

Welcome to the Winchester District Community Planning Guidance

This guidance is written to help parish councils, voluntary organisations and individuals who are considering undertaking a community planning project in the Winchester district. The guidance supplements national community planning toolkit produced by ACRE and the County Rural Community Councils (and funded by DEFRA) which explains how to undertake a community planning project.

Winchester District Strategic Partnership believe that community planning is a good way to set out what people think about the area they live in - what's good, what's bad and what needs to be changed to make it great place to live. Creating a community plan is a step towards making sure that your community is one where everyone enjoys a good quality of life - and that you and your children will continue to enjoy into the future.

A community plan provides a structure that will:

- Reflect the views of all sections of the community
- Identify features and local characteristics that people value
- Identify local needs and opportunities
- Set out a vision of how people want their community to develop and improve both in the present and the future
- Include an action plan to achieve this vision

A community plan will be owned by local people and set out aspirations which can be delivered by the community itself, as well as by public, private and voluntary sector agencies.

A community plan can refer to a parish plan, a market town healthcheck or a neighbourhood plan in an urban area. They all refer to the same idea: **the community setting out what they want for their area to make sure that people living and working there can enjoy a good quality of life - now and in the future.** So that all these forms of plans which are led by the community are included, this guidance will refer to 'community planning' as a general term which covers them all.

Community plans need to sit within the set framework of national priorities given to us by the Government, things which service providers have to legally do and policies which we must follow. This doesn't mean to say that your community plan cannot have any affect on what service providers are doing - quite the opposite! However, when you start a community plan you need to think about where you can have influence and where there are some fundamental principles which must be stuck to.

Don't forget that a community plan will contain actions that do not require service providers input and which the community itself will want to take on.

The Winchester District Strategic Partnership (see below) encourages all areas in its District to produce a community plan as it helps us find out what people want and what we can do in the short term to make some significant changes and what we can plan for in the longer term. The plan will also support, enhance and compliment the input of your local ward Councillor.

The City Council has also set out in our Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) how people can get involved with informing what we do, how we design our services and what our policies will be in the future. Our SCI identified community planning by parish plans, market town healthchecks and neighbourhood plans as an invaluable way of getting to know what people want for their communities now and in the future.

For more information about the SCI, please see the following website:

[Http://www.winchester.gov.uk/EnvironmentAndPlanning/Planning/LocalDevelopmentFramework/StatementofCommunityInvolvement/](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/EnvironmentAndPlanning/Planning/LocalDevelopmentFramework/StatementofCommunityInvolvement/)

Why should people get involved in community planning?

Local people:

- It creates a real sense of community spirit
- It supports and enhances local democracy
- It gives you an opportunity to shape the future of your community
- It gives you a chance to say what services you need and how they might best be designed
- It provides clear evidence of community needs and priorities
- It opens up opportunities for you to start new local projects benefiting your area and also highlights projects which need involvement from agencies

Parish and Town Councils

- It helps inform Parish Councillors about what the community needs
- It identifies the local features and characteristics that are valued by local people
- It helps to manage change
- It provides evidence that can be used to support funding bids for local projects

Service providers e.g. Winchester City Council, Hampshire County Council, Hampshire Primary Care Trust etc

- Information gathered for a community plan can be added to our district evidence base and be used by all service providers in the area to inform their policies and services
- It helps us understand the make-up of different towns, parishes and neighbourhoods, what is important to residents and what they need
- It helps us plan our services
- The information from the plan helps us work in partnership with one another to deliver more efficient services to you
- It provides us with information and data needed to justify allocation of resources and make a case to other funding providers

Who should be involved?

Part 1 of this guidance (national guidance) explains in detail who needs to be involved in creating a parish plan and how you can involve them, but essentially to make the biggest impact with your plan you should involve:

- Everyone who lives, works or plays within the community
- Everyone who has an impact on what goes on in the community
- Everyone you hope to influence

So this includes your City and County Councillors who are elected to represent your area, people who work at Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council, and other local service providers. Your local MP can also be called upon to advise on national issues. By involving us from the start of the process we can help your work to have maximum impact.

What can't a community plan achieve?

As the service providers in the Winchester District are operating within statutory and financial restraints, community planning is not about just creating a wish list of things you would like to see in your area. It is also not about preventing change; it is more likely to be about promoting changes to improve and create communities which will be sustainable for the future.

