

ISSUE 27

APRIL 1991

About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP

Red Nose Day in Ratby

The 'WOT' intrepid reports went down to the "Plough" to snap Mark Gamble sitting in a bath tub full of baked beans. The bath was there, but no Mark - not until 7.00 p.m. anyway!! - Too late for our photographic deadline!

Next weeks menu at the Plough "Beans with everything!"

A 'red nose' gang from the British Shoe Corporation were in the pub. We photographed them for 'WOT', but a gremlin got into the camera - so no picture!

Thanks anyway to Nigel 'Cahey' Hales, Jim Harris, Brett Michaels and Glynn Yorke.

A special message to their boss Steve Mathers 'Congratulations on the birth of baby Katy'.

Ratby School children dressed up for the day - paying 20p for the privilege.

Various events took place at the school to raise extra funds:-

There was a cake stall with 250 cakes!

Charles Cadle, David Bailey, Daniel Fretter Mark Hendry and James Yorke ran a football shooting competition. They raised £10.95.

Children of 4G had a "Guess the number of sweets in the jar" competition. This raised £16.50. The lucky winner was Louise Bacon.

Charles Cadle, Ben Porter and Neil Higgins were demonstrating the 'Stonk' in the school hall.

The school raised a total of £136.50.

Not forgetting Mrs Crump our indomitable 'Lollipop Lady' who raised £8.00 collecting money on the school crossing.

Brookvale pupils paid 50p to dress as they like and there were special events such as a 'Red Nose Stonk' to get involved in.

Salim Mukaddam, James Wilson and William Boud raised £45 walking backwards through Groby with their feet tied together.

more red noses on page 13.

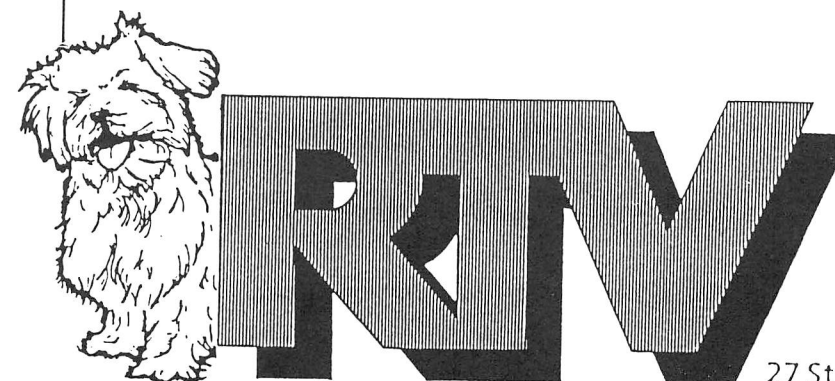
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Ratby Chemist - Under New Management

Our new pharmacist is Mrs Desai. Brought up in Leicester, Mrs Desai trained as a pharmacist at Chelsea College in London. She has worked for ten years with 'Boots The Chemist', and worked her way up to become a manager. For two years she and her husband ran a Pharmacy business in Huddersfield, but have now returned to Leicester to be near their family.

Mrs Desai hopes to expand the business in Ratby by improving the stock. There will be a greater range of medicines in stock, as well as a wider variety of toiletries, baby foods and health foods.

Opening times have changed. The shop now opens at 9 a.m., a more convenient time for parents on the way to take children to school. If there is a demand, Mrs Desai and her husband hope to run a delivery service in the village. This will be particularly helpful for the elderly and housebound.

We wish them good luck with their enterprise



HIS & HERS



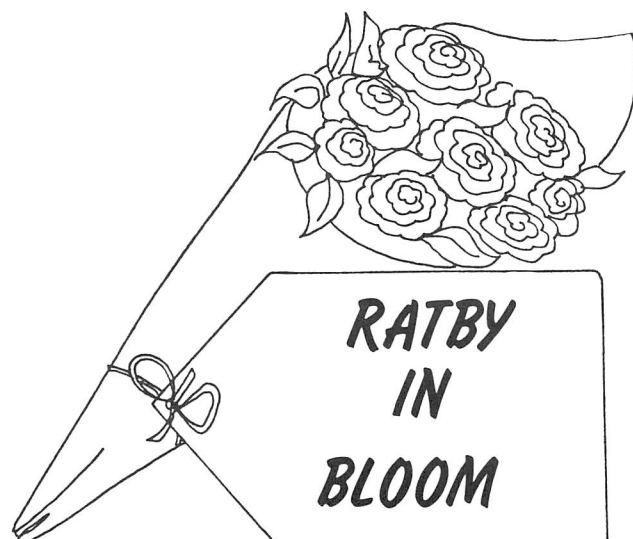
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Local 'rose' Rebecca North has opened her own Floristry business in the heart of Ratby.

Disappointed when the shop she'd worked in for two years closed down, Rebecca has now blossomed through achieving her long held dream of owning her own business.

Rebecca trained in floristry at Brooksby Agricultural College for two years.

She will make up special orders for weddings funerals etc., and sells a wide variety of flowers and plants in the shop. You need look no further than Ratby now for those special gifts, whether it be real flowers or an arrangement of dried or silk flowers. You can even buy the birthday card to go with it too! Rebecca will deliver in an around Leicestershire and there is no charge for delivery in Ratby itself!

So far there has only been one slight hitch, when the supplier was late delivering the flowers for Mother's Day. Rebecca would like to apologise to those customers whose flowers arrived later in the day. It does go to prove that the flowers are fresh cut every day!

So come on all those husband and boyfriends, there is no excuse now for forgetting to buy flowers!

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RATBY BROTHERS TO RUN IN LONDON MARATHON

Brothers Mike and Duncan Percy 31 and 36 years old of 157 and 124 Station Road, Ratby are to un in the London Marathon on 21st April.

Their ambition is to be sponsored for the largest amount possible and are appealing for sponsors to contact them or give donations.

Charities chosen by the boys are, L.O.R.O.S. Leicester Royal Infirmary's Baby Care Unit and Link Up which is Groby Road Hospital's Patient Support group.

Mike said "having lived in Leicestershire all our lives we felt we would like to do something for the people of Leicestershire."

Mike first became involved in the running bug when he went to support Duncan, a season seasoned runner, at last year's Leicester Marathon held in September.

He was persuaded to enter the fun run and has been running ever since.

Before London they are to run in the sixteen and a half mile Rutland Water Mini Marathon, a run at Cambridge and Wisbech.

So come on people of Ratby every penny counts, so contact them on Leicester 393905 or at 157 or 124 Station Road, Ratby.

