Raunds Community Plan
2014
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1 Executive Summary

Using well established approaches a steering group comprising local volunteers was formed to carry out a consultation and prepare a Community Plan and associated Action Plan. The Vision for Raunds group prepared questionnaires for local households, businesses and the young people of Raunds. The process was publicised, for example at the 2013 Carnival, the questionnaires distributed (late 2013) and the results analysed. There was a very good response and the Steering Group received 724 Household, 225 Youth and 34 Business questionnaires. These contained over 7,500 comments and suggestions, in what has been the biggest public consultation of Raunds townspeople for a number of years. In order to analyse this substantial amount of data five working groups were set up from the main Vision for Raunds Steering Group these were:

a. Local Environment & Community Safety
b. Facilities/Organisations/Quality of Life/Health & Adult Education
c. Youth
d. Housing/Transport/Traffic
e. Local Economy (Business/Communication/Tourism)

Each working group reviewed all the comments made by townspeople on the questionnaires. Once this task had been completed the Community Plan was drawn up together with an Action Plan that sets out what changes and improvements had been identified. The Action Plan contains both matters that had been identified by the population of Raunds and ideas that were identified by the Vision for Raunds Steering Group and thought worthy of further consideration in the future. The Vision for Raunds Steering Group would like to express its thanks for all the help and support received. (See Appendix)

When asked about how satisfied they were with Raunds as a place to live an impressive 84% of townspeople were Very or Fairly Satisfied. Just over 4% were Very or Fairly Dissatisfied which would indicate that despite criticism and many suggestions for improvements there cannot be too much wrong with Raunds as a place to live.

However, the results for a sense of “identity” were less clear-cut. The percentage of people with no feelings one way or the other was 38%. Whilst nearly half (46%) felt Very or Fairly Strongly that they belonged to the community there were 16% of people who had no real feeling of belonging to the community.

But the challenge will be to maintain this level of satisfaction and then build on it as Raunds grows in the coming years.
2 Raunds

Raunds is situated 21 miles (34 km) north-east of Northampton. The town is on the southern edge of the Nene valley and surrounded by arable farming land.

Raunds evolved from a rural settlement at the time of ethnic cleansing of the Romano-British by the Angles in the 4th Century to a hamlet and finally a village by 1800 AD.

The place-name 'Raunds' first appeared in an Anglo-Saxon charter of circa 972-992, where it appears as Randan. It appears as Rande in the Domesday Book of 1086, and in a later survey of Northamptonshire as Raundes. The name is the plural of the Old English rand, meaning 'border'.

There have been major archaeological finds in the vicinity including:

- Tools from the Neolithic period
- Remains of an Iron Age hill fort
- Roman sites, including farmhouses
- Saxon settlements

The town’s major church is St Peter's whose construction started in the 13th century. The church has the second-tallest spire in Northamptonshire at 202 feet (61.5m) and stands on the site of a Saxon place of worship. During the 15th century the patronage of the church changed from St Mary to St Peter. The church features a rare 'left-handed fiddler' decoration above the western entrance. A tomb-chest dedicated to John Wales, vicar from 1447 to 1496, proves the building has been in use for more than 550 years.

Around 1800 Raunds was subjected to national legislation namely the “Inclosure Act” that enclosed the village’s open fields after 1200 years of common use. This resulted in major changes with a move away from farming and agriculture and the growth of leather industries such as tanning and boot making. Gradually sufficient wealth became available to fund investment in the public services, namely sanitation, clean water, gas, and electricity. Raunds could even lay claim to a Railway Station, admittedly at a distance of 2 miles from the town centre. Within 100 years the village of Raunds had evolved into a small town, aided by the energy and self-discipline of various Presbyterian and Non-Conformist Churches coupled with the Co-operative Movement.
After a boom period supplying boots for the Boer War there was a decline in trade. In 1905, a dispute arose about wages to be paid to army bootmakers, which culminated in a march to London in May of that year. Raunds played a major role in the boot and shoe industry until its decline in the 1950s and 60s. With the downturn in the shoe trade the remaining small factories scattered throughout Raunds closed during the 1980s with all now demolished and replaced by housing developments. The Coggins boot factory was the last to go, and the site is now Coggins Close, a housing development.

The other major employer, RPC Containers closed their premises in the centre of Raunds in 2010 with the loss of over 100 jobs. A number of small businesses remain (see section on Business issues) but many people commute to larger centres for work (see section on Transport).

In the mid to late 1990s land on the outskirts of the town was developed as a trading estate known as Warth Park, and is now occupied by a number of firms including a Hotpoint distribution centre, and depots for Robert Wiseman Dairies, DPD the parcel service and Avery Dennison. Phase 2 of this successful development is now underway.

Raunds Co-operative Society operates a supermarket and department store and had 4,000 members in 2007 at the time of its merger with the larger Midlands Co-operative Society.

Raunds is a rural market town with a strong heritage and good access to open space. It is also seen as relatively affordable to live. Raunds is close to Stanwick Lakes; a country park developed from redundant gravel pits and managed by the Rockingham Forest Trust. There is a large children’s play area, a café and visitor centre and the park hosts a range of activities from Farmer’s Markets to craft events, guided walks and fun runs and adventure activities for younger children. The park is recognised for its birdlife and can be reached on foot from Raunds along the Meadow Lane bridleway.

Interesting facts about Raunds:

- Raunds once held the record for the highest temperature in Britain at 36.7 °C (98.1 °F), set on 10 August 1911, a record which stood until 1990.
- Raunds was the home of broadcaster, writer and television personality Sir David Frost, when his father, Wilfred John Paradine Frost, was a minister at the Methodist church.
- The smallest zebra crossing in England is to be found in Raunds.
Raunds has a population of 8,500 living in 3,500 homes. The planned development for the building of another 1,200 homes over the next 5 years represents the largest increase in population in this district.

