

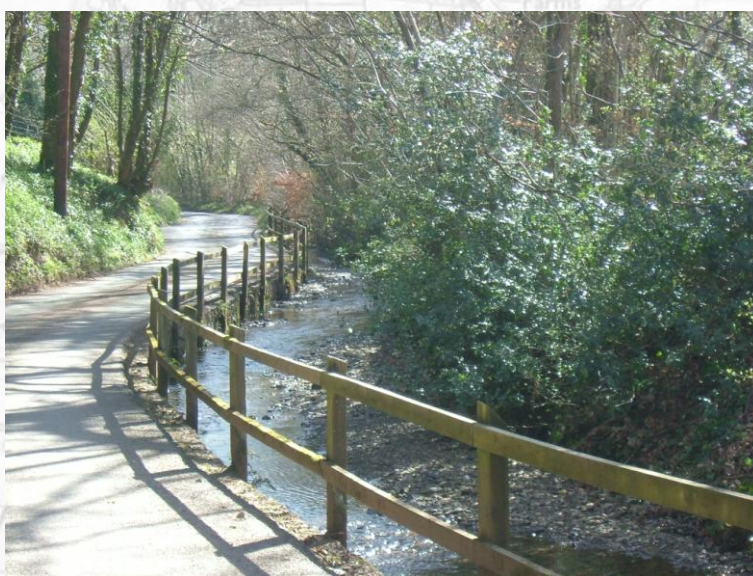
HUISH CHAMPFLOWER

PARISH PLAN 2012

The Parish Plan consists of three parts which are all available on the Parish website – www.HuishChampflower.org.

1. Parish Survey Work carried out by the Parish Plan Survey Group.
Analysis of survey results - background material
2. Parish Plan Following on from the Survey and outlining objectives and outcomes with specific proposals and timescales
3. Action Plan An organic document reviewed at regular intervals by the Parish showing actions, achievements and deadlines.

The Parish Plan stems from our wish to preserve, protect and enhance the area we have chosen to live in.



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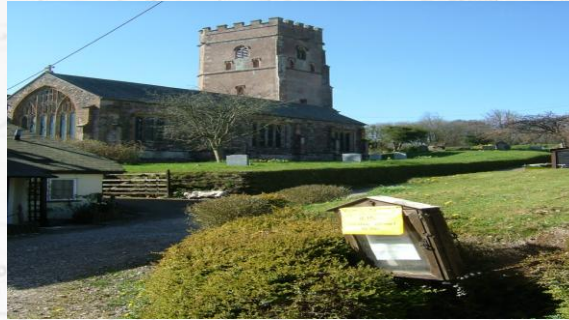
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INTRODUCTION



Huish Champflower is a village

consisting of a small number of residential properties and farm buildings that centre on St. Peter's Church plus a large number of outlying properties and small settlements such as Huish Moor.

It is a civil parish in Western Somerset, some three miles north west of Wiveliscombe, ten miles north of Wellington and ten miles south of Williton. The Parish is on the edge of Exmoor National Park and in the administrative area of West Somerset District Council

The name comes from the *hiwisc*, the Saxon name for homestead, and was recorded in the Domesday Book as *HIWIS*, with the suffix marking its ownership by the family of Thomas de Champflower who was Lord of the Manor by 1166.

St. Peter's Church is a listed Grade 1 building dating from the 15th. Century, with the north aisle being built in 1534. The church tower houses six bells, four of which were rung on the occasion of Admiral Nelson's victory at Trafalgar.

The house called Washbattle, which stands on the River Tone flowing through the parish, represents the watermill that ground the corn for the village from 1086 until World War One.

The village used to have a Post Office, Shop and Public House which have closed over the years. A chat about village and farming problems over a pint of ale in the village local must have created a wonderful atmosphere of *belonging*.

This is something the Parish Plan hopes to re-kindle, develop, preserve, and enhance for the village - aiming for a better quality of life for all.

'Onwards and upwards'.

Section 1

LEISURE, EDUCATION & YOUTH

1.1 Consultation Results:

Huish Champflower enjoys an active community with the majority of households surveyed involved in some form of leisure activity - Walking, Horse Riding and Gardening were the most popular.

More households provided a response to the Youth Section than actually had children – all stating that there were few, if any, facilities for the youth of the village. The nearest schools are in Wiveliscombe.

The majority of households identified the need for a new village hall, (see section 8), and recognised that all activities would increase as a result of an improved building.

1.2 Objectives

To support and develop more sport and educational activities within the Parish.

To investigate the possibilities of a pre-school group.

To assess local interest in short educational courses such as Computing courses, Health & Fitness, Yoga, Painting/still life classes, Table tennis, short mat bowls and badminton.

