

Dunton Green Mid-Project Report



July 2015 to December 2017

Produced by: Dunton Green Community Development Officer

January 2017

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Introduction

Background

In 2009 Berkeley Homes were granted planning permission to develop the site of the old West Kent Cold Store in Dunton Green. This along with subsequent amendments resulted in permission to build up to 500 new homes and 4500sqm of commercial space.

The development was subject to a Section 106 agreement. Members agreed, at Cabinet on 6th December 2012, that a proportion of the Dunton Green Section 106 funding would be used to fund a Community Development Officer for 3 years. The project officer would work with the old and new communities to identify community needs and any specific services that should be provided. For example, youth work/provision for teenagers, social opportunities for older residents, working with new residents to bring the old and new communities together, to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour and to maintain a good local environment through community pride. Wherever possible this project would make links with other service providers to lever in additional funding for the community.

Aims of the Project

- To bring the old and new communities of Dunton Green together.
- To identify and respond to the needs of the local community.
- To enable the community to continue this work after the end of the project.

Mid Project Report

The Community Development Officers were appointed (job share) in June / July 2015. This report provides an overview of the project to date. It outlines the main findings from the community consultations that have taken place along with an overview of the projects implemented and the additional funding received.

Dunton Green Community Consultation

To establish a baseline of needs an initial community consultation was carried out. This was delivered through a number of techniques:

- Consultation surveys
- Community meetings and focus groups.

Consultation Surveys

Two surveys were produced, a standard version suitable for the whole community and a young person's survey for those aged up to 21. Surveys were distributed from 24th July 2015 to 17th September 2015. Residents were encouraged to complete the surveys by being entered into a free prize draw to win Amazon vouchers. Surveys were distributed to residents whilst attending the Parish Village Picnic, Family Fun Days, in the local coffee shop, village hall, Dunton Green Pavilion and at the new Ryewood housing development. Residents were also given the opportunity to complete the survey online, via survey monkey. Some residents that were known to be hard to reach were visited door to door and if no-one was at home a leaflet and copy of the survey was left for completion. The survey was also sent home with all 179 pupils at Dunton Green Primary School.

A total of 236 surveys were completed (186 from the standard survey and 50 of the young person's survey). The survey results were a mixture of open ended questions and multiple choice.

The highlights of the results are as follows:

What do residents like about Dunton Green?

The two most popular responses were:

- That it is a friendly community with a lovely village atmosphere.
- That it is convenient for amenities such as the railway station, supermarket, local stores, coffee shop, pub and recreation ground.

