

LODERS PARISH COUNCIL

Loders Parish Plan 2013

**The Parish plan produced from the results from the
Loders Parish Survey which was carried out in
August 2012, including an analysis of the data supplied in the
Questionnaire Responses**

LODERS PARISH PLAN, APRIL 2013

Executive summary

The Loders Parish Plan is an action plan based on the findings of the recent Parish Survey. The Survey gave feedback from 81% of village households on a whole range of issues. These were initially identified by the substantial numbers of parishioners who attended an open meeting in October 2011.

The Steering group which grew from that meeting have worked steadily since then to devise and circulate a Survey Questionnaire which sought villagers' views on the issues. They have now published their analysis of the Survey responses in the "Loders Parish Survey Report".

The Parish Survey revealed evidence of high levels of support from residents for many new projects:

- Village website
- Environmental projects
- Housing and development
- Footpath maintenance
- Village shop
- Finding out more about renewable energy

There were areas of concern shared by many of us, including

- Traffic parking
- Danger spots on our roads
- Drains maintenance
- Poor internet & mobile phone services
- Need for more information about the proposed Trailway

This Plan should be read in conjunction with the Survey Report. References to the relevant Survey questionnaire numbers are shown in italics.

The first step in our action plan is to hold a **public meeting** in the village hall on Tuesday May 21st at 7.00 pm. We hope all of you who would like to actively involve yourself in any of our Action Areas will **come along** and **register your interest**.

Michele Warrington, Chair, Loders Parish Council

Areas for Action

1. VILLAGE WEBSITE

The survey revealed that 147 (36%) supported the idea of a village website and 32 people would be prepared to help with setting up or maintaining it. (*H51 & H52*)

Further, there was evidence that a number of villagers could directly benefit from the networking offered by a village website: 14 would like more part-time work (*CI6*), 10 employers in the village are looking to increase their workforce over the next 12 months (*CI9*), and 18 have difficulty getting to hospital or the doctor (*D22*)

2. ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

A large number of you said you would be prepared to help with a range of projects): Protecting wildlife habitats – 143, Clearing ponds – 67, Surveying trees – 79, and litter picking – 109 (*I61*). The Dorset Wildlife Trust have expressed their interest in involving themselves in community projects in the village, particularly in relation to their Nature Reserve at Peascombe. The WI organise an annual village litter picking and are always pleased to have extra help. Perhaps new groups might also be formed by interested villagers as a result of the Survey's findings.

3. HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT

A majority of you (58%) have said you think the rate of house building in the village over the past 15 years, 10 houses, is about right (*G43*). The majority (57%) would like to see roughly the same amount of building over the next 15 years (*G44*). To achieve this will require a Neighbourhood Plan for the village which will give us an opportunity to influence what is built in our Parish in the future. Although preparing a Neighbourhood Plan has to be led by the Parish Council, it is essential that interested members of the village are actively involved in the process. We would welcome

additional support from interested villagers who we hope will come forward at our Parish Plan launch meeting in May

4. FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE

Our footpaths are used by a large number of you, 72%, without any difficulty. However, 28% of you experience difficulty using them and others feel that they are not well signposted (*I63*). The great thing is that our Survey has revealed that 101 people expressed a willingness to help maintain our footpaths (*I61*). Our Footpath Liaison Officer, Roger Henwood, would welcome help from keen supporters.

5. INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF SETTING UP A VILLAGE SHOP

There seems to be considerable potential support for a village shop—233 villagers, (64%) say they would regularly support one. Launching a project of this size would take determination and dedication.

So do we have villagers willing to take this plan forward?

6. FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT RENEWABLE ENERGY

176 residents would be happy to attend a parish meeting on this subject (*I66*). Would you like to help organise this meeting?

7. ADDRESSING TRAFFIC CONCERNS IN THE VILLAGE

There are a number of significant concerns about a range of traffic issues in the village, including village danger spots, on street parking and speeding (*F33-38*). The Parish Council addresses many of these on a regular basis and will certainly make use of the Survey findings to support and guide further actions. There may be parishioners who feel strongly enough to offer their active support to particular Parish Council initiatives in these areas.

8. IMPROVE THE VILLAGE ROAD DRAINS

While a substantial number of you, 59%, feel that drain maintenance is adequate, a significant number, 41%, feel that this needs more attention. Last summer's flooding has meant that the Parish Council is currently looking into ways of improving village drains and their maintenance. Survey findings will support this current initiative. And they would welcome any offers of active support from parishioners.

9. IMPROVE INTERNET AND MOBILE PHONE SERVICES

RADIO and MOBILE PHONE RECEPTION

Loders has a major problem with Mobile Phone (73% have poor or no reception) and Radio Reception (46% have poor reception), particularly with Digital radio and FM. Hopefully, as Digital Radio becomes more popular, the transmitter strength will be increased. The Parish Council will, in the light of this survey, make representations to the relative authorities for an improvement. However, it is also worth noting that it is possible to get all of the main radio stations, via `Freeview`, on the television. It is planned for the Parish Council to make representations to the Mobile Phone Companies to request an improvement in services.

BROADBAND

It is interesting to note that significant majority (84%) of households use the Internet, either for business, education, shopping or recreation.

Currently "Superfast Broadband" is planned for Dorset in 2013/2014 (ref dorsetforyou.com), but it is not clear that it will be extended to include villages. The exact timescale will not be known until a Commercial Contractor is chosen. However it is planned that the Parish Council will make the Broadband Suppliers aware of the large number of households (84%) that use the internet.

As recently published in the Eggardon and Colmer's View, it is important for all interested individuals to register their interest in Superfast Broadband to ensure it will come to our area. Currently only 5% have done so. We need the other 79% of village users to register. Go to www.dorsetforyou.com/superfast-dorset/register-interest.

10. IMPROVE THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO MAKE A CLEAR JUDGEMENT ABOUT THE PROPOSED TRAILWAY PROJECT

The proposed Bridport to Maiden Newton Trailway has substantial village support—44% favour the project while 23% are opposed (*F41*). However a quarter of villagers feel they need more information before deciding. The Parish Council will be passing these findings to the Trailway organisers, Sustrans.

The Young People's Questionnaire reveals strong support for a safe cycle route across the fields from Loders Court to Bradpole Shop and onto West Bay.