

THE GREAT STAUGHTON VILLAGE PLAN



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Contents

PAGE SECTION

2	Introduction
4	A Brief History of the Village
5	The Local Economy
6	The Parish Church
8	Health and Social Care
10	Traffic and Parking
13	Transport
14	Our Environment
18	Public Footpaths around the Village
19	Policing, Crime and Safety
20	Education
22	Services for Our Youth
24	Sports, Leisure and Culture
28	Communications and Information
30	Housing
33	Action Plan Summary



The Great Staughton Village Plan

Introduction

Since the turn of the century, Central Government – both Labour and Coalition - has been in favour of local people having a greater say in local affairs. This concept is being enshrined in the Localism Bill, which is part of the government's Big Society challenge, and there is no doubt that the process will gather momentum in the coming years.

It is important that we in Great Staughton take full advantage of this initiative to bring positive benefits to the Village at a time when all expenditure is subject to very close scrutiny. This is where the Village Plan comes in.

Development of the Village Plan

Following a public meeting at the Village Hall at the end of November 2009, a Steering Group was formed of volunteer Villagers. This Steering Group was given the task of consulting with all the residents of the Parish and developing an action plan which would reflect the aspirations of the Village as a whole.

An initial consultation process led to the production, testing and refining of a comprehensive Questionnaire, which was delivered to all households in the Village during the autumn of 2010.

The response to this Questionnaire was amazing, with almost 85% of occupied households giving us their views – all members of each household were encouraged to complete the form, and so we learned the views of both children and adults alike.

We analysed the results and made these available to the Villagers at an open meeting in early December 2010 and produced a first draft of our Final Report and Action Plan by mid-March 2011.

This first draft was submitted to the Parish Council for comment prior to their meeting on 17 March 2011; representatives of the Steering Group attended that meeting and received the comments of the Parish Councillors. An amended draft was produced. This was circulated to partners and other statutory authorities, posted on the Village website and made available to all Villagers for a final round of comments.

The Final Report was presented to Villagers at the Parish Assembly on 28 April 2011, by representatives of the Village Plan Steering Group. This final report was officially adopted by the newly-elected Great Staughton Parish Council at its meeting on 12 May 2011.

Funding of the Village Plan

This project has not required any funding from the Parish Council. A grant from ITV and Rural Action East got the project off the ground and covered most

of our administration costs. A Big Lottery Fund grant covered most of the cost of printing the Questionnaires. The remainder of our costs, including the printing of the Village Plan will be met by a grant from Luminus Group and contributions from Blades Motorcycles, The Snooty Tavern, The White Hart and Geoff Gilbert Family Butchers.

However, the greatest contribution came from the army of volunteers who made this whole project possible. Of these, special mention is due to Mysia Benford for her analysis of the data contained in the responses to the Questionnaire, and to Matt Giddings for providing his graphic design skills in the production of all our publications. Without these particular skills, we would have incurred considerable consultancy costs.

The input of Cambridgeshire ACRE should also be acknowledged. Until funding was withdrawn by Huntingdon District Council, at around the time that the Questionnaire was published, ACRE provided advice and guidance from their vast experience of the development of parish plans.

Area covered by the Village Plan

The Parish of Great Staughton covers 6,407 acres and is made up of 363 residential properties; our Church, School and Surgery; the two public houses; the Little Staughton Airfield and Little America Industrial Estates; and various commercial concerns in Moor Road, The Highway and The Town.

Of the residential properties, 285 are concentrated in the areas of Staughton Highway and Staughton Green, including the Beachampstead estate; 31 properties are in The Town; 24 properties are in Dillington, Agden Green and the adjacent farms; 22 properties are in Moor Road; and one property, Blayworth Manor, is in Colmworth.

All residents and other interests in the Parish have been given the opportunity to have their say. Perhaps our biggest disappointment was the poor response that we have had from the Dillington and Moor Road areas of the Parish. It is clear that some people in those areas do not feel part of the Village. However, we will continue to be inclusive and encourage every resident of the Parish to feel their voice will be heard, and that they can make a positive contribution to Village life.

How long will the Village Plan last?

The plan sets out actions for the community over the next five years or so. However, the methods that we have used in the preparation of the plan can be used to enable the Villagers to have their say on any new issue that arises.

The Steering Group will be replaced by a Parish Association that will continue to monitor progress on

the actions set out in the rest of this document, and should ensure that the Village Plan will be continuously renewed so as to reflect the developing aspirations of the Villagers.

The changes in Local Government that may follow from the Central Government's Big Society initiative could cause us to reconsider some of our priorities.

Within the following pages

Each of the topics addressed by the Questionnaire has been examined section-by-section. Each section sets out, in summary form, the results of the Questionnaire and the actions proposed to achieve what you say you want.

Some of the actions can be implemented by volunteers over quite short periods of time, at little or no cost. Others actions will have to wait until funds can be raised and/or technical problems can be overcome.

At this time, we have not identified the costs of all the activities set out in the Action Plan as we do not yet know which activities will attract grants and/or finance resulting from the Big Society initiative.

One action, central to the success of the Action Plan set in out the remainder of this report, is the formation of a Parish Association. The Parish Association will take over from the Village Plan Steering Group and will mobilise and co-ordinate the volunteers as necessary to achieve the results that the Villagers aspire to, as evidenced by their responses to the Questionnaire.

All actions will require the same sort of continuing support that we have received from the whole Village in developing your Village Plan.



A Brief History Of The Village

Our early history

Like many apparently unassuming English villages, Great Staughton conceals a surprisingly rich and varied history. In 1958 a substantial Roman villa was excavated. Hoards of coins allowed archaeologists to date the site to between AD 130 and AD 370. 600 years later an Anglo-Saxon worthy named Aelfhelm Polga bequeathed the Village to his goldsmith.

After William

By the time of the Domesday Book in 1086 Great Staughton already had a long history. It was known then as Tochestone and both the Bishop of Lincoln and Ramsey Abbey fought over ownership. Unsurprising, as the Village was prosperous, with hundreds of acres of rich farmland, and dense woodland (Perry Wood still survives from this time).

There are no fewer than four moats in the Village and the most impressive was built in around 1275 by Sir Adam de Creting, a knight of King Edward I. He accompanied the king on his expeditions to Gascony. He was killed there, on the orders of his wife according to a contemporary chronicle. The moat can still be seen on the ridge overlooking the Village to the South. It is still shown on maps as Cretingsbury.



The Middle Ages

The historic church of St Andrews contains much of historical interest. There is the glorious double monument to James and Richard Dyer and their wives. James Dyer helped establish the law of precedence which is still one of the foundations of the English legal system.

The church also contains a memorial to George Wauton, whose family were the successors of the Creting family. It was George Wauton who gathered together twenty good men and true to help defend the country against the Spanish Armada.

He was not the only Wauton (or Walton) to achieve fame. In 1617, Valentine Walton, George's heir, married Oliver Cromwell's daughter Margaret in Staughton Church. He is more notable however for being one of the signatories of Charles I's death warrant in 1649.

In the 17th century, there were the witch hunts led by Matthew Hopkins from Essex, known as the Witchfinder General. After a period of intense activity, these were brought to an end by the Reverend John Gaule, the vicar of Great Staughton, who exposed the money making nature of Hopkins' activities.

Under Victoria

The 19th century saw Great Staughton at its peak as a lively rural community with a church and two chapels, a school, two smithies, many shops and services, including a brewery and a bakery, along with a bicycle shop and a photographer's. The population has still not returned to those levels.

Towards modern times

In the 20th century, the Village declined as the number of people employed in agriculture decreased. World War II saw the building of a military airfield at Staughton Moor. In the 1950s electricity arrived in Great Staughton. In the early 1970s, a new residential estate, Beachampstead, was built. But this expansion has failed to stop shops closing as car ownership has expanded. The expansion of road transport resulted in the Village being overwhelmed by traffic as it became the route from Felixstowe docks to the industrial Midlands. This was relieved with the opening of the A14.

Our future

The challenge facing Great Staughton is building a sustainable community for the 21st century. The drawing up of a Village Plan is the first step.

The Local Economy

Topics Covered

In this section we deal with:

- Employment
- Village Shop and Post Office
- Other Commercial Enterprises

Employment

Questionnaire Results

Of the 684 people responding to the Questionnaire, 300 were either too young for employment, in full time education or retired. The employment status of the remaining 384 Villagers is set out in the following table.

Employment Status	Count
Employed - full-time	210
Employed - part-time	63
Self-employed - no staff	44
Unwaged looking after home/family	28
Self-employed - employing others	19
Unemployed and looking for work	11
Unable to work due to ill health	9
Grand Total	384

Of those working, more than half work within a 10 mile radius of the Village; another 10% work within a 20 mile radius; a further 10% work within a 30 mile radius; and the remainder travelling further than that. Given St Neots excellent train service, it is perhaps surprising that only 20 commute to London to work.

Commentary

From the data collected from the Questionnaire, it is apparent that the Village does not have a major unemployment problem, with a rate of less than 3% of those who are not either too young, in full time education or retired.

Village Shop and Post Office

Questionnaire Results

More than 85% of those responding to the Questionnaire wanted to see a Village Shop and Post Office services. Following feedback from the Questionnaire responses, we now have shops operating from two separate locations, Blades Motorcycles and The White Hart.

Following a Public Consultation, the Post Office Ltd has decided to go ahead with a "Post Office Local" service from Blades, for a trial period of one year. At time of writing, the Post Office Local should be opening in August 2011.

Commentary

Having expressed a wish for a local Village Shop (other than our excellent butchers!!!), it is essential that we support both of these new ventures.

Other commercial enterprises

Questionnaire Results

Our Business Survey drew a poor response. We sent surveys to 72 firms, either located in or serving the Village. Fewer than 10% responded. Of those who did respond, few had plans for growth or the need for local recruitment or additional local services.

As part of the Questionnaire, we invited any Villagers who were in business to apply for and complete a Business Survey. We had only one response.

In addition to the Village Shop and Post Office, 277 respondents wanted a place for dropping-off parcels, dry cleaning and shoe repairs; 100 people wanted an internet access point; 100 wanted a fax and photocopying service; 13 Villagers wanted more (unspecified) retail outlets; 8 wanted a coffee/tea shop; 3 wanted a garage; and 2 wanted a hairdresser.

There was, of course, good support for our butchers and for both the pubs in the Village.

Commentary

Steve Hay at Blades has indicated that, in the future, he may be able to meet the need for a drop-off point and a fax and photocopying service.

Action!

No Parish Council action is currently needed in respect of our economy. All Villagers should do what they can to support our local business.

The Parish Church

History

The church of St. Andrew consists of a chancel with north vestry, north chapel, nave, north aisle, south aisle, west tower and south porch. The walls are of stone and pebble rubble except for the tower which is of coursed rubble and stone dressings. The roofs are covered with tiles, lead and stainless steel, all treated with “safe water” for security reasons.

The Church is mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086, but nothing of this early date remains in-situ. At the end of the 13th century, a gradual rebuilding was commenced by piercing three arches in each side wall of the nave. This was quickly followed by an extension of the arcades by two western bays, the building of the aisles and the rebuilding of the chancel. In the 14th century, the south aisle was rebuilt and widened and a porch added, and the north aisle was also partly rebuilt.

In the latter half of the 15th century, a considerable reconstruction took place. The nave arcades were rebuilt using much old materials, a rood staircase was formed, and a clerestory added; the chancel arch and east wall of the chancel was also rebuilt. Somewhat later, a chapel, known as the Gaynes Chapel, was erected on the north side of the chancel, and the west tower was built. The vestry was built in 1526.

