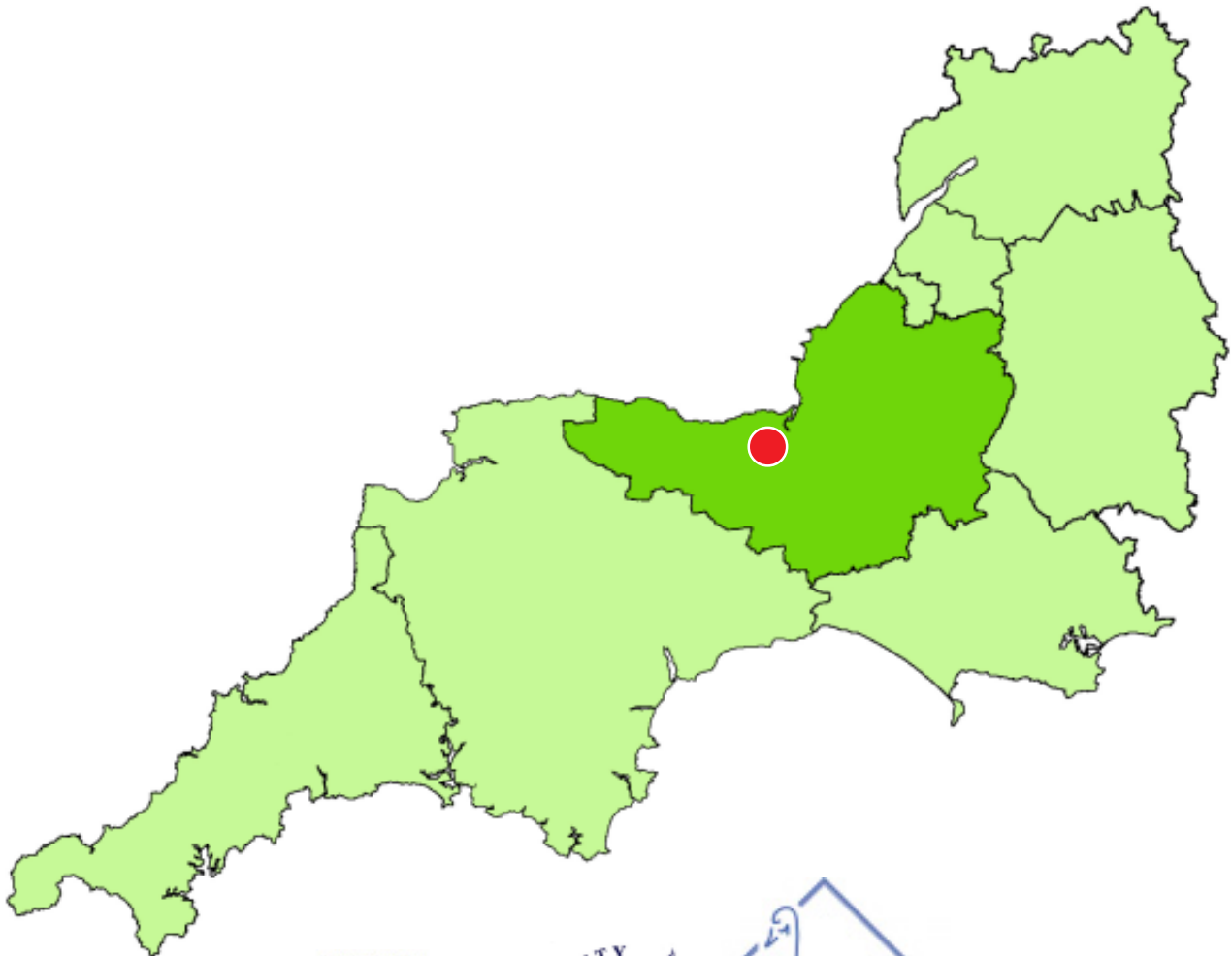


Cannington Community Plan

Completion Date: 2005



Supported by



Compiled by Community Council for Somerset
In partnership with the South West Acre Network (SWAN)

Cannington Parish Plan Case Study

Interviewees

Lynda Laird
David Temple

Background

The Parish Plan was published by a small team of Residents after a survey delivered by hand to every household.

The returned surveys showed 70% of the forms sent out.

What is a Community-Led Plan

A Community Lead Plan is a publication showing the needs and requirements as well as wishes of a parishes residents.

The Process

The Parish Plan group was set up by the Parish Council but acted independently as a group, reporting to the Council on a regular basis. The plan was written after a survey of opinions from the residents of Cannington and analysis of all points carried out by the group. The results were shown to the Council after the plan was printed but before distribution to all households in the parish.

What are your achievements as a community to date, as a result of the Community-Led Plan?

- Increased awareness of parking problems
- Tourism Group set up and very active
- New Community Centre is planned
- Policing in the village has been increased
- Speeding is being tackled albeit slowly
- Low Cost Housing Survey Needs proven
- Farm Shop with tea room opened

How has the Cannington Parish Plan helped you to engage with your local authority about services your community needs?

- Low cost housing needs survey carried out and talks regarding S.106 land for these and new community centre have been active and useful.
- We have been ignored about **all** speeding Issues.
- Police have become more sensitive to village needs.

What other projects have you got planned for the future?

- Tourism Group has produced local walks leaflets and is about to reprint them. Very popular product.
- A Village Tourism map is planned.
- A replacement village hall will be built. Bridgwater College (Cannington) is planning various Tourism activities e.g. sale of plants, tea room, and other attractions for weekend use.

Have the actions from the Plan brought any funding into the community e.g. lottery grants, trusts, Village of the Year etc.?

- There is evidence that the Cannington Walks leaflets have increased visitors to the village.
- No grants have yet been sought.

How are you keeping the process alive and advising progress to the community?

- The village magazine 'The Target' is used to maintain awareness together with reports to the Parish Council on a monthly basis.
- 100% leaflet drops are used when appropriate e.g. for "Open Day" regarding plans for the new Community Centre.

How has this benefited the community?

Difficult to say precisely. There seems to be a growing awareness of issues but as yet it has not really resulted in any significant changes.

What lessons have you learned?

That only about 1% of residents do anything that is community centred. There are no new, younger, volunteers coming forward for any new scheme suggested.

How does the Action Plan link into the Parish Council's future business planning?

Parish Council has taken notice of the contents of Parish Plan and have carried out each segment of requirements. Progress can be slow but many ideas in the plan are being acted upon.

One piece of advice for others

Don't give up! The survey results will be dreadfully negative at times and will need very careful analysis but it is worth it on completion.

Quote

on the Community- Led Planning Process

“Slow progress but things are happening. The effort and dedicated input needed to produce a Parish Plan is great and should not be under-estimated.”