



Community Plan

Report and Action Plan April 2010





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Executive Summary

Introduction

This Report and Action Plan has been produced by the Steering Group of local resident volunteers, following three years of effort. It is based on the 29% response of households to the major public consultation conducted in the summer of 2008. In general, where there was at least a 60% opinion in one direction or another on any given issue, an Action Plan item has been created to tackle that issue.

The Community Plan initiative has been made possible by grant funding from Paulton Parish Council and Quartet Community Foundation, for which the Steering Group would like to express thanks, together with over £30,000 worth of volunteer labour and in-kind contributions.

This Executive Summary, which is being made available to every household and business in the parish, concentrates on the 20 high priority Action Plan items. The full report, of which printed copies

are available to view at the Parish Council Office, Paulton Library, Elm Hayes Surgery, Paulton Memorial Hospital and both dental surgeries, contains details of the other 42 medium and low priority items identified in the Action Plan. The full report is also available from the website established by the Steering Group, www.yourpaulton.org. The reason for the limited availability of the full report is simply one of cost. Priorities were judged on the basis of strength of opinion in the survey, and the likely contribution to the quality of life in Paulton.

The main headings under which the Action Plan items are listed correspond to those used by B&NES Council in their Sustainable Communities Strategy. It is hoped that through this alignment, those action items addressed to B&NES Council will be more readily implemented as part of their wider initiatives.

Safer Communities

Reduce traffic speed on village approach roads

99% of respondents want improvements to the current traffic infrastructure, which is considered to be inadequate. 87% would welcome a relief road to stop the “rat runs” through the village, as commuters head for Bath and Bristol. 89% want an improvement in access roads to adjoining towns and cities. 64% feel it is important to introduce additional traffic-calming measures, on main roads in and out of the village, such as by extending the 30mph zone to Hallatrow (72% support) and from Withy Mills to Camerton Hall, (82% support).

Reduce speeding throughout the village

61% support a Community Speedwatch initiative and, following discussions with Avon & Somerset Police, a community group has now been set up to implement this.



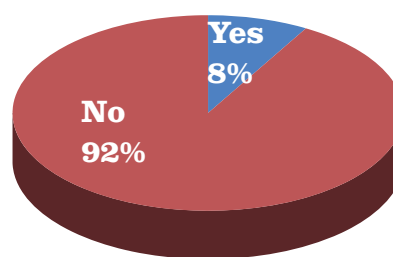
Stronger Communities

Form a Paulton Community Group.

It is clear that Paulton needs a community action group to be a focus for change, particularly on those things which are outside of the remit of the Parish Council. Although such a group is not yet fully established, we are pleased to report that already five small groups are in existence looking at various important issues concerning the future development of the village. These groups have been formed as a direct result of the work of the Community Plan Steering Group and are indicative of the goodwill that exists in the community. The next step may well be for these groups to come together as the Paulton Community Group.

Improve Council services to Paulton

Although 79% of respondents feel they get value for money from their Parish Council, most are conscious that Paulton suffers the highest Council Tax in the B&NES area. 92% of respondents feel that they do not get value for money from B&NES Council. The Parish Council has been requested to make B&NES Council aware of these views, to press them for better value for money on behalf of the parish, and at the same time to seek to deliver best value for residents from the Parish precept.



Question L13, Do you feel you get value for money from B&NES?

Make information on village activities more widely available to residents

While many people are involved in many different activities within the village, there is a real need for a wide range of information to be easily accessible to both existing and new residents. One of the five new groups is concentrating on the development of a village website. This will bring together a great deal of information regarding activities and facilities available to people in the village. The Parish Council has been requested to provide additional notice boards in the Salisbury Road area and (eventually) in the Polestar development.

Improve TV and broadband services to the village

73% of respondents already receive digital TV signals (although this will have increased significantly since the recent digital switchover). However, 39% said they would use cable TV if available. 64% of respondents said they already had a broadband connection, although many complained of poor service, and 9% said their house could not be connected to a broadband service.

Health and Well-Being

Make “out-of-hours” emergency services more easily and quickly available

93% of respondents agree that the current deployment of Police, Fire, Ambulance and Hospital units in Paulton provides adequate emergency services. However, there remains a major concern over the understanding of, and ease of access to, the out-of-hours Accident & Emergency and GP services. A request for twenty-four hour cover for emergencies at Paulton Hospital has been passed to the Primary Care Trust (PCT), as has the request for more information on out-of-hours cover.

Set up exercise activities for all ages

92% of respondents thought that the village would benefit from initiatives aimed at encouraging people of all ages to be more active other than through formal sport (e.g. walking, cycling, dance, chair-based exercise etc). 68% said they would be interested in joining these sorts of activities.

Children & Young People

Improve safety at school gates

95% of the children attending the village schools live in the parish. 44% of children get to school by car, which leads to concerns over safety around the school gates. The Heads of both schools have been approached and are willing to support an action group that is targeting the reduction of cars at the schools during the critical periods.

Ensure ‘Lollipop person’ present at danger spots.

At the time of sending out the questionnaire there was a vacancy for the Ham Lane crossing point which has now been filled. However the action group that has been formed to look at improving safety will revisit this with the backing of the School Heads. Although the questionnaire responses did not provide names, 3 residents indicated that they would

be willing to patrol a crossing point. If any of the additional crossing points requested in the responses can be agreed and funded, an advert would be produced to seek a further “Lollipop person”.

Establish a Youth Group

Two Youth Workers have been funded by B&NES Council to run a Youth Group on Monday evenings. The Village Hall Management Committee has kindly agreed to allow the group to use the Village Hall Meeting Room on a temporary basis, while discussions continue to find a longer term solution for suitable premises.

Find out what facilities young people really want

The opportunity is now afforded by the existence of the Youth Group to ask young people exactly what they want.

Economic Development & Enterprise

Provide more shopping facilities

89% of respondents would like to see more businesses in Paulton, and 53% would like specifically more retail outlets. The shopping facilities with the highest support were:

Chemist	93%	Post Office	92%
Newsagent	91%	Bank	75%
Bakery	67%	Supermarket	67%

Keep the Post Office

In the current economic climate, where many rural Post Offices have already closed, respondents clearly see the Post Office as an essential shopping facility. In addition to residents continuing to use it, it was felt that the Post Office could strengthen its position by offering additional services. Discussions to this end have been held with the Postmaster.

Improved road and telecommunications infrastructure

88% of respondents do not think there are enough facilities in the village to attract employers. 9% of respondents have found that their house cannot be connected to a broadband service, although 64% said they already had broadband. Many respondents complained about poor quality telephone calls, broadband services and DAB digital radio signals. These requirements for infrastructure improvements need to be reflected in the Local Strategic Plan, formulated by B&NES Council.

Provide information and advice on employment and training opportunities

95% of respondents felt that there were not enough job opportunities in the village. 82% would like to see a campaign to attract employers to the area. 76% would like to see a mobile Job Centre come to the village, while 89% would like a board advertising local jobs.

69% would like benefit information to be readily available, and 67% would like a drop-in coffee morning to explore jobs and benefits, and to obtain advice.

The issue has been discussed with the Bath Job Centre, and they have offered to send their Jobs and Training Bus to the village, on the fourth Thursday of every month, from 10.00am until 12.30pm. This service will start on 22 April 2010.

Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change

Stop further housing development

81% of respondents do not want any further development in Paulton within the next ten years. The Parish Council have said that they will resist any further development beyond those currently in the planning process, and they will not support any further development beyond the housing development boundary.

Maintain green fields between neighbouring villages and towns

The Parish Council's commitment to protecting and maintaining open countryside all around the boundaries of the parish is recognised in the Village Design Statement which was adopted by B&NES Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance in 2001.

Improve bus services

The majority of respondents were dissatisfied with particular aspects of local bus services, such as ticket prices and early morning and late evening services. There were many comments about the price, frequency and hours of service of the Bristol and Bath Park & Ride Services. These comments have been put to First Group, although as of our date to press, there has been no response. Only 13 people (3.5% of respondents) said they used the Council supported Ring and Ride Service. It is believed that the take-up of this service could be increased by better publicity, and this point has been passed to a Trustee of the Ring & Ride Service for comment.

Prevent the issue of any 24 hour licences

92% of respondents would not support a 24 hour licence for any pub in the parish, and the Parish Council agrees with this view.

