



The Cotesbach Parish Plan



The
Countryside
Agency



Index

Section	Page
Introduction	4
Village of Cotesbach	7
Information of Those Surveyed	9
Housing and Village Development	11
Local Retail Outlets	15
The Environment	17
Why People Chose to Live in Cotesbach	19
Education	23
Leisure Activities	27
Cotesbach Church	31
Communications	33
Public Services	35
Community Services	39
Traffic and Transport	43
Young Persons Questionnaire	49
 Action Point Schedule	 54
 Appendix 1 – Village History	
Appendix 2 – Ordinance Survey Map of the Parish	
Appendix 3 – Summary of the Data Collected	

Key Aspects of Cotesbach



The Village Sign



The Water Pump



View from Stile near the Church

VILLAGE PLAN FOR COTESBACH, LEICESTERSHIRE

INTRODUCTION

As residents of the parish of Cotesbach we are aware that the village is facing many challenges and changes. This is nothing new. Cotesbach has an interesting history, well documented in the Domesday Book and in a pamphlet produced in 2000 by Richard T Oldham, a village resident, entitled "The Story of a Village". Further research into the origins of the village and its historical events has been completed by Peter Carter and a summary of this has been set out in Appendix 1.

In recent years more houses have been sold, there has been an increase in building developments and the social life within the village has reduced considerably. The nearby landfill operation has caused concern about high levels of litter, there have been unpleasant smells, sounds and flies, and there are concerns about danger from speeding traffic. The survey suggested that several residents were concerned about some unsightly areas around Cotesbach Hall and regretted the dereliction and then demolition of the Old Cottage on Main Street and its replacement with two high density properties.

Despite this, our survey shows that the residents of the village overwhelmingly agree that it is generally quiet and peaceful. We describe it as small and friendly and, by and large, we do not want it to change – at least only marginally and for the better.

THE PLAN

This Plan is a result of our recent survey. It is our collective view about the future of our village. We note that these views will be taken into account by local authorities in their plans for the development of the village and its environment. We consider that this is better than waiting for people of influence from outside Cotesbach to decide what happens to our village.

The process of preparing a Parish Plan for Cotesbach involved three public meetings. An estimated 93 people attended and expressed their views on the value of engaging village residents in the writing of their own plan. The process was supported by a grant of £1,505 from the Rural Community Council/County Council and £100 from Cotesbach Parish Council. A Parish Plan working group was formed.

The members of the Parish Plan Group were John McDermott, Peter Carter, Jackie Strong, Sophy Newton, John Maxey, Mel Jackson, Bernie Hedgecock, and Keith Rowe.

This team, supported by the Rural Community Council (Leicestershire and Rutland), prepared a questionnaire which was distributed to all 81 homes in the parish of Cotesbach including a specific questionnaire for all young people aged 18 and under. A village walk was arranged to encourage village

Historical Aspects of Cotesbach



St Mary's Church



The Manor House



Cotesbach Hall

residents to look closely at their own village – its assets and its negative aspects. There is an estimated village population of 220 residents including young people. 127 questionnaires were received back, 105 from adults and 22 from young people. The information they contained was collated by a temporary paid helper and this Cotesbach village plan was constructed.

The Planning Group are grateful for the help given by the Countryside Agency, Rural Community Council (Leicestershire and Rutland), Cotesbach Parish Council and the Swinford Parish Plan Group.

THE VILLAGE OF COTESBACH

The village lies on the north eastern slopes of the River Swift valley, one mile south of the town of Lutterworth in South Leicestershire, and is at an average elevation of 120-140 metres above sea level. Its position affords views over open countryside either side of the river's course as it flows south towards the River Avon and eventually the River Severn. It lies along the original route of the A426 Leicester to Rugby road having been by-passed in the early 1950's. Originally this was the main coaching highway from London to Chester via Daventry and Lutterworth. It is also bounded by the Watling Street (A5) to the south west and by the Motorway (M1) in the east...

Cotesbach is a compact village consisting of one street, known as Main Street, and a small private cul-de-sac called The Precinct. The ancient heart of the village centres on three principal historic buildings, at the northern end of Main Street. These are the village church dedicated to St Mary of 14th Century origins, The Manor House built in 1620 and Cotesbach Hall built in 1700 on the site of an earlier Elizabethan property. The remainder of the village dwellings date from early Victorian times to the present day.

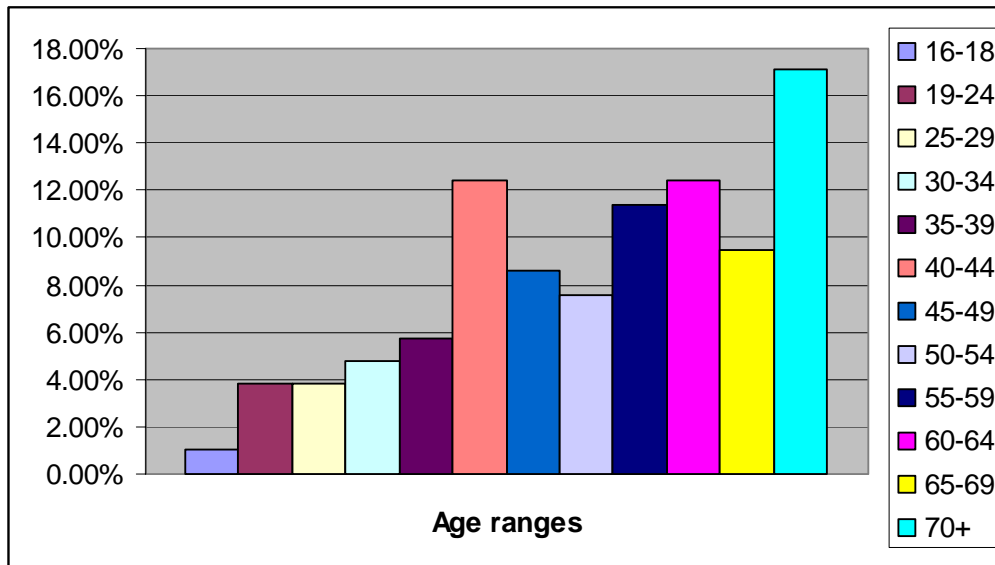
There are currently 4 dwelling houses under construction and planning applications pending on 2 parcels of land. Almost all of the houses are now owner/occupied with a good mix of residents from young couples, families with varying ages of children, and retired persons.

The village is situated in a classic English Midlands landscape of mixed arable and livestock farming, in fields marked by hedgerows over 400 years old. There are presently 2 working farms in the village and 3 outside the main area of occupation. There is a large area of land within the village envelope, at the boundary with Shawell parish, which is being quarried for sand and gravel extraction by Lafarge Aggregates.

An Ordinance Survey map of the parish is attached as Appendix 2.

INFORMATION ABOUT THOSE SURVEYED

The questionnaires could be answered by individuals or one questionnaire could be submitted on behalf of the household. Of the 105 who responded, 81% did so as individuals and 19% on behalf of their household. The gender of respondents was 50% male and 50% female. Reflected in the chart below is the age range of adult respondents.



The text below tries to reflect the views expressed in the returned questionnaires rather than set out the statistics revealed as a result of an analysis of the replies. Occasionally figures are used to illustrate a point but all the data supporting the text is set out in Appendix 3.

