

Plan for Quorn – Issue 5.0

1. INTRODUCTION

This is a statement of Quorndon Parish Council's policies and plans for the future. It is reviewed regularly by Council and progress is reported at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Although the Parish Council has limited powers and financial resources, it can, with the support of parishioners, influence events, initiate and support community projects, and reflect the wishes of the residents of Quorn about the way the village develops or is affected by internal or external pressures. The Plan for Quorn is designed to complement Charnwood Borough Council's Local Plan and Leicestershire County Council's Structure Plan.

2. DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING ISSUES

The Council's overall strategies under this heading are to:

{ oppose any further significant residential development within the village boundaries other than that set out in the Local Plan, and a limited amount of affordable housing

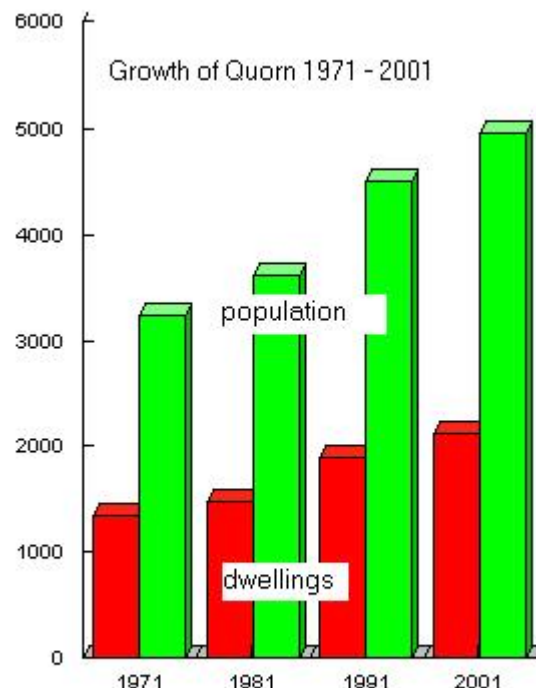
{ resist encroachment into designated green areas and recreational spaces

{ enhance the visual appearance of the village

In the past three decades two significant developments have changed the face of Quorn.

Firstly, the A6 trunk road which bisected the village made it impossible to maintain a rural environment because of heavy vehicles and continuous traffic. The Soar Valley by-pass, vehicle weight restrictions and traffic calming measures along the High Street, Leicester Road and Loughborough Road, have significantly alleviated the situation.

Secondly, a substantial expansion of housing in the village, particularly at its northern end, has increased the population to over 5,000. Quorn is now classified as a 'Large Village'. This has put strains on local facilities, in particular education (St Bartholomew's Primary School) and health (the Station Road Medical Centre), which have not expanded commensurately. The Council is therefore seriously concerned about the effects of further significant housing development in the village, and although it has no planning powers, will fully exercise its right of objection to all applications which do not meet its specified criteria (see below).



Source: Charnwood Borough Council

The present natural and artificial boundaries of the village are School Lane, the River Soar, Meynell Road, Farley Way, Woodhouse Road, the Great Central Railway, Buddon Lane, Chaveney Road, Meeting Street and Leicester Road, with ribbon development along Leicester Road and Wood Lane to the south.

It is the wish of the people of Quorn that the settlement remains a geographically separate, rural, mainly residential village

rather than a small urban town, an extension of Loughborough, or part of a Soar Valley ribbon development corridor.

The Council's development policies are to:

{ establish the village's present boundaries as permanent. The Council will resist proposals for any development between the present boundaries and neighbouring settlements, particularly encroachment into, or diminution of, designated green belts or wedges.

{ oppose any further significant housing development in the village, unless

(a) it is on brownfield land OR land designated in the Local Plan, OR is modest infilling, OR is intended to satisfy a clearly identified village need, such as affordable housing, AND

(b) there is a complementary plan to improve primary education and healthcare facilities, AND

(c) there is provision for, and access to, adequate local open green space

{ resist any proposals to build on allotment land adjoining Tom Long's Meadow, which would aggravate the flooding problem in Poultney Brook and downstream at The Cross due to increased surface water run-off. The Environment Agency have expressed concern about drainage and Charnwood Borough Council support the retention of existing green space in the village.

{ initiate and support projects to re-establish a rural village atmosphere and environment

{ identify derelict, run-down or neglected areas in the village and seek to enhance their visual appearance. Current examples include the rear of the Station Road shops, Church Lane and the

approach to the burial ground, the forecourt of the Church Room, the site of the old filling station on Loughborough Road, and the Station Road Car Park.