Community Involvement

Five small groups of volunteers have now been formed to take forward some of the action items which need community action, such as the Community Speedwatch and the Community Website. However, further volunteers are required to join these and to form other groups. Please register your interest via the website www.yourpaulton.org or by contacting any of the following:

Community Speedwatch & other traffic issues

André Fournier (01761) 418153

Community Café

Liz Hardman (01761) 412758

Community Clean-up

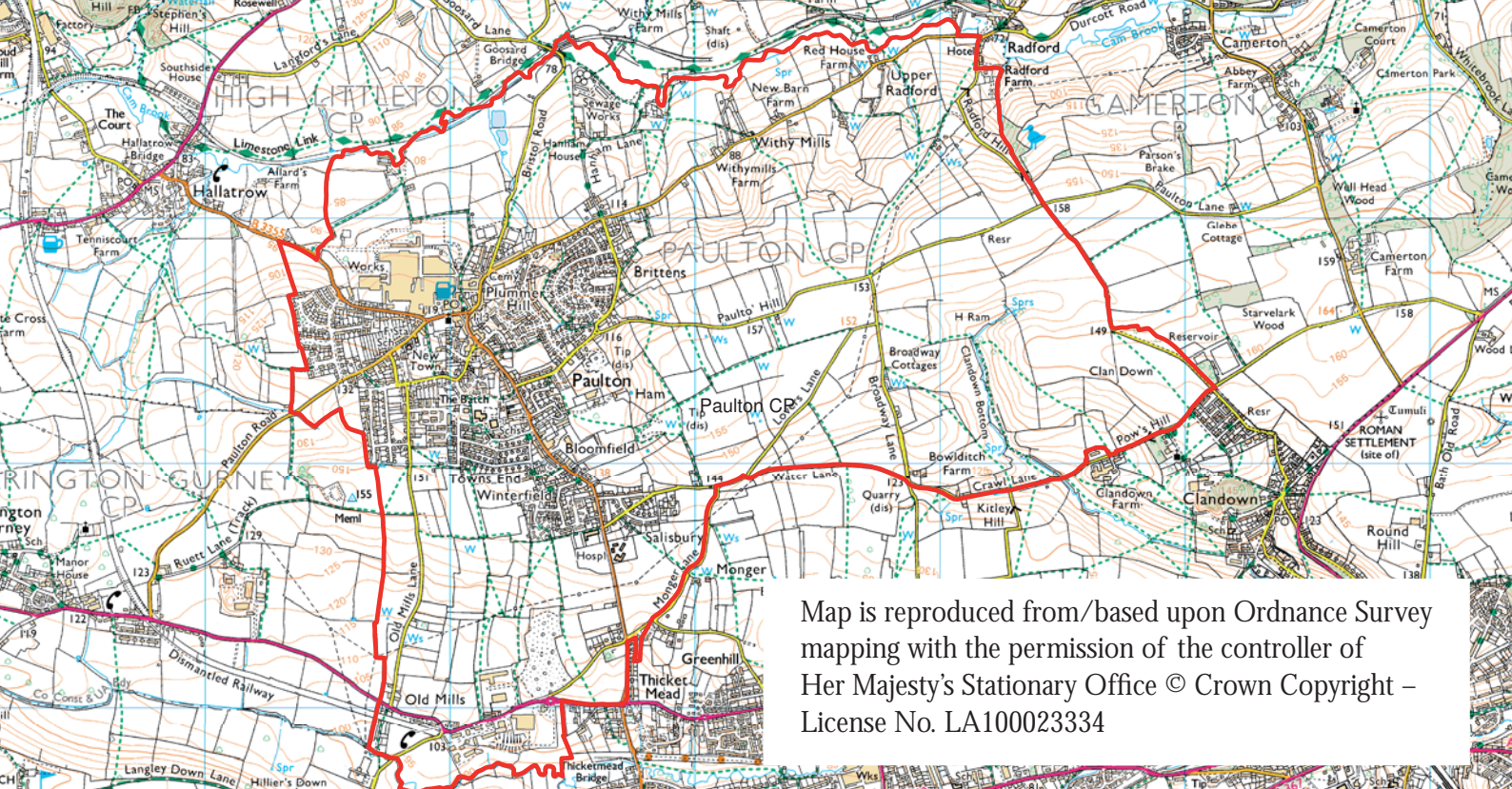
Pam Leah (01761) 471828

Community Website

John Crocker Email: john.crocker@o-sys.com

Sustainable Living

Jane Stephenson (01761) 419416



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Introduction

A Brief History of Paulton

The name “Paulton” is thought to be derived from the Old English words “Peall”, meaning raised place or hill slope and “tun”, meaning a homestead or settlement, thus Paulton means village on a hillside. The well watered fertile soil has attracted settlers since the Bronze Age, evidenced by the round barrow at Wallenge, the Roman remains of a villa to the north and a stone coffin and burial urn found near Hallatrow Road which together with the Saxon font in Holy Trinity Church all suggest that there has been a settlement here for over 4000 years.

By the 15th century the village was rich enough to build a church, the tower of which has one corner higher than the other three, typical of medieval churches in Somerset. The church has been rebuilt at least twice, the last time being in 1753 when the tower was refaced with Doulling stone. No history of Paulton would be complete without mention of the staunch non-conformist movement in the village. The Baptists first met in the Pithay in 1691, and moved to their present site in 1724. The Methodists, encouraged by numerous visits from John Wesley, had their first meeting house in the High Street in 1771, and as their supporters increased in number, a new church was built on its current site in 1826.

Initially the village prosperity was primarily based on agriculture, but was helped by the numerous shallow coal seams which could be mined by open cast methods. In addition to domestic use, the coal was used to burn lime which could be widely traded. By the mid 18th century the advent of steam power enabled rapid expansion of the collieries, with the population doubling to over 2,000 between 1801 and 1850. Related industries, such as an iron foundry, boot making, brewing and candle making, also flourished. Most of the Paulton mines had ceased working before 1900, apart from Old Mills and Springfield, which finally closed in 1966. Many of the former miners were able to find employment at Purnell's Print Works which expanded rapidly after the Second World War. Sadly, in the last twenty years, Paulton has lost Ashman's boot factory, the print works and ink factory, all of which had employed a large number of local residents.

Background to the Community Plan

A definition of the purpose and aim of a parish plan provided by the Countryside Agency is as follows:

“A Parish Plan will help you work out the main issues affecting your community. The plan provides a framework to produce an action plan based on the local social, economic and environmental issues of your area.”

The Government White Paper on rural communities, published in November 2000, has encouraged many villages to embark on the production of a parish plan. A parish or community plan sets out a shared vision for the community over the next 10+ years, and establishes a detailed action plan for achieving that vision.

In Paulton, the process commenced in early 2007, following an initiative by the Parish Council. A Steering Group of local residents was set up and, over the succeeding 3 years, this group, together with a number of other volunteers, conducted a major consultation with householders and businesses within the parish. The vision which has emerged from this considerable volunteer effort comprises the following elements:

- a separate, distinct rural community, with the existing green area preserved to prevent integration with other nearby villages and the Norton-Radstock conurbation
- new local jobs created to replace those lost when the Polestar print works closed, so that local people can be employed locally, preventing the village from becoming a dormitory area for the nearby towns and cities
- improved public transport to facilitate access to Bath & Bristol for work, shopping & leisure, with a reduced carbon footprint

- traffic calming, improved road infrastructure and new cycleways and bridleways to reduce congestion, improve road safety and provide additional leisure facilities
- increased shopping facilities, particularly in the centre of the village, accessible on foot to most people in the community
- improved leisure facilities, particularly for young people
- increased community involvement, to take forward some of the action items in the plan, and thereby creating an even stronger community spirit

In the rest of this report is documented the process used in the creation of the Community Plan, and the Action Plan itself. Discussions (extensive in many cases) have been held with all of the agencies identified as necessary to the implementation of the various elements of the plan. Finally, some thoughts on the way ahead are offered, together with some conclusions and recommendations which may be helpful to other similar groups who come after.

Steering Group Membership

The following people formed the Steering Group in May 2007, with prime roles as shown:

Kerr Stirling	Chairman
Pam Leah	Vice Chair
Anne Miall	Secretary
Jacqui Nolan	Treasurer
Jane Stephenson	Publicity
Rob Stocker	Web master
Steve Nolan	Questionnaire design
Terry Bridgeman	Parish Council liaison
Hugh Warren	Parish Council liaison
Margaret Barrett	Local group liaison
Terrie Stocker	Events co-ordinator



The Process

Following an approach from the Community Action Project Assistant, Jacqui Ward, the idea of Paulton creating a Parish Plan was mooted at the Parish Assembly in April 2007. At a subsequent public meeting several volunteers came forward to form a Steering Group.

The group met for the first time in May 2007. Officers were elected and training and mentoring was given by Jacqui Ward. Over the course of the next few meetings a constitution was agreed, a website was set up and applications for grants made and received from Quartet Community Foundation and the Parish Council. Although the group was independent of the Parish Council, two committee members were Councillors and were thus able to provide important liaison between the two bodies..

Consultation with residents in order to gather information on how they wanted the village to develop and what they felt needed attention to improve life in Paulton was conducted at various open events in the village during the summer of 2007.

Having thus identified the major issues, the questionnaire was designed (with the help of a focus group of volunteers), printed and distributed together with the Paulton Letter in April 2008 to all 2,078 households and businesses in the village. During the following month volunteers visited each house to solicit completed questionnaires, yielding a total of 603. This represented a 29% return, which is regarded as good for a parish the size of Paulton. The children at Paulton Junior School designed and answered their own questionnaire.

The completed questionnaires were all non-attributable to individual residents. Any identification was removed before data entry and analysis. The data was entered onto spread sheets by members of the Steering Group and analysed. The percentage results were calculated using only the number of responses to the individual question, ignoring any blank entries. The first section of the action plan was written by a volunteer group outside the Steering Group. Subsequently each Steering Group member wrote action plans which were debated and refined in committee. The proposed actions were offered for comment to the Parish Council, B&NES Council and other agencies involved in their implementation. An open meeting was held in the Wesley Hall in January 2010 to display the findings to residents. Following this, volunteers interested in those items in the plan which require community action, were invited to a meeting where they formed five groups to take forward specific actions.

Budget

The Steering Group originally estimated a total budget of £15,878 was required to complete the preparation of the plan. This comprised £6,155 of cash (assumed to come from grants), in addition to £9,723 of volunteer labour and in-kind contributions. By the time this Report and Action Plan was published, a total of over £35,000 was required. This comprised £4,250 of grants received, with the remainder being an estimate of the volunteer labour and in-kind contributions delivered by the Steering



Results

Group and the volunteers.

The main results of the formal questionnaire consultation are presented below. However, given that there were 279 main questions, and many sub-questions, there are too many individual results to be included here. The Steering Group has therefore created an electronic archive of all the data, which will be made available to the Parish Council, B&NES Council, and any other agencies or groups involved in implementing the action plan items who request it.

The one area where the Steering Group felt that opinions had been difficult to measure was in the 11-18 age group. Although many young people contributed to the informal consultation, it was difficult to identify how many of them had completed Section K – Youth Facilities & Engagement in the formal questionnaire on their own, and how many had responses entered by parents on their behalf.

