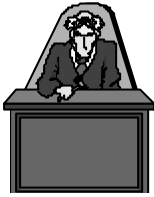


THE PARISH PUMP

The occasional Newsletter of
Trimley St Martin Parish Council
www.trimley-st-martin.org.uk

December 2003



**From the
Chair**

The main thrust of the Parish Council business since the last edition of Parish Pump, has been the proposed expansion of the village as outlined in the "Trinity Vision". Due to my prejudicial interest' this matter is being handled by the Vice-Chair and is dealt with later in this newsletter.

Felixstowe Port

South Reconfiguration

We are in the process of consultations and discussions on the "Southern Re-Configuration Proposals" by the Port of Felixstowe. These proposals are in the form of both a Harbour Revision Order and a formal Planning Application. We have already met with representatives of the Port and been shown their proposals "on the ground". We have received a box of consultation documents, including environmental and transport statements. Initially it looks as if the main concerns of this parish are the need to improve safety at the "Dock Spur Roundabout" – nothing less than physical separation of town bound and port bound traffic will satisfy us - and increased noise pollution on the A14 between the point where Trimley High Road joins the westbound carriageway of the A14 and the Trimley flyover needs addressing.. At the time of writing this the Parish council council have not yet met to fully debate the issues.

Members of the Parish Council and the Parish Clerk attended a Local Plan Review Workshop held by SCDC at Felixstowe on Wednesday 12th November. This was also attended by members of Trimley St Mary Parish Council, Town Clerk and members of Felixstowe Town Council plus representatives of the Felixstowe Society and Felixstowe Chamber of Trade. The purpose of this workshop was to enable SCDC officers and the Chairman of the SCDC Local Plan Review working group to hear how we - the representatives of the Trimleys and Felixstowe saw the development of the peninsula. At this workshop it was hoped that we would be told the number of additional houses that SCDC would be required by central government to make provision for in a revised Local Plan. Unfortunately this will not now be known to February 2004.

Nigel Smith

Since the launch of the "Trinity Vision", members of the council have been listening carefully to residents, some of us observed the confusion at the Bidwells information meeting on Sat 9th August, but more importantly the reactions of the residents to what they saw. We dialogued with residents as we went about our day-to-day business, we have been stopped by residents who wished to make their feelings and views known. We organized a public meeting on Tuesday 16th September at the Memorial Hall; the last time I saw so many people in the hall was at a meeting to discuss the Trinity Expansion. By invitation Tim Collins, a Bidwells Partner was present, he was accompanied by Dr Fairbrother, Bursar of Trinity College. The purpose of the meeting was to allow residents to make their observation and comments on the "Trinity Vision" to members of the Parish Council. It was not the intention of the Parish Council to dominate the meeting, we wished to hear the comments both in support of and against the vision. As it was, there was no comment at all from the floor in favour. Twice during the meeting, a straw poll was taken. From my vantage point on the platform, there was no hand, that I could see, raised in support of the "Trinity Vision". To the Parish Council, this meeting confirmed what we had actually already thought, that the people of the Parish of Trimley St Martin were firmly against the development of the village as proposed by Trinity College. The Council then prepared its submission on the "Trinity Vision", this was sent to Suffolk Coastal District Council (SCDC) and copied to the Clerks of Trimley St Mary Parish Council and Felixstowe Town Council. It was also copied to Tim Collins at Bidwells. Trinity College were to be left in no doubt of the feelings of the people of Trimley St Martin. A copy of our submission was posted on our website and is found elsewhere in this newsletter.

We also received, belatedly, notification from SCDC of another submission that they had received in December 2002 identifying several pockets of land within the village that the landowner believed should be designated for housing use. The Parish Council decided that they should be treated in the same way as the "Trinity Vision".

We have to prove to SCDC that we have widely consulted on our views, you can assist us greatly by emailing or writing to the Clerks with your comments, we would wish to hear comments either in support of or against our views.

John Barker

Vice-Chair

Father Xmas will be on hand to light up the Christmas Tree at Trimley Memorial Hall on
Wednesday 10th December, at 6.30 pm.

We will be singing carols inside the Hall this year, followed by soup at usual.
Santa will be in his grotto to meet all the children!

