

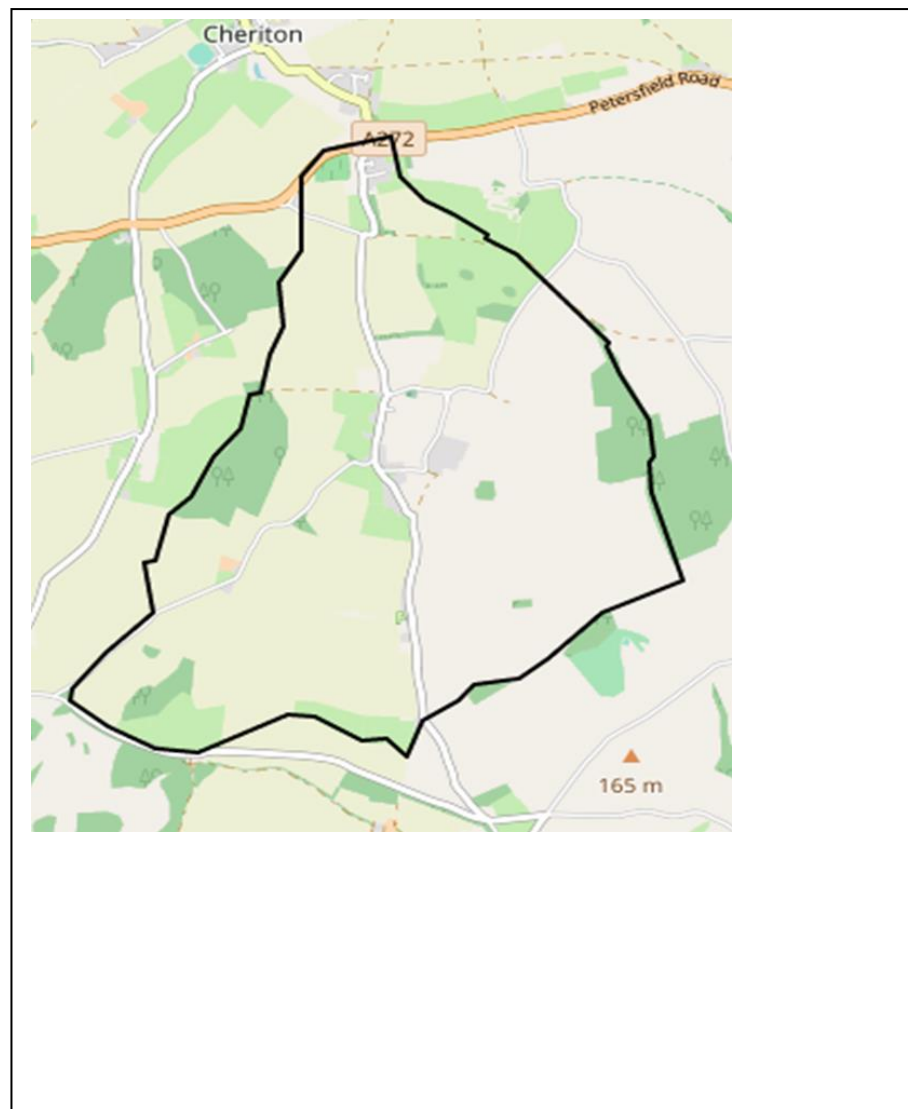
KILMESTON PARISH PLAN



By the Community, for the Community

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INTRODUCTION

What is a Parish Plan?

As part of the Government's policy to devolve power to local communities, the concept of Parish Plans was introduced by the Rural White Paper in 2000. Parish Plans are intended to give communities a framework for assessing the current state of their Parish and to set out a collective vision for its future. Parish Plans provide a means by which the community can express its views (both positive and negative) about the Parish, its natural and built environment, social life, economic activities, transport and communications.

It is important that Parish Plans are evidence-based and seek to capture the views of as many as possible of the Parish's population, from across the age spectrum. For that reason, most Parish Plan processes will use community meetings and questionnaire surveys to gather information, which can then be analysed and presented in the Plan itself.

Parish Plans have the broadest application of all the community-led planning tools. As a means of a community expressing its collective views and vision for the future, the Parish Plan has an important role in informing and influencing the relevant planning authority - in Kilmeston's case, the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) in respect of the community's views and priorities. Being within the South Downs National Park gives our Parish Plan additional relevance and allows us to make our views on a range of issues known to SDNPA. Particular areas of interest to the SDNPA include landscape, natural environment, tranquillity, access to the countryside and renewable energy schemes.

Over 4,000 Parish Plans have been produced nationally, including many in the South Downs National Park. Whilst not a formal planning document, a Parish Plan is the broadest of all the available community-led planning tools and can be used to:

- provide evidence for external funding applications to improve or create community facilities;
- highlight areas of concern for future action by local authorities and agencies (such as road safety, flooding, crime etc.);
- establish community events; and
- identify local housing needs.

The fact that the Parish Plan is not a formal planning document does not mean it will be ignored and, indeed, the SDNPA has said it will make our Parish Plan available to its planning colleagues who will review it "to ensure any proposals for development do not conflict directly with what is in it".¹

According to SDNPA, Parish Plans can take between one and three years to complete, depending on resources available in the community and external support available.

¹ SDNPA Community Planning Toolkit, Section Three.

Why does Kilmeston need a Parish Plan?

Kilmeston is, by common consensus, a beautiful place to live and the atmosphere of the village, underpinned by its many community activities and social events, makes it a haven for anyone attracted to living in a cohesive and vibrant village in the heart of the South Downs National Park. For the most part, some might argue that much of what we have in Kilmeston does not need to change and one might therefore question the need for a Parish Plan. However, we recognise that change is happening constantly both nearby and further afield, whether that be planned housing development in the North of the Parish, significant residential and related infrastructure development in Alresford or the influx of greater numbers of visitors to the National Park. These changes will all, to a greater or lesser extent, have an impact on us either directly through the loss of valuable open countryside, water catchment or the overcrowding of our small country lanes, footpaths and bridleways. So, it is incumbent on us, as a community, to express our views on how we see the future of our community and, where necessary, face-down the agents of this change with reasoned and evidence-based arguments.

