

Brassington Community Plan 2015

Adopted by Brassington Parish Council 21 April 2015

Introduction

Brassington Community Plan was proposed in 2013 by Brassington Parish Council. The first Brassington Plan was published in 2004 and during the intervening period, not only have a number of its recommendations been partially or wholly implemented, but the context has changed so much that the Parish Council felt that a new Plan should be put together. This new Plan, based on extensive local consultation, careful analysis and in-depth discussion, sets out the ways in which we want Brassington to develop over the next 10-15 years. It includes a range of proposals which form an action plan intended to preserve the best aspects of the Parish, and to explore ways in which Brassington can become an even better place in which to live and work.

How has the Community Plan been developed?

The Parish Council has funded the limited costs, and has given co-ordination and encouragement. We are also grateful for advice and practical assistance from Rural Action Derbyshire. The bulk of the work, however, has been undertaken by members of the local community led by a Steering Group, and so the Plan is very much a community-led plan and the Parish Council is very appreciative of the band of volunteers who have kept the show on the road. And perhaps this brings into sharp relief one of the things about Brassington which has become clear through the process, that, despite the ups and downs of village life, there is a real strength of community feeling here which the Plan seeks to reflect and also to strengthen.

A Final Draft of the Plan

The Steering Group believes that the Plan as set out in this document represents in a fair and balanced way the issues thrown up through public meetings and the questionnaire survey, and takes into account the results of the consultation process which has just finished. This consultation process involved a newsletter to every household in the Parish, three public meetings, and an invitation to local residents and businesses to comment on the draft Plan. It also sought comments from our District and County Councillors, from relevant officers of the District and County Councils, and from other relevant agencies. To date, taking into account the number of people who attended meetings, a total of 38 responses has been received. The overwhelming response to the Plan has been positive, with some minor amendments suggested.

How the Plan will be put into practice.

This Community Plan contains a wide range of recommendations and proposals; some of these can be actioned straight away, while others are more complex and inevitably mean longer timescales. They are all dependent in some way or other on the efforts of volunteers from the Parish, including the Parish Council, to make them happen. The Action Plan sets out the need for a number of working groups to work on particular issues when the

implementation phase of this Plan starts, and it is suggested that, initially, working groups are established relating to Community Facilities, Communications, Local Environment, and Housing and Development. One of the first actions will be a call for volunteers to take specific aspects forward. We are hopeful that sufficient volunteers will come forward to contribute to many aspects of the Plan.

It is recommended that the Parish Council takes responsibility for calling for, coordinating, and supporting those groups and volunteers committed to taking forward specific areas of the Plan. The Parish Council also needs to consult further with representatives of key agencies with a role to play in the Plan. The Parish Council should focus on initiating the Plan, monitoring through regular reports from key volunteers and agencies, and problem-solving in relation to areas where little progress is being made. The Parish Council should organise an Annual Review of progress, bringing together a range of key volunteers and agency representatives to contribute to a Review event.

Conclusion

This Community Plan brings together a wide range of recommendations which together will help to make Brassington a more active community while conserving its best aspects. Of course, many issues cannot be solved at the level of the Parish, but the Plan tries to focus on the actions we can take. The Steering Group commends the Community Plan to the Parish Council for adoption.

The Action Plan

In this Plan **short-term** means within 12 months, **medium-term** means from 12 months-3 years, and **long-term** means longer than 3 years. The term **continuing** means that the issue is already being tackled by the Parish Council as one of its general responsibilities, or by another group or agency.

Objective - Community Life (CL)

Value and stimulate the community life of the Parish.

Support and develop important village centres, facilities and services.

For a small rural place like Brassington, the strength of community life, facilities and services is of crucial importance to many people. The greater distances to travel, the relative rarity of public transport, the impact of the weather, the potential for isolation for some people – all these and other factors make community life, and the services and facilities needed to support it, of real importance.

All the issues which are referred to in the recommendations in this section came out as important priorities for residents in the Residents Survey. Three issues relating to community life came out within the 7 most important priorities in the Survey – improved broadband coverage, the village hall, and feeling part of the community. Of these, improved broadband coverage is contained within recommendation CL11 and is, according to information received, being implemented by BT during 2015. The issue of the village hall, and community facilities more generally, is contained within recommendation CL2. And the issue of ‘feeling part of the community’, because it is more general but no less important, is reflected in various ways in most of the recommendations in this section of the Plan, and specifically in recommendations CL2, CL3, and CL7. In developing the draft Plan, issues relating to community life which seem crucial to a successful community in the long term are: good community facilities to accommodate groups, activities, events and functions; the sustainability and effectiveness of the primary school; and improved communications of all kinds.

Recommendation	Action	Project Timescales	Responsibility
CL1. Sustain and develop Brassington Primary School as an essential and central part of village life Overall timescale: LONG TERM Overall priority: HIGH	School to continue to aim for the highest standards	Ongoing	Headteacher, staff, governors, children and parents; supported by wider community
	Regular open days to encourage take-up of places	Annually	Headteacher, staff, children and parents; supported by wider community
	Explore need for additional after school provision for primary age children (additional to Brownies)	As soon as possible	Headteacher
	Feasibility study for additional, new build facilities which could be multi-use (school/community); feasibility work	As soon as possible but possibly as part of timescale for CL2 below	Headteacher, staff, governors, community facilities working group (CL2 below); supported by wider community