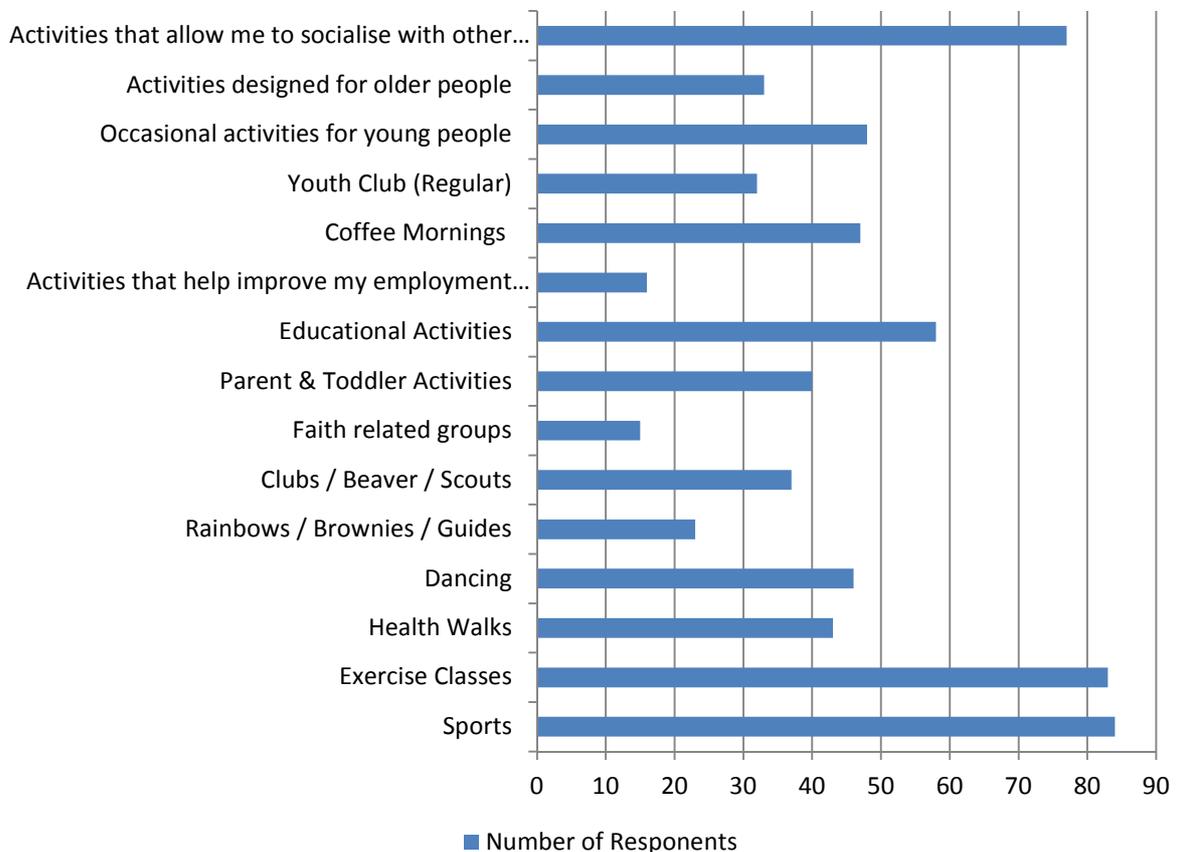
Volunteering

- 162 people said that they do not volunteer
- Of these 45% said that they would consider volunteering if the activity or project interested them.

Things residents would like to change about Dunton Green?

- More buses and better routes.
- Access to closer medical facilities including doctors, chemist and dentist.
- To address antisocial behaviour in particular around the station and playground.
- More facilities for young people both young and old.
- Better facilities at the railway station including a ticket machine, access to Oyster and a convenience store.
- Changes to the infrastructure including resurfacing pavements, restricting speed on the roads, better parking and more litter / dog bins.
- More activities including sports, exercise classes and dance. These should be available in the evenings and at weekends not just during the week. Activities should also include things that bring the community together.

What type of activities would you (or your family) participate in if they were available in Dunton Green?



If you do not participate in activities in Dunton Green is there a reason?

- Work full time and not enough activities in the evening and weekend.
- Activities are too expensive
- Not enough activities are on offer.
- Don't know or haven't heard what activities are available

Residents were asked how they would like to be informed of projects and activities in the parish.

	Standard Survey	Young Person's Survey
1 st choice	Newsletter	Leaflets & Email (joint 1 st)
2 nd choice	Email	Newsletter
3 rd choice	Leaflets	Parish Council website
4 th choice	Social media in particular Facebook	Social media in particular Facebook
5 th choice	Parish Council Website	

Community Meetings and Focus Groups

In addition to the surveys it was felt that some residents would be unlikely to complete a survey online or on paper. The Community Development Officers therefore attended a number of community groups and events to ascertain views and opinions.

The comments received were compiled and on the whole mirror the results seen in the survey. In addition to this the following suggestions and comments were received:

- There is a real need for a local lunch club to provide a hot nutritious meal for vulnerable people within the community.
- There are concerns that the number of new dwellings at Ryewood will directly impact on the catchment areas for local schools.
- There is a lack of local medical facilities.
- There are concerns that bus service that is currently being supported by Berkeley homes will cease when the development is complete.
- Other areas hold more community events. It would be great to see more of these held in Dunton green.

