

**Meeting of Birstall & Wanlip Parochial Church Council
at Birstall on July Tuesday 21st 2015 at 7.30 p.m.**

AGENDA

Our vision is to be an open Christian community where people feel loved, respected and free to be fully themselves'.

- Vince welcomed Rob Gladstone, Area Dean, who opened the meeting in prayer
- **The Area Dean of Goscote: Rob Gladstone, spoke of Broadnook.**

Rob thanked those present for according him time to describe the situation as time is pressing, and there is a sense both of urgency and of opportunity.

The area under discussion is Broadnook garden suburb. Broadnook Spinney is the boundary between our parishes. The land concerned is jointly owned by Mr Palmer-Tompkinson and Anthony Cooper, farmer at Southfields farm. Any application will go through, since the land has been recognised as development land under Charnwood's quota. The plan is to construct 1500 homes for 4000 people. It will be an aspirational garden suburb, continuing the development already done in both Quorn and Rothley. The land will not be sold to a 'volume' builder, rather it will be retained and those purchasing the houses will share in a 'trust'. At present there are plans for a 2-form entry primary school, a community hall with worship centre, and a few shops. The new school in Rothley is geographically very close, but forms part of a different development.

Time line: - Consultation will take place in September, planning permission sought in October, with a view to commencing the build in April 2016.

Under the 1782 enclosures act, Rothley church-wardens' field is outside the proposed development, but developers want to lease or buy this field, which has until now been leased to a local farmer, who may want to move on.

Geographically the new development is not really linked to either Wanlip or Rothley, so access is a problem. A smaller part of it actually falls under Thurcaston parish.

Rob suggested that we need to recognise the visional opportunity this development represents.

In terms of pastoral provision, the geography means that unless things change, people will be pulled in different directions; it would be preferable to see it as a single pastoral unit. His suggestion is that the Diocese makes it 'conventional district', a unit on its own rather than attributed to one parish, employing a pioneer worker. The aim would be to be involved on the process from the beginning, and to make worship centre identifiable, as well as pushing for the proposed school to be a church school. It is hoped Mr Palmer-Tompkinson may be sympathetic to this.

In order to do that, all parishes concerned need to propose that this area become a conventional district, so the PCC need to vote.

Questions arising

1. Comparison with Hallam Fields – Is there a danger of the school not being built, as we have experienced in our parish?
Response by Rob The land will not be sold to a developer here. Also, there is a clearer vision of creating an aspirational community.
2. Is this in fact more than simply a proposal, will the development simply go ahead regardless of what the parishes decide?
Response by Rob Applications have been refused in past, but now this space has been clearly identified as necessary for housing. The land owned by the church wardens will become the 'green wedge'. The developers can still go ahead with planning, but the field is in effect an 'island'.

3. Our problem has been communication and relationship with Birstall Parish Council – Will this situation be any different?
Response by Rob Everyone who buys a house will in fact become a member of a 'trust', a self-governing body. Relationships with other Parish Councils and Wanlip meeting are unclear.
4. Will the church wardens' land be leased or sold?
Response by Rob This is a decision yet to be taken, and a good bargaining chip. Perhaps some money could be made available to employ a minister?..... There are no clear ideas yet, but it is good to 'get in at the beginning', intentionally putting ministry at the heart of the new project.
5. Releasing Section 106 money has proved to be a problem at Hallam Fields. Will the provision of school etc, on this new estate be a requirement?
Response by Rob Section 106 funding will still be part of the process, but the vision is to not only build homes, but to create a community, and controlling interest will be retained through the trust.
6. When asked what he required of the meeting, Rob replied that since time is pressing, he would like us, together with the parishes of Rothley and Thurcaston, to talk to the Diocese about the creation of a conventional district. Time is pressing.
7. If we say no, can the conventional district still go through?
Response by Rob No.
8. Is there not a difference between current Diocesan strategy and the new situation?
Response by Rob The current Deanery plan takes no account of it, but that is another question. The Diocese may need to revise plans in light of new builds around the area. It's a great opportunity. And if we don't accept it, who takes responsibility for pastoral care?
9. How binding is the establishment of a conventional district?
Response by Rob Once established, there is no guarantee that for example the provision of a church school is binding. Also, the conventional district exists only as long as the present incumbents remain. There is no legal boundary change for the parishes concerned. Once the three parishes have made a request to the Diocese, the matter will come back to the three PCC's for a final decision on governance.
10. Who would finance a pioneer worker?
Response by Rob This is a secondary issue. If the Diocese decides on a conventional district, resourcing would be following subsequent discussion.
11. If a conventional district is set up, can it subsequently become a parish in own right?
Response by Rob Only if all 3 parishes propose this to the church commissioners.

