

VILLAGE



PLAN



Cowden Village Plan



Scope of this Presentation

1. Background to Village Plans
2. Cowden's Plan
3. Maps and data
4. Timescale and Budget
5. Consultation process
6. Publicity
7. Results analysis



Cowden Village Plan



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Cowden Village Plan



- What is the “Cowden Village Plan”?
 - What residents want for Cowden
- Who decides what could contribute to the plan?
 - Residents of Cowden
- How do we know what is wanted?
 - Consult the residents - all age groups
 - Consult adjacent Parishes
- How do we consult residents
 - Personal contacts, via clubs & organisations, questionnaire.
- How do we implement the Plan?
 - Through the Parish Council and, potentially other public agencies.

Cowden Village Plan



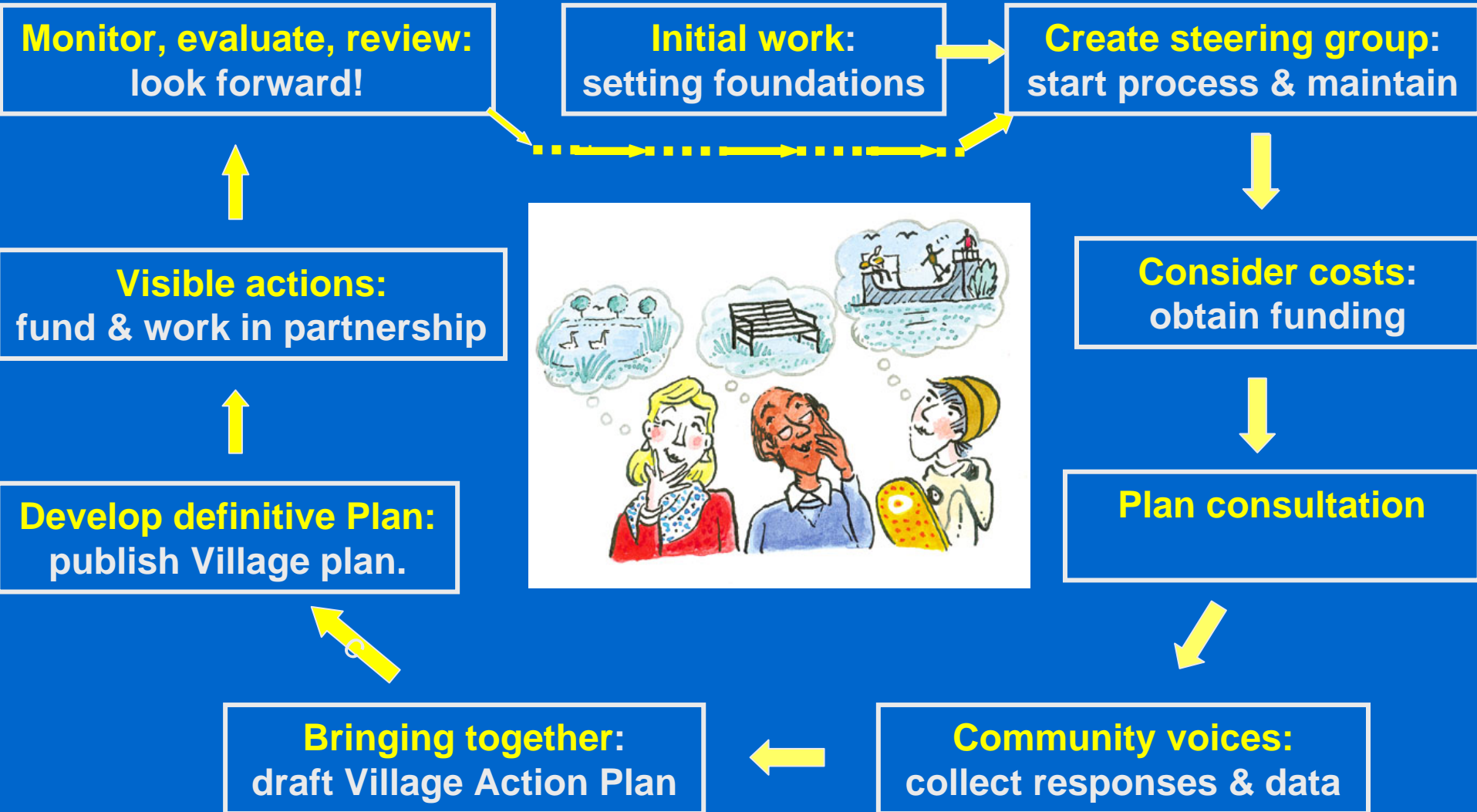
The Village Action Plan Process - The origins

