

FOREWORD



Jonquil Lowe, consultant, and Colin Winder, Chairman, WPP Steering Group
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The **Wincanton People's Plan** has evolved from an initiative started by a few people looking at the future needs of Wincanton.

It has widened and deepened into a detailed plan to help us ensure that, as we move forward, Wincanton retains the qualities we love, prospers as it grows and uses change as the springboard of opportunity.

Getting to this stage has involved taking stock of where Wincanton is now and asking you, the people of Wincanton and the surrounding area, where you

want us to be in the future. Building on what you have told us, we have been able to draw up a vision for Wincanton and a set of six goals that will make the vision reality. We have worked hard to identify strategies and, again with your help, individual projects that are the priorities to help us meet our goals and vision.

It has taken many months to get to this stage. Along the way, we have tried to get a wide variety of opinions from the people living and working in Wincanton and the residents of the surrounding villages who use the shops, clubs and facilities here. I would like to thank the very many people who willingly spared us a few minutes of their time to offer us their ideas for the future of Wincanton.

We have not stood still while we planned. When opportunity has arisen, we have been quick to implement the emerging projects. As a result, we have a new town sign at the entrance to Wincanton and new festive lights for our community Christmas tree. An initiative to make better use of closed circuit television (CCTV) within the town centre is well under way and we are also looking at a combined CCTV scheme with other local towns that has the support of both the local police and the district council. Steps to create a web-based local directory are also well in hand. But these are just a few of the 28 priority projects at the heart of the Wincanton People's Plan.

We now need to take the other projects forward, and we are looking to involve more people in planning, developing and implementing these projects.

We are looking for people, like you, with a passion for this town and this area.

We are looking for people with interest or involvement in particular issues, such as health, housing, community events, transport, the arts, tourism, business, opportunities for young people, and more.

We are looking for people who are enthused by the thought of an environmentally friendly wholefood supermarket, a community scaffolding project, a joint catering venture to ensure local businesses capitalise on big events that come to town, local fairs and food festivals, small community farms, safe cycle routes to all the schools and for leisure use. These are just some of the diverse projects that make up the Plan.

Drawing up the Wincanton People's Plan has been a stimulating first step. But the journey is just beginning. Making these 28 projects happen is exciting and visionary and we hope that you will want to be part of it.

You may be wondering who 'we' are. Those few people who first started the ball rolling asked others to join a Steering Group. The aim was to have a wide spread of people who would be knowledgeable about, and could speak for, as many sections of our community as possible.

The membership of the Group has varied as we have gone along and we are proud to say that 27 people in total have served on the Group as the Plan has evolved. I am grateful to every one of them. Each has brought their own particular knowledge and skills to bear and the Plan is the product of their work. I would like to offer special thanks to Jonquil Lowe for her expertise in analysing the data collected and producing the written plan and to June Ruthven and Muriel Cairns for their communication and organisation skills which have been invaluable in managing our way through this task.

Most of all, though, I want to say again: thank-you to you. This is truly the Plan of the people of Wincanton and its surrounding villages. You told us what you wanted and you have helped to shape the Plan. Now, let's make the Wincanton People's Plan happen!

**Colin Winder
Chairman, Steering Group
Wincanton People's Plan**

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