In 1636, the church was said to be ‘much ruined’ and a large sum was spent on its repairs. Considerable additional repairs were carried out in 1848-50, and a complete restoration took place in 1866.

Historical records for Baptisms, Marriages and Burials at St Andrews date back to the 1540s, although these are now kept in the Huntingdon Records Office.

Questionnaire results

The results of the Questionnaire were interesting for the Church. 59% of parishioners use the church every year, ranging from once a week to once a year. A great many of these attendances are for the major life events: baptisms, weddings and funerals and great Church festivals, but a significant proportion also attend concerts and other social activities there.

When questioned about the importance of the Parish Church as a building, 73% said that they regarded the Church building as ‘important, essential and useful to have’. Only 18% had no opinion on this question. And 52% felt that worship is an important part of village life. Just 10% of parishioners attend a church outside Great Staughton.

On the question of how more use could be made of the Church building, concerts, musical evenings and other social events scored highest.

Commentary

Clearly our Church remains central to the whole life of our community: in 2010 we had 5 baptisms, 1 wedding, 6 funerals in Church and 3 at the crematorium. During the time the Revd Judi Clarke has been here (8 years) there have been 68 baptisms of children 0 – 12 years; 26 weddings, 2 blessings of marriage, 46 funerals in Church and 21 in the crematorium. 2010 was a slightly unusual year statistically.

Sunday worship is quite varied: an 8.00am Book of Common Worship on the first Sunday of each month, with Family Worship at 10.30am. The regular service for the rest of the month is a Parish Communion at 10.30, with a variation on fifth Sundays, when a Group Communion is held here or at Hail Weston. We have a ‘Play and Pray’ for children 4 – 11 years during the third Sunday service; Little Fishes for pre-school children on the second Tuesday; a discussion group meeting every fortnight, and additional activities are held throughout the year, such as the Good Friday Family Walk and Egg Hunt, an event for Hallowe’en, and a series of Evensongs during Lent with distinguished speakers.

The response to the question of how more use could be made of the Church building raised some quite surprising answers: concerts, musical evenings, other social events, exhibitions, Sunday School, Family Services Little Fishes, and Flower festivals and so on, are already a regular part of the church year.

Very few of the suggestions are not already happening or being discussed or implemented by the Parochial Church Council.

The idea of having more seating on the path down to the Church does focus attention on one key issue for older people and mothers with small children - St Andrew’s is quite a long way from the main part of the village. There are seats opposite the Church, and on the corner of the footpath near the Old Vicarage, but no others nearer than The Highway. One outside the present vicarage might be a good location. The subject of more benches around the Village is discussed in more detail in the section on Our Environment later in this report.

Action!

The full results of the Questionnaire will be discussed by the Rector and Parochial Church Council in future meetings. Such a comprehensive survey as this one is rarely possible, and full advantage will be taken of it.

The Parish Church will work with the Parish Association to maximise the use of the Church premises for social and cultural activities and to make sure that all our Church services to the community receive the widest publicity.



Health & Social Care

Topics Covered

In this section we deal with:

- The Health of the Population
- Social Needs and Care Provision
- Health Provision
- Future Development of Health and Social Care

The health of the population

While it is very difficult to isolate figures for Great Staughton from the rest of Huntingdonshire, it is clear that the health of the population locally is better than average for England, and indeed for the Hunts area. Road injuries and deaths stand out as worse in Hunts than other areas. The population structure locally is skewed towards an older population, reflecting (possibly) the stability of the village and the cost of housing locally. While the population of Hunts is rising steadily, the number of people living in Great Staughton is stable and unlikely to increase in the next few years. Men living locally are likely to live to an average of 78 years, while women are likely to live to an average of 83 years.

Over the past 10 years, rates of death from all causes and particularly premature deaths from heart disease and stroke have improved. Death rates from cancer have also improved and are better than the average for England. However, 60% of deaths in our area are due to circulatory disease or cancer.

Some areas for concern are the rise in numbers of people who are seriously overweight (with an increased risk of developing diabetes along with its many health risks), and admissions to hospital for alcohol-related illnesses. The number of people having planned surgery in the Hunts area is higher than would be expected compared to similar areas in England. We are likely to see a significant increase in dementia and other age-related problems in the coming years.

Social needs and care provision

Deprivation levels locally are very low, reflecting the relatively high income levels of our population. However, there are needs – as people get older they need more care, and the levels of dependency in the population registered at Great Staughton surgery is higher than other parts of Hunts. Other groups, including children and people with mental illnesses also need support, and much of this is done by people who just get on with it without much support.

Caring for people in the community safely and effectively needs close working between those needing care, those doing most of the caring, health care professionals, social services and volunteer services. We are fortunate in having the West Hunts Day Centre in the village – this meets on a Monday and provides social care and contact for elderly people from the surrounding area.

Care can break down for all sorts of reasons, including the stress and illness of those who are doing the majority of the caring. Most people needing care in the village are looked after by their children or spouses/partners. While most carers say they have enough support, there are facilities available to increase that and take pressure off those who are caring.

Local GP practices are being encouraged to develop a “Carer’s register” to identify those who might need help in the future. Despite cutbacks to budgets, Cambridgeshire County Council is offering those who are on the register additional help, including “prescriptions for Carers Breaks” which allows them to take breaks from the frontline of caring and come back to it refreshed.

For more information about Carer Support, contact **Carers Direct** on **0808 8020202** or for local information, **Cambridgeshire Direct** on **0845 0455200** or visit www.cambridgeshire.net

Health provision

Great Staughton is fortunate in having a GP practice in the village. It is clear that in the current NHS climate there would be very little chance of funding for premises (or premises improvements) in the future. The current surgery building is hampered by its size, and this can cause problems, particularly with issues of confidentiality at reception. The increased amount of administrative work means that space is very cramped, and we have to look at innovative ways of working (such as “hot-desking”).

We are also fortunate to have a Dispensary which enables patients to get their medications immediately in most cases. It would be nice to offer the facility for patients to purchase “over-the-counter” medications, but lack of space and some archaic rules mean that this is difficult to do. 80% of people in the village are registered with the local practice, and most of the rest are registered with Kimbolton surgery. Out-of-hours care is provided by Urgent Care Cambridgeshire based at Hinchingsbrooke hospital, and there is a walk-in centre in St Neots open 7 days a week from 8am-8pm.

Very few people report difficulty accessing GP services, (this is usually because of appointment times not being available for people who work some distance away). While it is impossible to provide 24-hour access for patients, telephone and quick face-to-face access to medical advice is among the best in the country. While some patients have difficulty with transport, we are also fortunate in the village to have “The Highwayman Social Car Service”

which is a volunteer service charging a nominal amount to enable people with poor access to public transport to Doctors, Dentists, Opticians, Chiropodists, to visit friends and relatives at home or in hospital, for shopping or personal business. These trips are subsidised by the County Council, though there is an extra charge for visits to hospital for medical appointments.

For more information about the Highwayman Service, contact **07786 520540** (Monday to Friday between 4pm and 7pm). Volunteer drivers are always needed.

Future development of health and social care

The future needs of our ageing population are going to put additional stresses on individuals and services locally. The potential for cutbacks at County Council and District level mean that there is an urgent imperative to reduce waste in health care and social care provision. The “carers’ strategy” recognises that supporting carers in what they do is critical to maintaining dependent people in their own homes and reducing demand on other services.

To date, provision for respite care and other support has been patchy but should be maintained. However, there is a huge need for voluntary help, particularly within a small community like ours. Simple tasks such as visiting an older person living at home, perhaps offering help with shopping and other needs, or offering to sit with someone while their carer takes a short but well-deserved break.

The local surgery has a carers’ register and is currently working with the County Council to develop services locally, and we would be happy to maintain a list of people who would be willing to volunteer on a regular or emergency basis for this sort of support. If you are a carer, please let your GP practice know – you may be eligible for other support, including health care services for yourself.

All local GP practices are working hard together to make sure that health services locally are sustainable and fit for purpose. NHS Cambridgeshire (the local Primary Care Trust) is developing GP-led commissioning and all local practices are involved in this. In Huntingdonshire, we have been working closely with Hinchingsbrooke hospital to reduce waste and improve patient experience. For instance, the average length of stay in hospital has reduced by one day for patients over the last six months. This has saved a considerable amount of money to reinvest in other services.

Enabling patients to come out of hospital more quickly also reduces disability (particularly for the confused elderly) and the risk of catching unpleasant infections. Some patients stay longer than they need because they are “waiting for” tests or services – our aim is to streamline care so these things are provided more quickly. We are also working to prevent unnecessary admissions to hospital by improving care of chronic conditions in the community and developing services that will meet patients’ needs without them having to

go into hospital in some cases.

There will also be encouragement to the hospital to provide more “one-stop” clinics where patients will attend their appointment and have more of the investigations needed on the same day, enabling them to get results quickly. GPs will be asked to do more diagnostic tests before the patient is referred, so that the information the hospital needs to make a decision about treatment is available at the first appointment. Patients will hopefully have to go to hospital less often, saving the cost of unnecessary follow-up appointments.

Mental Health care locally has improved greatly over recent years with Huntingdonshire being one of the first areas to develop a primary care psychology service. Despite funding pressures, we are hopeful that this service will soon become available to the older population (over 65s). The aim will be that as people get older and need a different level of support to the younger population, this will be linked to voluntary agencies such as Age Concern and the Alzheimer’s Society, who will help integrate the social and other care needs that patients need.

This will inevitably change some of the ways in which health care has been provided traditionally. Many people find telephone access to health advice helpful – sometimes a discussion held face-to-face previously can be followed up with a telephone call, and other forms of communication (on-line, email) are very likely to increase in the future. GPs are going to have to spend much more of their time planning and providing care for more complex needs of older people, so some of the things they are expected to do will be delegated to other staff, including practice nurses, pharmacists.

There will be an increasing emphasis on prevention, and an encouragement to people to take greater responsibility for their own health and for managing their illnesses themselves. The public will also be encouraged to participate in decisions about their local health service, through local **patient groups** attached to their GP practices and through a county-wide Health and Well-Being Board.

Action!

Everyone is to take responsibility for their own health, including adopting the “four healthy behaviours” (not smoking, exercise, healthy diet and keep within healthy limits for alcohol consumption).

The Parish Association is to encourage the development of local exercise groups, including walking groups.

Great Staughton Surgery is to continue to invite patients to contribute to their patient participation group.

Great Staughton Surgery is to maintain a carers’ register and develop a register of people who are willing to volunteer to support dependent people in the community.

Traffic & Parking

Topics Covered

In this section we deal with:

- Over-weight Commercial Vehicles
- Speeding
- Parking

Over-weight commercial vehicles

History

The road through the Village was the A45, the trunk road connecting Felixstowe Docks with the Industrial Midlands. During this period, the bridge over the Kym was replaced and the road straightened. It was after this straightening of the road that there were two fatalities within the Village.

Since the building of the A14 trunk road from Felixstowe Docks to the Midlands, the volume of traffic through the Village has decreased considerably, as has the volume of heavy goods vehicles. However, when there are problems on the A14 or A1, the volume of traffic increases considerably as does the volume of heavy goods vehicles whose drivers ignore the weight restrictions.

During World War Two, a military airfield was built in the Parish, known as Little Staughton Airfield. Another one was built in the neighbouring parish of Kimbolton. After decommissioning, both of these became industrial areas and remain so today, generating a number of lorry movements. One of the hangars of Little Staughton Airfield was converted to a grain store.

