

## **Section Seven**

### **The Action Plan**

#### **Introduction**

The Action Plan summarises the main recommendations which the Slaley community would like to see taken forward in an Action Plan in order to improve and maintain the quality of life for people living, working in and visiting Slaley Parish. Most importantly, the Action Plan complements the community role of the Parish Council.

The Plan reflects the community's top priorities, proposes actions to address the priorities and suggests timescales to indicate when actions, and parts of actions, should be completed. The Plan follows on from research to identify issues and options for the future that produced the 'Issues Report' *Slaley: A Great Place to Live. Our Future in Our Hands* that was circulated to every household in Slaley, and a consultation event assisted by invited experts held over the weekend of 13 and 14 September 2003 at Slaley Commemoration Hall. Approximately 190 members of the community attended the consultation, which was an excellent attendance rate.

The Slaley Community's top priorities for action are structured under seven messages. They are:

- Valuing services and facilities but needing more
- Improving opportunities for young people and families
- Maintaining and strengthening our community
- Communicating and meeting together
- Protecting and improving the environment we live in
- Protecting the wider environment around us
- Slaley is special but can't stand still.

#### **An Ambitious Plan: short and long term objectives**

The Plan proposed here is ambitious. It could take up to 10 years to achieve all the objectives. But some targets are easier to achieve in the short to medium term and there are some 'quick wins' that could

be achieved relatively easily. Quick wins include setting up youth clubs and, meetings and shopping trips for older people. Actions to achieve the latter quick wins are already underway through voluntary action and the Parish Council is asked to support these. In addition work is underway to co-ordinate efforts to bring Broadband to Slaley and to explore setting up a community website. A pilot website was shown at the Parish Plan weekend and it was well received. There is also an offer from the First School to explore an intermediate solution for the community to use the School Field.

Some of the proposals are large scale and involve long-term action but there could be big benefits. A key proposal to help resolve problems and keep the community looking to the future is to establish a Community Trust, which could raise money for all kinds of activities and work as required to benefit the local community, working with the Parish Council and other organisations.

The Parish Council may choose to select some or all of the proposals and actions set out in the Action Plan and carry them out as the Parish Council. However, we suggest that this is probably far too onerous and task groups and community action, whether this is a Community Trust or other bodies are also needed. The Action Plan refers to all of these possible vehicles for change but obviously the decisions are up to the Parish Council.

### **The structure of the Action Plan**

The Action Plan is structured under the main messages used in the Issues Report. Under each message are relevant themes and issues. Next to each set of themes and issues are proposed actions and timescales.

### **Implementing the proposed Plan: Recommending Options**

The Parish Plan Steering Group has given some thought to the options available to the Parish Council and any bodies it wishes to delegate powers to, in order to implement the proposed Parish Plan. A major concern is to make sure that existing voluntary work and community activity within Slaley Parish is not undermined by any actions associated with implementing the Parish Plan. At the same time we believe that there are many opportunities to widen community

participation *and* support existing community and voluntary activity. The recommendations are, therefore, made in the spirit of developing and strengthening the best that Slaley has to offer.

#### Implementation Recommendation 1

In determining how any part or parts of the Action Plan might be taken forward the Parish Council should consider which actions:

- The Parish Council wants to lead on
- The Parish Council wants to work on jointly with other agencies or statutory bodies
- Might best be pursued through existing voluntary groups
- Would best be implemented by working with a specially formed Community Trust for Slaley
- Would best be implemented by working with specially formed task or interest groups

#### Implementation Recommendation 2

If the Parish Council decides to seek support to pursue any objectives it should consider

- Inviting a group of people to form a Community Trust to pursue funding for key actions, charitable objectives and support for the community
- Inviting groups of people to form particular task groups to pursue key themes, such as heritage, conservation, tourism, safety, young people, and caring for our community. These groups would work with the Parish Council and make use of funds and resources that the Parish Council or a Community Trust identifies

We believe that there are many agencies, statutory bodies and other organisations from which support, assistance and expert advice might be sought.

