

# Halam – Parish Working Group



What is the Parish Working Group (PWG)?

The Halam Parish Plan of 2005, under “action”, said “The Parish Council will set up a working group to help it formulate guidance on the location and scale of development in the village... (and)... to investigate the best means by which to protect the character of the village and the village will be consulted on this.”

We hope to act as a consultative body.

We believe the PWG will have influence if it has the weight of opinion behind it.

Who are the members of the PWG?

- Nevil Croston – Little Oak, Radley Road, tel. 814578 – Chairman – resident 7 years – litigation solicitor.
- Declan Joyce – Cedar Lea, Radley Road, tel. 819272 – resident 4 years – photographer
- Shirley Grayson – The Old Coach House, School Lane, tel 813044 – resident 50+ years – retired
- Jeremy Smith – Walnut Tree Cottage, Radley Road, tel. 819094 – resident 18 months – landscape architect

We are independent. None of us are on the Parish Council. We are non-political and have a broad spectrum of personal views about the village.

Why have a PWG?

We see a need for a small group to:

- a) act independently of the Parish Council;
- b) be a means of obtaining the views and opinions of Halam residents;
- c) provide information to residents;
- d) inform the Parish Council and/or the district council of the real feelings of the village residents.

We do not intend to avoid controversial issues.

What will the PWG do?

The Village Plan stated that the Parish Council would address the views of the village by creating guidance with the support of the PWG and negotiating this as guidance for the District Council. It set out a number of points to be covered at page 18 including e.g. infill/backfill, village envelope, design/materials/open spaces/boundaries/trees. We hope to provide information sheets e.g. via the village newsletter covering current planning topics such as village design statements, village envelopes, conservation areas, etc.

We will be a channel for gathering and communicating the views and opinions of the residents. If you have not expressed your views about the village, its community and environment (now and in the future), if you would like to give your views in confidence, if you don't like speaking in public, we hope you would feel able to speak or write to one of the members of the PWG. We want to ensure that the genuine opinions of the village are presented to the authorities that make the decisions that affect us all.

How long will it take?

There are several “hot topics”. Following this note, we intend to circulate brief information sheets over a period of about 6 months, possibly with questionnaires and the opportunity to attend presentations, seeking your opinions on each topic.

We envisage preparing a resume of the findings to the Parish Council and providing a copy to the village.