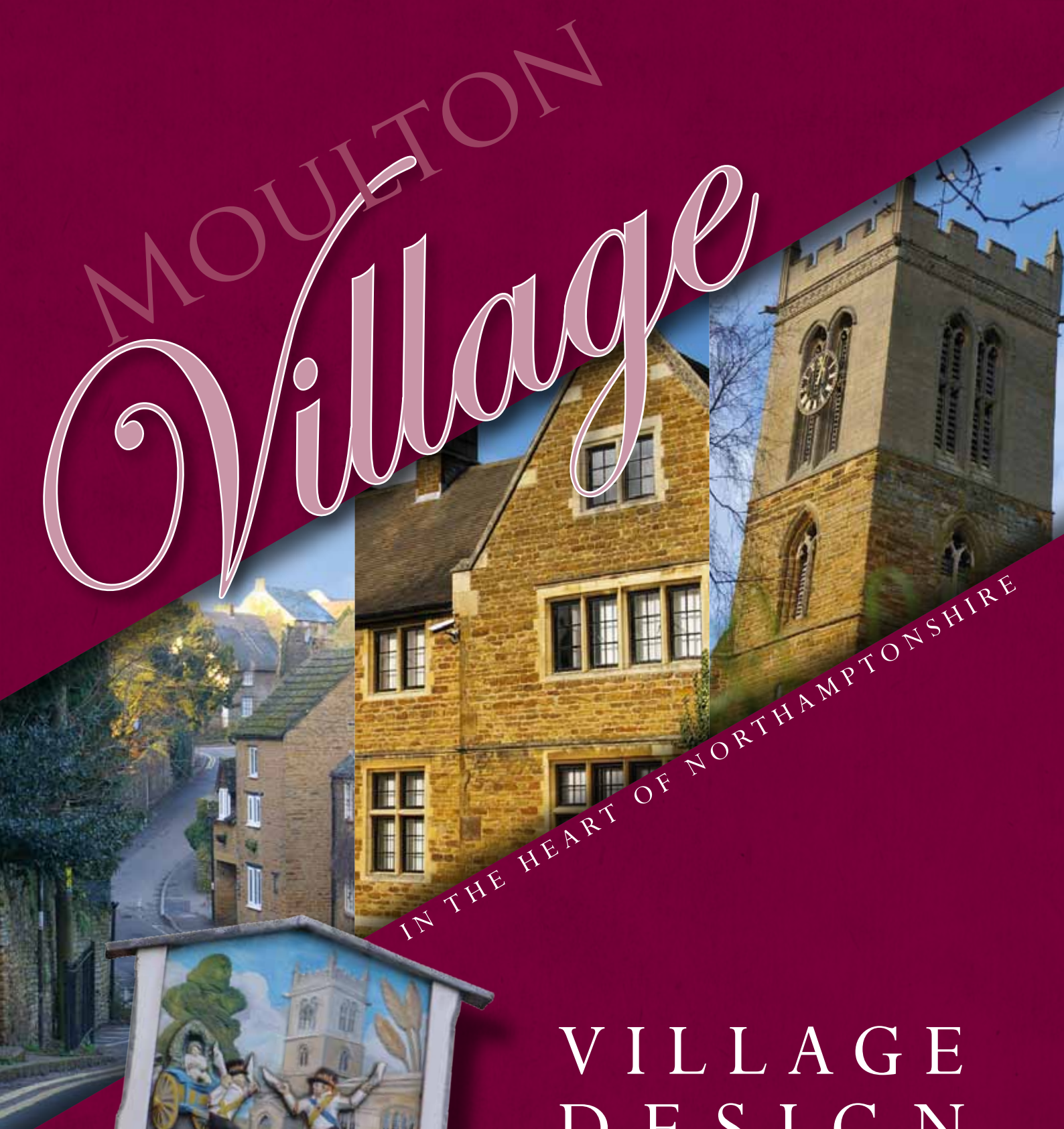


MOULTON Village



IN THE HEART OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



VILLAGE
DESIGN
STATEMENT

2012

foreword

This Village Design Statement has been prepared by Moulton Parish Council who have coordinated the input from various village organisations including the Moulton Environment Group and the Moulton History Society.

The Parish Council believes that this Village Design Statement, which includes historical and social background to the village will be a useful guide for residents and professional developers and their agents in producing any proposals for development within the Parish of Moulton. It highlights the positive features of this large and important Northamptonshire village and the precious local countryside that surrounds it. It includes a set of specific planning guidelines which if followed will help to preserve and strengthen the much loved village community which is Moulton.

Front cover [right to left]:
Moulton Parish Church, Church Hill
Moulton College, West Street
Church Hill
Moulton Village Sign, Stocks Hill

contents

Foreword

1. Introduction

What is a Village Design Statement ?
Who is it for ?
How does it work ?
Status of the Moulton Village Design Statement

2. History and Community background

Landscape
Settlement
Community

3. Landscape Character

4. Settlement Pattern character

5. Guidelines for Landscape, Conservation and Enhancement

6. Buildings and Spaces within the village

7. Character of the Highways

8. Guidelines

9. Community Consultation

Maps and drawings

1. Introduction

1.1 What is a Village Design Statement?

A Village Design Statement sets out what a community feels is important about the character of their village and the aspects of the landscape, layout, building detail and social scene which need to be carefully considered, when any change or development is proposed, to achieve an appropriate evolution of the village community.

The Moulton Village Design Statement was initiated by the Parish Council and has been prepared under their guidance with the help of village organisations. Public consultation has taken place and the whole process has been supervised by the Daventry District Council Planning Department.

1.2 Who is it for?

The Village Design Statement is intended to be used by any resident of the Parish of Moulton or their agents when alteration to existing property is being considered. It is also of particular importance to any developer and their agents when any new building is being considered and designed.

1.3 How does it work?

Daventry District Council has a statutory Planning Policy which is amended from time to time. Moulton Village Design Statement is added to this legal framework and must be fully considered when assessing the merits of any planning application.

