

## **PITSFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Two years have passed since our group of villagers first met in order to work on your behalf to try and form a plan for Pitsford over the next ten years. This plan would work in with other District, County and Government plans to provide a framework within which any future applications for development within our village and the wider parish would have to be measured as to their suitability and acceptability.

Our first task was to find out from as many of you as possible what you thought about Pitsford today, what you valued and wished to see preserved and enhanced and also how you viewed any possible future development and its possible impact upon our lives in the community. Hopefully you will remember visiting the exhibition in the Parish Hall and completing the extensive questionnaire which we circulated to every household and business. The response was far better than we anticipated and the analysis of all your very full and interesting replies took some months and professional outside help.

Subsequently we have worked very hard for something around eighteen months to pull together a comprehensive report on the history of the village, your views on what makes life in Pitsford special and the things that are most important to you on a daily basis. We have all worked in a voluntary capacity and I am most grateful to all my fellow group members who have been involved and given of their time and energy so generously. We have however been provided with budgeted funds from an outside body and been able to hire consultancy help from Kirkwells, a company specialising in this field of Neighbourhood Plans, and also received helpful advice from staff at Daventry District Council.

The final Plan runs to about fifty pages and has evolved over twelve or so stages to its present form which we are now anxious to share with you all during October and through to November and December. We are conscious that we are a small group, hopefully a fair cross section of the village, but nonetheless not fully representative and this is reflected in the process through which all Neighbourhood Plans have to go through before they are either adopted or abandoned.

From October 7<sup>th</sup> to October 21<sup>st</sup> there will be a very informal consultation when members of our group will be at the Sports Pavilion to meet with you on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> October between 6.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. There will be hard copies of the report available for you to peruse, any questions answered and the opportunity to view the full report on the village website from 1<sup>st</sup> October and hard copies to view in The Griffin, All Saints Church, the Parish Hall, the Sports Pavilion and hopefully other locations for the two week period. We would welcome your views and input during

this time and the group will meet again on 29<sup>th</sup> October to digest your comments and make any changes they feel appropriate.

Following from that there will be a Formal Consultation period of six weeks which is a statutory obligation and this we hope to undertake from Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> November but it will be confirmed in the November Newsletter after we have viewed the responses in October. This will comprise a launch with full exhibition(s), more hard copies and the internet available on our village website. Again, your full response will be appreciated so that we can make any final amendments before submitting it to Daventry District Council for their input and hopefully for approval. They will have been doing their own consultations alongside our own with other interested bodies involved with heritage, conservation, regional planning etc. Finally the agreed Plan will come back to us all in the village for a vote by all the residents to see if it receives general acceptance by over 50% of those voting.

Little did we think that the Plan would involve over two years work when we started but we have been anxious to get it right and time has not been of the essence. In conclusion, it may well reassure many of you that our vision for the future is evolutionary more than revolutionary and, like you, we value what Pitsford offers to us all in so many ways and we want that to continue well into the future.

Philip Saunderson, Chairman

Councillors Martin Flanagan, Sarah Bentley, Alastair Kimbell and Keith Isaacs together with Ruth Adams, Austin and Meg Gibbons, John Price-Stephens and earlier Jessica Aldis and Carole Purnell together with others in the formative stage.