

KEMPSFORD with WHELDFORD, DUNFIELD and DUDGROVE

PARISH PLAN ACTION PLAN

The parish of Kempsford with Whelford, Dunfield and Dudgrove comprises around 500 houses with a population in the region of 1,300 people. Just 2 miles to Fairford and 4 miles to Lechlade with Swindon and Cirencester the nearest large towns, the parish is mostly residential in nature with a small commercial sector. That does not mean it is quiet. The Royal Wedding street party in 2011 was a huge hit, the 2012 Diamond Jubilee celebration concert was full of life despite the weather and the Kempsford Literary Festival is highly renowned. In 2012 the parish was awarded second place in the coveted 2012 Gloucestershire Vibrant Village Awards competition.

In spring 2012 the Parish Plan was instigated with the help of Gloucestershire Rural Community Council. The Parish Plan is based on what you as residents have identified as the way you would like to see the parish of Kempsford with Whelford, Dunfield and Dudgrove develop in the future; it is your road map for the parish council to follow. A group of dedicated volunteers designed the Parish Plan questionnaire in 2012 and delivered it to every household to ask you for your views. Also included in the results analysis were the results of other consultations such as during the street party and from views expressed by residents at parish council meetings and events. Even if you are new to the parish it doesn't matter, you can still have a say any time by engaging with the parish council.

The questionnaire results have identified quarrying, flooding, traffic, footpaths and a future village shop as areas you would like to see addressed. As the parish council we now take the Parish Plan forward on your behalf to help shape the future of our vibrant community. Below is a table detailing objectives, comments and responsibilities for the various topics you identified. This is a living document, which we will update and publish every 3 months on the website and in the monthly parish magazine, so you can monitor the progress we make. It is important to be realistic about what can be achieved. Funds across the board are limited, some decisions will be outside the parish council's ability to influence and some desired end-states may move at a glacial pace or possibly never work. However, there is a lot we can achieve together and your feedback provides the parish council with an evidence base and mandate to engage with outside agencies, local authorities and decision makers to pursue what you want for your community's future. The parish council leads these actions and needs your help individually and as community groups to generate results.

The table below is our Parish Plan. The figures quoted come direct from the Parish Plan questionnaire and the plan itself will be reviewed at the monthly parish council meetings. The progress already happening is shown in the shaded objectives and actions.

Transport and Roads			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 76% think maintenance of highways and pavements in the parish is a problem - 72% think speeding traffic in the parish is a problem - 57% would use public transport if it existed 			
Objective	Parish Council Action/ Comment	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners
1. Reduce Speeding at Reevey. Traffic speed is consistently reported by residents as excessive with many near misses. This is a constant concern.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glos Highways resurfaced and remarked the road at Reevey in 2012. • Recent resurfacing and road markings designed to reduce speeding have not had the desired result. Speed has increased from 32mph to 35-36mph. • Glos Police have confirmed the location is too difficult for speed traps. 	Parish Council Gloucestershire Police	Gloucestershire Highways
2. Establish community speed watch group to conduct survey at Reevey.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependent on local volunteers • Would potentially deter speedy drivers 	Parish Council	Gloucester Highways Cotswold District Council Gloucestershire Police
3. Reduce Speed along Kempsford High Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish council has purchased a mobile speed sign, which is alternatively located along Kempsford High St and Whelford Rd • Glos Highways aware of issue. 	Parish Council Gloucestershire Police	Gloucestershire Highways
4. Reduce Speed along Whelford Rd Especially past the egg farm.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council has purchased a mobile speed sign, which is located along Kempsford High Street/Whelford Rd. • Glos Highways aware of issue. • Glos Highways have confirmed speed limit reduction along the road is not enforceable. Limits will remain the same. • 'Sleeping policemen' have also been considered for Whelford Road but whilst they would reduce speed they would create major noise issues as farming and quarry vehicles and general traffic pass over them. 	Parish Council Gloucestershire Police	Gloucestershire Highways
5. Improve Potholes and Road Surfaces within the parish. This is without doubt the most emotive issue within the community and one which sparked much debate at the Annual Parish Council Meeting. The road surfaces have been seriously degraded during the intense cold spells in winter 2011 and Jan 2013 with potholes a serious issue for road traffic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glos Highways undertook a consolidated repair period in early 2012 to try and mend most of the potholes. • Although progress was made the recent wet and cold spells Jan – Mar 2013 have added additional potholes. • There is not one single area for concern, this is a parish-wide issue. • Any potholes with safety issues should be reported to the parish council clerk immediately or to Glos Highways direct • Gloucester CC is 13th worst in UK for potholes and road surfaces 	Parish Council Gloucestershire Highways	Cotswold District Council
Village Shop and Community Life			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 71% would use a village shop in the parish either daily (19%) or weekly (52%) - 63% would attend activities (e.g. village fete) if available in the parish - 63% would attend a farmers market at the Kempsford Village Hall 			
Objective	PC Action/Comment	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners
6. Establish village shop/farmers market.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision pending on shop autumn 2013 • Small farmers' market already held monthly in Kempsford Village Hall. • Shop questionnaire devised and circulated in Parish Newsletter in Dec 2012. • 91 responses received (low return) • Village Shop meeting in Feb attended by parish council chairman and only 2 volunteers • Dairy/ meat produce, newspapers and soft/alcoholic drinks key interests • Competition from Fairford, Lechlade and Highworth Co-op and Londis together with internet ordered door deliveries by major supermarket chains and milk companies is a concern 	New Volunteer Committee	GRCC (Barbara Pond) Parish Council Plunkett Foundation (national community shops specialists)

