

All of these questions are based on ones received at all the public consultation events and have been asked by people within the village at some point.

(1) Housing

The following queries were raised

- Sheltered housing for the elderly
- Impact of development on school places

Future housing development was the most consistently raised subject in all our consultations.

The Plan will not be allocating areas for future development as this would not comply with the current Peterborough City Council Core Strategy 2011, which states that as Peakirk has been classified as a small village in the settlement hierarchy.

Residential development of any windfall sites (that is sites that become available on an *ad hoc* basis) will be assessed against Peterborough City Council Planning Policies, which will include the adopted Peakirk Neighbourhood Plan.

The scale of any windfall development is limited to no more than 9 dwellings in the current Peterborough Core Strategy.

Any application for sheltered housing and the impact on school places would be assessed against the planning policies in the same way as other development.

- Development outside the Village Envelope

Our Village Envelope was assessed by Peterborough City Council in 2011. The paddock at the end of Bull Lane was put forward then as an extension to the existing Village Envelope.

The application was rejected as it was felt this would not make a logical boundary change and could make it difficult to prevent encroachment into the open countryside.

The 2016/17 review of the Peterborough Local Plan looked again the Village Envelope, but did not recommend any changes. The Peakirk Neighbourhood Plan is also able to change the Village Envelope but decided not to, as we felt the existing boundary was justified.

Land outside the Village Envelope is considered Open Countryside and can only be developed in specific circumstances set out in the Peterborough City Council Core Strategy .

‘Development in the countryside (i.e. outside the boundary of all settlements) will be restricted to that which is demonstrably essential to the effective operation of local agriculture, horticulture, forestry, outdoor recreation and access to natural greenspace, transport or utility services and to residential development which satisfies the ‘exception’ test set out in policy CS8.’

This refers to allocating sites specifically for Affordable Housing. Also included are minerals or waste development in accordance with separate Local Development Documents within the Peterborough Local Development Framework.

- Affordable Housing for local people

Peterborough City Council Core Strategy 2011 Policy CS8

Meeting Housing Needs says:

‘The Council may release a site adjacent to a Village Envelope for the provision of Affordable Housing, as an exception to the normal policy of development restraint in the countryside, provided that:

the site is otherwise suitable for residential development in the light of all other policies in the development plan; and

a specific local need for Affordable Housing has been demonstrated, over and above that which could be met through the operation of the Affordable Housing policy set out above; and the proposed development would provide Affordable Housing of a number and type which meets (or contributes towards meeting) the local need.'

Peakirk Neighbourhood Plan has to comply with this policy.

- I understand that other village plans have allocated specific sites within their neighbourhood that identify sites for development. I note that within the Plan for Peakirk, no such sites have been allocated. Why?

The Peakirk Neighbourhood Plan Group took a decision not to identify specific sites for development.

Within the Village Envelope there are very few available sites. We understood that supporting any sites for development outside the village envelope would not be complying with the existing Core Strategy. The plan has a policy specifically supporting the development of Neaverson's yard and we felt the addition of those houses were adequate for the needs of the community.

(2) Broadband

- At one of the public consultation events, I brought up the fact that faster Broadband speed should be sought within the village to improve the quality of life for residents but I note that there is nothing about faster Broadband within the Plan.

This was considered by the Neighbourhood Planning Group but we felt it was not necessary to include it within the Plan. Fibre optic broadband was programmed for our village in 2015 and inclusion of this in our Plan will have no influence on that date. The Plan supports the provision of good telecommunications and internet connectivity as a means of helping residents who work from home and improving the communication service to all residents. All new applications for residential development must contain a 'Connectivity Statement' and will provide for suitable ducting to enable a fibre connection to individual properties from connection chambers located on the public highway, or some alternative connection point available to different service provider.

(3) Drainage and Flooding

- Have the significant problems that Peakirk faces with drainage been considered in the plan?

The Neighbourhood Planning Group have prepared a Water Study for the village. This forms part of the evidence that make up the Neighbourhood Plan. There has also been correspondence with Anglian Water who have said they will provide comments on any planning application made in the future to ensure that the sewage system could cope. The Neighbourhood Planning Group are very aware of the problems with flooding and drainage and have included a policy on drainage in the plan.

