

VILLAGE PLAN FOR DRY DRAYTON

“Please can we have a Duck Pond?”

MAP GOES HERE

Dry Drayton parish map and extracts from Gallows Piece to Bee Garden (published 2000).

Version submitted for approval by the Dry Drayton Parish Council at the Village Meeting on Tuesday 21st April 2009 }

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Preparation of Village Plan

The usual process to prepare a Village Plan is to form a Steering Group who devise a questionnaire and analyse the results. Grants normally available from DEFRA through Cambridgeshire Action with Communities in Rural England (Cambridgeshire ACRE) had expired at the time of this process. A survey covering some of the issues needed in a village plan had been carried out by the School and Village Association in 2006 with partial success. Therefore it was decided to submit a strawman plan for comment by the whole village using the headings that Cambridgeshire ACRE use. A copy, was sent to every household in Dry Drayton, to all school parents (whether or not they lived in the village) and to all village organisations. It was also published on the village website. A public meeting, attended by 26 people, was held to discuss it on 11th June. Comments from 44 individuals and 12 village organisations (representing over 100 people) were received by 31st October. Cambridgeshire ACRE officials have been consulted and are satisfied that the process meets their aims of openness and inclusiveness.

The original draft document was revised to reflect the comments received. In addition sections giving (1) the overall context and (2) an overview of the current village facilities and clubs were added, as well as most importantly a complementary draft action plan (section 5). This revised version was also sent to every household in Dry Drayton and to all school parents. A second public meeting was held on Monday 9th February 2009 (attended by 38 people) and a further 12 comments were received from individuals and village organisations. Further revisions have been made in the light of these comments and discussions. This current version is being submitted to the Dry Drayton Parish Council for approval. If approved, the sequence of events is as follows:

- publish final Village Plan
- submit final Village Plan to Cambridgeshire ACRE
- Cambridgeshire ACRE submit Village Plan to SCSP (South Cambs. Strategic Partnership)
- SCSP feedback to Cambridgeshire ACRE to feedback to Parish Council

Preface

The Government wants local communities to have more control of their own lives, to say what they want in their own community and to work with other organisations to get it done. In the words of Cambridgeshire ACRE:

“In recent years, work on community empowerment has been driven forward through the use of the community-led parish planning process. By working together within the community, local people debate and create their own vision for a sustainable future. Where early links are made with local government and service providers as part of parish plan process, this can result in communities having real influence with decision-makers on public and local services. Community-led (or Parish) Plans give an opportunity for everyone in your community to make themselves heard. They provide a way for you to say if you want more open spaces, more effective public transport, affordable housing, better access to health care, a chance to buy local produce at local shops and to choose how your community helps everyone in it to relax and make the most of their social and leisure time.”

Many Cambridgeshire villages have such a plan which indicates how the village should develop, sets out problems that need to be tackled & demonstrates how its distinctive character & features can be preserved. Village plans are not new, but the last one for Dry Drayton was in 1973. This fact coupled with their increased importance in accessing funds for local initiatives means the time is ripe to produce a plan for the early 21st century.

The village plan and action plan are not ‘set in stone’; nor do they detail every move and project planned for the village. They are intended to be a strategy providing direction for people to use and develop further, delivering what is required and thereby making the plan a reality. An essential feature is that the Parish Council review the Village Plan and Action Plan annually.

The role of the Parish Council is to:

- improve the standard of life in the village; and
- liaise with the District and County Councils (who have the money and power) by passing on the concerns and the wishes of the residents.

Every year the Parish Council sets the precept which determines the amount of money it receives from the District Council. This process is subject to a set of very strict rules to ensure accountability of the way it spends your money and the size of the financial reserves available for discretionary use. If the council is aware of what the village wants it can adjust the precept accordingly. From a financial perspective therefore it has to plan ahead.

In recent years there has been little interest in serving on the Dry Drayton Parish Council with the result that there have been no contested elections to the Parish Council since 1999. Since then the Council members have been co-opted by fellow councillors. As a result it is difficult to be sure that the views of the Parish Council represent the views of the majority of inhabitants of Dry Drayton. The production of a village plan enables the views of villagers to be heard so that the Parish Council (and other organisations) can plan ahead with confidence that it is representing those views. In addition an approved Village Plan will carry considerable weight in discussions with other villages and with the District and County Councils. It is clear from the responses to the strawman plan that the residents of the village appreciate its small scale, proximity to Cambridge, accessibility, relative safety & community spirit. The aim of the plan is to preserve these features & set out ways to make the village an even better place to live.

Finally the title of this plan “Please can we have a duck pond?” is stolen from the title of the school childrens’ contribution following their discussions of the original strawman plan. Their very thoughtful responses (published in the December 2008 newsletter) were a major spur to the continued work on this village plan as they are our representatives of the future and we must not let them down.