	either linked to, or as part of, the work outlined in CL2 below		
	Establish regular two way communication and joint activities with the local community, including volunteering by local residents in school, encouraging community use of the school outside school hours, increased liaison with Parish Council, regular information about school in new Parish newsletter (CL3 below) and on website	Volunteering development as soon as possible; annual presentation to Parish Council; termly information updates	Headteacher, staff, Parish Council, children and parents, wider community
CL2. Support and further develop community facilities in the village Overall timescale: LONG TERM Overall priority: HIGH	Parish Council to set up a small working group (if possible supported by an external agency) which will review the potential of current and proposed buildings for village activities. To include: consultation with the management bodies of existing facilities; assessment of needs; and development of proposals for new or extended facilities; to be followed by community consultation on proposals	Stage 1: May 2015 Working group to be established; discussions with relevant external agencies	Parish Council, local community
		Stage 2: May – June 2015 Working Party to carry out research	Working group, management bodies of existing community facilities
		Stage 3: July 2015 Draft recommendations to be submitted to Parish Council	Working group, Parish Council
		Stage 4: September 2015 Further consultation with relevant bodies and organisations	Parish Council, working group, management bodies of existing facilities
		Stage 5: October 2015. Final report and plans for action agreed	Parish Council, working group
CL3. Making sure that residents, visitors and businesses know what's going on through improved communication and information. Overall timescale: SHORT TERM (with LONG TERM implications)	Set up a working group of volunteers (under the leadership of the Parish Council) - to explore the potential for a new quarterly publication, complementing the existing newsletter. - to improve people's use of the website	May 2015 Call for volunteers; establish group	Parish Council, local community
		May – September 2015 Plan strategy, consider costs and funding, plan new publication, consider website improvements, develop proposals for notice boards/signage for	Working group, Parish Council, website administrators

Overall priority: HIGH	- to improve other communications methods (notice boards, signage etc.)	consideration by Parish Council	
		October 2015 First new publication	Working group
		Ongoing Website improvements, notice-board/signage improvements	Working group, website administrators, Parish Council
CL4. Support the continuation and development of Brassington Pre-School Overall timescale: MEDIUM TERM Overall priority: MEDIUM	Explore options for improved facilities, including modifications to existing premises, or relocation to other suitable facilities. Also see CL2 above	As soon as possible but see timescale under 2 above	Parish Council, Pre-school committee, Village Hall committee, community facilities working group, Primary School
	Encourage greater take-up through enhanced marketing and other measures	Ongoing	Pre-school staff and committee
CL5. Support and improve facilities and services for children Overall timescale: SHORT TERM Overall priority: MEDIUM	Improve children's play area.	Ongoing, and see timescale under CL2 above	Parish Council, community facilities working group
	Development of additional after-school provision (additional to Brownies) Also see CL1 above.	As soon as possible	Primary School Headteacher, parents, volunteers
	Develop community project involving the Brownies	Ongoing	Brownies, leaders, parents
CL6. Develop facilities and activities for and with young people Overall timescale: SHORT TERM Overall priority: MEDIUM	Consider results of young people's survey/undertake further discussions re possible activities	Ongoing	Parish Council, volunteers, young people, parents
	Plan development of young people's sports activities	Ongoing	Recreation Ground Trustees, volunteers, young people, parents
CL7. Further develop social activities and networking in the village in order to help overcome isolation and increase the sense of community Overall timescale: CONTINUING Overall priority: HIGH	Progress work to develop regular, open cafe/drop-in facility, including learning from existing projects elsewhere and securing any necessary funding	Ongoing	Volunteers, other existing groups, relevant external agencies and projects, Parish Council
	Support existing activities and encourage other activities, including those involving older people, to help overcome isolation and increase the sense of community	Ongoing	Volunteers, other existing groups, Parish Council

CL8. Support the Brassington First Responders as an important response to health emergencies Overall timescale: SHORT TERM Overall priority: HIGH	Increase volunteer recruitment through enhanced marketing and Parish Council support	Ongoing	First Responders Group, Brassington Communications Group, Parish Council
	Continue to work for better mobile phone coverage (see CL11 below)	Ongoing	Volunteers, Parish Council, mobile phone providers, local authorities
CL9. Support and maintain the church building as a vital part of the village community and heritage, and encourage greater engagement between church and local community Overall timescale: SHORT TERM Overall priority: MEDIUM	Consider ways in which community support for the church could be further developed, and support the church in its efforts to secure additional resources for repair and maintenance of the historic building	Ongoing	Parochial Church Council/Churchwarden, Parish Council, community facilities working group, local community
	Explore feasibility of greater community use of church, as part of CL 2 above	See timescale for CL2	Community facilities working group, Parochial Church Council
CL10. Support the continuation of adequate public and school transport provision for the Parish and consider the development of alternative, community-based transport schemes Overall timescale: MEDIUM TERM Overall priority: MEDIUM	Ongoing monitoring of public transport needs and use in the Parish, and liaison and dialogue with Derbyshire County Council and other relevant organisations to make the case for adequate public and school transport	Ongoing	Parish Council, Derbyshire County Council, Ashbourne Community Transport, volunteers, local groups
	Consideration of alternative, community-based schemes using best practice elsewhere	Ongoing	Parish Council, volunteers, relevant external agencies
CL11. Support the introduction of faster broadband and improved mobile phone coverage for Brassington Overall timescale: SHORT/MEDIUM TERM Overall priority: HIGH	Monitoring of installation of Superfast Broadband, together with ongoing dialogue with BT/Digital Derbyshire	Ongoing during 2015	Parish Council, Digital Action Group, BT/Digital Derbyshire
	Encourage wider access to IT and internet for all local residents who require it, primarily through educational support for developing IT skills (see EC3)	Ongoing	Parish Council, Digital Action Group, Brassington Primary School, Derbyshire Libraries, Derbyshire Adult Education Service
	Examination of options for improved mobile phone coverage, including dialogue with providers, and monitoring of progress	Ongoing	Parish Council, Digital Action Group, volunteers, mobile phone providers, local authorities
CL12. Support appropriate ways to reduce fuel and heating costs among	Consider feasibility/desirability of mains gas supply to village	By April 2016	Parish Council, volunteers

