link, for example, Page Lane and the Woodcroft to the older roads.

With a population of about 636 (2011 census) the village supports a range of organisations and activities. Principal among these is the Primary School, with about 60 pupils, of Church of England foundation, sited on the original location of the 1862 building. The church itself, with remains which have been dated back to Saxon times, is largely of the 17th century. There are also two chapels of contrasting architectural styles - a modest Baptist chapel on Lady Gate which is now the Heritage Centre and a more highly decorated Methodist Church dating from 1887, which is now a private dwelling. The Village Hall was built by local voluntary labour after the Second World War, and sits on about half a hectare of land. Within and beyond these buildings the village supports a surprisingly wide variety of clubs, societies and less formal organisations for all ages. There is a public house in Hall Gate, a building of some historic and architectural importance.

(ii) The modern context

It would be hard to exaggerate the threat felt by Diseworth residents from their neighbours. The three large conurbations of Nottingham, Leicester and Derby provide employment for many, and ensure that shops and services such as hospitals and entertainment are easily available in both quantity and quality. The down side of this is that they need servicing by transport routes of all kinds, and the network that has grown up and continues to develop attracts commercial, industrial and housing developers looking for potential sites convenient for these conurbations and their communications networks. The history and traditions of a village such as Diseworth in a search may not often merit any special consideration from developers or their agents. Ancillary documents only provide guidance; they need telling and specific arguments to help planners ensure that change and development is appropriate in both scale and design.

Where large scale developments do take place within both sight and sound of the village, then protective measures which largely exist already - for example in the District Council's Local Plan - should be applied firmly and consistently. Otherwise developers, keen to build adjacent to the Airport or to the major road network which almost surrounds the village, will swamp Diseworth.

Village residents particularly value the countryside in which their village is set. The views from surrounding slopes display a village of working farms set in a traditional agricultural setting. Green spaces, whether farmland, smallholdings, playing fields or gardens, reach into the village and contribute to an exciting variety of colour and layout throughout the village. A number of houses were built on sizeable plots of land - smallholdings, or orchards, for example. Unfortunately, several have now lost much of that land to infilling

development, which is altering the open nature of the village settlement, and to its distinctive character. However, there are limited opportunities left. The network of footpaths which extend from the village into this countryside is well used by both residents and visitors. A good mixture of indigenous trees, including fruit trees, also contributes to the landscape although there is only one tree preservation order extant within the Conservation area. In specific places there are notable features: Hall Field, for example, provides evidence of the likely site of a mediaeval manor house, while there and elsewhere ridge and furrow has survived. This is a fine and largely well-preserved example of a post- enclosure agricultural settlement.

Recommendations

Development should not be permitted that could adversely affect the setting of a listed building

The view of the local community is that it would wish to see the existing countryside around Diseworth protected against inappropriate development.

Infill development should be avoided where it would conflict with the character of the village and the particular site and its setting, including the other policies set out in this VDS.

The structure of the community

Although the population of the village has varied widely, it is now no greater than it has been at several periods in the past. Smaller households, and several examples of two or three cottages being combined as one house, have been balanced by the building of many new houses this century - more than a third of the houses in the village have been built in the last thirty years or so. A mixture of good fortune and good planning has ensured that the shape of the village has remained largely unaltered, and most development has taken place on former pasture, smallholdings and orchards. A small amount of development can be characterised as in-filling - in gardens, or on the sites of former farm buildings, but open spaces are increasingly dwindling. In two or three places, farmland reaches close to the centre of the village: behind the church, for example, and to the north of Hall Gate. Both within and beyond the village's designated Conservation Area, a good number and variety of mature indigenous trees survive. Views within the village rarely include straight lines - the only largely straight road is Page Lane - so the characteristic style of many older buildings abutting on to the street never appears rigid or formal. The curve of Clements Gate is a good example.

Recent permissions have allowed some much larger houses to be built within the village, but most are on a modest scale; exceptions include the Church, which is a striking feature of many village views with its distinctive spire. There are also two fine farmhouses at Old Hall and Cross farms. Several rows of cottages have been converted into single houses of some size, but since they are built with their gable ends to the road, they do not appear out of scale.

Recommendations

New housing should be of a varied type and size that reflects the existing character of the village.

The open character of the settlement should be maintained for example when plans for infilling or other development on greenfield sites within the village are being considered.

