

## What is a Parish Plan?

A Parish Plan is a statement of how the community sees itself developing over the few years. It reflects the views of all sections of the community and identifies local problems and opportunities. The aim of a Parish Plan is to identify what actions are required to achieve its future vision for the area, which group will assist with the implementation and the timeframe for realistically achieving the identified actions in its action plan. It could include any actions, ranging from addressing a lack of playground facilities to establishing a car share schemes. A Parish Plan should include the monitoring of the action plan to ensure that the plan remains a "live document". A Parish Plan can help to manage change in a community and also to protect and improve their area.

Benefits that can be gained by producing a Parish Plan include:

- Building a greater sense of community spirit by working towards a common goal;
- Improving communication between the Parish Council and local people;
- Producing an action plan which identifies local problems and provides local solutions for them;
- Helping establish better partnership with key service providers;
- Supporting funding applications, being based on consultation with the community.

If the Plan is adopted by the District Council as a material consideration, it may be used by officers in the determination of planning applications. At present, some 40 Parish Plans have been adopted by Stratford-on-Avon District Council as a material consideration: they are available to view at the [District Council's website](#).

Whilst the Parish Plan is produced by the local community, it will be assessed by a Planning Policy Officer to determine whether it fits into existing national and local planning policies. It is recommended that discussions about any Parish Plan proposals are held with Planning Policy Officers and key stakeholders to establish whether its proposals are both feasible and deliverable. However, aspirations for future actions which may not be presently feasible should not be precluded.