Different Types of Housing in Cotesbach



HOUSING AND VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

Most of the comments on housing matters relate to retaining the character and size of the village. Many comments indicate that any development should be in keeping with what is already here and should not go beyond the village line into fields. An overwhelming 96% of those answering this question make it clear that they do not favour high-density housing replacing a demolished single dwelling. The idea that a housing estate, however small, might be attached to the village is a concern to many people.

It would seem, therefore, that the majority of villagers would prefer to see the village retain its current character, with no more building or very restricted building within the village envelope. Only 27% of replies suggest that more housing is needed in the village. Conversely, 59% feel that no more houses are needed. When the first group were asked about the kind of development they thought might be acceptable 34% of them prefer the development of gardens (known as brown field site development). 42% prefer other site development within the village envelope and 9 % favour extending the village boundary. The comments from those who favour limited building in the village talk about “in-filling” and “sympathetic extensions”. One reply suggests the conversion of a dwelling into, or the building of, a pub. Down-sized retirement housing is mentioned as well as low-density housing suitable for first time buyers.

Village residents were asked what kind of housing was needed in the future (as opposed to how they felt about the character of the village) and whether their family in particular will need housing of this type in the near future. The response was not very conclusive with the greatest preference being for a mix of housing with, as already stated, housing for the retired and bungalows featuring significantly. Given the age profile of the village, this is not surprising.

Buying a house is an expensive business and so several questions were asked about the need for different types of occupancy of houses in the village other than owner occupier. The results of that survey are set out in the data files in Appendix 3

It was suggested that, to help with identifying the village line, the actual village boundary as set out in the local Structure Plan needs to be clearly defined. Also, old properties should be renovated before new ones are built and, if rented out, should be kept in good condition. Where new build or renovation takes place environmentally friendly buildings should be considered. The village has a long and illustrious history, some of which is reflected in the oldest buildings. Where houses are demolished this needs to be remembered and the past treated with respect.

Action Points:

- The Parish Council to establish with the District Council the precise position of the village boundary and place a map on the village notice board.
- The Parish Council to note the majority comments of the village residents and write to the District Council appropriately, on the basis of the comments in this village survey, when planning permission is requested for an extension, a demolition or a new build.

Retail Outlets



The Garden Barn



The Naturally Good Food Shop



Previous Location of the Post Office

LOCAL RETAIL OUTLETS

A more commercial side to village life with the development of more retail outlets is favoured by only a third of those surveyed. There are two retail outlets currently available in Cotesbach. There is a long established farm shop at Town End Farm run by the Prosser family. This has recently developed into the "Garden Barn" which sells home and garden gifts, artworks, plants and artefacts from around the world. Unfortunately this was not included in the questionnaire. It is believed to be popular with many villagers.

The "Naturally Good Food" shop in the stable yard of Cotesbach Hall is a small. Family run business offering good food with an emphasis on freshness and quality, sourced locally where possible. They sell fresh organic vegetables grown in the grounds of Cotesbach Hall. Two thirds of the respondents use it occasionally or often. It is also a place where young people can buy ice creams and drinks. This shop is the first commercial development in the village for some time and it is worth noting that it has prompted many more positive than negative comments in the survey. One respondent suggests that a tearoom in/around the organic food shop would be welcome

The nearby petrol filling station at the junction of the A426 and on the A5 at the Gibbett Cross roundabout is the most popular venue for fuel and its' small range of convenience items.

Since Lutterworth is 2 miles from Cotesbach it is not surprising that everybody reports it to be the location where they do most of their shopping. Rugby (5 miles) attracts virtually all respondents which far outweighs Leicester (17 miles) with 63% of respondents, ahead of Market Harborough (14 miles) with 49%. 10% of respondents use Internet shopping.

There is great interest in having a Post Office with 32% of those surveyed indicating they would use it each week and an additional 45% once a month or more often. A part-time Post Office offering a very limited service did exist until February 2000 when the sub-postmistress retired. At the time the opportunity to operate a post office was offered to people in the village but no one wished to take on the role. 16% of respondents reported they would use a taxi service once a week or once a month.

Action points:

- The Parish Council to investigate with the Post Office if a service is possible either resident or visiting. It should be noted that staff at Lutterworth Post Office have indicated a willingness to operate a part-time service.
- The Parish Council to ensure Community Link Bus and other community transport facilities contact numbers are displayed and promoted in the village.

Positive Environmental Aspects of Cotesbach



Rural Environment



Many Old Trees Throughout the Village



Opportunities to enjoy the Countryside

THE ENVIRONMENT.

Cotesbach village and its environment are the responsibility of all residents and village visitors. The quality of our location is crucial to our well being, and we all must make every effort to protect, conserve and enhance its best features by all means at our disposal. This is critical also for the comfort and well being of future generations. Globally the natural environment is fragile and under attack, being destroyed beyond repair in some instances.

The village is surrounded by open countryside most of which is mixed farming except for an area to the south east where the Lafarge company carry out sand and gravel extraction, with subsequent landfill activities.

Cotesbach is hardly visible from the main A426 road and the countryside does penetrate into the village via the public and private open spaces such as the village pond area and the large rear gardens of many properties.

Residents were asked how they perceived a variety of environmental issues affected the quality of life in the village, and the detailed responses are set out in Appendix 3

Pollution:

Pollution is identified by 48 residents as coming from a variety of sources.

Traffic noise from low flying aircraft (4), the nearby trunk roads (M1, A5 and A426) heavy farm vehicles in the narrow Main Street and heavy goods vehicles parking up overnight and setting out early in the morning from the two lay-bys adjacent to the village. 70% of those who responded think that quieter road surfaces would help. 78% think that tree planting on the verges between the roads and the village would improve things but 89% want this to be done whilst the existing flora is maintained. One or two residents complain about noise from their neighbours (parties), crop drying machinery and farm animals but, after all, we have chosen to live in a village!

Litter complaints figure highly. Much rubbish comes from the landfill activities associated with the Lafarge gravel excavation, from waste carrying lorries not observing the law over the covering of contents and litter dropped from passing vehicles. Some of the litter comes as a result of car drivers using both ends of the village as a pull-in for a lunch stop.

High traffic speeds on the A426 feature highly in replies. There is divided opinion as to whether a reduced speed limit to 50 mph would help.

Many comment on the flies and smells coming from the Pig Farm (13). There is some strong feeling about dog fouling drawing 3 comments and anti-social bonfires result in 2 comments.

Negative comments on lighting are reserved for light pollution from Magna Park. The majority of replies say that it is good to live in a village not spoilt by

Negative Environmental Aspects of Cotesbach



Litter on the A426

High Density In-Filling
This cottage was demolished and replaced by two detached houses



Collapsed Wall at Cotesbach Hall

street lighting. A small minority feel that street lighting would improve the village.

The retention of mature trees, hedgerows, grass verges, footpaths and bridleways is strongly supported. In addition, very positive comments are made in support of the retention of the village pond, and other green areas within the village.

The village pond is popular with people in the village and acts as a focal point. The pond area was leased by the Cotesbach Estates to the Parish Council for fifty years and the Parish Council has agreed to maintain it.

Cycle paths, bridle ways, footpaths and other roads for walking and cycling are not used extensively on a daily basis but are used consistently and regularly throughout the year. Local bridle ways and footpaths were rated according to accessibility, signage and quality of maintenance and are judged, by the largest number of those answering this question, to be “adequate” in all three areas. The biggest complaint is about footpaths being overgrown particularly alongside the A426 to Lutterworth. The footpath to Lutterworth across the golf course is difficult to follow using existing signs. A definite footpath along the side of the by-pass (the A426) would enable a circular walk around the village to be undertaken in safety.