households in the Parish Overall timescale: SHORT TERM (with LONG TERM implications) Overall priority: HIGH	Explore introduction of oil bulk-buying scheme in the village	By September 2015	Parish Council, volunteers; Rural Action Derbyshire
	Increase awareness of insulation and domestic renewable energy initiatives.	Ongoing	Volunteers, Parish Council
CL13. Support crime prevention and community safety work in the Parish Overall timescale: CONTINUING Overall priority: MEDIUM	Increase awareness of crime prevention and community safety measures (e.g. speed awareness)	Ongoing	Derbyshire Police, Neighbourhood Watch, Parish Council, Brassington Communications Group
	Support for Neighbourhood Watch as required	Ongoing	Neighbourhood Watch, Parish Council, volunteers

Objective – Local Environment (LE)

Protect, conserve and improve our village environment and the surrounding landscape in order to maintain the health, safety and quality of life of residents and visitors.

The uniqueness of the local environment is what makes Brassington the place it is. The village environment and the surrounding landscape are both striking and need to be conserved. Some of the Parish comes within the Peak District National Park and so has additional protection because of that designation. The remainder of the Parish takes the form of upland limestone pasture, slopes and dales and shares the unique characteristics of the White Peak as a whole. As such, it constitutes part of the ‘setting’ of the National Park and needs to be respected and protected in the light of that description.

Again, all the issues which are reflected in this section came out as being important to residents in the Residents Survey. Four issues relating to the local environment came out within the 7 most important priorities in the Survey. These were: speeding traffic; the condition of local roads; dog fouling; and protecting the landscape. The issue of speeding traffic is reflected in recommendation LE1. The issue of the condition of local roads is reflected in recommendation LE6. The issue of dog fouling is reflected in recommendation LE4. And the issue of protecting the landscape is particularly reflected in recommendation LE3, but also in recommendations LE2, LE7 and LE8. Some issues in this section seem to be relatively mundane but are of real importance to the quality of life of residents, and, by and large, they are already being tackled by the Parish Council and other agencies.

Recommendation	Action	Timescale	Responsibility
LE1. Tackle the issue of inappropriate traffic speeds and lorries through the village Overall timescale: CONTINUING Overall priority: HIGH	Continue to make the case for a 20 MPH speed limit through the village, combined with any appropriate physical measures (e.g. speed-sensitive warning lights, junction improvements)	Ongoing	Parish Council, Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Police
	Seek to progress, in co-operation with Derbyshire Police, undertaking a community speed monitoring and awareness project to monitor traffic speeds through the village and to raise	By December 2015	Parish Council, Derbyshire Police, volunteers

	awareness of the need for speed reduction		
	Co-operate with local companies and other relevant bodies to ensure effective signage and increased driver awareness of weight restrictions through the village	Ongoing	Parish Council, Derbyshire County Council, relevant local companies
LE2. Protect, conserve and enhance the village environment through the development of a Village Design Statement Overall timescale: MEDIUM TERM Overall priority: MEDIUM	Establish a small working group and engage with Derbyshire Dales District Council to agree a work programme to develop a Village Design Statement as supplementary planning guidance for the village	May – June 2015	Parish Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, working group, Rural Action Derbyshire
	Undertake work to develop a Village Design Statement, with a view to its adoption by Derbyshire Dales District Council as Planning Authority	June 2015 – March 2016	Working group, Parish Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council
LE3. Support the protection, conservation and enhancement of the unique landscape of Brassington Parish Overall timescale: MEDIUM/LONG TERM Overall priority: HIGH	Engage with Derbyshire Dales District Council to ensure that, as far as possible, all planning permissions for commercial or industrial development in the Parish incorporate appropriate planting and landscaping for screening purposes	Ongoing	Parish Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council
	Engage with Derbyshire Dales District Council and with companies based at Longcliffe to explore the possibility of a joint project to improve the environment of that part of the Parish	Initial work by September 2015	Parish Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, local companies, volunteers
	Objective assessment of all new applications for commercial wind and solar energy installations in the Parish in terms of their size, location, relationship to existing installations, landscape impact, and direct community benefit	Ongoing	Derbyshire Dales District Council, Parish Council, local community
	Support and encourage local farmers to restore and re-use surplus farm buildings for residential or commercial	Ongoing	Local farmers/landowners, Parish Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, volunteers

	use, and co-operate with farmers and other landowners to secure the repair and restoration of field barns and dry stone walls in the Parish		
	Encourage greater community awareness of the wildlife and landscape of the Parish, particularly the local Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and take action in co-operation with landowners and other relevant organisations to conserve the unique qualities of the Parish's environment	Ongoing	Parish Council, volunteers, farmers and other landowners, Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Brassington Communications Group
	Encourage liaison and co-operation with neighbouring Parishes in order to protect the unique landscape of the area	Ongoing	Parish Council
LE4. Tackle the issue of dog fouling in and around the village Overall timescale: CONTINUING Overall priority: HIGH	Continuous monitoring of the problem, together with increased awareness-raising of the issue, including the introduction of appropriate signage, and researching best practice from elsewhere with a view to consideration of other measures as necessary	Ongoing	Parish Council, Brassington Communications Group, local community, local landowners
	Continue to engage with Derbyshire Dales District Council to progress the introduction of Dog Control Orders in relation to public sites in and around the village	Ongoing	Parish Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, relevant landowners and other bodies
LE5. Work to improve car parking in and around the village Overall timescale: LONG TERM Overall priority: HIGH	Continue to engage with Derbyshire Dales District Council to influence planning permissions so that development incorporates adequate off-road parking wherever possible	Ongoing	Parish Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council
	Identify opportunities and seek resources to increase the provision of additional communal parking in the village area	Ongoing	Parish Council

