

DEEPING ST NICHOLAS
PARISH PLAN
THE RESULTS



FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

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A Parish Plan is an important document. It summarizes various physical historical and demographic facts and presents the results of a detailed questionnaire where residents were encouraged to express their opinions, concerns and aspirations.

This has needed many of those prepared to give up their time to attend meetings to develop ideas and refine suggestions. It has also relied on the talents, the efforts and drive of a small steering group to keep the process moving forward over the last 18 months.

Deeping St Nicholas Parish Council, the steering group and sub-committees will be able to use this plan as a basis for action over the months and years to come. But the opportunity for real progress will be significantly improved if residents continue to contribute their time and effort. It remains an embryonic document that will continue to be developed to deal with fresh challenges and new ideas. However the reality is that the more of us who do something to help in areas identified in the plan, the more likely it is that the results will be accomplished. There is an action plan which needs to be followed up and the plan should be reviewed annually.

I hope that you will read this plan, that you are inspired by it, that you feel enthusiastic enough to do something to help. Hopefully over the years more volunteers will come forward to carry on this excellent work, for the benefit of the entire community.

The level of response was very high and very comprehensive another indication of the commitment of residents to their parish.

When Louise McGuinness indicated the process of producing the Parish Plan, over 18 months ago, no one really knew how this could be achieved. But now we can all see the result: a comprehensive study of the type of community DSN Parish is today along with considered and quantified proposals for how it might develop in the future.

The plan is also the result of the much detailed work by her team over many months and our thanks must go to them. I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to Ian Sismey, Louise McGuinness, Andy Croyle, Sharon Rudd, Sarah Phillips Janet Kelly, Nicholas Watts, Paul Barrett and Barry Hopkins

On behalf of Deeping St Nicholas Parish Council, I welcome the publication of this Parish Plan.

William Rodwell
Chairman Deeping St Nicholas Parish Council

INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS A PARISH PLAN?

A Parish plan is a snapshot in time of our community's character and identity with priorities for action on the issues that matter to our Parishioners.

The essential characteristic of a parish plan is that it is based on parishioner's views. It represents a real opportunity for voices to be heard about what is needed to make Deeping St Nicholas an even better place, however small scale some of those improvements might seem.

By having given every local resident the opportunity to say exactly what they value most and identify those areas of concern, the parish plan is an authoritative statement of the community's views and has identified what should, in a period of inevitable change, be respected and challenged. Through the all household survey completed by many residents the parish plan is a unique source of information on the issues that matter most to local people.

The Parish Plan can therefore be used to influence those who make decisions about how our money is spent in Deeping St Nicholas Parish.

Examples include: To attempt and secure sponsorship, and grants to pay for improvements within our Parish.

To provide a focus for community activity and organised self help.

Many other parishes with parish plans have been successful in obtaining significant amounts of funding precisely because of the statement of needs identified and community involvement in their plan. Other parishes have used their plans to work on specific projects.

WHO IS THE PLAN FOR?

It is for everyone concerned about the future of Deeping St Nicholas and Tongue End. It can also be used by South Holland District Council (SHDC) and Lincolnshire County Council (LCC). Both have a statutory obligation to consult the views of the community when taking any decision on issues especially development that will affect our community.

Deeping St Nicholas holds the potential for regeneration and sustainable development over the next five years.

The key to success will be to both work with the support

A VISION OF DEEPING ST NICHOLAS AND TONGUE END IN 10 YEARS' TIME

HERITAGE, LANDSCAPE AND BIODIVERSITY

People who live and work in the Deeping St Nicholas and Tongue End value the countryside and scenery very highly. Much of the parish lies agricultural land.

We will not support development on greenfield sites. We will also seek to preserve the many important historic buildings, especially those connected with our industrial heritage and Railway Station. We will create a Village Design Statement to describe the distinctive characteristics of the parish and provide design guidance for future development. Many local railway stations and halts fell victim to the Beeching cuts; by the end of the 1960s, we will continue to campaign for Littleworth Halt to be re opened to reduce traffic off the road and improve health and well being of our residence giving choice in the modes of transport. We will commit to improving public transport to serve our areas.

BIODIVERSITY

A key issue is the preservation and protection of the local environment for the sake of biodiversity. We will seek to protect sites identified as important for biodiversity and advocate the creation of new wildlife areas where opportunities arise.

Derelict industrial sites are often important habitats, so we will ask developers to provide an Environmental Impact Assessment for major developments on brownfield sites. Where the benefits to the public of the development outweigh any adverse effect upon the nature conservation interest of the site we will seek to minimise harm and

ensure that compensatory measures, such as habitat creation or enhancement, are included. There may also be opportunities to create new wildlife corridors, particularly associated the dykes and local rivers, and to link to Strategic Nature Areas.