Section 1: Introduction and Background

The earliest record of a settlement on the hill above the fen edge dates to approximately AD 917 when the Danes started farming here, although there was probably an early building dating from around 800 AD indicating a settlement hereabouts at that time. The Church dates from the mid 12th Century and the basic shape of the village, largely unchanged to the present day, was established by 1300 AD. Dry Drayton is surrounded by rich and productive agricultural land and not liable to flooding, and so it is not surprising that farming is still a major local activity. A full history of Dry Drayton (Gallows Piece to Bee Garden) was prepared as part of the Millennium celebrations in 2000.

Up-to-date information is available from sources such as the 2001 Census, the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2004, the South Cambridgeshire booklet Village Amenities and Services, and other documents available on the South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) and Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) websites. The following is extracted from the Dry Drayton section of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2004:

The Village lies on a ridge about 5 miles West of Cambridge with open views across the local countryside. It is bisected by the C193 road which links the A428 to the south and the A14 Trunk road to the north. The Parish covers 2421 acres (979 ha).

The Parish Church and former Manor House in Drayton Park formed the focus of the village in the south with development around small ancient closes and the High Street to the north. The Rectory occupies a large site to the west of the High Street. Park Street cuts across the village green. Timber frame cottages and farm-houses dating from the 17th and 18th centuries are roofed with tiles or thatch. Further farms and labourers' cottages were built in 19th century.

In the late 1960's and 70's there were developments of a small cul de sac off Park Street and larger developments in Pettitt's Close and Cotton's Field. Some residential homes were built in Proctor's Farm and Baker's Field in the 1980's and 90's. Otherwise building has taken place on individual plots within a tight planning boundary delineated in the 1973 Village Plan.

Dry Drayton is one of the smaller villages in Cambridgeshire. The population recorded in 2001 was 582, with a mean age of 42. The population has changed a great deal over the years. It was roughly constant at 50-100 people from the time of settlement to ~1650. It then grew quite steadily reaching a peak of 497 in 1851. By 1881 numbers had fallen sharply to 374 with a slower decline to 323 in 1901. Numbers rose again following new building at Scotland Farm in 1911, but by 1917 numbers had fallen to 397 (including 45 men away at the War) and to 373 in 1931. They rose again to 400 or so ~1950 and to 487 in 1971. The 2001 age distribution is shown in Table 1(a).

The total number of houses in 2001 was 253 (220 in the 1981 census) of which 242 had residents. Of these one building was Grade 2* listed and 14 were Grade 2 listed. There are mains gas and water supplies and the village is connected to the main sewer with a capacity of 670. There are 35 industrial units and some offices based at Scotland Farm.

Age	%
0-4	5
5-15	14
16-24	9
25-44	22
45-64	33
65-74	8
>75	9

Type	% (number)
Detached	65 (164)
Semi/Terr	33 (84)
Flats/Caravan	2 (5)
Owner/Occupier	75 (181)
"Social" Rent	13 (31)
Private Rent	12 (30)

Table 1: Dry Drayton in the 2001 census: (a) age distribution; (b) housing breakdown

Dry Drayton has been identified as a Group Village and as such residential development and redevelopment is subject to a maximum size of 8 dwellings or exceptionally up to 15 on a brown field site.

Section 2: Village facilities – 2008

Dry Drayton has a number of amenities (school, pub, village hall, church and chapel) and many clubs and societies which lead to a real sense of community spirit. The Village School is at the heart of much community activity, both in its own right and through the School and Village Association (S&VA) which acts as a support for the school and as an umbrella for village societies. The Village is well known locally for having a vibrant cultural life as seen in many successful theatrical and musical productions and an annual arts show. In this section the facilities and organisations are briefly described. Further information is available on the village website, and details about particular meetings and events are published in the village newsletter.

2.1 Facilities and services

Dry Drayton contains a certain number of facilities and services which are used by village organisations and individuals. However some are clearly missing or in short supply. For example, there is no public space available for either sports or for play. (The use of the school field is at the discretion of the Governors.) Dry Drayton is the largest village in Cambridgeshire without either facility, and many smaller villages have one or other or both. In this section we list what exists.

Allotments

The Dry Drayton allotments are located on a quiet piece of land off Pettitt's Close and run by the Warden (currently Mr G. Carter) appointed by the Parish Council. They are used by a wide range of people and there is currently a waiting list for plots.

Black Horse

The Black Horse public house is sited next door to the Primary School. It closed in 2008 and its future is currently uncertain.

Churches

Dry Drayton is home to two churches: the Church of England's St Peter and St Paul and the Methodist chapel. Both have active congregations with regular Sunday Services and a jointly run Sunday School. The buildings are very different. The church of St Peter and St Paul dates from the 13th century and can hold congregations of over 100 people. Plans for renovation are well developed and these should lead to a real improvement in its facilities. The Methodist Chapel is smaller and has more facilities.

Community car share scheme

A community car scheme was started recently by a village resident. It is run entirely on a voluntary basis and there are currently 8 drivers. If someone wants a lift, they make a request a few days ahead, and the booking is then made.

