

Edington Local Development Plan Amenities & Facilities & Social Wellbeing Group Final Report

Identified Areas of Concern

- Village Hall (too small for larger activities)
- Farm Shop and Pub sustainment.
- Playpark and Teenage clubs.
- Future of the Post Office facility.
- Importance of the TVM and LINK facilities.
- General Social and Wellbeing issues

Discussions re Areas of Concern

Village Hall:-

The Village Hall is very limited but still serves as a useful facility for the village, and is in frequent use.

There are plans to install disabled toilets and a washroom, also to tank the wall next to the bank. There is also a damp problem where the flat roof is leaking, which needs attention. Funding is yet to be allocated, and grants will be applied for once costs are known. Also, new chairs are being purchased.

Farm Shop & Pub:-

There was no doubt as to the importance of the Shop and Pub to the future of the village. However, it was felt neither was doing enough to meet the needs of the village residents, or to encourage them to use their facilities. Also, there were concerns about the attitude of some of the staff, the range of goods now sold by the shop, and the cost of drinks and food in the pub. There are a number of promotions planned by the pub, but these seemed to be offered on a 'use or lose' basis.

As these facilities are privately owned and managed, it is agreed our only viable course of action is to liaise with their management and try to influence them positively regarding their offerings for the local residents. The group are currently actively pursuing this course of action.

There have been recent efforts with offers to attract local custom to the pub, which the management have strongly defended. However, the consensus of the group was that high pricing was still an issue, and that service remained poor.

The shop however, now more of a café, is now offering good food and drink as well as basic grocery provisions. The staff are very friendly, and have also introduced a crafts morning. The group agreed we are lucky to have this facility

Playpark and Teenage Clubs:-

The group took an action to canvas locals of all ages regarding their use of the Playpark. The outcome of this was there is an interest from older residents and teenagers to provide exercise equipment for them to use; and an additional item, 'half pipe', would be a useful addition to the Skate Park. Facilities for young children were felt to be adequate.

There is no youth club in Edington, so the group investigated using the Bratton club. This proved quite difficult as there were no specific contacts for that club. However, it is a possibility, and it was also suggested that the TVM could potentially be used to bus teenagers to Bratton.

There has been an inspection at the Playpark which highlighted some issues and improvements needed.

There has been no progress in investigating the use of Bratton youth club, and it appears that this is in fact struggling to survive.

Future of the Post Office Facility:-

Pauline was asked about the future of this; she is happy to continue to provide this for the foreseeable future. However, there is an impending Post Office review which may result in this being withdrawn, as there is also a Post Office in nearby Bratton.

However, it was felt that this facility only exists as it is run from Pauline's home, so there is low expectation of any investment from the Post Office. That said, the Post Office have in fact made recent improvements made to this facility.

Importance of the TVM and LINK facilities:-

The TVM is widely used and provides an important facility for the village, particularly for older residents with no transport of their own, and could also be used for teenagers as suggested above.

The TVM appears to be well supported but we need to ensure this continues, with sufficient volunteers to provide this service in future so it's use can be expanded as suggested

LINK is also widely used but volunteers are declining, so we need to publicise the need for these.

General Social and Wellbeing issues:-

It was felt that being sociable in the village was difficult as many of the properties were along a busy main road with no footpaths. However, many paths in the village were being updated and improved

The 'Taylor Trust' was mentioned at the last group meeting:- The trust is managed by trustees from the church, Methodists (as there was a chapel here when the bequest was made) and Parish Council. The aim was to support the poor and needy of the Parish. It is open to all villagers and small bequests are granted most years. Grants are usually under £200, applications need to be made to Mike Watts.

We have the mobile library van visiting Tinhead road once a month on Wednesday mornings between 10am and 10:30 am. With the library van we could use LINK volunteers to collect any books for people unable to get to the van for whatever reason.

There is the Cricket club for all at Erlestoke.

These are some ideas regarding publicising village facilities:-

There is a list of facilities in the village which needs to be checked and updated if necessary. It is believed Julie Hiscock is now responsible for this.

There is a laminator available from Lise or Pauline Dorgan if required.

There is a Village Directory available which was passed to Pauline from Andy, which may also require updating.

The Village web site, maintained by John Pollard, was mentioned as a useful source of information for village affairs and events.

Several changes of management at the Duke pub in Bratton have caused issues with arranging the monthly lunch function.

Recommendations

Village Hall:-

In the short term we should support the activities of the Edington Village Hall volunteers, and as there is little possibility of a larger hall in the near future, look to use Bratton Village Hall for larger functions.

In the longer term we should continue to look for opportunities to build a larger replacement hall.

Farm Shop & Pub:-

Support the liaison activities of the group with the management of these facilities.

Play Park & Youth Club:-

Pursue the purchase of additional exercise equipment for the Playpark.

It is unlikely there will be enough interest in Edington alone to justify forming a youth club in the village, so it is proposed to pursue the use of the Bratton club and the TVM as means of transport to and from there.

Post Office:-

As the short term future of this rests firmly with the Post Office we should support Pauline in the provision of this facility and any case we can make to retain it. In the long term (assuming it will continue) we should look at making a more permanent facility, less dependent on one person's good will.

Importance of the TVM and LINK facilities:-

The importance of manning and supporting these facilities is vital to many village based facilities.

Social Well Being Issues:-

To address many of the issues and suggestions mentioned above, it is recommended that a 'Health & Wellbeing' incentive should be started, for which it was felt, funds should be available. However, any proposals must be of a sustainable nature