Trimley Saints Players are presenting 'Babes in the Wood' at the Memorial Hall on
Wednesday 14th - Saturday 17th January, 7.30 pm, with Saturday matinee at 2.30 pm. The
show is full of rock 'n roll, colour and comedy! Saints normally play to packed houses, so be
warned and book early by phoning our box office: 671119



Clerk's Corner

Well it's certainly been a busy time in Trimley since our last newsletter!! I'm referring of course to the controversial issue of the Trinity Planning Framework and all that it entails!! Naturally, this has provoked some serious debate and it seems to have brought residents together with a common aim. You will see that within this newsletter is the Parish Council's response to the Framework, based on the views of the majority of residents, but on a personal note, whenever I walk or drive through the Trimleys, the area seems to encompass the whole 'village' feel and in the middle of this autumn season, has never looked more colourful. It would be such a terrible shame for this all to be lost to 'bricks and mortar' and it's important that we do everything in our power to prevent this from happening. We have now put in place, the George Harlow wooden bench and this is situated just past Goslings Farm, and it looks out onto spectacular views over the river. We have also now filled our councillor vacancies and I would like to welcome 'on board': Berridge Eve, David Beale, Dave Pither and Julie Pither-Jones.

Tracey Hunter

Rivercare

Following on from my report on the Orwell foreshore clean up in the last edition of the Parish Pump, I am very pleased to report that, at the end of summer it looked pretty good. This being mainly due to the regular volunteers.

However within the last few days (mid October) after high tides and fairly strong winds a lot of litter has appeared again, along with a mass of weed. Some of the litter (mainly plastic bottles) was probably dropped along the foreshore but I imagine a good deal floated in from elsewhere. The weed is somewhat of a mystery as if it had been cleared from somewhere and dumped in the river.

All this means that another mass cleanup maybe necessary before winter really sets in. I will investigate this further and call on my list of volunteers if their services are required. Hopefully it will not become as bad as in April, but if everyone agrees, we might extend our activities further up and down river.

But enough of the foreshore for the time being. The whole approach to our riverside certainly lives up to its designation as an A.O.N.B Now; incidentally, the whole vista can be enjoyed from the comfort of George Harlow's bench! A good place to pause after a strenuous walk. We are most fortunate to have such a wide diversity of tracks and footpaths most of which are in very good condition. These provide excellent walks and access along the riverside in both directions, and also access to this years bumper blackberry crops! But please keep off freshly cultivated land.

May I also appeal to dog owners to clear up when the actual pathways, even the remote ones, are fouled! And of course, no litter please. Finally, having discussed the problem with Nigel Smith, we may try a litterbin and one or two notices requesting that it be used.

With many thanks on behalf of all who enjoy our little slice of Paradise; and if anyone has any other thoughts, ideas, etc., then please let me know.

Keith Slaughter

'A Long Term Vision for Felixstowe, Walton and the Trimleys' produced by Trinity College

This submission was approved at a full Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 7th October 2003

The Trimley St. Martin Parish Council submits the following as its response to the document 'A Long Term Vision for Felixstowe, Walton and the Trimleys' produced by Trinity College, Cambridge owners of the Trimley Estate which covers much of the area of Trimley St. Martin.

This response is not only specific to the proposals in the 'Vision' to Trimley St. Martin but also refers to general points and those areas where, in the Council's opinion, reference should be made because those particular proposals will have a bearing on the residents of Trimley St. Martin. Examples of these are the new access from Walton to the A14 Dock Spur roundabout, improvements to that roundabout, proposals for the area between Walton and Trimley St. Mary used by Trimley St. Martin schoolchildren attending the Orwell High School and proposals for moving the railway station from its present location in Trimley St. Mary to a new position also in Trimley St. Mary.

In framing this response to the Trinity College 'Vision' the Council has again looked at its own submission to you in October 2001 entitled Revision of Suffolk Coastal District Council's Local Plan and its revision in 2002 after the Annual Parish Meeting of that year, (a copy of that submission was included in the August 2003 edition of Parish Pump). It has gauged what it considers was the overwhelming opposition to Trinity's 'Vision' that resulted from a meeting organised by Bidwells on behalf of Trinity College at the Memorial Hall on 9th August, it has analysed the written comments made by parishioners to the Council after that meeting, and has taken into account what continues to be the overwhelming opposition to the 'Vision' expressed at the parish council meeting of 1st September and again at the public meeting arranged by the Council at the Memorial Hall on 16th September where unanimous opposition to the 'Vision' was obvious and recorded.

