

# Meriden Parish Council

is now interactive

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# Meriden Parish Council

Meeting to discuss carrying out a  
**Community Appraisal**

# Meriden Parish 2001 Census

➤ All people	2734
➤ Males	1325
➤ Females	1409
➤ Aged 0 – 4	120
➤ Aged 5 – 15	335
➤ Aged 16 – 24	181
➤ Aged 25 – 44	724
➤ Aged 45 – 64	771
➤ Aged 65 – 74	330
➤ Aged 75 and over	273

# What is an Appraisal?

- A review carried out *by local people* of all aspects of their community:
  - its assets and strengths
  - its deficiencies, problems and needs
  - and future challenges

# Why do an Appraisal?

- It is the first step in enabling local people to shape the future of our village and community
- It identifies the issues that people care about and action they want to see taken
- It provides evidence of community support and local need to help in attracting funding for future local action
- It helps influence decision-makers

# and more reasons.....

- Doing it strengthens our community, engaging more people in the life of the village
- It is a crucial step towards producing an action plan for our community- the Parish Plan
- Government is encouraging the “handing down” of powers and assets to local communities that can demonstrate they know what they want.

# Tried and tested?

- Yes – a lot of experience across the country, including nearby villages
- Measurable benefits to these communities
- Better relationships with their local councils and other public service providers
- We can use their best practice
- ***Meriden needs to catch up!***

# An Appraisal – the stages

## ➤ Stage 1: *What are the facts and issues?*

- What are the relevant facts about Meriden?
- What do people like about Meriden and what are the issues of concern?
  - Household questionnaire
  - Workshops with various sections of the community (young people, older people etc)
  - Meetings with business, community, public service and other organisations (for example young farmers group, Rotary, churches, the school, the surgery etc)

# An Appraisal – the stages

- **Stage 2: *What should be our objectives and priorities?***
  - What should Meriden be like in the future?
  - What should our priorities be for improving life in Meriden? – Short, medium and long term?
- **Stage 3: *A Meriden Parish Plan***
  - A detailed Action Plan
  - Winning support and commitment
  - A basis for influencing decision-makers
  - A basis to ensure **OUR** needs are recognised and built into Local Area Agreements

# Who will undertake the work?

- Ourselves – the local community
- As many people as possible:
  - those who are willing to distribute and collect questionnaires
  - those who are willing to engage their organisation, their friends and neighbours
  - those with particular specialist skills and knowledge

# Getting started

- Volunteer tonight – sign the form on the clip board
- **The first planning meeting  
Monday 8 October 7.30pm in  
the village hall.**