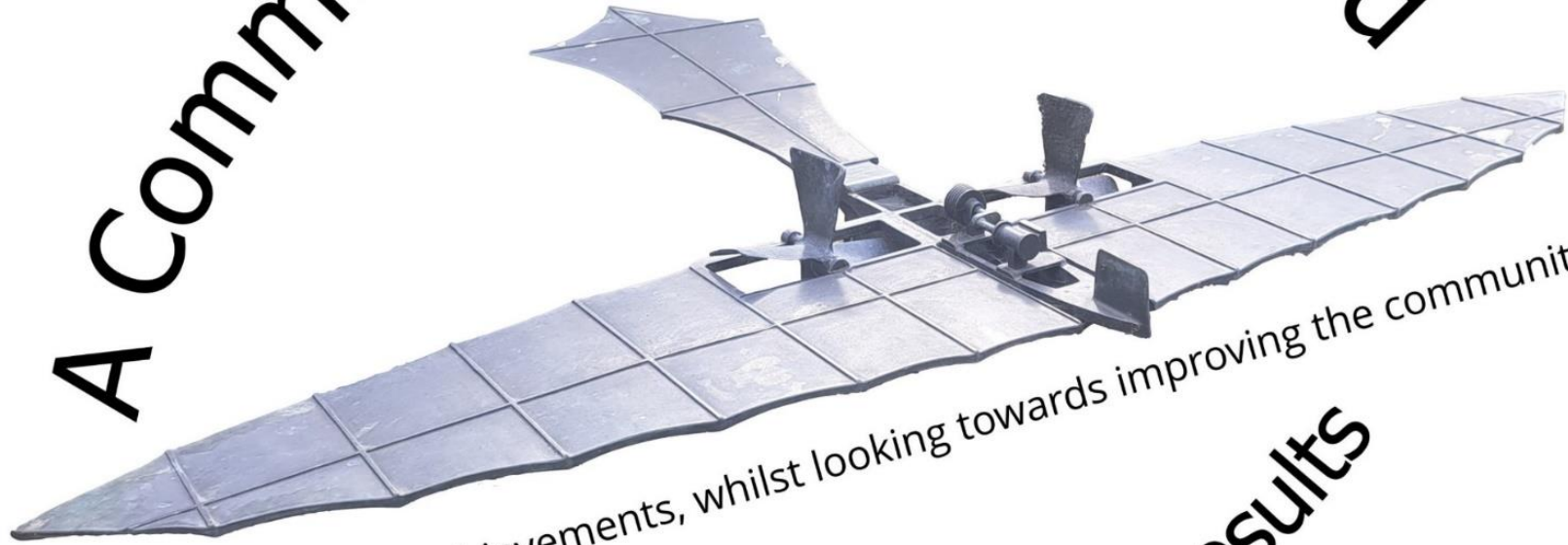


A Community Plan For Chard



Mindful of past achievements, whilst looking towards improving the community

The Consultation Results

Community of Chard, Action Plan & Prioritisation. Developed From Responses To Consultations.

Notes:

- 1) Term Indicators: **S** – Short Term Community Planning (Perhaps 12 months)
L - Longer Term Neighbourhood Planning (Perhaps Multi-Agency/Policy Involvement)
- 2) This action plan recognises the longer term element but actions, at this stage, will mainly focus on the shorter term proposals.
- 3) Whilst it is necessary for some Volunteers to steer some of the activities, the individuals have not been named in this plan as this may change over time, as may the plan.
- 4) Remember, even if you have not had a direct hand in it, this is now the Community Plan for the Chard Parish/Town area. The next stage relating to the Longer Term, wider impact matters has already commenced. Whilst there will be no further consultation about the whole Community Plan, we may test the water on special, individual sections such as (only one example) the toilet and changing facilities. The team encourages you to be involved in the future decisions for the area.

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Topic	Issue	Aim/Objective	Action	Outcome	Term
Communication	Understanding what is available within the community for social events, healthcare, and other services.	Easily accessible information about events and activities.	Investigate types of publications available. Hard copy, voice and digital. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital and hard copy notice boards for all to access. Publish in existing online platforms. 	Residents and businesses will know what is happening across their area, times, and places. Residents and businesses know where to look for updates and feel confident content is as accurate as possible.	S
Culture, Heritage and Arts	Info re events, advertising and publicity. Links in with Comms above. Perceived lack of facilities in Chard.	Increase awareness across the town. Linking into Communication.	As above.	Residents will know what is happening across their area, times, and places. Residents will know where to look for updates and feel confident it is accurate.	S
Transport (Buses) See later comments	Improved public transport on a Sunday. There are no buses on a Sunday.	Highlighting this issue at Somerset Council.	Create a Lobbying group to campaign at Somerset Council.	Introduce Sunday services if approved by the relevant authorities and service providers.	L
Retired & Older People	Isolation. Lack of benches, particularly by bus stops.	Increased opportunities for meetings, reduce isolation. Investigate increase in benches near bus stops, shops and in parks. Investigate events for isolated or older people.	Co-ordinate email to all known relevant groups that already meet, 'partnership working plan'. Sponsor a bench project for local businesses to support as a sponsor. Town Centre Regeneration, CTC Operations Manager (OM) to coordinate along with identifying and publicising parks project. Produce leaflet and digital information.	Potential for retired, older people to be able to travel more and rest enroute as appropriate. Decrease feeling of isolation by inclusion projects.	S