We will use information from your community plan to influence service planning, to better understand what people want for their community and what their priorities are. However some things may have to be offset against priorities for whole district and there will be some things which we have to do by law which may conflict with what you want to see you for area.

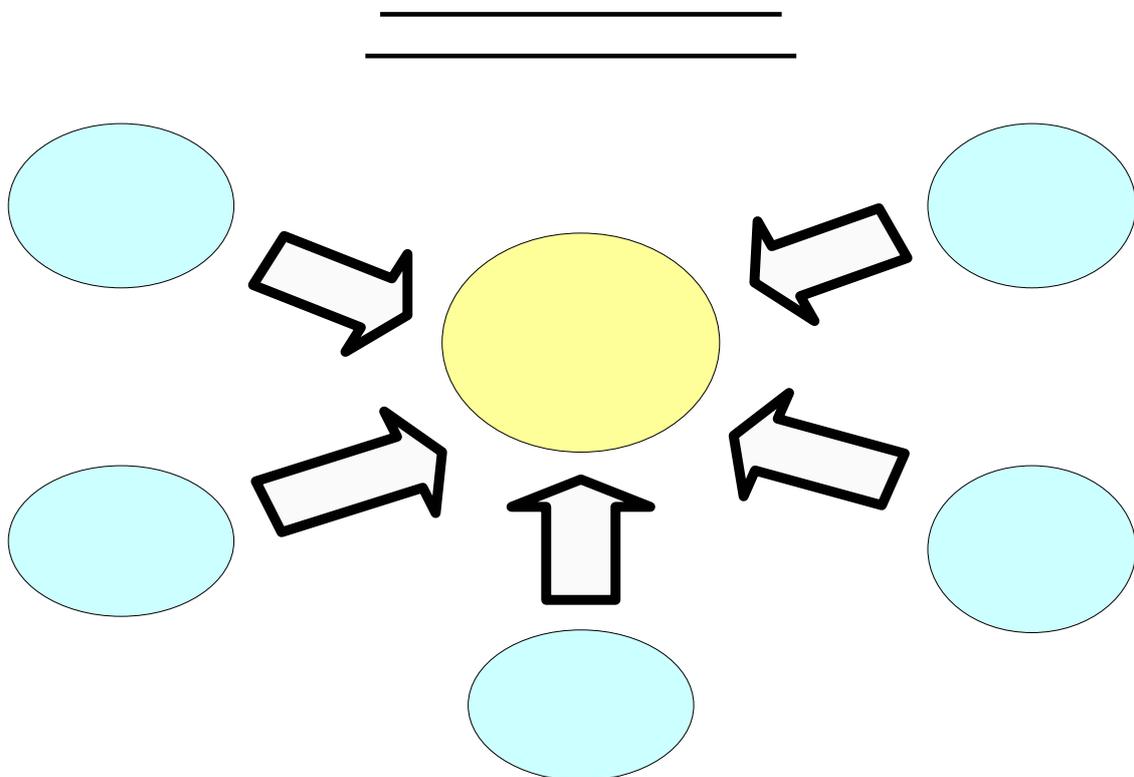
This is why it is a good idea to link with the City Council and other organisations from a very early stage so that together you can work out the best and most practical ways of achieving the outcomes you have identified for your area. Where something cannot be done, we will give you a full explanation of why not.

The Winchester District Strategic Partnership and the Community Strategy

The Winchester District Community Strategy sets out a vision for the future of the Winchester District over the next 20 years. We all want to enjoy a good quality of life today, but also to make sure that we are still enjoying that standard of living in the future. To do this we need to address the present and future needs of the community, and make sure the way we live is sustainable. The strategy sets out five outcomes which we want to achieve across the district and what changes need to happen before these outcomes can be arrived at.