So, the primary purpose of the Parish Plan is to articulate what is important to the Kilmeston community, its values and its aims to preserve and enhance its quality of life for now and future generations. The Parish Plan has credibility as an expression views and aspirations of the community at large and is therefore a compelling message to the Parish Council, SDNPA, Winchester City Council (WCC), Hampshire County Council (HCC), local landowners (including The National Trust) and other relevant agencies as to how the community can and should go forward (irrespective of the Plan's formal statutory or regulatory status).

The Kilmeston Parish Plan will guide the Parish Council in its approach to the future of the Parish. Whilst it may not be within the sole power of the Parish Council to implement all of the recommendations in the Parish Plan, the Plan will give the Parish Council the moral authority and popular mandate to do all it can to influence the policies and decisions of the relevant agencies in relation to future of the Parish, for the benefit of the community as a whole.

The Kilmeston Parish Plan process

Call for volunteers

The Kilmeston Parish Plan process was initiated by the Parish Council in April 2016, who called for volunteers to form a Steering Committee. The Parish Council convened a meeting in June 2016 with volunteers at which the Steering Committee was formed. The Parish Council set out the purpose of the Parish Plan process (see Appendix 1) and prepared a draft constitution for the Steering Committee. Members of the Steering Committee are as follows:

Jack Burdett (Chair)
Elena Georgiadis
Carole Hammond
Alexandra Wilson
Philip Housden
Charlie Parry
Susie White
Simon Young

Two members of the Steering Committee (Charlie Parry and Simon Young) are also members of the Parish Council. Four other members of the Steering Committee (Chris Robinson, Marie Du Boulay, Janet Backhouse and Ann Matthews) stood down during the process for personal reasons. The first meeting of the Steering Committee took place in September 2016 when the Constitution was formally adopted and after which the work of the Committee started in earnest.

Community meeting

The first substantive action in the Parish Plan process was the holding of a public community meeting at the Village Hall on 3 December 2016, to which all Parish residents were invited (see Appendix 3). The purpose of this was to introduce the community to the concept of the Parish Plan and seek the community's views on what is important to them across a range of different areas, including the environment, housing & development, transport, business, tourism, communications, public services, crime and social & leisure. Those attending the meeting were encouraged to express their views by posting them on notes to display boards around the Village Hall.

In addition to residents, the meeting was attended by Steve Lincoln (Community Planning Manager at WCC), Chris Paterson (Communities Lead, SDNPA) and Amber Thacker (Councillor, Upper Meon Valley Ward, WCC), each of whom addressed the meeting.

Questionnaire survey

Following the meeting, the Steering Committee collated and analysed the views given and feedback received at the community meeting. Over the next few months, these were used to inform the design and production of a questionnaire survey to collect the views of the community in a more systematic and comprehensive manner.

The Questionnaire was written over the summer of 2017 and finalised in early autumn following input from Steve Lincoln of WCC. Particular care was given to making sure the views of all sections and age groups within the Parish were sought and collected. To aid this, the Questionnaire was designed to be capable of completion by all residents within each household, including children. It also contained prize draws for both adults and children to encourage as many returns as possible.

Whilst Questionnaires did not ask respondents to identify themselves or their households, they were asked to identify their post code which allowed us to separately analyse responses from the two distinct communities in the North of the Parish (New Cheriton / North Kilmeston) and the Centre of the Parish (Kilmeston Village). This proved particularly useful in relation to traffic, housing development and flooding issues and, where relevant, the survey findings are presented separately in the Plan for the two areas.

Once finalised, the Questionnaire was then printed and distributed by members of the Steering Committee to all households in the Parish in late 2017 and uploaded to the Village website. Several follow-ups were sent to residents to encourage them to complete and return the survey and individual visits made by members of the Steering Committee to all households to ensure as good a return rate as possible. The return deadline was also extended.

Questionnaire survey – the results

By the time the survey period ended in May 2018, of the 106 Questionnaires distributed, 54 were returned (53 completed and one spoilt), and a total of 153 residents took part in the exercise. This represents a 51% return rate, which compares favourably with other surveys of its type.

The very way in which the Questionnaire was designed meant that the answers received tended to reflect the views of households in general, rather than the individuals who lived in them. It follows that any reference made to key highlights, statistics or findings are based mainly on those 53 household replies, rather than the 153 residents who responded. In some instances results are given for the village as a whole, in others results are given separately for North and Centre.

Preparation and adoption of the Parish Plan

Review and processing of the returned Questionnaires then took place during the remainder of 2018, with detailed results of the quantitative and qualitative analysis being led by Janet Backhouse. This was no mean feat and special thanks go to Janet for taking on this important and time-consuming task in a most meticulous way. Janet's analysis fed into the drafting of the Parish Plan which was reviewed and further augmented by members of the Steering Committee. Following this, the final draft Parish Plan was produced by Alexander Wilson and approved by the Steering Committee in September 2020, after which it was presented to and adopted by the Parish Council at its meeting on 17 November 2020. A copy of the Parish Plan has been lodged with WCC and the SDNPA.

Following an introductory description of the Parish and its history, the Plan broadly follows the themes covered by the Questionnaire, with a presentation of both qualitative and quantitative results of the survey. Where appropriate, the Plan makes recommendations for action and these are also summarised at the end of the Plan.

It then falls to The Parish Council to ensure that the recommendations set out in the Parish Plan are followed through and fulfilled, with appropriate reports on progress being made at Parish Council meetings.

