

Joint Area North Committee – 23 September 2009

8. Long Sutton – Endorsement of the Parish Plan (Executive Decision) (Excepted Business)

Head of Service: Charlotte Jones, Head of Area Development - North
Lead Officer: Les Collett, Community Development Officer
Contact Details: Leslie.collett@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01458) 257427

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to present a summary of the Parish Plan produced for Long Sutton and to seek formal endorsement for the elements which meet with SSDC (and SCC) aims and priorities.

Recommendation

That Joint Area North Committee endorse the Long Sutton Parish Plan.

Background

In 2006 following a Long Sutton Parish meeting, the Parish Council agreed to start preparations for a Parish Plan. 115 residents attended the meeting, from which 150 suggestions were put forward. A Parish Plan Team (PPT) of volunteers was formed.

Production of the Plan

More than two thirds of the residents of Long Sutton completed the 18 page survey. The Parish Council agreed that this gave them a democratic mandate on which to base a parish plan. The findings were reviewed along with the main issues and an action plan prepared.

Having reviewed previously published parish plans it was decided to concentrate on guiding principles to give clear allocation of responsibility for completion of every action to individuals and groups, ensuring practical timescales for completion of actions.

The PPT acts as an agent for the Parish Council, it is a body of volunteers with no legal status and only a limited lifespan therefore many of the actions in the parish plan falls to the Parish Council. However it will be essential that the PPT and residents generally give their full support to the Parish Council or many of the actions will not be completed.

The plan was published in 2008.

A summary of the current action and some implications for SSDC is included in Appendix A.

Key Findings of the household survey (2006)

- The Post Office, Village shop, Village Hall, Parish Church and School are considered to be the heart of the community.

- Virtually all respondents consider that there are no areas in the Parish where they feel unsafe.
- An overwhelming majority (98%) felt the Parish is generally well cared for.
- Support action to address needs for affordable housing especially for families and first time buyers.
- General concern for people with no personal transport and to maintain and enhance the public transport available.
- Speeding was a concern but there was little support for community speed watch.
- A large number of respondents would join a walking group and 22 would assist with footpath maintenance.
- The Newsletter, Village Shop and the Parish notice boards are the most important media of communications.

Monitoring

The action plan is monitored monthly by the Parish Council under nine theme headings: Community, Community Safety, Local Environment, Local Economy, Development Control and Housing, Public Transport, Highways, Footpaths and Communications.

Implications for Corporate Priorities

Working in partnership with the Long Sutton community to address the local needs and priorities identified within the Long Sutton Parish Plan will contribute to a number of key target areas drawn from the Somerset Local Area Agreement, Sustainable Community Strategy – some examples are included below.

2.1	Increase resident satisfaction with the built environment
2.15	Increase the % of household waste recycled and composted
3.4	With partners, enable the development of 4 housing schemes in rural communities by 2012
3.7	Support access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling
4.21	Increase % of people who feel they belong to their neighbourhood.
4.8	Improve dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police
5.6	Increase the % of people who feel informed about the council and its activities

Conclusion

It is recommended that the Long Sutton Parish Plan be formally endorsed, and used to guide future work. This is because of the plan’s close fit with existing SSDC plans and policies, the clear intentions of the parish council to support and enable the priorities to be addressed, and the high levels of involvement with the preparation and delivery of the plan.

Financial Implications

Grant applications or requests for services will be considered through existing procedures, informed by the content of the Parish Plan, and further consultation linked to the priorities in this plan.

Corporate Implications

(see body of report)

Other Implications

Supporting the process and outcomes of local community planning contributes to all Area North priorities, in particular:

- 5. Increase levels of local action and involvement in decision-making, which seeks to improve self-containment and sustainability.
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