	Research best practice from elsewhere and consider additional measures which might be required to address the issue	Ongoing	Parish Council, volunteers
	Consider other community measures to reduce the requirement for multiple car ownership, and continue to work for adequate public transport solutions (see CL10)	Ongoing	Parish Council, Derbyshire County Council, Ashbourne Community Transport, volunteers, local groups
LE6. Ensure adequate maintenance of the roads throughout the Parish, and the pavements and jitties within the village area Overall timescale: CONTINUING Overall priority: HIGH	Monitor road conditions of roads, pavements and jitties. Report to and dialogue with Derbyshire County Council and Derbyshire Dales District Council to make the case for repairs and maintenance.	Ongoing	Parish Council, Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council
	Raise public awareness of the need and procedure to report problems to the County Council Highways Authority	Ongoing	Parish Council, Brassington Communications Group, Derbyshire County Council
LE7. Continue to address problems of litter or tipping in the Parish Overall timescale: CONTINUING Overall priority: HIGH	Monitor litter and fly-tipping in the village and wider Parish.	Ongoing	Parish Council, local community
	Ensure prompt reporting of fly-tipping to Derbyshire Dales District Council and promote public awareness of the need and procedure for prompt reporting	Ongoing	Parish Council, local community, Brassington Communications Group, Derbyshire Dales District Council
	Ensure the adequate provision of litter bins in the village	Ongoing	Parish Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council
	Organise a periodic community clean-up of road verges and other areas subject to litter in the wider Parish	Annual or as required	Parish Council, volunteers
LE8. Continue an effective maintenance programme of public areas in the Parish Overall timescale: CONTINUING	Continue an effective maintenance programme in relation to public areas, ensuring that it is as wildlife-friendly as possible within the constraints of	Ongoing	Parish Council, Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Derbyshire Dales District Council

Overall priority: HIGH	highway safety, where necessary through a continuing dialogue with relevant local authorities		
	Undertake as necessary particular initiatives to maintain or enhance public areas with community support (e.g. pond cleaning)	As necessary	Parish Council, volunteers
LE9. Develop a Village Resilience Plan to address a range of potential emergency issues	Initiate a dialogue with relevant local authorities to develop a Resilience Plan through an agreed process	Ongoing	Parish Council, Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, volunteers, local community

Objective – Long term sustainable community and affordable housing (HD)

Ensure the long-term sustainability of the Parish by seeking to influence development. Work to conserve the unique physical qualities of Brassington as a place. Contribute to making affordable housing available for local people who need it.

This section includes recommendations for: research into the kind and extent of housing development Brassington needs for long term sustainability; actions to progress the re-use of empty properties; support for farm-based permitted residential development. The recommendations in this section reflect in different ways a number of issues which were important to residents in the Residents Survey. The issue of empty properties, which received strong support for re-use of such properties, is reflected in HD3. Although the issue of development on the outskirts of the village received a mixed response in the Residents Survey, the overall issue of the kind and extent of housing development which Brassington needs over the next 10-15 years is of critical importance. Population change is a key element of the background to this issue. A population decline (which seems to be the slight trend) or an unbalanced population could have important negative implications for the future of the Primary School and other community facilities, and for the long-term sustainability of the village. The issue of affordable housing for local people, which came out as important to many people in the Survey, also needs to be carefully considered. In the light of these considerations, recommendations HD1 and HD2 incorporate a cautious but positive approach is taken towards the possibility of small-scale residential development on any suitable infill (i.e. not protected green space) sites within the village area and on suitable small sites adjacent to the current edge of settlement. For more information on population issues, please see the additional note “Brassington as a place and as a community”.

HD1. Progress the issue of greater availability of affordable housing in the Parish in response to local need Overall timescale: LONG TERM Overall priority: HIGH	Co-operate with Derbyshire Dales District Council in undertaking a housing needs survey of the Parish to determine the extent of need for affordable housing	May – July 2015	Parish Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, volunteers
	If appropriate, work with Derbyshire	August 2015 onwards	Parish Council, Derbyshire Dales District

	Dales District Council and housing providers to develop proposals for affordable housing development either on small infill sites (i.e. not protected green space) within the village area or as part of a small-scale mixed development (see HD2 below), or both.		Council, housing providers
	Consider the feasibility of alternative forms of land ownership (e.g. Community Land Trust) to safeguard future affordability	August 2015 onwards	Parish Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, housing providers, volunteers
HD2. In order to contribute to Brassington's long-term sustainability, develop proposals for limited, small-scale mixed housing development on an appropriate site or sites contributing to the coherence and compactness of the village settlement Overall timescale: LONG TERM Overall priority: HIGH	Identification, through an objective, transparent process, of an appropriate potential site or sites, the development of which would not lead to unplanned sprawl of the village settlement, would not constitute ribbon development, would maintain and contribute to the coherence and compactness of the settlement, and would have a minimum impact on the surrounding unique landscape; to be followed by full public consultation on the recommendations of the site identification process	As soon as possible	Parish Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, relevant landowners, local community
	Dialogue with Derbyshire Dales District Council with a view to establishing an appropriate Settlement Framework Boundary and allowing for the proposed site or sites to be included within the revised District Council Local Plan, all of this being subject to full public consultation before being approved	As soon as possible	Parish Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, local community
	Development of proposals for mixed (normal market sale with a proportion of affordable homes) housing development	To be taken forward at the appropriate time following site identification process and public consultation	Developers, housing providers, Parish Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council

