



Packington2002

VILLAGE APPRAISAL



I have lived two or three miles away from Packington all of my life and find the village to be an attractive, friendly and vibrant community. To maintain and improve the environment, character and vitality of our rural areas requires vigilance from those who live or work there and those who care about them. I was therefore delighted to be asked to write a brief foreword to this document, which sets out village needs and concerns as expressed by those who live in Packington.

The object of appraisals is to document the past, examine the present and plan for the future. They are an excellent opportunity for mobilising the local community, identifying issues of common concern and projects that would meet local needs.

By recording what a community has, what it uses, what it wants and what it doesn't want, appraisals help residents to play a significant role in shaping their own village. Threats flagged up can often be addressed before they become a serious problem and opportunities identified can be grasped in good time. Appraisals plan for the future, not wait for it to arrive.

Everyone in Packington has had an opportunity to express opinions and ideas about life here which means that the organisations, which are the foundations of the village, are better informed, people are more involved in what goes on around them and community spirit is thereby strengthened.

As your Member of Parliament, I want to play my part in responding to this first-rate Village Appraisal. Having taken an interest in several recent appraisals which have been carried out in North-West Leicestershire, I know what a great deal of work is necessary from the team of people who have had the vision, tenacity and energy to undertake such a process. They deserve our gratitude and admiration for such a full and valuable report.

The appraisal is not an end in itself. I am sure that the next step will be the creation of a prioritised action plan containing all of the issues to be followed up, especially by statutory bodies such as Parish, District and County Councils, Police and Health Authorities. They will certainly be influenced by the community views expressed.

I hope all villagers will now give the appraisal team their backing for this next crucial stage of the process, for, by such collective action and active participation, the future of Packington village can be secured for generations to come.

David Taylor MP

