

Community Initiatives

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Report

Report subject: East Knoyle Parish Plan Endorsement
Report to: Western Area Committee
Date: 19th February 2009
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East Knoyle Plan Endorsement

1. Report Summary:

East Knoyle Parish Plan Steering Committee has submitted their completed Plan for endorsement by the Western Area Committee. Salisbury District Council has validated the plan on the grounds that the required Parish Plan Validation criteria have been reached and recommend that Western Area Committee endorse the Plan as outlined below.

2. Context

Parish Plans emerged as a structured community planning mechanism in the November 2000 Rural White Paper "*Our Countryside – The Future*" which set out the Government's plans for the countryside. In preceding years' initiatives such as village appraisals and village design statements had demonstrated the value in whole communities coming together to set out their vision and ways of achieving it. Parish Plans began to emerge from this process and the idea was developed and championed by the Countryside Agency under their Vital Villages programme until 2005 when the responsibility was passed over to DEFRA.

The principal purpose of parish and town plans is to:

"... set out a vision of what is important, how new development can best be fitted in, the design and quality standards it should meet, how to preserve valued local features and to map out the facilities which the community needs to safeguard for the future. Plans should ...identify key facilities and services, set out the problems that need to be tackled and demonstrate how distinctive character and features can be preserved."

3. Validation Process

The district council has put in place a voluntary quality assurance mechanism that is designed to guide communities towards preparing the types of Parish, Ward and Town Plans, which can have the maximum impact upon service providers.



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The key components of the validation are that:

- It is voluntary, but if the simple guidelines are followed it can be assured that the plan is likely to be taken more seriously.
- It has involved more direct discussions with service providers ensuring expectations and reality are more closely matched
- The plan is better informed through the use of better information and techniques to underpin discussion within the community.
- It ensures that the action planning stage draws in a wide a spectrum of interests to help delivery

The Validation Process ensures that a robust route has been taken when producing the plan, and that all members and key stakeholders within community have been consulted with. It is not about the contents; however, it ensures that they are realistic and deliverable

4. What does endorsement mean?

By endorsing the Plan, Western Area Committee are recognising the value of the work the local community has put together in establishing the needs and aspirations of the community and demonstrates their commitment in recognising the democratic voice of that community. In endorsing the plan members should note that the validation process does not make judgement on the content of the plan or in any way commit SDC or other agencies to any of the actions.

The Committee also agrees to take the Plan into consideration when making decisions regarding the community.

5. Recommendations.

- 1) Approve the plan for endorsement (on the basis that the process was comprehensive; the validation process does not make a judgement on the content or any form of commitment to actions from SDC or other agencies).

6. Implications:

- **Financial:** None
- **Legal:** None
- **Human Rights:** This process should allow the rights of individuals to be more openly represented.
- **Personnel:** None
- **Community Safety:** None
- **Environmental:** None
- **Council's Core Values:** Parish plans will improve quality of life in the district by identifying key issues in each community and helping to address them.
- **Wards Affected:** Knoyle