

## Dunton Green Annual Report



January 2017 to March 2018

Produced by: Dunton Green Community Development Officer

April 2018

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## Introduction

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### 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Previous Reports

The Dunton Green Mid Project Report covered the period July 2015 to December 2016, published in 2017. It outlined the project progression from its initial stages when the Community Development Officers were appointed (job share) through to the mid-point of the project.

### Annual Project Update

This annual report covers the period from the 2017 report to June 2018. Further to the successful application to extend the project until March 2020 it was felt that this interim report would provide a valuable update of the successes to date and outline the direction the project will take going forward.

## Project Updates

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### Dunton Green Lunch Club

Launched in May 2016 by the Community Development Officers in partnership with Age UK, the lunch club takes place on the first Wednesday of the month. Since the initial recruitment of volunteers and set up, the club has grown both in the numbers of clients attending but also the number of volunteers supporting.



The lunch club provides all attendees with a tea or coffee followed by a nutritious two course hot meal. The benefit of attending does not stop at the provision of a healthy meal. Attendees also benefit from the opportunity to socialise with friends old and new and to be supported with advice from the Age UK volunteers about other services that are on offer.

At a review of the lunch club that took place in June 2017 attendees and volunteers were asked for their comments:

#### Participants

What do you enjoy the most about attending the lunch club?

- “Lovely meals, thank you so much.”
- “The variety of meals, meeting nice people, nice food, lovely and hot. Favourite food is Shepherds Pie.”
- “The company, seeing old friends, friendly helpers and good food.”

What were your reasons to come to the lunch club?

- “Meeting new people and making new friends.”
- “It’s a way of seeing people and having a chat.”
- “I came to the lunch club primarily to chat to other people and to enjoy a meal cooked by someone else.”

#### Volunteers

Why did you join the project and what do you enjoy most about running the lunch club?

- “To help get the lunch club restarted and provide this for the village. Enjoy helping others, seeing the friendliness of the “clients” and speaking to new people. Making new friends.”

- “My Mum runs the lunch club. I've always enjoyed volunteering and it was a great opportunity to do it locally. Everyone is really kind and like to have someone of my age helping out. It is nice to see older people who may not have any family come together as friends. It is always good fun and a laugh.”

### Attendance Figures

TOTAL Number of people on register between Jan 2017 - Mar 2018	Number of people that live in Dunton Green Parish.	Number of people from outside Dunton Green Parish	Total number of attendances
37	32	5	301

### Challenges

The challenges faced by the Lunch Club is the need to increase attendance with a particular focus on the vulnerable and lonely residents in the community.

In addition, an ongoing challenge for the project is the need to ensure the price (currently £4) stays affordable and low whilst also covering the costs incurred.

### Sustainability & Future Proposals

Sustaining this project beyond the length of the community funding was key from the outset. Age UK were identified as the most appropriate organisation to take it forward once it had been established. This decision ensured longevity and sustainability but also had the additional benefit of making the most of Age UK's expertise, training and insurance. Volunteers would also be able to provide clients with the additional benefit of access to the wider Age UK services.

The club is now organised and delivered entirely by a team of Age UK volunteers without the need for any input from the Community Development Officers regarding the running or delivery of the project. This has enabled the Community Development Officer to support the club by creating links with the wider community in particular Dunton Green Primary School.

Going forward the Community Development Officer will work with Age UK to produce a new poster for the project in an attempt to increase attendance. They will work with local health care professionals to widen the awareness of the project and also ensure access to the free transport is made available to them.

## Half Term Activities

As outlined in the Mid Project Report January 2017 there was a need in Dunton Green for the provision of activities for young people during the school half term. As such the Community Development Officers developed a program of activities specifically for school age children during the February 2017 half term. The activities offered were:



- Tennis
- Boxing
- Fencing
- Cooking

Each session was offered free of charge with priority booking given to Dunton Green residents for the first 2 weeks after it was publicised. Sessions were then made available to the wider community. Due to the nature of the activities it was appropriate for sessions to be offered to specific age ranges.

