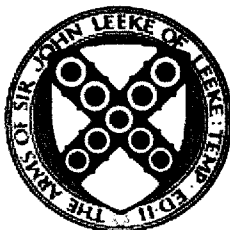


VITAL VILLAGES

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EAST
LEAKE
PARISH
COUNCIL



The
Countryside
Agency

THE PARISH PLAN

FOR THE PARISH OF EAST LEAKE



The Village Green, War Memorial and Sheepwash Brook

Published July 2004

FOREWORD

In November 2000 the Government's Rural White Paper *Our Countryside-The Future* launched the concept of parish and town plans whose purpose is to:

“set out a vision of what is important, how new development can best be fitted in, the design and quality standards it should meet, how to preserve valued local features and to map out the facilities which the community needs to safeguard for the future”.

The Countryside Agency (C.A.) administers the scheme through the Vital Villages initiative and grants of up to £5000 were available to fund the preparation of the Parish Plans.

Already being involved with the Vital Villages project, it was logical that East Leake should take this further and prepare a full plan. The Parish Plan represents the culmination of over twelve months work by the Steering Group and the community groups they have been working with.

This document represents a compilation of the views and desires of the residents of East Leake. A draft copy was made available to the traders, organisations and residents of East Leake at the end of 2003 for comment and correction, and these have been incorporated into the document.



Kingston Brook and Kestrel Bridge, Meadow Park

The Plan was adopted by East Leake Parish Council at its meeting on 27th April 2004. The Parish Council compiled the Action Plan that appears in the Appendix as a means of achieving the ‘future objectives’ identified by the Steering Group. The Parish Council will keep this under review to monitor progress on implementation.

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Parish Council Offices, Built in 1999

P A R I S H P L A N
FOR THE VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY OF
EAST LEAKE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

INTRODUCTION

Archeological evidence suggests there may have been settlements in this area as long ago as 3000BC, but it was during the period roughly 500–900AD that the Anglo-Saxons introduced the civil administrative structure still underlying the organisation of our towns and villages today. Under this system, self-sufficing farming communities were organised in groups of homesteads, with a central principal homestead belonging to a “lord”, which were arranged along a definable street structure. One such was the embryonic East Leake, and indeed the name “Leake” derives from the old English (i.e. Anglo-Saxon) word “Lecche/Leche” for a water meadow. By the time the Normans recorded the state of the nation (for tax purposes!) in the Domesday Book (1086), there were 28 persons in Leche liable to be taxed, as either landowners or tenants. Their dependants and people with no rights to land were not recorded, but the total population has been estimated at over 200.

The boundary of the parish had been formed by the start of the 12th century and was further consolidated under the 1798 Act of Enclosure, at which time the population was approximately 1000, with about 20% employed in agriculture. The 1851 census records a population of 1148, and, after a reduction at the start of the 20th century, this had risen to just 1500 by 1941.

During the Second World War a decision was made to expand East Leake. Since then its population has risen rapidly to its present level of 6108 (2001 census), of whom 4838 are listed on the 2003 Electoral Register for the village. For electoral purposes, the parish is divided into three wards, Stonebridge to the north, Woodgate to the west and Castle to the east

An important factor in the rapid expansion was the exploitation of local gypsum deposits and the establishment of the British Plaster Board plant in the village. The urgent need to house the extra workers required led to the construction of the Rushcliffe Estate of prefabricated houses. Further housing estates have developed since 1950, and no doubt there will be more in the future.

Today East Leake is one of the larger villages in South West Nottinghamshire and is a local centre providing facilities for nearby villages. Rural in nature, it sits in an area between the River Trent, the River Soar and an ancient roadway, still called The Fosse. It is situated between Nottingham, 10 miles (16 kms) to the North East, Derby, 16 miles (25.6 kms) to the North West, and Loughborough 6 miles (9.6 kms) to the South.

In the last 50 years East Leake has become a residential village, with most of the working population commuting to the cities and industrial parks close by. The largest local employer remains British Gypsum. Others who have been attracted to the village are members of staff

of the five universities in the area, Nottingham East Midlands Airport, Ratcliffe Power Station, The Inland Revenue and Natwest Bank. The village has also proved attractive to retired people, especially the parents of younger residents, but there remains a core of descendents of old village families.

The old local industries of farming, framework knitting and basket-making no longer provide significant employment. Mills' basket wares and British Plaster Board (now British Gypsum) have carried the name of East Leake to distant countries. In the past 50 years two significant new firms have started in East Leake; Ellis Rope and Tent Services (now relocated in Costock) making bell ropes to ring cathedral and church bells around the world, and Micropropagation Services (E.M.) Ltd producing roses and oak trees by a new method that has, for example, enabled clones of the Major Oak of Sherwood Forest to be planted in the World Peace Garden outside the United Nations Building in New York, USA.

With continuing population growth and the demands for further housing, it is inevitable that villages such as East Leake will have to expand further in the future. The country now has an aging population as people live much longer, and we are, in general, more sensitive to environmental issues. People's aspirations have changed and new pressures such as traffic congestion, pollution and the quality of public services have replaced widespread industrial disease and true poverty.

The purpose of this plan is to provide an acceptable blue print for managing that expansion.



Gotham Road Shops from the north

1. ENVIRONMENT

1.1. INTRODUCTION

In formulating this plan, consultations have taken place with Friends of Meadow Park, East Leake and District Local History Society, The Parish Paths Warden and Co-ordinator, The Town Lands Trust, and members of the Rushcliffe Conservation Areas Liaison Group. In addition, comments made by residents in the Parish Plan questionnaire have been considered.

This section considers the parish environment from a number of perspectives:

- The overall “feel” of the parish (its character)
- The built environment (the core of the parish, with its housing, shops, pavements etc)
- The natural environment (the part of the parish not built upon, the fields, footpaths trees, hedgerows, flowers, and other wildlife)
- Concern by the parish for the wider environment (use of natural resources).



The village green, memorial and parish church

1.2. THE PARISH ETHOS

Current Situation

East Leake has grown into a large village, but is still surrounded by pleasant rolling countryside. Whilst the shopping centre is modern in character, the Conservation Area around the village green preserves the “feel” of the old village, with a number of listed buildings and interesting features.

Future Objectives

To strive to retain the rural aspect of the parish by sympathetic consideration of all future development plans.

Recommendations

- To ensure that more features of our heritage are preserved by protecting and extending the Conservation Area(s) in the village. To share best practice with the Rushcliffe Conservation Areas Liaison Group and East Leake & District Local History Society.
- To identify existing green corridors and develop a parish policy to defend them within the built envelope of the village.
- To review the issues associated with Sheepwash Brook, and to enhance its character especially through the Conservation Area
- To enhance the visual impact of the village by developing floral displays near the road gateways to the village and continuing tree and bulb planting
- To consider entering the Best-kept Village Competition by 2008.
- Encourage more volunteer groups to help achieve our objectives

1.3 THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Current Situation

In general, the built part of the parish lacks character. Significant growth over the last 50 years has resulted in an assortment of building styles, especially along the main street. Influence on development is achieved through reactive response to planning applications through the Parish Council Planning Committee. Influence over service providers to the built environment (Borough, County Council, Severn Trent) is limited.

Future Objectives

To strive to retain the rural aspect of the parish by sympathetic consideration of all future development plans.