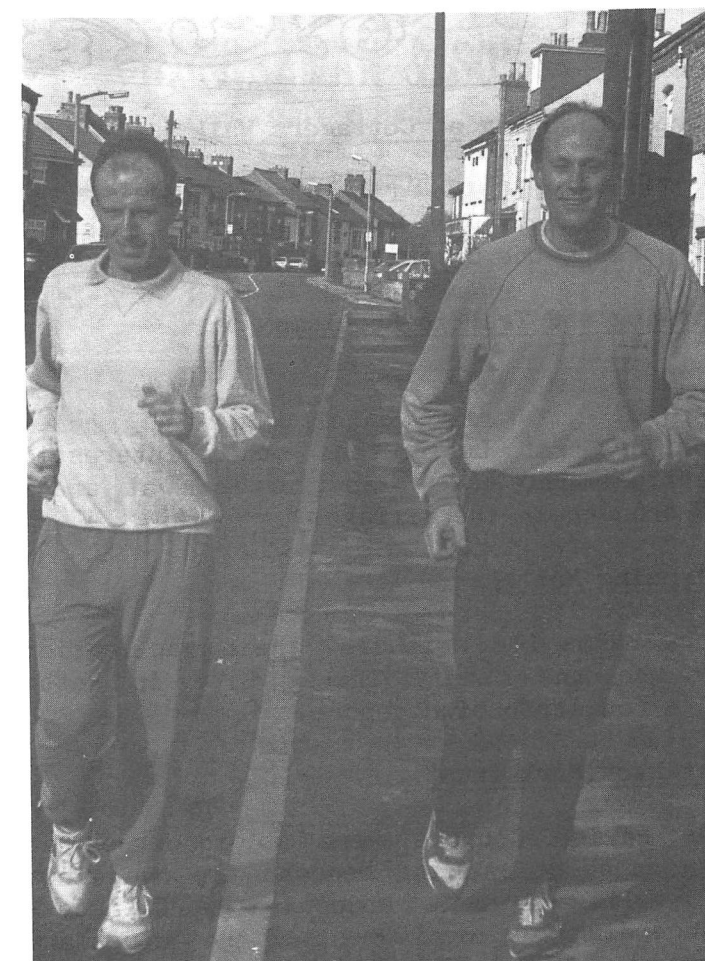
Sylvia Gant

PABARI'S RATBY NEWS

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Ratby Parish Council

Street Lighting at Cottagers Walk

A light will be fitted eventually. The delay is currently being caused by pressure of work on the Council's electricians.

Parking and Traffic Problems

A site meeting with representatives from the Police, Parish Council, County Councillor Mrs Pat Butler and other interested parties will take place to look at areas of concern in the village.

Planning Matters

Pork Farms Ltd. withdrew their application to use the County Travel Site in Ratby as a redistribution centre.

Knighton Park Trust

The Parish Council were so concerned at the apparent lack of concern for the views of villagers that enquiries were made concerning the involvement of the Ombudsman. However, the Parish Council itself is not permitted to consult the Ombudsman. Individual residents only can make use of this service, through their local M.P.

A46 Leicester Western Bypass

By the time you read this the Inquiry concerning revised junctions and other sections of the Bypass will have taken place.

Kirby Muxloe have withdrawn their objections to the revised junction with the M1.

County Councillor Mrs Pat Butler informed the Parish Council that the County Council are also likely to withdraw their objection.

Special Meetings

The Parish Council has held two special meetings with Mr John Cawrey and the Sports Club to discuss future development at Ferndale Drive Recreation Area and to find acceptable solutions to problems such as fencing of the site. It was felt by all parties that these discussions were very constructive.

Traffic Calming

Mr John Cawrey informed the Parish Council

be included in the new access road to be built from Station Road into the estate. It is likely that these will be 'sleeping policemen'.

Tree Warden and Trees

Is there anyone in Ratby who would like this very rewarding, but unfortunately, voluntary job?

We need someone to keep an eye on village trees and report damage etc.

Please contact the Clerk for information

The trees planted by children and the community are thriving and all coming into bud!

Parish Council Elections

The Election will take place on May 2nd. Nominations for the election should be in by April 5th to Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council.

Recreation and Play Areas

The Council is currently planning to erect 5-a-side goal posts on the former tennis court at Ferndale Drive, as well as a goal post on the Burroughs Road Recreation area.

It has been reported to the Council that a footballer recently suffered a seriously infected wound following an injury incurred at the Ferndale Drive pitch. This infection was caused by bacteria from dog faeces.

Please can Ratby Dog owners be responsible and clear up their dog's mess. Dogs should be kept on a lead if they are taken onto the play area.

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Children in Need Appeal

The Council was unsuccessful in our appeal for funds to provide safety surfacing at the play areas. The village does not meet the criteria of the Trust.

Village Improvements

Markfield Road Corner - the wall is completed now. New trees and shrubs are to be planted.

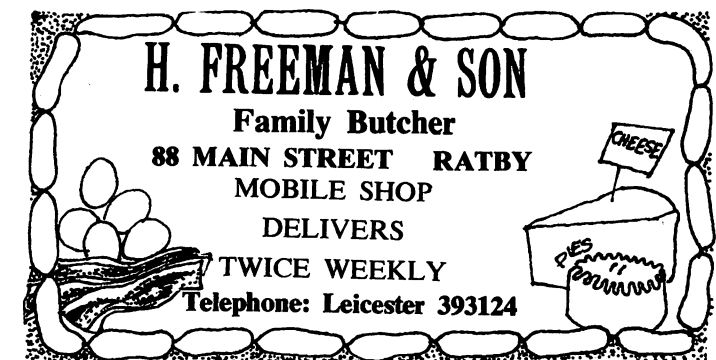
Martinshaw Wood entrance - the Parish Council has written to the Woodland Trust regarding the dilapidated state of the fencing and stile. The ground in front of the seat by the woodland gates is churned into a mud bath by vehicles parking here. The Parish Council has asked for this area to be paved.

Waymarking of Paths - Paths and bridleways in the parish are soon to be clearly way-marked.

Meetings of the Parish Council

Tuesday April 9th
Annual Parish Meeting - April 23rd
Tuesday May 7th

10 minutes is allowed at the beginning of each meeting for Questions to the Chair. Further time is allowed for Questions to the Police. Residents are welcome to write to the Council on relevant matters through the Parish Clerk.



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Ratby Co-operative Band

The Ratby Co-operative Band has fought off some tough competition to become the holders of The British Bandsman Award 1990 for Youth.

Ratby clinched the coveted award with its prospectus which outlined, in detail, the blueprint which the band drew up in the early 1970s to nurture young players.

But more than the band's on-going dedication to the cause of young musicians was its underlying motivation for championing the young which most impressed the judges.

"We hope that the musical experience given to the children by the tuition, and by the corporate life of the band, will enrich their future lives," read Ratby's prospectus

Ratby's determined bid to cultivate novices, which began with the formation of the Ratby Junior Band in 1973, has, undoubtedly paid dividends.

