

St Edmundsbury Borough Council Rural Vision 2031 Preferred Options Document

Policy RV14 and questions 35-37

GREAT BARTON

From

GREAT BARTON PARISH COUNCIL

accompanying document to section 29, Great Barton pages 88-91.

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1. Introduction

This document is to develop the above policy and provide a plan for the village that achieves sustainable development that responds appropriately to environmental, community and commercial objectives derived from the Parish Plan 2010 with continuing village consultations.

2. History and Current Facilities of Great Barton

Great Barton is not a typical village developed around a natural centre. It is located less than five miles to the north east of Bury St Edmunds and developed from the joining together of a number of small communities including East Barton, Cattishall and Conyers Green. These communities were linked largely by the Bunbury Family who inherited most of the land through marriage. Four out of 10 adult residents are retired and of those still working fewer than 100 work in the village area. However, community relations have been fostered through the village hall, scout hut, the two church halls, the primary school and Under 5's facility. For shopping there is a sub-post office and shop, a petrol filling station also selling some convenience commodities, a pub and a number of farm shops.

3. Aims & Objectives

Through the Parish Plan, subsequent consultations with parishioners and working with the local authorities, the following was established:

- An authoritative view of what the residents of Great Barton feel about their village now and for the future.
- To propose an achievable and long term vision for the future.
- To stimulate discussion among residents on what can and should be done both now and in the future to improve community spirit and involvement in making Great Barton an even better place to live.
- To secure the adoption as supplementary planning guidance, the measures identified by residents to preserve their village identity and its rural environment.

4. Process

The Parish plan published in 2010 established the foundation for direction and can be found in full on www.greatbarton.onesuffolk.net. The themes out of the Parish Plan developed into workshop consultations in November 2011 and a drop in session was held in March 2012. All households were invited to participate. The outcome has allowed the recommendations as shown stated in section 5.

4.1 Parish Plan Findings July 2010:

The Parish Plan indicates that parishioners have wide aspirations for the development of the village which will require investment or asset development beyond the resources and influence of the Parish Council, namely (and in no particular order of priority):-

- A community shop
- Additional employment or business units
- A local affordable housing scheme
- A requirement for additional sheltered / residential care
- Traffic calming
- Improve existing and develop more footpaths and cycle ways
- Preserve existing woodlands and hedges, create a nature trail.
- Recycling facilities
- Provision of some health service facilities, organised prescription collection service
- The relocation, development of existing and addition services for the village Post Office

In addition to the Parish Plan, there are existing village and community groups who are seeking to establish a presence (or an increased presence) within the village:-

- Great Barton Community Woodland Trust is seeking a small parcel of land to establish a Community Woodland
- Great Barton Allotment Association is seeking a parcel of land to re-establish allotments within the parish
- Great Barton Scout Group is seeking to extend its current facilities which will encompass more youth groups than its own movement.
- Great Barton Free Church is in discussion with the Parish Council about the provision of a "Youth Club" facility.

There are also some external factors which will require consideration of current land and space usage within the village:

