

Carlton Parish Plan 2021

Carlton is classified as a rural hamlet in the Local Plan, and as such the effort and expense of preparing a full Neighbourhood Plan would not be justified. Instead, a Parish Plan is produced every ten years, and as the last one was completed in 2011 it is now time to start work on a new one for 2021. Previous Parish Plans can be found on the Carlton Parish Council website at www.carltonpc.co.uk.

The starting point for this update is of course to look back over the ten years since the last Plan was published, to see what has been achieved.

To begin with, the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard has been created, linking Barton Road to Nailstone Road with a safe footpath through a small wildlife area, and including a picnic table, seats and an equipped play area for toddlers. Oak trees have also been planted along local roads, to enhance the countryside setting of Carlton, absorb carbon and to provide shade as the climate warms. High speed broadband has now been installed in the village (thanks to the County Council and BT), a step-change in connectivity and access to services and information.

The specific short-term objectives of the 2011 Parish Plan have largely been realised. The affordable housing project has been completed, and the entrance to the site and associated footways have made this part of Nailstone Road much safer. A popular coffee

morning is held at 11am every Friday morning in the Gate Hangs Well, and this will resume as soon as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. Stiles have been replaced by kissing gates on local footpaths, which have proved their worth for recreation and exercise during the pandemic.

Traffic speeds and vehicle numbers are being monitored, and we now have a comprehensive picture of local traffic volumes and speeding. The pub and church have been supported, informal walking and cycling groups have been formed, several Facebook groups have been created and the Neighbourhood Watch scheme has been expanded. Local businesses have been supported, providing that their activities would not affect their neighbours or intrude into open countryside.

The medium to long-term objectives of the 2011 Parish Plan included making improvements to the church building, currently a major project being brought forward by the Parochial Church Council. This project is now fully funded and will create a community hub and help ensure the long-term viability of this listed building. Building work is expected to start later this year. Other objectives have not been forgotten, and representations have been made and money set aside to bring schemes forward if and when opportunities should arise.

The current members of the Carlton Parish Plan Group (CPPG) are Robin Arnold, Mandie Bristlin

(Chairman), Enid Morgan, Chris Peat (Secretary), Carol Piggon, Clare Roscoe, Ken Salisbury, Ian Sarson, Mick Vann and Robin Williams. We have already reviewed the current position, using *Egan's Wheel* as a template, and have been surprised by how much things have changed and how many of the questions asked in 2011 are now redundant. The next stage will be to decide what things are important to us, and what questions to ask in this year's questionnaire. Our ultimate aim is to look forward and try to generate initiatives for making Carlton an even better place to live.

*Chris Peat
CPPG Secretary*

Egan's wheel, the tool used in drawing up the Carlton Parish Plan is pictured left.