3 Why have a Community Plan

A Community Plan is concerned with community issues and is a means whereby a community can record issues and identify possible solutions. A Community Plan is not necessarily concerned with the future development of land or planning issues.

Community Plans are drawn up by the townspeople themselves, with help from other organisations such as Town or Parish Councils and District or County Councils.

A Community Plan is about:

- Identifying local needs, specific problems and opportunities
- Setting out a long term vision for the future
- Drawing up an action plan to enable the vision to be realised
- The process of drawing up a Plan involves the collection of the views of local townspeople and also seeks to find out what they think can be done to improve the local community.

The Plan can include anything that is relevant to the local community from employment to housing, from parks and open spaces or the transport issues affecting the local area.

In order to be successful a Plan must generate interest and seek to involve the local community. Interest, involvement and support from the local community are essential in order to make progress. However, it is essential that an element of realism is maintained. It
may well be that there are some things which are simply beyond the means of the local community to achieve.

In some places Neighbourhood Plans are produced with the intention of influencing future planning and development of land. Neighbourhood Plans are subject to more stringent controls and are subject to independent examination, during their development. Neighbourhood Plans are intended to be developed by communities and should seek to reflect their overall needs and vision of how the area will develop. However, a Neighbourhood Plan must pass through various statutory stages including an independent examination and a referendum. Raunds Town Council is in the process of producing a Neighbourhood Plan. The results of the Community Plan will be used in the development of the Raunds Town Council Neighbourhood Plan.

4 Who prepared the Plan?

The preparation of the Raunds Community Plan has been achieved through the work of the Vision for Raunds Steering Group supported by five working groups consisting of local townspeople.

5 How the Plan was prepared

Raunds Town Council took the decision at the start of 2013 to ask the townspeople their opinions and aspirations for Raunds in the upcoming 10 years. To facilitate this they held a series of public meetings. Following on from this a Vision for Raunds Steering Group was formed with an independent chairman. The Town Council then took a step back allowing the community freedom to conduct the survey and report on the results.

Using guidance supplied by East Northamptonshire Council a Household questionnaire was prepared. The exact questions were refined during a number of public meetings. Young people from the Vision for Raunds Steering Group prepared a further questionnaire aimed specifically at young people and school age children. A Business questionnaire was also prepared.

The survey was launched at the Town Carnival on 14th September 2013. The Household questionnaire was made available on the Town Council website and more than 3000 copies delivered to households by a small team of volunteers. Following this all the schools in Raunds were visited, and 500 copies of the Youth questionnaire was distributed to the Manor school. Additionally, Windmill, St Peters and Park Infants School were visited to give even younger members of the community to have their say. The Business questionnaire was made available online and in paper format delivered to local firms and businesses. The deadline for completion of the questionnaires was 30th October 2013. The results of the paper questionnaires were manually input to a database and the first data became available in early 2014.

Five Working Groups with members taken from the main Steering Group were formed to consider the results of the survey and commence the preparation of an Action Plan.
The draft Community Plan and Action Plan were prepared during May/June 2014 and presented to the Town Council in September 2014.

6 What Raunds Said

Charts showing the statistical information can be seen in Appendix C Statistical Charts.

6.1 Housing Development (Q2-Q8)

The Household questionnaire asked do you intend to move home and 93% (663) said No and of the 7% (51 people) who said they would move nearly half (45%) said they intended to stay in Raunds. When asked what type of accommodation was needed in Raunds there was overwhelming support for owner occupied housing with 68% of those that responded preferring that option. There was desire shown for rented accommodation with 22% of people wanting rented accommodation, through either private renting or by means of housing associations or similar.

We asked “What size of new homes do you think Raunds needs in the future?” the general feeling of townspeople that responded was that the main demand was for 2/3 bedroom houses with 45% of responses (371) suggesting to buy and 42% (305) to rent. However, the Business community suggested a lack of executive style houses could be keeping businesses from locating to Raunds. It was notable that of the 54 who said that they were planning on moving home in the next 12 months 24% (13) stated that they were doing so because they needed a larger home.

It should be noted that there was a view that no new homes were needed: either for sale (26%) or for rent (21%).
When asked about new housing 76% (435) of responders agree or strongly agree that any development should be in a style in keeping with the town. Whilst 81% agree or strongly agree that it should be focussed on the conversion of redundant buildings and infill. Almost all (96% - 644 respondents) agree or strongly agree that new properties should have adequate parking. A number of respondents commented that they had problems parking outside their own home.

Recommendation: These findings to be noted by the Town Council and incorporated in the Neighbourhood Plan

6.2 Transport and Traffic (Q9 – Q17)
Parking: Of the nearly 700 people who answered the question about parking, 33% (227) said that they never experienced problems when parking in Raunds. Almost half those who answered this question 48% (332) admitted to having only occasional problems parking and just 19% claimed to have problems “Often”.

The most favoured places to park were the Town Square, the Co-op and “on the street”. Only a small percentage of people use the Saxon Hall grounds for parking. In their comments people also mentioned parking in the Old Fire Station (or Marshalls Road) car park.

There were nearly 400 responses to the question asking about specific locations where parking was a problem. The most commonly mentioned places where parking problems are encountered was the Market Square (144 comments), receiving more than twice the number of responses than the next most difficult location, High Street (67 comments). Brook Street, the third most difficult place for parking, received 58 comments. Other locations that were mentioned included Hill Street, the various schools and the doctor’s surgeries.

