

# **Doynton Today**

Doynton is a small parish on the edge of the Cotswold escarpment in which farming has traditionally been the dominant activity. The community was largely self sufficient over the centuries but the changes over the past 50 years have altered the demographic make—up of the Parish. Farming is now only practiced by a few families and the majority of the working population are employed in Bath or Bristol. There are currently 140 houses in the Parish and an estimated population of about 320.

Part of the parish has been incorporated into the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the village itself has conservation area protection. The rural setting of the Parish is much valued by Doynton parishioners.

The increased reliance on the car and the decline in rural bus services have led to a situation where parishioners are mainly dependent on their own transport to commute to work or school and for leisure and entertainment. This has contributed to a decline in the services provided in the Parish itself. Nevertheless Doynton does have a busy pub, an active Country Market twice a month, a post office for 2 hours a week, a mobile library service, a toddler group, a church and several small businesses.

The Parish has an active social calendar focussed on various events at the Village Hall and a popular Summer Fete which attracts many outside visitors. It remains a close-knit active community, which warmly welcomes newcomers.

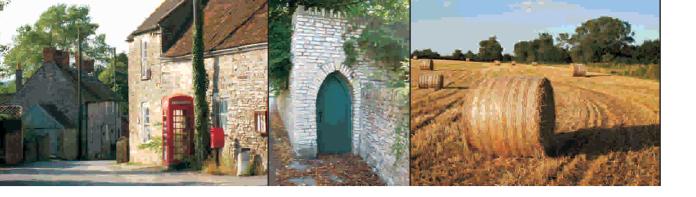
# A Parish Plan for Doynton

Communities are growing and changing all around us. Most people have strong views on whether this change is for the better or the worse. Parish Plans arose out of the Government's 2000 Rural White Paper and to provide communities with an opportunity to manage their local environment. They give everyone in a community the opportunity to influence the development of their surroundings and are intended to be evolving documents, outlining how a community would like to develop over the next ten years. Hundreds of Parish Plans have been completed and this direct action by communities has improved the way their local areas have developed.

In this context the Doynton Parish Plan is a summary of the views of the parishioners and expresses their opinions and hopes for the way the Doynton will develop over the coming years. It is the result of the work of a number of volunteers who have collected the thoughts and opinions of those currently living and working within the parish.

The aim of the document is to make clear to those responsible for the future development of South Gloucestershire, what we expect from them, what we feel is important to us to enable the village to flourish. We hope it highlights the things we find good about the Parish but also expresses our dissatisfaction when we feel that our community has not received the support and infrastructure it deserves.

# DOYNTON Doynton is recorded in the Domesday Book commissioned by William the Conqueror in 1086. The entry (in translation) reads; LAND OF THE HISHOP OF COUTANCES. In PUCK LECHURCH Hundred. DIDINTONE Robert holds from furn. Alfward, a thane of Ring Edward's, hald it. Index which pay tax (1 hale = 120 acres) in lordship 3 ploughs; If villagers and 8 small holders with 8 ploughs in the state of Ring Edward's, hald it. It shoes, 2 mills at 10.5 ftd. 2 men at 5s, meadow, 12 acres, woodland 5 league long and 5 wide. (1 league = 14 miles.) The value is and was est. Anno Domini 2000.



## **Parish Plan Process**

In early 2008 some members of the Doynton Parish Council and a few other residents of the Parish discussed the idea of producing a Parish Plan. They noted that many other parishes around the country had already taken this initiative. The South Gloucestershire Council and Community Action gave encouragement for Doynton to produce a Parish Plan and funding was provided by Quartet Community Foundation and the Doynton Parish Council.

In March 2008 a circular was sent to everybody in the Parish advising them of the intention to produce a Doynton Parish Plan and to ask for suggestions on how they wanted Doynton to develop in the future. A community meeting was held in April 2008 and it was well attended. A number of people indicated their willingness to help prepare the Plan and the Parish Plan Steering Group was formed in early June.