1.4 Status of the Moulton Village Design Statement

It is intended that Daventry District Council will eventually adopt this design statement as a Supplementary Planning Document. The document will then be a material consideration in assessing any future planning applications in or around the village, as well as providing guidelines for any future changes in the village which may not necessarily require planning permission.

Any planning application would be assessed against the development plan and any other relevant material considerations. The current development plan comprises the Regional Spatial Strategy (which the government intends to revoke) and the Daventry District Local Plan, which was adopted in 1997. There are a number of saved policies in the Local Plan that may be appropriate when assessing proposals for development within and around the village. For instance saved Policy HS22 identifies Moulton as Restricted Infill Village. This policy states that:

Planning permission will normally be granted for residential development in the Restricted Infill Villages provided that:

- A. It is on a small scale, and
- B. It is within the existing confines of the village, and
- C. It does not affect open land which is of particular significance to the form and character of the village, or
- D. It comprises the renovation or conversion of existing buildings for residential purposes provided that the proposal is in keeping with the character and quality of the village environment.

2. History and Community background

2.1 Landscape

The parish of Moulton lies in an area of open, rolling countryside at an elevation of between approximately 100 to 120 meters above sea level. The bulk of the area is dominated by a Boulder Clay ridge running east west rising to a maximum height of 122 metres just south of Moulton Grange. The land is divided by historic field boundaries of stone walls and hedgerows which include many fine individual trees and occasional spinneys. Large to medium fields constitute the majority of the parish but it still has some water meadows one of which 'Busbys Meadow' is designated a Pocket Park by Northamptonshire County Council and is owned and maintained by the Parish Council. The fields to the south of the village, a mixture of pasture and arable, form a vital buffer between the village and the northern outskirts of Northampton. These fields contain several well used footpaths which afford excellent views of the Parish Church and the village houses.

Quarrying has been an important activity during past generations and there is evidence of four stone quarries, one of which produced stone of outstanding quality that was probably used to build the Parish Church. The local ironstone is easily distinguished by its orange brown colour and is a strong characteristic of many of the village houses.

The major village watercourse, Pages Brook runs from east to west, just north of the village core. It rises in the north east corner of the parish near Overstone Grange and joins the river Nene at Boughton Grange. This open valley is regarded as an important landscape feature and strong efforts have been made to keep it free of development.

The northern boundary of the parish is the Holcot Brook, the valley of which is now occupied by the Pitsford Reservoir. In 1956 Queen Elizabeth, the

Queen Mother, opened Pitsford Reservoir, a fifth of which lies in the Parish of Moulton. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and is used by fishing clubs, cyclists and yachtsmen. Much of the area is open to the public and affords lovely walks and delightful views of the reservoir.

2.2 Settlement

The parish of Moulton lies within the District of Daventry, has an area of 1100 hectares and is fairly central in the County of Northamptonshire. The village of Moulton is situated at the southern end of the parish and the village center is about 5 miles north of the town of Northampton. Its history can be traced back over many hundreds of years; its name possibly means “Mill” town or “Mule” town. Moulton was first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 and the remains of two Roman villas have been found. A more detailed explanation of its origins can be seen in the “Moulton conservation area appraisal and design guide” which is available from Daventry District Council.

New farming methods were used after the Moulton Enclosure Act of 1772, when larger farms with farmhouses were developed. Many of these houses can still be seen in the village and they reflect the skills of the local crafts men e.g. stonemasons and thatchers. A brickworks (no longer in production) opened in 1850, producing red bricks and tiles for roofing, flooring and drainpipes.

Due to its numerous mineral springs Moulton was considered a healthy place to live. The historic core of the village is built on a figure of eight street pattern which lies on the higher ground to the south of Pages Brook. The settlement is focused around the Parish Church and many of the houses and cottages in this area were built in the 17th and 18th Centuries. In the late 19th century and early 20th century a small number of buildings were added close to the central core but it was in the mid 20th century that there was considerable expansion of the village. It was during this latter period that the large developments in Northampton Lane and on either side of Ashley Lane and Overstone Road were constructed. The most recent developments in the latter part of the 20th century include the Lunchfield Lane, Stewart Close, Parade Bank, Oakley Drive and a number of individual properties within the built up area regarded as ‘restricted infill’. The growth of the village over time can be better appreciated by studying the “settlement growth plan” at the end of this document.

The parish population has risen from 843 in 1801 to 3,463 in 2003.

Moulton is a large village and the Parish Boundary adjoins that of the Borough of Northampton. Nevertheless, Moulton has a very strong identity and

the community considers itself a quite separate settlement from Northampton which makes the rural landscape to the south of the village, a most important landscape feature.

2.3 Community

The village has a Parish Church, a Baptist Chapel and an Evangelical Church. The Methodist Chapel has recently been converted into a very successful theatre. The Moulton Players perform about five plays a year and have a strong audience following.

Moulton probably has the highest number of persons in education, of any village in Northamptonshire. The educational establishments comprise a Primary School, a Secondary School with a very large 6th form college, a Further Education College and several nursery schools. Many of the pupils and students travel to the village which puts extra pressure on the narrow streets of the village road system to the extreme detriment to the enjoyment of the village by residents. Much effort has been expended over recent years to restrict the use of buses and coaches in the narrow village streets, especially West Street and Cross Street. Better road access arrangements for these facilities are desperately required.

The village is home to many clubs and societies too numerous to mention. Moulton has a good variety of shops, a Post Office, a Library, Doctor’s Surgery and two Sports’ Centres. Local business thrives in the village with Garages, Hairdressers, Landscapers to mention a few. The ever popular Moulton Morris Men also help to keep the feeling of Moulton as a “traditional” village. Traditional Morris dancing and Mummers plays are performed during May and December every year and draw large crowds from the village and surrounding area. Road closures are often required for these events and there is a good working relationship with the local police to effect this.

As Moulton moves into the 21st Century it is important that the characteristics that have made Moulton the place it is be protected and enhanced for future generations. These characteristics are discussed in detail within the document but in essence comprise the following:-

- a) a rural parish with its village still almost completely surrounded by fields,
- b) an historic core retaining many of its 17th and 18th century buildings,
- c) a vibrant social mix of activities, entertainment and annual events,
- d) good services and facilities.