Dry Drayton CE Primary School

The school is a small Church of England Primary School for children aged between 4 and 11. About half of its pupils live in the village of Dry Drayton, while others travel to the school from Girton, Oakington, Bar Hill, Cambourne and other nearby villages. Its main building was built in the 19th century. In 2002, a new school hall and office were added. In 2006, new pre-school toilets were built and the school toilet/cloakroom area was completely refurbished.

The maximum capacity is 70 pupils, and the roll in January 2009 is 59. Year groups have a maximum of 10 children with class sizes averaging between 15 and 20, giving excellent pupil/staff ratios. Strong links are maintained with the church and the wider village. Indeed, the School is a focal point of the village and is supported by the S & VA, a charitable organisation run by a combination of parents and villagers to raise funds for school and village causes. There is an on-site After School Club and Pre-school.

Football posts have been made available on the school field in the last couple of years in response to the earlier S&VA questionnaire. These are successfully used by the school and by young inhabitants of Dry Drayton, and this additional opportunity and responsibility has resulted in a significant reduction of anti-social behaviour.

Footpaths

A web of footpaths runs through the village and its surroundings. These are maintained by the Parish Council and described in a Millennium booklet Footpaths and Walks published in 2001.

Newsletter

The Newsletter has been published since 1975 by the S&VA. Ten issues are published each year. Copies are delivered to all houses in the village and given to all the parents of children at the school and Little Owl Clubs. A special issue each year is devoted to publicising Feast Week activities.

Shredder

A garden shredder is available for use by the inhabitants of the village on payment of a token fee to cover maintenance and running costs.

Village Hall

The Village Hall is on High St and is used by village groups, private parties and for village occasions such as the revues and the pantomimes. It has relatively low letting charges and recently it has been nearly fully booked. It is run as an independent charity by the Village Hall Committee. It has limited parking and no outdoor facilities.

2.2 Organisations and clubs

For a village the size of Dry Drayton, there are a large number of active organisations and clubs. These are listed below. In addition a number of more ad hoc activities are organised in the school hall or village hall as well as in individual homes. These include pilates, line dancing and keep fit classes.

Art Group

The Dry Drayton Art Group was formed in 1992 and has a membership of about 20 people from Dry Drayton and the surrounding villages. It meets weekly in the Village Hall and organises a programme of tutors covering different aspects of art. An annual exhibition is held in the church of St Peter and St Paul during Feast Week featuring its own and other people's work, including that of the Forum Art Group.

Baby Owl Mother/Toddler Group

The Baby Owls mother and toddler group was set up in 2005 to provide a forum for toddlers and parents to meet before they move on to pre-school, particularly those not otherwise involved in the school. Currently, the Baby Owls (typically 9-15 children plus parents) meet for about 3 hours every Wednesday morning in the Dry Drayton Village Hall. A modest charge covers refreshments and a selection of activities (trampolines, slide, ride-ons, books, crafts, songs, etc.).

Bowls Club

The bowls club meets in the Village Hall on a weekly basis throughout the year. Typically 10 or so people play indoor bowls with varying degrees of competitiveness. All are welcome.

Bridge Club

The Dry Drayton Duplicate Bridge School and Club meets every Monday evening in the Village Hall. It was founded in 1994 and has about 30 members.

Croquet Group

The Croquet Group meets one afternoon a week in the summer months.

Drama

Although no drama group formally exists, there is a strong dramatic heritage in Dry Drayton. Many pantomimes have been produced in the Village Hall over the years. Recently these have been interspersed with revues. The School Hall and the marquee have also been used as venues.

These have been organised under the auspices of the S&VA and have provided it with a source of valuable income. Ad hoc productions are put on by other groups.

Forum Art Group

The Forum Art Group was formed in 2005 for people wanting to paint together and exchange ideas, irrespective of experience. Since 2005 it has met in the school hall during term from 9.45 – 11.45 on Wednesdays. In the summer it meets outside to paint gardens or local villages. Water colour is the medium used by most members and occasionally there is instruction by a visiting expert. Membership is about 12 and there is a subscription for each term at the school. New members are welcome.

Freaky Friday Youth Club

The Freaky Friday Youth Club was set up in response to the S&VA questionnaire in 2006. It operates most Friday evenings in the Village Hall. It is run by a management committee of young people and the sessions are supervised by local adult volunteers. Special events are organised on an ad hoc basis. The initial funding to set up the club came from the S&VA and the Local Network Fund with help from Young Lives. Since then funding from SCDC has supported improvements to the Village Hall and First Aid courses for the community (including young people); a food hygiene course for adult volunteer and 3 young people in the club was supported by a Tenant Participation Grant.

Friendship Club

The Friendship Club meets in the Village Hall at 2.30 pm on the third Wednesday in the month. Adults living in Dry Drayton and the surrounding area are welcome. The Club endeavours to create a continuing social contact by holding regular meetings and events for the benefit and enjoyment of its members and their guests.