A Constitution for the Parish Plan Steering Group was drafted and passed in July 2008 and the team then set about the first stage of the Parish Plan process - widespread consultation with all members of the community.



From July to October 2008 there were lots of consultations so that the views and ideas of everybody in the Parish could be captured. Meetings of the under 18s and the various groups already operating in the Parish were held to canvas opinion on the future development of the Parish. Well over 200 suggestions were received and documented.

In order to ascertain support for the suggestions that arose from the consultations, a questionnaire was prepared on the following lines:

- Background information was requested on age groups and location but anonymity was maintained
- More than 70 questions were asked, these were divided up into various categories
- Parishioners were asked to specify the categories they considered most important

A "Launch Meeting" was held with the community in mid March 2009 and the questionnaire was then distributed to every person in the Parish by a team of volunteers.

An analysis of the results and comments was carried out and an Action Plan prepared according to the wishes of the community. This was done in close consultation with the Doynton Parish Council.

This Parish Plan document was then prepared with the objective of being a summary of the views, aspirations and preferences of parishioners - an Action Plan for the future.



# **Key Findings**

A total of 237 people completed the Parish Plan Questionnaire. This represents more than 75% of the estimated population of Doynton Parish and consequently it can be asserted that the results of the Questionnaire have authority. The main message coming through the responses is that for most of us Doynton is a special place to live and work. We want to keep it that way through conservation and gradual improvement, rather than through radical changes. The countryside and the appearance of the Parish were rated as the most important issues with traffic the second most important, crime /anti-social behaviour third, shopping fourth and indoor leisure fifth.

#### **Environmental Issues**

Protecting the Conservation Area and keeping open spaces were considered the most important element in preserving the rural environment and character of the Parish. The majority thought that the number of houses in Doynton should stay about the same or increase by no more than 10. There was widespread concern that the character of the village would be damaged if more houses were to be built. Fly-tipping was considered to be a problem but litter was thought to be less of an issue.

## **Community Services**

Most people were satisfied with available health services but there were some suggestions for improvements. Some felt that disabled facilities in the Parish needed improvement.



Flooding and drainage are still significant issues in the village.

Refuse services were considered adequate but there was a desire for a plastics recycling facility to be made available. There is a record of petty crime in the Parish and an increase in anti-social behaviour / vandalism which is causing concern. Parishioners identified a need for increased policing and a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Speeding has been recognised as a significant problem, as has the Pool Farm junction on the A420. People felt this needs to be improved.

#### **Parish Amenities**

A need to improve communications in the Parish was identified and shortcomings in the broadband and mobile phone coverage were highlighted. Interest was shown in the establishment of a shop / café and increased availability of the Post Office. There was some support for gas to be brought to the village and for bulk buying of oil. Very few people use the local bus due to inadequate services, in particular regular buses to Bath would be popular. Interest was shown in Dial-a-Ride and in the establishment of shared and voluntary car schemes.

#### **Expanding Leisure Activities**

The need was expressed for extra space for outdoor recreational and sporting activities and lots of interest was shown in participating. There is a desire for an offroad cycle / walking track to Wick and for improved maintenance of existing footpaths. The allotments are a success and more appear to be needed. There is a real lack of activities for young people and this needs to be addressed. There was much interest in the idea of modernising the village hall and in particular opening the back to access the garden.



### **Action Plan**

The findings from the Questionnaire were used to produce an Action Plan, and potential external partners have been identified to help with implementation. The Plan is shown on pages 6 and 7. However nothing can be achieved without enthusiastic volunteers from the Parish.

# What Happens Next . . .

This Parish Plan has taken eighteen months to develop and represents the first step in the future development of the village. We hope that it will be a living, working document, which may be updated to reflect the changing views and aspirations of the Parish and its community.