1.3 Progress

We know that the hall has a structural limit on its life of 5 years (from 2011) - a programme has commenced to address and implement the requirements identified by the Village Survey

The Parish Council has a member monitoring the accessibility of public footpaths and bridleways.

1.4 Action Plan

Liaise with Local Education Authority, Adult Learning and Leisure and all other local groups to run short term courses at the Village Hall.

To improve the children's play area, source grants for upgrading and renewing the equipment.

"don't forget the youth of the village"



Figure 1. Leisure, Education & Youth



Figure 2. Communication

Section 2

COMMUNICATION

2.1 Consultation Results

At the time of the survey the majority of households had broadband although single line availability was restricted, depending on the distance from the Wiveliscombe/Brompton Ralph hubs.

Broadband was not available at a quarter of households.

Mobile phone and terrestrial television reception can be poor.

At the time of the survey the majority of households received a monthly parish magazine but this is now subscription only and is received by about half the households.

2.2 Objectives

To introduce a village website to supplement the Village Notice-boards and Parish Magazine.

To increase use of village notice-boards and introduces a village newsletter.

To develop a directory of “what’s on “ in the village.

To ensure that those households without email are kept informed.

2.3 Progress

The website is in preparation whilst we continue to improve communication within the village and to retain traditional methods (paper through letter boxes).

2.4 Action Plan

Develop the role and content of the Village web site.

Install a new notice-board by the Village Hall.

Publish an annual local directory/what’s on guide including emergency numbers.

Support the County initiative to improve broadband.

Section 3

COMMUNITY SAFETY

3.1 Consultation Results

At the time of the survey the majority were happy with the service received from the Police, though some concerns were expressed regarding a perceived lack of access to the Police and the level of Police presence in the Parish.

Residents expressed concerns about the Parish highways and bye-ways with regard to the conditions of the roads and verges (pot-holes, winter road treatment, overhanging vegetation and dangerous driving.

3.2 Objectives

To improve community safety and encourage safe driving throughout the Parish

3.3 Progress

Continuing support for the local Neighbourhood Watch and for new initiatives such as the newly established Rural Watch and mounted specials schemes.

Parish Council continues to liaise with the Highways Department via a dedicated member of the Parish Council to report highway concerns to the relevant authority

3.4 Action Plan

Encourage better and safer road use by vehicle drivers and others.

Provide information and links to emergency services via website.

Promote self-help measures by householders and road users.

Encourage good maintenance of verges, hedges and trees.



“gradual erosion of what villages once were.....”

Section 4

HEALTH

4.1 Consultation Results

Compared to West Somerset as a whole (which has the highest proportion of retiree's in the country) the parish is very much younger, and has very few single households. Unsurprisingly car ownership is very high, and naturally increases mobility. The majority of residents desire to stay in the Parish until ill health forces them to leave.

4.2 Objectives

To ensure residents

- are able to enjoy the highest quality of life.
- have good access to all health services
- have fair and equal access to all Parish facilities
- are able to support existing and to develop new leisure activities

4.3 Progress

As a result of what you have told us we have already

- Commenced discussions regarding a new safe walking route between St. Peters Church and the Village Hall
- Ensured that road treatment (gritting) is undertaken and that adequate supplies of gritting material are available to maintain as safe as feasible road network in the Parish
- Embarked on a project to rejuvenate the Village Hall and King George's Field with a view of providing enhanced leisure facilities

4.4 Action Plan

- Provide for updated disabled facilities in a new Village Hall
- Determine interest in further developing a Caring Community
- Determine interest in a Parish car-sharing scheme
- Parish Council to closely monitor the impact of Health Service reforms and impact on services to residents

" beautiful and quiet "

" a special place "

" we like it as it is – why change "

Section 5

TRANSPORT

5.1 Consultation Results

The great majority of households have access to a car and most do not use public transport. This is a logical response in light of high car ownership and the absence of any local public transport.

Three households mentioned using the Wivey Link (dial-a-ride) service.

Some households are currently involved in a privately arranged car sharing scheme for work/school. Huish Champflower is well served by School Transport and also has a reasonable proportion of residents working within the Parish (mainly from home).

Almost a quarter of households would be interested in a formally organised car-sharing scheme. Just slightly more than half of the responding households currently give lifts to those without a car. More than half of households would consider providing transport for those requiring a lift, if it were required – suggesting that the take-up of a more formal car sharing scheme would be supported

Although slightly more households said that they would not use an extended Public Transport system, the number of households saying that they would, represents a more than doubling of the households who say they currently use Public Transport and a very significant increase over the 3 households currently using the Wivey Link service.

There is support for Public Transport although the likely frequency of use for any local service suggests that a stand-alone service (i.e. unsubsidised, not connected to any other service such as school transport, post, delivery etc.) would be unviable.

5.2 Objectives

To develop local services where possible.