The Village is on an abnormal load route (high loads) due to an error in the construction of the bridge carrying the B645 over the A1. The bridge is too low, and high vehicles travelling south leave the A1 at Buckden travel through Perry and Great Staughton and rejoin the A1 at Eaton Socon.

Weight limit for commercial vehicles

The Village lies within the West Cambridge Zone 1993 which was subject to a traffic regulation order prohibiting Heavy Commercial Vehicles of MGWV in excess of 17 tonnes.

This zone is defined by the A14 in the North and the A1 in the East and the county boundary in the West. The weight restriction, which was revised to 18 tonnes, applies to vehicles passing through the area without collecting or delivering within the area. In Cambridgeshire, enforcement is undertaken by Trading Standards. HGVs are permitted to enter the area to deliver to or collect from the various industrial areas, farms and other businesses within the zone.

Enforcement of weight limit for commercial vehicles

In 2007, Trading Standards trialled Lorry Watch in this area, along with another area near Cambridge. This involved members of the public reporting sightings of HGVs to Trading Standards who then contacted the vehicle owners. This was not found to be effective due to the high percentage of vehicles reported who were found to have a legitimate reason to be within the zone.

The other pilot zone, near Fen Ditton, was a short stretch of road in a mainly residential area where it was more successful. However, Trading Standards did indicate that they would support continued activity within the zone and follow up regular infringements that we could not resolve by private discussion.

Lorry Watch can be operated by anybody living within the zone by simply contacting the company whose vehicle was observed, reporting the matter to the operations manager, and maintaining records of vehicles and telephone conversations. It is important that people remember to be polite at all times and avoid confrontation. If this is carried out as a coordinated activity, it can reduce the number of telephone calls and contacts with companies operating legitimately. It is most effective when targeted at “brands” rather than “white lorry man” or container hauliers.

Questionnaire responses

A number of residents complained about HGVs ignoring the weight limit. However, without knowing the delivery schedule of a vehicle, it is not possible to know whether the driver is taking a short cut through the Village or has business within the area.

Commentary

Members of the team producing this report met with traffic officers from Cambridgeshire County Council in February 2011 to discuss a number of the issues raised by residents.

There is no prospect of any change to the current weight restrictions for commercial vehicles in or around the Parish.

Action!

Areas mentioned in the responses, together with suggested actions, are:

Area	Action
Lorries – all day and night	Re-activate Lorry Watch
The Town, noisy lorries day and night.	Re-activate Lorry Watch
Lorries on Moor Road	There is Little America Industrial Estate, plus other businesses up Moor Road, and the grain store. It is difficult to envisage any lorry driver venturing up Moor Road without a legitimate reason.

Parking**Restricted parking zones**

The Village has a number of parking restricted zones.

Title	Date	Description
Beachampstead Road TRO 1990	Jul 1990	Parking - Junction of Beachampstead Road & The Highway
TRO Great Staughton 1974	Jan 1974	Parking - The Town

Enforcement is by the police, but it is applied only sporadically (People parking on the verges have been targeted by the police in the past).

Questionnaire responses

On-street parking (40 % of respondents) and parking on pavements (28 % of respondents) were considered to be a problem or a major problem. Particular problems areas reported by Villagers were The Highway outside the Doctors, Butchers and The White Hart; Beachampstead Road junction with The Highway; Beachampstead pavements; Cage Lane and Vicarage Walk.

Commentary

Parking is a double-edged sword. Whilst it can be a nuisance to some people, and can cause some danger

when it obstructs sight-lines for people pulling out of driveways, it is also a natural traffic-calming measure that costs nothing, especially on the main roads through the Village.

Unless parking is in breach of a parking restricted zone, or is causing a physical obstruction, the police will not take action.

Action!

The Parish Council is to try to ensure that applications for planning permission require a minimum of two parking spaces per dwelling to minimise the need for on-street parking.

Speeding**Speed restrictions**

There are a number of speed restrictions in the area, some by virtue of street lighting and others by virtue of a traffic order.

Title	Date	Description
TRO Great Staughton No 7 1999	Aug 1999	30mph limit Junction Kimbolton Road with The Green, 140 metres NW and 103 metres NE.
TRO Great Staughton No 8 1998	July 1998	40mph limit The Town from junction with The Causeway 413 metres West.
TRO Great Staughton revocation No 1 1993	April 1993	Revoke of 40mph limit. Handwritten note 30 mph by virtue SL (Street Lighting)
TRO Great Staughton No 3 1996	Sept 1996	40mph Causeway from point 212 metres west of its junction with The Highway in westerly direction to its junction with The Town, 456 metres. 40 mph The Town from junction with Causeway westerly direction 237 metres. (Revoked by No 8 Order 1998).
TRO Great Staughton No 3 2005	Jan 2005	30 mph Dillington Road from Junction B66 1 740 metres West.
TRO Great Staughton No 9 1985	Nov 1985	30 mph Cage Lane from junction A45 173 metres north.

Enforcement of speed restrictions

Enforcement of speed restrictions is carried out by the Police. At the time of writing, this is either the Traffic Police or the Cambridgeshire Safety Partnership's mobile camera van. The local police do not appear to operate handheld devices anymore.

There is a citizen version known as Speedwatch which involves volunteers operating monitoring equipment, noting numbers and descriptions of speeding vehicles. The police clerical staff follow up any reported observations with letters advising the owner of the incident. This was run in Great Staughton during 2010 and was used by the local Police Inspector as evidence of speeding to justify the case for the mobile camera van to operate in Great Staughton. The camera van started operating in Great Staughton in December 2010.

Questionnaire responses

Speeding traffic was considered to be a major problem or problem by over 68% of the respondents to the Questionnaire. Areas specifically identified by residents were The Highway, The Green, The Town, Beachampstead Road, Dillington and Moor Road.

Commentary

Members of the team producing this report met with traffic officers from Cambridgeshire County Council in February 2011 to discuss a number of the issues raised by residents.

Irrespective of how effective traffic calming measures for the Village may be, there is no Cambridgeshire County Council budget to pay for any such work. If the Parish Council wants to implement any work to the Highway, this will need Cambridgeshire County Council approval, and the Parish Council will have to bear the cost of survey and design work; civil works by Cambridgeshire County Council contractors; and on-going maintenance of any such work.

There is no prospect of changing any of the current speed restrictions within the Parish. Changes to speed limits by the Cambridgeshire County Council will only be made on the advice of the police. In order for the police to recommend any changes to speed limits, they must be able to show, by survey, that there is a reasonable prospect that traffic will comply with any new restriction. For example, in order for the police to be able to recommend a stepped reduction in the speed limit (40 mph) entering the Village from St Neots, a survey of existing speeds would need to show that traffic actually approaches the Village at an average speed of 46 mph (40 mph + 10% margin + 2 mph).

In any event, the existing speed limit on the road from Pertenhall through the Town to The Causeway

cannot be reduced from 40 mph as the area is insufficiently built up.

Cambridgeshire County Council officers indicated that they would oppose any pedestrian crossing of the B645 as there was insufficient footfall to justify a crossing. In their experience, crossings in areas of insufficient footfall lead to an increased risk of accidents.

Therefore, we are left with enforcement and, perhaps, the installation of traffic calming measures at the Parish Council's expense.

Action!

We have set out in the table below the action proposed for each of the areas highlighted by Villagers in the responses to the Questionnaire.

Area	Action
The Highway	Speedwatch has been in operation Camera van has been in operation. Investigate modifying pinch point to a Give-Way on entry to Village.
The Green	Already has an interactive speed sign. Camera van has been in operation. Traffic Police operate outside The Snooty Tavern. Investigate a Give-Way on entry to Village in Kimbolton Road. Possibly move interactive speed sign to Kimbolton Road.
The Town	Support residents in using Speedwatch.
Beachampstead Road	Support residents in using Speedwatch.
Dillington	30mph at residents' request in 2005. Support residents in using Speedwatch.
Moor Road	National Speed limit of 60mph, Speedwatch equipment not calibrated for this speed.

All Villagers must keep to the speed limit through the Village, this will force others to follow suit.

Transport

Bus services

Up until April 2011, the Village was served by a number of bus routes:

Bus No.	Description	Operator
152	Bedford - Kimbolton - St Neots Runs: Monday to Saturday	Cedar Coaches
400	Keyston - Huntingdon Runs Monday to Saturday	Stagecoach
401	Grafham - Spaldwick - Huntingdon Runs: Monday to Saturday	Stagecoach
404	Bedford - Huntingdon Runs: Wednesdays only	Stagecoach
405	Huntingdon - Peterborough Runs: Wednesdays only	Stagecoach
408	Huntingdon - St Neots Runs: Thursdays only	Stagecoach

These were subsidised by Cambridgeshire County Council who withdrew all subsidises from April 2011. The withdrawal of subsidies has resulted in changes to services and operators, but, at the time of writing, the extent of these changes has not been finalised.



Questionnaire responses

The vast majority of people use their own private transport and do not rely upon public transport. 25 people used the bus to get to the shops, but only 2 respondents relied on bus services alone to get to work, training, study or school.

34% of pupils reported difficulty attending after-school activities, almost entirely due to inadequate public transport.

81% of the Villagers support the idea of a community minibus service, although only 26% of Villagers were likely to use such a service.

A number of respondents asked for cycle paths to be introduced linking the Village to Perry and, via Hail Weston, to St Neots. Cambridgeshire County Council has no funds for such cycle paths at present.

Action!

The Parish Association is to encourage parents to organise car sharing for after-school activities.

The Parish Association is to investigate the provision of a community minibus service in conjunction with the surrounding villages.

Villagers should support the existing Highwayman Social Car Service – volunteer drivers take Villagers to the doctors, dentist, opticians, hospital social events, shopping etc.

Our Environment

Topics covered

In this section we deal with:

- Litter and Rubbish
- Refuse Collection, Street Cleaning and Recycling
- Street Lighting
- Dog Fouling
- Maintenance of Roads and Pavements
- Hedges, Trees and Verges
- Mains Drainage to Dillington
- Energy Saving
- Other Environmental Improvements to the Village

Litter & rubbish

Questionnaire Results

256 (40%) of the 643 people who responded to the question consider litter and rubbish to be a problem. Only 17 of these thought it was a serious problem; the rest thought it was a problem, but not serious.

Those with specific concerns cited rubbish thrown from vehicles; litter in the park, playing fields and public footpaths; dog fouling (dealt with as a separate topic later in this section); and fly tipping as their main concerns.



Commentary

As in many villages, litter is a big problem, especially in four areas: the B645 towards Hail Weston; the Snooty Tavern to Agden Green along the B645; the B661 road to Perry; and Moor Road. Every year in February, the Parish Council, together with a group of volunteers, organises a litterpick which helps remove some of the rubbish.

20 volunteers would take approx 5 hours to do the litterpick. Our aim should be to get 40-50 volunteers.

Action!

The Parish Council will investigate whether more litter bins are appropriate, where they would be located and whether Huntingdon District Council would empty them.

The Parish Council will organise the main litterpick which takes place in February every year. It is suggested that there should be 3 further litterpicks during the rest of the year. These will be organised by the Parish Association, with backing and support from the Parish Council, and will call upon those people who stated in the Questionnaire that they would be willing to volunteer for community activities.

Refuse collection, street cleaning & recycling

Questionnaire results

On average, 572 (93%) of the 615 people who responded to these questions thought that the refuse collection, street cleaning and recycling services were good or reasonable.