Green Group

The Dry Drayton Green Group was set up in July 2007 by a group of local residents. It aims to share information about what can be done locally to counter global warming, to encourage and support individual residents in taking action, and to work together to create new carbon emission reduction projects in the village. A Green Page is published regularly in the Village Newsletter, and on the Village Website, with information about events and tips for action. The Group has organised a number of public meetings on climate change issues, and it maintains links with other local groups and climate change initiatives, and the local councils. A Dry Drayton Carbon Footprint Calculator has also been prepared and circulated. Suggestions for action, and other inputs to group planning, are welcome.

Little Owl After School And Holiday Club

The Little Owl After School And Holiday Club is a welcoming out-of-school club run in Dry Drayton Primary School. It is run by paid staff with a volunteer committee. It shares a dedicated unit with the Little Owl Pre-School which is located behind the Timbuktu reception classroom. It includes a garden with rubber crumb play area and other outdoor facilities. It operates each evening after school until 5.30pm and during the school holidays from 8.30am – 6pm. Children from ages 3 to 11 years are very welcome. The After School Club has run a variety of activities including cookery, German, sports and other clubs. The Holiday Club includes themed activities and arts and crafts are a speciality.

Little Owl Pre-School

Little Owl Pre-School is a small, friendly group delivering the Early Years Curriculum to children older than two and a half in a fun and stimulating way. It is run by paid staff with a volunteer committee. It operates every morning and some afternoons during the week. It shares the Little Owl building and play area at the Primary School with the After School and Holiday Club.

Marquee Team

The School and Village Association have hired out marquees since the late 1970s, when a marquee was donated by Spillers on condition that the S&VA erect it for them each year. Over the

years, the Marquee team has been a successful fund-raising activity raising roughly £1000 per year. It has also acted as an excellent forum for the men (principally) to meet after work and then have a drink. About 30 people are involved each year in the marquee team. The marquees are owned by the S&VA and special rates of hire are available to inhabitants.

Neighbourhood Watch

An active Neighbourhood Watch scheme is operated in Dry Drayton providing a link to the local community police and alerts about criminal and anti-social behaviour in the village. There are 12 areas in the village, each with a local coordinator.

Quilting Bee

The Dry Drayton Quilting Bee is a friendly group with a common interest in quilting which meets on a fortnightly basis in members' houses. It has been going for over 10 years and stages occasional exhibitions in the village. It has 10 or so members.

Reading Circle

The Reading Circle is an informal group, which meets on the third Wednesday of each month from September through to May. Books are selected ahead of meetings, by vote, for discussion in the first part of the meeting, leaving the second half for members to talk about other books that they have been reading. It has about 12 members and one-off visitors are welcome.

St Giles Cricket Club

While not a village organisation, the St Giles Cricket Club (based in Cambridge) uses the Solway Field cricket ground as one of its home grounds. In recent years a Dry Drayton parent/child team has played a St Giles team in an annual friendly cricket match as part of Feast Week.

School and Village Association (S&VA)

The Dry Drayton School and Village Association was set up in the 1970s in lieu of a conventional parent-teacher association. The rationale is that a small school like Dry Drayton (a) would struggle to maintain an active PTA; and (b) is an important part of village life with real support from the local community as well as the parents. The S&VA thus has the joint aims of supporting both the school and village life, since either on its own would be much the poorer. The main activities of the S&VA are organising the annual Feast Week, running the marquee, acting as a forum for the other village groups, putting on the pantos and revues and publishing the village newsletter. As a result significant funds are raised each year with over half being used to support the school or Little Owl groups in one way or another.

Scrabble Group

The Scrabble Group was started in 2007. It meets on a monthly basis except in summer with no charge for attendance. There are currently about 15 members and new members are welcome.

Women's Institute

The Dry Drayton Women's Institute meets one evening each month in the Village Hall and runs a regular series of presentations on diverse subjects. High quality refreshments are provided. It has about 20-25 members.

2.3 Local Industry

The village contains a number of small businesses which employ people from Dry Drayton and the surrounding area. There are thirty five industrial units (Dry Drayton Industries) & eight offices (the Irwin Centre) at Scotland Farm which make a substantial financial contribution in business rates to South Cambs DC. Another small business area may be developed at Church Farm by the conversion of farm buildings into offices. The other main businesses in the village are the public house (hopefully), the cattery and the local farms which are important to many aspects of village life, including contributing to village events.

Section 3: Village Plan – Proposed Developments

This section identifies the gaps in existing services & facilities, grouped under Cambridgeshire ACRE's issue headings. It sets out a range of possible improvements & developments, reflecting the views expressed during the consultation on the first draft of the plan. It also articulates the thinking behind the priorities summarised in the Action Plan in Section 5.

3.1 Population & Housing

The population of Dry Drayton currently stands at circa 600 with circa 250 dwellings, including 33 Council and 2 Housing Association homes. SCDC designate it as a "Group Village" i.e. one with a primary school and limited further development that will help maintain existing services and provide affordable housing for local needs. Residential development up to 8 dwellings is permitted within a defined envelope, with development permitted exceptionally up to 15 dwellings for a single brown-field site.

