

Eye Parish Plan 2009: Action Plan Updates March 2014

On the evening of Thursday 11th July 2013 a Public Meeting, organised by Eye Town Council, was held in Eye Town Hall, at which approx 80 members of the public were encouraged to give their views on “The Future of Eye”.

The topics for discussion were based on some of the subject headings in the Eye Parish Plan 2009, with the addition of the Eye Airfield Development Framework and the Cross Street Community Building: matters that have come to the fore over the past two years.

The following updated Plans for Action are based on the generally-held comments made at the Public Meeting.

Housing provision

- New housing schemes should include a reasonable proportion of affordable housing.

Action: work with MSDC and developers to ensure that “viability considerations” are weighted in favour of local needs and aspirations.

- Before any new housing scheme is approved, plans to improve the infrastructure must be put in place.

Action: consult with SCC, utility companies, developers and other interested parties.

- The proposal to site a minimum of 200 new homes on the NW edge of Eye represents a major development, and raises complex issues that should be resolved through involving local people and relevant agencies in a fully consultative planning process.

Action: work closely with MSDC and SCC to ensure sustainable developments.

- A wide variety of new housing is needed, with “homes for people working locally” being important.

Action: work with MSDC on policies that will encourage a wide range of jobs to be located locally, and a mix of housing types and tenures.

Jobs and local economy

- The wide range of shops, businesses and service providers in the town and surrounding area need to be supported and encouraged.

Action: work with MSDC to retain the diversity of employment in the Eye area through appropriate policies within the LDF and the Eye Airfield Development Framework (EADF).

Action: ETC to help the Eye Business Forum to expand and flourish by offering logistical support where necessary.

- People shopping in, and visiting, Eye must have a positive and welcoming experience.

Action: work with MSDC and SCC to ensure that parking remains free, and traffic and pedestrians move freely around the centre of the town.

- Any future employment on Eye Airfield should provide a wider range of, and higher value, employment opportunities for local residents.

Action: work with MSDC on the fine-tuning of the EADF.

Environment

- All environmental recommendations in the Parish Plan still seem to be important, so need to be acted upon in an organised manner.

Action: ETC to consider working with the relevant wildlife and countryside bodies, both nationally and locally, to develop a detailed environmental improvement plan.

Action: ETC to work with local societies to see if more can be done to promote their activities.

- The previously neglected site of the Eye Airfield needs to have a range of environmental improvements, and increased public access.

Action: work with MSDC and landowners to improve and extend proposals for landscape enhancements contained in the EADF. Enhancements should connect, reinforce and extend the habitats currently scattered across the airfield.

Action: ETC to put together a plan for the future management of the airfield habitats, and other green and public spaces in and around the town.

Traffic Management

- There is continued concern over speeding traffic through the town.

Action: ETC to work with SCC and the 'Twenty's Plenty' group to facilitate the introduction of a 20mph speed limit through the centre of the town.

Action: ETC to help facilitate a Speedwatch scheme for Eye by working with Suffolk Constabulary.

- Better controls are needed over inconsiderate and often illegal yellow line parking.

Action: work with Suffolk Constabulary and PCSO's to police and enforce parking restrictions.

Action: work with SCC to formulate a Traffic Management Scheme for Eye town centre.

- Proposed new housing and employment on parts of the Eye Airfield site will place a great strain on traffic movements between the new developments and the town, and also within the town, which will need to be carefully managed.

Action: work with MSDC and SCC to consider parking needs, traffic assessments and travel plans as part of the planning process in relation to significant proposals for new housing and/or employment in the area.

Action: with both MSDC and SCC, consider the cumulative impacts for phased developments, recognising that certain trigger points may necessitate new infrastructure and new measures.

Community facilities

The Library is a well-used and highly regarded service for the community, and should be protected and promoted.

Action: work with SCC and relevant bodies to investigate the possibility of using the old CSD building off Cross Street for community purposes such as the re-location and enhancement of the Library.

Health services

- There is concern over ambulance response times, and also the cost of transport to hospitals.

Action: inform relevant medical service providers of concerns, and liaise, with the aim of improving services.

- The Hartismere Hospital site appears to be under-utilised and not serving the needs of people in Mid Suffolk and South Norfolk.

Action: work with the League of Friends and relevant authorities to identify areas of need and press for the introduction of a wider, targeted range of –well publicised- services.

Leisure and sports facilities

- Gaps in provision for people of different ages need to be addressed.

Action: ETC to determine areas of need and to work with service providers and sports bodies to formulate ways of extending leisure services.

Action: ETC to work with MSDC and developers to determine additional requirements associated with any new housing and/or employment developments.

Merlin Carr
Eye Town Councillor
20/3/14