<p>7. Maintain Kempsford Village Hall</p> <p>Engage with individuals and organisations to ensure the hall is used and sustained by the local community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly programme and contacts published monthly in the Parish Newsletter. Monthly fundraising coffee morning and small farmers market held with Post Office facility New chairs purchased for Hall 2013. 	<p>Kempsford Village Hall Committee</p>	<p>Gloucester Co Council</p> <p>Parish Council</p> <p>GRCC</p>
<p>8. Maintain Kempsford Village Hall Playground Equipment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New equipment purchased 2012 by Village Hall Committee fundraising Parish Council maintains all equipment Parish Council pays for annual Health and Safety inspection. 	<p>Kempsford Village Hall Committee</p> <p>Parish Council</p>	<p>GRCC</p>
<p>9. Save Whelford Village Hall.</p> <p>Whelford Village Hall is under used and receives little support or interest outside the Working Men's Club. It is owned in trust and run by the Whelford Village Hall Trust.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whelford Village Hall Trust has new members and chairman Club renamed Whelford Social Club Funding campaign underway to support maintenance Front windows to be replaced through funds raised at Golden Jubilee event Grant for new kitchen applied for RIAT 2013 fundraising volunteer roster established. 	<p>Whelford Village Hall Trust</p> <p>Volunteer Fundraising</p>	<p>Parish Council</p> <p>GRCC</p>
<p>10. Review Deeds and Rules of Trust of Whelford Village Hall</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Complete</u> Undertaken by Parish Council Chair (Tony Williams) 		<p>Parish Council</p>
<p>11. Seek Support from Local Companies for Whelford Village Hall.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Complete</u> Aggregate Industries have offered to concrete village hall under floor cavity Presently suspended due to the economic climate 	<p>Parish Council</p>	<p>Aggregates Industries</p>

Countryside and Footpaths

- 71% think access to the Thames is either important (26%) or very important (45%)
- 88% are either in favour (33%) or strongly in favour (55%) of re-opening closed public footpaths/bridleways
- 80% are either in favour (34%) or strongly in favour (46%) of the creation of additional footpaths/bridleways 63%
- 74% are either in favour (34%) or strongly in favour (40%) of re-instatement of the Thames and Severn Canal

Objective	Parish Council Action/Comment	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners
<p>5. Campaign for re-opening of BLE/44 Footpath off Dudgrove Lane to Bowmoor Lake</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vigorously campaign for re-opening of this public footpath off Dudgrove Lane into the Lakes by You complex. The general view is Lakes by Yoo is deliberately excluding the public from this right of way and hiding behind health and safety to support its objective. 	<p>Parish Council</p>	<p>Lechlade Town Council</p> <p>Gloucester County Council</p> <p>Gloucestershire Highways and Public Rights of Way</p>
<p>6. Improve Access to the River Thames and River Coin.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with local land owners 	<p>Parish Council</p>	<p>Land Owners</p> <p>Gloucestershire Highways and Public Rights of Way</p> <p>WILD project (inc Glos Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) and GRCC)</p>
<p>6. Support the Reinstatement of the Thames and Severn (Cotswold) Canal</p> <p>The reinstatement of the regional canal from 2015+ as a source of fresh water in lieu of a new reservoir development in Gloucester has been approved by the government. Footpath access to water could be established for the local community, depending on the position of local landowners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with local land owners 	<p>Parish Council</p> <p>Thames and Severn Canal Trust</p>	<p>Thames Water</p> <p>WILD project</p>

