

1 Executive Summary

This document forms the Comberton Parish Plan – a vision for the future of the village over the next 10 years, including details of what needs to be done to turn that vision to practical reality.

Its basis was a detailed survey carried out in 2001 involving all households in the village. The results were translated by working groups into detailed plans as to how to improve life in the community with emphasis on infrastructure, transport, sport and recreation, public services and the environment. These plans have now been costed out and are ready for implementation when funding becomes available. It is hoped that such a broadly-based community-led document will enable the Parish Council and higher levels of authority, as well as all others concerned, to plan pro-actively for the future and enhance the life of our village as they do so.



1.1 Modus Operandi & Acknowledgements

The concept of a Village Action Plan, or Parish Plan, was conceived by the Parish Council in late 2000. The Council set up a new steering group which was also empowered to bring in members of the village community, to drive the process, including initially a full appraisal (through the medium of a questionnaire to all households) and the subsequent writing of the plan. The complexity of this work could never have been conceived in advance and the process has taken almost two and a half years to complete, and is now only at the stage where implementation can begin.

Comberton conceived of writing a Parish Plan almost before the term was in widespread use, and only just after the publishing of the Government's paper on Rural Affairs and the emphasis that the Countryside Agency and ACRE were subsequently to put on such work. The village has always therefore been slightly ahead of any material that has been published, but has been happy to work alongside other villages as well as the grant-funding agencies that have assisted.

The steering group and the working groups who have put in so much time on the production of the plan have all done so on an entirely voluntary basis and the village owes them a great debt of gratitude. A list of the groups is contained in the report. Two years is a very long time to have worked with such dedication. The steering group was serviced by a professional secretary, who happened also to be the Clerk to the Council although funded and employed separately. The Plan would never have come into being without her tireless work. Many others have been involved, and some are also listed herein.

Thanks are due to all those who have funded the work involved in producing the report, notably the Parish Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, and the Countryside Agency. The village appreciates that most of the work in the production of this report has been externally funded. Useful assistance has also been received from Cambridgeshire ACRE throughout the exercise.