The Village Plan has no formal status in discussions about future housing development in Dry Drayton. However the discussions of plans for future facilities is inevitably coloured by the extent of any possible development. In particular there has been debate about whether the currently planned level of development would meet the stated aim of securing existing services & providing affordable housing, let alone support the new facilities described below.

There has been considerable debate on this issue during the preparation of the Village Plan, with many views expressed. There is agreement that no large or significant expansion is needed. However some residents are opposed to any development, particularly if this results in encroachment on the Green Belt, while others support limited expansion as a means of increasing the proportion of village children at the primary school and improving amenities, so long as the developments are in locations that maintain the village's sense of identity and geographical separation from other settlements. In particular, there is strong support for any developments to be mainly affordable/social housing attractive to young families to either rent or buy, and/or purpose-built and maintained accommodation for elderly people. The most effective way to introduce further new housing for rent is likely to be in partnership with a Housing Association.

There has also been discussion about whether the defined village envelope is unduly restrictive in freeing up land for development purposes. For example, there are arguments for including some affordable homes as part of the development to convert the Church Farm buildings into offices.

An issue for any major development would be addressing the current lack of capacity in the sewer system and off-street car parking.

It is proposed that the Parish Council commissions the Cambridgeshire ACRE Rural Housing Enabler Project to undertake a current survey of housing needs in Dry Drayton (the last one being over 10 years ago).

3.2 Highways & Footpaths

Roads

The volume of traffic using the C193 between the A428 and the A14 is a current problem that will be exacerbated by the enormous development at Northstowe. Although the A14 proposals include improvements to the Dry Drayton junction, this will become one of the main routes into Northstowe. Further, the proposed changes to the Girton Interchange provide no north-bound access to the A14 from the A428, leaving Dry Drayton as an attractive through route. **Thus the top priority for Dry Drayton is to ensure that the developments at the Girton Interchange as part of the proposed improvements to the A14 do not adversely affect Dry Drayton: in particular a route should be found so that those travelling east on the A428 can go north on the A14 (and vice versa) without passing through Dry Drayton.** In the absence of such a route, a bypass should be seriously considered.

The traffic calming measures have slowed the traffic passing through the village on the C193. It is now time, with the experience of a few years, to review these measures. This review should cover issues such as the safety at the mini-roundabout at the junction of Oakington Road and Park Lane, the design of speed humps, the positioning of the speed warning signs and the chicanes (particularly whether the two on Oakington Road should be on the same side of the road).

Other possible improvements include:

- a complete ban on all heavy goods vehicles from passing through the village;
- supplementing the flashing speed signs with community operated mobile speed cameras, and the Parish Council to join the County Council's new Speedwatch Scheme; and
- clearing Callow Brook and creating a balancing pond to prevent the regular flooding of the Madingley Road and Park Lane.

Off Road Cycle Network

Cycling in/out of the village currently is hazardous, with the sole exception of the route to Bar Hill. The Green Group's recent survey showed that an estimated 57% of households in the village have at least one bicycle, but there are no figures for the distance covered by these bicycles per annum. Anecdotally, this is very low because of the safety concerns, particularly for children. Very strong support for improved bike services was expressed in the consultation.

It is proposed that a network of off-road links be constructed along Madingley Road (being the preferred route into Cambridge), Oakington Road (upgrade the new path to link with the cycle path from Bar Hill to Huntingdon Road, Cambridge proposed as part of the A14 improvement scheme) and Scotland Road (to connect with the off-road cycleway along the A1303 St. Neots Road from Hardwick to Cambridge). These links will facilitate Bike & Ride to the Madingley Road Park & Ride site and the guided busway stop at Oakington. They will also provide safe circular routes for health and recreational purposes and continuous off-road cycle access to Cambridge.

All the proposed links would benefit from joint working with neighbouring parishes and regional initiatives such as Cycling 2020 and the County Council's Local Transport Plan. The Madingley Road route is currently the subject of a joint initiative between Dry Drayton and Madingley Parish Councils.

Footpaths

It is proposed to develop a comprehensive plan to improve the footpaths and bridleways of Dry Drayton. This will range from regular maintenance (control of weeds & bushes), better signposting, improved surfaces/drainage/ lighting (e.g. Queens Passage) to the construction of new footpaths (e.g. dual use with cycleways to Hardwick, Madingley and Oakington) & the creation of more off-road circular routes.