Commentary

The Village has a paper and glass recycling centre at the Village hall car park. In the past, this has contributed nearly £1,000 to Village funds every year. Shortly, Huntingdon District Council will be taking over collection of paper and bottles in the normal refuse collection service, and we will therefore lose this valuable source of funds. This may be partly offset by an additional facility for recycling textiles, but this would reduce the current charitable recycling of clothes.

Given the fact that the vast majority of respondents felt that waste disposal and recycling were satisfactory in the Village, it is a matter of regret that we will shortly lose the recycling facility and the £1,000 it brings to the Village.

Action!

None.



Street lighting

Questionnaire Results

130 (22%) of the 585 people who responded to the question consider the street lighting in the Village to be less than adequate.

Of these, most cited the section of road between the School and the Church as being a particular problem, with The Town receiving the second highest number of complaints. Others cited the section of the main road alongside the playing fields, but this may have resulted from a faulty street light in this area at the time the Questionnaires were being completed. A few people thought the general levels of lighting were poor, but this was balanced, in part, by those who thought that there was too much light pollution.

Commentary

The street lights in the Village split into two sets. One set is owned and maintained by the Parish Council. The other set is owned and maintained by the County Council.

The Parish Council's street lighting maintenance has been completely re-structured. The Parish now has a contract with one supplier to maintain and repair all its lights. Villagers should report any faulty lights directly to the Clerk of the Parish Council or to any Councillor, quoting the unique light number displayed on each lamp post.

The stretch of The Causeway between the School and the Church could be equipped with street lighting, but this is likely to be expensive without many people benefitting. We need a lot more evidence that such a proposal would gain widespread approval.

Action!

The Parish Council is to obtain an approximate cost for installing street lighting to The Causeway, between the School and the Church. Once this cost information has been established, Villagers will be invited, via the Village website, to have their say as to the priority that these works should have.

Dog fouling

Questionnaire results

This topic received the highest response, 218 out of the 684 respondents (32%), in answer to the question: Do you think any of the following detract from Great Staughton's physical environment?

When responding to a request for suggestions for how the village environment could be improved, respondents asked for more dog refuse bins, emptied more frequently.

Commentary

Dog fouling is a topic that is regularly raised at Parish Council meetings. There was a dog refuse bin in Lover's Lane which used to be emptied on a voluntary basis by a local farmer. He has now stopped. In the circumstances, the Parish Council has now decided to remove this bin.

It would be useful to have more bins around the Village and associated footpaths, but they would have to be emptied by volunteers as Huntingdon District Council does not offer this service.

Any solution must lie with the dog owners. One way forward would be to form a team of volunteer dog owners to decide on the best location for additional bins, to install bins, and arrange for them to be emptied.

Action!

The Parish Association is to initiate the formation of a team of volunteer dog owners to provide, install and empty dog refuse bins.

The Parish Council is to encourage responsible dog-owners to identify other dog owners who fail to clean up after their dogs.

The Parish Council is to enforce the bylaws with respect to dog owners who fail to clean up after their dogs.





Maintenance of roads & pavements

Questionnaire Results

This topic received the second highest response, 182 out of the 684 respondents (27%), in answer to the question: Do you think any of the following detract from Great Staughton's physical environment?

Commentary

The state of pavements in the Village is a matter of concern particularly for wheelchair bound people and the elderly in general. The topic is raised regularly under Highways at Parish Council meetings.

"Highways" features on every Parish Council agenda and any issues raised are repeatedly communicated to the relevant Highway Authority. Progress can be slow as the constant excuse is that there are no funds available but by diligently pursuing our case, problems are eventually addressed, although often the makeshift quality of the work leaves a lot to be desired. Members of the team drawing up this report met with representatives of Cambridgeshire County Council Highways department in February 2011. They were informed that it is unlikely that any budget will be available to improve our roads and footpaths in the foreseeable future.

Action!

Residents should report specific problems with roads and pavements to the Parish Council. Potholes in the road can now be reported directly to Cambridgeshire County Council via their website at:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/roads

The Parish Council to continue to pursue any problems with roads and pavements, with Cambridgeshire County Council.

Hedges, trees & verges

Questionnaire Results

This topic received the third highest response, 119 out of the 684 respondents (17%), in answer to the question: Do you think any of the following detract from Great Staughton's physical environment?

Commentary

The Village has an excellent handyman who regularly goes round the Village trimming hedges and trees, maintaining and cutting the verges, and tending the flowers. He also attends to overgrown trees and bushes which many respondents cited as a nuisance.

Action!

Residents should report specific problems with any overhanging branches and the like to the Parish Councillors.

Offenders responsible for any overhanging branches and the like will be instructed by the Parish Council to deal with it themselves. If that fails to solve the problem, the Village handyman will be instructed by the Parish Council to remove offending foliage.

Mains drainage to Dillington

Questionnaire Results

Questionnaire responses from Dillington cite this as a major problem for them, with raw sewage from existing drains finding its way into drainage ditches. This gives rise not only to smells, but to a potential public health risk and should be reported to the Environment Agency.

Commentary

Mains drainage in Dillington is a problem because Anglian Water states that it does not have the resources to install modern drainage. It is understood that any mains drainage would have to be pumped back up to the main drainage at the junction of Dillington and The Green. It is a battle which the Parish Council fights constantly with Anglian Water.

Action!

The Parish Council is to keep up pressure on Anglia Water to provide mains drainage to Dillington.

The Parish Council will investigate alternatives to mains drainage that would remedy the current potential public health risk.

Energy saving

Questionnaire Results

The responses to the questionnaire revealed that over 80% of the 287 households responding had loft insulation, double glazing, low-energy light bulbs and lagged hot water tanks. Just over 50% have cavity wall insulation; and a small percentage have a water saving or harvesting device, solar panels or wind power.

When asked which energy-saving devices people would like to install, there was sizeable support for photovoltaic solar panels (40), solar hot water panels (39), wind power (18), double glazing (17) and cavity wall insulation (14).

Commentary

Both the Huntingdon District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council are encouraging energy-saving initiatives. Grants are available, subject to status.

A useful website for people seeking to save energy, and grants for doing so, is The Energy Saving Trust which can be found at www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

There is a possibility that bulk buying of some of these energy-saving measures may reduce the cost to Villagers.

Action!

The Parish Association is to investigate how the Village might benefit from energy-saving initiatives and publicise the results of this research in Life Magazine and the Village website.

The Parish Association is to include energy-saving measures on the list of bulk-buy services.

Other Environmental Improvements to the Village

Questionnaire Results

When asked for suggestions for how the village environment could be improved, many different proposals were put forward. Top of the list was the completion of the redevelopment of the old petrol station site, which had become an eyesore at the time the Questionnaires were distributed – happily this is now underway.

Many people want more trees and flowers. Others asked for more benches to be provided around the Village. Another recurring theme in responses was a desire for all householders to take responsibility for

their immediate environment, with some suggesting that this would be encouraged by entry into “Villages in Bloom” and “Best Kept Village” competitions.

Commentary

Overall, the Village is generally well-kept. Residents have a pride in the Village and are quick to voice any concerns. Without being complacent, it is fair to state that problems are quickly addressed.

The Village has a number of allotments which are all in use. Improvements have been made recently notably, the provision of a well to provide water, and a secure fence to keep out rabbits and deer.

The village environment could be enhanced by planting more trees and flowers. This will be taken up by the Parish Council in conjunction with the tree warden.

There is concern about the spread of disease amongst our trees and the tree warden is to make recommendations to the Parish Council on whether the diseased trees should be felled.

Action!

The Parish Council will take forward the suggestions for improving our environment, with representatives of the Horticultural Society.

Residents and, perhaps, the schoolchildren are to be encouraged to suggest locations for tree planting. The Horticultural Society is to advise which species would be suitable for each location.

The Parish Council is to seek sponsorship for new trees from local individuals and businesses.

Residents are to identify the appropriate locations for new benches.

The Parish Council is to seek sponsorship for new benches.



Public Footpaths Around The Village

History

For those people who enjoy walking in the countryside, Great Staughton used to be a frustrating place to live. There were footpaths all around the Village but many of them were redundant farm paths, others were overgrown, still more were difficult to trace.

In the early 1990s a bold scheme was suggested to create an entirely new network of paths which would provide easy access to the countryside. The old paths would be re-routed so that the pleasant countryside around our Village could be explored without causing damage to crops or inconvenience to farmers.

This was no mean task as any changes to footpaths have to go right up to the Secretary of State for approval, but such was the co-operation and enthusiasm of the people taking part that the network was created in the comparatively short period of 5 years or so. Paths were marked, obstacles cleared, and stiles were erected. It reflected great credit on the landowners, farmers, parish councillors and walkers that the process went so smoothly.

Organisations outside the Village were also involved. Huntingdonshire District Council was quick to respond to the challenge and steered the scheme efficiently



over the various administrative hurdles. Help and advice came from other quarters: the Rural Group of Cambridgeshire County Council gave practical help with way-marking. The Rural Group of Cambridgeshire County Council generously offered financial support for a comprehensive guide to the walks.

Currently, there are approximately 50 miles of new footpaths taking walkers over to Hail Weston, up to Grafham Water, across Staughton Moor, and over to Kimbolton. To commemorate the inauguration of the walks a special booklet was written with maps and a brief history of Staughton. Sadly, the booklet is currently out of print.

Questionnaire results

60% of those responding to the Questionnaire said that they would support the extensions or improvements to the footpath network around the Village.

When asked for suggestions for how the village environment could be improved, a number of issues were raised in respect of public footpaths around the Village. Fly tipping, dog fouling and benches are all dealt with in the section dealing with Our Environment, earlier in this report. The only other issues raised were in respect of footpath maintenance and book of footpath maps.

Commentary

Each year the Parish Council has received a grant (currently around £500) from Cambridgeshire County Council to maintain and improve the footpath network. Three years ago, for example, many of the old stiles were replaced by kissing gates, which made access to the countryside much easier, particularly for senior citizens.

The grant is used to keep the network in good conditions ensuring all paths are accessible and free of undergrowth. Our local farmers undertake this work, for which they are paid. It is likely that this grant will decrease or even cease in the coming years and volunteer walkers will be obliged to help keep the paths in good condition.

The medieval ridge fields are protected. That is, they are not ploughed and it is green belt. Similarly the ridge and furrow fields are protected from development.

The maintenance of public footpaths is covered adequately for the time being by the arrangements referred to above.

Action!

The information regarding walks around the Village, including maps, will be placed on the Village website for interested parties to download.

Policing, Crime & Safety



Questionnaire results

Whilst 14% of respondents had used the police concerning an incident in the Village over the previous 2-3 years, fewer than 2% felt unsafe or not very safe living in Great Staughton – 2 people felt unsafe and 10 felt not very safe.

Of those that did use the police, 19% found their response unsatisfactory.

When asked for suggestions that might make Great Staughton a safer place to live then, ignoring traffic issues that are dealt with elsewhere in this report, 50 people wanted a regular visible police presence and 10 people wanted a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

Commentary

Whilst the level of satisfaction when Villagers had needed to report incidents to the police is disappointing, almost everyone feels safe to live in the Village.

Police cuts are likely to preclude any increase to the visible police presence in the village.



Action!

