

Area North Committee – 27 June 2012

9. Tintinhull Community Plan – Endorsement of Local Priorities

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Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to present a summary of the findings and actions from the Tintinhull Community Plan and to ask members to formally endorse the plan. (The draft Tintinhull Community Plan has been circulated to members under separate cover).

Public Interest

SSDC encourages local communities to establish their own priorities and achieve goals by residents, businesses and local organisations working together. This process can be helped through the production of a 'community led plan' (CLP). The results of community based consultation can provide high quality evidence to support decisions for the future.

A good quality process to produce local community plans (or CLP), can help communities / neighbourhoods to develop their own solutions to local problems and can encourage wider participation in the future.

Recommendation

That members endorse the priorities set out within the Tintinhull Community Plan, noting the comments of the Development Manager with respect to land-use planning implications.

Background

Community Plans are usually 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 the council's support for helping them deliver the plan in a non-spatial sense but does not necessarily imply support for land use or spatial policy that would pre-empt a planning application in the future.

Introduction

In 2010 Tintinhull Parish Council recognised that Tintinhull would benefit from a well researched community led plan which could aid decision making by individuals, village groups and organisations, the Parish Council and local authorities.

About Tintinhull

For a village of its size, Tintinhull has a rich variety of facilities and amenities. There is a school, church, pub, a working men's club, village hall, and garage, together with a number of other local businesses. There is a large sports field and pavilion, play are, parish allotments, recreation ground, tennis courts, and swimming pool! There are community groups and a number of regular events.

There are 421 households (2012), making a population of approximately 950 – at an average of 2.26 per dwelling.

Producing the Plan

The plan has been developed by a steering group through a range of consultation exercises which have been designed to make sure that everybody has had the opportunity to provide views of a range of topics and check the progress of the plan at various stages.

- Community Consultation event
- A village-wide survey questionnaire (received a 65% return rate)
- Information gathered from the Office of National Statistics and a variety of published surveys and research.
- Tintinhull Neighbourhood plan

The group has been in regular contact throughout the process with the Parish Council and the Community Development Officer (North), with SSDC grant aiding £750 towards the costs. The main support provided was by the Community Council for Somerset.

The plan was presented at a specially convened public meeting in spring of 2012 and gained endorsement, the plan has now been adopted by Tintinhull Parish Council.

The plan is set out under nine themes: – Communications, Activities, Sport & Leisure facilities; Young people and Children; Environment; Roads and Traffic; Community Safety; Health & Wellbeing. The plan has also included the previously published the Village Design Statement. A summary of the plans aims & objectives can be view in Appendix A.

Links with SSDC Council Plan

The Tintinhull Community Plan includes a series of vision statements which also reflect the SSDC Council Plan areas of focus and there are a number of similar actions in both plans.

Of particular note is the commitment within the plan to encourage local residents to help themselves by taking direct action to address the issues raised through consultation. In other words the plan is not a simply list of actions for others - which might commonly be the district or county council.

Examples of overlapping aims / actions are shown below.

SSDC Council Plan	Tintinhull Community Plan
Support the delivery of faster broadband to rural areas by 2015.	Establish effective broadband throughout the parish by supporting the Connecting Somerset broadband programme.
Continue to support communities to minimize flood water risks	Promote community awareness of the need to keep gullies clear of leaves in Autumn / put in place plans to mitigate flooding in known areas of risk.
Maintain street cleaning high performance across the district	Ask homeowners to keep bushes and hedgerows pruned and not overhanging footpaths.
With the Somerset Waste Partnership, develop options each year that increase recycling and further minimize waste.	Lobby SSDC and SCC to improve recycling of larger items / Improve collections from Bearley.
Promote high quality building design, high sustainability and insulation in new developments.	Continue to promote use of the Tintinhull Village Design Statement.
With partners, enable additional new homes to meet the needs of the district, including mixed use housing schemes to buy or rent that are affordable.	Recognise the priorities of Tintinhull residents in planning affordable housing predominantly for people with close local ties.
Ensure, with partners, that we respond effectively to community safety concerns raised by local people...	Increase the visibility and value of Tintinhull Neighbourhood Watch / establish efficient channels of communication within the community itself and with the police.
Work with a lobby partners to help communities to develop transport schemes and local solutions to reduce rural isolation in South Somerset to reflect local needs.	Promote good neighbourliness and establish a volunteer group to address issues relating to age or mobility... / pressure on SCC to maintain existing good bus service.
...promote healthy living	Encourage and foster new activities in the village and encourage take up of activities in adjacent centres.

Current activity to progress actions in the community plan

During the information gathering for the community plan it became evident that there was a strong interest in forming a walking group, which was quickly established. There is also a new Gardening Club and are in the early stages of launching a film club.

A volunteer has been identified to support work relating to younger people in the village, and consultation event is planned for July, as a lead into relaunching a Youth Club in September/October. (This in conjunction with the Community Youth Project which has been formed between a number of parishes in Area North).

The parish council owns runs the village hall and plans are being made to refurbish or replace this much needed facility. The parish council also owns a runs the sportsfield and pavilion. The need to improve facilities is identified in the plan to encourage greater use and to re-establish local sporting teams and other activities in this area.

Summary

The Tintinhull Community Plan provides the results of a considerable amount of research and consultation undertaken by the local steering group. The plan has identified a series of high priorities which will help inform further local decision-making. The parish council is taking a lead role to ensure that progress is achieved.

There are a range of issues and actions which match the SSDC Council Plan, and a variety of services can provide assistance and guidance as required to help with further progress.

It is recommended that the Tintinhull Community Plan is endorsed by SSDC.

Financial Implications

None from this report. Further support for projects will be assessed on a case by case basis.

Council Plan Implications

See report

Other Implications:

Local Plan / Development Management – (Comments from David Norris – Development Manager). The survey results with respect to housing indicates that Policy SS2 would be able to meet identified needs. These results may require further work to more fully establish local needs, at the appropriate time. Village Design Statements (VDS) have not been adopted within the current South Somerset Local Development Framework, however a VDS will still act as a material consideration for decision making on future development.

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)

Overall the plan promotes the provision of local facilities and increased self-containment, which can help reduce the need to travel. Refurbishment of existing facilities can assist with the implementation of measures for energy efficiency. Local action for flood prevention is also highlighted in the plan.

Equality and Diversity Implications

The community plan particularly highlights the needs of older and younger people, and promotes actions to increase the accessibility and availability of services and facilities for all ages and abilities.

Background Papers: *Tintinhull Community Plan.*