



CHEDZOY PARISH ACTION PLAN

2009

Chedzoy Parish Council
Somerset

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The Chedzoy Parish Plan, is a summary of actions that need to be taken to meet the economic, environmental and social aspirations of residents of Chedzoy.

Chedzoy is undergoing change at a faster rate than at any time in the past. New people are moving into the village, employment for local people is changing, services are changing, old buildings have new uses, new buildings are being built.

Some of these changes will improve the quality of life for current and future residents, some of the changes are detrimental, some are reversible; some will affect future residents for a very long time.

Decisions that affect the village are taken by a range of authorities or agencies, some within the village, others external to the village. What so many of the decisions lack is what the government likes to call 'joined up thinking'.

This Parish Plan provides a framework within which, priorities can be formed, services can be developed and planning decisions made.

Over the past year local people have had the opportunity to participate in the development of this Parish Plan through a parish questionnaire and public meetings. There is still work that needs to be done but the key areas of concern have been identified.

We would like to thank everyone who assisted in the production of this Parish Action Plan and hope that you will read the document with interest and help in the implementation of the plan.



PARISH ACTION PLAN 2009

Population, Housing, Employment and Development

Population

Comments

The population of Chedzoy today (2009) is about 420 people. This is a little lower than the number who lived here in 1801 when there were 440 people. At its peak in 1831 the village had a population of 550. The lowest population on record was in 1931 when there were 280 people. The rate of change in the 20 years between 1981 and 2001 has been significant with an increase of 28%

We are currently an aging community with above average number of older people living on their own. In the coming years as homes of older residents become vacant there may be an increase in young families returning to the village

Action

We need to confirm the actual number of older people living in the village.

Planning

Comments

People were unsure who decided the current village planning envelope. In general people felt the current boundary seemed appropriate and changes should be made only after consultation.

Much of the land around Chedzoy was owned by Oxford University and there is no local control of this land.

People hoped the Manor House Inn would be retained with beer garden and parking

The pub car park is one of the few areas of potential development land in planning envelope.

Action

The Parish Council should seek to raise its influence upon local planning issues.

The Parish to consult on anomalies in the planning envelope

Housing

Comments

There is opposition to 'estate' style developments and there is wide agreement that we do not want any more executive homes in the village. The development that people would support are:

Starter homes for local young people and families.

Accommodation for older people to allow them to stay in the village. (This could include sheltered accommodation).

Action

The Parish Council should

Revisit the plans for Dolton's Farm development.

Investigate conversion of current social housing in the village to flats and maisonettes.

The village should produce a Parish Design Statement.

Work and Employment

Comments

The village has lost many traditional trades and occupations.

New employment should be sympathetic to village environment.

There is concern that increased employment in the village would raise noise levels, the levels of traffic and the general busyness of the village.

The Parish Council should resist business building development until demand is proved.

It was thought that the Manor House Inn could become a centre of village activity and provide local employment

Many young people want the opportunity for local part time work.,

If home employment is to increase there is a need for increased internet speed

Action

The Parish Council should take into account the increased levels of traffic and noise that would accompany any new local businesses.

The Parish Council should lobby for better internet links.

Travel Transport

Concerns

Increase in large lorries on village roads.
Speeding in the village
The number of 'boy racers' who come through the village
Parking is sometimes thoughtless and lazy
The bus shelter is now in wrong place.
Bus is rarely a practical travel option for most but vital for a minority
School bus often blocks road junction

Danger spots

Manor Drive exit to Higher Road.
Higher Road and Front Street.
Parking outside village hall

Action

Ask police to monitor speed through the village
Ask police to monitor lorries through the village
Ask police to act on boy racers particularly in the late evening.
Seek level of community support for speed watch

Crime

Comments

People value the low crime community of Chedzoy
The main criminal activity in the village is the speeding cars - too fast and too noisy.
It was thought dog fouling on pavements could be reduced if dog poo bins were provided.
The 'surgery' to be provided monthly in the village by the police was supported and should be more widely advertised.

Action

The Parish Council to explore the possibility of providing suitable dog poo bins
Police surgery to be promoted.

Environment

Comments

People would like more cycle paths and improved footpaths.
About one third of the people would like street lights, mainly the old and young. The majority are vehemently against street lights.
The number of people wanting a local recycling centre was split in a similar ratio with a third against and two thirds in favour.
Roads in parts of the parish frequently get flooded.
It was thought that local roads were dangerous for walkers and cyclists.
Alternative cycle and walking routes need to be explored.
Action needs to be taken to remove graffiti as it occurs

Action

Parish Council to advise BT that the phone box needs painting.
The Parish Council to explore the possibility of opening up a cycle route to school using the footbridge across the M5.
Local people to be encouraged to recycle, explore potential of a local recycling centre.
There was a need to monitor local footpaths to ensure that they remain usable for all sections of the community.
More visits by the gully sucker and clearance of blocked pipes.
Grass verges are being eroded in the village



Village activities

Comments

Residents are very supportive of community activities.
For a small village there is a wide range of activities for all age groups except the young.

The improvements at the playing field were welcomed
Concern was expressed that the playing field is out of sight of adults
The most supported activity in the village is the village flower show
There were requests for additional activities for adults including educational classes, sporting groups, social activities.

Since the village questionnaire a number of activities have started in the village

The playing field has had significant investment in fencing and equipment.

There are two fitness classes one in the daytime and one in the evening.

Young people have been invited to the Chinese hostel in the Village.

The first walk on local footpaths.

Action

Parents are to be encouraged to run activities for young people.

There needs to be better advertising of village show.

Promote new community activities and events to increase the use of the village hall and other meeting places as people and resources become available.

The young people would like a second goal at the playing field.

The young people would like a weekly club and holiday activities.

Governance

Comments

District and County councillors seem to be very remote.

The parish councillors feel unsupported by district councillors.

The parish council should have a greater say in planning decisions.

Action

The parish council should take a lead by inviting district and county councillors to public meetings.

Copies of parish council minutes and agendas should be made available to community members by email.

Parish council decisions should be summarised in the Chedzoy News.

Information on the Parish should be made available on a website.

