

Summary of Grantchester Parish Plan

The Parish Plan is a process, not just a document. This process is funded by the Countryside Agency whose aim is for each community to identify the issues that are important to its members and thus, to enable villages to become more in control of their own space, both social and environmental.

The Grantchester Parish Plan Steering Group has run three open consultations: an initial leaflet, an interactive exhibition and a questionnaire for everyone in the village. This document aims to summarise the results and action points emerging from the final questionnaire stage. There were 302 respondents of all ages from 137 (out of 244) households; this is a high response rate representing the views of a majority of the residents.

The full plan containing more details of villagers' views and further action points related to each section of questioning is available on the website at <http://www.grantchester.info/parish-plan/> or contact Livia Mitson (Chair of the Steering Group) on 01223 840590 for a paper copy. Copies will also be freely available at a forthcoming public meeting, which will provide a forum for discussion and implementation of the proposals. The Parish Plan committee has played its role in eliciting and disseminating everyone's views; it is now up to us all as a community to begin the process of putting these plans into action!

Summary of Survey Results

Likes and Dislikes

Most people liked the same aspects of life in Grantchester: the community, the rural setting, and the Meadows. The pubs, shop and recreation ground were also mentioned.

Common dislikes were problems with traffic and parking, and lack of facilities for children and young people, although 8% of people disliked nothing about the village.

Traffic and Road Safety

Speed of traffic and inconsiderate **parking** are perceived as major problems by a majority of villagers. Just over half think that there should be flashing 30 mph lights at the Coton Rd entrance to the village and there was some support for other measures in the village such as speed cameras, more warning signs, chicanes, "children at play" signs, pedestrian crossing, etc. (around 30% supported each of these). An overwhelming majority of 82% of people supported **double yellow lines** somewhere in the village with most support for yellow lines near the church on the High St and on Mill Way. 22% of people were opposed to a village car park, however 50% of those supporting a car park felt that it should be sited in/around Manor Farm.

Travel

Villagers are fairly dependent on **cars** with two thirds making a daily car journey. Less than 10% of respondents experienced difficulty getting to medical services. **Cycling** was popular, with 38% of respondents making a daily cycle journey and a further 18% cycle once a week. Well over half of the respondents felt that there should be more cycle paths, particularly to Trumpington Park & Ride or along the main road to Trumpington. Over half wanted improvements to the surface and width of the cycle path over the Meadows. Less than 7% of respondents use the **bus** daily although half make occasional use of the service.

Community Services

More than half of respondents would use **mains gas** if it was available and 41% would sign up to a **cable** network. 34% would use **alternative sources of energy** (e.g. solar).

64% of respondents have Internet access but 57% said they would not use a **village website**. The most **popular activities** from the suggested list were a tennis club (35%), concerts in the village hall (35%), a village Arts group (29%) and Canoe Club (46%). Other desired activities were a Children's Club, a Youth Club, Babysitting Circle, Pool Club, Parent & Toddler Group. Many other activities were also suggested.

The vast majority of respondents use the **village shop** sometimes and just over half use it at least weekly. There were a number of comments covering the positive side of having a shop and post office in the village (about one third of 141 comments made), as well as more critical remarks about the non-central location, difficulties with the opening hours for those who work full-time and quality of stock (two thirds of comments). 84% of people felt that the **church** was important in the village although comments indicated that many people considered it important for social and community reasons rather than religious reasons.

Just under half had no opinion on the service provided by the **police** while 29% felt it was poor. 52% of people wanted a greater police presence in the village and 63% of people would like a dedicated constable.

Children and Youth

The **desired activities** for children and youth were: sports events (47%), drama and art (28% each), activities for under 5s (24%), dancing (23%) and cooking (19%). More recreation facilities were also wanted, including a tennis court, football pitch and adventure playground.

There was strong support for a Youth Club for teenagers (already operational since October 2004), for a Children's Club, and for organised outings. There was also support from 33% for reviving the village school.

Environment

126 people felt there should be no more **street lighting** in Grantchester while 100 people felt there should be more. Over three quarters felt there should be **more trees** planted in Grantchester; 43% of people felt that the existing trees needed better maintenance. 59% wanted **new hedgerows** to be planted, mainly on the surrounding fields.

170 people wanted to see **dog bins** in Grantchester with 146 people wanting them at entry points to the Meadows. There was also support for dog bins at the entrances to the fields.

Turning to the Meadows, 152 people (61%) were in favour of both **investing in a conservation and maintenance plan** and putting **information about the Countryside code/wildlife at the entrances to the Meadows**. 106 people wanted **more wheelie bins** at the entrances.

Planning and Development

The village is heavily protected by planning policies predicating against substantial new development; the exhibition and survey were designed to find out how far opinion in the village agrees with the policy.

61% of people felt there should be no new houses in Grantchester. Of those who were in support of further development, the majority felt that less than 20 new houses should be provided, with most support for affordable family housing.

