



Castle Eden

Parish Plan 2013-2016

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Acknowledgements

The Parish Plan could not have been developed without support. The Parish Council would like to thank the following for enabling this Plan, but in particular would like to thank the Residents and Business Community within Castle Eden for providing the necessary feedback to make this Plan possible.

The Previous Parish Councillors: Ian Bird, Richard Buckley, David Fanthorpe, Tony Milburn and Tony Rodham.

The Parish Councillors: Mary Wilmer, Barry Nutter, David Martin, Bert Robertson, Vivienne Robertson and Barry Turnbull.

Parish Plan Steering Group: James Crotty, Tony Rodham, Amanda Moon, Mary Wilmer.

Barry Wilmer for the questionnaire analysis.

Alphagraphics for printing the questionnaire and Parish Plan.

Foreword

As the new Chair of Castle Eden Parish Council, I am really pleased to introduce our second Parish Plan for Castle Eden.

We learned a lot from the first Parish Plan, there were a number of actions that we have been unable to progress as they were not completely within our control. Hence, for the second Plan we have looked at what is within our control or influence. We have achieved much over the last few years with support from various agencies and we have taken the valuable lessons learned into the development of this Plan.

The main reason for preparing a Parish Plan is to identify what needs improvement. As a small Village Parish Council we have limited resources but to support actions it is sometimes possible to obtain additional funding and/or resources from other organisations. These organisations, including Durham County Council, increasingly expect Parish Councils to have adopted formal Parish Plans which have public backing before committing themselves. The Plan is designed to make Castle Eden an even better place to live and work and as a member of the community it is important that there is transparency in what the Parish Council wish to achieve with your support.

The Plan is a result of considerable involvement from those living and working in the Parish and hence we believe it closely reflects the priorities of the community. It provides the Parish Council with a clear direction for the next few years and allows us to focus on what matters to this community.

Mary Wilmer
Chair of Castle Eden Parish Council, August 2013

Preparing The Plan

We were fortunate to have the initial plan as a starting point. Recognising that priorities may have changed since the first plan was developed, we again sought the views of the residents and local businesses. A questionnaire was prepared to gather opinions on a number of different topics, relating to the local Parish Council but also provided an opportunity to gather feedback on local services provided by the County Council and on matters relating to health and security. Alongside the questionnaire a review of the previous plan was carried out to understand what had been achieved during the last Plan period, and what lessons had been learned.

The questionnaire was distributed at the end of February and then collected in March. We had a remarkable response to the questionnaire, with around one third being returned. Many thanks to those who submitted a completed questionnaire, this feedback has given us a high degree of confidence that the results are representative of the entire Village. The responses from the questionnaire were then analysed using software that provided feedback graphically as well as numerically. The many comments were reviewed and summarised. The results from the questionnaire were then used, in conjunction with a review of the previous Plan, to draft a new Parish Plan. The draft Plan was reviewed at the May Parish Council meeting. A summary of the analysis and the draft Plan was taken to a public consultation event held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 21st May. Several residents came to review the plan and gave very positive feedback.

The final plan, given in the following pages, was adopted at the Parish Council meeting on June 20th, 2013.

For information, the summary of the questionnaire analysis and a copy of this plan are available to view on the Parish Council website www.castleedenparishcouncil.gov.uk.

The Main Plan Objectives

We learned a lot from the first Parish Plan, there were a number of actions that we have been unable to progress as they were not completely within in our control. Good progress was made in a number of areas and other actions are in progress. Hence, for the second Parish Plan all of this was taken into account. After review it was determined that there were 3 main objectives.

1. Continue to Build Our Sense of Community Spirit
2. Work to Reduce Traffic Concerns
3. Maintain/Enhance the Environment

In addition to actions connected to these main objectives there are a number of short term actions that the Parish Council will review to assist a number of concerns raised through the questionnaires responses. These are not detailed in this plan.

For each objective a number of actions have been identified to enable the delivery of the objective.

Action Plan Detail

Continue to Build our Community Spirit

What has become evident is that The Parish Council cannot work independently and requires the support and assistance of other parties involved with Castle Eden to promote community spirit and encourage events/activities that support this. The intention is to maintain the Parish Council website as a village resource that can be utilised to inform those interested about events and activities within the village and to act as an online focus for the whole village of initiatives that may impact the Village and/or its residents. The website will also be utilised to update progress on the Parish Plan and other Parish matters.

Recognising that not all residents of Castle Eden have access to the website or wish to use the website, a quarterly newsletter to be developed and issued, which will report on Parish activity, including community updates and relevant initiatives. The newsletter will then also be made available on the website.

Action 1 - Maintain and develop the current website with updated information from the Parish Council and other involved parties.

Action 2 - Develop a quarterly newsletter to be distributed to all residents and businesses within Castle Eden.

