



South Petherton Parish Council Community Plan 2022/23

ACTION PLAN

Based upon the views raised by the survey, the following action plan seeks to provide a framework within which the various groups and agencies might consider how to respond constructively and pragmatically. The main areas for action are afforded a specific plan framework, whilst others in the report will be monitored and reviewed by the Parish Council on an annual basis.

From those which have an action plan framework, it is considered that particular **priority** should be given to the following:

- **Community Hub** - The strong support for such a facility should urge us to do everything possible to secure finance and other resources to bring the development to fruition.
- **Traffic, Travel and Transport** - The significant concerns about speeding, parking and pedestrian safety warrants particular review and practical action.

Some others can be achieved quickly and easily, and should be actioned accordingly, to show progress. An example of this is the review of communications effectiveness by the Parish Council and other groups/agencies.

Responsible agencies and groups are asked to recognise that, whilst the action plan summarises the key actions and milestones, it should be considered in conjunction with the full report so that the overall list of survey findings, specific comments, and suggested actions can be taken into account. This will respect the time and energy put into the survey by responders in the fullest way.

Topic - Communications

Issue - Desire expressed in community survey to see improvements to information provision.

Aim/Objective - To further improve access to information about local events/activities.

Action - To encourage all those disseminating local information to review and improve their provision, taking into account the range of access desired by residents.

Outcome - Residents will have greater access to information about local events/activities.

Key Milestones -

- Steering Group to publicise the survey outcomes in ta13 and on social media to alert groups/organisations of the various desires for improved information.
- Community Hub Project Group to seek to provide improved Local Information Centre within proposed Hub
- Parish Council to review use of its notice boards, access to its website, style of parish minutes, and further development of social media use.

Responsible Persons - As stated in Milestones.

Resources Needed - Staff/Volunteer time and skills.

Expected Completion Dates -

- Steering Group milestone - by August 2023
- Community Hub Project Group milestone - ongoing
- Parish Council milestone - by end of 2023

Topic - Children and Young People

Issue - Whilst there is good usage of existing facilities, there is demand for further opportunities, and concerns about the cost of some provision.

Aim/Objective - To continue to improve the range of facilities for children and young people, and to seek to ensure affordability and wide access.

Action – To review current provision and cost of any possible developments, consulting with Youth Parish Council and local schools about the needs of Children and Young People and access and affordability issues.

Outcome - As wide a range of affordable, accessible and desired facilities and services as is practically possible, and able to adapt to future changes in demand.

Key Milestones -

- Consultation with the Youth Parish Council
- Consultation with Schools and other groups

Responsible Persons - Reach, Youth Parish Council, Skatepark Working Group

Resources Needed - Staff/Volunteers time and skills. Finance for consultation exercises, and future finance to develop resources.

Expected Completion Dates -

- Consultation by end of 2023

Topic - Community Hub

Issue - There is strong support for the development of a new Community Hub in the parish, to deliver a range of desired and needed services

Aim/Objective - To develop a Community Hub

Action - To plan, resource and develop a community hub facility, able to house the community library and the parish council offices, and able to provide a range of services to further the well-being of the community.

Outcome - A long-term base for the library and parish offices, along with space for a range of support, advice and social activities.

Key Milestones -

- Identify funding for, and carry out, a feasibility study (by late summer 2023)
- Develop business plan based on outcome of feasibility study (by autumn 2023)
- Identify and pursue funding opportunities (commence early summer 2023, then ongoing)
- Negotiate with Coke Methodist Church owners (ongoing - complete by summer 2023)
- Develop contingency plan in case church facility not possible (by autumn 2023)

Responsible Persons - Community Hub Project Group (with South Petherton Parish Council)

Resources Needed - Various capital and revenue resources need to be raised, and significant voluntary time contribution needed from Project Group and partners.

Expected Completion Dates - Progress on milestones to be reviewed, and actions revised as necessary, by end of 2023. Overall aim to deliver Hub for use by end of 2024.

Topic - Traffic, Travel and Transport

Issue - A number of significant concerns about traffic, roads, parking and safety have been raised in the survey.

Aim/Objective - To improve traffic and highway arrangements, with a focus on safety

Action - To develop and implement a strategy to prioritise the main concerns raised, with a delivery plan and timescales.

Outcome - A strategy agreed with partner agencies leading to a number of improvements to have been achieved within five years.

Key Milestones -

- Promote speed awareness and speed enforcement arrangements (by end of 2023)
- Undertake parking review to consider opportunities to improve provision, and to deal with inconsiderate parking (by summer 2024)
- Undertake review of pedestrian/cyclist safety, including pedestrian crossings, safe routes to schools and concerns about agricultural vehicles (by summer 2024)

Responsible Persons - South Petherton Parish Council, in partnership with Somerset Council (as Highways Authority) and the incoming Local Community Network

Resources Needed - Staff and volunteers time, plus (potentially) consultancy work on the reviews.