At this point Rob left the meeting and the discussion continued.

The meeting decided unanimously to ask the archdeacon to look at the situation with us.

- **Minutes from the previous meeting were read and accepted unanimously**

However some spelling errors are to be corrected.

The format was thought to be good.

No2 Canon

No 6 anonymous

No 12 Lesley

- **Matters arising from the minutes**

None

- **Mission and evangelism**

- Mission Partnership update (see attached documents)

As a part of the Mission Partnership update, we are looking at trying to create agreement, partly because it is felt that deanery strategy is not keeping pace with reality on the ground.

A question was raised about the specific wording 'each church remains responsible for its own finances.....' (see Partnership Agreement Document page 1) Is it correct that there would **not** be a 'common pot'?

Response by Vince That is correct, but it is hoped that, as at present, we could help each other in times of need.

A few questions were raised about charitable status. What is the reason for setting up the Partnership as a charity? Is it a necessity? Can a registered charity set up another one?

Action: Vince will try to find out.

The Mission Partnership is in the process of creating 'menu of activities' e.g., fire training, christening project..... less duplication is the goal.

- **Pioneer Work update (see report)**

At the Churches Together meeting there seemed to be positive feedback about the impact of the Pioneer Worker on the life and activities of those concerned in general. Words used included, 'his presence making a difference', 'rippling out'

Some of the measures we have chosen for the project seem difficult to quantify, but are starting to show positive changes, and are proving to be very relevant.

Vince received a book which has impacted him and is highly recommended. In it, the essence of 'success' seems not to be trying to 'ignite' or cajole people into faith, but to be present, to be open, and to be listening. He gave the example of a café church which did no publicity, and yet God sent people along! We need to remain open to the Holy Spirit.

- **Finance**

The finances are on track. The treasurer has been on a days' training which has created a bit more work, but should help, and will have a positive long-term effect. The accounts have come back from the accountant. A CCLI communication has been received inviting us to extend our license (i.e. buy a CLA church license) to include photocopying license for non-music publications, e.g. booklets, study guides, papers, The cost will be £42 to 31st March 2016.

It was decided to go ahead and purchase this license.

An email received, and it seems we have a share of a legacy coming. The solicitor concerned is looking for information about off-shore bonds. It was suggested that **Nicki** contact Bert or Alan.

- **Reports in brief**

- Social: Not meeting again till August
- Music and Worship
 - Request for a Calamus licence

Our Current CCLI license covers English language music, but not foreign music, Taizé, etc. The Calamus license does this. We may at present be using things illegally. The cost is £72 a year. It gives us permission to use fresh things. We also need to record what we actually use. Lesley is to find more information, and will contact Nicki.

It was unanimously decided to purchase this license.

- Organist v's Hymnal machine. Plus

Gill Chester presented the situation. At the moment not having an organist is giving us a creative space. It gives us a chance to review and look ahead. How can we future-proof our worship? What is the best way forward? We can consider all the points on the paper Gill provided. What is the most beneficial way of organising our worship? We can look at pros and cons list.

Hymnal Plus – is as simple as plug and go if you want, but has many other possibilities. It can be used by people who want to create their own system. It should be stress-free once it is set up.

