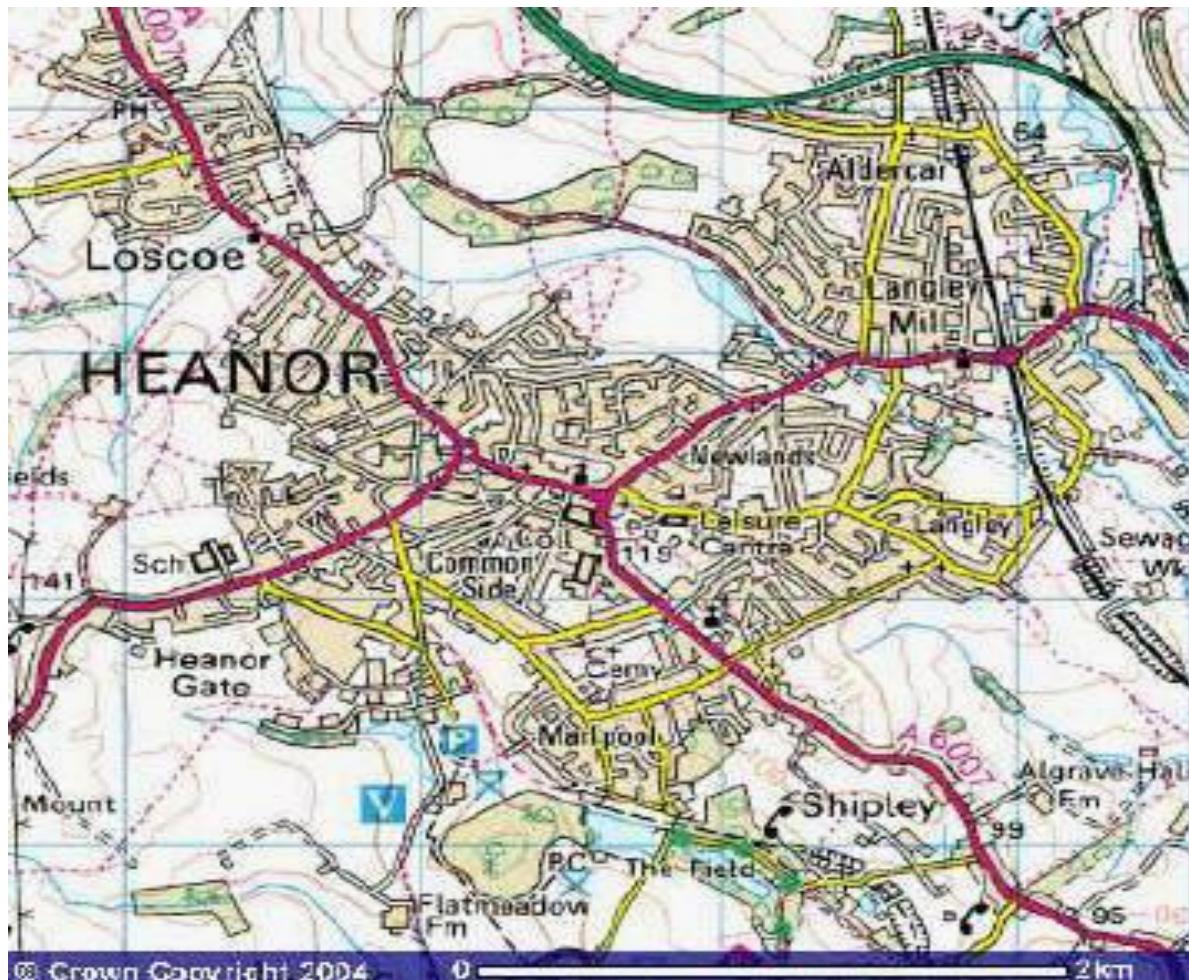




HEANOR AND LOSCOE 2031



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contents

1	Introduction	page 3
2	Summary and Recommendations	
2.1	Population	page 4
2.2	Housing	page 5
2.3	Economic Activity	pages 6
2.4	Youth Engagement	pages 6-7
2.5	Opportunities to develop sites within the Town	page 7
	2.5(I) Former Grammar School Site	
	2.5(ii) Heanor Police Station	
	2.5(iii) Heanor Market Place	
	2.5(iv) Response to High Street Fund	
2.6	Engaging with our Community	page 8
2.7	Transport	pages 8-9
2.8	Environment	page 9

Introduction

This is a short executive summary of two documents produced by the Town Council ‘Profile and 2011 Census of Heanor and Loscoe Town Council’ and ‘Summary, Opportunities and recommendations’. Due to the significant amount of information contained within both these documents it is important to produce a more slimmed down version which reflects the contents of both documents and is more easily digestible. As a live document this is only the first version and I would expect future Councils to update this document and indeed come up with more up to date recommendations.