The Parish Association is to canvass support for a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Education

Topics covered

In this section we deal with:

- Responses to the Questionnaire regarding Schooling (Questions 6 and 24 – 28 inclusive)
- General Questionnaire responses that relate to the School or School Population
- The involvement of Great Staughton Primary School in Village life

Responses to the questionnaire regarding schooling:

There are 156 children or young persons in education, from Play Group to University level, most being of primary school age. The types of educational establishments attended by these 156 children breaks down as follows:

Q.6 - Children	Count
Primary school	64
Secondary school	53
University or college - living at home	12
Nursery school	11
University or college - living away	9
Play group	7

Of the 64 children at primary school, only 61 responded to Question 24 and indicated which primary school they attended. The breakdown of these 61 responses shows that they attended primary school is as follows:

Q.24 - If you attend primary school, where is it?	Count
Great Staughton	40
Kimbolton	9
Crosshall Junior	3
Eaton Ford	2
St Neots	2
Overhills Primary	2
Bedford	2
Little Paxton	1
Grand Total	61



From the above it is clear that at least 40 or 63% of children living in the Village attend our Village School leaving 21 who do not. In respect of these 21 children, we received 18 responses to Question 25, which asked what might have influenced parents to send their children to Great Staughton Primary School. The main reason given was a reluctance to change schools when moving into the village, followed by a preference for independent education. A full breakdown of the reasons given is set out below.

Q. 25 - What might have influenced you to select Great Staughton	Total
Didn't want to change schools when we moved here	4
We did, then moved to Kimbolton	3
Living in the village at the time of choosing schools	2
My children go to this school as I work in that town	2
Nothing, as we prefer independent education	2
Better Ofsted	1
Better secondary school option	1
Larger classes	1
More facilities	1
More special needs provision - our son has autism	1

59 of our young people attend secondary school or college distributed, as follows:

Q.26 - Secondary School	Count
St Neots Longsands School	39
Kimbolton	3
Shuttleworth College	3
Sharnbrook Upper School	3
Hinchingbrooke	3
Huntingdon Regional College	2
RAF Alconbury	2
Oundle School	2
Cambridge Regional College	1
Bedford	1
Grand Total	59

From the above it is clear that 39 (66%) of secondary school children living in the village attend Longsands School, leaving the remaining 20 split roughly evenly across 9 other schools.

Of the 59 young people at secondary school or college, 20 young people experience difficulties in getting to school or college, or taking part in after school activities, all of which are caused by transport limitations, as follows:

Q.28 - Difficulties attending after school activities	Count
No method of travelling home afterwards	15
No public transport to and from school or college	3
20 miles from school	2
Having to rely on parents to pick me up	1
Grand Total	21

Solutions to this problem are discussed in the previous section under the heading Transport.

General Questionnaire responses that relate to the School or School Population

In summary, general comments relate to road safety especially for children making their way to and from school, securing better and safer access to surrounding locations and improvements in facilities.

The involvement of Great Staughton Primary School in village life

We now have a new headmistress at our Primary School, Claire Matthews. Claire has told us that she would be more than happy for the School to be centrally involved with Village Life.

The School was very much a part of the consultation process that has led to the production of this report, involving all the pupils in the survey of what they liked best and disliked most about the Village.

The School has recently organised the Royal Wedding Tea Party and hosts the annual MacMillan coffee morning fund raiser with the Surgery.

The Karate Club, Rainbows, Brownies and the Spice Care Holiday Club all use School premises, and the School used to host the Keep Fit classes until they ended.

The School would be more than happy to meet with any clubs or groups who wish to use School premises.

Action!

The Parish Association will work with the School to maximise the use of the School premises for social and cultural activities and to make sure that all our School and PTA activities receive the widest publicity.



Services For Our Youth

This section is intended to address the services for those in the 10 to 18 years old age bracket.

Questionnaire responses

When asked for their opinion on how adequate the level of provision of each of the following is in the Village (Yes if current provision is adequate, No if there is a need for more, or for improvements to current facilities), the table below sets out the responses of the 684 people who completed the Questionnaire.

	Yes	No	No Opinion
Play equipment in the park	282	109	293
Activities for children	197	151	336
Activities for teenagers	73	309	302

If those with “No Opinion” are excluded on the basis that they have no opinion because they have no contact with children or teenagers, then over 80% thought that there is a need for more, or for improvements to, current facilities for teenagers.

If respondents thought that there should be more of, or improvements to, any of these facilities, they were asked to provide their suggestions, with the following results, insofar as they relate to our youth.

Suggestions	Count
Youth club	37
Improve/develop facilities for teenagers	18
Somewhere safe for teenagers to meet up	17
More play equipment	13
Improve play equipment	13
Larger equipment for older children	9
More adventure play equipment (like Hail Weston)	8
Play equipment in park looks ‘tired’ and old	8
Children and youth sports opportunities	6
Nothing in the village for teenage boys!	5
Indoor sports facility for teenagers	5
More climbing equipment	3
Teenagers need a focus - maybe a social club	3
More skate equipment	2
Add a zip wire to the park	2
Improved slide in the park	2

From the table above, of the 37 people asking for a youth club, only 18 persons were in the 10-18 age group.





Later in the Questionnaire, when asked the direct question whether they would like to see a youth club in Great Staughton, 279 Villagers said that they would. And 18 people said they were prepared to help run village based youth activities. There were also 60 requests for a youth shelter.

When the question that was asked 'are there sufficient social clubs for the following age groups?' there were some surprising answers.

Age Group	Yes	No	No Opinion
Social groups - Age 10-14	4%	21%	75%
Social groups - Age 14-18	1%	24%	75%

That is, whilst only a tiny percentage thought there were sufficient social clubs for our youth, a massive 75% were ambivalent.

Commentary

The age old cry of 'there's nothing for us to do' must be heard in every town and village across the land as young people are shooed away on a daily and nightly basis from bus shelters, park benches and street corners.

The responses to the Questionnaire seem to confirm that, as far as our Village is concerned, they are telling the truth.

What is not so evident is what do our youth actually want?

What appears to be needed is a place for young people to congregate, meet their friends, hang out and just do nothing with minimum interference from adults but be safe and not in danger.

A youth shelter would provide one such solution, but this will need to be constructed. There are a number of proprietary youth shelters, all providing covered seating. If we are to get the best use out of such a facility, then our youth should be the ones who tell us what facilities the shelter should have. We have included such a provision in the next section of this report, dealing with Sports, Leisure and Culture, along with other long-term improvements to the facilities to the playing fields. Such a shelter would not need to be manned by adults.

Also in the next section of this report, dealing with Sports, Leisure and Culture, the possibility of a Youth Club in the Pavilion is suggested. The pavilion is an under-used village asset and with a little imagination this could become a meeting place for all young people, offering hot and cold drinks, snacks, music and a place to relax.

The village does have a table tennis table and also a pool table which could be set up in the Pavilion. Possibly a computer club could also be started. Opening times could be late afternoon, early evening for the 10-14s and 7-10pm for the 14-18 year olds, both once or twice a week depending on demand and availability of adults to provide cover.

In conclusion youth facilities will only improve provided there is enough will on the part of the people in the age groups to make it happen and sufficient adults to give up some of their valuable time to help organize and supervise.

Action!

The actions required for Our Youth are set out below in the section dealing with Sports, Leisure and Culture.

Sports, Leisure & Culture

Topics covered

In this section we deal with:

- Demand for Facilities
- Adequacy of Current Facilities
- Use of Existing Facilities
- Organisation of Sports, Leisure and Culture
- Proposed Improvements to Facilities

Demand for facilities

Questionnaire responses

The Questionnaire results indicate that a great many more Villagers would like to take part in sports, leisure and cultural activities than currently do. For example:

- 100 people said that they would use a badminton court if it were available;
- 54 would play bowls;
- 48 would play snooker;
- 40 would play netball and 28 would play basketball;
- 28 would play whist and 27 would play bridge;
- 22 would play table skittles;

and many more would take part in other activities.

Commentary

Not only would the social cohesion of the Village be improved, but the wellbeing of both children and adults would be greatly enhanced by easy access to sports, leisure and cultural facilities close to home.

However, it is difficult to square these Questionnaire responses with what actually happens in the Village. For example, we have a Badminton Club that meets every Monday evening. They regularly fail to get four players, despite their entry in Life Magazine asking for more members. Similarly, the Social Club fail to get more than three or four to play snooker on Thursday evenings again despite their entry in Life Magazine asking for more members. The White Hart Table Skittles team folded two years ago because of a lack of players in the Village.

Whilst we recognise that the badminton court in the Village Hall is restricted because of the building dimensions, and snooker is limited to one evening a week in the winter, there does seem to be a considerable gap between what Villagers have said

they want and what is actually happening in these examples. This may be because the Questionnaire was anonymous, and when Villagers are asked to sign up for specific clubs and activities, we may well receive a different response.

In the circumstance, it would be dangerous to embark on a programme to create the facilities that the Questionnaire responses seem to indicate are needed, without undertaking further research and analysis.

Action!

The Parish Association will devise and carry out a Survey, of all Villagers, which relates principally to Sports, Leisure and Culture and which, unlike the Questionnaire, will not be anonymous. The Survey will establish a database for all clubs and societies, both in terms of people wanting to be involved in existing or new Clubs and Societies; and people prepared to assist with the running of such clubs and societies.

The Parish Association Survey referred to above will also ask for volunteers to help implement the “carers’ strategy”, which recognises that supporting carers in what they do is critical to maintaining dependent people in their own homes and reducing demand on other health services, as set out on pages 11 and 12 of this report under the heading “Future Development of Health and Social Care”.

Adequacy of current facilities

Questionnaire responses

When questioned about the adequacy of the level of provision of each of the following facilities in the Village (“Yes”, if current provision is adequate; “No”, if there is a need for more or for improvements to current facilities), the 684 responses were as follows:

Current Facilities	Yes	No	No Opinion
Outdoor play space for under 5's	335	62	287
Outdoor play space for over 5's	323	71	290
Indoor play provision for under 5's	307	30	347
Play equipment in the park	282	109	293
Activities for children	197	151	336
Activities for teenagers	73	309	302
Opportunities for residents to meet and socialise	274	131	279
Activities for older people	220	118	346

When asked as to how these may be improved, the suggestions put forward were many and varied. At the forefront of these suggestions was a youth club and/or somewhere for our youth to meet; improved play equipment and sports facilities for all children; and more village events/clubs.

Commentary

Clearly, the under 5's are adequately catered for (except for their play equipment), but there is some measure of support for improvement to the remainder of the facilities.

Use of existing facilities

Questionnaire responses

The only question that was asked about usage of existing facilities related to the Village Hall. More than 60% of Villagers used the hall in the previous year, more than half of whom used it three or four times or more during the year.

Commentary

The Village has reasonably good facilities for its size. The current facilities within Village for sports, leisure and cultural activities are:

- The Village Hall
- The Pavilion
- The Tennis Courts
- The Children's Play Park
- The Skateboard Park
- The Playing Fields to the west of Green Lane
- The Play Area behind Manor Close and Beachampstead Road
- The Church
- The School
- The Snooty Tavern and The White Hart Public Houses

If we are going to be able to give the Villagers what they say they want, we need re-assess how we use our existing facilities, as well as how they may be expanded in the future.

The Village Hall

The existing Village Hall is smaller than ideal for most of the current activities; the noise restrictions on its use mean that it is no longer suitable for some events; it has no areas suitable for clubs such as whist, bridge, or table tennis; and it has no break-out external areas, making it less suitable for private functions. It is unable to accommodate a full size badminton court with adequate run-off areas. And it has no fixed stage for public entertainment.

In an ideal world, with unlimited resources, we would be saying that the only way to give the Villagers all the indoor sports, leisure and cultural facilities that they say they want, would be to build a new Village Hall on a different site within the Village.

However, as stated in the Commentary under the heading Demand for Facilities earlier in this section, we cannot be sure that Villagers will actually sign up for activities indicated in their responses to the Questionnaire, until further research is undertaken.

Furthermore, in the present financial climate, there seems to be little prospect of the Parish Council being able to raise the money for such an enterprise.

