



Willingham Community Plan

PROGRESS REPORT

Chris Chesher | WCPG | May 2022

1. Introduction

Willingham Parish Council (WPC) decided in late 2020 to update the Parish Plan of 2008. Volunteers were recruited and an initial meeting held on 17th February 2021. A committee was formed comprising a good array of relevant expertise – construction, mental and physical health, environment, transport, IT, education, public relations, agriculture and land ownership, with Councillor Phil King as our WPC advisor.

The following objectives were established:

- To discover the hopes and aspirations of those who live or work in Willingham for the future of the village
- To publish a plan which expresses these findings and to present this to the community and appropriate authorities
- To encourage implementation of the plan.

It was decided to follow a similar process to the successful 2008 Parish Plan, including to:

- Produce a questionnaire for the residents of Willingham to discover their hopes and aspirations.
- Correlate the results of the survey with other relevant information to produce a report to communicate the village's hopes and aspirations.
- Hold public meetings throughout the process to seek input and communicate progress.
- To inform implementors within the community and beyond (WPC, District & County Councils, MP etc.) of the desires and wishes of the village.

It was also decided to call the project a Community Plan rather than a Parish Plan as a more inclusive title. Mike Tidball, previous Chairman of the 2008 Parish Plan was asked to advise the group.

A database for document storage was set up using Dropbox.

Meetings were held with various SCDC officers including Bill Handley, those responsible for overseeing the Northstowe development, and development officers who assist communities develop and implement community plans. We also consulted with the CCC councillor at that time - Tim Wotherspoon, our Community Warden, a floods expert and a retired statistician (among many others).

Two public meetings were held in June and July 2021, two weeks apart, and we are appreciative of WPC attending the meetings to help answer queries, and indeed for WPC's ongoing support of the process. Public attendance was relatively low due to Covid-19 concerns and restrictions on public gatherings. Nevertheless, several important matters

were raised and over 100 issue suggestions were collected, including via anonymous comment boxes distributed around the village. A consensus was found indicating that, unlike in 2008 when suitable internet facilities were virtually non-existent, the preference – even among the older members of the public present – was clearly in favour of an online survey system (as was already in preparation using MS Forms). It was decided that this would be augmented by also making hardcopies available, these being manually extracted and condensed from the online version (with thanks to the team members involved).

2. Survey

The survey followed a similar format to the 2008 survey and was divided into the following sections:

Section 01 Let's start here

Section 02 Traffic and transport

Section 03 Your Children & Young People

Section 04 Housing, Development and the Environment

Section 05 Leisure, Amenities and Communications

Section 06 Medical Services, Health and Wellbeing

Section 07 Employment and Business

Section 08 Community, Governance, Crime & Antisocial Behaviour

The sections had multiple-choice-style questions, but also gave people the opportunity to write comments. The survey could be completed individually or on a household basis.

A separate Youth Survey for our younger parishioners aged 11-18 years old was also devised and undertaken. We are particularly appreciative of the collaboration with both catchment schools - Willingham Primary School and Cottenham Village College. A separate progress report has been provided to WPC for this survey.

The survey was communicated to the Willingham community via the Willingham News, flyers, posters and public meetings. It was launched mid-November both online and hardcopy format. Five hundred hardcopies were printed. Around 150 were delivered either on request or by pick-up from the library and post office. The remainder were posted through no-answer doors by our gallant team of follow-up pollsters – largely gleaned from the Willingham News deliverers – with every home in the village being visited at least once. The return was 89 hardcopies. These were then entered into the same online system by yet another gallant team of villagers, each doing between 3 and, in extremes, 12 copies. The survey was eventually closed (after several extensions) on December 18.

3. Results

Sections of the survey were completed by the following numbers of people, around 90% online and 10% in hardcopy form:

Section 01 (Let's start here!) = **864**

Section 02 (Traffic, Roads & Transport) = **653**

Section 03 (Your Children & Young People) = **435**

Section 04 (Housing, Development and the Environment) = **584**

Section 05 (Leisure, Amenities and Communications) = **560**

Section 06 (Medical Services, Health and Wellbeing) = **555**

Section 07 (Employment and Business) = **506**

Section 08 (Community, Governance, Crime & Antisocial Behaviour) = **541**

A deeper statistical analysis of the results has been completed using Microsoft Excel tools. Also, all comments were loaded into MS Excel to enable extraction of common themes.

From an initial look at the results, it would appear that the main concerns of the village are similar to those expressed in 2008.

4. Report

The structure of the report will be similar to the 2008 report.

Statistical analysis of the results is relatively straightforward. However, the interpretation of the results, together with additional research and consultations with the community and implementing parties will take substantial time and effort. It is too early in the analysis phase to estimate when the plan will be published, but it will be in 2022 and we will update WPC and the community in due course.

5. Finance

Our accounts have been published separately. Expenditure has been mainly on software and printing with a balance that will hopefully be sufficient for the report printing stage.