Gill's request was for a vote on whether we carry out more investigation, go and see it in use, (there is a dealer in Birmingham) and continue to look at other alternatives. Hymnal Plus costs around £2000 one-time cost. Add-ons can be purchased...It can be transported, and can be used with a battery pack. It is a versatile tool.

Another possibility is Fly Worship, which is software, and we would need to pay extra for each song used. It is controlled by pedals, and it perhaps more suited to informal worship.

We listened to CD of demo tracks of Hymnal Plus.

It was unanimously decided that Gill should go ahead and find out more.

It was felt we need a separate meeting to talk about music and worship, to go and talk to people in other churches and see how they feel.

Vince was asked if we had in fact advertised for an organist.

Vince's response was that we have advertised on both our own website and the on diocesan website.

Gill informed the meeting that concern had been raised about the choirs. At present there is an imbalance in voices. Where is the choir going? What is their role, especially at 10 o'clock St James and at Wanlip? Can we encourage others to join? Would having a more informal choir encourage them to join? Should the choir be dispersed throughout the congregation? Would this help people join in? Should they sit at the front? How do we take it forward? Do we invite those who are in other choirs to join? It was decided that Gill should call a meeting for those who enjoy singing. We all need to feed back to Gill our opinions on the options proposed.

- Website,

Josh has taken over updating the site. He can amend where needed, and indeed should get rid of older stuff. We are very grateful for his work, and he should feel free to ask for some help if needed (Gill /Janet have offered). It seems that one Wanlip link isn't working...and the word 'village' needs to be deleted from all mentions of the hall in Wanlip on the site. Josh to action.

- Sunday School

Rose says the work is carrying on.

- C.P.O.C.,

There is a meeting on 29th at St James' with the bishop's advisor from St Martins House

- Hospitality

There is nothing specific to report. We mustn't get complacent. If anyone knows of any charities that may wish to use the community area, please make them known. We have great resources at our disposal, and need to think about how best to use them.

- Men's Group.

No report.

Buildings

- Birstall

The disabled toilet is being (slowly) refurbished. The initial allocation was £1500, may need another £100. On July 22nd there is a site meeting with Charnwood borough on the churchyard concerning their poor maintenance of it. Hopefully the leaking roof has been repaired.

- Wanlip

There has been an insurance revaluation. The recommendation is that the cover of both the church and the hall be increased, the church by nearly £1 million, the hall by nearly £750k. It has been a long time since the last valuation, and this premium covers the cost of rebuilding to a similar standard/style.

This means an increase in premiums of £138.28 for the church, £11.82 for the hall.

We pay insurance for the hall. It is likely that we will be bringing rental discussions to the PCC in future.

John proposed we accept the premiums, Peter seconded, the vote was unanimous.

The new kitchen will be finished by end of the week. Inevitably problems have arisen, e.g. damp-proofing, electrics – no pass certificate was possible without significant work, with a separate distribution board being installed. But it needs to be functioning kitchen (and now has a seven burner cooker) if we want to rent it out. The loan of 10k previously discussed will in fact be needed. With extras we are now looking at 6k of a shortfall (with tiling and extras on doors to be added.) Part of the 18k we have is 5k grant from Charnwood which has to be paid out in order to be reclaimed, so a loan will be needed in the short term.

Rector's items.

- Thanksgiving Sunday back as 18th October, with lunch at the village hall. We want it to be a celebration of our activity; a time of giving thanks to God.
- CAP Sunday – date confirmed as 15th November.

Deanery

No report

Churches Together (see attached report)

All are invited to Father Keith's farewell on August 31st 7pm.

Next meeting, clashes with the rehearsal for remembrance parade – should try to change the date.

Debbie/Vince to action?

The giant puppets are likely to return to last years' venue for Christmas event.

If we could find ways of having small fundraising events, it would help. We also need to raise awareness of what Churches Together does.

Correspondence

None received

A.O.B.

It was noted that sitting in rows was not ideal, and it was pointed out this was a 'one-off' to help with Rob's presentation. We will be in a circle next time.

Date of next meeting: 15th September at Wanlip, 7:30pm

The Grace was said