

REPORT FROM PUBLIC MEETING ON 7TH FEBRUARY, 2009 TO DISCUSS A PARISH PLAN

Bill Ungless reported that he felt a Parish Plan would set a framework for the village. It needed to be carefully formulated. It would involve a very thorough process producing a questionnaire for the residents of the village and it would necessitate a response.

He reported that the Group, who had volunteered at the previous meeting, had spoken to 12 parishes and had come to the conclusion that the village would reap the benefit of formulating their own Parish Plan. It was considered that if the village had a plan it would give them more influence when challenging for funding amongst other issues. He did not consider it would dilute the powers of the Parish Council but would enhance their powers and supplement existing documentation.

Clive Brinley-Jones stated that although he had originally been sceptical, if a formalised plan could help such issues as the sea defences, he would be happy to support it.

Councillor K Webb and A E Hunt considered that Walberswick was the type of village that already carried out most of the benefits suggested in the plan. Councillor Hunt was not convinced that it would benefit the village in the areas of planning, which was one of the areas of concern for the Parish Council.

Councillor Leighton stated that if the Unitary Plan was adopted, the Parish Plan would give the village more strength. Sue Allen, County Councillor for Waveney, stated that Southwold Town Council had prepared their own plan and she considered that it definitely gave her more clout when challenging the authorities.

The meeting was informed that if the village was in favour, several volunteers would be needed to act as a steering group to formulate the plan and raise the necessary finances. The Chairman, Madeline Dabbs, stated that courses were available for those involved. The hardest work would be collating the responses to the questionnaires.

A show of hands was taken and a large majority voted in favour of a Parish Plan being produced.

Vivien Hunt (Clerk)