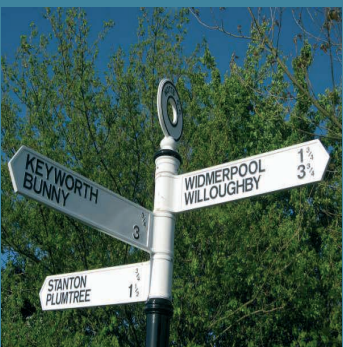


# Keyworth Village Plan 2009

Our Vision for the Future of Keyworth



# Keyworth Village Plan



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## What is a Village Plan?

In 2000 the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) issued a Rural White Paper *Our Countryside: The Future - A Fair Deal for Rural England*. Among the issues raised was the objective that rural communities should have the opportunity to formulate their future needs through the development of Village Plans.

The White Paper describes a Village Plan as 'an opportunity to develop community agreement on local priorities and options for addressing them'. A Village Plan should aim 'to preserve valued and local features and to map out the facilities and services which the community needs to safeguard for the future' (DEFRA 2000). A Village Plan should become an important input to the wider community planning.

The idea of a Village Plan was first promoted in Keyworth by our Parish Council under the chairmanship of Tony Kemmer. Nevertheless it is the village residents, acting independently of the Parish Council, who have compiled the Village Plan.

# A message from the Steering Group Chairman

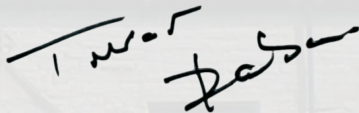
'Keyworth is a great place to live' - this was the overwhelming view of those who completed our village household survey. I happen to agree and that is why I decided to become involved in this project. When a Village Plan was first mentioned I came to the conclusion that if I wanted Keyworth to remain a great place to live, then I should get involved. So did upwards of 50 of my fellow Keyworthians. To these enthusiastic, committed colleagues I extend my sincerest thanks. Without their hard work the Village Plan would not have been possible.

We live in challenging times. Ever greater demands are being made on local authorities to increase housing stock. Car ownership is rising and subsequently pressure is being brought to bear on our road infrastructure. Environmental concerns are ever at the forefront of public thinking. Longevity is on the increase and young people have their aspirations and ambitions, and rightly expect to be heard. Increased personal free time means that leisure activities figure large in Keyworth's profile with over 80 social clubs and volunteer groups. Local businesses are under increasing pressure and the current economic climate is causing much concern. These issues and many more were evident when we analysed the survey returns. The Village Plan attempts to address some of these issues whilst ensuring Keyworth continues to be a place in which we all want to live.

In the immediate future we will be setting up a Village Plan Development Group and other groups responsible for the different themes. Made up of Parish Councillors and residents the Village Plan Development Group will coordinate all the various actions identified in this plan. It will meet regularly with Parish, Borough and County Councillors to ensure that it gets the specialist advice and knowledge it needs to bring the proposed actions to reality. It will monitor progress and make sure that everyone is kept up to date and consulted. The other groups will put the plans into action and liaise with the various agencies, charities and funding bodies necessary to bring success.

The actions identified in this plan will only be carried out if you and your neighbours become involved in these groups. The more of you that become engaged in trying to make this plan work the more likely it is to succeed. Ultimately it is up to all of us as residents to see that Keyworth flourishes and in the future remains 'a great place to live'.

Kind regards



Trevor Dobson

If you want to see how you can help to keep Keyworth a great place to live visit [www.keyworthvillageplan.com](http://www.keyworthvillageplan.com)

# Keyworth Village Plan

## A brief history of Keyworth

Keyworth is a hill-top village resting on a spur of the South Nottinghamshire Wolds in Rushcliffe Borough Council, approximately six miles southeast of West Bridgford. The oldest part of the village – The Square, the Parish Church and Main Street – were settled in the early Middle Ages. Keyworth is mentioned several times in the Domesday Book of 1086 and parts of the Parish Church, St. Mary Magdalene, can be dated back to the 14th century.

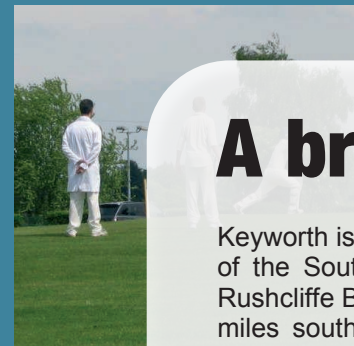
In the centuries that followed the Middle Ages Keyworth's population grew slowly and was largely dependent on subsistence farming. By 1750 the population numbered about 250, but towards the end of the 18th century change was afoot. The Parliamentary Enclosure Act of 1799 merged land holdings into compact farms, each surrounded and divided into small fields by the hawthorn hedges we see today. The only visible remains of the old strips used in medieval farming are the occasional fields with their surfaces corrugated with ridge and furrow, as on the Rectory Playing Field.

By 1881 Keyworth had been transformed from an agricultural into a manufacturing village, based on framework knitting. At first the growing population was contained within the original medieval confines: around The Square and along Main Street. When space in the old village ran out in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, cottages began to be built along

Selby Lane, Nottingham Road and Bunny Lane.

