MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Well where has the year gone? And what a busy year it has been. Since I last spoke to you in June we have had the village fete and dog show, which was extremely successful and well attended. There were dogs of all shapes and sizes competing for a variety of classes, from the formal best in show, to musical dogs, and the one the judge would most like to take home! There were also a wide variety of stalls, from the traditional tombola, cakes and books stalls, to designer handbags and cosmetics. There were also superb refreshments on offer from the bar run by the Hail Weston Community Pub Society and teas by St Nicolas Church. Not forgetting the all-important BBQ.

The Parish Council took the opportunity at the village fete to canvas some opinion from the village with regards to the Hail Weston Village Plan. We were very pleased at the interest that we got. But for those of you that weren't able to attend — what is a village plan?

It is a vision for how our community (Hail Weston) wants to develop and an identification of the action needed to achieve this.

The plan can cover a whole range of issues from development and new housing to our views on renewable energy and conservation and amenities provided within the village. These issues can be economic, environmental and social.

However the plan needs to be led by members of the community and not the Parish Council. Though obviously it would have the support of the council, it needs to focus on all issues of importance to people in the community. So needs to involve all sectors of a community (the youth of the village and those with a few more years’ experience!) and give everyone a chance to comment on the issues affecting their lives.

We need to map out existing services and facilities and identify the gaps. This would then lead us to develop a plan of action to protect what is valued, deal with problems and grasp opportunities.

We have a number of assets within the village that are all looking to try and raise funding to improve the services that they can provide. These include the Hail Weston Community Pub Society, the Village Hall and St Nicolas' Church. But all grant applications ask for proof on how they fit within the Village Plan! Please read their view on the Village Plan in this newsletter.

So we need your help. If you're interested in finding out more about the village plan and how you can become involved, please come along to the Hail Weston Village Hall on Tuesday 28th January 2014 at 8pm.

All that finally remains for me to do is to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Veronica Bolton

St Nicolas Church, Hail Weston

The Parochial Church Council has long had the belief that the church building could be used for community group functions and is working on ideas how best to alter the church to facilitate this. At a recent open evening the PCC put forward several options for instance; a servery and toilet; and residents were encouraged to voice their opinions on these ideas.

It is the desire of the PCC to work with the community since the church is a local asset. It is proposed that any changes will be done in stages, over a long period of time, dependent on fundraising and obtaining the necessary permissions, it is intended that residents will be consulted at each stage.

If a community led Village Plan were to be considered for Hail Weston the PCC should very much like to co-operate with and be included. Any ideas and desires shown in the Village Plan would be carefully considered in the church’s own forward plans.

Mary Deacon
Churchwarden
Meetings are normally held every third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall with no meeting in December. Members of the public are welcome to attend, as there is an opportunity for public participation at every meeting where any-one can air their views or ask questions.

Notices for these meetings are posted on the village notice board, which is situated in the High Street between the turnings for Orchard Close and Aubreys Farm, and can also be found on the web site at:

www.hailweston.org.uk

**Hail Weston Community Pub Society**

Hail Weston Community Pub Society (HWCP) sole mission is to resurrect a thriving village pub into a thriving community. HWCP's primary target is to buy and restore the Royal Oak as a village pub, but if we cannot do this, we will build an alternative pub elsewhere in the village. However, this is only one part of a village plan.

Hail Weston needs a village plan; we need a vision of where the village will be in the future. This plan needs to consider the existing assets we have (pub, church, village hall and playing field) as well as future assets. This plan should reflect villagers' wishes and will help to bring the Community together.

**Connecting Cambridgeshire**

Connecting Cambridgeshire signed a contract with BT in March 2013 that means communities across New fibre broadband cabinets are now being installed and going live with superfast broadband in locations across the county.

Hail Weston superfast BB is being completed ‘commercially’ by BT. However households on the fringe of the village will be picked up by Connecting Cambridgeshire. These houses in this area are not known as yet but will depend on what exchange they come under. The majority of the village is being picked up ‘commercially’ and hence is available now so great news for the majority of village.

See the website for more info.

http://www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/

**VACANCY on the Parish Council**

We currently have a vacancy on the Parish council. If you are interested and would like to see what is involved please contact either Jen Abell or Veronica Bolton. Our next meeting is 21st January 2014 in the Village Hall

**Hail Weston Parish Council Contact Details**

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42 Huntingdon Road, Brampton PE28 4PA (01480 398082)

**MARTIN BAUGHAN - Web site**

**DOG FOULING**

Thank you to all our village dog walkers for their help in trying to keep our village clear of the unsightly and unpleasant problem of dog fouling. Please keep up the work and challenge fellow dog walkers who don't seem to recognise the problem.

**PARKING**

Please can I ask all villagers to be considerate to their fellow residents when parking? We have had complaints in a couple of areas within the village, such as the playing field and the corner of the High Street by the village hall. Given the locations for the parking complaints, we are aware that a lot of this is caused by visitors to the village. However let's make sure we have our own house in order first. Thank you.