

# 2013 Parish Plan Update

A small team volunteered in 2012 to organise the process and compile the report, which would lead to a published update of the excellent 2007-2012 Parish Plan. Thank you to the Update Teams for all their hard work for their community. This update has now been adopted by Dauntsey Parish Council at their January 2014 meeting. Please read this document with the original Plan.

The first action of the Update Team was to devise a questionnaire which would be circulated to all households in the Parish. This questionnaire was sent out via the Parish Pump distribution system in November 2012, and the questionnaires were returned via stamped addressed envelopes at the end of January 2013. A number of review meetings were held in March 2013, to which any and all interested members of the Parish were invited.

The consensus view of these review groups was that there were some areas that required more information from Parishioners, and consequently a community meeting was organised by a second Update Team and held in May 2013. At this meeting, further views were canvassed on subjects including speeding, flooding, the imminent closure of the pub, leisure facilities, provision for elderly residents and confirmation of village likes and dislikes.

The second Update Team has now reviewed all the information from the returned questionnaires, the discussions of the review groups and from the community meeting results. In addition, the progress against the aims of the original Parish Plan has been reviewed, and this review forms the first section of this report.

*St James in summer 2013*

*Photograph by Robert Hitchcock*

# 2013 Parish Plan Update

## Section 1: Review of 2007-2012 Parish Plan

<p><b>LOCAL ECONOMY</b>  <b>Issue</b>            Office &amp; Workshop Accommodation</p> <p>Farm Shop</p>	<p><b>Vision</b>            Parish should be an attractive location for small business</p> <p>Encourage the setting up of a local shop</p>	<p><b>Action</b>            Business in Great Middle Green Farm development has proved unsuccessful. Business development has been successful elsewhere in the Parish.            Remains a vision</p>
<p><b>COMMUNICATION</b>  <b>Issue</b>            Communication</p>	<p><b>Vision</b>            Improve communication between Parishioners and their awareness of local issues</p>	<p><b>Action</b>            The Pump and Community web site has become the main source of communication in Dauntsey, supplemented by the notice boards.</p>
<p><b>TRANSPORT &amp; TRAFFIC</b>  <b>Issue</b>            Public Transport</p> <p>Speed</p> <p>Parking</p>	<p><b>Vision</b>            Improve public transport services with frequent access to local towns</p> <p>Reduce the risk of vehicular traffic to pedestrians, horses and other road users</p> <p>Provide parking facilities away from front of School/Community Hall</p>	<p><b>Action</b>            Transport services have improved with Connect 2 and the volunteer Link Scheme. Timetable information is available on the web site, notice boards and in the Pump.            Community speedwatch is in operation and more signage is in place on roads, and on wheelie bins</p> <p>Remains a vision</p>
<p><b>CRIME</b>  <b>Issue</b>            Neighbourhood Watch Scheme</p>	<p><b>Vision</b>            Re-establish and reinvigorate NWS as required</p>	<p><b>Action</b>            Currently trying to expand NWS</p>
<p><b>HOUSING</b>  <b>Issue</b>            Affordable Housing</p> <p>Sewage</p> <p>Maintenance of roads and verges</p> <p>Footpaths and pavements</p> <p>Litter</p> <p>Threat of church closure</p>	<p><b>Vision</b>            Provide affordable housing for local needs</p> <p>Overcome sewerage problems of householders in St James and Dauntsey Green</p> <p>Provide effective gritting service in winter and for the maintenance of the verges</p> <p>Provide more active lifestyle opportunities, reduce car parking outside the School and improve safety of residents moving around the village</p> <p>Create a litter free community</p> <p>Prevent closure of Parish church of St James</p>	<p><b>Action</b>            Previous requirement satisfied</p> <p>St James rectified. Unaware of any other problems outstanding</p> <p>Gritting improved with additional grit at junctions</p> <p>Pavement still inadequate. Pavements at Middle Green unfinished. Pressure still needed to achieve the vision</p> <p>Annual litter pick continues, but is poorly supported. Village now enters Best Kept Village Competition.</p> <p>Volunteers continue to look for ways to attract visitors. Funding has become available for construction of toilet facilities, which will help in the staging of events.</p>

# 2013 Parish Plan Update

## COUNTRYSIDE

### Issue

M4 motorway noise

### Vision

To improve the quality of life of all Parishioners by reducing Motorway noise levels; strongly indicated as the most adverse factor of Dauntsey life (in 2007)

### Action

No improvements have been made and pressure needs to be continued to have noise reduction surface applied.