Dunton Green Steering Group & Action Plan

To bring together all aspects of the community a steering group was established. At the outset key organisations, local businesses and residents were invited to attend meetings. At the initial meeting the group established the key aims and outcomes of the project and a proposed action plan was approved.

The action plan has been used as a working document throughout the project. It has been updated with key outcomes and can be seen in Appendix 1 - Dunton Green Action Plan - December 2016.

Meetings of the steering group have been held in the evenings and extensive invitations made to the local people to take part. The Community Development Officers have worked regularly to engage the community in steering the project initially with small groups of residents and more recently with the Parish Council.

Projects Implemented

As a result of the consultation and subsequent action plan the following projects have been investigated, developed and implemented.

Community Health Week

The purpose of this project was to host a community health event that encouraged residents to participate in a range of health activities and workshops across Dunton Green in line with National Heart Month (1-28 Feb 2016). The events were arranged to take place Mon 22nd - Sat 27th Feb 2016 and included:

- Over 55's Keep Fit Session
- Ballroom Dancing
- Youth Street Dance
- Buggy Walk & Health Walk
- Youth Football
- Cheerleading
- Hip Hop Dance
- Walking Football
- Pilates
- Dad's & Kids Cooking
- Football Tournament
- Community Golf
- Health Checks
- Heart Specialist Talk
- Nutritionist Workshops
- School Healthy Eating Workshop



Attendance at these events varied with the most popular being the school healthy eating workshops and the Dad's and kids cooking session.

Dunton Green Lunch Club

Initial discussions took place in September 2015 with Dunton Green Parish Council and Age UK to ascertain the feasibility of setting up a regular lunch club for older people within the new facilities of the Pavilion. Following these successful negotiations, advertisements for Lunch Club Volunteers were distributed and interviews began in December 2015. Once a team of volunteers was established they all received training supported by Age UK. The project was launched in May 2016 with lunch clubs taking place on the first Wednesday of the month.



Key successes:

- The Community Development Officer developed the lunch club in partnership with Age UK to ensure sustainability beyond the length of the project. The lunch club is now being delivered successfully by a team of volunteers who are all registered with Age UK.
- 21 people attended the first lunch club and between 18 and 25 people from Dunton Green attend each month.
- Over 80% of all attendees live within the Parish of Dunton Green.
- Some residents have indicated that they are unable to make a hot drink or cook hot meals at home. The lunch club provides all attendees with not only a tea/coffee, a two course hot nutritious meal but also the benefit of spending time with others. Attendees are also signposted to other community support where appropriate.
- In December 2016 a Christmas celebration was held. The Community Development Officer invited 37 pupils from Dunton Green Primary School Choir to attend and perform some Christmas songs. The event was enjoyed by everyone that attended
- There have been wider community benefits to this project. Some of the volunteers from the lunch club have gone on to support other community projects in the area. One is volunteering as a way to re build confidence following a life limiting illness and has expressed an interest in taking on more volunteering work.
- Intergenerational links have been made offering young people from Dunton Green Primary to come along a support the residents that attend the lunch club.

Older People's Forum

To engage with older people in the community a couple of events were held. A tea and coffee drop in session took place in December 2015 along with an informal meeting with interested residents in July 2016. At these sessions it was highlighted that across the parish there is a lack of services at the weekend for older people that are not involved in faith related activities.

A key outcome from the forum was the development of an over 55's Social Club:

- A group of interested residents were supported by the Community Development Officers to develop the Over 55's Social Club.
- The groups' first meeting was held in September 2016. The group now meet monthly and attendance ranges between 15 and 26 members.
- A successful Christmas event was organised by the group supported by the Community Development Officers.
- The Community Development Officers assisted the group in receiving funding from Dunton Green Parish Council.
- The group are now working towards becoming constituted with the support of the Community Development Officers.