Instructors and coaches were identified and booked. As is standard practice all instructors were subject to checks on their qualifications, insurance and DBS. The sessions received a fantastic response with those aimed at under 11 year olds being fully booked. In particular the tennis sessions were extremely popular resulting in a long waiting list. The sessions designed for over 12 - 18 year olds were less popular and as a result the Community Development Officers were able to provide additional sessions for the younger age groups.

### Attendance

TOTAL Number of participants	Number of people that live in Dunton Green Parish.	Number of people from outside Dunton Green Parish	Total number of attendances
50	28	22	79

### Challenges

A number of challenges were experienced regarding this project. Due to the nature of the activities available a large amount of admin was required to ensure that all instructors had the required qualifications.

In addition, a large volume of enquiries and requests from residents to swap sessions and alter their bookings were received.

Due to the activities being free the Community Development Officers also discovered that some residents did not turn up to their booked activity. It was felt that should a similar project be delivered again then a small fee would be charged to encourage a higher attendance rate.

### **Sustainability & Future Proposals**

Once again sustainability was key to this project from the beginning. Whilst it was clear that it wouldn't be viable for all four of the projects to continue within Dunton Green on an ongoing basis, the Community Development Officers were keen to ensure that should someone wish to continue with any of these activities following their taster they would be signposted to their local club. Each instructor provided the young people with club contact details.

Further to the success of the Tennis during half term the Community Development Officers offered young people the opportunity to participate in low cost tennis coaching over the summer 2017. Sadly the course attracted very low numbers, possibly due to its timing over the summer holidays. As a result the course could not go ahead.

### **Easy Netball**

One of the outcomes from the initial consultation with residents was the need for the provision of activities that are available to those people who are unable to attend community activities during the daytime mid week. As such it was agreed that the Community Development Officers would offer a 6 week trial of Netball in the evenings to gauge interest. Following an extensive search for a netball coach / facilitator, this was launched in March 2017. The 6 week trial was very well supported by the community with between 12 and 18 people attending each week. A review was carried out at the end of the trial.

Due to the success of the trial it was agreed that Easy Netball would be rolled out as an ongoing programme.



## Attendance Figures

TOTAL Number of people on register between Jan 2017 - Mar 2018	Number of people that live in Dunton Green Parish.	Number of people from outside Dunton Green Parish	Total number of attendances
50	25	25	270

## Challenges

Due to the size and markings on the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) there isn't a full size netball court available. As a result Easy Netball is unable to be affiliated to Netball England and cannot therefore become an official club which would be able to join a league. In addition the project is unable to make use of the Netball England insurance. Insurance needs to be covered by an alternative over-arching body.

The court markings are not for netball and are 'missing' 2 lines to divide up the court into thirds.

Initially flood lighting was an issue with portable flood lights being used during the winter months. However, with thanks to Dunton Green Parish Council this has now been resolved and permanent flood lighting is available.

## Sustainability & Future Proposals

To ensure sustainability it was agreed that a fully qualified instructor would be sourced to deliver the Easy Netball sessions. The participants would be charged a small fee to cover the instructor costs and to pay for any equipment required. The Community Development Officers would develop the programme and, once viable, hand it over to the instructor to deliver themselves.

Soon after these plans were drawn up it became apparent that there are very few qualified instructors available in the region. The Community Development Officers therefore took a different approach and located a qualified umpire with extensive netball experience to facilitate the sessions. The proposed candidate was available for 18 months (until September 2018), during which a member of the local community would be trained to deliver the sessions going forward.



## Over 55's Social Club

Further to the research undertaken in 2016 it was identified that there was a lack of services at the weekend for older people that are not involved in faith related activities. An outcome from this 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 club which first met in September 2016.

Since then the club have continued to meet on the third Sunday of every month. Those that attend receive a hot drink and biscuit or cake. The group have evolved over time and regularly play bingo and hold raffles.