## COMMUNITY

### Issue

Community Support Schemes

### Vision

To identify Parishioners requirements and match assistance from volunteers

### Action

Link Scheme successfully implemented. Wilts Good Neighbour Scheme implemented.

## VILLAGE AMENITIES

### Issue

School/Community Hall

### Vision

To promote the use of the Community Hall to bring the Parishioners together

### Action

Lower School Hall is used for community meetings but remains sometimes difficult to book and access.

Mobile library

To sustain availability of the facility by broadening knowledge of the schedule and encouraging its use

Questionnaire showed that usage has increased and efforts should continue to publicise the service.

Recreation ground

To move, maintain or improve the Parish recreation area

Ongoing work by Parish Council should continue

New public area

To provide a new public area beside the new build in Dauntsey Green

No progress here because of planning problems

## Section 2: Results

### Questionnaire and Community Meeting Results:

275 questionnaires were sent out in 2012 compared with 200 in 2007. 117 responses were sent back by the end of January 2013, a 42.5% response rate, compared with a 55% plus response rate in 2007.

29% of the respondents were aged over 60 compared with 16% in the 2007 results, whereas 19% were 16 and under, compared with 26% in the 2007 results. 72% have lived in Dauntsey for over 10 years compared with 18% having lived here 5 years or less which is the same percentage as in 2007. In brief, we have an increasingly ageing population in Dauntsey.

### Living in the Parish:

In 2013 respondents most liked the country setting and the home the respondents live in, when asked what they most liked about the Parish. The aspects of the Parish the respondents most disliked were the noise from the motorway and the speed and volume of traffic, with flooding worries a close third. These are similar results as in 2007. However the public meeting produced different results, with the M4 noise not featuring highly.

# 2013 Parish Plan Update

## **The Local Economy:**

In 2013 68% of respondents were in favour of encouraging businesses in the Parish and many expressed an interest in the set up of a post office/village shop/farm shop. In 2007 62% of respondents supported the idea of a farm shop.

## **Crime and Community Safety:**

Only 13% of the 2013 questionnaire respondents rated police coverage as poor in the Parish compared with 51% in 2007.

## **Housing and the Built Environment:**

55% of 2013 respondents wanted infill development within the Parish, with only 4% expressing a need for low cost housing. The community meeting identified a need for "down sizing" housing provision for the elderly in the Parish.

## **Countryside and land-based issues: Environment**

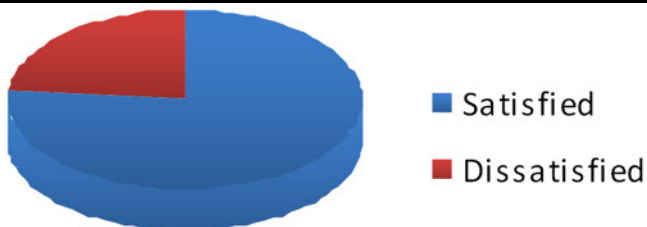
Fly tipping, inappropriate building and litter were raised as significant issues by the 2013 respondents, displacing motorway noise, which was identified as the main problem by the 2007 respondents. There have also been a number of complaints about dog faeces on footpaths and on the recreation ground over the last few years.

**Communication** within the Parish has significantly improved over the 5 year period with 112 of the responses acknowledging they received the Dauntsey Pump (sent to all households and businesses in Dauntsey), and 74 of the responses confirming they read the Parish Notice Boards with 38 accessing the community web site.

11 respondents used the mobile library service, an increase of nearly 100% compared with 2007.

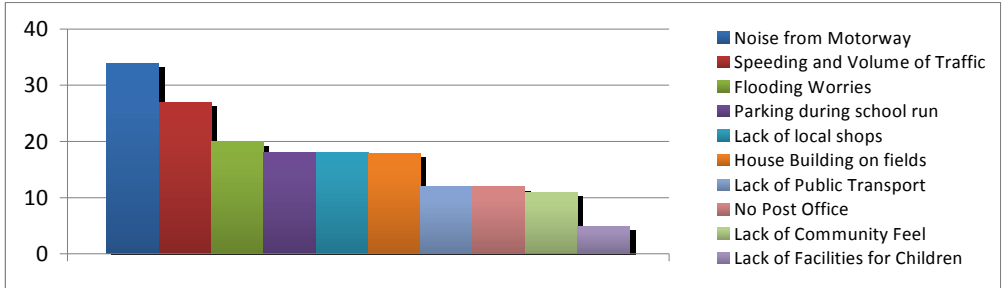
Satisfaction with the way Parish Council spends the precept has increased significantly, although there was a strong wish expressed to have more consultation on how the money was to be spent.

