

We think a plan would be a good thing for our community, what do we do next?

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## Community Led Planning Your Future!

Would you like to improve facilities in your village and have a greater say in local issues?



Then Community Led Planning could be the **ANSWER!!**

*"If you do not know where you are going, how will you know when you have got there?"*



## What is a Community Led Plan?

Communities everywhere are constantly changing. The Government wants local communities to take more control of their own lives, to say what they want doing in their own neighbourhoods and to engage with other organisations to get it done. You cannot prevent change, but what you can do is influence it. Community Plans help your community to make change happen. They provide an opportunity for everyone in your community to make themselves heard.

Community Led Plans lay out a shared vision for the community over the next five to ten years and contain a detailed Action Plan for achieving this vision. It is up to the community to define the issues to be tackled by the Plan. The Community Led Planning process enables the whole community to voice their opinions on what actions they wish to see taken in their local area in the future. The Plan when completed may highlight actions that can be taken by community members, be used to influence service providers such as your local authority, and act as evidence of need when applying for funding.



**Graffiti Wall  
(Holland Fen)**

**Community Led Plans can be produced by any size of community and neighbourhood including those in urban areas. A Plan can take you, on average, between 12 and 18 months to complete.**

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## What have been the benefits to those communities who have undertaken a Community Led Plan?

- **Nettleham, Wragby, Brookenby and Leadenham** are working with the Rural Housing Enablers at Community **Lincs** having identified affordable housing as a need.
- **Welbourn** secured a £20,000 development grant from the Big Lottery for a large village hall project.
- **Caythorpe** secured £140,000 for the development of sports facilities.
- **Long Bennington** have benefited from the building of new business units.
- **Results** of consultation in **Woodhall Spa** supported the award of £1.54 million for the Jubilee Park and refurbishment of the Coronation Hall.
- **Holbeach** received support from the local authority in questionnaire distribution and analysis. The District Council have seen the plan as an opportunity to do something with the community and have given a direct cash contribution of £10,000 to help achieve some of the actions.
- **As** a result of their plan **Foston** feel they have greater community involvement; the Parish Council has adopted the plan and started working on some of the actions. New groups have been formed including: Conservation group, Transport group, Neighbourhood Watch, Playing Field Committee, Amenities group and the community have seen a new website developed.
- **Sudbrooke** completed their plan in 2007 and have already seen the development of a new multi-surface court which is being used for tennis, football and netball. The community have also secured funding to purchase two sets of New Age Kurling equipment and a new group is due to start soon. In Keeping with the 'get active theme' a keep fit class is currently running for a trial period and the village has just held their first community walk.

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- Attendance at some steering group meetings to pass on information and advice from other communities.
- Providing direct contact with other Community Led Plan groups.
- Guidance on community involvement and consultation making the process fully inclusive.
- Linking into other relevant County, District or Local Authority initiatives, and support services where appropriate.
- Advice on which statutory agencies, service providers and other bodies should be approached to achieve maximum results from the Plan.
- Advice on linking the Action Plan to other local strategies such as the County or District/Local Authority Sustainable Community Strategy.
- A library of community development tools.

## Are there completed Community Led Plans in Lincolnshire?

There are 29 completed Community Led Plans across the county (view these on the Community [Lincs](#) website) and a further 41 currently under development including 7 Town Plans.

## Why produce a Community Led Plan?

With your enthusiasm and determination Community Led Plans can make things happen in your community. There can be many benefits of producing a Plan.

### *Community Led Plans can:*

- Create a real sense of community spirit, getting people involved and talking to each other.
- Gain funding for local initiatives by demonstrating you have been through a needs assessment with full community participation.
- Develop increased local voluntary action.
- Strengthen the Town or Parish Councils relationship with all sections of the community.
- Help the community enhance its status.
- Provide clear evidence of community needs and priorities for Town and Parish Councils to plan their resources and effort.
- Influence and inform others, including Community Strategies and Local Development Frameworks.
- Highlight projects which need involvement from other agencies.
- Encourage partnership working.

## What kind of issues can a Plan cover?

A plan should include ALL issues that your community believes are important and affect them. These might include:

- Affordable Housing.
- Improvements to public transport/ accessing services.
- Road Safety in particular speeding traffic.
- Lack of facilities for young people.
- Improvements to current community facilities e.g. play areas, village halls.
- Environment.



**Mobile  
Skate Park  
(Sudbrooke)**

## Who should be involved?

Everyone should be involved, led by a steering committee made up from a wide cross-section of the community, with the task of carrying out the detailed planning and co-ordination of the project. The Parish and Town Council's role is to support them in that work, with a small representative presence on the committee and to have ultimate responsibility for endorsing and adopting the final Plan.

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## Who can help?

**Carrying out a Community Led Plan is fun and rewarding for a community. It can also be hard work... but help is at hand!**

**Community Lincs will provide support throughout the process of producing a Community Led Plan.**



**Community Led  
Plan Workshop**



***This includes:***

- Support in planning the process.
- Support to establish a steering group – advising on inclusiveness and representation on the steering group or town partnership.
- Advice on funding sources, including budget and timetable preparation for production and implementation of the Action Plan.
- Provision of sample documents such as constitutions, draft questionnaires, Action Plans, etc.

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