	Consider the feasibility of alternative forms of land ownership of the affordable homes element (e.g. Community Land Trust) to safeguard future affordability	August 2015 onwards	Developers, housing providers, Parish Council, Derbyshire dales District Council, volunteers
HD3. Press for the re-use of empty, undeveloped properties in the village area and support the use of permitted development by local farmers to re-use surplus farm buildings for residential use Overall timescale: MEDIUM TERM Overall priority: HIGH	Identify all empty or derelict properties in the village area and initiate a dialogue with individual property owners and with Derbyshire Dales District Council as Planning Authority to explore proposals for restoration and re-use with a view to securing residential end-use	Ongoing	Parish Council, property owners, Derbyshire Dales District Council
	Support and encourage local farmers to exercise permitted development rights to re-use surplus farm buildings for residential use	Ongoing	Parish Council, local farmers, Derbyshire Dales District Council

Objective – Supporting the local economy (EC)

Stimulate local economic opportunities through small business development; through actions to increase local access to employment; through support to existing local businesses. This needs to be in conjunction with work to conserve the unique physical qualities of Brassington as a place.

The Residents Survey showed that the issue of local job opportunities was important for many residents, but that the issue of industrial development in the wider Parish attracted a mixed response. The Business Survey pointed to the need for farms to continue to diversify into other activities, the value of a small-scale visitor economy to the Parish, and the long-term requirements of some of the larger local businesses in terms of managed extraction (quarrying) and reduction of energy costs. The draft Plan incorporates a number of recommendations which reflect these issues in a way which supports the local economy overall and which seeks to have a limited impact on the physical environment. All four recommendations have a positive part to play in helping to maintain and grow local job opportunities. Recommendation EC4 supports the further development of existing local businesses, carefully balanced with the aim of protecting and enhancing the village environment and local landscape.

EC1. Stimulate local economic opportunities through small business development Overall timescale: MEDIUM TERM (with	Support and encourage home-based working	Ongoing	Parish Council, Brassington Communications Group, business support agencies, Derbyshire Dales District Council, local homeworkers
	Explore the development of business	By December 2015	Parish Council, business networks, local

long term implications) Overall priority: HIGH	networking in and around the Parish linking as appropriate with existing networks		businesses
	Support local people to develop small businesses by liaison with business support agencies	Initial phase by December 2015; ongoing follow-on	Parish Council, business support agencies, Derbyshire Dales District Council, business networks, Brassington Communications Group
	Support introduction of faster broadband and improved mobile phone coverage as important business issues (see CL11)	Ongoing	Parish Council, Digital Action Group, BT/Digital Derbyshire, volunteers, mobile phone providers
	Explore the need for, and feasibility of, additional small business units in the Parish, and support the re-use of surplus farm buildings for commercial use (see HD3)	Outline feasibility work on small business units by April 2016	Parish Council, local businesses, volunteers, Derbyshire Dales District Council
	Support the continuation and development of the two pubs in the village as small businesses serving both the local community and visitors to the Parish, and as community resources	Initiate dialogue with licensees and brewery during 2015	Parish Council, licensees, brewery
EC2. Support and encourage the further development of a small-scale visitor economy in the Parish Overall timescale: MEDIUM TERM (with long term implications) Overall priority: MEDIUM	Encourage the development of bed and breakfast accommodation in the Parish, and the use for holiday accommodation of properties which would not normally be occupied for permanent residential use	Ongoing	Parish Council, Brassington Communications Group
	Examine the feasibility of a cafe/tea shop operation in the village, with potential links to feasibility work to be undertaken under CL2	Ongoing	Parish Council, volunteers, local businesses, community facilities management bodies, community facilities working group
	Develop a directory of businesses and services useful to visitors. Develop signs providing useful information	Ongoing	Parish Council, Brassington Communications Group, local businesses
	Organise local guided walks focused on the landscape, history, ecology and	Ongoing	Parish Council, volunteers, local businesses

	archaeology of the area		
	Work to establish the proposed Wirksworth Dale link to the High Peak Trail	Ongoing	Parish Council, Derbyshire County Council, landowners
EC3. Support local people's access to employment Overall timescale: LONG TERM Overall priority: MEDIUM	Raise awareness of local employment vacancies through improved Parish communications	Ongoing	Parish Council, Brassington Communications Group, local businesses, Job Centre Plus
	Support local residents to develop IT skills (see CL11)	Ongoing	Parish Council, Brassington Communications Group, volunteers, Brassington Primary School
EC4. Support for development of existing businesses while protecting the local environment Overall timescale: MEDIUM TERM (with long term implications) Overall priority: MEDIUM	Encourage local businesses to grow while protecting and enhancing the village environment and the local landscape	Ongoing	Parish Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, local community, local businesses
	Explore with Derbyshire Dales District Council and companies based at Longcliffe the possibility of a joint project to improve the environment of that part of the Parish (see LE3 above)	Initial work by September 2015	Parish Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, local companies, volunteers

Additional Notes

Additional Note 1 – Brassington Community Plan and the Planning Context

Community Plan or Neighbourhood Plan?

The Community Plan is a community-led Plan backed by extensive local consultation. As well as being an action plan for the Parish Council and the community of Brassington, it aims also to influence Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, and the many other organisations which play a part in Brassington's life. It is, however, not a Neighbourhood Plan which focuses primarily on planning and development issues, which would have a statutory basis under the Localism Act, but which also has to be developed through a more complex process. Our Community Plan is based on a wider view which takes into account the whole range of issues which are crucial to the ongoing sustainability and liveability of Brassington as a place and as a community. Evenso, because planning and development issues are important, the Plan contains specific proposals relating to these issues and, as a community, we reserve the right to develop a Neighbourhood Plan in the future if that should become necessary.

