

**ACTIONS FROM COMPLETED PARISH PLANS
IN THE WITHAM LOCALITY**

Agenda Item

Contact Details:- Jan Cole
Designation:- Making the Links Project Officer & RCCE Field Officer
Ext. No:- 2303 RCCE Tel: 0844 477 3938
E Mail Address:- janco2@braintree.gov.uk; jan.cole@essexrcc.org.uk

Background Papers:- Review of Parish Plans Completed in Braintree District between 2002 and 2007
Financial Implications:- Provides some information to support applications for Local Committee Funding
Equalities Implications:- None
Legal Implications:- None
Options: To demonstrate that Parish Plans have a role in Locality Management
Risks: Ignoring actions in Parish Plans is contrary to community empowerment objectives

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Witham Local Committee received a presentation at its meeting on 10th January 2008 on the subject of Parish Plans and Village Design Statements and requested further information on Parish Plan actions in the Witham Locality

This Committee Report is an extract of the 2008 Review of Parish Plans completed between 2002 and 2007 and shows information relevant to the Witham Local Committee.

It provides details of the Parish Plan actions that are currently in progress or still to be done under three headings:

- Actions to be undertaken by the community
- Actions requiring help from specific service providers
- Actions and proposals that relate to wider strategic issues

DECISION

To decide if / how to incorporate Parish Plan actions into the priorities and action plan of the Witham Local Committee.

ACTIONS FROM COMPLETED PARISH PLANS IN THE WITHAM LOCALITY

Background

Braintree District Council has supported the production of Parish Plans through the joint funding since 1999, of the Rural Community Council of Essex, Appraisals Fieldworker Project. The aim of the project is to involve communities in decision making – to empower local people to take ownership of their own futures by becoming involved in planning and taking projects forward. The Project was highlighted as good practice in the Rural White Paper.

Community engagement has become increasingly engrained in different government initiatives and policies over recent years. The relevant current initiative is the National Empowerment Partnership programme announced by Communities and Local Government (CLG) in September 2007, following the publication of 'Strong and Prosperous Communities' in October 2006. The importance of Parish Plans is also highlighted in 'Rural Challenges; Local Solutions' (Defra March 2008).

The need for a process to link Parish Plans to Statutory Plans and to the delivery of services was recognised in the BDC Rural Policy and Action Statement, approved in 2005. The Rural Team at Braintree District Council has been working on these linkages through preparation of rural evidence base information and through communication with Local Committees as part of the Locality Management structure.

Parish Plans

Parish Plans are 'community-led plans', produced at a very local level with a high degree of community inclusion. They enable local community groups to get actively involved in the decision-making processes that affect the future of their town, village or locality.

Parish Plans address a range of social, environmental and economic issues, and produce two main types of outcome – action that can be undertaken by local groups, and proposals to influence actions, decisions and policies of larger organisations.

The completed Parish Plans in the Witham Locality represent a range of population sizes.

Parish	Year Completed	Population (2001 census)
Hatfield Peverel	2005/06	4,384
Kelvedon	2005/06	3,485
Rivenhall	2004/05	732
Witham	2002/03	22,470

Prior to 2002, parishes and towns carried out appraisals rather than parish plans. The appraisals identified the main issues and priorities but did not usually outline an action plan. Terling parish completed an appraisal prior to 2002.

Parish plans take between eighteen months and three years to produce, depending on how the volunteers are able to fit the work into their daily lives. It has been estimated that a parish plan takes 4,660 hours of volunteer time, valued at £25,723.

Progress on the original action plans is as follows:

Parish	Number of Actions in the Plan	Completed	Removed	Still to do	Ongoing	In Progress
Hatfield Peverel	32	9	1	9	2	11
Kelvedon	15	2	1	1	2	9
Rivenhall	35	18	2	4	5	6
Witham	86	54	16	10	3	3
Totals	168	83	20	24	12	29

Since completion of the original Parish Plan in 2002, Witham Town Council has reviewed the action plan and agreed 10 new actions which are currently in progress in addition to those above.

