

## 13 Summary of Short Term Actions

A number of short-term projects are recommended to be undertaken, largely through community action at little or no cost. These are 'Quick Wins' where benefit/improvement can be seen within one year.

### 13.1 Physical Village Structure

- **A Village Design Statement (VDS) should be written** which will define the look and feel of the village in a more quantifiable way which can then be used as a measure by which to judge planning permissions and possible future changes to the layout of the village (including roads, pavements, fences, signs, shops, paths etc).
- The Parish Council should **convene public meetings or a forum every 6 months** to discuss key issues and plans affecting the village to encourage the widest possible involvement and direct participation of Comberton residents and stakeholders including schools, colleges, business and churches. Very close liaison should be sought with CVC on all sports-related matters.
- **Establish a village diary and publicise** by building on the current diary system in Contact and the village website. Placing of a diary/booking system at a village shop and library and coordination with Contact editor.
- **Tree planting scheme to be introduced** - 'Plant a tree in 2003' in conjunction with the Environment section recommendation.
- **Planning information should be more widely communicated.** The Parish Council will help support the District Council with its statutory duty to advertise planning applications by putting information on the parish website and on the parish notice board.

### 13.2 Transport

- Begin **an integrated traffic plan** for the village which includes the investigation of a mini-roundabout or other feature to slow traffic at the crossroads and overseeing the proposed new traffic-calming scheme along Barton Road, the introduction of 'Quiet Lanes' and other measures at select locations throughout the village to enhance the measures currently in place.
- **Improve and introduce new cycle paths throughout the village** as part of the integrated transport plan
- **Seek more maintenance for pathways and verges in the village.**
- **Increase perceived personal safety in the dark**, by more lighting in specific locations (e.g. along the Harbour Avenue path that runs beside the Meridian School), by ensuring frequent trimming of trees that would

otherwise block street lamps, and by ensuring any new developments include well-lit paths. Bus shelters should be lit, improved to reduce litter and to allow people inside to see an approaching bus, and new bus shelters should be procured.

- **Discourage any activity that discourages walking** for example: Parking across pavements, overhanging trees and shrubs, trees blocking the illumination provided by street lamps.
- Encourage local employers to **promote walking** for local staff.
- **Provide an improved public transport system** by providing more bus shelters and continue to pressurise the bus companies to provide an improved service to include weekends.
- Subsidised **taxi schemes and or car sharing schemes** are to be arranged and publicised.
- The police should be asked to **enforce speed limits and act on illegal parking** on pavements, junctions and blind spots.

### 13.3 Sport, Recreation and Community

- Two further **litter bins** to be added to the recreation ground, one by the swings in the middle of the play area and one by the middle bench on the South side of the recreation ground.
- Parish Council to **press CVC to provide affordable access to their all-weather training facilities, tennis courts and football pitch**
- Carry out a **detailed village youth consultation** which will be vital for proper planning of any new facilities and helping young people become organised.
- Secure the services of a **part-time youth worker** to co-ordinate and oversee youth activities
- Investigate **organised local transport to local swimming pools** for adults and children, possibly at discounted rates, inter alia the Village College and Comberton Swimming Club.
- **Employ a part time recreation grounds person** to look after the facilities.
- Review the recreation ground usage and fees to provide a better income stream.
- **Comberton Park.** Begin enhancing the recreation ground to create a park with extra trees, improved lighting, more litter and seating.
- **Secure more land to accommodate additional playing fields.**
- Make the **tennis courts publicly available** possibly on a 'pay and play' basis.

- **Improve youth facilities** by using existing funds and secure additional funding for a youth shelter and space permitting a skateboard park and basketball court.
- Begin to **strengthen relationships with the Meridian School and Comberton Village College** looking at issues such as after school provision of 16 to 18 year olds, community transport, hire charges for use of college facilities by clubs, securing grants for after school / weekend coaching, widening the range of sports available.
- **Encourage participation** by investigating the need for childcare for parents wishing to become involved in both planning and running activities.
- Put in place new arrangements for the **daily management of the Pavilion** and **carry out essential remedial work and improvements** and look at how young people could use the building as an indoor meeting place.

#### 13.4 Public Services

- **Publicising of the kerbside collection** of bottles, cans and paper, including an article in Contact. Make people aware of the £5 per tonne that is raised and what these funds can be used for.
- Improve parking and access to the Doctors' Surgery **and reduce congestion in Green End** by publicising the path to the surgery especially if/when linked to one going across the recreation ground.
- Surgery staff should be encouraged to park at the rec. and walk to work
- **Establish a Village information point** (for locals & visitors, events in Comberton & in surrounding areas, history)
- **Improve planning applications communication.** Add to current notice points (main notice board and village internet site) by using other notice boards (2 available), Post Office/Shops, Library
- **Employ a part-time community warden** to keep an eye on all areas relating to potential or feared crime, including liaison with the police, provision of additional services for the elderly and working with young people.
- Ensure continued pressure for **broadband internet services** and for the access to the internet for those currently without any.
- Continue to undertake **schemes to keep the village looking good**, including keeping it tidy and also to further enhance the village. A village handyman should be recruited to undertake jobs which will keep things running better, looking neater and will save spending money on external contractors.
- **Promote entertainment and village events** such as the summer picnic in the park and the Christmas lights events.

### 13.5 Environment

- **Anti- dog fouling initiatives** to include new penalty signs by some of the bins and an article in Contact on the dangers of dog-poo to health. Further liaison with local vets and the Dog Warden and the enforcement of on the spot fines for dog fouling.
- An **Anti-Litter campaign** to be initiated. This will begin with a competition in the schools (Meridian and CVC) to design a 'Bin-It' logo and sign, with the aim being to encourage a taking of pride in the appearance of the community in a way which will appeal to the kids. The winner to receive a prize and the winning design to be made into signs, posters and stickers. These will then be placed around the village, shops, schools, Contact and the stickers handed out for bags, cars etc. It will be essential to get the co-operation of CVC on this.
- Give **bonfire advice** in Contact and to be put up in shop windows etc. requesting that bonfires are only lit at dusk. Contact article to encourage the use of garden shredders and composting to dispose of garden waste instead of burning and to encourage the use of the compost collection scheme.
- Tree planting & care "**Plant a tree in 2003**" as also recommended under Physical Village Structure. Plan to be developed of site and suitable species followed by 'sponsoring' of an individual tree at the specified site
- **Acquire and preserve Watts Wood** a nature/conservation area.
- **Create new linking paths** working with the County Council through the Parish Paths Partnership and local landowners.