In 1880 Plumtree railway station opened (now closed). This signalled the beginning of the transformation of Keyworth into a dormitory satellite for Nottingham. Growth in commuting was at first slow, but when buses brought public transport into the heart of the village after the First World War it picked up. After the Second World War Nottinghamshire Council's planning authority made the decision to concentrate rural population growth onto a few villages, of which Keyworth was one. As a result the village population doubled in the 1950s and doubled again in the 1960s, to over 5,000 by 1971. This growth was accommodated in the main by the building of four estates, starting with a council estate on Manor Road in 1955, followed by the estates on Wolds Drive, Brookview Drive, and Crossdale Drive.

Until the 1950s the majority of Keyworth residents knew each other: they were born here, went to the same school on Selby Lane and relied on the village for most of their work, worship, shopping, recreation and entertainment. Today much of this has changed. Most of those now in employment commute to Nottingham and elsewhere and there is also a counter-current of inward commuters to workplaces in Keyworth.



# Keyworth today

Keyworth has a population of approximately 7000 comprising about 3000 households and has remained fairly stable in recent years. It is surrounded by agricultural land designated as part of Nottingham's Green Belt.

In comparison with the population of Rushcliffe Borough, Keyworth's population has a larger percentage of people over 55 and a smaller percentage of those between 20 and 34. For other age groups, the proportions are similar to those of the Borough as a whole.

The village enjoys a full range of well-supported local facilities including a village hall complex, a range of churches, a health centre, dentists, opticians, an advice centre, a library, a post office, junior schools, a secondary school, a youth club, a number of pubs, restaurants and take-aways and a health club. There are many shops including three small supermarkets, food and clothing outlets, pharmacies, a hardware store, haberdashery/wool shop, newsagent, hairdressers, automotive & bicycle parts supplier and travel agent. Local commercial services include vets, estate agents, a bank, accountants, book-maker, garden & landscaping services, builders, electricians, plumbers and garages and a driving school. Small businesses provide services and products including software development, planning, geological consultancy, electrical heating products, printing and plastic fabrication.

Keyworth, has for many years, been the home of the British Geological Survey, which is by far the largest single employer in the village. It is Britain's premier centre for geoscience information and expertise, and

provides services and advice to governments and businesses worldwide.

Keyworth also has a community concern trust which co-ordinates and assists local groups in looking after the needs of the elderly and those less fortunate in our community. It also runs a community bus.

We also have a leisure centre with swimming pool, tennis courts, a bowling green, playing fields and a nature reserve. There is a well used allotment site that is in increasing demand. A Keyworth and District University of the Third Age has recently been established. The Keyworth Scouts organise an annual 'Keyworth Turkey Trot' (half marathon) each December which starts and finishes in the village. It attracts up to a thousand entrants from all over Britain and is now in its 27<sup>th</sup> year. The village also has an annual Village Show.

The village is served by a regular and frequent bus service into Nottingham, our county town. Other local bus routes also pass through the village.

The village's shops and facilities are also used by residents from the smaller settlements around Keyworth, so the village acts as a hub for rural life in this part of South Nottinghamshire.

Above all the village is characterised by its strong sense of local community, with over 80 active and welcoming societies, clubs and support groups giving expression to our community spirit. The village has an active twinning association and we are twinned with Feignies, France. We also benefit from a monthly publication, the Keyworth News.

# Business & Commerce

## Background

Keyworth is a large village and also acts as a focus for surrounding, smaller villages. It supports a surprisingly wide range of businesses, serving both the local and wider community. These include a range of shops, a bank, post office, several small service companies, and many independent/sole traders operating from home. Keyworth is also the headquarters of the British Geological Survey. Many businesses employ between one and five people, with at least five employing over 21 people and the British Geological Survey about 500. The majority of businesses that responded (59%) recruit locally.

It is vital for the future of the village that Keyworth attracts and maintains a thriving business and commercial sector that provides:

- a high quality shopping environment
- essential services for its residents, and
- local employment opportunities.

In addition to consultation through the household survey, a separate business survey canvassed the views of local businesses; it was completed by about one third (67) of those approached.

“ Planning should consider the impact of rising fuel costs and the importance of working locally. Keyworth could meet the economic needs of a wide area if space was used wisely to create business opportunities.

Keyworth resident



## What's important in our planning

### We need to make sure that:

- A thriving business community is encouraged in Keyworth for the benefit of residents, existing businesses and future businesses.
- Knowledge about the availability of local facilities and services is improved.
- Shopping areas in Keyworth are made as inviting as possible.
- A strategy is developed to encourage improvement of existing shabby premises.

“ It is important to use local shops and support local shopkeepers.

Endeavour to support local businesses wherever possible.

Keyworth resident

## What you told us in the survey

The importance of supporting local retailers was recognised, with about 62% of respondents of the household survey buying from local shops on a daily basis. A majority (69%) thought there was a wide range of local shops, but more new shops should be encouraged. Shopping areas needed to be attractive and, as one respondent commented 'The village is defined by its retail centre'. There was considerable support for a farmers' market held, maybe once/twice a month and preferably on a Saturday. Nevertheless, it was recognised that a farmers' market might adversely affect existing shops, so care would need to be taken that it complemented, not competed with, local retailers.