In many cases, the comments made by respondents in the various free text areas of the questionnaire are more powerful than just the bald percentages, and so some of these are quoted below.

A priority has been assigned to each action plan item, based on the strength of opinion as measured by the questionnaire results, together with a judgement by the Steering Group as to the impact of each item on the quality of life in Paulton.



1. Safer Communities

There was much concern expressed by residents about traffic issues in general, and in particular about speeding, traffic volumes, road safety, parking and the ability of the road infrastructure in and around the village to cope with the traffic increase anticipated as the Polestar site is developed.

Although the village is recognised as a relatively low crime area, much comment was made about problems which have arisen with recent arrivals in the village, and the need for a more conspicuous police presence. This, together with a rejuvenated Neighbourhood Watch scheme, would help to combat the fear of crime expressed by many people.

1.1 Reduce traffic speed on village approach roads (High priority)

Great concern has been noted about the anticipated increase in traffic, once the Polestar site is fully developed. 99% of respondents want improvements to the current traffic infrastructure, which is considered to be inadequate. 87% would welcome a relief road to stop the “rat runs” through the village, as commuters head for Bath and Bristol. 89% want an improvement in access roads to adjoining towns and cities.

Residents are worried about the danger posed by speeding drivers. 64% feel it is important to introduce additional traffic-calming measures, on main roads in and out of the village, such as by extending the 30mph zone to Hallatrow (72% support) and from Withy Mills to Camerton Hall, (82% support).

“The Bath road through Radford and Withy Mills is the most dangerous road in the village. Footpaths and calming-measures are urgently needed. A weight limit would be good.”

“Make Ham Lane a one-way system.”

“Ham Lane is a nightmare.”

1.2 Reduce speeding throughout the village (High priority)

61% support a Community Speedwatch initiative and, following discussions with Avon & Somerset Police, a community group has now been set up to implement this.

1.3 Improve driving standards through the village (Medium priority)

84% of respondents support a Courteous Driving campaign, to improve driving standards within the parish. A similar initiative was organised some years ago by the Parish Council, and it is hoped that, if some further volunteers come forward, this action item could be the subject of a further community action group.

1.4 Revitalise the Neighbourhood Watch scheme (Medium priority)

The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme needs to be rejuvenated with a publicity drive by the police. It has been proposed that a volunteer be appointed as an overall co-ordinator for the village, although opinion is split on this. Local co-ordinators are needed for those areas of the village currently without one. Again, it is hoped that a community action group can be established to pursue this action item.

1.5 More conspicuous police presence (Medium priority)

Although 74% perceive the level of crime in Paulton to be low, the overwhelming majority (97%) would like a more conspicuous presence and a police base in the village once the Polestar development is complete. The Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) are frequently seen on patrol in the village now, so this issue is already being addressed.

However, many comments revealed a fear of increased crime and antisocial behaviour. The Paulton Beat Team comprises a Police Constable, two PCSOs and a newly appointed Special Constable. They are experienced in dealing with anti-social behaviour and monitoring A.S.B. (Anti-social behaviour) contracts and have recently secured a conviction for a drug-related offence.

Residents can visit a police community-contact vehicle, which is regularly parked in the Village Hall car park, to discuss concerns. Dates of visits are posted on notice boards in the village.

1.6 Improve roads for increased traffic flow (Low priority)

Many residents expressed concern about the ability of roads within and around the village to cope with the increased traffic flow which is expected as the Polestar site is developed and occupied. B&NES Council has been requested to explain to residents how the planning agreement for the site will address this.

95% are in favour of upgrading pavements, widening others and providing new pedestrian paths in places.

90% would like a review of the existing pedestrian crossings and the provision of even more crossings. Since the survey was completed, a new pedestrian crossing has been installed by the new surgery at the top of Phyllis Hill.

“We need someone to control the traffic at school-times so that we can cross the road with children in safety.”

“Getting to the Post Office with a pushchair is very difficult and dangerous ! We need a zebra crossing, paths lowered or steps taken away.”

Many parents have commented that they feel their children's safety has been put at risk by inconsiderate drivers delivering their children to the Paulton schools.

1.7 Extend parking restrictions (Low priority)

70% of respondents think it is important to have parking restrictions increased and managed, particularly in the village centre. 76% would like to see the parking area in front of the shopping precinct restricted to disabled parking only, and 81% would support a yellow “Do Not Enter” box on the roadway opposite. These proposals have been put to B&NES Council.

1.8 Enforce parking restrictions (Low priority)

70% of respondents support the presence of a Parking Warden in the village. This was raised with the Chief Executive of B&NES Council, Mr John Everitt, at the Annual Village Assembly in April 2009. He undertook to arrange for a Parking Warden to visit the village on an occasional basis.

1.9 Improve road signage (Low priority)

102 respondents commented on road signage, with 19% suggesting no more signs were required. However, a number of suggestions were made, especially about speed signs and warnings to drivers about pedestrians on roads with no pavements. The specific suggestions have all been put to B&NES Council for their consideration.

1.10 Increase attendance at PACT meetings (Low priority)

77% of respondents were unaware that the community has the opportunity to raise local issues at P.A.C.T. meetings (Partners And Community Together). Wider publicity for, and greater effectiveness in running these meetings would improve attendances. The meetings would be much more effective if the proceedings were formally minuted, to ensure that issues prioritised are followed up and acted upon in subsequent meetings, and if appropriate representatives from the relevant partner agencies attended regularly. These points have been put to Avon & Somerset Police, who own the PACT process.





2. Stronger Communities

A good sense of community already exists in Paulton, as demonstrated by the response to our questionnaire. It is also obvious that many people are willing to become more involved in the life of the community in all manner of activities. A very good example of what can be achieved is our charity shop which has supported Paulton Hospital for many years. However, a lot of the responses to the questionnaire were about the need to get more done, and for more local people to make their voices heard, and to be involved in making change happen.

2.1 Form a Paulton Community Group (High priority)

It is clear that Paulton needs a community action group to be a focus for change, particularly on those things which are outside of the remit of the Parish Council. Although such a group is not yet fully established, we are pleased to report that already five small groups are in existence looking at various important issues concerning the future development of the village. These groups have been formed as a direct result of the work of the Community Plan Steering Group and are indicative of the goodwill that exists in the community. The next step may well be for these groups, or their representatives, to come together as the Paulton Community Group.

2.2 Improve Council services to Paulton (High priority)

Although 79% of respondents feel they get value for money from their Parish Council, most are conscious that Paulton suffers the highest Council Tax in the B&NES area. The vast majority (92%) of respondents feel that they do not get value for money from B&NES Council. The Parish council has been

requested to make B&NES Council aware of these views, to press them for better value for money on behalf of the parish, and at the same time to seek to deliver best value for residents from the parish precept.



**“Thank you, Parish Council,
for all you do!”**

**“We feel that B&NES favour the
city of Bath over its surrounding
villages.”**

**“B&NES is guilty of ignoring
villages and towns in favour of
Bath.”**

2.3 Make information on village activities more widely available to residents (High priority)

While many people are involved in many different activities within the village, there is a real need for a wide range of information to be easily accessible to both existing and new residents. We are pleased to be able to tell you that one of the five new groups is concentrating on the development of a village website. This will bring together a great deal of information regarding activities and facilities available to people in the village. The Parish Council has been requested to provide additional notice boards in the Salisbury Road area and (eventually) in the Polestar development.

2.4 Improve TV and broadband services to the village (High priority)

73% of respondents already receive digital TV signals (although this will have increased significantly since the recent digital switchover). However, 39% said they would use cable TV if available. 64% of respondents said they already had a broadband connection, although many complained of poor service, and 9% said their house could not be connected to a broadband service. The Steering Group has contacted cable TV and broadband service providers to seek access to cable TV and improved broadband services for the village. As of our press date, no substantive response has been received.

2.5 Found a community café, with internet access (Medium priority)

68% of respondents expressed support for the development of a community café, especially if it had internet access. It was felt that this should be in the centre of the village and, as well as being a meeting place for all ages, could be a place where, for example, internet access, information dissemination, cultural activities or computer training might happen. This is another action item being undertaken by one of the recently formed community action groups. The Library was considered as a possible location, especially since it already has internet access. However, on closer examination, it became apparent that the building would be unsuitable, and so finding suitable premises is a major issue for this group.

“A community café in the shopping area, with an outdoor area instead of parking, would be ideal for the community, especially for those who don’t use the pubs.”

2.6 Improve access to Ward Councillors (Medium priority)

Many people feel there should be greater involvement in the community by local councillors. We are pleased to say that both John Bull and David Speirs, our Ward Councillors on B&NES Council, have been very supportive of the aims of the Community Plan, although 68% of respondents said that they did not know their names. They would like everyone to know that they hold regular monthly surgeries in Paulton Methodist Church Hall. Similarly, Paulton Parish Council has been very supportive, and has adopted the plan. The contact details for Councillors are posted on village notice boards and the Parish Council office is open every weekday.



Councillor
David Speirs



Councillor
John Bull

2.7 Encourage residents to be more proactive in local affairs (Medium priority)

In response to the complaints about lack of visibility of Ward Councillors in the village, the Steering Group has proposed that more local people should be encouraged to offer themselves as candidates for election as local councillors.

The local political parties have been made aware of this renewed interest in local democracy, in order that they can canvass people in the village to stand for election. The Parish Council has also been requested to encourage more residents to attend Parish Council meetings and the Annual Parish Assembly, since 87% of respondents said they have never attended any of these meetings.

