

Cotgrave Town Plan



Supported by



the coalfields
regeneration trust



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Abbreviations used in this Plan

CC	Cotgrave Children's Centre
CF	Cotgrave Futures
CTC	Cotgrave Town Council
ECOT	Global Action Plan Eco Teams
FCCP	Friends of Cotgrave Country Park
NALC	National Association of Local Councils
NCC	Nottinghamshire County Council
NP	Nottinghamshire Police
NRCC	Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council
PPS	Parish Paths Scheme
RBC	Rushcliffe Borough Council
RCVS	Rushcliffe Council for Voluntary Service
RH	Rushcliffe Homes
TA	Cotgrave Traders Association
WF	Cotgrave Welfare Scheme

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We want to keep the Plan easy to read.

To avoid unnecessary complication, we have not detailed each individual department of larger statutory and voluntary organisations with whom we hope to work in delivering individual actions. Nor have we detailed the numerous local voluntary and community organisations who will have an important and valuable contribution to delivering the Plan.

In the actions which accompany and support individual themes, organisations appear in the Partners/Supporters column in alphabetical order and the order is not intended to indicate any lead responsibility or particular level of commitment.



foreword

As Chairman of the Town Council, I am delighted to welcome you to the Cotgrave Town Plan.

The idea of parish and town plans was launched in the Rural White Paper A Fair Deal for Rural England in November 2000. The aim was to give local communities a say in their future. The Town Council meets regularly to consider and discuss the well-being of the community, its concerns and the progress of a wide range of initiatives. However, the White Paper presented an opportunity to bring this work together in a published, structured plan based on extensive community consultation. In 2003, we were successful in getting funding from the Countryside Agency to develop this Plan.

Over the past two years, we have worked hard consulting with residents, local community and voluntary organisations and agencies in the public sector. It is therefore your Plan for the future of the Town and I believe it will serve the best interests of and make a real difference to Cotgrave and its residents both now and in the future.

The Town Council cannot deliver everything needed in Cotgrave. The Plan can only be implemented with the active participation of agencies, local voluntary and community organisations and not least you, the Residents of Cotgrave. We need and welcome your participation.

All our residents are important but the most important are our children and young people, they hold the key to our success in the future. Talking to a very large cross section of our young people, it never ceases to amaze me how enlightened and passionate they are about Cotgrave.

It is only by supporting our children that we will break the cycle of disaffection followed by anti-

social behaviour. In spite of some major setbacks and key indicators that identify major problems within our community, I am absolutely certain that Cotgrave has a unique opportunity to drive forward an agenda that will truly make sure that "Cotgrave, a cohesive community, increasingly vibrant, based on mutual understanding and respect, where people feel valued and safe" becomes a reality.

I ask you to consider what this plan means to you and how we can all support each other to make it a reality.

Councillor Andrew Wilkie
Chairman
Cotgrave Town Council
July 2006



introduction



'All in all, the plan is excellent – if I stuck a note next to each welcome bit, the walls would be covered'

Cotgrave Resident, Town Plan Public Launch 5th April 2006

The development of this Plan coincided with serious anti-social behaviour in the Town including a serious arson attack on the Health Centre. Two 'Section 30 zones' had been set up which allowed the Police to disperse groups of people if they believed their presence was likely to result in the public being 'harassed, intimidated, alarmed or distressed'. The earliest, which ran from June 2004, was the first to be set up in South Nottinghamshire and covered the shopping centre and surrounding area. The second in February 2005, covered a number of streets in the south of the Town where there had been over 100 incidents of anti-social behaviour in a two week period alone. Three Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) were served on Cotgrave residents, two prior to the first Section 30 Order and one shortly after.

In response to these events the Town Council had begun to develop an action plan to tackle these problems. The plan was still in an early stage of development when Rushcliffe Community Partnership, with the full support of the Town Council, set up the multi-agency Cotgrave Focus Group to: identify the issues facing the community, map current provision and identify gaps, research the underlying causes of these problems and to suggest initiatives to tackle them. The Cotgrave Focus Group report was published in November 2004 just before the imposition of the second Section 30 order. It became an important resource in defining and building the current action plan and in developing our vision for the Town:

"Cotgrave, a cohesive community, increasingly vibrant, based on mutual understanding and respect, where people feel valued and safe."

To drive the action plan forward a sub-committee of the Town Council was formed. It drew on the local knowledge and expertise of Town Councillors, and representatives of both statutory and voluntary organisations working in the Town. It consulted widely within the Community and with key statutory agencies to identify the issues which were most important to local Residents. Not surprisingly, it was crime and anti-social behaviour which dominated the local agenda. At the time, it was expected that the action plan would therefore have a particularly narrow focus but as a result of subsequent consultation within the community, it has taken on and addresses much broader concerns.

