

Action Plan Update 2007

Transport

Action:

Explore the possibility of Green Lanes (ie 20mph & priority for walkers/cyclists/riders)

Present findings to the Action group to discuss feasibility

Why:

Our lanes are becoming increasingly busy; the safety of other road users is at risk. 54% of survey respondents (392 people) supported the idea of Green Lanes around Westfield

Update January 2007

The recognised name for these lanes is Quiet Lanes. There are several examples around the country where areas have introduced them. East Sussex County Council has shown some interest but this is a long term action which will need more commitment by the County Council.

Gather information about Public Transport and the long term strategy for the Parish

Present findings to the Action Group to consider if further work is needed

24% of respondents (172 people) experienced problems with using public transport

Other areas are also concerned about this and AIRS are encouraging groups to get together to share ideas and work towards a realistic community transport plan. A recent initiative is to provide a local bus to take people to Rye or Battle once a month. Research into the interest for this is currently being carried out.

Find a solution to the village parking problems



53% (389 people) identified car parking as a problem in the village. The most commonly identified sites were The Surgery, village halls and the roads around the school, especially at school drop-off and pick-up times

Various solutions have been considered but nothing viable has been found yet.

Make pathways more accessible to allow people to walk into the village



Comments were received about overgrown hedges and obstructed footways causing difficulties to pedestrians

Some work has been done on the Westfield lane path.

The "Green Gym" team are keen to help with the refurbishment of the footpath from New Cut down to the valley.

Transport (continued)

<p>Consider routes for cyclists:- a)Beggars Corner to The Plough- through Fish Ponds lane to Cricket ground, down drive to A28 (possible new roundabout), Mill Lane to Cottage Lane and along to Sedlescombe</p> <p>b) Link with Marsh Cycle routes via Doleham Halt (good train service). Make Doleham Lane, and Lower Lidham Hill Green Lanes</p>	<p>322 respondents declared that dangerous roads or lack of cycle paths prevent them cycling more</p>	<p>ESCC have been supportive. A cycling Officer has been out to meet us and has pedalled around the parish. He favoured the school and the line from Beggars Corner to the new sports ground as the hub of the scheme. A link with Hastings and the hospital is being investigated, plus a link to Sedlescombe .</p> <p>The Doleham Halt scheme is on hold as the trains are not stopping here at present.</p>
<p>Revisit a "Wheelies" type car service as BACT looks set to close down</p>	<p>To match identified travel needs of residents with those willing to help provide transport</p>	<p>A questionnaire was included in the Community Newsletter asking for those needing transport to get in touch. As no one indicated a need, this project has ceased, for the time being.</p>

Housing

<p>Action: Ensure all new housing in the parish has a certain percentage available for Westfield families, such as the Westfield Down proposal – see under Recreation</p>	<p>Why: Most comments received were about already over-stretched infra structures and not wanting any further housing. If houses must be built, consideration should be given to current residents' needs (previous developments have resulted in an influx of people from outside the immediate area putting additional strain on services)</p>	<p>Update January 2007 Housing continues to be a contentious issue. There are government directives on numbers of housing that must be built in the South East, but there are local anxieties about any more houses in the Parish. Some housing will be built and the Action Group aims to ensure a percentage of new houses will be available for local people.</p>
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Community Safety

<p>Action: Establish wider coverage of Neighbourhood Watch</p>	<p>Why: 51% of respondents already belong to a neighbourhood watch scheme. Of those who do not, many expressed an interest in knowing more</p>	<p>Update January 2007 The email address for neighbourhood watch was circulated widely and continues to be in the Community Newsletter on a regular basis.</p>
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Environment

This is a really important issue for most people. There is a need to keep our environment clean and pleasant and this will be an area where the parishioners can work together.