2.8 Improve access to local MP (Medium priority)

77% of respondents said they knew the name of their local MP, Dan Norris, but there is anecdotal evidence that few have ever attended a constituency surgery. The Steering Group has requested Dan to hold more of his surgeries in Paulton, and to spend more time in the village. However, it is also up to residents themselves to approach Dan on this issue.

2.9 Improve residents' access to information on Government proposals for country living (Medium priority)

93% of respondents said they did not know about the Government proposals for country living. Dan Norris has been requested to assist in making this information more readily accessible to Paulton residents.

2.10 Clarify distinction between affordable and social housing (Low priority)

It became apparent during the analysis of the questionnaire responses that many people did not understand the distinction between these two terms. The following definitions are from the B&NES Council web site:

Social Housing:

Council housing is often known as social housing, and can be provided by the local authority or by Registered Social Landlords. B&NES Council no longer own any housing stock as all stock was transferred to Somer Community Housing Trust in 1999.

Affordable Housing:

Affordable housing is defined as the range of both subsidised and market housing that will be available for those households whose income generally denies them the opportunity to purchase or rent houses on the open market as a result of the local relationship between income and market price.

For fuller definitions, please use the following link to the B&NES Council website:

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/F50BA624-82E7-4CA0-A1EB-CC6365EFC8A5/0/PlanObligationsmaster2.pdf>

2.11 Improve radio and TV signals to the village (Low priority)

There was a range of text comments returned which reflected dissatisfaction with the quality of radio (particularly DAB digital radio) and TV signals in the parish. The Steering Group has therefore approached the BBC on this issue, although it is recognised that the recent digital switchover may have had a beneficial impact.

2.12 Set up a social enterprise scheme (Low priority)

89% of respondents would like to see more businesses in Paulton, and 47% think there should be more social enterprises in the village, e.g. odd job man, waste recycling, etc.



3. Health and Well-Being

The village is served by a GP practice comprised of four full time partners with three Practice Nurses who conduct specialist clinics. Other services carried out from the surgery are supplied by the two District Nurses and two job-sharing Health Visitors, plus a Community Child Nurse. The Midwives from Paulton Hospital hold ante-natal clinics at the surgery. Additional support in the form of drug advisory services and counselling are available. Of the 569 replies, 413(72%) of them were patients at Elm Hayes surgery. The village is fortunate to have a very good hospital originally built to care for sick and injured miners. A large majority of respondents have been treated or had relatives treated there and many have supported the Hospital's Charity Shop in the village.

There has been a problem with accessing dental care. 32% of the 408 respondents had difficulty accessing an NHS dentist and had to travel some distance for care. This has now largely been resolved by another dental practice opening in the village.

Although statistically no problems were registered concerning access around the village, of the 8 comments received, 3 had difficulty accessing the Post Office and 2 mentioned that the narrow pavements made it difficult for wheelchair and pushchair users.

3.1 Make “out-of-hours” emergency services more easily and quickly available (High priority)

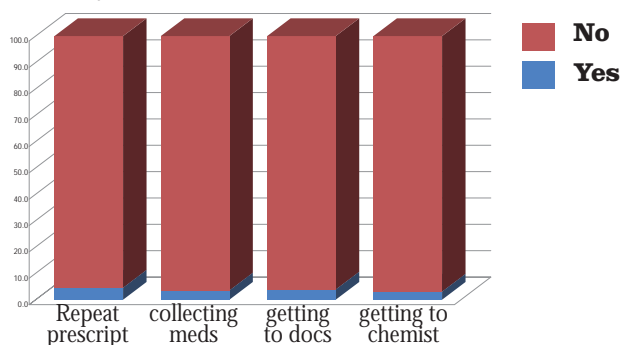
93% of respondents agree that the current deployment of Police, Fire, Ambulance and Hospital units in Paulton provides adequate emergency services. However, closer analysis of the text comments in the questionnaire responses reveals a major concern over the understanding of, and ease of access to, the out-of-hours Accident & Emergency and GP services. A request for twenty-four hour cover for emergencies at Paulton Hospital has been passed to the Primary Care Trust (PCT), as has the request for more information on out-of-hours cover. The PCT replied that a new booklet is in the process of being written, explaining out-of-hours medical support.

3.2 Set up exercise activities for all ages (High priority)

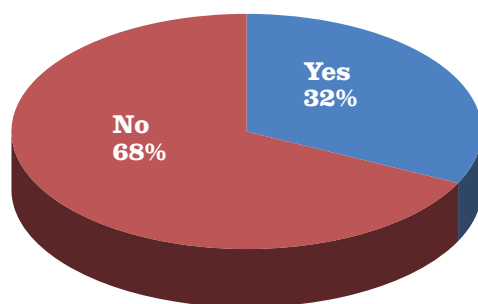
92% of respondents thought that the village would benefit from initiatives aimed at encouraging people of all ages to be more active other than through formal sport (e.g. walking, cycling, dance, chair-based exercise etc). 68% said they would be interested in joining these sorts of activities. The B&NES Sport & Active Leisure team have conducted a survey of residents in the village, and have recommended where people can join in their preferred activities.

3.3 Provide volunteer transport to new surgery for disabled and elderly patients (Medium priority)

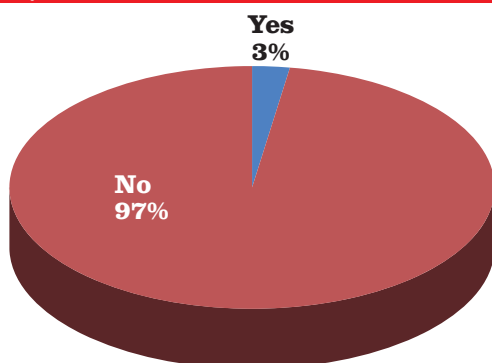
The results show that the majority (91%) of people are satisfied with the local health care. The timing of the questionnaire coincided with the move of the village surgery from near the village centre to the periphery, albeit next to Paulton Hospital. Travelling to the new site does not appear to be a problem for most respondents (86%), but if there was a volunteer transport arrangement, 37% would use it. Two actions arising from the questionnaire, namely the formation of a patient group at Elm Hayes Surgery and some form of voluntary transport arrangement to bring elderly or disabled people to the surgery are already under way.



Question N6, Do you have a difficulty with the following services?



Question N3, Have you had any problems getting the Doctor of your choice ?



Question N7, Do you have any problems with Postnatal care?

3.4 Provide Alternative Medical services locally (Medium priority)

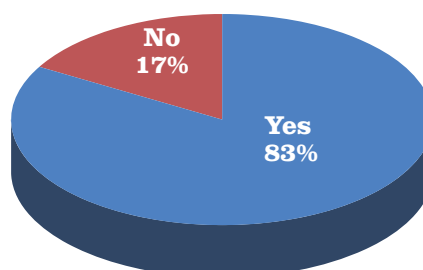
The desire for alternative medical practitioners to hold sessions in the village has been met by the provision of additional consulting rooms at the new surgery.

3.5 Improve swimming pool opening hours and facilities (Medium priority)

The need to revise the opening hours together with general updating of the swimming pool was thought to be necessary by 67% of respondents. This will require significant funding, and is the subject of a current initiative by the Paulton Swimming Pool Management Committee.

3.6 Provide more bridleways in and around the village (Medium priority)

83% of respondents support the creation of a network of bridleways in and around the village, as a means to safer horse riding. This support has been forwarded to the Trails Trust and the British Horse Society, who will use it as evidence in their future dealings with B&NES Council and Sustrans, to provide improved access to bridleways and a system of permissive routes.



Question P9, Should there be a network of bridle ways through and around Paulton?

3.7 Improve the quality of "Meals-on-Wheels" (Medium priority)

Only 3 respondents (0.5%) said they used the "Meals-on-Wheels" service, but 37 (79%) said they were not happy with the service. A survey to assess this in more detail, and to provoke improvements in the service has been proposed by the Steering Group. However, this is another candidate for community action, when sufficient volunteers come forward.



4. Children & Young People

Since the formal questionnaire did not elicit many responses which could be attributed directly to young people in the 11-18 age group, the Steering Group attempted to canvass this group by other means. Unfortunately, the Children's Society, which had undertaken to assist us, suffered a budget cut, and their support was withdrawn. We had also hoped that the nascent Youth Group which started to meet on the Rec would act as a sounding board. However, due to Health and Safety concerns about the building being used, B&NES Council were unable to formally establish a Youth Group there. The subsequent Youth Group meeting temporarily in the Village Hall Meeting Room has unfortunately come too late in our process.

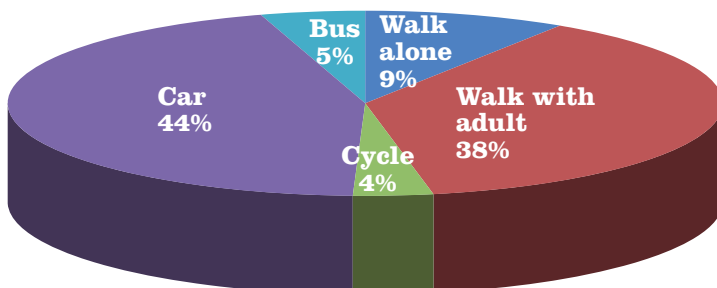
However, we are confident that, because we had much informal input from young people at events such as the Party in the Park and the Greyfields Sports Day, which informed the design of the questionnaire, the questionnaire itself addressed many issues of interest to young people.

We also had enthusiastic support from the Paulton Junior School. This resulted in the pupils designing their own questionnaire, which was answered by 193 of them. Although discussions were held with the Infant School, it was decided by the School Heads that it would be inappropriate for the infant pupils to be asked to complete a questionnaire.