Recommendations

- To document and publish planning principles to improve the built environment in the medium term.
- To actively seek to influence remedial action in co-ordinating and prioritising essential pavement/road work.
- To protect the street scene by working to keep the intrusion of signs, poles and wires to a minimum.
- To seek appropriate lighting within all Conservation Areas
- To continue the provision of appropriate seating near all significant pedestrian routes through the village
- To develop and implement appropriate policies in support of the adoption of sewers within the village. To develop relationships with Severn Trent to achieve this.
- To understand the impact of surface water drainage on the Kingston Brook / Sheepwash Brook, and identify ways of mitigating this impact where possible

1.4 THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Current Situation

The land surrounding the village remains essentially agricultural. The majority is grazing land, with some arable crops. A well-supported network of footpaths has been documented and maintained. A large area of natural parkland (Meadow Park) has been established in recent years with the community group 'Friends of Meadow Park' working closely with Rushcliffe Borough Council on its development and maintenance.

Future Objectives

To develop policies to encourage environmental awareness and lead by example.

Recommendations

- To work towards the establishment of a nature reserve in Meadow Park and to promote it more actively.
- To work with Rushcliffe Borough Council to improve the environment within Meadow Park, with a view to it achieving at least the median point of public esteem of all parks in Rushcliffe by 2008.
- To support schemes which conserve and enhance biodiversity within the parish
- To recognise and protect Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation within the parish boundary.
- To develop working relationships with farms within the parish, to influence land management and hedgerow development and public understanding of agricultural practices.
- To build on the successful Parish Paths Partnership, providing wider publicity for local footpaths and replacing key stiles with kissing gates. To work with the County Council in seeking to establish at least two additional rights of way to link existing well used parts of the network.
- To document ownership of all key open spaces / verges, and seek ways to enhance their attractiveness
- To identify all trees important for their environmental impact, and seek preservation orders where appropriate.
- To work actively with RMC Materials Ltd on plans for the eventual restoration of the gravel extraction site to create a significant natural amenity for the community.

1.5 NATURAL RESOURCES

Current Situation

Particular attention has been paid to reduce the impact of litter on the community through provision of a good litter-picking service. Recycling levels within the village are the highest of any parish in Rushcliffe. Noise pollution from aircraft is being tackled through work with the Association of Airport Related Parish Councils.

Future Objectives

To develop policies to encourage environmental awareness and lead by example.

Recommendations

- To promote measures designed to increase the range and volume of finite resources sent for recycling.
- To support measures to encourage households and businesses to reduce energy consumption and the use of fossil fuels.
- To involve schools and other relevant bodies in tackling litter. To provide more litter bins where necessary, and enhance where possible existing litter picking arrangements.
- To support measures to reduce fly-tipping
- To work to reduce the level of noise pollution within the parish. This includes more rigorous monitoring and control of flight paths for aircraft. To work with Nottingham East Midlands Airport to consider the extension of the noise footprint to include East Leake.
- To demonstrate and support measures to reduce consumption of finite resources (e.g. peat).

2. HOUSING

2.1. INTRODUCTION

East Leake is in the Borough of Rushcliffe, which lies in the south of Nottinghamshire. The Borough covers an area of 157 square miles bounded by the River Trent to the north and the Leicestershire hills to the south. The village of East Leake lies in the South West of Rushcliffe. At the 2001 census the population of East Leake was 6108.

In compiling this report we have utilised the findings of the 2001 Housing Needs Survey of East Leake carried out by Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council, the South Nottinghamshire Affordable Housing Study 1998 (updated in 2001) Rushcliffe Borough Council Housing Needs Assessment (2000), Government Planning Guidelines and our own extensive consultations with local people and community groups.

2.2. CURRENT SITUATION

Currently there are 2435 properties in the Parish. The 2001 census shows that 10.6% belong to Rushcliffe Homes, and that a further 4.7% are private sector rental properties, leaving 84.6% owner occupied. The national average for owner occupancy is 68.9%.

Housing in East Leake has for many years been at a premium because the village possesses a wide range of local facilities, three excellent primary schools and a newly rebuilt (2003) comprehensive school. It also offers easy access to main arterial roads, the railway network and an international airport. The southern part of the village (Castle Ward) is compact, with very few open spaces within the built up area and is characterised by relatively low-density development, most of which are housing estates of semi-detached and detached properties. Within the west of the village (Woodgate Ward) there is a more modern development of detached houses. The northern part of the village (Stonebridge Ward) is composed of two different housing estate developments. East of Gotham Road the houses are semi-detached properties built along wide roads with a relatively low-density layout. West of the road, within the area bounded by the brook and the railway line, a new housing estate has been constructed of mainly detached properties.

2.2. FUTURE OBJECTIVES

The 2001 East Leake Housing Needs Survey confirmed the belief that the main shortcomings in terms of housing provision in the village were the lack of affordable houses for both single occupancy and young families (for rental or purchase), and small bungalows for older persons wishing to down-size.

The predominant needs are for 2 bedroom flats/maisonettes, 2 and 3 bedroom houses and 2 bedroom bungalows. The provision of affordable housing must reflect the perceived local needs.

(A) Affordable Housing

There is a complex formula for defining “Affordable”, but it is generally desirable to have a range of ‘affordable’ housing including rented, shared ownership and small market value that can cater for most income levels

- The South Nottinghamshire Affordable Housing Study concluded that, to meet base and future need, 24% of new dwellings built before 2011 would need to be “affordable”. Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC) considers that the distribution of base need indicates that 16.5% of new housing in the Borough should be affordable.
- The RBC Housing Needs Assessment (2000) arrived at a figure that equates to 13% of the Structure Plan housing requirement for Rushcliffe to 2011.
- In the light of these two studies, RBC considers that the provision of approx. 15% (the mean average) affordable housing should be sought.
-

(B). Older Person’s Accommodation

The South Notts. Housing Study predicted a rise in the number of older people requiring rehousing but also recognises the likelihood of the aspiration to remain in their own homes with the assistance of adaptation, Community Care programmes etc. The study emphasises the need for a “Lifetime Homes” standard and changing aspirations away from traditional sheltered housing schemes towards two bedroom bungalows.

2.3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- To strive to preserve the character of the village by ensuring future development is very carefully considered to make certain that it meets actual need and to prevent the expansion outside the village boundary.
- To ensure that the views of the residents of the village, in most cases expressed through the Parish Council, are heard in relation to all future development within the parish boundary.
- To strive to ensure that strict controls are built into the provision of affordable housing and older persons’ accommodation in order that they remain in perpetuity.
- To strive to identify small infill sites in the village and work with the Planning Authority on all housing issues.

It is appreciated that Rushcliffe Borough Council are the Planning Authority and that policy is set by Central Government

3. BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The main industry in East Leake has, for many years, been based on the mining of gypsum by BPB plc. This company remains the largest single employer within the village, although the majority of employees come from outside. Employment is also available locally in shops, medical services, farming, horticulture and, to a minor extent, light industry. In addition, an increasing number of people in the village are self-employed, either to provide services to the population or as specialist consultants.

The village is large enough to support a wide range of shops and services. Clearly, this is of value to inhabitants, particularly those without access to private transport, and also to customers from the surrounding smaller villages.

Many inhabitants commute to work outside East Leake, mainly to Loughborough, Nottingham, Leicester and Derby. These larger cities provide access to a wider range of shops, supermarkets and facilities. Good public transport links are available to Loughborough and Nottingham.

3.2 CURRENT SITUATION

The range of employment currently available to people in East Leake is listed in Table 1. It is significant that the number of businesses involved in manufacturing industry is small relative to that available in alternative areas of employment such as farming and service industries, namely medical, community and retail services. A major employer in the village, BPB plc, is, however, involved in manufacturing. A significant number of people are employed in community activities such as childcare, teaching, training and care for the elderly.