For more information call
Dot Carpenter on 07818 081 003

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Youth Forum Pizza Night

A free pizza night was organised for young people in Dunton Green on 1st July 2016. The purpose of the event was to engage with young people and establish their needs and aspirations. Young people were encouraged to record their views in a fun and relaxed meeting using a variety of methods.

- 19 young people attended the event
- Young people highlighted the activities that they would like to have available to them in Dunton Green which included a variety of sporting



Kent Police & Crime Commissioners' Youth Diversionary Activity Fund

On the 30th September 2015 it was confirmed that the application submitted to the Youth Diversionary Fund had been successful and a grant of £2500 was received. As a result the Dunton Green Youth Project (DGYP) was launched and a number of initiatives were developed to engage with young people that were at risk of offending and to provide diversionary opportunities currently unavailable to young people in the parish.

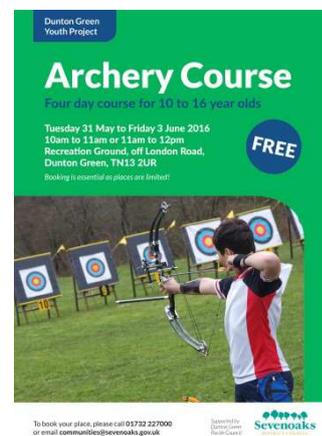
Hip Hop and Cheerleading Dance

- Two dance styles were offered to provide for different interests. Sessions were held weekly between January 2016 and July 2016.
- 16 young people attended the cheerleading session and 18 young people attended the Hip Hop.



Archery

- An archery crash course was offered between 31st May and 3rd June 2016.
- 11 young people attended across two sessions despite the terrible weather. Young people were then signposted to other local Archery clubs to develop further their skills.



Youth Film Night

- A film night was held for young people to attend.
- Whilst attendance at this event was low it has sparked an interest across the wider community. As a result it was agreed that a whole community movie night would be explored.

RRR Course & Celebration Event.

- A Reform, Restore and Respect (RRR) workshop was arranged for everyone that has attended the dance, archery and film night.
- The RRR workshop was delivered to pupils at Dunton Green Primary School in years 5 and 6.
- A celebration event was held to bring everyone together that had attended the course.



Youth Dance

Following the success of the Youth Diversionary Fund it was agreed that the dance element of the project would be continued. To ensure sustainability of the project a suitable volunteer was identified. A volunteer agreement was drawn up and full training was provided. Street dance sessions were then planned and will take place weekly from January 2017 onwards.



Dunton Green Health Walks

Initial planning meetings were held with Dunton Green Parish Council and SDC's Health Team in April 2016. It was agreed that a new Health Walk would be implemented in Dunton Green following the Walking the Way to Health model. It was agreed that these walks would take place on a Saturday morning creating the first Health Walk to be available at the weekend in the whole of Sevenoaks District. This would enable residents that work during the week to attend but also provide an activity for families to enjoy



together.

Key Successes:

- The first walk took place on 25th June 2016. Since then on average between 3 and 8 people attend each weekly walk. 27 people have registered and attended the walks since they began
- For some attendees this forms their only social contact over the weekend.
- Health benefits are seen with regular exercise.
- New residents from Ryewood have benefitted from meeting the wider community and exploring paths around their new home.

Kent Shed Project

In Nov 2015 a bid was submitted to the Kent Shed Fund organised by Groundwork to fund a Dunton Green Shed Project. £3800 funding was approved in January 2016. The project aims were to provide a space for men within the community to get together, learn new skills and further develop existing skills predominantly in woodwork & gardening. The project is tailored around the attendees needs and interests. The project hub has been located in a disused furniture warehouse in Greatness, Sevenoaks. An extensive search for volunteers and participants took place with an encouraging amount of interest. Interest from residents within the parish of Dunton Green was limited and it was therefore agreed to expand the remit for this project to encompass the entire Sevenoaks District. It was agreed that once a firm group had been established explorations would take place into how the group could better link with Dunton Green residents. Suggestions included linking with Dunton Green Primary School, Dunton Green Parish Council and other organisations/groups.