For of the 34 members who make up the senior band an impressive 22 were taught from their early years with The Ratby Band.

Said secretary Lynne Plant: "although it is very difficult to be exact about the numbers of youngsters who have progressed through the Senior Band in the past 17 years, it certainly exceeds 60".

Even before the formation of the Junior Band, the Senior Band donated instruments to the local Junior School to facilitate the formation of a school bands which, in turn, spawned the Junior Band.

At this time there were ability classes from which young players graduated to the Junior Band but, in 1986, Ratby formed a special Training Band to cope with the spiralling interest in brass banding by novices.


A grading system now exists which tests ability, sight reading and basic theory.

But despite Ratby's obvious credentials for the Award other entrants more than worthy of a mention were: Tredegar Town, St Austell, Kilmarnock Concert Brass, Southend and Wantage Silver.

Said B.B. Editor Peter Wilson; "All of the above are taking positive strides in a bid to boost the number of young players.

"But we felt that Ratby, had a solid infrastructure which successfully nurtures young players and which is not solely reliant on one personality for its dynamism".

Ratby's name will be inscribed on the silver B.B. Trophy which the band will be allowed to keep for a year. The band will also receive a commemorative plaque.



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Thurs. - 6 - 11.45

Friday - 11.30 - 1.30 a.m.
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TEDDIES IN TOP 20

Last summer children and parents were often seen gathering outside Ratby T.V.'s shop window. They were not there to watch 'Wimbledon' or the 'World Cup'..... The attraction was the fascinating window display showing teddies on the beach.

The window was also admired by the Zanussi Company. So much so that they awarded the display a prize a holiday for two in Crete! The annual competition for the best window display is nationwide, and twenty winners only are chosen each year!

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BEAUMONT CRIME PREVENTION PANEL

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DO YOU CARE ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY?

The Beaumont Crime Prevention Panel is a group of persons who liaise on a regular basis, with Beaumont Police, to implement Crime Prevention Initiatives. The Panel is hoping to recruit members of the community who demonstrate a keen interest in and have a lasting concern with the community.

A main object of the Panel is to identify crime problems within the Panel's area and to actively develop practical solutions.

Are you interested? Contact Inspector Judith

Ratby Youth Club

Jeanette Ball and Dean Garrett were amongst the original group of young people who set up the Ratby Youth Club. they are still involved, and together with Lorraine and Dave McBean, they run the club for 8 - 15 year olds. The Club is thriving, and meets every Thursday evening, 8 - 9.30 in the Church Rooms.

Activities include table tennis, snooker, pool, darts and computer games. Last year they went on a weekend trip to Beaumanor Hall, where they organised camp fire barbecues and Treasure Hunts. They are planning a repeat this year! Other trips have included swimming, outdoor games and a visit to Derby Roller World.

The Club received a £500 grant from the PRINCES TRUST, and they were able to buy a ghetto blaster and tapes, as well as a shed for all the equipment.

Future plans include a Disco later in the year, and trips to other Youth Clubs, using the 'Village Links' minibus transport scheme

Owing to increasing running costs, membership of the club will be slightly higher at £1.50 this year, from April to April. It costs just 30p a night for members, 40p non members. The membership fee includes Insurance.

It certainly seems that members get their money's worth! So come on you bored youngsters - get involved!

Letters

121 Stamford St
Ratby
Leicester

Dear Editor,

May I, as one of the older Ratby newcomers, having lived in the village for thirty six years upon marriage to a "Ratby Lad" wish our retiring chemist Ken Ellis many years of happy and contented retirement. He came to this village just after I did and has served us all very well. Here's wishing health and happiness Ken.

Yours sincerely

Merle Joyce (Mrs)

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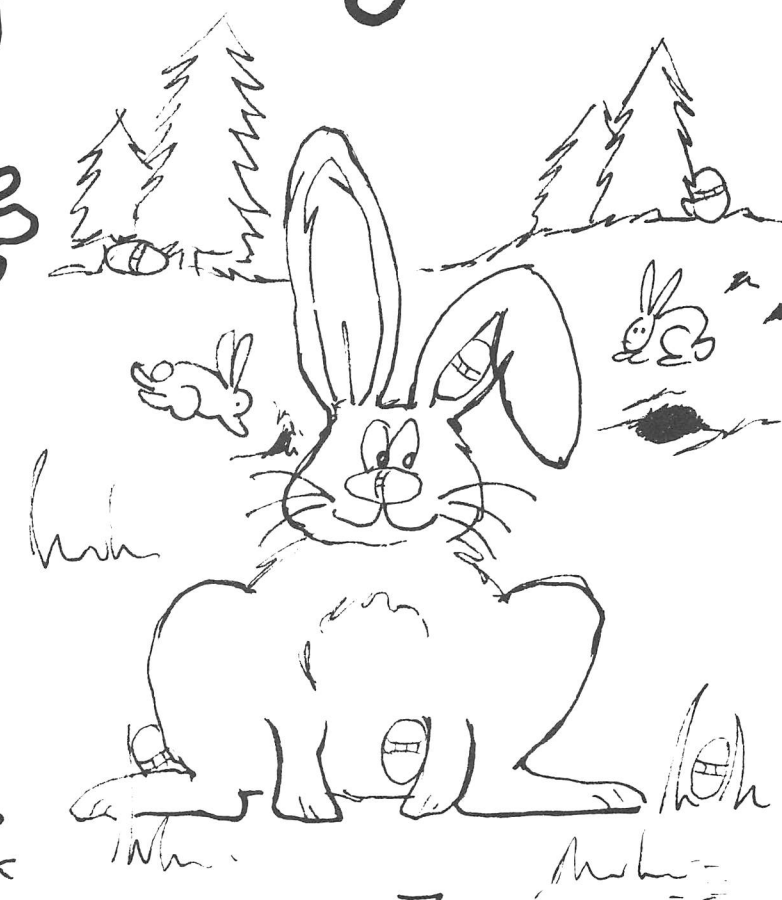
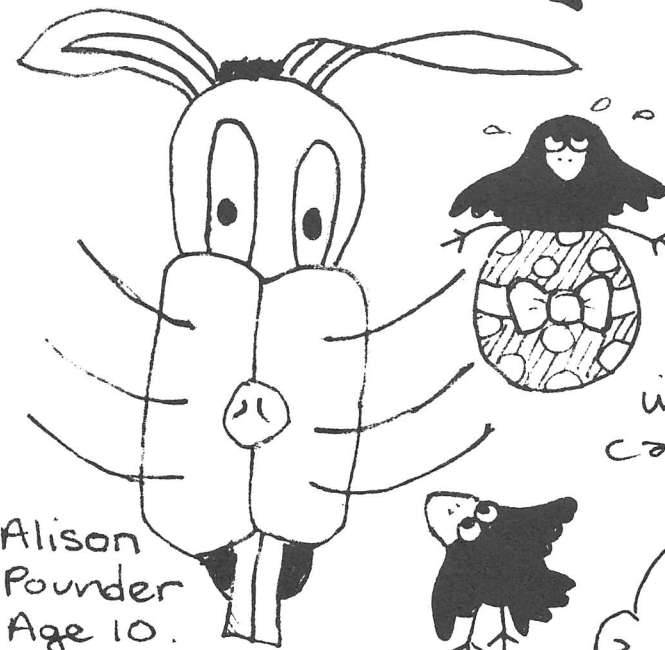
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There are 7 easter eggs in this picture can you spot them!



