



Fletching Parish Action Plan

Determining the future of our community and how we can change it for the better

Progress Update February 2016

The feedback from the questionnaire sent to all residents in 2014 formed the basis of the Fletching Parish Action Plan, which sets out a vision for the future of the parish. Since the plan was produced in January 2015, we have been working hard to address the issues raised with over 50% success to date. We have also begun to look at long-term projects that will enhance our rural parish.

This document gives you an update on our progress over the past year and identifies what else still needs to be done. Items that have been greyed out are complete for the year, although some things will continue to be reviewed on a regular basis.

The Steering Group that drives this initiative is made up of parish councillors and volunteers from the community and everyone is welcome to participate. We have worked closely with the parish council, Wealden District Council, East Sussex County Council, Sussex Police and various local groups and organisations. We have also held public meetings on road safety, parking in Fletching village and an exciting new annual community event called Fletching Festival.

The amount that we achieve is dependent upon the number of volunteers that we have, so we are always looking for additional volunteers to help us get things done. If YOU are interested in getting involved to help shape some of our projects and move them forward, please contact Katherine Rumble on 01444 483080 or e-mail clerk@fletching-pc.org



Parish Action Plan

Environment

What did we set out to do?	How will it be tackled?	What's been done so far?	What still needs to be done?
Ensure footpaths are maintained and/or improved and not allowed to become overgrown	<p>Review all public footpaths in the parish and report issues to Rights of Way team at East Sussex County Council</p> <p>Advise people how to report issues with footpaths and provide contact details</p>	<p>Some public footpaths have been walked and issues reported to ESCC</p> <p>'Public Footpaths Fact Sheet' created</p>	<p>Remaining public footpaths need to be walked</p> <p>Walker's maps and notes need to be updated</p>
Ensure stiles are maintained and are dog friendly	<p>Review condition and design of stiles in the parish and encourage landowners to improve/replace where appropriate</p>	<p>Some stiles in poor condition have been reported to ESCC</p>	<p>Remaining stiles need to be reviewed</p>
Explore possibility of a public footpath between Sheffield Park and Fletching	<p>Advise people of the discussion already held with the landowner and the outcome</p>		
Ensure parish is kept clean, tidy and litter free	<p>Advise people how to report litter and fly tipping</p> <p>Continue regular street cleaning</p> <p>Explore opportunities for volunteers to help e.g. Village Spring Clean</p>	<p>'Reporting An Issue' document created</p> <p>Fletching Parish Council will continue to monitor the litter situation throughout the parish</p> <p>'Clean for The Queen' campaign promoted</p>	



What did we set out to do?	How will it be tackled?	What's been done so far?	What still needs to be done?
Explain verge and hedge cutting policy and schedule	<p>Advise people of the verge and hedge cutting policy and schedule, provide details of who is responsible for what and their relevant contact details</p> <p>Advise people how to report issues with verges and hedges</p>	<p>Verge and hedge cutting schedule published in the Parish Magazine and online</p> <p>'Reporting An Issue' document created</p> <p>'Public Footpaths Fact Sheet' created</p>	
Ensure road signs are not obscured by overgrown vegetation	Advise people how to report an obscured road sign. Conduct regular reviews of signage in the parish	<p>'Reporting An Issue' document created</p> <p>Highways Steward continues to inspect signage regularly</p>	
Encourage dog owners to pick up dog waste in public areas e.g. burial ground, golf course	Improve awareness of the risks associated with dog waste, consider additional dog bin provision	<p>'Dog Faeces Fact Sheet' created</p> <p>Design a Dog Poo poster competition held at Fletching Primary School</p> <p>Articles on the risks of dog faeces published in the Parish Magazine and online</p> <p>New penalty signs installed</p> <p>Letter sent to one regular offender</p>	
Explain management of and restrictions on Fletching Common	Advise people how the commons are managed and what the restrictions are		Article to be drafted for publication in the parish magazine and online



What did we set out to do?	How will it be tackled?	What's been done so far?	What still needs to be done?
Further enhancement to environment	Confirm recent enhancements and consider if further enhancements are required	Planters on verge at junction of Cherry Cottages and the High Street being considered	Review costs and options and agree way forward

Community Safety

What did we set out to do?	How will it be tackled?	What's been done so far?	What still needs to be done?
Explore ways in which policing in and around the parish can be improved, addressing perceptions of burglary	Promote Community Messaging Publicise local surgery held by Police Community Support Officer Represent the parish at Local Action Team Meetings / Sussex Police meetings	Article published in the Parish Magazine and online Local surgeries publicised and held Meetings attended	
Explain role of Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) and how to contact them	Advise people who their Police Community Support Officer is, what they do and how to contact them	Articles published in the Parish Magazine and online	
Explore ways of promoting Neighbourhood Watch & Farm Watch Schemes	Advise people of current schemes in their area, how to set up new schemes and provide support or funding if appropriate	Article published in the Parish Magazine and online	