The club were supported by the Community Development Officers to become constituted and to open a bank account. This would enable them to apply for funding and manage their finances. In addition the Community Development Officers funded their Christmas get together to enable them to have the opportunity to celebrate together.

*It has not been possible to obtain accurate attendance figures for this project.*

### Challenges

Despite the support from the Community Development Officers the group were unable to fully complete the application for a bank account. Whilst this has not caused any restrictions to the day to day running of the club it does mean future funding will be difficult to achieve.

The attendance numbers have dropped significantly due to limited transport options for residents to get to the Pavilion.

Currently the group relies heavily on one person to organise the club. They have recruited a volunteer to assist with the opening of the hall and setting up of tables, etc. As a result record keeping has been difficult to achieve and should the main person be unwell the group are unable to function effectively. The Community Development workers are looking at potential solutions to these issues.

### Sustainability & Future Proposals

The club have approached the Community Development Officers to ask for support in re designing their poster. The old one is now out of date and needs a fresh look. It is hoped that this would help to increase the number of people participating.

The Community Development Officers have also approached current members and in addition those that no longer attend. They have established a range of things that could increase attendance and retention of residents. They will also work alongside Dunton Green Parish Council to address the issue surrounding transportation. It is hoped a regular minibus can be arranged.

In addition, it is felt that the recruitment of more volunteers to help with the administration of the club as it grows would be of huge benefit. The Community Development Officers will advertise for this locally to identify a suitable candidate(s).

## Street Dance

Due to the success of the dance classes organised as part of the Youth Diversionary Fund it was agreed that dance for young people in Dunton Green was a priority. A suitable local volunteer was identified and trained and Street Dance classes were offered to young people aged 8 to 16 on a weekly basis from January 2017. In January 2018 due to the success of the project and request from attendees it was agreed to increase the session length from 1 hour to 1.5 hours.



## Attendance Figures

TOTAL Number of people on register between Jan 2017 - Mar 2018	Number of people that live in Dunton Green Parish.	Number of people from outside Dunton Green Parish	Total number of attendances
28	18	10	237

## Challenges

Whilst participation levels have been consistent, it would benefit the project's viability if these were to increase.

Currently the project is delivered predominantly by the volunteer dance instructor. However the project still receives financial and administrative support from the Community Development Officers. A challenge going forward will be the need for the project to become fully autonomous.

## Sustainability & Future Proposals

As identified above the biggest drive going forward to sustain the project will be to support the instructor to either take the project on independently or seek the support of a local organisation to assist with the administration. The Community Development Officers will meet with the dance instructor to evaluate all options available and produce a plan to ensure sustainability.

## Tai Chi Taster

An outcome from the Mid Project Report (July 2015 to December 2016) was the need for the provision of activities and services for working adults. As such it was agreed to offer residents the opportunity to try Tai Chi. Should there be enough interest then a regular session would be put on in the parish.

Two free outdoor Tai Chi taster sessions were offered to residents at Ryewood, Dunton Green on:

- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> Aug 7-8pm
- Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Aug 10am -11am

Sessions were arranged specifically to enable those residents working during the day to be able to attend.

### Attendance Figures

TOTAL Number of people attending two taster sessions	Number of people that live in Dunton Green Parish.	Number of people from outside Dunton Green Parish
12	7	5

### Challenges

A number of challenges were experienced during these sessions. Initially the availability of an instructor was an issue. There are very few qualified instructors available in the area.

The sessions were organised to take place outdoors on a site visible to residents walking and driving past. This brought about its own challenges due to interruptions with noise from passing cars and trains. In addition, the site was near a pond which attracted flies that some attendees found a distraction.

### Sustainability & Future Proposals

Those that attended the sessions provided feedback after the session. Using this feedback the Community Development Officers decided to offer Tai Chi on a regular basis to residents. Due to the challenges faced during the taster sessions it was agreed that this would be inside and would take place at the weekend (preferably Sunday mornings).

