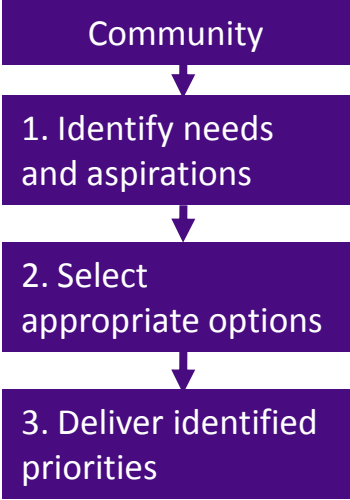


Great Staughton



Cambridgeshire ACRE Trailblazers scheme



The proposals contained within the Localism Bill, currently going through parliament, promise an increased range of ways available to communities to deliver improvements for their parish.

Cambridgeshire ACRE launched its Trailblazers scheme in January 2011 to work with communities that have completed a Parish Plan and wanted to try new ways of delivering the actions that will be brought about by the Localism Bill. This case study follows one community through the steps of that process, as shown in the diagram opposite.

Community

Cambridgeshire ACRE staff supported Great Staughton in Huntingdonshire in developing a Parish Plan between 2010 and 2011. Through the Trailblazers scheme Cambridgeshire ACRE is continuing to work alongside Great Staughton Parish Council to deliver the priorities identified within their Plan.



Great Staughton

- Great Staughton is a parish of 6,407 acres with a population of 836.
- The 20th Century saw a decline of those employed in agriculture in the parish.
- In the 1970s, Great Staughton saw residential housing expansion, but this failed to stop the decline in community services.
- The village now has a church, a school, a doctors surgery, and public houses.



1. Identify needs and aspirations

GREAT STAUGHTON VILLAGE PLAN

Final Report & Action Plan
for
Submission to the Parish Council
for
Adoption as Policy
April 2011

What is a Parish Plan?

Parish (or Community-Led) Plans create a shared vision for how the community wants to develop, and identify the action needed to achieve it. They provide a way for you to have your say on all aspects of life in your community, whether environmental, social, economic or cultural. These needs and aspirations are then translated into an action plan showing who, how and by when these priorities will be tackled.



The current village hall site

Great Staughton Parish Plan

Community members coordinated the development of Great Staughton Parish Plan between 2010 and 2011:

- A questionnaire, prepared by the steering group, was issued to every household in the parish, receiving an 85% response rate.
- The Plan was adopted by the Parish Council in April 2011.



The current GP surgery premises

Parish Plan findings

The Parish Plan produced a wide range of actions. Among these were several large-scale actions relating to Great Staughton's built environment:

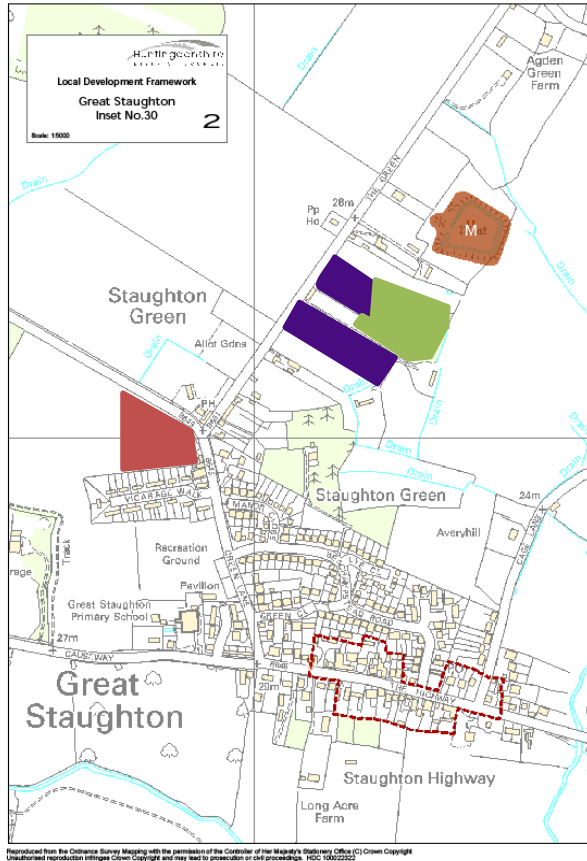
- The GP premises is hampered by its size, and is not suitable for the future needs of the ageing population.
- There is a need to complete a study into the possibility of constructing a new larger village hall.
- There is a need for the provision of better sports and leisure facilities.
- Currently, 82.5% of property in the village is owner occupied. The Parish Plan findings show an evidenced need for more social housing provision.



2. Select appropriate options

Following the identification of social housing, the village hall and the GP surgery as community priorities, Cambridgeshire ACRE supported Great Staughton Parish Council in drawing partners together to identify possible sites for development around the village. This process included a review of Local Development Framework policies and site allocations, and a village walk-round.

Map showing possible sites



Possible site for affordable housing

- Affordable / other housing
- Open up green space
- New village hall / GP Surgery

Social housing provision

Opportunities

The Parish Council have identified land belonging to a village charity that may be suitable for housing.

Next steps

There is a need to complete a more detailed Housing Needs Survey. Cambridgeshire ACRE is continuing to work with the Parish Council and other partners to find the best way forward. Community Land Trusts will be investigated as an organisational structure for taking forward the housing development.

Village Hall & GP Surgery

Opportunities

During discussions, the idea was raised of locating the new village hall and GP surgery on one site as a hub for community services. The Parish Council is also considering whether it might be possible to provide any other services that within this new infrastructure. The aim is to fund the development and maintenance of these new facilities through cross-subsidy: income generated by private housing development on the same site.

Next steps

The community in Great Staughton is working with partners to identify funding and the best way to provide the facility.



3. Deliver identified priorities

The Great Staughton Trailblazers scheme project is not yet complete. However, to date, several learning points have been identified through working with Great Staughton:



Learning points

- Before beginning on a large scale project for community improvements, clear evidence of need must be established through local community consultation.
- The community has a variety of options for delivering identified priorities.
- Specialist support is needed at all stages. This support needs to be focused on helping the community select the best route for delivering those priorities, and must be flexible to enable that delivery.
- There is merit in looking at the spatial actions of a community-led plan as a whole.
- These projects take time.

Useful links

Great Staughton Village Plan

http://www.greatstaughton-pc.gov.uk/village_plan.html

Cambridgeshire ACRE

www.cambsacre.org.uk

Foundation East

www.foundationeast.org

Huntingdonshire District Council

www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk

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