When asked about possible improvements to traffic and transport in Raunds (Q17) the two most important issues were speeding and parking. Over a quarter (27%) of responses made some reference to parking issues, many seeking enforcement of parking regulations, an end to parking on double yellow lines, on pavements or near corners and junctions. The questionnaire included over 400 responses setting out what changes could be made to improve traffic problems in Raunds.

A separate study of the most common danger spots was a carried out and the results are included in the Appendix.

Recommendation: The findings of the traffic and transport to be noted by the Town Council and incorporated in the Neighbourhood Plan.
However, if the current parking restrictions were observed or fully enforced it is possible that more people would report problems for example, insufficient parking spaces.

Transport: People were asked to name their main means of transport; the overwhelming majority, 81%, said that they usually travelled by car. Just 12% of people said that they walked and only 4% gave buses as their main means of transport.

When asked about the bus service, of the 709 people who responded to the question 52% said that they did not use the buses. Of those that used the buses 44% said the service was “Good” and 34% rated the service as “Neither good nor bad” leaving 22% of bus users who rated the service as “Bad”.

Amongst the biggest comments received were for more frequent and direct routes to Wellingborough, Northampton, Kettering and other major towns. Additionally, more direct
services that call at the Nene Park Outpatients Clinic in Irthlingborough and local hospitals without numerous changes were high on the list.

There were other calls for changes to the timetable in particular a need for earlier and later services for workers and students. A number of townspeople requested that the buses run the route that was previously operated that included Brook St with the stop at the Co-op being reinstated. Townspeople also commented on the lack of shelters and seats at most bus stops.

6.3 Community Safety (Q18 – Q20)

Townspeople were asked how safe they felt during daytime and after dark. The same question was asked in the youth questionnaire. Nearly 700 townspeople answered this question and in addition there were over 200 responses from young people.

Despite publically voiced concerns about crime an overwhelming proportion of adults 97% (679) and almost as many young people 77% (169) said they felt Very Safe or Fairly Safe during the daytime. There was less confidence during the hours of darkness but more than half (67%) of adults still felt Very/Fairly Safe after dark. Young people were less confident with only 26% feeling that way. Few people felt Very Unsafe during the day (no adults and just 1% of Young People). But during the hours of darkness 19% (total 42) of Young People and 8% (56 people) of adults felt very unsafe. This could be an area of concern since 49% (111) of the young people that responded were 11-13 year olds.

Northamptonshire Police have released crime statistics for the 12 month period ending March 31st 2014. There was an overall reduction in crime from 3,721 reported cases in the previous year to 3,403 in 2013/14. However, there was in an increase in Violent Crime from 550 to 576 cases (an increase of 4.7%) although the majority are domestic crime. Other publically available data shows that violent crime in East Northants is not a major problem.
Townspeople were asked “Please tell us of anything that you think could be done to improve Community Safety in Raunds”. There were 387 responses and by far the most common response involved a greater police presence in Raunds. Lighting, either an end to reduction in lighting or a need for lights to be switched back on was also a common response.

When young people were asked “Are you concerned about any of the following issues in Raunds?” from the 222 responses the three biggest issues raised were: Hate Crime 56% (124), Drugs and Alcohol 55% (123) and Burglary 54% (119).

When asked about street lighting there were many responses, 29% (112) Household and 19% (28) of Youth responses wanted the lights switched back on. However, the questionnaire was distributed just before the changeover of the street lights and it may be that a better level of satisfaction will result due to the work undertaken. The introduction of the new streetlights may have alleviated some of the problems.

It may be worth following up on this subject Community Plan is issued.

Recommendations:

Raise the profile of anti-social matters amongst townspeople and young people
Encourage the introduction of Street Watch schemes
Publicise means of reporting crime and anti-social behaviour
Environment (Q21 – Q23)

When asked about environmental issues that concerned townspeople there were 635 responses from the Household Questionnaire and 214 from the Youth Questionnaire. The two issues causing most concern were Dog Fouling and Litter. Dog Fouling rated highest with 75% (476 Households) either, very or quite concerned. Amongst the Youth responses 61% (131) were similarly very or quite concerned.

The problem is encountered across all parts of Raunds.

Some action has already been taken, for example during the 2013 Christmas lights switch on members of the Steering Group manned a stall and encouraged dog owners to sign up to the East Northants Green Dog Club. [http://www.eastnorthamptonshire.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.aspx?documentID=260](http://www.eastnorthamptonshire.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.aspx?documentID=260)

Litter was the next issue with 70% (444 Households responses) and 60% (130 Youth responses) either, very or quite concerned.

East Northamptonshire Council policy clearly sets out the penalties for causing litter, stating “Any person who throws down, drops or otherwise deposits and then leaves litter is committing an offence. Officers authorised by the Council can issue a fixed penalty notice of £75 to those witnessed committing the offence”

However, ideally an approach based on encouraging people not to drop litter must be preferred.
The problem of litter problem does not seem to be focussed on a single area in the town. East Northamptonshire Council provides most of the litter bins, cigarette butt bins and lay-by bins around the district. Each litter bin is emptied at least once a week depending on location and usage. Raunds Town Council has run a number of community clean ups and litter picks but whilst these help they cannot provide a long solution. Encouraging people to be more responsible and “JUST BIN IT” is the better option.

