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East Leake Community Planning Group Workshop I: Strengthening the heart of East Leake

Saturday 24th March 2012, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm
Baptist Church, Costock Road, East Leake, LE12 6LY

Themes:	Contribution of townscape to the character of East Leake
Key points of the day:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The characteristics of 'Good Places' • The contribution of design to creating sustainable villages and towns • Using townscape analysis to identify the strengths and weaknesses of places
Principal activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding East Leake as a place • Carrying out a townscape analysis of part of the village centre • Developing ideas for the improvement of a part of the centre of East Leake
Learning outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the positive and negative features of East Leake as a place • Role of design in making East Leake a sustainable community • Learning where townscape and public realm improvements can make the centre of East Leake more attractive

Programme

Tea/coffee available on arrival. Participants arranged in groups of about 6-8 at tables in church. Each group will be provided with a facilitator.

10.00 **Welcome and introduction from the Chair** ~ Conrad Oatey, Parish Councillor

- Update on progress with the East Leake plans

10.10 **Introduction to the day** ~ Andy Beard, Architect/Planner and CABE enabler

- What is a neighbourhood plan and how does it relate to the community plan?
- Why is it important to prepare a plan for the village?
- Purpose of the two workshops is to introduce some of the concepts, techniques and processes that can be used in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan
- Further work will be needed to produce the actual plan, including dialogue with other organisations

10.25 **Short warm-up exercise** ~ introduced by Andy Beard, Architect/Planner

- Each person given two post-its
- On one, write something that makes East Leake a **great place**
- On the other, write something that makes East Leake **distinctive** – ie different from other villages
- We will then look to see what common themes are emerging

10.40 **Understanding places** ~ presentation by Justine Leach

- Understanding context - physical factors that contribute to identity and local character
- The design qualities of good places
- What makes places 'great' and 'distinctive'
- Size and scale of buildings and spaces
- Streets, parks and squares
- Ease of getting around

11.10	Exercise 1: Characteristics of good places ~ introduced by Justine Leach <i>Walking analysis of East Leake to generate thinking about the area, its qualities, what does/doesn't work and why. Delegates to establish some generic urban design principles for a 'good piece of town'. Carried out in groups of about 6, accompanied by a facilitator.</i>
12.10	Feedback and discussion on implications for East Leake
12.30	<i>Lunch</i>
1.15	The contribution of design to making East Leake a more sustainable community ~ presentation by Andy Beard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What is a sustainable rural community</i> • <i>How does good design support sustainability – economic, social and environmental</i> • <i>Townscape and its contribution to village character</i> • <i>Restoration and re-use of historic buildings</i> • <i>Introducing new buildings into an historic environment</i> • <i>Role of well designed spaces and public realm in neighbourhood planning</i>
1.45	Exercise 2: Townscape analysis of an area of East Leake ~ introduced by Andy Beard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Groups will each examine the area of the village around the shopping centre and identify the positive and negative aspects of the townscape and landscape.</i> • <i>Plans provided of the centre of East Leake</i> • <i>Decide what is important about the area and its surroundings: context, character and pattern of development ie what it is like and why</i>
2.15	Return to Baptist Church and mark up analysis on plans
2.30	Ideas and strategies for the area studied <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Identify which bits are good and should be conserved</i> • <i>Identify which parts of the centre need change or improvement</i> • <i>Look for opportunities for improvements</i> • <i>How should new development fit in? Decide on the key design principles and how they will be translated into neighbourhood development plan principles</i> • <i>Think about the wider context too – getting about, access to facilities, relationships to rest of East Leake and beyond</i> • <i>Mark up ideas on plans</i>
3.15	Feedback of groups' work and discussion about the design challenges of the centre of East Leake ~ introduced by Andy Beard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the issues, opportunities and constraints for the village centre?</i> • <i>What issues were identified at the public consultation day?</i> • <i>What needs further investigation?</i>
3.45	Summing up ~ Chair, Conrad Oatey
4.00	Close