

Consultation Event Summary

Consultation event:

- The resident's consultation event was held on Saturday 4 October 2025 10am - 12noon and Monday 6 October 2025 7pm - 8.30pm in Kersey Village Hall.
- As part of the P&PP consultation event each of the community organisations and Parish Council working groups had a stand to promote their organisation, activities and ways for residents to get involved.
- These were informative displays with plenty of engagement and discussion taking place with residents.
- Tea, coffee and cakes were served by volunteers making the consultation event sociable for residents and community organisation volunteers.

Communication:

- The events were widely advertised across Kersey – on the Kersey website, Parish newsletter articles for September and October, posters on the noticeboards around the Parish, at The Bell Inn and at community events prior to the consultation.
- Reminders was posted on the Kersey community WhatsApp groups.

Consultation Event

Summary

About the exhibition:

- The weather was fine, dry and sunny on both days of the event. Approximately 60 residents across the two days attended.
- The steering group had put together display boards showing key information gathered from the earlier consultations with drafts of the People and Place Plan vision and action points along with prompt questions to encourage feedback.
- There were also maps of Kersey and photos showing important views of Kersey and Kersey assets.
- Residents had the opportunity to add their comments by writing on post-it notes and sticking them to the display boards to provide feedback.

Steering Group

- The Steering Group and Parish Councillors were at the event to engage with and chat to residents about the People and Place Plan. General feedback from residents was that it was a well organised informative event.

Feedback

- There was praise for the clarity and presentation of consultation materials.
- A thank you to all those involved and attendees was published in the Kersey newsletter after the event.

Outcomes

- **The following pages show the consultation event information boards with the feedback received summarised after the relevant boards (in purple).**

Consultation Event Summary

On the day:



Welcome!

We are seeking your views on the People and Place Plan surveys carried out in the spring, now that the results have been analysed.

About this exhibition:

- Around the Hall we have placed various boards with topics that have arisen from the survey – those things that most people mentioned.

Community Groups:

- Kersey has a rich diversity of Community Groups. Many are here today, so please chat to them to find out more.

How you can help shape the Plan:

- Do you agree with what you see?
- Is anything missing?
- Have a look at the questions on the right panel on each board, add your comments or other feedback, using the post-it notes.
- Your views will then be incorporated into the draft People & Place Plan.

Timeline:

- The final draft Plan will be out for consultation later this year.
- The intention is to approve the Plan in the spring, so it can be shared with Babergh before the mayoral elections in May 2026.

Our Aims for this Kersey People and Place Plan

A living, working, caring community that cherishes its past, embraces thoughtful change and flourishes together.

Aims:

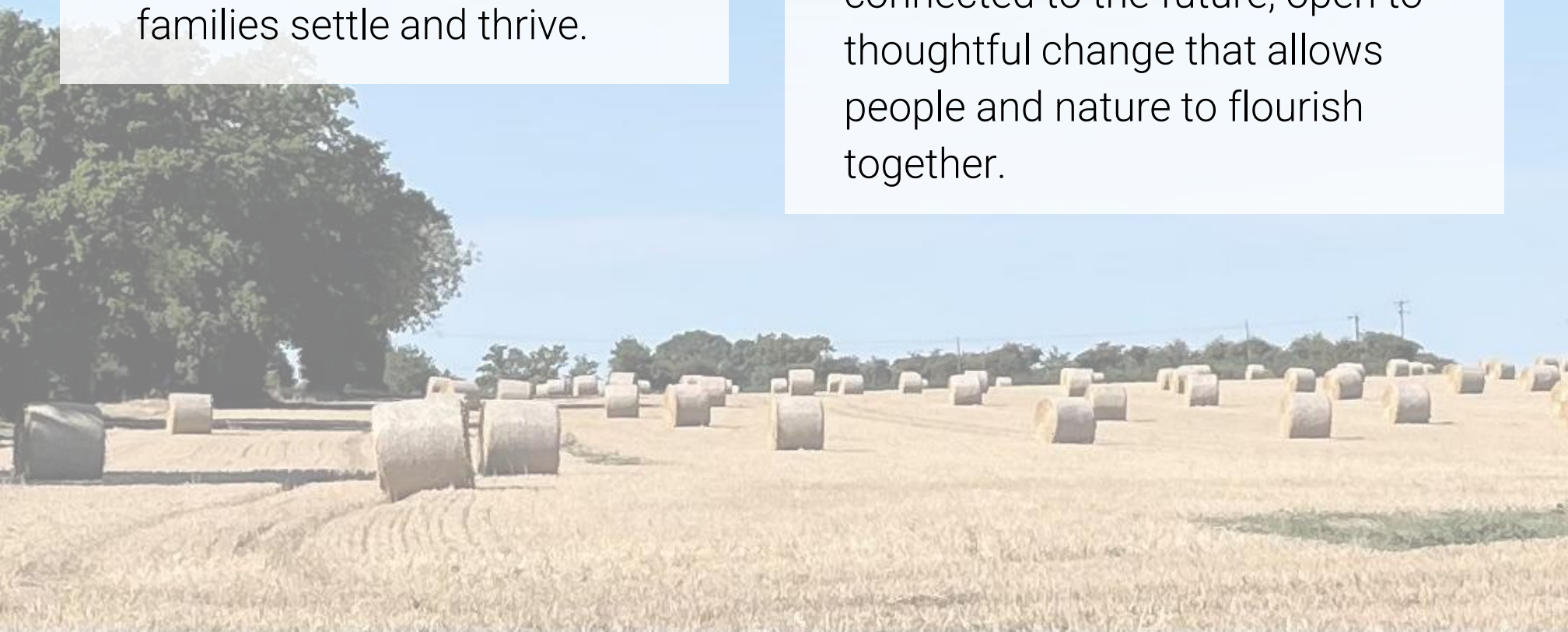
- The Kersey People and Place Plan (PP&P), also known as a Neighbourhood Priorities Statement, will give residents a collective voice to record priorities for the future.
- Developed through public consultation, it will set out community wishes on issues such as design and character, transport, road safety, sustainability, biodiversity, recreation, and social infrastructure.
- Although not a statutory planning document, Babergh District Council must have regard to the approved Plan, its evidence, and supporting data when making decisions.
- This evidence base, which the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act requires all Councils to have regard to, will ensure there are community-led, better-informed decisions and outcomes for Kersey.

**Thank you for attending
and helping to plan for
Kersey's future.**

Our shared Vision for Kersey's future by 2040:

Kersey Vision 2040:

- In 2040, Kersey is a thriving rural parish that cherishes its heritage, unique character and beautiful setting while embracing gentle, sustainable change. Our church, school, pub, and community organisations continue to be the heart of village life.
- Small, thoughtful improvements in housing and services alongside sustainable housing growth, shaped by local needs, have helped local people stay and younger families settle and thrive.
- Modern facilities, reliable transport, and digital connectivity support daily life, while safe walking and cycling routes link the parish with its surroundings. Nature is cared for and enhanced, with renewable energy and greener choices reducing environmental impact.
- Community life flourishes across generations through shared spaces and strong volunteer spirit.
- Above all, Kersey in 2040 continues to be a welcoming, peaceful, and beautiful parish - a living, working community rooted in its heritage, connected to the future, open to thoughtful change that allows people and nature to flourish together.



Our shared Vision for Kersey's future by 2040:

Shared Vision for 2040 consultation outcomes:

There was strong overall support for the vision.

- Residents welcomed the emphasis on balancing change with preservation.
- Sympathetic progress was a phrase mentioned.



Plan for sustainable, local housing

Goal:

To provide affordable housing options for younger families and locals.

Actions:

- Support small-scale housing development in line with community feedback (e.g. outside the historic core).
- Advocate for affordable small family homes and better-quality rural housing for local people.
- Encourage use of existing buildings and holiday lets as permanent homes.

What type of housing is needed?

- Starter homes to buy?
- Rental homes / social housing?
- Small family homes?
- Downsizing opportunities?
- Mixed developments including some executive homes?
- On the assumption we may need to add 40 houses in the next 16 years, where in the parish would you prefer new developments?

Plan for sustainable, local housing

Goal:

To provide affordable housing options for younger families and locals.

Plan for sustainable local housing outcomes:

This goal and proposed actions were endorsed.

There was widespread **concern** and **anger** about the high number of privately owned derelict, empty, and poorly maintained properties.

