

The Process of Developing the Parish Plan

- 1. Ashurst & Colbury Parish Meeting in May 2005.** It was suggested that the village might like to consider creating a Parish Plan. Volunteers for the Steering Committee were asked to put forward their names.
- 2. July 2005 Twenty Years Celebration of the Parish Council on the old Cricket Pitch, Ashurst.** Villagers were asked to note down what they most liked or disliked about the village.
- 3. September 28th 2005.** A public meeting was held to explain the idea behind parish plans. Presentations were given by Jo Dixon [Community Action Hampshire] and Penny Velandar [NFDC].
- 4. November 2005.** The first meeting of the Steering Committee took place. The 12 members came from many and varied village interests and included 2 Parish Councillors. Guidance was given by the NFDC. A constitution was drawn up and sub-committees were set up to represent the main areas to be covered by the plan. They met frequently to discuss the detail of the plan and reported back to the monthly full committee meetings.
- 5. Love it / Hate it survey February 2006.** The survey was formulated by the Steering Committee as a follow up to the one carried out at the 20 years celebration. The committee consulted with many groups in the village e.g. the local uniformed groups, the infant and junior schools, church groups, the local Neighbourhood Watch group, the WI, the local drama group, the youth group and many local businesses.

The main points from the survey were:-

What the villagers liked: Good community spirit
Rural character of the Parish
Good recreation ground

What the villagers disliked: Speed and volume of traffic
Too much litter in places
Too few facilities for young people



6. The Questionnaire. This was developed over 6 months by the Community Plan Steering Committee by analysing the comments and views of the love it/hate it survey, plus additional ones collected at the 20 years celebration. The questionnaire was delivered to every household and business in the village with volunteers returning with perseverance to collect the forms thus ensuring maximum feedback from the village.

7. Compiling the Results. The Community Plan Steering Committee was very encouraged by the 77% completed questionnaires returned which will give a meaningful result. This will enable useful decision making for the future.

8. Response to the Questionnaire. Some actions were taken immediately e.g. introducing a village mobile cinema. Other actions are for consideration at Parish level – some through the Parish Council and others to be referred to the New Forest District Council, the New Forest National Park Authority, Hampshire County Council and other appropriate bodies relevant to future projects.

9. Ongoing Actions. These can be found later in this document. Each Action has a proposed timescale and named person or organisation to follow it through.

10. Reporting back to the Parish. During the creation of the plan updates were published in the Parish Newsletter and on the Parish Website, and read out at the Parish Council meetings.

11. The Future. Once the Parish Plan has been published the Steering Committee will be disbanded and a new group called the Ashurst & Colbury Action Committee will be formed to see the projects through. This Action Committee will liaise with the Parish Council regularly and update the Action Plan annually. It is hoped that the group will attract new volunteers from the Parish.