## **SATISFACTION WITH PARISH COUNCIL EXPENDITURE: 2013**

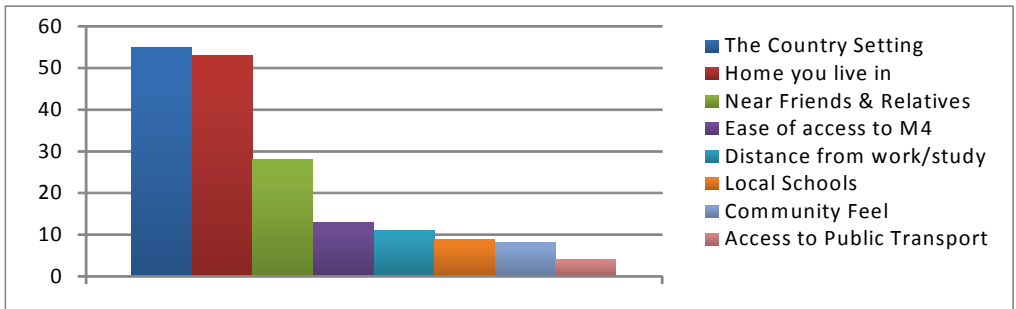


# 2013 Parish Plan Update

## DISLIKES ABOUT DAUNTSEY: 2013 QUESTIONNAIRE



## LIKES ABOUT DAUNTSEY: 2013 QUESTIONNAIRE

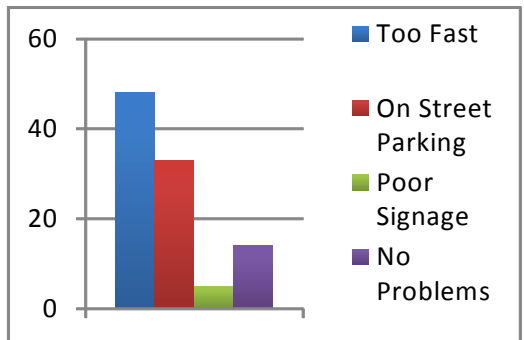


### **Leisure facilities:**

Many respondents identified the lack of leisure facilities within the Parish as a significant worry concerning the engagement of our young people in our community. Facilities for our ageing population were also a concern.

### **Transport and Traffic:**

Community Speedwatch has been implemented and is supported by a majority of Parishioners. There is still a strong desire for a review of speed limits within all parts of the Parish. Safe access to all areas of the Parish for pedestrians was also a strongly expressed wish with 57% of questionnaire respondents saying that pavement provision was poor and 62% saying they used the footpaths and bridleways in the Parish. Negative comments were received at the community meeting about the amount of HGV traffic (mainly waste lorries) on all the roads in the Parish.



# 2013 Parish Plan Update

## Section 3: Conclusions:

The questionnaire responses provided some useful statistical information, but the more open questions of the community meeting proved more insightful of our wishes and concerns. **We would recommend that the latter method is used regularly in the Parish to inform Parish Council and other organisations of the wishes of Parishioners, particularly in advance of the Parish Council annual budgeting process.**

**Flooding concerns** remain a significant aspect of life in Dauntsey, and the good work done so far by both Parish Council and individual residents, with patchy support from the statutory agencies, must continue.

**Traffic problems** involving speeding, together with the provision of footpath/safe pedestrian access to all parts of the Parish also need continuing attention. It may not be within Wiltshire Council budgets to provide more pavements in Dauntsey but other more innovative and cheaper solutions need to be identified and implemented.

**The ageing population** in the Parish is a previously unidentified factor. The Dauntsey Vale Link Scheme, run by volunteers, has now been operating within Dauntsey as well as 3 other local Parishes since 2008, and the more recent introduction of the Good Neighbour Service signposting service, funded by Wiltshire Council and Age UK, have both been instrumental in assisting those in need, particularly the elderly, in the Parish. Other community organisations including the church, WI, etc have all their part to play in improving the quality of life for older residents, but there will be an increasing need for smaller, easy access housing provision within the Parish if we are to achieve our older residents' wish of remaining within the community in their later years.

**The closure of the Peterborough Arms** at Dauntsey Lock, and the ongoing debate concerning the future of this site and the Parish asset it represented, was the focus of much comment in the community meeting and has been the subject of a further open meeting in August 2013. This closure has dramatically reduced the opportunity for the community to communicate face to face. The Wilts and Berks Canal Trust initiative, to develop the pub as a community hub and Canal Trust HQ, is welcomed by many in the Parish.