There was also strong support for using local businesses/trades people; the comment 'use it or lose it' was widely expressed. These views were, qualified by considerations about price, quality, choice and reliability. The household survey identified a need for better information on the availability of local businesses and services. Advertisements in the *Keyworth News* and *Keyworth Directory* were seen as being very useful. A more comprehensive Directory focused specifically on Keyworth businesses and services, or a listing on the village website, was seen as particularly desirable.

The importance of maintaining the postal and banking services was highlighted, particularly for the elderly who are less likely to have online facilities. These services were seen as important for retaining businesses in

Keyworth. There was, however, a divergence of views on whether there were sufficient business/offices/industrial premises in the village. Some comments supported investment in additional business facilities, enhancing local employment opportunities at all skill levels, a factor that may become of increasing importance with rising fuel costs. However, a number of people felt that there was no need for further business/industrial development, which might adversely reflect on the character of the village.

Within the business community there was strong support (89%) for a Directory of Keyworth Businesses, and the vast majority wished to be listed in a directory and/or on a website. A substantial proportion (63%) was happy to make a 'nominal' contribution to the cost of a directory. The idea of a Business Forum (an informal grouping of Keyworth businesses) was raised by a small number of people. With many independent/sole traders in the village, all with core needs, such as advertising, website design and accountancy, it would be useful to create a forum where some of this knowledge could be shared through periodic meetings. Business link representatives might also make briefings and a forum might provide a valuable focal point for feeding local business views back to the Parish Council. In the longer term some businesses might wish to expand, in which case there would be a requirement for low cost office space if these businesses are to be retained, with the associated advantages for local employment and services.

## Some of the things we are planning

- Inviting local businesses to propose a structure and costing for a business directory, either paper or online
- Inviting public participation in examining the feasibility of establishing a farmers' market
- Providing encouragement for local businesses to form a Business Forum
- Exploring ideas and options for communicating local employment opportunities to local people

See the Action Plans insert in your Village Plan for full details of the Business Actions

# Environment

## Background

While most residents expressed general satisfaction with the quality of the environment, many sought improvements.

**Cleanliness** - there are litter 'hot spots' – outside shops, along footpaths leading from South Wolds Community School, and in the hedges of approach roads into the village. There is also a problem with dog fouling, particularly along the footpaths.

**Amenities** - i.e. public seats and toilets. Public seats on the Rectory Playing Field and in The Square are well used. The Parade and several bus stops are without seats. Some seats are in need of maintenance. Public toilets are not signposted and there are times when none are available.

“ Amenities: A smaller version of Ruddington country park would be a great enhancement to the village in terms of nature conservation and as a leisure facility, especially if it were linked to an extended foot/cycle path network.

”  
**Keyworth resident**

## What you told us in the survey

### Cleanliness

**Litter** - Generally, people feel very strongly about litter with almost 50% of respondents considering litter to be a 'big problem' and 85% feeling 'local shopkeepers should tidy litter around their premises'.

**Dog fouling** - Respondents also feel very strongly about dog fouling with over 60% considering it a 'big problem'.

**Bags** - A large 85% of respondents want Keyworth traders to use biodegradable or re-usable bags.

### Amenities

**Seating** - Additional public seating in and around Keyworth would be used by over 50% of respondents.

**Public toilets** - Although there were no questions about public toilets, people commented within the survey on a need for them.

**Parkland** - Over 90% of respondents want to maintain the green belt around Keyworth. Over 80% of respondents would like a map of the local countryside displayed in the village centre. While less than 50% of the respondents consider that the available open spaces in Keyworth are satisfactory.

**Neighbourhood Watch** - More than 700 residents would like to join a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

“ Cleanliness: We all have to take responsibility for litter in our community.

”  
**Keyworth resident**



## What's important in our planning

**Cleanliness** - To improve and sustain a healthy village environment free of litter and dog fouling; optimise the work of litter and dog wardens by helping them to target problem hot spots.

**Amenities** - Preserve and improve existing green spaces and verges in the village, and develop new ones with uses such as public gardens/rest areas. Provide more new public seating around the village. To provide signposted toilets which should be available at all times.

## Some of the things we are planning

We aim to encourage improved communication, local involvement (e.g. with bodies like Streetwise, the local police, Parish Council, schools etc.) and better dissemination of information around the village.

**Cleanliness** - Two 'litter picks' have already taken place (In the autumn of 2008 and the spring of 2009) and we aim to build on these with improved publicity and public awareness.

Dog fouling is recognised almost universally as anti-social and harmful, by the use of strategically placed bins and increased publicity, we hope to eliminate this problem.

**Amenities** - We hope to increase the availability of properly signposted public toilets. We also hope to install seating at key locations around the village.

See the Action Plans insert in your Village Plan for full details of the Environment Actions

“ General: I think Keyworth is a very pleasant village to live in. It has kept its character even though it is quite big. It has also got quite a few services and most people look after the village well. It has a good community spirit which can be further built on. ”

**Keyworth resident**

# Environment...cont

## Background

Keyworth is a large, compact village with a strong sense of identity, arising in part from being surrounded by an attractive green belt rather than being part of an amorphous built-up area.

**Access routes** - the main shortcomings are in the rural parts of Keyworth and surrounding parishes – there are no paths allowing circular walks. Some footpaths are also bridleways that become churned up in wet weather. There are no dedicated cycle paths linking Keyworth to other villages or to Rushcliffe Country Park. Road verges are often overgrown encouraging litter.

