Stoke Gabriel Parish Plan 2008

Summary

Developing the Parish Plan

The concept of the Parish Plan came out of Central Government's November 2000 Rural White Paper "Our Countryside: The Future – A Fair Deal for Rural England". This stated that Parish Plans should "identify key facilities and services, set out the problems that need to be tackled and demonstrate how distinctive character and features can be preserved". They should set out a vision for the community in the future. The Plan should consult everyone and give them a chance to say what they think about the social, economic and environmental issues affecting them.

In mid 2006 Stoke Gabriel Parish Council first floated the idea of producing the Stoke Gabriel Parish's own Parish Plan. This culminated in a meeting in Stoke Gabriel Village Hall in December 2006 at which volunteers were sought to form the Parish Plan Steering Group (PPSG).

The local development of our Plan was under the auspices of Stoke Gabriel Parish Council and the Community Council of Devon (CCD). The latter is the Rural Community Council for Devon, and is an independent charitable company.

Issues and Actions

A questionnaire was developed and sent to all households in the parish in January 2008. The results and the topic sub-group headings generated from this informed the development of the Parish Plan document. In that we have identified the main issues, formulated a vision and developed an action plan. This is the summary document. Overall, we have tried to be as comprehensive as possible but to see the complete results please see the Parish Plan website (address at the end of this document). The action plan can be found at the back of the Parish Plan.

However, this is only the beginning of the process. This document simply provides the mandate that is the catalyst for parishioners to get together into groups to take forward issues important to them.

Stoke Gabriel - A Rural Community on the River Dart

The Parish Plan process enabled the development of a vision for the future of the parish:

The Parish Environment

To preserve the rural character of the parish, enhance the quality of the local environment and to build a sustainable community.

Housing and Development

To provide affordable housing for locally connected people through a set of varied and innovative measures which preserve the rural character of Stoke Gabriel.

Recreation and Leisure

To provide quality leisure and social facilities for all. To provide more suitable open spaces for leisure use for all parishioners. To provide an enjoyable and safe integrated walking network which can be developed in the future.

Transport and Parking

A safe and respectful environment for both pedestrians and all other users of the parish highways, in which everyone displays courtesy and consideration for each other and residents. Promotion of public transport, voluntary and community transport schemes, to comply with 'green initiatives'.

Children, The Young and Schooling

To provide a playing field for outdoor sports and recreation. To enhance after school activities and non school time activities in the parish. Improve childcare opportunities to assist parents going to work, and to improve the facilities in the orchard playground.

Youth

To provide a meeting place for the local youth. To support and encourage existing youth activities. To embrace the youth when making decisions that matter to them.

Elderly and Disabled

Improved local public transport. Improved availability of a local Doctor's surgery and better access to prescriptions. A wish that village facilities (Post Office, shops etc.) are not threatened and enjoy more local support.

Business and Tourism

Encourage a vibrant local economy where local businesses are widely supported in the parish. Rural tourism developed so that it fits in with the character of Stoke Gabriel.

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge all the parishioners, the members of the Stoke Gabriel PPSG for all their hard work and their families for tolerating it, Stoke Gabriel Parish Council, the Community Council for Devon for their advice and support and Corporate Consultation Services (part of Devon County Council) for their data analysis.

Contact Point

For reprints, to see the main Parish Plan document online and/or to contact us please use

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Printed November 2008