Facilities for small companies active in light engineering or technology-based industry are limited. Small industrial units are currently available on Station Road, but the location of this building in the centre of the village is not ideal for industrial use because current planning permission, for example, limits the use of machinery in these buildings.

3.3 FUTURE OBJECTIVES

The identification and subsequent development of a specific area for small industrial/business units is proposed to encourage the provision of employment in manufacturing and technology-based industry. Small industrial units are available for lease or rent in the neighbouring villages of Gotham, Costock, West Leake and Bunny, but facilities of this type are limited in East Leake. Small enterprises are often offshoots from university research. East Leake is strategically placed in this respect, being located within 15 miles of universities at Nottingham, Derby, Loughborough and Leicester. The village can also offer good access to road, rail and air communications. Provision of small industrial/business units (possibly including 'managed offices') would facilitate the establishment of small manufacturing and technology companies to broaden the base of employment opportunities in the village.

The availability of ever improving Internet communications is likely to result in an increasing number of people working from home. The rural atmosphere of East Leake makes the village attractive to such home-based workers.

Improvements to and expansion of the shopping facilities in the centre of the village should be encouraged. There is already a wide provision of retail outlets in the village. Further development should aim to maintain compatibility with the anticipated growth in population.

3.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- To encourage local employment, particularly in the services sector, with the aim of reducing the rate of growth in dormitory residence where people have to commute to work.
- To develop a facility for small industrial/business units on the edge of the village.
- To expand and improve the shopping facilities in the centre of the village
- To ensure close consultation with the East Leake Traders Association and other interested parties on all aspects of future retail developments in the village, including the provision of a range of retail outlets and the impact of shop frontages on the visual appeal of the village shops.



Main Street Shops from the East

Table 1: A Summary of Current Employment Opportunities in East Leake
(as on 1 January 2004)

Type of Employment	Description
1) Industry (a) Mining (b) Light Industry Station Road industrial units	Gypsum & gravel Electrical controls & lighting Textiles (i) Repair and hire of children's inflatables (ii) Interior refurbishment (iii) Electrical services (iv) Store and offices of retail property company
2) Farming	Mainly arable, some livestock Specialist farm services e.g. fence erection, farm supplies, animal feeds, livery for horses
3) Horticulture	Specialist cloning of plants
4) Retail Services	Wide range of services provided by small businesses within the village (see Table 2)
5) Medical Services	Doctors (2 practices) Dentist (2 practices) Pharmacy Optician Physiotherapist Residential care home Nursing care home Veterinary practice
6) Community Services i) Education ii) Personal iii) Leisure	Schools (x4) Children's nursery (x2) IT School (Learn Direct) Post Office Bed & breakfast Estate agent with bank agency Funeral directors Library Animal centre Bookmaker Golf club Leisure centre (with swimming pool)
7) Self Employed Tradesmen/Professionals, e.g.	Plumbers Electricians Painters/decorators Motor repairs & used car sales Builders Landscape gardeners Specialist scientific consultants Solicitor Architects Tree specialist

Table 2 : Retail Services Currently Available in East Leake
(as on 1 January 2004)

Supermarket
General store (Rushcliffe estate)
Baker/café (x2)
Butcher
DIY shop
Newsagent (x3; including Post Office & supermarket)
Greengrocer (x2)
Takeaway food outlets : Indian
Chinese (x2)
Fish & chips
Pizza (x2)

Charity shop
Off licence & video hire
Public Houses/restaurant (x3)
Flower & plant shop
Winter sport equipment
Beauty parlour
Hairdressers (male & female; x4)
Animal food/supplies

Specialist sports shop
Card shop

4. TRANSPORT

4.1 INTRODUCTION.

East Leake lies in the triangle formed by Nottingham to the north, Derby to the west and Leicester to the southeast. The village is 5 miles from the M1 motorway (junctions 23 and 24). The nearest rail passenger service is at Loughborough 5 miles to the south. The nearest airport is Nottingham East Midlands Airport at Castle Donington, 8 miles to the west.

Sources:

- Information in relation to bus routes was obtained from timetables produced by Nottinghamshire County Council and Soar Valley Bus Limited.
- Great Central Railway Trust provided information and opinion in relation to the future of both the Great Central Railway and the new Nottingham Rapid Transit system.
- Village appraisals undertaken in 1995 & 1999 proved a valuable source of public opinion and aspirations.
- A 'Future Needs Day' consultation exercise in 2000 provided information and opinion in relation to the aspirations of the community for future transport requirements.
- Department of Transport consultation paper "The Future Development of Air Transport in the UK: Midlands."

4.2 ROAD TRANSPORT

a) Current Situation

Public Transport.

Bus Services

Nottingham City Council (Transport Dept) runs an excellent bus service between Nottingham and Loughborough. The route through the village is via Gotham Road, Main Street, Kirk Ley Road and Rempstone Road. There are limited cross-country bus services to Sutton Bonington, Costock, Keyworth and Cotgrave. The main bus service to Nottingham is used by some commuters from outlying villages who park in the free car parks in East Leake and take the bus to Nottingham or Loughborough. The service to Loughborough is diverted once in the morning and once in the evening to the Loughborough endowed schools for the benefit of pupils attending those schools.

Private Transport.

Taxi Services

Taxi services are available in the village and there is also a mini bus service (capacity 16 passengers).

Private Cars.

Private car ownership is high and there are many 2-car households.

Electric (Disabled) Scooters.

An increasing number of the elderly have battery powered electric scooters, which can be driven on the pavements. All main roads have dropped kerbs at crossing points.

Bicycles

These are used mostly, but not exclusively, by the younger generation. As part of a "Safe Travel Plan" devised by Nottinghamshire County Council for Harry Carlton School, a cycle route through Meadow Park has been created. Application has been made for this route to be officially granted "Permissive" status.

b) Future Objectives.

- The protection of existing local bus services.
- The development of more cross-country bus routes to satellite villages as required
- The improvement of facilities in the way of safe crossing points in the central village area for pedestrians, electric scooter users and wheelchair & buggy users.
- The enforcement of existing speed restrictions (NB the Parish Council contributed in 2000 to the cost of a "police radar speed gun" for use in the South Notts area)
- The enforcement of existing parking restrictions and the imposition of parking restrictions at identified hazard points. Along with this, there is a need for more off-street parking in or near the village centre.
- Provision of a separate footbridge for pedestrian/electric scooters at Rushcliffe Halt. At present, people crossing here, including the many staff & visitors to Rushcliffe Nursing Home, are at risk.
- Provision of dedicated cycle lanes to accommodate the expected increase in this form of transport.

c) Recommendations

- To continue to liaise regularly with the County Council Highways Department over the provision of safety measures such as speed limits and parking restrictions.
- To promote good practice, by e.g. supporting the County Council School Travel Plan initiative.
- To identify, review and monitor particular problems, especially with regard to parking (nationally private car ownership is predicted to rise by 50% over the next 10-20 years and population growth in East Leake will inevitably increase demand for additional car parking)
- To continue to meet regularly with the Police through the ELPCG (East Leake Policing Consultation Group) to discuss road safety matters. (ELPCG is a body set up by the Parish Council with wide spread representation from all interested and relevant sections of the community)
- To provide more car parking facility in the village centre.

4.3 RAIL TRANSPORT.

a) Current situation.

The Great Central Railway line is still in working order and has a connection to the Midland Mainline at Loughborough. To the north, however, the line to Nottingham is incomplete. The rail link to Loughborough is currently used for delivering power station residue to the British Gypsum plasterboard factory adjacent to Rushcliffe Halt.

