

HAMBLEDON PARISH PLAN

CONTENTS

	Page
Acknowledgements	(i)
Introduction	1
Action Plan	
A. Environment	4
B. Conservation	6
C. Housing and business	6
D. Transport and traffic management	9
F. Utilities and other services	12
G. Hambledon Village Shop and Post Office	14
H. Community services	15
I. Playground	16
J. Recreation and leisure	17

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INTRODUCTION

Summary and Purpose

Living in a small, rural community like Hambledon brings many challenges – above all, accommodating change whilst at the same time retaining what is dear to us. This Parish Plan presents an informed view of how we perceive our village, both now and in the future; what should be preserved; what developments would be appropriate; and what improvements are needed to facilities and services.

The Plan empowers us to say what we want to happen, by giving us the evidence we need to influence community planning and the provision of local services; to lobby or challenge those who also exercise control over our future; and to unlock funding for particular projects.

We want to preserve not only the countryside around our Parish but also the ancient woodlands, the common land and the green spaces within the village. Development therefore needs to be sensitive and controlled – for example, in terms of size, density and materials in the case of housing; through integrated traffic management schemes in the case of transport.

We want to preserve our community spirit. We will therefore continue to identify and foster activities which meet the needs and attract the support of villagers of all ages.

We will achieve all the aims identified in our Parish Plan by means of an Action Plan. Fulfilling this will often be a collaborative task and Hambledon therefore looks forward to working closely with the many other bodies to whom reference is made in the Action Plan.

Hambledon at the start of the 21st century

Hambledon, situated within the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and with 593 people listed on the 2003 electoral roll, is one of the smallest villages in the Borough of Waverley. It is also one of the most rural. Groups of houses are interspersed by common land (much of which is being restored to heathland by the son of the Lord of the Manor) and ancient woods. The Greensand Way bisects the village and passes close to Hydons Ball which, together with its surrounding land, is owned by the National Trust. Within the village the Trust owns the Glebe House and several cottages which are leased to private tenants – other than the 17th century Oakhurst Cottage, situated behind Hambledon Cricket Green and one of the smallest properties which the Trust opens to the public.

In the thousand years since Hambledon was recorded in the Domesday Book it has seen many changes. Executive houses now occupy the sites of the former Workhouse and the King George V and Hydestile Hospitals; the village school closed in 1983 (but is now a thriving nursery school); and few of to-day's residents are Hambledon-born. Nevertheless Hambledon remains a close-knit community which enthusiastically takes part in and generously supports the many activities which are essential to the continued well-being of any village.

The village shop and post office, which closed as a commercial undertaking in 1990, now flourishes as a community-run venture; the Village Hall has just celebrated its centenary and a major up-grade; the cricket club runs two adult and a colts XI; and there are two football teams. Other clubs and activities encompass the needs of all age groups and include

Hambletons, the Hambledon Ramblers, Hambledon Pedalers, the Hambledon Heritage Society and the Wednesday Afternoon Group.

There is a biannual village fête and a well-supported annual Parish Assembly, as well as an active Parish Council. St Peter's Church is now part of the United Benefice of Busbridge, but the parish has its resident curate and its own PCC. Parish Council and PCC news are both reported in Hambledon's monthly Parish Magazine which also carries a wide range of articles, information and advertisements.

The Merry Harriers, dating back to the 16th century and now a free house, is popular with villagers and visiting walkers. The 17th century village Pound is nearby.

The present almshouses (two cottages) were built in 1907 on land owned by the Trustees of the Hambledon Almshouses. A more recent addition to the village are the five affordable houses, developed by the Rural Housing Trust in 1999/2000 and providing much-needed accommodation for people with village connections who could not otherwise afford to remain in Hambledon.

Why a Parish Plan?

The concept of Parish Plans was introduced by central government to give villages a chance to set out their vision for the future, to guide their future development and to influence community planning and the provision of local services. In Hambledon's case the Parish Plan will link into the Waverley Community Strategy which is dedicated "to improving local public services by bringing those who deliver or commission them together with those for whom they are provided".

In July 2001 the Parish Council decided to produce a Hambledon Parish Plan. Key issues were identified and views were obtained by means of a questionnaire distributed to each of the 320 households in the Parish. The answers¹ from 270 completed questionnaires (an 84 per cent response) were analysed and presented to an open meeting in November 2002 attended by over 100 villagers. Comments from that meeting, together with the findings of the questionnaire, are reflected in the Action Plan.

Demography

Responses to this section of the questionnaire show that the age profile of the village has shifted significantly: within the past 20 years, in spite of escalating property prices, the village has been attracting a younger age group. This has important implications for every aspect of the Action Plan and must constantly be borne in mind by those responsible for implementing it.

Addenda to the Action Plan

The future of St Peter's Church and policing within the village and have recently become causes for concern. Because they did not feature as key issues in the questionnaire they cannot be included in the action plan; but the Parish Council nevertheless feels that they should feature as addenda within this introduction.

¹ Copies of the questionnaire and the analysis of responses can be obtained from Hambledon Parish Council.

- St Peter's Church

The present church was built in 1846 but evidence suggests that the original church dated back to the 11th century and its attendant yew trees, which still stand in the churchyard, are over a thousand years old.