{ scrutinise planning applications for new buildings, modifications and extensions to existing properties, and other structures such as communication masts and wind turbines. Although having no planning powers, the Council will seek to ensure that such applications, particularly those in the central conservation area, enhance, or at least do not detract from, the visual appearance and environmental ambience of the village

{ request consultation on applications for extensions to licensing hours

{ require a greater say in local street naming

{ continue to lobby for proper enforcement of Planning Conditions attached to approved development. The Council is not satisfied with the speed or commitment with which the Borough Council enforces these, often resulting in local input and constraints on such applications being effectively ignored.

{ adopt a neutral stance on tourism. Studies have identified the potential for increasing tourism in Quorn and the surrounding area; there is little local enthusiasm for this; any proposals will therefore be considered on merit

3. CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION



The Parish Council is committed to the conservation, restoration and enhancement of important architecture, traditional features and opportunity sites in the village. It will encourage and support applications for grants and planning applications which further these objectives.

The Council will prepare and publish a Village Design Statement with guidance from The Countryside Commission. This will be a statement of those architectural and other features of Quorn which, in the opinion of local people, most reflect its character. The intention is to encourage planners and designers to ensure that all planned development in the village, whether new buildings or small-scale additions and alterations, is in harmony with its setting and contributes to the conservation and, where possible, enhancement of the local environment.

Quorn's Conservation Area was first designated in 1977 and amended in 1991. In January 1996 Charnwood Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council published a Conservation Area Partnership (CAP) Action Plan for Quorn and Mountsorrel. (Improvement grants were made under this scheme but the timescale for the initiative has now expired and the funding is exhausted).



The Parish Council's policies are:

{ Further improvement of the village centre:

- **additional parking bays have been created in the Station Road car park, but the surfacing and appearance of the area remains poor. The entrance and exit need to be redesigned to improve adherence to the one-way system. An improvement plan will be commissioned.**

- **the rear of Nos. 10 -18 Station Road (block of shops and flats) is an eyesore. Pressure will continue to be put on the freeholder to improve matters.**

- **a 'safe route' will be created across the village centre from School Lane through Stafford Orchard and the closed churchyard to Church Lane and The Banks (formerly Jubilee Gardens), and environmental improvements will be made along the route.**

- **environmental and structural improvements to Church Lane, the burial ground access from Church Lane, and the Church Room forecourt are at the design stage**

{ Repair/reinstatement of traditional walling and railings, specifically in the areas of the White Horse car park, the adjacent public car park, and along sections of Station Road, Chaveney

Road, Nursery Lane, Meynell Road, School Lane, Soar Road and Stoop Lane

{ When and where practical, the elimination of overhead service cables and street signage

{ A review of highway signs, street furniture and road markings

4. HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

There is little consensus in the village on how best to deal with its general and specific traffic problems. Opinions vary widely about the effectiveness of the calming measures already installed and the desirability of extending them to other parts of the village. The conflict between the unrestricted use and parking of private motor vehicles, and a desire for a peaceful, safe and unpolluted environment is not easily resolvable.

The Council therefore takes a pragmatic view of traffic issues, and concentrates on what are perceived to be the most serious safety and nuisance problems.

(a) traffic

The Parish Council supports measures designed to discourage through-traffic in the village.

The opening of the Soar Valley (A6) bypass, the de-trunking of the old A6 through the centre of Quorn, the introduction of vehicle weight restrictions and traffic calming measures have significantly reduced the volume of through-traffic in the village. Other problems have, however, arisen as a consequence. For traffic intent on avoiding the traffic calming, Meeting Street and Chaveney Road have become a short-cut between Woodhouse Road and Leicester Road. And Meynell Road, Soar Road and School Lane is an alternative route from the bypass to Wood Lane, exacerbated by the closure of Barrow Road. As a result, traffic volumes and vehicle speeds have increased in some residential areas.



The calming system comprising a combination of humps and mini-roundabouts along the old A6 has been effective in reducing traffic speeds. However the system is not well liked - some of the mini-roundabouts (particularly the one at The Cross) are considered by road users to be confusing and dangerous (although there is no evidence of significant numbers of accidents). The humps also cause noise and pollution as vehicles brake and accelerate, and have also led to increased traffic flows in other parts of the village.

