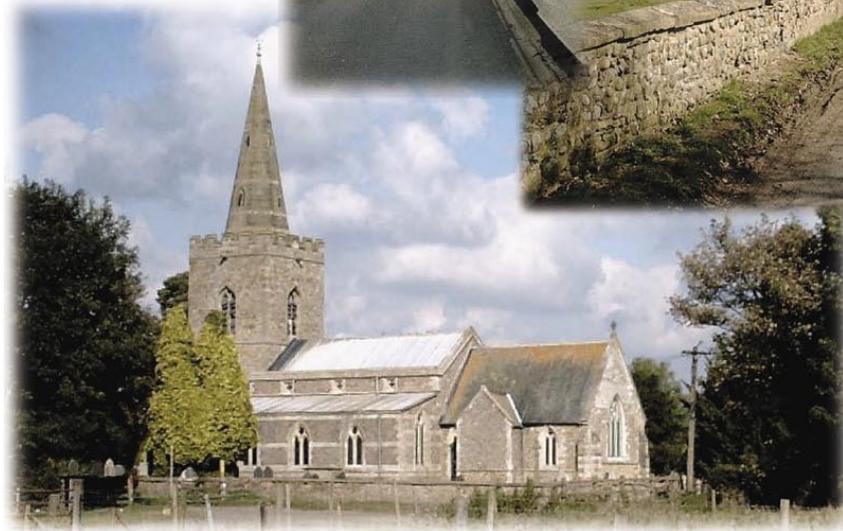


# North Kilworth

## Parish Plan 2013 – 2020



## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Vision

Where do we want to be in 2020? A sustainable, thriving community, retaining the existing village framework and environs.

### 1.2 Message from the Chairman of North Kilworth Parish Council

Work commenced on the first North Kilworth Parish Plan over a decade ago. In the life of our Village that is not long at all yet so much has moved on in that interval. Thus the Parish Council decided that an update would be in order; not least to accommodate the requirement from Harborough District that Design Statements and Neighbourhood Plans will be needed from each community to shape thinking around future development. The latter was driven from Westminster and the so called Localism Agenda, designed to empower local parishes in the way they wished to move forward. These policy guidelines are explicit and once defined by the District Council our Parish decided to formalise these as well as update the broader Plan document.

The quality of the built environment is crucial to small communities and this document summarises the earlier findings- emphasising the architectural form but reinforcing the view that expansion be accommodated broadly in line with existing Parish boundaries whilst retaining the open landscapes with a strong emphasis on preservation of the arboreal character within the boundaries.

This broader Plan also updates feedback from Public consultation on economic and social issues which have risen to prominence since 2003 – notably the value of retaining a diminishing base of employment and retail activities , the raised importance of living within our global sustainability limits without jeopardising future generations and the shifting economic balances in rural communities which threaten long established agriculturally based workers retaining a residential presence in the local housing market.

This Review also updates the action points in the earlier plan – highlighting how many of those have been fulfilled as well as producing a batch of new aspirations reflecting the changing times. It is the dynamic of those new objectives which demonstrates the liveliness of life in North Kilworth; delivering on past promises but also crystallising the challenges of the new in a fast changing world for us all.

Peter Lawrence  
February 2013

#### Acknowledgements to the working sub-committee comprising:

Anne Hampson  
Peter Jones

Chris Knight (Councillor)  
Stuart Dainton

John Green (Councillor)  
Vikki O'Hara

## 2.0 The 2020 Action Plan - Key Priorities:

### 2.1 The Natural Environment

- Maintenance and protection of the underlying aquifer and wetlands quality across the Parish
- Linking expanding and buffering our green and open spaces adjacent to the built boundary
- Utilising available open spaces to maximise support for flora , fauna and wildlife
- Establishing opportunities for open access to seasonal fruit, herbs and similar foodstuffs within public area planting programmes
- Protect the arboreal quality of the Parish in response to natural wastage , dieback or other causes with an emphasis on Native species
- Be vigilant in regard to illegal disposal of detergents, solvents and other substances which threaten the aquifer and surface stream quality

### 2.2 The Human & Social Environment

- Protect and enhance Parish Rights of Way and prioritise an off highway path to The Kilworth House Estate
- Pursue with vigour all possible options for enhancement of broadband delivery speeds and capacity to support local businesses
- Appropriate zoning and encouragement for employment nodes around the Old Station, The Kilworth House Estate and Golf Course for leisure , entertainment and commercial purposes
- Continued safeguarding of social hub centres in the Parish and supporting ideas for financing an additional hub centred on The White Lion
- Support the continuing production of the Parish Newsletter
- Raise the potential for implementation of the ideas of the “slow” movement
- Secure and maintain the vibrancy of the School and pre school activities
- Protect ,support and expand Parish physical recreational capacity in conjunction with the ‘Kilworth Challenge’ Charity
- Review and seize any opportunities for expanding Public ownership of open space in the Parish provision of community allotments
- Develop, fund and implement a traffic and pedestrian safety strategy within the Parish
- Prioritise the creation of a Youth Club

### 2.3 The Built Environment

- Be mindful of the impact of Climate Change in relation to new developments
- Carry forward all the aspirations in the 2004 Design recommendations and co-ordinate these with the Natural Environment aspirations
- In the case of new developments review the incremental impacts-threats to utility capacity
- Entrances and gateways to North Kilworth need to be improved to the stature befitting a conservation village
- Retain the 2013 Development Envelope
- Prioritise the creation of a Parish Carbon Reduction Strategy or Plan in conjunction with Village Power CIC
- Completion of the Affordable Homes project in conjunction with ‘The Squires Effect’ charity

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### 3.0 Background & Context to the North Kilworth Parish Plan

The North Kilworth Parish Plan has been prepared by the inhabitants of North Kilworth Parish and outlying settlements with the primary aim of ensuring that they have a significant say in how the community will develop in the future rather than leave it to others. This desire is consistent fully with the Government's Rural White Paper on 'Our Countryside - The Future' that was launched in November 2000 and which encourages local communities to take a greater ownership of the future and the place in which they live.

In addition this update is designed to meet the additional Challenges posed in the Market Harborough District Core Strategy Review in conformance with revisions to Central Government Planning guidelines adopted in autumn 2011 and the 2012 Localism Act.

This document therefore sets out for North Kilworth...in the words of the Localism White Paper and Bill... *'a vision of what is important, how new development can be best fitted in, the design and quality standards it should meet, how to preserve valued local historic features and to map out the facilities which need to be safe guarded for the future'*. It is therefore the expression of the community of how it sees itself up to 2020, the issues that have to be addressed and the actions that have to be taken to get there.



The initial part of the document addresses what the plan is, how it was established, who it is for and how it will be used. There then follows a section describing the main features of the parish and the village itself. This sets the context for the ensuing sections that address the various aspects and issues raised in the plan. Each section considers the current status, the requirements for the future and details specific recommendations. The final part of the document is the Action Plan; this prioritises the various activities and recommends how they should be addressed. The majority of the quotes used are taken from the questionnaire that was a key part of the consultation process in 2000 and subsequently endorsed by the open village meetings following the working group recommendations in 2011 – 2012 and other similar sources.



### 3.1 Who is the North Kilworth Parish Plan for?

Social and economic issues and the local environment are key and fundamental to development decisions. This plan therefore takes due note of these issues and emphasises their importance to all concerned.

Since this Neighbourhood Plan is a record of local information by local people and defines their wishes and needs in key issues of life in North Kilworth, this document is chiefly for:

- 1) Local people to keep record of their aims and wishes in matters concerning development, the environment and social/economic issues
- 2) Harborough District Council and Leicestershire County Council for traffic, education, new development issues, leisure and housing
- 3) National Health Authority at a local level
- 4) The Environment Agency for the countryside and the environment
- 5) Severn Trent (for water related matters) and other utilities companies
- 6) The Police for crime and community safety
- 7) Developers and all who plan building in North Kilworth Parish
- 8) The Diocesan County Education Authorities in terms of educational needs

While it is envisaged that the Parish Council will take leadership in the use and implementation of this plan, it is local people who ultimately have to ensure that their wishes are heard.

### 3.2 How has the Parish Plan been produced?

The decision to address the production of a Parish Plan for North Kilworth was taken in April 2002 by the Parish Council after briefings by the Leicestershire Rural Community Council. The first action was to have a Village Open Meeting (publicised to all households) involving as many parties as possible. From this strong support for the initiative was expressed and a Parish Plan Steering Group (PPSG) formed, comprising some 15 individuals and with a good cross section of interests in North Kilworth. A grant to facilitate the preparation of the Plan was awarded in May 2002 by the Parish Council.



The first draft of the Parish Plan was presented back to North Kilworth at an Open Meeting linked with the Parish Assembly. This was held in May 2003. This meeting represented the conclusion of a full consultation period and enabled the production of the final document to be prepared and subsequently disseminated in 2004 during the final phase.

By 2011 it was apparent that with the introduction of new Planning Guidelines and Neighbourhood Plans both nationally and at District Council level external factors were overtaking the work which had started in 2000 and the 2004 Publication was in need of an update.

Additionally there had been a turnover in the Village population, additional building work and an expansion in the number of households as well as the redevelopment of the Kilworth House Estate, the Hotel and Theatre complex.



Thus a group was formed in 2011 to refresh and update the original to serve as a Developmental tool for the Village in compliance with contemporary Planning rules and provide a revised model for households, architects and developers looking to add to the infrastructure. This publication would also be more “generalist” in terms of covering the entire settlement rather than being narrowly focused on the Conservation area.

### 3.3 How is the North Kilworth Parish Plan to be used?

The Parish Plan has been prepared at two levels; first, a detailed document that will be sent to all the service providers and policy setters and which is available more widely on request; second, a summary has been produced that has had wide dissemination to all inhabitants of North Kilworth. The full document will be available at [www.northkilworth.com](http://www.northkilworth.com)

The Parish Plan should be consulted when formulating any future development in North Kilworth, be it environmental, social, infrastructural or building in nature. The ‘Design’ and ‘Environment’ Sections of the Plan have been written in such a way as to form the basis of a ‘Design Statement’ for North Kilworth Parish. It should therefore be considered in formulating any new developments, renovations, extensions or alterations to existing buildings in the village and its environs regardless of scale.



It is the intention that these parts of the Plan (mainly Sections 5 and 6) be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance to the original Harborough District Local Plan (adopted April 2001) as well as be compliant with the Harborough District Local Development Framework Core Strategy (2006 – 2028) adopted on 14 November 2011 and be a ‘material consideration’ when determining planning applications. Importantly, in this respect, planning related issues need to be addressed alongside all the other issues that the Parish Plan addresses.

The latest Local Development Framework reflects much recent advances in Community Vision and Objectives (including the Localism Agenda) and specifically introduces new initiatives in terms of affordable homes, traveller communities, car-sharing, global warming issues and renewable energy, green infrastructure, flooding and water management, as continuing promotion of the design of the built environment. For these reasons this updated Plan is now produced.