There were 448 individual responses to the question on how the environment in Raunds could be improved. The five top answers were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Possible Solution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sort out Litter Problem</td>
<td>Education in schools/poster campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>More Litter Bins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Impose Fines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Community Litter Picks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tidy up streets/pavements/verges</td>
<td>Cut verges / overhanging shrubs blocking paths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>More frequent street sweeping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improve road and pavement surfaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Control weeds on pavements / roads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean up dog mess</td>
<td>More Dog Bins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fine Dog Owners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Education /Poster Campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Employ Dog Warden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve shopping area</td>
<td>Face Lift for shopping area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>More /Different shops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address traffic issues</td>
<td>Traffic calming/ Speed Cameras</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In terms of the “Face Lift” for the shopping area the majority of the suggestions related to improving the current shop fronts and dealing with the unoccupied properties. Particular reference was made to the former Star newsagents and the old fruit shop opposite the Post Office. Suggestions were made for unified colour schemes, hanging baskets or other planting schemes and better street furniture.

Recommendations:

- Raise the profile of environmental issues such as litter and dog fouling
- Consider the use of fines for offenders
- Develop specific campaigns to tackle such issues
- Seek funding to give main shopping areas a “face lift”
6.5 Facilities and Organisation (Q24 – Q27)

Questions 24-27 of the Household questionnaire asked the townspeople for their views on the existing shops and facilities. Information was also sought about possible improvements and which shops or facilities people would like in Raunds.

When asked “Do you agree that the following facilities meet the current needs of Raunds?” Banking was found wanting by a great majority of those who answered the question with 79% (543) Disagreeing/Strongly disagreeing with the question. Typical comments included

- “More bank opening hours”
- “Bank open 5 days”
- “...needs bank open all day during week”
- “Full time bank”

Such comments indicate the strength of feeling amongst townspeople regarding the existing banking facilities. It is thus a source of disappointment that in late August NATWEST announced that they will close the Raunds branch in early December.

People were agreed that the following facilities did meet the current needs of Raunds (more than 75% Agreeing/Strongly Agreeing in each case)

- Chemist
- Post Office
- Stanwick Lakes
- Coffee Shops
- Library
- Takeaways
- Hairdressers
- Churches
- Garage (for servicing and repairs)

When asked about possible improvements in the services and facilities currently available (Q25) there was general support for more shopping facilities. Clothes and shoe shops were mentioned by 14% (65) responses and 8% (37) would like a fruit and vegetable shop/greengrocers in the town centre. A further 4% (20) would like a butcher in the town. The references to greengrocers and butchers are of interest since Raunds has a butchers shop although it is located at the far end of High Street. A fruit and vegetable shop operates from premises in the Enterprise Road industrial estate off Brick Kiln Road.

There was also interest in having a swimming pool in Raunds 4% (18) responses and a leisure centre 2% (9) responses, despite the fact that Manor School operates a fitness centre with membership open to townspeople.
Townspeople also used this question to comment on what they thought there were too many of! There were specific mentions of Raunds having too many takeaways, hairdressers and coffee shops. This is an interesting response but such businesses will only trade if there is sufficient custom for the owner to feel that it is worthwhile, that they can generate a profit. It is not appropriate for the Community Plan to make an action of trying to reduce the numbers of any specific businesses. In addition the answers to Q26 (see below) indicate that for many people the takeaways for example are of little direct interest or concern and are not what makes Raunds a good place to live.

When asked about what facilities, clubs or associations that Raunds needed (Q27) there were 197 responses. There was strong support for improved facilities for young people with 19% (37) responses specifically for a youth club and 11% (21) wanted greater facilities for young people without being specific. A swimming pool was again mentioned 17 (33).

Whilst there is obviously a great deal of local interest in having a swimming pool in Raunds it seems unlikely that there is sufficient justification or that funding could be secured since there are already pools at Thrapston (5.1 miles) and Rushden (6.9 miles).

There were a number of mentions of improved facilities for the elderly – 6% (11) such as a “meals on wheels” service, a day centre or social club. The recent start up of the CANDO service would seem to have partly addressed this matter.

There were many other facilities or clubs that received a few mentions such as a cinema, a gym, cycle club etc. although these replies seem not to have considered that there are gym facilities at Manor School and also at Thrapston and Rushden. As regards the cinema there are plans to show films at Manor School and Rushden and Higham Ferrers U3A has a cycling group. The 40 Plus Cycling club has an East Northants branch that organises rides in the local area, for example, Sywell, Irchester, Tilbrook and Wollaston.

https://sites.google.com/site/40plusccenorthants/Wednesday-rides

People were asked which specific aspects of Raunds were of importance to them (Q26) and the results mirrored the answers given to previous questions. The Library, Stanwick Lakes, Post Office and Churches all received many positive comments. Overall it seems that the people of Raunds value the open spaces around the town very highly, from Amos Lawrence to Stanwick Lakes 24% (79 responses). The plan to resurface the path from Meadow Lane to Stanwick Lakes will be a great asset to the town. After the open spaces the service facilities such as the Library, Medical centre and Churches are the next most important features of importance to Raunds town people. In contrast the pubs, takeaways and restaurants did not seem to be regarded highly.

Recommendations:

Establish a Business Forum to improve communication both between businesses and between businesses and the community

Review and revise Business Directory

Improve communication about exactly what services etc are available
6.6 Communications (Q28 – Q34)

When answering the question about the amount of information on events taking place in Raunds 21% (142) stated that the information available was “Bad”. 27% of people thought it was good whilst 52% thought that it was “Neither good nor bad”. From this result it would seem that improvements in communication could benefit the townspeople of Raunds.

Townspeople make use of a wide range of sources when looking for information including local newspapers, the Nene Valley News the most popular, the In Your Vicinity booklet, the Library, notice boards in shops and the Town Council notice boards. Word of mouth was also a common source of information for many townspeople.