The one-way system through Station Road, Stoop Lane and School Lane is not adequately managed by effective road layouts, signage and markings.

The Parish Council will seek a review by the County Council of traffic management in the village, in particular effective signage, road markings and layouts, the High Street/Loughborough Road calming system and its effects on Meeting Street and School Lane, the effects of the Barrow Road closure and proposed development off Meynell Road, and alternative access to Rawlins.

Traffic and parking in Warwick avenue at the start and end of the school day at St Bartholomew's has long been a problem for children, parents and local residents. In conjunction with the school, the Council has produced and implemented a School Travel Plan. This has persuaded the County Council to provide pedestrian lights at the Farley Way/Woodhouse Road crossroads, secured a grant for a footpath from Beacon Road to the playground, introduced zig-zag parking restriction lines in the vicinity of the

school, and implemented 'Park and Stride' and 'Walking Bus' schemes from the Quorndon Fox.

The Council is committed to furthering its partnership with St Bartholomew's school in promoting and continuing to develop and monitor the School Travel Plan.

(b) Parking

The Parish Council accepts that street parking is a necessity in residential areas of the village, but to facilitate the use of shops and amenities in the central area the Council will press for parking to be limited to short stays, and for the provision of additional on-street parking in the High Street.

The public car park (owned by Quorn Town Lands Charities) in Station Road is often full with some vehicles parked there all day. The Council wishes to discourage long term (except overnight) parking since it restricts public access to the shops and amenities in the village centre.

A review of village centre parking will be sought from the highways authority, the Borough Council and the police to examine options for additional, on-street, limited-stay parking.

The centre of the village has some black spots for illegally parked vehicles on a regular basis, which restrict traffic flow (particularly for public transport and emergency vehicles) and are a hazard to other road users and pedestrians. Specific black spots are: sections of Station Road (particularly between Dower House Gardens and Nursery Lane, and adjacent to the telephone kiosk); in, and opposite, the bus lay-by at The Cross; in the narrow section of High Street by the pelican crossing, and between 1-11 Meeting Street. Vehicles parked on pavements are also causing obstruction for pedestrians (particularly the partially sighted and disabled).

Two reserved parking places for the disabled have been provided in front of the shops on Station Road. These are frequently misused.

A beat Police Officer and Community Support Officer are now in attendance on a regular basis. The Council will press them to focus on illegal and obstructive parking and deal with persistent offenders.

On-street parking in a few other parts of the village needs to be reviewed in the light of experience and changed traffic conditions. In particular, the section of Meeting Street between its junctions with Spinney Drive and Elms Drive needs reassessing.

The Council will seek a review of village on-street parking in sensitive areas.

The Council has had the kerbs dropped in sections of Station Road and in other parts of the village to facilitate wheelchair and disabled vehicle access. The Council will also press for easier shop access for the disabled and elderly by encouraging owners to provide, as a minimum, grab handles and outside low bell pushes.

(c) Footpaths



The Council supports the retention and maintenance of the network of footpaths (designated rights of way) in the parish as an essential part of the parish's infrastructure.

(d) Cycling

Some footpaths in the village have signs banning cycling on them. These are universally ignored, and the restrictions are unenforceable in law. The Council wishes to encourage greater use of cycles for short journeys within the village, where possible away from public highways and traffic for safety.

The Council has agreed with County Highways that cycling restrictions and the associated signage be removed from footpaths, and that unnecessary footpath barriers be removed to facilitate easier access for wheelchairs and vehicles used by the disabled.

The Council supports the use of cycles and the designated 'Sustrans' cycleway through the village (provided that signage is kept to a minimum), but has been unable to reach agreement with the County Council on the upgrading of 'the slabs' footpath.

(e) Public Transport

The Parish Council supports the use of public transport for local journeys, and will do all it can to encourage operators to sustain and expand services through the village.

As part of a continuing refurbishment and replacement shelter programme to encourage greater use of public transport, additional and replacement bus shelters have been installed throughout the village, and a Startrak information system has been commissioned.

The Council will keep under review the maintenance of bus shelters and the further provision of shelters where a need is identified.

5. COMMUNITY FACILITIES

(a) Buildings

The Parish Council wishes to foster a community spirit in Quorn by maintaining or supporting existing facilities for local groups, organisations

and societies, and to encourage further development or enhancement of such facilities within a coherent strategy for the village

Quorn is relatively well provided for in terms of community facilities, although some groups, for example the Scouts and Guides, need better accommodation.