**Green issues** - there is as yet no communal encouragement for individuals to adopt greener lifestyles – e.g. energy and water conservation, reduction in use of plastic bags. Many residents are interested in doing something but are unsure quite what to do.

“ Green issues: Raising awareness of issues such as energy saving, buying local food, and sustainable living is crucial. Some kind of community garden for vegetable growing, composting, etc. might provide a good focal point for this and would also help to foster a stronger sense of community. ”

**Keyworth resident**

## What you told us in the survey

### Access routes

**Footpaths** - Nearly 80% of respondents would make use of improved public footpaths with ‘foot’ being the most frequently used form of transport in the village. Over 50% would use a footpath to Rushcliffe Country Park.

**Cycle paths** - Cycling is not currently popular within Keyworth with only 250 ‘frequent’ cyclists. However the survey suggests more people would cycle if provision was improved, 400 would use a cycle path into Nottingham and 45% of respondents want cycle paths within the village.

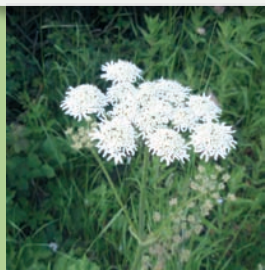
**Map** - Over 80% of the respondents suggested that a map of the local countryside should be available.

**Verges** - Comments in the survey show residents care about the appearance of their village and confirm that litter tends to accumulate in unkempt, overgrown verges, hedges and shrubberies.

### Green issues

**Community composting** - Nearly 1000 residents want a community compost scheme.

**Renewable energy / Eco-centre** - 55% of the respondents would like a community renewal power scheme. However, not knowing what form it would take may have influenced this result.



## What's important in our planning

In planning for both the short and long term, in order to make the environment and sustainability central issues, the key priorities within the village are:

**Access routes** - On a broader scale, improve access to and awareness of the surrounding countryside so that Keyworth's Green Belt can become a nature-friendly recreational zone with clearly marked and mapped footpaths which link to nearby villages.

**Green issues** - Show residents how it is possible to generate renewable energy (non-wind) on a domestic scale, so that they can choose systems suitable for their own homes and needs.


## Some of the things we are planning

We aim to encourage improved communication, local involvement (e.g. with bodies like Streetwise, the local police, Parish Council, schools etc.) and better dissemination of information around the village.

**Access routes** - To encourage the use of local walking and cycling routes by publicising them and the surrounding countryside on a map displayed in The Square. The improved maintenance of routes and verges in and around the village will make these areas more appealing.

**Green issues** - Initiatives in the village will focus initially on investigating and setting up schemes for community composting and renewable energy. We also hope to encourage the use of reusable shopping bags.

See the Action Plans insert in your Village Plan for full details of the Environment Actions



“ Routes: Are there any ways in which people can be encouraged to walk around the village rather than drive? Everywhere in Keyworth is walkable. ”

**Keyworth resident**

# Health & Welfare

## Background

The village now has a new Health Centre building capable of housing a range of health services. The household survey asked whether the Health Centre, Chemist and Dentist facilities were satisfactory. The survey also asked whether the welfare support for the elderly, the disabled, the chronically ill, the under eevens and carers is satisfactory: There were nearly 400 comments and the main issues raised are explained here.

## What you told us in the survey

**Keyworth Medical Practice** - There were nearly 200 comments about the Keyworth Medical Practice, the main concerns being difficulty in obtaining appointments, opening times, quality of the medical service, out-of-hours service.

**Keyworth Health Centre** - As well as accommodating the Medical Practice the Health Centre houses other health service providers. The survey generated suggestions for additional Health Centre services such as a physiotherapist, chiropractor and osteopath. There were also comments on the suitability and use of the new building.

**Welfare Support** - There were over 60 survey comments on adult and child welfare. These identified problems for the elderly such as the lack of warden aided housing, and the lack of visits by community nurses to check on the elderly.

**NHS Dentists** - The survey generated more than 80 comments and complaints about the availability of NHS dentists and the unused dentistry facilities in the Health Centre.

**Chemists/ Pharmacies** - The 65 survey comments were business related and were passed to the Business Action Group.

“ ...also appreciate what wonderful support the elderly have from our volunteers with the community bus and lunch in the Centenary Lounge. All help(s) those who can't get out on their own... ”

**Keyworth resident**

## What's important in our planning

**Keyworth Medical Practice** - The Practice has set up a local Patient Participation Group (PPG) with one of the aims being to be the voice of the patients. The Practice suggested that the Action Group put the survey comments to the Practice through the PPG. The PPG was founded in April 2007 and is concentrating initially on three main areas: communication, health education and community care.

**Keyworth Health Centre** - The Practice and the PPG currently take the position that the questions about other services in the KHC should be directed to the Primary Care Trust.

**Welfare Support** - The main adult and child social care services are provided by Nottinghamshire County Council and these were not investigated but there are a number of voluntary services provided by the community including the Advice Centre and the WRVS Books on Wheels. The Keyworth Community Concern Trust organise a day centre for the disabled and elderly held on Tuesdays in the Centenary Lounge, and they also organise the community bus used for transport to the day centre and for shopping trips.