- 1990s - Village Appraisals
 - Initiative by villages to determine their own destiny
- 2000 - Rural White Paper
 - Government initiative to get local involvement in communities
- 2004 - Vital Villages
 - Countryside Agency support to Village Plans
- 2005 - DEFRA grants
 - Provides financial assistance



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The Village Action Plan Process





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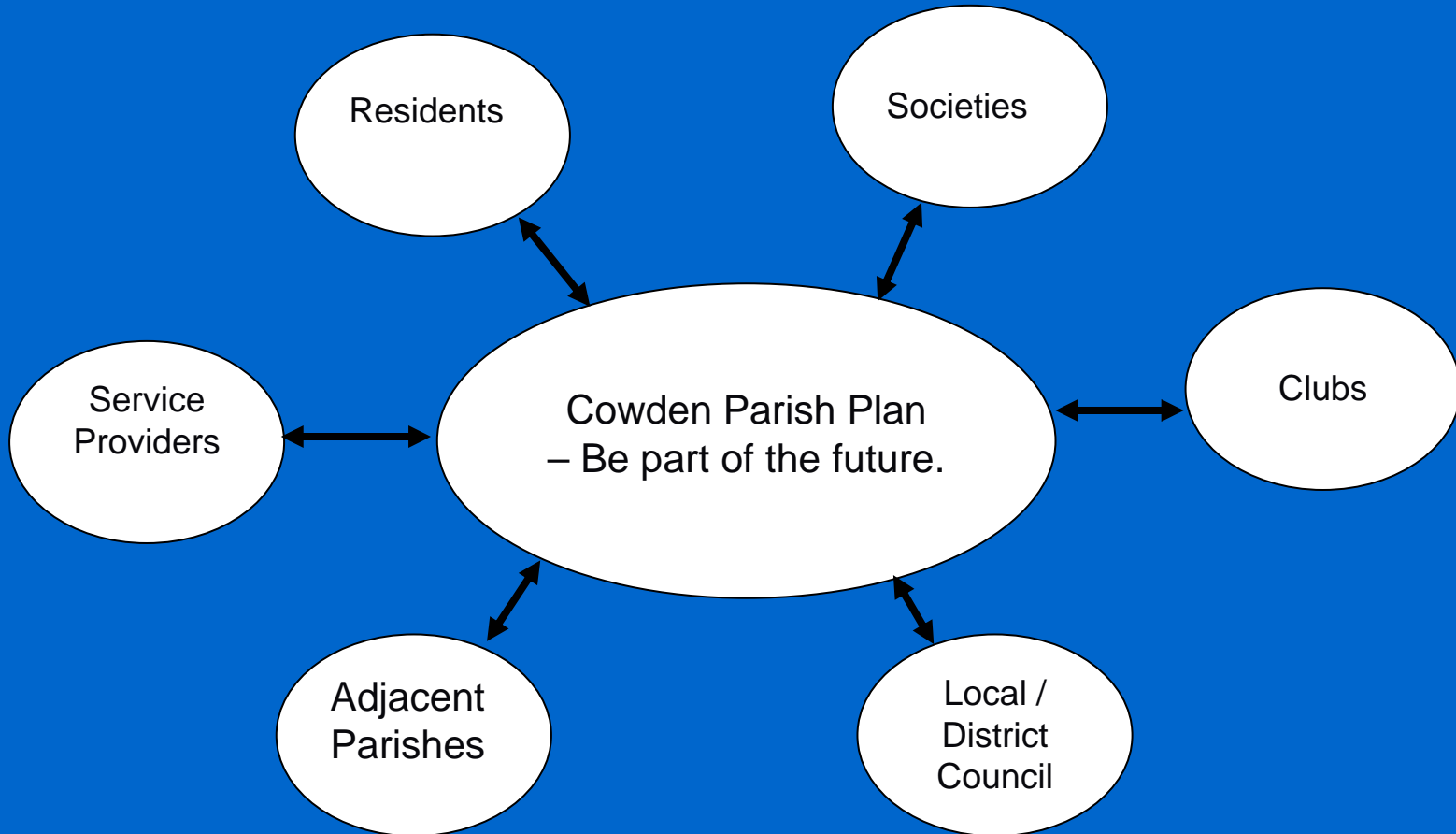


The Village Action Plan - Benefits

- Identifies opportunities for improvement from the inhabitants
- Stimulates action: locally and wider...
- Communities work together: locally and wider...
- Develops an understanding
- Strengthens inclusion
- Provides a Plan for the Parish Council's consideration
- Enabler for informing agreed strategies to other bodies

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Who is involved ?