Kilmeston Parish is a beautiful place in which to live and raise a family, and the overwhelming view of Parish residents, expressed at the Community Meeting in December 2016 and in the Questionnaire is that they value Kilmeston for its beauty, rural character and tranquillity. There is a broad consensus that these positive attributes be maintained both through preservation of the existing natural and built environment and the active discouragement of further development unless it is demonstrably necessary and broadly supported by the community.

Overarching strategic objective

Accordingly, the overarching strategic objective of the Parish Council, informed by the Parish Plan exercise, should be to maintain and preserve the present rural and agricultural nature of the Parish, maintain and improve the quality of life of residents and carefully evaluate any development plans to ensure that they are demonstrably necessary, are in keeping with the “look and feel” of the Parish and are broadly supported by the community.



PARISH OVERVIEW AND HISTORY

Overview



Kilmeston is a very attractive linear Parish, lying within the South Downs National Park. It meanders the Northwards from up above Leighton House, on the chalk downs with its panoramic views, down for about two miles to the junction with the A272. The road runs through scattered properties in Kilmeston village, open countryside, then across the watercourse that is the source of the River Itchen, a classic unpolluted chalk stream. The land to the west, round the watercourse, is a Site of Special Scientific Interest with its attendant important flora and fauna. The road then runs briefly into New Cheriton before meeting the A272.

Kilmeston Parish thus comprises two settlements, with a total population of around 270, living in about 110 properties. The Northern part (that section of New Cheriton south of the A272) containing about 40% of the Parish population, is largely 19th and 20th century properties situated in close proximity.

This is separated from Kilmeston Village by over half a mile of open countryside. Kilmeston Village is spread along the mainly single track road running through the Parish and consists of a mixture of properties from Grade 2 listed to 400 year-old cottages and the Manor House, to 20th century dwellings, although most retain the essentially rural nature of the settlement.

Kilmeston has no pub, shop, bus service or mains drainage. The village school, which closed in 1926 is now the Village Hall which hosts most of the village events. Along with the 18th century St Andrew's Church, the Village Hall acts as the major meeting place for the village.

Between them, the Village Hall Committee and the Friends of St Andrews organise quizzes, a Harvest Supper, a summer barbeque and other events throughout the year. The hall also hosts the First Friday Club, where, once a month, residents can meet in convivial surroundings over a drink.

Once a year Kilmeston unites, under the umbrella of the Fete Committee, for the very successful Village Fete (held by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Gwyn in the grounds of Dean House) which raises much-needed funds for the Church and Village Hall. There is also the annual Kilmeston versus Longwood village cricket match.

The village lies on the Wayfarers Walk, and there is a good network of village footpaths in addition.

Businesses in the village are concerned with farming, agricultural contracting, motor maintenance and bed & breakfast, and over 10% of the population describe themselves as working from home. All are dependent upon good and reliable outside communications.

HISTORY



The Parish of Kilmeston covers some 1,670 acres of land, lying on a chalk down south-east of Winchester. It rises from 300 ft. above sea level at the North end, to over 500 ft. in the south-west.

Kilmeston is importantly the official source of the River Itchen, a valuable chalk stream, one of fewer than 200 in the world, concomitant to which is the vast wealth of wildlife throughout the village.

Geographically, the Parish has been inhabited at least since the Roman occupation of Britannia. This was evidenced by local archaeologists in 2013 when a rare Roman grain dryer was excavated in a local field, together with the find of a Roman coin of the era of the Emperor Constantine, (306- 337 CE). Additionally a partial ancient skeleton was found nearby during a later dig.

There is also evidence of ancient Bowl Barrows (Bronze Age burial sites) mainly at the North end of the village. It is speculated that burial near water sources (in this case the River Itchen), was practiced in many religions, in the belief it would guarantee immortality for the departed.



The name of the village however, has less longevity, having been variously called Chenelmestune (x cent.); Chelmestune (xi cent.); Culmiston Gymminges, Kilmeston Gymminges, Culmiston Plugnett, Kilmeston Plunkenet (xiii, xiv, xv cent.); Culmeston, Kypmston (xvi cent.). More recently, Kilmiston and currently Kilmeston and in part Hinton Marsh and New Cheriton. In Old English Kilmeston may be translated to 'Coenhelm's farm', Coenhelm being an Anglo-Saxon name, but there may be a connection with the cult of the boy king and martyr, Saint Kenelm.

In the 10th century the land belonged to the cathedral church of Winchester and in 941 CE, it is recorded that King Edgar, then custodian of the land, granted 10 mansae or hydes of land, considered sufficient to support 10 families, and the equivalent of 60-120 modern acres, to the local thegn Æthelwulf.

In 1086, The Domesday survey records this as having been divided into two manors of 5 hydes each, held by Edred and Godwin. The land holder held legal and economic power over land and peasants. The two resultant manors were known as Culmiston Gymminges and Culmiston Plugnett,

With several changes of occupant, in 1295, Kilmeston Plunkenet was held for the annual rent of one rose. Land price has risen a little over the last 800 years, the lowest value of the 5 hydes being the equivalent of £4,000,000 in 2019. The two Parishes were subsequently united by the year 1677, during the reign of Charles II and shortly after the Civil War which was famously fought locally.

Local history tells us that during that war, a soldier of the Royalist army hid in Kilmeston Manor house, now a 16th century Grade 2 listed building, and remained immured until the 1920s when renovations uncovered his body, which disintegrated on exposure to the air. The Manor House is also renowned for apparently housing the 'Grey Lady'. She is thought have been a servant who has not yet moved on.

