

MEPAL PARISH PLAN - Action Plans

INTRODUCTION

It has been some twelve months since we issued the Mepal Parish Plan for 2008-12. A number of issues and actions arose from the Plan and we promised to keep you informed of progress on these.

Regular updates have been available through the Parish Council website and noticeboard but we felt that now was an excellent opportunity to issue an Update Action Plan Brochure for you all to see how far we have progressed.

Please take a little time to read the brochure. If you would like any further information or feel you would like to help in any of the areas detailed, please contact me on 07777 688890.

Mike Stacey
Chair
Parish Plan Group



Issue/Aim/Action	Priority	Progress	Status
Household Neighbourhood Watch – to investigate the reformation of a group for Mepal.	High	The Regional Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator has been consulted and a presentation will be given at the Annual Parish Assembly. Mike Stacey has agreed to become the local Co-ordinator and it is hoped that further volunteers will come forward as a result. We will request the help of the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) in promoting this scheme.	Ongoing.
Business & Employment Business Club – to encourage the creation of club for people who work from home.	Medium	Georgina King has kindly agreed to organise an initial meeting in the Village Hall to gauge the level of interest. The meeting will be in June/July once the improvements to the Village Hall are complete. The Parish Council has agreed to cover the hire cost for this meeting.	Ongoing.
Housing & Development Growth – to ensure that future development is restricted.	High	Mepal Parish Council is a statutory consultee for all planning applications in the parish, to which it responds appropriately having sought local opinion where necessary. It also responds to other consultations such as the Local Development Framework and the Cambridgeshire Minerals & Waste Plan.	Procedural actions complete. Monitoring ongoing.
Transport & Travel Dial-a-ride – to promote this service more efficiently.	Low	Dial-a-ride has recently submitted articles to Mepal People to promote it's service and to the parish website. Leaflets are also available from Mepal Village Hall. A representative of the Parish Council attended the AGM to ensure ongoing communications.	Complete.
Volunteer Driving Scheme/Good Neighbour Scheme – to assess viability of scheme.	Low		Action deferred.
Cycle path to Ely – investigate possibility & cost.	Low	This issue has also been raised at the Neighbourhood Panel Meeting. The Clerk will write to the other Parish Councils that would need to be involved and invite them to a meeting to ascertain how this project can be progressed. District and County Councillors will also be invited.	Ongoing.
Bus Shelters – to assess costs.	High	Initial investigation showed that manufactured shelters range from £2,000 upwards. During the budget discussions for 2009/10 it was decided that funds would need to be accrued over several years. £1,000 has been precepted in 2009/10 which will be earmarked and carried forward until sufficient funds are available. It is hoped that a Working Party will be formed in the interim to see if there are other options for shelters that are more cost effective. Local opinion is paramount.	Ongoing.
Environment Wind farm/wind turbines/solar panels – to investigate procedures and costs.	Low	A New Working Party has been formed to progress these actions. Mr David Stazicker has kindly agreed to head the Working Party which will report directly to the Parish Council on it's findings.	Ongoing.
High Street – to investigate the problems caused by noise and litter.	Medium		Action deferred.
Extra Recycling Facilities – to investigate further options.	Medium	Following discussion with East Cambs District Council (ECDC), it is confirmed that a textiles bank will be provided for the site as soon as one is available. Other than that it is felt that the Recycling Site is currently manageable, without too many problems of overflowing banks. Also, due to a lack of space, additional banks should not be sought.	Complete.
Litter Bins – to determine sites for additional litter bins.	Medium		Action deferred.

