

## Division of news on the Church lighting scheme at the Parish Meeting

About 80 members of the parish ensured a well filled Village Hall at ~~the~~ on the 15th April for the Annual Parish Meeting and a lively exchange of news on the proposal to floodlight the Parish Church.

This proposal raised the greatest interest. Following comments from Mr Bryant of Clunfield who was invited to address the meeting by the Chair, Wilson Atkinson. He expressed concern at the increase in light pollution this scheme would involve. All extra lighting should now be avoided for the good of the environment as a whole and for the benefit of the local Clunfield Observatory in particular. He was supported by John McKinlay who lives near the church and Chris Williams from Pidham who also makes astronomical observations.

John Rendle pointed out that the Floodlighting Project was a Parish Council initiative, though the Parochial Church Council supported the venture. He argued that ~~the~~ from the demonstration it was clear floodlighting would add a new dimension of enjoyment of our lovely Church. The floodlighting would be used for special occasions such as at Christmas & Easter where it would add ~~special dimensions~~ <sup>welcome</sup> to the ~~approach to~~ ~~these important~~ an extra pleasure to the celebration of these festivals. Overall John Rendle did not expect the floodlighting to be put on for more than 12 times a year.

The Chair agreed to a show of opinions by the meeting which resulted in a small majority for the scheme.



Michael Blakstad introduced the Village Design Statement (VDS) which was now in its final form. He reminded the Meeting of the many opportunities provided for all members of the Parish to put their views. He said it was very encouraging that about 20 people attended each of the two workshops.

He drew attention to the display in the Hall which included 'mock-up' pages of the final report and, most importantly, all ~~the~~ of the recommendations of the 'Design Statement' section of the final report which he hoped would be accepted by the Parish & District Councils and thereby influence future planning decisions.

The East Meon Millennium Project was introduced by its initiator, Denis Ryder. He outlined what & who would be needed to make the two parts of this project a success. First technicians & writers ~~to~~ to make a video record of a year in the life of the village starting in September, 1999. Reserves for equipment had already begun to be investigated and advice had been successfully sought. Second photographers and writers would be needed for the book of the Project.

The meeting warmly responded to a vote of thanks to Wilson Atkinson in appreciation of 24 years of service as a Parish Councillor, ~~and~~ & eight of which he was Chair of the Council. His warmth, good humour and fairness at meetings was recognised and the respect with which he was held by all was acknowledged.

In turn Wilson Atkinson thanked David Bailey for his 12 years as Parish & District Council and paid tribute to the wise guidance David Bailey provided to the Parish Council.

Keith Reckett