

Agenda Item

Development Control Committee

15 January 2008



Stockland Parish Plan

Summary

A Parish Plan (known locally as Stockland Views) has been produced by local residents for Stockland. The report explains the position with regard to this Community Planning Initiative, and recommends that it be formally endorsed by the District Council.

Recommendations

- 1. That the Stockland Parish Plan be endorsed (subject to any minor amendments arising from the printing process) and used to inform decision making in the District and the production of the Local Development Framework.**
- 2. That the Stockland Parish Plan Group be congratulated on their work.**

a) Reasons for Recommendations

To ensure that the views of the Stockland community are taken into account in decision making.

b) Alternative Options

That the Stockland Parish Plan not be endorsed.

c) Risk Considerations

If the District Council does not endorse the Parish Plan, decisions will be taken at District Council level without the benefit of the extensive public consultation which has been undertaken. The local community will feel disenfranchised and are unlikely to want to work in partnership with the District Council on future initiatives.

d) Policy and Budgetary Considerations

None

e) Date for Review of Decision

Not applicable, although the Parish Plan may be updated in accordance with the Local Development Framework timetable.

1.1 The Stockland Parish Plan Group has produced the attached Parish Plan (referred to by them as Stockland Views) which consists of two elements:

A Detailed report explaining how information was collected and analysed and setting out the statistics/results

A succinct action plan stating and explaining objectives, partner bodies responsible for achieving these objectives and target dates.

1.2 The Parish Plan will provide a very useful insight into the community's views, resulting from an extensive impartial public consultation. This will ensure that decisions taken by the District Council will take these views into account and will assist in prioritisation and working in partnership with the Parish Council and other local bodies.

2 Consultation and Distribution

2.1 Stockland Parish Plan Group has undertaken extensive consultation over several years. In April 2005 a Village Exhibition and Public Consultation event was held at the village hall, where parishioners could write down their views, needs and concerns on any issues relating to the parish. Having identified the issues from this input a more detailed questionnaire was produced, piloted and refined, and in May 2006 distributed to every household. All parishioners 11 years or older had the opportunity to complete the questionnaire anonymously and 412 people undertook to do so (Approx 66% of the Parish).

2.2 The steering group then took the data from the questionnaires, analysed it and looked at the best ways to address the issues raised by parishioners. This Action Plan is the result of their work, a document that describes how to meet the needs and wishes of the people of Stockland. Care was taken not to ignore the issues with a minority interest. The Plan represents a vision for Stockland for the next 5 to 10 years.

2.3 The District Council has been involved at all stages and has been extensively consulted through meetings and letters. The Parish Council and local ward Member have been very supportive throughout the process.

2.4 It is intended that copies of the Parish Plan will be available to every household, with copies of the full document also being available to view upon request at the Council Offices, through the Parish Council and in the local library. Copies will be available to anyone who proposes undertaking development locally. The Parish Plan will also be available to download, free of charge from the Council's webpage.

2.5 Following consideration of the Parish Plan by the Development Control Committee, a statement of consultation will be produced. This will explain the extensive consultation process that the document has been through and make it clear that, although the District Council cannot adopt the document as Supplementary Planning Guidance, it will still be given weight in decision making.

3 Implementation of the Parish Plan

- 3.1** Once endorsed the Plan will be taken into account when making decisions and when considering allocation of resources. It is envisaged that the actions will form standing items on the Parish Council agenda and the Action Plan will be regularly reviewed to ensure it remains current.

Legal Implications

No legal observations.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

Background Papers

The file containing all documents, Parish Plans, V.D.S's and previous correspondence.

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