3.3 Conservation & Environment

Local environment

Dry Drayton has lacked a village green as a place to hold events or provide a safe haven for young and old alike since the former park in the centre of the village was cut in half by the re-aligned main road (C193). There is strong support (including some specific proposals) to form a new village centre; these cover several issue headings in this plan and are brought together in Section 4. Improvements to the environment of the village include:

- re-creating a village green;
- developing part of Cotton's Field to become a nature reserve /amenity/community woodland area and possibly the site of a village duck pond. This idea was strongly supported in the 2008 Green Group survey for its positive impact on the village's carbon footprint;

- protect the edges of the current village green;
- more frequent grass cutting;
- flower displays and bulb/shrub/tree planting in the village's public areas;
- litter clearance days to supplement the efforts of the resident volunteers who try to keep the village tidy; and
- provision of benches.

The natural habitats and wildlife of the village and parish are an important consideration. Regular observations by residents reveal that Dry Drayton is home to a wide range of fauna and flora, including some protected species such as bats, Great Crested Newts and owls. The seemingly wild and less well-managed corners are vital for providing roosting, foraging, hunting and nesting areas for small mammals, birds and insects. A number of attractive wildflowers are found in some grassland areas, such as certain stretches of road verge, the Park, churchyard and surrounds. Because of the importance of these wild areas and species both in conservation terms and as part of the quality of life indicators for the village, it is important to retain and enhance the wildlife and natural habitat resources of Dry Drayton.

Therefore, before making changes (including those listed above) that might impact on the wider natural environment of the village and parish, whether these be for development, or recreational needs (including more frequent grass-cutting of some areas, or 'tidying-up' wild corners), it is crucial that wildlife needs are fully taken into account before implementing work.

The Parish Council should develop a Biodiversity Plan in conjunction with SCDC.

Sustainable living

Dry Drayton will need to implement locally the national and regional policies on waste recycling and energy usage. Some measures are best organised individually, but many will need community support and investment to be viable and cost-effective. Since 2007 the village has had an active Green Group which will play a leading role in this, but any infrastructure will require investment through a formal village organisation. In October 2008 the Green Group carried out a survey of 10% of the houses in the village in order to get feedback on the energy savings ideas proposed in the draft Village Plan and as a basis for applying for grants to support such measures. The outcome of this survey is reflected in the following list of ideas that will be pursued, as well as in the priorities shown in the draft Action Plan:

- helping villagers to use a carbon footprint calculator;
- providing alternative energy information (e.g. advice about subsidies) to village households and organisations;
- providing electricity use monitors to show current energy usage and costs;
- negotiating a reduced energy tariff if a large number of villagers changed supplier;
- converting street and footpath lighting to carbon efficient/non polluting forms;
- providing information to village households on recycling and green driving opportunities;
- providing additional communal recycling (e.g. a skip for tetrapak) and composting facilities, and/or communal transport (e.g. trailer) to recycling facilities.
- identifying means of local renewable energy generation in Dry Drayton

Such measures should be organised into a coherent approach, and not be implemented in a piecemeal fashion. Innovative financial schemes could be investigated in order to accelerate the initial investment in carbon reduction measures. For example, it might be possible to consult with an energy supplier, funding bodies, and financial institutions, with a view to setting up a village fund which would invest initially in the measures (particularly insulation) with short payback times. A good proportion of the savings might be refunded to the village fund which could then re-invest them in longer-term measures to reduce carbon usage.

3.4 Recreation & Sport

The previous survey by the S&VA identified strong support for improving recreation facilities in the village, particularly for the 11-17 year old age group. A number of initiatives have come to fruition since then, including the establishment of the Freaky Friday Youth Club. Other needs remain un-addressed, largely due to the inability to identify and acquire suitably located land. The facilities need to be located within the village so that there is good access – but there is no publicly owned land of any size here.

Children's Playground

A playground for 0-4s and 5-11s was a high priority in the previous survey & has been strongly supported in the 2008 consultation on this Village Plan. Nearly every village in Cambridgeshire, many smaller than Dry Drayton, has one. One possibility, subject to the landowner's consent, would be a location in the field behind Cotton's Field adjacent to the pond/nature area (see above). There is good access to this location. Other potentially more secure locations need to be explored.

Recreation Field/Multi Purpose Sports Facility

The majority of villages in Cambridgeshire, again many smaller than Dry Drayton, have a sports/recreation field. Such an amenity was identified as a high priority in the 2006 S&VA questionnaire and provision of facilities for all ages was strongly supported in the consultation on this document. Good progress was made on plans for a multi-purpose sports area (a fenced area capable of general use for 5-a-side football, tennis, basketball, etc.) with productive discussions with developers of similar local facilities, constructors and funding bodies. This initiative stalled on the inability to locate a suitable piece of land. It was again strongly supported in the 2008 consultation. **A high priority should be put on re-activating this initiative and identifying possible sites for sports use.**

Allotments

There is currently a waiting list for the village allotments (Goldfields). Once again, locating a suitable piece of secure land close to people's homes is key to addressing the need for any additional allotments.