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Topic	Issue	Aim/Objective	Action	Outcome	Term
Health & Wellbeing	Lack of information about transport to health services.	Assist those who want to use transport to services.	<p>Make enquires re SLINKY bus and try to advertise.</p> <p>Identify better use of parks contact OM at CTC.</p> <p>Help Holyrood Academy & Hub to develop 0-5 year olds facilities.</p> <p>Investigate what is happening currently. Example, South Chard Car share scheme.</p> <p>Look at Dial-a-ride and the feasibility of using in Chard.</p>	Work with Somerset Council and service providers and feedback on investigation for transport options to get to relevant services.	S
Community facilities & services	<p>The decline in market facilities in a market town.</p> <p>To continue to increase footfall in market Town</p>	<p>Expand the market offer to that of a traditional and modern market town.</p> <p>To continue to improve Chard a more attractive town centre.</p> <p>Footfall is on the up – how do we keep it increasing. "What's on in Chard" Change to signage.</p>	<p>Investigate the possible development of the market. CTC currently investigating this (Events Officer).</p> <p>Engage with newly set up local commerce group.</p> <p>Resurrecting the "hexagonal notice board"</p> <p>Liaise with local groups such as : CARG R4ABC Culturally Chard Any Market Towns Groups.</p>	<p>A larger market area, possibly in a well-known setting, promoting Chard as a vibrant place to source local goods, especially fresh food based.</p> <p>Enhanced market town centre. Increased viability.</p> <p>A strategic plan is created and implemented.</p>	<p>S</p> <p>L</p>

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Children & Young People	Lack of jobs for younger people.	Create more job opportunities for this user group.	Contact One step Recruitment to access information on the extent of issue. Contact local employers. More apprenticeships now available.	Decreased unemployment levels with local residents taking up posts, thereby more sustainable.	S
	Lack of young people and children engaged in this questionnaire.	Promote Youth Council initiative. Ask Academy to put on some interactive workshops to get views of young people, what they think they want, what they think they need.	To better understand what young people and children want or need. Create a multiple faceted approach to engage with young people and children using a consortium of organisations with young people and children expertise.	Have a greater understanding of young people and children to inform future actions.	L
			Some surveys already undertaken. Ask Academy for copy of data. Museum will have feedback from young people soon.	Gain better understanding of views from young people.	S
Community facilities & services	Lack of changing facilities and toilets for disabled children and adults in the centre of Chard.	To have 'changing places' and toilets accessible in Chard.	Create a working group from a wide range of community groups and work with designated Councillors from CTC to establish possible solutions, i.e. locations within Chard and level of facilities needed. Share existing design template.	The need for facilities is not disputed. Plan, find locations, fund and implement any proposals.	S
	Listed in the comments section and ticked as general toilets in the questionnaire.			Build accessible, modern toilet and changing facilities in the Chard central area.	L
Community Safety	Distance from Emergency Health provision.	Better understanding of emergency response times and facilities.	Official data on rota times. Analysis of info. Community findings. Establish current levels of reporting.	Getting info and understanding of information. Liaise with Police and other emergency services. Increase levels of reporting of incidents.	S
	Anti-social behaviour.	Understanding the extent. Increase Police presence.	Promote reporting. Local groups to meet with Police and investigate an agreement with the Police to increase presence.	Establish better liaison and Police visible presence. Establish current level of Police Commitment to Chard.	L

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Topic	Issue	Aim/Objective	Action	Outcome	Term	
Climate Emergency (CE)	More recycling opportunities in town centre.	Community to be more aware of the Climate Emergency and help drive change through so everyone is comfortable about the changes.	Chard to adopt a Green Charter via Chard Town Council.	Create a CE plan and establish what actions can be prioritised short and longer term.	S	
	Solar streets/ Solar Sense and Freecycle. Wind energy schemes.		Project already started at the Community Garden where Holyrood Academy, CTC. And CARG are liaising.	Continue to support the Community Garden project.		
			Water fountain bottle option at the front of the Guildhall.	Produce ideas for water fountain and location.		S
			Enhance areas to make it more cycle and pedestrian friendly to travel.	The longer term matters are more suited to neighbourhood planning and the development of area-wide policy, beyond Chard Town area, for sustainable development.		L
			Solar Streets presentation to be arranged via CTC Events Officer. Integrate this approach, if possible, into wider public realm improvements and sustainable community.	Household info sheet produced, talks given, potential for home assessments to be carried out.		S
	Sustainable energy – Create a working group from a wide range of community groups and work with designated Councillors from CTC to establish possible solutions. Possible specialist presentation and advice needed. Co-ordinate events to support those homeowners with solar options and to encourage more. Promote energy efficiency.	Reduced energy consumption leading to cleaner environment and cost savings.	L			
	Promote the current bee friendly and wildflowers being planted with information letting public know and to encourage more planting.					

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Topic	Issue	Aim/Objective	Action	Outcome	Term
Cost of Living Crisis	Food costs increasing.	Expand the Chard Community Hub food Provision. Grow your own scheme.	Provide Cookery classes. Open the Food Fridge for longer periods. Try to secure more food donations. Food group to work with Community Breakfast at Academy to seek information about what the changing priorities are. Courses for people to learn to grow food. Change the Community Orchard to a Community Garden.	People with improved cookery skills. More people accessing emergency food. Better quality, up to date information about changing needs. Increased food growing on a local, more sustainable basis with more opportunities to grow food and provide community food.	S
Broadband slow and inefficient	Openreach improvements been set back another 2 years – may be longer.	Ultrafast Broadband available across the area by the end of 2025. Improve output and connectivity for residents, homeworkers and businesses.	Need evidence, test speed , collate results data. Petition to Openreach, MP, etc. Discussions with southwest groups who are already engaged in these matters.	Ultrafast Broadband available across the area by the end of 2025.	S/L