Why People Chose to Live in Cotesbach:

The reasons why people have come to live in Cotesbach are varied which would be expected of a small village in a rural setting, where there is easy access to major transport routes, shopping facilities, open countryside and tourist attractions in three neighbouring Counties. Reasons include:

“nice houses to buy and rent”;

“it is quiet and peaceful and as dark at night as one could hope for”;

“there is good access to quiet country roads for cycling”;

“it hasn’t yet been ruined”;

“ street lights”;

“it is a pleasant area/village for children to live in”;

“it is convenient for shopping in Lutterworth and for commuting to work”.

The general appearance of the village is rated as good, although some additional comments are made about potential improvements, such as: the triangle of grass at the Rugby end of the village could be made more pleasant with planting; the Cotesbach Hall Kitchen garden wall looks unsightly and is in need of repair (several comments); please undertake better grass cutting in the summer; and, cars and vans are parked in the road rather than in drives.

Sadly, when asked if they would be prepared to help with more formalised ways of keeping the village tidy and attractive less than 20% are prepared to do so although nearer 40% said that they might help (depending on what they were asked to do)

Positive Aspects of the Village



Open Views towards Lutterworth



The Village Pond



Enjoying Rural Pastimes

Other attractions appear to be absence of street lighting; seeing the stars at night; mature trees and hedges; a well maintained graveyard and good and friendly people. One commentator says, "The village is fab! Leave it alone!"

One of the negative comments highlights the poor appearance of the entrance to the village at both ends; and another, the problem of street parking and speeding traffic through the village. One reply suggests that there is no heart to the village.

Action points:

- The Parish Council to take up the noise, flies and smell concerns with the Harborough District Council Environmental Health Department with a view to regular monitoring of the situation.
- The Parish Council to raise the poor maintenance of local Bridle ways and Footpaths with the appropriate department of the Leicestershire County Council.
- Standards of grass cutting to village verges should be the subject of representations to the responsible Local Authority by the Parish Council.
- Parish Council should discuss with residents how best to enhance the entrance to each end of the village.
- The Parish Council should investigate the provision of 'dog fouling' signs and waste bins with the appropriate Local Authority.
- The Planning Group, before it disbands, to consider how to set up a permanent village self- help group to carry out local surveys of the environmental appearance of the village and champion further action where necessary.

EDUCATION

Background:

There is no playgroup, crèche or school in the village. At 4+ years young people go to one of two primary schools in Lutterworth (John Wycliffe or Sherrier Church of England – the designated catchment school), proceed to Lutterworth High School at 11 years and to Lutterworth Grammar School and Community College at 14 years. Here pupils take GCSEs at 16 years and A Levels at 18 years. The secondary schools are non-selective but the results at 16 and 18 years are better than the county average which is, itself, higher than the national average. Transport is provided to the catchment schools. Parents may exercise their preference to send their children to an alternative school. Schools in the town of Rugby are fairly close.

The Grammar School, being a Community College, runs a number of adult education and leisure classes. The Art Club meets regularly in the Village Hall. It is run by members for members and open to all. Other out reach classes from the Community College in Lutterworth use this venue occasionally. If enough people request a particular course then the Community Team at the Community College would consider putting it on in the village.

Summary of views:

One reply expresses concern that, as there is no pre-school or school in the village, why is the available education of older children seen as important as part of a Village Plan? For a family with school age children a decision to settle in the village may depend on the quality of schooling available. The survey identifies five children less than 5 years, six young people between 5 and 11 years, thirteen young people between 11 and 18 years and five young people attending higher education institutions.

The local pre-school provision – not located in the village – and covering a crèche, a parent/toddler group and a Day Nursery, is said to be good to excellent. Two replies express some interest in a more accessible parent /toddlers group and a crèche.

There is some very limited interest in holiday care for young people (up to the age of 14 years).

Two young people attend the catchment primary school and it is rated good to excellent. Five pupils attend non-catchment area primary schools and they are rated satisfactory to very good. The catchment high school is rated satisfactory to excellent (five attendees) and the Grammar School is rated good on average (nine attendees) but with a spread of views from poor to excellent.

One reply suggests that there should be more outdoor activities, particularly sporting activities, for young people in the village. The play area next to the

Trees of Cotesbach



Village Hall is used weekly by 9% of those returning questionnaires. Another 7 % use it once a month and 11% occasionally. This is probably evidence of quite high usage given that many of the households returning the questionnaire did not have children.

There is considerable interest in courses and classes being located in the Village Hall. 64% of the replies indicate that there would be interested in attending something if it were accessible in the village. Less than 14% of those who replied currently attended any sort of adult class or leisure activity either inside or outside the village. However, the Art Club is popular and there are four requests for it to continue. There are three requests each for Languages (unspecified - for beginners), Computer/IT courses, Exercise/Keep Fit and two requests each for History/Wildlife and adult basic numeracy/literacy. Also mentioned are Book-keeping, Bridge for Beginners, DIY Maintenance and Sewing/Cookery. Whether there are enough people wanting an individual subject to justify the College running a course in the village will need to be explored.

Action Points:

- The Village Hall committee to discuss with parents of young children whether a Parent and Toddler Group might meet in the Village Hall once a week. A volunteer organiser would be required.
- The Parish Council to approach the Early Years Team of the County Council to see if any form of more formal childcare could be located in the village. (NB: places for the education and childcare of pre-school children have to be located in Government specified areas to be eligible for funding)
- The Parish Council to approach the catchment area schools to determine what holiday schemes are available for young people and advertise them on the Parish Notice Board.
- The Village Hall committee to approach the Community College regarding the location of appropriate courses in the village. These may attract interest for those living outside the village to increase take-up.

Cotesbach Village Hall



Village Hall



Cotesbach Art Club



Village Event on the Play Area Next to the Village Hall

LEISURE ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING COMMUNITY EVENTS IN COTESBACH)

Cotesbach Village Hall

The Cotesbach Village Hall was opened in 1974 as a result of the thriving village life that existed at the time, it was built by the efforts of many of the residents of the village. For many years it was the focal point of many village and church activities with a thriving programme of events organised by the Village Hall Management Committee. In the past there have been barbecues, country-dances, jazz nights, wine tasting and pudding & punch evenings.

Currently, the Village Hall offers an extensive range of activities, all the planned events below are organised by groups that are largely from outside the village with possibly 10% of attendees coming from the village:

Monday am	Upholstery & soft furnishing class**
Tuesday evening	Yoga class
Wednesday am	Floral art class**
Wednesday evening	Lutterworth bridge club
Thursday am	Yoga class
Thursday evening	Art Club (3 per month) or Thursday club (1 per month)
Friday evening	Sequence dancing group
Weekend	Used for social events once a month

**Lutterworth Community College courses

Despite the above, there has been a gradual decline in activities arranged by local people at the Village Hall. Members of the Village Hall Management Committee feel that they have helped run events for many years and are disappointed that incoming younger families have not shown such an interest in organising activities.

At the meetings leading up to the Village Plan survey there were many expression of desire that more events be organised. The survey itself showed that of the 105 people who returned the questionnaire 81 report that they had attended events in the village hall or church.

When asked how often they might use the Village Hall 24% of those surveyed indicate that they would use it weekly or monthly. 61% claim that they would use it at least once a year.

The activities that caught the interest of those surveyed include theatre/film, history/heritage and environmental activities. The range of current village events such as the annual carol service, displays and concerts in church, open gardens, the village Christmas party and the harvest supper are also of interest. Cotesbach Estates hold occasional activities around Cotesbach Hall and its grounds such as open days and Dexter Cattle Society events and they are well supported but often by those from outside the village.