It will remain a long-term aspiration, but is not for implementation within the life of this Village Plan.

If the Survey referred to above under the heading Demand for Facilities shows that there is a solid demand for a new Village Hall, it may be possible to carry out a feasibility study for such a project, at little or no cost.

The existing Village Hall is not used to its full capacity at present.

The Pavilion

The playgroup part of the Pavilion is used daily in term time by the Playgroup, as is the central section of the Pavilion. On most weekends, it is free on Saturdays and many Sundays as well most evenings in the week. In other words there is a lot of spare capacity.

It has the potential to be used for some of the clubs, such as table tennis, whist and bridge, which received a material amount of support in the responses to the Questionnaire. It also has the potential to accommodate a Youth Club.

The Tennis Courts

There is a thriving Tennis Club, which is happy to receive new members. The courts have the potential to accommodate basketball and netball.

The children's play park

The children's play park to the rear of the school has equipment that is out of date, although there is a rolling programme of replacement. Age groups are not segregated, with equipment for the very young in the same area as that for older children.

When asked if they thought that there should be more of, or improvements to, any of the facilities, more than fifty residents wanted improvements to the children's play equipment.

The skateboard park

This has been extended in recent years and seems to be what the users want. Only two respondents wanted to see improvements to this facility.

The playing fields to the west of Green Lane

These currently are used for football and cricket. It is disappointing to note how few of the footballers actually live in the Village, whilst Villagers have to travel to get a game. As users of the fields are not required to book it, we do not know how much spare capacity it has. It is possible that its use could be expanded to accommodate more football teams, as well as children's football and cricket.

The play area behind Manor Close and Beachampstead Road

Currently, it is used very little except by dog walkers.

The Church

The Church has the potential to expand the number and variety of Village cultural events that it hosts. This is discussed further in the section of this report dealing with Our Church.

The School

The School Hall has not been made available to the Village in general for some years now. Subject to the co-operation of the School authorities, it has the potential to accommodate a variety of Village events.

The Snooty Tavern & White Hart Public Houses

Whilst these two establishments provide a substantial contribution to village life, the trend towards providing food as a major source of income stream has inevitably led to the demise of the traditional pub games.

With the exception of crib, at The White Hart, on a night when the restaurant is closed, we no longer have any pub based games in the Village. As these are

privately owned commercial concerns, there is little that we can do to change this.

Organisation of sports, leisure and culture

Current organisation

Under the umbrella of the Parish Council, two principal committees run the Village-owned facilities for sports, leisure and culture. These are the Village Hall Committee and the Playing Fields Committee.

The Playing Fields Committee looks after the Pavilion; the Tennis Courts; the Children's Play Park; the Skateboard Park; the Playing Fields to the west of Green Lane; and the Play Area behind Manor Close and Beachampstead Road.

Parochial Church Council runs the Church activities and usage; and the Board of Governors runs the School activities and usage. The Parent Teachers Association organise their fund-raising activities under the control of the School.

Each club and society has its own structure, and most have input into the committee that runs the facilities that they use. Some clubs and societies own their own equipment. For example, the Badminton and Tennis Clubs own their own nets, the Social Club owns the snooker table; and the West Hunts Friendship Club owns some of the kitchen equipment in the Village Hall.

In addition to organised clubs and societies, there are a number of ad hoc public events that take place each year in the Village Hall.

Additional organisation

Action!

A Parish Association will be created to take over the responsibilities of the Village Plan Steering Group.

The Parish Association will not only organise and promote Village-wide activities, but also help coordinate the activities of all the other clubs to maximise the use of the existing facilities. This will require them to work closely with all of the current organisations, including the Village Hall Committee and Playing Fields Committee, under the umbrella of the Parish Council.

Volunteers

In response to the Questionnaire, 92 Villagers said they were willing to help, and another 260 said that they might help, depending upon what

was needed. These volunteers will need to be mobilised and co-ordinated.

Action!

The Parish Association will mobilise and organise the volunteers who offered to help with Village activities.

Proposed improvements to facilities

Analysis of usage of existing facilities

The Parish Association would work with the Playing Fields and Village Hall Committee to establish accurately the existing usage of Village facilities and, thereby, identify the availability of spare capacity.

Increasing the usage of existing facilities

With the co-operation of the Social Club, the Village Hall Committee could make the snooker table available at additional times. They could install coin-operated light controls for the snooker table to realise additional revenue. This installation would be paid for out of revenue.

With the co-operation of the Badminton Club, the Village Hall Committee could make the badminton court available at additional times, again increasing revenue.

Working with the Playing Fields Committee, the Parish Association could increase the usage of the Playing Fields and Pavilion, and accommodate the additional clubs and societies identified by the Survey, referred to above under the heading Demand for Facilities. This could satisfy the declared wish to see a Youth Club established, as well as clubs such as table tennis, whist, bridge, exercise classes and the like. Sports clubs for children could also be accommodated on the playing field.

The Parish Association could work with the School to investigate the usage of the School Hall for community activities. It is possible that some of the events that are currently too noisy for the Village Hall could be held there. The Parish Association could also work with the School and/or the Playing Fields Committee to establish basketball and netball facilities, either on the school playground or the tennis courts.

The Parish Association could discuss with the Snooty Tavern the possibility of using the little-used back room at the pub for activities, such as some traditional pub games, bridge or whist clubs, or a Youth Cafe.

Long-term plan for improving facilities

The Actions set out below represent the longer term projects that may be appropriate to satisfy the aspirations of the Villagers, subject to the results of the Survey, referred to above under the heading Demand for Facilities, confirming those aspirations.

These actions will only be taken forward with the full co-operation of the Playing Fields Committee.

The Parish Association will investigate and pursue any source of grants available for this work, so as to minimise the cost to the Villagers.

Action!

The Parish Association, in conjunction with the Playing Fields Committee, will investigate the feasibility of and assist in the construction of a new secure play area for the younger children adjacent to the existing play area to the rear of the School.

The Parish Association, in conjunction with the Playing Fields Committee, will investigate the feasibility of and assist in the creation of an Adventure Playground for the older children where the existing children's play equipment is located to the rear of the School.

After further consultation with our youth, the Parish Association, in conjunction with the Playing Fields Committee, will investigate the feasibility of and assist in the construction of a Youth Shelter and outdoor table tennis table adjacent to the Adventure Playground.

The Parish Association, in conjunction with the School and the Playing Fields Committee, will investigate the feasibility of and assist in the creation of basketball and netball facilities, either in the School playground or the tennis courts.

The Parish Association, in conjunction with the Playing Fields Committee, will investigate the feasibility of and assist in the creation of an all-weather sports facility on the Playing Fields to the west of Green Lane, perhaps floodlighting this area, subject to local by-laws.

The Parish Association will carry out a feasibility study into the possibility of constructing a new, larger Village Hall elsewhere in the Village. This could include a new Heath Centre as the current Surgery building is less than ideal, for the reasons set out in the section on Health and Social Care earlier in this report.

Communications & Information

Topics covered

The topics covered in this section are:

- Where do villagers get their information about what is going on in and around the village?
- What is the feeling for more advanced methods to source information such as the internet and/or a community newsletter?
- Would you support and participate in a community run fibre optic broadband?

Where do villagers get their information about what is going on in and around the village?

Questionnaire responses

The results from the questionnaire show that only 6 people gain information from their immediate family but 565 say Life magazine is the main source of what is going on.

The school, village notice boards, surgery and church notice boards also scored well and 25 people say they are informed by word of mouth. See the table below which gives greater detail of how village goings on are spread around the population.

Source	Count
Life Magazine	565
School	93
Village Hall notice board	77
Surgery notice board	64
Post Office notice board	55
Church notices	39
Word of mouth	25
Social networking websites	14
Bystander	13
Surgery website	12
Butcher; Butcher's window	12
Pubs	10
Chatting	6
Family	6

What is the feeling for more advanced methods to source information such as the internet and/or a community newsletter?

Questionnaire responses

60% of respondents say they receive sufficient information, 22% have no opinion and 18% say they do not get enough information.

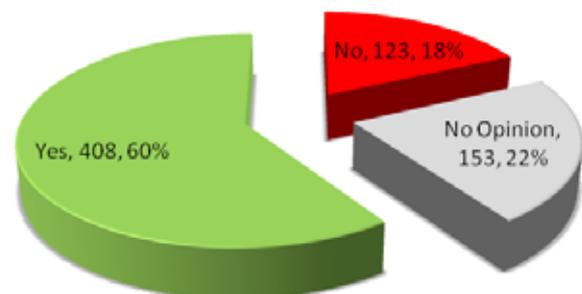
What the questionnaire highlighted was the large number of people connected to the internet from their homes which is 571, 83% of those who responded, 82 people are not on the internet and only 11 who have access at their place of work or study.

Out of 684 replies 341 were in favour of having a village website, 75 responses were not in favour and 268 didn't have an opinion so approximately 50% would like a village website.

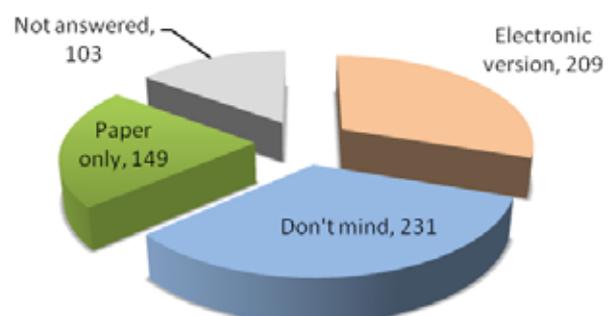
Of the question: would we register for a community newsletter? 231 respondents didn't mind; 149 wanted a paper version only; 209 wanted an electronic version; and a 103 did not answer the question.

The pie charts below show the responses to the village plan questionnaire:

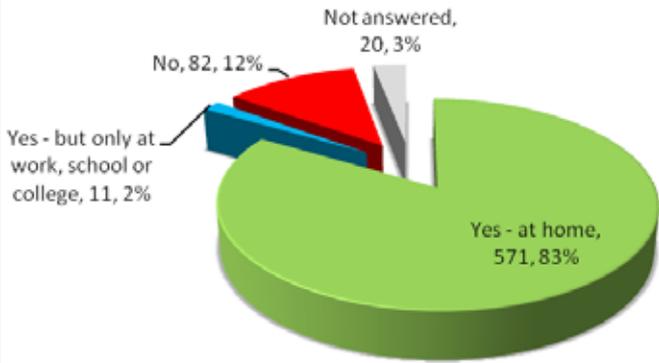
Sufficient Information Received?



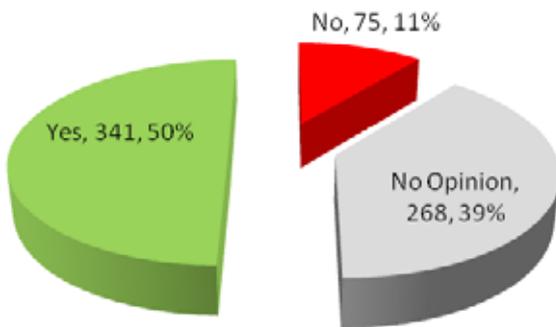
Would we register for a community newsletter?



Do we have access to the internet



Would we like to see a village webiste?



In conclusion

Life Magazine is a very efficient way of distributing news and services and is seen as a valuable asset and held in high regard, but the support for a community news letter is very low perhaps duplicating 'Life'.

The notice boards around the village are also widely used and perform an important function.

The use of computers is growing rapidly. 83% of those asked have access to the internet within their home and 50% wanted to see a village website set up.

