

August 2013

Fulking Village Action Plan

Fulking is a beautiful rural village and parish, nestling at the foot of the South Downs in full view of Devil's Dyke, one of the South Downs' most famous natural features. It is located in the South Downs National Park. A significant part of the village is a designated Conservation Area. The parish of Fulking has around 120 dwellings, including houses, flats and a pub, as well as farms and houses outside the village. It is served by St Andrew's Church in the neighbouring village of Edburton. Fulking is home to people of all ages, with approximately 215 adults and 60 children.

Vision for Fulking

Our vision for Fulking is to preserve the essential rural character of the village whilst making sure that we have an inclusive community and up-to-date facilities and communications for residents. This means balancing our wish to conserve and preserve the environment with embracing progress and strengthening community involvement.

The Action Plan

Our Action Plan has been developed to help us achieve the vision. It is led by community members, working closely with the support and involvement of the Parish Council (PC) and other key partners.

The Plan

The process began in 2009 with a consultation on what villagers felt were the important issues. This was followed by more detailed consultation on 11 ideas which led to the establishment of the Fulking Village Action Plan Group.

The Plan presented on the following pages is divided into three themes:

- ★ Environment
- ★ Transport and Housing
- ★ Community and Leisure

For each theme we have identified the key issues and main objectives that we want to achieve. These are followed by the actions that we have agreed, the lead for each one and any finance/funding implications or sources. We have set timescales of short term (up to six months), medium term (six months – five years) and long term (five years plus) for each action.

Of course, issues and actions will often have an impact on more than one theme. The residents leading on each theme have made sure that they work closely together so that the planned actions link across themes where appropriate.

The Action Plan is a living document and the Action Plan Group aims to meet twice a year (or annually once established) to review progress and agree new actions. If you would like to join the Group or have any comments on the Plan, please contact either Bob Rowland on 01273 857 271 or bob.pamrowland@btinternet.com, or Kate Watson at kate.watson4@btinternet.com. Updates will be published at www.fulking.net.

Environment

Key issues

Preserving Fulking’s character as a tranquil and historic village set in unspoiled countryside is of paramount importance to residents. This involves a range of issues, from supporting the ban on private motor vehicles and motorised hang gliders on the Downs and within the South Downs National Park to the maintenance of footpaths and bridleways. We welcome and support the creation of the South Downs National Park as a body dedicated to the protection of the countryside and its historic villages.

Farming is an essential element of the parish and it is important to ensure that residents, farmers and visitors understand one another’s needs and work together to maintain and develop the natural environment.

With the demise of the village shop some years ago, Fulking has few public or communal spaces. It is thus important to preserve those communal spaces that do exist, such as the North Town Field, the village hall and the pub, which are a focus for the community.

Currently, there is little in the way of sustainable energy production or other ‘green’ activity in the village.

Key objectives:

- ★ Work together to ensure that the natural environment serves the needs of residents, farmers and visitors whilst safeguarding the essential tranquil character of Fulking.
- ★ Promote the use of sustainable energy and other green activities such as allotments, in the development of the village.

Actions	Timescale	Lead	Partners	Funding
1. Produce an information sheet about farming (cattle, sheep, crops etc.) and Countryside Code for residents and visitors to help raise awareness of the environment and increase understanding about the use of footpaths/bridleways/open access land/set aside etc. .	Achieved by SDNPA			
2. Assess the condition of footpaths, bridleways and other routes. Raise awareness of this amongst local walkers, horse riders and dog owners and set up method of reporting back on any action needed. Liaise with the appropriate authorities to repair paths degraded by cattle, maintain the paths at the correct width and keep the adjacent hedgerows under control.	Ongoing	Jen Green / Chris Gildersleeve /	Farmers/WSCC National Trust/ Residents/PC/	
3. Support applications/developments for solar, wind and other sustainable energy, but with due consideration for the setting and the preservation of the unspoilt beauty of Fulking	Ongoing	Bob Rowland	Parish Council	

Actions	Timescale	Lead	Partners	Funding
4. Advertise regular clean up of The Street and surrounding lanes by villagers, encourage reporting of fly tipping, encourage dog owners to clear up dog mess etc	Achieved/On-going	Social Committee	Parish Council / North Town Field Trustees	
5. Protect village assets, for example telephone box, Ruskin fountain, Ram House, village archives, letter box, two village hand pumps etc	Achieved/On-going	Terry and Linda Harris	Parish Council	
6. Encourage villagers to use environmentally friendly lighting with requested 'lights out' time	Achieved	Pam Rowland	Residents	

Transport & housing

Key issues

The roads servicing the village are prone to problems including potholes and obstruction with ice, snow and flood. Parking is extremely limited. There is congestion from pub traffic at the west end of the village and on The Street, and increased traffic and parking issues arising from the expansion of the Preston Nomads cricket ground in Clappers Lane. As Fulking is now in the South Downs National Park, it could attract more visitors and as a result car parking may need to be re-assessed. Public/community transport is negligible.

