

## Castor & Ailsworth Joint Community Action Plan Two Parishes - One Community

### Introduction

December 2017 saw the formal adoption by Peterborough City Council (PCC) of a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for each of Castor & Ailsworth parishes following detailed consultation by the Parish Councils with residents and statutory consultees. The NPs complement and support each other, recognising the parishes' shared heritage and the maxim 'two parishes - one community' which became very apparent during the course of consultations with residents. The two NPs cover matters relating to land use in the parishes and can be viewed on the shared website at: [www.castorailsworthnps.com](http://www.castorailsworthnps.com)

Other matters important to residents also emerged during the course of consultations and this **Joint Community Action Plan (JCAP)** outlines priorities jointly agreed by the Parish Councils, which will be supported and/or taken forward by the Parish Councils on behalf of the community.

The JCAP is a living document and will be updated periodically and as new initiatives arise.

### 1. A vital place to Live

Item ref.	Activity/Project	Current Position
JCAP 1.1	Ensure planning proposals meet NP provisions and represent any concerns to PCC Planning Officers. (Supports all NP policies, in particular CH1/CH2 & AH1/AH2.)	Ongoing evaluation of all planning applications by PCs against the relevant NP requirements. The PCs challenge Peterborough City Council (PCC) on planning applications which have not fully considered the Castor and Ailsworth NPs. CPC is a member of the PCC Parish Liaison Working Group and, through meetings with other parish councils, has agreed a Parish Conference dedicated to the issue of planning.
JCAP 1.2	Ensure that planning proposals which exceed anticipated growth levels in the NPs are supported by evidence of clear community support through appropriate pre-application consultation. (Supports NP policies CH2/AH2.)	Ongoing evaluation of planning proposals by PCs against the NP CH2/AH2 requirements.
JCAP 1.3	Woodlands - consult with site owners to ensure acceptable re-development of the existing Woodlands buildings and related land; also, to retain a continued community sports facility with appropriate facilities (see also JCAP 3.2 & 4.3) and the possibility of a permanent site for the pre-school. (Supports NP policy CRV1.)	Planning approved for a care home and assisted living apartments on part of the site; construction of the care home is underway. Contact with Nene Park Trust (NPT) and the developers continues to ensure parish views are taken into account as development proceeds. The sports facilities are coming back into use, with temporary accommodation facilities installed as changing rooms etc. NPT are in discussion with the Tennis Club regarding new tennis courts. The pre-school is understood to be in direct contact with NPT.

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<b>JCAP 1.4</b>	Explore the feasibility of establishing a village housing trust (akin the existing almshouses in Castor).	PCs to consider forming a group to explore developing this initiative, e.g. with the Hastoe Housing Association ( <a href="http://www.hastoe.com">www.hastoe.com</a> ). As a first step the PCs will explore the implications with the administrators of the existing almshouses.
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### 2. An ancient & fragile landscape

Item ref.	Activity/Project	Current Position
<b>JCAP 2.1</b>	Support initiatives for preservation, restoration and interpretation of historical features in and around the parishes.	Funding and restoration of the Robin Hood and Little John standing stones arranged and completed by CPC. CPC also arranged reinstatement of the milestone on Love's Hill following a traffic accident. The PCs have jointly commissioned and installed a replacement village sign.
<b>JCAP 2.2</b>	The St Kyneburgha Building Preservation Trust will continue walks, talks and guides to interpret the building and its situation.	The Church guide currently available is being republished.
<b>JCAP 2.3</b>	Support further environmental and biodiversity study covering the Southern half of the parishes to the Nene and along the A47 following the work undertaken to the North.	Work on behalf of the Langdyke Countryside Trust is being scoped prior to commissioning and discussion with landowners. The PCs agreed a joint nominee to keep in touch with developments.
<b>JCAP 2.4</b>	Encourage projects to restore neglected sites, such as Middling Pond in Ailsworth (NPT), the Station Master's Garden at Castor Station (NPT), Ailsworth Marsh (CWS)* and the Drift in Castor (CWS), liaising with land owners as necessary. <small>*(CWS = County Wildlife Site)</small>	In conjunction with Langdyke Countryside Trust permissions are currently being sought and resources explored. The PCs agreed a joint nominee to keep in touch with developments.
<b>JCAP 2.5</b>	Support proposals for approval of three new county wildlife sites identified in the environmental study.	This will be taken forward by The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. The PCs agreed a joint nominee to keep in touch with developments.
<b>JCAP 2.6</b>	Support work to enhance ecology through implementation of management plans by Langdyke Countryside Trust in partnership with tenant farmers and landowners as per study conducted in 2017.	Discussions with Langdyke and others, including eleven local parishes, have led to an initiative to promote what each parish has to offer in terms of history, landscape etc. and opportunities for walking & cycling. A joint initiative between Ailsworth & Castor PCs will be launched to take this forward and included as JCAP 4.6 in due course.