Business Support

Meetings were held with businesses from across the parish on 19th Jan 2016, 27th April 2016, 5th July 2016 and 20 October 2016. The purpose for this was to develop an Association. Links were also made with SDC's Economic and Development team. Training opportunities were identified and the following courses were taken forward, Promotion of Business, Broadband, Development of Businesses and working together as a community group.

A great success for the group was collectively working together to purchase and install Christmas Lights in Dec 2015 and 2016. The Parish had been lacking in Christmas lights for many years.

Similar to the Over 55's Social Club and the Dunton Green Lunch Club, this Business Group now runs independently with only minimal support required from the Community Development Officers.

8-12's Project

As highlighted in the consultation there is a need for more regular youth activities to take place in Dunton Green. In addition Dunton Green Primary School identified a need for young people to develop 'soft' skills such as self-esteem, confidence, social and emotional responses and making friends. As a result discussions took place with West Kent Xtra who were later tasked with providing their well established 8-12s project in Dunton Green. Young people are to be referred to the project, predominantly by Dunton Green Primary School. The project will start on 9th January 2017 and will be funded as part of the Section 106 funding until December 2019.

First Aid Course

To ensure the success and sustainability of projects in Dunton Green an Emergency First Aid at Work course was organised and delivered on 1st December 2016. The course was offered to volunteers that support the Dunton Green projects. Ten people attended and completed the course. They are now able to support the ongoing projects in Dunton Green.

Over 55's Keep Fit

As a result of the consultation a weekly keep fit session for over 55's was offered at Hamlyn Court. This took place from December 2015 until May 2016. Keep fit for over 55's allows men and women to keep active through regular exercise. The instructor delivered a targeted chair based dance / exercise session that worked with individuals ability. In total 11 people participated with 8 people regularly attending.