Around 20% of respondents make suggestions concerning possible social events. It should be noted that a few people believe that events are cliquish or unwelcoming.

A few residents indicate an interest in joining a Village Hall events team.

Action points:

- The Village Hall Committee to investigate the practicalities of a regular community newsletter updating the entire village on community issues and a programme of events in the village and at the Village Hall.
- The Parish Council to upgrade the existing notice board by the Village Hall and discuss the development of the notice board in or near the entrance to the organic produce shop in the light of comments made by adults and young people in their questionnaires.
- The Village Hall Committee to investigate opportunities to develop theatre/film, history/heritage and environmental activities focused on the Village Hall.
- The Village Hall Committee to undertake a proactive drive to create a Village Hall events team to support the current Village Hall Committee.

St Mary's Church



COTESBACH CHURCH

St Mary's Church is seen as having importance to more than half of the respondents for worship and religious ceremonies. It has very wide support as being a historic focal point within the village.

RELIGION

St Mary's Parish Church is seen as having importance within the village by more than half the respondents, for worship, baptism, weddings and funerals. It has widespread support as an historic building and a focal point that adds character to the heart of the village. There is support for its use as a centre for concerts, community events/displays and as a meeting place other than for worship, with a 10% response in favour of providing a Sunday School or Youth Group as in the past.

The clock in the tower, which was dedicated in 1921 as the village memorial to The Great War, is considered a benefit and is missed if out of commission at any time.

In response to the question on Faith, replies were received from 50% of the respondents. They broke down as 30% Christian, 15% non-committed and 15% with no religious belief.

PARISH COUNCIL

It is interesting to note that 70% of respondents know where the Parish Council meets and 70% know a Parish Councillor, but only 21% knew when the meetings are held and only 28% had attended a Parish Council meeting.

Action points:

The Parish Council to be conscious of the need to publicise meetings and keep village residents informed of important decisions which affect village life.

Village Notice Boards



The Village Notice Board on the Playing Field next to the Village Hall



Informal Notice Board in the “Naturally Good Food” shop.

COMMUNICATION

User friendly and inclusive communication is seen as being an important aspect of community cohesion as is demonstrated by the number of responses to the communication related questions.

85% of those returning questionnaires have a personal computer at home and 75% of these are used by young people as well.

Connection to the Internet is split - 44% have a Broadband connection whilst 56% use a dial up connection. Those responding do not feel that the provision of community computer and Internet access in the village would be of benefit or be used sufficiently to justify pursuing the issue. In addition, large numbers of residents have access to a computer and the Internet at their place of work or elsewhere. From the responses to this batch of questions it would seem that residents are satisfied with their present means of electronic communication.

The survey shows a positive response to the provision of a parish/community newsletter to be produced in Cotesbach, by residents, because this is seen as a more personal approach to communication providing a sense of being part of a community. Most of the village residents say that they gain local information from flyers/leaflet drops/mail shots and village notice boards as well as word of mouth.

Around 30% of those surveyed use the notice board that is located near the Village Hall. There is a second notice board in the entrance to the organic produce shop although its existence does not appear to be widely known.

Several people suggest that a list of house names would be useful when delivery drivers are trying to find a house. [Please note that family names would not be included.] Such a list could be displayed on the two notice boards.

The use and accessibility of village notice boards is of interest to young people too. This is covered in the summary of the responses by young people.

Action points:

- The Parish Council to discuss with the County Council (and maybe the local Grammar School) the potential for the provision of electronic communication for the small number of people without IT as they are at a risk of being disadvantaged. A photocopying and faxing facility could be added to ensure all residents have local access to contemporary facilities
- The Parish Council to consider canvassing consent for a list of house names to be included on the notice boards

Environmental Concerns



The Triangle at the Entrance to the Village From Rugby



Litter on the A426



Overgrown Verges on the A426

PUBLIC SERVICES

The survey throws up concerns about road surfaces, drain cleaning, pavements, street cleaning, TV reception, waste collection, mobile phone reception, and water supply/quality.

More than 70% of those surveyed were not satisfied with the grass mowing service. This is presumed to refer particularly to the triangle as people approach from the direction of Rugby, and the entrance from Lutterworth, which is very overgrown.

The most unsightly aspect of our verges is the grass on the verge of the A426, which is heavily litter strewn particularly from landfill vehicles. On the occasions it is mown all the litter is chopped into small pieces and becomes an even worse eye sore until the grass is overgrown. The trees and bushes along the A426 are often strewn with unsightly plastic.

There is a range of views on whether the village should be made more aesthetically pleasing or leave it to be unspoilt and natural

It is possible that a more pleasing environment on the A426 may result in more considerate and safe driving through the village and along the Cotesbach by-pass.

Whilst there is an enthusiasm for litter-picks we have been advised that to do so along the A426 is dangerous and should be left to the responsible local authority.

Public Services Desired in the Future:

A post office and more local policing are the services most desired by respondents followed by litter and dog waste bins.

A mains gas supply is sought also by 60% of respondents; with an indication that 20% of the respondents were prepared to pay for such a service.

As pointed out elsewhere, the majority of residents do not want street lighting or a reduction of the 60 mph speed limit on the A426.

Action points:

- The Parish Council to establish and monitor an agreed regular programme of work with the local authorities for removal of litter, and mowing of grass.
- The Parish Council to seek a village view on possibly improving the appearance of the village.
- The Parish Council to make themselves aware of opportunities for funding from the landfill operators to implement the recommendations in this Plan and especially the appearance of the village along the A426.

- The Parish Council to seek clarification from the County Council and gas suppliers when mains gas supply may be available within Cotesbach.

Cotesbach Neighbourhood Watch



COMMUNITY SAFETY.

The survey in this section began by asking residents if they felt safe in Cotesbach. The great majority of residents, well over 90%, feel safe in Cotesbach during the day and the evening, either in the village or in their own home. The largest number who do have some concerns are the 15% who expressed a slight worry about their safety in the evening in the village.

In answer to the question of co-operation with a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme of the 105 respondents 94 answered this question and 48% say that they do wish to be part of such a scheme. 31% say they require more information however, 21% say that they do not wish to co-operate. Since the questionnaire a Scheme has been developed and 100% of village residents are receiving information from the 9 village co-ordinators. The outlying properties are also included.

When asked whether residents' are concerned about unsolicited callers from outside the village 95 out of 105 replied. Slightly more are concerned than are not.

The responses to concerns about speeding vehicles, litter, burglary/theft, anti-social behaviour, vandalism, car crime, graffiti, and drug abuse can be found in Appendix 3.

When asked for general comments about security, policing and social matters in Cotesbach the biggest batch of comments concerned policing arrangements for the village. Residents seek a better police presence on the A426 and would like to see the occasional beat policeman in the village (several comments). The next largest concern was about the behaviour of young people who have disturbed events in the Village Hall in the past and do not respond to reasonable requests. It is suggested that the play area for young people needs to be larger. Some vehicles exceed the 30mph speed limit in the village, particularly delivery vehicles. A minority of respondents expressed concern about the negative aspects of the lack of street lighting

Two very positive comments reflect the positive aspects of life in Cotesbach:

"I feel that Cotesbach is wonderfully sheltered from everything lets keep it that way.

Think we are lucky in Cotesbach with very few problems compared to larger villages."

"I always feel comfortable in Cotesbach with good neighbours who watch out for each other."