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### 3. A thriving community

Item ref.	Activity/Project	Current Position
<b>JCAP 3.1</b>	Support the development of a suitable surgery/other primary health facility within or immediately adjacent to the villages to overcome existing traffic and parking difficulties in Main Street. (Supports NP policies CSE4/ASE3.)	Longer term objective is to encourage existing surgery to relocate to a new site within these parameters.
<b>JCAP 3.2</b>	Support proposals which will ensure continued development of the school and provision of a permanent location for the pre-school. (Supports NP policy CSE3.)	See item 1.3 re-the pre-school. Donations made by each PC to the Friends of Castor School to support the school shop/bank initiative. CPC has agreed to the school's temporary class base remaining for another three years on the condition that this should be the final time that planning permission is sought for a temporary building and a more permanent building should be erected longer term. The PC has also requested that a new, robust travel plan be completed as part of the planning permission.
<b>JCAP 3.3</b>	Explore how to overcome difficulties with speeding traffic through the villages, notably in the Peterborough and Helpston Roads, such as 20 mph limits, 'gates' at village entrances.	A 20 mph speed limit for both villages has been taken forward; the required traffic order has been passed and will become operative once PCC resources facilitate the necessary changes to signage. The two PCs will consider a joint Speedwatch initiative once the new limit is in place and explore what might be done to monitor traffic speed in Station Road.
<b>JCAP 3.4</b>	Support and encourage improvements to maintain and develop the village shop and a positive environment for village business amenities.	A planning application for the shop has been supported and subsequently approved. Both PCs will seek to support the shop where feasible during its refurbishment to help ensure its continued presence within the community.
<b>JCAP 3.5</b>	Support and promote the Rural North West Peterborough Good Neighbour Scheme (which developed from the scheme launched by St Kyneburgha Parochial Church Council with APC & CPC support).	Initially launched at the Castor Fete in July 2018 the scheme has been joined by a number of local parishes with the support of Peterborough City Council (PCC). Trustees for the scheme have been appointed; charitable status has been granted and a bank account established. PCC are funding a scheme co-ordinator who has been appointed to take up post on 13 July 2020. Production of a website is in hand.

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### 4. A space for Peterborough to breathe

Item ref.	Activity/Project	Current Position
<b>JCAP 4.1</b>	Encourage the initiative to improve cycleway facilities to the West of the parishes. (Supports NP policies CRV1 and ARV1.) This leisure route is seen as complementary to any cycleway proposals which may emerge in dualling the A47 to Wansford.	Led by the Cycle West Project who have discussed design proposals with land owners and a redesign of the final section is in hand. Both PCs have provided funding in support of the scheme.
<b>JCAP 4.2</b>	Encourage visitor information regarding historical links and ecological interests in the parishes. (Supports NP policies CRV3/ARV3.)	Route guides published by residents' visitor group providing visitor information for 'John Clare's footsteps through Castor Hanglands' and 'Roman Castor - Normangate Field'. Further publications are proposed.
<b>JCAP 4.3</b>	Woodlands - consult with site owners to ensure acceptable re-development of the Woodlands site to retain a continued community sports facility with appropriate facilities. (See also JCAP 1.3) (Supports NP policy CRV1.)	See item 1.3.
<b>JCAP 4.4</b>	Monitor existing network of footpaths and bridleways to ensure they are adequately maintained. Continue to seek improvements to promote access and safety. (Supports NP policies CRV2/ARV2.)	The Nene Park Trust 'Walking back in time' project will include a heritage trail and improved riverside walking routes. Arrangements agreed with PCC to replace two stiles with kissing gates to improve access. The two PCs will seek to involve residents in monitoring and enhancing the existing network of footpaths and bridleways within the parishes. Residents and visitors will be invited to join councillors on their parish land walks.
<b>JCAP 4.5</b>	Organise periodic community 'litter pick' exercises to enhance the public areas in the parishes.	Litter picks are regular events supported by both PCs. Individuals keen to undertake litter picks will be encouraged the during Covid-19 lockdown by the loan of equipment.
<b>JCAP 4.6</b>	A new item will be added to cover the initiative mentioned in JCAP 2.6 in due course.	

**FOOTNOTE:** From time to time the PCs are made aware of potential funding opportunities for community projects. For sources of information on such opportunities contact either Ailsworth or Castor Parish Clerk.