

Action plan: Environment – What do we want for the future?

There are clearly many features of the local environment that are of importance to the community and results from the questionnaire give an indication of which of these should either be protected and enhanced or are in need of attention and improvement. In short the results tell us what we like, what we don't like, what we want to keep and what we want to change and in simple terms should form the basis of an action plan that enables the local environment to be managed accordingly.

The Community Plan area does not however sit in isolation: there are many external challenges and factors that will affect or limit the outcomes of such an action plan and these will also necessarily affect its specific content. An example of this would have been the Regional Spatial Strategy which if implemented would have had far-reaching consequences for all aspects of the local environment in the future. Three key elements will enable the local community to make a positive contribution to the local environment in the future:

- **Information** – a well-informed community will understand issues and be able to act decisively or change their attitudes as well as appreciate the current situation.
- **Engagement** – an engaged community will take responsibility because people care about something they are involved or interested in.
- **Empowerment** – an empowered community will be able to take positive action because residents either as individuals or as a collective will be enabled to make their voices heard at many levels.

The aspiration for the future of the local environment is a simple one:

To Inform, Engage & Empower = To Preserve, Improve, & Enhance

This is the principle which has been used to underpin and generate a vision for its future direction and the resulting action plan will:

- Maximise the ability of the community to protect and shape its own environment
- Ensure the local environment contributes to the community's overall sense of well-being and contentment
- Improve a sense of community identity through a shared knowledge of the special characteristics of the local environment
- Promote better communication and contact between all parties interested in the local environment
- Empower local residents to make a difference and act responsibly towards the local environment

The following plan sets down a set of actions to meet a defined aim arising from the findings of the Community Plan Steering Group. During the implementation phase of the plan actual tasks and time frames may differ.

Aim	Actions	Estimated Cost & Timescale	Partners
<p>Key findings: Q6, Q7, Q8, Q9 & Q10 - Living in a rural environment physically separated from other settlements is very important to our community and there is overwhelming support for the preservation of the green belt. The natural environment (green spaces, hedgerows & trees) is much more important to people than being close to work. A majority of people who responded to the questionnaire favoured no further development; however for all the circumstances suggested housing was the most acceptable option. Some types of development of green belt or agricultural land are preferable to others but there is little support for using either for housing, commercial or business premises.</p>			
<p>Ensure all agencies related to the preservation (or otherwise) of the local Green Belt & Natural Environment are aware of the strength of local feeling</p>	<p>Publish the results of the survey, distribute to local residents and circulate to targeted key agencies such as CPRE, SGC.</p>	<p>Year 1 and ongoing Cost dependent on distribution list!</p>	<p>Community Plan Steering Group Parish Council Pucklechurch News Team Pucklechurch Webmaster SGC</p>
<p>Alert residents of the Community Plan area of potential threats to the continued existence of the Green Belt and empower them to make their opinions known Inform residents of planning applications Better inform residents of local planning applications</p>	<p>Publish an easy to use guide as an insert for Pucklechurch News on searching and commenting on local planning issues/consultations – provide links via the website. Publicise plans for large scale local development (such as those contained within the South Gloucestershire Core Strategy) Encourage people to sign up to online planning notification services such as SGC’s Planning Finder</p>	<p>Year 2 Cost £200</p>	
	<p>Relocate the Parish Notice Board to make planning notices more prominent</p>	<p>Year 2 £200</p>	<p>Parish Council</p>
<p>Key findings: Q11 & Q13 - There is overwhelming support for the redevelopment of the derelict chapel and little enthusiasm for leaving it as is. Opinion on further development of Pucklechurch Trading Estate is divided but very few people actually supported the idea of substantial additional commercial development.</p>			
<p>Ensure that the feelings of local residents are taken in to account regarding future plans relating to</p>	<p>Make the results from survey widely available to all agencies – including a formal response by the Parish Council to the current Pucklechurch Conservation Area consultation</p>	<p>Year 1 Minimal Cost</p>	<p>Community Plan Steering Group Parish Council</p>

redevelopment of these specific areas	Alert local residents early to any planning applications and if necessary organise public consultation meetings and facilitate the sharing of information as well as assisting residents to make comments	Year 2 Ongoing – possible start up costs	Pucklechurch News Team Pucklechurch Webmaster SGC CPRE Safer Stronger Community Group
	Encourage the formation of a Community Action Group so that residents might actively promote redevelopment (e.g. of the Congregational Church) and for the group to act as an independent voice within the community – advertise for volunteers via Pucklechurch News		
Key finding: Q14 - Collectively most people who responded agreed that adequate provision for traveller sites already exists and disagreed that more should be done – the idea of a site at Emerson's Green was clearly not supported.			
Inform residents of the progress of South Gloucestershire Council's Gypsy & Traveller Development Plan and the results of the West of England Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment	Publicise formal SGC consultation opportunities and provide updates on/ summary of the Plan through Pucklechurch News. Add links to all this information on the Pucklechurch Community Website	Year 1 and ongoing Minimal cost	Parish Council Pucklechurch Webmaster Pucklechurch News Team
Key Findings: Q15 & Q16 - Our local countryside is well-used by most people on either a daily or weekly basis, whilst only a relatively small number of people who either do not or cannot use it at all. Preservation of the natural environment is clearly important with a high level of support for all the measures suggested.			