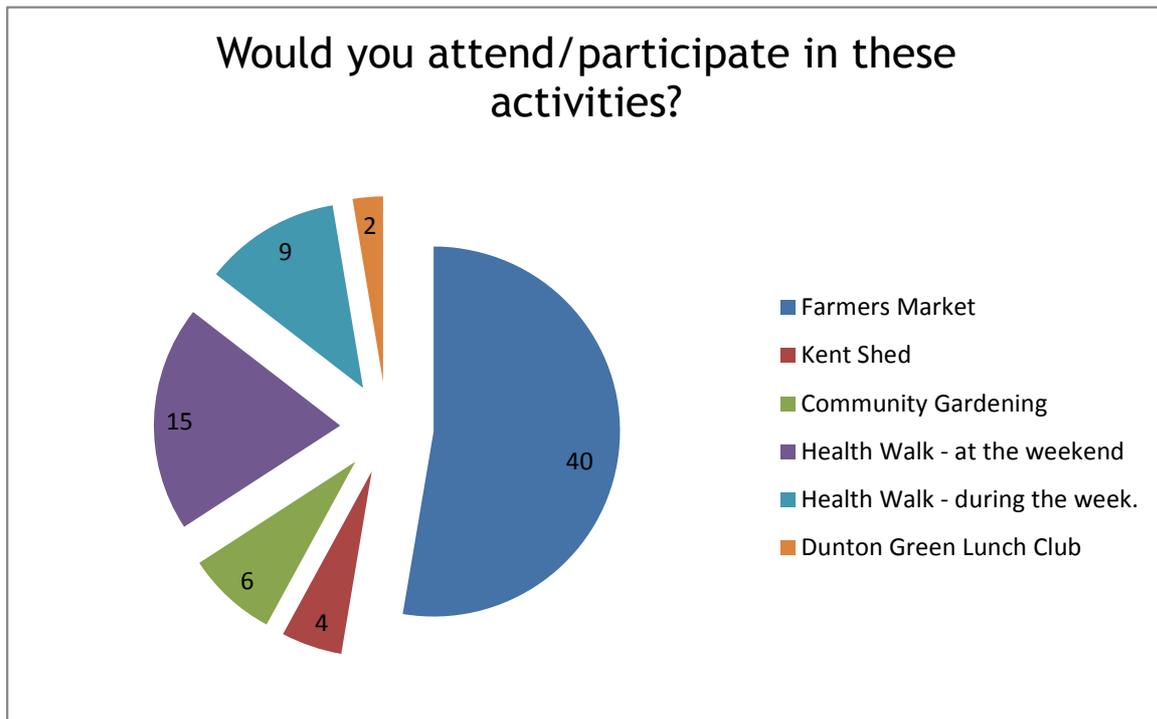
Other Community Events

The Community Development Officers have also attended and supported:

- The Dunton Green Parish Picnics on 2nd August 2015 & 12th June 2016.
- Ryewood Residents meeting held on 30th November 2015
- Dunton Green Annual Parish Meeting held on 23rd March 2016
- Dunton Green carols on the green held on Monday 19th December 2016
- Dunton Green Parish Council Movie Night held on Saturday 3rd December 2016. Family Fun Days on 10th, August 2015, 29th October 2015, 17th August 2016

Consultation - One Year On

One year into the project a brief consultation was carried out. The purpose of the consultation was to establish how people are hearing about the projects on offer, what they would like to participate in going forward and if they would like to get involved. In total 64 responses were received. An overview of the results can be seen below:



Would you like to volunteer at these activities?

- 12 people confirmed that they would be interested in volunteering at these events.

Of the projects already taking place, how did you hear about them?

- 9 people have heard via the Parish Council Newsletter.
- 15 people have heard via Social Media, Facebook or Streetlife.
- 7 people have heard via word of mouth.
- 4 people have found out via posters.

What other activities would you like to take place in Dunton Green?

The most popular responses received were:

- More community events similar to the village picnic that bring residents together.
- More activities for under 5's including weekends and weekdays.
- Events and activities that target residents aged 20 to 40 that take place in the evenings and at weekends.
- More sporting activities
- Activities such as sports, dance and crafts for children. These include regular classes and school holiday activities.

When asked if they would like to be involved:

- 8 people said that they would like to join the main steering group.
 - 1 person said they would like to join a forum specifically for older people (looking at the needs of people over 55).
 - 4 people said they would like to joining a forum specifically for young people (looking at the needs of people under 18)
 - Other forums identified included one focusing on 20 to 40 year olds, a mum and dads group & a forum working jointly with faithworks.
-

Overall Evaluation

Since the project commenced in June 2015 the project aims have been met in the following ways:

- **To bring the old and new communities of Dunton Green together.**

The project has been successful in achieving over **1700 attendances** in its activities.

The projects now available provide the whole community with the opportunity to engage whereas there were previously limited opportunities to come together.

The new Pavilion is now being fully utilised by a mixed of private entities along with other more community focused activities.

- **To identify and respond to the needs of the local community.**

The initial consultation has provided the opportunity for the Community Development Officers to identify the needs of the local community from the outset.

Residents have been given the opportunity to direct and steer the project as part of the initial steering group and more recently by giving feedback following the activities offered.

Projects have been tailored around the demands identified in not only the initial consultation but also the consultation after the first year.

- **To enable the community to continue this work after the end of the project.**

Throughout the development of the activities a clear follow on / exit strategy has been identified.

Links have been made with partner organisations to ensure support going forward for example Dunton Green Parish Council and Age UK.

Going forward sustainability will play a larger part in the project ensuring not only community ownership but also financial viability.