4.1 Improve safety at school gates (High priority)

The largest threat to the school children's safety is the number of cars and the poor vehicle access to the two schools. Avon and Somerset Police have asked the local PCSOs to patrol the school areas during drop-off and pick-up times. When the PCSOs are there, the perception is that the situation improves. However, this requires a dedicated resource that cannot always be there. The School Heads have also sent letters to parents asking them to reduce the use of cars to ferry children to and from the schools.

With 95% of the children attending the schools living in the parish, the number of children being driven to school (44%, as reported in the questionnaire) does seem rather high. A figure of 41% was reported in the Junior School's own questionnaire. The Heads of both schools have been approached and are willing to support an action group that is targeting the reduction of cars at the schools during the critical periods.



Question D7, How do your children get to school?

4.2 Ensure ‘Lollipop person’ present at danger spots (High priority)

At the time of sending out the questionnaire there was a vacancy for the Ham Lane crossing point which has now been filled. However, the action group that has been formed to look at improving safety, will revisit this with the backing of the School Heads. Although the questionnaire responses did not provide names, 3 residents indicated that they would be willing to patrol a crossing point. If any of the additional crossing points requested in the responses can be agreed and funded, an advert would be produced to seek a further “Lollipop person”.

4.3 Establish a Youth Group (High priority)

Two Youth Workers have been funded by B&NES Council to run a Youth Group on Monday evenings. The Village Hall Management Committee has kindly agreed to allow the group to use the Village Hall Meeting Room on a temporary basis, while discussions continue to find a longer term solution for suitable premises.

4.4 Find out what facilities young people really want (High priority)

Given the paucity of questionnaire input directly attributable to young people, the opportunity is now afforded by the existence of the Youth Group to ask them exactly what they want. There is a concern that, due to the small numbers currently attending, the response may be narrowly based.

4.5 Ensure that Paulton schools can cope with the anticipated increase in pupil numbers once the plans for the Polestar site become clear (Medium priority)

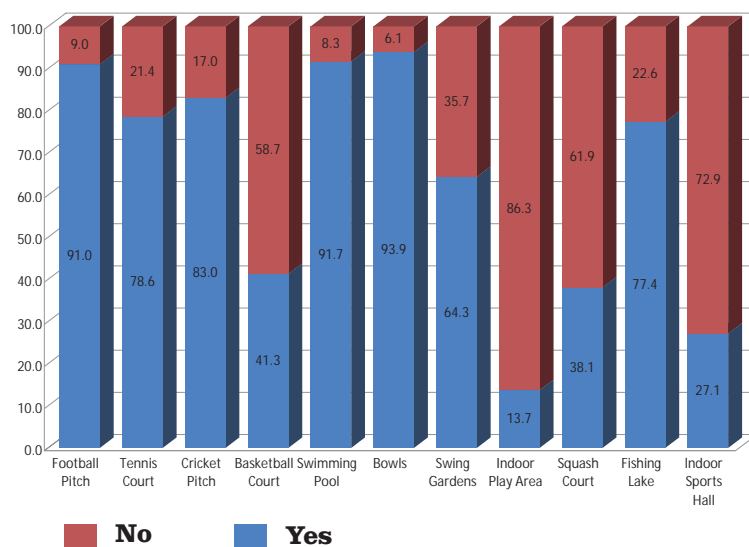


After speaking to the School Heads, we can confirm that they are now aware of the fact that 60% of respondents to the questionnaire did not feel fully informed. The initial response is that while they are sure they can successfully plan for the increase, until the development starts again and they have the detailed plans from the developers, any formal announcements would lack the detail needed to fully inform the residents of the village.

4.6 Increase the availability of indoor play areas (Medium priority)

86% of respondents stated that they would like to see more indoor play areas. The lead agency for this action is B&NES Council, although no doubt funding will be an issue. As of our date to press, there has been no response from B&NES Council.

Question P1a-11, Do you think Paulton has enough sports facilities?



4.7 Provide more activities for young people (Medium priority)

91% of respondents believe that by encouraging young people to be more active through sports and other recreational activities, their behaviour will improve. The B&NES Council Sport & Active Leisure team can provide a link between residents and local sports clubs. However, local sports clubs could perhaps do more to promote themselves to young people, and parents could support by offering to get involved in running local groups and clubs.

4.8 Maximise use of existing facilities (Low priority)

60% of respondents want more facilities in the village for young people. However, creating additional facilities like some of those suggested by respondents (cinema, bowling alley etc) is expensive and, even if funding is forthcoming, the whole process takes time. The Steering Group believes that more can be done with existing facilities, by maintenance and selective improvement. The Parish Council has an ongoing programme and commitment to improving community sporting facilities in the village. B&NES Council, together with local sports clubs are requested by the Steering Group to see what can be done to maintain and improve the facilities in the village.

Junior School Questionnaire Results

Following discussion with the Heads of both schools within the village, it was agreed that the pupils of the Junior School "School Council" would create a questionnaire using the same headings as the main Community Plan questionnaire. The School Council produced a questionnaire with 38 questions in it. 193 pupils took part and the completed questionnaires were passed to the Steering Group for analysis. In some areas, the school results have been used to confirm the results from the main questionnaire. The full results will be fed back to the school for them to use as they see fit.

The five highest results were:

- | |
|---|
| 1. 92.0 % believe they have a good life |
| 2. 91.4% think they have a happy life |
| 3. 90.8% say they know a local councillor |
| 4. 90.6% think there should be a Leisure Centre in Paulton |
| 5. 89.6% believe that there is enough housing in Paulton |

This was a valuable exercise that we are sure helped the children involved. A member of the Steering Group will present the results of both questionnaires to the Infant School Governors in May and it is hoped to do the same to the Junior School as well.



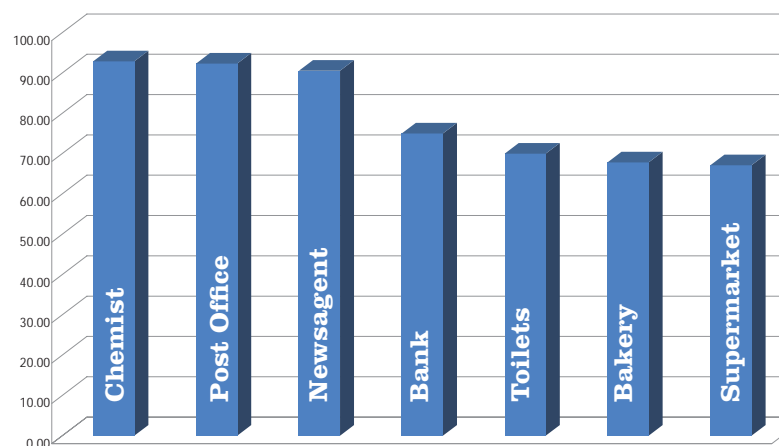
5. Economic Development & Enterprise

There has been a disappointing response from local businesses to the Community Plan initiative. From the 125 letters issued to local businesses during the informal consultation stage, only 5 responses were received. Despite delivering a questionnaire to most of the businesses in the parish, very few were returned. The results presented below are therefore based on opinions which have come primarily from householders, rather than business proprietors.

5.1 Provide more shopping facilities (High priority)

A major concern has been the lack of a suitable range of shops in the village centre, easily accessible on foot by the majority of residents. 89% of respondents would like to see more businesses in Paulton, and 53% would like specifically more retail outlets. It may be beneficial to try to attract specialist outlets which people are prepared to travel to. This could in turn boost other shops by increasing footfall. Re-introducing a bank would be a major step in this direction. B&NES Council is requested to work together with the developers of the Polestar site to create a climate whereby new shops are encouraged to open, particularly in the village centre and on the Polestar site.

The shopping facilities with highest support are shown in the chart below.



There is of course no longer a bank in the village (although many would like to see one re-introduced), but the Post Office and Tesco both have an ATM, and the Post Office and the Halifax branch at Wicks & Pierce both offer some financial services.

5.2 Keep the Post Office (High priority)

In the current economic climate, where many rural Post Offices have already closed, respondents clearly see the Post Office as an essential shopping facility. In addition to residents continuing to use it, it was felt that the Post Office could strengthen its position by offering additional services. Discussions to this end have been held with the Postmaster.

5.3 Improved road and telecommunications infrastructure (High priority)

Important enablers for the establishment of new businesses in the parish are felt to be improved road and telecommunications infrastructures. It is difficult to reach the national motorway network from Paulton, and the village centre is congested at rush hour, thus providing a disincentive to potential business development. Also, the current telecommunications infrastructure does not provide the fibre optic cabling which would offer high bandwidth broadband services. Such broadband services would better support the high data transfer requirements of the type of professional service businesses that the Polestar development is hoping to attract. It would also enable more effective home working for those who would like to take advantage of flexible working arrangements.

“We appear to be too far from the motorway to attract big business”

88% of respondents do not think there are enough facilities in the village to attract employers. 9% of respondents have found that their house cannot be connected to a broadband service, although 64% said they already had broadband. Many respondents complained about poor quality telephone calls, broadband services and DAB digital radio signals. The average weekly internet usage (8.8 hours per household) seems low, perhaps as a result of the telecommunications infrastructure constraints.

These requirements for infrastructure improvements need to be reflected in the Local Strategic Plan, formulated by B&NES Council.

5.4 Provide information and advice on employment and training opportunities (High priority)

The closure of the Polestar print works at the end of 2005 left Paulton with a shortage of local employment opportunities.



Polestar print works before demolition

95% of respondents felt that there were not enough job opportunities in the village.

82% would like to see a campaign to attract employers to the area.

76% would like to see a mobile Job Centre come to the village.

89% would like a board advertising local jobs.

69% would like benefit information to be readily available.

67% would like a drop-in coffee morning to explore jobs and benefits, and to obtain advice.

“I would love to work in Paulton. I travel 44 miles a day just to get to work and back.”