The Council recognises the need to sustain and develop existing amenities, and will support private initiatives to enhance the facilities of local groups and institutions.

The Village Hall in Leicester Road was built in 1889 and is owned by the Parish. Although it is not in the centre of the village, it has been improved to enable it to offer comparable facilities to other venues.

The Council will keep the Village Hall maintained and encourage greater use of it; the fabric of the building needs updating and a review of its facilities is in hand.

Rawlins Community College is centrally located in the village. In addition to offering a range of day and evening classes and leisure activities, it has facilities for meetings, the disabled, the arts, crafts, sport and other activities which are available to individuals and groups in the community. Rawlins also houses the Quorn Library and a creche.

The Council acknowledges the contribution made by Rawlins to community life in Quorn.

The Church Room is located alongside Rawlins and is owned by the Church. Similar facilities to the village hall are available to a roughly similar standard and are in the process of being updated.

The Old School in School Lane is owned by the County Council which is reviewing its future. The Parish Council has asked to be consulted about any future plans for the building.

Other facilities are available to community groups through private organisations such as local hotels and Quorn Football Club.

(b) Open Spaces



The Parish Council is committed to the preservation, conservation, utilisation and improvement of open spaces in the village:

{ The Stafford Orchard; parish land which will be maintained and further developed as a public recreation area. The Council is seeking ideas for facilities for 10-15 year old children.

{ The Green (part of which is now the Station Road car park); this comprises the land between the footpath across Stafford Orchard from the "Lockup" to School Lane, and Buddon Brook. It is owned by Quorn Town Lands Charities

{ The old (closed) churchyard; the property of the church (the grounds are maintained by the Borough Council). The present adjacent burial ground has space until approximately 2025

{ The Banks (formerly Jubilee Gardens): Parish land, recently redeveloped as a small park.

{ Caves Field; acquired in 2002 by Quorn Parish Council, and leased to Quorn Cricket Club. This is the only significant public open space on the

western side of the village and the Council wishes to develop it as a recreational space compatible with its primary use as a cricket ground and in keeping with its natural setting.

Plans for a replacement building on Caves Field to serve as both a cricket pavilion and a meeting hall for the scouts and guides will be considered sympathetically by Council.

{ Tom Long's meadow; an important ecological site which should be maintained as a natural habitat for wild flora and fauna

{ Land between Poulteney Brook Loughborough Road, adjacent to One Ash; owned by Loughborough Endowed Schools. The village is now so built-up that open space for young people to pursue adventure sports such as mountain biking is very difficult to find. The use of this land is being negotiated.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The Parish Council is committed to maintaining and improving all aspects of the environment in the village.

(a) Crime

All crime is unacceptable but Quorn is fortunate in that levels in the village are, on the whole, modest. This is due to a high proportion of the village being covered by neighbourhood watch schemes, and to effective community policing by a beat police officer and a community support officer.

Vandalism, ranging from criminal damage to public nuisance, is a perennial problem. The most effective deterrent is vigilance by the community and reporting of offenders, anonymously if necessary, to the police.

The Council will continue to support neighbourhood watch and encourage its extension to all parts of the village. The Council will also continue to give every encouragement and support to the

police, particularly the local beat Police Constable and Community Support Officer.

CCTV cameras are being consideration for the central area, play areas and other sensitive locations in the village.

(b) Flooding & Drainage



Flood prevention works along the Soar Valley and in Quorn have been completed by the Environmental Agency (formerly the National Rivers Authority). Most 'at-risk' properties in Quorn are now classed as having a risk of flooding from river water less than once in 100 years, although climate change has recently brought this into question. Some central properties remain at risk in heavy rain due to inadequate Victorian drainage. The efficiency of surface water run-off through the old drainage system in the area of The Cross is poor and needs urgent attention.

The Council will press for a full survey of the drainage system by the County Council, the repair by the Environmental Agency of ineffective flood defences (such as the Soar Road wall and Station Road Car Park) and for additional measures, such as pumping systems, in areas prone to localised flooding in times of heavy rainfall eg The Cross.

(c) Quarrying

Mountsorrel Quarry operated by Lafarge is the largest hard rock quarry in Europe. The main impacts on the environment in Quorn are blasting and ambient noise. Earlier problems associated with heavy lorry traffic

from the quarry have been largely eliminated by the A6 by-pass and vehicle weight restrictions, although lorry movements on Granite way, Leicester Road the High Street and Loughborough Road by non-quarry traffic have become an increasing problem.