It remains the Council's view however that the submission of 2002 represents what it considers to be appropriate measures for the planning authority to take into account when the Local Plan is being reviewed. Those views obviously have a bearing on, and are tied in with this response.

Those provisions in the current Local Plan on the environment generally and the high value it places in environmental terms on the land hereabouts, its opposition to any undesirable development and the separation of Trimley St. Martin from its neighbours must be restated as must the provisions about its opposition to another access road to the Port of Felixstowe across open country through Trimley St. Martin.

The Council will oppose any development that straddles the existing parish boundaries. The integrity of the existing parish boundary with Trimley St. Mary must be recognised and there should be a clear demarcation in any development proposals to indicate where one parish ends and the other begins. The Trinity 'Vision' for Church Lane and Gun Lane would make a clear cut demarcation difficult, if not impossible, to achieve.

The Trinity 'Vision' states that the two parish councils will remain. But that is not for Trinity College to say. Others (possibly at the next review of parish boundaries) might see no reason for the separation of the Trimleys if a clear and easily understood boundary is not apparent.

The revised Local Plan must clearly state that the areas beyond the A14 to the north east and the area beyond the Ipswich - Felixstowe railway line to the south west are not to be breached by any development of the village that may be envisaged in the revision of the Local Plan and that the easing of the physical limits, that the Council seeks to allow some development, is subject to that.

- The Council is still in favour of measures to achieve the general points set out in the Council's submission of 2002 and relating to:
- Provision of some employment opportunities consistent with the current residential use and character of the village,
- Redundant agricultural properties should be derestricted to allow their wider use,
- Arrangements along the Trimley High Road to allow better parking arrangements to residents without off street parking,
- The establishment of a village centre and the provision of a sizeable village green with additions to, and improvements of, public rights of way from the village to the River Orwell.
- The need for, and the indication of an area suitable for, recreational facilities must be provided and be of sufficient size for ball and other games to be enjoyed by the whole

community. Village children now, as part of a long running agreement, have access to play equipment situated at the rear of licensed premises which is totally out of keeping with current thinking on child safety policies

It is however the scale of the proposed future housing provision that is the greatest worry for the community and it is this that is at the heart of the Council objection to the 'Vision'. A huge estate for that is what it will eventually turn out to be, dominating the whole area with the number of houses, flats and other dwellings 'pepper potted' throughout the village will rightfully, in the minds of the present residents, completely overwhelm the village and bring with it a host of estate generated, and other problems that happily the village is not at present subjected to. The chances of a real mixed housing development is unlikely to be achieved because islands of attractive properties will not be built unless a ready market for them is apparent and the Council is of the opinion that their positioning amongst the great mass of housing will stop this happening.

The projected road system suggests one way systems, ghost islands, pinch points, raised roadway sections and a proliferation of mini roundabouts. All these are useful road safety solutions in urban areas - but not in a village of the character of Trimley St. Martin. These suggestions which will be necessary if the village becomes the built up urban area as envisaged by Trinity's proposals, seem to have nothing to do with enhancing the local community's enjoyment of their surroundings but everything to do with getting as many houses, flats and other dwelling types into the village as possible. The current use of the open aspects of the land that the inhabitants enjoy and have become accustomed to will be gone forever as being secondary to their value as land for building purposes.

The overriding feel of the village is, and should continue to be, exactly that - a village which should evolve as villages have in the past by a bit here and a bit there. There were no master plans for villages that are now regarded as gems and which are properly subjected to stringent controls by local planning authorities and others to keep their village characteristics. The Trinity 'Vision' if allowed would, even though it is said to be a long way off, give the residents a sense of a creeping, and the likelihood of an accelerating, urbanisation consuming their surroundings and the character of the place which the present community has developed, enjoy to date and want to preserve into the future. Trimley St. Martin is far enough away from the most populated areas on the peninsula to be treated in a different way to others closer and more built up communities.