## Tamz Tai Chi

Due to the low number of qualified Tai Chi instructors in the locality it was very hard to find a suitable candidates to take forward the Tai Chi sessions. After some extensive searching a suitable candidate was found and Tammy Brown was recruited. A SLA (Service Level Agreement) was drawn up between Sevenoaks District Council and Tammy for the delivery of Tai Chi in Dunton Green for a 4 month period. Tammy would be supported in the set up of affordable sessions that would take place on Sunday mornings at Donnington Hall to provide an opportunity for residents working Monday to Friday to participate.



A funding bid was submitted to Kent Sports to pay for the design and printing of a poster. This application was successful and the publicity was produced. The project was launched on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

### Attendance Figures

TOTAL Number of people attending 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2018 to 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2018	Number of people that live in Dunton Green Parish.	Number of people from outside Dunton Green Parish	Total number of attendances (25 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2018 to 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2018)
20	9	11	33

### Challenges

Whilst attendance at the start of the project has been high there are concerns that this may drop as the project continues.

### Sustainability & Future Proposals

This project has been designed from the outset to be sustainable. The project is being supported by the Community Development Officers for 4 months. This support takes the form the hall hire being paid for this time and the successful submission of the funding bid to produce the poster. After this time the project should have recruited enough interest to be viable in its own right.

## Community Christmas Bazaar

The initial consultation results indicated a large amount of interest in a local Farmers Market. Whilst a regular market is not feasible in Dunton Green it was suggested that seasonal events within the Parish would help to bring the community together. Proposals included taking an active role in 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.

As such the Community Development Officers approached Dunton Green Primary School's PTA and an agreement was made for the Officers to provide an artificial ice skating rink at the School's summer fete. This would be on condition that the event was made open to the whole community and advertised as such.

The event took place on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December and was a great success. Residents from all over the parish attended which provided the School with increased awareness within the parish and also a higher footfall than usual for their fundraising event. 3 out of the 7 ice rink sessions were fully booked.

TOTAL Number of people attending	Number of people that live in Dunton Green Parish.	Number of people from outside Dunton Green Parish	Total number of attendances
210	105	45	210

*Due to the nature of this event 60 people chose not to provide their personal details and therefore are unable to confirm where they live.*



## Dunton Green Health Walks

Due to the success of the Dunton Green Health Walks in 2016 a walk leader training course was organised in September 2016. To ensure sustainability of the project the walks would need to be lead by a member of the local community (usually one or more of the existing walkers). The 1 day course would provide walkers with the opportunity to learn how to lead the walks safely and receive a qualification. Sadly none of the existing walkers were keen to participate in the course and take the project on. Advertisements to the wider community also were unable to gain support. It was therefore agreed that the Community Development Officers would withdraw from delivering these weekly Saturday morning walks.

The Community Development Officers have been able to reduce their involvement and the group of walkers have continued to meet each week of their own accord. They do not run as an official health walk and only advertise via the Parish Council newsletter. Whilst not originally what the Officers would have planned it is clear that their involvement in developing a project has lead to a true community-driven activity to continue in the parish. It provides the opportunity for residents to have social engagement at the weekend at the same time as improving health and wellbeing.

## 8-12's Project

Launched on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017, the project has been funded by the Community Development Officers in direct response to the need for regular youth activities in Dunton Green. The project, delivered by West Kent Communities, provides young people aged between 8 and 12 to develop 'soft' skills such as self-esteem, confidence, social and emotional responses and making friends. Referrals are made to the project, predominantly by Dunton Green Primary School. Young people meet weekly during the term time and attend camps and special sessions during the summer holidays.

TOTAL Number of people attending	Number of people that live in Dunton Green Parish.	Number of people from outside Dunton Green Parish
25	25	0

*Attendance data available at time of writing report. Accurate figures available upon request in due course.*

## Community Events Attended

The Community Development Officers have also attended and supported:

- The Dunton Green Parish Picnic on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2017.
- Dunton Green Annual Parish Meetings held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 and 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018.
- Dunton Green Carols on the Green held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017.
- Dunton Green Parish Council Movie Nights held on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2017, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017.
- The Dunton Green Parish Council” Get to know you village quiz” was supported by the Community Development Officers in January 2018. Alongside the Parish Council the Community Development Officers hand delivered and visited every property in Ryewood providing a personal welcome to all the residents.