Community Feedback

The following feedback has been received:

- *“I quite liked making friends in the community, as we all go to a wide spreads schools, it enables local friends and it’s also fun to try new stuff.”*
- Matthew, Dunton Green Youth Diversionary Fund Dance Project.
- *“I enjoyed mixing with people and dancing, I would like to carry on in the future.”* - Maddie, Dunton Green Youth Diversionary Fund Dance Project.

- *“It has helped me and I am a lot more confident to go to Secondary School.” - Lily, Dunton Green Youth Diversionary Fund RRR Course.*
- *“Boys really enjoyed the football, golf, smoothie bike, they learnt a lot.” - Adam, Community Health Week.*
- *“There is no need to improve the programme. (I) enjoy doing the exercises with the others (people) - Anon - Over 55’s Keep Fit.*
- *Reason to join the lunch club..... “To meet new people and make new friends”- Jeannette - Lunch Club*
- *Reason to join the lunch club..... ““To get to know local people. Companionship”- Anon - Lunch Club*
- *“It’s a way of seeing people and having a chat. The food is good.” - Anon - Lunch Club*
- *“Everyone is really kind and like to see someone of my age helping out. It is nice to see older people who may not have any family come together as friends.” - Young Volunteer at Lunch Club.*
- *“This project has helped me through a difficult divorce and I love the positive impact this (the project) has on the members.” - Lunch Club Volunteer.*

Future Project Development

Alongside supporting the existing projects, the Community Development Officers will be developing a number of new initiatives. In addition to this they will continue working closely with those projects already established to ensure they work towards or achieve self sustainability.

Future Project Proposals

Half Term Activities - A range of activities will be offered to young people in Dunton Green including Fencing, Boxing, Tennis and Cooking. If successful it will be developed further over the summer months.

Netball - An initial 6 week Netball session will be offered to gauge interest in the sport. Sessions will be offered during the evening mid week.

Ryewood Focus - Now that a large proportion of dwellings have been occupied and there are a wide range of projects being offered in the parish it is felt that further community development work should take place in Ryewood. Many residents are currently unaware of the opportunities available to them. The Community Development Officers will work closely with Berkeley Homes and Premier Estates to forge better links with this part of the community.

Explore Opportunities With New Mums - Investigations will take place with new mums in the parish to ensure that their needs are being met.

Support Dunton Green Primary School - Support will be offered to Dunton Green Primary School to ensure the success and educational attainment of young people in the Parish. Links will be made to existing projects and future project ideas will be considered as needs arise.

