

Parish Plan Update Given By Mr Martin Cartwright 24th January 2005

“Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen

My name is Martin Cartwright; I am Chairman of the parish plan committee.

Something different this month

Can you cast your minds back to a week last Friday the 21st January 2005 between 7.00 and 11.30pm?

Please just pause for a moment to think what you were doing then!

You possibly can't remember but I won't forget what I was up to that night as this was the night I spent on duty with Pc Kelly patrolling the village of Groby and Field Head.

The good news I hope you will all agree and can see is that I survived this task with all bodily parts still attached and in one piece, Groby really isn't all that bad.

Whilst specific things I witnessed that night will have to stay private I can give you an insight into my experiences.

The evening started on foot from my house visiting Budgens, at which the manager Marc Overton committed that it was great to see this task being performed and that since several youths of the village had been given banning orders from the Budgens store the environment for both customers and staff had significantly improved.

From here we walked to the village center spotting and talking to small groups usually boy friend and girl friend just sitting talking at locations where seats were present intentional or not i.e. the steps were being used outside the industrial units on fir tree lane as seats.

(I am very surprised there is not a pile epidemic amongst the youths of the village)

In the center of the village was a larger group of youths that I spoke to at length and got some great feedback from finding all but one gentleman very polite to both Pc Kelly and myself and positively indulging in debate on how the parish plan could help them with their problems.

These youths were then asked to move on by Pc Kelly, which they did completely without fuss in the direction of the community college.

Pc Kelly then showed me other hotspots in the village most of which were very quiet and no problems on this particular Friday night.

We then headed for the community college through the estate finding a motorist who was not obeying the Highway Code and who was dealt with by Pc Kelly.

You heard it here first; Anti Social Motoring Pc Kelly called it.

On arrival outside the community college the group of youths had increased from ten to around twenty and while it looked and was large they were not doing anything wrong other than occasionally being a bit loud.

I again spoke to this group about the youth problems and was surprised and delighted to see how willing and decent these youths were in discussing this with me.

Indeed one young lady and gent spoke out to their mates saying Hey look this guys been to the School, we've seen him at the scout hut and youth club, at the Public Meeting, and now tonight when were out I think we should give him a chance as can any of you remember when any one else tried so hard to help us.

Commenting “ He's Persistent “

We proceeded and continued to walk the village until 09.45pm returning to my house to collect Pc Kelly's police car, which we used for the remainder of the task.

I can imagine what the neighbours thought a police car being outside my house for 2 and half hours. Shortly after a group of youths outside the co-op had swelled to around 30 and backup was called for by Pc Kelly to disperse the group. Backup soon arrived including the sergeant who organised my participation from New Parks police station.

The sergeant advised me that it was time to implement a dispersal order for Groby and he would be doing this as soon as he could.

Whilst pointing out that Markfields dispersal order was a success but that this had now lapsed so this was not the cause of there being so many youths in Groby on this night.

I must say as they moved round to the Barclays Bank area of the village a call came in from a resident to Pc Kelly overstating the actual number of youths present and that they were on the bank roof. I was there, Looked at Pc Kelly's expression to the call and can assure you there were no youths on the bank roof and the caller wildly exaggerated the numbers quoted saying around 50 youths were present when it was more like 30. That's what I am up against Pc Kelly said.

In summary there were numerous youths around the village most behaving very well but when gathered together as one group I can see just how intimidating they look. Being together in one group hanging around should not be encouraged but is better than the possible alternative being groups split into say ten being enemies and at war with each other as I surprisingly saw no conflict within this large group.

The majority comment was from the youths was there's nothing for us to do in Groby at night and nowhere to go. All Pc Kelly was able to do with this situation was constantly split the group up and move them on which we constantly did all evening, sadly not really solving any thing

There are several hard-core youths responsible for most of the problems that it is impossible to get through to but hardly a fair representation of majority of the youths of Groby.

Groby residents comment there is no visible police presence in the village a comment mentioned to me so much by the adults in their consultation, but I really do wonder how many residents commented that there was a very good police presence that night as Pc Kelly walked the village time and time again for over 2 and a half hours visiting places I did not know existed. And then when around 11.00pm there were four officers including a sergeant outside Barclays Bank, I expect no residents Commented on this fact.

I am not trying to say there's not a problem as there clearly is. Seeing it in the way I did gives you a different perspective to it than that of a resident who comes across these youths just wishing to go about their business being intimidated by them.

Absolutely no one had any opportunity to influence or structure what I witnessed that night.

What I saw and have described to you is true and absolute reality for the small period in time on 21st January 2005.

My conclusion is that It's evident from my night out with Pc Kelly that to fix the problem in what ever way you can you can't impose on the youths fixes that the adults would like to see.

A cure to the youth issues needs to be completed with the input, respect and requests of the youths in order for them to support and use it.

Sorry society has changed it's not as my day being a youth that you were afraid of the police now children and youths simply aren't any more and are more aware of their rights than at any other time in history facts you simply cant ignore.

This was of great benefit to me personally and the parish plan in understanding the youth problems in the village and has caused the youth questionnaire to be virtually restructured and rewritten.

The Local Police sergeant and Pc Kelly have sincerely thanked me, as they were impressed at the efforts the parish plan has gone to in trying to identify and address this difficult problem.

Pc Kelly requested we complete the same task again once the Groby dispersal order was in force to show how this changes the behaviour of both the youths and how the police can then legally deal with the problem. An offer that I have accepted from him.

This was the hardest section of the community to communicate with requiring exceptional lengths to get their true feelings, opinions and feedback, again Groby leads where others will follow a first for a parish plan to complete this kind of a task which has concluded the youth questionnaire consultation, which closed on 31st January 2005.

Children are our future as to will be their children now every child of school age 4 and above in the village will have been talked to about the parish plan project and been given the chance to participate in the process.

We are currently collating all the information from the schools etc to produce the children and youth questionnaire. This will give them ample opportunity to provide the answers to the issues that affects them.

On display in front of you is Joshua's vision of a new youth centre for Groby, Planned and made in both cardboard and wood. Kindly provided by Lady Jane Grey Primary School and will be on display at the public meeting launch of the parish plan project summary in late September 2005.

Our other news is that the adult questionnaire (version 4 – now 99 questions) is now complete and has been sent to the relevant service providers for checking and approval.

All that is required now for the Adult Questionnaire then is the printing of it, which Hinckley and Bosworth Borough council will do for us shortly.

Show Adult Questionnaire

The time scale for delivering the Parish Plan questionnaires to residents will be either the last week of February or March 2005.

Our plans are to be featured in a full front cover article in the spotlight delivered around the 21st of the month giving full details of what's happening followed by delivery of the actual questionnaire a few days later.

Finally as we are going to deliver one adult and one youth questionnaire per household you will see later on this evenings agenda that we have applied for a small amount of extra funding from Groby Parish Council to enable us to deliver the two questionnaires one adult and one youth in one envelope to each house with Parish Plan printed on the front of it.

Residents can use this envelope to make there returned forms more private and the return easier whilst making the presentation of the parish plan much better.

I hope you will agree given the effort that we have gone to that this will be cherry on the cake making Groby and Field Heads Parish Plan a truly totally professional and comprehensive parish plan from whichever aspect you choose to look at it.

Councillor Hagan mentioned this as he closed the last parish council meeting commenting I expect you will all approve and this is what he was referring to.

Once again, thank you for your time

Any questions please"