

Sutton St.Nicholas Parish Plan

Review - January 2007

Review outline

The Sutton Parish Plan was published in March 2003, following public consultation during 2002.

The review was undertaken in January 2007 by Ann Burke, Judy Stevenson and Tony Walmsley for presentation and discussion at the Parish Council Meeting in February.

The review involved identifying what has been achieved, what is underway, and what still needs to be addressed. It considered new priorities and recommends the date of the next review and rewrite of the Parish Plan.

The results of the public consultation published in the Parish Plan (2003), identified various issues which fell into the following broad headings:

Highways, Education & Community Centre, Leisure & Youth & Community, Planning/Rural Economy, Environment, and Community Health.

The issues which needed addressing were then developed into a plan of action with short, medium and long term priorities. These were:

Short term priorities:

Replacement of post office
Age-segregated playing areas
Recycling bins
Skate/skateboarding park/mountain bike tracks
Speed restrictions

Medium term priorities:

New school/community centre
Shop

Long term priorities:

Starter homes

What has been achieved

Seven of these eight priorities have been investigated or are underway, their progress is detailed below.

The exception was the **Replacement Post Office**, which is reliant on the outcome of the national post office re-organisation and possible alternative provision which may be made by that organisation.

Age-segregated playing. It was decided that improved Playing Field facilities and the skate/skateboard/bike track would go some way towards achieving this. The Parish Council used £3,000 to improve Playing Field facilities for younger users. This comprised providing a new slide, new swing seats, a new seesaw seat, a new four-seater springer, and repairs and refurbishments to the whole facility.

The skate/skateboard/bike track. Provision for this was considered, and there was the possibility of using the existing school grounds for a village skateboarding club, however an alternative private facility became available.

Recycling bins. From April 2003 the council started kerb side collection of recyclable material for paper/card/textiles and plastic bottles and cans. The Parish Council organised the Parish Freighter 'skip' scheme, which has provided a refuse lorry and box van on a Saturday, four times a year since 2003/2004.

The possibility of siting a glass recycling bin somewhere in the new community facility has been considered, but the danger of broken glass waste would need to be fully addressed and resolved. This will be considered again once the facility is fully functional.

Speed Restrictions. Reducing the speed limit to 30mph throughout the village has been fought for by the Parish Council. It was achieved for one of the main roads through the village, the Ridgeway-Marden road, which became 30mph in 2005.

A 30mph limit will be come into effect along the Hereford-Bodenham road when the new school/community centre is built. There is also likely to be 20mph advisory speed limit along this stretch by the school/community facility, and a pedestrian crossing probably in the form of a toucan crossing.

Other traffic calming measures are to be trialled this year, with the introduction of occasional speed indicator devices.

In 2003 it was planned that a self-use speed camera scheme would be piloted in the village, but this did not happen as West Mercia Police Authority reduced the number of parishes involved in the project.

The Safe Routes to School Scheme is still being developed.

A new footpath on the Marden Road from Ordish Cottages to the Post Office is on the council waiting list.

Some road signage has been improved. The council is regularly notified of the need to clean road signs. The matter of verges, passing places and lorry movements has been addressed, but not progressed further.

New school/community centre. This major development for the village is now proceeding, with a new school and joint community facility being built opposite the existing school. As of now the grounds and car parking are being built.

The building will include accommodation for the school, pre-school, community rooms and a shared community/school hall. The school will have new field and sports ground facilities. There will be ample car parking space and a small village outside area.

The development goes in tandem with the building of new housing which lies adjacent to the site.

Shop. The provision of a shop in the village is much desired, but is not easily rectified. It has been suggested that the new community facility would be able to house a shop or provisions store if there are people willing to run it. The facility may be able to accommodate a peripatetic shop and the possibility of leasing out space for a commercial venture could be investigated if such a proposition arose.

Starter homes. The housing development adjacent to the new school/community centre will include 5 affordable houses out of the 15 houses being built.

A detailed listing of all issues with their associated actions can be found in the appendix.

Conclusion & Recommendations

The Parish Plan identified a variety of issues, a large number of which have been either fully addressed or progressed forward in some way. The main issues which need addressing once the new community/school facility is operational are the Post Office, a shop and youth activity facilities.

We consider the next immediate priority of the Parish Council should be to actively support the provision of a footpath from Ordys Cottages to the Post Office.

In the light of the forthcoming new school/community centre, it would be prudent to wait until this facility is up and running before the next review and revision/rewriting of the Parish Plan is undertaken. We suggest this should take place in 2009, that is one year from the completion of the development anticipated to be in 2008.

Ann Burke, Judy Stevenson, Tony Walmsley. 17-01-2007

Appendix:

Issues from Public Meetings A & B

Issue	Achieved	In progress	Not progressed	Notes
HIGHWAYS				
Speed limits	YES	YES		Partial speed limit change, others with new school
Traffic calming		YES		Trial speed warning signs
Pedestrian crossings		YES		With new school
Mini-roundabouts			NO	
Footpaths		YES		New footpath to be pushed forward
EDUCATION/ COMMUNITY CENTRE		YES		
Hall for badmington		YES		
Kitchen/bar		YES		
Play school and store		YES		
Meeting room		YES		
Large storage space		YES		
IT centre		?		IT facility may be developed
Sports field with changing rooms		?		Hire from the school
Ample car parking		YES		
Good security		YES		
LEISURE, YOUTH, COMMUNITY				
Skateboarding			NO	
Better play facilities for young	YES			
PLANNING, RURAL ECONOMY				
Village shop			?	Possible space in new community centre
Village pub development	YES			Pub - redeveloped whole space
Post Office			NO	
Starter homes		YES		With new

				development
ENVIRONMENTAL				
Recycling	YES			Glass still to be considered
Footpaths		YES		Ongoing maintenance by Heref. Council
Bridleways		YES		Ongoing maintenance by Heref. Council. Canal bridge still a problem
Spreading poultry manure			NO	
COMMUNITY HEALTH				
Village surgery		?		New facility may be able to accommodate peripatetic provision

Issues from Interest Groups - Meeting C

Issue	Achieved	In progress	Not progressed	Notes
PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE				
Larger area inc. larger football pitch			NO	New school pitch may be hired out
Higher fencing			NO	
Climbing and circuit training apparatus			NO	Unlikely to be able to provide in new facility
AGE CONCERN				
Village Shop			?	Possible space in new community centre
Doctors Surgery			?	New facility may be able to accommodate peripatetic provision
Pedestrian crossing		YES		With new school
Speed reductions	YES	YES		
Village Hall		YES		

Youth Club	YES			For 11-14 years, currently based at Withington
Recycle bins	YES			Glass to be considered with new centre
PRE-SCHOOL				
Play area for very young	YES			New facilities in play ground, but not separated from main field
Provision in new school		YES		
Road Crossing		YES		With new school
MOTHERS UNION				
Shop			?	Possible space in new community centre
Speed reductions	YES	YES		
Street Lighting			NO	
Roundabout at cross roads			NO	
Post Office contingency plan			NO	
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL				
Outdoor activity provision			NO	
Play area for very young	YES			New facilities in play ground, but not separated from main field
Youth/Teenage Council	YES			
SCHOOL GOVERNORS				
New school & community centre		YES		
Pre-school facilities	YES	YES		
After-school club facilities	YES	YES		