

WHITESTONE PARISH ACTION PLAN 2017



What next?

The Parish Plan Steering Committee Group has completed its work and now it is time for the community of Whitestone to take the Action Plan forward and implement it. The Parish Plan identifies what is important and what is not important to our community. The Action Plan arose from the analysis of your responses to the questions asked in the Parish Plan Questionnaire. Some of the actions may need the help and support of the Parish Council and/or the involvement of outside bodies and external financing. Many actions are small scale - suitable for individuals or small groups to pursue.

We envisage that an 'Action Plan Steering Group' will be formed made up of interested and enthusiastic members of the parish. This body will be responsible for overseeing sub groups and individuals who volunteer to take on an action, ensuring that the findings of the Parish Plan are adhered to. Monitoring of progress on the actions is likely to be necessary for efficiency and to avoid duplication of effort. Time scales have not been stipulated on the Action Plan at this stage, as clearly some actions will take longer than others to explore with respect to feasibility, development, implementation and subsequent monitoring.

Remembering that communication needs to be at the core of everything we do, we invite you to take ownership of the Whitestone Parish Action Plan and move forward with these actions for the benefit of everyone in the parish.

To help move this along, if you wish to volunteer to be part of this Action Plan process, please contact any of the following: Vicky Bryant, Marian Durrant, Peter Hanson, Andrew and Sheila Greenfield and we will put you in touch with other volunteers who wish to take the Action Plan forward.

WHITESTONE ACTION PLAN TABLES

Evidence to support each suggested action within these Action Plan tables has been derived from the analysis of the answers that respondents gave to the individual questions asked in the Parish Questionnaire.

Please refer to the full Whitestone Parish Plan and Appendix on the parish website www.whitestone-devon.org.uk to view the original questions and for the tables of evidence supporting these listed actions. Alternatively, please ask for a paper copy via the Whitestone Parish Council [subject to a charge for printing / postage costs]. Further copies of this document can be obtained from the website or Whitestone Parish Council as indicated above.

ACTION	SUGGESTED PROCESSES			
Parish Life	WHO? [Parish Participants]	WHEN? [Start & finish dates]	HOW? [Key steps for achievement – including financing]	REVIEW – completed action
1. Explore how to communicate more effectively to residents regarding what is happening within the parish and implement improvements - e.g. which types of media to use, how much detail and context to provide, give contact name and number, set up a 'parish information centre' etc.				
2. Explore suggested ideas for activities and clubs for all ages and take forward viable options.				
3. Explore feasibility of a parish shop/post office, whether community run or commercially operated, and implement if viable - e.g. in parish hall on fixed days, in a lock up container/shed, as a pop up shop etc.				
4. Implement 'quick-fix', small scale, low cost parish enhancements - e.g. making minor cosmetic improvements to existing bus shelter, increasing the numbers of bat and bird boxes, encouraging indigenous wildflowers etc.				

ACTION	SUGGESTED PROCESSES			
Local Environment	WHO? [Parish Participants]	WHEN? [Start & finish dates]	HOW? [Key steps for achievement – including financing]	REVIEW – completed action
5. Liaise with the Parish Council to provide/update information under its control relating to paths and bridleways that are located within the parish - e.g. update map located at parish hall showing all the paths and bridleways within the parish, use location descriptions as well as formal path numbers in Parish Council minutes when discussing footpaths, indicate responsibility for up-keep and any appropriate contacts for maintenance needs or how to report issues.				
6. Explore and implement ways to improve communication and inform people where the parish paths/bridleways are and to support their use - e.g. produce leaflets for each formal path with a route map and an accompanying brief description of each route including distance, gradient, condition, whether dog friendly, whether through farmed/stocked fields, open or sheltered; put maps and leaflets on web site, possibly run guided walks etc.				
7. Improve promotion and publicity of the annual 'Rural Skip' - e.g. notify parishioners well in advance with timely reminders using all possible media to get the message across including parish magazine, parish website, road-side boards, parish email circulation list etc.				

