

**STOUR AREA COMMUNITY COMMITTEE  
15 November 2005**

**Item No:** 6  
**Subject:** Long Compton Parish Plan  
**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Beese  
**Lead Officer:** Colin Staves  
*Contact on 01789 260333*

SUMMARY	To consider the assessment of the Long Compton Parish Plan	
BACKGROUND PAPERS	Long Compton Parish Plan 2005	
<b>CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN</b>		
<b>CONSULTEE</b>	✓	<b>DETAILS AND DATE OF CONSULTATION</b>
WARD MEMBERS	✓	Councillor Saint on 14/10/05
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN	✓	Councillor Roache on 14/10/05 – congratulates Parish Council and Steering Group on an excellent document.
PORTFOLIO HOLDER	✓	Councillor Beese on 14/10/05 Councillor Giblin (Shadow) on 14/10/05
LEGAL SERVICES	✓	Peter Cruden on 14/10/05
FINANCIAL SERVICES	✓	Richard Burrell on 14/10/05
PERSONNEL SERVICES		
OTHER	✓	Paul Ogden, Head of Leisure and Business Services on 28/9/05 Warwickshire County Council (WCC) on 28/9/05 Warwickshire Rural Community Council (WRCC) on 28/9/0505
CORPORATE STRATEGY/EMAS	✓	Paul Chapman, Policy and Public Relations on 28/9/05
<b>Summary of RECOMMENDATION</b>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. That the Parish Plan is adopted as a local information source.</b></li> <li><b>2. That the Parish Plan is adopted as a material consideration.</b></li> <li><b>3. That the Parish Plan steering group, Parish Council and the residents of Long Compton be commended and encouraged to implement their Action Plan.</b></li> </ol>
FINAL DECISION SOUGHT ?	Yes	

## **1. Introduction and Purpose of this Report**

1.1 This report sets out the assessment of the Long Compton Parish Plan, which was endorsed by Long Compton Parish Council on 5 September 2005.

## **2. Background Information**

- 2.1 Parish Plans are community-led projects identifying and surveying the assets, needs, opportunities, problems and solutions of a community. Through 'Capacity' and 'Consensus Building', Parish Plans provide communities with a framework to take stock of the present and to plan for the future.
- 2.2 The momentum for Parish Plans is continually increasing with half of the communities in the District having completed or in the process of undertaking detailed Parish Plan or Appraisals with associated recommendations and Action Plans. Further background information on the process is included in Appendix B.

## **3. Submitted Parish Plan – Long Compton**

### **3.1 Background**

- 3.1.1 The Parish Plan process started in February 2004 with an initial open meeting following which a Parish Plan Steering Group was established. This steering group carried out a series of consultation events which led to the production of an extensive questionnaire delivered to each household. This questionnaire was completed by over 60% of households, with a parallel housing needs survey completed at the same time.
- 3.1.2 The analysis of the questionnaire by independent consultants was presented at a second open meeting in March 2005 where the outline of the action plan was formulated.
- 3.1.3 The Parish Plan presents a clear picture of the needs and issues facing the community. It provides an Action Plan to address these over the next decade and the Parish Council are committed to the implementation of the action plan.
- 3.1.4 The project has been funded, in part, by a Vital Villages grant from the Countryside Agency.

### **3.2 Parish Plan findings**

- 3.2.1 The findings of the Parish Plan, which have informed the Action Plan cover:
- General
  - Housing
  - Transport and Traffic
  - Business and Employment
  - Crime and Disorder
  - Countryside and the Environment
  - Village Amenities
  - Education
  - Young People
- 3.2.2 The Parish Plan has been prepared employing a range of community participation techniques, including questionnaire survey, public forums and a transparent process of reporting back to the community on progress. The process has generated a range of statistical data and qualitative material, that has informed the Action Plan and which provides a useful local information source.

3.2.3 **Suggested Response: Endorse** – That the above be endorsed as a true representation of the topics addressed by the Parish Plan.

### **3.3 Action Plan**

3.3.1 Analysis and responses to the Action Plan are provided in Appendix C, and the following analysis and comments should be read in conjunction with Long Compton's Action Plan.

3.3.2 Overall the action plan is comprehensive in its scope and based on sound and valid information collected through the Parish Plan process. The recommended responses are entirely supportive of the actions proposed by the Parish. It should be noted that the Action Plan identifies the District Council as a partner in tackling a number of matters. These actions have been brought to the attention of the relevant services within the Council through consultation on this report. The Steering Group intend to develop the action plan further to identify additional partners and establish clear timings for the actions.