Another notable visitor to the manor was George IV, when Prince of Wales. He hunted locally and the manor was remodelled for his accommodation. He supposedly wrote a few lines of verse with a diamond on a window pane, although this is stylistically questionable. It is possible that Kilmeston was not only attractive to the Prince for the hunting, but also for Mrs. Fitzherbert, a 'great friend', who coincidentally at the time, lived near Cheriton

The Parish church of St. Andrew lies at the heart of the village and there is a chapel of worship on this site recorded in the Domesday Survey. The present church is a grade 2 listed building of medieval origin, having been rebuilt on two occasions. The two bells are dated to 1772.

Another significant building in the Centre of the village is Dean House dating to the late 18th century.

Kilmeston has a thriving Village Hall originally built in 1853 to hold the village school. In 1706, Dame Mary Sadlier had charitably endowed village education, to teach poor children to read and write. The

school thrived with, at one time, as many as 46 pupils from the surrounding district. Like many schools of the time, it is clear to see by attendance rates, that harvest time made significant demands on the children, the records showing a drop in attendance at that time of the year when they were needed to work in the fields. In April of 1926, falling rolls led to the closure of the school and transfer of pupils to Hinton Ampner and subsequently in 1986 to Alresford.

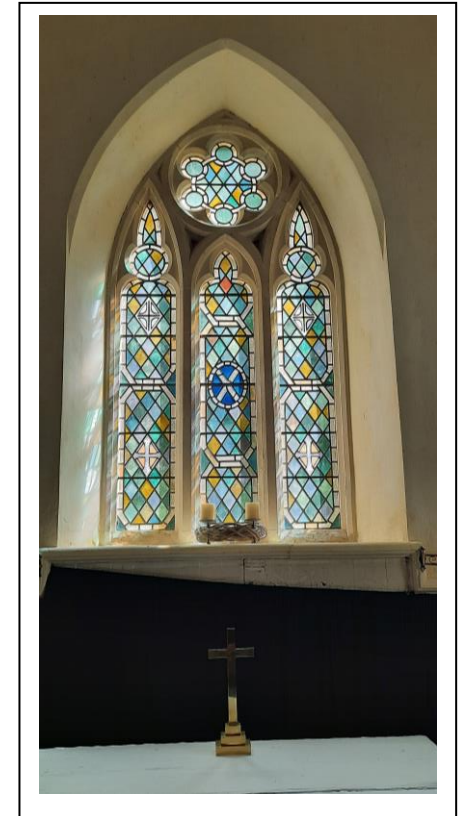
Today the old school provides accommodation for the many and various social activities in the village. Like many other buildings it has changed with the times but retains its integrity to village life and cohesion. Twenty first century Kilmeston is seen by its inhabitants as an attractive, friendly, safe, traditional Hampshire village, with a thriving present and future.





In 2020 a strong community spirit came to the fore throughout the Corononavirus pandemic and subsequent lockdown. An online support network, using the Slack app, was quickly created and to date 76 residents regularly communicate with each other on a wide range of topics from help with shopping, information on church services and who might be able to offer any DIY advice.

And what of Kilmeston's future? Change is, to some extent, inevitable, but the residents find it important that within any change, the integrity of the village as a quiet and wonderful place to live should be recognised and encouraged.



QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

According to the 2011 census, Kilmeston Parish comprises a population of 276 residents.

By the time the survey period ended in May 2018, of the 106 Questionnaires distributed 54 were returned (53 completed and one spoilt). 17 Questionnaires came from dwellings in the North (comprising 49 residents), and 35 from dwellings in the Centre (comprising 99 residents). A total of 148 residents took part in the exercise. This represents a 51% return rate, which compares favourably with other surveys of its type (see the Kilmeston Village website for a copy of the Questionnaire).

Questions asked residents to give their opinion on a wide range of subjects e.g. *“How important do you consider the clearing of ditches?”* (Very Important / Important / Unimportant / No Opinion); and *“How concerned are you about the speed of traffic through the village?”* (Very Concerned / Concerned / Unconcerned / No Opinion).

Residents were also invited to add their own comments, and many did e.g. *“Are there any green spaces which need safeguarding?”*

Key findings for each topic are listed below, with some instances statistics and findings highlighted in boxes or graphs. Readers will appreciate that whilst every effort has been made to capture the spirit and much of the detail of the replies received, it is not practical to include every comment or statistic in the Parish Plan. `

Out of 106 Questionnaires distributed, 54 (51%) were returned. A total of 153 residents took part in the exercise

KILMESTON TODAY

The following is a summary of the key demographic information residents told us about themselves:

Age Groups: in the North the largest age group is 46-55 (14 dwellings); in the Centre it is also 46-55 (21 dwellings).

Years in Village: in the North, residents have lived in the village for an average of 14.09 years; in the Centre 18.78.

Main Residence: all responses, apart from one, said that the village was their main residence.

Ownership: in both the North and the Centre, all but one dwelling is owner occupied.

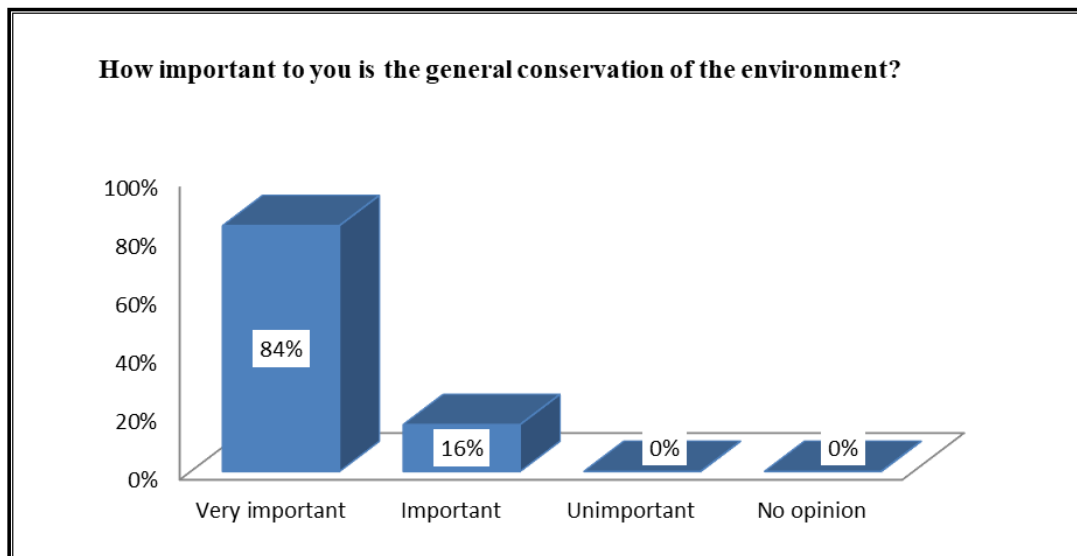
Type of Building: in both the North and the Centre the majority of dwellings are detached houses.