Cllr Paul Jones

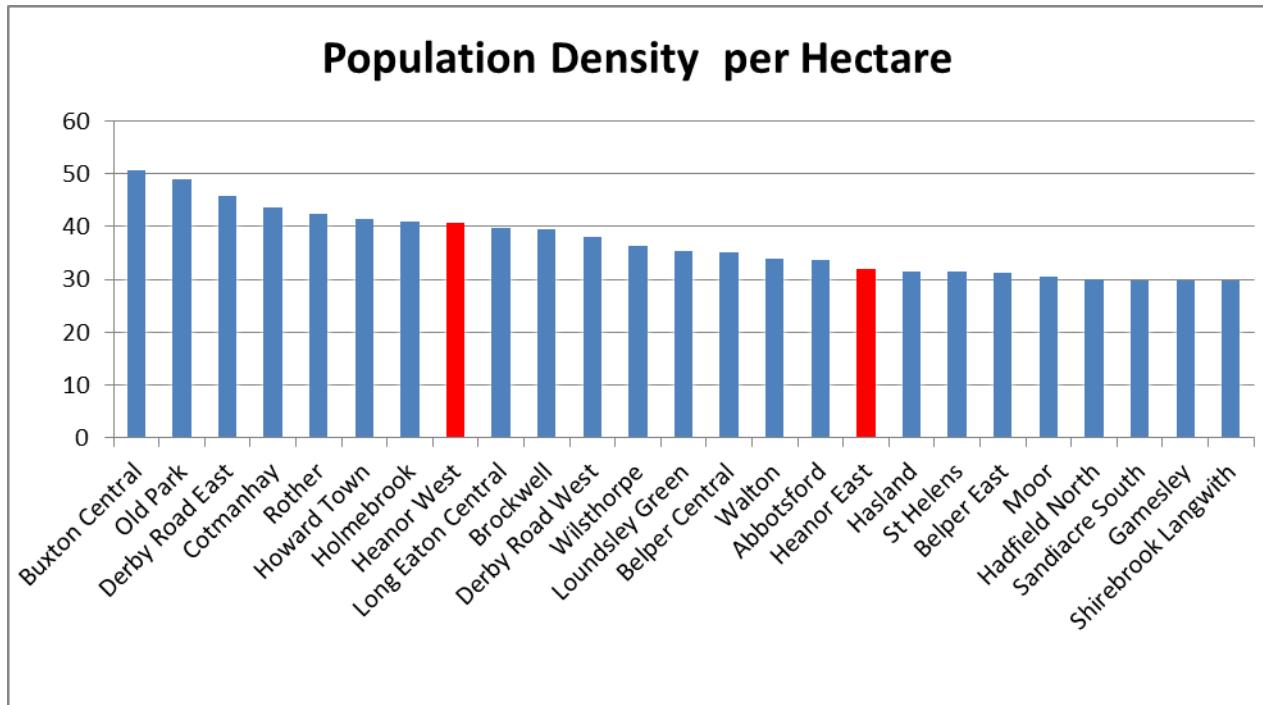
Leader

Heanor and Loscoe Town Council

October 2019

2.1 Population

The 2011 Census data and the relevant updated information available from Derbyshire Observatory amongst others clearly demonstrate that the Parish is a highly populated area not only within Amber Valley but within Derbyshire with the wards of Heanor East and West having a particularly heavy concentration of people.



Source: Derbyshire County Council '2011 Census Atlas of Derbyshire' see MAP A

In order to resolve this issue it is recommended:

- 1. The Town Council campaign with the Borough Council, County Council and the local MP for the Government to incorporate a wider range of infrastructure costs in planning applications so that the local communities do not become disadvantaged**
- 2. The Town Council discuss with the Borough Council the benefits of applying a Community Interest Levy to planning applications as opposed to the current Section 106 agreements to planning applications**
- 3. The Town Council work with local Partners to look at ways of reducing the number of planning applications for residential housing which will raise specific problems in Heanor East and Heanor West**
- 4. The Town Council discuss with the Borough Council the introduction of a population density threshold policy when considering future planning applications**

2.2 Housing

Issues around Housing in the Parish are dominated around 3 main issues of location, type of housing and the cost. The decision of the new administration at the Borough Council to review the existing local plan gives the Town Council the opportunity to reinforce its comments on the previous plans. It is pleasing that the proposal for development of housing on Thorpes Road/Lockton Avenue has been withdrawn along with proposals to build on two green fields within our community. There continues to be concern over the proposal for building on the site of the former grammar school site and the site for the now defunct proposed by-pass.