## 4.0 The Natural & Ecological Environment

### 4.1 The Parish Setting

*“The house, the area, the countryside is just what we wanted”*

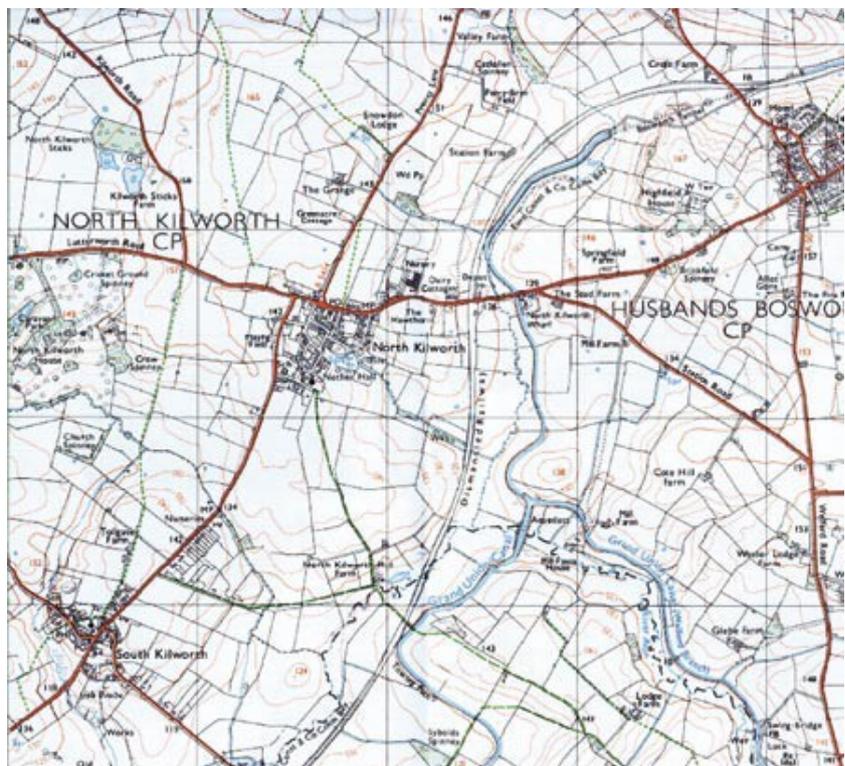
The parish of North Kilworth lies within the Laughton Hills landscape character area of South Leicestershire (as defined in the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Landscape and Woodland Strategy 2001).

The parish lies on one of the sources of the river Avon, which enters the Severn River at Tewkesbury which itself forms the county border with Northamptonshire in part of the parish.

The countryside is characterised by gently rolling hills and is largely farmland, predominantly grazing pastureland, rather than arable.

The landscape was shaped by the last ice age when outwash glacial clays were overlain by marine deposits in a post glacial sea. This created a line of freshwater springs on the impervious clays with deposits of flint boulders and poor quality soils which were suitable for grazing land and pasturage.

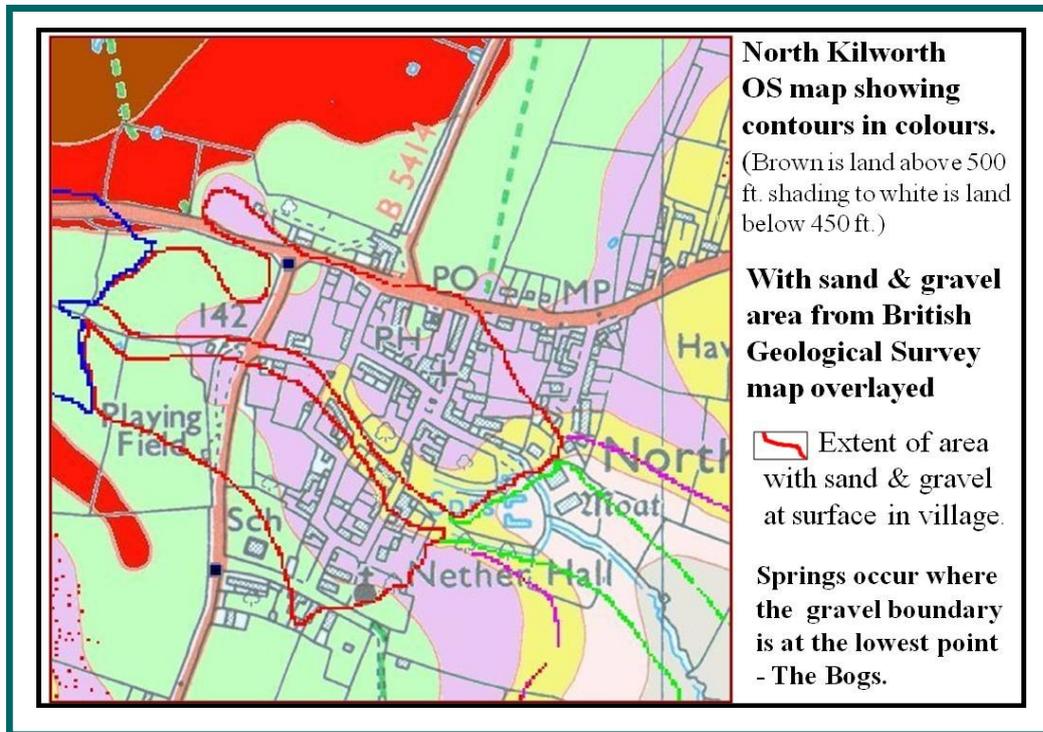
North Kilworth village lies approximately 1.5 miles (2.5 km) west of Husbands Bosworth and 4 miles (6.5 km) east of junction 20 of the M1 motorway. It is within easy reach of Leicester, being some 13 miles (21 km) to the south of the city.



The village is largely south of the main Lutterworth to Market Harborough Road (currently the A4304) with limited recent new developments to the north of the road. The majority of the village is in a close knit form but also extends to the north of this road as scattered ribbon development that reaches east to the industry around the old station and the parish boundary.

The village is located on higher ground with impressive views over the Avon valley (which lies to the south east and is bounded by the river and the man-made features of the Grand Union Canal and the now dismantled railway).

High ground above 500 feet (152m) lies to the north west of the village and forms the boundary between the Swift and Avon watersheds.



To the west of the village is the principal wooded area of parkland and woodland surrounding Kilworth House established in the late 19th century by a Lancashire cotton Baron who found the village an acceptable place to establish a second home mid-way to London in the heart of 'hunting country'.

Woodland is mainly confined to parkland, spinney's and hedgerow trees as well as large ornamental trees, especially within the village. The parklands of the Kilworth House Estate and North Kilworth Hall contain many fine specimens of mature trees. Some extensive new tree planting has taken place around the village in recent years, working towards the re-establishment of the appearance enjoyed in the past when giant elms were a dominant feature of the landscape and the village approaches.

The planting has been partly funded by the District Council's Environmental Improvement Scheme, the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme and the Peoples Millions Fund.



## North Kilworth Parish Plan 2013

Within the Domesday Survey of 1086, an entry for a settlement called Chivelesworde represents what is now known as North and South Kilworth indicating the village's historical presence.

The village is also sited along ancient trails, one of which was a drover's route running through the village and onwards past the church and to Welford and Northampton.

This route linked with others going to Leicester and Rugby and eventually to London. Cranmer Lane was the original exit point of this road, Stoney being a post Medieval route.



In addition to the primary settlement of the village, there are a number of secondary settlements within the parish boundary.

The Kilworth House Estate is located on the western edge, Mill Farm on the Avon to the south, Kilworth Sticks farm to the west, and Pincet Lodge and the Grange along Leicester Lane (Pincet Lane B5414).

Other more isolated farmsteads and houses are found within the parish, many of them established by Leicestershire County Council in the 1930's as part of a program to kick start investment in Agriculture. It was at this time that a number of Welsh "immigrants" came to the area to set up beef and lamb fattening farms for the expanding Towns of Leicester and Northampton (This is evidenced by local place names such as, Pen-Y-Bryn Field).

## 4.2 Changes of Level & Landmarks

Within the village, changes of ground level are also experienced with the village falling from north to south from the village green down Green Lane and rising up Church Street north to south, towards the parish Church of St. Andrews on the southern edge. The church, dating from the 13th and 14th centuries, is a local landmark as its spire can be seen from both within the village as well as the surrounding area. Unusually the church is on the southern periphery of the built up area suggesting abandonment of an earlier site.



### 4.3 Aquifer (See also 6.4)

Below much of North Kilworth lies a sand and gravel aquifer which rests on glacial clays and Lias deposits. These contain large amounts of water available in sufficient quality and quantity to have provided the water supply to Market Harborough for over 100 years.

With the many springs around the village, water levels in the aquifer were identified as an important issue. When the springs in the Bogs dried up for the first time in living memory in 2001 the very low water table gave the real possibility of losing the wetland.

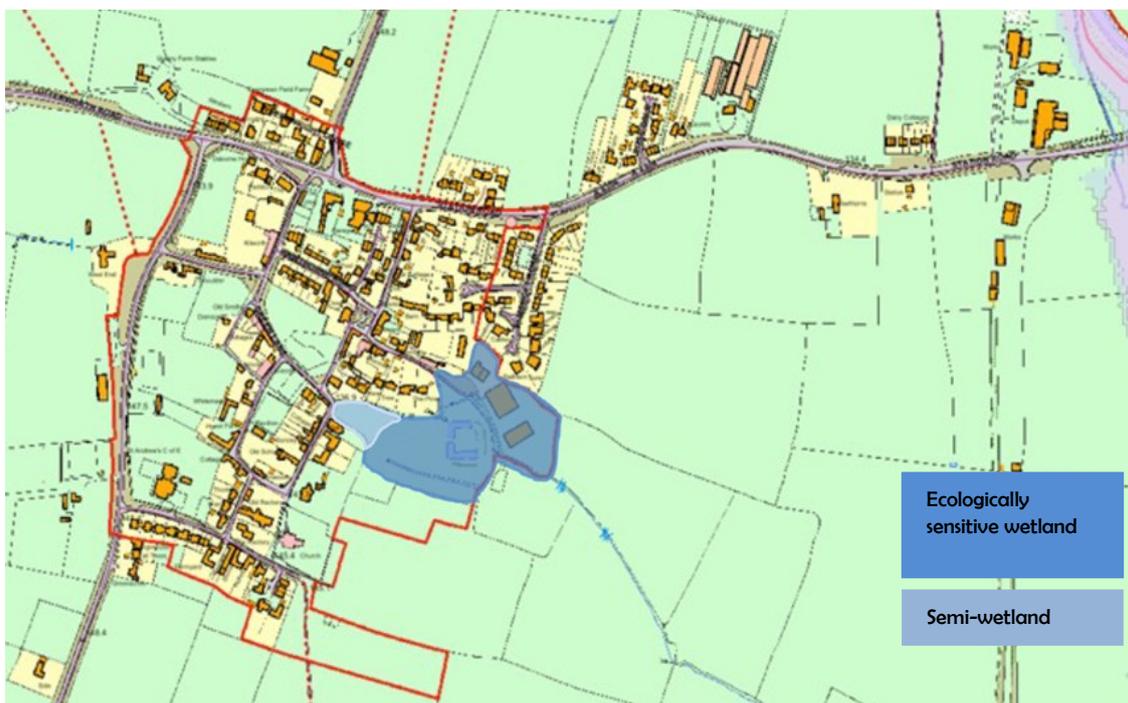


The characteristic flora and fauna associated with such wet places, for example butterbur, was therefore under serious threat.

A detailed hydro-geological survey was commissioned by the Parish Council to understand the relationship between the natural village water features and the potential commercial exploitation of the water and aggregate reserves under the Parish.