It is not the role of the Parish Council to provide the resources to carry out all the Plan's actions, the majority are rightly to be undertaken by the Parishioners who requested them. Many have offered to help on the various volunteer groups needed to implement the Action Plan.

Members of the Parish Plan Steering Group have offered to oversee each of the Action Plan categories to monitor progress and coordinate efforts to help make things happen.

It is likely that the volunteer groups will form a separate "Parish Plan Implementation Group", and that this will work closely with the Doynton Parish Council to implement that Action Plan. It is not too late to help to make a real difference for the future of the Parish.

If you would like more information, or feel passionate about something, or just want to do your bit to bring about the changes vou would like to see, then . . .

- send an email to doyntonvillage@live.co.uk, or
- contact any member of the Steering Group
- speak to any Parish Councillor

Reports on progress in the implementation of the Action Plan will be issued from time to time, either as separate notices, entries in the Parish Magazine or through our website www.dovntonvillage.org



## **Acknowledgements**

The biggest thank you goes to the many volunteers who have made this plan possible. Special thanks to Clive Humby for the analysis of the Ouestionnaire results. Funding for the report was made available by the Quartet Foundation and Doynton Parish Council. Help and advice was given by Community Action and South Gloucestershire Council, however none of these organizations have had any editorial impact on the content of this report. Special thanks to Jacqui Ward for all her help and encouragement.

Issue		Action	Potential Partners	Objectives
Envir	Environmental Issues			
 으 은 명	Changes to the character of the Parish	Prepare a "Village Design Statement", or similar document, to record the characteristics, natural and man made, which are seen by the local community as contributing to the Parish's distinctiveness. This can be used to manage change and reflect the wishes of the community in respect to future planning proposals.	Volunteer group DPC SGC - Planning	Increased influence for the Community in planning decisions that affect it.
유요명	Appearance and character of the Parish	Investigate the feasibility of setting up a local action group to address areas of concern relating to : trees / hedgerows, wildlife habitats, footpaths / bridle paths, litter, buildings and other aspects associated with the look and feel of the Parish.	Volunteer group Cotswold Conservation Board, Council for the Protection of Rural England, Civic Society Initiative "Village of the Year" contest	A noticeable improvement in each of the individual areas
S. FI	Fly-tipping	Parishioners should be made aware of actions to be taken. Fly-tipping should be reported direct to SGC on Tel 01454 868000	SGC – Streetcare Environmental Agency	To reduce the incidence of fly- tipping in the Parish
4. A	Recycling	To investigate the options for getting a plastic recycling facility available to the Parish	DPC SGC – Waste Services	To increase recycling
5. Ec	Eco-group	Investigate the feasibility of setting up an "Eco-Group" to encourage energy efficiency	Volunteer group Eco Community Groups SGC – Environmental Planning Officer	To raise the awareness of eco issues and energy conservation in the Parish
Comn	Community Services			
6. He	Health services	Liaison with the Wick Surgery to improve the delivery of services to Parishioners	Local GP surgery, LINk South Gloucestershire	An improvement in the delivery of healthcare to the Parish
7. Di	Disabled facilities	Accessibility audit to be carried out on public buildings and pavements in the Parish	SGC – Equalities & Highways	An improvement in the facilities for the disabled in the Parish
R	Flooding	Work with partners to get a proper understanding of the flooding problems and a commitment to put them right	SGC – Streetcare & Highways Environment Agency	To control flooding in the Parish
9. Dr	Drains & sewerage	Work with partners to get a proper understanding of the drainage and sewerage problems and a commitment to put them right	SGC – Streetcare & Highways Wessex Water Environment Agency	To have an sewerage system capable of dealing with the requirements of the village
10. Cr	Crime and anti- social behaviour	Liaison with the Community Police Officer and investigation of the feasibility of setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme	Volunteer group Avon & Somerset Police Safer Stronger Community Groups	To reduce the crime and anti- social behaviour in the Parish
11. Sp	Speeding	Speed surveys to be initiated followed by an assessment of the most appropriate speed for the roads of the Parish	Acong Somerset Police SGC – Highways Safer Stronger Community	To prevent speed related accidents in the Parish
12. Pc	Pool Farm Junction on A420	Initiate investigations with the Highways Authority to improve safety at the junction	SGC – Highways Safer Stronger Community Groups	To prevent further accidents associated with the Pool Farm junction
13. Pe an sa	Pedestrian cycle and equestrian safety	Raise the awareness of the dangers inherent in mixed use of narrow lanes	SGC – Public Rights Way, Highways	To make people feel safer walking, riding and cycling in the Parish