In the circumstances it is recommended the Town Council:

5. Actively engage with the Borough Council on its revised Local Plan

6. Oppose any development of housing on greenbelt

The Parish has a disproportionate number of 3 bedrooomed properties at 54% as opposed to rates of 45.5% in Amber Valley, 45.7% in Derbyshire and 45.4 % in the East Midlands. This results in many residents unable to downsize. In these circumstances it is vital that new builds within the community reflect these discrepancies and therefore it is recommended:

7. The Town Council look for design briefs for those housing sites within our community which better reflect the needs of the local community and housing market rather than the developers

8. The Town Council respond to any public consultation on the new Local Plan, outlining its expectation for meeting the local housing needs of our community

The ability of residents to afford new properties is also a major issue with the average house cost being £150,000 needing an average wage of circa £37,500 when the local average wage is circa £29,473. This is made worse by the high proportion of fuel poverty averaging 13.68% against the Borough average of 12.4%, Derbyshire 11.6% and England 11.1%. In these circumstances there needs to be more affordable housing built within our community. The increase in affordable housing rates per development or their offsetting against commuted sums may not be enough to meet the demand locally. It is therefore recommended:

9. The Town Council seek clarification from the Borough Council of where its priority areas are for the usage of commuted sums for affordable housing

10. The Town Council requests the Borough Council increase the percentage of affordable houses expected in certain applications which will help reflect the needs of the local housing market

2.3 Economic Activity

There is not a huge amount that a Town Council can do to influence economic activity within the Town directly. However, we can be a champion for the Town and look at making it more attractive. Certainly the introduction of the flower baskets and proposals for street banners are a positive way forward. The possible re branding of the Town Council logo could also help to develop a unique selling point for the Town and help market it better. There is need also to look at improving infrastructure such as super-fast broadband to help small businesses in the Town. There is also the need to look at ways to help the younger adults reach their full potential and the possibility of looking at providing supported apprenticeships or scholarships could be one way forward.

11. The Council look at ways of supporting apprenticeships with some of our local leading local companies i.e. Trent Barton, Matthew Walker, RPC bpi Recycling or the high-tech companies on Heanor Gate industrial estate such as Cullum Detuners and Solvay

12. The Council discuss with the County Council and local schools' ways to help improve education attainment and job prospects of the local community

13. The Council continues to support small business Saturday or other such initiatives. Also to increase number of volunteers within the community we should look at possible workshops around building 'community resilience'

High Street

Heanor is not unlike any other High Street in struggling in a climate of austerity and changing shopping patterns. It has the added problem of the Borough Council having poor planning controls over the decline in retail and a positive attitude it has converting retail units into homes of multiple occupancy. This has not been helped by the lack of a defined Town Centre as part of the planning process. It is hoped that with the Borough now looking to revise the local plan there is an excellent opportunity for the Town Council to put forward its view for a revised defined Town Centre with the requirement of a minimum percentage of retail shops. It is also important to have a reason for people to be attracted to the Market Place and a reshaping of the Market Place to include a public realm with a covered area allowing year around entertainment could be a positive way forward.

14. The Town Centre be extended to include Ray Street, up to its junction with Mundy Street, and Derby Road, up to the junction with Abbott Street, as part of the Local Plan review

15. The redefined Town Centre has a defined minimum number of retail units to prevent a preponderance of alternative uses for retail units

16. A public realm is created on the Market Place with a canopy over the part of Market Place nearest to the junction with Godfrey Street

2.4 Youth Engagement

It is important that the Town engages with its younger residents, as they are less likely to voice their opinions. The fact that Heanor East and West Wards have significantly more under 9's than the Borough average and Heanor West an even more significant number of young adults aged 20-29 makes engagement with young people extremely important. The independent consultants engaged by the Council will, hopefully, come with some options for the Town Council and its partners to look at. But also the need to work with other Councils to make up for the deficiency in the Multi Agency Team caused by the austerity programme of the County Council will be just as important.

17. The Town Council will consider the recommendations of its independent report of Youth provision within the Town in conjunction with the other tier authorities and the Police

18. The Town Council support the proposed redevelopment of Charles Hill Playing Fields into a centre for youth and community activities and deliver its promise of a Community room within the development

19. The Town Council work with other Town Councils and the Borough Council in order to mitigate the reduction in the MAT team

20. The Town Council continue to work with the local Safer Neighbourhood Team in providing a number of distraction events and a safe environment for young people.

2.5 Opportunities to develop sites within the Town

The sites identified within the Town Council's documents are key sites within the Town which gives it an opportunity to help shape the future of our Town with the Borough Council and other public bodies. This is why the proposals in these documents are long term not just some short term fix.