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The Village Action Plan Process - Enablers

- Steering group
- Volunteers
- Willing community
- Budget
- Questionnaire
 - not the “be all and end all” of consultation
- Parish Service providers engaged
- Local authorities
 - Action with Communities in Rural Kent



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Cowden Village Appraisal, 2001

- An appraisal was completed in 2001
 - 87 page booklet published
 - Very detailed
 - Very informative, Included 'local history', adverts, local society news etc
 - It achieved what it said on the label
 - It was an appraisal, so there were no action plans published within it.
 - The Village plan will use up to date information and is the next step.



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Cowden Village Action Plan, 2007

- **Stage 1**
 - Questionnaire will be distributed throughout the Parish of Cowden
 - Results of the questionnaire lead to the publication of the “Village Action Plan”
- **Stage 2**
 - Village action plan
 - A concise document comprising 30 pages maximum (one third the size of the 2001 appraisal), details projects (agreed with PC) with what actions are required to determine what could be done . Each Project supported with the following information:
 - Issue
 - Why
 - How
 - Who
 - Action required by when
 - Detailed questionnaire results available by e-mail / limited colour brochure
- **Stage 3**
 - Complete actions detailed in the action plan
- **Stage 4**
 - Make recommendations through the Parish Council based on the results of the action plans.

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Steering Committee

- Chairman A Saunders
- Secretary L Millgate
- Treasurer R Bennett
- Rural affairs R Bridge
- Co-opted representative J Chettle
- Co-opted representative S Gammage