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Dog Waste Bins – to determine sites for additional dog waste bins.	High	The Parish Council has included funds in 2009/10 budget for 1 additional bin. The location of the new bin will be agreed early in the new financial year. Funding for further bins will be proposed in future years.	Ongoing.
Dog Fouling – to provide a campaign to encourage owners to clear up.	High	Contact has been made with the Dog Warden at ECDC. She is preparing a campaign with our PCSO to target this problem.	Awaiting details.
Education Adult Studies – possible provision at School.	Low	Adult courses are already available at Witchford Village College and the Computer Access Point is established in the village. Further opportunities will be investigated following the completion of the improvements to the village hall.	Action deferred.
Health Doctors – to explore the possibility of providing a part time surgery.	Medium	A letter will be sent to all of the local doctors' surgeries to investigate the possibility of providing a part-time GP in the village.	Ongoing.
Opticians – to explore possibility of providing a village service.	Medium	A letter will be sent to local opticians to investigate the possibility of providing this service.	Ongoing.
Roads Pavements and Footpaths Road resurfacing – to determine which areas require resurfacing.	Medium	Several of the roads, including part of the A142, have recently been resurfaced. A survey has therefore been undertaken of the paths in the village. As a result, a meeting with the Highways Authority took place. The areas highlighted for repair include the paths on both sides of Bridge Road.	Ongoing.
Traffic calming/road crossing – to investigate options.	Medium	Several grant applications for speed reduction measures have unfortunately been unsuccessful and it is clear that hard evidence is now required to support them. As a result, Mepal Parish Council has contributed to the Speedwatch Scheme run by East Cambs District Council. This scheme allows volunteers to use speed monitoring equipment to record the speed at which vehicles are travelling. Any vehicle exceeding the speed limit will receive a letter from the local constabulary. Mike Stacey has already completed the training. To make use of the equipment, three volunteers are required at any one time. Adverts have therefore been placed and a letter sent to parents via the Primary School. Once enough volunteers are trained, it is hoped that regular use of the equipment will be made to further highlight the problem and to collate the necessary information. The group is also working with Mepal & Witcham Primary School as these issues form part of the school's travel plan.	Ongoing.
Street Lighting – to obtain costs of providing extra lighting in Bridge Road.	Medium	Following investigations with Cambridgeshire County Council, the Parish Council resolved that the costs were unviable.	Complete.
Security Police – to discuss how they can be more effective in village.	Medium	Our PCSO has agreed to attend the Annual Parish Assembly in May when he is happy to discuss the possibility of restarting the regular surgeries in Mepal. Previous surgeries were poorly attended so the Parish Council is investigating the possibility of having a "Drop-in" Session at the Village Hall. This will provide a more welcoming environment to discuss any local issues with the possibility of refreshments being provided. The frequency of the surgeries needs to be established. The PCSO will also be encouraged to regularly walk the village and to make regular contact with the school.	Ongoing.
Community Social & Leisure Village Clubs – to encourage Clubs to promote themselves more effectively.	Medium	The new editorial board for Mepal People makes regular contact with village groups to ensure that they promote themselves and their events. The new website is up and running and information on most groups is now present. The Clerk contacts Groups regularly to request updated information.	Complete.
Activities – to investigate possibility of creating more.	Medium	This is already ongoing by several of the groups within the village. Further opportunities may arise following the improvements to the Village Hall.	Complete.
Play Equipment – to establish Working Party to explore cost of replacement.	Medium	A new Working Party has been formed including members from the Parish Council and a local resident. It will be preparing a bid to the "Pathfinder" scheme run by Cambridgeshire County Council. This scheme has funding for up to 16 projects in Cambridgeshire for up to £50,000 per project. The first step is to consult with the children and young people of the village on what they like to do when they "play" and what new equipment they would like for their park.	Ongoing.
Service & Communications Broadband – faster connection.	Low	Speed already improved since questionnaire undertaken. Telephone calls made to suppliers but unable to instigate any further changes.	Complete.
Parish Council – to communicate more efficiently.	High	The Parish Council is constantly seeking to improve its communications and since the questionnaire, an Annual Report is now delivered to all households detailing what it has achieved in the year and what is planned for the future. The new parish website is now up and running allowing easy access to a vast amount of information. New information is posted nearly every day. A report of recent activities is included in every issue of Mepal People. Investigations will also be made to see if it is feasible to return to monthly production of Mepal People.	Ongoing.
Events – to establish a more effective way to promote.	Low	Events may be advertised on village noticeboards, in Mepal People and now on the new website. Groups also undertake door to door flyers for certain events.	Complete.
Mobile Butcher & Fresh Fish Delivery.	Low		Action deferred.