The character of the landscape setting

Clustered around the modest broach spire of the church, the village presents charming views which are gradually disclosed to those approaching from any direction. Gentle ridges to the north and south, and to an extent the rising ground to east and west, help at least partly to hide both the sight and the sound of traffic both from the roads and from the airport.

The farmland surrounding the village is much as it was following the Enclosures Act of 1794. Few hedgerows have been lost since that time, and until recently, pasture land predominated, although some ridge and furrow has been lost to the recent growth in arable farming. There has been however considerable loss of woodland.

Diseworth Brook and its small tributaries are a characteristic feature of the village. Several farms were built beside them in the past. Nowadays many houses benefit from the brook skirting, or sometimes crossing, their garden. Elsewhere many houses relied until recently on spring-fed wells, and a number of these springs pass under Clements Gate, for example, and thence into Diseworth Brook.

Fields, including playing fields and smallholdings, continue to provide significant green spaces within the village; some gardens incorporate former farmland or smallholdings and extend to around a hectare, and many houses benefit from views over open countryside. This close relationship between housing and green spaces represents an important and striking feature of Diseworth.

The mixes of building materials, of architectural styles and of layouts, together also form a distinctive feature of the village. Prominent among the clusters are the farm buildings, particularly at Old Hall Farm, which provide an impressive introduction to the northern approach from Mill Hill, and at Cross Farm, next to the church. The mixture of local stone and brick is paralleled by the mix of pantiles, Staffordshire tiles and slate, often more than one material per house. The remaining thatched roofs, as on Lilly's Cottage at the Cross, add to the mix.

Recommendations

New houses should continue to offer a variety of size and style, rather than offering uniform groups of houses. They should also reflect as far as possible the range of materials seen in the village.

New development should as far as possible not diminish the balance between buildings and green space, particularly within the Conservation Area.

The brook and its feeder streams need to be seen as a safe and distinctive feature of the village environment.

Buildings and spaces within the village

Twenty two buildings are listed as being of historical or architectural importance. Two of these are listed as grade 2*. These are the Anglican Church, and Lilly's Cottage. The others include several farm buildings - for example three of the farm buildings at Old Hall Farm as well as the farmhouse.

Buildings in Diseworth are generally modest in scale, and are historically characterised by their use of local materials. Their variety reflects both their age and their purposeful design: until recently every building was designed to support village life and work. This is most apparent in the farms, a number of which continue to function. The other trades in the village are also often still apparent in the surviving buildings. Much employment in the years following enclosure was connected with the hosiery trade, and some cottages had an extra, third storey for use as a workshop.

Several buildings have functioned at some time as shops, or as the village bakery. There were for some time three brickworks in the village, and evidence of two survives. Other buildings offer evidence of the usual village trades - the builder, the joiner, the blacksmith, the carter.

A few buildings are elaborately constructed. Lilly's cottage displays more sophisticated joinery than most of that found in the village; Old Hall farmhouse uses what is for Diseworth an unusual mix of stone and elaborately patterned brickwork; the gabling at Cross farmhouse is most distinctive, while the corbelled brickwork on many gable ends is also characteristic.

Most houses in the village are more modest in both size and construction. Several have been enlarged by knocking two or three cottages together. Many older houses present their gable ends to the street, and this pattern helps to create an intimate atmosphere, enhanced by the relatively narrow roadways, mostly with footpaths on one side only. This pattern is not repeated in the newer roads such as Brookside and The Woodcroft, where houses are set back in their gardens.

Good examples survive of the different periods of vernacular architecture. The cruck beam used in mediaeval building can be seen in several houses, such as Hallstead, Lilly's Cottage and the Old Forge, as well as in farm buildings at Old Hall Farm.

These certainly include examples dating back to the fourteenth century. Many later houses using box frame construction survive, such as 50 Hall Gate, which has a plaque dated 1692, but this probably commemorates the date of renovation, not of the original building. Such timber framing continued after 1700, first with brick infill, and later with brick cladding, until well into the nineteenth century when brick became the principal structural material.

Throughout these periods most buildings used stone for a plinth, sometimes good quality dressed stone,

but more often undressed. This was usually the local marl from seams on which the village is built.

