



Downend & Bromley Heath Community Plan



Welcome to the Downend and Bromley Heath Community Plan

The Plan reflects the priorities expressed by local residents and it looks ahead at what can be done to develop, sustain and improve Downend and Bromley Heath as a healthy, safe and lively place in which to live, work and play over the next decade.

It was presented to Downend and Bromley Heath Parish Council in spring 2011 and at the Annual Parish Meeting on 28th April, 2011. It was launched at community events in the summer 2011.

In the following pages are the Key Findings from many different consultations, including a detailed questionnaire sent to every household in the Parish. The responses were used to produce the Action Plan, on pages 4 to 7, which will be implemented with the support of Downend and Bromley Heath Parish Council and other partners. However, nothing can be achieved without the help of enthusiastic volunteers from the community.

We expect the Plan to evolve to reflect changing circumstances. Do give it your support and some of your time to keep it alive and relevant over the next ten years.

The Community Plan Team hopes you enjoy browsing through the Plan and encourages you to keep it to hand for reference.



Downend and Bromley Heath today is town and country, a growing, modern, diverse, suburban community with a countryside history on the edge of a large provincial city. Older residents can remember when there were farmers' fields and apple orchards where there are now houses and supermarkets. With nearly 12,000 residents, it is also one of the larger communities in the West to develop a Community Plan.



Why Have a Community Plan? Many parishes across the country have taken up the challenge to involve their communities in unique plans that celebrate the present and give a realistic shape

to their communities' aspirations for the future. Our plan embodies how residents see and value where they live, work and play. It also sets out how they would like the community to develop over the next five to ten years and provides priorities for the Parish Council, South Gloucestershire Council and other agencies to respond to.

Finding out your views and putting together the Plan.

With the support of the Parish Council, an independent group of local people who care about our community conducted a survey of all residents and have used the responses to develop this Community Plan.

The group started its work in 2009 with a short survey to discover what might be the main issues for residents. This provided the basis for the more detailed **Your Community - Your Say** questionnaire which was delivered to every household in early summer 2010. The completed questionnaires were collected from houses and at collection points in the area and the electronic questionnaire on the Parish Council's website stayed live throughout the summer. The aim was to give every resident the best opportunity to have an input into the Plan.

Almost 1500 people of all ages responded to **Your Community - Your Say** and the Plan Team has considered more than 50,000 separate answers.

Key Findings from the Questionnaire

Community

Residents liked Downend and Bromley Heath and see it as a good place to live. However, three main concerns emerged: litter; street, pavement and lane clearing; and the limited range of local shops.

It was clear that residents generally preferred their news and information about the community in printed form.

Many of you wanted better local provision, for example shops and a Farmers' Market. We will need to consider how to deal with this as these have not been well supported in the past.

Residents acknowledged the wide range of activities in Downend and Bromley Heath. Comments suggest that people do not always know where to find out about community facilities, activities and events.

Street and lane lighting, regular and routine policing and Neighbourhood Watch were considered to be very important. There is clearly a strong wish to maintain and improve Downend and Bromley Heath as a safe place to live.

Young People

The need for a comprehensive directory of all the existing activities, facilities, groups and clubs is a high priority, as it became very clear that respondents were unaware as to what is currently available to them.

Many of you, across all ages, expressed a strong wish for more extensive and improved play and activity equipment and facilities

for children and young people. There was an interest in a broader range of organised outdoor sporting activities.

Across the age range there were requests for more, safer places for young people to meet and for venues where parents and grandparents with younger children could socialise. There was some enthusiasm for ecologically and environmentally pro-active fun groups.

Parks, Open Spaces and Environment

Our seven Open Spaces are well used by residents, especially George V Playing Field and Bromley Heath Park. Some people indicated that they did not know where the Parks and Open Spaces were.

There were suggestions for better play facilities for young people and wide support for more places to sit in the parks, and at the shops.

Litter was a strong concern in the parks, local shopping areas and along some paths and lanes. Many people said they would be willing to pick up litter occasionally.

Dog fouling in parks and on pavements is another major concern. Some dog owners commented that the behaviour of a few reflects badly on all dog owners.

Traffic, Highways and Transport

This section received a high number of responses. Residents are concerned about transport and related matters: this probably reflects the very busy nature of the main roads that run through our area.

There was considerable support for a range of methods to reduce the speed and volume of traffic, including more enforcement of speed limits. Many people preferred flashing signs to encourage lower speeds and were prepared to have traffic calming in the roads where they live or work.

1 in 3 pedestrians replied that they found difficulty in crossing roads in our area. There were suggestions for a range of measures to help pedestrian access and safety.

Interestingly, whilst many people considered traffic volumes an issue, 90% said they rarely, if ever, used public transport. The most cited reason was journey time and cost.

