

Queen Camel Neighbourhood Plan 2019 – 2030

Annual Report as of July 2023

1. Making and revising the Plan

The Queen Camel Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan) was 'made' on 3rd June 2021. Under section 1.8 of the Plan a commitment is given to providing an annual monitor to review how effective the plan has been over the previous year. This is the first second annual report.

The Queen Camel Neighbourhood Plan was made in 2021 when the government guidance indicated that Plans had to be reviewed and revised where necessary after two years in the local planning authority did not have an adequate land supply. In the summer of 2023 government issued proposals to extend the period before a review and revision was needed to 5 years. QC has taken advantage of this proposal on the basis that it will be formalised and deferred any full review of its Plan.

2. Review of policies

2.3 Housing Policy

- **Policy 1- Housing**
- **Policy 2 - Infill development**
- **Policy 3 - Land to north side of West Camel Road**

No new houses have been given planning permission or built in Queen Camel since the Plan was made. This is due to the issue of phosphate contamination.

2.6 Policy 4 - Design of Buildings

The Plan has been continued to be referred to in planning applications for building alterations and it is clear that applicants, the PC and SSDC Planning have found the guidance in this policy useful.

2.7 Policy 5 - Business and Employment

There has been no loss of business premises in Queen Camel during this period and the Old School premises has remained full with a Day Centre and Health and Wellbeing business opening this year. However the flood on 9 May 2023 has had a serious impact on its operations from which it will take some time to recover.

2.8 Policy 6 - Community Facilities

There has been no loss of community facilities during the period.

The PC's grant of £5000 *Opening up Safely* grant has led directly to the setting up of a new community facility (Cleaveside Close Social Club) which was initially started under the control of the parish council, but is now set up to run as an independent organisation that provides a varied programme of social events for the elderly.

The Playing Field and pavilion have been kept in adequate order this year. A lottery grant application for new play equipment has been made and it is anticipated that a large selection of new equipment will soon be installed once the use of the Somerset Council owned land is agreed.

2.9 Policy 7 - Road infrastructure Improvements

The parish council was successful in getting the Somerset Highways Experimental Traffic Order closing Gason Lane and Blackwell Road to non residents made permanent. Volunteers have been required to put out road closed signs and the village has benefited from the consequential reduction in traffic as a result.

The A303 dualling construction works have had an impact on Queen Camel and the parish council has held meetings with contractors to mitigate specific problems.

A grant of £9980 was secured by the parish council from National Highways towards the new play equipment in recognition of the disruption caused by the road works to the village.

2.10 Policy 8 - Improving public footpaths and creating cycle paths / bridleways

The matters identified in the plan have not significantly progressed during this year although some attention has been paid to stiles and gates and maintaining footpaths. The Parish Council with volunteers has been undertaking a review of the footpaths with issues reported to Somerset Council. The latter runs schemes that Queen Camel residents can participate in that would result in further improvements and these are being promoted to residents. Generally, however, this is an area that needs more focus and consultation with Somerset Council, which is too reliant on delegating the responsibility to parishes and volunteers.

2.11 Policy 9 - Parking

There has been no significant progress on resolving the parking issues. Residents in Hill View have been asked to co-operate with not parking on the main road after an accident in earlier years.

2.12 Policy 10 – Streetscape

There has been no deterioration in the streetscape issue, but no progress has yet been made on this policy.

2.13 Policy 11 - Green Spaces

Green Spaces have continued to be managed in a manner compatible with their designation with no major issues arising during this period, though the transition from SSDC to SC seems to have caused a deferment of grass cutting in some areas.

The parish council cannot yet obtain freehold ownership of one acre at the north end of the playing field from Somerset Council for technical legal reasons. However a 7 year licence has been proposed to enable the new play equipment to be installed. Somerset Council have said they are willing to consider a transfer after 2026 when the restrictions applying to the land in respect of it being a former school playing field expire.

2.14 Policy 12 - The Rural Setting of the village and Key Views

There have been no losses during the period of this Plan.

