

A Special Parish Meeting was held on Saturday 12 January 2013 in the Village Hall, Priston commencing 12.15pm. An attendance roll was signed and apologies noted.

The purpose of the meeting was to involve residents in the decisions which need to be taken to comply with the legislation of the Localism Act.

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Doug Pattison, opened the meeting by welcoming the large number of residents who attended. He briefly explained The Localism Act which gives some power to parishes through Parish Councils, however, there is a need for evidence that the Parish Council reflects the wishes of parishioners. Arrangements would be made for a questionnaire to be distributed to all homes, hopefully in February, to enable everyone to provide their thoughts and wishes for the future of the parish.

There are three strands of thought relevant to Priston Parish –

1. Community Right to Bid, which is already law. A list of Assets of Community Value needs to be compiled giving parishioners sufficient time to raise money to bid for assets which they wish to retain, for example, a building or piece of land which has been registered on the list of Assets. This list has to be agreed with the District Council (BANES). A link to the document “Community Right to Bid” is available on the Priston Website.
2. Neighbourhood Plan – Neighbourhood Plans have been widely publicized but there are problems with compilation which will be time consuming and very expensive. A Neighbourhood Plan can only be positive and is not restricted to housing. It is not permitted to stipulate that which is not wanted. A parish’s plan has to agree with national legislation and also with the BANES’ Core Strategy when it has been approved.
3. BANES’ Placemaking Plan which is a planning document to be drawn up within the context of the Core Strategy and the National Planning Policy Framework. The Chairman advised that it may cover a wider area than just development. However, although the national emphasis is on housing provision, the involvement of parishes may be sought.

The Chairman, whilst pointing out that the parish can only bid if the property in question is offered for sale and also that, after purchase it must be retained in the same occupation, requested suggestions for inclusion in a **List of Community Value** of assets where the principal/non-ancillary use furthers social well-being or the social interests of the community. After appropriate voting, the following were agreed:

Ring o’Bells Public House	Church and Churchyard	Cricket Pitch
The Granary	Telephone Kiosk	The Lawn
Treatment Works	Village Green	Village Hall and car park

The Chairman continued by requesting suggestions for inclusion in the **Placemaking Plan** and, again after voting, the following were agreed:

Allotments/Community Gardens	Children’s Play Area (including older children)
Sports facilities	Broadband
Mobile telephone reception	No light pollution
Mandatory 20mph	Drainage

Several residents spoke on the need for housing within the parish which could be purchased by first time buyers/younger home owners or by older people who wished to own a smaller property. The Chairman asked the meeting to give some thought as to where, in the village, houses such as this could be built.

In closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and involvement. He hoped that every resident would complete the questionnaire when it is distributed in the coming weeks and also added that if any more suggestions for inclusion in either list become apparent these can be passed to himself or the Parish Clerk.