A Community Strategy is therefore similar to a community plan but it covers a wider geographical area. Each Local Authority has a duty to produce a Community Strategy showing what the priorities are for the District and how the Authority and its partners are going to tackle them. You can download a copy of the current Community Strategy from the City Council's website <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/CommunityAdvice/CommunityStrategy/General.asp?id=5X9452-A781B603&cat=5498>

The Community Strategy is separated into five priority outcomes:



To deliver this strategy, we have formed a local strategic partnership from service providers in the District. These service providers have made a commitment to work together in partnership and share information and resources to achieve the priority outcomes. Winchester City Council plays a key role in the partnership, as the community leader for the District, but there are representatives from every sector in the area, as well as democratic representatives. For more information on the Winchester District Strategic Partnership (WDSP) see our website

<http://www.winchester.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/CommunityAdvice/CommunityStrategy/General.asp?id=5X9452-A781B603&cat=5498>

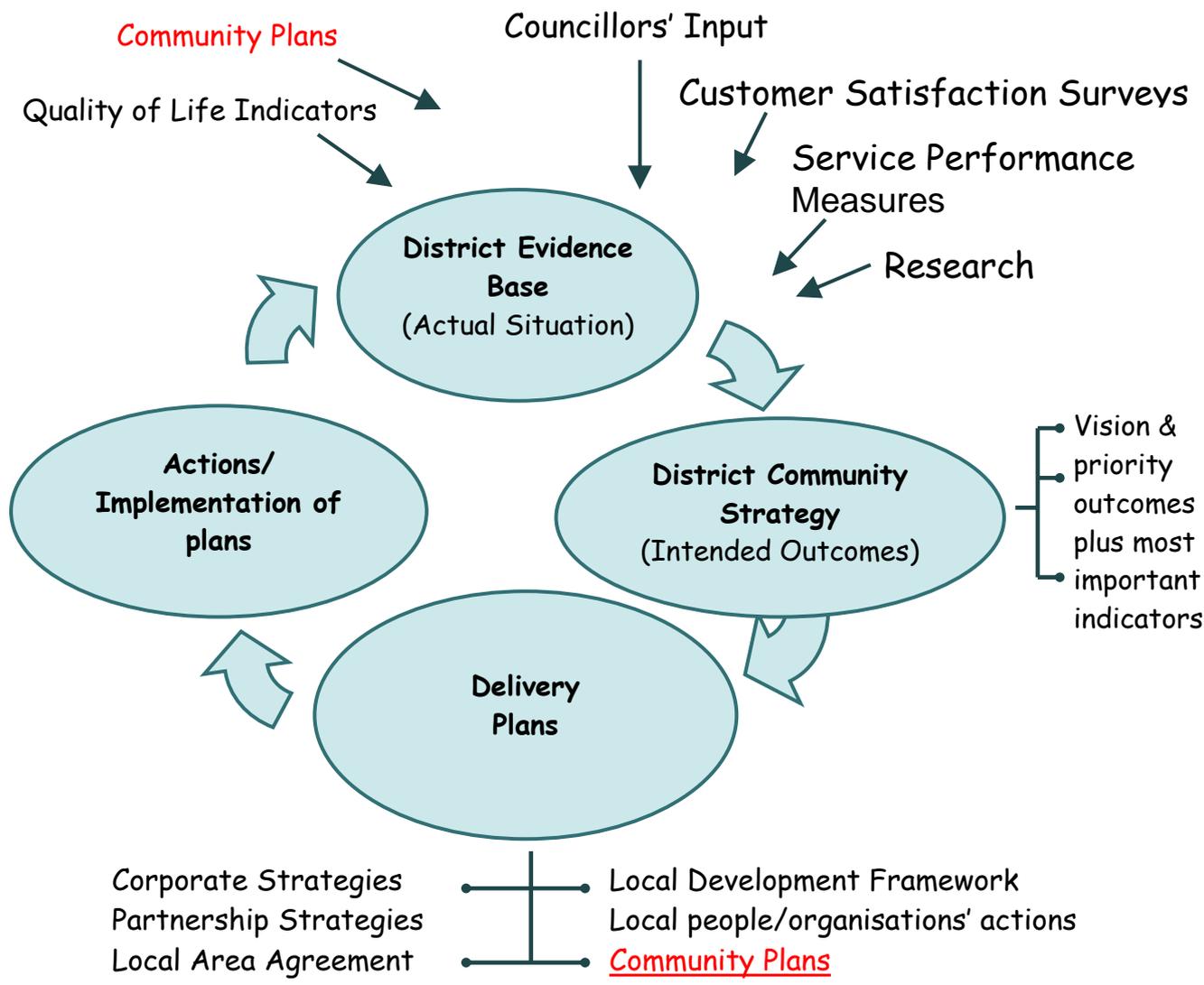
The Community Strategy then sets out key changes that need to happen to achieve these outcomes, and indicators so we can measure our progress to achieving them. Progress against achieving the outcomes in the Community Strategy is reviewed on an annual basis, so there are always opportunities to influence and contribute to what goes into the Strategy and what is made a priority.