Advice and information on jobs and benefits could be made available at the Saturday coffee mornings at the Wesley Hall.

Another option would be to centre these services on the proposed community café/internet café. The issue has been discussed with the Bath Job Centre, and they have offered to send their Jobs and Training Bus to the village on the fourth Thursday of every month, from 10.00am until 12.30pm. This service will start on 22 April 2010.

5.5 Encourage people to use the village centre shops (Medium priority)

Residents are concerned about the dwindling shopping facilities in the centre of the village. The recent move of the pharmacy to the new surgery site has only added to the air of desolation prompted by the empty units in the shopping precinct. In order to make it as easy as possible for residents to use the remaining village centre shops, it is imperative to preserve the ability to park for free in the designated parking areas.



5.6 Establish a quality restaurant (Low priority)



There are already several food outlets in the village (an Indian restaurant in the Red Lion pub, and 3 take-away outlets). However, 76% of respondents would like to see a quality restaurant in the village. The original plans for the Polestar site included a “family restaurant”, and the Steering Group have made the developers aware of the survey results.

“If Tunley can do it with the King William, why can’t Paulton?”



6. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change

The village with its rural location and access to nearby countryside is valued by residents, and concerns were expressed about the impact of large developments on village infrastructure, particularly as they impact on the green corridors around the village.

6.1 Stop further housing development (High priority)

81% of respondents do not want any further development in Paulton within the next ten years. The Parish Council have said that they will resist any further developments beyond those currently in the planning process, and they will not support any further development beyond the housing development boundary

6.2 Maintain green fields between neighbouring villages and towns (High priority)

The Parish Council's commitment to protecting and maintaining open countryside all around the boundaries of the parish is recognised in the Village Design Statement which was adopted by B&NES

Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance in 2001. John Bull, one of our Ward councillors, has intimated that open countryside can still be well protected, despite not being classified formally as "Green Belt".

6.3 Improve bus services (High priority)

Although opinion on local bus services generally was evenly split, the majority of respondents were dissatisfied with particular aspects of the services, such as ticket prices and early morning and late evening services. There were many comments about the price, frequency and hours of service of the Bristol and Bath Park & Ride Services. These comments have been put to First Group, although as of our date to press, there has been no response. B&NES Council is currently working on the Bath

Transportation Package, which is designed to tackle congestion in Bath and the surrounding area by improving public transport and enhancing pedestrian access for the benefit of residents, commuters and visitors. The scheme will expand the City's three existing Park & Rides and creating a new Park & Ride to the east of the City, thereby increasing Park & Ride capacity from 1,990 to 4,510 spaces.

Only 13 people (3.5% of respondents) said they used the council supported Ring and Ride Service. It is believed that the take-up of this service could be increased by better publicity, and this point has been passed to a Trustee of the Ring & Ride Service for comment.

6.4 Prevent the issue of any 24 hour licences (High priority)

92% of respondents would not support a 24 hour licence for any pub in the parish, and the Parish Council agrees with this view. This will only become an issue if and when any such licence application is made.

6.5 Improve the environment of the village (Medium priority)

Despite the large majority of respondents who do not want further development in the village, it has been suggested that some smartening up, or selective redevelopment of the village centre, would perhaps make it more attractive to prospective businesses and residents alike. The area around the village centre, especially the Paulton Builders yard next to the Church, particularly offers scope for redevelopment. The Parish Council has supported the planning applications for the redevelopment of this site, and supports the need to smarten up the village centre.

6.6 Improve facilities for walkers and cyclists (Medium priority)

76% of respondents support the creation of cycle/bridleways linking to the Greenway. 83% said they would use them for walking, and 46% for cycling. 58% would use them at least once a week, mainly for leisure. However 41% of cycle journeys would replace car journeys. Sustrans has been contacted to see whether such links could be created on the back

of their Five Arches scheme, which received lottery funding recently.

6.7 Remove parked vehicles from the highway within new developments (Medium priority)

92% of respondents consider that allowance should be made for an average of 2 car spaces per housing unit, and 73% consider that 1 car space per employee is appropriate for non-housing units. Current B&NES planning ratio is 1.8 spaces per dwelling.

6.8 Keep footpaths in good repair to encourage use (Medium priority)

66% of respondents said that they had experienced badly overgrown or maintained footpaths when walking in and around the village. The Parish Council say that matters concerning footpaths within the village boundary are addressed as they arise. The footpaths beyond the village boundary are the responsibility of B&NES Council, which has not yet responded to this action item. However, they do have an online form through which residents can inform them of issues concerning footpaths.

6.9 Minimise adverse impacts on Paulton of future development of Bristol airport (Medium priority)

72% of respondents said that it was important that future development of Bristol Airport should not have a negative impact on Paulton. B&NES Council has said that they objected to the recent planning application, but that North Somerset Council is the decision making authority on this.

6.10 Generate interest in, and action on, sustainability (Medium priority)

There was strong support for engaging in waste minimisation and recycling (92% stated that they use the green box recycling service) and since the questionnaire was undertaken services have improved with the addition of plastic containers to the weekly recycling service. There was also strong support

for saving energy and 84% stated that they use low-energy light bulbs. Residents were forthcoming with suggestions of other ways in which they already save energy. There was interest in finding out more about how to live more sustainably, with 39% stating they would like more information about how to reduce their rubbish and 42% interested in generating/storing their own energy. As a result a small group of residents have come together to form a 'sustainable living group' and over the next few months the group will be discussing how to take these issues forward in the village.

The Parish Council has pointed out that B&NES Council distributes a wide range of information with regard to waste and energy issue to all households, and that the Parish Council displays posters on their notice boards and has leaflets in the Council office.

6.11 Maintain existing toilets and provide additional in Memorial Park (Medium priority)

70% of respondents said that public toilets were essential shopping facilities, and 60% would like toilets in the Park. It has been put to the Parish Council that the existing toilets in the village centre should be maintained, and additional toilets provided in the Park. The Parish Council agrees, and is now looking at various options on how to achieve this.

6.12 Create nature trails (Medium priority)

72% would like to see a nature trail and bird watching hide created. This has been discussed with the Cam Valley Wildlife Group, which has pointed out that it is a voluntary organisation, with limited resources in terms of both people and money. This group cannot commit to taking this action item forward on its own, but they would be willing to act in an advisory/consultancy capacity, provided there is some commitment from the Parish Council or B&NES Council to finding the necessary funding and manpower.

6.13 Avoid eyesore or health hazard from mobile phone masts. (Medium priority)

77% of respondents would not support the installation of a mobile phone mast in the village. The Parish Council takes the view however that any applications for mobile phone masts will be considered and decisions made taking into account the circumstances relevant to the application. It is therefore up to residents individually to object, if they so wish, when such applications are made.

6.14 Protect our heritage trees (Low priority)

86% of respondents feel that more trees should be protected, and that more should be planted in the parish. The Parish Council carried out a review of the Tree Preservation Orders in the village several years ago. The forthcoming edition of the Paulton Letter will ask residents to advise where they consider trees should or can be planted. Discussions between Cam Valley Wildlife Group and the Parish Council are currently ongoing on this action item.

6.15 Maximise the use of data from the Community Plan consultation for waste and energy management (Low priority)

As a result of the large amount of data generated by our survey on waste and energy issues, it was decided to send this to the Sustainable Communities and Waste Management Departments within B&NES Council, for their information and action, if appropriate, in advance of the publication of this Report and Action Plan.

6.16 Reduce dog fouling on footpaths and other public areas (Low priority)

92% of respondents would like more dog-waste bins in the village. So far B&NES Council has not responded to this request, although they have issued stickers for Council litter bins advising that it is acceptable to put bagged dog waste in general litter bins, or in domestic bins. This policy will also be publicised by the Parish Council in the forthcoming Paulton Letter.

6.17 Reduce litter in outlying lanes around the village (Low priority)

The village benefits from having a dedicated member of staff responsible for keeping the footpaths and communal areas within the village free of rubbish. However there were concerns expressed about litter in the outlying lanes, with 85% of respondents stating they would like the litter clearing service to be extended to the rural lanes surrounding the village. As a result, a “Community Clean Up” group has been formed within the village and the first clean up took place over the last weekend in March 2010, supported by equipment supplied by B&NES Council.



6.18 Minimise energy waste consistent with maintaining public safety (Low priority)

84% of respondents would like to see the street lighting in Paulton fitted with low energy bulbs, and the hours of operation reduced, although there was some disagreement on the optimum hours of operation. The Parish Council has now fitted low energy bulbs, with a “midnight off” cell to all six of the lights they are responsible for. (These lights are in Jubilee Terrace, Park Close, Scout HQ and Withy Mills.) No response has yet been received from B&NES Council on this action item.

6.19 Regenerate the canal and railway area (Low priority)



82% of respondents believe that the canal and railway area should be regenerated. This will obviously require significant funding, which is beyond what the Parish Council could do. To take this action item forward will require significant community involvement, and so far no volunteers have come forward to pursue this. The Parish Council has suggested that the Somerset Coal Canal Society should be involved.



The Action Plan

Once the data from the questionnaires had been entered to the spreadsheets, it was analysed in terms of percentage responses to individual questions. Initially, any blank entries were included in the calculations but, after discussion, it was decided that it would give a truer picture if blank entries were ignored, and the percentages of Yes/No responses were based on the total numbers who provided an answer to each question.

Following the work done by the small group of volunteers who created the initial Action Plan for Section E of the questionnaire (Community, Spirituality & Volunteering) it was decided to adopt the same format for the other sections. For each section, the key percentages were listed, which indicated where strong opinions lay. Ideas were then developed to identify what actions might be appropriate to address the issues which respondents were primarily concerned about. These ideas were then refined in discussion by the Steering Group, to produce a draft Consolidated Action Plan, listed under the same headings as used in the questionnaire.