However, the Town Council notice boards are not regarded as a major source and are not widely used with only 186 (28%) of people saying that they used them.

When asked why the main town notice boards are not used there were 380 comments and generally people don’t walk past them or don’t know where they are. The Town Council has two notice boards one on the Town Square and the other on the wall by the Raunds Bootmakers Commemorative Plaque, near the Council Offices.

When asked “Where do you think additional notice boards could be placed?” there were a number of suggestions:

- Co-op Food Store (123 – 34% of respondents)
- Schools (56 – 15%)
- Market Square (42 – 12%)
- Post Office (21 – 6%)
- Doctors Surgery (15 – 4%)

Additionally, some responses included:

- Too many small notices no impact
- Notice board should be placed at Town
- Work out of Raunds. Haven’t thought of reading it.
- Didn’t know there was
- Rarely walk past it!
- Notice board

When asked “Where do you think additional notice boards could be placed?” there were a number of suggestions:
There were 279 responses to the question “Please tell us how you think communication of town events/town council information could be improved”. Responses called for more notice boards at different locations. The Business Working Group also called for a Town Magazine to be produced. It was also suggested that a town guide should be produced and disseminated to all new households; this will become more important with the large influx of new homes in Raunds.

The response to the question ”How satisfied are you with the following? Mobile Phone, Broadband/Internet” indicated that most townspeople (70%) were either satisfied or very satisfied with mobile phone and Broadband/Internet also recorded a similar high level of satisfaction with 63% either satisfied or very satisfied. But as with many other issues the challenge will be to maintain this high level of satisfaction as Raunds grows in size.

Recommendations:

- Review/improve Town Council website
- Improve usage of social media
- Launch a Raunds Newsletter
- Review location/use etc of Town Council notice boards
6.7 Local Economy, Shops etc (Q35 – Q40)

We asked “Do you agree that support for our local shops and businesses are important to strengthening Raunds and our sense of community?” 94% (659) Agreed or Strongly Agreed. A massive 97% (685) claim to use the shops in Raunds.

The three biggest reasons given for shopping in Raunds were:

- “Like to support local shops” 30% (488)
- “Need last minute things” 27% (442)
- “It saves transport costs” 20% (321)

These answers seem to indicate that townspeople choose to shop in Raunds for convenience i.e. for top up items or for last minute requirements. The main reasons for not shopping in Raunds were price and choice. This finding has to be seen in the context of most respondents saying that the shop they most used was the Co-op. It seems likely that most townspeople will go out of town to do a larger weekly type shop for groceries and use the Co-op to top up. But townspeople have to shop outside of Raunds for things like clothes and shoes that they can’t get in the town.

The shop that most people would like to see in town is a clothes shop selling everyday items of clothing. If a major chain store such as ASDA were to build a small store on Warth Park they would probably have a good market for everyday clothing items.

This information will be passed to market stall holders, the Co-op and be used to encourage the Town Council to hold some type of clothes market in the square from time to time.

Plans are underway to open a clothes shop which will be run by young people with the support of a local partnership made up of representatives from the Vision Group, local infrastructure organisations, schools and colleges to operate in Raunds.

6.8 Health (Q41 – Q44)

Raunds is served with Two GP practices, The Cottons and Marshalls Road Surgery. In addition there is a dental practice: the Burnawn House Dental Surgery.
The vast majority (95%) of townspeople are registered with a doctor in Raunds and of those who were not the main explanation given was that they had stayed with their practice when they moved to the area.

The situation with dental services was less clear with just 35% registered with the dentist in Raunds. Some people had stayed with their existing practice when they moved to the area (23% - 111) whilst a further 42% (203) were registered with dental practices outside of Raunds as a matter of personal preference. A further 16% were not registered in Raunds due to difficulties in securing NHS services/registration.

There were anecdotal comments about difficulties in obtaining appointments with doctors although the questionnaire was not designed to collect such information. Information from NHS survey of patient satisfaction can be accessed here: http://www.nhs.uk/Services/GP/Performance/DefaultView.aspx?id=38292#jump-ppdes

This website also allows patients to provide feedback by means of an online questionnaire. Any townspeople who experience difficulties in getting to see a doctor should refer the matter to the local Patient Participation Group or the online Patients Reference Group. For the Cottons Medical Centre: http://www.thecottonsmedicalcentre.co.uk/ppg.aspx

In addition the Nene Clinical Commissioning Group is interested in patient’s thoughts on services and can be contacted on 01604 651100. Northamptonshire Carer’s on 01933 677837. http://www.northamptonshire-carers.org/

6.9 Adult Education (Q45 – Q48)

When asked about attendance at Adult Education classes in Raunds a total of 711 townspeople responded but only 15% stated that they had attended such classes. The main reasons for not attending were:

- No interest: 33%
- No suitable classes: 26%
- Cost: 14%
- Class times not suitable: 9%
When asked about matters such as the Cost and Location, the Variety and Frequency of classes no clear picture emerged. As many people were Satisfied/Very Satisfied with the Variety of courses available as were Dissatisfied/Very Dissatisfied. And townspeople had the same equally balanced view over the Cost of courses. As regards Frequency and Locations there was a clearer picture with much greater number of respondents Satisfied/Very Satisfied (43% and 50% respectively).

When asked about what classes they would like to see the responses followed a predictable pattern. There many general requests for foreign language classes. The most popular specific languages were French and Spanish (5 each) followed by German (4) and Portuguese (2). There were requests for Chinese and Japanese (1 each) however; at such a low level of interest it is unlikely that classes could be made available in Raunds. The Autumn 2014 – Spring 2015 Adult Learning Courses brochure includes both Chinese and Holiday Japanese.