3. Landscape character

- 3.1 The aim of this section is to identify the character of the parish, providing an overview of the physical, environmental and human factors, which have shaped the landscape. The village of Moulton is positioned at the southern end of the parish of Moulton. The parish itself extends north to Pitsford Reservoir (*formally the Holcot Brook*) over a rolling landscape. The soils are influenced by the underlying geology of sedimentary limestone and Northamptonshire sand and ironstone on the higher ground and lias clays within the valley zones. Generally the soils are rich and free draining. However, areas of glacial boulder clay give rise to heavy soils.
- 3.2 Much of the land use is agricultural, both arable and livestock, creating a patchwork of enclosure hedgerows and stone walls which divide the fields across the parish. The parish is interspersed by small copses providing excellent cover for wildlife, for example Hog Hole Spinney, Marsh Spinney and Round Spinney (*see Map 3*). These are linked by the extensive network of hedgerows providing essential wildlife habitat. There are many single Tree Preservation Orders (*TPO*) and TPO groups in and around the village (*see Map 2*).
- 3.3 Tree planting has occurred throughout the parish, of note is the extensive planting on the edge of Pitsford Reservoir and the shelterbelt along the Pitsford Road which has been planted with conifers. There has also been a general increase in tree planting over much of the agricultural land during the last 20 years. More recently, new woodland planting schemes have been started on the Moulton College estate which will provide extended woodland cover in the years to come.
- 3.4 Busby's Meadow, located next to the stream along The Grove to the north of the village is planted with native British trees, grasses and meadow flowers. The meadow is a designated Pocket Park and affords fine views of the Parish Church (*see Map 2*).



3.4: Busbys Meadow

- 3.5 When Wantage Farm ceased its activities the Parish Council took the opportunity to purchase 22 acres from the County Council and this is now known as Crow Fields Common (*see Map 1 CC*) and is a designated Local Nature Reserve (LNR). It contains a fine example of ridge and furrow farming and a wild flower meadow. A mixed hedgerow has been planted in Field 2 to recreate an ancient hedgerow. There is also an adjoining ridge and furrow field (*see Map 1 RF*).
- 3.6 A very good view of the village centre can be obtained from the high ground of the Crow Fields LNR. There are also good views of Pitsford Reservoir from the permissive footpaths north of Boughton Fair Lane. The approach to Moulton via the Holcot Road affords a lovely open view towards the church and in the opposite direction views of the rolling Northamptonshire Countryside (*see Map 1 V1*). Other views are via Boughton Road and Pitsford Road towards and out of the village to rolling countryside (*see Map 1 V2 and V3*).



3.6: Village centre from Crow Fields

- 3.7 There are a number of notable built features within the landscape to the south east of the parish. A castellated arch adjacent to Spectacle Lane, built by the Earl of Stafford, named 'The Spectacle' was constructed in the 18th Century as a folly. A similar arch along the Boughton Road has been incorporated into the boundary of Holly Lodge. The arch stands on the parish boundary between Boughton and Moulton. It is part of the 18th century landscape of Boughton Park, which includes a set of gothic buildings within the park and the wider landscape setting. The physical and visual interconnection of these features is an important part of the character of the Park.
- 3.8 There is an important stream valley (Page's Brook Valley) within the village boundaries (*see Map 1 SV*) which is forded and bridged in Spectacle Lane, and it continues through the Pocket Park (Busby's Meadow *see Map 2*) towards Marsh Spinney running in a west to east direction. This stream valley contributes to the rolling nature of the surrounding countryside and provides a special wildlife environment.

- 3.9 The Public Gardens are in the centre of the village (*see Map*) and provide benches, grassed areas, recently installed new play equipment and a new stage and seating area. There are two entrances/exits – one for vehicles in Church Street, and one for pedestrians in Church Hill. The ancient churchyard surrounds the church on three sides (*see Map 2*). The cemetery located on The Grove (*see Map 2*) is a well maintained, quiet place for visitors.
- 3.10 There are various open green spaces included within the boundary of the Conservation Area in recognition of their contribution to the character and appearance of the village. The present Conservation Area is shown on Map 2, and includes many TPO and TPO groups, as well as the Public Gardens, Pocket Park, churchyard and a large part of Moulton College Grounds. There is also an open grassed area with footpaths adjoining Lunchfield Lane (*see Map 2 OA*). This links with a safe footpath directly to Moulton School (*see Map 2 MS*). Other open areas include the well used and well appointed Sports and Recreation Grounds at the rear of Manor Road and Fuller Road.
- 3.11 There is a mixed wooded site in Kettering Road (*see Map 3 WS1*) at the village boundary, which is visible from southern areas of the village such as Northampton Lane. This also affords an important visual and physical ‘barrier’ between town and village areas.

Also on the village boundary is a linear wooded area of mainly conifer trees i.e. ‘shelter belt’ (*see Map 3 WS2*), (*see Note 2.3*) which is situated along the Pitsford Road between the entry to Spectacle Lane towards the right turn into the village. This offers wooded views on entering the village from Pitsford and this area is visible right across the stream valley from Boughton Road. The parish boundary extends to the southern edge of Pitsford Reservoir encompassing Moulton Grange. This includes the wooded area on the edge of the reservoir near Moulton Grange (*see Map 3 PRW*).

There are many large domestic gardens with important specimen trees throughout the village for example Holly Lodge in Boughton Road and Mill House in Chater Street, Sandy Hill Farm and Fourways in Ashley Lane.

- 3.12 There are many clearly marked and well used Public Rights of Way and Permissive footpaths radiating out from the village and parish boundary, giving routes to the surrounding villages of Pitsford (including the reservoir), Boughton, Holcot, Overstone and towards Northampton (*see Map 3*). These paths, especially those towards Pitsford and Holcot, afford lovely open views of the surrounding open and rolling countryside, pasture, changing arable crops, hedgerows, trees and wooded areas.