*(A report is available: "Springs & Groundwater at North Kilworth", 54pp, April 2004; produced by Adrian Bath, Intellisci Ltd for the Parish Council.)*

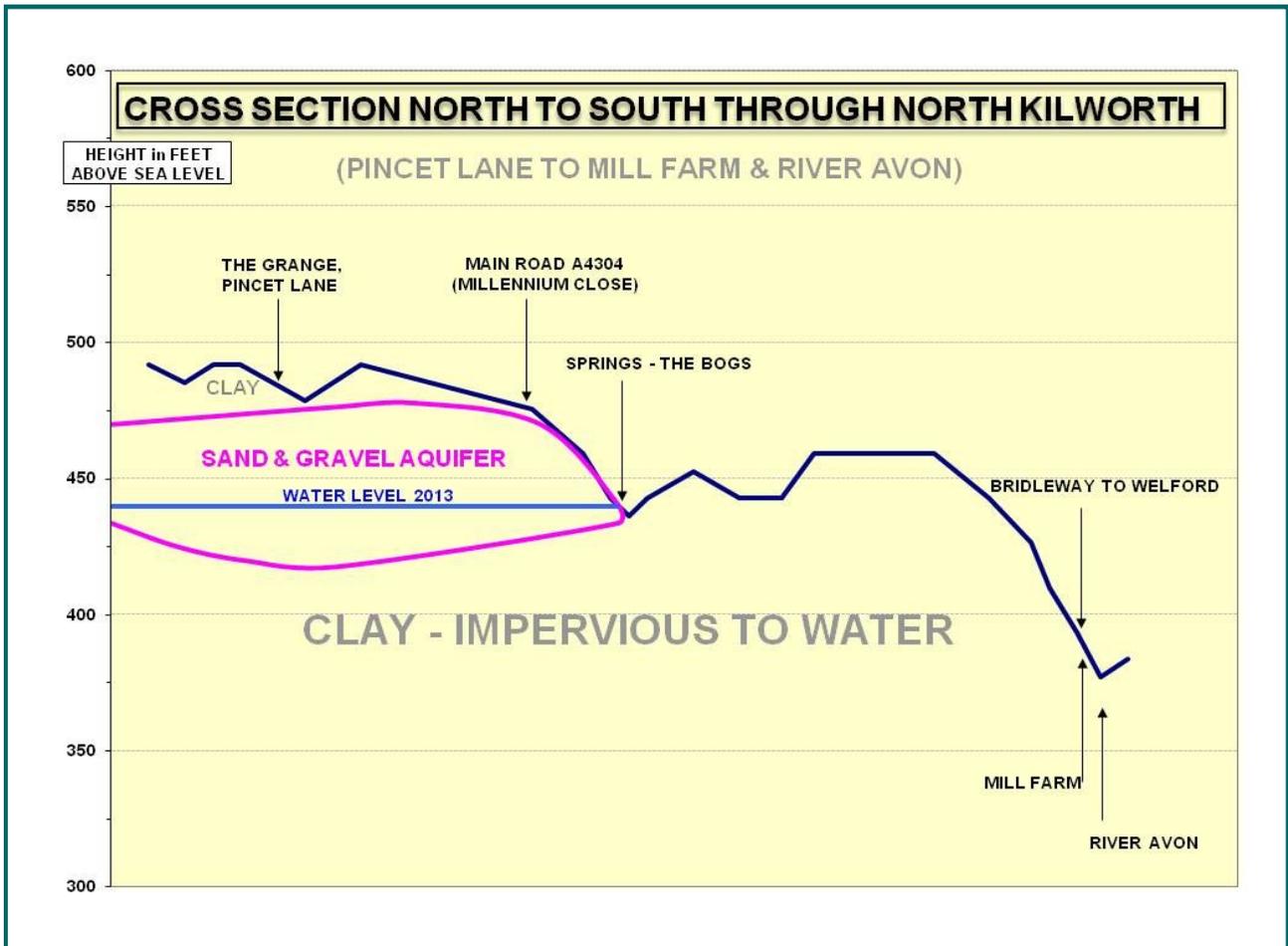
Following this work representations were made to the Environment Agency pointing out the strong case for protecting the aquifer from potentially major disturbance and degradation.



North Kilworth Parish Plan 2013

Coincidentally the Severn Trent wells along Pincet Lane were closed in 2007 and backfilled following a failed aggregate extraction proposal in the area with a satisfying increase in the spring flows within the village.

It is important that future proposals to exploit the aquifer take into account the long-term sustainability of both the exploitable groundwater resource and natural flows to the wetland conservation area in North Kilworth village.

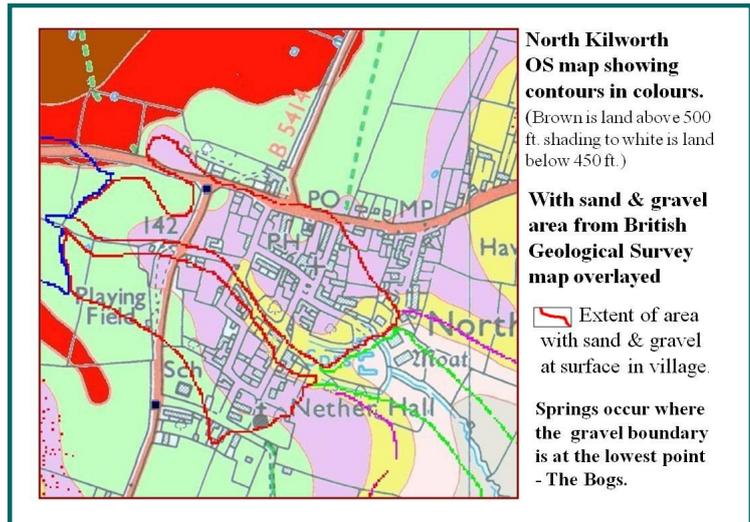


The water table appears to be regaining its historic levels judging from the spring flows and the well depths. The Millennium Green, the Bogs and the Wash Pit/Little Well are all valued highly and regarded as assets to the village and therefore areas to be protected.

The Bogs and Millennium Green were designated as a local Nature Reserve in 2006. There was also significant interest in establishing a better understanding of archaeology of the village, including the history behind the old manor house that was sited on the Millennium Green.

These springs flow all through the year and would have been almost certainly the principal reason for the siting of North Kilworth. In the summer they are the main water supply to the streams and water features locally feeding the Avon.

An Environment Agency source protection zone covers the land along Pincet Lane and to the east.



The groundwater source lies very close to the surface under the village and all planning/ building must follow the appropriate building regulations. For example, Domestic and commercial Oil Interceptors and separators need to be fully bunded. This is due to the sensitivity of groundwater issues and the biodiversity on the Millennium Green into which all subsurface drainage passes from the critical drains on the Main road (where diesel and oil spillage risks are most likely).

#### 4.4 Ecology

There are several sites of ecological and nature conservation interest within the Parish including The Bogs, a rare wetland site with numerous natural springs, and the Millennium Green which contains the site of a medieval manor house with moat. The fresh-water springs that emerge at a constant 12°C produce a wetland ecology unique to North Kilworth.



These link with the adjacent open countryside and have important representative flora and fauna bringing nature close to the heart of the village.

#### 4.5 Trees

Mature trees are highly valued. It is noted that trees had been lost over the years, some to natural wastage or disease but some to removal without the necessary consent. There was good support for the arboreal planting scheme introduced in 2000 and this was maintained in the following decade with native species programmes initiated by the Parish Council and the Millennium Green Trust Via fundraising activities. It is intended that this program should be continued around the village and is supported, recognising the benefits for carbon removal, biodiversity gain and clean air.



Further important undisturbed natural areas within the parish are the havens for wildlife along parts of the dismantled railway, along the river Avon and its minor tributaries and a stretch of the Grand Union Canal.

Flora and fauna of interest are also located at several sites, including the Kilworth House Estate, Kilworth Springs Golf Course and Snowden Lodge. There are other ancient grassland meadow sites classified as ecologically significant at district level and ridge and furrow fields abound in the area.

Planning permission has been given in the past for new dwellings or extensions to be sited so close to mature trees that the new owners of the properties request the removal of or major surgery to these trees soon after taking up residence.

There is a danger that the owners view the trees as presenting a threat to their property and for the village it is contrary to the policy of conserving trees and enhancing the arboreal character of the village.



Clear policies need to be defined to encompass both views as much as possible, for example the design of house footings that will allow root growth. There is a general desire to encourage the replacement of Leylandii with native species.

Trees and hedgerows should be predominately of native species.

The appearance of Ash Dieback disease across Europe, spreading throughout the United Kingdom in 2012 is a cause of concern and strategies for replacement of this species, prolific around the village, will be called for.

English Name	Scientific Name
Ash	Fraxinus Excelsior
Aspen	Populus Tremula
Beech	Fagus Sylvatica
Black Thorn	Prunus Spinosa
Buckthorn (Purging)	Rhamnus Catharticus
Crab Apple	Malus Sylvestris
Dogwood	Cornus Sanguinea
Dog Rose	Roas Canina
Elder	Sambucus Nigra
Field Maple	Acer Campestris
Guelder Rose	Viburnum Opulus
Hawthorn	Crataegus Monogyna
Hazel	Corylus Avellana
Holly	Ilex Aquifolium
Hornbeam	Carpinus Betulus
Midland Hawthorn	Crataegus Llaevigata
Pedunculate Oak	Quercus Robur
Rowan	Sorbus Aucuparia
Silver Birch	Betula Pendula
Scots Wild Pine	Pinus Sylvestris
Privet	Ligustrum Vulgare
Wild Cherry	Prunus Avium
Crack Willow	Salix Fragilis
Willow sp.	Salix sp.

*This table on the right provides an indicative list of tree and hedge species suitable for planting in the parish of North Kilworth:*

## 5.0 The Built Environment

### 5.1 Built Form

*“Take time to understand the past when making decisions for the future”*

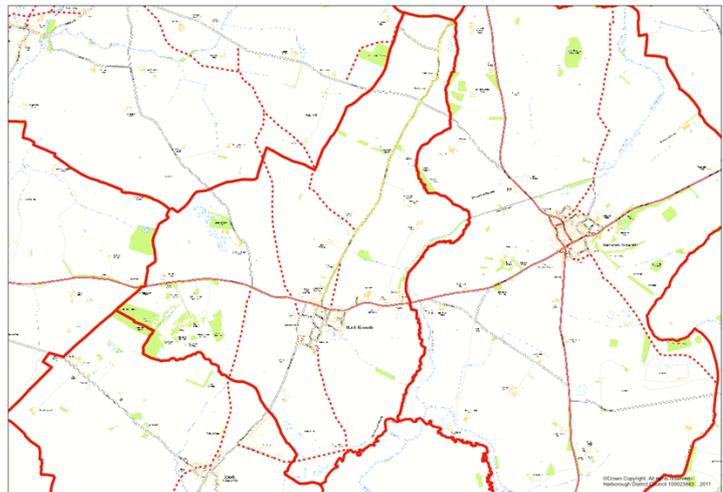
The majority of North Kilworth village is a conservation area in recognition of the architectural and historical quality of the area. Limits to development of the village are identified in the current Harborough District Local Plan (adopted April 2001) and identify the village envelope. Areas beyond the Limits to Development are open countryside (Other than the Kilworth House Estate and the Golf Course).

The built form of the core of the village is largely positioned around an offset grid-iron pattern of streets. These streets are narrow with buildings fronting directly onto the highway creating enclosed views and vistas. Such enclosed views and vistas contribute to the individual character of the settlement and are considered important to retain and preserve. In several locations where these streets and lanes meet or turn tight corners, the built form is positioned to create larger spaces, such as the Village Green and at the end of Back Street.



An ancient tributary to the Avon draining the north end of the village has been enclosed in a subsurface Victorian built semicircular brick arch drain running the entire lower length of Back Street and Along The Bottoms.

To the east of the original core are further settlements (Elmcroft Road, Wheelwright Close, Rose Dale and Millennium Close) reflecting street based expansion in the 1960 – 2010 period outside the gridiron pattern.



*“What is wrong with remaining a small village?”*

One problem is retaining critical mass to support our existing infrastructure in terms of leisure, shopping, the pub and other facilities. There is a strong awareness within North Kilworth of the potential conflict in trying to match the desire to keep the fundamental character of the village with future potential needs.

