
Background to Parish Plans

The Rural White Paper printed in 2000, described “Parish and Town Plans” as one of the measures to be brought in to help to create “**a vibrant countryside**” for the future.

What is a Parish Plan?

Parish Plans are “**holistic**” or **comprehensive** in scope. They should set out a vision for how the community wants to develop and identify the action needed to achieve it.

It gives **everyone** a chance to say what they think about the social, economic and environmental issues affecting their community.

- **Compliment and help deliver** local planning policies and frameworks and link with Local Strategic Partnerships but they cannot override adopted planning policy
- **Influence** local housing and land management strategies
- **Contribute** to the way local services are managed and delivered
- **Identify** which features and local characteristics people value
- **Identify** local problems and opportunities
- **Promotes** community involvement
- **Develop** residents plans for the future

It prepares a plan of action to achieve the vision.

Why produce a Parish Plan?

- It is envisaged that a “Parish Plan” will **“help all rural communities... to indicate how they would like their town or village to develop, to identify key facilities and services, to set out the problems that need to be tackled and demonstrate how its distinctive character and features can be preserved”**
- Gives the Local Strategic Partnerships, Councils and Primary Care Trusts a clear picture of what the community wants and needs
- Preparing a Parish Plan is one of the criteria needed to meet the new Quality Parish Council status
- Accessing funding opportunities

The Parish Plan Process

- **Invite Cambridgeshire ACRE to meet with the Parish Council to explain the benefits of a Parish Plan to the community**
- **Inform who may be the key stakeholders and interested parties**
- **Inform the whole community of the intention to produce a Parish Plan**
- **Form a Steering Group of representatives from different sections of the community including the Parish Council (2 maximum)**

The Parish Plan Process continued

- **Start to plan the process**

- **Consult with the wider community on issues to be included in the Parish Plan**

- **Design and undertake the consultation**

- **Develop an Action Plan for the Parish Plan**

- **Publication of Parish Plan**

- **Set up Community Action Planning Committee**



Parish Plan Grant

- Scheme is administered by **Cambridgeshire ACRE**
- Scheme is funded by **DEFRA**
- Parishes can apply for a grant up to the maximum of **£1,500**.
- **GRANTS WILL BE MADE ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS – SO GET YOUR APPLICATION FORM TO ACRE ASAP!**

Parish plan success stories:

Comberton

- Skateboard ramp
- Improvements to footpaths and cycle ways
- An additional 7 acres near the recreation ground was purchased by the Parish Council

Meldreth

- Created a pavement warden team
- Employed a part-time litter picker
- Extended social car scheme

Cottenham

- Anti-litter poster competition
- Created a toddler play area at the Recreation ground

Holywell

- Funded a youth shelter
- Developed a welcome pack for newcomers

Warboys

- 2 steering group members became parish councillors

Little Downham

- Created a community orchard
- Increased police presence
- Speeding signs