

Baydon Parish Assembly

April 2009

Report on Village Plan Development

Why a village plan?

The purpose of the plan is to:

1. focus on the needs and concerns of our Parish;
2. encourage greater cohesion amongst the local population and
3. guide the development of facilities and amenities within the Parish.

In addition it is hoped that the plan will serve as a ready-made document capable of being used in support of any funding bid being made by any group within the Parish.

Who is creating it?

A group of volunteers formed the steering group. The views collected and represented are yours. The printing and other incidental expenses are being met by central government funding routed via Community First with a contribution from the Parish Council.

How was it produced?

In 2007 a quick 'Likes/Dislikes' survey was made. From your responses to this the steering group was able to identify a number of focus areas and 'hot' topics. The next step was consultation of interested groups and businesses within the Parish to help further identify the questions to be asked in the main survey of your opinions. The survey was designed, produced, issued, collected and analysed by the steering group, ably assisted by a number of volunteers, during 2008. Since then the group have been distilling the results and writing the plan.

What is in it?

The document begins with an explanation of the production of the plan and a brief history of Baydon. It contains further sections, including:

- Traffic and Transport
- Shops and Services
- Community, Sport, Recreation & Social Activities
- Housing, Buildings, Assets & Landmarks
- Environment and Countryside
- Local Democracy, Community Engagement & Communications
- Crime and Community Safety
- An Action Plan

These headings were derived from those used in other plans in conjunction with consideration of the issues which you mentioned as being important.

Each section (except the last) sets out the digested results of the survey and the suggestions which you made about ways in which life in Baydon could be improved. The final section distils the actions identified and sets out responsibilities for pursuing these actions wherever this is possible.

When will it be issued?

We have been delayed awaiting permission from the Ordnance Survey to include a reproduction of a map showing the Parish and its boundary. This was the final step before printing can commence and we received this permission on Wednesday 22nd April. We can now send the document to the printer. Every household will then receive its copy of the plan. We hope this will be during May this year and will do our best to make it so.

We do not see this as the end: any useful plan will need to be acted upon and updated to reflect changes in the community and – we hope – progress made against your aspirations as captured by the plan. We therefore hope that what you will soon receive will be but the first version of a living document.

Acknowledgement

As Chair of the Steering Group I thankfully acknowledge all the contributions of time, ideas and effort made by all the volunteers during the development of the plan.

Ben Potter,
Chair, Baydon Village Plan Steering Group.