**Welcome to the Kings Ripton Community Led Plan**

A Community Led Plan provides an opportunity for local residents to tell politicians, planners and service providers what we want for the parish now and over the next decade. It is the product of local ideas developed after consultation with people in the parish.

The following explains why it is important and how you can help. A questionnaire has been put together to explore what matters to you.

**Why is a Community Led Plan important?**

A Community Led Plan is an active reference document. It will map out existing services and facilities, identifying any gaps and providing an action plan to protect what is valued, deal with any problems and grasp new opportunities.

Some of these actions will be for the Parish Council, others for agencies such as Cambridgeshire County Council, Huntingdonshire District Council or the Police Authority. Whilst the Parish Council is committed to taking the lead on the issues they can influence, other actions will only be able to happen if volunteers come forward from our community to lead, organise and work to make them happen.

**What could Kings Ripton look like in ten years from now?**

**What do you value in our community?**

**What would you like to see change?**

Please take your time to complete the questionnaire to show us how you view what we have in the community now and highlight some of the comments that we have already received from parishioners about what could be changed or addressed going forward.

Please talk to the Community Led Plan representatives to add your own thoughts and observations, so that as the Plan moves forwards we can incorporate as many views from the community as possible.

**Background to the Community Led Plan**

In 2011 the Coalition Government passed legislation called the Localism Act. This introduced a range of measures intended to reduce the power of the state and provide greater opportunities for local communities to determine the future of their neighbourhoods and do more to help themselves.

The Localism Act contained the following rights for local communities:

* The right to plan – allowing the community to influence any proposed development in the area.
* The right to buy – allowing the community to express an interest in acquiring property or land for the benefit of the community should it come up for sale, e.g. the allotments.
* The right to reclaim public land – allowing the community to find out what land is publically owned and ensure that it is being used for beneficial purposes.

The government stopped short of formally endorsing Community Led Planning as government policy but it is recognised as best practice and Huntingdon District Council will have to take into account the content of our Community Led Plan when they are considering issues such as housing development issues.

**How will the Community Led Plan be delivered?**

October2013: First meeting of the Community Led Plan working party

November/December 2013: Questionnaire developed and circulated. Committee visits to all residents.

January/April 2014: Analysis of results, research and aggregation of data/information into a draft plan

May 2014: Distribution of draft plan to all households for comment/ratification

Summer 2014: Plan finalised and presented to Parish Council for adoption.

Going forwards: On-going implementation, monitoring and reviewing

**Parish Plan Questionnaire**

In order to ensure every household in the village is represented, the Parish Plan Committee invites you to complete the following questionnaire.

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree by selecting the appropriate number against each suggestion where 1= little or no agreement, and 6 = complete or strong agreement.

**Housing and planning - *What are your views on housing and development issues?***

***Do you feel the following should be restricted in any way within the Parish?***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Infill developments (housing) | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| Plans for any future sustainable energy installations (wind turbines/solar panels); | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| Developments adjacent to the Parish boundary or near enough to affect the Parish? e.g. Alconbury, Upwood | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| Affordable housing – is there a need? | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |

**Transport / Roads / Footpaths - *What do you think about the transport, roads and footpaths in the parish?***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Public transport – Is there enough? | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| Traffic speed limits – Do these need amending?  more vigorous enforcement? | 1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| Volume/flow of traffic is increasing rapidly and requires additional calming measures? | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| Reporting of infringements (over-weight vehicles) should be made easier? | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| More effective signage should be put in place e.g. ”Concealed Driveways”, “Pedestrians Crossing”, Children walking? | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| Additional street lighting associated with traffic calming would be acceptable? | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| Footpaths within the village – do these need extending/improving to enhance pedestrian safety within the Village? | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| Footpath maintenance outside the village boundary requires attention? | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| Additional street lighting is required ? | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |

**Improving services – *would you agree that services to the village could be improved?***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Broadband; | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| Mobile phone reception; | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| Electricity. | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| Other (please specify) | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |

**Crime and Safety – *Would you like to improve safety in our community?***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Re-establish the Neighbourhood Watch scheme? | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| Raise awareness of ecops – [www.cambridge.gov.uk/e-cops](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/e-cops) - an e-mail bulletin scheme to keep us up-to-date with community safety issues? | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| Improve liaison with the Police? | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| Improve street lighting to improve pedestrian safety and visibility? | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |

**Communication - *Are we reaching you?***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Do you know who our Parish Councillors are? | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| Do you feel you know what the main issues are for the Parish and District Councils, and how they might affect our community? | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| Would it be helpful to establish a “Village Directory” e-mail circulation list | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Do you look at the Notice Board in the Churchyard for information about news and activities in the village? | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Do you access information about the Village from the Kings Ripton web site? | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| Are the reports in the Riptons Area News from the Parish Council helpful/useful? | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| Would a dedicated bi-monthly newsletter regarding planning and development matters in the area be helpful? | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |

***Do we need to improve liaison with our neighbours?***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Anglian Water (in particular re upkeep and maintenance of School Lane/Elm Close roadways), | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| Secret Garden Party management and the de Ramsey estate | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| Local farmers | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| Others: (please suggest) |  |

**Village appearance – *do you feel the village looks its best*?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Litter and general village maintenance – are there sufficient bins?  correctly located? | 1 2 3 4 5 6  1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| Village sign: would you like the village to have one? | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| Maintenance of allotments area – could this be improved? | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| Suggestions: |  |
| Maintenance of roadsides and open spaces within the village – are hedges and banks maintained effectively? | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| Suggestions: |  |
| Further comments or suggestions for improvements: |  |

**Local organisations, groups and leisure activities - *Would you like to see development of amenities?***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Village Hall | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| Playground | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| The Church | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |

**Do you have any further suggestions regarding the Parish and its’ environs that you would wish to be considered?**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**A little about you …..**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Are you retired? | Yes/No |
| Do you have children attending school? | Yes/No |
| Do you work from home? | Most of the time? 🞏  Some of the time? 🞏  Very occasionally? 🞏  Never? 🞏 |
| Do you use Broadband? | Yes/No |
| Do you use a mobile phone? | Yes/No |
| Do you belong to any organisations within the Village e.g. WI, Village Hall Committee, Book Club, etc. | Yes/No |
| Do you take part in any of the parish groups and organisations? What do you enjoy about them? | Yes/No  Comment: |
| Are there any new groups that could be formed? | Suggestions: |
| What are your views about doing more for the young people in our village? | Suggestions: |

Many thanks for completing this questionnaire. The results will be published as a part of the Parish Plan Consultation exercise.

The next step is for the Committee to analyse the results and use them as the basis of research on how we might be able to implement suggestions. A Parish Plan can then be drawn up that represents the view of residents, and that is deliverable. This will be circulated to all households for ratification prior to presentation to the Parish Council for adoption.

**Erica Bishop, Chairman, Parish Plan Committee**

**Where could the money come from to fund any identified opportunities?**

There are various potential funding sources for any projects that may be included in the Community Led Plan.

**Local Authority Linked Sources:**

* **The Community Infrastructure Levy**

The community infrastructure levy is a levy that local authorities can charge on new developments in their area. The levy is payable to the local council and it effectively rewards those communities receiving new development through the direct allocation of a proportion (15% or 25% depending on whether a Neighbourhood Plan is in place) of levy funds collected in their area.

The money raised from the community infrastructure levy can be used to support development by funding infrastructure that the local community would like, e.g. new or safer road schemes or park improvements.

* **S106 Orders**

This relates to monies paid by developers to Local Planning Authorities in order to offset the costs of the external effects of development. For example, if a developer were to build 100 new houses, there would be effects on local schools, roads etc., which the Local Authority would have to deal with. In that situation, there might be a Section 106 agreement as part of the granting of planning permission. The developer might agree to make a contribution towards the provision of new schools or traffic calming local roads.

* **Community Chest Plan**

This is a grant from Huntingdon District Council for small improvement projects proposed by parishes.

* **External available grants:**

There are a wide range of national and local organisations which can offer potential sources of funding. The National Lottery offers various funding programmes, according to which type of project is being considered and other, smaller organisations offer more targeted funding, relating to specific areas of interest.

The biggest obstacle to external grant funding is the actual identification of the relevant organisations who offer funding.

***Do you know of any potential funding sources?***

***Could you help research and identify potential funding sources?***

**The Environment and conservation**

***What do you value in our surrounding environment?***

The parish is a rural community and we live with the countryside on our doorstep, and we also have a network of footpaths and bridle ways criss-crossing the parish.

There could be lots of opportunities to change the face of the local environment, dependant on the willingness of the relevant agencies, land owners and the local community to get involved.

**Some of the Issues to consider:**

* A map showing local footpaths and bridleways has recently been put up on display. Have you used any of the footpaths marked? Could they be better signposted?
* Renewable energy (wind turbines; solar panels)

By 2012, there were 43 communities who were in the process of or were already producing renewable energy through co-operative structures in the UK. The key is that the local community members have a significant, direct financial stake in the project beyond land lease payments and tax revenue. Projects may be used for on-site power or to generate wholesale power for sale, usually on a commercial-scale greater than 100 kW.

In the local area land owned by Lord de Ramsey has recently been given permissions for a 140 acres solar farm to be installed and the north end of the airfield has been suggested as another possible location.