Strong preference to enforce sale, refurbishment and reuse before building new homes.

The increasing number of holiday lets is also a **concern** for community life.

- There was clear and consistent **support** for new housing which is:
 - Primarily for local people
 - Modest scale and therefore more affordable
 - Sensitive to the parish character
 - 2–3 bedroom family and starter homes
 - Bungalows and downsizing options
 - High quality and sustainable
 - Small scale clusters or infill sites located in the hamlets and residential areas
- There was strong **opposition** for:
 - New homes in the Kersey Conservation Area
 - Large scale developments – Must maintain separation from nearby settlements (e.g. Hadleigh and Boxford)
 - Executive homes and high value developments not aligned with local need
 - Urban style and poorly integrated design

Improve transport and infrastructure

Goal:

Reduce car dependency, make travel safer and improve connectivity.

Actions:

- Work with Suffolk County Council for improved bus links to Hadleigh, Sudbury and Ipswich.
- Lobby for creation of a safe walking/cycle path to Hadleigh, particularly along Stone Street.
- Continue highlighting concerns regarding road safety and reporting road maintenance issues and potholes to Suffolk County Council.
- Continue support for footpath maintenance and encourage more volunteers to join the working group.
- Lobby for improved mobile phone and broadband connectivity across the parish.
- The Parish Council supports the maintenance of underlying infrastructure. Relying on many residents volunteering to keep footpaths clear, playground equipment safe, reporting hazards and trying to keeping Kersey litter free.

Transport:

- Did you know you can dial up and order a community bus to Hadleigh (for example)?
- How often would you use a bus service if it ran daily to Hadleigh? (5 times per week)
- What are key travel times for you?

Connectivity:

- The PC is already lobbying OFCOM on mobile service coverage.
- Given we are spread out as a community, would you be willing to pay an additional charge to improve coverage?
- If yes, how much per month?

Maintenance of infrastructure:

- Are you happy with current levels of infrastructure maintenance?
- If not, would you be willing to join one of the volunteer groups? or support an increase in council tax?

Improve transport and infrastructure

Goal:

Reduce car dependency, make travel safer and improve connectivity.

Improve transport and infrastructure outcomes:

This goal and proposed actions were endorsed.

There was **support** for:

- Improved public transport provision:
 - Reliable bus links, especially to Hadleigh and for onward connections
 - Better promotion and accessibility of bus services – app for live bus times
- A safe, offroad, active travel (walking and cycling) route to Hadleigh. The A1141 was highlighted as unsafe and a deterrent to active travel
- Improved mobile phone signal across the parish. There is major concern that many areas of the parish have non-existent or very poor mobile signal
- Digital connectivity - mobile phone signals and fast broadband connections are seen essential for modern living, including working from home
- Full fibre rollout across the whole parish
- Volunteer groups who help maintain rights of way, recreation facilities and keep Kersey litter free

There was **frustration** with road maintenance which appears to be reactive and ineffective.

There was **concern** about speeding traffic, particularly through the village centre and The Splash.

Develop local amenities and services

Goal:

Improve access to daily needs within the parish.

Actions:

- Investigate the feasibility for a community shop or hub (perhaps part-time or shared with another service). This would significantly improve convenience and reduce car trips.
- Work with The Bell to ensure it remains welcoming to locals.
- Assess options for more off-street parking.
- Promote awareness and support of the village hall and activities held in the hall.

Community shop:

- Where could a shop be located?
- Would you use it ?
- How often?
- If it were a community shop, would you be prepared to help staff and run it?



Develop local amenities and services

Goal:

Improve access to daily needs within the parish.

Develop local amenities and services outcomes:

There were mixed views on this goal and proposed actions.

Community Shop

- There was some support for the idea of having a community shop but with no offers to help run it and no obvious location to site it this desire is likely to be unfulfilled
- There is a small possibility that the pub might be a potential home for a shop, and this will be discussed with the new tenants when they are in place.

The Bell Inn

- The Bell Inn is valued as an important community asset
- There was support for it to remain welcoming to locals
- The pub could be a community hub for other services

Parking

- Calls for better use of existing off-street parking
- Some support for assessing options for more off street parking in the centre of Kersey

Biodiversity, the environment and reducing carbon footprint

Goal:

Protect nature and make it easier for people to live more sustainably.