Internet Access: Only one dwelling in the village does not have internet access. The main providers are BT (23 dwellings) and Callflow (16).

Occupation: in The North 36% are in full-time employment; 14% in part-time employment; 4% are self employed and 8% unwaged house-workers. 18% are in full-time education; 8% in higher education; 4% retired; 4% are regular voluntary working and 2% are carers. In the Centre 24% are retired; 23% in full-time employment; 10% in part-time employment; 9% are self employed and 3% unwaged house-workers.

Workplace: In the North 38% work more than 5 miles from Kilmeston, 20% work from home; 14% work within the Parish and 4% in London. In the Centre: 28% work more than 5 miles from the Parish; 23% are not currently working or retired; 12% work at home and 9% work in London.

ENVIRONMENT AND COUNTRYSIDE



Unsurprisingly, residents generally placed a very high value on the natural environment and rural character of the Parish. Conservation of the environment ranked as important or very important to all residents. This manifests itself in a high degree of support for the farming community (92% ranking farming as important or very important), prioritising the protection of the River Itchen, trees, hedgerows and wildlife, maintaining dark skies and the tranquillity of the environment.

This emphasis on the quality of the natural environment is matched by the concern expressed by residents about the threats to it. Litter, dog fouling and ditch clearing being primary among these.

Hedges and verges

The main themes to emerge from the survey were the need to actively maintain the roadway margins so as to preserve their natural beauty and amenity.

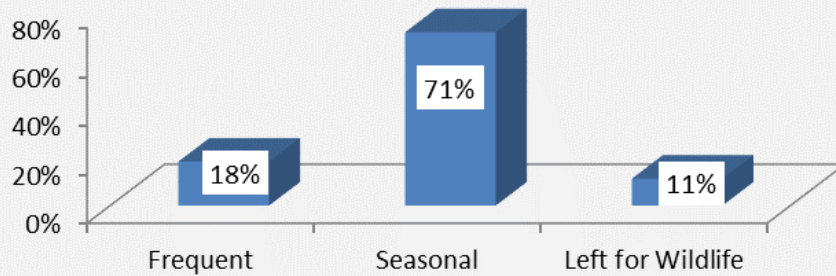
There is a real problem with littering of road verges throughout the village, principally from passing traffic. Whilst one cannot rule out the responsibility of local residents for this, it is thought likely that the main perpetrators are people from outside the Parish passing through. There is a significant spike in through-traffic at the start and end of the day and at weekends.

Fly tipping is an occasional problem in the lay-by on the A272 at the top of Sandy Lane (technically, just outside the Parish boundary), in the passing places on Sandy Lane itself and in some other less-visited lanes road verges around the Parish.

Dog fouling was frequently cited by residents as a nuisance both on the verges around the village and on footpaths running through and radiating out from the village into the surrounding woodland and countryside. Whilst some respondents called for more dog-mess bins, others questioned whether this would change the habits of people who fail to clean up after their dogs. The consensus seemed to be for additional dog mess bins to be placed by the bus shelter on the Village Green and by the telephone box at the end of the footpath opposite Church Lane. It was also recognised that bins were not the only answer and that education and raising awareness of the problem amongst residents and visitors is also important.

How important to you are the following for the protection and maintenance of wildlife and their habitats?	Order of Importance
Protection of the River Itchen Chalk Stream	1
Protection of trees	2
Maintenance of hedgerows	3
Wildlife corridors	4
Planting more trees	5
Community Projects	6
Planting more hedgerows	7

Where safety "line of sight" is not an overriding factor, how often do you think roadside verges should be managed?



Most of the roadways and many of the footpaths are bounded by grass verges and hedgerows. The preservation of these as habitats for flora and fauna was given high priority and there was strong support for only seasonal cutting to protect nesting sites.

Footpaths, bridleways and byways

Kilmeston is criss-crossed with numerous footpaths and bridleways and comments from residents indicate that these are highly valued for walking and access to the surrounding countryside. The Village sits on the route of the Wayfarer's Walk and is a mile from the North of the South Downs Way. Consequently, it is a popular village for walkers from outside the Parish as well.

There is concern about the maintenance and clearing of footpaths and their general accessibility, particularly those which are off the main routes and less frequently used. Deliberate blocking of footpaths with wire or farm machinery

is also cited as a problem by several residents, as is lack of signage on designated footpaths and the apparent proposed fencing off the footpath across open National Trust land between Kilmeston Village and Hinton Ampner.

On the positive side, there is support for the upgrading of styles and introduction of "kissing gates" which has been undertaken on some paths. There were also constructive suggestions for greater engagement between the community and landowners to ensure that paths are maintained and accessible.

River Itchen

How concerned are you about the River Itchen?	Order of Importance
Maintaining drainage of source pool	1
Pollution	2
Flood risk	3
Litter	4

The whole of the Parish lies in the catchment of the River Itchen and the source of the river lies between the Village and New Cheriton. There is a strong sense that the community is the custodian of the Itchen and its source and many residents had strong views on the subject.

