BARKWAY AND NEWSELLS PARISH PLAN GROUP

Meeting held at The Reading Room on 26th February 2010 at 7.30 pm

Present: Gordon Baker, Bob Davidson, Simon Taylor, Sonia Falaschi-Ray, Kate Beale, Cecilia van der Heijden

Volunteers: Jean Pooley, Shirley Streater, Val McGow, Jackie Connolly, Patricia Swann, Steve Alsop, Clive Toms

Apologies: Sarah Hillman, William Lee

Bob Davidson, Chairman of the Parish Council, gave a brief presentation of the results of the Analysis of the Parish Plan Questionnaire, highlighting the main topics raised. It was acknowledged that the items identified were not definitive but all comments received via the Questionnaire were logged in the Analysis. Concerns were raised that we did not have a full consultation with the village as the return was 29% even though every household received a questionnaire. It was felt that once action was taken with some of the issues raised and the results published on the website and via the Diary and Notice Boards more input would result. Upon the question of housing, although the Parish Plan cannot cover planning issues it can represent the views of the residents for retaining Barkway's unique situation.

Bob stressed the importance of publishing a Parish Plan as quickly as possible to enable Barkway to be eligible for any funds that are around for the various projects. It is not a closed document and can be added to even after it has been adopted by North Herts. The Parish Plan together with the proposed election of Councillors next year will help Barkway to acquire Quality Parish Status which again gives the village precedence where funds are concerned.

Simon Taylor, the Chairman of the Steering Group, then welcomed the volunteers to the meeting and thanked them for offering their time and effort to follow through and to find solutions to the requests made. A summary of progress to date followed and Gordon Baker proceeded to go through the project categories and asked for volunteers to sign up to the projects with which they would like to be involved. Attached is a list of those projects and those partaking together with a comprehensive list of contact details (for internal use only). Each Group will have a Parish Councillor as advisor so that work in progress at the Council is not duplicated by the Groups; also every Group will have a Steering Group member to ensure that areas of overlap are identified and the Groups work together on these aspects.

The Aims:

- The groups to meet individually, discuss and draw up a proposed plan of action
- Results of initial discussions by end of March
- Draft of these to be ready by end of April to enable the Parish Plan to be drawn up
- Draft Parish Plan to be presented to the village via website, etc
- Parish Plan to be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting on 26 May 2010

DATE OF NEXT MEETING FOR STEERING GROUP ONLY: 7.30pm on Wednesday, 7th April at The Tally Ho