Weekday blasting is discernible throughout the village. Property at the southern end is most affected. The County Council imposes limits on ground vibration and air compression levels (the two shocks normally perceived at blast times). These are monitored at permanently installed monitoring stations, and mobile units are available from the Borough Council for individual properties. Personal perceptions of the degree of nuisance vary across the village, but the monitoring stations rarely record more than half the permitted levels. Residents nevertheless remain sceptical, and there have been incidents when material has been ejected beyond the Quarry boundary.

Machinery noise above ambient levels mostly affects the residents of Leicester Road, Wood Lane and its side roads.

The Council maintains close links with the quarry management, other local Parish Councils, and Borough and County Council Environmental Officers through regular meetings of the Quarry Liaison Committee, and will respond to specific complaints from parishioners.

(d) Aircraft

Expansion at Nottingham East Midlands Airport has resulted in it now being the largest handler of airfreight in the UK. The re-routing of flight paths and lack of night-flying restrictions has increased air traffic movements over Quorn, although recent changes have reduced noise levels as aircraft over-fly at higher altitudes.

The Council will continue to monitor the situation, participate in discussions and make representations in conjunction with other local bodies.

(e) Greening

Initial experiments with temporary street planters in the village were well received by the community, although problems with vandalism highlighted a need for more substantial containers. Permanent planters and beds followed, mostly cared for by local residents and businesses on a voluntary basis.

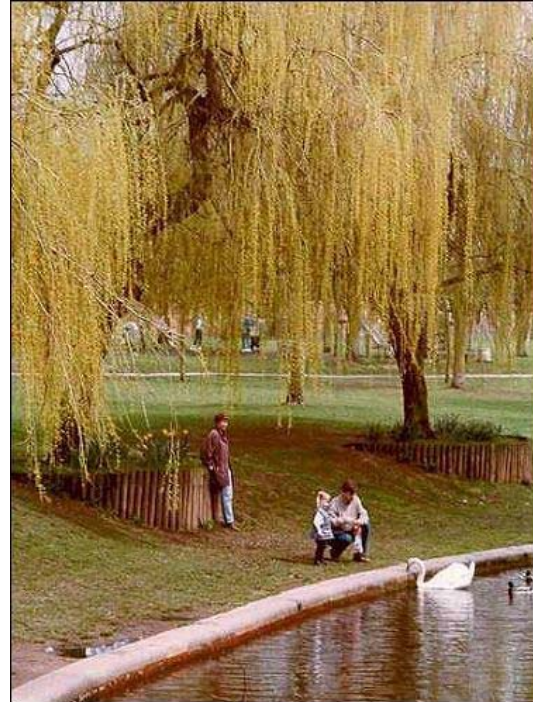
In consultation with villagers, the Council will continue to identify suitable sites for containers, permanent bedding areas, and shrub or tree plantations.

The Parish Council has volunteer tree wardens who regularly report on the state of the trees throughout the village and make recommendations for new planting.

(f) Ecology

The Council acknowledges its responsibility to present and future generations to preserve and care for the ecology in the parish.

Quorn won first prize for the Leicestershire Best Kept Village (large village section) in 1997, 2000, and 2002, Best Large Village in 2004 and the Previous Winners Section in 1998. The village was Leicestershire's entry for the Daily Telegraph's Village of the Year competition in 2000, at which it won the National Environmental Care Award.



Although the nature of the village has gradually changed from a rural, agricultural settlement to one with a more urban, residential character, the parish retains a number of ecologically important sites which contain a wide variety of flora and fauna, some rare.

The most significant area is Buddon Wood and meadows, and Swithland Reservoir, designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This ancient woodland area has been progressively eaten into by quarrying and it is important that what remains is preserved and regenerated.

The Council will work with other bodies to ensure that the area is sensitively managed with a view eventually to opening up some of the newly formed and planted areas for public access.

Important areas surrounding the village include the grounds of the reservoir Water Works, Great Fenny Wood, The Borrow Pit (formed by sand and gravel extraction for the A6 by-pass), Ash Spinney (adjacent to the Borrow Pit), Flesh Hovel Lane, the meadows enclosed by the non-navigable loop in the River Soar and on its southern bank, Mill Farm meadows, the complete length of Buddon Brook from Swithland

Reservoir to its confluence with the River Soar, and a number of embankments and copses.

