

Achievements to date



Environment

- ▶ The Village Beautification Team was set up in the Summer of 2008
- ▶ Over 5000 Daffodil bulbs have been planted in the EDaN villages
- ▶ Ten planters have been made, filled with flowering plants and installed in the three villages.

Flooding

- ▶ The Flooding Prevention team has carried out a survey of the drainage hot spots within the communities and has set up a database of contact names and flooding experiences to use to negotiate with Anglian Water.
- ▶ As a result of this action Northall has already seen considerable improvements made to the ditches and Anglian Water are conducting further surveys to establish the cause of flooding.

Transport

- ▶ A Bus and Transport Action Team of 14 very committed volunteers is now operational.
- ▶ The group has established good communication with the Bus operators, Buckinghamshire County Council and Buckinghamshire Community Action.
- ▶ Buckinghamshire County Council agreed to install an additional bus stop in Northall which has timetable information and the Council have inserted the EDaN logo on the display in recognition of the community plan.
- ▶ The Bus and Transport Action Team continue to liaise with bus operators and County Councils in Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire to advocate for improvements to the bus services.



Post Office

- ▶ The survey results identified that the Top Issue for residents was the possible closure of the Edlesborough Post Office. An Action Team was formed to plan a campaign to save the Post Office should it come under threat.
- ▶ They collected names and location of the customers and this data was analysed to show how many people used the Post Office and the area that it covers.
- ▶ The Action Team submitted a report to Post Office Network and confirmation has since been received that Edlesborough Post Office will remain open.
- ▶ The Edlesborough Post Office has been modernised and expanded to provide two counters to cater for additional customers from surrounding villages and is able to offer a Road Tax service.

Postcode

- ▶ Although Edlesborough is in Buckinghamshire the Village has a Bedfordshire postcode which has caused great confusion for Insurers, the Police, Fire and Rescue Services with Emergency calls being wrongly referred.
- ▶ The Post Code Action Team have negotiated a recognition system with the Emergency Services by using the statement "I pay my council tax to Aylesbury Vale District Council" as identification for the responsibility for provision of service.

Community Led Plan Case Study



Cycleways

▶ The Cycleways Action Team are working together to provide cycle racks in Edlesborough for visitors to the shops and Doctors Surgery and have researched possible routes for the Cycleways. They are consulting with the community on the proposed routes.



Speedwatch

▶ Community Speedwatch equipment was purchased in early 2009 and this is now regularly deployed in various locations around the EDaN villages to raise awareness of the importance of driving within the speed limit for the area.

Youth Facilities

▶ The Youth Facilities Action Team are organising youth events for the young people of the villages.

▶ The Action Team are also working towards the establishment of a Youth Club.



In the Works...

▶ The Cycleways Action Team is planning a cycleway to link the three small villages within the parish. They plan to install additional cycle stands at key points throughout the villages and will be approaching the local landowners to work with them to achieve their goals.

Community Benefits

▶ The Community has bought into the process and has already benefited from the tangible results and physical additions to the village.

▶ The Community Led Plan has brought forth new volunteers which have enabled new activities and events for the benefit of all three villages.



Local Authority Engagement

Undertaking the Community Led Plan has given residents the motivation and strength to engage with the local authorities to develop the provision of transport and housing strategies locally.

Going Forward

The funding from the Community Led Plan goes directly to the Parish Council which has approved the action plan. The Parish Council has also committed some of its “precept funds” to help implement the actions arising from the plan.

Updates are supplied in the local Parish magazine every month, and the Steering Group are planning to introduce an annual Parish Planning newsletter, which will give specific updates around the Community Planning activities.

In Autumn 2009 they produced their first Action Teams update which went to all households and businesses so that everyone was aware of the progress of actions identified by the community and to celebrate their achievements to date.

Lessons Learned

▶ The anonymity of the questionnaire proved to be a challenge when following up on the suggestions and comments made.

▶ It is important at an early stage to elicit volunteers from the Community to take a lead on the Action Teams. The Steering Group members ended up having to take leadership of the different teams when they really needed to just concentrate on managing the process of the Community Led Plan.



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The Community Led Plan process has been extremely helpful and was a useful step-by-step guide to producing a successful plan. It has kept the Steering Group and Parish Council in touch with the community throughout each stage. The toolkit and support provided by Buckinghamshire Community Action has been invaluable.

Alan Williams, Chair of the Steering Group and member of the Parish Council

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Key Advice for Others

Focus on getting your questionnaire and analysis right before sending it out to the community.

This case study forms part of a series evaluating the impacts and benefits of Community Led Plans across the South East. It has been funded and produced by the South East Rural Community Councils (SERCC) in partnership with Buckinghamshire Community Action.

Both are members of the national Rural Community Action Network.
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