Parish Council Representatives

- Sue Gammage
- Andrew Saunders





Cowden Village Plan

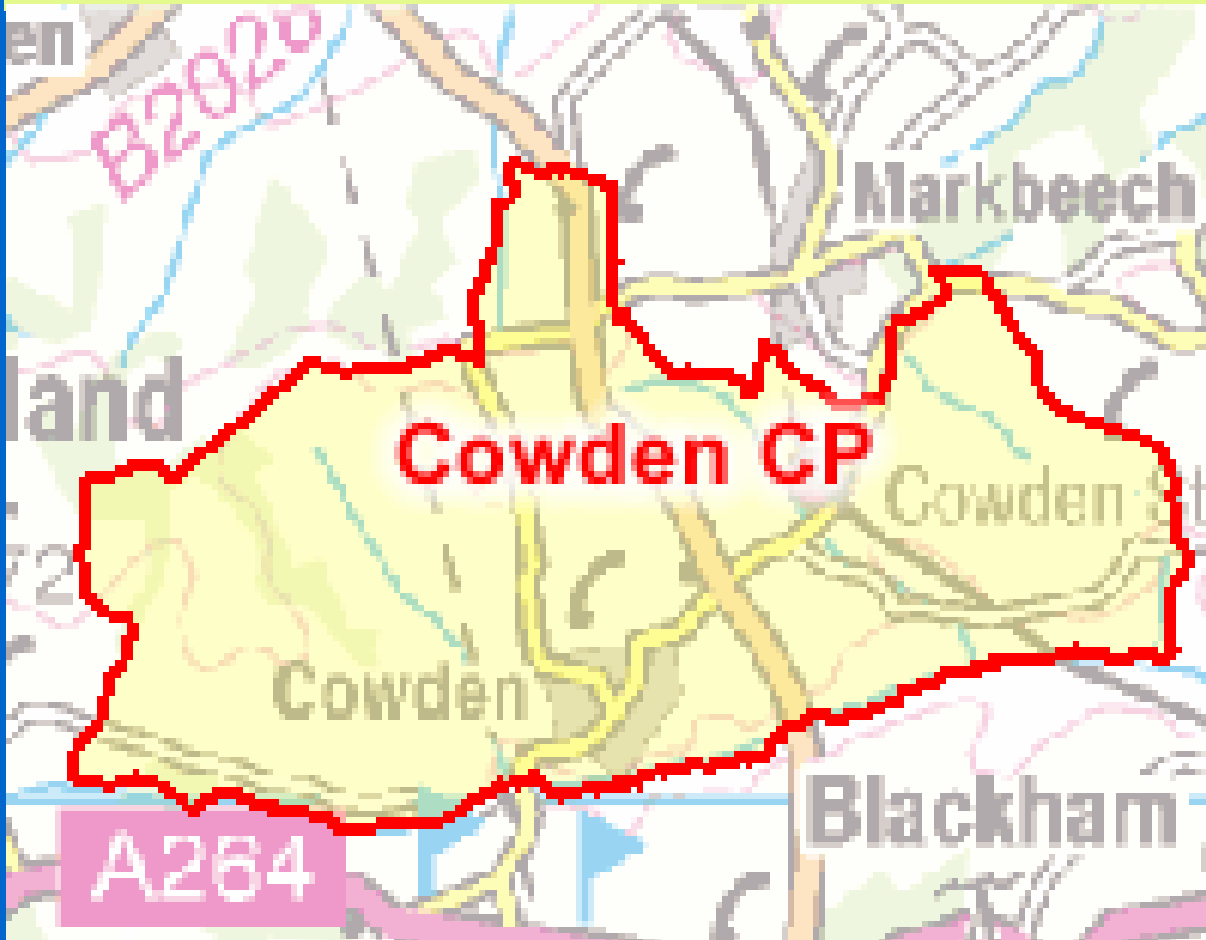


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Cowden Village Plan



Cowden Parish (2001 census)



Statistics (2001 census)

- Households: 323
 - Population 765
 - Employed: 362

- Up to 15: 133
- 16 to 24: 51
- 25 to 64: 423
- 65 + : 158

46% male

Latitude 51.14468° N Longitude 0.09396° E



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Data points

- Residential Properties
 - Available

- Clubs & organisations list
 - Available



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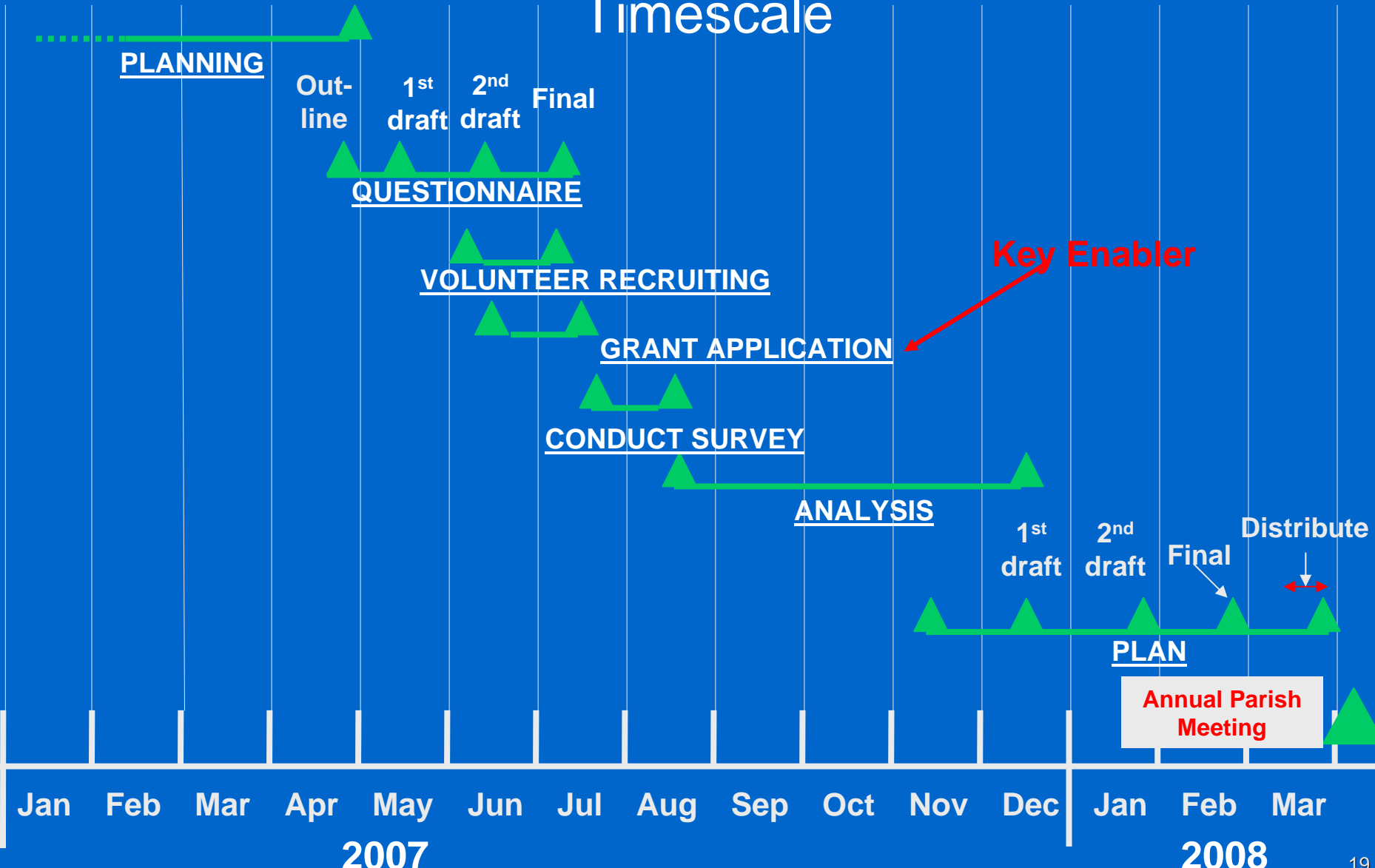