Ecologically important sites in the parish are being reclassified under a new designation, SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation). Sites already given the SINC designation are Tom Longs Meadow, Quorn Mill Fields, Farley Way Lake, Quorn Fields Farm Marsh and Canal Meadow.

Additional sites proposed for SINC designation are The Coppice, Quorn House Park, The Grove and Quorn House Pond, Tom Longs Meadow Extension, Rowhele Wood, Great Fenny Wood, Pumping Station Wood Ash, and Pillings Lock (the western bank of the River Soar from Barrow Bridge to Pilling's Lock is under threat from a proposed Marina). The Parish has many smaller 'oases' of wildlife which also need to be protected.

Owners and managers of all these sites will be encouraged to establish formal or informal plans for their preservation and management.

(g) Tidiness

Litter and dog fouling are the two village tidiness issues which cause the most consternation with parishioners.

The village, particularly the central area, has 'peak' litter periods. These are associated in term-time with students from Rawlins Community College at weekday lunchtimes, and with the opening times of some take-away food establishments.

A village-college liaison committee meets regularly to review matters of joint interest or concern and to encourage and support initiatives to keep the village tidy. The Council employs a village handyperson to supplement the Borough Council's litter collection and street cleansing service, and to maintain recreation areas and public land. New, larger litter bins have been installed at The Banks and throughout the closed churchyard. More are planned in other public areas of the village.

The Parish Council is not anti-dog but cannot condone the actions of a minority of antisocial owners who allow their dogs to foul public places without using the widely available, free 'poop-scoops' to clear up afterwards. A by-law is in force for the Stafford Orchard, and all other public areas in Charnwood eg pavements.

The Council will press for the prosecution of offenders when reported by members of the public.

(h) Recycling

The Council encourages recycling and supports collective and individual efforts in the community to increase the amount of material recycled.

Wheelie bins and a system of boxes and coloured sacks have been introduced by the Borough Council for the collection and recycling of waste. Most of the community has welcomed the system. The parish Council has some concerns about the wheelie bins and boxes themselves becoming 'litter' where they are not removed from view between collections. This will be monitored.

A bottle bank is also sited on the Station Road Car Park. The need for this is under review now that glass can be recycled in the Borough collection boxes.

(j) Street Lighting

The de-trunking of the former A6 through Quorn has enabled a reassessment to be made of lamp standards, without a reduction in light levels. The height of the standards has been lowered and the road 'overhang' reduced.

The Council will endeavour to ensure that new and replacement street lighting in the village is in character with its surroundings, particularly in the conservation area.

The Christmas lighting in the village is popular with all age groups, and with local businesses who provide support and some sponsorship.

The Council has gradually replaced and extended the Christmas lighting over the past few years and will continue to do so in keeping with the village environment and within prudent spending limits.

(k) Street Furniture

The Council has an installation programme for street furniture, particularly benches and bins, on roadsides and in recreational areas. Some benches are sponsored by local residents and businesses.

A study is being completed of the location and condition of all existing street furniture including benches, bus shelters, and litter and dog bins to establish their condition and establish a regular maintenance and replacement plan.

7. RECREATION, LEISURE AND THE ARTS

The Council recognises the need to provide recreational facilities in the village. It will initiate and support projects and work with other organisations to maintain and improve the opportunities for leisure.

(a) Recreation Areas

Stafford Orchard in the centre of the village is owned by the parish. It is a public space with a recently refurbished children's playground, soccer pitch, basketball area, 'half-pipe' ramp and a youth shelter. It provides a popular off-street focus for young people. The Stafford is also available for hire eg Quorn Wakes, fetes, soccer matches etc.

The Council also leases a square of land from the Church, adjacent to Stafford Orchard at the rear of the Old School.

The Green (the land between Stafford Orchard and Buddon Brook) is owned by Quorn Town Lands Charities and is also open space for public use by agreement with the trustees.

In 2002 the Council purchased Cave's Field for the village, and signed a long lease with Quorn Cricket Club, guaranteeing its continued use for cricket. A Council Committee has been set up to manage the Field as a village amenity. Parish Councillors, and representatives of the Cricket Club, Scouts and Guides serve on the committee.

The only Common Land in the village is a small triangular area alongside the River Soar off Soar Road with no recreational potential.