This published narrative version of the plan is designed to contribute to making our vision for Cotgrave a reality and in particular to better understand and tackle the underlying causes of anti-social behaviour and social deprivation in parts of the Town.

cotgrave - the place



Cotgrave as a Village existed for many centuries as a small rural hamlet with a population of around 600, sited in a hollow alongside the Fosse Way (now the A46) in the south of the County of Nottinghamshire. Although it shares a common agricultural heritage with the other rural villages of Rushcliffe, the similarities stop there. The transformation from village to town did not follow the usual path of gradual growth but took place over a very short period following the sinking of a colliery at Cotgrave. For example, unlike other Towns and villages of the same size, there is no high street lined with shops but instead a purpose built shopping centre situated in the geographic centre of the Town

Today, Cotgrave has a population of around 7,500 people living in approximately 3000 households, situated in the Borough of Rushcliffe. There are three distinct parts to the Town: the old village clustered around the cross and the Parish Church, the houses built to accommodate the workers at the Colliery and their families and new private housing built in the 1970s and 1980s on and around Owlthorpe Road. House-building at present is limited to infill private housing.

There are 5 excellent schools including the voluntary-aided Cotgrave Church of England Primary School and Ashlea Special School. By the time this plan is published, our other three schools will have merged and work will have started on a multi-million pound

building to house the new school. There is no secondary school in the Town so at age 11, Cotgrave pupils must travel to schools in nearby towns and villages to continue their education, the nearest being in Radcliffe-On-Trent.

The Town also boasts a busy Welfare, Leisure Centre, Cotgrave Futures which is a new Community Building, two small industrial estates and a developing Country Park reclaimed from the old Colliery site. An open and village feel in the centre is created by the proximity of The Green which includes a children's play area, recreation fields adjacent to the Leisure Centre, the well appointed sports field of the Welfare and the local school campus. Cotgrave is second only to West Bridgford in terms of the number of recreational spaces available to its residents.

Thirteen years after the final closure of the Colliery, the community has undoubtedly moved on. That said, Cotgrave continues to have some of the highest indicators of deprivation in Rushcliffe - in some cases rivalling those of inner-city Nottingham.

cotgrave - the community



**'How do we tackle culture of fear?
Wider problem than just Cotgrave,
but one that needs tackling all the same'**

**Cotgrave Resident,
Town Plan Public Launch 5th April 2006**



Cotgrave today has many assets and resources, a strong sense of community, an active and effective Town Council and numerous voluntary and Community Groups and Societies which provide a wealth of activities and opportunities to residents and visitors alike.

By nature, Cotgrave is unlike its neighbouring market towns and villages. Change came swiftly in the 1960s when British Coal discovered rich seams of coal and the resulting Colliery drew families from all over the country to the employment opportunities it provided. The village population grew 10 fold during this time with more homes, services and facilities developing to accommodate the resulting population growth.

The Colliery's closure, which took place in two phases some seven or eight years apart, once more imposed changes on the fortunes of the Town. In common with the mining communities elsewhere in the Nottinghamshire Coalfield, the aspirations of both young and old were dashed and the economic and social fabric of the Town was significantly damaged. So much so, that Cotgrave was awarded Single Regeneration Budget funding, reserved for those areas with the highest indicators of economic and social deprivation. The funding paid for a number of capital projects as well as training and community development initiatives. Cotgrave's coal-mining past, the rapid growth and the subsequent equally rapid economic and social upheaval that resulted from the Colliery closure, means that it shares many of the depressed social and economic indicators that

characterise similar sized former mining towns in north Nottinghamshire. However because of its situation within one of the most affluent Districts in the County, it is unable to attract the wide range of financial and other support that has been, and still is, enjoyed by the former mining communities to the north.

"The Condition of Nottinghamshire 2004" published by Nottinghamshire County Council shows Cotgrave as having a higher than average population of young people, with over 33% of the population aged under 24 compared to Rushcliffe as a whole at 29%. It also has; the lowest family income in Rushcliffe, a higher than average level of household overcrowding, a higher than average proportion of lone-parent households and the second highest teenage pregnancy rate in Rushcliffe. The Town has the second highest stock of social housing in Rushcliffe, and also the highest tenant turnover rate. In terms of educational achievement there is evidence that our young people struggle to make the transition from junior to secondary school and consequently do not perform well in terms of GCSE results. The 2001 Census of Population showed that nearly a third of the Town's population had no formal qualifications.

Since the Colliery finally closed in 1993 and despite SRB infrastructure improvements, there has been acceleration in the growth of crime and anti-social behaviour. Cotgrave has one of the highest rates of recorded crime in Rushcliffe. It has the highest rates of



youth crime and criminal damage and the second highest rate of offences of violence against the person. Information from Nottinghamshire Police also shows that Cotgrave has the lowest crime reporting level within the Borough. During the last three years anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs) have been served on a number of members of our community, including the first ASBO issued in Rushcliffe and an ASBO issued to the youngest ever recipient at the time (subsequently revoked by the Courts). During the same period two separate Section 30 Dispersal Zones had been imposed covering different parts of the town at different periods.