The parish plan actions that are currently in progress or still to be done have been analysed under three headings:

- 1 Actions to be undertaken by the community
- 2 Actions requiring help from specific service providers
- 3 Actions and proposals that relate to wider strategic issues

The detailed actions are summarised in 3 tables on the following pages.

Support for Parish Plan actions

Actions in the first table will require support in the form of advice and funding.

Actions in the second table will require advice and expertise from a variety of statutory and voluntary sector organisations and inclusion in service delivery programmes to ensure they are taken forward.

Actions in the third table will only be taken forward if they are supported by higher level strategy and policy for example by inclusion in statutory plans for the district, county or region.

WITHAM LOCAL COMMITTEE

Report of Parish Plan actions

Actions reported as 'In Progress' or 'Still to be done' as part of the 2008 review of Parish Plans
(actions in bold type are in the local priority action plan)

1 Actions to be undertaken by the community

Action/proposal	Village / Town	Year Plan completed	Comments
Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) to be erected throughout Village	Hatfield Peverel	2005/06	Funding secured through Witham Local Committee in January 2008
Notify BDC of respondents comments on public services	Hatfield Peverel	2005/06	
Public meeting to explore possible culture and leisure initiatives	Hatfield Peverel	2005/06	
Improve Hadfelda Sq Play Area	Hatfield Peverel	2005/06	
Prepare plans for use of Strutt Memorial Playing Field	Hatfield Peverel	2005/06	
Provide a new Community Centre	Kelvedon	2005/06	Kelvedon Community Association failed to obtain funding from Big Lottery Community Buildings Fund – more info available if required. Situation under consideration.
Refurbish toilet facilities in the village	Kelvedon	2005/06	Measured plans prepared. Meeting set up with Essex Police ALO preparatory to commissioning plans. Further info if required
Identify sites suitable for birdboxes and batboxes	Rivenhall	2004/05	
Investigate how other parishes obtained medical facilities and part time surgeries and prescription collection services	Rivenhall	2004/05	
Sponsor research to identify the characteristics of Witham's Labour Market, present and potential	Witham	2002/03	
Monitor developments and ensure that all possible measures are taken to alleviate the problem of flooding	Witham	2002/03	New Action
Support Witham & Braintree Rail Users Association in their efforts to improve the train services serving Witham	Witham	2002/03	New Action
Monitor progress of the planned rail improvement to the Braintree/Witham line and press for early implementation	Witham	2002/03	New Action

2 Actions requiring help from specific service providers

Action/proposal	Village / Town	Year Plan completed	Comments
Produce a Design Statement	Hatfield Peverel	2005/06	In progress with RCCE assistance
Mini Roundabout at The Street/Maldon Road junction	Hatfield Peverel	2005/06	ECC Highways decision awaited on finance
Alternative route and ban for HGVs	Hatfield Peverel	2005/06	Restriction notices erected in Church Road
Establish network of Quiet Lanes within the parish	Hatfield Peverel	2005/06	a/w new ECC personnel appointment
Assist in setting up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme	Hatfield Peverel	2005/06	
Clarify policy of access to, and use of the Wickham Bishops Road Ground	Hatfield Peverel	2005/06	Discussions in progress with ECC
Establish a pedestrian/cycle access from Wickham Bishops Rd to village centre	Hatfield Peverel	2005/06	Discussions in progress with ECC
Formation of Youth Council and youth club	Hatfield Peverel	2005/06	
Provide additional activities to involve young people in the village	Kelvedon	2005/06	Youth Forum, Discos, new teenage play equipment to open in May
Provide additional off street parking	Kelvedon	2005/06	Car Park site and access secured – cost £175K+. Contract about to be signed for construction 37 space cost £130K+
Amend the parking restrictions in the High Street	Kelvedon	2005/06	Currently questionnaire in preparation
Identify a suitable site in Rivenhall End for a large Xmas tree and to install an electricity supply point	Rivenhall	2004/05	
Form a residents association	Rivenhall	2004/05	
Seek to restore public toilet facilities in Witham Park. Improve park in general as a place for relaxation and family recreation	Witham	2002/03	Part of the Witham Public Park Project
Seek to establish community halls in accordance with wishes of local communities	Witham	2002/03	
Identify areas where traffic speed is a concern and seek appropriate measures to combat	Witham	2002/03	
Identify areas where pedestrian safety could be improved and seek improvements	Witham	2002/03	