**Community Cohesion** Many respondents raised community cohesion as a problem, and this was confirmed at the community meetings. Dauntsey is a divided Parish, with 5 centres of population, and separated north and south by the M4. The divided nature of the Parish is undeniably not news to anyone living here, but attention to this problem should result in more unity, and less apathy, within the Parish.

An interesting comment was made after the community meeting, that **the Church** as a group and its contribution as an asset to our Parish were largely absent in both the questionnaire and the community meeting processes. **The School**, other than the parking problems, also did not feature in the information gained during the consultation phase.

# 2013 Parish Plan Update

## Section 4: The Action Plan: 2013 to 2018

The information gained from the consultation, and the analysis of this information, has been used to compile an Action Plan for the next five years.

**The volunteer group working on the Parish Plan Update have come to the conclusion that these aims should be reviewed annually via a community wide consultation, and as part of the Parish Council budgeting process**

### Local Economy:

- Promote the employment of local people in local businesses
- Improve broadband provision
- Encourage the establishment of a farm or community shop
- Promote use/purchase of Peterborough Arms and the canal as a community asset

### Communication:

- Implement good and appropriate communication of decisions that affect the whole Parish, indicating that all areas of the Parish have been considered when making these decisions, using the much improved means of communication in Dauntsey, via [www.dauntsey.org](http://www.dauntsey.org), The Dauntsey Pump, the notice boards and regular and accessible community meetings.
- Encourage more Public attendance at Parish Council Meetings
- Encourage communication between the local School and Church with the rest of the Parish

### Transport and Traffic:

- Continue to apply pressure for 20 mph speed limits in all parts of Dauntsey
- Work towards weight limits on Lyneham/Chippenham road, and promote the change from the existing non-functioning voluntary agreement to a statutory solution.
- Communicate the excellent results of Community Speedwatch to the Parish, explaining the factors restricting the service, and encouraging more volunteers to be trained
- Encourage the review of hedge height and width by landowners in hot spots
- Encourage the appropriate implementation/removal of white lines to promote increased vehicle/pedestrian traffic safety
- Continue to apply pressure for pavement provision in all parts of Dauntsey and in particular to link the different areas of the Parish
- Encourage the continuation of a bus route through the Green
- Encourage the increase of frequency of bus services
- Purchase of additional salt grit bins as needed
- Develop a network of footpaths and cycleways to link areas of the Parish and allow walkers and cyclists to avoid roads
- Continue to apply pressure for a low noise surface to the M4 through Dauntsey



# 2013 Parish Plan Update

## The Action Plan: 2013 to 2018 continued

### Community Safety:

- Improvement in sense of safety in our community should be continued by supporting increased police presence
- Encourage the extension of Neighbourhood Watch, which currently operates in part of the Parish

### Housing and the Built Environment:

- Encourage the provision of smaller single level dwellings for our ageing population to downsize, and remain in our community.
- Encourage small sympathetic infill development, which would be flexible to allow for a variety of needs in the future.
- Explore opportunities for developing areas for starter homes for young people wishing to buy/rent in the community they have grown up in.
- Request and apply pressure for the introduction of timers to street lights to switch off late at night to reduce light pollution

### Countryside and land-based issues: Environment

- Continue the good work done via our own initiatives in flood prevention
- Consider taking responsibility for more frequent mowing of verges
- Promote a zero tolerance approach to litter and fly tipping, reviewing litter bin provision
- Promote a zero tolerance approach to dog fouling

### Leisure facilities:

- Encourage the provision of sports facilities and coaching in the Parish
- Encourage the provision of facilities for teenagers in the Parish
- Explore the desire for arts/music clubs/societies in the community
- Identify and support a community hub to be used as an alternative to the Lower School hall
- Promote the recruitment of volunteers to provide activities and resources for identified groups: eg children, elderly.
- Ensure that all areas of the Parish share resources
- Encourage visitors to our community to see the historic Doom Board and combine with possible fund raising events
- Encourage the provision of additional mobile library stops

### Local Matters:

Efforts to overcome problem of lack of cohesion, and to increase the involvement of residents in activities within Dauntsey, should be at the forefront of all initiatives within the Parish, whether regular or ad hoc, and particular attention should be paid to ensuring the five different areas of the Parish receive resources, and are used for Parish-wide events.