Some requests seemed to betray a lack of knowledge regarding existing local amenities and facilities, for example:

- Local history: 3 people expressed an interest in classes however there is already a thriving Local History Society in Raunds.

- Badminton: Again 3 people expressed an interest despite the fact that there is a badminton club in Raunds and the Rushden and Higham Ferrers U3A has a badminton group aimed at older people.

- Tai Chi: Classes have been run in Raunds in the past however they have relocated to Irchester.

The Manor School website contains little information about the courses that are run at the school. However, whilst the Northants County Council website contains a search facility this may not suit those townspeople who do not have internet access or are not computer literate. There is a downloadable brochure but again that is of limited use those who do not use computers/internet although hard copies can be obtained e.g. from Town Council office.

**Recommendations:**

- Improve communication about courses available e.g. via Town Council website
- Increase number of outlets for printed brochure
6.10 Quality of life (Q49 – Q53)

People were asked about how satisfied they were with the local area as a place to live and also how strongly they felt they belonged to the local community.

An impressive 84% of townspeople were Very or Fairly Satisfied with Raunds as a place to live. Just over 4% were Very or Fairly Dissatisfied which would indicate that despite some criticism and many suggestions for improvements there cannot be too much wrong with Raunds as a place to live.

However, the results for a sense of “identity” were less clear-cut. Whilst nearly half (46%) felt Very or Fairly Strongly that they belonged to the community there were 16% of people who had no real feeling of belonging to the community. The percentage of people with no feelings one way or the other was 38%.

The townspeople of Raunds seemed to be happy with the parks and green spaces that were on offer (Very Satisfied/Satisfied 60% and 45% respectively).

The challenge faced by Raunds, the Town Council, local businesses and townspeople will be to maintain this level of satisfaction as the size of the town grows.

However there was less satisfaction with issues such as:

- Job opportunities (Dissatisfied/Very Dissatisfied 63%)
- Roads (Dissatisfied/Very Dissatisfied 51%)
- Street lighting (Dissatisfied/Very Dissatisfied 54%)

The recent work on street lighting may give rise to greater levels of satisfaction.

There seemed to be a split of opinion regarding parking with responses being split almost equally between:
Very Satisfied/Satisfied 32%
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied 32%
Dissatisfied/Very Dissatisfied 36%

This would seem to echo the findings of previous questions.

Recommendation:
Findings about job opportunities, roads, street lighting and parking to be passed to Town Council for inclusion in Neighbourhood Plan.

6.11 Tourism (Q54 – Q56)

Townspeople were asked to comment upon the main events that take place in Raunds. There was a patchy attendance at these events with over 50% of those who responded stating that they had not attended the Arts and Crafts Show, the Beer Festival or the Music Festival. Attendance at the Carnival and Christmas Lights was better, 67% and 77% respectively. When asked about why they had rated an event as “Poor” the comments included the following:

- Christmas Lights (33 responses):
  - Poor/inadequate or insufficient
  - Seems to lack support from local businesses
- Art and Craft Show (22 responses):
  - Lack of awareness about this event
- Beer Festival (11 responses):
  - Lack of interest in event of this type
  - Noise
- Carnival (22 responses):
  - Lack of variety/colour
  - Lack of community support/involvement
  - Floats good but stalls etc not as good/expensive etc
- Raunds Music Festival (15 responses):
  - Limited range of music on offer
  - Too much folk music

When asked “Please list any other events/incentives that we could hold to encourage more townspeople and visitors into our town centre?” There was widespread interest in events such as markets which generated 85 (36%) of the all the comments made. Suggestions included Farmers, Continental, Christmas and craft Markets; community events like Talent, Pet, Car/Bike and Craft shows and a fireworks event. Additionally, more plays and concerts were also suggested.
However, the investigation into the holding of such events will have to consider a range of issues including:

- **Cost:** Holding of markets entails a cost
- **Competition:** Many such events already exist in the surrounding area:
  - Transport Shows: Rushden Transport Cavalcade, Peterborough
  - Fireworks: displays at both Rushden and Wicksteed Park
  - Farmers Markets: Held at Higham Ferrers, Oundle and Thrapston
  - Antique Fair: Peterborough Showground

**Recommendations:**

- Comments about existing events to be passed to organisers
- Possible future events to be raised with Town Council for further investigation

**7 Next Steps**

After the draft Community Plan has been presented to Raunds Town Council it will available for public consultation for a period of 8 weeks.

The townspeople of Raunds will be invited to give feedback and make suggestions on any matter set out in the Plan. Following this consultation the Plan will be amended if necessary and then formally adopted. The real work of implementing the Action Plan will then commence, which will require the continued support of the townspeople of Raunds, the Town Council, the Raunds Vision Group, local businesses and organisations.
8 Action Plan

The following Action Plan sets out those recommendations drawn up by the Working Groups. There are a number of specific issues for example, relating to transport and traffic will be passed to Raunds Town Council to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Some issues are not closely related to the feedback from the questionnaires and may have appeared as anecdotal comment but as regarded as matters which are of importance. Such actions are regarded as “Aspirational”, things which are considered as worthy of consideration. Generally such matters have been given longer time periods.

There are a number of specific actions that relate to communication. However this is a subject that underpins almost every action. There were many examples in the feedback from townspeople that revealed there was a lack of knowledge about what facilities were available, what services were on offer etc.
9 Appendices
a. Acknowledgements

The preparation of the Raunds Community Plan has been a voluntary exercise which has only been possible due to the help and support of many people and organisations. From the beginning the then mayor, Councillor Pauline Williams gave steadfast support, as did the Clerk to the Town Council, Julian Derham.

