

## **BLISWORTH PARISH PLAN PROGRESS TEAM**

### **FIRST YEAR REPORT JANUARY 2012**

The Blisworth Parish Plan 2011-2016 was finalised and distributed in January 2011. Since then two new members have joined the team making a team of eight. We meet monthly, to ensure ongoing progress of the action plan, developed from the results of the village questionnaire, and support any village organisations or individuals who are helping to achieve this. A report is presented at the monthly Parish Council meetings and we are grateful to them for their continued support and encouragement.

#### **Improve your Patch Award**

We entered for this in summer 2011, and were awarded a Certificate for our plans to provide torch/alarms to vulnerable villagers. The team gained useful experience in how applications for these awards should be submitted, and noted that many villages included all they had done in the past when submitting a plan for the future. We can do the same next time as this does seem to carry weight.

#### **Police and Safety**

We are in touch with the Police Community Support Officer. When a vacancy occurred for a replacement Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, we organised the delivery of two leaflets to every household in the village: a Police leaflet, "Your Home Security", and an advert for a volunteer to fill the vacancy. This resulted in two volunteers coming forward and the Parish Council has now asked them to work together with the team of street representatives. This excellent result means that we can continue to have improved security in our village. By maintaining Neighbourhood Watch status we may be able to keep Home Insurance premiums down.

Low-cost torch/personal alarms to villagers who requested them have been purchased and distributed. This was achieved through advertising in *Round & About* and distributing at various village events and venues.

### **Best Village Competition**

The Parish Council has approved Blisworth's first entry for this competition this year, and will pay the £35 entry fee. A sub-group of two Parish Councillors and two Progress Team members is currently putting together our submission, which must be in by the end of March.

### **Churchyard Conservation Award Scheme**

The Progress Team, together with the Rector and Pastor and interested villagers, is looking at other churchyards which have entered for this award, and will collect and present information to the village in about a year's time, for consultation. We intend to approach the Wildlife Trust for advice, take serial photographs throughout the year, list existing flora and fauna, and try to make plans of the graves more easily accessible to the public.

### **Secure Central Village Noticeboard**

The village Art and Craft Group have been asked to submit designs for a central village feature, including a seat and secure noticeboard, by the end of February. Several designs are being produced, and the artists will meet with the Progress team in February. The Progress Team and Parish Councillors are looking at funding, and it is hoped we may be able to install this during the Jubilee Year of 2012.

### **Village Design Statement – Now Called Neighbourhood Plan**

The Progress Team supports the Parish Council in its plans to develop a Neighbourhood Plan and applauds the setting up of a subgroup to address this vital issue.

### **Community Bus**

The team has been concerned about the loss of the JASON bus service. We met with the Scout leader and the Tapestry group leader who are interested in a community bus for the village. We asked the Parish Council to talk to Gayton about their community bus and we are pleased to note that this has been done and that the Parish Council has set up a sub-group to look into possibilities.

## **Round and About**

It is not possible to produce Round and About monthly at the moment, but the team has been active together with the Parish Council to ensure its continuance after we no longer have access to low rate printing from St John's Ambulance.

## **Sport and Leisure**

One team member has produced and displayed a current list of all clubs and amenities in Blisworth with contact numbers on the new Parish Council secure noticeboard next to the Village Hall.

## **Businesses**

Attempts are being made to work more with local businesses and this needs further development.