3.3.3 Transport related matters and other actions requiring the involvement of the County Council have been brought to the attention of the County's Stratford Area Team and the Rural Transport Officer through consultation in the preparation of this report.

## **4. Corporate Strategy/Environmental/Financial/Legal Implications**

4.1 The following general observations on the Parish Plan are based on responses from internal consultation with the Directorates within the District Council.

4.2 The Parish Plan is a useful source of information about the local community perception of their locality. The Community Plan and Corporate Strategy for the District support the range of topic areas and policies in the Action Plan. The Parish Plan also complements and helps to move the District Council's Local Agenda 21 Strategy forward and provides some sustainability indicators.

4.3 Projects developed through this Parish Plan may require funding to take them forward, and the recommendations within this report should be contained within existing budgets. The District Council operates an Appraisal Capital grants scheme, aimed at funding these types of project. It is hoped that the Parish Council and local residents will consider and pursue funding in order to develop the relevant identified action points.

## **5. Conclusion**

5.1 The Parish Plan steering group, the Parish Council and residents of the Parish of Long Compton should be commended and congratulated for completing their Parish Plan and are encouraged by Stratford-on-Avon District Council to implement and periodically review the Action Plan.

5.2 The Long Compton Parish Plan is a good example of how a rural community can prepare a Parish Plan that is both a good source of local information, and provides a sound basis through the Action Plan to address the needs and aspirations of the community.

### **RECOMMENDED:-**

**(1) That the Stour Area Community Committee adopts the Long Compton Parish Plan, as a local information source to offer advice to the**

**relevant Departments of Stratford-on-Avon District Council.**

- (2) That the Stour Area Community Committee adopt the Long Compton Parish Plan as a material consideration in processing planning applications, in accordance with Policy ENV22 of the Stratford-on-Avon District Local Plan and Policy COM1 of the Local Plan Review.**
- (3) That the Parish Plan steering committee, Parish Council and residents of the Parish of Long Compton be commended for preparing their Parish Plan and they are encouraged to implement and review the Action Plan.**

**PAT REID  
Head of Planning and Building Control**

## **Appendix A - Guidance for the Assessment of Parish/Town Plans**

- 1.1 In assessing Parish Plans, the following considerations should be taken into account:

**Evidence and extent of research work to justify conclusions.  
Evidence and extent of analysis related to conclusions.  
Public involvement and endorsement at local level.  
Level of implementation available to District Council services, (e.g. the District Council Planning Authority, Leisure and Arts etc.).  
Conformity with District Council's policies, (e.g. Planning policies etc.).**

- 1.2 The above five criteria will enable the production of recommendations regarding the acceptance of each of the Parish Plan's detailed conclusions and Action Points.

- 1.3 A response to each of the detailed conclusions and Action Points will be one of the following:

**(A) ENDORSE**

The specific recommendation will be accepted and taken into account on the decision making of the District Council. (For example, "Small scale development with a 'craft' emphasis should be looked at sympathetically").

**(B) ACTION**

The specific recommendation will be accepted in principle and, subject to financial, procedural and legal constraints, implemented by or with the support of the District Council. (For example, "A social housing scheme of ten units on land next to the Green should be provided").

**(C) INVESTIGATE**

Further information to be obtained by the Parish/Town Council or other agency may be required in order that the District Council may establish if the specific recommendation can be supported. (For example, "An existing Conservation Area should be extended").

**(D) SUPPORT**

The specific recommendation relates to a matter which is not the responsibility of the District Council. However, the proposal is supported and will be forwarded to the appropriate authority. (For example, "Traffic calming measures are required and the County Highway Authority should prepare a scheme").

**(E) NOT SUPPORTED**

The specific recommendation relates to a matter which is in contrary to the policy of the District Council or is beyond the powers of the authority or that insufficient and/or unsatisfactory information has been submitted to substantiate the recommendation. (For example, "No development of any kind should take place within the settlement").

