

CATSHILL & NORTH MARLBROOK

PARISH PLAN 2008



DEAR RESIDENT

This plan is an attempt to set out a vision for how we would like our community of Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish to flourish in the next few years and beyond.

The overwhelming priority is to maintain and enhance the health and wellbeing of our community to make it a place of value and vibrancy for those who live, work and go to school here.

There is great community spirit and much talent throughout the Parish that can be harnessed to give Catshill and North Marlbrook a clear, sustainable direction. We need you to help us to meet major challenges to our way of life such as climate change, over-development and transportation issues.

Ideally, as many local people as possible need to continue to be involved in our community and to value it. This is why it is so important to ask you to take part in any way you can and to take ownership, however limited, of the ideas, thoughts and challenges which you will find in this DRAFT plan.

We hope you will join us.

Chairman, Parish Plan Group

WHAT IS THE PROCESS?

This plan is a draft. It needs first of all your comments, input and then broad approval from people like you who live in the Parish. Then it can be put before the District and County Councils where it can be agreed as a Supplementary Planning and Policy Guidance.

This agreement process may be lengthy. However, the first stage is to consult residents of Catshill and North Marlbrook on this Draft plan with the aim of settling on a final version by Christmas 2008.

CONTACT US

You can get more copies of this Draft Plan by contacting the Clerk on 07813 671899 or by emailing clerk@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk or by writing to us at The Village Hall, Golden Cross Lane, Catshill, B61 0JZ www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

WHAT ARE OUR LOCAL ISSUES?

The following issues have already been identified – do you agree? Do you want to add any more?

- PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT
- TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY
- PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
- HEALTH AND WELLBEING
- YOUNG PEOPLE
- COMMUNITY SAFETY
- LOCAL ECONOMY

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT



Our Parish is an attractive semi-rural community with tree-lined streets and a generous proportion of good quality green open space such as the Meadow and the Horse Course.

We would like to ensure that these green spaces and others are protected and enhanced for future generations to enjoy and to benefit. The following ideas are for consideration;

- All residents to have clear information about how they can reduce their impact on the environment
- Residents to receive every year a report on the status of the local environment
- Produce a map of high quality green spaces in the Parish
- Ensure all events within the Parish are environmentally friendly
- Conduct a survey about use of fireworks in the Parish
- Provide subsidised water butts and rainwater capture facilities and free installation
- Establish partnership with District Council to ensure water courses regularly maintained

TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY IN THE PARISH

The Parish is ideally located for access to the M5 and M42 motorways as well as the A38.

At the same time we are lucky enough to be situated on the edge of some of Worcestershire's finest countryside and agricultural landscapes where it is very easy within minutes to be surrounded with rural greenery.



Nearly 90% of residents in Catshill and North Marlbrook own and use a car regularly to for all trips from home, be it to work, leisure activities or just to buy a paper from the local shop on a Sunday morning.

As car ownership has dramatically increased in the past twenty or so years, so the use of public transport has seen a decrease. Catshill is gridlocked with commuter cars between the hours of 7.45 – 9 am every week day unless the schools are on holiday. Public transport i.e., buses, get stuck in this traffic. With the price of oil rising, we think the following actions may help to ease the pain of getting around the Parish and beyond.

- Apply Safe Routes to School programme and encourage children to walk to school
- Consider candidate areas for 20 mile an hour zones
- Consider schemes that would allow buses and multi-occupancy vehicles to travel faster up the A38
- Improve public transport connections i.e., bus provision in the village especially commuter services and school children travel – consider Steer Davies Gleave Personal Travel Planning scheme
- Encourage car-sharing
- Provide cycle racks outside pubs, shops and cash-points
- Support cycle training initiatives for school children
- Ensure all employers locally receive information about Bike2work scheme
- Work with Sustrans and the District and County Councils to maintain the cycle network
- Ensure footpaths are well maintained throughout the Parish

WHAT ARE OUR LOCAL ISSUES?