Identify measures to combat cycling on pedestrian walkways and ensure implementation	Witham	2002/03	
Examine options for establishing an integrated employees/public transport system to facilitate travel between work and home	Witham	2002/03	
Investigate feasibility of establishing a One-Stop-Shop to assist employers seeking information	Witham	2002/03	
Explore feasibility of establishing low cost craft workshops incorporating retail outlets with living accommodation above	Witham	2002/03	
Examine options for expansion of Witham Market	Witham	2002/03	
Investigate options for an effective ban on HGVs using town centre	Witham	2002/03	
Conduct a survey to identify the changes required to the present bus service	Witham	2002/03	
Carry out a review of present bus service to major points outside Witham and consider whether they meet the needs of residents	Witham	2002/03	New action
Seek a fully integrated bus/rail service to serve the people of Witham	Witham	2002/03	New action
Examine proposals for improvements to Parkside Youth Centre	Witham	2002/03	New action
Examine options for establishing a drop in centre for young people	Witham	2002/03	New Action

3 Actions and proposals that relate to wider strategic issues

Action/proposal	Village / Town	Year Plan completed	Comments
Resist conversion from residential to commercial use	Hatfield Peverel	2005/06	
Need for social housing and retirement accommodation	Hatfield Peverel	2005/06	
Safe access from slip roads to A12	Hatfield Peverel	2005/06	
By-pass for Maldon through traffic (northern route preferred)	Hatfield Peverel	2005/06	
Direct route from A12 to Arla dairy	Hatfield Peverel	2005/06	
Protection of Post Office, open spaces, library etc	Hatfield Peverel	2005/06	

Protection of hedgerows, trees, verges etc	Hatfield Peverel	2005/06	
Exclude Rivenhall as a site for incineration	Kelvedon	2005/06	Awaiting results of memorandum of Understanding between BDC and ECC
Provide low cost housing	Kelvedon	2005/06	Previous rented scheme facilitated by PC at The Cloisters has apparently had to be offered for partial sale. No other exemption sites identified but existing possible sites in village identified to BDC (passed to Greenfields?)
Ensure the village envelope is not increased	Kelvedon	2005/06	KPC continues its policy to uphold the Envelope with serious consideration at time of any Review of LDF
Road improvements (e.g. A12 slip roads) to decrease the volume of traffic through the village	Kelvedon	2005/06	This falls into the "invisible area" between Highway Agency (A12, A120 improvements) and ECC (local traffic volumes) - an intractable problem
Maintain green wedge between Rivenhall and Witham	Rivenhall	2004/05	
Prevent large scale housing or industrial developments. Small scale and local needs within the village acceptable	Rivenhall	2004/05	
Low cost housing (2/3 bedroom), bungalows and sheltered accommodation	Rivenhall	2004/05	
Oppose widening of A12 and Rectory Lane and oppose new roads across the parish	Rivenhall	2004/05	
Oppose waste incinerator at Rivenhall Airfield site	Rivenhall	2004/05	
Maintain numbers at the primary school (include Rickstones End in the catchment area)	Rivenhall	2004/05	
Review the current cycleway network and identify new routes	Witham	2002/03	
Explore the possibilities for a town centre multi-feature complex incorporating cinema/theatre, under 18s nightclub and theme café, seminar presentation room for use by local businesses	Witham	2002/03	New action
Lobby for a northern by-pass	Witham	2002/03	New action