

## Parish Plan Newsletter

Since October, a core group has been working on the creation of a Parish Plan for Somerford Keynes and Shorncote. Currently, the group includes John Sweet (Chair); Sheila Jones (Secretary), Jenny Lloyd, Sarah Powell, Ronnie Dunn, Roger Sleeman and Aideen McEvoy-Wilding.

The core group is independent of the Parish Council, although some are involved in both.

The objectives of the Parish Plan are to develop a vision, and a corresponding plan for delivery, for our parish by identifying:

- Factors that impact both positively and negatively upon the quality of life.
- Issues and concerns in relation to changes/developments.
- Issues, problems and concerns with regard to local and national government policy.
- Needs for the future that will sustain and enhance the quality of life.

Generating a Plan will support the prioritisation of resources and effort in the future by local and national government. The Plan will provide a mechanism for the views of the community to be fed into local plans at the District Council level.

Exploratory conversations are now being organised and will be based on focus groups, informal chats, interviews, coffee mornings, drop ins, village hall events etc. It is envisaged that these conversations will identify the key issues from the many groups that make up the community. It is our intention to reach out to all groups of the Parish as follows:

- Demographic - youth, families, 'Empty nesters', senior residents
- Geographic: Somerford Keynes, Shorncote, outlying houses, Lower Mill Estate, Shorncote Travelers.

- Village Hall clubs and societies.
- Church: PCC, youth club.
- Local Businesses- With premises in area and those who work from home

Jenny Lloyd, who has considerable expertise in accessing opinions, is leading this with Sheila. At the moment all ideas and concerns are being gathered and everyone's opinion is welcome. There is a lot of detail in this that will be resolved over the next month and all offers of involvement and help are much appreciated.

The output from the exploratory conversations will lead to development of the full questionnaire so that the issues raised in the conversations and elsewhere can be measured. The full questionnaire is expected to be sent out in April (to all residents within the Parish), with all the replies gathered in by mid May.

The analysis and write up will take place in June, with the first draft being published, for discussion by all interested parties, in July.

The design of the final plan will be considered during July & August and will be published in the Autumn. The final plan will be available on the Parish Council's website.

The "Emergency Plan" for the Parish will form part of the Parish Plan and there will be a separate questionnaire for this that will be sent with the full questionnaire, The Parish Council is responsible for this and will handle it accordingly.

We would like to thank all who have attended the meetings and have offered to help.

Please make your views known!!

To do this, you can either send an e-mail to: [plan@somerfordkeynes.org.uk](mailto:plan@somerfordkeynes.org.uk)

Or contact Sheila directly.

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