Phase 1 of the new Nottingham rapid tram system (NET) was commissioned in March 2004 and proposals for phase 2 include an extension to Clifton.

Leisure train services operate through the summer season between Ruddington Country Park (former Royal Ordnance depot) and Rushcliffe Halt. Plans exist to extend this to Loughborough under the aegis of the Great Central Railway Trust.

b) Future Objectives.

- The development of a regular passenger service between Ruddington and Loughborough, provided that this is justified by passenger demand.
- The restoration of a line through to Nottingham from East Leake to accommodate a rapid transit as part of the NET system including the provision of a new station in the village would need to be addressed (the former station being no longer viable).

c) Recommendations

- To monitor and keep informed of any developments towards the above.
- To participate in any appropriate joint planning exercise.

4.4 AIR TRANSPORT.

a) Current situation.

Nottingham East Midlands Airport (NEMA) contributes significantly to the UK's national and international air transport network. The facilities at this airport have expanded in recent years and there is heavy freight usage (with attendant noise disturbance, especially at night):

1991	8,000 tons
2000	179,000 tons
2002	234,000 tons

Recently there has been a major increase in low cost passenger services with a corresponding increase, especially in the number of night flights:

1991	1,145,000 passengers
2000	2,227,000 passengers
2002	3,238,000 passengers

AARPC (Association of Airport Related Parish Councils) represents some 40 local Parish Councils and meets every 2 months for the purpose of monitoring airport activity. It is particularly concerned with issues such as pollution and excessive noise disturbance. AARPC has representation on an Airport Forum together with local District and County Councils. NEMA has drawn up a 10-point plan to mitigate any harmful effects the airport may have on local communities. East Leake Parish Council has 2 representatives on AARPC.

b) Future Objectives.

- To monitor further development of NEMA (the Government Consultation Document entitled The Future of Airport Development 2000 – 2030 has already ruled out a second runway here)
- To achieve a reduction of night flying, especially with regard to the noisier freight traffic
- To reduce noise disturbance through e.g. (i) the use of quieter aircraft and (ii) stricter adherence to prescribed flight paths.

- To press for designation of Nottingham East Midlands Airport – i.e. to be regulated by Central Government rather than local consultation as at present.

c) **Recommendations**

- To continue to support AARPC in its stated objectives.
- To make representations to the relevant authority for the imposition of night flight quotas at EMA (NB this is the **only** international airport in England with **no** quota for night flying)
- To press for designation of the airport.

5. COMMUNITY SERVICES

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This section embraces many agencies whose activities we draw on in our daily lives. They may work in a voluntary, statutory or commercial capacity, and are frequently difficult to define, or even identify precisely. Under each heading, after a brief factual explanation if necessary, there is

- An assessment of the present state of affairs,
- An opinion of what future development is desirable and, drawing on these,
- A view of what the Parish Council's medium- to long-term policy on the issue should be.

Groups whose opinions form the substance of what follows are listed at the end: they comprise some who were consulted at the outset, and others who made significant additions or amendments when the first draft was published. Reference is also made to the Village Appraisals of 1995 and 1999, and a short Survey conducted in 2003.

5.2 HEALTH CARE

Present provision: NHS general practice (2), NHS/private dentist (2), NHS/private optician, private physiotherapist, NHS/commercial pharmacist, and NHS/private chiropodist

a) Current Situation

Services are generally respected and regarded as reliable. There is concern about the state and adequacy of the present Health Centre premises, which inhibit positive health promotion initiatives. Comment was made that the new school and Leisure Centre premises serve to highlight the inadequacies of the Health Centre/Library complex. There is also concern that a lack of local public transport may be keeping some patients away, to the disadvantage of outlying areas.

b) Future Objectives

There is anxiety that services will not be able to cope

- With population increase (new housing development) & higher life expectancy
- With higher patient expectations & improving technologies

The prospect of a new Health Centre building is very welcome, and seen as an opportunity to

- Have all statutory primary medical services under one roof.
- Offer an increased range of services (e.g. more tests & minor surgery so that patients do not have to travel to hospital)
- Undertake more health promotion, especially in conjunction with the new Leisure Centre.
- Accommodate other agencies on site (e.g. Social Services)

c) Recommendations

- To support all efforts to acquire new and better Health Centre premises (NB East Leake is in line for a replacement building, possibly within the next three-four years, under a government scheme called "LIFT").

- To continue Parish Council liaison with other authorities and campaign where necessary for more equitable input to the rural scene.
- To be vigilant as to the maintenance of all NHS services.

5.3 THE UNDER-FIVES

Present provision: STATUTORY: (i) LEA nursery unit sited at Lantern Lane School, (ii) 4 plus unit at Brookside School.

INDEPENDENT: Arley House (PNEU – part of the Parents National Educational Union group of schools) – nursery school education for 3-5 year olds.

VOLUNTARY: (i) Playgroup and (ii) Toddlers Group at the Village Hall, (iii) Parent & Toddlers Group and (iv) Twins & Multiple Birth Club at Brookside School, (v) Acorns (St Mary's Church)

COMMERCIAL: Honey Bee and Manor Farm Nurseries

a) Current Situation

The variety and choice are appreciated, but there is perceived to be excessive competition between the sectors. Those working in voluntary organisations sometimes feel they do not get enough public recognition and support.

b) Future Objectives

People would like to see more co-operation between organisations, e.g. combined publicity.

c) Recommendations

- To press for proper funding to be maintained across all sectors (especially as population increases)
- To actively support and encourage the voluntary sector.

5.4 EDUCATION

Present provision: PRIMARY: Lantern Lane County Primary & Brookside County Primary (LEA), Arley House, PNEU (independent)

SECONDARY: Harry Carlton Comprehensive School

a) Current Situation

There is almost universal satisfaction at the primary level, but people are not happy at the competitive relationship between the two LEA schools, engendered by the current climate of league tables and SATS testing, together with parental choice legislation. There is also general approval for Harry Carlton's performance, especially academically, tempered a little by reservations about discipline (NB recent changes have addressed this issue). In spite of the existence of both formal and informal channels of communication, some say that real information is not easily accessed and that they have to rely on anecdote. The new buildings at Lantern Lane & Harry Carlton are much appreciated, but anxiety is felt that Brookside may suffer by comparison.

b) Future Objectives

Existing co-operative relations between the two LEA primary schools should be better publicised. People are anxious that the fabric of Brookside should be upgraded as

necessary to ensure parity with Lantern Lane, and also to see that the catchment areas of the two LEA primary schools are fairly distributed (after review and through mutual agreement with the schools).

c) Recommendations

- To continue support and to press where needed to ensure funding levels are maintained.
- To develop partnership activities with the secondary school, e.g. Youth Parish Council.
- To seek ways to exploit the community advantage of the new school premises.
- To liaise where possible regarding out of school activities to ensure good relations between students and the general public.

5.5 PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

1995 Village Appraisal remarked on the lack of facilities for youngsters.

1999 Appraisal - 59.1% said Parish Council should work at improving provision.

Present provision: Active uniformed organisations (Scouts, Guides & their junior branches)
A number of church-led groups
County Council sponsored Youth Club (closed since September 2002)

a) Current Situation

In spite of good sports facilities, especially at the new Leisure Centre (expensive), and high approval for Scouts & Guides and the church groups, there is general dismay at the lack of provision for young people in the village, especially for 12-16 year olds. Difficulty in attracting adult volunteer help demonstrates a negative attitude within the village, which perpetuates the shortage of provision.

b) Future Objectives

The unanimous view of the respondents is that the village needs a purpose-built Youth Club staffed by properly trained personnel, and that the local authorities (especially the County Council) should accept the funding implications of this. Sites near the village centre or within the Leisure Centre complex have been suggested. The previous location of the Youth Club in shared premises at the Costock Road Playing Field site was inappropriate, both practically and psychologically. Some respondents suggested that a dedicated Youth Club could be provided within a multi-functional community centre catering for all ages.