THIS PAGE NEEDS YOU!

Keep your drawings coming in we need all we can get!



Shelley Grant

Ratby Duck Racing Club THE LAST DONATION OF THE SEASON



On Monday 18th February Mr. Millar, Chairman of the Ratby Duck Racing Club presented cheques to three village groups to help continue their good works.

The groups receiving very generous donations were the Rainbows, the Beavers and the Old Peoples Welfare.

The donations were made as a result of the Duck Racing Club going into "hibernation" for the breeding season. During the

clubs life, of just over a year the members have raised £2,320 for excellent causes and you will remember the party thrown for the older people in the village, all of the good works done for the Western Parks Special School, the Librarys playbox.

We feel we must inform you, that although the ducks may not be racing again until after the breeding season and that during the recent bad weather they have not been racing, (as the ducks are not allowed padding or protection on their feet, so they could have been too cold) the ducks will still be in training.

Ratby ducks are still trained as far away as Yorkshire and Cornwall. Members of the club spend many hours debating their own ducks prowess and certainly one member felt that other members did not start their ducks in the correct manner.



pic Dav and From Jane Beav Ratb ing



ured, left - right on the back row, id Wickham, Steve Richardson, Tony Millar Mike Nolan of the Duck Racing Club. at Row left to right: et Hawkesworth, representing Ratby vers, Judi Brooks representing oy Rainbows and Elaine Sharpe represent- the Old Peoples Welfare Committee.

PUZZLE CORNER

1. Eves fruit?
2. This season
3. An aviating machine
4. An animal that builds a dray?
5. Try "Plain Bob Minor" on these?
6. How many sides on a fifty pence piece?
7. An "EQUINE" quadruped
8. 23rd April Saint
9. In which country is Snowdon?
10. A tasty delight at Easter
11. Bram Stokers famous book
12. How many legs does an insect have?

By Ian Mellor

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LOCAL PLAN

North Eastern Parishes Local Plan

The Inspector's report following the Local Plan Inquiry has now been ratified by the Borough Council.

The main conclusions which affect Ratby are summarised below.

Land between Markfield Road and Stamford Street

Cawrey Ltd. were represented as an objector to the Local Plan at the Inquiry.

Ratby Parish Council were in support of the Local Plan. The final decision is that this land should remain as open countryside.

Land South East of Ferndale Drive, Ratby

Cawrey Ltd. and Ratby Parish Council proposed that 0.6 acres of land adjoining the S.E. side of proposed housing site NE/RES2 (f) should be added to extend the site for development. This was agreed. The Inspector said "I concur with the Council's view that a small amendment to the proposed housing area is justified in order to establish a logical settlement boundary along the dis-used railway line".

Land between the village and the Motorway

The Council agreed that "the retention of open countryside between Ratby and Groby in the form of a green wedge was endorsed by the Secretary of State when approving structure plan policies L/ST7 and L/ST8. Any built development would undermine the physical separation of the settlements. Substantial planting has been recommended along the whole northern edge of the Church Farm Estate to reduce motorway noise levels and its visual impact".

The highway authority stated that development of either area north and south of Groby road would "have adverse traffic implications for the inadequate road network in the village."

The conclusion is "that there is no strategic need for additional housing land at Ratby in this local plan". The Inspector also said "Allowing housing to advance to either side of the existing motorway would severely diminish the minimal gap between Ratby and Groby and compromise the function of the green wedge to preserve the physical identity of the two settlements".

Land West of Ratby

Messrs J.E. and W. Ball objected to the local plan. They maintained that a road structure should be constructed along the western boundary of the village from Markfield Road to Desford Road, to enable further development to take place.

Ratby Parish Council supported the Local Plan and wrote written counter-objections.

The Case for the Council - "The objector's farm of 136 acres makes a significant contribution to the setting of Ratby. Further housing is unjustified, and in this area would be an unwanted intrusion into open countryside. The County Ecologist considers that a massive expansion of Ratby in this area would have serious implications for ecological and archaeological interests. The highway authority consider that a link road as proposed would have a minimal effect on diverting existing traffic away from the village centre..... On the other hand the traffic generated by substantial development would add to flows in Ratby and neighbouring villages. Offsetting benefits have not been clearly demonstrated".

The Inspector stated "What the objectors appear to have in mind is the construction of a local distributor road for housing. I consider there is no strategic need for additional housing land to be allocated in the village for the plan period and I find no other compelling reason for the construction of the suggested road."

Green Wedge between Groby and Ratby

J.S. Bloor objected to the local plan, stating that 19 acres of land between Groby Road/Ratby Road and Sacheverell Way should be excluded from the green wedge proposal because of the unnecessary constraint this would place upon its potential for housing.

Both Ratby and Groby Parish Councils and Councillor Mrs Pat Butler supported the local plan.

The Inspector concluded that the land is a significant part of the open area needed to maintain the separate identity of the two settlements.

Land West of Station Road, Ratby - Green Buffer between Ratby and Kirby Muxloe

The Knighton Park Trust and Mr J Weston Walker objected to the local plan recommendations.

Ratby Parish Council and Ratby Village Society, and three individuals counter-objected.

The Inspector stated that the main issue was the impact of development on the approach to Ratby and on the green buffer.

He said "the removal of existing vacant and derelict buildings and on-site landscaping would be beneficial, and that the 0.56 hectare addition to built up area most of which would be landscaped car-parking would result in an insignificant extension of urban development beyond the existing outbuildings".

The Inspector therefore recommended that the local plan be modified to "define a site for a proposed place of worship or similar community facility".

We have printed this summary so that Ratby people are kept informed of decisions affecting the village. We suggest that you keep this information for future reference!



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HOSTS JACQUI & MICK

#OTI reporters felt obliged to tour the pubs of Ratby to find out what Red Nose events were taking place. They started at the Bulls Head where there was no obvious fund raising going on, but our reporters felt there would be some red noses there before the night was out.

The next stop was at the 'Plough' which had drawn a bigger crowd than Leicester City.

Here there was talk of some brave lads improving their complexions by sitting in baths of custard and baked beans, but unfortunately our reporters missed the fun!

