

Crowmarsh Parish Action Plan - June 2005

As a result of the 2001 Crowmarsh Village Appraisal (<http://www.crowmarshsurvey.org.uk>) and feedback from the Village Appraisal Exhibition last year, the following actions are now being undertaken by the Crowmarsh Parish Council:

Area	Action	Role of the Parish Council	Outcomes
Recreation	Provision of a children's play area for North Stoke	Support	Parish Council (PC) is in discussion with North Stoke residents
	Provision of new outdoor facilities at Crowmarsh recreation ground	Lead	An open basketball site and football goals will be provided
	Provision of more indoor facilities at recreation ground (table tennis, etc.)	Support	Progress is linked to the development of local clubs
Environment	Additional planting	Lead	Some additional planting will be carried out by the PC, based on survey suggestions
	Improved litter collection & street cleaning	Support/Lead	South Oxfordshire District Council responsible; PC will help with community litter blitz
Democracy	Set up an annual youth forum	Support and facilitate	Requires more community input/feedback
Social	Additional events for senior citizens/lunch club	Support	Community-led
	Youth club/café	Facilitate	PC will support if local leader comes forward, otherwise local facilities at Wallingford Baptist Church and at Benson are available
Traffic & transport	Provision of a safe crossing at Cox's Lane over the A4074	Lobby	Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) is currently examining options, such as a Pelican crossing and/or other measures
	Traffic calming in Crowmarsh	Lobby	PC to acquire traffic-calming signs and confer with OCC
	Traffic calming in North Stoke	Lobby	All initiatives are being actively considered with OCC, including the loan of a 30 mph radar warning sign
	Provision of a safe crossing in The Street, Crowmarsh	Lobby	OCC has accepted the need for a zebra crossing; installation is due by 2007
	General improvements for cycling safety	Lobby	OCC is currently reviewing options
	Resolution of traffic problems associated with Jewson's	Lead dialogue	PC is monitoring the situation in ongoing discussions with Jewson's

Environment

A majority of respondents to the 2001 village appraisal supported increased flower/shrub planting in the parish. The wider issue of the general environment was also highlighted by many, who cited their enjoyment of walking locally and the attractive surroundings as significant factors in their appreciation of the parish. The PC planning and environment sub-committee (chaired by John Griffin) will lead in this area.

Transport

Transport, and road safety in particular, were important issues for parishioners in the 2001 appraisal, and in feedback received at the village appraisal exhibition in March 2004. However, transport issues are largely the responsibility of OCC. The PC transport sub-committee (chaired by Richard Baker) has lobbied OCC for improvements. The county engineer has acknowledged the need to reassess arrangements for the crossing of the A4074. OCC has accepted the need for a zebra crossing in The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford. The timing of its construction will depend on OCC's priorities, but a wait until 2006/7 is likely. The PC has agreed, in principle, to financially assist in the construction of the crossing, if requested. The excessive speed of vehicles passing through North Stoke on the B4009 was also an issue raised by some respondents to the 2001 village appraisal. The PC's transport committee is examining the suitability of radar-operated, 30 mph flashing signs on this stretch of road. The PC's transport sub-committee has acquired 'watch your speed' signs for The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford.

Recreation

The 2001 appraisal demonstrated that children living in Crowmarsh Hill/Park View, and in North Stoke/Mongewell, needed to have greater access to play areas. Unfortunately, South Oxfordshire Housing Association (SOHA), who own the 'playing field' at the top of Park View, will not sell the land to the PC; nor will they allow any permanent equipment to be installed there. Therefore it remains available only for informal recreation. Whilst the PC does own the allotments near Robert Sparrow Gardens, they are fully occupied and cannot be used for play. Residents in North Stoke are reviewing whether a suitable plot of land exists locally that could be used as a play area.

In the 2001 appraisal, a number of suggestions were also made to increase the facilities in Crowmarsh recreation ground. Many of these were not supported by the recreation ground management committee (chaired by John Bellamy), due to concerns about safety and public liability. Swings are now provided, and as a result of the survey more football goals and a basketball net will be installed in 2005/6. Provision of additional facilities such as table tennis and boules would be considered, if local clubs came forward.

Democracy

The idea of a Crowmarsh Youth Forum, in which local issues of interest to young people could be discussed, was very well supported by youth respondents to the 2001 appraisal. The PC continues to seek a volunteer to start this initiative, which could take the form of a regular meeting, perhaps in co-operation with Crowmarsh school.

Social

The 2001 village appraisal also highlighted the need for additional activities for senior citizens. The reinstatement of a Crowmarsh Parish Youth Club also appeared to have wide support from both adults and children. The setting up of a Crowmarsh Youth Club would depend on a suitable volunteer coming forward to lead the club. There is now a community-led lunch club for senior citizens.