We also asked about what development would be wanted if the garage site became available and there was strong support for new housing, a village car park and a general village store selling fresh fruit and vegetables.

Action Plans

The Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead responsibility	Resource implications
Automatic flashing 30 mph sign for Coton Road.	Parish Council to consider, and if approved, to submit a request to Cambridgeshire County Council for an automatic flashing 30 mph sign for Coton Road. If not provided, to establish a working group of village residents, possibly in partnership with the Parish Council, to put together a proposal for the annual jointly funded minor improvements scheme and/or to investigate the issue further in collaboration with the councils and the police.	High	Parish Council Cams. County Council	2 years	Allen Wheelwright	None.
Parking Restrictions (double yellow lines) on Mill Way	The yellow lines are already in place on parts of the road so we need to continue to monitor the effect of the new parking restrictions during spring and summer 2005. Parish Council to submit a request before September 2005 for additional measures if it believes that these are necessary reduce obstruction to traffic or pedestrians between the Orchard and Manor Farm (to extend the restriction to both sides of the road where there is a remaining unrestricted section on the footpath side of the road).	High	Parish Council	6 months	Allen Wheelwright	None.

The Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead responsibility	Resource implications
Produce a Grantchester Directory listing clubs and societies and services within the village.	Parish Magazine to organise information through regular monthly contributors and others and publish in the magazine four times a year	Medium	Parish magazine team	6 months	John Gray Jean Ruddock	None.
A youth club for teenagers	A club for 12- to 17-year-olds has already been set up as a result of the youth forum held during the Parish Plan process.	High	Youth Club team	6 months	Sara Hennessy	Ongoing Fundraising.
Dog bins to be put at both entrances to the Meadows and Bridleway entrance to the fields.	Parish Council to discuss this with appropriate landowners and other stakeholders, and if approved to organise purchasing and also emptying.	High	Parish Council	1 year	Livia Mitson	3 Dog bins from £189 each.
Increase opportunities for outdoor leisure and sports for residents	Initially investigate possibilities for shared use of grounds in Coton & Barton and publicise sports and outdoor leisure opportunities available there. If shared facilities prove difficult to use then investigate providing an outdoor leisure facility within the village	Medium	Interested residents	3 years	Livia Mitson	Publicity costs initially; possibility of a large fundraising campaign if shared use proves difficult.

The Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead responsibility	Resource implications
Cycle parking facilities	A group to be set up of those interested to find suitable sites and identify funding.	Medium	Interested residents	1 year	Livia Mitson	Consult SCDC for supplier information.
Placing of notices about the Countryside Code / asking people to respect the Meadows as a conservation area at each entrance to the Meadows.	Parish Council to consider approaching the managers of the Meadows with a view to discussing the placing of signs and wording.	Medium	Parish Council Savills	1 year	Elaine Streeter/Livia Mitson	Cost of signs – under £500.
Safeguard the character and scale of the village	The Parish Council should continue to safeguard the character and scale of the village, and its tranquil rural surroundings, through its engagement with the existing planning policies.	High	Parish Council	Ongoing	Ian Steen	None.
Plant more trees and hedgerows	Parish Council to be asked to initiate the planting of more trees and hedgerows with consultation and involvement of interested public to determine best locations for planting.	High	Parish Council District Council	1 year	Jane Berrill	SCDC make available saplings and hedge plants each year for free or a reduced price; also cost of planting. Estimated £800.

The Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead responsibility	Resource implications
Parish Council to express the preference of the village for re-allocation of the garage site for housing or more village-friendly mixed development at next opportunity for input into the local plan.	Parish Council to be asked to bear this preference in mind when responding to consultations from SDC and CCC and express this preference if there is opportunity.	High	Parish Council District Council County Council	Ongoing	Chair of PC	None.
Create new cycle paths to and from the village.	Liaise with CCC and relevant landowners to explore creation of additional cycle paths to and from the village, prioritising a cross-country path to Trumpington Park & Ride and Waitrose supermarket if possible or a path along the main road to Trumpington. Approach the sustainable transport charity Sustrans for funding and guidance.	Medium	CCC Sustrans	2 years	Spike Jackson	None.
Improve Meadows path to Newnham.	Parish Council to be asked to approach the managers of the Meadows with a view to discussing possibilities for improving the surface and/or width of the Meadows path to Newnham. Approach Sustrans for funding and guidance.	Medium	Parish Council Sustrans Meadows managers	2 years	Chair of PC	None.

The Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead responsibility	Resource implications
Meadows conservation and maintenance plan	Consult with landowners, agents, local authorities and local groups so as to ensure the conservation and maintenance of the Meadows.	Medium	Parish Council and consultees	Ongoing	Ian Steen	Unknown
Establish a community car transport or car-sharing scheme.	Co-ordinator to ask for volunteers in the Parish magazine and then scheme to be used for medical journeys with the user phoning the co-ordinator and asking for a car	Medium	Cams. County Council	1 year	Livia Mitson	Volunteers' mileage rates; funding is available from Cambridgeshire County Council.