Since the questionnaires were completed, a village website at www.greatstaughton-pc.gov.uk has been put in place. It will be interesting to see how this is used, who will use it and what content it will attract. The motto to this is use or lose it!

Action!

None.

Would you support and participate in a community run fibre optic broadband?

Questionnaire responses

In response to this question, there was an overwhelming vote in favour of supporting and participating in such a broadband scheme. More than 63% would give their support compared with 6% who would not.

The responses were as follows:

Choice	Count
No	39
No opinion	217
Yes	428
Grand Total	684

Commentary

Given the level of support in the Village for fibre optic broadband, it would seem reasonable to investigate the feasibility of such a scheme. It would greatly improve the speed of access that the Surgery would have to web-based healthcare applications.

Action!

The Parish Association are to investigate the feasibility of a community-run fibre optic broadband service for the whole Village.



Housing

Topics covered

In this section we deal with:

- Future House Building in and around the Village
- Current Housing Tenure within the Village
- Current Demand for Rented Accommodation Locally
- Action Plan for dealing with Housing Issues in the Village

Future housing in and around the village

The growth of the Village will depend on planning issues, both local and national. There is a demand for additional housing within the region but local plans may restrict development around the Village. Another restriction will be the availability of suitable development land around the Village, as without this no development can take place.

There have been a number of infill developments taking place recently but these alone will not be sufficient and will certainly not satisfy the recorded local demand for rented accommodation nor will this overcome the lack of affordable rented accommodation locally.

The Parish Council should encourage local social housing providers (Housing Associations) to investigate the possibility of providing affordable housing within the Village to enable the families of residents of the Village to be able to rent and live locally to sustain the community.

The Parish Council should also liaise with Huntingdon District Council to encourage the formulation of a Local Lettings Policy that encourages local Housing Associations to offer social housing within the Village to applicants who can show they have proven local connections.

Any new developments that are to be allowed in the Village must require careful consideration by both

the Parish and Huntingdon District Council with regard to the impact on the Village life in terms of increased traffic, parking and also the limited available facilities for residents existing and new.

Given the concerns raised throughout the consultation period about the problem of on-street parking and parking on pavements a recommendation should be made that any new development should be required to provide as a minimum two off-street parking spaces per household.

From the information obtained during the period of the Village Plan survey questionnaire it was evident that 5% of the properties within the local area were recorded as being empty. The reasons for them being unoccupied and also their duration being empty are unknown at this stage.

The last large scale housing development in the Village took place during the 1970's with the construction of the Beachampstead Road estate. With this housing development, comprising of 3 and 4 bedroom houses, there was a subsequent increase in the number of family households in the Village.

Many children of these households have since moved on and this may explain the recorded demographics for the Village in the following table, showing that the following age groups in the Village have higher percentages than the national average, a detail which should be considered when considering plans for future development. Other age groups have similar percentages or are slightly lower.

Age group	Village male residents	UK avg male residents	Village female residents	UK avg female residents
45-59	25.1%	19.3%	19.7%	18.6%
60-74	20%	13%	21.3%	13.6%
75-84	5.4%	4.6%	7.4%	6.6%

These and any future demographic statistics should be used by the Parish Council and Huntingdon District Council when considering future local plans and planning issues.





The Parish Council and Huntingdon District Council should also be encouraged to undertake a survey of all local residents to obtain an up to date picture of true housing need within the Village. The outcome of this survey, taken together with other factors affecting the sustainability of the Village, should be used to influence future plans and decisions about planning applications for development in the area.

Current housing tenure within the village

Of the 287 households who responded to the questions within the survey relating to housing 82.5% identified themselves as being owner occupiers, 4.5% lived in rented social housing and 13% rented their accommodation from the private sector. From this it is clear that the majority of households live in a property that they either own or have mortgaged.

This tenure split is similar to that recorded by the District Council where statistics for housing in the Huntingdonshire district show that more than 76% of residents are owner occupiers with the remainder renting either from private landlords or Housing Associations.

Current demand for rented accommodation locally

From the 287 responses to the questions related to Housing it is evident that 4% of these Village households have at least one person seeking accommodation locally but are unable to find this due to various reasons as shown below. Note that some respondents cited more than one reason for not being able to find accommodation.

Housing issue	
A lack of affordable rented housing in the local area	64%
A lack of available rented accommodation locally, not specifically affordable rental.	27%
A lack of suitably sized rented accommodation available locally	9%
A lack of available sheltered / supported housing locally.	9%
A lack of suitable accommodation for 'Lifetime Living' locally (Level access etc)	9%

It is evident from the responses received that there already exists a small demand for locally available affordable rented accommodation and that with growing families and movement of households this demand will no doubt increase; especially with the economic forecasts during the current recession.

Age groups of respondents identified as unsuccessfully seeking accommodation in the local area are shown below.

Housing issue	Age Range
There being a lack of affordable rented housing in the local area	18 – 24
	25 – 44
	45 – 59
	60 - 74
There was a lack of available rented accommodation locally not specifically affordable rental.	16 – 17
	25 – 44
	45 - 59
There was a lack of suitably sized rented accommodation available locally	18 – 24
	45 - 59
There was a lack of available sheltered / supported housing locally.	18 – 24
	25 - 44
Lack of suitable accommodation for 'Lifetime Living' locally (Level access etc)	45 - 59

It should be noted that comments made during the consultation period regarding housing indicated that some family members of residents will not seek housing in the Village, rented or purchased, due to the poor provision of local transport facilities restricting access to surrounding towns etc.

The pockets of social housing provision within the Village, originally provided by the District Council, would have diminished over time with the introduction of the Right to Buy legislation. With the past transfer of ownership of the local authority social housing to a local Housing Association affordable social housing within the Village now accounts for only a small percentage of housing in the Village.

Action!

Housing needs

The Parish Council / District Council should undertake a survey of Villagers to obtain information on the future potential housing needs for Village

To do this the Parish Council should liaise with the District Council to undertake a survey of all Village households to obtain up to date statistics showing future housing needs within the Village across all tenures to assist with developing future area development plans.

The action has been identified as a High Priority and therefore should be undertaken during the first year of the action plan.

Local Area Plan

The Parish Council should produce and publicise a Local Area Plan identifying areas of residential, business and amenity land. The details of the Parish Council Local Area Plan should be placed onto the new Village Website and be made available via village notice boards.

The action has been identified as a High Priority and therefore should be undertaken during the first year of the action plan.

Planning applications

- The Parish Council should establish and agree guidelines for new planning applications within the parish. The Parish Council should liaise with the Planning Officers in order to understand the current planning requirements and following this produce a set of guidelines reflecting the views of the Villagers’.

The action has been identified as a High Priority but given the complexity of the subject should be undertaken during years 1 to 3 of the action plan.

- The Parish Council should assess new local planning applications against the ‘agreed’ guidelines and feedback comments to the District Council Planning Officers as appropriate.

The action has been identified as a High Priority but given the complexity of the subject should be undertaken during years 1 to 3 of the action plan.

- The Parish Council should review all new Planning Applications with a view to potential impact on Village life having regard to increased traffic, parking and also the limited available

facilities within the Village. This would involve liaison with the District Council Planning Officer and Highways Department.

The action has been identified as a High Priority but given the complexity of the subject should be undertaken during years 1 to 3 of the action plan.

Local lettings policy for social housing

The Parish Council and the District Council should jointly agree a Local Lettings Policy for social housing within the Village. This should involve the Parish Council liaising with the District Council Head of Housing Services and Local Housing Association’s to formulate a Local Lettings Policy for the social housing provision in the Village to restrict offers of social housing to people with a proven local connection.

The action has been identified as a Medium Priority but given the complexity of the subject should be undertaken during years 3 to 5 of the action plan.



Action Plan Summary

Action	Method	Priority	Time	Partners
Introduction				
One action, central to the success of the Action Plan set out the remainder of this report, is the formation of a Parish Association. The Parish Association will take over from the Village Plan Steering Group and will mobilise and co-ordinate the volunteers as necessary to achieve the results that the Villagers aspire to, evidenced by their responses to the Questionnaire.	<p>“The Parish Association is to be constituted in a manner agreed with the Parish Council. Membership will be extended to include representatives of the Church, Surgery, School and PTA.</p> <p>The Village Plan Steering Group is to be wound up in accordance with its constitution.”</p>	High	3 months	Parish Council
The Local Economy				
All Villagers should do what they can to support our local business.		High	Immediate	
The Parish Church				
The full results of the Questionnaire will be discussed by the Rector and Parochial Church Council in future meetings. Such a comprehensive survey as this one is rarely possible, and full advantage will be taken of it.		High	3 Months	Parochial Church Council
The Parish Church will work with the Parish Association to maximise the use of the Church premises for social and cultural activities and to make sure that all our Church services to the community receive the widest publicity.	The Parish Association will ask a representative of the Church to join the organisation.	Med	6 Months	Parochial Church Council
Health & Social Care				
Everyone is to take responsibility for their own health, including adopting the “four healthy behaviours” (not smoking, exercise, healthy diet and keep within healthy limits for alcohol consumption).		High	On-going	Great Staughton Surgery
The Parish Association is to encourage the development of local exercise groups, including walking groups.	The Parish Association will actively seek volunteers willing to organise exercise groups and find facilities for those groups to exercise.	Med	1 Year	Great Staughton Surgery
Great Staughton Surgery is to continue to invite patients to contribute to their patient participation group.		Med	On-going	Great Staughton Surgery
Great Staughton Surgery is to maintain a carers’ register and develop a register of people who are willing to volunteer to support dependent people.	The Parish Association Survey will seek to identify volunteers willing to support dependant people in the community.	High	6 Months	Great Staughton Surgery

Our Environment				
The Parish Council will investigate whether more litter bins are appropriate, where they would be located and whether Huntingdon District Council would empty them.		Med	1 Year	Parish Council
The Parish Council will organise the main litterpick which takes place in February every year. There should be 3 further litterpicks during the rest of the year. These will be organised by the Parish Association, with backing and support from the Parish Council.	The Parish Association will recruit volunteers for this project	Med	1 Year	Parish Council
The Parish Council is to obtain an approximate cost for installing street lighting to The Causeway, between the School and the Church. Once this cost information has been established, Villagers will be invited, via the Village website, to have their say as to the priority that these works should have.		Low	1 Year	Parish Council
The Parish Association is to initiate the formation of a team of volunteer dog owners to provide, install and empty dog refuse bins.	The Parish Association Survey will seek to identify volunteer dog owners.	Med	9 Months	Parish Council
The Parish Council is to encourage responsible dog-owners to identify other dog owners who fail to clean up after their dogs.		Med	1 Year	Parish Council
The Parish Council is to enforce the bylaws with respect to dog owners who fail to clean up after their dogs.		Med	1 Year	Parish Council
Residents should report specific problems with roads and pavements to the Parish Council. Potholes in the road can now be reported directly to Cambridgeshire County Council via their website at: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/roads .	Residents should notify the Clerk to the Parish Council, with full particulars of the problem, including location.	Med	On-going	Parish Council
The Parish Council is to continue to pursue any problems with roads and pavements, with the appropriate department at Huntingdon District Council.		Med	On-going	Parish Council Huntingdon District Council
Residents should report specific problems with any overhanging branches and the like to the Parish Council.	Residents should notify the Clerk to the Parish Council, with full particulars of the problem, including location.	Med	On-going	Parish Council