Derbyshire Dales Local Plan

This reservation is important, because one of the major uncertainties we have struggled with in formulating the Plan has been the absence of an approved Local Plan developed by Derbyshire Dales District Council. When the Government issued its National Planning Policy Framework in 2012, it required Planning Authorities to develop a new Local Plan in the light of the principles set out in the Framework. The Local Plan is the District Council's plan for the whole of the Derbyshire Dales District outside the Peak District National Park, setting out its policies for housing and all other aspects of development. A draft of the Local Plan was submitted to the Government in 2014 but was not accepted because the projected level of new housing in the Plan was regarded as insufficient, with the result that the District Council has now started a major revision. Consequently, until the Plan is revised and accepted, there is currently more uncertainty for local communities as to the level of development which we can expect in the future. We will, as a community, need to be alert to any development proposals coming forward in the short term, and look carefully at the revised draft Local Plan as it is developed, but evenso, our Community Plan contains some proposals which could work with the grain of the revised Local Plan and be of benefit to Brassington.

Settlement Framework Boundary

The Settlement Framework Boundary is a key concept for Brassington in relation to the formulation of the Local Plan. It constitutes the boundary of a settlement within which certain kinds of development will be allowed, but outside which the land is mainly designated as 'countryside', in which more stringent development controls apply. Clearly, much of Brassington village is also classified as a Conservation Area, so some stringent controls apply there also. The previous District Council Local Plan was adopted in 2005 and only the towns and larger villages in the area were designated with a Settlement Framework Boundary. Under the new Local Plan it is proposed that Brassington will have a Settlement Framework Boundary and a consultation exercise on

this issue took place in 2012. Given that the Local Plan is now being thoroughly revised, it is understood that the proposed Settlement Framework Boundary will be re-examined and subject to fresh public consultation.

Village Design Statement

One way of influencing development is through the preparation of a Village Design Statement, and this is proposed as a recommendation in the draft Plan. A Village Design Statement is concerned with the visual character of a village and how it might be protected or enhanced. It would set out guidance in relation to the design of any new development in the village, including extensions and conversions. The aim would be to work with Derbyshire Dales District Council as Planning Authority to produce a Village Design Statement that could, after public consultation, be accepted as supplementary planning guidance and so would influence planning permissions in the village.

Additional Note 2 - Brassington as a Place and a Community

Brassington: The Place

Brassington is a rural Parish situated on the southern fringe of the White Peak area of the Peak District. Its population in the 2011 Census was 575, drawn from 240 households, mainly concentrated in the village. As a settlement probably dating from the Anglo-Saxon period, and mentioned in the Domesday Book, it was historically an area of lead mining, stone quarrying and agriculture, and although lead mining has now ceased, agriculture and particularly quarrying continue to be important aspects of its local economy. The village, which nestles in a southward-facing valley below the edge of the White Peak plateau overlooking the South Derbyshire Plain, is known for its distinctive character, the beauty of much of its surrounding landscape, and the traditional limestone of many of its buildings, much of it being designated as a Conservation Area. Brassington has, for its size, an active community, with a number of community groups, a village hall, a British Legion hall, a historic Church, two pubs, and a strong primary school, and there are a number of community events throughout the year, including the annual Wakes Week in July.

Brassington: Population

As we know, nothing ever stands still, and the Parish slowly continues to change, as it has done since its foundation as a settlement. In terms of its population, it is, compared with the rising national trend, currently relatively stable, with only a 2% decline between 2001 and 2011, but turnover rates indicate a trend towards outward migration by the 15-24 and the 65+ age groups and inward migration by the 1-14, 25-44 and 45-64 age groups. In other words, more young families and middle aged people, and less young adults and older people. The issue of population trend is important, because while a 2% decline is not in itself statistically significant, and part of the flow included a higher proportion of young families which is contributing to rebalancing the population make-up, it is at variance with the overall national trend. Moreover, it is arguable that an underlying trend towards use of properties for non-permanent residential use was obscured by a small amount of new-build or conversion for permanent residential use during that period, without which the overall population decline might have been more like 4-5%.

Brassington: Economy

Change continues in terms of Brassington's economy, with, in common with many upland farming areas, reducing activity in agriculture and a greater emphasis on farm diversification. Quarrying continues to be significant, together with ancillary activity in the production of limestone products. There is continuing activity in haulage, metal fabrication, small-scale construction, carpentry and a range of other small-business sectors. There is a small-scale visitor economy in the Parish, focused on the pubs, a small number of B and B's, and holiday homes, and includes walkers and other visitors who come to Brassington because of the qualities of the landscape and village environment. In terms of the overall projections for the Peak District, there is potential growth in this sector over the coming period. Related to this is a small service sector in areas such as cleaning. One of the growing trends, facilitated by IT and internet developments, is, however, towards homeworking, and there is now an above average proportion of the workforce working from home. At the same time, however, in common with many rural villages in the Peak District and elsewhere, there is also an above-average proportion of the population commuting longer distances to work.

Brassington: More Statistics and Issues

To round off the picture, there are above average proportions of the Parish population working in managerial occupations (13.2% compared with 10.9% for England) and significantly above average proportions working in skilled trades (18.6% compared with 11.4% for England). There is a below-average proportion of the population with no qualifications and an above-average proportion with degree-level qualifications, and there is below-average unemployment in the Parish. While the average weekly earnings estimate for the Parish is higher than the national average, there is nevertheless still a significant proportion of the population (16.4% of households) receiving below 60% of the median income after housing costs (therefore defined as being in poverty), which is likely to be primarily due to relatively low earnings or low pension incomes. It is striking, however, that some 16.5% of households is estimated to be in Fuel Poverty, compared with an England average of 10.9%, and this trend is common to many rural areas due to higher fuel costs and issues of heating buildings of more traditional construction.