The drafting of the questionnaire, its distribution to all households and businesses and through the schools was only possible through the efforts of a group of willing volunteers. The transfer of the nearly 1,000 completed questionnaires and around 9,000 comments onto computer was made possible through the support of many local townspeople. Special thanks are also due to those townspeople who took part in the working groups that examined the results of the questionnaire in detail and drew up the Action Plan. Thanks also to Phil Grace who made sense of the data and helped with the preparation of the final report.

The Vision for Raunds Steering Group would like to thank the following:

East Northamptonshire Council (in particular Lucy Foster and the Policy Team for their help with the questionnaires and the production of the raw data.)
Raunds Town Council (in particular Emma Williams and Town Councillors)
Raunds Youth Focus Action Group (who helped in the drafting of the Youth questionnaire)
Local schools: who helped with the distribution of the youth questionnaires
Local businesses who took the time to complete the questionnaire and those who allowed the Steering Group to talk to their customers
All the organisation and clubs that participated in discussions
All those who contributed photographs and helped with artwork and graphics
Sergeant Andy Maher for his presentation on the Street Watch initiative
David Stevens (Woodford) and Nigel Cheetham (Higham Ferrers): who both gave presentations on how their local communities had tackled the challenge of preparing a Community Plan.

And finally – a big thank you to all those townspeople who took the time to complete and return the questionnaires.
b. Roads and Transport Survey
The following information in this section is recommended to be taken into account in the development of the Raunds Neighbourhood Plan and therefore is not included in the Action Plan apart from where visibility is the issue and cutting back could alleviate the problem; this is something the Raunds Town Council can work with Highways to solve.

General Issues

- Road surfaces very poor in many places.
- Speeding is a huge concern for many townspeople.

Manor School, St Peters & Park Infants Schools

- Repaint zigzags and zebra markings.
- Traffic calming measures needed to reduce traffic speed.
- Install speed indicators (as at Windmill School) along Mountbatten Way and Park Road to help inform motorists of their speed.
- Establish 20mph speed zone to reduce traffic speed

Junction of Hill Street with Park Road and Mountbatten Way

- Reinstate a conventional four way junction
- Make all the roads a compulsory stop junction with double white lines.
- Move the zebra crossing to outside Park Infants
Hill Street/Brook Street Junction

- Make Hill Street one way from Brook Street
- Raise kerbs to stop cars parking on the bend causing a hazard.
- Install 3 way traffic lights at junction of Hill Street and Brook Street.
- Repaint zebra crossing and white lines.

North Street

- Increase size of the bend to make it safer for road users especially lorries and buses
North Street junction with Midland Road and Brick Kiln Road

- Trees on sides of bend to be either removed or trimmed back to improve visibility when turning right from Midland Road into North Street.

Windmill School

- Zigzags outside entrance need repainting.
- Place a zebra crossing at the entrance to the school.
- Yellow lines around the island / more effective would be dragon teeth around the island and cars will still park on double yellow lines.
- Continue with the parking bays along Windmill Lane.
- Introduce a 20mph speed zone
London Road Junction with Marshalls Road and Meadow Lane

- 4 way traffic lights with the Meadow Lane and Marshalls Lane (ideally sensor controlled so lights will only change when cars are approaching).

Junction Titty Ho and London Road

- Trim back trees and bushes to increase visibility from Titty Ho onto London Road.

Roundabout at Red Lion - Wellington Road/London Road/Stanwick Road/Chelveston Road

- Replace with a conventional raised roundabout.
  OR
- Replace roundabout with traffic lights.
Antona Drive/Stanwick Road Junction

- Trim trees and bushes to improve visibility when from Antona Drive onto Stanwick Road.

Co-op: Junction of Grove Street/Brook Street/Thorpe Street

- Move zebra crossing to outside Krumbs – to increase safety
- Install speed hump by existing bollards and central refuge opposite old RPC site, forcing traffic to slow down before turning the corner.
- Make the zebra crossing a raised crossing to further slow the traffic speed.
- Make car-park one way to reduce number of turning moves. (in via current main entrance adjacent to Krumbs and exit opposite old RPC site)
Brook Street/High Street

- Install a raised zebra crossing outside Cookies.
- Install a raised zebra crossing near to Ashfield Avenue.
- Introduce 20mph speed zone from Co-op to Spar.
- Install speed indicators in High Street between Co-op to Square.
c. Charts

Q1 How many people are there in your household in each age group?

Q3 Why is the move necessary? (54 responses)
Q6 What type of accommodation is needed? (50 responses)

- Owner occupied: 34
- Privately rented: 6
- Local authority/Housing association rented: 5
- Specially adapted housing: 2
- Other: 2
- Shared ownership: 1
- Other: 0

Q7 What size of new homes do you think Raunds needs in the future?

- For Sale:
  - 1 bedroom: 100
  - 2/3 bedroom: 300
  - 4 bedroom+: 200
  - No further new homes: 100

- For Rent:
  - 1 bedroom: 50
  - 2/3 bedroom: 200
  - 4 bedroom+: 50
  - No further new homes: 50
Q8 Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about new housing developments in Raunds?