## Appendix B – Further Background Information

- 2.1 Communities produce Parish Plans for a number of reasons:
- To increase the awareness of community issues, foster community spirit and encourage a sense of pride;
  - To act as a strong basis for local action (the Appraisal Action Plan);
  - To collectively represent the views of residents, to positively influence others to the benefit of the community.
- 2.2 In the 1980s the concept and practice of Village Appraisals first emanated nationally from the Rural Development Commission in conjunction with the Countryside Commission.
- 2.3 Nationally, Parish Plans have a role to play within the 'modernising Local Government' agenda, for example, shaping local services, public participation, decision-making and greater democratic legitimacy.
- 2.4 One of the aims within Chapter 12 of the Rural White Paper (Our Countryside: the future – A fair deal for rural England) includes involving people living in rural areas in developing their community, safeguarding its valued features and shaping the decisions that affect them – developing a vision for the future. Parish Plans are a recognised method of achieving this aim.
- 2.5 In line with guidance from the Countryside Agency issued in August 2000 ('Planning tomorrow's countryside', advice to local planning authorities, government and developers on how the planning system should operate and evolve), Parish Plans are a recognised community planning method to help achieve key objectives. In March 2003 the Countryside Agency produced detailed guidance for parish and town councils on the preparation of Parish and Town Plans.
- 2.6 In Planning Policy Guidance Note 7 *Countryside* (1997), the Government recognises that Parish Plans can inform development plans by identifying a local community's needs and priorities for the future.
- 2.7 Policy RA3 in the Warwickshire Structure Plan 1996-2011 encourages local planning authorities to use 'Appraisals' when establishing the views of local communities and when identifying local housing and industrial development need.
- 2.8 Stratford-on-Avon District Council is committed to the encouragement of Parish Plans as a means of identifying local issues and will respond to them positively. Much faith has been placed by the Government, the County and the District Council on local appraisals and their role in assisting the formulation of strategic policy.
- 2.9 Parish Plans can now play a broader role within the production of the statutory Community Plan for Stratford District.
- 2.10 The recommendations and Action Plans can both inform and help deliver the Rural Strategy for the Stratford-on-Avon District.
- 2.11 Policy ENV22 of the Stratford-on-Avon District Local Plan states:
- " The District Planning Authority, in determining planning applications and assessing priorities for environmental enhancement will have regard to parish and

village appraisals prepared by the Parish/Town Councils or local amenity bodies, which have been endorsed by the District Planning Authority."

"When an appraisal is received by the Council it is carefully considered and assessed against consistent criteria. The assessment of appraisals includes the identification of those issues of appraisals which are planning matters and therefore relevant to development control. It is only when the assessments have been completed and the relevant aspects endorsed by Committee, that appraisals will be afforded the status of a material consideration."

2.12 Policy COM1 of the Stratford-on-Avon District Local Plan Review (Revised Deposit Draft) states:

"The views of local communities reflected in Parish Plans (and their equivalents) adopted by the District Council will be fully assessed in the planning process. In particular they will be used:

- To help assess the merits of schemes promoted by communities to meet needs which they have identified;
- As a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and to assist in identifying the scope and nature of associated planning obligations which might be sought; and
- To identify opportunities for environmental and other forms of enhancement.

In the case of Main Rural Centres and Local Centre Villages only, as defined in Policy STR1, small scale schemes which meet housing (particularly affordable housing) and employment needs will be encouraged..."

2.13 Nationally, Parish Plans are broad, holistic documents addressing local issues at a local level. Whilst in this District 'appraisals' have had a close association with planning, they are no longer 'planning-led'. Parish Plans address both planning and non-planning related matters and this is reflected in their assessment at Committee.

2.14 Parish Plans can and do act as a tool to assist in giving many of the services provided by the District Council greater community focus. Vice versa, many of the services provided by the District Council can and do feed into the Parish Plan process creating more informed Action Plans.