Additional Note 3 – Summary of Consultation Results

3.A. Residents Survey Summary

1. The Brassington Residents Survey is an important part of the consultation needed to help develop Brassington Community Plan. It took place between 28 April and 30 June 2014. The questionnaire, distributed and collected by a team of volunteers (there was also an online option), was designed to be as open as possible and to allow residents to say what was important to them without prejudging their point of view. An open-ended comments facility allowed residents to express their views about particular issues. A total of 152 responses were received (one was late and was not fully incorporated in the results), representing a 63.6% response rate which is very positive compared with the response rate achieved by most community surveys. A big thank you to the team of volunteers for their efforts in achieving such a good response rate, and to those residents who completed the questionnaire.

2. The Survey was analysed using 6 complementary methods to ensure that nothing which was an important priority to residents was missed. Based on this analysis, the issues which were classed as most important priorities (the 'headline issues') to residents were:

- Speeding traffic
- Condition of local roads
- Dog fouling
- Protecting the landscape
- Broadband coverage
- The Village Hall, and
- Feeling part of the community.

3. In addition to these, there were 32 other issues which were important to residents to a greater or lesser extent. These notably included:

- Bus services
- The condition of jitties and pavements
- Mobile phone coverage
- Services and facilities for children, young people and older people
- First Responders
- Neighbourhood policing and Neighbourhood Watch
- Brassington Primary School
- Brassington Pre-School
- Transport to Secondary School
- Local job opportunities
- Renewable energy
- Village shop
- Knowing what's going on in the Parish
- Community events.

4. Within these 32 issues were a number of planning, housing and development issues which were clearly important to many residents because of the number of comments which they received. Prominent among these were the issues of 'building on green spaces within the village' and 'building on the outskirts of the village', and although a number of comments in either case were prepared to consider some limited, small-scale development, most comments were against. While a slight majority of comments disagreed with the idea of 'Industrial development in the wider Parish', some were prepared

to consider small-scale, limited development away from the village. The renovation of empty properties was supported by most of the people who commented. In terms of housing, the 'availability of affordable housing' was seen as the priority.

5. Overall, Brassington Residents Survey provides a good snapshot of the views of many Brassington residents and the issues which are important to people in the community. The Survey results, including the wide range of comments received, have provided a rich store of views and information to inform the development of Brassington's Community Plan.

3.B. Business Survey Summary

1. As part of the process of developing the Community Plan, the Steering Group undertook a survey of businesses within Brassington Parish boundary, which, as well as Brassington village, also includes Longcliffe. A total of 39 businesses were identified across a range of sectors, including quarrying and extraction, manufacturing, agriculture, hospitality, tourism, construction, and services. These are the easily-identifiable businesses in the Parish but the total is probably an underestimate as it does not generally include, for example, residents working from home as sole traders, providing services in finance, IT and other sectors. The survey took place in October/November 2014.

2. The survey method used was a simple questionnaire delivered by hand to all 39 businesses, with a postal return envelope. Businesses could also download a questionnaire from the village website. Questionnaires could be returned by post or by email.

3. A total of 7 questionnaires were returned, representing an 18% response rate from the overall sample. Sectors represented in the responses were quarrying, manufacturing, farming and tourism. The sizes of the businesses responding varied greatly, with one with 150 employees, two with 30-40, and the remaining 4 employing 2-3 people. Proportions of employees living in Brassington Parish varied, with 4 businesses having between 0-10% of employees living in the Parish, and the 3 other businesses having 100% of their employees from the Parish.

4. Businesses were asked to list any obstacles to the development of their businesses. Factors listed included: planning issues (3), natural and technological challenges (1), and perceived local opposition to farming diversification (1). Three responses did not identify any obstacles to the development of their business.

5. Respondents were asked to list any factors which would help their businesses develop further. Factors listed included: better broadband speeds (3), better mobile signal (2), availability of skilled staff (1), reduced energy costs (1), better public transport services to outlying areas (1), and better communication from the village to outlying areas (1). Four responses did not identify any factors.

6. The questionnaire asked businesses to list any proposals which could be considered for the Community Plan which would assist the development of their businesses. Responses included: a local business network group (1), support for a renewable energy project proposed by the business (1), and action to address low broadband speed and poor mobile signal (1). Four responses did not list any proposals.

7. Businesses were asked to outline ways in which they contributed to Brassington already, and whether they saw any other way in which they could make a contribution to Brassington as a community. Factors listed included: paying taxes and so contributing to wider society (2), employing local people (2), providing a storage service (1), guests/visitors supporting local facilities and businesses (2), making donations to local community projects and facilities (3), and making land available for housing (1).

8. The Steering Group is grateful for all the responses received from businesses. Together, they provide a helpful indication of a number of issues facing local businesses from different sectors. While recognising that a number of these concerns lie outside the scope of the Community Plan, the Steering Group has, where possible, tried to reflect issues in action points within the Plan.

3.C. Summary of Young People's Survey

1. As part of the process of developing the Community Plan, the Steering Group undertook a survey of young people in the Parish aged 11-18 years. The method used was a simple questionnaire which was circulated by young people themselves to contacts in the age range. The questionnaire was circulated to a total of 36 young people from the Parish in the age range. The survey took place in the autumn of 2014.

2. A total of 10 responses were received, representing a 28% response rate. Young people responding were aged 12-17 years.

3. Young people were asked what they liked best about living in Brassington. Responses included: that it is quiet, has nice countryside, is peaceful, is a friendly community, and that it is safe. They were also asked what they disliked most about living in Brassington. Responses included: it has a poor phone signal, it can be boring, there is nowhere for young people to hang out, there are no shops, and it is a bit isolated.

4. Young people were asked whether they would like to have a youth club/meeting place in the village for their use. Of the 10 responses, 6 said yes, 3 no, and one was uncertain. They were also asked to say, if their answer was yes to a youth meeting place, what activities they would like. Most supported such activities as pool, darts, table tennis, listening to music, and having drinks (non alcoholic).