- It should be in a style in keeping with the town: 42% Strongly agree, 34% Agree, 3% Neither agree nor disagree, 2% Disagree, 1% Strongly disagree
- It should be within the town boundary: 32% Strongly agree, 26% Agree, 3% Neither agree nor disagree, 1% Disagree, 1% Strongly disagree
- It should be focussed on the conversion of redundant buildings and infill: 48% Strongly agree, 33% Agree, 3% Neither agree nor disagree, 1% Disagree, 1% Strongly disagree
- It should be located outside/bordering town boundary: 36% Strongly agree, 26% Agree, 1% Neither agree nor disagree, 1% Disagree, 2% Strongly disagree
- It should be flats/apartments: 44% Strongly agree, 26% Agree, 3% Neither agree nor disagree, 1% Disagree, 1% Strongly disagree
- It should have adequate off road parking spaces: 71% Strongly agree, 25% Agree, 2% Neither agree nor disagree, 1% Disagree, 0% Strongly disagree

Q11 When visiting the town where do you normally park?

- On Street: 50.2%
- Co-Op: 51.6%
- Town Square: 49.3%
- Other: 10.9%
- Saxon Hall: 2.8%
Q12 What is your main means of transport? (714 responses)

- Car: 81%
- Walking: 12%
- Bus: 4%
- Other: 1%
- Community bus: 1%
- Bike: 1%
- Motorbike: 0%

Q13 How do you rate the bus service in Raunds? (709 responses)

- Good: 44%
- Neither good nor bad: 33%
- Bad: 22%

Of the 338 users of the bus service:
Q18 How safe do you feel when outside in Raunds? 668 responses

How safe do you feel during daytime?
- Very safe: 61%
- Fairly safe: 36%
- Neither safe nor unsafe: 1%
- Fairly unsafe: 2%
- Very unsafe: 0%

How safe do you feel after dark?
- Very safe: 43%
- Fairly safe: 14%
- Neither safe nor unsafe: 8%
- Fairly unsafe: 19%
- Very unsafe: 16%

Q19 Are you concerned about any of the following in Raunds?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Very concerned</th>
<th>Quite concerned</th>
<th>Neither concerned nor unconcerned</th>
<th>Not very concerned</th>
<th>Not at all concerned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Violent crime including domestic abuse</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
<td>39.3%</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle crime</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
<td>36.6%</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hate crime including racism, homophobia and...</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>39.1%</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drugs and alcohol</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
<td>37.2%</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
<td>38.1%</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-social behaviour including vandalism, graffiti and...</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
<td>40.1%</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q21 Are you concerned about any of the following in your neighbourhood?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Very concerned</th>
<th>Quite concerned</th>
<th>Neither concerned nor unconcerned</th>
<th>Not very concerned</th>
<th>Not at all concerned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traffic noise</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
<td>34.0%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noise pollution</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>27.5%</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Litter</td>
<td>29.2%</td>
<td>40.8%</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light pollution</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>39.6%</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fly tipping</td>
<td>25.8%</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fly posting</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
<td>41.8%</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empty premises</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
<td>34.5%</td>
<td>32.0%</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog fouling</td>
<td>36.9%</td>
<td>38.1%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derelict land</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>38.7%</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air pollution</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q28 How do you usually find out about events taking place in the town?
Q38 How often do you shop in Raunds?

- Bank: Daily - 30.7%, Weekly - 53.1%, Monthly - 11.8%, Less often - 3.6%, Never - 0.9%
- Butchers: Daily - 28.9%, Weekly - 55.6%, Monthly - 10.9%, Less often - 4.5%, Never - 0.1%
- Chemist: Daily - 41.6%, Weekly - 45.3%, Monthly - 10.5%, Less often - 2.5%, Never - 0.1%
- Coffee shop: Daily - 30.7%, Weekly - 53.1%, Monthly - 11.8%, Less often - 3.6%, Never - 0.9%
- Fruit and veg shop: Daily - 30.7%, Weekly - 53.1%, Monthly - 11.8%, Less often - 3.6%, Never - 0.9%
- Garage (Servicing, repairs): Daily - 30.7%, Weekly - 53.1%, Monthly - 11.8%, Less often - 3.6%, Never - 0.9%

Q49 How satisfied are you with your local area as a place to live? 672 responses

- Very satisfied: 30.7%
- Fairly satisfied: 53.1%
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied: 11.8%
- Fairly dissatisfied: 3.6%
- Very dissatisfied: 0.9%
Q50 How do you rate the following aspects in Raunds?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect</th>
<th>Very satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied</th>
<th>Dissatisfied</th>
<th>Very dissatisfied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Street lighting</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
<td>27.9%</td>
<td>25.8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roads</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavements</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
<td>27.6%</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>27.4%</td>
<td>32.6%</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local parks</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>38.5%</td>
<td>29.7%</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job opportunities</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>35.2%</td>
<td>37.3%</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green spaces</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>43.2%</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q51 How strongly do you feel that you belong to your community?

How strongly do you feel you belong to your community?

- Very strongly: 35%
- Fairly strongly: 38%
- No feelings either way: 11%
- Not very strongly: 12%
- Not at all strongly: 4%
Q54 What is your opinion of the following events?

- **Raunds Music Festival**
  - Good: 30.7%
  - Neither good nor poor: 17.5%
  - Poor: 2.0%
  - Did not attend: 49.7%

- **Christmas Lights**
  - Good: 43.1%
  - Neither good nor poor: 23.6%
  - Poor: 9.9%
  - Did not attend: 23.4%

- **Carnival**
  - Good: 40.0%
  - Neither good nor poor: 21.1%
  - Poor: 6.4%
  - Did not attend: 32.5%

- **Beer festival**
  - Good: 19.9%
  - Neither good nor poor: 21.0%
  - Poor: 2.3%
  - Did not attend: 56.7%

- **Art and Craft Show**
  - Good: 18.4%
  - Neither good nor poor: 24.0%
  - Poor: 1.8%
  - Did not attend: 55.8%