The publication of the County Council's report "Social Needs in Nottinghamshire 2004" described Cotgrave for the first time as being in "moderate social need". For example it has the second highest rate in Rushcliffe of lone parents claiming income support and the highest poverty rate in the Borough. It is also in the worst 5 wards in terms of the rates for income support claimants and unemployment. The indices of deprivation published in 2001/2002 saw Cotgrave with the highest proportion of residents in Rushcliffe experiencing income deprivation.

The growth of crime and anti-social behaviour and the decline in social and economic capital which resulted from the Colliery closure has over time eroded the sense of community. Crime, criminal damage and other anti-social behaviour may directly affect only a small number of individuals or families but still have an impact on the rest of the community, provoking

withdrawal, uncertainty and a general loss of confidence. Reversing these trends and achieving our vision for the Town is the primary focus of this Plan.

In many respects, this process has already begun. Perhaps one of the most exciting developments is the reorganisation of Manvers Junior School, Highfield Primary and Nursery School and Manvers Infant and Nursery school into a new multi-million pound school, built on the existing campus. The Cotgrave Candleby Lane School will be at the heart of the community, delivering the very best education, support and care, raising aspirations and developing a culture of success that will permeate throughout the Town. Building is due to start in the summer of 2006.

Alongside this development, Cotgrave now has a brand new Surestart Children's Centre, based in the Futures Building. It works with local groups and service providers to coordinate and develop provision to meet the needs of families with children under 5. Working with partners, it aims to offer integrated early learning, care, family support, health services, outreach services to children and families and access to training and employment advice.

developing the plan



This plan is based on wide ranging community consultation which has included schools (children, parents, staff and governors), local community and voluntary organisations including Cotgrave Forum (an established Community umbrella group) and, not least, of all residents. We have used a number of consultation methods including questionnaires, public events and public meetings.

The results have been used to identify issues and concerns and to set out a vision for the future of Cotgrave that takes into account the needs and aspirations of the local community. One of the key messages which came from the consultation was that progress in almost any area would be difficult without a reduction in the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Each draft of the Plan has been featured on the Town Council Website. Regular updates on progress have been made available through the Town Council's Newsletter which is published quarterly and delivered to every household in Cotgrave.

Although the Town Council has led the development of the Plan, it has been supported by Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottinghamshire LEA, Nottinghamshire Police, Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council, Rushcliffe Borough Council, Rushcliffe Community Partnership, Rushcliffe Council for Voluntary Service and Rushcliffe Primary Care Trust. Local Community and Voluntary organisations have also provided invaluable support and comment during the preparation of the plan.

The key events along the way were:

15th December 2003

'Let's Celebrate Cotgrave' - a community event that identified strengths and weaknesses in Cotgrave

25th March 2004

Cotgrave Forum Consultation

May 2004

Highfield School , Manvers School and Cotgrave Church of England School - School council meeting, three parents evenings with a display, three classes consulted

16th August 2004

Friends of Cotgrave Country Park - a Focus Group

1st – 6th July 2004

Community Consultations on anti-social behaviour led by Nottinghamshire Police and the Rushcliffe Anti-Social Behaviour

November 2004

Co-Coordinator Publication of "Cotgrave Focus Group: Improvement Plan"

21st February 2005

Partners consultation event

18th March 2006

'I love Cotgrave' – Community Photographic event (funded by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership).

5th April 2006

Town Plan Public Launch – a final opportunity for residents to comment on the content and priorities set out in the Action Plan

Ongoing

"Residents Voice" - initiative Over 150 questionnaires completed by Residents and Community Organisations

themes and actions



Our Plan is both ambitious and aspirational. Implementing it has a considerable financial and human resource requirement which cannot be met by the Town Council alone.

Our plan and the actions identified in it to deliver our vision are based on 6 Themes;

Cotgrave Reunited – which is about bringing the whole community together to share a common vision for the Town

Security and Confidence – which is about reducing crime and the fear of crime, tackling anti-social behaviour and promoting good citizenship

Taking Pride in Cotgrave – which is about protecting our environment and developing our amenities

Promoting Regeneration – which is about ensuring that our Residents have appropriate access to labour market opportunities including training, that their housing needs are met, that the apparent indicators of social deprivation are properly researched and understood and that our children and their parents are properly supported

Working with the assets – which is about ensuring that we make the best use of our considerable physical and social assets and that we continue to develop them to meet the needs of the local community

Building Capacity – which is about bringing together the resources to deliver our vision.

cotgrave re-united



**“[We want to] do the things we used to do - like going to the shops after dark!”
- Cotgrave Resident**

Cotgrave is a good place to live, not least because of its excellent location, friendly people and good facilities including a range of shops, the majority of which are located in a purpose built shopping centre. There are numerous thriving community and voluntary organisations operating in the Town.