<p>Action: Organise a "Spring Clean" once or twice a year Set up a system whereby people regularly do their own "patch"</p>	<p>Why: There was a high level of support for all suggested remedies for tidying Westfield. 264 people favoured an annual or bi-annual community clean-up</p>	<p>Update January 2007 There have now been three events, the last of these was 14th April 2007. All have been successful and well supported. This year a team also worked on the "Twitten". Several people have agreed to keep their "patch" tidy on a regular basis. More volunteers are always welcome. Dates for 2007: - Autumn Tidy up 8th September</p>
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<p>Tackle the Litter problem in the parish</p> 	<p>The litter problem was the most frequently indicated local environment issue</p>	<p>As Above</p>
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<p>Make sure the grass edges are not cut where it is safe to do so, to preserve orchids and wildlife</p>	<p>To preserve endangered flowers</p>	<p>A detailed plan of the rare wild flowers has been completed. The contractors will continue to be made aware of the protected sites.</p>
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<p>Investigate more frequent bottle bank emptying or permanent bank</p>		<p>A permanent plastic bottle recycling unit was installed and is well used. Lately the bank has become full very quickly, with overflow bottles being left lying around. The situation will change when kerbside collections begin.</p>
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Action:
Reduce local disturbance

Why:
8 potential causes of disturbance were listed in the survey. Of these, vandalism (61%), abandoned cars (33%) and traffic noise (25%) caused the most discomfort

Update January 2007
The main issue last year was noise disturbance from youngsters with motor bikes, mostly riding illegally. The CSO's have been helpful in tackling this issue. RDC's excellent service in removing abandoned vehicles has been very successful in keeping this nuisance at bay.

Explore changes needed to the way we deal with Dog Fouling



60% of respondents expressed concern about dog fouling and 49% would like more dog waste bins

Last year, with the contract with Serco, this was much less of a problem. The new contract has not yet been agreed but the new refuse company have advised that dog waste bags can also be placed in normal rubbish bins.

Tackle the vandalism and Graffiti problems in the Parish



61% of respondents to the adult survey expressed concern about vandalism. 53% of primary school children identified this as the problem most in need of solutions

The Graffiti kit has been well used by Barbara Balkham. If parishioners identify any new areas of concern please let her know.

Young People and Children

Action:
Develop the play facilities in the Parish

(Could include cycle track, basket ball and half sized football pitch for youngsters to play on and new play equipment for all ages)

Why:
63% of respondents (460 people) want improved play facilities. 76 of our primary school children put this as their highest priority

Update January 2007

This project is linked to the Down proposals and is quite well advanced. We have had detailed plans from 2 companies and are currently having plans for the landscaping of the area developed.

Develop a Youth Club

75% of adult respondents (550 people) support the development of a youth club. 18% of the young people, in the 11 to 16 age group, wanted a youth club

Emma Barker for AIRS has been meeting youngsters in the Parish and considering future plans. We have not had any local volunteers who are willing to take this forward.

Communication

Action:

Set up a Parish Website to compliment the Parish newsletter

Why:

62% of respondents have access to the internet and 52% supported the idea of setting up a Parish website

Update January 2007

The parish Web site is established and is being regularly kept up to date. It will be developed further in the near future.

Recreation

The Westfield Down proposal is a major initiative in our parish. It combines the requirement for us to have more housing, the need for the football club to have a new pitch and pavilion so that they can remain in the second division (and possibly move up), a new pavilion for the cricket club, a new base for scouts, cubs and beavers, and an area for developing a children's playground.

Action:

Support the development of the Westfield Down proposal

Form a partnership with the Steering group

Why:

80% (586 people) Support the development of new sports facilities at Westfield down

Update January 2007

Roger Carrier and the steering group have been working hard on this project. It will have great benefit to the Parish in terms of freeing up the Parish Field, better facilities for the footballers of all ages and a decent play area for young people.

Explore the possibility of a Drop In Centre



56% (408 people) Would like to see a Drop-in centre for the community

Patricia Marston is leading this project and she is currently gathering ideas and forming plans.

Consider what is available in the Parish for the elderly and if further groups etc are needed	To utilise volunteers who have an interest in provision for the elderly and to plan for a growing older population	This action is being explored alongside the "drop In" idea.
Identify a lead to take this forward		

General Issues

Action: Maintain a database for all volunteers from the survey and future volunteers	Why: To promote a self-help community and make best use of volunteered manpower.	Update January 2007 A data base has been set up
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Contact all who volunteered on the "Getting Active Sheet" with either a specific invitation or to say they will be contacted as needed	See above	A large number of the volunteers have now been contacted as the various projects have got under way.
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