3.9: Public Gardens, Church Street



3.9: Moulton Cemetery, The Grove

4. Settlement pattern character

- 4.1 The characteristic figure of eight street pattern that Moulton is based upon is thought to date back at least as far as mediaeval times, and may have been established as part of a cattle route. The entrance/exit roads radiate from the edges of this figure of eight to/from surrounding villages and to the town of Northampton. The spatial character of Moulton Conservation Area is well defined in the Moulton Conservation Area Appraisal and Design Guide, May 1996 (Daventry District Council). In essence, it is composed of narrow, fairly tight groups of buildings, walls and trees along the figure of eight street pattern. These create a feeling of 'closure' which is sometimes broken by short sections of open closure created by buildings being set back from the road. Boundaries are defined by traditional stone and brick walls and hedgerows. There is also a small separate area of conservation in Prince of Wales Row (terraced houses) off Overstone Road.
- 4.2 Outside the Conservation Areas are 20th Century developments notably Manor Road, Fuller Road, Oakley Drive, Tarrant Way, Ashley Lane, Overstone Road, Arnsby Crescent, Jeyes Close, The Laurels and Stewart Close. Parade Bank is situated in the 'centre' of the Conservation Area. There are also small 21st Century developments such as Inniskilling Close off Overstone Road. These newer areas are more open in character with boundaries often defined by grass verges and hedges (*see Map 2*).

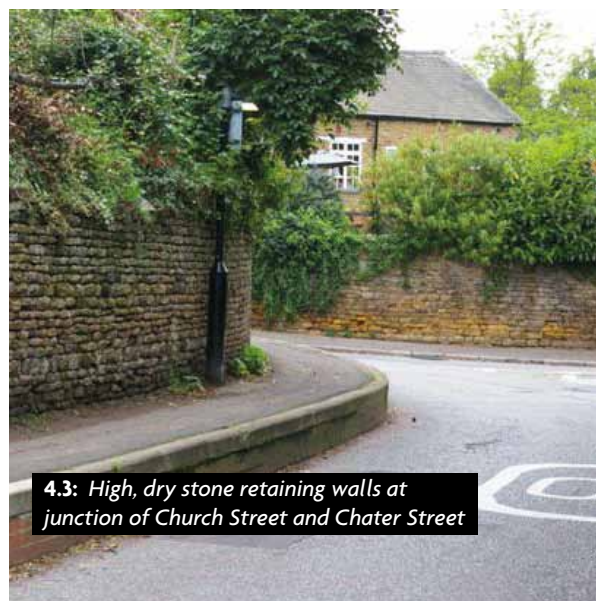
The parish contains several outlying settlements and farmsteads with the emphasis mainly on agriculture, such as Moulton Lodge Farm and Moulton Grange.

- 4.3 The feeling of closure is increased in several places where the houses appear raised high above the road level. This occurs mainly where the road is on a gradient and where the road surface was progressively scoured away over many years before the introduction of a sealed road surface. The high, dry stone retaining walls around some properties, particularly in Church Street and Chater Street also produce this feeling of closure.

- 4.4 There are many small spaces where there is a partial feeling of enclosure, most notably the three-way road junctions, at the corners of the above mentioned figure of eight pattern. There are also two small sub-spaces off West Street created by the position of the Moulton College buildings.
- 4.5 The Conservation Area boundary contains within it considerable amounts of open space, some of which surrounds the built form of the village. This is a particular feature in the area of Pages Brook Valley which incorporates Busby's Meadow. Within the village the Public Gardens provide a lovely open space with its own feeling of enclosure.

5. Guidelines for Landscape, conservation and enhancement

- 5.1 Conserve and maintain hedgerows, trees, dry stone walls and stream valleys, which provide Moulton with interesting and characteristic landscape features.
- 5.2 Maintain open views on the approaches to and from the village of Moulton.
- 5.3
- New developments should not compromise the open nature of the countryside within the parish
 - The rural aspects of the village and the space between neighbouring settlements must be maintained both actually and visually. It is especially important that remaining spaces between Moulton and Northampton (on A43 and Boughton Lane) be maintained
 - The quality of the surrounding rural landscape should be protected and enhanced where possible
 - All village green spaces and open spaces should be maintained. Larger open spaces should be maintained and enhanced
 - The development and creation of additional open spaces within the village should be encouraged
 - The character of the Conservation Area should be maintained and enhanced





6.1: Manor Farm

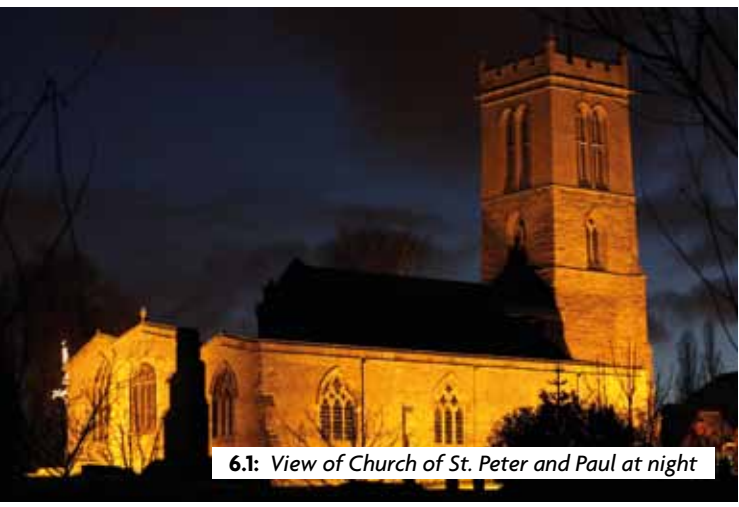
6 Buildings and spaces within the village

6.1 Moulton in common with many villages has developed visually in a haphazard manner particularly in the latter part of the last century. Many mistakes were made with the built environment with the ad hoc mix of inappropriate design decisions and often inappropriate materials. Some houses of particular and historic interest were removed to allow road widening and newer development.

Development was allowed to proceed in a ribbon fashion along the four main thoroughfares into the village with much repetitive housing.

