

Endorsement of Henstridge, Yenston and Bowden Parish Plan (Executive Decision)

Ward Members: Cllr Tim Inglefield & Cllr William Wallace
Strategic Director: Rina Singh, Place & Performance
Assistant Director: Helen Rutter, Communities
Service Manager: Helen Rutter, Area East Development Manager
Lead Officer: Tim Cook, Community Development Officer
Contact Details: tim.cook@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01963) 435088

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to present a summary of the findings and actions from the Henstridge Parish Plan and to ask members to formally endorse the plan.

Representatives of the Steering group have been invited to the meeting to present the plan for endorsement.

Public Interest

Communities establish their own priorities and achieve their goals by mobilising residents and businesses. The priorities and issues for Henstridge, identified through consultation, are set out along with specific solutions and actions in a published document.

Recommendation

That Area East Committee formally endorses the Henstridge Parish Plan.

Background

Community Plans are effectively commissioned by the town/parish council and produced by local steering group with parish/town council representation. As they are primarily local documents, Town/Parish councils formally adopt them and endorsement by Area Committees has no legal status. Endorsement does however ensure that the community planning process is used to influence policy and action plans in particular the Area Development Plan (ADP).

Endorsement relates specifically to recognition of priorities and our support for helping them deliver the plan in a non-spatial sense but does not imply support for any land use allocation that would pre-empt a planning application.

The full plan is attached as a separate document.

The Process

Henstridge Parish Council appointed a small team to coordinate the process. The plan has been developed through research and consultation at 2 consultation events held in the village hall. The first of these events was attended by over 300 participants. A draft was developed from the data gathered at the events and a number of targeted sessions to try to address gaps in responses from specific demographic groups. The draft plan was then subject to further consultation before adoption by Henstridge Parish Council.

SSDC input has been minimal with some initial guidance provided at the beginning of the process and a grant through the Community grant scheme.

Actions based on key findings/major Issues

The final report survey findings and actions have been arranged under the themes, Our Community, The Local Economy, The Natural Environment, The Built Environment, Traffic and Parking and Leisure and Recreation activities facilities.

Details of each of the themes are in the report which has been circulated under separate cover.

Our Community

- 1) The Parish is considered either safe or very safe by the majority of residents. (5.2)
- 2) Good range of facilities (play area, skate park, MUGA, playing field & village hall. (5.4)
- 3) Aspiration to improve provision for young people to include a youth club, youth council activities for under 10s and for teens. (5.4)
- 4) Identified need for volunteer support for these activities. (5.4)
- 5) Further action is required to publicise activities for young people. (5.4)

The Local Economy

- 1) Good range of local businesses in the parish. Evidence that there has been a recent increase in local employment opportunities (6.1)
- 2) Identified need for better mobile phone signal & faster broadband(6.1)
- 3) Approximately 1000 people employed on the airfield and Marsh Lane trading estate (6.2)
- 4) Majority view that the pubs and restaurants are an essential part of village life. (6.3)
- 5) Village shop identified as an asset to the village however parking for both deliveries and customers was identified as an issue. (6.4)

The Natural Environment

- 1) Footpath/bridleway network identified as important assets to be maintained (7.1)
- 2) A campaign to encourage irresponsible dog owners to clean up after their dogs is needed (7.1)
- 3) Support for projects to connect rights of way within and between developments. (7.1)
- 4) Support for community energy schemes (7.2)
- 5) Improving the maintenance of public spaces was identified as a need (7.3)

The Built Environment

- 1) Whilst the general consensus is that there is no need or support for further building of housing of any sort, any future developments must meet the need of local people and sheltered housing was identified as an example. (8.1)
- 2) Parking and Traffic issues are a priority for the parish and will need to be addressed as any part of new development. (8.1 & 9)

Traffic and Parking

- 1) Pedestrian Safety is an issue with two areas identified as particularly dangerous (9.1)
- 2) Excessive speed of vehicles recorded outside the Primary School and the southern approaches to the village. (9.1)
- 3) Issues with the width of the carriageways and tight bends on the High Street (9.1)

- 4) Parking is a particular problem for some residents in Yenston and outside the village shop and Woodhayes. (9.1)

Leisure and Recreation activities/facilities

- 1) Longer term project to refurbish or rebuild the Village hall was supported. This is being considered and addressed as a key project for the parish. (10.1)
- 2) Making better use of the hall, extending the range of activities and improving publicity and communication identified as a short term action.(10.1)
- 3) Support for the provision of a 'Green Gym' facility and all-weather track around the playing field. (10.2)

Implementation of the community plan

The plan has been adopted by Henstridge Parish Council. It is expected that the Parish Council will instigate regular independent reviews of the Parish Plan to ensure that it is achieving the recommendations and to reappraise the relevance of the plan to the village at the appropriate times.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report however, if members agree the recommendation to endorse the plan, actions and projects identified will become eligible for support from the Community Planning Implementation budget subject to application.

Corporate Priority Implications

This work contributes towards increasing economic vitality and prosperity and ensuring safe, sustainable and cohesive communities.

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications

Improved local provision of facilities and activities within each village or town and increasing local participation reduce the need to travel.

Equality and Diversity Implications

The community planning process supported by SSDC aims to give every local resident the opportunity to have an input into the way in which their town or Parish develops.

Background Papers: *Henstridge, Yenston and Bowden Parish Plan 2015*