3.5 Education

School

Dry Drayton CoE primary school is the smallest in the Cambridgeshire LA. The Governors believe the smallness of the school should be respected as it enables individualised teaching and nurture of every child. Any increase in the LA approved capacity (70 pupils) would require additional building. About half the pupils are from villages other than Dry Drayton, and the school would welcome an increase in the proportion coming from the village. The school is an asset to the village and ways to further improve it include:

- continued financial and other support by S&VA to enhance funding for books, equipment, school trips, decoration, etc.;
- continued community support through volunteers taking up community Board of Governor positions and supporting fundraisers; and
- approaching the LA to request that Dry Drayton school be made a feeder of both Comberton and Impington Village Colleges, which are equidistant.

See also below for proposals to improve community facilities at the school.

Pre-School

The Little Owl pre-school offers morning sessions five days a week and will offer up to three afternoon sessions a week, depending on demand. The afternoon sessions combine with after school provision (see below) to provide day-long care (8am – 6pm) to pre-school children. The pre-school attracts many children from villages other than Dry Drayton, and is seen as an important step to encourage parents to send their children to Dry Drayton school. Long term pre-

school provision depends on continued community support of the volunteer committee that runs the pre-school.

After School provision

The Little Owl After School and Holiday Club offers after school care Monday through Friday during term and holiday care during most school holidays. On the days that Pre-School offers an afternoon session, this can be combined as full day care to pre-school age children from 9am to 5.30pm. This is a valuable resource for the school, because not all schools have after school provision. The following suggestions regarding after school provision have been made:

- provision of music/sports, which will require additional funding as after school fees currently only cover staff wages.
- community support through helping on the volunteer committee or sharing talents by volunteering to help with after school activities.

See also below for proposals to improve community facilities at the school.

Toddler Groups

The Dry Drayton Baby Owls caters for children too young for pre-school and their parents/carers, meets in the Village Hall once a week and offers a good opportunity to parents/carers to socialise while being a natural springboard to the pre-school. The main need for its continued success is on-going community support, especially in harder times.

3.6 Community Facilities

The village has vitally important community facilities in its village hall, two churches, pub (sadly closed currently) & school. However, community activities in these facilities are not co-ordinated, nor is the most effective use made of their potential capacity (e.g. the village hall is over-subscribed at certain times when other facilities stand empty). A number of responses to the 2008 Village Plan consultation regretted the loss of the village shop and post office and this emerged as a significant issue in the Green Group's 2008 survey of energy savings opportunities. However, re-providing these is unlikely in the current economic climate & given the proximity of alternatives.

Village Hall

The Village Hall has been regularly improved and maintained. Future possible improvements include:

- re-furbishing/extending the village hall to provide a second meeting room and improved drama facilities;
- provision of a cyber café in the village hall (or elsewhere) giving access to the internet; and
- rebuilding the village hall at its present location or relocating it to a different site (in the longer term).

School

The school benefits from the existence of the on-site Little Owl building, with the pre-school acting as a feeder and the After School and Holiday Club making it easier for working parents to have children at the school. **The current Little Owl building needs to be evaluated and long-term plans put in place for building maintenance and eventual replacement. This should be organised in conjunction with any development of the nearby Timbuktu classroom.** Such a development would be organised by a joint group taken from the school, Little Owl groups and the S&VA (who originally provided the Little Owl building). The aim of possible measures would be to provide:

- improved teaching facilities for the reception, year 1 and year 2 classes;
- improved facilities for pre-school and after-school activities;
- a modern facility for joint school and community use; and
- encouragement for greater community use of the school's playing field.

In addition, better facilities in the school hall (e.g. extension of staff room to include provision of a servery/hatch for refreshments) would be advantageous to both the school and community.

Public House

To the consternation of many in Dry Drayton, the village pub was closed for financial reasons in late 2008. Hopefully it can reopen with a new publican in a reasonable period of time. One possible option is to transform the Black Horse into a community pub e.g. providing a meeting venue for village groups, hosting a Post Office and shop, providing refreshments for walkers and cyclists (this would be a more commercial proposition if the proposals outlined for improving paths and cycleways come to fruition). **It is recommended that a working group is urgently set up to gauge the support for such an approach in the village and to identify what services would be popular.**

S & VA

The S & VA should continue to promote the school and community activities (e.g. Feast Week, pantos, revues, the newsletter) for the benefit of the inhabitants of the village and of the school. It should retain a marquee available for village functions and, preferably, to raise funds through other bookings. An on-going challenge is to involve parents from outside Dry Drayton as well as the inhabitants of Dry Drayton whether or not they are directly involved with the school.

Churches

The Methodist Chapel has a small meeting room including a toilet and kitchen facilities which could be made available to smaller groups if the congregation is willing.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is keen to see the church of St Peter and St Paul, as the largest & oldest building in the village, at the heart of the community. It has plans to improve the facilities, with priority given to adding a disabled access toilet, a kitchen and two meeting rooms, which would make the amenities more attractive to village groups. The plans also include moveable pews, which would make badminton a possibility because of the height of the ceiling!

