

# Cropredy Village Plan



Seeking What Is Desirable, Deliverable  
& Affordable For Cropredy

Issue 1 March 2009





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# 1 Introduction from the Chairman of Cropredy Parish Council

Welcome to the Cropredy Village Plan which has been produced by a Steering Group of hardworking volunteers, who have over the last two years, pieced together the views and ideas of Cropredy village residents.

These have been amassed from meetings, interviews and a questionnaire which was sent to every house within the Parish in February 2008.

The publication of this first issue of the Plan marks an important milestone in the development of our community and will serve as a road map for the future evolution of Cropredy.

Of course some elements of the Plan will be achieved in a relatively short timescale, indeed some have already been completed, but new ones will emerge that will require community action. This is the start point of a continuous process that requires the plan to be up dated to meet the new challenges that will occur.

It is therefore appropriate to remind all those who are interested in how Cropredy grows and develops that this Plan has been produced by the Community for the Community. It requires all of us who care about our village to step forward with ideas and comments so that what is desirable, affordable and achievable can be delivered.

Finally, on behalf of the Parish Council which fully endorses the aims and strategy identified in the Plan, I would like to thank all those who have worked hard to produce this first issue of the Cropredy Plan.

More volunteers are needed to make the next stage happen so if you are interested and feel you can contribute please contact Adam Morris, Chairman of the Steering Group at The Red Lion, Cropredy or any member of the Parish Council.

Paul Morley

**Chairman, Cropredy Parish Council**



An aerial photograph of a village, likely Cropredy, showing a mix of green fields, trees, and buildings. A prominent church spire is visible in the center-left. The village is surrounded by rolling hills and fields.

## 2 Why does Cropredy need a Village Plan?

The Government's policy is for all communities to assess their current and future needs and to make a plan that can feed into all layers of local and national planning and decision making.

Many communities across the UK, from counties and large cities through to small villages, have already researched and developed their own community plans.

In 2007, Cropredy Parish Council decided that it was time for Cropredy to develop its own community plan.

The purpose of the Village Plan is to identify the key services and amenities that the Cropredy community needs for the future. The Village Plan will provide a strategy to inform Parish Council policy and decision-making over the next 10 to 15 years, so that the Cropredy community continues to have a real say in how it develops and thrives.

The Cropredy Village Plan will be known to all planning authorities that control Cropredy's services and amenities, so that they are kept well informed of how the village feels and what it needs to remain a sustainable, cohesive and pleasant community in which to live.

The Cropredy Village Plan is not a finished piece of work. Instead, it is designed as a flexible plan that will continue to develop, as some existing aims and objectives are achieved and other, newer issues emerge.

This issue (Issue 1) of the Cropredy Village Plan is the first stage in this ongoing process, and the Village Plan will be regularly revised with new issues published in future.

Cropredy is fortunate in that it has two ways of communicating with residents. There is a village newsletter, The Crier, which is delivered monthly to every household and a village web site. The Steering Group will use these to communicate with residents to chart the progress with existing issues and report any new issues that arise.

### 3 What has been achieved so far

#### March 2007 - Steering Group Formed

Cropredy Parish Council decided to set up a Steering Group to research and write a community plan to be known as the Cropredy Village Plan. The plan, when drawn up, was intended to show what the community considered to be desirable, affordable and achievable to ensure a sustainable and pleasant future for Cropredy and its residents.

#### September 2007 - Launch Event

A launch event was held, attended by Cropredy residents and representatives from many of Cropredy's clubs and societies. All who attended were encouraged to give their suggestions about what they currently liked and disliked about the Cropredy community and what they wanted and didn't want for the future.

#### September 2007 – February 2008 Research

With the help of Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, members of the Steering Group did further research among the community. Responses were invited from all existing community organisations. These included all clubs and societies; the church; the chapel; the school; all small businesses trading within the parish; and all individuals who wished their views to be known. In addition, all matters raised by the public at Parish Council meetings were collated and added to the overall total of community views and wishes.

#### February 2008 - The Questionnaire

The information gathered during the community consultation process was turned into a questionnaire, which was launched at a public meeting in Cropredy Village Hall. A copy was delivered to every household in the parish. **A response rate of 67% of households was achieved – well above the average for Oxfordshire parishes.**

Full Questionnaire results can be viewed on the village plan website: [www.cropredyvillageplan.co.uk](http://www.cropredyvillageplan.co.uk)

#### February to April 2008 - Results

The survey results were input into a database and were analysed to produce the Cropredy Village Plan Questionnaire Results.

#### April 2008 to March 2009 - Presentation

The Survey Results were presented to parishioners at an open meeting in Cropredy Village Hall in April. An appeal was launched for volunteers to work in action groups in order to research the feasibility of addressing the key issues raised by the questionnaire, investigate available funding, and liaise with the relevant planning authorities and service providers.

