

## **Parish Plan Report**

**April 2012**

Last year representatives from the Parish Council together with volunteers from the village came together to form The Parish Plan Steering Group.

The objective was to:

- examine the current Parish Plan created in 2004
- recognise the achievements and outcomes from that plan
- revise the plan to help meet the ongoing challenges and opportunities for the village over the course of the next five years or so.

### **Some of the outcomes and policies generated from the 2004 Parish Plan**

Retention of the Village Envelope

Ongoing protection of AONB and environment through monitoring all planning applications

No Parking signage on slipway and beach

Footpath from church to beach reinstated

Waldringfield Wildlife Group formed to help protect wildlife

Emergency plan instigated in village

Chiropody Service introduced

Increase in the number of activities in the village hall

Neighbourhood Watch scheme resurrected and flourishing

Waldringfielders email group established

### **Identifying challenges and opportunities for the village**

The Steering Group was very anxious not to influence the choice of topics or concerns to be researched in formulating the revised Plan.

Using Suffolk Acre to act as facilitators, in January this year we invited everyone who lived or worked in the village to come and help “Shape the future of Waldringfield”. It was a lively event with much stimulating debate on the issues raised. Everyone had the opportunity of highlighting whatever suggestions and concerns they had on their mind and then these were prioritised by all those attending. The topics generating the most interest were then debated in smaller groups. The issues generating the greatest interest on the night included:

- the proposed 2000 houses at BT
- traffic in the village
- broadband speed and wi fi availability
- keeping the primary school
- protecting the Deben Estuary from erosion
- forming an energy group (in particular mains gas)
- securing allotment land.

From these discussion groups several embryonic action groups were formed including the formation of Friends of Waldringfield School, and a group established to explore broadband in the Village Hall.

The only disappointing aspect of the evening was that relatively few people attended in the under 40, or even under 50, age groups. There will be other opportunities to have your say, so, particularly if you are in this age group and you have ideas on how the village should move forward please get in touch with any member of the Parish Plan Group to put your point of view forward. Better still, come along and join the Steering Group.

Members of the Steering Group are:

- Alyson Videlo
- Ben Stone
- Betsy Reid
- Bridget Rayner
- Colin Reid
- Ian Kay
- Janet Elliot
- Rosalind Erskine

Janet Elliot