More imaginative initiatives are needed, including a cyber café/social club, music, drama and the arts.

Better leisure/sports facilities now in place should be exploited to improve the health and attitudes of young people, so as to break the cycle of anti-social behaviour. It is realised that young people themselves should have more of a say – perhaps through a Youth Forum/Assembly.

c) Recommendations

- To support all local efforts and promote co-operation between existing groups, with the Parish Council taking the initiative as facilitator where appropriate.
- To press Nottinghamshire County Council for proper provision.

- To participate in providing facilities, e.g. youth café, Youth Club, development of the park and play areas – which should include shared funding, if necessary.

5.6 PROVISION FOR THE ELDERLY

1999 Appraisal – 56.9% said Parish Council should work at improving provision.

Present provision: Voluntary sector and church groups, with some County Council funding. NHS support for over 75s.

a) Current Situation

Voluntary effort through the churches, EL Community Care Association and Evergreens Club is strong, but statutory provision is meagre. The County Council Social Services Department is perceived as neglecting rural communities, and there is a lack of information as to how to obtain what services there are.

Rushcliffe Nursing Home caters for the frailest in the community (this is subject to temporary closure from May 2004).

Residential home facilities for the semi-dependent are limited to about 20 places at Derbyshire House. This is a disproportionately low level of care support for a population the size of East Leake. There is sheltered housing under the jurisdiction of Rushcliffe Homes (formerly part of Rushcliffe Borough Council's housing stock) at Tutin Court (flats) and Holme Avenue, Weavers Close and Meeting House Close (bungalows).

b) Future Objectives

There is a need for more co-ordination through multi-agency partnerships, with better publicity. A defined information point should be set up (Health Centre or Library) with easily accessible data about all available facilities.

More activities would be possible if there were a proper community centre, capable of flexible usage.

With an increasing elderly population, more residential or warden-aided accommodation is needed within the village.

The infrastructure needs attention: uneven pavements, poor street lighting (e.g. The Nook). More bus services would help, but only if "easy access" buses are brought in.

c) Recommendations

- To press for proper support services to maintain elderly residents in their own homes
- (In parallel with the above) to press for an adequate proportion of one-bedroomed and/or sheltered housing whenever planning opportunities arise.
- To liaise with Nottinghamshire County Council over, for example, the state of pavements and bus services
- To press for fairer distribution of Social Service funding in rural areas.

5.7 SHOPPING

1999 Appraisal – 42.5% "concerned for the future" with regard to local shops.

2003 Survey – 43% use local shops on a regular basis.

a) Current Situation

Perspectives vary as to the adequacy & variety of local shops. There are significant gaps for those without easy access to a car (clothing, shoes, conventional bank). The Post Office and Co-op are singled out for approval, but the Co-op is seen as a threat to smaller businesses and risks becoming complacent.

Opening hours are an issue for some people, and the down-at-heel appearance of some shops is thought to have an adverse effect, by lessening respect for the environment.

b) Future Objectives

Local residents must be encouraged to support local businesses as much as possible. Shopkeepers and/or shop owners should be persuaded to take more responsibility for the appearance of their property. The village centre, especially, needs a “face-lift”.

There should be a campaign for a differential reduction in business rate for smaller businesses.

c) Recommendations

- To encourage residents to use local shops
- To liaise with the traders over issues such as better lighting and security.
- To take steps to effect better maintenance of the shopping area by (a) encouraging shopkeepers/owners through constructive partnership where appropriate, and (b) supporting relevant authorities like the Borough Council.

5.8 THE LIBRARY

a) Current Situation

Even in the 21st century, a library is still regarded as an important community amenity. People appreciate the level of service, including IT availability, provided by the East Leake staff, but deplore the premises they work in. The range of reading matter is felt by some to be limited; more academic material would be appreciated. Longer opening hours would be appreciated (NB – extended opening in operation as from April 2004).

b) Future Objectives

The prospect of a new building is very welcome (in conjunction with the proposed redevelopment under the “LIFT” programme – see Section 5.2, Health Care), but people are concerned that it should:

- Be big enough for the increasing population.
- Keep pace with new technologies (e.g. IT developments) and meet wider reading needs.
- Be child-friendly

c) Recommendations

- To support plans for new premises.
- To continue regular liaison with library staff, and be vigilant, especially in ensuring funding levels are maintained.

5.9 VILLAGE HALL – see also Environment Section 6.6

a) Current Situation

The Village Hall is run as a charitable trust, with its own management committee. It is seen as a good community resource, but badly in need of repair and a poor advertisement for the village. People are aware it is costly to run, and are surprised it is not publicly funded. Several respondents think the Parish Council should take it over.

b) Future objectives

It needs to be on a better financial footing to cope with modern requirements. It must be repaired/improved to attract users for the future.

Longer term, consideration should be given to the management structure – is its present charitable status the best formula?



The Village Hal, built 1935, plus modern extension

c) Recommendations

- To establish a more pro-active relationship between the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee.
- To support funding bid for a major renovation project.

5.10 POLICING

1995 Appraisal – satisfied with the policing in the village? Yes-272 No-648.

1999 Appraisal – 72.1% listed “Crime & Public safety” as a concern for the future.

2003 Survey – 80% felt that police coverage “is poor”

Present provision: fluctuates considerably.

a) Current Situation

Approval rating in 2003 and 2004 is almost zero. Complaints range from the unchecked anti-social behaviour of a minority to serious criminal damage, and potentially dangerous bad parking habits. There is a belief that the police are just not available.

b) Future Objectives

- There is a perceived need for more dedicated community policing in the village.
- We need more money for crime prevention, e.g. CCTV near shops and other “hot spots”.
- The schools’ liaison officer is a key figure for crime prevention, and should not be withdrawn “for operational reasons”.

c) Recommendations

- To continue liaison with the police directly, or indirectly through East Leake Policing Consultation Group (ELPCG).
- To be prepared to demand a better service, by approaches to the highest levels possible, repeated as frequently as necessary.
- To encourage public participation e.g. with volunteering.

5.11 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

a) Current Situation

Views were somewhat mixed, and people complained of a lack of information/promotion. It was felt that volunteers are difficult to attract. The scheme is hard to sustain, which results in very patchy coverage, in less than 40% of the village.

b) Future Objectives

To extend the scheme across the whole village (including the centre). This would need a recruitment drive to inform people of just what is involved and to define responsibilities. The police should accept the financial implications of such a campaign.

c) Recommendations

- To continue support, e.g. by offering office facility.
- To help with advertising and publicity.

5.12 CHURCHES

East Leake has:	St Mary's Parish Church	Methodist Church
	Roman Catholic Church	Baptist Church
	Evangelical Church	Spiritualist Church

a) Current Situation

People are well provided for, and there is good inter-denominational co-operation in the "Churches Together" group.

St Mary's, as the Parish Church, is regarded differently because of its historic (and visual) importance.

b) Future Objectives

More presentational effort when initiating/running activities for the benefit of the community at large (as opposed to their theological role towards their own congregations) would make the churches seem more relevant to the general public.

c) Recommendations

- To support church community initiatives, e.g. youth groups.
- To continue to recognise the special significance of St Mary's Church.

