

COMMUNITY PLAN

ACTION PLAN

When the Community Plan was published in 2013 copies were sent to the relevant departments of Wiltshire Council highlighting the concerns and suggested actions.

As stated previously the Community Plan is “owned” by the Community of Box. Since the document was drawn up the Parish Council has considered the main action points and consistently tried to carry out the wishes of the Parish. However, the Parish Council cannot influence many of the actions as they are outside the control of the Parish Council.

1. HOUSING

To strive to preserve green belt and community character - This is done with every Planning application that is considered and will be raised with the new Core Policy consultation and highlighted if a Neighbourhood Plan is conducted

To identify brownfield sites in the Parish and to support and encourage the use of these and infill for new development – Again this is addressed at Planning meetings and raised with potential developers

To conserve the green belt and geographical character of the Parish: Again this is considered with every planning application received

To encourage housing that is affordable, starter and sheltered: This is discussed with potential developers and raised with any relevant planning application

To avoid over development – Again this is considered with all planning applications

To pursue these objectives as vigorously as possible with Wiltshire Council, local MPs and other avenues of influence: The Box Parish Council Planning Committee uses its local Wiltshire Councillors to call in any planning applications that are of concern to the parish council

2. ACCESS AND TRANSPORT

To explore ways with relevant authorities to reduce the volume of traffic through the Parish of Box, such as improved public transport, car pooling, diversion of traffic and all other relevant measures It is a main A road through the village. This is the responsibility of Wiltshire Council.

To lobby Wiltshire Council and seek to actively work with B&NES to introduce an acceptable Park and Ride system on the eastern boundary of Bath: This proposal was withdrawn by B&NES

To lobby Wiltshire Council over the poor state of the roads in the Parish: This is continually done by reporting issues via MyWilts App or by raising Issue Sheets with the CATG

Speed of Traffic

To work with local groups (Police, county council and community groups) to enforce speed limits, to introduce traffic calming measures such as speed humps, chicanes etc: This is continually done by the Parish Council in conjunction with CATG via metro counts, introduction of white gates etc

To lobby in conjunction with local community groups, Wiltshire Council, transport authorities and MPs for a reduction in speed limits on A4 and other roads in the Parish: Again this is actively done by the Parish Council via metro counts, issue sheets. A local Speed Watch group has been successfully set up. As a major road there is not likely to be any reduction from the 50 mph approach and the 30 mph limit through the village

Parking:

To explore opportunities for additional parking in the centre of Box village: This has been discussed by the Council but there are no areas available. There is a large car park by the Recreation Ground and also the Car Park in the Market Place.

To explore the possibility of introducing time limits on parking for Market Place and Queen Square car parks thereby increasing turnover of space availability. These car parks are owned by Wiltshire Council. The possibility of time limits on the Market Place car park was raised when the lease with the Box parish council was being drawn up but this was not taken up by Wiltshire Council as there was no resources to monitor this.

To improve utilisation of space at Selwyn Hall car park: This is the Parish Council owned car park shared by users of the Recreation Ground and the Selwyn Hall. The spaces have been marked out in accordance with the legal requirements.

To lobby the Highways Department of Wiltshire Council for the decommissioning of some yellow lines in the centre of Box village: This has been raised unsuccessfully by the Parish Council.

Public transport:

To encourage greater co-ordination between public transport types (buses/trains through CTAG and Wiltshire Council Box Parish Council strongly opposed the reduction in the local bus service

To lobby all relevant authorities for shuttle trains between Chippenham (and possibly Swindon) and Bristol, to include stops at Corsham and Box (and possibly Royal Wotton Bassett): The Parish Council has actively lobbied for the re-opening of Corsham Train Station

Pedestrians and cyclists:

To lobby Wiltshire Council for cycle lanes: The Parish Council has asked Wiltshire Council for cycle lanes along the A4 and this has been refused

To explore the provision of cycle parking eg top of Valens Terrace and any other suitable sites: Cycle parking has been provided next to the Pavilion

To lobby Wiltshire Council for additional zebra crossings: The Parish Council lobbied Wiltshire Council for a zebra crossing on the A365 Devizes Road but the criteria was not met.

To lobby Wiltshire Council for the rephrasing of traffic lights on the A4 into Box at War memorial traffic lights to remove green filter: This was raised with Wiltshire Council and refused as it is a major A road

To seek solutions to the problem of pedestrian access across Brunel Bridge with Wiltshire Council and Network Rail: This has actively been pursued by the Parish Council with both Wiltshire Council and Network Rail but neither would consider this because of the cost involved.

3. GENERAL FACILITIES AND RECREATIONAL AMENITIES

To explore and encourage the enablement of free WIFI throughout the Parish: Faster broadband had been provided by Wiltshire Council. Unlikely to be able to provide free WIFI

To be more proactive in supporting and funding the start-up of local community groups: The Parish Council has actively supported new local community groups by way of a grant

To continue to support the maintenance and level of current facilities and amenities: This is on-going and considered with every budget set by the Parish Council

4. SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND POLICING

To liaise with local police and Police Commissioner to raise and maintain a more appreciable police presence in the Parish: This can only be done within the constraints of the police force

To encourage more Neighbourhood Watch groups: This is up to local communities. These would be supported by the Parish Council

To work with agencies to ensure that any identified social problems are acted on (eg rough sleepers, vulnerable elderly): This is always a consideration and will be acted upon eg youngsters sleeping in the Chapel

To design, implement and disseminate a structured emergency plan for individual and community needs: This has been done

5. EDUCATION

To promote awareness of current local adult education opportunities: These are in the Parish Magazine and website

6. GENERAL AMENITIES AND SERVICES

To explore new options for raising awareness of local issues by better use of local businesses, other organisations and information exchange points like the library, surgery and post offices etc. This is done and was used during the local boundary review

To raise the profile of Parish website both in the community and also to potential visitors:
The website is extremely well used. It is mentioned in the Parish Magazine and on Council notice boards

8. OTHER WAYS TO IMPROVE LIFE IN BOX PARISH

To consider ways to promote Box Parish generally as a place to live, do business and as a tourist attraction: This is constantly being done via Mrs Porters Diary; notice boards; local walks; opening of Blind House etc