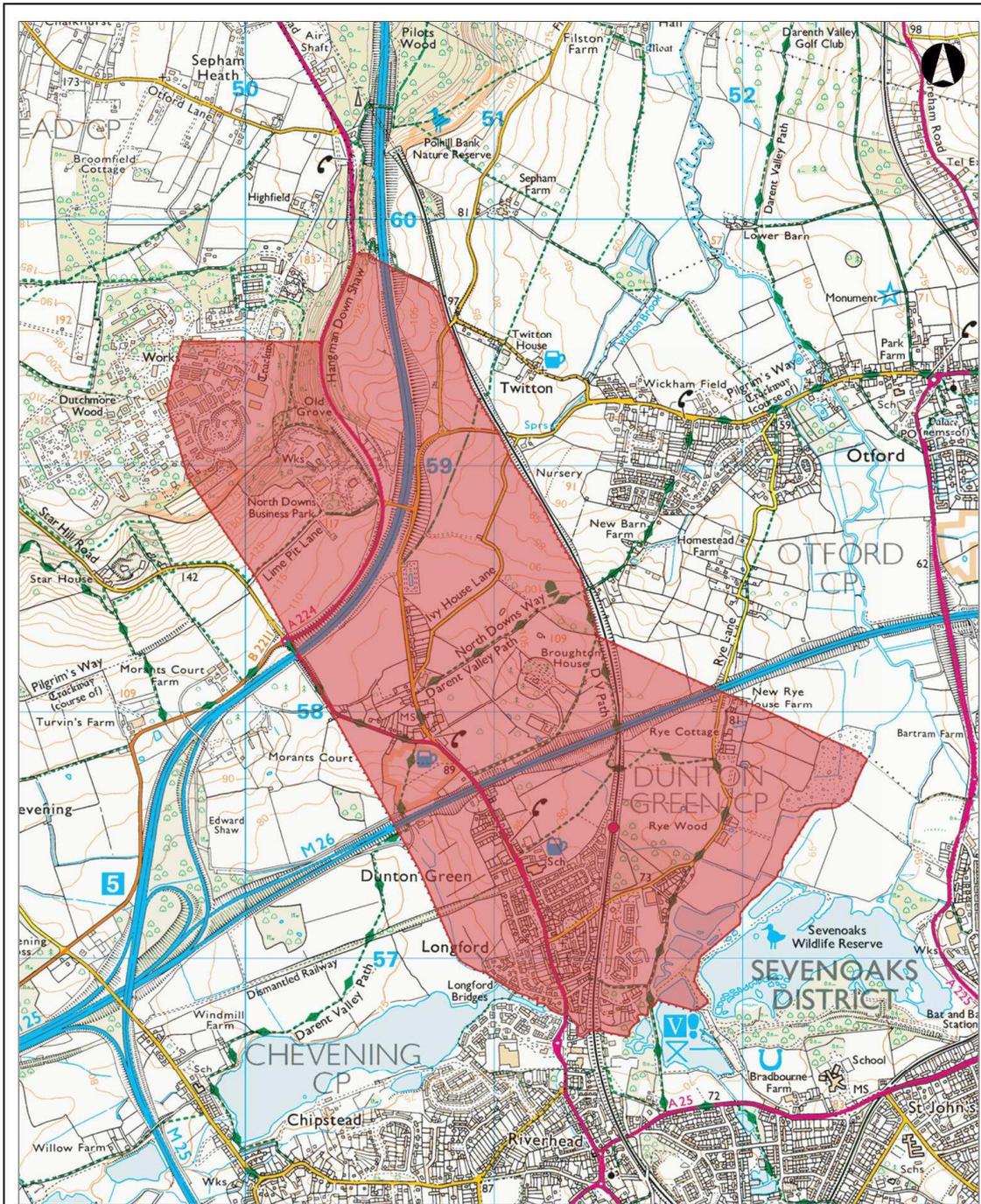
Provision of Events / Activities That Appeal To Working Adults - To ensure provision of services to the entire cross section of the community, the Community Development Officers will focus attention on providing activities that appeal to working adults. This will be based on any needs identified by the target audience and their support in developing projects as this will ensure sustainability beyond the lifetime of the project.

Seasonal Events / Markets - The consultation results indicate a large amount of interest in a local Farmers Market. Whilst a regular market is not feasible in Dunton Green it has been suggested that seasonal events within the Parish would help to bring the community together. Proposals for this include taking an active role and enhancing the existing events such as those organised by Dunton Green Parish Council and Dunton Green Primary School. This would enable the community to come together whilst ensuring sustainability beyond the length of the project.

Project Sustainability

Going forward sustainability will be critical to the projects success. Where appropriate projects will:

- Ensure good links with partner organisations.
An example of this is the Lunch Club where support from Age UK has been fundamental from the outset. The lunch club is now delivered by Age UK with minimal support from the Community Development Officer.
- Ensure a strong community lead to drive the project forward. This will be achieved by supporting the development of skills and provision of training where required.
Initially this has been achieved by providing First Aid Training. Going forward key individuals will be offered tailored training to meet their personal and the projects needs.
- Access external funding or ensure financial self sufficiency so that key activities have the financial stability to continue.
All projects have been developed with this in mind from the outset allowing activities such as the lunch club and youth dance to charge a very small entrance fee to cover the basic costs.



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Ordnance Survey 100019428.

Map of Dunton Green

Scale: 1:20,000

Date: February-2017