The principal concern regarding the River Itchen is the risk and effect of flooding. Views differ as to the ways this might be addressed but lack of maintenance (including clearing and dredging) of the source pool and upper reaches of the river are mentioned by several residents.

Drainage and ditches

There is a recurring flooding and surface water problem in the the North part of the Parish. Seasonal springs exist along the course of the road from the A272, running south through New Cheriton and in the surroundings. Consequently there is frequently surface water flooding on the road and the A272 running along the the Northern boundary of the Parish. The high water table, overgrown source pool and density of housing development in the the Northern part of the Parish appear to have contributed to this.

Recommendation:

Parish Council to publish the specific steps it will take to address:

- a) Risk of flooding
- b) Protection and maintenance of trees, hedgerows, ditches and footpaths
- c) Flytipping

Prior works to address this seem not to have been effective and there appears to be a need for more substantial run-off gullies from the road and culverts under the A272 (taking care not to allow pollution of the River Itchen with run-off from the roads).

Elsewhere in the Parish, ditch clearance is identified by many residents as a major issue. Some residents commented that ditches had not been cleared for as long as they could remember and requests to HCC and WCC for clearance of ditches have gone unheeded. Blocked and overgrown ditches frequently result in standing water on roads in several

areas of the Parish (in particular, on the lane out of the village towards the Mulberries and on the dog-leg bend near the River Itchen source pool).

CHARACTER OF THE PARISH AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Whilst there was no specific “Yes or No” question on whether residents actually want any development in the Parish, there was plenty of opportunity to add individual comments on the subject, and many did. Indeed, there were three times as many comments which were wholly or largely against development in the Parish than there were for it, a sentiment which echoes comments widely made elsewhere about preserving Kilmeston for what it is.

Here are all of the verbatim extracts from the Questionnaire to illustrate residents’ views:

Against

“Footpaths, bridleways, hedgerows, National Trust land all contribute to what Kilmeston is. It’s not a sprawling council estate, it is a small Hampshire village which needs protection if we are to preserve our lifestyle. That is the purpose of green spaces”.

“We must prevent housing sprawl and maintain the green belt”

“No development should be considered”

“There are no green spaces which are suitable for further development. Brownfield sites should also be preserved. There is no infrastructure which can sustain a balanced community. There is no practical transport service and more vehicles will create road safety issues”

“No further development...there are 750,000 empty homes in Britain”

“Fields in-between dwellings give a sense of space and are very important to the village. A rural village should not infill; wildlife and natural habitats must be maintained and preserved”

“Why spoil a village that has outstanding natural beauty?”

“Do not build on any land without a current building on it”

“Stop plots being split into two or three units. A granny annexe is OK”

“Safeguard the village green”

“Open land in and around the village maintains the tranquillity of the village, the views and footpaths”

“Do not fill the village green with more trees”

“Safeguard the field behind Jimmy’s house (in the centre of the village)”

“Safeguard all green spaces in the “central island” of the village. The village green should be preserved, no more parking areas, no more tree planting on village green, no play area on village green”

“The village green gives space for children to play”

“Green spaces do not need to serve a purpose. They are part of a civilised, valuable and historic environment and should remain that way. If every space that did not “serve a purpose” could be developed the entire village would be concreted over”

“All green spaces need to be preserved”

“The village green where the bus shelter is and the green area south of the Village Hall are very much in keeping with this rural village and should remain open”

“The fields and woodland around the source of the Itchen need to be protected. They support a range of wildlife, particularly birds, and are used for recreational purposes”

For Development

“As you enter Westwood View there is a plot of land on the left that serves no purpose. A good use of this space would be a car park for residents and visitors as parking is a nightmare”

“The wasted space at Westwood View should be made into parking spaces”

“An application should be considered on its individual features both in terms of what is suggested and what advantages it brings. There are parts of the village where it would be better to have two or three developments, others where one or two should be the maximum; but it all depends on what the local need is”

“There is a strong need for affordable housing which would allow young people with local connections to remain in the area instead of being forced to leave as is currently the case”

“The space at the end of Westwood View would be ideal for 2-3 low cost houses”

“Limit development to 5-10 houses”

FUTURE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT

Location of future development

Were development to go ahead, not surprisingly there was a wide range of views on where this might take place and what it might look like. Perhaps due to higher population density, the North tended to prefer that no further development occur at all. The Centre was a little more open-minded, though most comments focused more on addressing the lack of parking in Westwood View than on building new homes. The general preference was that if future development had to occur, green spaces should not be touched and it should be within the existing settlement boundary where possible, and on a brown field site.

Arrangement of future development

Both sites were fairly consistent in their opinions about the arrangement of future development. Preferences were strongly towards single dwellings and or small developments of less than 3 units rather than anything larger.

Design influence of new buildings

Regarding design, again both sites tended to agree most importantly that off-road parking was important and also that new builds should be energy efficient and eco-friendly. They also tended to agree that the designs should be limited to two storeys. While the North was less concerned that new design and materials should influence building, the Centre appeared to strongly disagree that new design and materials should be used. Perhaps a fear that such designs would fail to be in-keeping with existing buildings which tend to use older more traditional materials.

Safeguarding green spaces

Recommendation:

Parish Council to publish:

- a) Details of any development plans currently in play or under consideration which will affect the Parish
- b) Explanation of how residents’ collective or individual views can be aired to support or challenge any development

Residents unanimously voiced concerns about protecting green spaces and the village green in particular. There was also a strong emphasis that the green spaces around Kilmeston should be protected; such as fields, footpaths and the source of the River Itchen.

