

Annual Parish Meeting

Coddenham Community Parish Plan update - May 2024

It's nearly a year (22nd May) since the Plan was published and this is a summary of the current state of the five workstreams that resulted from it. To the credit of everyone, significant progress has been made by the tremendous effort of volunteers, many of whom support parish organisations (alongside jobs, looking after their families and other voluntary activities). A full 'how have we done against what we hoped to do' will be available by early July.

When the Plan was initiated, a conscious decision was taken not to make it a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) under the Localism Act 2011, largely because they are (scale) housing development driven, something residents didn't wish to see nor something the community was being pressured to accept. NDPs are also expensive and very time-consuming to produce. The Coddenham Plan therefore followed the parish plan format of the district council, which meant that it didn't have a statutory basis, which no one viewed as an issue, a position that hasn't changed, as we still have recourse to funding for what we planned to do.

Recently the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 has created another type of statutory plan called a Neighbourhood Priority Statement (NPS) or a 'People and Places Plan'. We have a meeting with MSDC in June to see a) if there are any real benefits in Coddenham transitioning its plan to the NPS format and if so, b) how much work is involved in doing so. Our deliberations will be included in the July update.

Energy Conversation and Recycling

- The first 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) event took place on Saturday 23rd March at The Coddenham Centre with the overall aim to reduce the amount of waste that ends up in our black bins.
- The intention is to hold three 3Rs events a year, with the next one to be on Saturday 15th June to coincide with the national Great Big Green Week and alongside a brunch, with 2024's final 3Rs event on Saturday 26th October.
- At the beginning of February, the Central Suffolk Community Energy Community Interest Company (CSCE) was incorporated.
- CSCE aims to support households, those owning/running community buildings and those wishing to undertake renewable energy projects across the rural towns and parishes of the Central Suffolk and North Ipswich parliamentary constituency.
- It was necessary to extend CSCE's geographical scope to attain critical mass and proper funding, but this should benefit Coddenham and other active parishes in CSCE's catchment area.
- CSCE is backed by the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership of Suffolk's borough, county and district councils and is a member of Community Energy South's pathways programme.
- CSCE will build up and out in a measured manner, with a series of low-key launches later this year.
- The Coddenham Centre was recently audited by Suffolk County Council and recorded a 40% carbon footprint reduction, representing 83% fall compared with its 2020 baseline. It has been awarded the Carbon Charter Gold Accreditation for its latest calculated full year 91% reduction in its carbon footprint.

Green Spaces and Footpaths

- A 'green spaces' working group is established - with a facebook site which has 50 members - to increase the use of Coddenham's green spaces and its footpaths by residents and visitors, whilst promoting them as an environment for wildlife.
- The Coddenham circular walks' leaflet is being updated and reissued, funded by the county council and from our district councillors' locality budget.
- An audit of all the parish's footpaths has been conducted with requests made for additional signs, repairs to stiles etc..

- In line with recommendations in the plan the team is seeking to increase the number of seats alongside footpaths and within green spaces and a seat has recently been installed alongside the footpath at the top of Mill Hill by the Hudson family in memory of David on land owned by Sylvia Bickers.
- There are now regular Broom Hill and Mill Hill maintenance parties.
- Trees have been added to our existing green spaces, with hedgerow repairs planned.
- There is a desire to add to Coddendam's community green spaces including a prospective community orchard, using available grant funding.

Housing

- The housing workstream continues to remain 'un-started' as no one has stepped forward to volunteer to work with cllrs Denning and Gregory and this is despite it being promoted on a number of occasions.
- Many responses to the survey articulated the need to maintain Coddendam as a parish for all ages and for it to remain an active and working community.
- A very modest increase in housing is viewed as desirable, especially for those who want to put a foot on the first rung of the housing ladder.
- One option being considered is to arrange a session for those who might be interested but are reluctant to make a firm commitment before knowing what it might entail.

Roads and Traffic

- The working group now includes representation from Hemingstone (Rectory Road).
- Suffolk Highways and the police continue to be pressed to enforce the current Traffic Regulation Order and speed limits and to reconfirm some signage.
- The county council has agreed to fund 'village gates', enhanced signage and road markings for the B1078/Rectory Road junction to discourage vehicles over 7.5T travelling east to west through Coddendam.
- Next steps include exploring an off-the-road parking solution for High Street residents and seeking the feedback of High Street residents to a possible future 'one way' solution.

Community and Parish Hubs

- Members of the working group have concluded that 'resurrection' of a pub is unrealistic given the lack of suitable premises, the cost of starting from scratch and the adverse impact it would have on the parish's other hubs, which are all doing well.
- Therefore, the working group's focus is for hubs to continue to work together to address any gaps created by the absence of a traditional 'pub', increase overall respective footfall, appeal to residents and increase coverage of events. The four key community hubs, the Coddendam Centre, the Country Club, the Community Shop and St Mary's Church have all broadened their activities this year.
- A summary of that response and a gap analysis will be shared at the end of June 2024.
- In terms of new activities four 'food related' ideas are in place or under consideration / in development.
 - The Coddendam Centre successfully completed a second year of 'Warm Rooms/Living Well in Winter', serving some 200 soup lunches. There is a commitment for these to resume in November.
 - The next is for a monthly community lunch, likely starting in October.
 - Working with Mid-Suffolk District Council, the final two aim to reduce food waste, encourage healthy eating, use local and seasonal food, help with managing to a budget and teach cooking techniques.
- The Community & Parish Hubs Group plan to meet again in July to review progress.

Wider efforts to engage the community in the further development of the plan and to ensure it continues to thrive as a 'live' document, continue through the full CCRG membership and stakeholders, accompanied by regular communication through the community website and parish publications.