3.7 Transport

Current public transport provision for the village is basic. The 2001 population census showed that only 11 residents (4%) travelled to work by public transport. The Green Group's 2008 survey revealed that trains/buses account for only 0.1% (national average 3%) & cars 28.1% (nat. ave 19%) of the CO₂ effect from village households. In addition to the improved bike routes (see 3.2), improvements include:

- persuading the bus companies to consider more creative solutions e.g. a regular mini-bus service;
- getting Dry Drayton included (as Madingley is) in the Cambridge Dial-a-Ride City service scheme;
- consolidation and periodic review of the village car share scheme; and
- provision of a local shuttle to the Cambridge Park & Ride or Guided Bus.

3.8 Community Safety

The village has a well organised Neighbourhood Watch scheme & named Police Community Support Officers. Further improvements might include:

- better public communications/interactions with the Police and the Police Community Beat Officer when the situation arises;
- better street/footpath lighting; and
- CCTV cameras at key locations (eg school, village hall).
-

3.9 Health

The village is unlikely to attract a GP surgery; however it could support other more modest measures:

- a first responder first aid scheme to deal with accidents & sudden illness;
- a medicines collection/drop-off point;
- support of keep-fit activities for all ages;
- first aid training;
- a care call scheme for anyone requiring assistance to summon help at the press of a button.
- purchase of a defibrillator; and
- first aider attendance at all village events.

3.10 Youth

The primary aim is to ensure the continued running of the Freaky Friday Youth Club after its first year of operation. The main need is an on-going commitment of young and older adults to its success. Young people in the village would be among the main beneficiaries of a multi-sports facility if that could be developed and of better transport infrastructure (whether buses or cycle-paths). **The idea of an informal covered outdoor meeting place received strong support in the consultation on this plan.**

3.11 Business

The local businesses in the village are important to many aspects of village life, including contributing to village events. The Parish Council and S&VA should continue to assess how these businesses could become more involved in, & supported by, the village in the future through possible sponsorship and social events.

3.12 Parish Council

The Parish Council has a strong track record in financial prudence. However, the previous S&VA survey indicated support for increasing the parish precept, in tandem with other fundraising activities, to finance improved facilities for the village. Possible approaches for the Parish Council include:

- a proactive response to engage with and take forward the issues identified in the Village Plan;
- seeking greater public involvement in their meetings, & improving communications with residents who do not attend, e.g. through an email register for news and meeting minutes or by adding time for public comment at the end of each agenda item or at the end of the meeting;
- budgeting for improved village amenities/facilities, for either specific schemes or general purposes; and
- working with other Councils (Parish, District, County) on strategies that require cross boundary solutions (especially highways & footpaths/cycleways).

3.13 Village Twinning

Traditionally, twinning between towns and villages has occurred between countries in the same continent. However with many social, economic and environmental issues having a clear global dimension, it seems appropriate to consider twinning with a village in the developing world. Such a development could involve most sectors of the village – the school with its international awareness

programme, the churches, the Green Group, as well as many individuals – and would be much easier to achieve nowadays given modern electronic means of communication. There are many possible aspects to this (exchange visits; two-way transfer of knowledge; joint projects) which would need to be clearly defined. There is no obvious lead village organisation for this.

Section 4: Common Themes

The new developments proposed are summarised in the village action plan (Section 5). The proposed initiatives fall into two main categories:

- i.) those which can be organised by individuals, small groups or specific organisations; and
- ii.) those which would need concerted action with wide community support.

The former are well described in the action plan using the Cambridgeshire ACRE categories. However, it is important to highlight three common themes which cut across these definitions but which are clearly important to many people in the village and would provide significant community benefits. These are discussed briefly here.

A. Village Green and Multi-sports Facility

A central village green with facilities for several groups (e.g. children's play area; pond and nature area; sitting areas) and a multi-sports facility (possibly in the same place, possibly not) would both be real community assets. Development of these plans rely critically on the availability of appropriate land and the major short-term need is a search for such land. A joint initiative by the Parish Council and the S&VA should be mounted as an immediate priority.

B. Improved Choice of Transport Options

A more coherent approach to transport (public, private cars, walking and cycling) would be of great benefit for the whole village. The Parish Council is the obvious lead organisation given their links to other councils in the county. One way to proceed would be to set up a working group with the Green Group which involved local cycling and walking organisations, as well as interested people in the village. The output of this group could be (a) the implementation of concrete local measures and (b) effective input into the Local Transport Plan process. A group is already developing plans for a bike path to be built from Dry Drayton through Madingley to the A1303 near Madingley Park and Ride. This initiative needs to be included within a wider plan.

C. Environmental Issues

Awareness of the environment is a growing interest in Dry Drayton. This awareness covers a wide range of issues from local flora and wildlife through to concerns such as global warming. In terms of the Village Plan this materialises explicitly in a number of categories such as Transport, Conservation and Environment, and Highways and Footpaths, as well as implicitly all the discussion of the Village Facilities. This awareness is in line with regional and national initiatives and so significant progress could be made quite quickly if these are properly aligned.