

DARTINGTON COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP

Dartington Community Plan



*A community is like a ship;
everyone needs to be prepared to take the helm.*

Henrik Ibsen

Steve Prime of South Devon Rural Housing Association has written a foreword for the Dartington Community Plan. After an introduction giving a history of the Dartington Community Forum (and subsequently Action) Group - producing the questionnaire; feedback on the initial results (two Open Days and even a short video), among much else - the Community Plan is divided into sections, looking at what the results tell us. The first section looks at who we are - who responded to the original questionnaires, where they live, how old they were... It turns out that people aged from 50 - 70 responded most with a peak around 62 years old.

Employment



Although a fair number of people living in Dartington also work in the Parish, there are many other residents who would like to do so but can't. In almost 30% of households, someone has had to move away to find work.

Environment



There was no clear preferred strategy for improving the roads, lanes and paths of the Parish. On the other hand, in order to protect local wildlife, 'Retaining Open Spaces' and 'Leaving Natural Cover Undisturbed' were significantly more popular than for example, establishing a 'Community Nature Reserve'.

Dartington Hall



The Parish of Dartington is unusual in having the Dartington Hall Estate in its midst. The Estate still employs a significant number of people, and still has significant economic weight. More than 90% of respondents make use of the Estate, with the Hall Gardens being most popular, closely followed by the Cider Press Centre, Arts events and going for walks.

Education/leisure



Wildlife watching and organized walks were by far the most popular leisure activities, although a wide range of sports are also played. Yoga and Keep Fit were the most popular potential new leisure activities, while Badminton and Table Tennis were the most popular potential sports.

Transport/roads



A third of respondents thought Public Transport was inadequate, while a fifth had no opinion. More than four out of five thought that traffic was a major problem in the Parish at least some of the time. Barracks Hill, Longcause and Droridge were the most popular places for ‘action to improve road safety,’ closely followed by Cott Lane.

Information



The Dartington Messenger is clearly of great importance and is well-read in the Dartington community: it appears to be the most effective way of keeping people in touch with what’s going on in the Parish and even, further afield.

Religion



While Churches are still seen as an important part of Parish life, they are much less important for Sunday worship, than as, for example, Historic Buildings. The majority of respondents were not aware of the costs of maintaining the Churches, and people were evenly split in whether the local community should contribute to their upkeep.

Community



To residents in the Parish, the Environment is by far the most important thing about the community of Dartington. Most respondents wanted to see the community developing as ‘a Centre for Arts, Culture & Music’ & as a ‘Working Community’ - both of which match the Dartington Hall Trust’s traditional focus.

The Community Plan tells us a lot about who we are, what we want and don’t want, what we think is important and what not. It should help those who make decisions to understand what the people of Parish will accept and value and what is unlikely to be welcomed. Let us hope that they value it.



**The Dartington Community Plan will be launched
in Dartington Village Hall
on Thursday, 27 June 2013, at 7.45 p.m.**

**Everyone is welcome to attend, and the first 20 people through
the front door will receive a free copy of the Plan.**

Immediately after the launch, on the same evening (details are available in the Messenger), Dartington Parish Council is holding a consultation event to see if people in the Parish want to produce a **Neighbourhood Plan**.

Subsequently, copies of the Dartington Community Plan will be available to read in Totnes Public Library, Dartington Primary School, at Dartington Hall and in other locations around the Parish.

If you would like a copy of the Dartington Community Plan of your own, you will be able to obtain one from South Devon Rural Housing Association's offices on the Totnes Industrial Estate: South Devon House, Babbage Road, TOTNES TQ9 5JA. Telephone: 01803 863550

Copies cost £5.00 each. (£6.00 including postage and packing to British addresses). The Community Plan is in full colour and is 68 A4 pages long.