People with Disabilities:

Of those responding there were 10 instances of people reporting that they were Registered Disabled and/or Registered Blind or Partially Sighted, or Restricted by Mobility problems. Note there may be some double counting.

This represents a significant number of vulnerable people within the Cotesbach community who are not obvious to the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Emergency Services:

Seven respondents report that they have used the police service over the last two years and rated the service poor or very poor, they represent 28% of the people who claim to have used this service. The ambulance service is rated poor or very poor by two respondents representing 12% of those who claim to have used the service.

Action Points:

- Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators to be aware of all people in their group with declared disabilities that may wish for Neighbourhood Watch and other neighbourly support.
- The Parish Council to raise with the local police authority the reported concerns about poor service and levels of burglary, car and caravan theft.

Road Safety Concerns 1



Traffic Entering at High Speed from Rugby Pose a Danger to Pedestrians



Parked Cars Obscure Sight Lines on Corners



High Speed Overtaking on the Chevroned Area from Lutterworth Poses a Serious Danger to Those Entering the Village

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

So many respondents to the questionnaire raise the issue of transport and traffic problems that a separate section is set out here to highlight the issues.

The A426 is a busy main road between Rugby and Lutterworth. From the M6 it crosses the A5 offering few passing places until it approaches Cotesbach. The by-pass that was built to avoid passing through Cotesbach is a straight of approximately 0.5 mile long which is a popular place to overtake. This is particularly the case for those drivers who are using it as a “rat-run” between the M6 and the M1 who presumably have been travelling at at least 70mph. Noise from the A426 was noted as a problem by some people.

Vehicles coming into Cotesbach from the Rugby direction have to, or should be, slowing down. This can at times be difficult with speeding motorists positioning themselves to overtake on the “Cotesbach Straight”.

Vehicles approaching Cotesbach from Lutterworth have a painted chevroned area to pull over onto a “ghost island” but risk great danger from people seeking to carelessly overtake them on the right or racing past them on the left to then overtake other vehicles on the “Straight”. If this were not enough when approaching from this direction there is an additional threat of on-coming traffic not noticing them whilst they attempt a last-ditch overtaking manoeuvre before they are once more restricted to few overtaking opportunities on the road to Lutterworth and the M1. For the sake of the village the residents must not accept “There is not a problem”, as there is a real danger; it is fortunate that there have not been recent fatalities to prove it is a problem.

Not surprisingly almost half (48%) of those surveyed cite speeding on the A426 as a problem. The Village Plan committee believes that had a question been phrased to cover entry into the village the concerns would have been even greater.

Within the village a serious problem exists with speeding on Main Street, which is the road that winds through the village. 43% of those surveyed report it to be a problem. A significant number of young people use Main Street as a play area, and the school buses collect and drop off along it, resulting in young people having to cross the road at various points. It is fortunate there have been no fatalities.

A small number of respondents (8%) report parking to be a problem along Main Street. In the various meetings as part of the development of the Cotesbach Village Plan it was commonly highlighted as a problem. Starting 50 yards before the entry to The Precinct until the Village Hall the road forms a virtual semi-circle that has many cars parked on it. The road during this time gradually climbs then falls resulting in very poor sight lines.

Road Safety Concerns 2



Entering the Village From Rugby



Entering from Lutterworth with the Chevroned "Ghost Island".



The "Cotesbach Straight"

It should be noted that the majority of drivers and people who park are residents of Cotesbach. In such a small community it should be possible to manage much of this problem amicably amongst residents.

Relieving Traffic Problems:

The two questions concerning traffic generate 70 comments and suggestions, clearly it is of great concern to the village.

Radar speed cameras on the A426 are requested by several respondents, as are bollards and more lighting at the Lutterworth entry to restrict dangerous driving. Perhaps more awareness that drivers are approaching a village would slow the traffic.

As people enter the village from the direction of Rugby they are often travelling quickly and as they go by the grassed triangle the roadway into the village is narrow and dangerous for pedestrians and dog-walkers going past Town End Farm up the gated road.

For Main Street the most popular suggestion is a "Drive Slowly Through the Village" sign with 61% of those surveyed nominating it. Illuminated '30 MPH' signs and better road markings are also very popular, as is the use of mobile speed monitoring.

Street lighting is suggested by 25% of those surveyed as a means of relieving traffic problems but it should be noted that the majority prefers no street lighting.

Action Already Taken:

In 2005 the Parish Council asked the County Highways Department to undertake a speed survey of the A426 at both ends of the village. The speeds recorded were mostly just over the limit with the odd exceptional fast car. The outcome of this survey led to no action being taken as the Highways Department determine their priorities in relation to serious accidents that have already happened. It would seem that Cotesbach needs a serious accident to prompt them into action!

However, around £10,000 is available to the village from the Magna Park development. It would be possible to use £5,000 of this fund to pay the Highways Department to undertake additional signage (costing an additional £1,500) and road markings. This would leave around £3,500 for tree planting, footpath extension or any other amenity enhancement schemes.

Public Transport:

Currently there is a bus service through Cotesbach that provides a two hourly service six days a week to Rugby and Leicester this is popular with those who use it. However the service ends around 17.00hrs.

Of the people responding to the survey 7% use the bus service daily or weekly with a further 5% using it monthly. Around 10% indicate they would use it occasionally.

A significant number of respondents suggest how the service could be improved. The most popular improvements were improved frequency, bus direct to Fosse Park, a subsidised service, a later bus and a different route.

The Lutterworth Volunteer Bureau (telephone number: 555570) provides free transport through the Community Link Bus and social car schemes. The service is available any day dependent on demand. A couple of days notice is normally required.

Action points:

- The Parish Council, aided by the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators to promote the need for residents to drive more slowly through the village.
- The Parish Council to raise concerns with the County Council Highways Department about the danger of leaving the A426 to enter Cotesbach and ask them to consider illuminated "Drive Slowly" signs on the entry into the village.
- The Parish Council to review cost effective means of improving signage and road markings
- The Parish Council, as part of the above, to canvass opinion concerning the most popular use of the £10,000 allocated to the village from the Magna Park grant.

Facilities for Young People



The Playing Area Next to the Village Hall

Childrens Groups Meet in the Village Hall and St Mary's Church



The Millenium Collage Hanging in the Church. It was prepared by the young people of Cotesbach

YOUNG PERSONS' QUESTIONNAIRE

The main questionnaire was supported by a specially devised questionnaire for the young people, those under 18 years, living in the village. These young people are part of the village, their views are valued and they bring a refreshing look to aspects of village life. Participating in the development of the Village Plan will give many of the young people the first opportunity to take part in a democratic process.

Twenty young people filled in this questionnaire. Twelve of them attended catchment area schools, seven of them attended out of catchment schools and one attended a Further Education College. 59% travelled to their schools by school bus and 48% by private car. None used a service bus.

Collectively, they liked the village because it was quiet, peaceful, small, unpolluted, friendly and away from busy roads and traffic. It is close also to places of interest and it is easy to reach them. Special mention was made of the pond, horses, local wildlife, the football pitch, the "polite people" and the places where you can ride your bike in safety. Playing with friends was also mentioned as a positive aspect of village life.

Two thirds of the young people undertake sports and leisure activities outside the village, split almost entirely between Lutterworth and Rugby. They were asked about their interest in specific sports and whether they engaged in activities at the moment (outside the village, of course, as there are no formal sporting activities for young people organised within the village). Not all of those who replied filled in a comment about every sport but the results expressed by those who did will be found in Appendix 3.