The City Council's Partnership and Policy Officer can provide you with more information about the WDSP and the Community Strategy. Please contact Antonia Perkins on aperkins@winchester.gov.uk for more information.

What has the Community Strategy got to do with Community Planning?

Just as your community planning project will include research to find out what outcomes people want for your area, and what is lacking, so we use a lot of different information to decide the outcomes and priorities for the community strategy for the District. This information is held in our evidence base. This evidence base is partly formed by information from parish/neighbourhood plans and market town healthchecks. The City Council and other service providers use this to inform our policies and help us to design our services.

The diagram below sets out how your community plan will fit into the cycle of policy and service planning and delivery for the district. Information from the plan will go into the evidence base. From this, priorities for action will be drawn to create the Community Strategy. The Strategy is like an umbrella to all other strategies in the District and individual organisations will set out in their own plans how they will contribute to achieving it. As you can see, your community plan can play an important influencing role in the District.



It is a good idea, when undertaking a community plan, to be familiar with the outcomes and key changes set out in the Community Strategy. There will very likely be actions identified by your plan which will need the involvement of other agencies based in the District, County or even nationally. In order to make such actions happen you will need to get them into other organisation's budgets and work programmes. As the Community Strategy guides the work of these organisations and they will be working towards the outcomes set out in the Strategy, having regard to what is in the Community Strategy when drawing up your action plan will give you a better chance of influencing these agencies.

Community Strategy outcomes and your community plan

The five Community Strategy outcomes are a good place to start when thinking about what your community needs to make sure it stays a good place to live. These can form the first port of call when you start to ask people in your community what is good about the area and what isn't so good. To find out more about the five outcomes and how you will know if that outcome has been achieved in your area, see the Community Strategy at the link below:

<http://www.winchester.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/CommunityAdvice/CommunityStrategy/>

Basing your community plan around these outcomes will give you a starting point for structuring it, and it will also allow other agencies who are part of the WDSP to see where they can help you achieve the changes you want made in your area. As these organisations in the WDSP will be focussing on these priorities they are more likely to be able to undertake actions which are already priorities for them.

The Community Planning Process

Community planning in rural areas

For the rural areas of the Winchester District (that is anywhere outside Winchester town) there are two options for community planning:

- Producing a Parish Plan
- Undertaking a market town healthcheck

The aims of these two types of plans are similar - looking at what a community needs, how to improve the quality of life for people who live there and how to make sure people can enjoy that quality of life in the future.

Market town healthchecks are normally used for larger villages and towns which act as a centre for neighbouring small communities. Winchester City Council has a Rural Towns Development Officer who will be able to guide you through the process of undertaking a Healthcheck and provide advice on the process.

If you live in a smaller parish within the District, you could produce a Parish Plan. There is also support available for producing parish plans, and your first port of call should be Community Action Hampshire. They are Hampshire's Rural Community Council and have a specially dedicated Rural Community Development Officer, who will guide you through the process (see page 14 for contact details).

Parish clusters

If your parish has a small population, you could consider joining forces with neighbouring parishes to produce a wider 'area community plan'. This would help you to have a lot more influence on service providers and policy makers. Even if your parish has a large population, it is a good idea to consult with your neighbouring parishes to see what issues there are in their area. The more people who would like to see a service changed or put in place, the better the argument for providing it.

The City Council can provide you with a list of which of your neighbouring areas have done a community plan and what stage they are at. We can also let you know about community planning going on in your neighbouring areas even if they are outside of the Winchester District.

Community planning in urban areas

When we refer to urban areas, we are talking about places which are not covered by a town or parish council. In the Winchester District, this means the Winchester town area.

Unlike the rural areas in the Winchester District which have parish boundaries to set the rough parameters for a community plan, the town area has more informal neighbourhoods. The areas below are broadly the main neighbourhoods identified by Winchester City Councillors:

Fulflood/Orams Arbour	St Cross
St Giles Hill	Winnall
Hyde	Weeke
City Centre	Harestock
Abbots Barton	Stanmore
Badger Farm	Sleepers Hill
Teg Down	Kingsgate
Highcliffe/Bar End	

Some of the neighbourhoods listed may be too small to warrant their own neighbourhood plan so, like smaller parishes, it may be best to work together with an adjoining neighbourhood. The method you use for a neighbourhood plan is very similar to that of a parish plan or market town healthcheck and the end goal is the same with all the plans.