25(I) Former Grammar School Site

21. The Town Council write to Amber Valley Borough Council requesting that they actively pursue the compulsory purchase of the building in order to secure it for the community

22. The Town Council asks the Borough Council look at the possibility of including the Conservative Club in the development site which would allow for an improvement to the road junction of Ilkeston Road and Church Street

23. The Town Council work with relevant partners to secure the public display of the triptych, until such time as the former Grammar School site is developed with an acceptable permanent home for the triptych

2.5(ii) Heanor Police Station

24. The Town Council discuss with Derbyshire Constabulary about the future use of the police station and the options the Town Council can investigate in developing a community facility there

2.5(iii) Heanor Market Place

25. The Town Council discuss with Amber Valley Borough Council options of developing the top half of the Market Place, with a covered area and the potential demolition of the toilet block to create an attractive public open space on the Market Place

2.5(iv) Response to High Street Fund

26. The Town Council's response to the High Street Fund consultation to include the recommendations contained within this document and the need to include the former Grammar School site within any proposals

2.6 Engaging with our Community

The Town Council, as the lowest tier of local government, is ideally placed to both represent and react to the view and aspirations of the community. In order to achieve this it must engage with its community but also make the community aware of what the Town Council can and cannot do. The Council has taken a few steps along this path by adopting a strap line, increasing the information in its parish magazine, improving the notice boards around the Town and improving its social media presence. However, it cannot stand still and must look at other ways to increase the awareness of the residents of Heanor and Loscoe as to what the Town Council does do on their behalf

27. The Town Council look at the options to develop a new Logo to better reflect the community and its heritage, develop a Unique Selling Point for the Town and be more proactive in publicising its work

28. The Town Council build on its four year events programme to ensure events are better published and relevant to what the community want

29. The Town Council support community groups to ensure a diverse number of events are provided

30. The Town Council look at ways to increase the distribution of the parish magazine, either in electronic form or printed, to maximise the number of residents who have access to it and the information it contains

2.7 Transport

Transport is one of the most significant issues within any community and, therefore, it is important that the Town Council work in partnership with the Borough Council and County Council on how to improve the transport infrastructure, supporting a green travel plan and encourage more use of public transport and of electric vehicles. Also recognising that the car is not necessarily king for residents as Henor has a higher percentage of no-car households than the Borough or County average. A recent survey by community group Henor Vision showed that to get into Town 6.7% used the bus, 52.24% walked and 0.3% cycled. So nearly 59% of people access the Town without the use of a car. The potential to expand the use of rail travel from Langley Mill and the exciting possibility of a tram extension into Amber Valley are chances which cannot be missed and must be exploited by the Town Council.

31. The Town Council work with Derbyshire County Council to have an extensive traffic survey of the main traffic arteries into Henor and Loscoe

32. The Town Council, along with partners, develop a green transport plan

33. The Town Council seek support from Derbyshire County Council to apply to the government for a funding grant under the relevant scheme of the Office of Low Emissions Vehicles for having an electric charging point on its own property or, if this is not possible, look at other partners in the Town to identify an appropriate location

34. The Town Council look to increase the number of cycle racks within the Town as part of any green travel plan

35. The Town Council discuss with Derbyshire County Council and the Borough Council ways to increase the number of cycle routes around the Town

36. The Town Council work with Derbyshire County Council, Amber Valley Borough Council and the local MP to request Network Rail look at the following:

- Improvements to public access for platform 2, which has no disabled access for people boarding or alighting on this platform
- Electrification of the Midland mainline
- Increase in the number of trains stopping at Langley Mill

37. The Town Council write to Amber Valley Borough Council requesting that Langley Mill Train Station form part of an integrated transport policy as part of its Core Strategy review

38. The Town Council hold discussions with Amber Valley Borough Council about the proposals to extend the Tram System and that any evaluation it helps fund should include an impact study of the proposals on Henor and Loscoe Town Council area

39. The Town Council hold discussions with the Borough Council over the following issues:

- An overall review car parking strategy and how to improve accessibility and the potential for more free parking.

- Any development of the Whysall Street Car Parks should reflect the:
 - 1) Loss of free 1 hour car parking spaces
 - 2) Reduction in availability of disabled car parking spaces

2.8 Environment

Having recognised that a climate emergency exists it is important that the Town Council does not just pay lip service to such an idea. It must, therefore, be proactive in following and supporting the green agenda.

40. The Town Council carry out an environmental audit to establish a programme to achieve the targets set out in the resolution

41. Work with the County Council and Borough Council to develop a green travel plan for the Town

42. Work with Amber Valley Borough Council in developing its 'Forest for the Future' project

43. Support the installation of Electric Car charging points within the community

44. Work with the County and Borough Councils to develop more cycle paths in the community

45. Continue to support the work of the Friends of Red River and look at ways of expanding the nature reserve