Alkham Parish Plan 2023

Your Parish
Your Community
Your Plan

Alkham Community-Led Parish Plan

2023 Action Plan

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Preface

Alkham Parish Council aimed to produce the finished Alkham Community-Led Parish Plan as a document reflecting the views and aspirations of our whole community.

The Alkham Steering Group are proud to produce this plan and would like to thank those who have helped along the way and the residents whose comments and contributions made it all possible.

We aspire for this guide to aid the development of village life over the next few years and trust that it will be monitored closely in years to come to ensure that the community's views are taken into account by those charged with implementing the plan.

We encourage you to read this plan and take an active interest in its outcomes.

Introduction

Alkham Parish Council resolved on the 3rd of July 2017 to prepare a Community-Led Parish Plan (CLPP) for the Alkham Parish. The plan aimed to identify the local community's vision of changes to the area in the coming years to be community-led and reflect the needs of the Alkham community and surrounding parish countryside.

The plan's development has been led by the Parish Council (PC) via an advisory committee and The Planning Team, which includes volunteers from the community. The Planning Team directly reports to the PC with their recommendations for discussion and resolution.

The Planning Team ensured sufficient local interest and commitment from residents willing to help develop the plan. This meant the community needed to be kept fully informed and involved from the start. With this prime need in mind and the importance of the plan outcomes affecting Alkham Village and its residents' future, a Community Plan launch day event was held in the village hall at the beginning of September 2018.

This event allowed the local community to come and record their views and opinions on important issues. The results from the day aided The Planning Team in identifying the needs and concerns of the local community and helped incorporate such identified needs into a follow-up questionnaire. Therefore, the tabulated results from this questionnaire provided the evidence to formulate this community-led plan.

Why was it decided that we need a Community-Led Parish Plan?

Because the plan can:

• Help shape a future that you, the community, want to see.
• Reflect the views of all sections of the community, not just a few, and include people who
 traditionally do not involve themselves in Parish affairs.
• Help unite diverse community groups and individuals, breaking down barriers to work
 towards a common goal.
• Give local people a voice to make decisions affecting their future.

What will our Community-Led Parish Plan deliver?

• **Relevance**. Because it will be produced by the community at a local level, thereby representing diverse viewpoints from those wanting to become actively involved in the decision-making
 process.
• **A holistic viewpoint** will help set out a collective vision, not only allowing the community to decide what is important to them now – but also to consider issues that may affect the community in the future.
• **A statement** illuminating how the community wishes to develop shortly. A living document reflecting the collective views of the community, complete with an action plan identifying the practical steps to help the community achieve its vision of the future for Alkham and its parishioners.

Community Involvement:
Open Day and Questionnaire.

The Open Day consultation event was arranged, allowing the village to put forward ideas, comments and complaints in various formats. Over half the village took part, and nearly 900 comments were put forward, enabling the Planning Team to formulate a village questionnaire to quantify the support for the various subject areas.

More detailed input was received from a few villagers by email.

With the assistance of the Dover District Council Planning Department and the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC), a questionnaire was produced and distributed to every household in the Parish, with a response rate as shown.

- Number of questionnaires printed and delivered - 290
- Number of documents returned for analysis – 119- 41%
- Total Number of adults who contributed – 216
- Number of adults over 65 who contributed - 94
- Number of young persons under 18 who contributed – 8
- Estimated number of adults living in the Parish – 600
- Percentage of adults in the Parish who responded – 36%
- Total comments submitted - over 650

One hundred thirty additional comments were made, 108 related to road safety along the Alkham Valley Road and the rural network within the Parish.

Although this response shows that road safety and traffic management are still concerns for some Alkham Parish residents, the six most important survey topics (attracting a score of 92% or more) reflect a more holistic and vital community viewpoint. This is supported by another seven topics, attracting a score between 90 and 92% - none of which are traffic related.
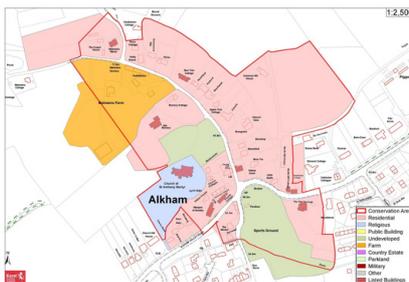
Before the Open Day and Questionnaire, a detailed survey and analysis were carried out by the Traffic Action Team (T.A.G.). This topic should have been included in the Parish Plan questionnaire. The results are reported separately to this document on the Alkham Parish Council (APC) website.

Since the Parish Plan was commissioned in July 2017, and the questionnaire delivery and responses data were recorded in April 2019, much has changed within the community.