2.15 Policy 13 - Conserving and enhancing local heritage assets

There has been no deterioration of the heritage assets but no progress has yet been made on this policy. The South West Heritage Trust Local Heritage List remains the vehicle for recording and parish council led groups are particularly welcomed by them. The packhorse bridge on Dark Lane suffered damage in the 9 May 2023 flood and needs a proper restoration plan as it is a low priority for Somerset Council.

3. Projects

Progress on delivering the Projects (see Annex A) has been considerably slower than imagined, mainly due to Covid 19 and the need for volunteers subsequently.

Working groups now need to be established to take items forward. It was resolved in June 2022 that the list may now be managed locally by the parish council. This will enable it to be to become a live working document that can be updated to continue to reflect the requirements of the village.

4. Key Data and information

Key data to be reported annually is identified at section 1.8 of the Plan.

4.1 Progress on the Local Plan Review

The SSDC Local Plan review has been put on hold with the local government reorganisation in Somerset and the new SC unitary authority Plan is unlikely to be made before 2028.

4.2 The capacity of the Countess Gytha Primary School and projected need for its expansion

This has not been investigated and will be reviewed during the coming year.

4.3 New dwellings created within the parish (net)

No new dwelling have been created and none are thought to have been lost. The baseline number of dwellings needs to be identified in order to measure this in future years in terms of meeting targets within the Plan.

The number of people on the electoral roll in Queen Camel in November 2019 was 692 In May 2021 at the time of making this Plan it was 687. The number of people on the electoral roll in November 2022 was 710.

4.4 New employment space created within the parish (net)

Employment spaces available at the Old School have been filled.-The baseline number of employment spaces needs to be identified in order to measure this in future years

4.5 Road traffic accident data within the parish

It is possible to view road accident data via a map at <https://www.crashmap.co.uk/>

This shows the severity of accidents and their location. No incidents are shown for 2022

4.6 Summary of any other data considered relevant to the Plan.

The data to be reviewed needs to be identified before it can be reported on. This may include commenting under headings such as the below:

- Impact of local infrastructure changes – for example. Have there been any changes to the bus service.
- national policy changes
- local government reorganisation impacts
- planning decisions in surrounding villages that will affect Queen Camel
- Changes to the way people live or work. For example how the shift to working from home is affecting Queen Camel.

Annex A- Project List

Projects	Description and Project Lead	Progress
3.3 Community Services and Facilities Policies		
Development of the Playing Field -QC3 & 6	Project 1 – short term (within 12 months of this Plan): upgrade of play area, provision of shelter and equipment for youth, feasibility study on expanding area adjacent to the Bowls Club for additional car parking. Project Lead: Playing Field Committee	Fundraising has taken place and a lottery grant applied for the play area, and hopefully the ownership of the SC land is being solved. As the play area replacement goes ahead, the need for a youth shelter should be reconsidered.
	Project 2 – longer term (within the period of Plan): provision of a new pavilion, additional car parking and a trim trail and outdoor gym. Project Lead: Parish Council working with the Playing Field Committee.	Not yet due, but an out door gym could be considered once the play area project has been delivered to provide extra

		interest in the playing field
3.4 Getting About		
3.4.1 Road Safety - Traffic Calming Measures Policy QC7	Project – short term (within 12 months of this Plan): Extension of 20 mph limit throughout the High Street and along the West Camel Road, with consideration of flashing speed signs. Project Lead: The Parish Council working with the Somerset Council.	Speed indicator devices have been researched and the Parish Council has deferred any acquisition as it does not have the evidence to support SIDs. The 20 mph limit has not been delivered as this is a Somerset Highways matter and they expect the parish to bear the cost.
3.4.2 Footways, Public Footpaths, and Bridleways: Policy QC8	Project 1 – short term (within 12 months of this Plan): Replacement of gates and stiles within the Parish boundary that are not easily used by people with mobility limitations. A phased programme to be prepared by the Parish Council's Footpath Warden in conjunction with Somerset Council's designated Officer Project Lead: The Parish Council working with Somerset Council and respective land owners.	Some stiles and gates have been delivered, but a review is needed on whether all sites are applicable. See also comments above under Policy 8.
	Project 2 – medium term (by 2025): Provision of low level lighting on the pedestrian route between the Glebe and England's Lane (WN23/4). Project Lead: The Parish Council working with SCC.	Not yet due
	Project 3 – longer term (within the period of Plan): Provision of lighting on the lane and link between England's Lane and the Playing Field/Tennis Courts. Project Lead: The Parish Council working with SCC.	Not yet due

