

Cradley and Storridge Parish Plan Steering Group

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Our Village Our Future Our Parish Plan

Planning For Real

The process of Consultation which we promised in the last newsletter begins in earnest this month. **The Planning for Real** exercise invites every member of the community to take part. The sky's the limit ... well, that can't be exactly true in that Cradley is already a developed village and many of its features are fixed. The familiar story of the countryman, asked the way to who replied 'If I was going to I wouldn't start from here' doesn't apply. We are where we are; our houses, our church, our green field sites are, largely, 'given.' Nevertheless, Cradley will change, inevitably, in the next five, ten, or even, fifteen years. And the objective of the new Parish Plan, is to anticipate, to influence and to help to manage change for the future. In this we all have a view or an interest and 'Planning for Real' is the opportunity to identify these in preparation for the second stage of consultation in the **Questionnaire** which will be distributed to, and, we hope, completed by, every household in the parish.

So that as many as possible of the members of the two villages, Cradley and Storridge, can take part, we have arranged four meetings:

Thursday 16 th July	The British Legion	12.30 – 3.30 p.m.
Friday 17 th July	Storridge Village Hall	12.30 – 3.30 p.m.
Friday 17 th July	Little Halesend, Storridge	6.30 – 10.00 p.m.
Saturday 18 th July	Cradley Village Hall	5.30 – 8.00 p.m.

And what is 'Planning for Real? It isn't a formal occasion; you can come and go as you please – it certainly doesn't require you to be there for the whole time and you will be welcome to choose any of the venues and times which suit you. Two large-scale maps of the villages will be on display; they will show, clearly marked, prominent buildings, public and private, agricultural and other kinds of land, roads, lanes and footpaths and so on. Choosing your own named flags, as many as you wish, to indicate where you would like to see change or development or the maintenance of existing features, new building, new leisure facilities or new transport opportunities, you will be invited to attach them to the map, as you think fit, so that we finish the exercise with a comprehensive picture of the community's ideas and aspirations for their villages.

This is an invaluable project if we are to complete an image of where the community as a whole feels it would like to be and wants to be in the future. The success of any plan for the parish relies, hugely, on the extent to which all its members contribute to it. Please all come; please contribute; and please enjoy the afternoon/evening – it could be both challenging, informative and exciting.

This exercise will form the basis of the questionnaire which will be circulated in the week beginning Monday 7th September; we hope that these will go to every household (and, of course, there will be copies for individuals within the household if they wish to take part) early in the week. The completed forms will be collected the following week.

This is your chance to have a real say; your chance to make a real difference. Please come and join in.

Peter Diamond