Actions:

- Form a community sustainability group to:
 - Encourage more nature friendly gardening, wildflower planting, bee/bird boxes.
 - Support better hedge and ditch care.
 - Host sustainability events: heat loss surveys, EV/solar info evenings, community composting.
 - Publicise grants for home energy efficiency, insulation, EVs.
 - Create a car share group and promote cycling/walking.
- Encourage more volunteers to join the KVG which aims to make Kersey a cleaner, safer, more attractive and pleasant place to live and visit.
- Balance heritage with sustainability: work with Babergh to provide planning flexibility and simplicity to enable adoption of green technologies in historic buildings such as solar panels, heat pumps, double glazing, and insulation.

Balance heritage with sustainability:

- Any changes to current planning rules you would like to see?
- Any environmental improvements you would like to see in the parish to improve natural diversity?
- Would you be interested in setting up or joining a sustainability group for Kersey?
- Would you be interested in attending sustainability events to learn more?
- Would you like a community team to carry out thermal imaging of your home to identify heat losses? (If yes, please leave your contact details.)

Biodiversity, the environment and reducing carbon footprint

Goal:

Protect nature and make it easier for people to live more sustainably.

Biodiversity, the environment and reducing carbon footprint outcomes:

This goal and proposed actions were endorsed.

- Forming a community sustainability group was **welcomed**:
 - Sharing learning and guidance on sustainable choices
 - Helping to identify grants and funding support
 - Offering heat loss thermal imaging
- There was a **strong desire** for greater flexibility in planning rules to enable heritage buildings to be more sustainable and energy efficient, particularly allowing:
 - Air source heat pumps
 - Solar panels
 - Double glazing
- There was **support** for the KVG which aims to make Kersey a cleaner, safer and more attractive place to live
- There was **concern** about declining hedgerows, poor ditch maintenance and drainage which may contribute to flooding
- Improved flood prevention measures were **mentioned**

Strengthen community and social life

Goal:

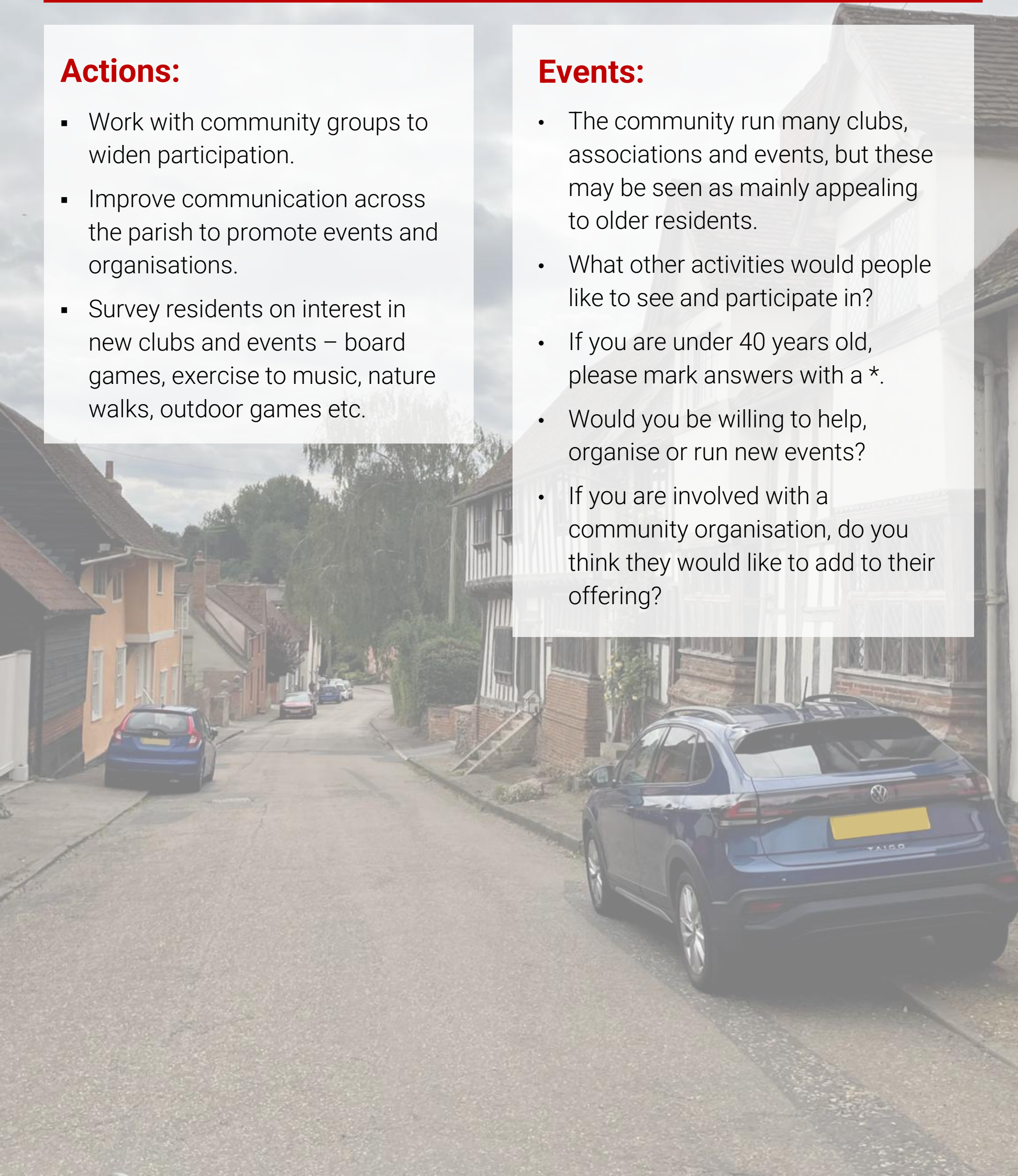
Encourage engagement, inclusivity, and intergenerational connection.