Those who were not participating in such activities said that this was because of cost (25%), the difficulty of transport (33%), the unavailability of clubs locally (33%) or they didn't want to. In one case, it was because there were no clubs offering this activity in the whole of Leicestershire. 53% used the green play area next to the Village Hall in Cotesbach but 71% said that the village needed more play equipment.

The questionnaire offered other leisure activities and asked whether young people would be interested. Their replies are set out in Appendix 3. The most favoured activities are a Christmas Party, touring films, BBQs and a Youth Club.

Two other comments are worth noting. It was suggested that many of the above activities village youngsters do already outside the village and they are unlikely to give that up for any "Cotesbach version". One heartfelt comment said, there should be more days of fun and meetings at the Village Hall".

When asked to say where they met their friends the majority did so either at school or in each other's houses. Public places were mentioned (unspecified) in Lutterworth and Rugby in about equal numbers. Specific places in the

Facilities for Young People



Open Access to the Countryside

Seating on the Play Area
next to the Village Hall



View from Stile near the Church

village mentioned were the pond, the green and the Village Hall. The church was not popular as a meeting place.

When young people attended leisure activities outside the village by far the most regular transport used was the family car. One young person used the service bus to meet friends, two for other social activities and three for shopping. When asked about the bus service 15% felt an earlier bus would be helpful, 53% felt a later bus would be helpful, 53% voted for different routes and 76% wanted a more frequent bus service. Very few young people would use a late night bus service. Some important comments to note were: "I cannot get to Swinford or Shawell and there is no bus to the station"

"The bus service is unreliable – you cannot be sure that it is going to be on time, if at all"

"There should be a safe cycleway from Cotesbach to Lutterworth"

One respondent pointed out the potential danger of travelling alone if you are a young person, explaining this as the reason why his/her journeys were made by family car.

When asked where they got information about activities from most replies indicated friends, family and school but a surprising number (53%) indicated that they used the village notice board and, unsurprisingly, many used the internet (53%). Other sources of information were local newspapers and door dropped leaflets. There were a number of suggestions as to how information might better reach young people. A revamped and trendy village notice board or a special one (or part of one) for young people or a young person's insert into the Swift Flash were mentioned. Most young people knew where to get information about bullying (78%), dietary needs (67%), family problems (83%), careers advice (57%) and health issues (78%).

By far the most important question asked young people if they felt safe in Cotesbach. 94% felt safe in daylight with the remainder being only slightly worried. 65% felt safe in the evening but some of the others did not feel safe at all. They did not say why.

Lastly the young people were asked for general comments about the village. These included removing nettles from rights of way, more activities for teens, street lights (several comments), modernising the village (unspecific), a pub and more buses. Three interesting comments were:

"Lutterworth is so close that not many activities are needed in Cotesbach."

"It is good that not much trouble is caused in the village [by young people]."

"I think that only people who own property should have a say about what goes on in the village"

We should thank our young people for taking so much trouble to complete the questionnaire and making such comprehensive and positive comments.

Action points:

These must be placed in the context of the fact that the necessary rules in relation to Child Protection make it very difficult for volunteers to set up casual activities for young people.

- The Parish Council to look at the possibility of establishing a tennis court, doubling as a basketball court, primarily for the use of young people somewhere in Cotesbach.
- The Village Hall committee to co-opt a young person to discuss Village Hall activities to attract the youth of the village to use the facility, possibly dedicating one night a fortnight specifically to these events. E.g. contacting the County Council's Museums and Leisure Services about the possibility of travelling films; organising a young person's Christmas Party and/or BBQ.
- The Parish Council to link the comments made about the bus service to those made by the adults in the village.
- The Parish Council to look at the notice board through the eyes of young people and allocate them a section for their own use when carrying out the review recommended as a result of the adult questionnaire.
- The Editor of this questionnaire to write to the editor of the Swift Flash with the suggestion about a section being allocated to young people and ask if the young person who made the suggestion would be willing to advise on content.
- The Parish Council to write to the Chief Executive of the Connexions Service explaining that only 57% of young people in Cotesbach know how to get careers advice. The local Connexions officer may come and do a session for young people in the Village Hall.

COTESBACH PARISH PLAN: ACTION PLAN					
ACTION	HOW IT WILL BE UNDERTAKEN	PRIORITY	WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE	RESOURCES NEEDED	COTESBACH PARISH PLAN: ACTION PLAN
1. The Parish Council to establish with the District Council the precise position of the village boundary and place a map on the village notice board.					
2. The Parish Council to note the majority comments of the village residents and write to the District Council appropriately, on the basis of the comments in this village survey, when planning permission is requested for an extension, a demolition or a new build.					
3. The Parish Council to investigate with the Post Office if a service is possible either resident or visiting. It should be noted that staff at Lutterworth Post Office have indicated a willingness to operate a part-time service.					
4. The Parish Council to ensure Community Link Bus and other transport facilities contact numbers are displayed prominently in the village					
5. The Parish Council to take up the noise, flies and smell concerns with the Harborough District Council Environmental Health Department with a view to regular monitoring of the situation.					

ACTION	HOW IT WILL BE UNDERTAKEN	PRIORITY	WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE	RESOURCES NEEDED	COTESBACH PARISH PLAN: ACTION PLAN cont.....
6. The Parish Council to raise the poor maintenance of local Bridle ways and Footpaths with the appropriate department of the Leicestershire County Council.					
7. Standards of grass cutting to village verges should be the subject of representations to the responsible Local Authority by the Parish Council. (See action 22)					
8. Parish Council should discuss with residents how best to enhance the entrance to each end of the village. (See action 23)					
9. The Parish Council should investigate the provision of 'dog fouling' signs and waste bins with the appropriate Local Authority.					
10. The Planning Group, before it disbands, to consider how to set up a permanent village self- help group to carry out local surveys of the environmental appearance of the village and champion further action where necessary					
11. The Village Hall committee to discuss with parents of young children whether a Parent and Toddler Group might meet in the Village Hall once a week. A volunteer organiser would be required.					

ACTION	HOW IT WILL BE UNDERTAKEN	PRIORITY	WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE	RESOURCES NEEDED	COTESBACH PARISH PLAN: ACTION PLAN cont.....
12. The Parish Council to approach the Early Years Team of the County Council to see if any form of more formal childcare could be located in the village. (NB: places for the education and childcare of pre-school children have to be located in Government specified areas to be eligible for funding)					
13. The Parish Council to approach the catchment area schools to determine what holiday schemes are available for young people and advertise them on the Parish Notice Board.					
14. The Village Hall committee to approach the Community College regarding the location of appropriate courses in the village. These may attract interest for those living outside the village to increase take-up.					
15. The Village Hall Committee to investigate the practicalities of a regular community newsletter updating the entire village on community issues and a programme of events in the village and at the Village Hall.					
16. The Parish Council to be conscious of the need to publicise meetings and keep village residents informed of important decisions which affect village life.					

ACTION	HOW IT WILL BE UNDERTAKEN	PRIORITY	WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE	RESOURCES NEEDED	COTESBACH PARISH PLAN: ACTION PLAN cont.....
17. The Parish Council to upgrade the existing notice board by the Village Hall and discuss the development of the notice board in or near the entrance to the organic produce shop in the light of comments made by adults and young people in their questionnaires. (See action 35)					
18. The Parish Council to discuss with the County Council (and maybe the local Grammar School) the potential for the provision of electronic communication for the small number of people without IT as they are at a risk of being disadvantaged. A photocopying and faxing facility could be added to ensure all residents have local access to contemporary facilities					
19. The Parish Council to consider canvassing consent for a list of house names to be included on the notice boards					
20. The Village Hall Committee to investigate opportunities to develop theatre/film, history/heritage and environmental activities focused on the Village Hall.					
21. The Village Hall Committee to undertake a proactive drive to create a Village Hall events team to support the current Village Hall Committee.					