Tenant participation structures are already in use in some areas in the town, and many resident associations and other neighbourhood-based structures exist which might help to co-ordinate your neighbourhood plan.

For more information on doing a neighbourhood plan if you live in Winchester itself, please contact our Community Planning Manager, Steve Lincoln (01962 848 110 or slincoln@winchester.gov.uk) who will be happy to help and advise.

Parishes which are on the edge of the Winchester Town (e.g. Oliver's Battery, and Littleton and Harestock) might want to liaise with the Winchester Town Forum - a regular meeting of Winchester City Councillors which fills the gap for town wards who don't have a parish council. As Winchester will be one of the main places where residents of these parishes go for services, it will be important to involve the Town Forum and possibly town neighbourhoods adjacent to your parish.

For more information about the Town Forum, please see this webpage:
<http://www.winchester.gov.uk/CouncilAndDemocracy/ElectedRepresentatives/Committees/Committee.asp?id=5X9452-A77FB7B2>

Neighbourhood Design Statements and Village Design Statements

A Village Design Statement (rural) or Neighbourhood Design Statement (urban) describes the physical nature of a village/urban neighbourhood and highlights the qualities valued by its residents. Its main purpose is to provide design guidance for new development and it is formally adopted by the City Council as a 'Supplementary Planning Document'. It is written by local people, enabling local knowledge, views and ideas to be incorporated into planning guidance and to influence change in the village or neighbourhood. Design statements are practical tools for influencing decisions affecting design and development in an area. As Supplementary Planning Documents, their guidelines are taken into account when planning applications are assessed. The aim is to ensure that any new developments take account of the area's features and setting and enhance its character, rather than detracting from it.

To find out more about Supplementary Planning Documents please see this webpage:

<http://www.winchester.gov.uk/Business/Planning/LocalDevelopmentFramework/SupplementaryPlanningGuidanceDocuments/>

A design statement must be supplementary to the Council's Local Plan so it cannot stop change from happening which the Local Plan would allow. However it can help ensure that new development is in harmony with its setting and makes a positive contribution to the immediate environment.

We strongly recommend that if you want to create an NDS or VDS you do it as part of, or following on from, a wider community plan. A community plan will give a fuller picture of the area in which you live, and can address a much wider range of issues than if you did a NDS/VDS alone.

Guidance on creating a design statement can be found on the City Council website through the link below:

www.winchester.gov.uk/Documents/LDF/KWABVDS/VillageNeighbourhoodDesignStatementsAnIntroduction.pdf

Adoption by elected bodies

Where a parish plan or market town healthcheck and action plan is developed, the parish or town council will hopefully adopt it. As a minimum it will need to be supportive of the aims of the plan and be prepared to take on appropriate actions and integrate them into its own programme of action. Where a neighbourhood plan is being created, Winchester Town Forum can fulfil this role.

For a Neighbourhood/Village Design Statement to become part of the Local Development Framework, it will need to be formally adopted by the City Council. You will also need to have appraised the statement regarding its sustainability.

The Community Plan process

The national guidance and the officers mentioned above can give you advice on how to undertake a community plan.

When action planning for a community plan on any scale, the WDSP endorses the approach set out by Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA). Although this sounds like jargon, it is actually a very straight forward way of identifying what outcomes people want to see happen in their area and what needs to be done to achieve those outcomes.

Rather than going straight into what action you want to see happen, it helps to first be clear about what you want to achieve - what outcome you are looking for. For example, rather than thinking about (e.g.) asking for more police on the street straight away, go back a few steps and think about the outcome you want to achieve, perhaps that people feel safe in their community.

Then think about what the current state of play is and then what can be done by a whole range of people to change this and move towards the desired outcome. Include low cost/no cost options and things which everyone can contribute to.

By focussing on what outcomes the community wants to achieve, you leave open the possibility of a range of potential solutions which can then be discussed with your Councillors and service providers.

The City Council can show you how to use this approach when you are drawing together your action plan.

When to involve the City Council and other service providers

A community plan is all about what your community needs so the right services can respond to you. However, if you involve us at the following times, we can respond to what you are saying in a much more efficient and co-ordinated way.