Offenders responsible for any overhanging branches and the like will be instructed by the Parish Council to deal with it themselves. If that fails to solve the problem, the Village handyman will be instructed by the Parish Council to remove offending foliage.		Med	On-going	Parish Council
The Parish Council is to keep up pressure on Anglia Water to provide mains drainage to Dillington.		Med	On-going	Parish Council Anglian Water
The Parish Council will investigate alternative to mains drainage that would remedy the current potential public health risk.		Med	On-going	Parish Council Anglian Water
The Parish Association is to investigate how the Village might benefit from energy-saving initiatives and publicise the results of this research in Life Magazine and website.	The Parish Association will allocate a volunteer to investigate this topic and publish the results of that research.	Med	9 Months	
The Parish Association is to include energy-saving measures on the list of bulk-buy services.	The Parish Association will allocate a volunteer to contact other villages in the area with a view to setting up procurement of common services.	Med	1 Year	Perry, Hail Weston, Little Staughton and Kimbolton.
The Parish Council will take forward the suggestions for improving our environment, with representatives of the Horticultural Society.		Med	1 Year	Parish Council Horticultural Society
Residents and, perhaps the children are to be encouraged to suggest locations for tree planting. The Horticultural Society is to advise which species would be suitable for each location.	The Horticultural Society could canvass the opinion of residents and, with the School, seek the views of the children of the Village how best to improve the appearance of the Village.	Med	1 Year	Parish Council Horticultural Society, Village Tree Wardens, Cambridgeshire County Council
The Parish Council is to seek sponsorship for new trees from local individuals and businesses.		Med	1 Year	Parish Council Horticultural Society
Residents are to identify the appropriate locations for new benches.	The Parish Association will canvass the opinion of residents via the Life Magazine.	Med	1 Year	Parish Council Cambridgeshire County Council
The Parish Council is to seek sponsorship for new benches.	Residents will be invited to sponsor a bench in remembrance of deceased partners, etc. Charities and businesses in the Village could also be approached.	Med	1 Year	Parish Council
Public Footpaths				
The information regarding walks around the Village, including maps, will be available to download from the village website.	To be implemented by Anthony Withers	Med	3 months	

Traffic & Parking				
The Parish Council and Parish Association are to re-activate Lorry Watch to help control the breaches of the 17-tonne weight limit in the Village.	The Parish Council will publish details of how residents can be involved with Lorry Watch, via the Life Magazine and the Village website.	Med	6 Months	Parish Council
All Villagers must keep to the speed limit through the Village, this will force others to follow suit.		High	On-going	
The Parish Council and the Parish Association are to implement/ continue Speedwatch to The Highway, The Green, The Town, Dillington and Beachampstead Road. As Moor Road has no Traffic Order in place, and the Speedwatch equipment is not calibrated for the National speed limit, it cannot be part of the scheme.	The Parish Association will identify volunteers willing to take part in regular Speedwatch checks in the areas of the Village that have been identified as a problem.	Med	6 Months	Parish Council
The results of Speedwatch will be used by the Parish Council to encourage the Police to deploy their speed camera van in appropriate locations.	The Speedwatch co-ordinator is to liaise with the Police Authority.	Med	9 Months	Parish Council Police Authority
The Parish Council are to investigate the cost and feasibility of changing the existing chicane on The Highway into a Give-way restriction.	Budget costs to be obtained from Cambridgeshire County Council before any design costs are incurred.	Med	1-2 Years	Parish Council Cambridgeshire County Council
The Parish Council are to investigate the cost and feasibility of installing a Give-way restriction on entry to the Village on Kimbolton Road.	Budget costs to be obtained from Cambridgeshire County Council before any design costs are incurred. Design to allow for movement of farm machinery, including combined harvesters.	Med	1-2 Years	Parish Council Cambridgeshire County Council
The Parish Council are to investigate the cost and feasibility moving the interactive speed sign from The Green to the entrance to the Village on Kimbolton Road.	Budget costs to be obtained from Cambridgeshire County Council before any design costs are incurred.	Med	1-2 Years	Parish Council Cambridgeshire County Council
The Parish Council is to try to ensure that applications for planning permission require a minimum of two parking spaces per dwelling to minimise the need for on-street parking.	All planning applications with fewer than two parking spaces per dwelling should be recommended for rejection.	High	On-going	Parish Council Huntingdon District Council
Transport				
The Parish Association is to encourage parents to car share for after-school activities.	The Parish Association Survey will seek to identify parents prepared to organise/take part in car-sharing for after-school activities	High	6 Months	School, PTA
The Parish Association is to investigate the provision of a community minibus service in conjunction with the surrounding villages.	The Parish Association will allocate a volunteer to contact other villages in the area with a view to setting up a community minibus service.	High	6 Months	Perry, Hail Weston, Little Staughton and Kimbolton.

Villagers should support the existing Highwayman Social Car Scheme – volunteer drivers take Villagers to appointments, social events, shopping etc.	The Parish Association Survey will seek to identify volunteer drivers prepared to take part in the Highwayman Social Car Scheme	High	6 Months	
Education				
The Parish Association will work with the School to maximise the use of the School premises for social and cultural activities and to make sure that all our School and PTA activities receive the widest publicity.	The Parish Association will ask a representative of the School to join the organisation.	Med	6 Months	School, PTA
Services For Our Youth				
The actions required for Our Youth are set out below in the section dealing with Sports, Leisure and Culture.				
Sports, Leisure & Culture				
The Parish Association will devise and carry out a Survey for all Villagers, that relates only to Sports, Leisure and Culture and which, unlike the Questionnaire, will not be anonymous. The Survey will establish a database for all clubs and societies, both in terms of people wanting to be involved in existing or new Clubs and Societies; and people prepared to assist with the running of such clubs and societies.	The Parish Association will devise and carry out a survey using the same methods that were used for the Questionnaire, to collect the data required, subject to data protection legislation.	High	6 Months	
The Parish Association Survey referred to above will also ask for volunteers to help implement the “carers’ strategy”, which recognises that supporting carers in what they do is critical to maintaining dependent people in their own homes and reducing demand on other health services, as set out on pages 11 and 12 of the Final Report under the heading “Future Development of Health and Social Care”.	The Parish Association will devise and carry out a survey using the same methods that was used for the Questionnaire, to collect the data required, subject to data protection legislation.	High	6 Months	
The Parish Association will not only organise and promote Village-wide activities, but also help coordinate the activities of all the other clubs to maximise the use of the existing facilities. This will require them to work closely with all of the current organisations, including the Village Hall Committee and Playing Fields Committee, under the umbrella of the Parish Council.		High	3 Months	Parish Council Playing Fields Committee Village Hall Committee

The Parish Association will mobilise and organise the volunteers who offered to help with Village activities.	The Parish Association Survey will establish a database of volunteers. This will be maintained by regular dialogue with those volunteers and by publicising the activities of the Parish Association.			
The Parish Association, in conjunction with the Playing Fields Committee, will investigate the feasibility of and assist in the creation of an all-weather sports facility on the Playing Fields to the west of Green Lane, perhaps floodlighting this area, subject to local by-laws.	The Parish Association, in conjunction with the Playing Fields Committee, will set up a sub-committee of volunteers with a professional construction background, to establish the cost of providing this facility. Subject to acquiring funding and authorisation from the Parish Council, the same group would manage the installation of this facility.	Med	3 Years	“Parish Council Playing Fields Committee”
The Parish Association will carry out a feasibility study into the possibility of constructing a new, larger Village Hall elsewhere in the Village. This could include a new Heath Centre as the current Surgery building is less than ideal, for the reasons set out in the section on Health and Social Care in the Final Report.	The Parish Association, in conjunction with the Playing Fields Committee, will set up a sub-committee of volunteers with a professional construction background, to establish the cost of providing this facility.	Low	3 Years	Parish Council Village Hall Committee Playing Fields Committee Planning Officers Great Staughton Surgery
The Parish Association, in conjunction with the Playing Fields Committee, will investigate the feasibility of and assist in the construction of a new secure play area for the younger children adjacent to the existing play area to the rear of the School.	The Parish Association, in conjunction with the Playing Fields Committee, will set up a sub-committee of volunteers with a professional construction background, to establish the cost of providing this facility. Subject to acquiring funding and authorisation from the Parish Council, the same group would manage the installation of this facility.	Med	3 Years	Playing Fields Committee
The Parish Association, in conjunction with the Playing Fields Committee, will investigate the feasibility of and assist in the creation of an Adventure Playground for the older children where the existing children’s play equipment is located to the rear of the School.	The Parish Association, in conjunction with the Playing Fields Committee, will set up a sub-committee of volunteers with a professional construction background, to establish the cost of providing this facility. Subject to acquiring funding and authorisation from the Parish Council, the same group would manage the installation of this facility.	Med	4 Years	Parish Council Playing Fields Committee
After further consultation with our youth, the Parish Association, in conjunction with the Playing Fields Committee, will investigate the feasibility of and assist in the construction of a Youth Shelter and outdoor table tennis table adjacent to the Adventure Playground.	The Parish Association would carry out a Youth Survey to try to establish what Our Youth actually want. Subject to them wanting a Youth Shelter, the feasibility study and construction would be controlled in the same way as other capital projects.	Med	“6 Months Youth Survey 4 Years to construct”	“Parish Council Playing Fields Committee”
The Parish Association, in conjunction with the School and the Playing Fields Committee, will investigate the feasibility of and assist in the creation of basketball and netball facilities, either in the School playground or the tennis courts.	Subject to demand being confirmed by the Parish Association Survey, the feasibility study and construction would be controlled in the same way as other capital projects.	Med	1 Year	Parish Council School Playing Fields Committee Tennis Club.

Policing, Crime & Safety				
The Parish Association is to canvass support for a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.	The Parish Association Survey would gauge the support for a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, and identify volunteers willing to run such a scheme.	Med	1-2 Years	Police Authority
Communications & Information				
The Parish Association are to investigate the feasibility of a community-run fibre optic broadband service for the whole Village.	The Parish Association will allocate a volunteer to investigate the experience of other similar projects, and the current Central Government initiative in this area, and to report back.	Med	1 Year	
Housing				
Parish Council / District Council to undertake a survey of Villagers to obtain future potential housing needs for Village	Parish Council to liaise with the District Council to undertake a survey of all Village households to obtain up to date statistics showing future housing needs within the Village across all tenures to assist with developing future area development plans.	High	1st year	Parish Council Planning Officers
Parish Council to produce and publicise a Local Area Plan identifying areas of residential, business and amenity land	Details of the Parish Council Local Area Plan to be placed onto the new Village Website and available notice boards	High	1 year	Parish Council Village Website Administrator District Council
Parish Council to establish and agree guidelines for new planning applications	Parish Council to liaise with the Planning Officers in order to understand current planning requirements and to produce a set of guidelines reflecting the views of the Villagers'.	High	1 – 3 years	Parish Council District Council Planning Officer
Parish Council to assess new planning applications against guidelines	Parish Council to assess all new planning applications against the agreed guidelines and feedback comments to the District Council Planning Officers as appropriate.	High	1 – 3 Years	Parish Council Planning Officer
Parish Council to review all new Planning Applications with a view to potential impact on Village life	Parish Council to consider the potential impact on the Village by any new planning application having regard to increased traffic, parking and also the limited available facilities within the Village	High	1 – 3 years	Parish Council District Council Planning Officer and Highways Department
Parish Council and District Council to agree a Local Lettings Policy for social housing within the Village	Parish Council to liaise with the District Council Head of Housing Services to formulate a Local Lettings Policy for the social housing provision in the Village to restrict offers of social housing to people with a proven local connection.	Med	3 - 5 years	Parish Council District Council Local Housing Associations





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