

# About Parish Plans

## What is a parish plan?

Think of it as a

*PARISH STRATEGY*

OR

*PARISH BUSINESS PLAN*

It shows:

- information about the parish
- how and why the plan was done
- local problems & opportunities
- how the community wants to develop over about 5-10 years

And reflects the views of ALL sections of the community

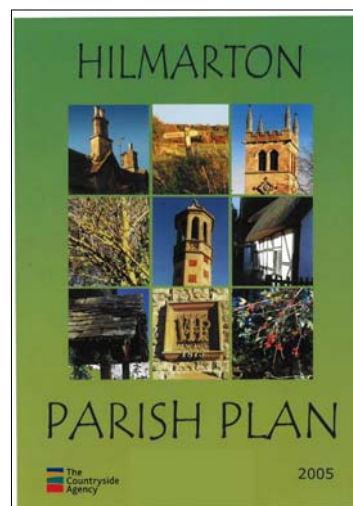
## What issues are covered by a parish plan?

All those of concern to people in the parish, such as:

- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| ▪ built environment     | ▪ people                |
| ▪ community information | ▪ sport /recreation     |
| ▪ crime                 | ▪ landscape             |
| ▪ education             | ▪ public transport      |
| ▪ employment            | ▪ tourism               |
| ▪ health/care           | ▪ community buildings   |
| ▪ heritage              | ▪ wildlife habitats     |
| ▪ housing               | ▪ young/old             |
| ▪ retail services       | ▪ traffic               |
| ▪ recycling             | ▪ climate change issues |

## What does it look like?

- A detailed report which includes an action plan
- Usually produced as a booklet
- Also possibly a summary leaflet
- Electronic formats widely used



## What could a parish plan do for YOUR parish?

- Help influence the future of your community
- Demonstrate what your community needs over about 5-10 years
- Provide the evidence to back this up
- Influence development issues
- Provide evidence for funding bids
- Manage change
- Improve community spirit and communication

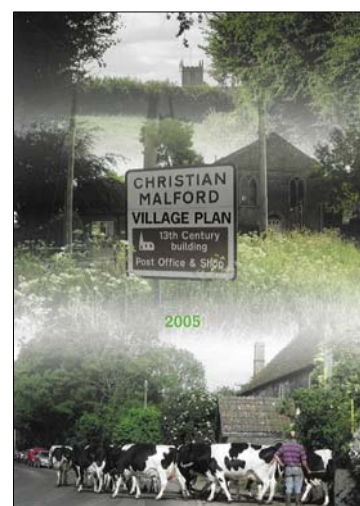
## How does a parish plan fit with other strategies?

*Parish plans have no formal status but they do have increasing influence*

They can link to:

- Community area plans
- Community strategies
- Development planning
- Strategies and work programmes of service providers

*...especially if they have a good consultation process and action plan*



## Preparing a parish plan involves:

- Consulting widely in the community
- Talking to potential partners and agencies outside the parish
- Setting a realistic and achievable action plan

## Who should be involved?

*It is prepared by the Community and Parish Council working together*

- It is led by a steering group of parishioners (plus 1 or 2 from PC)
- Any hard to reach groups such as young people, elderly, shift workers etc
- Everyone who lives or works in the parish should have an opportunity to give their views
- Outside agencies providing services in the parish, neighbouring PCs, Local Authority will also be involved

## Getting started

- Get advice FIRST from Community First
- Raise awareness in parish about parish plans
- Get the go ahead at a public meeting
- Recruit volunteers for a steering group
- Community First can provide advice and support for steering group - including Parish Plan Toolkit, training
- Plan how to do it...
- ...and how much it will cost
- Secure funding

## Steering Group

- 8-15 people
- Not just Parish Councillors
- Cross-section of community
- Range of skills and experience
- Role is 'project management'
- Steering group don't do everything!

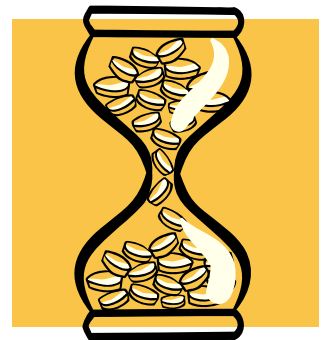


## How parish residents can help

- Volunteer for steering group
- Volunteer time or skills
- Volunteer to work on one issue
- Be involved in future events and consultation
- Tell others what is happening

## Time and money

- Timescale- about 18 months
- Funding needed for –room hire, refreshments, publicity, printing, stationery etc
- Total- £1000- £3000



## Community First can help with:

- Advice and support to Parish Council and steering group
- Information sheets
- Examples of parish plans
- Help at public meetings
- Consultation tools
- How to involve hard to reach groups
- Workshop events on aspects of parish planning
- ACRE's Parish & Community Planning Toolkit
- Contacts for other groups
- Advice about funding

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Parish Plan & Community Consultation Direct Web Link:  
<http://www.communityfirst.org.uk/pp-community-consultation.htm>

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