LOCALISM AGENDA

Deeping St Nicholas and Tongue End will be the proposals for:

Neighbourhood planning - the Bill introduces a new right for communities to draw up a "neighbourhood development plan" which could say where the community think new houses, businesses and shops should go – and what they should look like.

Community right to build - the Bill will give groups of local people the ability to bring forward small developments such as the community hall.

Requirement to consult communities before submitting very large planning applications - the Bill introduces a new requirement for developers to consult local communities before submitting planning applications for very large developments.

Strengthening enforcement rules - the Bill will strengthen planning authorities' powers to tackle abuses of the planning system, such as making deliberately misleading planning applications.

Reforming the community infrastructure levy - to make it more flexible.

CONSULTATION

Between 2009 and 2015 Deeping St Nicholas Parish Council worked in partnership with local community groups and residents to conduct a range of survey's of residents and businesses in the parish. Every household in the Parish received a Parish Plan Questionnaire to have their say. 126 households took part in the questionnaire which covered a wide range of topics.

The council has consulted extensively with residents and businesses in the area to ensure that local needs and priorities are addressed by development plans affecting the two villages.

The results of all of these consultations were distilled into a draft document which was adopted by the Parish Council as an interim document, which formed the basis of a final consultation to ensure that it accurately reflects the priorities of local people and is consistent with the strategies of other organisations and local authorities.

The results of this consultation are shown in the attached document Parish Plan Consultation Results.

The comments received were highly supportive of the vision but a few changes have been made as a result of feedback received.

PARISH PLAN

This Plan has been developed by Deeping St Nicholas Parish Council and represents the council's strategy for the next five years and beyond.

It is based on research obtained by the Parish Plan sub committee. The area is currently facing a period of great change largely as a result of the regeneration of the Lincolnshire Gateway on the boundary of our Parish and the vision of South East Lincolnshire Local Plan currently under consultation.

A number of other on-going issues have also been identified, for example traffic management, Community Hall, litter, and care for the environment.

The council has consulted extensively with residents and businesses in the area to ensure that local needs and priorities are addressed by development plans affecting the two villages.

There are many challenges to be faced, not least the need to balance of many conflicting interests, but at the same time there will be many opportunities to shape the future for the benefit of people who will live in, work in and visit Deeping St Nicholas, now and for years to come.

THE RESULTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. How many people live in your household?

1 10% 2 51% 3 13% 4 18% 5 6% 6 2% 7+ 0%

2. Please indicate the age group/s of people in your household

0-10 20% 11-20 19% 21-30 14% 31-40 19% 41-50 25% 51-60 27% 61-70 32% 71-80 13% 80+ 2%

4. In which part of the Parish is your household?

Deeping St Nicholas 86% Hop Pole 11% Tongue End 3%

6. Would you support a move to Deeping St Nicholas to become a standalone District?

Yes 93% No 7%

8. Why have you chosen to live in the Parish?

Near to larger town 11% Near to employment 17% Near to good schools 10% Near to family 16%
Near to main roads/railways 8% Affordable housing 53% Access to countryside 43% Rural village community 32%
Never lived elsewhere 6%

HEALTH

Do you consider that the current health services adequately meet your needs?

Yes 78% No 22%

Do you consider that the parish should have its own health centre?

Yes 58% No 42%

Would you use a walk in health centre?

Yes 80% No 20%

Would you use a mobile health facility?

Yes 69% No 31%

Have you had difficulty getting a doctor or nurse appointment?

Yes 41% No 45% Does not apply 15%

LEISURE

1. Do you feel there are sufficient leisure venues within the village?

Yes 6% No 94%

6c. How important is the presence of the signal box to the village community?

Vital 19% Very important 17% Important 24% Not important 41%

6f. How important is the presence of the outdoor play areas to the village community?

Vital 54% Very important 26% Important 18% Not important 1%

WASTE

1. Is domestic recycling collected often enough?

Yes 96% No 4%

2. Should recycling include garden waste?

Yes 90% No 10%

3. If a garden waste collection was available for an annual charge, would you use it?

Yes 55% No 45%

4. Would you like to have wheelie bins for waste and recycling?

Yes 48% No 52%

6. Would you take part in an annual community litter pick?

Yes 55% No 45%

ENERGY

6. Do you think alternative energy production within the Parish should be encouraged?

Yes 78% No 22%

7. What alternative energies would you like to see encouraged?

Wind 35% Solar 55% Biomass 23% Garden waste 39%

8. Do you think that the village community should share in the consultation process and financial benefits from the Wind Turbine Trust?