*“the beauty of this village is that it is unspoilt by development.
There are no street lights, no speed limit “*

5.3 Progress

As a result of what you have told us we will action the points listed below

5.4 Action Plan

- To work with neighbouring parishes to discover whether there is any interest in developing services such as a weekly shopping bus.
- To determine whether local service providers would be interested in providing such a service and at what cost.



“we like Huish- it is unspoilt”

“we don’t want change”

Section 6

HOUSING

6.1 Consultation Results :

Whilst a majority did not see a problem with housing in the Parish, around one sixth of those surveyed did express some concern with Housing provision in the Parish. Most responses indicated there was no desire for a parish housing association

Of those who felt there was a housing problem, the majority appeared to favour affordable or rentable property as providing a solution to need.

A significant majority favoured greater emphasis on renewable energy and eco friendly homes – perhaps not too surprising given that the Parish is off the gas grid and some are also off the electricity grid. There is a reliance on either Oil or bottled gas for cooking and heating.

6.2 Objectives :

To monitor housing needs for Parish residents working in the Parish.

6.3 Progress :

Following agreement of Village Plan we will start the action listed below.

6.4 Action Plan :

To monitor the need for and investigate the possibility of additional rented accommodation being provided.



Section 7

ENVIRONMENT

7.1 Consultation Results :

Opinion was more or less even on the question of whether there is a need to apply more control or relax building control/development.

A significant majority thought the PC should have more say.

The fact that 60% of those asked did not respond suggests that more information needs to be provided to enable better informed decision-making.

Whilst the majority expressed no desire for small business units, 15 households did perceive a need for small business units.

7.2 Objectives :

To use what planning controls are granted by National and Local Government in response to public opinion.

7.3 Progress

The Government has announced major changes to planning law and the Parish Council will need to study the implications.

7.4 Action Plan

To seek training courses provided by the District Council or the Somerset Alliance of Local Councils (SALC) to inform Parish Councillors.

To ensure the Parish Council represents the wishes of the Parish.



“A delightful place “

“A sanctuary from the real world “

Section 8

VILLAGE HALL & PLAYING FIELD

8.1 Consultation Results

The majority of the Parish uses the Village Hall, wants to keep a Huish Champflower Village Hall and Playing field and would like to see improvements made one way or another.

8.2 Objectives

- To maintain the presence of a community Village Hall facility and retain the culture of the Parish by fostering and promoting local groups.
- To determine the most economical viable option concerning re-build and/or refit of the Village Hall, to provide the community with a 21st. Century, fit for purpose facility.
- To provide space to perform additional activities such as badminton, short mat bowls, table tennis, dance, music and drama.
- To develop more sports, leisure and educational activities and to support local businesses within the Parish by organising events such as

Produce and craft market
Parish entertainment evenings
Annual Village vs. Cricket Team matches and BBQ
Educational, hobby and keep fit classes

8.3 Progress

As a result of what you have told us, we have

- Updated some of the facilities in the existing hall to support continuing use, e.g. toilets, entrance hall, new chairs.
- Commissioned, and received, a structural survey of the Village Hall.
- Continued to outline and explore facilities for a new building.
- Convened several Parish meetings to discuss the future of the Village Hall
- Commenced discussions regarding a suitable pedestrian route between the Church and the Village Hall
- Established a New Village Hall Committee

8.4 Action Plan

New Build

The Village Hall Structural Report has imposed restrictions on the use of the Hall and has established that the Hall should be condemned by 2017. The action plan reflects this important notification and the following points need to be addressed as a matter of some urgency:

- Investigate all available funding for a new build
- Develop plans for new build
- Investigate planning requirements and regulations
- Costs involved

Old Build

Increase community involvement in the running of the existing Village Hall by:

- Establishing a larger committee to raise funds
- Establishing a annual Village Party, initially to focus on the 2012 Jubilee Celebrations
- Liaise with Huish Champflower Cricket Club to arrange a annual Village vs. Cricket Club fun day
- Establish a working group to determine the feasibility of a Parish Produce Market



“ a rebuilt village hall would fit all purposes ”

“ better access to field and hall ”

CONCLUSION

This is your chance

Work has already started on many of the projects and a number of Action Groups have been set up.

However, these things can only happen with your help.

This is your chance to make a difference.

If there are any projects in the Plan that take your interest, please let one of the Steering Group know or contact the Clerk to the Parish Council - amandacowley155@btinternet.com

Members of the Steering Group :

Village Questionnaire Analysts

**Steve Powles/ Nigel Cousins/Roy Phillips/Jos Harral/
Andrew Smith and Rob Bryant.**

Parish Plan Co-ordinators

Olivia Winterton/ John Washington-Smith/ Stephen Kimsey/ Gareth Hoskins and Roy Phillips.

Action Plan

Your Parish Council and all Parishioners.

“Let’s do it to it”