Over 40% of responses expressed a concern about obstructions on the pavements.



The Action Plan

The following Plan addresses the concerns, interests, preferences and wishes of residents as expressed in response to the consultations.

No single matter emerged that exercised the whole of the Downend and Bromley Heath community. However, there are key Issues which clearly arouse interest and feeling. The Action Plan is a summary of the concerns expressed and issues identified but the thousands of specific comments and responses about particular roads, paths and places are recorded and can be followed up in the future.

Most elements of the Action Plan involve working with partners such as Downend and Bromley Heath Parish Council, South Gloucestershire Council, the local Police, the Downend Business Community,

Neighbourhood Watch, local churches and voluntary organisations. Other groups will play their part in helping achieve the objectives in the plan and we will appreciate any suggestions you may have for partners not mentioned here.

Already residents and groups have volunteered to help in taking the Plan forward. Perhaps you have a particular interest in one of the issues. Your involvement and commitment will be most welcome; it could be as detailed or as brief as you are able to manage.

We would particularly appreciate the interest of younger members of the Downend and Bromley Heath community.

Focus : Community			
Issue	Action	Potential Partners	Target Timescale
1. Clear and up to date information about community activities and facilities especially for children and young people	Review how and where information is made available in the community. Put in place additional signage. Develop and produce a fully comprehensive directory (electronic / printed) including all the necessary details.	Parish Council S Glos Council Neighbourhood Watch Local Guide books	2 years
2. Safety and Security	Review street and lane lighting; implement improvements annually. Investigate the feasibility of new Neighbourhood Watch groups to increase coverage and promote new groups. Regularly ensure awareness of Community Police availability and presence.	Parish Council S Glos Council Police Neighbourhood Watch Safer Stronger Community Group	5 years
3. Effective provision of information and news in the community	Work with existing printed publications to ensure best provision and coverage. Investigate use of other media (e.g. Parish Council website, Facebook) and implement as appropriate.	Parish Council Local Publications	1 year
4. Sustained, revitalised and developed local shopping provision	Research more thoroughly what the community wants and its viability and sustainability. Work with Downend Business Community to develop a local shopping identity and experience for residents.	Parish Council Downend Business Community	Ongoing

Focus : Children and Young People			
Issue	Action	Potential Partners	Target Timescale
1. Information about activities, groups and facilities for children and young people – see Community No. 1 .			
2. Improvements to facilities in local parks for older age group - see Open Spaces No. 2 .			

Issue	Action	Potential Partners	Target Timescale
3. Youth clubs for the 10 to 18 year olds.	Liaise with local youth clubs in promoting and if necessary expanding on what is currently available	S Glos Council Parish Council youth clubs	3 years
4. More organised sporting activities (indoor and outdoor) including athletics, in addition to football and tennis	Investigate the particular sporting interests of children and young people. Research and consult on the possibility of updating Downend Sports Centre and other locations. Develop provision as appropriate. Promote what is available and introduce more outdoor sports if necessary.	S Glos Council Parish Council Downend School Other Providers	2 years
5. Ecologically and environmentally aware, proactive fun groups.	Promote existing family friendly wildlife groups and encourage new ones. Publicise existing opportunities for such groups in local open spaces. Look at the possibility for a wildlife pond.	S Glos Council Parish Council Friends groups	2 years
6. Community venues for parents and grandparents with children to meet up socially. See also Community No. 1	Advertise the opportunities that already exist. Research into where and what facilities residents would like. Encourage local providers (e.g. Churches & library) to expand / extend their facilities (e.g. by introducing a coffee shop).	S Glos Council Parish Council Church groups Social groups Friends of Downend Library	3 years
7. More holiday play schemes and after school clubs	Ascertain and advertise what is currently available. Research further into what is additionally required and liaise with providers where possible. Consult with play scheme providers, schools and school-age families.	S Glos Council Parish Council Schools Other providers and parents	2 years
8. Continued positive use and further development of the skate boarding park.	Work with interested parties and support the management group in responding to this.	S Glos Council Parish Council Friends groups PCSOs	1 year
9. An outdoor seating facility for young people - See Open Spaces No. 5.			
10. Possibility of a local paddling pool as a younger children's amenity	Research need, siting and funding.	S Glos Council Parish Council local Friends Groups	3 years
11. A swimming pool within walking distance	Assess the real demand for this and consult on whether the community could improve existing facilities, and on the viability of building a new pool. Advertise existing swimming pool facilities nearby. Publicise routes and public transport to these facilities.	S Glos Council Parish Council Sports Council Sport England	1 year
12. Graffiti around children's play areas	Investigate siting a graffiti wall in one of the parks. Consult with children and young people and Friends Groups	S Glos Council Parish Council	2 years
13. Sure Start Centre	Publicise and promote the existing provision.	S Glos Council Parish Council current Centre managers	1 year