The consultation process on the 2004 Parish Plan showed that there was a strong preference for the village to stay much the same size as it is now. It was felt that in-fill development and some limited restricted development would be appropriate in the future. It was felt that future developments should focus on meeting the future needs of the village. Many people expressed the view that there was a need for additional 1-2 bedroom properties, either for starter homes or for people wishing to move to smaller properties since the 2000 level a combination of infill on existing properties and new enclave type developments along the north of Station Road. The latter are felt to be non typical as a move away from the original gridiron layout.

*“I believe that North Kilworth is lovely as it is, don’t want to see major changes which may affect life here in a detrimental way, but things must progress with the times. Time cannot and should not stand still.”*

There was a general disapproval of high density housing (viewed as a concentration of individual houses grouped closely together on one small plot) as this was felt to be inappropriate for the plot sizes and the relationship with the adjacent built form and open space in the village. However planning guidance insists upon minimum development densities in new developments, to ensure land is utilised efficiently. In recognition of the number of houses in the village with L-shaped footprints typifying the courtyard form, this form of development is regarded as a desirable solution to the problem of providing small dwellings at a high density without detracting from the character of the village.



In addition to the areas described above there are parts of the village that have resulted from development in the more recent past:-

- More modern buildings, mostly post 1960, in cul-de-sac arrangements, typified by the houses in Elmcroft Road
- Developments done circa 2000, typically of less than 10 houses and replacing a single large building or fill-in; examples include Knighton Charity Farm and Millennium Close.

It is essential that any future developments such as these are done in a manner that is 'in-keeping' and consistent with the recommendations for 'design features' given at the start of this section. Also, wherever possible, such developments should not be done in isolation but integrate into the rest of the village and the surrounding Parish. This could be as simple as ensuring provision is made for paths and access between the different areas.

## 5.2 Design Features

### Brickwork & Mortar

Lay bricks should be used that show variety in colour and texture, thus harmonising with the colour and texture of the local surroundings. Kilworth brick is the recommended option (e.g. North Kilworth House). Ribbon mortar is regarded as inappropriate.



### Boundaries

- Existing walls: Mud walls and cobbled walls should be retained. High brick walls (above 5ft high) should be retained and new brick walls should fit in with the street scene.
- New walls: Blue coping stones should be used, bricks on edge are not appropriate. Walls should be plain and not scalloped. Traditional construction methods should be used (i.e. no polystyrene expansion joints).
- Hedges: It is recommended that these should comprise hawthorn, yew, beech or privet.
- Fences: These should be wooden.
- Railings: Iron railings should be retained.



### Verges

It is recommended that where possible, all grass verges should be retained. Where verge parking is unavoidable, the surface should comprise stones/blocks that allow grass to be grown through them, thus giving the perception of grass verges. Cobbled verges are also acceptable provided they are in keeping with the immediate surroundings.



### Paths & Paving

It is recommended that tarmac is used for paths next to roads. Cobbles should be retained or reinstated in traditional areas so driveways are either cobbled or made up of gravel depending on the circumstances. Red/coloured paving bricks are inappropriate in traditional areas and should be avoided. It is imperative that all surfaces around a property should be porous, allowing water to soak away.



### Garages

Various styles of garages should be encouraged, especially when sited to the rear of a property, as this will help alleviate parking problems. Open fronted cart shed styles are to be encouraged.



### Windows

It is recommended that windows should comprise mainly two lights of two panes. Sash windows are encouraged.



### Sills & Lintels

Where appropriate, sills at the bottom of the window to be of stone, artificial stone or blue brick plinths and lintels at the top to have brick arches but not soldier courses; the latter not being considered in keeping with village character.



### Doors

It is recommended that doors should be wooden panelled, not flat fronted, minimising glass. Brass work is encouraged.



### Roofs

It is recommended that roofs should be 30° to 35° , this being the most common in the village. Natural slate or plain clay tiles should be used. Dormers should be hipped or have monopitches. Thatch should be retained. Traditional overarching eaves should be encouraged; flat roof extensions are regarded as being 'not in keeping'.



### Chimneys

Chimneys should be positioned along the ridge line of the rest of the roof or at either end of the building. They should have internal chimney breasts and be of a height commensurate with surrounding buildings. Brickwork patterns are encouraged.



### Height of Buildings

It is recommended that buildings should be preferably one and a half storeys in height and must be appropriate to character area and location.



### Scale, Density & Massing

Scale and massing of a development should reflect the surrounding buildings, open spaces and landscape. It must also be appropriate to the character area and location. When fronting the road, it is recommended that buildings should be close together and where possible in a line with rear gardens and adjacent open spaces.



One of the main issues regarding development within the village is whether or not it is 'in keeping' with the character of the existing settlement. To ensure that the sense of place is not eroded, new development and alterations to existing buildings should take account of the above design features.

The design features have been identified as the 'village vernacular' (i.e. the features that contribute to the village character and overall sense of place). This approach is supported by the national planning policy guidance in PPG1 which states 'It is... proper to seek to promote or reinforce local distinctiveness particularly where this is supported by clear plan policies or supplementary planning guidance' (paragraph 18).

### 5.3 Archaeology

The Millennium Green on the south east edge of North Kilworth is registered as a site of archaeological interest. Other archaeological sites within the parish include structures in The Park (to the west of the junction of the South Kilworth road and the A4304). The Millennium Green once housed a Norman wooden stockade and, subsequently a "Manor" House on an elevated, moated mound. This has now disappeared but the area is owned by the Village under the supervision of a nominated Board of Trustees.



An adjacent area, known as "The Bogs" was once the village Rubbish tip but is now a registered Common Land Nature Reserve complete with 2 accessible spring chambers where villagers once collected their drinking water supplies.

### 5.4 Open Spaces & Designated 'Open Land'

The proximity of the village to the open countryside, particularly the area known as Stoney, is an important element contributing to the village's character. In many places the open countryside penetrates the development envelope of the village via the open spaces, the large rear gardens of many of the dwellings in the village and the rural nature of the lanes with grass verges. These green areas make an important contribution to the village character.

There are important open areas in the village designated as Important Open Land in the Harborough District Local Plan (adopted April 2001). Areas of Important Open Land are designated in recognition of their contribution to the form and character of the settlement or locality. This ensures that they are protected as much as possible and that development that would lead to a loss of this space would be resisted.

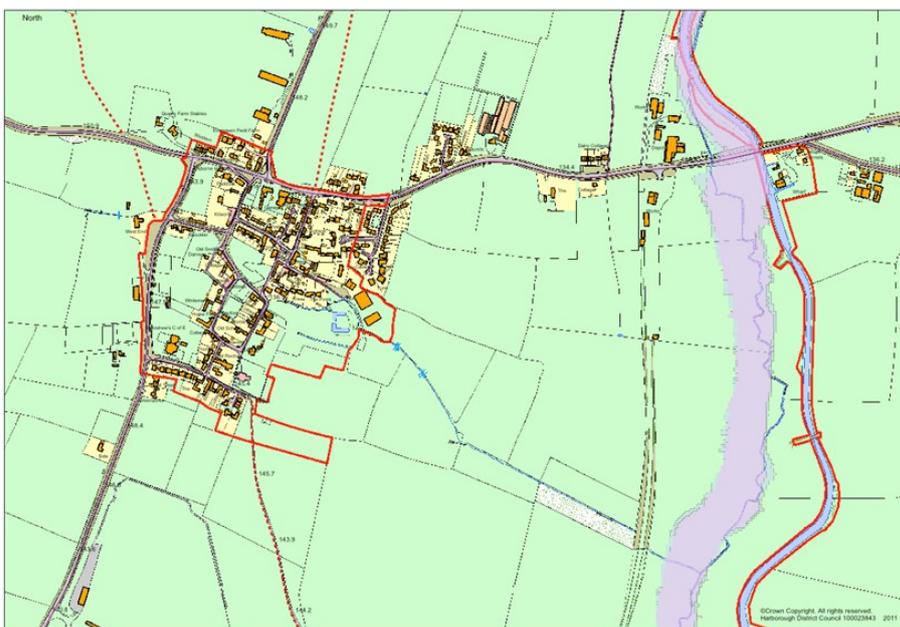
## North Kilworth Parish Plan 2013

Designated Important Open Land includes:-

- The Village Green (also the focal point of the village) which is common land (1968)
- St Andrews Church (also a focal point of the village) and Churchyard
- The Bowling Green (freehold of North Kilworth Parish Council)
- The corner of Washpit Lane and Green Lane where the Washpit is sited (freehold of North Kilworth Parish Council)



- The Bogs - These are registered as Common Land and were made a Local Nature Reserve in March, 2006. Springs, fed by the local aquifer, arise here where the gravel bed breaks through the upper clay. There are two accessible Victorian spring chambers on the site.
- The Sports Club (freehold of North Kilworth Parish Council)



*Map of North Kilworth flood plain*

- The Stoney wooded Triangle: adjoining Stoney and on the way to the mill.
- The Manor Farm Barns Field: situated at the bottom of Cranmer Lane and accessed through the Bogs. This site acts as an important buffer between the open countryside and the built form of the village. Streams, running once again since Severn Trent ceased extracting, run through the site so making it a wet, flood-land area.
- The lane between Green Lane and Back Street running to the front of Damson Cottage and to the rear and side of Ivy House: A verdant unmade lane and former drovers' road, now used as a footpath and bridle path. It 'Links with the countryside and open spaces based on medieval field access routes' and is believed to be the only one of its kind in the village being regularly used and enjoyed by many people other than those who use it to access their property.

The results of the 2004 consultation process identified how important the land designated as Important Open Land in the Harborough District Local Plan (adopted April 2001) is to the character of the village.



*A view of the Millennium Green*



*A badger holt on the Millennium Green*

In addition to the designated Important Open Land there are equally important areas of similar nature not designated as Important Open Land in the current Local Plan. These include:

- The Millennium Green; this area is now in trust to the village and has become (since its purchase in 2000 as part of the Millennium celebrations) an important focal point where many village social events are held throughout the year; it is also a major conservation region in the village having one of the largest badger setts in Leicestershire. It is actively managed for a combination of leisure and ecological objectives' administered by an independent Trust. The eastern end has been designated as a local Nature Reserve in conjunction with Harborough District Council since 2006.
- The Primary School playing fields and the adjacent children's play area; both are used widely by children in the village as sports and play areas.



- Undisturbed Glebe pastureland south of the church along the bridle path referred to as 'Stoney'
- The canal landscape on the eastern Parish boundary

The consultation also emphasised the appreciation that residents place on The Bogs area, registered as common land, and the Millennium Green that is held in trust for the village. In addition parishioners indicated their appreciation of the school playing field, the undisturbed glebe pastureland - known as Stoney - and the views from it and consider it should be protected for the future by being owned by the village.



It was felt that the purchase of Stoney from the Church Commissioners should remain an aspiration.

These 'Designated Areas' have been decided upon following the Harborough District Council guidance, as follows:

*"Open space is defined in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as: land laid out as a public garden, or used for the purposes of public recreation, or land which is a disused burial ground. However, in applying the policies in this Guidance, open space should be taken to mean all open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can also act as a visual amenity."*

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012 defines open space as:

**Open Space:** All open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water (such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs) which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity.

**Green infrastructure:** A network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities

**Playing field:** The whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010.

The National Planning Policy Framework also states the following:

73. Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up to date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.

74. Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
  
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
  
- The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

75. Planning policies should protect and enhance public rights of way and access. Local authorities should seek opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails.

76. Local communities through local and neighbourhood plans should be able to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as Local Green Space local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances. Identifying land as Local Green Space should therefore be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.

77. The Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used:

- Where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
  
- Where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
  
- Where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.