**NHS Dentists** - The situation has changed since the survey was conducted. Mrs Barber's practice is currently taking on NHS patients and the practice is hoping to move into the Health Centre. Currently there is no need for action.

“ A lot of support for the elderly is dependant upon a few volunteers.

Keep NHS dentists in Keyworth

”

Keyworth resident



## Some of the things we are planning

**Keyworth Medical Practice** - We will continue to work with the PPG to investigate issues raised by the survey, such as the availability of appointments, the opening times and the out-of-hours service.

**Keyworth Health Centre** - We will investigate whether the role of the PPG can be extended to include all services provided by the Health Centre.

**Welfare Support** - The services provided by the Community Concern Trust are under threat because of lack of volunteers to help with and organise the services. The Community Concern Trust and the Parish Council are exploring ways of resolving the problem.

See the Action Plan insert in your Village Plan for full details of the Health and Welfare Actions.

# Housing & Planning

## Background

The main aim of the Housing and Planning Action Plan is to seek to ensure that future developments in Keyworth take into account the views and needs of Keyworth residents. In doing this we need to consider both housing and planning.

### Housing

After World War II Keyworth grew dramatically, mostly in four estates: the Manor Road estate (started 1955, in part to house Cotgrave miners), Wolds Drive (1959), Brookview Drive (1968) and Crossdale Drive (1970), the last becoming part of Keyworth in 1984. The new estates were mainly occupied, when new, by young couples. They liked Keyworth and to a remarkable extent have stayed in Keyworth getting older together.

At the time of the 2001 census 51% of the population of Keyworth was aged over 45 compared to an average for England of only 40%. Most of the Parish north of the old village is now built over, this looks suburban, mostly with reasonable sized gardens providing plenty of greenery. Nearly all the Parish to the south remains farmland.

### Planning

In March 2009 a new East Midlands Regional Plan was published setting ambitious targets for the building of new dwellings in Rushcliffe. It expects around 80% of that development to be in, or extensions to, the existing Urban Areas of Nottingham and West Bridgford. The next step will be for Rushcliffe Borough Council to produce a Local Development Framework to set out its plans for development up to 2026.

“ A great place to live! ”

Keyworth resident

## What you told us in the survey

### Economic development

There is significant employment within the village provided by the British Geological Survey, the shops, schools services and the light industry around Main Street and Debdale Lane.

The household survey showed support for further small shops and services. It showed small majorities opposed to office and light industrial developments and an overwhelming majority opposed to a new large supermarket.

### Housing

The household survey asked residents what types of residential development they would support over the next 10 to 20 years. The answers reflect the age structure of the village. Many houses were extended as families grew but are often larger than needed today. 78% of respondents were opposed to any new houses with four or more bedrooms being built. However, 81% of respondents want elderly sheltered accommodation.

There is also a majority of 70% respondents in favour of building small, i.e. two bedroom, houses for sale. The hope is that the children of those living in Keyworth would be able to get on the housing ladder and stay in the area. Even if local children do move away, to have some first time buyers in the village would help redress the demographic profile of the village.

There were majorities opposed to any flats or rented accommodation being built.

### Planning

Finding acceptable sites for even limited development (that would be supported) can be expected to be controversial. When asked whether Keyworth's Green Belt should be strictly maintained and enforced, 90% of the respondents (1568) replied 'yes'.

## What's important in our planning

You like Keyworth. The estates are built mainly to a reasonable housing density with plenty of well-kept greenery. There are facilities normally only to be found in a town, yet we are all only a short walk from countryside with attractive views. The stable population within a clearly defined area contributes to a high level of social cohesion.

Keyworth has been changing continuously for many hundreds of years. It will continue to change. The challenge is to ensure that change leaves what we value about Keyworth intact.

*“ Urban facilities in a rural environment.”*

*”*  
**Keyworth resident**

## Some of the things we are planning

- We have set up a group to produce a Village Design Statement (VDS) for Keyworth.
- A VDS is a practical tool to help influence decisions on design and development. It is intended to provide a clear statement of the physical character of Keyworth against which planning applications may be assessed. It is not about whether development should take place. For that we need to influence the Rushcliffe Local Strategic Plan. The VDS is about how development should be undertaken so as to respect our local identity. For example, we would expect to ask for no increase in the density of housing within the existing settlement area and for buildings to be no more than two storeys high.
- We need to work with the Keyworth Parish Council Planning Committee and Keyworth's Borough Councillors to seek to ensure that the

Local Development Framework for Rushcliffe reflects the views and needs of Keyworth residents as expressed in their responses to the household survey.

- We need to liaise with the Strategic Housing Team at Rushcliffe Borough Council and affordable housing providers to ensure that affordable housing, for both general needs and older people, is planned for the village to meet local needs.
- We shall work with the Borough Council and consult with Keyworth's residents to identify what land may be allocated to development in Keyworth and if necessary lobby for it to meet Keyworth's requirements.

See the Action Plan insert in your Village Plan for full details of the Housing and Planning Actions.

# Leisure

## Background

The main reference for leisure and non-commercial activity is the *Keyworth Guide*. Before the survey was conducted the representatives of 85 local voluntary organisations featured in the Guide were contacted to seek their views and opinions on leisure issues that could be addressed by the Village Plan. The responses provided much valuable information and helped with the choice of the questions included in the household survey. The household survey generated over 450 comments and suggestions on the leisure facilities for Keyworth. The main issues raised are explained here.