Focus : Parks, Open Spaces and Environment

Issue	Action	Potential Partners	Target Timescale
1. People don't know where the parks and open spaces are	Better signage and publicity through newsletters and other publications. see Community No. 1 .	S Glos Council Parish Council	1 year
2. Better Play facilities in all parks, especially for older age group	Decide what is needed to improve play facilities in George V, Bromley Heath Playing Fields and Lincombe Barn, especially adventure-style equipment. Put in place a programme to progress these improvements.	S Glos Council Parish Council Friends Groups and funders	3 years
3. Use of the open space at the former Downend Lower School site, Hill House Road	Work with S Glos Council to bring this open space into community use. Recommend adventure play equipment, multi-use sports area, fitness trail, allotments and bowling facility for this area.	S Glos Council Parish Council and funders	5 years
4. Public toilets at some of the open spaces	Look at the possibility of opening the toilets already present in George V and Bromley Heath Playing Fields.	S Glos Council	3 years
5. Seating in the park particularly for young people.	Investigate and consult on the possible siting of a Youth shelter in one of the parks; implement if possible. (See also Children and Young People No. 9)	S Glos Council Parish Council Young people and Friends Groups	3 years
More seating in parks and shopping areas.	Provide further seating as required in the parks and in Downend village and at Cleevewood shops.		3 years
6. Litter Litter in parks and open spaces Litter in shopping areas and lanes	Investigate the need for more litter bins in George V, Lincombe Barn and Leap Valley and seek to provide as appropriate. Ensure people are aware of the S Glos Council Street Cleaning programme. Request S Glos Council to provide and publish programmes and frequencies for street clearing and emptying of litter bins. Work regularly with appropriate groups and agencies to reduce litter in Co-op car park, Christchurch Lane, lanes near Downend School and the cycle path. Raise awareness of litter issues.	S Glos Council Parish Council Co-op car park Managers Downend Business Community Downend School Friends Groups Volunteers	Ongoing
7. Dog Fouling in parks and on pavements	Identify the need for dog bins in parks and on particular dog walking lanes. Run a public awareness campaign through local newsletters to advise people how to get help and enforcement where there are dog-fouling problems.	S Glos Council Dog Wardens Parish Council All dog owners	1 year
8. Noise	Let residents know whom to contact if they have localised problems with noise.	S Glos Council Parish Council newsletter	1 year



Focus : Traffic, Highways and Transport

Issue	Action	Potential Partners	Target Timescale
1. Speed and Volume of Traffic	<p>Reduce traffic speed and volume (Flashing speed signs were particularly favoured by residents).</p> <p>Achieve enforcement of existing speed limits on local routes.</p> <p>Identify locations (e.g. schools and shopping localities) for lower speed limits.</p> <p>Put in place most acceptable and effective measures to slow traffic in these locations.</p>	<p>S Glos Council Parish Council Police Beat Team Police Traffic Speedwatch volunteers Safer Stronger Community Group</p>	5 years
2. Safer pedestrian crossing points	<p>Improve the siting and facilities for pedestrians crossing at main route junctions, shopping areas, schools, and along main routes, as identified by the community.</p> <p>Aim for at least one improvement measure each year.</p>	<p>S Glos Council Parish Council Neighbourhood Watch</p>	7 years
3. The condition of pavements for pedestrians	<p>Negotiate and implement a programme of pavement repairs and improvements.</p>	<p>S Glos Council</p>	Annual programme
4. Pavement obstructions for pedestrians, wheelchair users, and parents with push chairs	<p>Plan and implement a programme to improve the passage way for pedestrians on pavements using notices and newsletters about problems caused by overgrown boundaries, pavement parking and other obstructions.</p> <p>Follow up requests and enforce notices effectively.</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Watch Parish Council S Glos Council Police</p>	1 year
5. Parking for people who are disabled	<p>Review the need for accessible spaces at all shopping locations and plan extra provision.</p> <p>Follow up abuse of these dedicated spaces by non- badge holders</p>	<p>S Glos Council Downend Business Community Police</p>	3 years
6. Travel choices	<p>Publicise feasible alternatives to car use, acknowledging and addressing the constraints in public transport use expressed by residents.</p> <p>Promote and publicise local shopping options.</p> <p>Work with schools to strengthen School Travel Plans.</p>	<p>S Glos Council Parish Council Supermarkets Downend Business Community Schools</p>	Annual programme
7. Community Transport availability	<p>Assess the need of those in the community with travel difficulties.</p> <p>Provide details of provision, options and accessibility.</p> <p>Initiate discussion about a Social Car Scheme.</p>	<p>Volunteers Community providers Parish Council S Glos Council</p>	2 years



What Happens Next?