Despite warnings from 'Mick the Hack' of a long journey to come, the pair set out for the 'Railway'. By the time they arrived it was late and things were quietening down, but Joanna (alias John Dilley) still lurked offering a collection box as an alternative to a kiss - **no contest!**

By the end of the evening John had raised £25.95. Ratby Co-op Junior Band had visited earlier and raised some £50 and George Massey of Park Road had been announced as winner of 1 pig in a draw that raised a further £50. Sponsored slims by Brian (£50) and landlord Mick (£175) added weight to the fund as did John Wilson's unshaven effort which had raised over £50 at time of writing. Fun 'Bulls Eye', a cake weight competition and balance a coin on an orange in a bottle took the total raised at the Railway to over £500 by Friday night, with more action planned. Well done to all concerned who raised funds in any way throughout the village!

Leicestershire Structure Plan

The Draft Written Statement is now available in Ratby Library for reference.

The enclosed map clearly shows green wedges between Ratby, Groby and Glenfield. This is also reinforced in the statement. Green wedges will be protected and improved.

BUT there is no mention of a green wedge between Ratby and Kirby Muxloe. Kirby Muxloe falls within a Transport Corridor and such areas will be considered for substantial development.

Could this mean that the Rothley Valley and its washland are threatened with development?

A considerable amount of the countryside to the North West of Ratby is designated as an area of particularly attractive countryside.

Major development is not intended to take place in areas that are attractive, green wedges, or sites of ecological or archaeological interest. This must surely include the Burroughs Woods and Ratby Iron Age fort.

It is important that people read this report and send in comments.

The Council wants to make sure you have an opportunity to comment on the Draft Replacement Structure Plan. The Plan seeks to best meet the needs of the people who live, work or conduct business in Leicestershire. If you have any comments on the proposals as they stand, or feel important points have been missed out we would welcome your views now.

Please write to:
Director of Planning and Transportation,
Policy Section,
Leicestershire County Council,
FREEPOST,
Leicester LE3 6ZD.

COMPETITION WINNERS

Inter pub knock-out competitions that have been running for the last 2 months culminated in a finals night on Thursday 7th March 1991 at the Railway Inn. Trophies and Everards Tee-shirts were presented to the following winners by Roland Campbell, of Everards Brewery.

Mixed Darts Pair - Tony and Fay Taylor
Runners up - Colin & Christine McLean
Dominoes 5's & 3's - Winners Charles Clements and Ted Sharman. Runners-up Mick Thornton & John Dilley.
Cribbage - Winners - Dennis & Jan Bee.
Runners up Jacqui Spencer & Alice Bainbridge.
Ladies Singles - Winner Jan Dean Runner up Fay Taylor
Mens Singles - Winner Mick Thornton Runner up Harry Worley

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Western Bypass

When I became your County Councillor in 1977 I quickly realised I must specialise in highways because of the major problems of Ratby and Groby. My first significant success was the construction of New Parks Boulevard, which gave H.G.V.'s from the Scudamore Road Industrial Estate access to the A50, without pounding through Ratby's very narrow Main Street. Unfortunately rapidly increasing traffic flows have almost outweighed the very considerable benefits.

With your other elected representatives from Parish and Borough Councils, I have opposed the Western Bypass, as have the other villages on the route. This was not from a King Canute like attitude of trying to hold back the tide, but from the certain knowledge that any new link into the motorway network would bring pressures for development which, even if refused at local level, would with the Western Bypass be more likely to succeed on Appeal.

Traffic flows are continuing to increase and many people travelling from the large new residential areas of Markfield and Groby prefer to come through Ratby (difficult though this is), than on the heavily over-trafficked A50. Groby villagers find it difficult to get on to the A50 from the slip road!

I have just received a copy of the D of T's projected traffic flows as they will affect Ratby in 1994 (when the W.B.P. is programmed to open). They predict substantial reductions on:-

- 1) Markfield Lane - 36%
- 2) Main Street - 37.2%
- 3) Station Road - 29.9%
- 4) Groby Road - 6.2%

There will be an increase on Desford Lane of +21.6%. Had it not been for this increase the other figures would have been proportionally better. There will be a very large increase in traffic on the A50 in Groby which is a matter of considerable concern for me. The new Public Inquiry on the W.B.P. opens on 17th March, it will be largely devoted to the new junction at Kirby Muxloe.

Structure Plan

Under the original 1973 Structure Plan

ever expanding City and our historic village as well as between Groby, Ratby, Glenfield and Kirby Muxloe.

I have been on the Working Party for the Role Forward of the Structure Plan, which will take us up to the year 2006, and have emphasised the importance of our green wedges and even tried to get one new one!

The name of the game this time appears to be 'transport choice'. There will be increased emphasis on Public Transport. On our side of the county the proposed re-opening of the Ivanhoe Line (the old Leicester - Ashby - Burton-on-Trent Line), would remove some traffic from the A50 and the proposed 'Parkway' station at Desford (leave your car and catch a commuter train) could be a great attraction in our area.

I have met the Minister of Transport, Roger Freeman, on several occasions recently he is enthusiastic about what we are trying to achieve with the Ivanhoe Line, which leads me to be optimistic that we shall receive the support we need nationally.

The Structure Plan is now out for consultation and you can see a copy at the Library. It should be studied in conjunction with the recently adopted Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Councils, North Eastern Parishes Local Plan (Groby, Ratby and Desford) which is also available at the Library. Your views will be welcomed at County Hall.

Pat Butler



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IS THURSDAY 9TH MAY

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CRIME

PREVENTION WEEK 15 APRIL 1991

April 15th - 20th 1991 is National Crime Prevention Week.

As the saying goes "prevention is better than cure". The aim of National Crime Prevention Week is to show everyone what they can do to help both themselves and others in the fight against crime.

Each day will highlight a different crime problem and give practical help and advice in combating them.

Displays and events are being organised around the City and County, and also in your locality, involving local schools and youth groups.

Wot about Ratby!

At present Ratby is covered by about 10 Neighbourhood Watch schemes which together cover only a small part of the village. The local village officer, PC John Alexander - together with Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator Mrs Barbara Whipham, have set themselves the target of having all roads and homes in the village covered by Neighbourhood Watch in time for Crime Prevention week. All homes should be receiving information regarding this initiative in the near future and it is hoped that everybody will take the opportunity to get involved in what promises to be a unique scheme among local villages.

Throughout the week we are targetting 'youth' and to this end we will be having a large input into all local schools on the subject of crime prevention. Both Brookvale and Groby Community College will be forming Junior Crime Prevention Panels to look at crime problems in the area and to come up with suggestions to prevent these problems. Also all pupils will be undertaking work on 'Home Security' and hopefully their new knowledge will be passed on to their parents.