There has been significant extension and enlargement of properties, which has increased the price of housing and the population, and has reduced the number of less expensive houses for sale.

One of the National Park's policies is for no new building, and this will help retain Fulking's natural character and size. Fulking has little infrastructure for affordable housing development and there is already some social housing in Clappers Lane. Many larger neighbouring villages have new housing developments which include social housing, and it is therefore not clear if there is a need or demand for more of this type of development in Fulking.

Key objectives

- ★ Ensure that roads are in good order and that ice, snow and flood water problems are dealt with quickly.
- ★ Ensure full involvement and consultation in considering planning applications which include the extension of properties and permitted development.
- ★ Encourage slower traffic speeds and quieter surroundings in The Street and Clappers Lane

Actions	Timescale	Lead	Partners	Funding
1. Publicise in advance any planning meetings using the Village website, Pigeon Post when practical, the Village notice board and any other methods of communication. Ensure that no unauthorised development takes place and that planning rules are strictly adhered to.	Achieved/On-going	Clive Goodridge Linda Dyos	Parish Council Mid Sussex District Council	
2. Continue the arrangement whereby local farmers are paid to snow plough roads. Ensure sufficient well-stocked grit bins are placed throughout the village.	Achieved/On-going	Tony Brooks Parish Council	Farmers Parish Council	From West Sussex County Council
3. Identify key actions for speed and weight restrictions, and/or a 7.5 tonne weight limit for all access roads and quiet lane status for Clappers Lane	Ongoing	Neil Cooper	Parish Council	

Community & leisure

Key issues

The village has few facilities, services and activities and some of these are outdated and in need of development so that they serve residents and visitors more effectively. The existing village hall provides a place for some village activities and has recently undergone some refurbishment, but further work is inevitable. The village Social Committee organises a range of events for villagers including the Fulking Fair which has become an annual fixture. It needs ongoing support and involvement from residents to keep the vibrancy of village life and encourage good community spirit. There are some activities specifically for young people. The village has poor broadband and mobile phone service which is an issue for businesses and residents alike.

Key objectives:

- ★ Improve and maintain physical facilities, including the village hall, improved broadband and mobile phone signal, well maintained footpaths/bridleways etc.
- ★ Develop activities and services for the significant number of young people that the village will have over the coming years. We understand that there are approximately 60 children.
- ★ Promote good community spirit and community engagement in all village plan developments and actions
- ★ Encourage local businesses to support the village and local business and enterprise development.

Actions	Timescale	Lead	Partners	Funding
1. Ensure that the amenity of the village hall is retained	Ongoing	St Andrew's PCC, Village Hall Action Group	Parish Council Residents	Village Hall Action Group
2. Develop activities for all age groups in the community	Ongoing	Village Hall Action Group	Residents	
3. Investigate and plan how to improve village broadband speed and mobile signal: → Encourage neighbouring parishes to register interest in/engage with BT Infinity	Ongoing Achieved	Tony Brooks / Andrew Iversen	Utilities PC	
4. Liaise closely with Preston Nomads to ensure effective communication and collaboration, maintaining the peace and tranquillity of the village, especially areas close to the Club	Ongoing	Bob Rowland/Tony Brooks	Preston Nomads/PC	

Actions	Timescale	Lead	Partners	Funding
5. Compile directory of recommended local businesses and skills and publish on village web site	Achieved/On-going	Bob Rowland	Residents/Webmaster	
6. Ensure that the Fulking Village website and Pigeon Post (PP) are supported as key communication tools, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Directing readers of Pigeon Post to village website and vice versa on a regular basis and encouraging contributions to Pigeon Post. 	Achieved/On-going	Chris Gildersleeve (PP) / Kate Watson (website)	Aidan Walker, Pigeon Post editor Webmaster	

Other suggestions are presented below. It has been agreed that these will be considered as and when actions in the main body of the plan are implemented and achieved.

Environment

- Investigate the possibility of creating a sustainable source of timber for logs by coppiced trees to reduce the use of unsustainable fuel sources
- Investigate the possibility of reinstating the water system to pumps and drinking fountain

Transport and Housing

- Review car parking facilities for residents (taking into account the new spaces which have been provided by Preston Nomads) including investigating the possibility of removing bank in Clappers Lane to provide extra spaces

15th August 2013