Nevertheless Moulton is a distinguished ancient village dating back to the Domesday book and earlier with two roman villas, a manor house and castle amongst the earlier buildings.

The core of the settlement is centered on the Church (13th C) Grade 1 listed, the Manor Farm buildings and the valley between known as Pages Brook. The powerful juxtaposition of these two important buildings exactly opposite each other on either side of the valley running perpendicular remains a very powerful relationship to this day and is central to the special character of Moulton. The Valley runs down to an old Mill at the bottom of Spectacle Lane on the boundary of Moulton Parish and part of old Boughton Park.



6.1: View of Church of St. Peter and Paul at night



6.1: Church of St. Peter and Paul

The field adjacent to Barlow Lane has two accesses both of which allow dramatic views to idyllic rural small holding scenes and open countryside. Animals are still grazed on this field and views consist of ancient pasture old walls and large very old trees The field also the site of a Quaker cemetery is a very important open space within the village and is of particular historic interest.



6.1: Field adjacent to Barlow Lane

6.2 The visual links to the countryside within the village should be preserved. Extensions to existing buildings and any proposed development must demonstrate that they are not detrimental to this principle. The links to the countryside are clearly shown on map 1 and 2 from page 22/23 of the **Moulton Conservation Guide**. Views in and out of the village are important. New buildings shall not obscure the surrounding landscape or vistas of important buildings such as Moulton church.

Moulton is a designated Restricted Infill Village (saved planning policy Hs 22 and policies EM11, 12, 13, 14) and Daventry District Council Local Plan. This section should be read in conjunction with these policies and Conservation Area Guidance.

6.3 Distribution, Scale and Density

The centre of the modern village is south of the central valley and is built in a figure of eight pattern with many properties built in the 17th and 18th century. The core is around the Parish Church a grade 1 listed building of the 13th century. There are forty two listed buildings in total and these are listed in Appendix 1. The original Manor House was situated near to the present Manor Farm House. There is a cluster of converted barns also in this area. The village centre had a number of workshops and yards some of which were also Public houses and Inns. There was lace making, brick making, milling, quarrying, farming taking place in Moulton. There is also a notable terrace of 19th century houses known now as Prince of Wales row (originally Balls row) of architectural interest as they are largely unspoilt and unique in Moulton. The village as a whole is nevertheless separate and entire from the urban sprawl of the Borough of Northampton.



6.3: Prince of Wales Row

6.4 There must be no development that seeks to bridge this important separation to maintain the historic character of the village.

There are older parts not included at the present time in the conservation area but with many buildings of character such as Walkers Yard and the outer village with much repetitive housing built during the last century.

The centre of the village in particular has a sense of enclosure which should be maintained in any new development. Many of the buildings in the village are constructed from the local red brick or locally quarried iron or sandstone with characteristic features of slate, red tile or thatch roofs and small windows. In some places buildings are clustered around small alleys and positioned close to the road as in the Nurseries.



6.4: *The Nurseries, where cottages are clustered around small alleys close to the road*

6.5 All new development should reflect the surrounding houses in design, scale and materials used. In particular the use of red brick, local stone, thatch or slate roofs. The density of new housing must be shown not to exceed that of the current village. When extending in brick the choice of brick, bond and mortar colour and pointing strongly affect the visual appearance of the masonry and should be considered.

6.6 Building Details

Many of the older properties exhibit particularly interesting and varied features which are part of the village character. Stone dressed to match brickwork courses and the mixed use of brick and stone in adjacent properties all add subtle interest. The older properties built over several centuries vary in size from single to four storey buildings on the same street. More recent development has continued to satisfy the demand for a variety of dwellings from starter homes to modern bungalows for the retired to four/five bed room homes. High walls constructed of the local ironstone add greatly to the character of the buildings and enhance the feeling of enclosure. Steep pitched roofs with gable end chimneys produce a feeling of village grandness. Small windows with brick arch or oak lintels all contribute to the charm that is Moulton.



6.6: *2 and 3 storey properties in the new Pound Lane development – see also photo at paragraph 6.1 which shows the proximity of brick and stone*



6.6: *Brick and stone cottages in close proximity. Note generally small windows*



6.6: *High walls of local stone on properties at the junction of Overstone Road and High Street*



6.6: *Stone and brick used together to good effect on cottages in West Street*



6.6: *Examples of steep pitched roofs with gable end chimneys on the old cottages in High Street and Overstone Road*



6.6: *The archway to the yard of Wantage Farm in stone with brick facings*

6.7 The sense of enclosure forms one of the most important characteristics of Moulton. Any new building or extension including garages and converted outbuildings must relate to both its setting and to the street scene. It must be clearly demonstrated that it has not been considered in isolation.

6.8 Relationship to the countryside

The village relates strongly to the countryside. The views of the village from the outside clearly show a settlement at ease with its position in the landscape. The tower of Moulton church may be seen from almost any point of the compass. It is therefore important that any future development does not detract from this natural setting, particularly where the existing village merges with the countryside.

From within the village the countryside is revealed by views through open spaces and by views out between buildings. Important examples are along Pages Valley, from the Church to the north and up through Crow fields to the south, from the edge of the village on Boughton road to the north across allotments and ancient farms to sites of roman villas and prehistoric man. Rights of way into the countryside enhance this by gradually revealing these views such as the footpaths from Overstone Road and Boughton Lane.

6.9 Street Scene



During the post second world war period the centre of the village suffered from the demolition of many older properties deemed unfit or because of ill conceived planning requirements for future road widening. This resulted in some 60's style buildings being set back from the road in an incongruous manner. These are areas where the special character of the village has been lost. Examples of these are the flats in the high street and the central garage in particular. In newer developments the street line was rigorously followed

with the accompanying loss of spatial interest and movement. Open plan development such as Tarrant Way should be discouraged. There are a number of commercial activities within Moulton and a number of shops. This is part of the traditional structure of any village life.