Roofing materials were originally of mainly local material - thatch of course, of which some good examples survive; slate, Staffordshire tiles, and clay pantiles of which some were made locally and some imported from Holland. A number of buildings display an interesting mix of these materials. Window openings in brick are frequently characterised by shallow segmented arches, a feature which a number of modern houses have pleasingly adopted. Other attempts in newer buildings to adopt traditional design features such as timber framing and stone plinths are less successful since they are not structural, nor can the proportions of new houses be the same - for instance, regulations govern the height of ceilings, or the size of window openings. In general the houses built in the last thirty years or so have used sympathetic materials on walls and roofs and avoided the flamboyance of many recent housing developments elsewhere.

Of the listed buildings in the village, one or two are in disrepair, but many have been sympathetically and carefully maintained and restored.

Recommendations

New buildings must be in keeping with the older ones in the village:

- they should be appropriate in scale
- they should be constructed from appropriate materials, to harmonize with traditional materials; the use of reclaimed materials should be encouraged only if they are appropriate to the vernacular style of the village
- where groups of houses are being built there should be a variety in both the size and the style of houses within the group
- garages should not be the most prominent feature of a property when viewed from the road
- Design details - such as windows, doorways, roofline and pitches - should wherever possible reflect sympathetically that of the traditional buildings of the village. It is recognised that modern building requirements such as Building Regulations help to determine, for example, ceiling heights and window sizes, but there are a number of modern houses in the village which have shown that this does not prevent development being sympathetic in both scale and detail.

Highways and traffic

Originally a farming village, with farms both in the village itself and in outlying parts of the Parish, its character has changed little until very recently, and it remains essentially agricultural. Much housing now provides accommodation for those working in nearby conurbations, and at the airport, but little economic activity has been introduced within the village. The pattern of roads has thus changed little in the parish and still reflects its agricultural origins. Roadways connect the village to its farmland and to the nearby market towns. Some roads have not been metalled, but remain substantial tracks which show their earlier importance: Hyams Lane, Green Lane and Long Holden are examples.

Of course, on the Parish boundaries there are three major trunk roads, and the airport has obliterated the original route to Castle Donington. The M1 and A42 are sources of noise and impair certain views from the village, but it is the A453 and the airport with its large industrial warehouses including DHL and UPS, which generate traffic whose routes and volume conflict with the local use of more minor roads. Although there are both speed restrictions and weight limits on the roads though the village, residents are concerned that their enforcement is infrequent. Highways isn't a role within a Parish Council remit, however, will continue to urge the highway authority to consider appropriate traffic calming measures. In addition, a degree of support from local firms is needed to ensure that the roads are not having excessive demands made upon them

Certain key points are of particular concern: on Grimes Gate outside the school and further down at the Cross, where visibility is restricted; on The Green, where the speed limit is too often broken. The roads, in their scale and layout, reflect the history of the village, and would be very difficult to upgrade (if that were believed to be an option) because of the proximity of so many buildings to the road.

Problems are further exacerbated within the village by inconsiderate airport user parking and cars waiting to pick up passengers i.e. Taxis.

Parking inconsiderately often causes obstructions to emergency, farm and delivery vehicles.

Recommendations

There should be more constructive efforts made to ensure that traffic is only that appropriate to the roads as they are at present or can be mitigated for through the scope of that planning application.

Traffic calming measures should be introduced as early as possible, particularly on Lady Gate and Grimes Gate, where through traffic to and from the Airport is increasing rapidly, particularly of light freight vehicles. In the Village Appraisal survey, road markings were the most popular form of traffic calming, and there was some concern that some other measures might create difficulties for farm vehicles, but it is clear that systems that require enforcement in order to be effective (such as the present speed limits) will not be successful given the present level of policing available.

Although the Parish Council doesn't have the power regarding traffic calming, it will continue to work with Leicestershire County Council to seek implementation of better signage e.g. Flashing Light Signs.

References

Much valuable information has been taken from "Diseworth Today and Tomorrow" - the appraisal report issued in 1998.

Acknowledgements

North West Leicestershire District Council
Long Whatton & Diseworth Parish Council

Practical Support has come from many sources, in particular the Rural Community Council, District Council Planning Officers (especially Ian Nelson) and the training and materials provided by the Countryside Commission (now the Countryside Agency).

The energy and practical support of dozens of villagers is of course the single most valuable resource we had to call on. Village walks, consultation and planning days, the final consultative exhibition, all have been excellently attended and every contribution has been valued. Well over 150 photographs were contributed by over thirty people.