(4) The Old Wildfowl Trust

- Why is there no specific mention of the Old Wildfowl Trust Site within the plan? Can we make it an SSSI or give it further protection from development?

An SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) is protected by law to conserve its wildlife or geology. Natural England can identify land you own or occupy as an SSSI - this is called being designated.

A landowner can be liable for an unlimited fine under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 if they carry out or permit a controlled activity without Natural England's permission.

The Old Wildfowl Trust Site is a privately owned area and whilst the planning team have approached the owners and received responses suggesting the potential for the site, it will be up to the owners to decide what happens to it.

When our Plan is adopted any potential development will have to take into account the expectations of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Peakirk 2030 Landscape Character Assessment document forms an important part of the evidence base for the Neighbourhood Plan and gives much more detail about its importance to the village. The Old Wildfowl Trust Site has been identified as one of the Landscape Character Areas making up the setting of Peakirk village [LCA14].

The Neighbourhood Planning Group originally looked at designating this area as a Local Green Space, which would give the site stronger protection from development.

In the 2014 survey the village was asked to comment on this and it proved, along with the allotments to be the most popular site for protection with 93.4% of the residents who responded agreeing.

At the time we felt it was already adequately protected, but following many requests from residents during our Regulation 14 consultation we have now included it in the designation.

(5) Travel

- Why is there no footpath to Deeping Lakes?

The Northern Footpath Forum is working with Deeping St James Parish Council, Lincolnshire County Council and Peterborough City Council to raise funds for a new footbridge across the Welland at Deeping St James. This will make Deeping Lakes within safe walking distance from Peakirk. The Neighbourhood Plan supports this project.

- Why does the idea of a train stop in Peakirk not appear in the plan? Surely this would be good for the community?

To create a train stop in Peakirk would require significant financial input and would therefore have to be viable which could mean that many more houses would have to be built in order to make a train stop work. This therefore goes against the Vision of the Plan, which is to maintain Peakirk as a small rural village.

- Why is there not more emphasis on the important issue of speeding within the village that many people are concerned about?

This has been discussed at many of the Neighbourhood Plan meetings and we are aware that it is a serious concern for many within Peakirk. However, the main focus of the Neighbourhood Plan is planning policies to guide how Peakirk will grow in the future. Speeding will be even more of a concern if extra traffic comes into the village and so we have a list of proposed projects that the Parish Council want take forward in the very near future and try to improve the situation. The input of the village will also be sought in tackling these additional projects. We will also take into account some of the comments that have been made at the public consultation events such as measures like those in Glinton and Newborough may not be appropriate for Peakirk.

(6) Leisure

- Why doesn't the Plan include any provisions for older children? It has been proven that teenage children make up a significant proportion of the village demographic so why is there nothing about a youth club?

As before with the previous two questions, whilst this came up at several of the public events and is something that we know is important to many within the village, it is something that falls outside the specific scope of the plan but forms part of our Village Project list.

- The following suggestions were made:
 - More events such as yearly Fete, Games Days, village barbeque, performances on the green and in Village Hall
 - Provision of formal sports space
 - Storage shed on the village green to store sports equipment
 - Equipment for older children
 - Water to play in
 - Play equipment at the Glinton end of the village
 - Adventure playground
 - Dirt track for bikes
 - Darts and Pool facilities
 - Golf Society
 - Panto

These are all ideas that can be dealt with by existing village organisations and could be considered further if funds and volunteers became available.

(7) Burial Space

- I saw at the public consultation event on the pin board that people had brought up the question of more burial space within the village but there is no mention of this in the plan. Has it been considered? What about non –Christians?

The Neighbourhood Plan Group understand from the Rector and Churchwarden [September 2015] that there are possibly 20-22 remaining grave spaces in the churchyard. There are approx. 10 spaces on the north side of the churchyard and there seems to be space for between 10 and 12 graves in that section of the churchyard to the west of the wall and south of the path. There is plenty of space in an area designated for cremations between the shed and the next yew tree to the west, and extending north towards marked graves. Burials at Peakirk are averaging one a year (though there were 3 in December 2011).