ACTION	HOW IT WILL BE UNDERTAKEN	PRIORITY	WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE	RESOURCES NEEDED	COTESBACH PARISH PLAN: ACTION PLAN cont....
22. The Parish Council to establish and monitor an agreed regular programme of work with the local authorities for removal of litter, and mowing of grass.					
23. The Parish Council to seek a village view on possibly improving the appearance of the village.					
24. The Parish Council to make themselves aware of opportunities for funding from the landfill operators to implement the recommendations in this Plan and especially the appearance of the village along the A426.					
25. The Parish Council to seek clarification from the County Council and gas suppliers when mains gas supply may be available within Cotesbach					
26. Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators to be aware of all people in their group with declared disabilities that may wish for Neighbourhood Watch and other neighbourly support.					
27. The Parish Council to raise with the local police authority the reported concerns about poor service and levels of burglary, car and caravan theft.					
28. The Parish Council, aided by the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators to promote the need for residents to drive more slowly through the village.					

ACTION	HOW IT WILL BE UNDERTAKEN	PRIORITY	WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE	RESOURCES NEEDED	
29. The Parish Council to raise concerns with the County Council Highways Department about the danger of leaving the A426 to enter Cotesbach and ask them to consider illuminated "Drive Slowly" signs on the entry into the village.					
30. The Parish Council to review cost effective means of improving signage and road markings					
31. The Parish Council, as part of the above, to canvass opinion concerning the most popular use of the £10,000 allocated to the village from the Magna Park grant.					

THE YOUNG PERSONS' QUESTIONNAIRE					
ACTION	HOW IT WILL BE UNDERTAKEN	PRIORITY	WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE	RESOURCES NEEDED	COTESBACH PARISH PLAN: ACTION PLAN cont..... [YOUNG PERSONS' SECTION]
32. The Parish Council to look at the possibility of establishing a tennis court, doubling as a basketball court, primarily for the use of young people					
33. The Village Hall committee to co-opt a young person to discuss Village Hall activities to attract the youth of the village to use the facility, possibly dedicating one night a fortnight specifically to these events. E.g. contacting the County Council's Museums and Leisure Services about the possibility of travelling films; organising a young person's Christmas Party and/or BBQ.					
34. The Parish Council to link the comments made about the bus service to those made by the adults in the village.					
35. The Parish Council to look at the notice board through the eyes of young people and allocate them a section for their own use when carrying out the review recommended as a result of the adult questionnaire.					
36. The Editor of this questionnaire to write to the editor of the Swift Flash with the suggestion about a section being allocated to young people and ask if the young person who made the suggestion would be willing to advise on content.					
37. The Parish Council to write to the Chief Executive of the Connexions Service explaining that only 57% of young people in Cotesbach know how to get careers advice. The local Connexions officer may come and do a session for young people in the Village Hall.					

VILLAGE HISTORY.**Earliest Know Facts.**

As a result of the various Ice Ages, which overlay Britain, much scouring of the landscape took place resulting in the creation of a large lake in the present Soar and Avon valleys. Debris from the last Ice Age eventually silted up the lake and caused the river flows of the Avon and Soar to be created as the present time. Prehistoric peoples populated this landscape and settled the shores of the lake having migrated up from Kent, having crossed the landbridge from Europe where the present day English Channel is, during the Ice Ages.

There are three sites identified as early settlements in Cotesbach, two rectangular and one circular enclosure. They regularly show up as crop marks in the fields, and date from the Iron Age of 800 BC to 42 BC. Bronze Age and Roman finds have also been found in the locality. Buildings would have been Round Houses similar to the reconstructed ones at Flag Fen near to Peterborough.

The Lutterworth Field Group have surveyed many fields in South Leicestershire and as a result changed the face of available information on Prehistory in the area from 8000 to 4000 BC. An Aurochs horn was found on the boundary of the parish in the River Swift, when the Magna Park Link road was under construction. These were long horned cattle rather like a large present day Bison, but were extinct by about 500 BC well before the Romans came to Britain.

Roman Period.

With the arrival of the Romans in Britain and the Army as an occupying force, life underwent a major change for the inhabitants, particularly as the roads such as Watling Street and the Fosse Way were driven across the length and breadth of the countryside. A very large site developed at Tripontium on the Watling Street just 2 miles south of present day Cotesbach, and this has been well excavated. Several Roman finds have been discovered in the fields of the parish, particularly near the line of Watling Street. Indeed shards of pottery continue to be found all around the village, mostly between the church and the River Swift. This has led to speculation that there could have been a large Romano/British villa or farm in this area, as near to a major Roman town such as existed at Tripontium it would be usual to find occupation which supplied the needs of the increased population in terms of food and labour.

Saxon Times.

Cotesbach as a village settlement, on its present site, can be considered to date from the Saxon times owing to numerous finds from that period. The earliest written spelling of the name is 'Cotesbecce' and standard works on British place names would suggest the meaning as the dwelling place of a particular person/family. Cutta is an Anglo Saxon name mentioned in the Anglo Saxon Chronicles and Becce is Old English for valley/stream, therefore

the village name could be the dwelling place of Cutta in the valley or by the stream.

There are three streams running through the parish to the River Swift. Nearby the name of Lutterworth (Lutta's Town) is of Saxon and Old English in origin. The Leicestershire Museum and Archaeology Records show several good finds in Cotesbach from Early (410-649AD) and Late (850-1066AD) Saxon dates, consisting of several brooches, a copper alloy stirrup mount, shield boss and short sword/dagger. The Watling Street was the ancient boundary between the Kingdom of Wessex and Dane Law territory established by Alfred the Great as a peace settlement with the invading Danes. Cotesbach was in the neutral area and would have possibly traded with both camps. It may be possible that a small church existed, probably wooden, in this new era of Christianity, however there is no documented evidence for this.

Domesday Period.

"Wulfbert holds 9 carucates of land at Cotesbach from Hugh. Land for 6 ploughs. In lordship 1, 10 villagers with smallholders have 4 ploughs. A mill at 3 shillings. The value was 20 shillings, now 30 shillings. In the same village Edwin holds 1½ carucates of land from Hugh. Land for 1 plough. 2 men have ½ plough. Value 10 shillings."

The village name is recorded in the 1086 Domesday survey of England as Cotesbece, and the survey describes Old English society under new management, foreign lords having taken over, but little else had changed.

Most people lived in villages, clustered together in cottages/hovels or dispersed through the fields around. Villages were grouped in administrative districts called Hundreds, which formed regions within the Shires, most of which survive today with minor boundary changes. The population calculated from the survey equates to about 60 souls ($12 \times 5 = 60$). 9 carucates ($120 \times 10\frac{1}{2} = 1260$ acres). 10 villagers (peasants) 2 smallholders (middle class peasant). A plough team was 8 oxen ($8 \times 4\frac{1}{2} = 36$ oxen). The Lord was Hugh de Grentemaisnil who came over from France with William of Normandy, with Wulfbert and Edwin as his under tenants. It was obviously quite a prosperous village as a Mill is situated within the boundary, and valuable at 3 shillings. It has been suggested, but as yet unproven, that this was the Lode (Lords) Mill referred to and mentioned in 1607 and also shown on Greenwoods map of Leicestershire published in 1825. This mill is infamous for the murder of its miller in the 17th century. An open fields system would have worked to good effect, with the population sharing the oxen teams.

