

Dunkerton Parish Plan

Issue 1
December 2007

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Dunkerton Parish Plan Issue 1 - December 2007

About the Parish

Situated on the northern slope of the valley of the Cam Brook, Dunkerton has been in existence for a thousand years or more. It is mentioned in Domesday Book; its name derives from the Anglo-Saxon words Dun/Carn/Ton, signifying "the town of the cairn on the hill", and this is a reference to a remarkable stone structure, erected to mark some ancient victory, which long ago stood on Duncorne Hill about a mile north-east of the site of the church. Nowadays the Parish of Dunkerton has a population of a little over 500 souls, living in about 220 households; these are mainly situated in the two principal settlements of Tunley and the village of Dunkerton itself, although there are other groups of houses in such locations as Withyditch and along the old Roman Fosse Way. It was once a thriving industrial community - there were several coalmines, and both the Somersetshire Coal Canal and the southern branch of the Bristol and North Somerset Railway passed through the parish. However, local industry withered away with the closure of the pits and the railway in the mid-twentieth century, and there is now little local employment, although the farming tradition continues, with several farms based in the parish.



Cam Valley Looking West

Neither Dunkerton nor Tunley has much of a village "core". Dunkerton has a pleasant little church, dating from the 13th century, but no school, shop or public house, while Tunley has one excellent butcher's shop, a capable

garage and a highly regarded recently renovated pub. The nearest shopping centre of any size is at Timsbury, and the local school is at Camerton. There are, however, no fewer than three public halls: Dunkerton Parish Hall, Tunley Recreation Centre and the Old Schoolroom at Withyditch. In addition, Dunkerton has a fine cricket ground and Tunley a well-patronised football pitch. The parish has the benefit of being set in very attractive and largely unspoiled countryside, as well as having some interesting archaeological, scientific and literary associations.

A few statistics:

Number of households in the Parish: 220
Population of the Parish as recorded in 2001 census: 479
Number of (recorded) voters in 2007: 409
Percentage of 2007 questionnaires returned: 57%
Number of places of employment in the Parish: 5
Number of working farms: 6

About the Parish Plan

On 16th December 2005 the Parish Council agreed to support the formation of a Steering Group to facilitate the formation of the Dunkerton Parish Plan. This is in effect a statement of how the whole community sees the parish developing over the next few years - how the quality of life of all local residents can be improved, how local resources can be used to foster and advance the social, environmental and economic welfare of the parish as a whole, and how its voice can be heard beyond its boundaries. Just as important, it attempts to set out a constructive and practical action plan by which the aspirations of the parish may be achieved.




Dunkerton Hill - Top



Dunkerton Hill - Bottom

The Steering Group, formed early in 2006, has met on an average every six weeks; all its meetings have been open to parishioners. There have also been a number of public meetings and other events aimed at familiarising residents with the objects of the Parish Plan and inviting involvement in its development.

In May 2006, the Steering Group sent out a preliminary questionnaire to seek the parishioners' general views about local issues. We received a 35% response, and following analysis of the replies a follow-up questionnaire was prepared and distributed to every household in the parish in February 2007. This second questionnaire (which was not to a "box-ticking" design) enabled parishioners to say more about the Top 10 issues as they affected them and in as much detail as they consequently felt appropriate. The response rate was even better than before, with 57% of the questionnaire forms being returned with meaningful comments.



**Dunkerton Parish Plan
Questionnaire 2007**

A Parish Plan is a statement of how the community sees itself developing over the next few years. It should set out how the community wants to develop, and identify the action needed to achieve it.

The plan can include everything that is relevant to the people who live and work in the community. Parish Plans have the potential to influence a wide range of organisations and processes which affect the lives of rural communities.

It is important that the whole community is involved in producing the plan, not just those people who usually come along to parish council meetings.

*From "Parish Plans: Guidance for Parish and Town Councils"
By The Countryside Agency*

The preliminary analysis of these forms was carried out by means of an open meeting at Tunley Recreation Centre, during which residents were able to participate in the analysis and cataloguing of responses on flip charts spread around the room, or simply to act as observers and discuss the emerging findings over a cup of coffee and a biscuit. It quickly became apparent that major areas of concern revolved around traffic through the village and security problems, and accordingly a further public meeting was quickly arranged at which these concerns might be expressed in yet more detail and colour.