The Parish Plan Steering Group will be disbanded. However, some of the members may be available to take on future tasks and activities. There are also other people in the community who may be interested in working on tasks referred to in the Action Plan. Slaley has no shortage of talent, skills, experience and knowledge and it would be in

everyone's interest to involve more people from the community to work with the Parish Council over the coming months and years.

### **Facts and evidence that might help**

In the course of developing the Plan, the Steering Group has collected evidence and information on people's views and on particular options for the future, such as, costs and how to go about raising funds for a particular activity. The Steering Group would be very pleased to discuss and share this information with the Parish Council and other bodies that the Parish Council sees fit to establish to take the Action Plan forward.

## Slaley Parish Plan: The Action Plan

The Action Plan responds to the issues of greatest concern to the community. Clear messages were defined and the Plan is set out under the seven message headings.

It is an ambitious plan with both long and short-term objectives some of which may take up to 10 years to achieve. Some action is already underway but a key proposal is to establish a Community Trust, which will help resolve problems and keep the community looking to the future.

### Message 1

#### Valuing services and facilities and needing more

##### Proposals

- Re-open First School field – transfer responsibility to the Parish Council or a Community Trust, obtain funds to provide a fence and security measures
- Play area for young children in the village
- Child care for under 5s, after school care, homework, play and activity clubs
- A youth club for Middle school age children
- A youth drop-in club for High school age young people
- More services for older people including help with social activities, information, advice on various sources of help and support including help with adaptations in the home, advice on housing options, supporting each other, getting to places to shop, keeping fit and well

Action	Who & How	When By
<u>First School field</u> Short term action: Ways to re-open community use of school field being explored by School	Slaley School Governors and Youth Club Group to explore options & liaise with Parish Council.	Decisions by Easter 2004

Action	Who & How	When By
<p>Governors and recently formed Youth Club Group.</p> <p>Actions for long-term solution. Transfer responsibility for community use to Parish Council or Community Trust. Obtain funds to provide a fence and security measures</p>	<p>Parish Council to approve formation of Youth Club Group.</p> <p>Parish Council or a Community Trust. Parish Council to consider options.</p>	<p>ASAP</p> <p>Decision by summer 2004. Actions to implement in place by Summer 2005</p>
<p><b>Safe play area for young children.</b> Options include using part of the school field.</p> <p><b>Child care for under 5's,</b> homework clubs, children's after school activities, before school day care and holiday activities</p>	<p>Parish Council to invite people to form a Children's Group to explore options and to report back.</p> <p>Childcare and other options being explored by Slaley First School Governors. May need Parish Council support. School Governors to keep Parish Council and Children's Group informed.</p>	<p>Group to report on options &amp; make recommendations Easter 2004.</p> <p>In process. Report probably by March 04</p> <p>Topic to be reviewed by the Parish Council and further actions agreed on following Easter 04.</p>

<p><b>Youth club for Middle school age young people</b></p>	<p>Youth Clubs Group to take forward. Parish Council asked to support and approve. May need support with funding applications.</p>	<p>In process</p>
<p><b>Youth drop in club for young people of High school age</b></p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>In process</p>
<p><b>More services for older people</b> including help to organise social activities obtain information and advice on range of subjects that help people stay independent and well e.g. adaptations, support, transport, getting to places, healthy living and keep fit.</p>	<p>Older Persons Group to assist older people already being formed. Age Concern Northumberland is assisting with 'Help to go Shopping' service. Other events to follow. Older People's Group asks for approval from Parish Council.</p> <p>Hopes to seek funding to become a project with a part time worker (possibly with another parish area).</p>	<p>In process</p> <p>Group to report to Parish Council on progress &amp; present an action plan Easter 04.</p>

## Message 2

### Improving opportunities for young people and families to live and work here

#### Proposals

- Affordable housing
- Keep Slaley lively (see messages 3 and 7 as well)