Stage One

Let us know when you are starting to think about creating a community plan (see contact details at the end of this guidance). If you are thinking of doing a Parish Plan, contact Community Action Hampshire as well to access their help and guidance.

Stage Two

After you have finished your consultation and evidence gathering, contact the City Council so we can be involved in your action planning. The City Council will organise the involvement of other relevant services. By involving ourselves and other service providers, we can give you an idea of what is realistic and help you come up with ways of achieving the outcomes that your community wants to see for the area.

The City Council and its partners in the Winchester District Strategic Partnership have committed at least two hours of staff time each per community plan to attend action planning events. This is to support your community in working out realistic actions that will help you achieve the outcomes you want to see for your area now and in the future.

Stage Three

After you have drawn up your draft action plan, send it to the Winchester District Strategic partnership, via the City Council, so that we can provide an official, co-ordinated response setting out what various partners can do to help you achieve your outcomes for your area. We will do this within two months, having circulated the plan to all our partners and partnerships to make sure that they are able to deliver the actions you need.

Stage Four

Once you have drawn up your community plan and the actions set out in it are underway, you will want to review it at certain intervals to make sure things are progressing well. As well as organisations which have been involved in delivering actions from your community plan, City and County Councillors can play a role in helping you to review your plan, and holding organisations to account for the role which they have agreed to play in delivering your community plan.

The contribution of service providers in your area can be assessed against the Community Planning Protocol where they have signed up to it. This sets out what you can expect from the City Council and its partners, as well as setting out a few things which we need you to do to make sure we can respond to your plan in an effective way. The protocol can be found at the end of this guidance.

City and County Councillors

It is very likely that one of your City or County Councillors will be involved from the start of creating a community plan. They are a great resource for community planning and should be involved as soon as possible.

Your local Councillors are your democratically elected representatives for the area, who have a community leadership role to play in influencing all types of service providers who work for your area. They will have a wide local knowledge

base, be aware of different community groups which are active in your area and know about who does what in the District.

They should also play the main role in recommending your parish plan to the City Council and the Winchester District Strategic Partnership and advocating on your behalf.

If you don't know who your local Councillors are, see the web page below or call the City Council's Customer Service Centre on 01962 840 222

<http://www.winchester.gov.uk/CouncilAndDemocracy/ElectedRepresentatives/CityCouncillors/>

How can we help you achieve what you set out in your community plan?

If you have followed this guidance and involved us earlier in the process, the actions in your plan will already have commitment from those organisations whose help is required. So what will we do with your plan once it is finished?

- The information about your area and people's views will be used as part of our District evidence base. This provides a profile of the whole District and is used by the City council and other organisations to set our policies and services accordingly. The two main plans which will draw on the base are the **Community Strategy** and **Local Development Framework**. It is important that you record all your consultation techniques - how and when they were undertaken, the results and what you did with the results in order for us to include your information in the evidence base. This is how you will be able to influence policies and the planning of services.
- We will take on the short term actions identified in your plan which are achievable. Where an action cannot be taken on for whatever reason, a full explanation will be given as to why it cannot within two months from you submitting your plan. (see Community Planning Protocol).

Important principles to bear in mind when preparing a community plan

Sustainability

One of the main purposes of a community plan is looking at how a good standard of living can be sustained in an area so that people living there in the future can enjoy it too.

It is possible to look after the environment for the long-term future, and maintain a good quality of life for people living and working in the District now. This is called sustainability. By thinking about the following headings whilst creating your action plan, you will be considering the sustainability of your community. A lot of research has been done to try to understand what a sustainable community would look like. The general consensus is that a sustainable community has:

- **Good Governance** - This means that the community has a sense of civic values, responsibility and pride. Decisions which affect the wellbeing of the community are well-informed and effective, and local people and organisations are able to participate in the decision-making process. Councillors and MPs properly represent all sections of the community, show strong leadership on behalf of the community, and are accountable for their actions. Voluntary organisations and community groups are able to flourish and succeed. People from business, the voluntary sector and public bodies work together in partnership. People are well informed.
- **Social and Cultural Wellbeing** - This means that the community has a strong identity and that people living there feel they belong and are accepted and valued. People with different backgrounds and beliefs get on well together. There are opportunities to enjoy cultural, leisure, and sports activities. There is little crime or anti-social behaviour and the police work effectively alongside local people. People have similar opportunities to make the best of their lives.
- **Environmental Wellbeing** - This means that people live in a way that has a positive impact on the environment. Resources such as land, water and energy are used as efficiently as possible, and waste is minimised. Wildlife habitats are protected and improved. The needs of future generations are taken into account when decisions about the community are made.
- **A High Quality Built Environment with a 'Sense of Place'** - This means the community has a positive 'feeling' for people, and aspects which make it distinctive from other places are valued and conserved. Public spaces (such as streets and squares) and green spaces (such as parks) are well-maintained, with facilities for everyone including children and older people. There is a sufficient range, diversity and affordability of housing within a balanced housing market. The built environment is high quality, well-designed and of appropriate size, scale, density, design and layout that complements the distinctive local character of the community. Buildings are well-designed durable, flexible and adaptable to changing circumstances.