#### March 2009 - Publication

Publication of Issue 1 of the Cropredy Village Plan, which has been adopted and supported by Cropredy Parish Council.







## 4 How the Cropredy Village Plan is structured

The Village Plan is made up of two documents – both of which are published on the Village Plan website [www.cropredyvillageplan.co.uk](http://www.cropredyvillageplan.co.uk). Paper copies are also available on request from Adam Morris at the Red Lion, Cropredy.

The two parts of the plan are:

- 1) The February 2008 Village Plan Questionnaire Results, including appendices listing results by all age groups and a full list of all “free choice” answers
- 2) The Cropredy Village Plan (currently Issue 1, dated March 2009)

### Detailed Action Plan

A detailed action plan is also published on the website. This will be regularly updated to show progress to date on all the action points in the Village Plan, and which of the planned actions have been successfully completed.

### Five Key Community Topics

The issues raised in the consultation, surveyed in the questionnaire, and included in the Village Plan fall into five key areas:

### Social problems and community issues

Dog fouling; vandalism; litter; anti-social behaviour; local amenities; youth facilities; effective policing

### Sustainability and green issues

Recycling; renewable energy sources; preservation of wildlife environments

### Buildings, new housing and planning

Better/ more frequent use of existing community buildings; new housing; limitation in residential caravan and canal boat numbers; control of industrial expansion

### Village infrastructure

Flooding; power cuts; roads; mobile phone coverage; sewage disposal and water supply; street lighting

### Traffic, parking and transportation

Speeding; parking; footpath to Bourton; bus services; pavements





## Action Plans

### **5 The five topics covered by the Cropredy Village Plan and summary action points**

# 1 Social Problems and Community Issues

Issues supported by residents in the Survey	Priority: High, Medium, Low	Actions being considered / or carried out	Completed Yes/No/Ongoing
Dog fouling	Medium	Reminders in the Crier	Ongoing
Vandalism	Medium	Regular contact police/teenagers	Ongoing
Litter	Medium	Regular pick ups planned	Ongoing
Anti-social behaviour	High	Meetings with teenagers and PCSO's	Ongoing
Nuisance caused by Teenagers	High	Police have formed youth action group to create dialogue with youngsters. Meeting every month	Ongoing
Playground amenities	Medium	Constant repairs, new equipment being considered. Meeting to be arranged with young mothers a.s.a.p.	Ongoing
Sports field amenities	Medium	No specific plans at present: Discuss with sports field management exec. Meetings to be arranged.	Ongoing
Youth facilities	Medium	Youth shelter - funding has been obtained from CDC. Reviewing monthly.	Ongoing
Effectiveness of Police Community Support Officer	Medium	Discussions with the police and the community held monthly	Ongoing
Encourage use of local amenities (shops, pubs, sports, etc)	Medium	Regular reminders in the Crier	Ongoing
Retention of Cropredy Post Office	High	To be established at Bridge Stores. Discussions with PO Ltd currently taking place. Re-opening 26th May 2009.	Yes

Current volunteers: Paul Morley, David Cherry, Stuart Alexander.

If you want to get involved please contact Adam Morris at the Red Lion.





## 2 Sustainability and Green Issues

Issues supported by residents in the Survey	Priority: High, Medium, Low	Actions being considered / or carried out	Completed Yes/No/Ongoing
Recycling	Medium	Support CDC current recycling schemes	Ongoing
Renewable Energy	Medium	Action group to explore opportunities and feasibility	Ongoing
More action to preserve wildlife environments	Medium	Action group to explore opportunities and feasibility	Ongoing



Current volunteers: Ian Staples and Chris Van der Gast.

If you want to get involved please contact Adam Morris at the Red Lion.

### 3 Buildings, New Housing and Planning

Issues supported by residents in the Survey	Priority: High, Medium, Low	Actions being considered / or carried out	Completed Yes/No/Ongoing
Upgrade Village Hall facilities	Medium	Refer to Village Hall Committee	Ongoing
Re-siting of Village Hall in future	Medium	Follow up with Village Hall Committee; visit good examples (e.g. Boddington); draw up specification for new build based on responses to survey; check on planning permission needed; obtain estimate of costs; identify possible new sites in conjunction with proposed development sites; prepare a draft 'proposal' for a new hall.	Ongoing
More/better use of Church, Chapel and School	High	Collate responses (inc unprompted comments) and pass on to those who manage these buildings.	Ongoing
More housing	Medium	Make representation to CDC for limited amount of new development based on review of clustering and village categorisation; collect information about the population of other category A villages, the extent and nature of their facilities and the size of the communities they service to draw comparison with Cropredy. Prepare information about Cropredy's susceptibility to flooding and the impact more building would have on this.	Ongoing
Affordable housing for people with a village connection	Medium	Research the ways in which different types of affordable housing could be provided for all age groups (young people starting off and older people wanting to downsize,) so that we have clear options to present and discuss when we get closer to planning stages.	Ongoing





