

Statement of Consultation **Yarcombe and Marsh Parish Plan and Village Design Statement**

Yarcombe and Marsh Parish Council decided to undertake the production of a Parish Plan and Village Design Statement in the autumn of 2002. A steering group of local people was subsequently formed and, in December 2002, one of this group was designated as co-ordinator.

Parish Plan

A successful application for grant aid was made to the Countryside Agency under its Vital Villages scheme and a project action plan and timetable was agreed by the steering group.

The services of the Community Council of Devon and Devon Play were engaged to advise on and to provide support for two major public consultation events held in 2003, where local people identified those issues that were most important to them and what they would like to see happen about these issues over the next few years. The community consultation events were advertised in the local magazine, by posters around the village and through a press release issued to the Midweek Herald. Following on from the community involvement events, Devon County Council's Corporate Information Service Department was engaged to work with the steering group to design and produce a detailed questionnaire, which was then distributed to every household in the parish during March 2003.

The response rate was just over 94% which allows users to be confident that the questionnaire, itself based on the results of the community consultation exercise, reflects local views and priorities.

A statistical analysis of the results of the questionnaire was carried out in March 2003 by the County Council who offered advice on and agreed the interpretation produced by the steering group. A detailed report of the results of the survey was then sent to every household and a public presentation and discussion about the report took place at the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22 May 2003. At this meeting it was agreed that the Parish Council, in consultation with the Steering Group, would produce an action plan to be incorporated into the Parish Plan. The purpose of and the process for producing the final Parish Plan were also explained.

Regular reports will be given to the Parish Council at its bi-monthly meetings and an annual report on progress on the Action Plan will take place in May with a named person dealing with each major issue. The Action Plan is seen as a flexible document, so that appropriate changes can be made as local needs change.

Village Design Statement

The Village Design Statement has been produced by parish residents with the full support of the Parish Council and District Council. Funding was provided by the countryside Agency and technical support by the District Council.

Information gained during the Parish Plan household survey and at a number of public involvement workshops and consultation events has been supplemented by a final public exhibition, held on 8 November 2003, consultation exercise and questionnaire based on landscape, buildings and the setting of the villages.

The District Council have been consulted very regularly throughout the production period and have, in turn, consulted other bodies such as the Environment Agency and Highways.