The meeting, which was (reassuringly) attended by senior members of Bath and North East Somerset Council (B&NES) and the Avon and Somerset Constabulary, took place on 8th May 2007. A gratifying number of residents were present, some actions were agreed with our visitors and again a number of valuable points were recorded. The Steering Group additionally took this opportunity to invite parishioners to come forward and help form Working Groups to address the issues that had been raised.

At this stage in the Steering Group's investigations it was felt that although there was a shortage of input from young people in the parish, and few immediate volunteers to set up Working Groups, enough information was available to prepare a draft Parish Plan. The draft was presented for further comment at the annual Dunkerton Fair on Saturday 23rd June 2007.



King William Inn Tunley

The Plan represents the collective view of a large number of residents, and as such carries much more weight than any one person who might be trying to make a change. When Central Government set up the whole structure for the creation of Parish Plans, it said that the whole purpose of the initiative was to get feedback from local communities which would influence both its decisions and - more importantly - the decisions of the local authority, in our case B&NES. From 2011, the Local Development Framework laid down by B&NES will be required by statute to take into consideration the Parish Plans in its area. So what we say is important, and has considerable potential to affect the future development not only of Dunkerton but of its neighbouring parishes.



Weavers' Shop Tunley

Grateful acknowledgement should be given to the Dunkerton Parish Council, which although not directly involved in the organisation of the Steering Group or the production of the Plan has given the Group its unstinting support, and has agreed to underwrite its costs up to an agreed limit; also to the Quartet Community Foundation, which has not only given the Group valuable advice as to the best method of achieving its aims but has also made a substantial financial grant without which it would have been difficult if not impossible to achieve as much as we have.



AVS Garage Tunley

Sincere thanks are also due to those residents of the Parish who have contributed to the Plan by filling in and returning the questionnaires, attending the various meetings and making constructive suggestions.

At this point it may be appropriate to acknowledge in advance, so to speak, those public-spirited people who it is hoped (and confidently expected) will come forward to participate in the Working Groups which will need to be set up to advance the objectives of the Action Plan. Such participation will be essential if the Parish Plan is to achieve its purpose of fostering and developing our community life.

Issues Raised in the Initial Survey

There are ten principal topics forming the subject-matter of the Plan:

Highways and traffic
Police and security
Countryside and the environment
Public transport
Energy and waste
Leisure and clubs
Health and social services
Youth and education
The Parish Council
The Parish's heritage



Withyditc

An analysis of the Top 10 Issues

Highways and Traffic

This topic provoked the liveliest response of any in the questionnaire; it was as a result of this that on 8th May 2007 a meeting with representatives of B&NES and the police was arranged, when strong feelings were expressed in particular about what was considered to be the excessive speed of road traffic along the A367, particularly Dunkerton Hill, the B3115 through Tunley village and the stretch of road eastwards from Tunley towards the junction with the A367. Both the questionnaire returns and comments at the meeting show the clear perception within the Parish that the Highway Authority is playing down the significance of this problem; there have been complaints, for example, that speed checks took place only on Saturdays, in full view of road users, and at inappropriate points along the road.



A367 Approach to Dunkerton

It also appeared at the meeting that the Highway Authority had no proper procedure for logging or monitoring complaints, both about speeding and road conditions generally, and when assessing the amount and nature of road usage failed to take into account such significant factors as new developments, both actual and proposed, in such areas as

Paulton. There are however certain steps that can be taken by Dunkerton residents themselves to monitor the situation, such as the creation of a Neighbourhood Speed Watch, the maintenance of a written record of complaints relating to road and traffic problems, the acquisition of a hand-held speed gun, and participation in the Community Safety Partnership.



Our Rural Parish Roads, HGVs and Drivers' Blind Faith in SATNAV: a Dangerous and Destructive Mix

There were also several comments on other matters, for instance the poor quality of road surfaces and road drainage throughout the parish, problems arising from inconsiderate parking, obstruction of sightlines, the desirability of more pavements/sidewalks and pedestrian crossings, the maintenance of hedgerows and ditches. A good number of such matters are either outside the remit of the local authority, or unlikely to be dealt with for budgetary reasons, and a considerable degree of self-help will be required if these are to be rectified.