78. Local policy for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with policy for Green Belts.”

## 5.5 Facilities

North Kilworth has a Post Office, one Public House (The White Lion) and a garage. It also has a Village Hall, a Village Primary School and Church Rooms as part of the Rectory. From a sports perspective, the village has a thriving Bowls Club, a well used all-weather floodlit sports and tennis area and a Sports Club primarily used for football, although cricket and rounder's have also been played there.



For smaller children there is a play area with swings, slides and other play equipment. On the outskirts of the village, there is a canal marina and a championship 18 hole golf course at Kilworth Springs. The Kilworth House Estate and Hotel offer a higher quality entertainment, residential and dining facilities, creating a wide market appeal locally.



## 5.6 Village Gateways

Vehicular access to the village is by the roads from the north, south, east and west. The sense of arrival is least evident when approached from the east as the built form is more dispersed along Station Road. The main pedestrian gateways come from the bridleway from Welford through Stoney from the south and the footpath from Walton to the north-west. Speed of traffic is a recurring concern and the Parish Council have taken steps to install tracking systems as the cost of technology has permitted. Speed is an important issue relating to developments around the Main road and this has been linked to the desire to establish more prominent forms of gateway.



*From East*

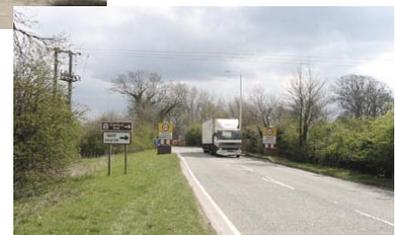
*From North*



*From West*



*From South*



## 5.7 Vernacular Buildings & Areas

This section provides detailed design guidance specific to the settlement of North Kilworth. It covers special character areas (enclosed, rural and open, as well as the newer areas of the village) and specific features of the village (buildings, boundaries, verges and paths/streets) that reflect the unique character of North Kilworth.

There are a number of landmarks around the village that by their position and different architectural styles punctuate the street scene and contribute to the overall character of North Kilworth. Most are Grade II listed buildings:

- Ivy House, Back Street (Georgian)
- Tudor Cottages, Green Lane (post-Medieval)
- Nether Hall, Church Street (Victorian)
- The Old Rectory, Church Street (unlisted - Georgian)
- St. Andrew's Church and Spire, Church Street (12th century)
- Manor Farm, Cranmer Lane (Victorian)
- Spring Cottage, Cranmer Lane (Post Medieval)
- North Kilworth Hall, Green Lane (Edwardian)
- Honey Cottage, Dag Lane (post Medieval)
- The Close, The Green
- The War Memorial (Traditionally maintained by the Townland Trust)
- St Andrews Churchyard wall, Dag Lane (an ancient wall built of river cobbles with a stone copping)
- The Kilworth House Estate and grounds (a restored 19th century grand house in Edwardian Italianate style)
- The ambience of the Village Green
- The White Lion Public House
- The Post House, Hawthorne Road
- The Billet, Green Lane
- Hedera Stables, Green Lane



Individual 'character areas' have been identified in the village. These areas have been defined to illustrate that each area exhibits certain features that give it a distinct character.



*North  
Kilworth  
Listed  
Buildings  
(circled)*

**(i) Enclosed Area**

- Buildings located directly onto the street and high brick walls result in a narrow visual aspect of the street scene
- Forms part of the offset grid system of the village
- Open spaces break up the area with glimpses of green corridor seen between the houses
- Most buildings are 18th and 19th century

Examples include High Street, Green Lane and Cranmer Lane with open spaces being provided by the Village Green and the gardens at the back of The Close. Within this area Manor Farm provides a good example of the village yard system within such an area. Such regions include North Kilworth Hall gardens, The Park, the paddocks near the Washpit and Shoulder of Mutton. North Kilworth Hall, Nether Hall and the Old Rectory are examples of large houses.

**(ii) Rural Area**

- Has few buildings, large in size
- Many open views and aspects
- Wide grass verges
- Courtyard forms



## 5.8 Footpaths, Bridleways & Cycleways (See also 6.3)

Much of the parish is criss-crossed by public footpaths and bridleways with many converging on the village. Others join up with the towpaths of the Grand Union Canal (Leicester line). However, the bridle ways and paths are not adequately marked and some require improvement.



Many of the finger posts that point the way to villages (regarded by many to be an intrinsic part of the rural landscape) have been replaced with unsympathetic metal signs.

There is also considerable support for the provision of cycle ways and that these (both old and new) should be adequately sign posted. In particular there is a priority attached to establishing a safer track-way between the Village and Kilworth House to the west. This would expand the availability of off road track ways for pedestrian and equestrian safety.



## 5.9 Enforcement of Planning Conditions

*“Planning is something which deals with communities and not individual parcels of land and individual sites.”*

In the past there have been some unresolved problems of enforcement of conditions of planning permissions.



There have been a number of retrospective planning applications granted. It is felt that both issues encourage disregard for planning legislation. The Parish Council are committed to Reporting actual or alleged breaches in Planning Consents to Harborough DC in writing.

On Pincet Lane in particular there have been regular breaches in relation to access and use which have been retrospectively approved despite the use of non specification construction resulting in flooding and other issues.

## 6.0 The Community Environment

*“There should be some benefits to the village from all this building that is going on.”*

There has been a history of developer agreements being diverted by the District Council for projects outside of the village. The old Section 106 Arrangements have subsequently been updated and a new policy created by Harborough District Council.

### 6.1 Economic History

The village’s economic history of the cottage industries (such as stocking knitting, blacksmiths, cobblers, linen weavers and other local tradesmen) has dictated some of the built form found within the village. In order to accommodate the cottage industries, a yard system was created where the buildings were used for both the industry and the workers homes.



These buildings were located around a yard that was used as a communal area for meeting others and children playing. Space to the rear of the buildings was then maximised for growing vegetables, rearing pigs and poultry - vital for the self-sufficiency of those living in the village. In the Nineteenth Century the Kilworth House Estate was a significant employer, a role which has been revived with the restoration of the Hotel and Theatre Estate complex.

Proximity to iron ore and coal to the west and the east led to the foundation of the famous “Royal Implement Works” owned by the Ball family on the Main Road which once supplied large numbers of agricultural implements nationally. The village at one point was identified as a logical place to establish a car manufacturing activity, a role which subsequently fell to Coventry.



The overall building footprint may have looked very similar to that of a stable yard. Remnants of the buildings that may have formed part of the yard system patterns can be seen within the village in locations such as Manor Farm on the village green, the farmyard on Dag Lane (as pictured on the right) and to the rear of Ivy House on Back Street.

The large Houses in the village possess cellars and an Ice Houses and numerous gardens boast their individual water wells accessing supplies within 3 metres of the surface.

The broad verges around the Village are testimony to their use by Welsh Drovers in the 18th and 19th centuries for grazing flocks of sheep and cattle, an activity which ceased with the coming of the Railways in the 1850’s.

The proximity of the village to the open countryside, particularly the area known as Stoney, is an important element contributing to the village's character. In many places the open countryside penetrates the development envelope of the village via the open spaces, the large rear gardens of many of the dwellings in the village and the rural nature of the lanes with grass verges.

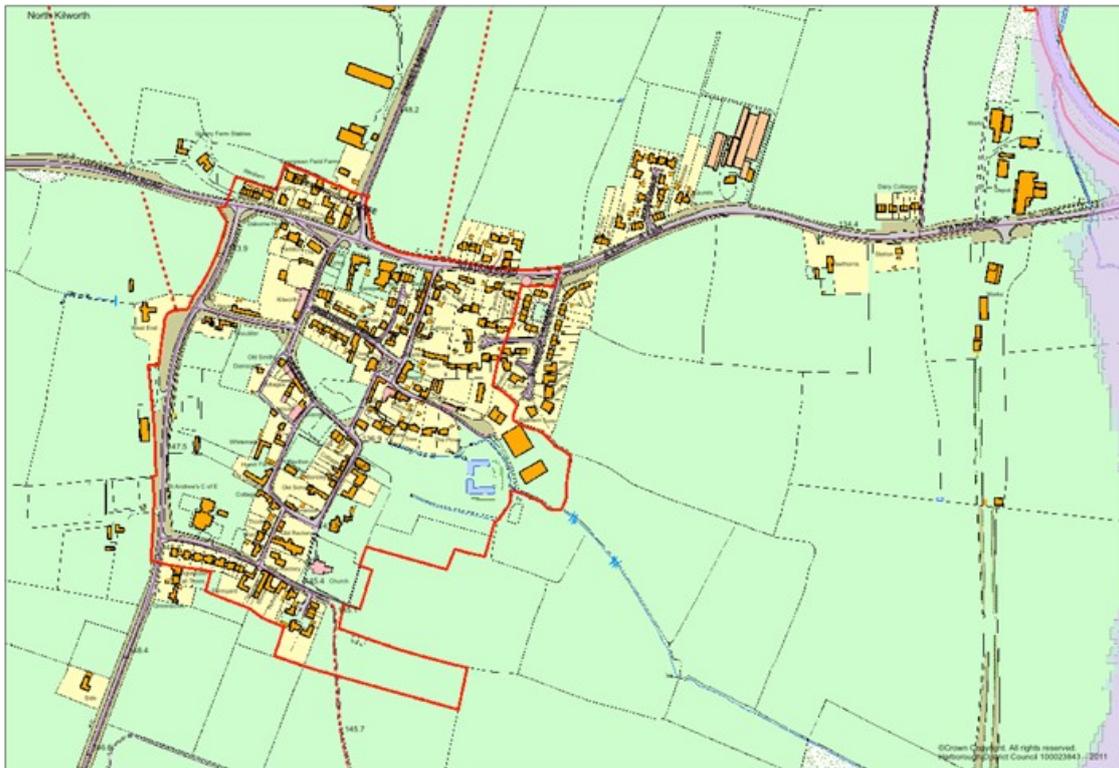
## 6.2 Conservation Area

Consequently it was felt appropriate that the defined Conservation Area boundary should be extended to include an area south and south east of the village.

Namely;

- the Church Glebe land surrounding Stoney, including the two fields immediately to the east of St. Andrews Church;
- the triangular section of young trees alongside the approach to the Mill;
- and then back across the northern boundary of the golf range to the point where it intersects with the North Kilworth to South Kilworth road.

A response to the Leicestershire CC consultation on Public Open Spaces resulted in this Glebe being incorporated as such as shown on their website.



*The North Kilworth conservation area map, boundary indicated by the red line.*

## 6.3 Traffic, Parking & Transport

*“You can’t see the village for cars parked on the roads.”*



Parking and traffic will continue to be a problem within the village, as more parishioners and their families require transport in and out of the village.

The absence of a credible transport service to serve the village will always dictate the number of vehicle movements each day.

The village needs to ensure that any further development specifies off street parking as a MUST.

Parking on the narrow streets is becoming more and more common with the consequent detrimental effect on pedestrian safety and the ease by which traffic, including emergency and service vehicles, is able to travel within the village. The majority of respondents to the questionnaire desired off-road parking on their own properties and a smaller number identified the need for garages in the future. By the year 2020 the number of vehicles will have increased considerably exacerbating the problem. It is therefore vital to provide adequate parking provision in new developments, maintain the existing public parking areas at the Village Hall, the Floodlit Sports Association, in front of the bungalows in Elmcroft Road, outside the pub and along the main road. Public parking areas in the village are to be retained.

The Village Hall Car Park has been confirmed as part of their land rather than owned by the Parish. The Village Hall Car Park has been confirmed as the responsibility of the Village Hall Trustees, but by agreement, it is available as a parking area without prejudice and provided there are no functions at the Hall. The Hall Trustees are also in discussion with the Millennium Green Trustees regarding vehicular and pedestrian access to the Green (2012).



