

**DENBY DALE PARISH COUNCIL
BUSINESS PLAN**

Introduction

The Parish Council took the decision several months ago that we should be more pro active and less reactive. The council decided that to achieve this we needed to have a long term strategy; this was to be in the form of a business plan. So a small sub committee was set up and chaired by Cllr Graham Turner, this business plan is the result of the work carried out by this committee. The plan is designed to form a long-term vision for the council to follow; many of the issues identified may take several years and significant amounts of money to achieve. We have not set any dates or targets for the identified issues as some will take the help and resources of external bodies, and this will be dependant on the available resources. It is hoped that this business plan will help attract external funding over a number of years to help us achieve our aims.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Communities

To engage with voluntary groups in the area with practical support and via grants. . To encourage the provision of and use of existing community buildings and facilities.

ACTION: To conduct an audit of community buildings and facilities.

AIM: To ensure that the parish has sufficient buildings for the wider community to use, and to make those who need access to such facilities are aware of there existence.

ACTION: To distribute by the grants system monies to those organisations that qualifies for such grants.

AIM: The support of local volunteer groups and sports organisations with the work that the carry out, within the parish community.

Heritage

To focus on heritage projects such as archives, weaving museum and the woollen industry, brass bands, mining, farming and rural employment.

ACTION: To create a heritage website for the parish.

AIM: To preserve the social history of the parish for future generations and to make It available to the public. To help those people that has an interest in their family history.

Health

To encourage access to open spaces and promote health and wellbeing by providing allotments and supporting sports groups and organisations.

ACTION: To find suitable land for use as allotments and conduct feasibility study to establish likely cost.

AIM: To improve the health of the parish by better exercise and the production of healthy locally produce food. A reduction in food miles.

ACTION: To pursue the possibility of introducing further play areas, in particular skate parks and bike ramps.

AIM: To provide healthy and safe play facilities, to encourage young people to spend more time out doors and engage in physical exercise.

ACTION: To improve and where possible increase the quality and amount of foot paths and bridleways in the parish.

AIM: To encourage walking as a hobby and as a means of helping people maintain or improve their fitness levels.

Environment

To encourage sustainable lifestyles, a high quality local environment and appearance of the villages; to make every effort to prevent dog waste fouling the area.

ACTION: To take steps to provide or encourage the principal authority to provide plants/bulbs in grass verges/areas, including identifying parcels of land which would benefit from such planting.

AIM: To improve the visual aspect of the area.

ACTION: To identify land for the creation of woodland.

AIM: To help increase woodland cover to provide a habitat for a wide range of flora and fauna. To create a facility that can be used for leisure within the parish that will also help to off set global warming.

ACTION: Work in conjunction with Kirklees Council to improve overgrown pavements.

AIM: To provide a safe and pleasant environment for walking.

ACTION: To continue to support and fund the work of the Parish Council's Countryside Officer and the local environment trust.

AIM: to help to improve the environment of the parish by better use of the available land, the education of residents and the children of the parish through initiatives in our local schools etc. To attract external funding for environmental projects and training. To ensure that the many and varied environmental groups that exist have the continued support of a professional Countryside Officer based locally and available to attend evening meetings and supervise week end working parties.

Planning

ACTION: To encourage the Planning Authority to support sensible development, maintaining the openness of the Green Belt.

AIM: To use the land resources of the parish to ensure that our villages maintain their individuality, whilst developing a housing strategy to cope with future demand, and that makes the best use of available land and protects the green belt for future generations.

Transport

ACTION: To promote the improvement of public transport and encourage its increased use by the general public. To support local transport initiatives' such as the Denby Dale community transport scheme.

AIM: To enable those without access to private transport to enjoy a better quality of life, to provide local solutions to local transport problems.

ACTION: To provide decent cycle paths.

AIM: To encourage cycling as a form of transport around the parish and its surrounding area. To encourage the use of cycles as a way to improve the health of the parish. The reduction of carbon based emissions.

Representation and Communication

ACTION: To listen to the views of the local population and make representations on its behalf whenever possible. To promote the work of the Parish Council via better use of electronic media. The continued up dating and development of the Parish Council website to include local community and volunteer groups and local business and relevant links to other suitable websites. To use the website as a method of the community feeding back their concerns by better use of the websites communication facilities.

AIM: To help ensure that the decision makers are aware of and take note of public opinion. To help increase the awareness of the facilities and business in the parish. To improve and promote economic activity in the parish. To act as an aid to those people who may be considering moving to the area. To ensure that as many people as possible are aware of the sporting, community facilities, social groups and volunteer organisations

December 2010

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