

# Foreword

The concept of small rural communities generating and implementing their own “Parish” or Village Plan came from central government at a time when increasing centralisation was a real threat. Centralisation inevitably means making the smaller communities harmonise to what is best for the large urban areas of our nation and that represents a threat to an environment and way of life that we in the Seavingtons have inherited or deliberately chosen.

For this reason the invitation to research, prepare and move forward on our own Village Plan was most welcome; the fact that, through its Countryside Agency, the Government was prepared to contribute to the cost came as a bonus.

This document is our blueprint for the future and details our aspirations. As you know, there has been an extensive consultative process to which all village residents have been given the chance to contribute; two thirds of you seized that opportunity and, here in our Village Plan these ideas have been distilled into a series of proposals each one of which has an owner or “Proposed Actionee”. We have used the latter term quite deliberately to indicate quite clearly that we expect things to happen as a result of the Plan.

Most items in the Plan are not at all spectacular; they merely reflect our aspirations for the next few years. Once implemented and taken together, however, they will make quite a difference to life in the two villages. It would be wrong to expect rapid change but over a few years we should expect to see the full impact of the proposals.

The Plan and its implementation are the responsibility of the Parish Council but it would be unreasonable to expect a handful of elected Parish Councillors to take all of these proposals forward. That is why we have elected to pass responsibility for individual proposals to village organisations best suited to deal with them and why, for some activities, we propose establishing a Parish Council Support Group (PCSG). This latter group will comprise volunteers and co-opted villagers who are prepared to work for the common good on activities for which there is no other natural home; as the name implies the PCSG will work directly for the Parish Council leaving the latter to concentrate on its regular work and Plan responsibilities for which it has statutory duties.

To maintain momentum the Parish Council will conduct an annual review of progress and, as our affairs develop, may choose to annex extra proposals to the Plan. Thus, the Plan will become a living scheme, continually evolving to improve our lives.

I look forward to seeing the results of all this work bearing fruit and would like to acknowledge the support we have received from the Countryside Agency, Somerset Rural Community Council and South Somerset District Council.

Simon Madge,  
Chairman, Seavington Parish Council



Supported by the Countryside Agency