Traffic remains a major source of concern for all parishioners, especially the speed of vehicles driving through the village and safety related issues.

*“The inadequacies of the A14 just force more and more heavy traffic back onto A4304”*

There are four exits and entrances to the village, and it would deter excessive speeding if entrance and exit signs were erected on the boundaries of the village.



The majority of the village of North Kilworth lies south of the A4304, with some limited recent developments on the north of the road. This road provides a convenient east / west link for traffic leaving the M1 at junction 20 and likewise traffic from the east travelling towards M1.

The opening of the major east - west A14 link in 1995 initially reduced the traffic flow on the A4304 but levels have steadily increased with a tendency for heavy goods vehicles to be on the road 24 hours per day. There is a widely felt concern that with the growing village population and the need for residents (including school children) to cross this road, significant problems could arise in the future. The lack of footpaths alongside the main road on Lutterworth Road to Kilworth House and on the north side of Station Road to Dairy Cottages do not help. On a long term basis it was felt that the creation of such a footpath should be a priority for the Parish Council.



*“If you drove through North Kilworth on the main road it would possibly be one of the most unattractive villages you would ever want to live in”*

Turning off and onto the A4304 was also identified as a major problem, in particular near and approaching Dairy Cottages. It was recognised that there is a lack of sense of arrival into the village on the A4304, which would otherwise encourage lower speeds. The revised proposals in 2012 for the Marina suggest that the insertion of a 40 limit, flashing lights and central islands will create an improved calming influence.

Pincet Lane heads north out of the village, providing a major route into Leicester for village residents. It is also in constant use by large trucks, unrestricted numbers of car transporters and lorries travelling to and from the industrial site at Bruntingthorpe.

*“Bruntingthorpe traffic is too much for the size and width of Pincet Lane...  
...it should not be a truck route”*

## North Kilworth Parish Plan 2013

A proposed quarry development on Pincet Lane in 2002 was included in the County Minerals Plan, but subsequently the application was withdrawn by the applicant. The speed, size and noise of this type of traffic using this route are a major source of concern, particularly for residents living on the lane.

The village has suffered diesel spillages which led to waterborne pollution into the Avon tributary.

The state of drainage ditches on Pincet Lane also gives cause for concern and the creation of a transport activity adjacent to the poultry farm was also the subject of Planning Enforcement action in 2007.



To the west, the village is bounded by the road providing access to South Kilworth and onto Rugby. Although traffic volumes are currently relatively modest and there is limited use by heavy goods vehicles, the road is increasingly becoming used as an access route to the motorways at Swinford. This use will be exacerbated by the possible hotel and conference centre development at the Golf Course. The rationalisation of the M1/A14/M6 Catthorpe interchange in 2016 should ease this diversionary flow. However, traffic speed has been identified as a particular concern, especially for children and parents crossing from the all weather car park to the school.



Traffic movement within the village is made difficult by the large number of vehicles parked on the roads and the many tight and blind corners, often causing damage to kerbs and verges.

Parking within the narrow streets of the village is becoming more and more common which impacts on pedestrian safety and limits the ease by which traffic is able to travel through the village. The safety of children playing in the village was identified as a key issue.

*“Village children seem to be oblivious to traffic - no matter how slow you go”*

Although safety is a prime concern, traffic calming measures such as bumps and one way systems can be inappropriate as they sit uncomfortably with the rural setting. Also road markings, especially yellow lines, can detract from the rural character of the village. Bus services have improved markedly in the 2000-2010 period but it was recognised that this may not remain in an era of austerity so the Community Interest Company was committed to establishing some form of car sharing scheme in the future.

Provision for cyclists is an emerging national priority in urban areas. In North Kilworth, we are rich in local bridleways and footpaths, but these are eclectic. There is a need for segregated direct cycle routes to Lutterworth and Market Harborough for those utilising sustainable links for work, leisure and shopping. (See also 6.19)

With regard to transport to and from the village, a bus service operates to and from Lutterworth, Hinckley and Market Harborough. This service runs hourly from 7am to 6pm. A single bus shelter is provided on the south side of the A4304.



From the questionnaire it was established that the major use for public transport is shopping and leisure, involving 10% of the respondents. Approximately 2% use it on a daily basis and tend to be mainly the young.

A desire was expressed for an earlier and later service with increased frequency to Lutterworth and Market Harborough and for a review of the need for a Rugby bus link.

## 6.4 Surface Water Drainage and Sewerage Disposal (See also 4.3)

Problems have arisen due to storm drains being introduced rather than soak-aways and consequent flooding of storm water into foul drains.

The Environment Agency was consulted in summer 2002 and it recommended that porous surfaces should be provided in place of hard surfacing to ensure that surface water helps replenish the aquifer.

Particular importance attaches to separating foul from rainwater. Some of the present sewage pipes are undersized and cause problems especially in Elmcroft Road. These were investigated by Severn Trent in 2011 generally there needs to be close attention paid to the SUDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage Strategy) in the case of new development.



## 6.5 Gas & Oil Tanks

The size, inappropriate positioning and inadequate screening of gas and oil tanks can detract from the character of the village. These are under review by the CIC. Policy in this area is defined by the energy suppliers and we are powerless to change the requirements. Some residents are investing in ground source heat pumps to achieve independence from fossil oil.

## 6.6 Street Furniture & Signs

All signage should be kept to a minimum, redundant signs should be removed and every effort made not to duplicate signage. Internally illuminated signs of any type should be discouraged. Advertising signs should be as unobtrusive as possible.



## 6.7 Lighting

Existing street lighting pollutes the night sky and many of the lights are unable to shed their glow because of the overhanging branches and bushes. Also the light pollution from the driving range at Kilworth Springs Golf Club is generally regarded as having a detrimental impact on the village.

In 2011 the Parish Council agreed to a trial (which became permanent) of switch-off after midnight of the majority of lamps as part of the County driven energy reduction strategy. As a policy, all lighting installations need to conform to regulation on high-level radiation.

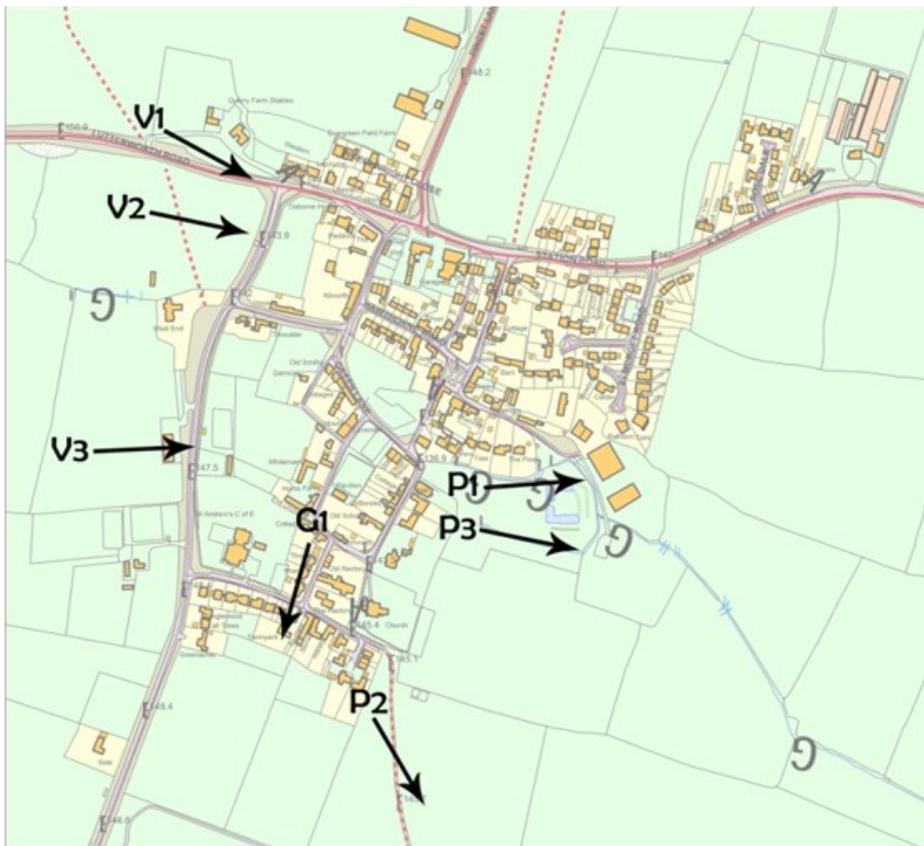


As an action, the Parish Council should consider all opportunities for the application of LED (Light Emitting Diode) systems.

## 6.8 Views

Consequently there are many views and vistas from, into and within the village. The enclosed nature of the street scene is punctuated with views and glimpses of the village's open areas that lead to panoramic views of surrounding countryside. Those of note include:

- Views from the Millennium Green area across the Avon valley (P1, P3)
- View from Stoney across the Avon valley and beyond to the Jurassic clay ridge known as the Northamptonshire Heights (P2)
- View along Station Road looking east at the entry point to the village (V1)
- View from South Kilworth road across open paddocks towards the undulating roofline of the village (V3)
- Glimpse from Dag Lane between the old farmyard buildings towards the south and open countryside (G1)
- Street vistas such as down Main Street, down Back Street, Down Hawthorn Road, from Pincet Lane towards the White Lion and along Dag Lane towards the Church.
- View across open paddocks east towards North Kilworth Hall (V2)





The residents of North Kilworth are of the opinion that these open countryside and scenic views in and around the village are of great value.

Since the original plan of 2004, Government energy policies have accelerated the installation of subsidised wind turbines.



It is felt that the consent for these should be resisted where they impinge on those views regarded as important to the village.

It is therefore important to the overall character of the village and the conservation area that these views are retained and not impinged upon.



## 6.9 Security

One of the major issues was that of security, especially that of children. Also there are concerns about personal security and the lack of police presence, together with the introduction of drugs into the area.

Unsolicited callers cause elderly or housebound residents the most concern. As a result there is support to revitalise the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Neighbourhood Watch information continues to be circulated to those on the e- mailing list and Newsletter.

## 6.10 Health, Rural Isolation & Exclusion

The majority of villagers use the local doctors' surgery in Husbands Bosworth and Lutterworth and travel by their own vehicle. There does not appear to be any significant problems reported in collecting medicine/prescriptions. In a possible Phase 2 program, the Village Hall Committee is examining the possibility of developing health related services in a village context.

There is low usage of maternity care, home help, and meals-on-wheels. Access to medical services in general appears not to be a significant issue, but there are concerns about the elderly/house-bound and meeting their needs.

## 6.11 Education

There is an interest in a wide range of adult education and learning opportunities. The activities in the main are carried out at the neighbouring towns of Lutterworth and Market Harborough, and further afield at Rugby and Leicester. The Village Women's Institute was founded in 1922 and continues to offer a wide range of lectures.

The school has expanded to over 100 key stage 1 & 2 pupils in 2012 and has received very positive OFSTED Reviews in the intervening period since the last Plan. During 2012, pupils from St. Andrew's achieved some of the best Key Stage 2 results in the country, achieving an average point score of 33, the 7th best score in the country. This also makes St Andrew's the highest achieving Leicestershire School.



## 6.12 Affordable Homes & Allotments

Affordable Homes were identified in the 2004 Plan as an aspiration for the Village. In November 2010 250 survey documents were distributed to every house in the Village in conjunction with the Leicestershire County Council Rural Homes Enabler. 74 were returned with 54% in favour of progressing the project, 20% opposed and 26% undecided.

Discussions were opened with Planners at Harborough District Council to identify possible rural exception sites and in July 2011 a walkabout was held attended by over 20 villagers. 6 possible sites were evaluated and the Gandy Rose Nursery identified as a preferred location.

With support of the Parish Council Nottingham HCA were chosen as the preferred partner Association.



