

Coddenham Parish Council

Coddenham Community Parish Plan update - March 2024

The plan was published in May 2023 and this short presentation to council summarises progress/challenges in delivering the plan. Parish councillors are party to the five working groups which are progressing the plan, working alongside other parish organisations and as with others, giving their time voluntarily.

The intention is to provide a full update at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Energy Conversation and Recycling

Our first 'refuse, reuse, recycle' event is scheduled to take place on Saturday 23rd March at The Coddenham Centre. This has been communicated widely. The overall aim is to reduce the amount of waste that ends up in our black bins. If successful (or more likely not unsuccessful) we plan to hold similar events three times a year, with the next pencilled in for 15th June to coincide with the national Great Big Green Week. Cllrs Soanes and Mills are currently leading this initiative.

At the beginning of February, a new legal entity, Central Suffolk Community Energy CIC (CSCE) was incorporated. Cllrs Gregory and Mills are two of the initial directors. 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 from the summer.

The Coddenham Centre was recently audited by SCC and recorded a 40% carbon footprint reduction, representing 83% compared with its 2020 baseline.

Green Spaces and Footpaths

The 3rd maintenance working party of the winter took place on Saturday 17th February. It was well attended and bramble clearance/weakening at Broom Hill has been advanced. A big thank you to all those who volunteered, under the watchful eye of cllr Soanes.

Working with other members of the parish, cllrs Burton, Mills and Soanes are part of the 'Coddenham green spaces' team. The group has a facebook site, which now has 47 members and seeks ways to increase the use of Coddenham's green spaces and its footpaths by residents and visitors, whilst promoting them as an environment for wildlife. Its next project is to update and reissue Coddenham's circular walks' leaflet. This is being funded by the county council and from our district councillors' locality budget, which was applied for through the parish council. An audit of all the parish's footpaths has been conducted and requests for additional signs, repairs to stiles etc. listed. These will be progressed with the county council and landowners in the coming months. 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.

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 Coddenham 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. With the optimism that spring brings your parish council will again seek to move the workstream forward. 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), alongside cllrs Denning and Whitehead and three Coddendam residents. Suffolk Highways and the police continue to be pressed to enforce the current Traffic Regulation Order and speed limits and to reconfirm some signage. Suffolk Highways proposals for the B1078/Rectory Road junction are welcomed. These now need to be costed. Rectory Road residents are pushing for the speed limit in Rectory Road to be reduced from the NSL to 40mph. 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, which includes cllr Whitehead, 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. Working group focus is for hubs to continue to work together to increase overall footfall, appeal to residents and increase coverage of events.

Cllr Nick Mills