

**QUEEN CAMEL
COMMUNITY PLAN
2005
Presentation to SCC Area East July
2006**



Queen Camel Vision

To provide for all villagers a quality of life that satisfies and creates a strong sense of ownership and belonging and a desire to participate in the well-being and development of the community

Background

Some 250 Questionnaires delivered, 210 fully or partially completed and returned. 75 youth questionnaires delivered, 39 returned. Numbers responding varied depending on the applicability of the question, from 27 (special needs) to 344 (Public Services).

'Queen Camel Community Plan 2005' report (full and summary) produced, with recommendations and action plans.

How the community will judge progress

- Through the commitment, drive and actions of the Parish Council, which will continue to be responsible for overall co-ordination, and of the groups of volunteers now being brought together.
- By seeing the identified needs met through the actions of these groups.

The Groups being launched:

- 1 Community Matters
- 2 Safety and Social Behaviour – a revitalized Neighbourhood Watch
- 3 Planning and Development
- 4 Cultural and Leisure
- 5 The Environment
- 6 Youth Council
- 7 Communication
- 8 Fund Raising and Finances

Organisation Chart – separate page.

GROUP 1 COMMUNITY MATTERS

Vision for Group 1

That the Parish be a community that fully recognises its health, social and spiritual needs. In so doing it seeks to provide services that meet these needs, aiming to ensure that no one is excluded through age or special needs.

Launch of Group planned after summer- volunteer leaders still needed.

What this Group will do

Family support initiatives -

- Meals
- Lift scheme/bus service
- Visits
- Link with and support to church pastoral team
- Register of child minders and/or those able to help with other care (all CRB checked)

Learning

- Courses that help in the care and management of a family and a home, e.g. First Aid, Parenting, Home manag
- Pre-school learning and play – the range and usage of children's play park.

Interface with the schools and church

Parish Welcomes

GROUP 2 SAFETY AND BEHAVIOURAL MATTERS

Vision for Group 2

That Queen Camel is a community where local prevention measures increase safety and keep crime and anti-social behaviour to as low a level as possible; and where villagers feel safe to live and are prepared to take responsibility for each other's welfare, property and surroundings.

Neighbourhood Watch in process of re-launch

- Some 35 volunteers
- To cover the whole Parish
- Scope extended to cover anti-social behaviour and 'Welcome Packs'.

Villagers asked to

- Participate in the scheme.
- Keep an eye open for anything suspicious or of concern and notify your NW representative or, as relevant, the Police.
- Ensure that either a neighbour or your NW representative knows when you plan to be away overnight.
- Make a point of greeting strangers as they pass in the street because this will give the message that their presence has been registered.
- Be good neighbours!

NW Representatives to encourage a friendly, neighbourly community that cares for each other by.

- Ensuring each household in their area knows who they are and trying to get to know these neighbours, especially any who are vulnerable and elderly.
- Encouraging all households to join the scheme, issuing NW display stickers and information to all participants, encouraging them to be aware of and put into practice crime reduction measures, such as property marking and security devices.
- Receiving crime related information and passing this to the participating households
- Observing, monitoring, recording and reporting on suspicious activities, actual crime and any anti-social behaviour.
- Making efforts to get to know the youth in their area and encouraging them to participate in the Youth Council and other youth events.
- Delivering a copy of the Parish Welcome to all newcomers when making their introduction.

GROUP 3 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Vision for Group 3

1. That Queen Camel retains and promotes its “village” design and ambience, with no large scale developments but recognises and supports the potential for limited growth in small low cost housing and business developments, specifically to meet local needs and to grow an all-age community and not a retirement zone; and
2. That the development of housing, business and community facilities be coordinated to achieve the best design overall.

Key Needs

- Affordable housing for local people.
- A school that is safe and meets the whole educational needs – physical as well as academic.
- Adequate off-road public parking.
- A community complex that is safe and fit for purpose
- An expansion of business that specifically provides services to, and adds quality to the life of, the local community.

Group of volunteers being formed, which will

- Research the needs in respect of housing, the location of the school and community facilities and will present a strategy and plan to the Parish Council.
- Consider business options that could meet the wishes of the villagers.