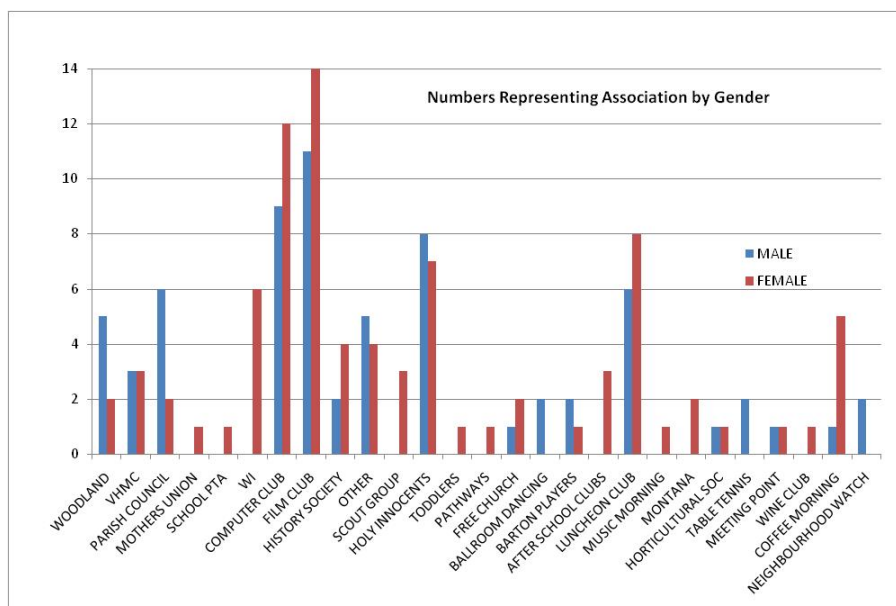
- The extension of Great Barton Primary School, pending the move to a two-tier education system
- Pressure on vehicle access and infrastructure, particularly around School Road (approximately 50% of the current school roll comes from “out of catchment”)
- The large amount of land ownership by Suffolk County Council in the parish footprint and their potential divestment of assets, for example the 22 acres of Icepits Woods
- The desire to preserve and maintain a suitable natural boundary with the neighbouring settlement areas, particularly Bury St Edmunds / Moreton Hall and Thurston.

4.2 Workshop – November 2011

The following topics were developed at the workshop sessions with conclusions:

Housing and Education
 Business Development
 Transport including: Roads, Cycle paths, Footpaths
 Village Amenities

Graph showing the diverse representations at these workshops:



4.2a Housing & Education:

- This topic made many a reference to the Berkeley development of 1250 dwellings and due to this encroachment Great Barton must remain distinctive in its character and be seen as a village to all who enter and pass through. (Reference Bury Vision 2031 policy BV5 reply from Great Barton Parish Council and strategic landscape proposal)
- Development within the village, as many could predict, mentioned and supported the A143/Mill Road/School Road triangle.
- Precursor for any development was the infrastructure, especially that the roads for those areas must be suitable and sufficient.
- Housing development did not centre on any specific type and should only follow the current styles and density (number of dwellings per acre) within the village but there was some presumption towards lower cost/affordable homes.

- The Primary school universally was recognised for its excellence and its expansion was positive provided the transport infrastructure for dropping off and collections was addressed. The school's facilities should be explored for greater use by the parishioners outside school hours.

4.2b Business Development

- There was low key support for the expansion of the rural economy for light industrial units as the current provision was deemed sufficient.
- Gaining support was a recycling centre, better broadband, and the ability to stop off at a centrally located public house.
- The existing services were received well especially the filling station and our Farm Shops.
- There was good support for Post Office services but its location in the street was not conducive to frequent use and relocation was many a suggestion.
- The ability to have a Health Centre/Pharmacy along with a general store would find favour.

4.2c Transport

- To reduce the volume of traffic through the village and congestion at the Bunbury Arms junction on the A143
- Speeding of vehicles around the main approach and exit routes to the village, with Mill Road topping parishioners concerns.
- The congestion and safety of pupils along School Road
- Extension of pavements along A143, to Village Hall, Livermere, Fornham and Thurston Road
- Circular footpaths, especially connecting with Icepits wood.

4.2d Amenities

- To cater for the youth of this village, through improved facilities or the provision of general and sporting activities. The latter could be provided as a skate/BMX park and/or tennis courts.
- A re-cycling point
- When the theme of the village landscape was examined there was good support for the existing woodland areas to be retained and improved and new areas would be well received. There was overwhelming support for the retention of Icepits Wood

4.3 Open session – March 2012

To galvanise the many themes as stated above, this session promoted a plan for the village that achieves sustainable development and responds appropriately to environmental, community and commercial objectives.



The above plan received favourable support from a vast attendance of parishioners with the added inclusion for a health centre.

5. Recommendation from Great Barton to RV2031

- The initial plan as illustrated in 4.3 above for Great Barton, captures the Themes and Actions alongside the Rural Objectives out of Rural Vision 2031, and is in accord with the Core Strategy.
- The parish of Great Barton wishes to promote and establish a Development Plan with St Edmundsbury Borough Council and the land owner which will not only maintain the cultural and historic values of the village, but ensure its vibrancy and the well being of its people over the subsequent decades.