

CUDDINGTON, DELAMERE PARK & SANDIWAY VILLAGE PLAN
Facilities and Community Working Group
Progress Report 11th November 2016

Actions as listed in the original Village Plan:

Action ref; 3.1.1. Communications. Raise awareness of existing services, activities and facilities.
Actions originally recommended; Investigate reasons for an apparent lack of awareness, or access to, existing facilities and develop appropriate communication channels.

Actions taken:

1. Research undertaken to document all the:
 - a. Clubs and other (social and sporting) activities in the village
 - b. Businesses (with a physical presence) in the village
 - c. Local Services available to households in the village.These lists had previously (in 2011) been made available in paper form to all villagers. They have now been digitised and form the basis of the “Directories” and “Calendars” sections of the new Village website.
2. Research to investigate how villagers found out about such activities by:
 - a. Carry out a survey of schoolchildren in local primary and secondary schools to discover optimum lines of communication, and perceptions of shortcomings in existing activities and facilities
 - b. Meetings held with various churches, voluntary organisations, Sandiway Library, Round Tower editor, Delamere Park, Blakemere and Village Hall organisers. Also other village website teams and voluntary (good neighbour) groups visited to canvas for ideas of ‘good practice’.
3. Created a new village website to publicise existing services, activities and facilities; website supports multiple platforms, such as smartphone, tablet, and/or laptop/desktop computer.

Action ref; 3.1.2. Communications. Improve and modernise E-communication
Actions originally recommended; Form a volunteer group to liaise between residents, businesses and the various providers. Provide advice to users.

Actions taken:

1. Researched quality of mobile signal and broadband service across the parish; main problems are with mobile usage, especially from indoors and with certain telecom providers; following up with local M.P. and ultimately with telcos;
2. Super-fast broadband is available to most of the village – will continue to push B.T. to support the whole parish;
3. Tools have been provided on the new website to enable each resident to see what reception is expected from each telecom provider and how best to improve e-comms.

Action ref; 3.2.1. Welfare Facilities. Extend doctors surgery hours
Actions originally recommended; Parish Council to submit requirement for longer surgery hours (with accompanying data) to Vale Royal Clinical Commissioning Group

Actions taken:

1. Meetings with Chair of Patient Reference Group (PRG) to assess progress on local issues, especially re: Patient Access, Surgery website, and potentially further afternoon use of surgery (eg physio service?). Main problem is national shortage of trained GPs, which is outside the control of the Danebridge practice.
2. Meeting now arranged for later in November with the Danebridge Practice Manager to discuss potential improvements to the local medical service.

We have focused on the medical practice as the dental practice is considered to be satisfactory.

Action ref; 3.2.2. Welfare Facilities. Develop the provision of voluntary services and advice about benefits in the village

Actions originally recommended; Parish Council to bring together existing service providers and set up a volunteer group to develop range of requested services and approach Social Care, Age UK and Citizens Advice Bureau to investigate the feasibility of drop-in sessions, information distribution etc.

Actions taken:

1. Meetings with church and other groups, both local and in other villages, to discuss what 'good neighbour' schemes should provide and how they should be organised; in particular detailed meetings with Ash-worth Time Bank and St Luke's Befriending Service, primarily servicing Ashton Heyes & Mouldsworth, produced a comprehensive written report on their service;
2. The list of other groups involved in other Good Neighbour-type schemes include Age UK, Social Services, Citizens Advice, Brightlife, Library, Village Hall, St Johns Church & Red Cross.

Any successful program would require Volunteers, (funded) Coordinator & 'heavy' promotion, and costs would be high. Next actions are to quantify the need in the village before recommending any costly action plan.

Action ref; 3.4. Leisure Facilities. Improve and increase range of activities and community events.

Actions originally recommended; Form Working Group to progress activities in line with the survey results for the various age groups identified including; Facilities for more sports; Youth club; Skate/BMX facility; Opportunities for elderly people to socialise; The need for a meeting place; Keep fit/dance etc.; Special events

Actions taken:

1. Our survey of schoolchildren, whilst yet to be completed, has suggested that the children of the village are not unhappy with the range of activities and facilities available today: the Youth Club is actually under-utilised; there was no call for a Skate/BMX facility; there was a general feeling that there was already a broad range of clubs and activities for them to engage in; their best form of communication was from their parents;
2. The team validated a list of activities and special events which adults, especially elderly people, could attend.

Action ref; 3.5.1. Safety and security. Increased policing.

Actions originally recommended; Parish Council to speak to Cheshire Police about increasing police presence in the village

Actions taken:

1. Number of discussions with local PCSO (Karen Nixon) and police communications team; problems more acute this year since Karen has been unable to travel since injuring herself at start of year – on-going discussions to try to get greater police presence
2. Police ALERT scheme has been heavily promoted with flyer delivered to every home and new website used to distribute police messaging.

Action ref; 3.5.2. Safety and security. Neighbourhood Watch.

Actions originally recommended; Working Group to set up a more proactive scheme within the village.

Actions taken:

1. Existing Neighbourhood Watch schemes have been identified.

Police are not promoting Neighbourhood Watch scheme but more the "Alert" program.

Neighbourhood Watch only promoted in case of 'real need' – no further promotional action required.

Action ref; 3.1.1 YOUNG PEOPLE. Communications. Raising awareness.

Actions originally recommended; Investigate reasons for an apparent lack of awareness or access to existing facilities.

Actions taken:

1. Survey of school children was used to identify where the problems lay; in general, children are very 'savvy' as to what activities are going on in the village, but they are looking for better communications and promotion of what's happening.

Once survey is complete, thought is to approach schools to ask them to create a 'Kids' Corner' which we can publish on our village website.

Action ref; 3.1.2 YOUNG PEOPLE. Modernise Communications.

Actions originally recommended; Explore the current range of e-communications and investigate the feasibility of linking village organisations through village website, Facebook pages and Twitter accounts and similar

Actions taken:

1. New village website highlights all the activities organised for children, in both the Directory of activities as well as the Calendar of events.

Research yet to be undertaken about importance of other Facebook pages.

Action ref; 3.4. YOUNG PEOPLE. Outdoor Facilities. Development of a BMX/Skateboard Facility

Actions originally recommended; Investigate the feasibility of developing a BMX and Skateboard project in the village.

Actions taken:

1. Survey of school children, which is yet to be completed, has not highlighted any perceived short-coming in this area – the children we have surveyed so far have not mentioned BMX or Skateboarding facilities.

Action ref; 3.4. YOUNG PEOPLE. Indoor Facilities. Development of keep fit, dance etc..

Actions originally recommended; Investigate the feasibility of setting up Keep Fit/Dance sessions for young people in the village.

Actions taken:

1. Research undertaken, from the survey, as to what sessions are being requested by the young people; at present, these are being matched by what is available, either by the sports clubs or by Village Hall courses.

Action ref; 5.1. YOUNG PEOPLE. Playground Facilities. Improvements to playgrounds.

Actions originally recommended; Investigate the feasibility of revamping and upgrading playgrounds in line with requests made by Primary School pupils.

Actions taken:

1. On-going discussions with the Playing Field Association; they are awaiting some increased funding from the County Council based upon new housing in the Parish; once the funding is available, the playground will receive a significant upgrade.