As of October 2012 the project has been costed at £768,000 but there is a funding shortfall of £90,000. It is an objective to seek closure on this project as soon as possible.

In 2009, North Kilworth Parish Council agreed provision for Traveller Community stands on the Lutterworth Road are known as '99 Bumps'. This was a valuable contribution to the District Council targets in line with National guidelines for temporary pitch provision.



### 6.13 Sports & Leisure

North Kilworth is regarded as a very social village with many different societies and organisations, each responsible for a whole series of events throughout the year. There is also substantial interest in starting up some new activities (for amateur dramatics and 'special interest' clubs/workshops such as craft, chess and cookery). There is a strong desire expressed to ensure that this part of village life is maintained and that this be expanded to cover musical, theatrical and film events in the Village. The phase 2 redevelopment of the Village Hall is now complete. Phase 3 envisages the addition of proper storage and Meeting Room facilities.



The sports facilities in the village are viewed as being comprehensive and include outdoor bowls, tennis, football, netball and rounders. The village has an all-weather floodlit arena, a large playing field area (capable of supporting at least two football pitches and a cricket square) and a county standard green for bowls.



The village hall is used extensively by different organisations and has considerable support for its continued existence since its refurbishment in 2012.

The village hall committee are now broadening their appeal to a wide range of bodies, both within and beyond the Parish.

Each of the clubs associated with the different facilities has improved, or is planning to improve, grounds and buildings.



There is a significant feeling in the village that this would be done better with increased co-ordination between the different organisations. This way could be possible to secure larger amounts of grant aid to develop the overall village facilities in an integrated way.

There is also good support for improving the Sports Club buildings. Investment in the last 5 years has dramatically improved the focus on sport, especially in the area of Academy level under 18's football. The North Kilworth team is rated (Jan. 2013) 4th in the area and the under 13's are outstanding, bounded by Derbyshire, Northants, Worcestershire and Staffordshire. An aspiration is to acquire additional land for cricket as well as expand the quantity and quality of spectator and player provision in terms of seating and changing room facilities. The facilities for indoor sports (such as badminton, and indoor bowls) need substantial improvement.

There is support from the younger element of the village for a skate board facility or similar, in addition to maintaining the children's play area. The latter is also at capacity and an additional or new home might be preferable.



Revitalisation of the Youth Club has been suggested, although there appeared to be limited support from parents in the village to run it, suggesting that it would have to be done externally.

The Kilworth Challenge is a vital unifying initiative which passed the £1 million mark in its 21st year (2012). Proceeds are shared both locally and with The Dukes Barn in Derbyshire. Equipment, the awards ceremony and the control centre for this and the Junior Family Challenge revolve around the valuable social facilities afforded by the Sports Club. This also acts as an important springboard for the very high standard of youth teams playing at a high level. The Sports Club is establishing its own website to provide updates in relation to their achievements; in particular for their youth development up to Academy level.



## 6.14 Post Office & Retail

There is a high level of support for the village Post Office and general disappointment about the demise of the village shop although a basic facility now operates in the Petrol Station. It was recognised that there would probably be an increase in 'internet shopping' via the large supermarkets allied to local delivery. There is strong support to be able to buy more locally grown produce locally.

This opens up the possibility for local farmers and growers to diversify by the opening of a market garden and farm shop. It was noted that there are no allotments in the village, but if the affordable homes project succeeds, this will be achieved.

Also it was recognised that by encouraging such a 'shop' it would help to redress the criticism that there was not enough social interaction in the village on a day to day basis. The increasing risks of dry spring conditions could raise issues regarding supply and water pressure risks. The White Lion is in the market as a Free House (2012) and it is an action to investigate the feasibility of purchase from Marstons by use of Community Bonds.



## 6.15 Religion

St. Andrews Church is an important part of the village as a place for worship but also as a focal point in the village. A significant number of people wished to be buried in the churchyard. There is also support for interdenominational activity within North Kilworth and adjacent parishes.

There is an intent to install sanitary and food preparation facilities in the Church to make it a more flexible and useful addition for larger village social events.



## 6.16 Utilities & Services

**Waste:** The community will look to reduce waste and further increase recycling and work with the local Council to improve options and opportunities. Additionally work with the authorities to reduce the size of the vehicles transiting the village for waste collection and find more sustainable waste transport options.

**Water and sewerage:** No additional new development within the Village Boundary should be sanctioned without a confirmed report that the existing infrastructure is fit for purpose and can support demand.

**Broadband:** The community will look to find solutions to increase broadband capacity to 50 Mb/sec within 2 years. An Action Group formed in 2011 and achieved a high per capita response score on a Leics. CC survey /consultation. Funding for a fibre optic link to the Husbands Bosworth node appears to be beyond our means however and hopes remain for wireless based improvements.

**Employment:** Wherever possible the Parish will look to support new local enterprise that creates sustainable local employment.

## 6.17 Employment & Business

Within the parish boundaries of North Kilworth there are currently approximately 13 companies that employ more than 5 people. In addition there are a number of small companies and one-person self-employed businesses that operate from home. In recent years there has been expansion in the leisure sector with the establishment of the Kilworth Springs Golf Course in the 1990s and the refurbishment of Kilworth House into a hotel and theatre complex in 2002. In the 1890's, Kilworth House employed 35 villagers.

Small industrial developments exist on either side of the A4304 on the sites of the old railway and the dairy. In response to the questionnaire on future developments, although limited, there appeared to be a preference for leisure oriented businesses, with home based and light industrial having a similar level of acceptance. There is potential for a market garden and farm shop.



## North Kilworth Parish Plan 2013

Any applications for new businesses in the parish need to be considered in this context. In 2010 an application for the development of an enlarged Marina was rejected by Harborough District Council on the grounds of Traffic impacts and road safety on the Main Road. There were also concerns with regard to the scale of the development which would have involved the inundation of fields adjacent to the canal. However the limited development of this site with attendant control of the road access impacts was seen as generally positive. In 2012 a re-application was submitted which met the majority of these objections and the Amended Proposal was awarded consent.

Recommendations are to maintain consideration of applications for new businesses in North Kilworth on a broad basis, evaluating the potential benefits and how they will impact on the character of the village. Where possible restrict developments for small and light industry to the area around the old railway and dairy.



Since 2003 the Village continued to see the erosion of services—notably the Village Shop and the Swan Public House. Whilst the Garage continues and has evolved into a mini shop the future of The White Lion remains precarious. The CIC has identified this risk and remains vigilant in maintaining contact with Marston's Brewery management with a view to possible purchase by the Village if the possibility of Freehold sale becomes a reality. In January 2013, the CIC decided to seek funding for the preparation of an outline business plan incorporating a micro brewery, mini-bakery, Bed & Breakfast facility and coffee shop (see also 6.20). This will be circulated to potential investors. The threat to rural bus services remains and the Parish Council needs to be alert to the risks. The CIC has sought support for a Community Travel Programme but this drew little positive response in 2011.

## 6.18 Communications

*“A Welcome Pack - when we first moved in would have been nice”*

Communication is another important issue identified as part of the consulting process. This covered all types of communication from informal 'word of mouth' and newsletters through to electronic means, including the use of web sites and modern communication systems.

The majority of the respondents to the questionnaire, although recognising the move towards electronic methods, favoured maintaining the mail drop system currently employed for the monthly Parish Newsletter. It was felt that the more personal approach (whereby something came through the letter box) not only provided the required information but also gave a social aspect very valued by the older and single-person households that was not possible electronically.

The parish and village notice boards were also valued, although identified as needing improvement and refurbishment. Also welcomed was the Parish Council newsletter published approximately every quarter. Since 2002 the Parish Newsletter has been expanded and made more interesting by the use of the latest Information Technology tools. This work has been underwritten by financial support from the Parish Council and the website has also been expanded to incorporate the Newsletter as well as the fund of photographs and other recollections coming to light from Villagers.

There was therefore a strong desire to maintain and improve the more traditional communication methods, especially for those who were relatively new to North Kilworth and therefore did not benefit from the village 'grape vine'.

Recommendations for future communications are to;

- Establish new notice boards at key locations and implement a maintenance plan
- Maintain and continue to improve the Parish and Parish Council newsletters and ensure that they are distributed to all households, including those outside the immediate village
- Continue to prepare a 'Welcome Pack' for distribution to newcomers as they arrive in the village giving details of activities, organisations and contact points.



Communication is well provided for in the village by a monthly newsletter, village notice boards and village website organisations at [www.northkilworth.com](http://www.northkilworth.com) and [www.villagepowercic.org](http://www.villagepowercic.org) In addition, the Parish Council welcomes Parishioners to their monthly meetings (check notice boards for dates).



On the electronic forms of communication, the questionnaire identified some key facts and trends for the future. Responses indicated a growing use of computers and Information Technology. Over 50% of the respondents had access to the internet at home and the majority of these would like to have a high speed communications link to North Kilworth, especially those running small businesses. In addition approximately 20% expressed a desire to learn how to use the computer and communicate with it.

In 2012 BT have announced the proposed rollout of a hyper fast Broadband network following trials in Cornwall. An action group is linking to neighbouring villages to ensure our voice is heard in securing the necessary funding to bring fibre optic systems to the local domestic server switch boxes in the village.

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A North Kilworth web site properly managed and updated has been implemented together with interlinked ones for the CIC and other organisations.

Additional recommendations to assist future communications are to;

- Establish the different options for a high speed communication link for the village and address its implementation
- Review the case for a village community IT centre, for example based at the school or in the White Lion to ensure dual school and village utilisation.

## 6.19 North Kilworth & the Low Carbon Economy

The formation of the Community Interest Company ([www.villagepowercic.org](http://www.villagepowercic.org)) in 2010 was in response to Central Government and external drivers promoting the need for Sustainability, low carbon emissions actions and resource efficiency.

The CIC evolved the following programme priorities.....

- A buying consortia for Villagers wishing to install PV cells to their roofs
- A successful £50,000 application to the heritage lottery fund for installation of PV cells to all public buildings in the village
- A £10,000 tree planting programme delivered in Winter 2011/12
- A focus on resource efficiency in terms of village managed recycling and renewable energy projects
- A successful £37,000 programme to provide scoping evidence to DECC (Department for Energy and Climate Change) on best practice energy efficiency programmes in school villagers coupled to an appraisal of small scale energy generation possibilities in Villages and the creation of a 'carbon footprint' survey
- Reviewing the possibilities for car sharing initiatives and maintaining aspirations as technology and fossil energy costs change
- Engagement with Marston's regarding possible social ownership models for the White Lion together with the preparation of an 'alternative' business plan on social lines
- Support for the creation of a "slow food" retail facility in the Village
- Working with the Parish Council to create an Allotments area for organic food
- Liaison with the Parish Council in relation to the provision of Affordable Homes



The community, with the assistance of Village Power CIC and Elmhurst Energy has benchmarked its energy efficiency and carbon emissions. In 2 years the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) rating has improved from 47 to 57 with associated carbon reductions. The aim of the community is to reduce carbon emissions by 2020 by a further 20%.

This will be achieved by:

- Encouraging further energy efficiency measures for residents
- Promote renewable energy options to residents to seek a reduction in the reliance on oil based heating systems
- Canvas the community for sustainable transport options – perhaps electric car pools/ improved bus networks
- Encourage the planting of trees to remove carbon and mitigate carbon of future developments
- Supporting the Sports Club's renewable energy initiatives



Three community buildings have solar panels fitted that reduce energy costs and generate an income stream for the community organisations involved. The community will seek further renewable energy solutions to benefit the community and will actively develop options for an anaerobic digestion facility using local fuel supplies to help support the community through energy and Feed in Tariffs.

