

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **THE VILLAGE (PARISH) PLAN**

The idea of the Village Plan was launched in the Government's Rural White Paper 'Our Countryside - The Future' published in November 2000. The aim of the Village Plan is to:

*'.. Set out a vision of what is important, how new development can best be fitted in, the design and quality standards it should meet, how to preserve valued local features and to map out the facilities which the community needs to safeguard for the future.'*

The Plan should:

*'Identify key facilities and services, set out the problems that need to be tackled and demonstrate how distinctive character and features can be preserved'*

### **THE CHRISTIAN MALFORD VILLAGE PLAN STEERING GROUP**

In November 2003, seven members of the community formed the Christian Malford Village Plan Steering Group:

Peter Bailey  
Nigel Fairley  
Iain le Duc  
Fran Lewis  
Steve Lewis  
Kevin May  
Brian Shoosmith

Two teenagers were co-opted onto the Steering Group to represent the 'youth' of the village:

Graeme Collings  
Andrew Purkiss

The Steering Group's 'Constitution' was approved by the Parish Council on 6 January 2004.

In order to focus the efforts of the Steering Group and to give it a sense of direction; an 'Aim' and 'Vision' were adopted:

### **AIM**

**TO MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP THE 'QUALITY OF LIFE' FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY IN CHRISTIAN MALFORD.**

## VISION

**"TO CREATE A HEALTHY, SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT IN CHRISTIAN MALFORD, ENSURING A CONTINUING THRIVING AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY WHERE ALL RESIDENTS, INCLUDING CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE ELDERLY, HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN DETERMINING THE FUTURE OF THE COMMUNITY AND BE FULLY, AND REMAIN FULLY, INVOLVED WITH SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES."**

In short, the Christian Malford Village Plan:

- Will identify the issues that are important to that community.
- Highlight the needs and the aspirations of the community.
- Pinpoint the opportunities that exist for improvement.
- Draw out new ideas.
- Every household and business in the Village has been consulted giving them the chance of being heard, not just the few that attend and speak up at local meetings.
- It will enable future projects to be planned with the knowledge that the community will support them.
- Through working towards a common goal the Plan brings groups and individuals in the community together.

### THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

The 'consultative' process began with an Open Meeting in the Village Hall on 20 October 2003. Here villagers were encouraged to talk about the aspects of Christian Malford they wanted to preserve, what they considered to be the main issues facing the village and how they would like to see the village progress over the next few years.

The Village Plan Steering Group actively promoted the Village plan and embarked on an exercise to collect relevant data from the community.

**Promotion:** The Village Plan was actively promoted within Christian Malford to encourage the whole community to participate in the process. Advertising the Plan and updating the community has been achieved through:

- **Parish Magazine.**
- **Gazette & Herald (Chippenham, Calne & Corsham Edition).**
- **Posters.**

**Data Collection:** The Steering Group used several methods and sources to gain information for the Village Plan. A fuller description can be found in the Introduction to 'The Christian Malford Village Plan Volume 2 – Data Collection'. In summary the following were as sources of data for the Village Plan:

- **2001 Census.**
- **Meetings.**
- **Questionnaires.**
- **Events.**
- **External Sources.**

The Christian Malford Village Plan has allowed local people to put forward their views about how the village should develop in the future, and how the villagers themselves can help make the vision a reality. The Plan also aims to inform and influence North Wilts District Council and Wiltshire County Council, so that local opinion is taken into account when policy and plans are being developed.

The Parish Council was briefed on the 'draft' Report at the Parish Council Meeting held on 17 January 2005. The Village Plan was subsequently endorsed by the Parish Council at their Annual Meeting held on 3 May 2005.

The Village Plan was presented to the village community at an Open Meeting held on 17 May 2005.

The Action Plan has been deliberately structured to reflect the eight 'themes' used in Wiltshire Community Planning; namely:

- **The Wiltshire Economy**
- **Transport**
- **Crime and Community Protection**
- **Housing and the Built Environment**
- **Social Care and Health**
- **Education Skills and Learning**
- **Countryside and Land based Issues**
- **Culture** (For the purpose of the Action Plan we have included 'Community' under Culture)

The Christian Malford Village Plan was officially launched at the Village Fete held on 16 July 2005.

The Plan was published and distributed to all interested bodies and a 'flier' covering the salient points in the plan was distributed to all households in Christian Malford. The Village Plan was published on the Village Website.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN**

The Action Plan identifies those bodies within Christian Malford that will be invited to lead on the individual actions, through any subsequent investigative and planning processes, to see the project/initiative through to implementation.

The Steering Group will become a Monitoring Group reporting to the Parish Council and village community on the progress of the individual actions; this will be on a quarterly basis or at such time that an action is completed or reaches a significant milestone.