There are Action Groups for the four main issues identified in the Community Plan:

- Community
- Children & Young People
- Parks, Open Spaces & Environment
- Traffic, Highways and Transport.

We do need more help in these groups. You will be welcome to join in and help shape the future.

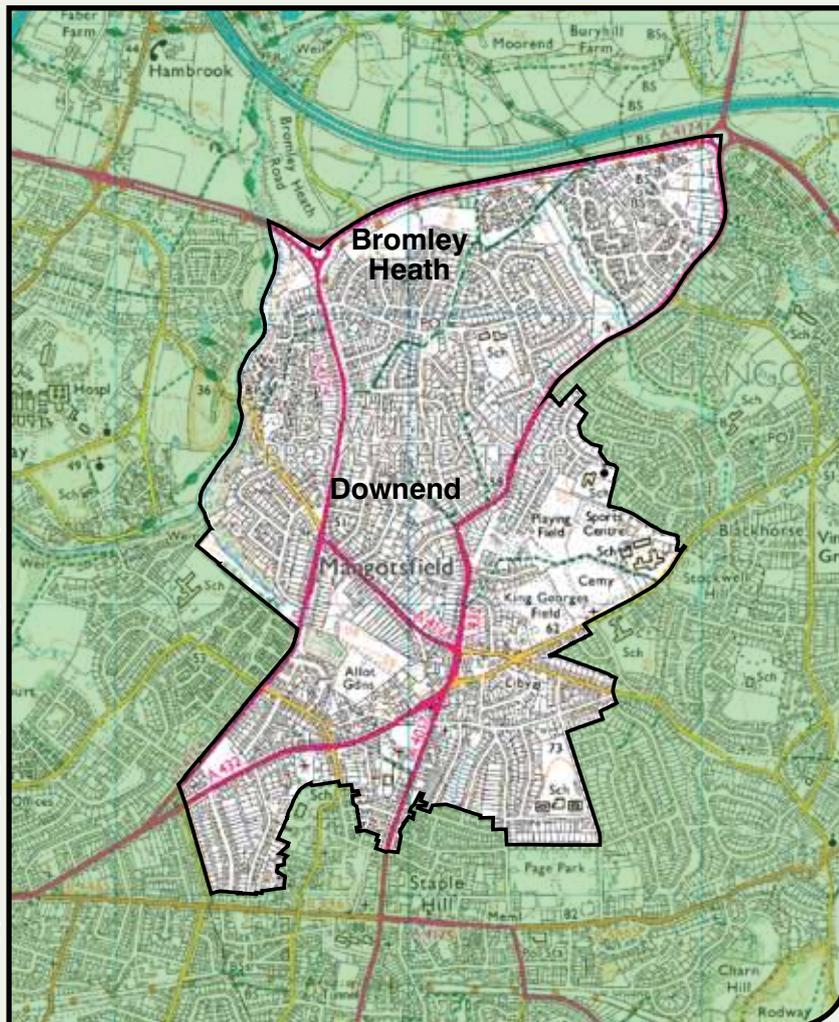
The Community Plan Group will meet every three months to monitor and review progress and draw together what has been done so far. It will report annually on the implementation of the Plan.

The Downend and Bromley Heath Community Plan is a working document that represents the views of residents in 2010 -2011 and it will be updated from time to time to reflect changing perspectives and circumstances.

What you can do . . .

If you would like more information, or feel passionate about something in the community or want to lend a hand in putting the Plan into action, then:

- ▶ Contact Graeme Riley by 'phone on 01179567614; by email riley.ge@hotmail.co.uk
- ▶ Or drop a note to Graeme Riley
8 Cleeve Gardens, Downend, Bristol BS16 2SJ
- ▶ Go to the Downend and Bromley Heath Community Plan pages on the Downend and Bromley Heath Parish Council website
www.downendbromleyheath.org
- ▶ Or contact the Clerk to Downend and Bromley Heath Parish Council by 'phone 0117 9567001 or by email dandbhparish@btinternet.com
- ▶ Or contact any of the Community Plan team members listed below.



© Crown copyright and database rights [2011] Ordnance Survey [100023410]

Acknowledgements

Thanks for support, advice and guidance to South Gloucestershire Council, Downend & Bromley Heath Parish Council, SWAN (South West ACRE Network) and many others.

We are grateful to the churches, shops and businesses which helped publicise the Plan.

And, of course, thanks to all residents of Downend and Bromley Heath.

The Community Plan Team: Mike Baker, Derek Baillie, Jenny Baillie, Janet Biggin, Bill Crocker, Angela Hocking, David Lewis, Mary Lewis, Graeme Riley (Chair), Diane Paddon, Martyn Poole, Elizabeth Shepherd.

This document was compiled in 2011