Potential actions

A Highways Working Group could be formed, to work in conjunction with the Parish Council, with the remit of:

Exploring feasibility of Neighbourhood Speed Watch

Exploring possibilities of Community Safety Partnership

Identifying sites of flooding, investigating frequency and cause, and reporting to B&NES Actionline

Reporting road surface defects to Actionline

Identifying instances of unsafe parking, taking action as appropriate

Maintaining a record of complaints concerning road and traffic problems, liaising with the Traffic Authority about these complaints and monitoring any action taken as a result.



Main Road Through Tunley

Police and Security

The general view as expressed in questionnaire responses was that crime is not a serious problem in the Parish; there were however some concerns about the lack of a police presence, particularly since the loss of the old "community policeman" some years ago. There was uncertainty about whether the Neighbourhood Watch scheme was still in operation, and some queries about the existence and purpose of PCSOs. Again, the police representatives at the public meeting were able to provide some guidance on security issues.



Police Community Vehicle

There is a local Beat Manager (Constable Trevor Gardiner), who is responsible for eight villages in the area, and it was hoped that before too long he would be issued with a mobile phone so that he can be more readily contacted in case of emergency. From about May 2007 PCSOs will also be in evidence in the region (although there was no assurance that one would be available within the Parish). The police Community Beat Vehicle visits Tunley twice a month, when it is parked on the King William car park, and residents are encouraged to make contact with the officers who man it.

Information was also given about a relatively new multi-agency organisation called PACT (Partners and Communities Together), intended to investigate and report back on issues identified by residents as being of concern; more investigation into this may prove fruitful.

Potential actions

A security group could be formed with the remit of:

Liaising with the Neighbourhood Watch group with a view to publicising its activities and improving take-up of its service.

Consider increased use of email for sharing information.

Forming a link with police authorities, particularly the Beat Manager.

Publicising means of reporting incidents, by phone and otherwise

Maintaining pressure to ensure Parish has services of a PCSO

Monitoring the impact of PCSOs on security concerns in the Parish

Investigate PACT



Have you seen these villains? The Parish Plan Gang, holed up just before Christmas in Withyditch Schoolroom, having stolen all of the parishioners' good ideas plots the breakout of the Plan in January and wonders how after the job 6 people will fit on one crossbar

Photo courtesy of the Gang's getaway cyclist, Chris Revill

Countryside and the Environment

The majority of parishioners clearly value the unspoilt, rural character of the parish; this concern was reflected in a large number of constructive suggestions for maintaining and protecting the local environment. Amongst these were:

The need to maintain a good footpath network with improved signposting, maintenance of the surface of the footpaths themselves, clipping back overgrown hedges, repair and maintenance of stiles &c, reintroduction of "kissing gates" in place of unsightly galvanised iron ones.

The production of a definitive map of all footpaths, bridleways &c in the Parish

The promotion of long-distance footpaths such as the Limestone Link
The need to control litter, both agricultural and by users of the paths and lanes and with particular reference to fouling by dogs

The protection of rare plants and orchids, especially at Tunley Recreation Ground, and the monitoring of rare species of reptiles and animals

The production of an "amenity report" or booklet

The need to prevent overdevelopment in the Parish

A campaign to reduce light pollution, particularly in Tunley village and from the Peasedown St John roundabout

The fostering of a spirit of pride in the Parish, coupled with the cleaning or replacement of the "Tunley" village sign

The formation of a body of volunteers to undertake maintenance tasks.



Footpath,
Tunley



Cam Valley Looking East

Potential actions

Three separate groups could be formed:

1. A footpath group (the “Dunkerton Rangers”?) with the following responsibilities:-

To survey the footpath network as a whole to determine its extent, condition and necessary maintenance

To consider the condition of gates, stiles, bridges &c

To consider the desirability/practicability of introducing such amenities as litter bins/dog fouling bins at strategic points such as Blind Lane.

To explore possibility of producing a map or booklet showing footpath network.

