

# Cradley and Storrige Parish Plan 2010

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## Summary of proceedings at the public meeting held at Cradley Village Hall on Monday 18 January 2010

The parish plan is a concept launched nearly a decade ago, designed to enable local community activists to create a vision for a community and an action plan to achieve it. The process involves using a mix of evidence collection, different types of consultation and debate at the very local neighbourhood level. It is designed to be a process in which each and every citizen can participate and results in very high levels of participation.

Our parish was one of the first to create a parish plan and now we are some way through the process of reviewing and renewing the plan to meet the social, economic, environmental and cultural demands of our community and all those who live and work here.

Since our last public meeting in June 2008, much work has been done to prepare the new plan, culminating last autumn in the very successful consultation through the questionnaire, to which nearly 60% of local residents responded. Tonight you will learn more about the results of this response and how they lead to the next stage. On the following two pages, you will see a summary of tonight's presentation. On the back page, there are details of future events and how you can still become involved.

***“Our vision for the parish is one of vibrant, economically active, interlinked, balanced communities in which local facilities are sustained and enhanced and the traditional population is maintained, and where these communities are able to evolve with time in the light of changing circumstances.”***

## Summary of the Power Point presentation made at the meeting on 18 January 2010

<p><b>1 What is the parish plan?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priorities &amp; action proposed from grass roots</li> <li>• Vision &amp; aspirations for all the parish</li> <li>• Basis for progress with partners</li> </ul>	<p><b>2 The first Cradley &amp; Storrige plan 2004</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Result of substantial public consultation</li> <li>• Produced with Village Design Statement</li> <li>• Many priorities actioned, but some not</li> </ul>
<p><b>3 Involving all the parish from grass roots</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public meeting in June 2008</li> <li>• Steering group oversight subsequently</li> <li>• Six specialist theme &amp; discussion groups</li> </ul>	<p><b>4 Making the partnership work</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The key role of the parish council</li> <li>• Herefordshire council very much involved</li> <li>• Many other partners – public &amp; private</li> </ul>
<p><b>5 Concept of “the living plan”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The plan should not be a tablet of stone</li> <li>• Need for constant review &amp; development</li> <li>• Raising levels of community participation</li> </ul>	<p><b>6 Progress during 2008 &amp; 2009</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School project</li> <li>• Theme groups’ activity</li> <li>• The “Planning for Real” exercise</li> <li>• The questionnaire</li> </ul>
<p><b>7 School project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children visit the village heritage sites</li> <li>• Interviews with older residents</li> <li>• Exhibition held in the school</li> </ul>	<p><b>8 What was “Planning for Real”?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings held in four locations</li> <li>• 157 residents attended (10% of parish)</li> <li>• Summary of results published on website</li> </ul>
<p><b>9 The questionnaire</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designed and built in the parish!</li> <li>• The depth of enquiry</li> <li>• Delivery, collection and analysis</li> </ul>	<p><b>10 Key findings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summaries published online &amp; hard copy</li> <li>• Ten sections in the questionnaire</li> <li>• Top three priorities from each follow this.</li> </ul>
<p><b>11 Key findings – housing &amp; planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More low-cost or affordable housing</li> <li>• Sited near school</li> <li>• PC and community to be more proactive in responding to planning projects</li> </ul>	<p><b>12 Key findings – wildlife &amp; environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flood prevention is a top priority</li> <li>• Support for environmental initiatives – e.g. wildlife habitats &amp; community allotments.</li> <li>• More research into potential community energy initiatives</li> </ul>

<p><b>13 Key findings – healthcare</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very strong support for new surgery</li> <li>• Cradley is the strongly preferred location</li> <li>• Role of Cradley Support Group</li> </ul>	<p><b>14 Key findings – education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cradley School is a community asset</li> <li>• Strong demand for pre-school provision</li> <li>• Interest in local provision of adult education</li> </ul>
<p><b>15 Key findings – communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More &amp; better use of websites</li> <li>• Crucial &amp; developing role of parish newsletter</li> <li>• Use of The Reporter</li> </ul>	<p><b>16 Key findings – services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dissatisfaction with bus services</li> <li>• Demand for drop-in centre / coffee shop</li> <li>• Flourishing voluntary organisations</li> </ul>
<p><b>17 Key findings – public buildings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demand for wider use of public buildings</li> <li>• Encourage greater use of village halls &amp; the British Legion</li> <li>• Develop village green for communal activities</li> </ul>	<p><b>18 Key findings – leisure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for further development of sports club activities &amp; facilities</li> <li>• Benefits from developing tourist potential</li> <li>• Support for festivals, footpath maps, walking &amp; biking trails.</li> </ul>
<p><b>19 Key findings – traffic &amp; safety</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Widespread anxiety about use of the A4103</li> <li>• Need for safe routes to school</li> <li>• Further reduce speed limits in Cradley</li> </ul>	<p><b>20 KFs – employment, business &amp; agriculture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How best to support local business?</li> <li>• Opportunities for &amp; from local tourism</li> <li>• New sites for businesses identified</li> </ul>
<p><b>21 New volunteers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 120+ volunteers identified from questionnaire</li> <li>• Groups to look at new ideas and action</li> <li>• Increase communications &amp; promote the engagement of the community</li> </ul>	<p><b>22 Village design statement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Separate but complementary exercise</li> <li>• Vital issues for planning decisions</li> <li>• Urgent timetable concludes in March</li> </ul>
<p><b>23 What happens next?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some unfinished consultations (e.g. youth)</li> <li>• Refinement of priorities for action</li> <li>• Aim to complete the plan in July 2010</li> </ul>	<p><b>24 Action, implementation &amp; review</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate progress through action plan</li> <li>• Basis for dialogue &amp; progress with partners</li> <li>• Regular, ongoing review &amp; updating</li> </ul>

## What happens next?

- Some consultations have still to be completed, most notably with the youth of the parish, in a specially designed process.
- Further analysis of the questionnaire responses and the issues they raise is required by some of the theme groups.
- The steering group will identify the key priorities around which they will then draft the plan and formulate the action plan.
- The plan and the action plan will be presented to the parish council and other partners as a basis for moving things forward.
- Over the coming years, the plan will be reviewed on a regular, possibly annual, basis to improve it in the face of changing circumstances. It will be a living plan.

## How can I get involved?

- If you are not already involved in any of the theme groups, why not join up? These will not only be ongoing topic forums, they will also be a focus for voluntary action and new projects.
- If you play a role in one of the parish's many voluntary organisations, please use the plan to link with other groups and partners to raise levels of activity.
- Continuing and improved levels of communication will characterise the new era of the living plan, so please help get the message to all.

## Contact details for steering group members

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