6.10 Any redevelopment of incongruous buildings must replace them with buildings designed to fit in with the surrounding traditional buildings. Commercial premises must fit in with the Street scene and blend in with the surrounding developments both in size and impact. Dominating advertising should be discouraged. Signage must be low key and not garish in impact.

6.11 Scale and density

A characteristic of older village buildings is the variation of spaces around them. Where new detached executive homes have a space allocated to them they exist in visual isolation from the fabric of the village. The importance of the space and flow around buildings and how they relate to one another both in scale and density is paramount.



6.12 All new building should acknowledge the existing moderate density within the village. Consideration must be given to the spatial relationship within the curtilage of the new buildings including the local cumulative effect.

6.13 Roofscape

B6 The height of extensions must relate to the existing buildings and should not exceed the height of the current building. Roof coverings must relate to the surrounding buildings but should be slate where there is no overall guidance. Other roof materials shall be natural thatch (plain flush, wrap over ridge and single line of liggers at the eaves) grey/blue slates or red tiles.



6.15: Different coloured stone used in ashlar masonry quoins

6.14 Repetitive design

Repetitive design has been a feature of many villages over recent decades. Local authority housing schemes such as The Grove and Carey Close are examples and private housing such as Tarrant Way.

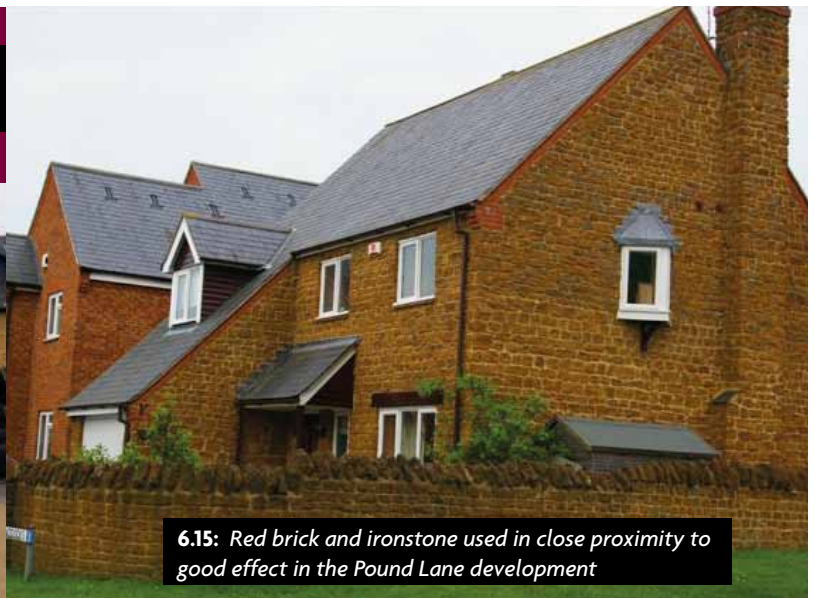
6.15 Detailing

Much of the character of a village is to be found in the detail. The ashlar masonry quoins and window reveals sometimes in pale coloured stone, sometimes in rich iron stone and sometimes in red brick can be seen on many buildings. The random mixture of these architectural details together with thatched or slated roofs produces a delightful mixture of effects.

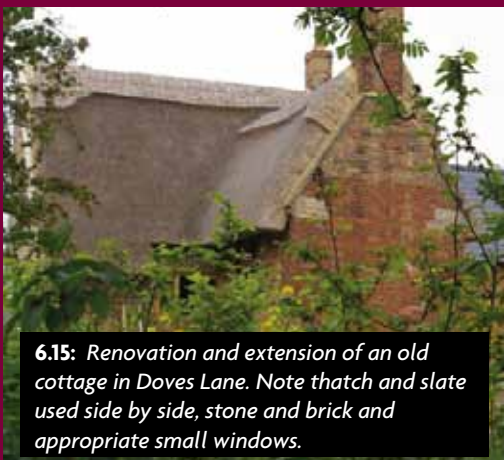
6.15: New development can incorporate the mix of finishes to good effect



6.15: Tightly arranged three storey houses with slate roofs and different sized windows in the Church Mews development



6.15: Red brick and ironstone used in close proximity to good effect in the Pound Lane development



6.15: Renovation and extension of an old cottage in Doves Lane. Note thatch and slate used side by side, stone and brick and appropriate small windows.

6.16 Any maintenance or rebuilding must be in traditional materials in the older buildings. Wooden doors and windows must not be replaced with modern plastic equivalents which are plainly different to the original. Sympathetic restoration should be the considered option. Any new development should incorporate a mix of finishes to reflect the mixture found in the original buildings. Stone should be as locally sourced as possible and must be of a similar colour to the majority of existing Moulton stone. New architecture (whether new build or extensions and alterations to existing buildings) shall reflect the style and characteristics of the traditional and historic buildings in Moulton. The older styles, sizes and types shall act as the reference points for new buildings. Historical and vernacular detailing must be considered in all new builds, extensions alterations whilst avoiding any form of pastiche.

6.17 If there are several new buildings on one development, variation in materials for roofs and walls shall be incorporated and special attention paid to the need for enclosure. The overall design must not be repetitive in nature.

6.18 Off Road Vehicle management

The off road management of vehicles in relation to the street scene and to individual properties must be considered. The provision of garages for vehicles does not reflect current life styles as very rarely nowadays are vehicles parked in garages which are generally used as external stores. Vehicles are normally parked on hard standing or often on the village streets.

6.19 Parking for vehicles must be provided within the curtilage of the site of any new dwelling and weight given to its impact on the design of the building and the streetscape ensuring that vehicles do not dominate the streetscene. This provision should be additional to any garaging. An allowance of two cars per dwelling should be considered the norm.

6.20 Waste bin and Recycling container storage

Kerbside collections under modern waste management systems require several bins and boxes to be stored at each dwelling

6.21 secure provision screening from the street should be made for kerbside collection bins.