However by June 2004, the increasing levels of anti-social behaviour by a minority of young people in the Town had left the local community feeling frustrated and concerned that this problem was not being taken seriously by the authorities. The Cotgrave Forum Report published in November 2004 concluded that ‘Whether or not the problems in Cotgrave are as bad as or worse than other places seems immaterial to those affected by anti-social behaviour or indeed if the perception exists that this is a threatening place to live’. The imposition of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and Section 30 Orders in 2004 and 2005 gave the local community some sense that anti-social behaviour was finally being tackled. The enforcement action demonstrated that the authorities did take it seriously. Police were visible on the streets and local people reported that they felt empowered by the action taken as it was finally possible to “do something about it”. So much so that consultation undertaken by the Borough’s Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator after the first Section 30 Order had expired indicated that people had wanted it to stay in place indefinitely.

On a less positive note, the other effect of these events was to disrupt the relationship that existed

between young and older people. Older people began to worry about being out in public places after dark and felt threatened by groups of young people. The growing anti-social behaviour in turn generated greater fear of young people, the handful causing the problems damaging the reputation of the rest. Taken together with the loss of the old social networks that resulted from the pit closure and the absence of any new social structures to replace them, the result was that the essence of whole community was fragmented, people sought to exist in safe clusters and distrust became a barrier to communication.

Our Plan seeks to re-build confidence in the community and to reunite it, so that people and organisations once again engage with each other in a way which provides for sustainable development and more “joined up” community initiatives.

Working with and through our Partners, the plan aims to:

- improve communication between the generations and promote more opportunities for Young People to contribute to the local community
- reduce the fear of crime
- re-establish our Community pride, confidence and spirit
- develop a framework which assists community, voluntary and statutory organisations to work together to deliver more effective services

Outcomes	Action needed	Partnership/Supporters
a) Improved communication between the generations. More opportunities for people to be heard and share their opinions	1) Liaise and promote the establishment of a Youth Forum	RBC/NCC/RCVS
	2) Seek additional mechanisms to promote youth voice eg shadow Youth Town Council	NCC/RCVS
	3) Consider the introduction of a youth page on the Town Council website and a youth section in Cotgrave Connections	NCC
	4) Research the need for a Residents Voice Group to link with Cotgrave Forum to enhance communication across the Community	NCC
	5) Link with community groups and promote the sharing of good practice	NCC/RCVS/NRCC
b) Improved community cohesion and reduction in community concerns aroused by perceived threats (stereotype images)	1) Prepare and run a communications/ vision building workshop for the community	NCC/RCVS/RBC/ Young Potential
	2) Identify and develop community network to raise the profile of youth activities through positive press. Monitor ongoing success.	RBC/NCC/RCVS/WF
	3) Identify and evaluate inter-generational bridge building opportunities	RBC/RCVS/NCC
c) Community pride, confidence and spirit re-established	1) Support the re-establishment of community events (e.g. Gala/Carnival)	NCC/RCVS/RBC
	2) Encourage and promote new events	ECOT/NRCC
	3) Support the Cotgrave Children’s Centre Team in the delivery of Parenting Courses and development of Parent Support Group	CC/ RPCT
d) Young people (some of whom have never travelled outside the local area) have the benefit of access to strong community role models	1) Run the Young Potential national programme	RBC/Young Potential
	2) Research and promote the provision of schemes and trips for disadvantaged residents eg in Summer holidays	NCC
	3) Encourage the introduction of a mentoring scheme across generations	CC/Young Potential/RCVS
	4) Promote and support Parents in Action initiatives that provide diversionary activities and inter-generational interchange in a social setting	CC/NRCC

security and confidence



The community consultation which underpins this Plan was carried out at a time when crime and anti-social behaviour were the overriding concerns of the Town's residents. The youth crime rate was more than double that of Rushcliffe as a whole and was approaching double the County Rate. The corresponding rate for criminal damage was two and a half times that of Rushcliffe as a whole. Even more disturbingly, rates of offences of violence against the person were also almost double the district figure.