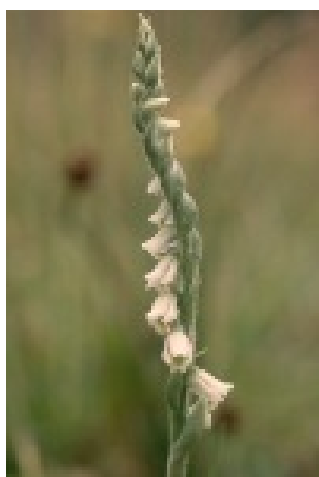
To investigate availability of public or other funding (such as “Awards for All”) for these repairs and improvements.

To publicise, in cooperation with such groups as the Tunley Walking Group, the existence of the footpath network.

2. A “naturalist” group to monitor the Parish’s flora and fauna, particularly rare species, and to consider introducing or reintroducing species formerly found in the area but now vanished

3. A planning group to be formed to provide collective comment to the parish council regarding planning applications and their effect on the local environment; to lobby for reduction of light pollution in the area; and other related matters.

Autumn
Ladies
Tresses



Bath
Asparagus



Public Transport

The general response to the questionnaire indicated that on the whole residents were fairly satisfied with the existing bus services, although a number of respondents thought that the frequency of buses should be improved and some thought that fares were too expensive. The siting of bus stops seems to be satisfactory except for people living at Withyditch who had to face the long haul up the hill to the B3115 whenever they wanted to catch a bus. Visibility at the bus stop at the foot of Dunkerton Hill was criticised. There was some uncertainty about the existence or availability of a "dial-a-ride" service. Several residents suggested the encouragement of the use of the "very good" Park and Ride service from Odd Down. It was thought that some form of permanent liaison with B&NES and/or the bus companies might be beneficial.

Potential actions

A small users' group could be formed to monitor the frequency and usage of the local buses and to keep in touch with the providers of the services.



Tunley

Bus Shelter Dunkerton Hill

Energy and Waste

On the question of waste disposal, the general view is that we are provided with a good service, and that the onus is on residents to make sure they make good use of it ("some people do not seem to have got the message"). There was some anxiety that weekly collections might not be maintained, and a few complaints about the requirements for taking rubbish to the kerbside and putting it out the night before collection actually took place, on the grounds of inconvenience/mess/disturbance by rats and other animals. There were suggestions that collection of rubbish, cardboard and material for recycling should be co-ordinated (ie collected on the same day), and that a more positive recycling initiative should be instituted in the Parish; the idea of a "community composting scheme" also received support. Respondents were worried about fly-tipping. A contribution from outside the Parish suggested the periodic provision of a large skip at some convenient point for the disposal of large items. Finally, it was felt by some that street lights should be switched off during the "silent hours" to save electricity.

Energy-related points were:

A mains gas supply should be provided to as much of the Parish as possible

The main sewage system covered only a part of the Parish, and should be extended

Householders should be encouraged, by the provision of financial subsidy or otherwise, to install solar panels or other carbon-neutral sources of electricity. In this connection, it was suggested that the Parish Council might play a useful part by encouraging renewable energy when commenting on planning applications.

Potential actions

A survey could be carried out in conjunction with B&NES as to the logistics and practicalities of improving the waste collection and disposal process along the lines suggested

The Parish Council could be asked to pursue the possibility of providing a mains gas supply and additional mains foul drainage to the Parish, and of reducing unnecessary consumption of electricity by street lighting.

A sub-group could be formed to explore the practicalities and economics of encouraging "renewable energy" installations such as solar panels in the Parish.

Leisure, Sport and Clubs

The three public halls in the Parish were considered to provide a considerable benefit and to deserve support, although a small minority expressed the view that Dunkerton Parish Hall was redundant and/or should be sold off for housing! Some concern was felt about the under-use of Withyditch schoolroom, as well as the future of the Withyditch chapel. For its size, the Parish supports a wide variety of clubs and societies, listed below. Some respondents felt that these and other parish activities were under-advertised. Ongoing repairs and improvements to all three halls should be encouraged, and a research should be carried out into the availability of grants for such purposes. There is no Youth Club as such; should one be formed?

Local events such as the Dunkerton Annual Fair were welcomed as serving the community well; the mobile library service was also commended.

Sports grounds were more than adequate; both the football pitch at Tunley, which supported two regular teams, and the cricket pitch in Dunkerton were valuable assets. Some uncertainty was expressed as to the ownership of the field in which the annual Dunkerton Fair was held, and whether it might be used for other events.