5. Respondents were asked whether they would be interested in organised trips - go carting, paint balling, climbing etc – if funding could be found. Of the completed responses, 7 said yes.

6. Young people were asked what were the main things that would improve their life in Brassington. Most responses supported better public transport, improved broadband, better mobile phone reception, and more educational opportunities. They were also asked what other ideas they would like to suggest for young people in the village. These included a skate park and a football pitch (the latter now achieved through the Recreation Ground).

7.The Steering Group is grateful to the young people who completed the survey, and particularly to those young people who distributed the questionnaire and followed it up. The survey provides a helpful picture of some of the concerns of young people in Brassington, some of which have been included in the Community Plan, while others should be taken account of in consideration of key action points such as that relating to community facilities.

3.D. Summary of Consultation on the Draft Plan

1.Consultation on the Draft Community Plan took place in early 2015, in a 4 week period between 23 February and 20 March. A newsletter setting out the key recommendations in the Draft Plan was circulated to every household in the Parish, as well as all the businesses surveyed in the Business Survey. The newsletter contained a comments slip which could be filled in and deposited in any one of 6 boxes located at different venues in the village, namely, the Village Hall, British Legion, Primary School, the Church, the Miners Arms or the Gate Inn. Alternatively, comments could be emailed to the Steering Group. In addition, 3 public meetings were held in early March at different times of the day – at the School, the Village Hall and the British Legion – and these were publicised in the newsletter. Full copies of the Draft Plan were available at the public meetings and it was also downloadable from the village website, which also publicised the whole consultation. Comments on the full Draft Plan were also invited from local community organisations, the Church, the Primary School, District and County Councillors for the Parish, relevant officers of Derbyshire Dales District Council and Derbyshire County Council, and Derbyshire Police.

2.A total of 13 responses were received from local residents or community organisations, together with a further 4 from County and District Councillors, an officer of Derbyshire Dales District Council, and a local business. In addition, a total of 21 local residents attended the public meetings, over and above the facilitators.

3.Comments received were overwhelmingly supportive of the Community Plan and its approach. Comments generally emphasised the importance of particular points, expressed views about how action points should be implemented, or, in some cases, underlined the need for a cautious approach. None of the comments expressed disagreed with the Plan or its key points. The following sections group the points expressed under the particular objectives.

4.Objective: Community Life

- Support for increased after-school provision (CL1)
- A range of comments supporting the need for improved community facilities and the setting-up of a working group on the issue, but expressing differing views on the possible location of any new village hall (CL2)
- Support for improved communication, with two out of three comments supporting the need for a new publication to complement the existing newsletter (CL3)
- Support for more social activities to overcome isolation, with a majority of comments wanting the needs of older people to be specifically taken into account (CL7)
- Support for the church, but also a focus on the church engaging with community (CL9)
- Comments supporting the need for continued public transport (CL10)

- Support for better broadband and mobile service, including encouraging wider access to the internet and IT for residents who want it (CL11)
- Support for continued crime prevention and community safety work (CL13)

5.Objective: **Local Environment**

- Support for 20 MPH zone, and for community action on speeding (LE1)
- Support for Village Design Statement; the possibility of such a Statement being accepted as Supplementary Planning Guidance needs to be raised with the Planning Authority (LE2)
- A number of comments supporting different aspects of the protection and conservation of the landscape of the Parish (LE3)
- A number of comments strongly supporting action to address dog fouling (LE4)
- A number of comments supporting measures to address the problem of car parking, including provision of more parking space and a dialogue with the Planning Authority regarding the need for associated parking in the case of barn conversions and second/holiday home developments (LE5)
- Support for measures to address litter, including a community clean-up (LE7)
- Support for continued maintenance of public areas, including the churchyard (LE8)
- Additional proposal for Village Resilience Plan to address emergencies (LE9)

6.Objective: **Long Term Sustainable Community and Affordable Housing**

- A number of comments supporting the need for more affordable housing, but also for ensuring that a housing needs survey accurately reflects housing need, and also for measures to ensure, as far as possible, continuing affordability of any new affordable homes built for local people; Derbyshire Dales District Council supports in principle the provision of more affordable housing in its area, but any viable proposal developed following a housing needs survey would have to be determined by the Planning Committee (HD1)
- A range of comments regarding the recommendation for limited, small-scale mixed housing development on an appropriate site or sites contributing to the coherence and compactness of the village settlement, in order to ensure the future sustainability of the village, most cautiously supportive so long as any development is limited and small-scale, and consistent with the village environment, while other comments carefully consider the issue; Derbyshire Dales District Council states that “The emerging Derbyshire Dales Local Plan seeks to support this approach by increasing the number of settlements with Settlement Framework Boundaries, where limited infill and consolidation can occur as a means of improving the sustainability of those locations. Brassington is one such location.” (HD2)
- Support for measures to address the issue of empty properties, and for re-use of surplus farm buildings for residential use (HD3)

7.Objective: **Supporting the Local Economy**

- Support for small business development, and specifically for measures to support the village’s pubs (EC1)
- A range of comments supporting aspects of the further development of a small-scale visitor economy, including the idea of a cafe/tea shop, encouraging more visitors to use B and B’s, and supporting the proposed Wirksworth Dale link to the High Peak Trail (EC2)

- General support for recommendations to support local people's access to employment (EC3), and support for development of existing businesses while protecting the environment (EC4).

8. The Steering Group is very grateful to all those residents who sent in comments or who attended one of the public meetings. Overall, the consultation was very supportive of the Plan and its approach, and confirmed that the direction of the Plan, optimistic, cautious and inclusive, and with a range of ideas for making life in Brassington even better, was on the right lines.