

PARISH OPEN MEETING

Saturday 26th April 2025 11.00am

The Parish Meeting was arranged to launch the Gayton Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).

Invitations to this meeting were hand delivered to every house in the Parish together with an explanatory note. The result was a magnificent attendance of between 70-80 residents.

Carl Hamilton (Chairman of Gayton Parish Council) chaired the meeting and introduced the speakers in turn.

Roger Clarke (Gayton Parish Councillor) explained the reason for having the NDP survey was to enable the community to contribute to how they would like to see the village of Gayton develop over the coming 10-20 years.

The NDP becomes, when adopted, a legal binding document that lies alongside the Local Authority, West Northamptonshire Councils (WNC), Local Plan. Whereas a Parish Plan is restricted to management within the parish and, although created by the local community, carries no credibility on planning matters,

The Gayton Parish Council has endorsed this project, and the team of Carl Hamilton, Roger Clarke, David Burrows and Leandra Bramham are taking it forward. We have consulted with and taken advice from WNC and prepared a lengthy Questionnaire which was available on-line immediately after the meeting. But, to ensure that every household had an accessible copy, a paper copy was hand delivered through every door in the parish over the next few days.

All the groups and organisations that operate within the parish have already been consulted by the team to garner their views and requirements for the next 10-20 years. These included: Evergreens, Allotment Gardens, Chain Gang, Millennium Spinney, Table Tennis, Village Hall, St Marys Church, The Eykyn Arms Pub, Gayton Primary School, Milton Marina's and the Canal and Rivers Trust.

The Questionnaire will seek further information on village amenities, managing future housing growth, business opportunities, rural economy, public rights of way, recreation and open spaces, safe roads, infrastructure and services, local employment opportunities, climate/net zero commitments, farming and food, allotments, burials and the local school.

The seven stages for the procedure of the Neighbourhood development Plan are: -

- Designate the neighbourhood area.
- Prepare the draft plan,
- Pre-submission publicity and consultation (Regulation 14)
- Submission (Regulation 16)
- Examination
- Referendum
- Making (adopting) a neighbourhood plan.

Henry Spurrier the owner of Gayton Estate addressed the meeting and apologised for the way the Solar Farm application had been handled (for which the outcome, currently under Judicial Review, is still unknown).

He appreciated the opportunity to address the community, together with his Consultant, Ed Dixon they set out their aims as landowner, including energy needs, housing, food security, the environment, climate change and importantly physical and mental well-being.

They stressed that collaboration with the community of Gayton was critical in the Estate plan and to have the opportunity to have an input into the Neighbourhood Development Plan would be beneficial to all.

It should be recorded at this stage there were also other private landowners at the meeting who wish to be consulted during the plan making process.

David Burrows using a visual aid went through the Questionnaire explaining the details succinctly so that everyone could understand the depth of the questions.

There were several questions to all the speaker's requiring clarification on certain points, and these were fully answered. The Parish Clerk took notes which are incorporated within this document

The final message from the meeting was, that it will be the community of Gayton that influences any changes in the village, not individuals. This in an effort to keep the village sustainable for the future.

The formality of the meeting concluded just after 12 noon, but several informal discussions took place for another 30 minutes.

Coffee and biscuits were provided before, and after the meeting by the Evergreen group.

Note

- The Questionnaire is to be completed by 24th May 2025 (extension of 1 week)
- The analysis would be completed by the 31st May 2025
- Thereafter the Draft Plan would be written and forwarded to WNC as a pre-submission document.
- This will be the completion of Phase 1 of the NDP.