The Parish Council recognise that the Plan can only be delivered by working with other interested parties. This co-operation started during the first Parish Plan and should be further strengthened in this plan. The Parish Council will work co-operatively with Action Castle Eden (ACE), The Village Hall Association (VHA), St. James Church and other involved agencies to promote events and activities to further build the Community spirit, utilising the website/newsletters where appropriate. It is envisaged that working together will further enable potential funding.

The Parish Council will also seek to further links with DCC, local Police and other agencies that may assist the Parish Plan from time to time.

Action 3 - Assign Parish Councillors to lead or co-ordinate activity with ACE, VHA etc.....

Action Plan Detail

Traffic Management

Throughout the questionnaire a number of concerns were raised related to traffic and/or road safety within the village. Considerable time was spent on this during the first Plan and has resulted in a greater understanding of the subject. The Parish Council will continue to work with relevant agencies to alleviate the concerns raised where practicable. This includes forging stronger links with local Police, Durham County Council and local residents.

Action 4 - Arrange for use of mobile speed monitors/display at problem spots to encourage people to keep to speed limits.

Action 5 - Introduce community speed watches with support of police where appropriate.

Action 6 - Maintain liaison with Police and DCC about safety concerns with A19 double-roundabout.

Action 7 - Encourage residents and visitors to park more respectfully at areas of congestion (e.g. Golf Club, Castle Eden Inn/Offices).

Action 8 - Review feasibility of traffic calming solutions in hotspots.

Action Plan Detail

Maintain/Enhance the Environment

Castle Eden is a conservation area and as such the Parish Council recognises its responsibility to encourage the stakeholders within the Parish to at least maintain the fabric of the area and restore specific features that form an essential part of the character of the Village. There are a number of areas to be addressed that are either outstanding from the previous plan and/or have been raised as a result of the questionnaire.

Action 9 - Review existing public seating and arrange for maintenance as required. Assess additional seating requests.

Action 10 - Work with local residents, ACE and DCC to improve the hedge and verge maintenance at specified locations.

Action 11 - Work with local landowners, tenants and ACE to introduce a tree/hedge management programme, including the planting of new trees and hedging.

Action 12 - Determine how to enhance the area around the War Memorial and agree a plan to carry out required maintenance of the Memorial and decide scope of future enhancements.

Action 13 - Investigate feasibility of increasing numbers of litter/dog bins.

Action 14 - Support initiatives to reduce litter and dog-fouling through co-operation with appropriate agencies.

Action Plan Summary

The table below identifies the responsible Parish Councillor(s) for either leading or supporting the action and who will report progress to the Parish Council, and additional main support agencies.

Action Ref	Action	Responsible Councillors	Support Agencies
1	Maintain and develop the current website with updated information from the Parish Council and other involved parties.	Parish Clerk – Joanne Collins	ACE, Village Hall Association, St James Church and local clubs/societies
2	Develop a quarterly newsletter to be distributed to all residents and businesses within Castle Eden.	Parish Clerk – Joanne Collins	ACE, Village Hall Association, St James Church
3	Assign Parish Councillors to lead or co-ordinate activity with ACE, VHA etc.....	Mary Wilmer	
5	Introduce community speed watches with support of police where appropriate.		Police, Volunteer Residents
7	Encourage residents and visitors to park more respectfully at areas of congestion (e.g. Golf Club, Castle Eden Inn/Offices).	David Martin	Local Businesses
8	Review feasibility of traffic calming solutions in hotspots.	Barry Turnbull	Police, Volunteer Residents
9	Review existing public seating and arrange for maintenance as required. Assess additional seating requests	David Martin	ACE

Action Ref	Action	Responsible Councillors	Support Agencies
10	Work with local residents, ACE and DCC to improve the hedge and verge maintenance at specified locations	David Martin	ACE, DCC, Volunteer Residents
11	Work with local landowners, tenants and ACE to introduce a tree/hedge management programme, including the planting of new trees and hedging.	Mary Wilmer	ACE, Landowners & Tenants
12	Determine how to enhance the area around the War Memorial and agree a plan to carry out required maintenance of the Memorial and decide scope of future enhancements.	Bert and Vivienne Robertson	ACE, St James Church, British Legion
13	Investigate feasibility of increasing numbers of litter/dog bins	David Martin	ACE to lead
14	Support initiatives to reduce litter and dog-fouling through co-operation with appropriate agencies.		ACE to lead

And Finally...

Achievement of the Plan can only occur through partnership with individuals and interested parties.

In the questionnaire, 64% of the respondents replied that they would like to help.

We would be delighted for any support you are able to give. You can do this by contacting the Parish Council Clerk at castleedenpc@hotmail.com and letting us know which Action(s) you can assist, or join one of the support agencies mentioned above who are involved in your particular area of interest.

Thank you