Highways

What did we set out to do?	How will it be tackled?	What's been done so far?	What still needs to be done?
Review parking policy in Fletching High Street	<p>Discussions with local business owners, church, police, Highways and school and residents to identify a possible solution</p> <p>Promote importance of accessibility for emergency services vehicles such as ambulances and fire engines</p>	<p>Parking surveys issued and discussions held with key stakeholders</p> <p>Meetings held with Highways and Sussex Police</p> <p>Public Parking Meeting held in September 2015 to discuss issues and options with residents</p> <p>Task list created for further investigation</p>	<p>Consider long term parking requirements for Fletching village</p> <p>Continue working through parking task list and implement smaller initiatives</p>
Review parking policy by Recreation Ground	Discussions with Recreation Ground Committee and users, local residents, police, Highways and school to identify issues and possible solutions	Creation of additional parking near Recreation Ground being considered	Two possible options for additional parking need further consideration
Explore ways of resolving obstruction of driveways	Discussions with local residents, police and Highways to identify a possible solution	Letter sent to all affected residents explaining white access lines and how to request one	



What did we set out to do?	How will it be tackled?	What's been done so far?	What still needs to be done?
Aim to reduce speeding and improve road safety in the parish	<p>Advise people of the various road safety initiatives already underway including Speed Watch</p> <p>Advise people that they can report anti-social driving (e.g. driving whilst using a mobile phone) and abandoned vehicles to the police via www.operationcrackdown.org</p> <p>Liaise regularly with East Sussex County Council / Highways / Sussex Police</p> <p>Liaise with local cycle clubs to improve safety for all road users</p>	<p>Articles published in the Parish Magazine and online</p> <p>Two new Speed Watch sites submitted for approval by Sussex Police</p> <p>Road Safety Meeting held</p> <p>24hour 7day speed data surveys carried out in Ruston Bridge Road, Shortbridge Road & Golf Club Lane</p> <p>Accident log created</p>	<p>Engage with Fletching Primary School and consider parent survey on road safety</p> <p>Hold regular Speed Watch sessions at all approved sites</p> <p>Further Road Safety Meeting needed</p> <p>Review results of speed data surveys and agree way forward</p> <p>Review information on serious collisions in the parish and identify potential changes/improvements</p>
Liaise with owners of large vehicles that pass through the parish to drive safely and to avoid damaging the verges	Discussions with owners of large vehicles and companies that deliver regularly to the parish	Large vehicles can be reported to the police for anti-social driving or speeding via www.operationcrackdown.org	
Consider additional provision of grit bins and/or gritting	Identify possible locations for additional grit bins	No requests received for additional grit bins	



Education & Leisure

What did we set out to do?	How will it be tackled?	What's been done so far?	What still needs to be done?
Improve / maintain existing equipment in the playground	Conduct regular reviews of the playground equipment and maintain or improve/replace as appropriate	Regular reviews undertaken by the Recreation Ground Committee	
Explore the provision of additional facilities for older children	Publicise youth club and new outdoor table tennis table Explore provision of other facilities e.g. basketball hoop	Year round children's football nets being considered	
Promote existing sports clubs	Publicise existing sports clubs	Fletching Football Club Semi-Final publicised in January 2016	Publicise existing sports clubs
Consider running community events e.g. village day, barbecue, ball, barn dance, film club, sports day, lectures, farmers' market	Explore options for community events Identify volunteers to help run the events and form committees as appropriate	New annual community event agreed, 'Fletching Festival' planned for Saturday 16 th July 2016 Fletching Festival Committee created, volunteers identified, meetings held once a month	



Transport

What did we set out to do?	How will it be tackled?	What's been done so far?	What still needs to be done?
Explore provision of additional public transport services	<p>Identify specific demand for additional public transport services</p> <p>Liaise with local bus companies to explore possible solutions</p> <p>Advise people how to access the free taxi service</p>	<p>Articles published in the Parish Magazine and online</p>	<p>Identify specific demand for additional public transport services</p> <p>Liaise with local bus companies to explore possible solutions</p>