Junior school pupils are not being forgotten in all this and PC John Alexander will be visiting the school during the week and talking to them about crime prevention and personal safety.

We are organising two major displays at the Beaumont Leys shopping centre during the week. The first is on Monday 15th April and is based on Autocrime. At this display we will have on show a 'Crime Free' car a large

vehicle alarm display, a motorcycle security display, free security window etching and a display of vehicle security leaflets along with a promotion for Vehicle watch.

The second display is on Friday 19th April and covers both Personal safety and Home Security. Local schools will be putting on dramatic productions around themes of personal safety, and there will also be a local school steel band and a magician to keep you entertained. Also on show will be home security equipment and an alarm display. We will also be offering a free security

postcoding service for valuable items brought to the centre.

Also of interest to residents of Ratby will be the 'Crime Free' house, based on a show-house at the David Wilson site at Leicester Forest East. The house has been set up so that all the physical security features of good home security can be seen in situ and in action.

We have also organised a Crime Prevention 'Roadshow' which will be visiting all the villages in our area throughout the week with a display of home security items, personal safety and vehicle security advice and also a large display of Crime Prevention leaflets. John Alexander will also be on the stand for any advice specific to Ratby. We will also be offering a free ultra violet postcoding service for items brought to the display.

The 'Roadshow' will visit Ratby on Wednesday 17th April between 10.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon and will be sited outside the village hall.

As you can see there is quite a lot happening during the week. **TOGETHER WE CAN CRACK IT!**

ELECTRAPOWER

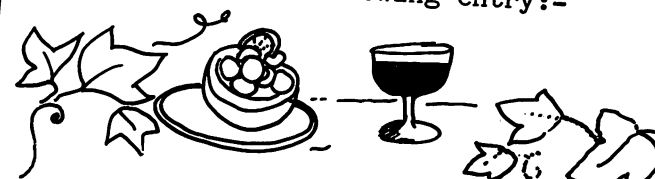
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MASTER CHEF COMPETITION

In a National Competition to design a menu for two, within a given budget, Mrs Jane Chaplin of Birstall came out on top with the following entry:-

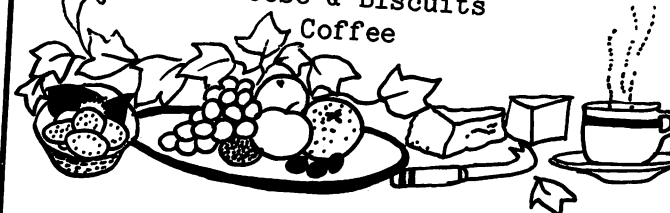


1/2 small melon filled with melon balls and small prawns, garnished with lemon

4 lamb cutlets, braised in Madeira gravy with mixed pepper slices, button mushrooms and small baby onions
New Potatoes, Glazed carrots

Athol Brose - Toasted Oatmeal (lightly) mixed with 1/4 pt double cream and 2 oz brown sugar
Stir in 6 tablespoons of whiskey before serving

Cheese & Biscuits
Coffee



As her prize Mrs Chaplin chose to come to the 'Plough Inn' as restaurant of her choice, where her menu was prepared for her and a partner. Why don't you follow their lead, and enjoy a meal in our comfortable, friendly surroundings?



The Plough Inn

PAM & DEL JOHNSON

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OPENING HOURS

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

9 AM - 1 PM & 3 PM - 10 PM

SATURDAY

9 AM - 10 PM

SUNDAY

10 AM - 9 PM

OPEN ALL EASTER

PACKET INN?

Do you think our Pubs and Clubs should provide 'No Smoking' areas?

Let us have your views.



EGGSTRA SPECIAL

Ratby Sports Club will put a Giant Easter Egg in Rebecca's Flower Shop window to be raffled for their Sports Ground Development

Puzzle Corner

Answers:

"April Showers"

1. Apple, 2. Spring, 3. Aeroplane,
4. Squirrel, 5. Bells, 6. Seven, 7. Horse,
8. George, 9. Wales, 10. Egg, 11. Dracula,
12. Six



RATBY PLAYGROUP

What is Playdough?

Playdough is a toy which children play with, a bit like plasticine but softer. Is that all it is? What do children get out of it? Why is the Playdough table at Playgroup the most popular and busiest during the morning?

Playdough is a soft, squidgy, mouldable toy. It can be made into anything a child wishes. It can be cakes, biscuits or sausages for a picnic. It can be slithery snakes, wiggly worms or slimey snails. It can be rolled, squashed, squeezed and punched.

What better way for a child to explore its imagination or release its frustrations? Perhaps we adults could do with a pound (or should I say half a kilogram) of Playdough to pummel in times of stress. We can learn a lot from watching children at play.

We have been asked at Playgroup for the recipe to make Playdough, as it works out a lot cheaper than buying the brand named types from shops, so here it is. Ingredients remain the same whether for child or adult.

2 cups plain flour
1 cup salt
4 teaspoons cream of tartar
2 tablespoons cooking oil
2 cups water
Food colouring (optional)

Mix all dry ingredients together in saucepan. Add liquids and food colouring if required. Cook slowly, stirring continuously until the dough forms a ball. When cool enough, take dough out of the pan and knead for a couple of minutes. Put pan in soak immediately.

If kept in a polythene bag or sealed container, this Playdough will keep for a couple of months. Have fun!

Playgroup's Blue Peter Romania Appeal Bring and Buy Sale raised £119. Thanks to everyone who supported us.

Dates to Note

Playgroup Easter Fayre

Welfare Hall. Saturday 23rd March 10.30 a.m. Lots of stalls, games and refreshments.

Ratby Playscheme Helpers Meeting

13 Ferndale Drive. 8.00 pm Wednesday 15th May. Anyone who can help out at this year's Playscheme is welcome to come along.

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PRESS RELEASE

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
SETS BUDGET FOR 1991/92.

Leicestershire County Council has established its spending budget for 1991/92.

At a precept of £539,739,710, it matches the Standard Spending Assessment (S.S.A.), a figure Central Government considers would provide a standard level of service for residents of the country.

This means that Leicestershire County Council will be be charge capped.

The budget was fixed at a full Council meeting and incorporates elements of growth and savings.

The largest area of growth in the budget has been allocated for implementing the Children's Act. 19

The greatest saving has been made by reducing the subsidy of school meals. This will mean an increase of 10p on the price of a meal, bringing the cost up to 90p.

Central Government has stated that, if the S.S.A. figure was adhered to, the Community Charge payment would stand at £380.67 per head for residents of Leicestershire. The County Council has matched this figure but it does not take into account any adjustments that the districts need to make for their spending plans or for collection of the community charge. So the amount paid per head will vary from district to district. Individual community charge payers may also be able to benefit from the Government's community charge reduction scheme.

