

COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 12th MARCH 2019

ITEM NO: 13 – Copythorne Parish Council ‘5 Year Local Plan’ – APM Arrangements

This report sets out a short update on progress on development of a 5 Year Plan for the Parish and the proposed presentation for the Annual Parish Meeting in March

Information

At the meeting on 12th December 2018, and again on 12th February 2019 the Parish Council considered reports setting out the benefits of developing a 5 Year Plan for the Parish on which the Parish Council could base its forward planning and to act as an aid for future budget decisions. The Plan would be ultimately the property of the ‘Community’ and as such, should be widely consulted on before finalisation.

As the Parish has never had a Plan of this type, it was determined that in the first instance, we should develop a Plan which was ‘within the province of the Parish’ and not structured for formal alignment under the regulations with the Plans for the District and County Council. However, we would still wish to align our Plan with those of the District and County, given our close relationship with them.

Parish Councillors were invited to join a Working Group to develop the Plan draft and process. A core Working Group of three Councillors - Herra, Chillcott and Lucas has formed and this report sets out a very brief update and proposed future action.

Update

The Working Group has met 4 times to commence work on a draft set of ideas.

A template for the Plan document has been set out using the headings identified in the 12th December Report to the Parish Council. These headings may be adapted over time.

The overall theme for the 5 Year Local Plan is ‘**Your Parish - The Future: Have Your Say**’

A working draft ‘Vision’ has been created as a basis for discussion and to stimulate ideas from our community – it is not seen as a final statement, but a starting point.

Initial first drafting has taken place, most notably in connection with the introduction to the Parish which ‘sets the scene’ for our locality and community. Also, drafting of a ‘SWOT Analysis’ (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) for the Parish has been undertaken and this reproduced as an attachment to this report.

Finally, a discussion regarding the presentation for the APM on 26th March for the start of a consultation process with our Parish Community, together with a possible timeline for that consultation has been undertaken.

Presentation & Timescale

The presentation using slides for the start of a consultation process on a 5 Year Local Plan at the Annual Parish Meeting on 26th March should be comprised of the following:

1. A brief set of slides which respond clarify: ‘Why, What, How, When’ for a 5 Year Local Plan;
2. A presentation of a set of Vision Statement ‘bullet points’ for referral to the community for consultation and comment;
3. A slide presentation of the SWOT analysis which underpins the rationale for a Plan, and
4. A process slide describing how this will proceed and by when actions need to take place.

The overall presentation should be short and allow sufficient time for any immediate feedback.

Key questions for the consultation are:

1. What are your priorities for your Parish – any specific issues to be addressed (within described parameters)?
2. How do you want your Parish Council to work with you to achieve them?
3. What would you want to do, to help them become a reality?

The timescale is currently estimated to result in a working draft being ready with any community feedback included for consideration, by September 2019.

The final Plan is estimated to be ready for publication by November 2019 – i.e. in time for the next budget setting round of the Parish Council in December 2019.

Process

Following the presentation at the APM, it is proposed that the mechanisms for consultation are initiated straight away, to include:

1. Promotion in the Parish Newsletter / Stanley's Own;
2. Inclusion of a specific page and response area on the Parish Council web site;
3. Promotional posters on the Parish Council noticeboards, and
4. Leaflets to be available for collection in the distribution points for the Parish Council Newsletter.

The Working Group will meet at planned points to collate inputs from our community and updates will be provided to the Parish Council on a regular monthly basis. (The membership of the Working Group will be subject to review at the Annual Parish Council meeting in May following the local authority elections).

Recommendation

That members of the Parish Council endorse the process being proposed to start the 5 Year Local Plan consultation at the Annual Parish Meeting on 26th March 2019.

SL 02.03.19

PTO SWOT Analysis Draft

COPYTHORNE PARISH – DRAFT SWOT ANALYSIS FOR DISCUSSION

STRENGTHS

Situated within the NFNPA with open forest areas
Close motorway links and proximity to Southampton
Pre-School, Infant and Junior schools rated “Good”
Three churches within the parish
Local businesses, pubs, post office and convenient stores
Paultons Park attraction
Parish hall with children’s play area
Royal British Legion Hall
Local bus service, three times each week
Footpaths
Numerous clubs and organisations
Three cricket clubs
Vibrant Scouting community
Gun club
Village Agent
Community Speed Watch
First Responders
Neighbourhood watch schemes
Relatively low crime rates
Roman roads/ancient tumuli
Six individual villages with unique characters

WEAKNESSES

No forward planning by Parish Council
No environmental (or other) policies
No community identity
Lack of community involvement in Parish Hall
Some age groups not catered for
Restricted bus service
Potholes in roads
No advertised or obvious attractions for visitors
Road junctions and speeding vehicles

OPPORTUNITIES

Community involvement in formulating Parish Council 5 year plan
Community involvement in creating community hub at Parish Hall
Youth club
Coffee shop
Parish Clerk Office
Segmenting parish hall to allow others users
Cinema in parish hall
Telephone boxes used for footpath map and leaflets
New village signs
Managed notice boards
Community run bus service
Linking historic sites/footpaths for visitors to local businesses
Men’s shed
Farmers meeting and involvement
Monthly/weekly lunches for OAP’s
Holiday at home events

THREATS

External financial pressures
Pubs and local business sustainability
Community isolation of residents
Vulnerability due to no forward planning
Poor bus service
Over population
Reduction of Police resources