

Castor & Ailsworth Joint Community Action Plan Two Parishes - One Community

Introduction

December 2017 saw the formal adoption by Peterborough City Council (PCC) of a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for each of Castor & Ailsworth parishes following detailed consultation by the Parish Councils with residents and statutory consultees. The NPs complement and support each other, recognising the parishes' shared heritage and the maxim 'two parishes - one community' which became very apparent during the course of consultations with residents. The two NPs cover matters relating to land use in the parishes and can be viewed on the shared website at: www.castorailsworthnps.com

Other matters important to residents also emerged during the course of consultations and this **Joint Community Action Plan (JCAP)** outlines priorities jointly agreed by the Parish Councils, which will be supported and/or taken forward by the Parish Councils on behalf of the community.

The JCAP is a living document and will be updated periodically and as new initiatives arise.

1. A vital place to Live

Item ref.	Activity/Project	Current Position
JCAP 1.1	Ensure planning proposals meet NP provisions and represent any concerns to PCC Planning Officers. (Supports all NP policies, in particular CH1/CH2 & AH1/AH2.)	Ongoing evaluation of all planning applications by PCs against the relevant NP requirements.
JCAP 1.2	Ensure that planning proposals which exceed anticipated growth levels in the NPs are supported by evidence of clear community support through appropriate pre-application consultation. (Supports NP policies CH2/AH2.)	Ongoing evaluation of planning proposals by PCs against the NP CH2/AH2 requirements.
JCAP 1.3	Woodlands - consult with site owners to ensure acceptable re-development of the existing Woodlands buildings and related land; also, to retain a continued community sports facility with appropriate facilities (see also JCAP 3.2 & 4.3) and the possibility of a permanent site for the pre-school. (Supports NP policy CRV1.)	Parish Councils in discussion with site representatives and local sports clubs. Latest discussions suggest a care village may be suitable for the site. The need for a permanent site for the pre-school
JCAP 1.4	Explore the feasibility of establishing a village housing trust (akin to the existing almshouses in Castor).	PCs to consider forming a group to explore developing this initiative, e.g. with the Hastoe Housing Association (www.hastoe.com).

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2. An ancient & fragile landscape

Item ref.	Activity/Project	Current Position
JCAP 2.1	Support initiatives for preservation, restoration and interpretation of historical features in and around the parishes.	Funding and restoration of the Robin Hood and Little John standing stones arranged and completed by Castor PC. CPC have also arranged reinstatement of the milestone on Love's Hill following a traffic accident. PCs have jointly commissioned a replacement village sign.
JCAP 2.2	The St Kyneburgha Building Preservation Trust will continue walks, talks and guides to interpret the building and its situation.	The Church guide currently available is being republished.
JCAP 2.3	Support further environmental and biodiversity study covering the Southern half of the parishes to the Nene and along the A47 following the work undertaken to the North.	Work on behalf of the Langdyke Countryside Trust is being scoped prior to commissioning and discussion with landowners.
JCAP 2.4	Encourage projects to restore neglected sites, such as Middling Pond in Ailsworth (NPT), the Station Master's Garden at Castor Station (NPT), Ailsworth Marsh (CWS)* and the Drift in Castor (CWS), liaising with land owners as necessary. <small>*(CWS = County Wildlife Site)</small>	In conjunction with Langdyke Countryside Trust permissions are currently being sought and resources explored.
JCAP 2.5	Support proposals for approval of three new county wildlife sites identified in the environmental study.	This will be taken forward by The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire.
JCAP 2.6	Support work to enhance ecology through implementation of management plans by Langdyke Countryside Trust in partnership with tenant farmers and landowners as per study conducted in 2017.	Scoping underway.

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3. A thriving community

Item ref.	Activity/Project	Current Position
JCAP 3.1	Support the development of a suitable surgery/other primary health facility within or immediately adjacent to the villages to overcome existing traffic and parking difficulties in Main Street. (Supports NP policies CSE4/ASE3.)	Longer term objective is to encourage existing surgery to relocate to a new site within these parameters.
JCAP 3.2	Support proposals which will ensure continued development of the school and provision of a permanent location for the pre-school. (Supports NP policy CSE3.)	See item 1.3.
JCAP 3.3	Explore how to overcome difficulties with speeding traffic through the villages, notably in the Peterborough and Helpston Roads, such as 20 mph limits, 'gates' at village entrances.	APC currently examining options; CPC reviewing arrangements for speed warning signs and are awaiting the outcome of PCC evaluation of 20 mph arrangements in Werrington. The village position will be reviewed accordingly.
JCAP 3.4	Support and encourage improvements to maintain and develop the village shop and a positive environment for village business amenities.	Planning application for the shop supported and subsequently approved.

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4. A space for Peterborough to breathe

Item ref.	Activity/Project	Current Position
JCAP 4.1	Encourage the initiative to improve cycleway facilities to the West of the parishes. (Supports NP policies CRV1 and ARV1.) This leisure route is seen as complementary to any cycleway proposals which may emerge in dualling the A47 to Wansford.	Led by the Cycle West Project who have discussed design proposals with land owners and a redesign of the final section is currently awaited. Funding for this is being sought and support of the Parish Councils may be needed to see this through.
JCAP 4.2	Encourage visitor information regarding historical links and ecological interests in the parishes. (Supports NP policies CRV3/ARV3.)	Route guides published by residents' visitor group providing visitor information for 'John Clare's footsteps through Castor Hanglands' and 'Roman Castor - Normangate Field'
JCAP 4.3	Woodlands - consult with site owners to ensure acceptable re-development of the Woodlands site to retain a continued community sports facility with appropriate facilities. (See also JCAP 1.3) (Supports NP policy CRV1.)	Parish Councils in discussion with site representatives and local sports clubs.
JCAP 4.4	Monitor existing network of footpaths and bridleways to ensure they are adequately maintained. Continue to seek improvements to promote access and safety. (Supports NP policies CRV2/ARV2.)	PCs arrange periodic walks to check these and these could perhaps be expanded to community walks. The Nene Park Trust 'Walking back in time' project will include a heritage trail and improved riverside walking routes.