BYGONE DAYS

Mrs Ball of Pear Tree Farm in Ratby has lent us these photographs to print. She acquired the school photograph following her sister's death. Do you recognise anyone in this picture? Who was the teacher? Mrs Ball knows that the girl on the right is her cousin Mrs Phyllis Briggs. On the front row, second and fourth from left are twin sisters

Phyllis and Gladys Baines. The Ratby Main Street view was given to Mrs Ball by Jimmy Briggs. Notice the Yew Tree Inn on the right of the picture! The farm-yard gates at Pear Tree Farm on the left open outwards onto the pavement. Mr and Mrs Ball have lived at the farm for 31 years. Originally known as Fitchetts Farm, it was once part of the Bradgate Estate. In 1921 the farm - '102 acres, 2 rods and 3 perches' was auctioned and bought by Mr William Ball who at that time was the tenant.



Ratby Working Men's Club trip to Trentham Gardens. The Club Committee are on the front row, including Albert Bolton and Cliff Lissaman. Mrs Ball remembers that the lady on the front row was known as 'Kitty Flip' who lived up Stamford Street. Are you in this picture? Write in and tell us.

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Editorial

The centre page of this issue is devoted to an advertisement placed by a Groby architect on behalf of a group of local business people and land owners. This is not an official plan. It is a proposal that these individuals wish to put before the people of Ratby for their consideration.

It is the intention of this group of local business people and land owners to put forward these proposals at the public enquiry concerning the A46 - Leicester Western Bypass. It is also understood that the Kirby Muxloe objectors to the road scheme, look on these proposals favourably. Benefits, in terms of traffic flow arise for Kirby Muxloe out of these proposals. Large scale developments in Ratby could mean that traffic which now uses Desford Lane through Kirby Muxloe could travel along the new proposed road at Ratby.

Where do we stand?

This magazine is produced by Ratby Scouts and you will notice that in the scheme a new building is allocated to us. This is not a matter on which we have been consulted or indeed have asked for from the proposed developers. Nor is it a matter that will make us biased in favour of the proposal. It has been our practice, and continues to be so, to put before the people of Ratby the facts as we know them and invite you to make your views known through this magazine and parish council.

In forming an opinion about this plan we believe it is important that you also read the Leicestershire Structure Plan and consider the opinion of two villagers.

Two points of view?

One villager might argue that this proposed major development of the village will bring benefits. These might include employment, a greater selection of shops and improved local facilities, such as a new village hall. All of the planned new roads (which almost forms a ring road) might help the traffic problems, especially if they cater for the increased amount of car traffic that would stem from the new housing development and the heavy vehicles from the proposed new industrial estate. Getting industry out of the village might justify building on the green field sites.

New car parks and a pedestrianised village centre form a part of the proposal perhaps on the manner of a mini Beaumont Leys? More facilities in Ratby might reduce the need to go to Leicester or to surrounding larger villages. The proposed bandstand would reflect the success of the village band and could provide a venue for free band concerts.

Another villager might argue that after looking at the proposals then why should Ratby be singled out for such large scale development? Do we really want to grow to the size of Groby and Markfield. Do we want to lose our village identity? We have friendly local shops and pubs, a thriving primary school to which all village children go, helping to create a sense of belonging and a community spirit.

Why do these proposals go way beyond the Leicestershire County Council Structure Plan for Ratby which does not identify the need for major growth in the village. Indeed the Leicestershire Structure Plan identifies inner Leicester and areas of mining in NW Leicestershire as priority areas for future development it makes more sense to site industrial development in former mining areas and where unemployment may be high. Large scale developments may bring with them a rise in crime, which in their turn Beaumont Leys and Glenfield have been prey to. Shouldn't any growth/development be at a pace that preserves the best features of the village as suggested in the Ratby plan. Ratby is already subject to development through the Hall of Worship at one end of the village, to the hotel/golf course/time share units at the other, with Cawreys continuing development in the middle.

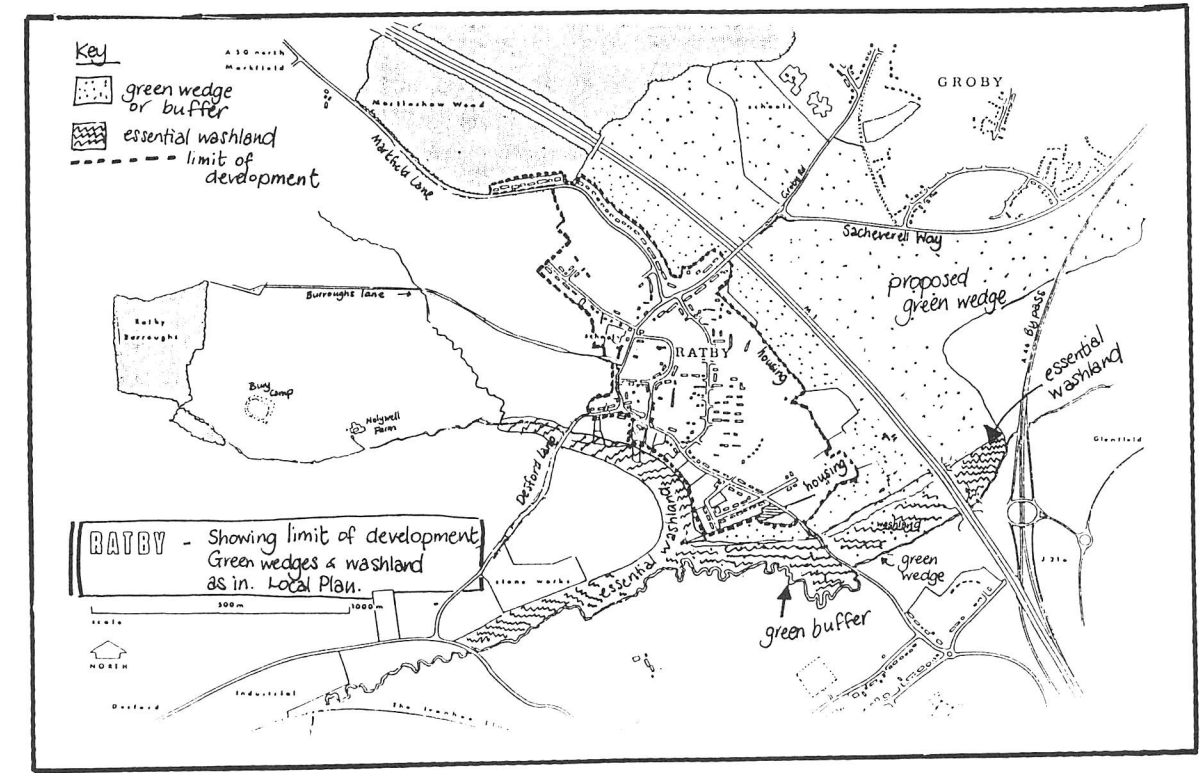
MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD. How would you like to see Ratby develop? We all know it cannot stay exactly as it is but are these proposals for development what we need?

