

DUNKERTON PARISH PLAN UPDATE – June 2009

The Parish Plan was issued in December 2007 and can be found on the Parish website <http://www.dunkertonparish.co.uk>

Much has happened since then, but the Parish Plan Steering Group (PPSG) is aware that it hasn't necessarily reported back on all of the issues raised by Parishioners in the 2007 parish planning surveys. Parishioners are owed an update, to summarise what's been achieved and outline what might happen next. It's worth emphasising that the PPSG doesn't claim credit for having done all these things! However, it does believe that the process of identifying local concerns and creating the plan has enabled the changes to happen faster than they otherwise would have done. To emphasise this point, at a recent Parish Liaison meeting David Trigwell, the B&NES Divisional Director for Planning and Transport Development, outlined how Parish Plans are used by B&NES to build the Sustainable Community Strategy, which is then itself used to build the Core Strategy and the Local Development Framework (LDF). It is the LDF that will contain the policies to shape all decisions made by B&NES – for example regarding any large Urban Extension to Bath as part of the Government's Regional Spatial Strategy.

Here is a summary of developments since the Plan was published



HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

One Dunkerton Parish Council (DPC) councillor now has responsibility for dealing with B&NES on H&T issues. This has resulted in much improved communications with B&NES and a better understanding of plans. Updates are provided to parishioners via DPC minutes and The Batch. There was a great deal of concern expressed in 2007 about speeding. In response, 3 significant proposals have been received from B&NES for local traffic calming and are being scheduled in to B&NES plans, plus significant changes to the speed limit on the A367 approaching Dunkerton from both directions. Also, interest is being canvassed by the police for a Community Speedwatch team in the local area. Our District Councillor has also facilitated a roads survey - carried out by DPC in conjunction with Camerton Parish Council – that put several actions in hand, such as the 'Unsuitable for HGV' signs on the A367/Dunkerton Church Lane turn-off.

POLICE AND SECURITY

We now have a designated PCSO, and Partners and Communities Together (PACT) meetings are happening to give people another opportunity to air their concerns directly to Police representatives – the March 09 PACT meeting was held in our Parish Hall. Neighbourhood Watch warning notices and information are published in The Batch. Police(Highways) matters are now dealt with by the nominated Parish Councillor & our local Beat Manager based in Radstock.

COUNTRYSIDE & THE ENVIRONMENT

Parish hedgerow, diversity and wildlife maps are now available on the [Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre](http://www.bristolregionalecologicalrecordscentre.co.uk) website. A survey of gates & stiles with B&NES ROW Officer has resulted in many being renewed. Dog fouling signs have been erected in Blind Lane. Cam Valley Wildlife Group articles are appearing in The Batch to increase awareness

LEISURE & CLUBS

Local clubs and societies are encouraged to advertise and report on their activities & meetings in The Batch. Improvements of any sort to encourage membership and participation are continually considered and supported by mgt committees and the DPC (parish hall floor renewed, Dunkerton boules court, Tunley play area etc)

YOUTH & EDUCATION

DPC is working with Somer Housing with a view to creating a play area on Dunkerton green. The Childrens Society has run a 'Safari' event to seek local children's views. TRC is making improvements in play facilities, having been successful in obtaining a grant through the "Pathfinder" funding scheme.

PARISH COUNCIL

DPC now has better communication with parishioners via the well-received newsletter, "The Batch." A parish website has been set up and will be developed further. The Parish Council has established a closer relationship with ALCA, to ensure that we make best use of resources across the Avon area and join forces with other Parish Councils to tackle regional problems together – like the proposed urban extension to the south of Bath.

HERITAGE

The traditional "Beating the Bounds" was reinstated 2008 as a parish event. The DPC is buying Tunley phone box to protect it as a heritage feature. The DPC has initiated a survey of Locally Important Buildings, in anticipation of B&NES launching an initiative to protect its local heritage.

There were a number of areas in which we did not expect too much progress following publication of the Parish Plan because at that time there seemed to be a lack of commitment and resources to tackle the problems. However, we are pleased to note that, on public transport, availability of the local "Ring A Ride" service was confirmed and is advertised. The Tunley bus shelter has been reinstated. The North Hill shelter has been refurbished. Action is in hand to re-establish bus stops at Westbury Terrace. And on Energy and Waste, the DPC will participate in an ALCA survey on street lighting in 2009/2010.

GOOD IDEAS SHELVED

The aim of the Parish Planning process is to involve people in improving their own community, and not to encourage people to produce a long "shopping list" of ideas in the expectation someone else is going to do all the work for them. In this respect, there were many ideas for improvement suggested in 2007 but sadly there has not yet been enough positive response to react to them all. For the moment, then, regrettably we will not be able to create: a community safety partnership; a footpath/rights of way group; a planning group (to advise DPC on environmental issues); a naturalist group; a Public Transport users group; a "renewables" working group; or a heritage group. In addition, a local gas supply is a non-starter and the "MINES" initiative, looking to make better use and increase the visibility of the information received by the DPC, failed to get off the ground.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The PPSG believes that we should re-issue a fully updated Plan in 2012. With that in mind, we are hoping that new people with new ideas will want to help shape that update. If you would like to know more, without commitment, get in touch with any one of the PPSG. Our details are also on the website.

Miriam Woolnough (Chair), Hillgrove House, Stoneage Lane, Tunley 01761 479296, miriam_woolnough@bathnes.gov.uk
Denise Priest (Sec), Newlands, Bath Road, Tunley, 01761 472263, dpriest9@hotmail.com
Max Crofts, Glenacre, The Hollow, Dunkerton, 01761 436723, max.crofts@kingsturge.com
Martin Robinson, 3 Sarabeth Drive, Tunley, 01761 471134, martinrobinson811@btinternet.com
Chris Revill, 8 Brooklands, Dunkerton, 01761 420663, chris_revill@bathnes.gov.uk
David Orme, Rose Cottage, Dunkerton, 01761 438721, maxndave@tesco.net

A Large Print version of this update is available from the Parish Plan Steering Group