Action	Who & How	When By
Affordable housing	<p>Parish Council to request a Housing Need Survey to be carried out by the Rural Housing Enabler from the Countryside Agency and ensure that housing needs get mentioned in the Local Development Plan and the Regional Housing Strategy.</p> <p>Options should include low cost home ownership, part rent and part buy and methods for the community to retain a portion of the equity and or local lettings control, to prevent housing becoming unaffordable to young families and low paid workers. Also to prevent housing going to 'non local' people.</p>	<p>Request ASAP</p> <p>Study to be completed and options identified Easter 2004</p> <p>Meeting with Tynedale to stress importance of including Slaley housing needs in LDP (including need for advice and assistance from older people on help with adaptations and 'staying put'. Meeting to be held before end January 04.</p>

Action	Who & How	When By
<p><b>Keep Slaley lively:</b>                      Encourage young people and children from traditional farming families to want to live and work here                      Encourage lively community activities and local business</p>	<p>Through the above and actions from messages 3 and 7</p>	

### **Message 3**

#### **Maintaining and strengthening our community**

##### Proposals

- Providing information for the community on what is available locally
- Using the Commemoration Hall more
- Bringing in funds to resource some activities
- Encouraging volunteers to help run activities
- Encourage and support people to run classes & leisure activities
- Providing opportunities to meet together informally more often
- In the long term plan a focal point for the village
- Form a Community Trust to raise resources to protect existing services and facilities and provide new one's and keep a weather eye on opportunities and options for the whole community
- Encourage working together across the community with the church and chapel as well as with other community groups
- Encourage our businesses to publicise themselves and form stronger bonds between them

<b>Action</b>	<b>Who &amp; How</b>	<b>When By</b>
<p>One central action. Invite people to form a Group to investigate options to form a Community Trust for Slaley. Group to embrace the proposals above in its terms of reference to identify the most suitable model for a Community Trust.</p>	<p>Parish Council to invite the community to form a Community Trust Group after talking through Trust possibilities with Northumberland Community Council.</p>	<p>Form Group by February 2004</p>
	<p>Ask Group to report back on best options. Parish Council to support best option.</p>	<p>Start of summer 2004</p>
	<p>Group to establish a formal Trust and launch the Trust.</p>	<p>Launch early December 2004.</p>
	<p>Group to keep community informed of progress.</p>	

## **Message 4**

### **Communications and meeting together**

#### Proposals

- Support initiatives to bring broadband to Slaley
- Develop a community website to identify Slaley, publicise our assets and communicate – include a young people’s page so they can talk to each other
- Improve how we communicate e.g. agree what needs to be communicated to everyone and how it is going to be communicated

<b>Action</b>	<b>Who &amp; How</b>	<b>When By</b>
<b>Broadband Community website Communicate more effectively</b>	Communications Group. Its activities to be supported and approved by the Parish Council.	ASAP
Communication Group (already formed) to take on the above tasks and investigate and cost the best solutions.	To report to Parish Council on progress, options identified and cost.  Produce action plan for the future.	Easter 2004  June 2004
	Keep the community informed. Report regularly to the Parish Council	Ongoing

## **Message 5**

### **Protecting and improving the environment we live in**

#### Proposals

- Do something about speeding. A wide range of options to explore from cameras and/or flashing warning lights, different signage in key locations to reducing the speed limit and extending the areas that speed limits apply to e.g. Wooley, approaches to village.
- Prevent litter – provide litterbins
- Do more about dog fouling
- Actively monitor the condition of roads and verges and agree a plan of action with Highways
- More recycling facilities – suggested site Commemoration Hall

<b>Action</b>	<b>Who &amp; How</b>	<b>When By</b>
<u>Speeding &amp; safety</u>	Parish Council to invite people to form a Speeding and Safety Group to explore options, obtain costs, raise funds and implement actions. Parish Council to work with Group and hear regular reports.	Form a Group by end February 2004  Produce option report by September 2004  Parish Council approve options November 2004  Start implementing by January 2005
<b>Litter</b>	Parish Council to organise bi-annual community pick up litter events and encourage First School, Middle and High Schools to raise litter issues with children. Encourage Forest Enterprise, village pubs to help cut down on litter.  Seek funds to provide more litter bins and or ask Forest Enterprise and Slaley Hall to sponsor litterbins.	June 2004           October 2004

