

2016 Community Plan Review

The 2016 Community Plan was a comprehensive document built on a strong foundation of public engagement, with a remarkable 60% survey response rate. This summary describes the progress and challenges we have found since then, under the document's respective themes.

Housing and Development

While some of the policies extended beyond the Parish Council's direct remit, the basis on which they were formed provided useful guidance to the Parish Council when considering applications. In tandem with the **Statement of Design Objectives** (put together as a supplementary document) the policies almost certainly successfully, and positively, influenced local development. The Design Objectives continue to guide applications, and Parish Council responses to them, and so assist upholding village character. HD8 (which related to provision of allotments) provided a direct action point, however this was not pursued.

Traffic and Road Safety

The plan empowered the Parish Council to take meaningful steps in road safety, by promoting the use of a Speed Indicator Device, and several policies (TRS4, TRS5 – the desire to restrict any increase in both street furniture and lighting) were consistently followed. Some of the policies suffered from a lack of clarity (for example, TRS 6 – “Heavy Vehicles should be prevented from travelling through the Parish”), and in one case (support for community speed watch) required critical external support from the local police, which ceased to be available despite initial strong Parish support.

Environmental and Social Issues

Progress made in this area was largely driven by passionate individuals, with ESI5 (preservation of historic assets in the Parish – such as the posts on the village greens) and ESI6 (maintenance of footpaths) seeing tangible success. While some policies (ESI1-4, respectively facilities for young children & teenagers, sports provision and the reintroduction of Feast Day) were not actively pursued, they highlighted areas of community interest and potential — offering a springboard for more targeted initiatives going forward.

Key Parish Assets, School and Church

The plan affirmed the importance of local institutions. Although policies relating to the School (SCH1) and Parish Churches (CH1) fell outside the Council's control, the general intent of KPA1 was embraced when opportunities arose, reinforcing the parish's commitment to preserving its core assets.

Review and Update

The absence of a formal review mechanism is notable, emphasising the value of embedding regular evaluation into future planning, ensuring adaptability and sustained impact over time.

Summary

The 2016 Community Plan achieved notable successes, especially in shaping development and promoting road safety. Where limitations existed — in scope, clarity, or control — they revealed opportunities for refinement. A refreshed plan, with clearer frameworks and stronger review processes, will build on this foundation and empower the Parish to meet evolving needs with confidence.