

## Timescale

April to June

Agree constitution, set up steering group, bank accounts and bid for initial grant from South Hams Council.

June to August

Design and distribute marketing material and set up inaugural consultation event.

Advertise community consultation event for 4th July 2009 in the Dartington Primary School Hall from 10am to 1pm and collate the results.

August to November

Commission Village survey, distribute and collate results

November to January

Collate all information and draft Community Plan and Action Plan and distribute widely.



## Contacts and further information:

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## Dartington Community Plan



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Your Community    Your Future    Your Say

## What is Dartington Community Forum?

Dartington Community Forum was set up about 18 months ago at the suggestion of The Reverend Joanna Abecassis. Joanna, in her role as local Vicar, had met with a number of local people, business leaders and others working or having an interest in the Community of Dartington. An initial meeting was set up to see if there were any areas of mutual concern or any areas in which members of the group could collaborate to the benefit of the local Community.



After a number of meetings from which the membership grew and following talks with agencies involved in the local communities of Devon. It was thought that a Community Plan would be of value to the group and allow people with an interest in the Community of Dartington, to have their say in its future. The group soon felt that developing a Community Plan would be a great way to involve people and build on the previous plan facilitated by the Parish Council in 1998.



## What is a Community Plan?

A Community Plan (sometimes referred to as a Community Appraisal or Parish Plan) is a profile of Dartington and includes everything which has already been prepared on Dartington and the local area. It can include an analysis of the demographics of homes, people, families, businesses, local transport, services, leisure facilities, open spaces etc.



Secondly it is a needs analysis of what will make the community an enduringly healthy, sustainable, blossoming place for every single inhabitant. Taking into account that everyone has a right to their opinion, because everyone is important.

Thirdly, it is an action plan, a working document that turns what is needed into what we have. Usually the plan will look at what is needed in the next five years, and use that information to inform community development over that period.

## What is in it for us?

It will put people in a much better position to influence local and national government as the future is determined (particularly in areas like supplementary planning guidance). It puts people in a much better position to attract funders for local projects (projects where



funders need detailed needs assessments and holistic relationships between projects). In the future it may become an integral part of community governance, perhaps feeding into district and regional strategy.

## Who will benefit?

Our aim is for the whole community to benefit: the unemployed, the employed, the elderly, those at school, local businesses and other local groups such as the Village Hall and the Church. The project is run by volunteers who will do most of the work, supported by services provided by others which are paid for from grants and monies raised by the group. These services are likely to be in the form of designing surveys and collating the results. We anticipate that the community will reveal a need for affordable housing and maybe even come up with some solutions. A doorstep questionnaire collection service will ensure a high rate of response. Similarly, we would expect to reveal the needs for and encourage local economic activity,



and we already know that a distinct and clean environment with access for all is high on people's agendas. We shall fully include the schools which will also respond to their needs. And a healthier community will also be an objective for all. We shall ensure that these issues are in our questionnaire.