



Bagworth and Thornton Parish Plan Group, Leicestershire

The Parish Plan Group was formed in 2006 to address community issues and bring facilities to the area that would benefit all residents.

Community Champions Change



Bagworth and Thornton are small villages set in rural Leicestershire. Home to over 2400 inhabitants, with approximately 1400 in Bagworth and 1000 in Thornton.

Once part of the thriving coal mining industry, the Bagworth colliery has been closed since 1991. Unfortunately, the historic legacy as mining villages has meant that they are devoid of most of the facilities and services found in modern villages.

It wasn't until 2006 when a public meeting was called at Bagworth Community Centre to address the issue that change started to happen. The Bagworth and Thornton Parish Plan Group was set up more than three years ago and various new facilities have been introduced to the village since the plan's completion with many more projects in the pipeline.

Joanne Brown, (now Chair of the Bagworth and Thornton steering committee), attended the meeting in 2006 and volunteered to work for the Parish Plan Group, she said: “I’ve benefited considerably from getting on board with the Parish Plan Group, and I’m sure all the members feel the same way about their involvement. It’s great fun working with other interested, committed people who want to represent residents interests. I’ve also learnt some new skills, most notably in IT and computers.

“All the residents involved bring different skills from their careers and life experiences, for example diplomacy, maturity, negotiation, recruitment and the ability to motivate other volunteers. We’re a mix of working and ‘retired but active’ people with a history of community involvement and ear-to-the-ground local knowledge.”

The group produced a parish plan document and action plan that empowers the whole community by providing credible evidence to support issues of concern. It shows what the community actually need as opposed to what local service providers recommend.

Jo continues: “Community cohesion has already started to improve in a number of respects. New facilities play an important part, especially with young people, and in order to keep moving forward we need to increase the number of services we can provide to the local community.”

Results

- New youth shelter in Bagworth
- MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) to be installed shortly in Thornton
- Youth club started in Bagworth
- Natural play area to be installed in Thornton
- Redevelopment of Bagworth Community Centre to include a social enterprise shop is in progress, with a SureStart centre to be built on same site
- Drop-in run by volunteers for older people
- Age Concern running shopping trips to nearby towns.

Bagworth and Thornton
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