Issues supported by residents in the Survey	Priority: High, Medium, Low	Actions being considered / or carried out	Completed Yes/No/Ongoing
Majority want building styles to be in current village style	Medium	Clarify what is meant by 'the current style of the village'. This issue will become important at the planning stage	Ongoing
Canal Boats	Medium	Build better relations between the village and canal residents to create more understanding.  Find out more about the relationship between village and British Waterways and placement of moorings.	Ongoing
Residential Caravans	Medium	No longer an issue due to closure of site	Yes
Control industrial expansion in line with survey results	Medium	Suggest more work is needed on the question as well as the responses. The question referred specifically to light industrial expansion rather than to the growth of all types of business/employment opportunities. The narrow focus of the question may have prompted the ambivalence of the responses (i.e. 20% don't know answers). Look ahead to the range of business/ employment /income generating activities the village could support in the future.	Ongoing



Current Volunteers: Jo Samways, No lle Paxton, Cathy Haycock and Paul Morley.  
If you want to get involved please contact Adam Morris at the Red Lion.

## 4 Village Infrastructure



Issues supported by residents in the Survey	Priority: High, Medium, Low	Actions being considered / or carried out	Completed Yes/No/Ongoing
Protect village from flooding	Medium	Liaise with Environment Agency to establish extent of problem and possible solutions	Ongoing
Reduce power cuts	Medium	Contact Eon to establish statistic to back up questionnaire results	Ongoing
Improve road infrastructure	Medium	Contact OCC Highways to see if they are aware of the issue	Ongoing
Improve mobile phone coverage	Medium	Contact mobile networks to find out if anything is planned in the future and to discuss the need for more coverage	Ongoing
Parish Council to employ someone to keep roads and paths tidy	Medium	Discuss with Parish Council	Ongoing
Improve sewage disposal and water supply	Medium	Contact Thames Water to see if they are planning improvements after Bourton development is built.	Ongoing
Provide a public toilet	Medium	Considered by Parish Council who expressed the view "not sustainable"	Yes
Improve untidy roads	Medium	Discuss with Parish Council	Ongoing
Improve street lighting in key areas	Medium	Establish with OCC Highways and CDC who is responsible and discuss the results of the questionnaire with them	Ongoing
Address the litter problem	Medium	Litter picks being organised (D Cherry and A Morris)	Yes

Current Volunteers: Adam Morris and Michael R Johnston. If you want to get involved please contact Adam Morris at the Red Lion.



## 5 Traffic, Parking and Transportation

Issues supported by residents in the Survey	Priority: High, Medium, Low	Actions being considered / or carried out	Completed Yes/No/Ongoing
Speeding	High/medium		
Station Road Claydon Road		Police monitoring over the past four months has not indicated any excess speeding therefore no prosecutions have been made. Monitoring will continue on a regular basis throughout 2009	Ongoing
Plantation Williamscot Road		Consider changing priorities at junction of Claydon and Williamscot Roads. Talk to Highways Agency	Ongoing
The School		Illuminated speed lights at Gt Bourton side of railway bridge during school drop- off and pick-up times. Talk to Highways Agency	Ongoing
Parking	High/medium		
The Green and High Street		No obvious way to improve parking	Ongoing
Red Lion Street		No obvious way to improve parking other than conversion of Lock Garden to parking Discuss with Parish Council	Ongoing
Round Bottom		Vehicle owners to be reminded of public parking at Sports Field by windscreen notices	Ongoing
Station Road		Approach owner of grass verge to see if feasible to convert to parking spaces	Ongoing
School		Parish Council, OCC Highways, School Governors to considering ways to improve traffic management around the school	Ongoing
Village Hall		Refer to Village Hall Committee	Ongoing





Issues supported by residents in the Survey	Priority: High, Medium, Low	Actions being considered / or carried out	Completed Yes/No/Ongoing
Village Shop		Conversion of lay by opposite shop to restricted 15-20 minute parking only – in progress	Yes
		Remind persistent long term parkers of facility at Sports Field	Ongoing
Generally		Extension of windscreen stickers as currently used for pavement parking	Ongoing
		Sign at Plantation and elsewhere directing visitors to Sports Field Parking facility	Yes
Footpath to Great Bourton	Medium	Move forward discussions between Parish Councils to improve existing mown strip	Ongoing
More frequent bus service to Banbury	High	Being moved forward by Councillor Attack, Parish Council and Coach Operators	Ongoing
Pavements	Medium		
Obstruction		Parish Council scheme already in operation – review effectiveness	Ongoing
Parking		Parish Council scheme already in operation – review effectiveness	Ongoing

Current Volunteers: Roger Watkiss, Katie Brunton, Bob Dunn and Martin Sly.  
If you want to get involved please contact Adam Morris at the Red Lion.