Given this fact, and as best can be determined, some aspects of the Parish Plan have been reviewed to reflect those changes. This has been done to bring the plan up to date and make the plan relevant to the current prevailing parish community circumstances and needs. The Parish Plan will be reviewed and updated as and when necessary.

Alkham Parish Action Plan

The following table summarises actions from the Community Plan Timescales that will depend on funding and volunteer support.

Progress will be reviewed as required.

Traffic • **Encourage volunteers to cover all aspects of safety on the roads in the village. Future strategies to include:**	Priority	Action
• Actions from the Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)	**High**	• PC
• Current Speedwatch and Lorry Watch activities.	**High**	• Volunteers
• Request that Alkham is included in the KCC RaFAT Programme.	**High**	• PC
• Encourage Community Use of the Highways Portal to report faults	**High**	• PC, Community
• Issues related to other road users: Pedestrians, Cyclists, Horse Riders etc.	**High**	• PC, KCC, DDC
• Other aspects of safety.	**High**	• PC, DDC, Volunteers

Conservation and Environment Set up a Conservation and Environment Team to examine wildlife, hedgerows and trees. It is envisaged that volunteers will lead this and will, as a first task, determine the terms of reference for the team, which will include: - Actions emanating from the environmental audit conducted in **(add date)** produced by a resident - Ensuring the principles and standards of being within the East Kent AONB and SSSI are upheld. - Protect the integrity of the Alkham Conservation Area.	**Medium**	- Volunteers
- Volunteers to assist with all matters of flooding and prevention under the direction of the Flood Warden. - Maintain, update and publish the Community Resilience Plan.	**High**	- PC, Volunteers, KCC
- Set up a litter-picking team of volunteers to keep Alkham clean, including fly-tipping, recycling activities and dog waste. To carry out two litter picks each year and develop an anti-litter culture.	**High**	- Volunteers
Public Rights of Way - Support a volunteer team to assist the nominated Countryside Warden to protect the footpaths, bridleways and BOATS.	**High**	- PC, Volunteers
- Ensure BOATS and PROWS are kept in good order and not misused.	**High**	- PC, Volunteers, KCC

Housing and Community Buildings • Ensure that new housing, developments, and modifications reflect the character of existing buildings via comments on planning applications to maintain the rural nature of the village.	**Medium**	• PC, KCC, DDC via Local Plan
• Support the development and availability of all community assets and business assets within the Parish.	**Medium**	• Community, PC
• Support the Village Hall Committee to develop and maintain all important community assets.	**High**	• VHMC, Volunteers, PC
Local Governance • Continue to encourage attendance and participation in Parish Council meetings.	**Medium**	• PC
• Continue to improve the Parish Council website with timely news, updates, and financial information.	**Medium**	• PC
• Continue to make use of other means of communication, such as the Village Newsletter, social media, etc.	**Medium**	• PC
• Continue effective communication with DDC, KCC, and neighbouring Parish Councils.	**Medium**	• PC
Health & Social • Support isolated and lonely villagers by encouraging regular activities such as Tea and Chat afternoons and Film nights.	**High**	• Community
• Explore a suitable location for the installation of a defibrillator in the village.	**Medium**	• PC
• Enlist volunteer resources to survey the village for disabled access and mobility and report on necessary requirements.	**Medium**	• Volunteers
Young & Old • Maintain the regular reporting of the safety inspections of the playground facilities and review improvement requirements annually. • Keep abreast of changing attitudes regarding the youth club and related activities.	**High**	• PC, Volunteers
• Support and encourage the Village Hall Committee regarding activities in the Village Hall.	**Medium**	• Community
Sports & Recreation • Create a list of all community clubs and groups with details of activities and contacts to be published on the Parish website	**Medium**	• Volunteers

Public Transport • Develop a relationship with public transport providers to minimize adverse changes to services	**Medium**	• PC, DDC, KCC
• Maintain bus shelters and keep reviewing bus stop safety requirements	**Medium**	• PC
• Utilise the Parish website and newsletter for information e.g. Timetables, taxi contacts etc.	**Medium**	• PC
Heritage • Protect the Parish's heritage and records by setting up a volunteer Local History Team documenting current information of Alkham history and storage of archived materials.	**High**	• Volunteers
Volunteers • Maintain a list of volunteers and contact numbers • Maintain a list of Parish Council Volunteers	**High**	• Volunteers, KCC, PC
• Review historical discussions regarding Emergency Planning within the village and action the conclusions. • Maintain and update the Emergency Plan	**Medium**	• Volunteers, KCC, PC