Housing & Development

What did we set out to do?	How will it be tackled?	What's been done so far?	What still needs to be done?
Explain restrictions on development in parish i.e. 7km zone, AONB and Conservation Area	Advise people of the restrictions on development in the area and where to get further information	<p>Wealden Local Plan under review, consultation published and responses submitted</p> <p>Public meeting held on proposed changes to Fletching Conservation Area and potential new Splaynes Green Conservation Area</p>	Await outcome of consultations
Explore if it is possible to develop homes for single people, small family homes, low cost housing	Discussion with planning department at Wealden District Council to identify possible solutions	See above	Meeting to be held by Chairman of Fletching Parish Council with the planning department at Wealden District Council to discuss options



Community Facilities

What did we set out to do?	How will it be tackled?	What's been done so far?	What still needs to be done?
Consider improvements to Fletching Village Hall	<p>Explore options and costs for renovation or redesign of existing facilities</p> <p>Explore the long term space requirements in the parish for meetings and activities and how they can best be delivered</p>	<p>Meeting held with Village Hall Management Committee members</p> <p>Meeting held with Action in Rural Sussex</p> <p>Proposal for community engagement survey considered by Fletching Parish Council and budget set aside in 2016/2017</p>	<p>Explore possible grant provision with Wealden District Council</p> <p>Meeting to be held by Chairman of Fletching Parish Council with the planning department at Wealden District Council to discuss options</p> <p>Proceed with community engagement survey</p>
Communicate details of Superfast Broadband project	Advise people about the Superfast Broadband project and how to find out more information	<p>Articles published in the Parish Magazine and online</p> <p>Some residents now have Superfast Broadband</p> <p>Delays to project investigated by County Councillor Roy Galley</p> <p>Issue raised with Wealden MP Nusrat Ghani</p>	Await further project updates
Consider improvement of mobile phone signal	Discussions with mobile network operators and consultation with local residents to identify a solution		Discussions with mobile network operators and consultation with local residents to identify a solution
Investigate potential supply of mains gas	Discussions with gas suppliers and consultation with local residents		Discussions with gas suppliers and consultation with local residents



Consider provision of public toilets	Review options for additional toilet facilities in the parish	<p>Toilet available for public use at the rear of the cricket pavilion</p> <p>Toilet now available for use by churchgoers</p>	
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Business in the Community

What did we set out to do?	How will it be tackled?	What's been done so far?	What still needs to be done?
Look to establish a job vacancies notice board	Obtain agreement from local businesses to advertise vacancies and install a notice board in a prominent location	<p>Local businesses consulted</p> <p>Vacancies advertised on Village Hall noticeboards, in the shop window, in the Parish Magazine and online</p> <p>Agreed that a specific notice board not required at this time</p>	
Work with the Fletching village shop owner to see if additional facilities can be offered e.g. Post Office	Discussions with the shop owner	<p>Discussions held and Post Office facilities will not be offered at this time</p> <p>Shop does not meet Collect+ parcel criteria</p>	
Encourage support for all local businesses/farms to ensure local trades remain available	Raise awareness of the businesses in the local area and the goods and services they provide	Local businesses invited to take part in the Fletching Festival	



Review the impact the businesses in Fletching High Street have on parking and whether this can be improved	Discussions with business owners Identify potential provision of additional parking in the village	Discussions held Existing car parks cannot be enlarged	(See Highways section)
Promote Business Group	Advise people what the Business Group is and encourage local businesses to join		Advise people what the Business Group is and encourage local businesses to join
Promote tourism in the area and encourage people to visit www.visitfletching.com	Explore opportunities to promote tourism including the use of social media Discussions with local businesses		Explore opportunities to promote tourism including the use of social media Discussions with local businesses

Communication with Parishioners

What did we set out to do?	How will it be tackled?	What's been done so far?	What still needs to be done?
Consider establishing email sign up facility to provide news updates	Identify costs involved in creating e-mail sign up facility, confirm Data Protection requirements and implement solution	Sign up facility created on Fletching Parish Council website for regular e-newsletters Fletching Parish Council registered with Information Commissioner's Office for Data Protection	
Consider use of Twitter/Facebook	Identify the most appropriate solution, implement and promote its use	Facebook page created	



Continue to raise awareness of the Parish Council and its work on behalf of the parish	Encourage Parish Councillors to engage with the local community, advise people who they are and what the Parish Council does	Some councillors undertook canvassing prior to the election in May 2015 Monthly updates published in the Parish Magazine and online Annual Parish Meetings held every year for residents Residents encouraged to attend council meetings	
Consider further promotion and improvement of the Parish Council website	Make improvements to the website and consider ways to promote its use	Minor improvements made Budget set aside by Fletching Parish Council in 2016/2017 for re-design	Major re-design planned for 2016
Enable people to report issues more effectively i.e. broken stiles, potholes	Advise people what to report to who and provide the relevant contact details	'Reporting An Issue' document created	