*Attendance data - Due to the nature of these events it is not possible to record accurate attendance data of everyone that participated in these events. It is however possible to confirm that the Community Development Officers engaged with a minimum of 73 people at the Parish Picnic and Movie Nights due to data recorded on the day.*



## Overall Evaluation

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In the period between January 2017 to March 2018 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 **1240 attendances** in its activities.

Residents from all areas within Dunton Green, including Ryewood, have attended the activities and sessions provided. Projects have been developed to ensure that there is something for everyone, whether you work full time, are retired, are unemployed or still at school. Thus enabling the community to come together at a time that is convenient to them. All projects are promoted across the entire parish by a variety of means including posters, via newsletters, flyer delivery to every household, face to face and via social media.

- **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. All projects and activities have been developed as a result of this consultation.

The Community Development Officers have taken further direction following the completion of feedback forms from residents which has enabled them to adapt and alter sessions to the needs of those attending.

The Community Development Officers have also ensured that they continue to work closely with residents by attending various different groups and speaking with residents first hand. Ongoing feedback is therefore received and can be acted upon.

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

Throughout the development of all of the activities a clear exit strategy has been identified.

Links have been made with partner organisations to ensure support going forward for example Age UK and the Lunch Club. Alternative options have also been explored including making community activities financially viable by recruiting and training volunteers.

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



## Wider Community Benefits

In addition to the formal projects and activities that the Community Development Officers have developed, the Officers have worked within the local community to support and encourage residents to get involved. One local resident became a Parish Councillor as a result of participating in the projects that had been set up.

*“I initially joined the Health Walks which I really enjoyed. It helped me meet other local people and to get to know my local area. Following this I became more involved in the other projects that the Community Development Officers had set up such as the Lunch Club and Over 55’s Project. Before I knew it I was very busy in the local community and was really enjoying it. As a result I felt that I could give more to the community and became a Parish Councillor.”* Tim Fox

## Community Feedback

The following feedback has been received from residents:

*“I have lived here for more than 40 years and there is more in Dunton Green than ever before”* Dunton Green resident commenting on the project as a whole.

*“My daughter loves all aspects of these sessions, the variety and music. It has increased her confidence.”* Feedback from parent regarding Street Dance Class.

*“Meeting other people from the village (especially as I am new to the area)”* Feedback from Easy Netball participant when asked what they enjoy most about the sessions.

*“Learning new skills, community spirit and using local facilities with my kids”* Feedback from Easy Netball participant when asked what they enjoy most about the sessions.

*“It was very well organised, a lots of fun and easy way learn to cook. Children loved it.”*

*“It gave them confidence to try the new things, meet new people and experience different activities.”* Feedback from parents of participants on February Half-Term activities.