Clubs/Societies active in the parish:

Benefice Choir
Cam Valley Wildlife Group
D O G (Dog Obedience Group)
Dogcraft
Doll's House Club
Dunkerton Bellringers
Dunkerton Cricket Club
Hacksaw (Rock Band)
Music Box
Somerset Coal Canal Society
Tap Dancing Class
Tunley Football Club
Tunley Toddler Group
Tunley Walking Group
Tunley Whist Club
Withyditch Chapel Centre
Women's Institute
Yoga Group

Bellringers' Practice
Dunkerton Church



Potential actions

A register of Parish Clubs and Societies could be compiled and maintained, supported by an appropriate means of publicising their activities.

Specific improvements should be considered to halls that would increase opportunities for social contact.



Parish Plan Steering Group Stall
Dunkerton Fair

Health and Social Services

There are no doctors or dentists or other health facilities within the Parish, but respondents to the questionnaire did not express any concerns about this state of affairs and indeed provision of health care was described as “excellent”.

No views were expressed about the adequacy or otherwise of services for the elderly, but it should perhaps be recorded that there is a relatively high proportion of elderly people in the Parish, particularly living at the Crossways Caravan Park, and thought should be given to providing such residents with information about what services for the elderly are available.

Potential actions

A sub-group (which might comprise a single person) could be formed to consider whether services for the elderly should be better publicised

Youth and Education

All local schoolchildren go to schools outside the Parish, although there is one successful toddlers’ group in Tunley. No suggestion was made that this situation presented any problem, except that one or two respondents were concerned that the present school transport system should be maintained. What links exist between the local primary schools and the Parish? It was commented that the number of younger children in the Parish was steadily increasing, and that there was a lack of places for them to play safely, particularly in Dunkerton village; it would be very desirable to provide a communal play area with equipment such as swings &c, preferably near the church if a suitable piece of land could be identified.

Some respondents felt (and the Steering Group agrees) that the questionnaire produced insufficient response from young people in the Parish as to what facilities they would like to see; further consultation would be desirable.

Potential actions

A group could be set up to investigate and report on the wishes and needs of the youth of the Parish

A group could be set up to explore the availability of land suitable for the provision of a children's play area; the desirability and practicality (including cost implications) of securing such land if available; the logistics and cost of supplying it with equipment; the actual benefit to the Parish of such a play area



Promoting a Healthy Lifestyle – Yoga Classes at Tunley Recreation Centre
Photo courtesy of Yvonne Bretoniere

The Parish Council

Considerable appreciation was expressed for the activities of the Parish Council, which was described as “always ready to listen”. The need was however emphasised for clear and adequate communication between the Council and the Parishioners, by means of a newsletter or otherwise. The parish magazine “Contact” might be utilised for this purpose, with the consent and support of the church organisation at present responsible for its production; this magazine could be enlarged or even taken over altogether by the Council. In addition, or alternatively, a website might be set up for the use of the whole Parish including the clubs and other organisations mentioned earlier in the Parish Plan. Attempts should also be made to encourage British Telecom to make Broadband more widely available in Dunkerton, and to alert residents to the existence of the website if and when it is set up.

On the subject of parish communications generally, comments were made about the lack of generally-available information about the parish, particularly for new residents; a “welcome pack” might be provided to newcomers containing such information. (It is understood that the church used to produce such a pack). A suggestion was also made that a directory of the parish would be useful.

Potential actions

A group could be set up to investigate the provision of a Parish-wide means of providing information, both in the form of a regular magazine or newsletter and on the web by the creation of a Parish website; this to be done in co-operation with the producers of the parish magazine “Contact” and with the existing group engaged in setting up the website

Consideration could be given to forming a “Dunkerton Welcome Committee” charged with keeping track of new arrivals to the Parish and providing them with a welcome pack containing useful information about the Parish

A group could be set up to consider the production of a Directory of the Parish to include details of services, businesses and tradesmen operating in the parish

Heritage

A large number of respondents considered that more should be done to publicise and promote the Parish's rich heritage. Many historical and archaeological features have either disappeared or become obscured; these should be identified, traced and where possible marked with plaques or other distinguishing features. Associations with important figures such as William Smith ("the father of English geology"), Arthur Conan Doyle and others should be publicised. A "heritage trail" could be promoted, perhaps following the line of the Somersetshire Coal Canal and the old railway. The local style of buildings should be protected by insistence on the use of traditional materials. A local history society should be formed.