**Appendix C**  
**Summary of key action points**

<b>Recommended Action</b>	<b>SDC Proposed Response</b>
<p><b>Action Plan for Housing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage with the owners of the land at Weston Court to complete a development strategy</li> <li>• Establish the post of Long Compton Housing Liaison Officer co-opted on the Parish Council</li> <li>• Engage with the Housing Association on the College Lane development to ensure that new housing is used to meet the housing needs of local residents.</li> <li>• Establish agreement with the housing association of Weston Court to ensure that new housing will be used to meet the needs of local residents.</li> <li>• Construction phase of the new development to involve the Housing Liaison Officer representing the Parish Council to conform housing types and terms for occupation.</li> <li>• Undertake regular reviews of the housing needs survey.</li> <li>• Supplementary Planning policies (LC1 – LC3)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Support / Action / Endorse</b> – The District Council strongly supports these actions and will work with the Parish to ensure they are achieved.</p> <p>The Parish should be commended for the action that it has already achieved in meeting local housing needs.</p> <p>Annex 2 of the document lists 3 supplementary planning policies for Long Compton. These are all endorsed as being consistent with the policies of the Council’s Local Plan Review.</p>
<p><b>Action Plan for Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake housing needs survey of employers running businesses in the village, and employees of those businesses.</li> <li>• Publicise broadband availability.</li> <li>• Examine opportunities for full-time childcare facilities.</li> <li>• Encourage networking of existing businesses using a range of mechanisms.</li> <li>• Lobby for business rate relief</li> </ul>	<p><b>Support / Action / Investigate</b></p> <p>The District Council and the WRCC Rural Housing Enabler can assist with the employer’s housing needs survey.</p> <p>Through its role in promoting economic development, the District will work with partners and organisations that support the business community to encourage economic growth in the Parish.</p> <p>Certain businesses in the Parish may be eligible for rural rate relief. The Council’s Business Rates Team can offer advice on this.</p>
<p><b>Traffic and Transport Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek reinstatement of the Oxford / Stratford bus service</li> <li>• Develop flexible transport solutions</li> <li>• Develop further speed control measures</li> <li>• Seek low noise road surfacing for the A3400</li> <li>• Reduce impact of signage along main highway</li> <li>• Consider additional facilities for village parking.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Endorse / Support</b></p> <p>The Local Plan Review supports the improvement of bus services through Policy COM.17</p> <p>All the action points are supported in principle, but will require the support of the County Council as the relevant highway and transport authority to achieve them. These action points have been brought to the attention of</p>

<b>Recommended Action</b>	<b>SDC Proposed Response</b>
	the County Council's Stratford Area Team and the Rural Transport Officer through consultation on this report.
<p><b>Action Plan for Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refurbish sports pavilion</li> <li>• Improve news and information management</li> <li>• Establish working party to improve village facilities</li> <li>• Publicise services already provided in Long Compton</li> <li>• Establish internet café in School and Village Hall</li> <li>• Publicise and improve Neighbourhood Watch Service.</li> <li>• Use IT to expand the volunteer network</li> <li>• Encourage visible speed monitoring</li> <li>• Lobby for further visible policing.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Support</b></p> <p>All of the action points are supported in principle. Certain projects, such as the sports pavilion, could be eligible for funding from the Council's Capital Grants Scheme.</p>
<p><b>Action Plan for the Environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue liaison with County Council for footpath maintenance.</li> <li>• Establish verge and public space maintenance policy.</li> <li>• Investigate means of flood alleviation and ensure regular stream maintenance</li> </ul>	<p><b>Support / Action</b></p> <p>Policy CTY.11 of the Local Plan Review supports improvements to the network of recreational footpaths.</p> <p>The actions relating to public space maintenance and flood alleviation will be brought to the attention of officers in the Operational Services Directorate.</p>
<p><b>Action for Volunteers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish action group to co-ordinate volunteers.</li> <li>• Establish and expand existing volunteer groups for prescription collection, shopping, and neighbourhood watch</li> </ul>	<p><b>Support</b></p> <p>The Council supports all these action points.</p>
<p><b>Action Plan for Youth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider reestablishment of youth club.</li> <li>• Establish a series of community projects.</li> <li>• All community groups encouraged to provide opportunities for younger members.</li> <li>• Consider mechanisms to include young people in village decision making.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Support</b></p> <p>The Council supports the emphasis given to young people in the Parish Plan.</p>
<p><b>Action Plan for Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebrate success of school in emerging from special measures.</li> <li>• Support school activities and encourage new pupils.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Support</b></p> <p>The action points identified are accepted in principle and will be brought to the attention of the County Council as local education authority.</p>

<b>Recommended Action</b>	<b>SDC Proposed Response</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support claims for improvements in facilities and resources.</li> <li>• Extend care for 3 year olds.</li> <li>• Develop after school care to meet working parents needs</li> <li>• Establish school holiday activity club</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Action Plan for Community Officer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish roles and responsibilities of Parish Clerk and Community Liaison Officer</li> <li>• Determine requirements for IT management.</li> <li>• Recruit Community Liaison Officer</li> </ul>	<p><b>Support</b> The Council supports this innovative idea.</p>