7. Character of the Highways

7.1 There are six roads leading into and out of the village differing greatly in nature. To the north and west the three leading to neighbouring villages of Holcot, Pitsford and Boughton are typical unkerbed country lanes with grass verges, trees and hedges. To the south is a kerbed minor distributor road connecting to Northampton, with a complete footpath on one side and a partial one on the other. To the east are two kerbed minor distributor roads with footpaths on both sides which connect to the A43. The A43 is a busy principle road linking Northampton to Kettering and a section of about one mile forms the southern boundary of the parish some being kerbed and paved, some grass verged.

7.2 The village centre has a figure-of-eight configuration incorporating High Street, Stocks Hill, Church Street and Chater Street. These are narrow roads, several with raised footpaths supported by brick retaining walls, necessitated by the depressed carriageway, which are a particular feature of the old village centre and an important element of its character. With the exception of Cross Street, all of the figure-of-eight roads are part of a one way system which was introduced to avoid conflicts in the narrow sections.

7.3 The village centre at the top of Stocks Hill is an open block-paved triangle, raised and originally defined as a give-and-take area giving traffic and pedestrians equal priority. Bounded by several shops, a public house and a car repair and servicing garage, virtually all of the north-south and east-west traffic passes through here, making it a very busy section of road that becomes very congested during the morning and evening peaks.



7.1: Unkerbed approach to Moulton, Boughton Road



7.6: Timber post and rail fencing at The Grove

7.4 Two separate traffic calming schemes have introduced a number of features into the village road system, the latter under the auspices of a ‘Safer Routes to School’ scheme. The most significant of these measures being a 20mph zone covering the centre and west side of the village over about 60% of the residential area. Despite the incorporation of this restricted zone the speed and volume of traffic in the village still remains too high and is of great concern to many residents. Following a Northamptonshire Police speed and volume survey (2008), the 20mph zone, which was initially to be self enforcing, duly convinced the Police of the need for enforcement.

An access-only vehicle weight limit of 7.5 tonnes exists through the village and despite being clearly signed on all approach roads is regularly flouted. This is especially true since the advent of satellite navigation and now articulated lorries and other heavy goods vehicles pass through the village centre on a daily basis.

Enforcement of traffic regulations is occasionally carried out by the Police. Speed checks are made using either portable radar guns or mobile speed camera vans and serve as little deterrent. With the increasing problems surrounding student parking, officers regularly ticket vehicles committing offences or leave warning cards, but with the coming de-criminalisation of parking offences the future of such enforcement is unclear.

7.5 West Street, Cross Street, Church Hill, Pitsford Road and Overstone Road have very narrow sections where the footpaths are barely wide enough to walk safely. These are all regularly used by children and students walking to the schools and college. Due to the narrowness of the paths and the often very shallow kerbs, there have been several incidents of people being struck by wing mirrors and also near misses to pedestrians when wider vehicles(such as school buses) attempt to pass in opposite directions and mount the pavement.

7.6 Traffic speeds on some of the roads approaching Moulton are very high and this is especially true of the long straight approaches of Holcot Road and Boughton Road. Where Holcot Road meets The Grove, short sections of timber post and rail fencing were placed on the verge near the 30mph restriction signs as part of the ‘Safer Routes to School’ scheme, but seem to have made no difference, as residents still complain of the dangerously high speeds.

7.7 On-street parking in the village centre is limited due to the narrowness of some of the roadways. This was slightly alleviated when the introduction of the one-way system allowed some spaces for on-road parking in High Street, Chater Street and Church Street (approximately 20 cars) Random/path parking on Stocks Hill has increased due to retailers’ extended opening hours and a cash point machine.

With the ever increasing on-road student daytime parking within the vicinity of the secondary school and college, traffic flow was so compromised that much of the area now has yellow line parking restrictions (Pound Lane, West Street, Boughton Road), which has partly addressed the problem. But now, Carey Close and Arnsby Crescent (residential areas) suffer increasing daytime parking issues from students’ vehicles.

Off-road parking is provided by some of the retailers and public houses in the village centre and in addition the Parish Council has provided a block-paved area for 4 cars at the southern end of Barlow Lane and a further area at the northern end has been laid with crushed stone to allow for the parking of about another 15 cars. It is hoped that since the recent tarmac surface upgrade to Barlow Lane the use of these spaces will be maximised. To summarise, parking space is always at a premium and the demand is even greater during village events.



7.9: Cast iron bench throughout village

7.8 Within the village core there are several pedestrian-only footways, which provide useful short-cuts and safe access to recreation areas and houses. The wider parish has many Public Footpaths, Bridleways and Permitted Paths.

These paths are generally well maintained and signposted. Those that cross Crow Fields are particularly well used by dog walkers and are regularly cut by the Parish Council.

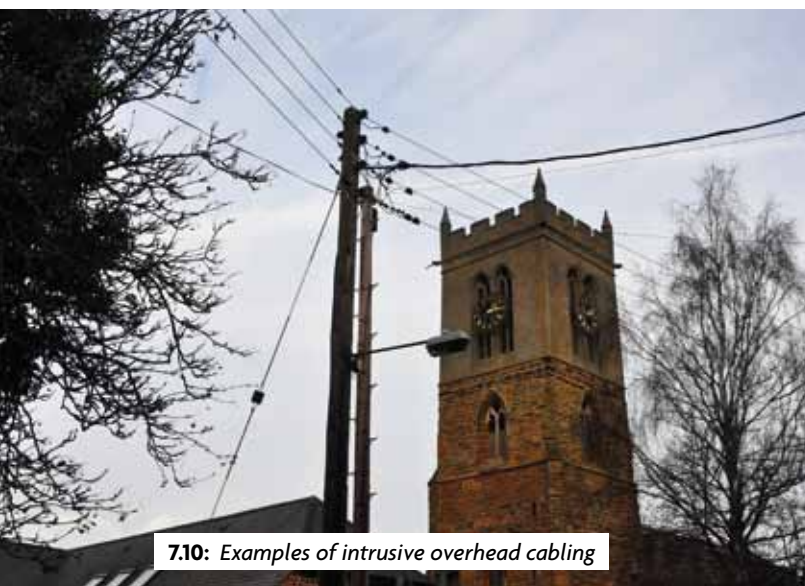
The grass verges within the village confines are regularly maintained and cut by the Parish Council.