5.13 PARISH COUNCIL

1995 Appraisal preference: The Parish Council should (a) keep the precept low? - 187 (b) provide local services? - 689.

a) Current Situation

Views are mixed, but recent modernisation is approved, also better accountability. There is concern that Parish Council powers are so limited, with too much dependence on the senior authorities, especially Rushcliffe Borough Council.

b) Future Objectives

People would like to see more pro-active Parish Council, promoting projects for the whole spectrum of the population, and they would like the Parish Council to have more power and responsibility.

It is accepted, however, that the Parish Council's principal power is that of persuasion. Therefore, liaison with other authorities is the key to progress, and by the same token liaison with groups inside the village is seen as important. Some voluntary groups felt

that historically the Parish Council has not been willing to engage with them, and would like more supportive inter-action.

A number of people suggested co-opting "Youth Delegates" to bring a different perspective, especially in relation to youth issues.

Road safety issues urgently need addressing, including a campaign for a zebra crossing. Areas of most concern, where residents most want action, are: the condition of roads and pavements, un-coordinated bus services and law and order. (NB These are examples of local service delivery, which are not in the Parish Council's remit or power)

c) Recommendations

- To further develop current liaison with Nottinghamshire County Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council, in particular with regard to road safety measures of all kinds.
- To actively pursue opportunities for devolved powers wherever they arise, including the use of direct labour for routine maintenance.
- To develop positive relationships with major village organisations.

5.14 DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION/COMMUNICATIONS

1995 Appraisal – majority felt Parish Council publicity was poor (NB Parish Council Newsletters were a direct response to this).

2003 Survey – strong majority felt that communications within the village are now good, with information being picked up from Newsletters, notice boards, Elcid website and local free newspapers

Present provision: Parish Council notice boards & Newsletter, Elcid website, EL Times, Community Care Village Round-up, local press.

a) Current Situation

Parish Council Newsletters are appreciated, and the website is increasingly visited.

b) Future Objectives

Some suggested a more co-ordinated approach would be helpful.

Perhaps the Parish Council could act as a central organisation for public information delivery.

The Newsletter could be opened up to other services (e.g. library) or even local businesses.

Access to the Parish Office is appreciated; it would be even better if it were open say one afternoon or evening per week.

c) Recommendations

- To consider formally setting up the Parish Council as a co-ordinator for other agencies to use.
- To improve publicity for information already in the public domain.

Contributing Groups

Brookside School
EL Community Care Association
EL Playgroup committee/helpers
EL Women's Institute
Guiders' Committee
Harry Carlton School
Health Centre staff
Lantern Lane School
Library staff
Neighbourhood Watch
PNEU School
Scouts Leaders Committee
Village Hall Committee
Youth Club

6. RECREATION

6.1 INTRODUCTION.

The Parish has quite a good range of recreational facilities, especially since the new swimming pool and leisure centre opened in August 2003. However there are improvements and additions foreseen for the future which need to be built into the overall Parish Plan as detailed below. Additional facilities for young people are particularly important, as there is a widely held belief that they would attract them away from mischief and vandalism.

6.2 GOTHAM ROAD RECREATION GROUND.

The whole area is owned by Rushcliffe Borough Council and run by the Parish Council under a delegation agreement.

i). YOUNG CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA:

a) Current Situation:

The area is equipped with swings, roundabout, see-saw, and a multi-play activity unit with slide and the facilities are well utilised every day. All equipment has rubber matting floors to minimise fall injuries and complies with the relevant safety standards. It is inspected weekly by the parish clerk who keeps a report book scrutinised by the Parish Council Amenities Committee, and it is also inspected annually by RoSPA. The area is fenced off and secure against young children running off. Vandalism and abuse of the equipment by older children causes safety and maintenance problems.

b) Future Objectives:

- To increase the variety of play equipment to maintain children's interest.
- To replace older equipment to keep pace with improving safety standards and to meet the demands of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)

c) Recommendations:

- To consult current users on the choice of new additional and replacement equipment, and look at other play facilities in the area.
- To ensure that all new equipment chosen will be safe, easy to maintain and strong enough to resist abuse and vandalism.
- To formulate a playground development plan with priorities and costs.
- The Parish Council should set up a rolling fund to finance the playground improvements and investigate the availability of grants.



The playground on Gotham Road recreation ground

ii). OLDER CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA:

a) Current Situation:

This area is equipped with swings, a multiplay activity unit, a "teenage village" meeting point and a basketball pitch. There is a football kick board and two five-a-side football movable goals. The facilities are quite well used, except the basketball pitch which is occasionally used by individuals for practice but never for match play. The safety check regime for all the equipment is the same as those in place for the young children's play area.

b) Future Objectives:

- To increase the variety and challenge of play equipment to maintain young people's interest.
- To replace older equipment to keep pace with improving safety standards and to meet the demands of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)
- To encourage more use of the basketball pitch.

c) Recommendations:

- To consult current users on the choice of new additional and replacement equipment, and look at other play facilities in the area.
- To ensure that all new equipment chosen will be safe, easy to maintain and strong enough to resist abuse and vandalism.
- To draw up a playground development plan with priorities and costs.
- To ask the Parish Council to set up a rolling fund to finance the playground improvements and investigate the availability of grants.
- To modify the basketball pitch area to include a 5-a-side football pitch, and publicise the availability of the basketball pitch at the leisure centre and Harry Carlton School.
- To assist with the provision of a wheeled sports park (skateboard and BMX bike tracks) and help to raise funding in addition to the £6,000 "seed" capital reserved for this by the Parish Council.

iii). RECREATION FIELD OPEN AREA:

a) Current Situation:

This is used for galas, field events, and a visiting fairground. The access track next to the young children's play area has been improved to resist rutting when wet. There are two public bench seats which have now been moved away from nearby residences to reduce noise from the young people who use them. The fencing by Sheepwash Brook is in poor condition

b) Future Objectives:

- To minimize the disturbance to local residents by activities in the field.
- To improve the general appearance of the area's borders.

c) Recommendations:

- To replace fencing around Sheepwash Brook new bridge and along part of the western boundary.
- To plant trees and bushes by De Ferrers Close garages to plug the large gaps left by engineering works, but leaving a small gap to walk through.
- To consider provision of another covered meeting place like the "teenage village" in a suitable location if there is a justifiable demand for it
- To remove the unsightly post and rail fence dividing this area from the playground area.

iv). BOWLS CLUB:

a) Current Situation:

This is a thriving club with 55 members, a clubhouse and 6 rinks, all fenced off for security. It is open to the public.

b) Future Objective:

Ensure that the club flourishes and continues to provide a popular recreational facility for all residents.

c) Recommendations:

- To support the Club in their wish to extend the building and improve facilities.
- To encourage the public to use the bowling green and become members.

6.3 OLDERSHAW TRUST PLAYING FIELD.

a) Current Situation:

The playing field is held in trust and run by the Parish Council. There are two five-a-side football fixed goals, a ball practice device, a swing, and a picnic table and bench. The fence at the North end is in a poor state of repair and a football sometimes goes into the adjacent field. . It is well used by a relatively small number of older children.

b) Future Objective:

Ensure that the area remains a safe place for play without disturbing local residents.

c) Recommendations:

- To install nets both sides of the north end goal to stop balls going into the adjacent field.
- To put wire mesh on the Costock Road fencing to stop balls going into the roadway.
- To consult users and local residents on future improvements.