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

Traffic speed and hazardous locations

75% of respondents said they were either “Very Concerned” or “Concerned” about the speed of traffic on the village, with most referring specifically to the A272 crossroads

Kilmeston residents are very concerned about traffic speed, and in particular see the A272 crossroads as an “accident black spot”. Indeed, since the Questionnaire was issued a number of serious road traffic accidents at the crossroads have underlined resident’s concerns.

The 30 mph zone near the crossroads was particularly concerning for the The North and the 30 mph zone in Kilmeston Village was a concern for the Centre, and both were concerned about the stretch of road from Greys Farm to village green. The speed and care taken by both drivers and cyclists through Kilmeston was described as being particularly problematic. With motorists, this problem seems to be exacerbated during rush hour with traffic from commuters and parents doing school runs.

Road Safety

Some residents have suggested improving safety with a 20 mph limit or more road signs warning about pedestrians in the road. Some residents considered cyclists not cycling in single file through the village a problem, particularly given the number of blind bends in the North and Centre.

The North described problems with parking at the bottom of Kilmeston Road, leading up to the A272, as being dangerous. Restricted sight when leaving Greys Farm Close or pulling out of Kilmeston Road was also cited as a concern.

Traffic Measures

Overall residents strongly felt that traffic measures should not be implemented within central Kilmeston as this would urbanise and ruin the beauty of the village. However, most residents agreed that traffic measures are much needed around the A272 in the North. In particular, they tended to opt more for traffic “calming” measures and pedestrian safe routes/pavements rather than crossings or other alternatives.

Road Maintenance

Road maintenance did not appear to be a major concern for most residents, although pot holes in central Kilmeston were also described as making driving more hazardous for both motorists and pedestrians. There was a moderate concern regarding the drainage within the village.

The following areas of road were highlighted as being particularly problematic with regards to flooding:

- Outside the Old Pump House
- The dip between the Church and St Andrew’s House
- Outside the Village Hall
- Outside Dean House
- The lanes going towards the Millburys
- A272/B3046 crossroads
- The section of Kilmeston Road around the source of the River Itchen and by the crossroads

Travel

Recommendation:

Parish Council to ask Winchester City Council and any other

relevant authority:

- a) what new measures will be introduced to improve road safety at the A272 crossroads
- a) what measures will be taken to improve line of sight visibility when crossing the A272 coming into Kilmeston from Cheriton

Most residents rely on cars (89.2%), motorbikes (4.6%) and vans (3.1%) or other (3.1%). Cars and vans were the most common means of transport to work followed by busses (both to school and work) and car sharing. Doctors and Dentists appeared to be the most difficult services for residents to access. Counter-intuitively, the North strongly reported agreeing that it was difficult to access shops and other services (Bank, Library, etc) whereas this was less of a concern for the Centre. The North tended to rely on family or neighbours for help for access to these services rather than deliveries or online services. Buses were either never or occasionally used, and when they were the service tended to be described as unsatisfactory.

Whilst most residents do not use the local bus service, and rely on cars instead, the majority of those who do are either “Unsatisfied” or “Very Unsatisfied” with it

Traffic calming measures and more pavements were the most popular choices when it came to addressing road safety concerns

PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Given that Kilmeston is a small rural village with limited resources and amenities, responses here varied. Some residents welcome a quiet country life and have a commensurate level of expectation regarding the provision of various services; others would like to see a greater level of activity and more amenities made available, be it for young or old. Asked to rank 20 different amenities and services, utilities (water, electricity), refuse collection and land line reliability were the most popular. This was followed by the Village Hall, maintenance of open spaces, St Andrew’s Church, recycling, GP services and terrestrial TV reception.

Residents were least impressed with leisure facilities for all age groups, the emergency services and mobile phone and satellite TV reception, though residents in the North seemed to get a better mobile signal than those in the Centre. There were several requests made to provide more tangible leisure facilities such as a children's play area or public seating.

The top 5 most valued services and amenities in the village are:

1. Mains water
2. Mains electricity
3. The Village Hall
4. Refuse Collection
5. Landline reliability

63% of residents think that the provision of Broadband is "Poor"

Most residents feel "well informed" about local events and prefer to receive hand-delivered updates, or emails / phone calls

When asked what prevented residents from accessing facilities outside of Kilmeston, public transport was the main reason, though most said they were able to drive and that access was not a major concern. The vast majority of residents are dissatisfied with broadband, and would like to see faster speeds, more suppliers and greater reliability of service. Several commented on the higher cost of having to pay for high speed providers, and many were equally frustrated with mobile phone reception.

Access to education in the Parish raised very few concerns, and were it to be provided then activities for pre-school and adults were the most popular.

When it comes to residents' views on social and leisure events in Kilmeston, the most satisfied age group were those aged between 26 and 65, followed by 12-17 year olds. The least satisfied were under 11.

Recommendation

Parish Council to publish details of:

- a) Community grant options to deliver super fast fibre broadband to the village, as per similar scheme in Cheriton
- b) Village Hall Committee to publish annual calendar of social events

CRIME AND SAFETY

Overall Crime and Safety was not a subject which seemed to concern the majority of residents.

Whilst petty crime, nuisance phone calls, dangerous dogs, garden shed break-ins, theft of dogs and not being able to leave homes unattended were all commented on and worried some residents, most stated that they have not had cause to contact the police to report a crime in the past two years.

Recommendation

- a) promote Neighbourhood Watch scheme to all residents through available channels (email, Slack, Parish magazine, etc)
- b) Communicate official policy from Hampshire Police on when they respond to a crime in person, and what alternatives are available if they cannot

When asked how reported crimes were dealt with and progressed, most respondents expressed no opinion at all or were unconcerned. Those who did comment on how the Police handled an actual or attempted crime either spoke highly of the response they received, or commented on how their experience was not deemed important by the Police (e.g. an attempted garage break-in), or didn't seem to solve the issue (e.g. nuisance phone calls).