<p>Improve access and usage of the local countryside</p>	<p>Formulate and adopt a phased Countryside & Historic Site Access Plan that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the Community Plan area as a venue for wildlife activities (such as bird-watching) as well as other interests such as photography and art. Promote the Community Plan area as a venue for rambles and other walks including the installation of way-marking signposts for themed trails & footpaths including viewpoints and points of interest. Promote the use of Bristol- Bath Cycle Path (including provision of easier access to it Produce and distribute leaflets relating to trails, habitats, landscape usage, and wildlife suitable for all age groups and physical ability in a wide variety of formats 	<p>Phase 1 Year 1 (website & Pucklechurch News) £200 for inserts</p> <p>Phase 2 Year 2 Substantial cost – potential grant application</p>	<p>Parish Council SGC Sustrans CPRE Rambler's Association RSPB Avon Wildlife Trust Local Art/Photography groups (to be identified)</p>
<p>Key Findings: Q19, Q20 & Q22 - Litter appears to be a problem more often than not in a wide variety of places, although the Recreation Ground and play areas are perceived to be less problematical. Most people identified pedestrians as the source of litter and there is a perception that the younger generation are largely to blame. Fly-tipping is prevalent in a number of out-of-the-way places.</p>			
<p>Reduce the level of litter</p>	<p>Produce and adopt a community anti-litter strategy that incorporates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A review of the number/position/placement of bins to make disposal as easy as possible An awareness campaign aimed at the need for prevention A review of the enforcement process in conjunction with SGC to deal with "litter louts" <p>Publicise the mechanisms for local reporting of fly-tipping via Pucklechurch News and the website and include this information in the Village Directory</p> <p>Raise the profile of South Gloucestershire Annual Spring Clean</p>	<p>Year 1 and ongoing</p> <p>Minimal cost</p> <p>Year 2</p>	<p>Parish Council Pucklechurch News Pucklechurch Website Pucklechurch School Community Groups Residents SGC CPRE</p>

	Encourage the formation of Litter-Action Groups to adopt particular areas and promote the use of South Glos. Anti-Litter bug resources in school		
Key Finding: Q21 - Most people that answered this question perceive dog fouling to be a problem “sometimes” in a wide variety of places – a relatively large number of people don’t think dog fouling is a problem at all.			
Reduce degree of dog fouling	Produce and adopt a community anti-dog fouling strategy that incorporates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of the number/position/placement of dog bins to make disposal as easy as possible in consultation with local dog-owners • An awareness campaign relating to health & environmental issues • A review of the enforcement process in conjunction with SGC 	Year 1 and ongoing Minimal cost	Parish Council Pucklechurch News Team Pucklechurch Webmaster Residents SGC CPRE
	Encourage and promote responsible dog ownership through existing local publications and website		
Key Findings: Q17, Q18, Q23 & Q24 - Noise is not a problem for most people but some report problems relating to roads and for other residents there appears to be a specific issue with noise from Pucklechurch Trading Estate. Most people are not affected by vibration from vehicles but lorries, particularly those dealing with freight at Pucklechurch Trading Estate during the night, cause problems for some. Our street lighting is considered to be adequate by most people, but there are significant localised issues for some. Almost as many people think our street lights should be switched off at least in some areas, as those who think our street lights should stay on all night. Light pollution is not an issue for the vast majority of people but residential security lights cause problems for some and collectively light from Ashfield YOI and PTE cause the most concern.			
To reduce the number of households affected by light & noise pollution	Undertake a more comprehensive local study of problem areas identified by respondents Arrange a meeting with SEGRO, YOI and local businesses to discuss issues raised by residents Encourage residents to consider more ‘neighbour friendly’ use of residential security lights through Pucklechurch News & website	Year 1 ? cost	Parish Council SEGRO Local Businesses SGC YOI Pucklechurch News Team Pucklechurch Webmaster

	<p>Encourage local residents to communicate with each other regarding localised problems and to be more pro-active in the reporting of problems.</p> <p>Publicise Noise Concern's stepped programme for action in Pucklechurch News and on the website</p> <p>Make copies of the DEFRA leaflet "Bothered by Noise" available via website download (or in hard copy)</p>		
<p>Key Finding: Q43 - There is clear support for the preservation and enhancement of the historic environment, especially through education and the provision of information and by sympathetic repair and restoration.</p>			
<p>To raise awareness of the local historic & natural environment</p>	<p>Make information relating to the historic (& natural) environment readily available by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encouraging the formation of a special interest group • adding material to the website (including links to pre-existing sources such as the Heritage Gateway and interest groups) • publishing information leaflets as part of the Countryside & Historic Access plan (noted above) and via Pucklechurch News and the website • organising a local history/natural environment recording project 	<p>Phase 1 Year 1 (website & Pucklechurch News) £200 for inserts</p> <p>Phase 2 Year 2 moderate cost – potentially self-financing or through grant application</p>	<p>Parish Council Specialist interest groups inc. ALHA BRERC PCA South Glos. HER South Glos. Museums Group South Glos. Biodiversity Groups Schools</p>