Quarrying			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 87% agree (34%) or strongly agree (53%) that redundant quarry sites should be rehabilitated in a timely manner - 82% agree (35%) or strongly agree (47%) better communication is required before a new quarry site is started - 79% agree (28%) or strongly agree (44%) that there needs to be improved policing of inconsiderate lorry drivers 			
Objective/Action	Parish Council Action/Comment	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners
<p>Please note: Once quarrying has been completed at a site the owner company is obliged to rehabilitate the land to the terms decreed at the time the quarry site's application was approved. The filling of a site with water is the quickest and cheapest way of disposing of a site and is generally aesthetically appealing to residents. However, water attracts birds which can be an aviation hazard to RAF Fairford and this is not the preferred method but 'backfill such as soil, clay etc takes time. Open quarries are a flood concern. The parish council acknowledges that gravel must come from somewhere and this area is rich in minerals. However, any new quarry site is required to have a flood risk and environmental assessment with the county council taking into consideration the effect of quarrying on the local community. The key concern to our parish is the risk of flooding and traffic. The Parish Council Chair is trying to gather support for joint Oxfordshire, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire pan county quarrying consultation to ensure a consolidated regional approach to quarrying.</p> <p>Aggregate Industries are looking to expand the Manor Farm Quarry for a period of around 13 years as the present site is slowly approaching empty of minerals. An environmental impact statement is required. The initial area expected to be applied for includes into the field with the westerly runway lights for RAF Fairford right next to Whelford housing near the red phone box but the application is yet to be submitted. The parish council will ensure that details are published in the parish magazine. This application was expected around 2 years ago but the commercial downturn has reduced demand, which has extended the life of the current site. The Parish Council has limited influence at best in quarry matters. A flood risk assessment of the Lechlade region is expected to be completed and published by the Environment Agency in 2013.</p>			
14. Restoration of Kempsford Quarry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extraction complete • Awaiting full restoration plan • Earthline have employed a contractor to establish and fix persistent flooding and water-logging of Kempsford Quarry and Washpool Lane. 	<p>Earthline</p> <p>Gloucestershire CC</p> <p>Parish Council</p>	<p>Gloucester County Council</p> <p>Neighbouring Parish Councils</p> <p>RAF Fairford</p> <p>Cotswold District Council</p>
15. Engage with Manor Farm Quarry and Aggregate Industries on ongoing development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarry extraction expected to be extended to 2017 due to economic slowdown • Completion was initially anticipated 2013 • Twice yearly meetings between Parish Council and Aggregate Industries. • Aggregate Industries is the only quarry company to engage with the Parish Council • Minutes published in parish newsletter 	<p>Aggregate Industries</p> <p>Parish Council</p>	<p>Cotswold Water Park Trust</p> <p>Cotswold Canal Trust</p> <p>Open Spaces Society</p> <p>Ramblers Association</p>
16. Communicate New Quarry Sites.	Completed through monthly parish magazine		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension to Manor Farm Quarry, Kempsford • Cox's Farm Site, Dunfield • Blackburr Farm Site (off C124) • Whetstone Bridge Farm, Nr. Down Ampney (Ref. 12/0015/CWMAJM) • Co-Op land, (off C124) – (Ref. 09/0050/CWMAJM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application due Summer 2013 • Included in Wiltshire Mineral Plan • Included in Wiltshire Mineral Plan • Under consideration • Under consideration 	<p>Aggregate Ind.</p> <p>Wiltshire Council and Quarry Co (both)</p> <p>Cullimore Gravels</p> <p>Hansons</p>	
17. Establish 'Lorry Watch' to Reduce Quarry Lorry Driver Speeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage local residents through parish magazine to report lorries driving at speed – date, time, location, registration • Quarry lorry drivers are usually not quarry company personnel but the companies can trace them • Speed watch group such as with Reevey would require local residents to volunteer • Reckless or dangerous drivers should be reported directly to Gloucestershire Police 	<p>Local residents</p> <p>Quarry Companies</p>	<p>Parish Council</p> <p>Gloucestershire Police</p>
<p>There is a considered view that some quarry lorry drivers are inconsiderate to the point of recklessness at times with excessive speed (Whelford Road, Whelford Bridge, Horcott Road, Whelford Road/Top Road corner, Reevey, C124).</p>			

The Parish Council would like to formally record their thanks to Mr Tim Hastie-Smith and the Parish Plan volunteer group whose hard work in developing and delivering the Parish Plan has provided a way forward for our community. Thank you also to Mr Chris Cowcher of Gloucestershire Rural Community Council for his continued support in designing and implementing this plan.