

Presentation on “Where we are now” by Kath Dunstan

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There has been a poor response to the General Questionnaires: - does that mean everyone is satisfied with how things are? Or is it apathy? What is our perception of Southminster? Our **SELF-IMAGE** - now. Do we look back at past **SUCCESSSES**? Do we see the future full of impossibilities? No, we don't; we're here because we care and we can be positive. Our Parish Plan Group can be **SPECIFIC** about aims and be encouraging.

We have **OPPORTUNITIES** to share ideas, to talk with others, to agree, to disagree, to get involved, to make a difference.... Our **OBJECTIVES** (what we are aiming towards) may be short or long term. We will need clear action plans to achieve them. That's our next stage. The **OUTCOMES** will indicate whether we have succeeded.

URGENT basic needs : There is general agreement in questionnaires about some of these but until we have analysed all the results and have ascertained what the priorities are we can't begin to meet them. We must consider our **USE OF RESOURCES** constantly. We need to distinguish between needs and wants - and be clear about who benefits.

TASKS TO CONSIDER: In producing a Parish Plan we have to follow certain guidelines. Some possible actions are within the remit of the Parish Council, some are not. We need to check which tasks will need support from which official body – and how.

HOPES AND DREAMS : We can dream – explore whether the suggested actions are practical, fund-able, realistic and relevant; then we can include them in our final document in the hope that they'll come true in reasonable time and effect a **HEALTHY COMMUNITY**.

Responsible **MANAGEMENT** of funds and time is essential. Our Group will need to ensure that this happens. People need to remain **MOTIVATED** – not give up when the going is tough or slow. We must keep our objectives in focus and share these with other people. Our progress and success is to be **MEASURED** in the light of costs and benefits.

IDEAS please! In response to the questionnaire results we shall be seeking ways of **IMPLEMENTING** the requests and recommendations. Particularly we seek the appropriate Southminster **IDENTITY** and perceived **IMAGE** for the future.

NETWORKING : Unless we communicate effectively at all levels we waste our time. Our Web site is a good start. www.southminster-sift.org.uk Grace will be keeping it up to date with webmaster Vikkie Massey. We also must use other means of communicating: the local papers and publications, posters when necessary, local radio and signs within the village since many people seem not to know where important places and services are based.

SUPPORTERS : We've already had support from groups and individuals - in addition to those on the committee. We are grateful. We must be able to depend on the continuing support at all stages - and for the long-term outcome. The actions in the plan have to be **SUSTAINABLE** – not 'started and never completed'. **STAKEHOLDERS** need to see results.

TIME-SCALE : The Plan items need a realistic and stated time-scale so progress can be **TRACKED** and monitored. Vague descriptions of what we hope to do will be useless. **TEAMWORK** is essential. We have worked effectively as a team to date but shrinking numbers during the year have left us few in number. We need more people in the team.

EVERYONE INVOLVED : This has been true from the beginning. Questions in the questionnaires arose from workshops and consultations. Residents, businesses, young people were all consulted. This working together must continue so we now need more people, of all ages, with **ENERGY** to co-operate to construct the Plan, launch it and put it into action.

Good **RELATIONSHIPS** must be maintained with the RCCE, the Parish Council, other statutory bodies and particularly the local people – by meeting, talking and listening. **REGULAR REVIEWING** of progress is vital – with willingness to make appropriate modifications. It's not a failure to make a change to a plan. All this should lead us to achieve for Southminster some satisfactory, even exciting **RESULTS!**