ACTION	SUGGESTED PROCESSES			
Roads and Transport	WHO? [Parish Participants]	WHEN? [Start & finish dates]	HOW? [Key steps for achievement – including financing]	REVIEW – completed action
8. Find the best way of either reducing speeds in the current 30 mph zones to a new limit of 20 mph or enforcing the existing 30 mph limit – e.g. lobby to achieve this if required.				
9. Find the best way of either reducing speeds to a new limit lower than the existing 60 mph limit or enforcing the existing speed limit along the Old Tedburn Road [C50] – e.g. lobby to achieve this if required.				
10. Consider how to promote and improve all forms of road maintenance throughout the parish, identify problem areas and implement solutions – e.g. self-help, advising parishioners of how to report road condition issues such as potholes direct to the Devon County Council hot line, lobby appropriate bodies etc.				
11. Put in place a ‘Winter Conditions’ volunteer co-ordinator and team, acknowledging those who have already shown an interest.				
12. Investigate mechanisms for improving roadside hedge cutting both by Highways and private individuals, mindful of statutory legislation for species protection, health and safety, cost-effectiveness etc. Implement as appropriate.				
13. Given the findings of lack of bus usage: a) Communicate widely where buses run and stop within the parish. b) Explore if more frequent or better timed buses would encourage greater use and establish whether this is commercially or practically feasible. c) Investigate initiatives such as equipping our rural buses on both village and C50 routes with ‘transponders’ that are linked digitally to small display boards at main bus pickup points to communicate anticipated times of arrival or cancellations.				
14. Investigate the potential for a form of ‘ring and ride’, whether community based or more commercially sourced, to provide the flexibility that seems to be required from ‘bus transport’. Implement if feasible and viable.				

ACTION	SUGGESTED PROCESSES			
Planning	WHO? [Parish Participants]	WHEN? [Start & finish dates]	HOW? [Key steps for achievement – including financing]	REVIEW – completed action
15. Aim to do everything possible to ensure that the parish remains mostly rural, with very limited development, mindful of noise/light pollution matters and issues regarding retrospective planning permission. Note - This sentiment has very high local support.				
16. Aim to ensure that Teignbridge District Council and Whitestone Parish Council remember that Whitestone lies in an 'Area of Great Landscape Value' when carrying out their respective statutory roles. Note - This sentiment has very high local support.				
17. Respectfully request that Teignbridge District Council and Whitestone Parish Council demonstrate that when carrying out their respective statutory roles, they act on and take note of the strength and nature of local opinion in regard to ensuring that the parish remains mostly rural, with very limited development, including in the context of consideration of any planning applications in the parish.				
18. Respectfully request that Teignbridge District Council and Whitestone Parish Council demonstrate that when carrying out their respective statutory roles, they act on and take note of the strength and nature of local opinion in regard to Whitestone's location within an 'Area of Great Landscape Value', including in the context of consideration of any planning applications in the parish.				
19. Explore, agree and implement a mechanism or mechanisms to enable parishioners to be made fully aware of the details of planning applications in advance of the application coming before the Parish Council for consideration. Of particular interest are agricultural building conversion proposals, wind turbines and solar arrays seeking planning permission. This would help to gauge the strength of local opinion on the individual proposals and thus inform the Parish Council's consideration of and comments on these planning items.				

ACTION	SUGGESTED PROCESSES			
General	WHO? [Parish Participants]	WHEN? [Start & finish dates]	HOW? [Key steps for achievement – including financing]	REVIEW – completed action
20. Improve all aspects of parish communication as required.				
20a. Make the planning application link more prominent on the parish website, e.g. put reference on the website front page – to raise awareness of how to access local planning applications/planning matters and all the supporting information.				
20b. Produce and maintain a simple guide on how to get details of any planning application, how local feedback can be made about planning matters – e.g. direct correspondence with Teignbridge District Council, raise with District Councillor, comment at the relevant Parish Council meeting etc. Promote and make the guide available to parishioners, using all appropriate communication methods.				
20c. Promote understanding of the Teignbridge District Wide Local Plan [TDWLP] and the changes in planning legislation regarding the conversion of agricultural buildings so that parishioners have the correct information and understanding before objecting to or supporting planning applications.				
20d. Set up a team to produce, maintain and deliver as required, a Whitestone Parish Information Pack for new [and existing] residents. To include current bus timetables, locations of bus stops, contact numbers and details of clubs and groups, Parochial Church Council information regarding services and church related activities, local police, Parish Council members, parish magazine contacts etc. Promote Pack to parishioners using all appropriate communication methods e.g. notices on parish/hall notice boards, keep a copy on the website etc.				
20e. Suggest that leaders of existing groups and clubs consider all forms of communication to reach parish residents and that contact details are always provided with short summaries describing the nature and scope of the group/club [including whether kit and equipment is provided or 'bring your own' is needed] and indicating whether a 'standard' e.g. learner to experienced, is required, or is it - 'all welcome'.				
21. Parish Council to note support for an increase in parish precept to fund schemes for parish benefit and to consider implementing rises as appropriate.				

