

SADBERGE PARISH PLAN

PROCESS AND ISSUES



Approach

The preparation of the Parish Plan is being overseen by a Steering Group sponsored by the Parish Council.

An initial Open Meeting nominated the members of the Steering Group and confirmed the issues to be addressed by the Parish Plan.

A consultant has prepared a background document containing information about external factors likely to influence Sadberge over the next few years. For example, relevant aspects of Darlington's Local Development Framework, the expansion of the Durham Tees Valley International Airport, etc.

All Sadberge residents were asked to complete a questionnaire giving their views on issues, priorities and possible solutions. The questionnaire also helped to establish the current demographics of the Parish.

A traffic survey has been carried out to assess the flows of traffic through the village. This was combined with an analysis of traffic flows in the A66 corridor to provide a picture of what influences the volume and types of traffic travelling through the village.

Face-to-face interviews will be held with key stakeholders in Sadberge. These will include the Chairman of Sadberge Village Hall Association, the vicar of St. Andrew's Church, the village Postmaster, the landlords of the village pubs and the manager of Sadberge Pre-School Group.

A series of open meetings are addressing specific issues. Representatives of relevant organisations – e.g. Darlington Borough Council's Planning Department, the police, etc. – will be invited to attend these meetings.

The outcomes of the open meetings will be collated into a draft Parish Plan. A summary of the draft plan will be distributed to all homes in Sadberge, and the full draft plan will be made available in Sadberge Village Hall and the Post Office.

If practical, the process of producing the Parish Plan will include the additional consultation that is needed in order for the Local Planning Authority to formally adopt the relevant section(s) of the Parish Plan as a Supplementary Planning Document in Darlington's Local Development Framework.

A final open meeting will be held to confirm and endorse the Parish Plan.

The final version of the Parish Plan will be produced. A summary of the plan will be distributed to all homes in Sadberge.

It is expected that it will take about 12 - 15 months to prepare the Sadberge Parish Plan. During this time, newsletters will be used to keep residents of Sadberge informed about the progress of the plan and opportunities to make inputs.

The final Parish Plan will be a fairly simple, A4, ring-bound document. It will mainly be printed in black and white, but there will be a few pages containing photographs printed in colour.

Issues To Be Addressed

(1) Planning and Development

- Should the population of Sadberge expand? If so, at what rate?
- Where and when should new housing be built in Sadberge?
- What types of new housing should be built in Sadberge?

(2) Traffic in Sadberge

- There are concerns about the volume of traffic passing through the Sadberge, the speed at which vehicles travel in the village and the number of large vehicles going through the village.
- What can be done within the village itself, on the approach roads and in the surrounding road network to minimise the problems caused by traffic in Sadberge?
- There is a shortage of parking places in the village. What can be done about this?

(3) Services to residents of Sadberge

- How can people living in Sadberge obtain the following services? What should be done to maintain and improve these services?
 - Public transport, particularly to Darlington, Middlesbrough and Stockton-on-Tees but also to neighbouring villages such as Middleton St. George.
 - Health care.
 - Schools. Pre-school. Primary school. Secondary school.
 - Libraries.
 - Adult education classes.
 - Sports facilities.
 - Local shop(s).
 - Pubs.
 - Internet access.
 - Information about local government services.
- One specific issue is the future of the village Post Office and shop. The village Postmaster has indicated that he intends to retire next year, and there is some uncertainty about the future of the Post Office and shop.

(4) Activities and facilities for young people

- What should be done to provide activities and facilities for children and young people?
 - E.g. Children's play area. Sports field? Youth club?

(5) Social activities

- What should be done to provide and stimulate social activities for residents of Sadberge?
- This is particularly important for the older residents of Sadberge, many of whom live alone and find it difficult to travel outside the village.

(6) Law and order

- What should be done to maintain law and order and to prevent anti-social activities in Sadberge? We should aim to create a community in which:
 - Residents and visitors feel safe.
 - Burglary and criminal damage are prevented as far as possible and effectively investigated and dealt with when they do occur.

(7) Village environment

- What should be done to maintain the physical characteristics of Sadberge as a pleasant place to live and to visit?
 - Maintenance of the Village green and other open spaces.
 - Planting and maintenance of trees in the village.
 - Provision and maintenance of appropriate street furniture, such as benches, litter bins, signs, etc.
 - Prevention and/or prompt removal of litter.
 - Encouragement of tidy and attractive gardens.

(8) Sadberge's contribution to wider environmental issues

- How can the residents of Sadberge be enabled and encouraged to contribute to the solution of wider environmental issues such as global warming? Relevant measures might include:-
 - Provision of information about what residents can do to improve energy efficiency.
 - Incentives for energy efficiency improvements such as installation of low-energy light bulbs, better insulation, etc.
 - Maintenance of the existing recycling facilities.
 - Provision of additional recycling facilities.

(9) Healthy lifestyle

- How can the residents of Sadberge be enabled and encouraged to adopt healthy lifestyles? Possible measures might include:-
 - Provision and maintenance of footpaths to enable people to walk in the countryside around Sadberge.
 - Provision of cycle paths to enable people to travel to Darlington and neighbouring villages by bike rather than by car.