Actions:

- Work with community groups to widen participation.
- Improve communication across the parish to promote events and organisations.
- Survey residents on interest in new clubs and events – board games, exercise to music, nature walks, outdoor games etc.

Events:

- The community run many clubs, associations and events, but these may be seen as mainly appealing to older residents.
- What other activities would people like to see and participate in?
- If you are under 40 years old, please mark answers with a *.
- Would you be willing to help, organise or run new events?
- If you are involved with a community organisation, do you think they would like to add to their offering?



Strengthen community and social life

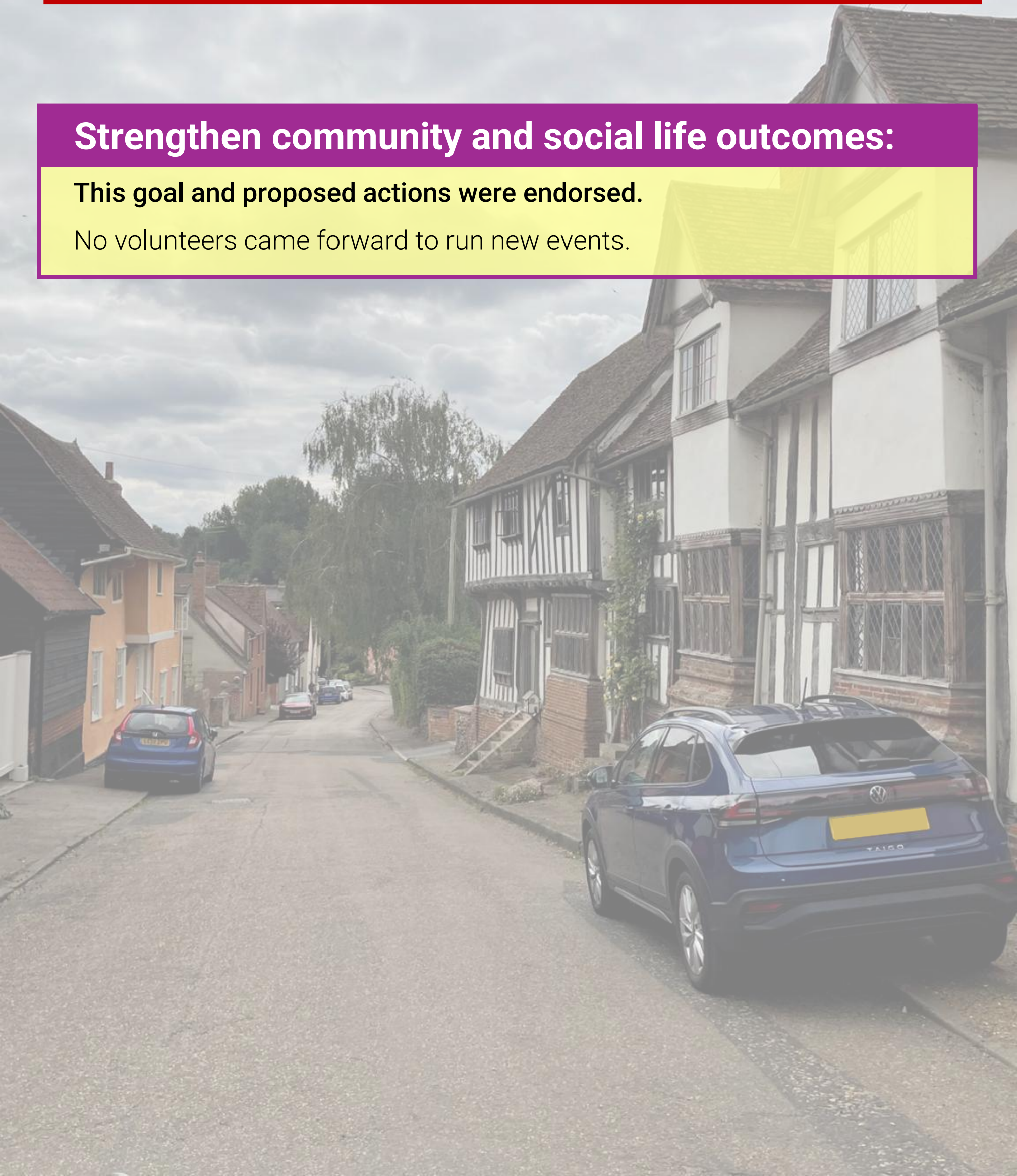
Goal:

Encourage engagement, inclusivity, and intergenerational connection.

Strengthen community and social life outcomes:

This goal and proposed actions were endorsed.

No volunteers came forward to run new events.



Support community volunteering

Goal:

Maintain and grow the strong community spirit.

Actions:

- Contact the 10 residents who offered their help in the survey.
- Share "volunteer spotlights" in the newsletter to raise awareness and appreciation.
- Encourage more volunteering to strengthen community facilities and groups and to increase inclusivity.
- Those who volunteer gain as much as those who attend community groups and events through more social contact.
- Encourage younger residents to volunteer and get involved with community events.
- Create local WhatsApp groups for the main population clusters.

Community connections:

- The Parish Council has recently encouraged the creation of local WhatsApp groups for the main population clusters across Kersey.