## 6.20 The 'Slow Movement'

The slow movement advocates a cultural shift toward slowing down the pace of everyday life in relation to areas such as food, fashion, goods, money and many other aspects.



Opposed to the culture of fast food, the sub-movement known as 'Slow Food' seeks to encourage the enjoyment of regional produce, traditional foods, which are often grown organically and to enjoy these foods in the company of others. It aims to defend agricultural biodiversity.

'Slow Money' is a movement to organise investors and donors to steer new sources of capital to small food enterprises, organic farms and local food systems. Slow Money takes its name from the Slow Food movement.

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The development of segregated cycle routes on the Market Harborough - Lutterworth axis is a classic 'Slow Movement' priority.



Slow Money aims to develop the relationship between capital markets and place, including social and soil fertility. Slow Money is supporting the grass-roots mobilisation through network building, convening, publishing and incubating intermediary strategies and structures of funding.

'Slow Architecture' is a term that is also believed to have grown from the Slow Food movement of the mid 1980's. Slow Architecture is generally architecture that is created gradually and organically, as opposed to building quickly for short term goals. It is often combined with an ecological, environmentally sustainable approach.

The Community Interest Company ([www.villagepower.org](http://www.villagepower.org)) was formed with these broad objectives in mind.



## 7.0 North Kilworth Parish Plan 2004: Action Plan Review & Update 2004 - 2013

This section refers back to the recommendations made in the North Kilworth Parish Plan of 2004 and summarises any actions taken on those recommendations, noting any incidents where no action was taken. Where further action is required, details will be given.

For full details of the recommendations within the 2004 Parish Plan, please either download a copy of the 2004 Parish Plan from the Parish website at [www.northkilworth.com](http://www.northkilworth.com) or ask a member of the Parish Council for a spare copy.

## 7.1 Design

Reference	Issue	Status
<b>D1 – D5</b>	Character open land and general design	Ongoing
<b>D6</b>	Courtyards. Developments in Dag Lane and elsewhere have accorded with this recommendation but in the period 2004-2012 performance was patchy in the case of other developments.	Ongoing
<b>D7</b>	Integration. An aspiration in the 2013 Plan	Ongoing
<b>D8</b>	Designations	Achieved
<b>D9</b>	Stoney. Financial implications are significant but may be subject of a future funding campaign when other priorities are met.	Outstanding
<b>D10</b>	Boundaries. This will be incorporated in the updated 2013 Harborough Development Plan. The definition of open spaces has been refined to private from public access land.	Ongoing
<b>D11</b>	Parking. Largely Achieved in the case of new developments but remains an ongoing issue.	Ongoing
<b>D12</b>	Parking.	Ongoing
<b>D13</b>	Parking. The use of the Village Hall Car Park has been clarified with the trustees.	Ongoing
<b>D14</b>	Drainage. Sustainable Urban Drainage principles Achieved in some cases. This remains an ongoing objective.	Ongoing
<b>D15</b>	Oil tanks. Achieved by Planning Regulations	Achieved
<b>D16</b>	Signage	Ongoing
<b>D17</b>	Signage. Ongoing in the case of County Highways .Safety concerns have triggered additional signs rather than less. Carried forward in the 2013 Review.	Ongoing
<b>D18</b>	Lighting. Design issues outstanding but radiation reduction agreed post 2400 hours by the introduction of night time turn- off policy by Leics. CC.	Ongoing
<b>D19</b>	Private lighting	Ongoing
<b>D20</b>	Planning breaches. This has been achieved, largely resulting from infractions by outside developers. Responses from HDC have been largely ineffective.	Ongoing
<b>D21</b>	Previously known as Section 106. Rules have been altered by HDC but we are claiming residual funds for Heritage projects. This has also been a feature of initiatives to create Affordable Homes in 2013.	Ongoing

## 7.2 Communications

Reference	Issue	Status
<b>C1</b>	Notice boards	Completed
<b>C2</b>	Newsletters	Completed
<b>C3</b>	Welcome packs. Initiated but insufficient volunteers to manage. Introductory Packs require a resident sponsor.	Ongoing
<b>C4</b>	High speed broadband. Ongoing with BT and currently a “live” topic for consolidated group age. Responded to BT Poll and we now await the introduction of wireless based networks to solve this significant brake on rural communications effectiveness. Incorporated in the 2013 Plan.	Ongoing
<b>C5</b>	I.T Centre. A Facility was funded by Biffaward in 2005 but the preschool group closed and the assets became outmoded. This is an issue remaining Outstanding and is carried forward in the 2013 Plan.	Ongoing
<b>C6</b>	Website. Completed and updated under the supervision of the Newsletter Editors.	Ongoing

### 7.3 Business

Reference	Issue	Status
<b>B1</b>	Planning. The Canal development was opposed and several evidence sessions to HDC Planners and a full Council Meeting resulted in a revised application which was passed. As of 2012 this remains to be implemented. The Canal area is identified as a suitable locus for future developments of a commercial nature.	Ongoing
<b>B2</b>	Planning Wright's Chicken Farm proposals were opposed in 2005/6 and Enforcement Notices served. See B1.	Completed

### 7.4 Environment

Reference	Issue	Status
<b>E1</b>	Character. Subject to planning and open meetings	Ongoing
<b>E2</b>	Trees. Achieved and a major tree planting programme has been completed, notably centred on the Millennium Green in conjunction with the Community Interest Company and MG Trustees.	Completed
<b>E3</b>	Trees. We have Achieved by 1 for 1 replacement policy in various cases but the actions of HDC continue to be arbitrary and against the recommendations of the Tree wardens. This is carried forward to the 2013 Plan.	Ongoing
<b>E4</b>	Paths. No recent incursions and regular reminder letters to Howkins Garage on the record. Path to Kilworth House is being carried forward. Maintenance on the Welford path is also ongoing.	Ongoing
<b>E5</b>	Cycle routes	Ongoing
<b>E6</b>	Hydrogeology	Ongoing
<b>E7</b>	Nature reserves	Completed
<b>E8</b>	Archaeology	Ongoing
<b>E9</b>	Hedgerows. Completed, expanded and ongoing- grants to Millennium Green and others have been made. Continuing emphasis is needed on retention and development of green corridors and sound hedgerow management.	Ongoing

### 7.5 Services & Social

Reference	Issue	Status
<b>S1</b>	Policing. Not achieved due to National policy.	Ongoing
<b>S2</b>	Neighbourhood watch. Ongoing but in 2012 there is a larger electronic circulation list exceeding 120 residents.	Ongoing
<b>S3</b>	Surgery provision. Outstanding due to changes in Village Hall specification and spend limitations	Ongoing
<b>S4</b>	As S3	Ongoing
<b>S5</b>	Neighbourhood scheme. Restricted to those with e-mail.	Ongoing
<b>S6</b>	Social services. Implemented on the village website only.	Ongoing
<b>S7</b>	Transport. Community Car scheme was recently suggested but received no responses in favour. The project remains under review. Bus provision is likely to be curtailed due to cut-backs imposed by Leics CC.	Ongoing

Reference	Issue	Status
§8	Communications. Confined to those on the e-mail list.	Ongoing
§9	School. The School continues to be successful in terms of numbers and its future is currently secure. A good OFSTED Review was achieved in 2012.	Ongoing
§10	Newsletters	Achieved
§11	The arts. Husbands Bosworth linkups occur and achieved re Film Club in winter. Kilworth House liaison has been established in relation to their events. There continue to be ongoing initiatives in the refurbished village hall.	Ongoing
§12	Sports. The Freehold of the Sports Club transferred to the Parish Council c2008. Here is enhanced liaison with the village on social events as of 2012.	Ongoing
§13	Village Hall. An Active Village Hall Committee and major phased changes have been completed including new end kitchen. The ugly 1950's portico has been demolished and with the help of grants the old body of the Hall has been entirely refurbished.	Ongoing
§14	Sports. The All Weather Committee is buoyant and supported with funds for lighting renewal. The Car park has been tarmacadammed in 2006 and the Sports Club has installed winter lighting. Indoor facilities still outstanding but the field has been upgraded substantially.	Completed
§15	Sports Club. Ongoing but many new works on lighting, kitchens and new internal furniture and fittings have been completed. Improved security and gateways have been installed and the rear patio area refurbished.	Ongoing
§16	Play area.	Ongoing
§17	Youth Club. Lack of Volunteers has resulted in this item being carried forward to the 2013 Plan.	Ongoing
§18	A market garden. A Community Interest Company has been formed as a sub group to the PC 2009/10 with allotments as a priority. For more information see <a href="http://www.villagepower.org">www.villagepower.org</a> . Discussions are possible acquisition of a half acre plot of allotments remain active in 2012 active and underway	Ongoing
§19	Allotments. See §18	Ongoing
§20	Post Office. Post Office largely sustained by E Bay postings-future remains uncertain. This is carried forward in the 2013 Plan.	Ongoing
§21	Use of St Andrews Church. The PCC has spent a significant proportion of accumulated reserves on repairs and refurbishment but on current expenditure profiles these will be exhausted in 5 to 8 years. Ongoing. The Deanery view on buildings possibly implies limited closures or service reductions due to falling congregations and financial support. It is likely that fundraising will concentrate on provision of updated cooking and toilet facilities to broaden the use of the building.	Ongoing
§22	Local Methodist Chapels have closed and services integrated.	Ongoing
§23	Drainage. Ongoing but after much letter writing by the PC Severn Trent have carried out a series of video surveillances and parts of the system have been rebuilt or replaced for storm water drains following flooding incidents.	Ongoing
§24	Electricity. Outstanding and carried forward in the 2013 Plan. Electricity distribution infrastructure has been improved by Western Power but the National supply outlook remains bleak post 2015. This has underpinned the formation of the CIC.	Ongoing
§25	Gas. Probably not practical and not currently a priority. However a grant application for an Anaerobic Digester plant to produce electricity has been raised.	Ongoing
§26	Recycling. The CIC has renewable energy from waste as part of its Agenda. In 2012, HDC are extending its kerbside collections to include the collection of recyclable plastics.	Ongoing

Reference	Issue	Status
<b>\$27</b>	Sewerage. Resolved but ongoing as a Planning issue. STW are a statutory consultee to developments but rarely oppose on the grounds of capacity. This is carried forward into the 2013 Plan.	Ongoing
<b>\$28</b>	Internet speed. A group of Residents are linking to investigate one stop deal on telecoms.	Ongoing
<b>\$29</b>	Community liaison. Outstanding and being continued	Ongoing

## 7.6 Traffic & Transport

Reference	Issue	Status
<b>T1</b>	Movement. The village Hall car park has been opened up to general use but residents remain reluctant to walk long distances. The introduction of heavier public service vehicles has posed problems in terms of kerbside damage. All aspects of transport remain an ongoing issue in the 2013 Plan.	Ongoing
<b>T2</b>	Gateways. Limited changes have been made to Dag Lane signage at Back Street Junction. A review is currently possible on the re installation of verges outside the old Swan Inn with the co-operation of the owner to improve splay exiting from High Street.	Ongoing
<b>T3</b>	Footpaths. Ongoing due to costs constraints.	Ongoing
<b>T4</b>	Road markings. Ongoing but considerable effort resulted in the installation of speed notification equipment and a 20 MPH limit in the vicinity of the School. These results are collated and reported in the Magazine and the website.	Ongoing
<b>T5</b>	Bus routes. Intermittent communication maintained with Bus Company over siting of Bus Stops. Additional signage installed in Bus Stop and back boarded in to improve weather protection. Service frequency improved due to HDC- Leicester CC subsidy support but this is under threat. No movement on improved links to Rugby.	Ongoing
<b>T6</b>	Transport grants.	Ongoing

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*Aerial view of North Kilworth 1959*

*Aerial view of North Kilworth 1998*