6.4 COSTOCK ROAD PLAYING FIELDS.

a) Current Situation:

East Leake Playing Fields Charity (ELPFC) is responsible for managing the facilities at Costock Road. Five acres are owned by ELPFC and 11 acres are leased from the Parish Council. There are 3 senior, 1 junior and 1 mini football pitches, 2 rugby and 1 cricket pitch, 1 cricket net and 1 floodlit training area available. There is a modern building with changing rooms and showers and an older pavilion with changing rooms and a function area which was used by the youth club until it closed. The car parking facilities often prove inadequate, causing visitors to park on the fast and dangerous Costock Road. The remoteness of the site gives rise to a security problem, particularly at the older pavilion which suffers from frequent break-ins and damage.

b) Future Objectives:

- Provide more modern and secure changing facilities for all playing field users.
- Provide a moderately sized recreation/function room for the sports facility users only.
- Increase parking provision.
- Improve security.

c) Recommendations:

- To replace the old pavilion with a modern, more secure structure for sports support only. This should be built adjacent to and blend in with the existing modern building, releasing some extra parking space when the old pavilion is demolished. Seek grants for funding in addition to the £10,000 “seed” capital reserved for this by the Parish Council.
- To move the youth club facility to a more central position in the village.
- To consider purchase/lease of land opposite to provide an overspill car park.

6.5 LEISURE CENTRE.

a) Current Situation:

This new and extensive facility is privately owned by Mc Alpine through a PFI agreement and operated by Stiel, one of its subsidiary companies. It has a large hall suitable for badminton, volleyball and basketball and a smaller hall suitable for gymnastics and martial arts activities. It also has a 4-lane swimming pool with a children's splash pool and vending area. There is a new very well equipped fitness suite and another room for exercise and dance. Outside, there is a floodlit Astroturf football pitch, a multi-purpose sports area and 4 tennis courts.

b) Future Objectives:

- Encourage both local residents and those from surrounding villages to take full advantage of the facilities offered and to form clubs for sports training and competition.
- Permit parents to watch swimming lessons and water sports etc. from a seated viewing area.

c) Recommendations:

The Leisure management should:

- Publicise the excellent facilities that are now available.
- Encourage formation of various sports clubs to take advantage of the facilities and run team events, individual events and training sessions.
- Provide a spectator area with seats overlooking the pool, preferably with a small café attached.
- Proactively encourage races and galas, both for the benefit of users and to improve membership and income.
- Encourage the development of a range of sports activities which can utilise the wide range of facilities available and publicize them to attract more custom.
- Extend reserved pool times for specific groups such as pensioners.

6.6 VILLAGE HALL.

a) Current Situation:

The hall is owned and run by the East Leake Village Hall Charity Trust. The building has a large room with a stage and a bar area, a smaller meeting room, a kitchen area, a toilet block and some store rooms. The main hall is well utilised and it is sometimes difficult to fit in new activities, whereas the small room at the back is under-utilised, mainly due to its size. Various recreational events are run in the village hall e.g. line dancing, dances and discos, swing into shape, martial arts, plays by ELAPS (local amateur dramatic society) etc. The hall is also used for medium sized public meetings, jumble sales, shoe sales and other commercial or semi commercial events, wedding parties etc. Vandalism is a problem.

b) Future Objectives:

- To improve, modernise and make more secure the existing facilities and increase the space available to provide more letting scope and sufficient income to maintain the hall as self sufficient.
- Widen the scope of cultural activities by staging art exhibitions, film screenings, concerts and plays etc arranged by the Borough Council Arts department for various villages in Rushcliffe.

c) Recommendations:

- To draw up a development plan with priorities and costs for both refurbishing the existing facilities and extending the building at the back to give a larger room with more letting potential. Apply for funding to finance these plans.
- To consider the market demand and competition for an improved, extended village hall and price accordingly. Possible new markets are an evening drop-in centre/café/cyber café for

young people (to meet a strong demand highlighted by recent surveys), accommodation for the youth club, a daytime care centre for the elderly and artistic/cultural activities.

6.7 MEADOW PARK.

a) Current Situation:

The Park is owned and maintained by Rushcliffe Borough Council. It comprises 11 hectares (25 acres) of flood plain meadowland with Kingston Brook running through the middle and Sheepwash Brook running along the southern part of the eastern boundary. There are various formal and informal paths with 3 bridges. A "Friends of Meadow Park" group has been formed to develop and improve the park. A grass-cutting programme is agreed with RBC to encourage growth of wild fauna and flora. A millstone sculpture has been installed at the Manor Farm Meadow entrance and new fencing will blend this into the replacement Sheepwash Brook bridge and railings recently installed between the Park and the recreation ground.

b) Future Objective:

To develop most of the park to the west of Kingfisher Walk as an accessible nature reserve with wild flower meadows, the remainder being given over to recreation and functional use as surfaced pathways.

c) Recommendations:

- To tarmac the path from Kingfisher Walk to Stonebridge Drive junction and consider re-aligning its Gotham Rd exit away from the bus stop and busy Stonebridge Drive junction. This path is heavily used by school children and the work required should be undertaken as part of the "School Travel Plan"
- To designate areas of the park as nature reserve.
- To develop a plaza around the millstone sculpture with a map and information boards on the flora and fauna using data from surveys. Install some new fencing in this area to blend into the surroundings by the sculpture and new bridge.
- To develop a wetlands area.
- To improve ground surface levels on the kick-about area.
- To ensure agreed cutting regimes are carried out, possibly by allowing the Parish council to take over maintenance from the Borough Council, together with the appropriate funding.

6.8 PATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS.

a) Current Situation:

There are several around the area, some of them not so well known, marked or used. Most are on private land but all come under the jurisdiction of Nottinghamshire County Council through the Parish Paths Partnership or "3 Ps". There is a leaflet with a map showing 9 footpath walks plus a long, circular "challenge" walk within the local area. Several stiles, crossing points and signposting have been improved.

b) Future Objective:

To broaden the scope for walkers and encourage walking as a healthy recreation.

c) Recommendations:

- To develop new footpaths and bridleways as the new Countryside Act comes into force.
- To upgrade Sheep Plank Lane to an all weather walkway using raised walk boards where always wet and muddy.
- To raise the levels of the stone paths, where necessary, within Meadow Park to improve drainage and to improve the surface for the comfort of walkers.
- To publish the walks described in East Leake Times as a handy booklet.

- To update the walk map and encourage walking for health.
- To continue to improve stiles, crossing points and signposting.

6.9 GOLF CLUB.

There is an excellent private 18 hole golf course at Rushcliffe for use by members and guests.

6.10 OTHER LEISURE ACTIVITIES.

a) Current Situation:

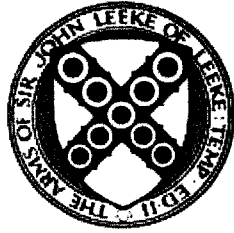
Some sports and leisure facilities are not currently available locally e.g. Squash, Angling, Chess club etc. and are not referred to in future plans above. However, they may be worthy of recommendation if the demand warrants the cost of provision.

b) Future Objective:

To widen the scope of local recreational activities

c) Recommendation:

To conduct surveys to gauge demand for a particular recreational pursuit and whether or not there is a strong enough case for competing against existing facilities elsewhere.