## What you told us in the survey

### Leisure Centre

The survey showed that 96% of the 1639 responses agree or strongly agree with the statement “The Leisure Centre is important to Keyworth”, the most emphatic figures in the Leisure Section of the survey. This was supported by nearly 600 comments in the free text section of the survey and in response to the question ‘What would make you use the Leisure Centre more?’

### Child Play Areas

The survey showed that 44% were unhappy with the provision of play areas for the under 11’s. 19% were satisfied with the provision. 35% had no opinion. In the comment text there were over 100 complaints and unfavourable comparisons made with East Leake, Cotgrave, Ruddington, Tollerton and West Bridgford.

### Open Spaces in and around Keyworth

The survey showed that 48% were satisfied with the existing open spaces, 32% not satisfied. There were a number of comments on the lack of formal park areas where lawns, trees, flowers and paths could be enjoyed. There were also comments on the lack of informal park areas near the village for families to enjoy open spaces.

### Rectory Playing Field (Village Green)

For many years the Keyworth football and cricket clubs have expressed a desire to hold games on the Rectory Playing Field on Sundays. This is currently not possible because of a covenant imposed by the Church Commissioners when the field was sold to the Parish Council in 1952. The survey showed that 53% of the respondents would support the removal of this restriction of games on Sundays, whilst 24% would not.

### Adult Education

The survey showed that 26% were dissatisfied with the provision of adult education in Keyworth, 35% were satisfied with provision and 39% had no opinion. There were a number of comments expressing concern over the lack of appropriate provision of adult education.

### Information

The survey asked whether it is easy to find information about organisations and events in Keyworth and invited comments/suggestions. There were a number of comments expressing dissatisfaction.



“ ....keeping the leisure centre open should be a priority for Keyworth residents and Council. It provides employment for locals. if we lost it people would have to travel by car to West Bridgford and this would increase the pressure on the environment. ”

**Keyworth resident**



## What's important in our planning

**Leisure Centre** - The Village community must strongly resist any attempt to close the Centre by the Borough, and the Centre must ensure that it provides the facilities, the courses and a service that encourage wide and financially viable usage.

**Child Play Areas** - The Parish Council should continue to work to improve the provision of play areas. Although the Nottingham Road site has been refurbished there is still a requirement for suitable sites in other parts of the village.

**Adult Education** - A large percentage of older people in Keyworth are living healthily and longer. Education and learning are essential for personal human growth in its broadest sense. Institutions such as the University of the Third Age (U3A) and facilities such as the language laboratory at South Wolds School should be supported and encouraged.

**Open Spaces in and around Keyworth** - The existing open spaces within Keyworth can be improved, and, if possible, more publicly accessible open spaces should be created.

**Rectory Playing Field** - Amending or lifting of the covenant would give the Parish Council the ability to ensure that the Rectory Playing Field is used in the best interests of the whole community.

**Information** - Sharing community information is a prerequisite to community involvement and participation. Wider participation from all the organisations within the village to make information available about their activities should be encouraged.



## Some of the things we are planning

**Leisure Centre** - The plan recognises the Friends of Keyworth Leisure Centre (FKLC) as the prime group to lobby the Borough Council to keep the Leisure Centre open. This organisation is well established and is constituted to report regularly to the Community Liaison group of the Parish Council. Representatives of the Village Plan have already written to Councillors and Borough representatives to communicate the strength of feeling demonstrated in the survey about keeping the centre open. The Village Plan Development Group will continue to work closely with FKLC and resist any attempt to close it.

**Open Spaces in and around Keyworth** - Using the survey findings the Village Plan Development Group will work with the Village in Bloom Committee of the Parish Council to explore ways in which the existing open spaces within Keyworth could be improved, and more publicly accessible open spaces created.

**Rectory Playing Field** - In view of the benefits for young people the Parish Council has decided to pursue a one year trial to test the community's reaction to Sunday sport, and is hoping to secure agreement of the Diocese to enable a one year trial to take place in the 2009/2010 season.

**Information** - Although there was lots of support for the *Keyworth News*, the survey identified areas of improvement such as a village information fact sheet and a regularly updated paper and online version of the *Keyworth Guide*. A village Information Forum has been initiated to consider and implement suggestions made in the survey, and to explore other ways to make sure village information is as widely available as possible.

See the Action Plan insert in your Village Plan for full details of the Leisure Facility Actions.

# Transport

## Background

The main aim of the Transport Plan is to ensure that all road users and pedestrians in Keyworth are safe and considerate to the needs of each other. Throughout our investigations and consultations a number of issues have become clear. These are:

- inconsiderate parking causing obstructions and impairing visibility for other road users and pedestrians
- excessive speeding, particularly at the entrances to the village
- unsatisfactory general road safety
- communications between the various agencies responsible for road and transport and Keyworth residents

## What you told us in the survey

### Parking

Typically 81% of you park for up to 2 hours when you use the public car parks and, if parking charges were introduced, 50% of you would like the first 2 hours to be free. Resident only parking is supported by 37% whilst 44% are against it. Church Drive heads the list as the place where parking causes problems for both residents and other road users, with Main St, The Square and the Church Drive/Fairway junction close behind.

