

THAKEHAM PARISH PLAN

1. What is a Parish Plan?

In 2000 the Government issued a Rural White Paper setting out their agenda for the countryside and encouraging local communities to take more control of the development of their own parish.

A Parish Plan is a way for local people to make known how they would like their community to develop in the future.

- It aims to help rural communities to have a greater say in their own affairs.
- It helps local people set down their vision for the future of their parish.

To be really effective it needs to represent the views of as many people in the parish as possible.

A Parish Plan can cover everything that is relevant to the people who live and work in the parish, from housing needs to places for children to play. It should address the needs of the whole community, including local businesses, and will span a period of five years.

The Thakeham Parish Plan (The Plan) will be used to inform local government and other decision making bodies of the needs and concerns of our community. The Plan will also be used to influence how changes in our community are made, to support applications for funding and to canvass support from local and national government on matters that affect the Parish.

Some key benefits of a Parish producing a Parish Plan are:

- A. The Plan can be used as an evidence base for grant applications to show community need for specific projects.
- B. The Plan will help guide the Parish Council in their work. One of the discretionary requirements for a PC to achieve “Quality Status” is to have produced a Parish Plan. It shows that the Parish Council is listening to the community.
- C. It helps the people in the parish to plan for the future, to ensure that community facilities can be maintained and updated to suit community needs.

The Parish Council will use this Plan as a focus for their ongoing work for the people of Thakeham during the next 5 years.

The Plan will, in conjunction with the Thakeham Parish Design Statement (adopted by Horsham District Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance on 13th June 2002), become important reference documents for all matters that affect our community in the next 5 years.