Potential actions

A group could be set up to consider the whole question of the local heritage, and how best to protect and promote it



No "HGVs"! Old Warning Plate, Splott Bridge



Photo Courtesy of Somerset Coal Canal Society



Dunkerton Church Belltower

So - What is the Plan?

In essence the plan is very simple - to respond to the concerns raised by the parishioners, following up those potential actions that are deemed to be feasible and practicable.

There will be several ways to do that, dependent on the matter in hand. Some would best be progressed by the parish council, which would ascertain the parishioners' views and put them forward in shaping longer term local development plans with B&NES council. Others would best be dealt with by local action; in some cases this could be short and concentrated but in others it would have to be carried out over a longer period, with the help of individual parishioners who would form themselves into working groups for the purpose.

It is tempting at this point to set out a detailed list of the proposed actions which would benefit the community; we have however resisted this temptation, as we think such action would be premature. Discussion would be necessary to decide which actions would be realistic, and how they should be progressed. As the response to invitations to form working groups has not yet been as great as we would have wished, we are not in a position to start all the necessary discussions. So although progress has already been made in the areas listed below, it is our view that production of a definitive action plan must await the active participation of the parish itself. The Dunkerton Parish Plan at this stage, therefore, is not so much a statement of what WE think should be done for the parish as one of HOW we believe the parish should set about deciding what should be done to address the issues identified, and how to do it. This may not be ideal, but we believe it to be the most realistic approach.

The Plan - Progress to Date

Since the first draft of the plan was tabled for public display and discussion at the 2007 Dunkerton Fair, some of the potential actions have been taken up and work is in hand:

A parish Heritage event (talk on Somerset Coal Canal) was held to coincide with production of final plan (issue 1) 12 Sep.

Work has started to develop a follow-on youth questionnaire, or some other effective form of engagement with young people in the parish

A communications Working Group has been formed to dovetail development of a parish newsletter with a parish website. The domain name www.dunkertonparish.co.uk has already been secured.

This will sweep up the potential to better monitor and advertise the activities of local clubs, societies and businesses.

Additionally, and within the same remit, the 'Welcome to Dunkerton Parish' information pack has been located and is being updated

The PPSG has offered more help to the parish council in dealing with its routine correspondence, offering to take draft policy papers and development plans to Working Groups or ad hoc committees of interested parties for comment and feedback (with a view to encouraging action planning and WG development)

Enquiries have been made seeking to improve local broadband availability, currently very poor in Dunkerton, by 'piggy-backing' on new developments in Bath Business Park.

The Parish Council is has in hand the reinstatement of the bus stop in Tunley.

The Tunley Walking Group is interested in "Beating the Bounds" in 2008 and has agreed to act as a Working Group to support the implementation of the Western Partnership's Rights Of Way Improvement Plan

Tunley Recreation Centre committee has formed a Working Group to improve the children's play area.

The Steering Group and a Highways Working Group are reviewing the actions agreed at the public meeting with police & highways in May:

Roads and Traffic - Question	Response
The flashing speed warning signs in Tunley only worked for 24 hours.	B&NES Highways Dept have had problems with getting the contractor to repair signs which have proved faulty such as the one in Tunley. B&NES will endeavour to get the contractor to return and rectify the problem.
The cats eyes have been taken out and not replaced. These are needed in foggy conditions.	New stick on cats eyes have proved unserviceable. Cats eyes which have come loose have to be removed and probably this is what has happened in this case, B&NES will investigate and take necessary action.
Could there be a graded speed limit on the A367? 30 mph speed limit is not being obeyed. Difficult to cross the road and an accident may occur.	Volume of traffic has increased. To be investigated.
The Hollow, Dunkerton – cow parsley is restricting visibility. Are there any simple measures which could be taken to rectify this?	B&NES to see if cow parsley can be cut back.
Dunkerton Village – road is very narrow into the village and there is no speed limit. Is it possible for a 20mph to be installed? This	To be investigated.