- Community organisation spotlights are already published in the newsletter – do you enjoy reading these?
- Would you be interested in writing volunteer spotlights for the newsletter?
- Would you be interested in helping to produce the newsletter?
- How do you think volunteering can be encouraged across all age groups for the many community organisations in Kersey?
- What more do we need to do and how?

Support community volunteering

Goal:

Maintain and grow the strong community spirit.

Support community volunteering outcomes:

This goal and proposed actions were endorsed.

- There was recognition of the ageing volunteers running community organisations and the challenge to engage with younger residents and those new to Kersey
- The new community WhatsApp groups were welcomed as another way to connect the community
- There was appreciation for current volunteers and community efforts
- There was an underlying concern that community organisations depend on active participation to survive

Summary

Our People and Place Plan

Preserving Heritage,
Enhancing Community, and
Shaping a Sustainable Future.

Protecting Kersey's identity:

- Kersey is a village rooted in heritage and natural beauty, with a strong sense of community.
- Our vision is to preserve this character while embracing thoughtful progress.
- We aim to protect our historic buildings, landscapes, and community, ensuring that future generations can enjoy the same charm and tranquillity that define our parish today.

Planning wisely for the future:

- We want Kersey to be a place where people of all ages feel welcome, connected, and empowered to shape the future of their village.
- Looking ahead, we will focus on responsible development, better connectivity, and continuing to develop community groups.

**Thank you for attending
and helping to plan for
Kersey's future.**