Following discussion with Dave Dixon of B&NES Council, it was recognised that it would give our plan more impact if we were to list the individual action items under the same six heading as B&NES Council has used for their Sustainable Communities Strategy. That version of the Action Plan then was further revised as we pursued our discussions with the various agencies identified as having a part to play in implementing the plan.

The draft plan was presented to the Parish Council in September 2009, for comment and agreement on the Parish Council actions. Subsequently, the draft was also discussed for the first time with B&NES Council representatives, and with other partner and lead agencies. Finally, all the agency responses received by end March 2010 were embraced in the final version of the Action Plan which is included in this report.

1. Safer Communities

Action Plan Ref	The Issue	Aims	Actions	Priority	Partners	Lead Agency
1.1	Road safety	Reduce traffic speed on village approach roads	Extend 30 mph zones to Hallatrow and from Withy Mills to Camerton Village Hall	High	B&NES Council	B&NES Council
1.2	Road safety	Reduce speeding throughout the village	Establish a Community Speedwatch initiative	High	Avon & Somerset Police, PACT, Paulton Community Group	Paulton Community Group
1.3	Road safety	Improve driving standards through the village	Establish and publicise a Courteous Driving campaign	Medium	Parish Council, Avon & Somerset Police, PACT, Local driving instructors, Paulton Community Group	Paulton Community Group
1.4	Crime prevention	Revitalise the Neighbourhood Watch scheme	Identify a central co-ordinator for Paulton who will manage a rejuvenation and expansion of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme, and publicise this	Medium	Parish Council, Paulton Community Group, Avon & Somerset Police, Residents	Paulton Community Group
1.5	Lack of police presence	More conspicuous police presence	1. Increase police presence in the village. 2. Establish a police base in the village as part of the Polestar development	Medium	Avon & Somerset Police, Sato	Avon & Somerset Police
1.6	Traffic congestion and pedestrian safety	Improve roads for increased traffic flow	Explain to residents how the draft planning agreement for the Polestar site will deal with the expected traffic increase	Low	B&NES Council	B&NES Council

1. Safer Communities

Action Plan Ref	The Issue	Aims	Actions	Priority	Partners	Lead Agency
1.7	Irresponsible parking	Extend parking restrictions	Introduce increased parking restrictions together with residents' free parking permits, and restrict parking area in front of the shopping precinct to disabled parking only, with a yellow "Do not enter" box on the roadway opposite	Low	B&NES Council	B&NES Council
1.8	Irresponsible parking	Enforce parking restrictions	Establish a Parking Warden presence in the village	Low	B&NES Council	B&NES Council
1.9	Road safety	Improve road signage	Implement new road signs suggested by residents	Low	B&NES Council, Parish Council	B&NES Council
1.10	Effectiveness of PACT Meetings	Increase attendance at PACT meetings	Improve publicity for meetings	Low	Parish Council, Avon & Somerset Police, PACT	Avon & Somerset Police

2. Stronger Communities

Action Plan Ref	The Issue	Aims	Actions	Priority	Partners	Lead Agency
2.1	Focus for change within the community	Form a Paulton Community Group	Pursue Community Plan Action Items, and beyond that, identify and pursue further change projects, organise fundraising, publicise services and events available in the village. Liaise with local press	High	The Community Plan Steering Group, Residents, Local Groups & Clubs, Parish Council	Residents
2.2	Better value for money from Council Tax	Improve Council services to Paulton	Make B&NES Council aware of needs of Paulton residents, and seek to deliver best value for residents from the Parish precept	High	Parish Council	Parish Council
2.3	Lack of availability of information about village activities	Make information on village activities more widely available to residents	Set up a website and poster scheme to keep residents informed. Provide a Parish notice board in Salisbury Road area and eventually in Polestar development	High	Paulton Community Group, Parish Council, Local Groups & Clubs, Paulton Post Office	Paulton Community Group
2.4	Poor TV and broadband signals	Improve TV & broadband services to the village	Implement cable TV & broadband services for the village	High	Virgin Media & other service providers	Virgin Media
2.5	Lack of village meeting place	Found Community Café, with internet access	Found a group willing to create a community cafe for the village. Possible additional uses for training in computer skills etc, and as a bookable meeting place for village groups, for example as an information centre for the digital TV switchover	Medium	Parish Council, B&NES Council, Paulton Community Group, Midsomer Norton Chamber of Commerce, Residents	Paulton Community Group
2.6	Local democracy	Improve access to Ward Councillors	B&NES Ward Councillors to make themselves more widely known and available to Paulton residents	Medium	Ward Councillors	Ward Councillors

2. Stonger Communities

Action Plan Ref	The Issue	Aims	Actions	Priority	Partners	Lead Agency
2.7	Local democracy	Encourage residents to be more proactive in local affairs	Residents to be encouraged to stand for election as Ward Councillors for Paulton on B&NES Council at the earliest opportunity, and to attend Parish Council meetings and Annual Parish Assemblies	Medium	Political Parties, Residents, Parish Council	Political Parties
2.8	Local democracy	Improve access to local MP	Encourage local MP to hold more frequent Constituency Surgeries in Paulton, and to spend more time in the village	Medium	Residents & local MP.	Residents
2.9	Lack of awareness of Government proposals on country living	Improve residents' access to information on Government proposals for country living	Government proposals on country living to be made more accessible to Paulton residents	Medium	Local MP	Local MP
2.10	Lack of understanding of distinction between affordable and social housing	Clarify distinction between affordable and social housing	Explain to residents the distinction between affordable and social housing	Low	B&NES Council	B&NES Council
2.11	Poor radio & TV signals	Improve radio & TV signals to the village	Improve radio & TV signals to the village, especially DAB digital radio	Low	BBC & other service providers	BBC
2.12	Availability of "Odd Jobs" service	Set up a social enterprise scheme	Consider feasibility of setting up one or more Social Enterprises, e.g. odd job service, gardening, community shop, waste recycling/composting etc	Low	Paulton Community Group	Paulton Community Group

3. Health & Wellbeing

Action Plan Ref	The Issue	Aims	Actions	Priority	Partners	Lead Agency
3.1	Availability of the "out of hours" Accident and Emergency & GP services	Make service more easily and quickly available	Align service provision with residents' wishes, i.e. 24 hour doctor cover	High	Primary Care Trust, Paulton Memorial Hospital	Primary Care Trust
3.2	Improving health	Set up exercise activities for all ages	Set up exercise activities for all ages	High	B&NES Council's Sport & Active Leisure team, Local Sports Clubs	Local Sports Clubs
3.3	Accessibility of new surgery	Provide volunteer transport for disabled and elderly patients	Set up Patient Group at Elm Hayes Surgery to provide volunteer transport	Medium	Elm Hayes Surgery & Patients	Elm Hayes Surgery
3.4	Availability of Alternative Medical Practitioners	Provide services locally	Elm Hayes Surgery to consider the provision of such services	Medium	Elm Hayes Surgery	Elm Hayes Surgery
3.5	Swimming Pool service	Improve swimming pool opening hours and facilities	Improve swimming pool opening hours and facilities	Medium	Parish Council, Residents, Paulton Swimming Pool Management Committee	Paulton Swimming Pool Management Committee
3.6	Safer horse-riding	Provide more bridleways	Investigate improved access and system of permissive routes	Medium	B&NES Council, British Horse Society, The Trails Trust, Sustrans	The Trails Trust
3.7	Wastage of "Meals on Wheels"	Improve quality of meals	Survey recipients to assess satisfaction with food and service. Seek to implement change for the better	Medium	B&NES Council, Paulton Community Group	Paulton Community Group

4. Children & Young People

Action Plan Ref	The Issue	Aims	Actions	Priority	Partners	Lead Agency
4.1	Parking at school	Improve safety at school gates	Reduce number of cars dropping-off, and picking-up. Provide effective patrol to enforce safety	High	Avon & Somerset Police, School Heads, B&NES Council, Parents	Avon & Somerset Police
4.2	School crossing patrollers	Ensure 'Lollipop person' present at danger spots	Fill job vacancies as rapidly as possible. Discuss with parents areas of concern	High	B&NES Council, School Heads	B&NES Council
4.3	Insufficient sports & recreational facilities	Establish a Youth Group	Appoint a Paulton youth worker and find suitable premises for young people to meet	High	B&NES Council, B&NES Council's Sport & Active Leisure team, Youth Action Group, Residents	B&NES Council
4.4	Lack of facilities for young people	Find out what facilities young people really want	Use the engagement with young people through the Youth Group to poll opinions and ideas	High	Parish Council, B&NES Council, Youth Action Group, Paulton Community Group	Parish Council
4.5	Increase in pupil numbers	Ensure that Paulton schools can cope with the anticipated increase in pupil numbers once the plans for the Polestar site become clear	Keep residents informed of plans for dealing with population increase following Polestar development	Medium	B&NES Council, School Heads, Sato	B&NES Council

4. Children & Young People

Action Plan Ref	The Issue	Aims	Actions	Priority	Partners	Lead Agency
4.6	Lack of sports & recreational facilities	Increase the availability of indoor play areas	Increase the availability of indoor play areas	Medium	B&NES Council, Parish Council, Get Active Campaign	B&NES Council
4.7	Behaviour of young people	Provide more activities for young people	Encourage young people to be more active through sports and other recreational activities	Medium	B&NES Council's Sport & Active Leisure team, Parents, Local Sports Clubs	Local Sports Clubs
4.8	Underuse of sports & recreational facilities	Maximise the use of existing facilities	Maintain & improve existing sports & recreational facilities	Low	Parish Council, B&NES Council, Local Sports Clubs	Local Sports Clubs