The local Neighbourhood Watch scheme was praised for the helpful warnings and advice it gave, then again at least one resident was unaware of its existence.

61% of residents said they were "Not Concerned" about crime or their personal safety in the Parish.

84% said they had not had cause to contact the police in the last two years to report an incident

VIEWS OF YOUNG RESIDENTS

Questions were specifically asked of the Under 11s and those aged 11-17.

The Under 11s were asked to comment on and draw pictures of what they like and dislike in the village, and four responses were received.

Amongst the most popular features of life in Kilmeston for our younger residents included the Fete, the Christmas Bazaar, the Christingle Service, the Harvest Supper, the Church, the Newsletter and the abundance of wildlife.

Less popular were cars speeding, busy roads, the lack of a dedicated play area or dedicated activities in the Village Hall for young people and building on fields in the North of the village.

10 replies were received from the 11-17 age group.

When asked about how they travelled to school or college, or to play sport or socialise, most relied on getting a lift from Mum or Dad, some used the school bus, and a few walked or cycled.

When asked what is good about living in Kilmeston, there was a broad consensus about the beauty and peacefulness of the village and the surrounding countryside, the friendliness of residents, and events such as the Fete and Christmas Day service.

If the 11-17s could change two things about living in Kilmeston, whilst some said “nothing, it’s all good”, others commented on feeling isolated and having to rely on others or public transport to travel, the lack of a shop and other amenities they may find in a town, the absence of bridleways for riding, increasing internet speeds and reducing the speed of road traffic.

Recommendations

Village Hall Committee to include specific events suitable for young residents in annual calendar of events

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

These are the key recommendations highlighted in the Parish Plan.

In almost all instances it falls to the Parish Council to take responsibility for informing residents on the specific steps it is taking to address these recommendations, and subsequently the progress it is making:

1. Details of any development plans currently in play or under consideration which will affect the Parish
2. Explanation of how residents’ collective or individual views can be aired to support or challenge any development plans
3. Improve road safety at the A272 crossroads, including line of sight visibility when coming into Kilmeston from Cheriton
4. Reducing the risk of flooding
5. Protecting and maintaining trees, hedgerows, ditches and footpaths
6. Dealing with any flytipping
7. Identifying community grant options to deliver super fast fibre broadband to the village, as per similar scheme in Cheriton
8. Publishing an annual calendar of social events in the Village Hall, including specific events suitable for young residents
9. Promoting the village Neighbourhood Watch scheme to all residents through available channels (email, Slack, Parish magazine, etc)
10. Communicating official policy from Hampshire Police on when they respond to a crime in person, and what alternatives are available if they cannot

It is therefore proposed that the Chairman of the Parish Council make these recommendations a specific agenda item in each Parish Council meeting



Appendix 1 - Parish Plan Purpose

Purpose Parish Plans have the broadest application of all the community-led planning tools. They generally cover the social, economic, travel, transport and environment aspects of community life. They can be used to:

- Provide evidence for external funding applications to improve or create community facilities (Village Hall etc.)
- Identify and enable improvements to the right of way network
- Make amendments to satellite navigation routing
- Establish community events and
- Identify local housing needs (housing survey)
- Other areas as per case studies

Plan of Action

1. Examine the housing survey when details released.
2. Look at the history, types and design of houses in the village.
3. Examine the roads and verges
4. Look at the existing communications
5. Examine the community facilities
6. Analyse crime and safety in the village
7. Design a questionnaire to obtain the whole villages views
8. List the good points and the bad and attempt to improve some of the weaker areas.

Contacts

Parish Plan Steering Committee (see separate list)
Steve Lincoln – Community Planning Manager Winchester City Council
01962 848110 Email slincoln@winchester.gov.uk
Chris Paterson – South Downs National Park
Email Chris.Paterson@southdowns.gov.uk

Information

SDNP Community Planning Toolkit
WCC Village Parish Plans
<http://www.winchester.gov.uk/community/community-plans/completed-plans>

Appendix 2 - Parish Plan Steering Committee Constitution

Name of Group Kilmeston Parish Plan Steering Committee

Purpose

The purpose of the committee shall be to act, in consultation with the Parish council, to carry out the following tasks:-

1. Investigate and identify support for the Parish Plan.
2. Identify sources of funding in addition to the Countryside Agency grant.
3. Take responsibility for planning, budgeting and monitoring expenditure on the plan and keep the Parish council informed on these matters.
4. Liaise with relevant authorities and organisations to make the plan as effective as possible.
5. Identify ways of involving the whole community and gather the views and opinions of as many groups and organisations in the community as possible.
6. Determine the types of survey and information gathering to be used.
7. Be responsible for the analysis of the survey, the production and distribution of the final report.
8. Identify priorities and timescale for local action in the action plan including lead organisations and potential sources of project funding.
9. To keep the Parish council informed on progress, issues arising and outcomes from the exercise.

Members

The committee will include up to 12 nominated members.

No more than 2 of these members will be members of the Parish council.

Election to the committee will take place at a meeting open to the public and it is open to all residents or persons.

The committee may co-opt additional members at its discretion, so long as the total number does not exceed 12.

Officers

At the first meeting the committee will elect a chairperson, a vice-chair, secretary and treasurer. All other members should have a specific role as agreed by the committee.

Meetings

The committee will meet every two months as a minimum, or as may be required.

Working Groups

The committee may appoint working groups, as it considers necessary.

Finance

The treasurer shall keep a clear record of expenditure, where necessary supported by invoices.

The treasurer will report back to the committee and keep the Parish council informed on planned and actual expenditure for the project, and liaise with the Parish clerk to enable cash withdrawals and payment of invoices to be made.

Changes to the Constitution

This constitution may be altered and additional clauses may be added with the consent of two-thirds of the committee present.

Parish Plan Steering Committee

September 2016