

Introduction to parish plans

What is a parish plan?

Parish plans (also known as community-led plans) outline a shared vision for the community over the next five to ten years, detailing a series of actions that will help to improve your community. Key features of a parish plan include:

- The plan is owned, managed and led by the community
- The process is inclusive, anyone is able to contribute and 'have their say'
- The actions it contains are evidence based

The content of a parish plan can be wide ranging and cover all aspects of community life, including local facilities and services, health provision, housing, transport, crime and safety, recreation, transport and anything else that is important to the community.

Through a range of community engagement activities, information can be gathered which can then be used to formulate an action plan. The action plan can help to influence the decision making of the parish council, local authorities and other agencies.

Why develop a parish plan?

Parish plans can be used to influence change and decision making on issues that affect the community. They enable communities to gather evidence of local needs which can inform local policy makers and act as a catalyst for positive change. A good parish plan brings people together and generates new ideas, develops new partnerships and builds community cohesion.

Parish and community-led plans:

- Give the community a voice
- Provide evidence of local needs
- Generate action
- Improve community spirit
- Produce better equipped and better informed communities

If you are interested in finding out more about the help and support that Community First Yorkshire can provide you with to assist you in producing a plan for your community, please contact info@communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk or telephone 01904 704177.

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