

**CPRE Shropshire
July 2015**

Treasures and Eyesores

Engaging younger people in the process of Community Led Planning

Who was involved?

Year 6 pupils at Oakmeadow CoE Primary School, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury, local older residents, members of the Community Led Planning (CLP) 'team' made up of residents and Parish council members, CPRE Shropshire

What we did

CPRE Shropshire offered to support Bayston Hill Parish council engage as widely as possible with their community in the development of their Community Led Plan and as a first step invited Oakmeadow Primary school to get involved. It was agreed that with support from CPRE and the CLP team, year 6 pupils would begin by looking at local 'treasures and eyesores'.



Three consecutive weekly sessions were held, followed by a 'celebration'

Session one introduced the project, briefly explaining what a Community Led Plan was and why it is important for people of all ages to get involved.

A large scale plan of the village was displayed on the wall of the school hall which was to become a reminder of 'work in progress'. A power point of images explaining what 'treasures' and eyesores' might be was shown and pupils worked in groups to brainstorm ideas on what their treasures and eyesores are in Bayston Hill. A 'top 10' list of each was agreed.

Session 2 was 'getting to know the local older community'. Pupils met an older resident, looked at old photos of the village and listened to her memories of the area.

Session3 was a walk for everyone involved, to the top 10 treasures and eyesores with pupils tasked to think more about what they liked or didn't like.

The following week pupils spent time in class producing posters, leaflets about the village and what it has to offer, plus letters to the Parish Council suggesting what improvements were needed.

The final session was a celebration where pupils presented their work to the chair of the Parish Council and members of the CLP team . The event was reported in the local press

What people said

Top 10 treasures included outdoor spaces such as The Park, Top Pitch, Lyth Hill as well as the people who live in the village. Eyesores included Litter, dog mess, cigarette butts, graffiti and traffic.

11 year old pupils said ' I didn't realise how many eyesores there were in Bayston Hill until I really looked. It is important we look after where we live.'

'We now know more about where we live, helping us to love where we live together'

'Hopefully we will now be more involved in our village as we grow old and become a closer community'

'I really learnt how much there is in Bayston Hill that we could change to make it a better place, to make sure it meets everyone's needs in the future.'

Members of the Community Led Plan Steering Group said: 'Our Community Led Plan will set out a vision of how our community wants to develop and will be based on consultation with the whole community'

'It will celebrate the good things, highlight local needs and contain a detailed action plan to help us meet those needs. The views of all generations are very important and we have been very impressed by the thoughtful way pupils at Oakmeadow School have approached the task we, with the support of Shrewsbury CPRE set them'

What happens next?

It has been agreed that in the short term the Year 6 representatives will share their work with the rest of the school and the residents of Holland Close, neighbours to the school. Their work will be passed onto the Parish Council who will use the findings to inform the new Community Plan and then added to the archives. Those students who had their letters placed on the display will have a reply from the Parish Council directly. All their work will be sent to the Parish Council for all Parish councillors to see and read and to be kept as an archive of this activity. Efforts will be made to keep in touch with this particular cohort as they now move on up to Secondary education. In the long term a similar project will be repeated annually to keep the Parish Council and Oakmeadow School link going and hopefully strengthen as time goes on. The next project will aim to involve parents.

What we learned

There was great interest from the school in the potential for this to be an intergenerational activity as it supported the ethos and ambitions of the school. In practice it was difficult to engage the

number of older people originally intended. In future projects older people will need a longer lead in time and support to ensure that they are available to get involved. There will also be more consideration and planning given to including opportunities to share the work with parents and family.



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