## Future Project Development

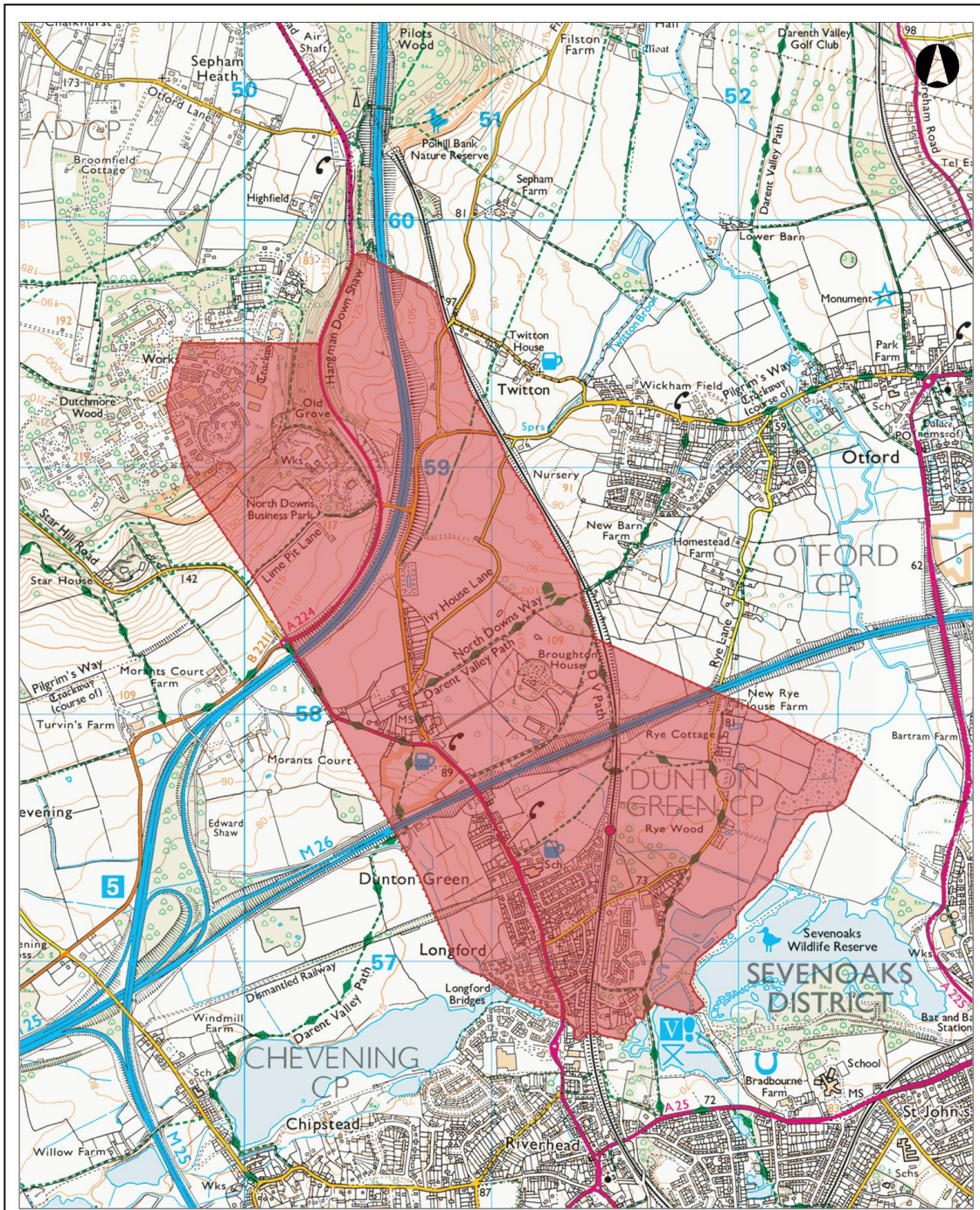
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Following on from agreement by the Portfolio Holders of Housing and Health and Economic Development & Community Development, it was agreed to use additional Section 106 monies to extend the Community Development Project in Dunton Green. As such the project would not cease in June 2018 as originally planned but continue until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

Throughout the 2.5 years of the project the community in Dunton Green has changed dramatically. A significant number of new residents have moved into Ryewood and the needs of existing residents has changed. It was therefore agreed that a consultation of all stakeholders would take place. Residents and partner organisations would be consulted and new targets and ambitions would be established giving direction and clarity for the Community Development Officers going forward.

The consultation would take the form of a series of events which would ensure the whole community have the ability to take part. Following this the results would be evaluated and new targets produced.

Key to all new projects and activities would be the need for sustainability beyond March 2020. The Community Development Officers will use innovative methods to ensure projects continue and will work closely with partner agencies, organisations and businesses to achieve this.




  
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 Ordnance Survey 100019428.

Map of Duntun Green

Scale: 1:20,000

Date: February-2017