The time now is for some development but not for such a master plan on the scale envisaged by Trinity College. Future Local Plan revisions will be the time and place to consider if, as a result of the passing of time, proposals now envisaged are practicable, necessary or possible. Now is the time for some modest development but it is not the time to incorporate or even consider the scale of the proposals set out in the Trinity 'Vision' when looking at the revision of the Local Plan. Trimley St. Martin now has 870 dwelling units and even without knowing what type, and how many dwellings the 'Vision' is capable of producing that 870 would, at the very best be doubled, could be trebled and even more. The population, now about 2000, will rocket to perhaps 5000 or 6000 and the pressure on those bodies providing the essential services to maintain the present quality of the infer-structure will be immense. The present Barretts Estate completed in the late 70s/early 80s produced 304 new properties. That would be considered a small development if compared with what the Trinity 'Vision' has in mind.

Some modest development policies for the village should be incorporated in the new Local Plan now - then assessed at a suitable future date - and then, and only then, consideration be given to what might be appropriate taking into account the prevailing economic and other conditions that might then apply.

It is therefore the Council's considered view that it opposes and objects most strongly to the following in Trinity's 'Vision':

1. The massive scale of the housing proposals. This even though it is said to be in the future would so overwhelm the village that it would become unrecognisable
2. Any type of development that straddles and blurs the line of the boundary between the Trimley villages,
3. There is no need for this master plan looking as it does 20 years or so into the future. The planning authority should give itself the flexibility in periodic Local Plan reviews to make changes as things develop and not be tied into long term commitments that may stifle or blight the towns and parishes in its district.
4. As far as the proposals for traffic are concerned the Council rejects the idea that the

proliferation of roads shown in the 'Vision' are there simply to allow better movement within the village. It is clear that even those with a limited knowledge of the area will see at once that the roads as suggested are the modern way of cramming in the maximum number of dwellings onto the land.

The assumptions about the need for the 'Vision' the Council sees as a misplaced concern of Trinity College about the needs of the community as far as the environment and its well being are concerned. Both the environment and the community's well being will be much better expressed and served by not wanting to build hundreds of houses in the village and thus altering its character for ever.

The Council does however agree that further consideration and support be given to the following in the revision of the Local Plan:

1. The amendment of the physical limits to allow some limited housing development. The physical limits are now drawn so tightly within the village as to make any modest development impossible.
2. Measures to achieve another access to the A14 from Walton and the improvement to the Dock Spur roundabout. The Council sees this as essential, not only on a parish level but as necessary on a district, county, regional and even international level. Dock generated traffic can only increase with the developments current and ongoing at the Port.

The Council hopes the planning authority will give due weight to this response to Trinity's 'Vision'. It is based on what, in the Council's view, are reasonable expectations of what it wants from a revised Local Plan given the character of the village and its assessment of the reactions of the community living here. The Council realises that in drawing up the revised Local Plan you will be faced with difficult choices especially constraints and targets imposed by other bodies but it hopes that you will be able to satisfy the reasonable aspirations of the local community set out above.

At the appropriate time the above together with the views expressed in the Council's document Revision of Suffolk Coastal District Council's Local Plan of 2002 will form the basis of the Council's submission when consultation is invited and will be the basis of what the Council will then argue at any Public Inquiry into the Plan if necessary.

The Council made reference in its 2001 submission to you about consultation with local councils and this subject is now again to the fore. We know that the local Plan is being reviewed but we are not aware of the restraints that the planning authority are under. For instance Government guidance on the best use of land takes away some of the powers of the planners; the number of houses that districts have to make provision for; affordable housing ratios and the ability to grant planning provision for such developments outside the physical limits; time tables for Local Plan revisions and the like. Updates of these and similar matters from time to time would help local councils in its dealings with the public.

The Council seeks an early discussion with the planning authority on the Trinity 'Vision' or the Council's views sent to you in 2002 or any other matter relating to Trimley St. Martin as you proceed with your revision of the Local Plan.

Christmas Services

St Cecilia

Christmas Morning	Mass	11.00am
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Trimley Methodist

Sun 14th December	Dressing the Christmas Tree Family Service	11.00am
Sun 21st December	Lessons & Carols	11.00am
Christmas Eve	Carols by Candlelight	7.00pm

St Martins

Sun 21st December	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols	6.30pm
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Christmas Eve	Candlelight Pilgrimage to Crib Midnight Communion	4.30pm & 6.00pm 11.30pm
Christmas Day	All Age Christmas Communion	10.30am

The Parish Clerk of Trimley St Martin is:

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