	<p>Project 4 – medium / longer term: Provision of a cycle path between West Camel and Queen Camel, wherever feasible by upgrading footpaths. A proposal identifying route, funding and delivery to be prepared by 2022</p> <p>Project Lead: The Parish Council working with the Parish Council of West Camel and respective landowners.</p>	<p>Proposal for route has not yet been made. The NPWG will need to explore this project. The Somerset Council commitment to Active Travel</p> <p>https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/active-travel/ might be a starting point</p>
	<p>Project 5 – in step with the A303 dualling: Provision of a bridleway by repositioning and upgrading the footpath between Traits Lane and Gason Lane during the dualling of the A303.</p> <p>Project Lead: The Parish Council previously in conjunction with the MOD and now with Highway's England as this has become entangled with the A303 dualling.</p>	<p>This matter can be added to the occasional liaison with HE and the contractors, but progress looks difficult</p>
	<p>Project 6 – medium / longer term: Provision of a bridleway between Queen Camel and Marston Magna within the timeframe of the Plan. A proposal identifying route, funding and delivery to be prepared by 2022</p> <p>Project Lead: The Parish Council working with the Parish Council of Marston Magna, the County Council's Highway's department, the District Council and respective landowners.</p>	<p>No progress to date</p>
3.4.4. De cluttering of street signs.	<p>Project – short term (within 12 months of this Plan): Removal of obsolete street signs and redundant poles during 2019.</p> <p>Project Lead: The Parish Council will liaise with the Somerset Council as the Highways Authority.</p>	<p>Delayed by Covid. Now needs to be a priority for the NPWG</p>
3.6 Our Heritage		

<p>3.6.1 – Protection of heritage assets and features</p>	<p>Project 1 – short term (within 12 months of this Plan): A Conservation Area appraisal. This to include consideration of listing on the Local Heritage List the heritage assets and features noted in Table 4 to ensure that such heritage items are given suitable protection. Project Lead: The Parish Council through a community led group with support from the District Council.</p>	<p>Delayed by Covid. This needs also to be a priority for the NPWG. There is also an old Heritage Fund with some £5000 which might be used to assist.</p>
<p>Preservation, restoration and enhancement of buildings and features of local historic interest. Policy QC13</p>	<p>Project 2 – short term (within 12 months of this Plan): A proposal with costs and timescales to be prepared for the preservation and restoration, and where appropriate the enhancement, of buildings and features of local historic interest in the public domain as described in Table 4. Project Lead: The Parish Council, possibly through a Parish Group, and in conjunction with relevant landowners.</p> <p>This needs a better description. Are these buildings and features in private ownership. Is there a list? I assume some specific places were in the minds of the people who wrote the plan.</p> <p>Clerk has NO documents about this so first task I would assume is to identify these features and buildings</p>	<p>Delayed by Covid. This needs to be developed by the NPWG.</p>
<p>3.6.2 – Archaeology –Roman Villa Policy QC14</p>	<p>Project – longer term (within the period of Plan): The future interpretation of the Roman Villa – development as a community education and tourist attraction. A proposal with feasibility study to be considered during the period of this Plan. Project Lead: The Parish Council or the Community Land Trust - or another organization with similar objectives</p>	<p>Not yet due</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>New Projects</p> <p>This should to be a live list and the NPWG can advise the Parish Council to add new projects, such as greening or environmental improvement projects.</p>	<p>To be considered by NPWG.</p>