Key messages that came from the community consultation were that; people were becoming increasingly anxious about their personal security; that there was a growing feeling of a loss of control; there was a growing loss of confidence in the Police and a developing mistrust between young people and the older residents of the Town. Despite the concern over crime and anti-social behaviour there was a marked reluctance to report criminal acts because of fear of repercussions. At the Plan Launch event on the 5th April 2006, one Cotgrave resident commented "Try and combat the fear of reporting crime and suffering more abuse as a result. (Know of a case where a victim could identify the culprit but did not go to Police for fear of repercussions)' another felt that "More visible police are what is needed"

It was therefore clear that the primary wish of the Community was that the Plan should tackle crime, youth crime, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour and work to ensure that a more visible

Police Service was available in the Town. In February 2005 therefore, a range of Statutory Agencies and Voluntary Organisations already working in the Town were brought together at an event to seek their assistance in delivering the actions in this Plan. Their enthusiasm and support for its development and implementation is demonstrated in their commitment to share our vision for Cotgrave and to work in partnership to make that vision a reality. For example, new CCTV cameras have been provided and a Police contact point staffed by volunteers and open to the public has been proposed. Nottinghamshire Police has developed and implemented new ways of dealing with anti-social behaviour and Rushcliffe Borough Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator has proved highly effective in working with residents to design and deliver locally based initiatives.

Working with and through our Partners, our Plan aims to:

- reduce levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour
- reduce fear of crime and promote reporting of offences
- build a more effective relationship with the Police including a contact point open to the public

Outcomes	Action needed	Partnership/Supporters
a) Reduction in levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour	1) Work to establish closer relationships with the Police	NP/RBC
	2) Support Police in upgrading existing police premises, establish regular opening hours for access by the public and promote the use of volunteers to support the facility	NP/RBC
	3) Agree protocol and support Police in establishing central CCTV system	NP/RBC
	4) Encourage residents to report crime and promote Neighbourhood Watch	NP/RBC
b) Fewer hot spots including those coinciding with school to home journeys	1) Support Police initiatives in establishing positive visible presence in the Community	NP/RBC
	2) Seek to establish appropriate targeted outreach youth work (see section 5b)	NCC
	3) Review school transport arrangements to ease access to school activities and reduce local "hotspots" associated with the end of the school day	NP
c) Increased diversionary opportunities provided for young people in Cotgrave	1) Redevelop tennis courts to provide multi games play area	NCC and Candleby Lane School
	2) Seek the introduction of a range of new activities for all age groups.	RBC
	3) Seek to promote the development of existing Community Organisations	RBC/RCVS/NRCC
	4) Support the introduction of new groups (explore expressions of interest from Air Cadets/ Army Cadets as examples)	NCC/RCVS/CTC
	5) Encourage specific recreational provision for girls and young women	NCC/RCVS/CTC/RBC
	6) Reopen and develop youth spaces, e.g. Ring Leas Park and Maddison Park	CTC
	7) Involve local schools and Children's Centre in play area development projects	CTC/Family of Schools/CC
d) Reduced traffic congestion problems at peak time	1) Review and discuss with NCC Highways. Monitor HGV and other traffic levels.	NCC
e) Improved access in town centre	1) Advise and liaise with NCC about difficulties people with disabilities and young families have in Cotgrave particularly with road crossings	NCC

taking pride in cotgrave



'Market – yes please'
'Market – great idea'
'Different Markets eg Farmers. Yes!'
'Good idea for a market'
**Cotgrave Residents, Town Plan Public
Launch 5th April 2006**



'I was impressed by how the Town was quickly cleaned up after the Christmas period (NB made you realise how messy it would be if it wasn't done)'
**Cotgrave Resident, Town Plan Public
Launch 5th April 2006**

Cotgrave is surrounded by woods and agricultural land with a network of footpaths and cycle tracks. It has a number of green spaces which have been opened up as recreation areas and a large "village green" in the centre with a children's playground. In fact, Cotgrave has, with the exception of West Bridgford, more recreation and play areas than any other Town or Village in Rushcliffe. In common with all the other public areas, they are maintained in excellent condition by the Town Council but much of the play equipment is in need of replacement and updating to meet the needs of a new generation of Cotgrave children and young people. For example, consultation with Parents carried out by the Surestart Children's Centre as recently as June 2006 demonstrated the need to provide more play equipment and opportunities for the under 5s. There is also a need to develop suitable provision for older teenagers.

Unlike other Towns of its size, and unlike the surrounding villages, there is no definable high street lined with shops. The old village main street is easily identified and includes the Post Office, a newsagent and a newly refurbished supermarket. However to cope with the sudden increase in population during the early 1960s and 1970s a purpose built shopping centre was constructed nearer the geographical centre of the Town. An active Traders Association supports the improvement and development of the complex. Other facilities clustered around the shops include the new School campus, library, health centre and the Futures Building.

There has been no regular traders' market in the town for some time. A recent initiative by Cotgrave Traders Association to re-establish a market in the shopping complex has unfortunately on this occasion proved unsustainable. Although there was good support from the community, it proved difficult to attract a wide range of stallholders to offset the costs associated with the enterprise. Nevertheless, this remains an important initiative both in social and economic terms and one which continues to be an important element of our action plan.