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Over a number of years, Catshill & North Marlbrook has seen a number of substantial housing developments. There is no further requirement for any large schemes but;

- Land should be identified for small scale developments to cater for natural growth and local needs, in particular a reasonable availability of low cost housing
- Land should be allocated for economic development needs with a view to providing more local employment
- Ensure that green spaces and others are protected and enhanced for future generations to enjoy and to benefit



- Consider plans for allocating land for allotments in the Parish
- Examine potential for more tree planting in the Parish
- Provide pedestrian areas as a priority

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

We know that physical inactivity is a serious and increasing public health problem. We would like to make it easier for local people to be more physically active, where walking and cycling are part of everyone's daily routine, replacing the car for trips to the local shop for example.



- Work with local Primary Health Care Trust to ensure adequate planning for the future of health care for local people
- Explore initiatives and funding to help our young people to be fit for life
- Explore initiatives and funding to improve and enhance care for elderly in the Parish e.g., free odd jobs, free leisure activities, friends for elderly people living alone
- Offer healthy eating courses including cookery demonstrations e.g., cooking on a budget with emphasis on local seasonal ingredients
- Establish Smoke free Parish Youth Forum to run a smoke free parish campaign
- Establish local walking groups to get people active across all the age groups
- Provide information about healthy eating on low budgets and the impacts of sedentary lifestyles/poor diets

WHAT ARE OUR LOCAL ISSUES?

YOUNG PEOPLE



The health, well being and future prospects of young people are important for any community. They deserve to grow up in clean, safe and well ordered neighbourhoods where they can enjoy a wide range of affordable, developmental activities in their free time, locally.

Young people also need good quality information about the opportunities that are available to them when they are old enough to leave school.

The following is a range of ideas for ensuring young people in the village feel part of their community.

- Conduct a survey of young people in the Parish to establish youth needs and aspirations for the Parish
- Establish Young People's Surgery/Drop-in
- Establish a Young People's Council
- Work with County Youth Service to expand and develop further facilities at the local youth centre, for example, where free access to DVD films, games, music, internet, diet and fitness, books, papers, magazines available
- Explore mentoring for young people, i.e., pairing young people with professionals locally for advice and career guidance
- Explore initiatives and funding to help our young people to be fit for life
- Establish Smoke free Parish Youth Forum to run a smoke free parish campaign



COMMUNITY SAFETY



Steps should be taken to develop stronger and more sustainable communities within the Parish, engaging more people especially youngsters to play an active role in local affairs and to contribute towards their neighbourhood.

- Continue partnership with the PACT initiative and similar schemes
- Ensure safe footpaths and adequate lighting
- Liaise closely with Community Support officers, Police and Wardens

LOCAL ECONOMY

A strong local economy is important for any community and in today's economic climate it makes sense for all local economies to be as sustainable as possible. We would like to foster a local economy in Catshill and North Marlbrook which;

- Encourage local residents to buy local and to support local businesses i.e., produce a simple guide for residents of the local goods and services they can purchase and the suppliers of them in their local neighbourhood
- Establish a Local Exchange Trading Scheme
- Explore initiatives in the Parish to ensure local residents have information about financial schemes such as Credit Unions
- Is accessible to the least well off in society
- Promotes small business start ups especially for women and environmental businesses
- Offers local people a good mix of retail choice which in particular supports healthy eating
- Provides good quality affordable local childcare facilities for the local working population especially single parents
- Help people to save money and the environment by promoting home energy saving initiatives



HAVE YOUR SAY



To have your say on this Draft Plan please come along to the Village Hall in Catshill on the following dates

SATURDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER FROM 10 AM – 1 PM

SATURDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER FROM 10 AM – 1 PM

Here you will have an informal opportunity to discuss the plan with members of the Parish Plans Group and put forward your ideas for improving it or just for getting involved. We will utilise the contributions from the public at these sessions to develop a final version of the Plan for approval by the District Council.