### Speeding

The most popular method to control speed around the village would be interactive speed controls. (61% would like electronic warning signs). You want additional controls outside schools. Particular concern was expressed about speeding at the entrances to the village i.e. Bunny Lane, Nicker Hill, Normanton Lane.

### Public Transport

Public transport to surrounding cities, towns and village meet your needs; 82% agree or strongly agree. A service travelling counter-clockwise around the village would be supported. 81% would not use a car sharing scheme, however 286 residents would, particularly for shopping.

### General Road Safety

67% say they find it easy to cross the roads in Keyworth. However, a number of you have difficulty crossing in certain areas, with 171 residents having problems at The Square, 158 at Sainsbury's corner, 131 at Bunny Lane Junction, and 103 at The Parade/Budgens. The areas receiving the highest number of negative comments about obstructions and lack of visibility are 151 at Sainsbury's Corner, 151 at the The Square/Main St, 118 at Nottingham Rd and 79 at Budgens corner.

## What's important in our planning

### We need to make sure that:

- the needs of both pedestrians and other road users are taken into consideration
- there are effective communications in place between residents, Parish, County and Borough Councils and the police
- parking solutions meet the needs of residents, local employers, and local retailers
- public transport arrangements are such that they encourage the residents of Keyworth and other local communities to use Keyworth's shops



# Some of the things we are planning

## To set up a Transport Forum

Comprised of residents, the Transport Forum shall:

- develop communication links between the residents, police, Parish, Borough and County Council.
- liaise with them about hazardous parking, speeding “hotspots” and monitor parking/speeding trends and problems.
- promote improvements in transport in Keyworth.

The Transport Forum would :

## Implement a Road Safety Campaign

The principle objectives will be to make motorists aware of the consequences of excessive speed, to remind them of the speed limits and to reduce incidents of vehicle speeding.

## Carry out an audit of existing parking restrictions for fitness of purpose

It will make recommendations to the appropriate authorities for the removal or reduction of existing restricted parking sites and the addition of sites if necessary (subject to meeting Nottinghamshire County Council Waiting & Loading restriction criteria). It will identify current restricted sites, and consider the suitability of the location of existing yellow lines and restricted waiting sites and the adequacy/condition of advisory and warning signage.

## Set up a “Tracking System”

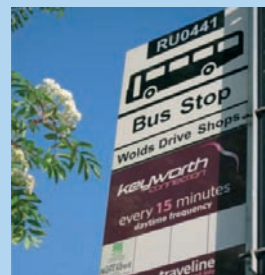
The purpose of this will be to ensure that all residents have the means to report issues of concern to the appropriate authority (electronic and paper systems), receive a reply and be informed of the progress of any actions required. Issues of concern could be road/pavement condition, parking problems or speeding. It will also allow the Transport Forum to monitor trends, progress and improvements. It is hoped that the system, initially developed for transport issues, will be expanded to cover health, litter, dog fouling and other issues.

See the Action Plan insert in your Village Plan for full details of the Transport Actions.

“ Cars parked over pavements obstruct areas for pushchairs and disabled people.

Transport from Keyworth to Nottingham is excellent.

”  
**Keyworth resident**



“ It would be useful if buses ran both ways round the village.

Stop inconsiderate parking and you will solve most pedestrian/traffic problems.

”  
**Keyworth resident**

# Young People

## Background

The main aims of the Young People's plan is to ensure that facilities for around 600 young people (aged 11-18) resident in Keyworth are adequate and that young people themselves are involved in the planning and development of these facilities both now and in the future. Through consultation with both adults and young people a number of key issues were common. These are:

- whilst there are lots of organisations which appeal to young people, not enough facilities exist for young people to use unsupervised
- in general young people in the village are well-behaved and do not cause problems
- however there are some concerns about how safe young people feel in certain places, and how safely they conduct themselves at certain times
- whilst young people want to play a part in the community, they feel under-represented, and that their opinions aren't listened to.

As well as consultation through the village household survey, young people were asked their opinions in other ways. Youth workers carried out an initial survey at South Wolds Community School (our secondary school) where individuals in year groups were asked to write on green paper slips something they liked about Keyworth, and on pink slips something that could be improved in Keyworth. These slips were analysed and grouped for an overall picture. After this the School Council was asked for comments, and a verbal questionnaire was carried out in school and over several Friday evenings around the village by youth workers to refine opinions given on the slips.

## What you told us in the survey

**Facilities** - Of those who had an opinion in the village household survey 50% felt that organised activities were good. However, 49% of young people want more facilities. 63% of those in the household survey who had an opinion say that unsupervised activities are inadequate. Young people aged 11-13 are not catered for by the County Council Youth Club. There are organised groups for this age, but these do not appeal to all, and some feel that they are too old for after school clubs.

**Safety** - In general 66% of the respondents think young people are well behaved. When asked about their own safety, 53% of young people say that there are areas in the village they don't feel safe. In addition our local youth workers feel that some actions by young people show that they don't always consider their own safety well enough.