Around the Town there are groups of communal garages many of which are no longer used by the tenants of the nearby properties. The responsibility of Rushcliffe Homes, these buildings have become a target for vandals and a magnet for anti-social behaviour. They have also provided an environment in which the local drug and substance abuse culture can operate. One of our aims is to encourage Rushcliffe Homes to find alternative uses for these buildings and to return them to more positive community use.

Working with and through our Partners, our Plan aims to:

- continue to develop and promote our shops
- reduce the number of anti-social behaviour "hotspots"
- continue to promote a pride in the local environment and to engage more people in environmental schemes
- continue to develop our play and recreation areas so that they meet the needs of a new generation of Cotgrave children and young people

Outcomes	Action needed	Partnership/Supporters
a) Community benefits from and contributes to environmental schemes	1) Consider schemes e.g. "Cotgrave in Bloom", "REACT 21" Tree Warden	RBC/ECOT
	2) Identify/evaluate other schemes, liaise with residents to consider introduction	RBC/ECOT
	3) Consider local initiatives to raise community pride eg Best Garden competition	CTC/RBC/ECOT
b) Safe, clean and tidy connecting paths	1) Investigate and identify ownership	RH/RBC/PPS
	2) Liaise to improve security, management & cleanliness	RH/RBC/PPS
	3) Seek support within the community to assist	RH/RBC/PPS
c) Reduced number of anti-social behaviour hotspot sites	1) Liaise with and Support RH initiatives to improve communal garage areas and investigate alternative use	RH
d) Improved recycling provision	1) Liaise to ensure adequate provision	ECOT
	2) Liaise with Streetwise on street cleaning and litter collection	CTC
e) Improved access in town centre	1) Liaise on improvements with RBC and owners of Shopping Complex, seek environmental improvement grants at shopping centre	RBC/NCC and Owners of Shopping Complex
	2) Seek community support for 21st Century Town project	CTC
	3) Promote the development of the regular market at the shopping centre	TA
	4) Work with the Traders Association on any new events at the shopping centre	NRCC/RCVS/TA
	5) Support local environmental improvement at West Furlong	CTC/RBC
f) Improved appearance of Cotgrave	1) Consider whether to adopt powers under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 which will allow the Town Council to apply dog control orders or to prosecute for dropping litter, fly posting, committing a graffiti offence	RBC/NALC

promoting regeneration



After a year of clocking on and being sent home, Cotgrave Miners witnessed the final closure of the Colliery in 1993 and the loss of the major employer in Cotgrave. At its peak in 1980, nearly 2000 people were employed at the Pit, although this had reduced to 438 by the time it finally closed down. According to the latest figures available from the County Council (April 2006) the rate of unemployment in Cotgrave is the second highest in Rushcliffe. At 1.6%, it is approaching the County level of 2.0%.

The Town has a diverse housing stock with private property prices in 2005 ranging from £55,000 to £825,000. Cotgrave also has the second highest proportion of social housing in Rushcliffe with the majority owned and let by Rushcliffe Homes. Significantly, Cotgrave also has the highest social housing tenant turnover rate in the District. In some respects, this may partly explain why some people have become less inclined to contribute to the wider life of the Community. The relatively high rate of turnover means that families do not stay in the town long enough to put down roots and identify with the local community. There is also anecdotal evidence that families have left the Town because there is a lack of suitable properties (private or social) to cater for their developing needs.

In 2004, Nottinghamshire County Council published "Social Needs in Nottinghamshire"

which split the County into 380 zones. Cotgrave itself comprised two zones. 'Cotgrave Central' (which accounted for around 60% of the Town's population) was classified as having "moderate social need" whereas 'Cotgrave Outer' was classified as "below average social need". On nearly all the indicators of social need used in the study, Cotgrave Central appeared in the top half of all the zones in Nottinghamshire and Cotgrave Outer was consistently around the bottom third. The indices of deprivation at neighbourhood level also confirm that levels of social need and deprivation are not uniform across the Town.

Working with and through our Partners, our Plan aims to:

- Maximise the job and training opportunities available to local residents
- Ensure that available housing meets the needs of the local community
- Undertake further research into social need and deprivation
- Ensure that services are relevant to and meet the needs of Residents

