

What is a Parish Plan?

A Parish Plan is a community consultation exercise. It is a unique opportunity for a community to look at its own concerns and interests through a structured consultation process that is driven and carried out by the community itself.

The outcome (the parish plan) lays out the issues raised and the desired outcomes as revealed by the consultation process.

Why should we do a Parish Plan?

A parish plan brings tangible benefits to your community through tapping into knowledge held by individuals in your community.

The plan provides a structured document with which to influence local and national government.

The published plan puts you in a much stronger position to attract funders for potential projects.

What does a Parish Plan look like?

There is no standard format for a Parish Plan. A plan usually has:

A detailed report that explains how the consultation has been carried out, the issues raised and conclusions drawn.

An Action Plan that clearly sets out what needs doing, when, why and by whom.

It is up to the community to decide which issues it would like to tackle, to agree priorities for action and how to present the information.

What can be achieved through a Parish Plan?

- Identify, prioritise and make known those issues that affect your community
- Produce an ACTION PLAN to promote that changes the community wants
- Defend the community from unwelcome changes
- Be useful in identifying actions that the community can undertake itself, such as: producing a community newsletter
- A plan helps enable communities to influence and engage with their local planning authority

What do Parish Plans do?

Parish Plans can be the blueprint for future survival of your community by addressing, in a strategic and coherent way, the issues facing your community.

Parish Plans are able to influence the Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP) and the preparation of the Local Development Framework (LDF).

Is a Parish Plan different to a Parish Appraisal?

The action plan is the key difference between a parish appraisal and a parish plan. It is an easy to read reference table that identifies:

- The issues
- The desired outcomes
- The actions needed
- Other agencies that can help
- The priority of each issue
- A timeframe for each outcome



What help is there for producing a plan?

We are here to help! The community planning team are here to answer any queries you may have in regards to producing a parish plan.

There is a wealth of information available to help you - such as: toolkits, websites and useful contacts.

How long does it take to do a Parish Plan?

A Parish Plan will approximately take 12 - 18 months to complete, although this could be affected by how much time people can commit to the process and how you choose to consult with the community.

What happens if we don't do a plan?

If you are happy with your community as it is, then it is vital that you make this known through a parish plan.

If you do not tell organisations the opinions of your community through a parish plan, they will have to guess them! If your community doesn't do a parish plan, your district council will, in effect, have to write one for you.

Getting Started

Very often, the production of a plan is initiated by 2 or 3 people. You will need to raise awareness about parish plans and discover whether people within the community are interested in being involved. One way to do this would be to hold a public meeting.

Don't forget to tell CCD that you want to do a parish plan - we can help!

Getting People Involved

"People in our village just aren't interested enough"

"We can produce questionnaires, but no one will fill them in"

Sometimes it's a challenge to inspire the community to express their views!

People are more likely to contribute if they feel **INVOLVED** in a project.

Steering Groups

A Steering Group could be of any size, and it is this group which will conduct the Parish Plan process.

The group should be a representative cross section from the community i.e. councillors, village hall committee members, residents, representatives from local groups and business owners.

Try to have a good spread of ages and be as inclusive as possible.

People Power!

There are a wide variety of skills that can assist with the Parish Plan process, such as:

- Chairing Skills
- Analytical Ability
- Computer Skills
- Get up and Go attitude
- Conversational Skills
- Fundraising
- Proof Reading
- Ideas for involving people
- Historical knowledge
- And many more!

All volunteers will have a skill which can help - even if it's making refreshments for an event.