



Develop Plan “Spaldington Enhancement 2021” update

Written and proposed by Cllr. Murphy

During recent discussions between Mr Southworth and myself regarding, amongst other things the potential “windfarm funding applications, we also talked about trying to stimulate the village residents and showing that they too could contribute greatly to the community, after all they are the community. We thought that to get the ball rolling we would ask for volunteers to help set up the Christmas display, the response was excellent, and I believe 9 x people answered the call and turned up on the prearranged day to help, it went down really well, nothing too strenuous, everyone contributed, we had a cuppa and everyone seemed well pleased with results.

The key thing for me was that whilst we are relatively newcomers to the village having been around for only 8 or 9 years, I wouldn't have recognised some of them, and I am sure they felt the same. To this end quite clearly, we need to harness this, and build on the community spirit. It is noticeable that over the last two or three years that more and more effort has been going into the individual Christmas displays and this year the results are absolutely brilliant, and I guess we are likely to see an increase in “visitors”.

This leads me into the conversations regarding funding applications, we discussed various ideas however the initial consensus of opinion was to replace the dilapidated village notice board, and perhaps purchase a bench seat for the village (to get the ball rolling) We have researched these products and have some good ideas of what we would go for and where to get them from, and anticipated costs. We have also discussed refurbishing the existing village phone box, which is in urgent need of some attention. The Windfarm Fund has two areas of funding, one with a limit of £500,00 per application and the other one with an overall £19,000.00 limit.

Mr Southworth did express a minor concern that the funding approval team might take the view that the village notice board is essential in order for the SPC to communicate with village and therefore we should pay for this anyhow. I believe we may be better taking a step back from making funding applications in an ad hoc manner, and develop an overall plan to carry out enhancements throughout the village (including the notice board) and get the communities backing and active support from an early stage. The smaller limit of £500, 00 is very good, however we may be better placed to wait and see if we can get support for a more significant plan. The importance of providing a professional well thought out plan, with input from the community and the provision n of supporting evidence demonstrating we can execute the plan as a community would be essential.



Step 1

Draw up a plan of the immediate village covering the area between both “Spaldington signs” and main street, I may be able to get some professional help to develop this and present it in a printable format compatible with most PC’s, other residents may be able to help with this as well.

Name the project/plan for example “Spaldington Enhancement-2021”

Step 2

Identify potential areas for improvements and explore ideas and develop achievable objectives, something we all can contribute to in one form or another, such as:

- Purchasing new village signage and planters-With help from the residents we may be able to manufacture and install and maintain these.
- Plant borders with a variety of bulbs. These works could be done by volunteers.
- Maybe seek permission from the ERYC to install sockets at the top of the street lighting poles, and fabricate some brackets to take additional Christmas lights, similar to other towns and villages. The bulk of these works could be carried by volunteers.
- Check out the practicalities of lifting the village phone box from its base and take it into the farm yard and utilise a barn or the workshop to carry out a major restoration, volunteers could help with these works. Once work started I am sure good ideas would follow, we could purchase some new laser cut panels, maybe get some messages printed on them, maybe design and fit a new back panel to high local items/places of interest etc.
- Purchase and install new village notice board, maybe purchase a three-bay notice board and incorporate a village map showing walks and places of interest. Volunteers would be able to carry out most of the works.
- Purchase and locate village bench seats, planters and locate at the entrance to Main Street and at the other end of Main Street adjacent to the public footpath (subject to permissions) and add general waste bins if there aren’t any. Volunteers could install bases and provide regular maintenance.
- Purchase and plant trees running alongside the lane from the bottom of Main Street to the farm yard, subject to permissions. Works could be carried out by volunteers.
- Maybe carry out refurbishment work to the pond at the rear of the farm yard, subject to permissions and discussions with the environment agency.
- We could canvass local businesses to try and gain their support with the plan and hopefully pledge some financial help, I believe that commercial enterprises and activities ought to be able to work together to the benefit of the whole community, in my opinion this hasn’t been encouraged in the past.
- With any application for funding it is important that we can demonstrate that as a community we are both able and keen to contribute to the plan and also to the maintenance there after, by



volunteering to carry out some of the works wherever possible, raising funds, and local businesses pledging their support. If we could demonstrate these and provide tangible evidence along with the application it would help immensely.

- We would need to prepare a programme of works, identifying time scales, residents may be able to help with this and ought to be encouraged to do so.

Cllr Murphy

December 2020

This was formally agreed at the Full Parish Meeting on 07 December 2020.