Expected Completion Dates - As per milestones, with a timetable for implementation being established after reviews complete

Topic - Cost of Living

Issue - How the Community might best provide services and resources to mitigate the effects of the rise in the cost of living.

Aim/Objective -Improving access and provision for those in need of support.
(See also Housing and Energy Needs)

Action – To develop and expand the range of services on offer in the community, liaising with relevant service providers.

Outcome - Residents will have more ready access to help and support

Key Milestones

- Consideration of creation of community energy projects
- Increased provision of surgery services and activities in current community spaces
- Development of extended range of services in Community Hub

Responsible Persons

- Parish Council/Community Land Trust
- Village Agent
- Community Library
- Hub Project Group

Resources Needed - Staff/Volunteer time and skills.

Expected Completion Dates

- PC milestone (see action under Q.27)
- Village Agent and Community Library milestone – Autumn 2023
- Community Hub Project Group milestone - ongoing

Topic - Retired and Older People

Issue - While there is general acknowledgement that there is a wide range of activities and support available in the community, specific points were raised relating to information dissemination, lack of public transport in the evening and the need to take into account health issues and those who are socially isolated.

Aim/Objective - To enhance access to provision.

Action –

- To encourage local providers to consider issues such as publicity and accessibility.
- (See also actions under Communications and Health and Wellbeing)

Outcome - Improved take-up of opportunities for social engagement.

Key Milestones

- Updating of event information by contacting organisers.
- Raising issues of accessibility with organisers through ta13, parish magazine and social media posts
- Considering needs of retired and older people in the planning of a Community Hub

Responsible Persons

- ta13 event list coordinator, Village Agent
- Community Hub Project Group

Resources Needed - Staff/Volunteer time and skills. Liaison with outside agencies.

Expected Completion Dates

- Liaison with event organisers and event database updated – by August 2023
- Community Hub Project Group - ongoing

Topic - Health & Well Being

Issue - Significant concerns raised in the survey regarding access to, and availability of, range of primary care services

Aim/Objective - To encourage action to improve access/availability.

Action - To raise the survey concerns with relevant agencies and partnerships, e.g. GP surgery, NHS Trust, Village Agent

Outcome - To evidence improvement in access and availability

Key Milestones -

- To present survey findings to incoming Local Community Network
- To bring survey findings to attention of health-related groups and agencies

Responsible Persons - Community Survey Steering Group/Parish Council

Resources Needed - Staff/Volunteer Time

Expected Completion Dates - By Autumn 2023

Topic - Community Safety

Issue - A range of community safety concerns were raised by responders to the survey

Aim/Objective - To encourage action to address the most significant concerns (n.b. some of the community safety issues such as speeding are subsumed within the Traffic, Travel and Transport topic above). Others include concerns about lack of police presence, crime and anti-social behaviour, dog mess, etc.

Action - Parish Council to consider which issues it can tackle locally (for example with schools and the Youth Council), and which to refer to other agencies (for example Police, Highways, Fire & Rescue Service)

Outcome - Actions to improve residents' perceptions about community safety in the parish

Key Milestones -

- Presentation of survey findings to Parish Council
- Parish Council plan to follow up on the most significant issue(s)

Responsible Persons. - South Petherton Parish Council in liaison with others

Resources Needed - Staff/Volunteer time.

Expected Completion Date -

- Presentation to Parish Council in Summer 2023
- Response plan by Parish Council by end of 2023

Topic - Business

Issue - The survey has suggested that a range of support initiatives for current and prospective businesses are sought in the parish.

Aim/Objective - To improve support for businesses in a range of practical ways

Action - To bring the business concerns to the attention of the Parish Council, the Local Community Network, and the Community Hub Project Group, in order to allow each of these to consider how they may best develop support for businesses individually, or in partnership with others.

Outcome - Businesses will feel better supported locally.

Key Milestones -

- Community Hub Project Group to consider how the prospective Hub might offer facilities which encourage buoyant business activity locally
- Parish Council and Local Community Network to consider how local economic growth may be further developed, including issues around poor broadband in some parts of the parish

Responsible Persons - Community Hub Project Group, South Petherton Parish Council, and Local Community Network

Resources Needed - Staff/Volunteer time, and then finance to enable provision of any planned/desired actions.

Expected Completion Dates - Work on-going.

Other Topics - A range of other issues have been raised through the survey and should be responded to as set out in the full report itself, amongst these:

- Demand for further social housing - Community Land Trust to consider further in liaison with the Housing Authority.
- Potential development of solar and/or wind generating schemes locally - Community Trust to consider further, in liaison with the Parish Council
- The condition of roads, footpaths and pavements are issues which need to be assessed and referred appropriately by the Parish Council to the Highways Authority. The Parish Council might also seek to raise awareness about how to report such matters directly to the relevant authority and to improve knowledge about what the Parish Council is, and is not, responsible for.
- Concerns about future expansion/development – both in South Petherton itself and outlying communities. The Parish Council should continue to take such concerns into account when considering future development plans and when responding to development targets and speculative plans.

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