Yes 91% No 9%

9. Would you like to see the grants from the Wind Turbine Trust used for local projects such as those in the Parish Plan when completed?

Yes 98% No 2%

12. Do you think local groups and clubs should be involved in helping mobilise Parish ownership of an environmental plan?

Yes 77% No 23%

13. Do you think Deeping St Nicholas should set itself carbon reduction targets in line with national targets and take steps to meet those targets, starting with promoting those that save money and will not materially reduce quality of life?

Yes 70% No 30%

CRIME

1. Would you like to see more police presence in the village?

Yes 77% No 23%

2. I feel that Deeping St Nicholas is a safe place to live.

Agree/Strongly agree 92% Disagree/Strongly disagree 8%

COMMUNITY HALL

1. Would you be in favour of plans to build a new Community Hall?

Yes 75% No 25%

3. Would you be likely to hire the proposed Community Hall for social functions?

Yes 50% No 50%

COMMUNICATION

2. Do you regularly read any of the following free publications?

Deeping St Nicholas Village News 99 Deeping Scene 55 Discovering Deeping 41 I'd rather be in Deeping 10
Crowland News 8 Simply Spalding 13 The Voice 26 Bourne Marketplace 6

7. Does your household have adequate broadband connection with speed sufficient for your current and future needs?

Yes 72% No 28%

BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT

1. How far do members of your household travel to work?

Less than 5 miles outside the Parish 26% 6-10 miles outside the Parish 15% 10-20 miles outside the Parish 32%
Over 20 miles outside the Parish 27%

2. Are members of your household?

Working full time 38% Working part time 21% Looking for FT work Looking for PT work 1%
Running a large or full time business 6% Running a small or part time business 8% Housewife/Husband 28%

4. Should there be more opportunity for full time work?

Yes 85% No 15%

7. Should businesses encourage and support residents to work from home?

Yes 81% No 19%

9. If so would you use and support local businesses?

Yes 92% No 8%

10. Would you support large scale development in the village to create jobs for local people?

Yes 44% No 56%

11. What impact does farming have on the local Community?

Major 64% Little 32% None 4%

12. Should more be done to emphasise the environmental and economic benefits of farming?

Yes 90% No 10%

13. Should there be more opportunity to encourage rural skills?

Yes 92% No 8%

15. Do you purchase locally produced food direct from farms or elsewhere within the village?

Frequently 25% Occasionally 62% Never 13%

17. What types of business would you like to see attracted to the village?

Retail 61% Manufacturing 13% IT and computer 22% Professional services 27% Distribution 6%
Rail freight interchange 14% Leisure & tourism 64% Agriculture 44% Social support services 20%

18. Should there be a post office in the village?

Yes 92% No 8%

19. Should there be a shop (convenience store) in the village?

Yes 95% No 5%

21. Should there be a directory of small businesses for the village?

Yes 86% No 14%

ACTION PLAN

This Parish Plan identifies 11 priorities for action which have been supported by the wider community.

1. We will encourage, support and engage with initiatives which make Deeping St Nicholas and Tongue End more sustainable as a place to live, work and play.
2. We will encourage and support development of appropriate brownfield sites, We will not support development on greenfield sites outside of the settlement boundary.
3. We will support high quality, sustainable mixed development (supported by appropriate infrastructure improvements) that provides employment and housing to meet local needs.
4. Housing developments should include: low-cost starter homes, family housing and affordable housing to rent, all built to a high standard of design.
5. Commercial developments should support employment opportunities which meet the needs and skills of local people.
6. We would like to see the Railway station is re opened and is used to revitalise the whole area and to make Deeping St Nicholas the vibrant heart of our community.
7. Development at the station should include a significant element of community use, including at the heart of the site a new multi-use building offering a range of facilities, services and employment opportunities, to be developed, owned and run by the community as a social enterprise centre.
8. We will establish a Deeping St Nicholas and Tongue End Community Development Trust which will become active in developing opportunities for local people to become involved in the building of a community hall and Best Kept village scheme.
9. We will work to improve road safety, accessibility and parking.
10. We will seek opportunities to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.
11. We will conserve and enhance our local heritage, landscape and biodiversity especially buildings of historical importance and wildlife conservation areas.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- A plain English Guide to the Localism Bill www.communities.gov.uk
- Deeping St Nicholas Parish Plan Questionnaire, The wishes of the People of Deeping St Nicholas and Tongue End Residents
- SHDC Local Plan SELP Vision
- Parish Maps provided under licence
- Photos by Andy Croyle7