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Timescale



Annual Parish Meeting



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Timetable – Key events

2nd Qtr 07	Develop Questionnaire
June 2007	1st Volunteer evening with clubs and organisations
June 07	Grant Application
July 07	Youth event
July 07	Grant 'awarded' (Key enabler to subsequent timescales)
July 07	Conduct survey
4th Qtr 07	Analyse results
April 2008	Publication of plan (delivered to all residents, businesses & schools)

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The need for a Budget

- Whilst creation of the plan has a significant reliance on voluntary effort, aspects of the plan will require funding for example:
 - Printing questionnaires
 - Printing the Village Plan
- Funding streams
 - There are several opportunities being pursued
 - Voluntary Contributions
 - Donations (Parish Council, local organisations and societies)
 - Grants
- In June 2007 an application for a grant will be made to “Action with Communities in Rural Kent”.
 - This grant will provide a source of revenue for the Action Plan
 - Key aspects of this application are being managed by:
 - R Bennett – Parish Plan Strategy
 - L Millgate – Integration with the service providers
 - S Gammage - Alignment with other plans
 - J Chettle – Consultation with existing Village organisations

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Estimated Budget

- A detailed budget is being finalised to support the grant application.
- We have also reviewed the costs incurred to develop a “Village Plan” through other Parishes.
- Initial estimates indicate that a budget in the region of £3,000 will be required.
 - This could be funded through:
 - Parish council
 - Grant(s)
 - Voluntary contributions
 - Donations



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Leading up to the release of the Questionnaire

- Communicate intent to the community
 - Parish communication
 - Notice Board
 - Parish Council web page
 - Village fete
- Advertise
 - Posters, flyers, etc
- Publish timescale
 - Ensure awareness
 - Indicate the key milestones, the next step



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List of target groups, pre-assessment

- Pre-school groups
- Parents of children from 5 – 11 years
- Young people (11 – 18 years)
- Commuters :
 - Local and 'distant'
- Retired people
- Less able
- Outlying areas (adjacent parishes)

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Questionnaire topics

- Public transport
- Community transport
- Traffic and traffic calming
- Road safety (incl. parking)
- Policing & community safety
- Housing and development
- Environment
 - footpaths
 - pavements
 - litter
 - recycling collections
- Young people
- Children
- Elderly
- Village communications
 - Notice boards
 - Websites
 - Village magazines
- Village events
- Village hall / local facilities
- Local shops & businesses
- Utilities

Residential Questionnaire, Draft 3 completed, on review

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The Consultation

- Questionnaire - Residential
 - Approximately 330 residences
 - 10 volunteers equals 33 residences / person
 - Lists generated to optimise distribution
 - Guidance meeting for volunteers planned
 - Distribution planned
 - Collection
 - Primarily by volunteer distributor
 - Completed questionnaires to be entered into a Prize Draw



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The Consultation

- We need volunteers !!
 - Distribution of Questionnaires
 - Collection of Questionnaires
 - Analysis of Questionnaires



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Publicity

- Village fete
- Parish Council Newsletter
- Village notice board
- Word of mouth
- Parish Magazine
- This presentation pack !



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Analysis

- Analysis tool developed and available
 - Manual entry spreadsheet
 - Strategy to articulate data defined
 - Task recognised as “significant”
 - Minimum of 10 volunteers required to assist with Questionnaire
 - Delivery
 - Collection
 - Articulation
- “There are Lies, Damn Lies and Statistics
- Interpretation of the data is key
- 2001 census data will be used as a statistical reference