Let us know what you think, get your views in print.

STOP PRESS

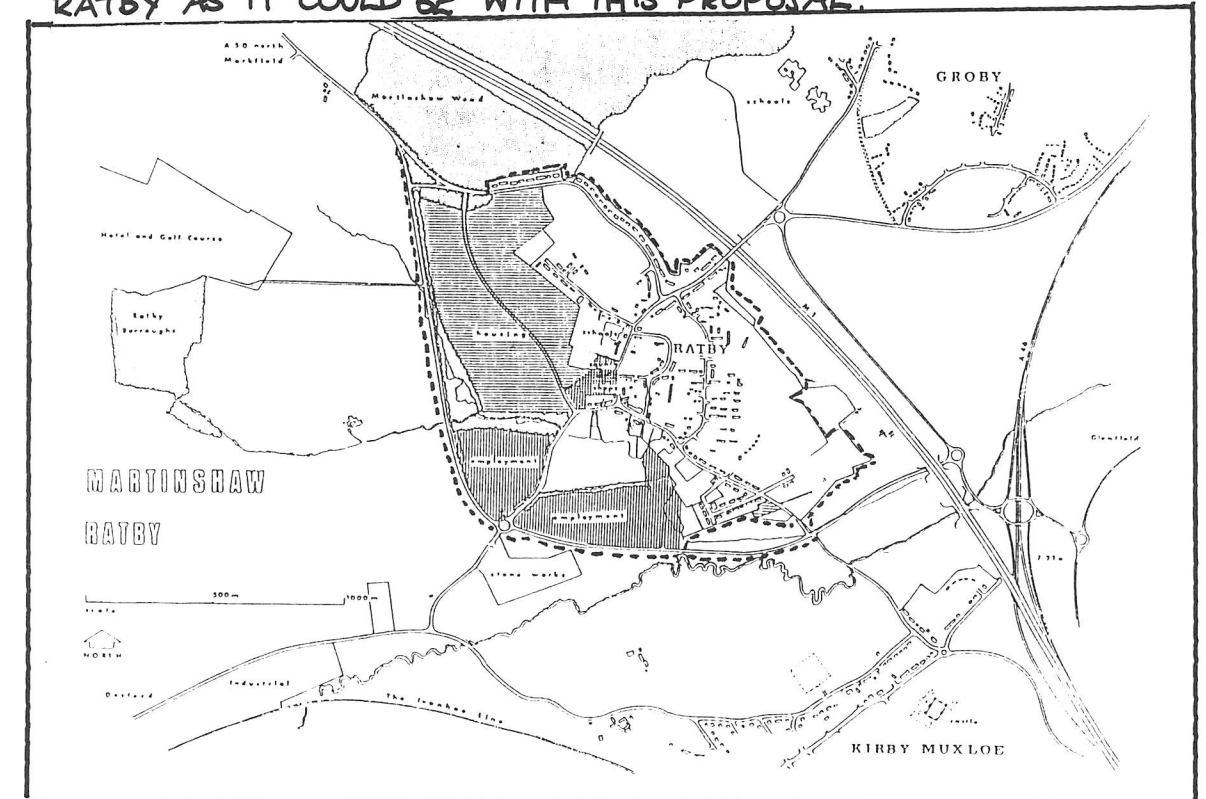
It is understood that this plan is to be considered by the County Council in the next 4 to 8 weeks! So if you want to make your views known, write to the County Council NOW!!

RATBY AS IT IS NOW AT THE TIME OF THE LOCAL PLAN.



SKETCH PLANS SHOWING LIMITS OF DEVELOPMENT

RATBY AS IT COULD BE WITH THIS PROPOSAL.



The following advertisement has been placed in "WOT" by a Groby Architect on behalf of a number of Ratby business people and land owners to inform the people of Ratby of their proposed development plans.

A New Plan for Ratby

Nearly every issue of your magazine has included adverse comments on the amount of traffic that churns through the village streets, and you have asked for suggestions to solve this chaos.

I put to the village this plan for discussion before submitting it to the Borough and County Councils as a constructive objection to the Leicestershire Structure Plan.

The aims of the plan are to remove all the through traffic out of the narrow and congested streets of Ratby and Kirby Muxloe and to provide breathing space for the existing industries as well as encourage new ones into the area; to have planned growth and a revitalised village centre whilst reorganising the green wedges around the village.

The Highways

The Plan provides for almost a complete ring road which will remove all cross flow traffic and the present industrial traffic out of the village. This allows Main Street to be pedestrianised, provides a village square with community facilities, traffic free shopping, safe school access and easy off street parking, returning the village streets to the people of Ratby.

With a new link to the A46 Leicester Western Bypass Ratby will enjoy a quick access to the national road network.

Employment

Some of the present village employers are looking to relocate in larger modern premises. The 40 acres of new employment land with access only from the new road network will provide more secure jobs for the community and retain the traditional Ratby firms. The plan allows for non-conforming industries, for example Casepak Limited, to relocate returning their current sites to housing.

Housing

80 additional acres of housing is planned. This provides for a wide range of properties giving a greater choice, and improving the value of the existing housing stock.

Schools

Additional school places will be required. It is proposed to provide a new area, adjacent to the existing school, to include for safe access for all children together with ample access and parking for parents.

Flooding

The plans allow for water control to eliminate the regular flooding of Kirby Lane, as well as removing the pollution of Ratby Brook. Fishing and amenity lakes will be formed in the landscaped wedges between the employment and residential areas.

Village Amenities

In the heart of the village a new village square is planned with a bandstand as the centre-piece, flanked by a new Village Hall, a pedestrian shopping area and ample free car parking for schools and shops. A larger population will encourage a wider range of services and retail shops to come into the village.

The flourishing Scout Group will have a new building in the water amenity area.

The present Ratby/Kirby/Glenfield Green Wedge, all but for the roads, will be protected from future development, and will be retained as at present.

Who Pays

Unfortunately most villages grow in a haphazard way, mainly at the mercy of the developer who returns little of his gains to the community. By accepting this long term Plan for Ratby all of the plan can be achieved. The major land owners accept that infrastructure costs must include community and planning gain. A substantial trust fund of some half a million pounds is proposed so that the village can maintain all the community facilities. This trust, managed by the Parish, could be used to assist all sections of the village including the churches, health centre, schools, youth and retirement activities.

I believe that this plan has a lot of merit and should be considered before the hungry developers arrive - as surely they will.

This plan has been put forward by a number of villagers. For your comments and further information please write to me at

65 Leicester Road, Groby, Leicester LE6 0DQ.

David Haynes