Ongoing

Engagement with the County Council for Somerset’s RURAL HOUSING PROJECT

GROUP 4 CULTURE AND LEISURE

Vision for Group 4

That Queen Camel has top grade cultural and leisure facilities in safe and pleasant surroundings with thriving activities and community events, accessible to all, which meet the needs of villagers, promote community development and encourage maximum possible participation.

Synergy with Group 1

What this Group could do – when we get volunteer leaders

Launch additional activities, including football and other sports for children and youth and U3A for older villagers. Liaise where relevant with existing clubs, organisations, the schools and the pub.

Youth:

- Liaise with the Leadership of the Youth Council, study their suggestions and launch activities that will engage their commitment and which can use their involvement in running such.

Community Events:

- Consider the events proposed, noting the church has since instituted an annual Church Path Fayre, which is a fund raising community event that could be extended in scope.
- Investigate the implications of twinning with an overseas village, noting the school and church have links with a township in *Zambia*.

GROUP 5 THE ENVIRONMENT

Vision for Group 5

That Queen Camel is a community which is proud of its heritage and respects, and seeks to improve continually, its rural and residential environment for the enjoyment of villagers and visitors alike.

Group of volunteers being formed, which will consider

Community Projects in respect of

- Energy conservation and comprehensive recycling
- Bus shelter project – making this a autumn project for the school and bringing the youth into some ownership.
- Creation of a tranquil and safe walk - trees, wildlife, plants and water
- Footpaths that are wheelchair friendly and properly maintained
- ‘Best Kept Village’ competitions

Lobbying through our Parish Council for removal of unnecessary road signs and unsightly overhead cables, maintenance of river, brook and drains

GROUP 6 YOUTH COUNCIL

Vision for youth

For the youth of Queen Camel to be integrated in and engaged in the life of the community.

A Youth Council is planned. Adult volunteers to form a YLT.

The Youth Council will comprise:

- Chair and Vice Chair
- Secretary
- Social Secretary
- up to, say 7 other youth

In support:

- Parish Councillor with Youth Leadership Team
- County Youth Worker

The Youth Council will

- Talk to the youth of the Parish to find out how they would like their Parish to develop (this should cover all aspects, i.e. health, social, sports, safety, buildings, public services, charity and fund raising, communications, discuss these findings as a Council and make recommendations through their Parish Councillor or relevant Parish Group.
- Review matters presented by the Parish Councillor on behalf of the Parish Council or other Parish Groups, and report back.
- Identify youth training needs, specifically for any voluntary roles within the Parish, and present these through the Parish Councillor.

GROUP 7 COMMUNICATION

Vision for Group 7

That the villagers of Queen Camel have comprehensive and coordinated channels of communication that both inform and foster a closer community spirit.

Every community needs comprehensive and coordinated communication because this is probably the greatest factor in building a closer community.

This Group will set up and maintain a rationalised process of communication

- Website – being structured and sourced at present
- Suggestion Box (also to be on our website)
- Parish Welcomes
- Map of the Parish (also to be on our website)
- Revamp of Notice Boards
- Review of the Camels Magazine

GROUP 8 FUNDING AND FINANCES

Why this Group?

- Some funding will come from a charge or subscriptions. Funding over and above this will come from (a) external sources of funding, e.g. government and lottery grants, (b) Parish fund raising events, (c) the annual Precept through the Parish Council.
- We do not want the various Groups competing for funds or having to find volunteers with the expertise to raise funds, therefore this 8th Group.
- It is proposed that each Group budgets for the funding it needs and manages the finances that are obtained from charges and subscriptions. Funding needs over and above this will be submitted to a Management Group (Group Leaders and Parish Councillors) for review and prioritising and will then pass to the Parish Funding and Finances Group for action.
- The Funding and Finances Group will seek to raise the needed funds first from external sources and then from fund raising events, and, if appropriate, from the Precept.

This Group will

- Research funding sources
- Apply for funding
- Lobby for funding
- Monitor funding when received