<b>Action</b>	<b>Who &amp; How</b>	<b>When By</b>
<u>Dog fouling</u>	Parish Council – seek funds to display more notices, particularly those stressing harm to children’s health from dog fouling.	Easter 2006
<u>Roads &amp; verges</u>	Parish Council to do an annual check on conditions and produce an improvement plan to be discussed with Highways.  Monitor actions against agreed plan	Start in May 2004 aim to produce report by September 2004 and annually from then
<u>Recycling</u>	Parish Council to invite the community to establish a Recycling Group to investigate funds, health & safety issues and sites for recycling facilities.  Group to produce a report for Parish Council & keep community informed.	Group to be formed February 2004  Report September 2004

## Message 6

### Protecting the wider environment around us

#### Proposals

- Help prevent dog fouling at forest entrances
- Prevent litter and tipping in Forests
- Have more information in Forests on who to report issues to
- Reduce environmental problems associated with Slaley Hall, such as number of shoots, firework displays, traffic and speeding
- Keep the pressure on about minimising the long-term impacts of Slaley Hall on the locality while also seeking a balanced relationship with Slaley Hall in recognition of the benefits it brings
- Plan to conserve heritage areas and make them accessible
- Provide community with information on how to care for the wider environment – ensure that issues raised by farmers and people working in rural industries are better understood by all

Action	Who & How	When By
<b>Dog fouling Litter, tipping and helping avoid environmental problems and hazards in Forests</b>	Ask Forest Enterprise to help with providing warning and information notices e.g. on whom to contact and when.	Easter 2004
<b>Reduce environmental problems Slaley Hall</b>	Parish Council has expressed strong views. Community wants this to continue.  Request an impact assessment of Slaley Hall on the community from Tynedale DC.	Ongoing  ASAP

<b>Action</b>	<b>Who &amp; How</b>	<b>When By</b>
<b>Conserving heritage areas. Information &amp; brochure.</b>	Parish Council to invite community to form a Heritage Group, which reports to Parish Council to obtain funds.  Group to assess resources and options, produce an action plan, obtain funds and commission brochure.	Report on options Easter 2004  Raise funds and produce July 2004.
<b>Monitor environment</b>	Parish Council	Annual report starting January 2005

### **Message 7**

#### **Slaley is special but can't stand still**

##### Proposals

- More facilities and services for visitors
- A place map showing local walks, places of interest
- Better signs including more attractive Slaley signs
- Information about local produce and skills, crafts
- More parking and parking controls – a parking strategy

<b>Action</b>	<b>Who &amp; How</b>	<b>When By</b>
<b>Facilities &amp; services, better signs, information about local produce and skills, crafts</b>	Parish Council to invite people to form a Facilities and Services Group to explore options, obtain	Form a Group by March 2004  Produce option report by September 2004

<b>Action</b>	<b>Who &amp; How</b>	<b>When By</b>
	<p>costs, raise funds and implement actions. Parish Council to work with Group and hear regular reports.</p> <p>Bus timetable to be displayed.</p>	<p>Parish Council approve options November 2004</p> <p>Start implementing (depending on resources) by January 2005</p> <p>ASAP</p>
<b>Place map showing local walks, places of interest</b>	<p>Facilities and Services Group to work with the Heritage Group to assess options, report to Parish Council</p>	<p>Produce options report for Parish Council October 2004. Implement, subject to resources in 2005.</p>
<b>Parking</b>	<p>Parish Council to have a parking strategy.</p> <p>Short-term: Options include asking Commemoration Hall and pubs if their parking can be used by the public. Signage for this would be required.</p> <p>Long-term: Options to be considered for village car park.</p>	<p>Easter 2004 for producing a parking strategy.</p> <p>Summer 2004 for short term actions to be implemented</p> <p>End of 2006 for village car park (if possible).</p>