Other recreational spaces in the village are privately owned but are used by, or are available for hire by teams, societies and individuals. These include Rawlins College playing fields, land opposite Rawlins on Loughborough Road (used by Quorn Bowls Club), tennis courts adjacent to The Manor public house (used by Quorn Tennis Club), and facilities at Quorn Football Club on Farley Way.

The Council will continue to maintain and improve the Stafford Orchard and Cave's Field as recreational spaces, and support other organisations in further developing their facilities as village amenities.

In and around Quorn is a network of public footpaths and bridleways, maintained by the County Council. The Parish has **two** volunteer footpath wardens who regularly walk the local paths and report problems.

The Parish Council wishes to encourage footpath use and has commissioned a series of leaflets from one of its footpath wardens on village walks through places of historical, architectural, ecological, ornithological and local interest. These are on sale in the Post Office.

(b) Leisure

Quorn has a wealth of local clubs, societies, organisations and teams, and volunteers who organise events and celebrations to enrich the life of the village. The Parish Council acknowledges their contribution to the social and sporting life of the village and provides financial assistance for events and to groups in need.



The Village Hall is a popular venue for a variety of public events, including local amateur performances, small professional shows, film afternoons, a beer festival, art exhibitions, dances etc.

The Council will continue to encourage and support new and traditional events in the village.

Rawlins Community College provides a broad range of facilities, and the Council recognises the benefits to the village of public access to this well equipped complex of sporting facilities (hard and grass pitches, tennis courts, swimming pool, indoor sports hall, multi-gym etc), meeting rooms and halls, theatre and studios, arts and crafts areas, centres for the disabled and young people, as well as a wide range of other activities though its comprehensive programme of evening classes.

The Parish Council will support Rawlins in further developing and expanding their facilities for community use, particularly where these cater for young people.

The village has two allotment societies managing allotments off Flesh Hovel Lane and at the rear of the vicarage in Loughborough Road.

The Council is committed to preserving these areas, and to retain them as open spaces.

(c) The Arts

The Parish Council acknowledges the contribution made by local groups involved

with the theatre, music, dance, art and crafts, which enrich the cultural life of the village.

Exhibitions of local arts and crafts sponsored by the Council have proved popular. Sculptures in stone and ironwork have been sited around the village and have stimulated interest.

The Council will continue to support local groups, sponsor and financially support exhibitions of local work, and respond to opportunities to enhance the cultural life of the village.

8. BUSINESS

Quorn is largely a dormitory village for neighbouring centres of business and industry. Many people who live in the village do not work in it and Quorn does not have a serious unemployment problem. There are however many businesses and self-employed people providing a variety of products, accommodation, catering, retailing and other services, often to local residents. A Quorn Worknet has been set up by local self-employed people as a forum for the exchange of information and ideas.

The Council supports all present businesses in the community and welcomes new small-scale enterprises. However, it does not wish to attract medium or large-scale business or industry which would be out of character with the ethos and environment of the village.

The Council seeks to encourage the community to make use of local shops and services. They are an important asset and are unlikely to be replaced if lost.

9. CONSULTATION & INFORMATION

The Parish Council recognises that the provision of information to, and consultation with, parishioners is a vital part of the democratic process, and operates an open access policy to all

decision making not constrained by personal or commercial confidentiality

Council meetings normally take place on the first Tuesday of every month in the Village Hall at 7.00pm. Notices and agendas for meetings are posted on village notice boards. Parishioners are welcome and encouraged to attend. Fifteen minutes are allocated at the start of each meeting for public participation.

Copies of the minutes of council meetings are available in the village post office, public library, the village website (see below) and Council notice board in front of the Station Road shops.

Items of particular or current interest are also publicised in the highly successful, award-winning village magazine "**The Quorndon**", published quarterly by volunteers, and delivered free to every house in the Parish.

Quorn also has two websites on the Internet. The general village website, which can be found at www.quorndon.com contains a section devoted to the Parish Council. The website for the village magazine is at www.thequorndon.com

The Parish Council acknowledges the important contribution that both websites and the magazine make to communication within the village and to publicising the richness of community life in Quorn.

A Parish Meeting takes place annually, usually in May, at which the Council presents its annual report and accounts to the public.

The Council welcomes your feedback and comments on the Plan for Quorn.

Please write to:

**Mrs K Paterson
Parish Clerk
19 Wood Lane**

**Quorn
LE12 8DA**

or

e-mail: parishclerk @ quorndon.com

or

write to, speak to, or email any Parish Councillor (details on the Station Road notice board)