

The Community...

Appleton with Eaton parish is 5 miles south west of Oxford and consists of the village of Appleton and the hamlet of Eaton. It is surrounded by farmland and woods and bordered by the Thames to the north-west.

Buildings in the community bear witness to its long history, with some dating back to the twelfth century and many houses which are several centuries old. It is a rural community with three large farms and an increasing number of small businesses run from home.

It is a very active community. Appleton's facilities include a community shop and part-time post office, a church, a chapel, a village hall, a primary school, a pre-school, a pub, a sports field and a tennis club. Eaton has a pub.

Getting started



KEY FACTS:

Population: 915

Plan Published: 2010

Funding: £500

District: Vale of White Horse

Autumn 2008 - Parish Council initiates the Plan process

The Oxfordshire Rural Community Council spoke with the parish council about CLP and in December 2008 the parish council decided to proceed and placed articles in the Appleton Advisor and the parish website inviting community involvement.

February 2009 - the Steering Group forms and takes the Plan forward

A steering group made up of 7 people from the community including a parish councillor held their first meeting in February 2009 with input from ORCC to clarify best practice for completing a Community Led Plan.

The steering group sought initial indications of the issues people wanted to include in the Plan using "teaser" notices in the pubs and other public places. They also used notes in primary school book bags, a brainstorming session with the local youth group and an ORCC presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting.



"We found it helpful to work through the 9 steps of the CLP process"
Susan Hines, chair CLP



Community Led Plan Case

Getting it done

May 2009 - Community Plan Village Event

The steering group organised a Village event to generate ideas. It included face painting, refreshments, and competitions. Over 140 people and 22 organisations attended the event and provided suggestions about what should be in the Plan. These ideas formed the basis for the questionnaire.

Summer 2009—Questionnaire design

The steering group designed the questionnaire including topics such as Transport and Mobility, Community Facilities and Services, and the Environment. There was a separate youth questionnaire.

October and November 2009—Questionnaire collection

The questionnaire was distributed door to door by a team of 22 volunteer helpers from the Steering Group, the Parish Council and the Playground Group. The helpers collected 292 questionnaire responses which represented an 80% response rate from households and involved 614 people of all ages from 10 up. Data entry and analysis was a huge task that many people contributed to.

A separate volunteer section was included with the questionnaire and over 90 volunteers came forward for community tasks such as litter-picking and helping in the shop.

February 2010 Village meeting to present results

Around 45 people attended a meeting to report back on the Community Plan questionnaire. The presentation of results was posted on the parish website and a summary of the results was distributed as a leaflet to all households in March.

.... actions were already progressing:

- **Playground:** The playground group had requested views, started design plans for the playground, and were applying for grants.
- **Broadband:** A working group of 6-8 people formed, identified issues and held a village meeting to discuss ways to improve broadband.
- **Road safety near the school:** relevant organisations had met and solutions were identified such as safe drop-off and pic-up; speed signs; parking on the bend; and disseminating data on speeds in the village.
- **Flooding:** The Flooding & Rainwater Group had received a grant of £5,000 for sandbags and pumps.
- **Litter:** The village registered with OxClean's spring clean initiative.
- **Dog fouling:** This was taken up by the Neighbourhood Action Group and there was an article in Appleton Advertiser.

March to July 2010: completing the Plan

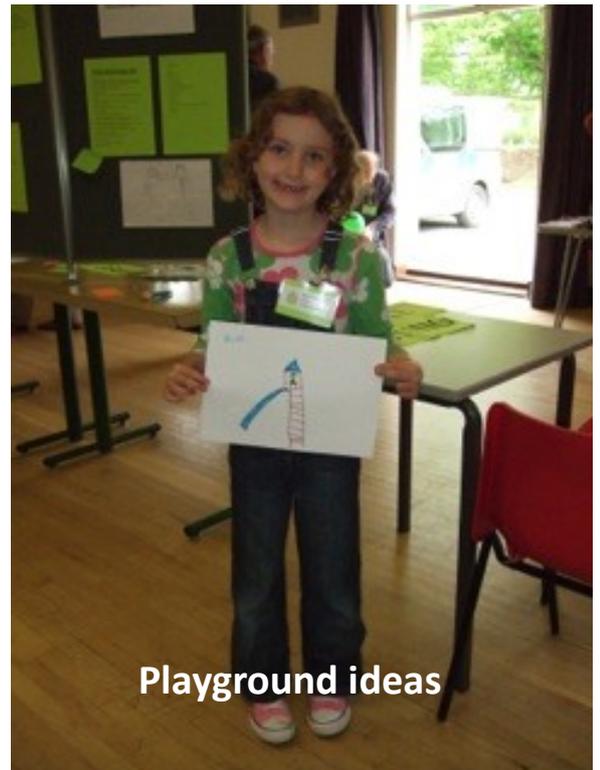
- **March 2010:** Results published on the parish website with a summary in Appleton Advertiser, inviting feedback.
- **April 2010:** Draft report and Action Plan published, inviting feedback
- **July 2010:** Final report and Action Plan published

The questionnaire



Plan logo

80%
response
rate



Playground ideas



The playground group

Case Study - Appleton with Eaton

Achievements

The plan was adopted by the Parish Council in September 2010. It was distributed to all individuals and organisations who had taken part and was on sale in the community shop. The action plan was distributed to every household with the Appleton Advertiser. Implementation of actions was reviewed at a parish council meeting and at the April 2011 Annual Parish Meeting. All of the actions identified in the Plan were successfully implemented by local people.

Quote about broadband

David Hines



The community shop



*"This was a fantastic achievement by energetic and highly motivated young parents." Sue Hines
CLP chair*



Quote about volunteers?



Playground completed 2012



Lessons learned and advice for others

- * Follow all the advice from ORCC!
- * It helps to have the support of the parish council but it is also good to be separate from the parish council.
- * Use existing channels of communication eg parish newsletter and website.
- * Make sure you keep all the key people and organisations on board.
- * Keep consulting with the community at all stages.
- * Adopt a logo and make your materials as full of visual impacts as you can.
- * Find a small dedicated group who will drive it through. It's a lot of work.
- * Keep the momentum going.
- * Use as much expertise as you can eg questionnaire design, marketing, graphic design

Case Study Appleton with Eaton, Oxfordshire

“The Weir Action Group used evidence from the CLP to argue that the community strongly wished to retain the historic paddle and rymer weir.

As a result the Environment Agency decided to renovate the weir rather than replace it with a concrete structure.”

Sue Hines, CLP chair



Oxfordshire Rural Community Council
Helping Communities to Help Themselves
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To find out more about Community Led Planning contact fiona.mullins@oxonrcc.org.uk
ORCC is a company limited by guarantee (no 2461552) and a charity (no. 900560)
Jericho Farm, Worton, Witney, Oxon OX29 4SZ Tel: 01865 883488 Fax: 01865 883191