Improving the Parish Amenities	Amenities		
14. Doynton website	Set up a group to manage and promote the Parish website	Volunteer group SGC - Communities	An informative well maintained website set up and regularly accessed by parishioners
15. Broadband internet	Investigate ways to improve the broadband service to the Parish	ВТ	Fast high speed internet access for all Parishioners
16. Mobile phones	Investigate ways to improve mobile coverage in the Parish	Mobile phone operators	Mobile phone coverage of the Parish for all networks
17. Post office	Investigate the possibility of changed opening hours for the Post Office facility	Postmaster Community Action	Increased use of the Post Office facility
18. Village shop / café	Encourage the establishment of a group to investigate the options for setting up a shop/cafe	Volunteer group Community Action "Rural Community Shops" "Store is the Core"	Fully investigate all avenues for the establishment of a shop / café in the Parish
19. Gas supply	Approach the utility company to discuss the feasibility of bringing gas to the Parish	Volunteer group National Grid UK (formerly Transco)	Gas to be available to the Parish
20. Bulk oil buying	Investigate the feasibility of extending the bulk buying of oil in order to reduce costs	Volunteer group	Parishioners to have the option of bulk buying of oil
21. Bus service	Approach the bus company and SGC with a view to increasing the available routes and frequency of the buses	Community Action	A significant increase in usage of the buses by the parishioners
22. Shared and voluntary car schemes / Dial-a-Ride	Investigate the feasibility of setting up shared and voluntary car schemes. Raise awareness of the Dial-a-Ride service	Volunteer group Community Action	To give parishioners greater access to services available outside the parish and to reduce car usage
Expanding Leisure Activities	ctívities		
23. Outdoor recreational space	Approach the Playing Field Committee with a view to gaining greater community access to the playing field. Investigate the possibility of utilising other land in the Parish for recreational use by the community, one option is Summers Field which is owned by SGC	Playing Fields Committee DPC SGC – Open Spaces	To deliver more outdoor space for use by the community
24. Footpaths	Identify areas which require maintenance / additional marking and advise Cotswold Voluntary Wardens and SGS	SGC – Public Rights Way Cotswold Wardens	Well maintained and marked footpaths and bridleways throughout the Parish
25. Cycle track to Wick	Investigate the feasibility of setting up an off-road cycle track to Wick	Sustrans	A safe cycle track to Wick for use by parishioners
26. Allotments	Allotment Committee to produce a survey of future requirements for allotments and advise DPC	Allotments Committee DPC	Allotments to be available for all those who require them
27. Youth venue	Investigate the various options in consultation with the youth organisations of SGC	Volunteer group SGC – Youth Services DPC	To give the under 18s a place to meet
28. Village social events	Seek volunteers to organise additional social events in the Parish	Volunteer group	A calendar of well supported social activities in the Parish
29. Village Hall extension	Advise the Village Hall Committee of the results of the questionnaire so that they can make the appropriate decisions	Village Hall Committee Community Action	To modernise and thereby Increase the use of the Village Hall
30. Leisure activities	Seek volunteers to organise additional indoor and outdoor leisure activities in the Parish	Volunteer group	A range of well supported leisure activities in the Parish

SGC South Gloucestershire Coun DPC Doynton Parish Council