Outcomes	Action needed	Partnership/Supporters
a) Increased provision of local work opportunities	1) Seek maximum use of employment sites to generate employment opportunities	RBC/CC
b) Community has higher expectations and seeks to achieve more.	1) Liaise with agencies/schools to focus on this problem	NCC/ECOT/CC
	2) Encourage tailored training to meet local needs	NCC/RBC
c) Increased understanding of any relationship between social housing allocation and deprivation	1) Establish facts	NCC/RH/RBC
	2) Consider policies, seek to mitigate effect of allocation	NCC/RCVS/RBC
d) Understanding of the causes of high social housing turnover	1) Research and seek to minimise the negative aspects of housing allocation	RBC/RH
e) Housing mix reflects the needs of the community.	1) Commission housing survey	RBC/RH
	2) Review housing need survey	RBC/RH
f) Houses to meet the needs of the residents	1) Research the reasons for overcrowding (as identified by NCC needs survey)	RBC/RH
g) Understanding of Cotgrave's high ranking on most social need indicators	1) Carry out further research	CCNCC/ RPCT
	2) Liaise and support future appropriate action	CC
h) Reduced levels of domestic violence	1) Research problem and identify actions.	CC/NP/RBC/ RPCT
i) Improved access to social services	1) Work to ensure Cotgrave Children's Centre provides access to appropriate services	CC
j) Improved understanding of child development issues in Cotgrave	1) Work with Children's Centre to promote and support actions	CC/ RPCT/ NCC
k) Reduction in number of problems associated with drug and alcohol abuse	1) Research current status, obtain advice/ support	CC/RBC/NP
	2) Publicise available services	RPCT

working with the assets



'Everyone loves the Park and when we go to it what we want to do is chill and have fun'

young Cotgrave Resident, Town Plan Public Launch 5th April 2006

Cotgrave has a number of very valuable physical and social assets which continue to play an important part in the development of the Town. There is an array of community and voluntary organisations that offer valuable services ranging from advice and guidance to sports clubs and uniformed groups for young people. There are three churches, All Saints Parish Church, the Methodist Church on Bingham Road and Our Lady of Grace on Candleby Lane, which cater for the spiritual needs of the Community.

Cotgrave Futures is a purpose built Community building, opened in September 2002, managed by a small group of committed Trustees to promote healthy living, educational and recreational needs and childcare provision within the local community. Apart from a community café, the building has a children's before and after school, inset and holiday care facility which is registered to provide care for 40 children aged 3 to under 8 years. A new Children's Centre is also housed in the building. It is a development from the Sure Start programme and will coordinate a range of services for children under 5 and their parents. Futures is also home to a number of community and voluntary organisations that use its facilities on a regular basis.

Following the closure of the Nottinghamshire collieries, the County Council, the Forestry Commission and British Coal entered into a partnership to restore 8 former colliery sites. The initiative created the 60 hectare Cotgrave Country Park, with over 6km of

tracks and bridleways and a new canal towpath. It has also returned over 60 hectares of land to agricultural use and is a much valued recreational facility for local residents. "Friends of Cotgrave Country Park" - a voluntary Group that exists to provide a local focus to the management and promotion of the Park meets every 6 weeks.

The Town also has a busy Welfare that provides and hosts a variety of social activities for residents and a Leisure Centre, managed by Rushcliffe Borough Council, that offers a range of facilities including a swimming pool.

Working with and through our Partners, our Plan aims to:

- assist in developing existing and new leisure facilities that are relevant to the needs of our Residents
- support our local community and voluntary organisations and further promote Cotgrave Futures so that it continues to be a valuable community resource
- promote the Children's Centre so that it complements what is already in place and meets the needs of the Town's parents and children

Outcomes	Action needed	Partnership/Supporters
a) Leisure centre available to all age ranges, staff have a high degree of confidence	1) Encourage the development of more tailor made activities for off peak times	RBC
	2) Encourage enhanced tailored training for Leisure Centre staff	RBC
b) A comprehensive range of effective services is available to Young People	1) Liaise with and support the County Youth Service in the delivery of its youth plan for Cotgrave	NCCWF
	2) Encourage increased provision to support a wider age range and expand youth activities	NCC/RCVS/WF
c) The Cotgrave Futures building is well used	1) Seek to promote the maximum use of the facilities	CF/NCC/CC
d) Cotgrave Welfare provides increased benefit to the community	1) Promote existing and encourage development and hosting of new cross-community activities	CTC/NRCC/RCVS/WF
e) Children's Centre integrates with and complements existing community services	1) Encourage partnership with existing Groups and Organisations in Cotgrave	LEA/ Family of Schools/CC
	2) Ensure development of facilities takes account of those existing	LEA/ Family of Schools/CC
	3) Use results of planned consultation day	LEA/ Family of Schools/CC
f) The benefits to the community of the Town Councils recreation and play areas are maximised	1) Seek to evaluate, enhance or improve existing provision including Ridley Sports Ground, Broadmeer Play Area, Grassmere Play Area, Ring Leas Play Area, The Green, Maddison Park, the Football Pitch and the Tennis Courts	CTC/RBC/NRCC
g) All viable allotments on Forest Close and Burhill are in full use	1) Develop promotional strategy with tenants and association committee	ECOT
	2) Investigate alternative use of unproductive allotment land	ECOT
h) Improved provision for cyclists and pedestrians on the outskirts of the village	1) Investigate and plan for a path on Owthorpe road to the woods	NCC/ECOT/
	2) Investigate and plan for a path on Plumtree road to the parish boundary	PPS
	3) Liaise with Tollerton PC on path development	PPS
i) The Country Park is a well used resource for the community	1) Discuss with Friends of Cotgrave Country Park (FCCP), seek to develop pit site, access and car parking	FCCP/RBC/NRCC
	2) Promote development of Park based community activities	FCCP/RBC
	3) Monitor developments for the use of the Pit Head Site	FCCP/RBC
	4) Liaise to improve footpath access in conjunction with possible development of new RBC depot	FCCP/RBC
j) The wooded areas on the boundary of the village are pleasant and well maintained	1) Initiate discussions with present owners as to potential use	Owners
	2) Seek to develop access management agreement	Owners