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Title of Report	PROCUREMENT OF IT DATA CENTRE , WIDE AREA NETWORK, BACKUP AND DISASTER RECOVERY SERVICES	
Presented by	Councillor Roger Bayliss Portfolio Holder for Housing, Property and Customer Services	
Background Papers	AUTHORITY TO AWARD DATA CENTRE AND WIDE AREA NETWORK CONTRACT – JANUARY 2017	Public Report: Yes
		Key Decision: Yes
Financial Implications	The current cost of the contract is £223,644.72 per annum and the cost of the new contract is £196,337.28 per annum. This is a saving of £27,307.44 per annum.	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	None	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	None	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	The report requests that Cabinet authorises the award of the IT data centre, wide area network, backup and disaster recovery services contract to <u>Six Degrees Technology Group Ltd, (6DG)</u> .	
Reason for Decision	<p>The current contract for data centre, wide area network, backup and disaster recovery services, comes to an end on the 31st August. The award of a new contract is necessary to maintain our IT infrastructure, network, backup, systems and applications.</p> <p>The level of expenditure on this contract exceeds the authority threshold in the scheme of delegation.</p>	
Recommendations	CABINET APPROVES THE DIRECT AWARD OF THIS CONTRACT TO SIX DEGREES TECHNOLOGY GROUP LTD.	

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In January 2017 Cabinet received a report on the planned procurement of the IT data centre, wide area network, backup and disaster recovery services. This was part of the IT strategy and the need to modernise the Council's ICT infrastructure, level of resilience and a workforce with the right IT tools and skills.
- 1.2 Procurement, by way of a mini tender on a Framework, was undertaken and Cabinet delegated authority to award a 3-year contract to the Interim Director of Resources.
- 1.3 The contract was ultimately awarded to Adept Telecommunications who subcontracted the work to Six Degrees Group.

1.4 This contract comes to an end on the 31st of August 2020. The award of a new contract is necessary in order to continue and maintain our core IT infrastructure.

2.0 PROCUREMENT

2.1 A procurement process, compliant with the Public Contracts Regulations, for the new contract has been conducted by the Council's IT Manager in conjunction with the Procurement Officer. The proposed route to market is a direct award to Six Degrees Group via the CCS framework RM3808 LOT2.

2.2 As subcontractors to the incumbent supplier Adept, the Council has worked with Six Degrees Group for the past 3 years. Six Degrees Group has consistently provided excellent service levels. 6DG's successful inclusion on the CCS Framework means that the Council can directly award the contract to them. Their role subcontracting from the incumbent supplier means that there will be no capital outlay to move our infrastructure.

2.3 A direct award to 6 Degrees Group has been chosen for technical continuity as there is no technical, monetary, or financial reason, to move our infrastructure to a different supplier. Moving to a different supplier, would incur high capital costs, as well as time and resource to rebuild a new infrastructure. The service we receive from 6 Degrees Group is excellent and the data centre is in Birmingham, within travelling distance for IT staff to travel to.

2.4 As technology moves on very quickly, and in the future, we will look at different hosting options, a 3-year contract with the option to extend for a further 2-year is felt to be the most appropriate length for the contract.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The cost of the current contract is £223,644.72 per annum. This includes the hosting costs of the Housing ICT system and additional capacity costs.

3.2 The cost of the new contract is £196,332 per annum, £981,060, over 5 years (3 years plus 2 years optional extension). These costs are already built into the IT budget and include the cost of hosting the housing Aareon ICT systems.

3.3 By redesigning the solution and removing unnecessary costs, the cost of the overall contract has reduced to £981,686, providing an efficiency saving of £136,534 over the 5 years, which will contribute to savings targets of the Journey to self-sufficiency programme.

4.0 TIMELINE

Number	Step	Date(s) and time (if applicable)
6	Governance Approvals completed	9/6/2020
9	Contract finalisation completed	30/06/2020
10	Contract start date	01/09/2020

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	Our communities are safe, healthy and connected
Policy Considerations:	N/A

Safeguarding:	N/A
Equalities/Diversity:	N/A
Customer Impact:	N/A
Economic and Social Impact:	N/A
Environment and Climate Change:	N/A
Consultation/Community Engagement:	N/A
Risks:	N/A
Officer Contact	<p>Sam Outama IT Manager sam.outama@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>

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