(8) Shops and other facilities

- What has happened to the idea of a shop and/or coffee shop within the village?
- A Fish and chip van
- Take away
- Provision for families at the pub
- WiFi café

These ideas came up several times at the public consultation events. However, at present there is little scope as to where a shop and/or coffee shop could be situated and who would run it? There would be considerable doubts about its commercial viability, especially since the modernisation of the Glinton shop. Could it be a community project in the future?

(9) Environment

- Why are there not more provisions for environmental policies in the plan?
- A Community Orchard
- Bird and Bat boxes
- Include the green space around the Bus Stop as a Community Asset?

Protecting the environment is one of the main aims in the Plan – see Aim 4 - but we are aware that there are many things we would like to take forward as Village Projects, ones that will benefit the village and parish. Examples of these would be more tree planting, nesting boxes to encourage wildlife, improving public transport, footpaths and cycle routes. All of these would go some way to improving the village environment.

Protection of existing trees and the planting of new ones form an important part of our policies.

- What about Glass bottle recycling?

Glass bottles can now be added to the green recycling bins collected every fortnight by the Council.

(10) Energy and sustainable buildings

- How does the Plan deal with renewable energy issues, especially wind turbines?

The Ginton and Peakirk Community Energy Company formed in 2015 has, with the help of Peterborough Environment City Trust (PECT), put together a list of potential renewable energy projects in both villages that would withstand further investigation. This process resulted in an application to the Rural Energy Fund to carry out feasibility studies on potential projects. Wind turbine provision was not appropriate to any site in Peakirk. Recent government changes have impacted on viability issues.

The Plan supports the actions of this local group and includes their objectives within the policies of the Plan.

- What about one energy supplier for the whole village?

Peterborough City Council operate a Ready to Switch scheme to save residents money on their energy bills. The idea is called 'collective switching' and uses the combined buying power of residents across our community to negotiate cheaper prices directly with energy companies. Rather than switching provider and reducing your energy bill as an individual, people register to switch and save as a big group all at the same time. Details on their website

<http://www.readytoswitchpeterborough.co.uk/>

(11) Social Policies

- What about a car sharing scheme?

This is one idea being looked at by the Ginton and Peakirk Green Group.

- Is there any support for a befriending telephone service?

The Care Act 2014 statutory guidance has formally recognised self-neglect as a category of abuse and neglect, which could lead to the raising of a safeguarding concern. Building Community Capacity is described as the process for helping a community to support itself and its vulnerable members. Setting up a befriending telephone service within the village community could play an important part in this.

This has been added to our list of Village Projects.

(12) Any other Questions

- Please can we have a Christmas Tree on the monument?

Suitable Christmas lights have been added to the Monument following consultation.

- What about a Facebook page?

Peakirk Village Hall has its own Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/Peakirk-Village-Hall-1562541784006734/timeline/>

The Peakirk Neighbourhood Plan Facebook Page is Called PegaPuddleduck

<https://www.facebook.com/pega.puddleduck?fref=ts>

Peakirk Village has its own website

<http://www.peakirkvillage.co.uk/new/>

- A Local tradesman lists would be helpful.

There are several ways of finding reliable local tradesmen.

The Villages Advertiser was launched on the back of the success of the Deepings Advertiser in 1995 and often contains useful local tradesmen.

<http://www.the-advertiser.co.uk/>

The Village Tribune is distributed locally to 4,000 homes free of charge, it has details of local tradesmen including www.safelocaltrades.com

<http://www.villagetribune.org.uk>

- What has happened to the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and what is happening about crime prevention?

The Parish Council is represented on the local policing panel by Cllr Gary Wright. This gives us a chance to raise any issues of particular concern to people in the village. Please contact our clerk with any concerns.

Angela Hankins peakirkparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk

A recent initiative from Peterborough City Council 'Making Rural Communities Safe' is trying to enlist local volunteers to report suspicious events. This has been backed up by a drive for more Special Constables.

There has also been new interest in reinvigorating the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Contact our clerk for details.

- Can you improve our mobile phone signal?

The Parish Council have this on their list of ongoing problems.

- Can you make sure there are no bats in the church?

No. In Britain all bat species and their roosts are legally protected, by both domestic and international legislation. [Bat Conservation Trust]

http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/bats_and_the_law.html