EAST
LEAKE
PARISH
COUNCIL

APPENDIX

THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN

THE ACTION PLAN

DRAWN UP BY EAST LEAKE PARISH COUNCIL

TO IMPLEMENT THE

PARISH PLAN

**THE *ACTION PLAN* DEFINES SPECIFIC ACTIONS FOR WHICH THE PARISH
COUNCIL IS RESPONSIBLE.**

**THIS MAY CHANGE ACCORDING TO THE CURRENT AND FUTURE
PRIORITIES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

***THE COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL WILL DRAW UP SPECIFIC PLANS TO
IMPLEMENT THE POLICIES AND DEVELOP THE NECESSARY LIAISON
WITH OUTSIDE BODIES TO TAKE FORWARD THOSE POLICIES OVER
WHICH THEY HAVE NO DIRECT CONTROL***

THE PARISH PLAN ACTION PLAN

1. ENVIRONMENT

Policy E1

The Parish Council will have an environmental policy that will:

1. Meet the requirements of government policy.
2. Establish a framework for setting and reviewing environmental objectives, to achieve continuous improvements in our environment.
3. Work closely with local stakeholders on all relevant environmental management issues.
4. Work with suppliers and contractors to ensure that their environmental practices are in accord with our own.
5. Involve councillors, staff and volunteers in the promotion and awareness of the council's environmental outlook, through environmental awareness, training and guidance.
6. Encourage biodiversity within landholdings by appropriate land management techniques and environmental initiatives.
7. Prevent pollution (including light and noise), reduce waste and encourage conservation of resources.

ONGOING

Policy E2

The Parish Council will:

1. Continue to support the aims and work of Friends of Meadow Park
2. Recognise and protect sites of importance for nature conservation (SINC) within the parish boundary
3. Give a high priority to the protection of hedgerows in any scheme to change land use.

ONGOING

Policy E3

The Parish Council will:

1. Review and promote schemes which will improve the safety and aesthetic quality of pavements and verges.
2. Support protection of the street scene by working to keep the intrusion of signs, poles and wires to a minimum.

ONGOING

Policy E4

The Parish Council will:

1. Monitor the operations of East Leake quarry, to ensure compliance with the conditions applied to its operation, and minimise effects on the environment.
2. When extraction ceases, place a high priority on ensuring that the site is landscaped, and made available for recreation purposes.

ONGOING

Policy E5

The Parish Council will:

1. Continue to support protection of the special environment of the Conservation Area, whilst being mindful of the need to allow residents to enhance their living standards.

ONGOING

2. Work with the East Leake and District Local History Society to identify areas of the village worthy of inclusion within the Conservation Area and apply for such recognition from the planning authority.

ONGOING

2. HOUSING**Policy H1**

The Parish Council will strive to preserve the character of the village by ensuring future development is very carefully considered to make certain that it meets actual need and to prevent expansion outside the village envelope.

ONGOING

Policy H2

The Parish Council will ensure that the views of the residents of the village be heard in relation to all future development within the parish envelope.

ONGOING

Policy H3

The Parish Council will strive to ensure that strict controls are built into the provision of affordable housing, with the objective of achieving a minimum of 15% in all new developments.

ONGOING

Policy H4

The Parish Council will strive to encourage provision and protection of dedicated accommodation for older persons.

ONGOING

Policy H5

The Parish Council will work with the Planning Authority on all housing issues (including identifying small infill sites).

ONGOING

3. BUSINESS and EMPLOYMENT

Policy BE1

The Parish Council will develop contacts with employers and self-employed residents operating in the parish and surrounding areas.

ONGOING

Policy BE2

The Parish Council will encourage strategic thinking on future employment opportunities for the village residents, including the future development of a facility for small industrial/business units.

ONGOING

Policy BE3

The Parish Council will encourage the development of improved shopping facilities in the centre of the village

ONGOING

4. TRANSPORT

Policy T1

The Parish Council will continue to:

1. Liaise regularly with Notts CC Highways Department over the provision of road safety measures, such as speed limits and parking restrictions.
2. Meet regularly with the Police through East Leake Police Consultation Group (ELPCG) to discuss road safety matters.
3. Provide more car parking facilities in the centre of the village as demand increases.
4. Support good practice, e.g. by supporting the County Council School Travel Plan.
5. Identify and monitor the changing needs of the community in relation to increased use of road transport, e.g. facilities for increased use of disabled persons' transport.

ONGOING

Policy T2

The Parish Council will:

1. Promote the Nottinghamshire rapid tram system (NET) and, if feasible, support an extension from Nottingham to East Leake.
2. Monitor the need for the restoration of a rail link to Leicester via Loughborough.

ONGOING

Policy T3

The Parish Council will:

1. Continue to support The Association of Airport Related Parish Councils (AARPC) in its stated objectives.
2. Press for the imposition of night flight quotas for Nottingham East Midlands Airport (NEMA)
3. Press for the designation of NEMA.

ONGOING

5. COMMUNITY SERVICES

Policy CS1

The Parish Council will be supportive of all agencies involved in the development and provision of new and improved healthcare provision within the village.

ONGOING

Policy CS2

The Parish Council will be supportive of all sectors, statutory and voluntary, involved in the provision of pre-school, primary, junior, secondary and adult education.

ONGOING

Policy CS3

The Parish Council will:

1. Continue to take the initiative in developing cross-agency liaisons to work towards improved facilities for young people and pursue the opportunities that may arise, e.g. the establishment of Youth Parish Council.
2. Continue to press Nottinghamshire County Council to fulfil their role in provision for young people, in particular the re-opening of East Leake Youth Club.

ONGOING

Policy CS4

The Parish Council will continue to press for proper support services for the elderly from Nottinghamshire County Council and other agencies.

ONGOING

Policy CS5

The Parish Council will continue to maintain close associations with local traders, the village library, neighbourhood watch and the local churches.

ONGOING

Policy CS6

The Parish Council will continue to support the provision of community facilities, such as public toilets and litter bins

ONGOING

Policy CS7

The Parish Council will continue to:

1. Liaise with Nottinghamshire Constabulary regarding the provision of policing within the parish.
2. Continue to represent the views of the community in pressing for the level and type of policing that the residents require.

ONGOING

Policy CS8

The Parish Council will instigate a long-term project to evaluate the community needs of all sectors of the village with the objective of providing a Community Centre designed to fulfil those needs and with the flexibility to evolve as needs change.

ONGOING

6. RECREATION**Policy R1**

The Parish Council will promote or help others to promote any amenity, which can be shown to be of benefit to local and surrounding village residents, provided it is sustainable and that funds can be obtained to finance and operate it.

ONGOING

Policy R2

The Parish Council will develop and improve playground and recreation facilities by:

1. Increasing their appeal to children of all ages.
2. Consulting current users on the choice of new additional or replacement equipment.
3. Drawing up and costing a prioritised development plan.
4. Planning additional rolling funds into future Amenities budgets.
5. Assisting specific recreation interest groups such as “Wheels” to develop their own funded facility by providing some “seed corn” capital and some administrative help and advice.
6. Ensuring all new or replacement equipment meets the current safety and disability discrimination act requirements, is easy to maintain and is as vandal resistant as practicable.
7. Ensuring minimum disturbance between equipment users on adjacent facilities and to the local residents that border the recreation ground.

ONGOING

Policy R3:

The Parish Council will support East Leake Playing Fields Charity:

1. In their quest for modern and secure changing facilities by providing some seed corn capital and some administrative help and advice.
2. In their quest to extend the car parking facilities.

ONGOING

Policy R4.

The Parish Council will, in its capacity as Custodian Trustees, work with the Village Hall Management Committee to ensure the halls continued viability and to formulate a development plan to modernise the facilities and widen its scope and appeal as a valued community asset.

ONGOING

Policy R5.

The Parish Council will work with Rushcliffe Borough Council and the 'Friends of Meadow Park' volunteer group to develop and improve Meadow Park as a valuable leisure and educational amenity

ONGOING

Policy R6

The Parish Council will work with Nottinghamshire County Council, particularly through the Parish Paths Partnership (3Ps), to develop new Rights of Way and improve existing footpaths and bridleways

ONGOING