Medieval Period.

Sometimes known as the Dark Ages, and consequently not a great deal is known about this time in Cotesbach, apart from the names of the Rectors on record from 1221 when Walter de Clinton was installed as the first one. Quite a number of medieval pottery finds are recorded in particular local ware from Potters Marston, and these appear all over the village. The nicest find is a piece of decorated tile, found by the Fieldworkers behind the church. The village population was constant at about 150 persons and most were grazers

and foragers, with crops obliged to be taken to the Lords Mill. It is likely that the church, though much altered in its present form, would have stood where it does today being ideally situated on a rise above a stream. The oldest part today is dated from the 14th century, but documented rebuilding has taken place in 1706 by Revd Edward Wells and 1812 funded by Charles Marriott.

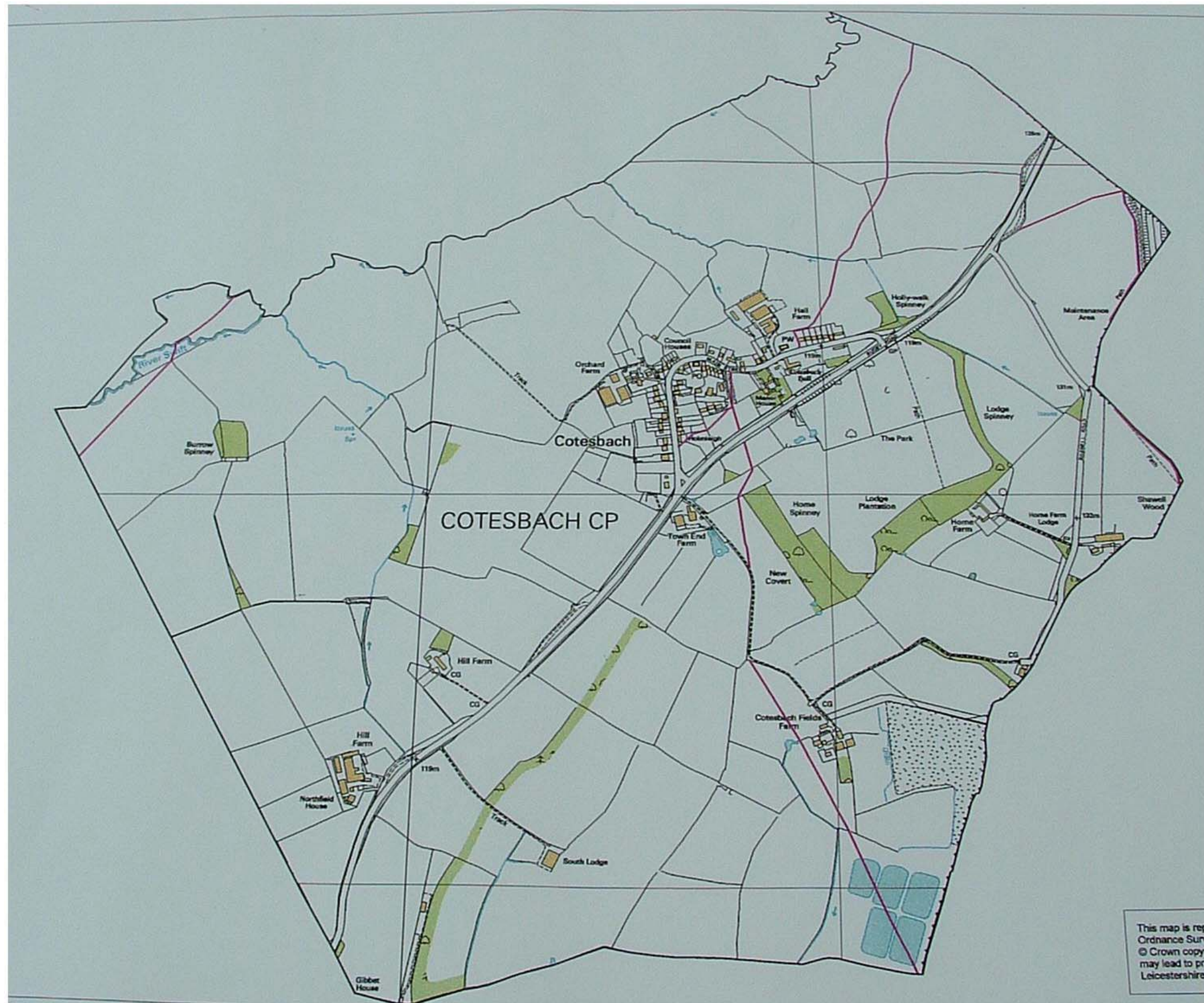
16th to 19th Centuries.

This period is quite famous for putting Cotesbach on the map. The most infamous Lord of the Manor was a London draper named John Quarles, who today would be known as a speculator. He had no interest in Cotesbach village or its occupants and did not take up residence in the Manor, he did however start the process of enclosure of land in order to graze sheep which were the new economy of England. Although Quarles was declared bankrupt in 1606 and was possessed of the living of Cotesbach, which was sold to Sir Henry Billingsley, he was still termed "in residence". By 1607 the residents had had enough of loss of income and joined in the Midlands Revolt, which had started just over the boundary in Warwickshire and spread into Northamptonshire. In Cotesbach 5000 people gathered to tear down fences and fill in ditches, but on July 6th a gallows was erected to deter the population of Leicestershire from joining in, however the inhabitants of the city tore down the gallows, and sent implements to Cotesbach to help in the removal of boundaries to the enclosures. A commission was called for and Quarles was taken before the Star Chamber and charged with depopulation, over 50% of the villagers having left.

The Civil War is not well documented in Cotesbach, but during the period of the Commonwealth the Revd. Joseph Lee was installed as rector supported by George Bennett who was the current Lord of the Manor. A Gent named Walter Blith of Cotesbach served as a Captain in the Parliamentary Army and was known as the English Improver, having written several handbooks on Agricultural Improvement. He believed in the labour of agriculture being the way to redeem people from idleness and debauchery, and also advocated better land drainage and the introduction of new crops in rotation. The Revd. Edward Wells is a uniquely famous resident, inducted to the parish in 1702, he was a noted Theologian, Mathematician, Astronomer and Mapmaker. He constructed the present rectory around the shell of an Elizabethan farmhouse, using bricks from clay quarried and fired in the village, which were also used to rebuild the west end of the church. He also found time to build a school for the education of village children. He died unmarried, in 1727, and is buried in an unmarked grave in the churchyard. The Marriott family came to the village at this time as Lords of the Manor, in the guise of Robert Marriott a Gent from Braunston just over the border in Northamptonshire, and this started a long association with the village as the family still own and live in Cotesbach Hall. Famous members of this family are: John Marriott accomplished Composer, Pastor and Writer of Hymns, Charles Marriott hero of the Oxford Movement, Charles Marriott and George Strickland Marriott both Oxford University and England cricketers, Charles also stroked Oxford in the dead heat Varsity Boat Race against Cambridge University. Two sons Frederick (30:07:15) and Digby (09:10:15) were killed during the First World War in France.

APPENDIX 2

ORDINANCE SURVEY MAP OF THE VILLAGE



SUMMARY OF DATA COLLECTED