

HOW THE PLAN WAS DRAWN UP

Origins

This Plan had its inception at a meeting held by a Parish Councillor in late 2003. As a result, a public meeting attended by 102 people, was held in Dinton Village Hall in April 2004. A representative was present from Community First which was running the scheme on behalf of the Countryside Agency. 77% of those present were in favour of a Village plan. This meeting produced a list of 40 suggestions for the future of the parish, which are summarized at Annex A together with an analysis of those attending. Fifteen volunteers formed a steering group, including one representing the Parish Council (PC); one of whom became the link between the group and the PC.

A detailed budget proposal was submitted and £4734 in cash was granted by the Countryside Agency plus commitments of a further £1350 support in kind. This was supplemented by £500 from Salisbury District Council and £200 from the PC. These funds have been held and administered by the Parish Clerk.

The Questionnaire

A questionnaire was used as our primary means of collecting data. It is important to emphasise that the Steering Group is unbiased and that members have had no more influence on the findings or opinions in this Plan than anyone else in the Parish. The questionnaire was therefore based entirely on the suggestions made at the original public meeting, without addition or subtraction. Each entry asked for the respondent's reaction from 'Strongly Agree' to 'Strongly Disagree', and allowed space for comment. Space was also included for additional suggestions for improvement and for things which should not change. A section requested age, gender, postcodes and whether the respondent worked in the village to ensure we had even coverage.

The questionnaire was distributed throughout the Parish to all residents, businesses, the school and the shop. Collection boxes for completed questionnaires were placed in the Village Hall, school, shop, both public houses and the church. 216 completed questionnaires were received which, based on the 2001 Census, is nearly 25% of the population. Where figures are given for those who Agreed or Disagreed they are taken from the results of the Questionnaire. As well as responding to the original suggestions, there were a total of 2013 comments and ideas! The questionnaires, together with the results are at Annex A. Although our response was very good for a survey of this kind it was felt necessary to confirm the findings and to target particular groups within the Parish where greater input was required.

The results of the questionnaire were therefore put to the Parish for comment, and to gather yet more ideas. On 12 March 2005 we held a Village Film Day, where, during the 3 sessions 76 people were able to comment and add their own views. During the morning film the children made a wish tree with their ideas to improve Parish life, and their parents wrote their ideas in response to the display of information around the



Hall. The afternoon film show was only attended by 4 people but the evening performance was a lively and productive session for adults from all over the village. Villagers were encouraged to put a tick, or a cross, to show their agreement or otherwise next to each comment; 1,345 views were logged in this way. Later in March a consultative pizza evening for teenagers was held in two well attended sessions for younger and

older teens. 26 of the 45 young people in the Parish, aged between 10-18 attended. Much pizza, soft drinks and cake were consumed and a tremendous number of ideas, from the wild and whacky, to the thoughtful and constructive, were recorded on rolls of wallpaper. In addition the Village School produced a list of 25 ideas from the children.

around the Hall, and copies were available on request. The 135 breakfasters, while enjoying delicious locally produced fare, found that their place mats listed the most popular 14 proposals, and asked them to ring their top 3 priorities. 90 mats were completed enabling us to start ranking the priorities for change and improvement.

The results of all these consultations were collated and presented at a St George's Day Village Breakfast, on 23 April 2005 in the Village Hall. The full results were displayed prominently