route is used as a rat run during peak hours.	
A367. Heavy vehicles are travelling at speeds in excess of 60 mph, causing danger and tearing up the road surface. Motorbikes are also travelling at an excessive speed.	The A367 carries more traffic than the A39 so problems relating to this road should be looked at before those relating to the A39, but this is dependent on funding. It must be borne in mind that if more of B&NES funds are spent on Highways other services eg Social Services must receive less.
Business Park, development of Peasdown St John and other new housing developments produce more traffic through the parish. What is being done about this?	When planning permission is granted, account is taken of the increase in traffic on the existing road network. New developments are built near bus routes to encourage people to use public transport. Developments are sited near shopping facilities and businesses to try to eradicate the need for excessive travel. The aim is to encourage residents to use public transport so that existing roads can be kept in reasonable condition. B&NES has put in a bid for government funding for the "Bath Package". The aim is to secure the funding to improve public transport, install more bus lanes and build more Park and Ride sites.
Dangerous junction near the Bombay King Indian Restaurant – bad visibility. Is it possible to have a roundabout here to slow the traffic?	To be investigated.

Policing - Question	Response
Neighbourhood Watch. Could emails be used to disseminate information?	Police will look into the use of technology when PACT is more established.
What types of things need to be reported?	It is worth reporting any matter of concern so that resources can be targeted appropriately. The number of officers based at Radstock Police Station is the same as it was in 1974! There is a central recording point for incidents so that all calls can be logged and monitored. Beat Officers are soon to get mobile phones so that they can respond to an incident immediately.

The Steering Group is working with the Natural Environment Team in B&NES Planning Services to produce a parish wildlife map

To improve communication and integration with its neighbours, the Parish Council has joined the Avon Association of Local Councils

To concentrate limited resources onto issues that stand best chances of early (and high visibility) resolution, and where parishioners were already active, the PPSG has decided that *for the moment* no specific actions will be instigated regarding Public Transport, Energy & Waste and Health and Social Services.

The Plan - Next Steps

Where Working Groups now exist, they will be challenged and supported to respond to the key points raised in the detailed survey of parishioners' concerns and ideas. Ideally, this will result in Working Groups devising their own action plans, thus creating self-sustaining change agencies in the parish.



Meeting to Discuss the Parish Newsletter

But we must be realistic; parish planning is a new process and a lack of resources, confidence, knowledge or commitment may militate against our reaching this situation in the short term. That does not mean that Working Groups cannot add value now or create opportunities for improvement. Nor should we be pessimistic; as parishioners in the Working Groups subsequently see and feel the results of their own efforts, we may expect success to breed success with momentum built up on a broader front in the medium term.

Though its initial development work is coming to a close, PPSG can still lead, cajole, praise, provide advice and encourage experimentation in the Working Groups. It commits to do so:

Where Working Groups do not yet exist, and until the new parish newsletter and website are available, the PPSG will engage directly with “communities of interest” or local subject matter experts to address issues and encourage involvement. Work to date, and the PPSG’s local knowledge, means we know who the movers and shakers are

The PPSG will periodically monitor progress across all Working Groups, subject matter experts and communities of interest to keep the planning process moving forward

Improved collaborative working with the parish council will help in this process and educate us all about how Working Groups, and hence parishioners, can best be engaged - particularly in the PPSG’s helping the council deal with emerging policy statements, periodic performance reports and consultation drafts from B&NES and other government agencies

We should not plan to embed parish planning into the future by relying on sporadic deliveries of hard copy flyers and PPSG-headed correspondence to every property. Such irregular, labour-intensive and stand alone engagements were quite suitable for the early stages of the parish planning process, but follow-on work must now be better integrated into parish life. Consequently, the introduction of the new, parish-wide newsletter and the coincidental creation of a Dunkerton parish website will provide the step change in communication capability across the parish that the PPSG regards as vital to the successful development of parish planning, underpinning its implementation and maintenance phases

We will take stock and update the Plan to issue 2 following the Parish AGM in 2008.

Christopher Gosland (Chairman)
Max Crofts
David Orme
Denise Priest
Chris Revill
Martin Robinson
Alan Shamp
Miriam Woolnough

December 2007