- **Good Transport Services and Communications** linking people to jobs, schools, health and other services. Transport facilities, including public transport, that help people travel within and between communities. Facilities to encourage safer local walking and cycling. Accessible and appropriate local parking facilities. Widely available and effective telecommunications and Internet access.
- **A Flourishing and Diverse Local Economy** with a wide range of jobs and training opportunities. Sufficient land and buildings to support economic prosperity and change. Dynamic job and business creation. A strong business community with links into the wider economy.
- **A Full Range of Appropriate, Accessible Public, Private, Community and Voluntary Services** - This means the community benefits from well-performing local schools, further and higher education, and training for lifelong learning. There are high quality, local health care and social services. There is good provision of retail, food, commercial, and utility services accessible to the area. Service providers think and act long term and beyond the boundaries of their own immediate geographical areas and interests.

Sustainability Appraisals

In order to help you and all our partners consider sustainability in creating plans for the future, the City Council is creating a sustainability appraisal toolkit. This will set out a number of issues to consider when you are drawing up any plans. This will be available soon and will be posted on the Winchester City Council website, and we can give further help with the appraisals if required. The sustainability appraisal is a formal requirement of the planning system so has to be incorporated into Village and Neighbourhood Design Statements. It is also a valuable tool for community plans, which we encourage you to use.

Community Action Hampshire will be able to help you use this "sustainability appraisal" toolkit as part of your community planning processes.

Inclusiveness

When consulting people in your area, it is important that everyone gets a chance to have their voice heard. Some people in the community are sometimes overlooked because there are various difficulties in involving them. However, it is absolutely crucial that every effort is made to involve all parts of your community and there are many good techniques and assistance available to support you in doing this. For example, Section One of the national guidance includes many tried and tested ideas and resource materials for you to use.

Community Action Hampshire and the City Council can help you with ideas on how to make sure your consultation gives everyone living or working in your community a real opportunity to contribute.

This 'inclusiveness' is also important when using your plan to influence organisations' work programmes, as they will need evidence that all sections of your community have been given the opportunity to contribute to your plan.

How can we help you develop your community plan?

There are lots of different sources of help and support you can draw on when you are creating a community plan.

Anne Harrison is Market Town's Officer for Hampshire and can help you if you are considering undertaking a market town healthcheck, as can Lynn Johnston at Winchester City Council who is the Rural Towns Development Officer.

Anne Harrison anne.harrison@hants.gov.uk 01962 846 558
www.setowns.org.uk/

Lynn Johnston ljohnston@winchester.gov.uk 01962 848 563

For parish plans, Community Action Hampshire employs Giv Thornton who promotes the parish plan initiative across Hampshire. She provides advice and support to parishes on funding sources, consultation methods, prioritising and action planning, and other elements of the process.

Giv Thornton giv.thornton@action.hants.org.uk 01962 857 358
www.action.hants.org.uk

The Hampshire Association of Parish and Town Councils (HAPTC) fully supports the principles of community planning and is able to give funding advice to member councils involved in the process.

town.parish.assoc@hants.gov.uk 01962 841 699
www.haptc.org

These contacts can help you with the process of community planning, but you can also contact **Steve Lincoln** based at Winchester City Council. He will signpost you to the right person to help you, assist you in getting facts and figures about your area and much more. He is your **first point of contact**. Steve can point you in the right direction for all topics which will be important to you and your area, for including:

- Statistics and information on your area and access to the Winchester District evidence base
- Advice on designing questionnaires and surveys
- Community Safety
- Transport schemes in your area being developed by the City Council, including cycling, walking, traffic management and passenger transport
- Parks, playgrounds and open spaces

- Leisure provision
- Streets
- Healthcare
- Employment
- Education and learning
- **In fact anything that is important to your community now and in the future!**

Winchester City Council will also help you create a website which you can use to let people know what is happening and how they can get involved and contribute to your community plan.

