

## **MEETING WITH THE WI – 20 MAY 2004**

The Village Plan Steering Group was invited to address the WI at its Monthly Meeting in the Village Hall on 20 May 2004. The Meeting was attended by over 20 members of the WI.

The Meeting started with an introduction to the ‘concept’ of a Village Plan and its aims to represent the direction and aspirations of the whole community in its development over a period of between five and ten years. It must:

- Reflect the views of all sections of the community;
- Identify which features and local characteristics people value;
- Identify local problems and opportunities;
- Spell out how residents want the community to develop in the future;
- Prepare a plan of action to achieve the vision.

There was a lively ‘Open Forum’ a number of topics were discussed; these included:

1. It was agreed that the current facilities within the Village were the minimum to support a thriving community.
2. There was a strong feeling that more should be done to encourage recycling within the community. There was a convenient bottle/paper-recycling centre at the Mermaid Inn. We were fortunate to have a substantial recycling facility by J17 of the M4. The majority of those present regularly recycled waste.
3. There was a feeling that the Village environment could be improved with a general tidy-up of the verges, hedges & paths. The provision of rubbish bins and dog-waste bins would be helpful. There was unanimous support for the idea of Village Spring Clean days – the majority indicated that they would do their bit.
4. There was a feeling that the Village was large enough. However, should there be any more building it should be aimed at the lower end of the market.
5. Although there are few instances of crimes being committed in Christian Malford; crime and the fear of crime remains an issue; particularly for the elderly.
6. There was a feeling that the Recreation Ground should be extended in order to incorporate additional facilities to the benefit of the community. Facilities could include a tennis or basketball court, a ‘kicking’ wall or additional parking. Better facilities would benefit the whole community and the young in particular.
7. The feeling was that the current Village Hall was adequate to meet the Communities needs. The WI did not feel that it requires a major overhaul or replacement in the next 5 to 10 years; however, it would benefit from minor (cosmetic) improvements.
8. Safety around the village was an issue. Major causes of concern being speeding traffic and a lack of safe routes (pavements).