

The Five: Parish Plan- Issues Report

PORINGLAND

- **Location:**

Poringland is situated 5 miles South East of Norwich on the B1332 road from Norwich to Bungay. Some of its water feeds into the Well Beck, then via the River Chet near Loddon to the River Yare.

- **Population:**

According to the 2001 Census 3261 residents live in Poringland in an area covering 632 Hectares.

- **History:**

Maps dating back to 1797 and 1838 show mainly heathland, typically comprising acid sandy soil covered with heather, gorse, and coarse grasses.

A photograph taken about 1930, shows The Street, near the shopping precinct with a horse and cart. An earlier photograph pre-dating The First World War in 1914 indicates a leisurely country scene beside the pond opposite The Swan Public House (now replaced by Old Grumpy's). So different to traffic laden today!

A third photograph shows pupils at Poringland School in 1948, when it was situated near the 5-ways roundabout. Some of the faces are recognizable in the village now. This school was last used in 1959.

All Saints Church was originally built in Saxon times. The base is circular and the hexagonal tower was added later.

The Parish Hall was a World War 1 army hut erected in 1921. An addition was added about 10 years on.

- **People who live here:**

Prior to The Second World War 1939-1945 Poringland consisted mainly of farmers, market gardeners and people working on the land. Porch Farm, Church Farm and several other farms were based in The Street and Shotesham Road. Elizabeth Road was formerly a market garden.

Poringland mainly houses people who work in Norwich and the adjacent area, covering a wide variety of occupations including Professional, Clerical, Retail and Manual work.

- **Changes in recent years:**

There was very little Development in Poringland before The 2nd World War, only a few farms and cottages in The Street. Poringland School had 9 pupils leaving in 1944 aged 14; some came from other villages nearby.

Development moved forward when various Services were provided: Electricity and Water in the 1930's; the Main Sewer in 1958 and Gas in the early 1960's. Prior to that street pumps were used for water; paraffin lamps for lighting and a septic tank in the garden for sewerage.

All the fields were open and anyone including children could roam anywhere. Swimming was common in the pond behind Budgen's Supermarket.

Apart from Howe Lane and the northern part of the village, the early Development centered mainly on the East side in the 1960's. It was not until the 1970's that the Planning envelope extended to the central area to the West of The Street. Rapid Development has continued since and is set to continue in the foreseeable future.

Poringland now has a variety of shops and other local services including a Supermarket, local stores, a Pharmacy, Dental Practice, Optician, Veterinary and 2 Doctors' Surgeries, a Fish and Chip shop, 4 Public Houses, Take Away Food outlets, Hairdressers and vehicle services. A variety of cultural activities are also available.

Significant Leisure facilities have been provided in recent years. Poringland Wood is a delightful area covering 10 hectares with good paths, a picnic area amid a variety of pine trees, silver birches and other deciduous trees.

Poringland Lakes is an interesting area with a maze of pathways around various water in former sand excavations. It is not yet available for public use. Poringland Community Wood off Carr Lane is a large area recently planted with trees. A network of paths runs through the wood. A pond provides additional interest.

The village also boasts a popular Play Barn.