The City Council will also provide the links between your community plan and the Winchester District Strategic partnership - the main body of joint working between service providers in the District. See the Community Planning Protocol for further details.

To contact Steve email slincoln@winchester.gov.uk or call 01962 848 110

Housing Needs

As part of your community plan, you will very likely be looking at the housing needs, particularly affordable housing needs, in your area. Is there enough of it, can your children afford to stay in your area if they choose to, are local services and the economy suffering because of housing affordability?

The City Council can support you investigate your housing needs. This will not only give you a better idea of the housing situation in your community, but it will also be used by the City Council to help us match demand for housing. This research, using information the Council already holds or a housing needs survey, will be particularly important if your community plan suggests the need for an affordable housing 'exception' site in your village.

For more information, please contact Steve Lincoln.

Community Action Hampshire employs a small team of Rural Housing Enablers whose role is to facilitate the provision of affordable housing in smaller settlements, generally those with a population of fewer than 3000, by acting as an independent broker.

For more information, please contact Debbie Rhodes on 01962 857362
Debbie.Rhodes@action.hants.org.uk

We can also:

- work with affordable housing providers to develop affordable housing
- help you to access the right agencies/individuals
- give you advice on moving from action planning to implementation
- share good practice from other community planning projects
- support the involvement of City Councillors, as part of their community leadership role
- help to ensure that your community's aspirations are reflected in the district evidence base
- help to make sure that issues which come out of your community plan are reflected in the Community Strategy and other key plans and policies

Grants

We can help you find pots of money to fund projects to improve your local area.

Winchester Area Community Action (WACA) can also help you set up a new community group, apply for funding or put you in touch with other community and voluntary organisations in the area that could provide support.

www.waca.org.uk

The website below will give you a taster of what funds are out there, and we can give you further guidance and advice.

www.open4community.info/winchester/Default.aspx

Winchester City Council also offers a number of grants for community groups which can be used for the implementation of community plans. These can be found on the website below:

www.winchester.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/Grants/

For more information about what funding is available for you, contact Steve Lincoln.

How Winchester Area Community Action (WACA) can help

WACA is the Winchester District's Council for Voluntary Service and can provide lots of help to you when you are creating your community plan:

Local information/networking

- Database of voluntary groups across the Winchester district- linked to eVOLve county-wide system
- Opportunity for parish councils to make contact with local groups for consultation
- Networking opportunities with relevant organisations in other parts of the district
- Community News (circulation 350) and WACA email bulletins – find out and share information about community initiatives

Volunteer Centre

- Registering volunteering opportunities in organisations – not just voluntary groups
- Recruiting volunteers - face to face interviews and “Do It” website
- Opportunity to recruit volunteers to work on producing the local plan
- Recruitment of volunteers for projects to implement parish plans

Support and development

- Funding information and advice – voluntary organisations may be able to access funding to deliver partnership projects
- Help to set up projects/organisations
- Training for staff, volunteers and trustees –WACA Learning Development – available for parish/town partnerships

Community transport

- Rural community transport development –responding to requests from groups or individuals –liaison with local minibuses and volunteers
- MIDAS training for volunteer drivers

You can find out more about what WACA can do at www.waca.org.uk

Expertise in the community

People living in your community will also have a lot of expertise which you can draw on. When you start off your community plan you will need to find volunteers to undertake the plan - this process of recruiting people will help you undertake what skills and expertise is out there.

The City Council can also help put you in touch with other people doing community plans or who have completed a community plan, and will have the knowledge and expertise to point you in the right direction.

The new planning policy system

The new Local Development Framework system (LDF), which will replace the Local Plan, is designed to reflect a wider, more inclusive approach to planning. It also will deliver the spatial aspects of the Winchester District Community Strategy, such as what land is used for, where new housing could be sited, which areas in the district are protected and so on. Community plans can provide a useful insight into the local community for this purpose. The information that you obtain will be helpful in developing Local Development Framework documents.

We sincerely hope your community will take up the challenge of working with us to create the kind of future we all want. Good luck and we look forward to hearing from you!