building capacity to support the Plan



No one organisation has the resources to undertake all the actions set out in the Plan. Implementing it will require considerable effort and goodwill on behalf of all the statutory agencies, community and voluntary organisations identified as partners in its delivery. Bringing these organisations together in a co-ordinated way, keeping them engaged and managing relationships between them are key challenges if we are to achieve the success we aim for.

Much progress has already been made. The Town Plan Committee is a multi-agency group led by the Town Council which meets regularly to steer developments and progress on the Plan. This in turn is supported by the Cotgrave Community Engagement Group which consists of local representatives of statutory agencies and voluntary organisations working in the Town. Its purpose is to share information on work they are doing in Cotgrave, to identify problems, to suggest initiatives to tackle them and to provide a gateway to the resources needed to implement the actions set out in the Plan.

The volume and range of activity in the Plan is beyond the current capacity of the Town Council staff to complete within any reasonable time scale. The process of preparation confirmed the need to seek additional resources to implement it. The Town Council has been successful in a bid to the Coalfield Regeneration Trust for grant funding to employ a

support worker to provide skills complementing those available to the Council and to supplement the time of volunteer Town Councillors. From March 2006, we have therefore been able to appoint a Town Plan Manager for a period of two years, largely funded from the grant, whose role is to manage and coordinate implementation of the Plan. An essential part of this Plan is that the activities, the actions and the partnerships engage the community and are successful in building confidence and capacity. Our intention is that we achieve sustainable change to a degree where funding for additional support in the future is not needed.

Working with and through our Partners, our Plan aims to:

- maintain an effective partnership with statutory agencies and voluntary organisations to deliver the Plan
- access the resources needed to deliver the actions in the Plan
- to develop local capacity so that future plans can be implemented without the need for additional support



Outcomes	Action needed	Partnership/Supporters
a) Plan activities are coordinated and actioned	Seek funding to employ support worker to implement the Plan	RBC
	Recruit worker at earliest opportunity	RBC
b) There is an ongoing partnership with community and agencies to deliver the Plan	Identify and liaise with all identified and potential Partners to establish effective ongoing framework. Plan Agency and Public meetings to inform and confirm support.	CTC

Conclusion



'All in all, the plan is excellent – if I stuck a note next to each welcome bit, the walls would be covered'

Cotgrave Resident, Town Plan Public Launch 5th April 2006



This Town Plan sets out a comprehensive vision of how Cotgrave sees itself developing over the next two years and identifies the actions needed to achieve that vision.

It is the voice of the community in identifying and prioritising community needs and aspirations. It determines what is needed, what is achievable and what is relevant. As such, it is intended to inform and influence a wide range of agencies, organisations, statutory bodies and individuals who make decisions and provide services which affect the lives of this community.

Publishing the Town Plan is the start of the next phase of a process. The plan contains a number of proposed actions which everyone has a role in helping to deliver. A number of things have already happened such as the appointment of a Town Plan Manager to ensure that the Plan is implemented. However there remains much more to do if Cotgrave is to continue to move forward with energy and confidence.

All of the outcomes set out in the plan may not be fully achieved within the next two years. We will report progress regularly through Cotgrave Connections and by regular updates placed on the Town Council Website. We will evaluate and review what has been achieved, identify what still remains to be done and consult on what new challenges face our Community. This will form the basis of our second Cotgrave Town Plan.

Getting Involved

If you wish to volunteer to help with any of the actions in this Plan or the development of future Plans, please contact the Town Plan Manager by phone on **0115 989 1708**, by email at: townplanmanager@copperstream.co.uk or drop in to the Futures Building Monday-Friday 9am-5pm.

Alternatively please contact

Ann Ellis, Town Clerk, Cotgrave Town Council, Cotgrave Leisure and Enterprise Centre, Woodview, Cotgrave, Nottinghamshire, NG12 3PJ, phone **(0115) 989 3876** or by email: clerk@cotgrave-tc.gov.uk

Cotgrave Town Plan



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