

Ropley Neighbourhood Planning Central village workshop session

23rd November 2015

Attendees

Graham Flatt, Charles Louisson, Andy Bonner, Carole Oldham, Quinten Sandell, Tim Day

Central Village walk – first impressions

- The central part of the village is built on a saddle between the Petersfield Road and Gascoigne Lane where the main development is focussed. Noted that when you walk along the top of the saddle you don't see much of the housing
- views out from the village centre give a very rural feel due to the amount of greenfield area in the village
- Aspect is greenfield and open with ribbon development along the roads
- the approach along Berry Hill gives a very "villagey" feel with housing density building up as one travels in towards the centre of the village
- centre of the village is characterised by many small single track and very narrow lanes some almost sunken lanes, many of these lead right into the centre of the village - it is easy to sense that these are the remainders of the old village lanes that would have pre dated development of cars, eg Lyeway Lane, Dunsells Lane, Church Lane South Street
- quite a number of houses on the old lanes are built up higher on banks on the sides of the lanes adding to the village feel
- housing is mixed with some thatched cottages, Georgian properties and many more modern, the majority of village houses are 2 storey – not many bungalows in the centre of the village now.
- The amount of car traffic in the village centre was noted as being limited. Quite a lot of people walk and cycle – mainly outside of school times
- noted that Ropley has few of the "normal" facilities in the village centre such as a pub or village green that might result in increased traffic flows

Action – thought worthwhile investigating whether there is any Traffic Watch data on traffic movements in the village centre

Graham's notes here on evolution of settlements within the village (**see attached**)

Action – may be worth investigating the history of the development of Colonial Bungalows in the village and their subsequent impact on the development of the area – as these are an unusual characteristic of Ropley

Action – we probably need to properly define the centre of the village

The Neighbourhood Plan will need to take into account the redevelopment of the church – need to consider access routes and traffic flows / car parking etc.

Action – there is a piece of work needed to capture the photos of the centre of the village and record these as examples for the evidence base

should we identify strategic footpaths that are used by local settlements to access the centre of the village, the shop, school village hall etc.? And then

Should we have a strategy within the NP to improve the core local footpaths, - i.e. prioritising spending on core footpaths over others? if so these will need to be identified and agreed

Action – suggested it might be good to do some form of survey with the school on the methods that children use to get to the school, car, bus cycle walk etc. Alan Bonner to investigate as it was felt that the school may already have this data

To improve walking access to the village centre should the NP have a policy requiring developers to develop footpaths into the centre of the village as part of developments?

Next meeting to be held once the photographic survey work has been done and the work on the conservation areas has been progressed.