7.9 In the village centre the raised paths are a particular feature. Surrounding street furniture such as the modern style sheet metal direction and warning signs and urban style street lighting columns (mostly metal,

some concrete) detract from the village character, especially where they are clustered at some junctions. Also the sodium lighting itself is harsh and pervasive.

However, some effort has recently been made with sympathetic cast iron benches and litter bins replacing urban style steel and plastic in dark colours to blend with the surroundings. Stocks Hill has also received particular attention in recent years, with the careful placement of granite planters and oak posts, a traditional carved village sign with iron railings, stocks, oak notice boards and planted shrub beds.

7.10 Power and telecommunications cables are typically routed both underground and overhead. The posts and overhead cabling are out of keeping with village character and are visually intrusive.



7.10: Examples of intrusive overhead cabling



8.1 The un-kerbed country lane approaches to the village on the north and west sides are important rural features. Any proposals in the future for development with entrances along these approaches should take into account traffic speed and visibility. Just as importantly the use of kerbing should be avoided, in order to maintain the rural character of these lanes.

8.2 There is grave concern that the level of traffic within the village at peak periods during term time has become unacceptable and that no further expansion of the various educational establishments should be allowed until the road system is improved to relieve the village roads.

Peak time traffic has reached critical mass due to the huge road traffic generated by a catchment secondary school (1,400+ pupils) a primary school (400+ pupils) and Moulton College (10,000+ student roll).

Continued expansion of Moulton College and the increasing number of approved and proposed residential developments only serve to exacerbate the problem and subsequently are having a major adverse impact. Gridlock occurs at weekday peak times in the village centre.

Due to successive cutbacks in the road programme, the dualing of the A43 has not taken place, nor has any progress been made on the Northampton Northern Bypass. The A43 becomes excessively congested during peak times which results in drivers diverting off the main road and passing through the centre of Moulton. Similarly traffic coming from other directions is generated by the college and schools, plus further vehicles cutting through to the A43. The confluence of these flows leads to the gridlock at peak times. Much of this problem would be obviated by a northern bypass of Northampton.

It is vital that any future development should not result in further traffic and if necessary that new routes be provided by developers to keep potential traffic away from the village.

8.3 There is a desire from many residents to have the whole village covered by a 20mph speed limit suitably enforced. However, it is hoped that this could be a limit not a zone. Every effort should be made to provide safer routes for pedestrians and cyclists. The police survey has proved the traffic calming features of the existing zone to be ineffective. If the calming measures could more effectively in actually bringing down the speed of traffic to 20mph, then walking and cycling would be safer and could then be encouraged, thus allowing the 'Safer Routes to School' scheme to be extended and perhaps reduce the dependence on car transport for school children.

Signage of the 7.5 tonne vehicle weight limit (access only) should be improved on village approaches.

8.4 Street furniture is generally unsympathetic to the village feel and continued efforts should be made to avoid urbanisation. Where new or replacement street furniture is justified the use of natural materials and suitably styled items should be made. The Parish Council has made a start in this regard with a programme of sympathetic replacement iron benches and litter bins and the placing of stone planters and oak bollards on Stocks Hill. Also the distinctive bull-nosed red brick edging to the raised footpaths should be maintained.

Street lighting should be of a type suitable for a rural environment. It should avoid the use of urban style lamp standards and white lighting should be used rather than sodium. Upward light projection should be avoided.

8.5 Every opportunity should be sought to place existing intrusive overhead utility cables underground (both for new development and replacement) especially in the conservation area to avoid adverse visual impact.

8.6 Any additional traffic control methods should be sympathetic to village character. The provision of properly designed 'gateways' is required at all the entrances to the village in order to reduce the high approach speeds. Such gateways may involve some re-alignment of the carriageway, careful narrowing and be created from suitable local materials such as timber and stone. They might incorporate suitable planting and advance warning of the speed limit with countdown signs for example. They should indicate to drivers that they are approaching a residential area and should achieve an appropriate reduction in traffic speeds.

8.7 It is important that all existing footpaths and Rights of Way should be preserved and maintained for the benefit of residents and new ones sought and added wherever possible.

9 Village Design Statement (VDS) – COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

In 1999 the VDS project was initiated by approx. 20 local people from various village organizations including MEG and PC.

Sept 2009 – information gathered from this previous work, and a Document was formulated and submitted to DDC for initial response and guidance.

May 2011 detailed response returned from DDC.

Nov/Dec 2011 – Document was broken down into 6 key parts including Landscape, Buildings and Highways for individual Councillors to action.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION ACTION:

Dec 2011 – Notification of need/intention for VDS in **Moulton Scene** – and reiterate the importance of community interest/feedback/input. Include feedback questionnaire.

Ideally, feedback in by end Jan 2012, either through Questionnaire, Parish Clerk, E-Mail, Moulton Library or on Website. Prize entry, for all feedback, to encourage a response (*Meal for 2 at The Telegraph – TBC*).

To be included in Moulton Scene – an invitation to attend a **Public Meeting Jan 14th 10am-2pm** in VH to be addressed by PC and DDC –concept of producing

VDS, to inform and again request feedback.

Public notice placed in local press (Down Your Way), fliers to local organizations/businesses and parents via School children/book bags to remind of Public Meeting.

All of the above to be duplicated on **Parish website with the draft document**.

All original members of Steering Group to receive individual letters informing them of progress made, action plan including invite to Public Meeting, and a thank you for their contribution to the project.

Jan 14th, 2012 – Hold the public meeting – final opportunity to encourage feedback on qualities and characteristics that people value.

We invite you to comment on the first draft of VDS by end JAN 2012

Local press release repeated for final comments views.

Feb/March 2012 – Final draft, incorporating villagers' comments, given final perusal by design group and then submitted to DDC.

By April 2012 – Final Draft document to have been revised incorporating relevant villagers responses and submitted to DDC. Outlined at Annual Parish Meeting. Display for public to view.

Maps and drawings



For further information please
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