**Being Part of the Community** - 67% of young people feel that no one would listen to their suggestions. They enjoy events in the village specifically tailored to them, like 'The Event' in April 2007, organised by local churches, which offered a family fun-day followed by live music on the Rectory Playing Field. Most young people wouldn't know where to find information about community events and organisations.

## What's important in our planning

### We need to make sure that:

- young people's safety and well-being is at the forefront of our thinking
- young people are involved in the planning and delivery of new services
- we don't adopt a one-size fits all approach to young people
- we provide safe, appropriate places for young people to 'hang out'
- we promote a positive image of young people and their achievements



## Some of the things we are planning

### Setting up a Youth Forum

Starting with the School Council at South Wolds Community School and with the Youth Club we want to give young people a voice in the community. These groups will help develop a village wide Youth Forum which will input into the process of delivering the other actions in the Plan, and develop actions in the future.

### Improve Young People's Safety

Working with local youth workers and the school we need to educate young people to act more safely towards themselves and other people, and to also understand why there are some places that they don't feel safe.

### Unsupervised Facilities for Young People to use Safely

The playground on Nottingham Road has been re-developed with an increased upper age limit of 13. The Parish Council are also going to apply for funding to build a Teen Park in Keyworth, hopefully located close to South Wolds Community School and the village centre.

We are keen to see somewhere young people can go after school for a coffee and to meet their friends. We are looking for a suitable location and how we would staff such a youth café.

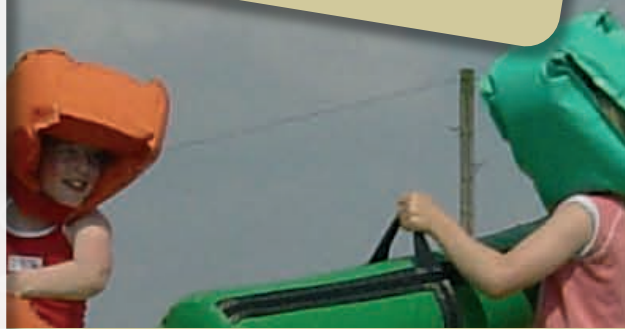
### Events Specifically Targeted at Young People

In November 2008 the Police organised 'The Big Event' in the Village Hall which showcased young people's talents. It also introduced local organisations keen to engage better with them. This was a successful and trouble free event. There are plans to hold other similar events on a regular basis.

See the Action Plans insert in your Village Plan for full details of the Business Actions

“ Please acknowledge and give credit to the vast majority of local youth who are polite, hardworking, responsible young people and a delight and pleasure to know.

”  
Keyworth resident



“ Facilities and opportunities for young people have improved recently, but we need to continue to encourage them and involve them in other aspects of village life to give them pride in our village.

”  
Keyworth resident

# Keyworth Village Plan

## Formulating our Village Plan

- **July – September 2007** The Parish Council promoted the idea of a Village Plan and received the overwhelming endorsement by residents at a public meeting
- **October 2007** A group of volunteers formed a Steering Group to take responsibility for the plan process. The Steering Group looked at the issues raised by residents and identified the following action areas; Business and Commerce, The Environment, Health and Welfare, Housing and Planning, Leisure, Transport and Youth.
- **January 2008** A public meeting was held with the aim of seeking volunteers to form the proposed Action Groups
- **Spring 2008** The Action Groups addressed specific areas of concern and formulated questions for inclusion in a village household survey
- **May 2008** Village household survey forms were delivered to all the households in Keyworth; these were completed by hand or online. A highly encouraging 57% rate of return was achieved (over 1700 replies)
- **May – June 2008** Action Groups analysed the results and considered all the comments made by residents.
- **July 2008** The results of the village household survey were displayed at the Keyworth Village Show
- **Autumn and Winter 2008** The Action Groups considered what actions needed to be addressed to meet the concerns of villagers and to enhance village life
- **February 2009** Proposed actions were presented at a public meeting held at South Wolds Community School
- **March 2009** Proposed actions were sent to the relevant local government officers for comment
- **March 2009** Discussions were held with Parish Councillors to consider how the proposals should be developed and implemented
- **April, May, June 2009** The Village Plan was prepared
- **July 2009** The Village Plan was presented to the Parish Council at the Keyworth Village Show.

The Steering Group has maintained our website dedicated to the Village Plan at [www.keyworthvillageplan.com](http://www.keyworthvillageplan.com). Progress has also been reported in monthly bulletins in the *Keyworth News*.

**The loose pages, included with your Village Plan, include all the proposed actions in further detail. You can see the full survey results and the full details of the work of each Action Group on our web site.**



‘Some of the many volunteers who have helped bring you this plan.’

## Acknowledgements

Many people have been involved in the creation of this Village Plan without whose contribution and assistance, it could not have been achieved. We would like to thank them all.

In particular we would like to express our thanks to Keyworth Parish Council and Nottinghamshire Community Foundation for their financial contribution and to Debbie Boote, Sam Boote, Chris Evans and John Cottee for accessing Borough and County Council funds.

We would also like to record our thanks to Carola Jones, the Senior Rural Officer with Rural Community Action, Nottinghamshire.

Thanks are due to the large number of Keyworth people who have willingly given their time and thought to the successful development of our Plan.

Also a special thank you to all the Action Group members who have given their time, patience, enthusiasm and creative thought so generously.



*"A great place to live!"*