5. Economic Development & Enterprise

Action Plan Ref	The Issue	Aims	Actions	Priority	Partners	Lead Agency
5.1	Loss of local shops	Provide more shopping facilities	Create a climate in which new shops are encouraged to open, e.g. by attracting specialist outlets and re-introducing a bank to increase footfall in shopping area	High	B&NES Council, Sato	B&NES Council
5.2	Potential closure of the village Post Office	Keep the Post Office	Encourage residents to use the PO at every opportunity, and consider offering additional services to make it more attractive	High	Post Office, Ward Councillors, Local MP	Post Office
5.3	Poor road and telecoms infrastructure	Improve road and telecommunications infrastructure	Ensure the Local Strategic Plan recognises Paulton's need for these key enablers for economic development	High	B&NES Council, Sato, BT and other service providers	B&NES Council
5.4	Lack of local employment opportunities	Provide information and advice on employment and training opportunities	Jobs & Training Bus to visit the village	High	Parish Council, B&NES Council, Bath JobCentre Plus	Bath JobCentre Plus
5.5	Use of village centre shops	Encourage people to use the village centre shops	Protect free parking in the village centre	Medium	Parish Council, B&NES Council	Parish Council
5.6	Village restaurant	Establish a quality restaurant	Developers of Polestar site to take note of interest in village restaurant	Low	Sato	Sato

6. Environmental Sustainability

Action Plan Ref	The Issue	Aims	Actions	Priority	Partners	Lead Agency
6.1	Over development	Stop further housing developments once the Polestar site is completed	Approach B&NES planners to make them aware of residents views	High	B&NES Council, Parish Council, Ward Councillors, Local MP	Ward Councillors
6.2	Loss of green corridors around the village	Maintain green fields between neighbouring villages and towns	Make planners aware of strength of feeling. Seek to have green corridors formally declared as 'Green Belt'	High	Parish Council, Ward Councillors, B&NES Council, Local MP	B&NES Council
6.3	Better public transport services	Improve bus services	Review bus service time table to maximise usage(peak hours, quicker journeys). Extend Park & Ride facilities. Publicise Ring & Ride for local journeys	High	First Group, Ring & Ride, B&NES Council, Bristol City Council, Paulton Parish Council	B&NES Council
6.4	24 hour licensing	Prevent the issue of any 24 hour licences	Make views known to the appropriate agencies	High	Parish Council, B&NES Council	Parish Council
6.5	Unattractive areas in the village detract from the local environment	Improve the environment of the village and remove barriers to new residents and businesses	Support the redevelopment of Paulton Builders' Yard, and encourage the smartening up of the village centre	Medium	Parish Council, B&NES Council, Paulton Community Group, Existing Businesses	Parish Council
6.6	Extend cycle paths	Improve access for walkers and cyclists	Create cycleway links from the extended Greenway to Paulton village centre	Medium	Sustrans	Sustrans
6.7	Lack of off-road parking spaces	Remove parked vehicles from highway within new developments	Planners to make provision of average of 2 spaces per new dwelling	Medium	B&NES Council, Sato & other developers	B&NES Council

6. Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change

Action Plan Ref	The Issue	Aims	Actions	Priority	Partners	Lead Agency
6.8	Deteriorating footpaths	Keep footpaths in good repair to encourage use	Review maintenance and publicise on-line form to request maintenance of paths both inside and outside the parish boundary	Medium	Parish Council, B&NES Council	B&NES Council
6.9	Noise pollution & additional traffic through the village	Minimise adverse impacts on Paulton of future development of Bristol Airport	Ensure appropriate safeguards/constraints are included in the planning agreement	Medium	B&NES Council	B&NES Council
6.10	Sustainability	Generate interest in and action on sustainability	Interested residents to form a Sustainable Living Action Group	Medium	Residents	Residents
6.11	Public Conveniences	Maintain existing one and provide one in the Memorial Park	Investigate possibility of building additional toilets in or near the park	Medium	Parish Council, Village Hall Management Committee	Parish Council
6.12	Access to nature	Create nature trails	Create bird watching hides and protected trails	Medium	Cam Valley Wildlife Group	Cam Valley Wildlife Group
6.13	Mobile phone masts	Avoid eyesore or health hazard from mobile phone masts	Planners to avoid siting near vulnerable people and to minimise the appearance by screening etc	Medium	Parish Council, B&NES Council	B&NES Council
6.14	Tree protection	Protect our heritage trees	Review extent of protected trees in village. Recommend additions. Encourage 'plant a tree campaign'	Low	Parish Council, Cam Valley Wildlife Group, Residents	Cam Valley Wildlife Group

6. Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change

Action Plan Ref	The Issue	Aims	Actions	Priority	Partners	Lead Agency
6.15	Waste & energy management	Maximise use of data from Community Plan consultation on waste and energy management	The Sustainable Communities and Waste Management Depts of B&NES Council to take notice of the data provided by the Steering Group relevant to waste management and energy saving	Low	B&NES Council	B&NES Council
6.16	Dog fouling	Reduce fouling of footpaths and other public areas	Publicise the fact that it is acceptable to put dog mess in ordinary litter bins, or to take it home to put in domestic bins	Low	Parish Council, B&NES Council	B&NES Council
6.17	Litter in outlying lanes	Reduce litter in outlying lanes around the village	Arrange a "Community Clean Up"	Low	Parish Council, B&NES Council, Paulton Community Group	Paulton Community Group
6.18	Energy waste	Minimise energy waste, consistent with maintaining public safety	Replace street lights with low energy bulbs, and reduce period of operation	Low	Parish Council, B&NES Council	B&NES Council
6.19	Exploitation of industrial heritage	Regenerate the canal & railway area	Regenerate the canal & railway area	Low	Paulton Community Group, Somerset Coal Canal Society	Somerset Coal Canal Society



FUTURE

The Way Ahead

As mentioned in the introduction, the Government wishes local people to have a say in the development of their own community. The production of our Community Plan establishes a communication medium and a working relationship between Paulton residents and local authorities and other stake holders concerning the enhancement of our community's economic, social and environmental framework.

However, the publication of the plan is not the end of the story, but rather the beginning. The Community Plan can be a living document which may be updated as changing issues and priorities are identified through an ongoing process of consultation. The Plan is a means to inform and influence organisations which have an impact on our village life through their current service provision and their future plans and policies.

Progress to date

Progress has already begun or, in some cases, been achieved even before the official publication of the plan. This has been made possible by the huge amount of data provided by all those residents who took the time and trouble to express their views and to set out their comments in their questionnaire responses. This data has been used in discussions with agencies and groups which can deliver changes to the village.

List of Achievements to Date

- Creation of village website
- 'Spring Clean' of the outlying lanes of the village
- Visits by Jobs and Training Bus
- Formation of Sustainability Living Action Group
- Formation of community group to investigate setting up a community café
- Formation of Community Speedwatch group
- Definitions of affordable and social housing clarified and published on community website
- Agreement to form a patient group at Elm Hayes surgery

Our Next Steps

Now that the Community Plan is published, the Steering Group has achieved its objective, and will shortly disband. The Parish Council has adopted the plan, and will support and assist in the progress of the plan, in addition to progressing those action items they have agreed to take on board. However, the plan is 'owned' by you, the Paulton parish community and therefore residents, village groups and local businesses should be, and need to be, involved.

It is proposed that the Community Plan will be an agenda item at Parish Assemblies in order to keep residents informed of progress and to highlight any funding issues.

Community Involvement

Your responses have highlighted your concerns and issues that you wish to have addressed in order to improve the quality of life in the community of Paulton. The success of any of the proposed action items will rely on many things, e.g. volunteers, access to funding, working with organisations in the parish and the co-operation of outside agencies. Some things will take longer than others to implement, some will happen speedily, and some might never happen.

The meeting which was held with volunteers in February 2010 was very successful in that it resulted in five small community action groups being established to implement some of the action items in the plan.

The Community Speedwatch group will pursue speeding issues, including the extension of the 30mph zone from Withy Mills (Bath Road) to Radford. The starting point will be to ensure that the present 20mph zone is effectively policed, and to establish a Community Speedwatch scheme.

The Community Cafe group will look at setting up a Community Café, including an internet facility.

The Community Website group will look to create an information exchange for the village, based on an expansion of the www.yourpaulton.org website established by the Steering Group, and working closely with the Parish Council as they seek to improve the Parish Council website.

The Community Clean-up group has already started, carrying out a litter pick in the outlying lanes during the last weekend in March 2010.

The Sustainable Living group will be holding its first meeting in April 2010, when it will decide its priorities. Issues to consider include promotion of energy saving measures in the home, household and community energy generation initiatives, car sharing, promotion

of waste reduction and other ways of reducing the environmental impact of households and the community as a whole.

The more volunteers who come forward, the more action items these and other similar groups can tackle, and the more impact will be made on village life. We are so sure many residents and groups will want to sign up to these new initiatives that we look forward to hearing from local people with their contact details. By working together, Paulton community spirit can only become stronger, social enterprise expand, and the quality of village life become even more enriched.

Any village groups or individuals wishing to become involved in the delivery of any aspects of the plan should forward their interest via the www.yourpaulton.org website, or by contacting any of the people listed on page 4.

Conclusions & Recommendations

For those who come after the Steering Group, either to form community action groups, or to create Community Plans for other villages, the following observations are offered:

- The process takes longer than you think
- Timescale is driven by the number of households and the number of questions in the questionnaire (i.e. data quantity)
- The Steering Group will be dynamic in its size and skills during its existence, as will the community action groups that come after
- Support of the Parish Council is crucial
- Electronic communication between Steering Group members is essential
- Government grants should be geared to parish size
- Support from local businesses has been poor
- Maintain a wider group of volunteers, and keep them informed

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Paulton Junior School	
Red Lion Public House	
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