Down the centuries St Peter's has remained a focal point of the village but its future could be at risk following the retirement of the present curate in October 2003. The PCC will therefore take all possible steps to secure a replacement, to offer spiritual and pastoral care and to lead a congregation that is warm and welcoming, attentive to the needs of all parishioners and open to changes that will maintain the effectiveness of the Church's work..

- Policing

The introduction of new policing arrangements within Surrey at the start of 2002 meant that Hambledon lost its dedicated neighbourhood policeman. Whilst it is accepted that limited police resources have to be targeted at villages whose crime rates are higher than those of Hambledon, the total absence of any police presence is worrying. Ideas for addressing the problem, developed during autumn 2002 with Surrey Police, have yet to bear fruit; but the Parish Council will keep up the pressure.

Making it happen

Finally, the questionnaire sought to identify sources of the help (financial and human) that will be needed if many of the action points are to be successfully implemented. In answer to "where should the money come from?", most people favoured the lottery; but the level of support for moderate council tax increases suggests that this could usefully be canvassed as a means of funding, or partially funding, certain projects.

Plenty of people indicated a willingness to help with a wide range of projects requiring volunteer input. The extent and nature of the help will have to be quantified for each project that will need volunteers to get it off the ground and run it; but the overall response to this final question was encouraging.

THE ACTION PLAN

Notes

1. Some of the options in multiple choice/multiple answer questions attracted little support and do not feature in the action plan. They are, however, listed in the full analysis of responses.
2. Where percentages are quoted they always refer to a percentage of the 270 households who completed the questionnaire and voted for a particular action.
3. Where the Parish Council is given responsibility for action, it will sometimes delegate this to a named individual or group.
4. A progress or final report on all action points will be made to the 2004 Parish Assembly, when the need for further action and reports will be noted and monitored. The Parish Magazine will also be used to encourage implementation of the Action Plan and to report progress.

A. ENVIRONMENT

1. The questions

- | | |
|--|--|
| - What is <i>most</i> important to your household about Hambledon now? | - Environment/countryside (72%) |
| - What is the main place of work or education of people in your household? | - Outside Hambledon (84%) (of those who are in work/education) |
| - What are the most regular sources of disturbance? | - Speeding traffic (25%), commercial air traffic (25 %), traffic noise (22%) |
| - What would make Hambledon's environment more attractive? | - Reduce traffic (75%), reduce HGVs, keep footpaths and bridleways in good repair (32%), preserve hedgerows (26%), prevent vehicle damage to verges (20%), mow roadsides (19%), let roadsides grow for wildlife (12%), remove litter (11%) |
| - How would your household like to see Hambledon in the future? | - A rural community (47%), a thriving, diverse community (36%) |

That households value and want to preserve Hambledon's environment/countryside is not in doubt. Nor is what is perceived as the main threat: the quantity of traffic, the damage it causes and the noise that it generates. The challenge is how to tackle that threat in a society that is dependent on cars for going to work and to school; on lorries for the delivery of goods and services; on the farm machinery and horseboxes that underpin the rural economy; and on the aeroplanes that are needed for business trips and holidays. A median has to be found between controlling traffic (see Section D), maintaining lifestyles and preserving Hambledon's "ruralness".

A viable action plan also has to accept that, as the rural economy changes, so does the countryside. Hambledon today bears no resemblance to the mediaeval settlement and the appearance of Hambledon Common altered radically in the 20th century, following the cessation of grazing on common land. To-day, now that livestock farming is barely viable within the Parish, the use and appearance of farm land are dictated by the needs of intensive arable cultivation and horse owners. How will economic requirements affect tomorrow's field patterns and the retention or otherwise of hedgerows?

2. Action

Timetable

Protect the rural quality of Hambledon

Responsibility: the Parish Council, which should

- maintain a rigorous scrutiny of and make representations as appropriate on planning applications and legislative proposals (national, regional, county and district) affecting planning and development;
- encourage villagers to make their own representations on matters which could impact unfavourably on Hambledon's environment;
- consider organising more user-friendly Village Clean-Ups (and perhaps more than one a year).

On-going

On-going

During 2003

Commercial air traffic

Responsibility: the Parish Council, which should

- closely monitor development at the former Dunsfold aerodrome and maintain its support for the work of the Quieter Skies Campaign.

On-going

Keep footpaths and bridleways in good repair

Responsibility: the Parish Council, which should

- continue to press Surrey County Council to undertake maintenance work and make more funds available for the purpose;
- encourage villagers to report damage and try to augment the volunteer working parties which undertake maintenance work under the supervision of SCC;
- identify up to three footpaths/bridleways in need of major repair; ask SCC to cost the work; and canvass villagers' views as to the amount that they might be prepared to contribute via the Parish precept.

On-going

On-going

Summer/
autumn 2003

Preserve hedgerows

Responsibility: the Parish Council, which should

- with input from villagers, organise a survey of hedgerows that contain features that are characteristic of or make a significant contribution to the appearance of Hambledon's landscape; and, within policy C7 (trees, woodlands and hedgerows) of the Waverley Local Plan 2002, develop a policy for safeguarding them.

During 2003

Mow roadsides/preserve them for wildlife

Responsibility: the Parish Council, which should

- continue its pressure on SCC to strike a balance, when arranging its summer programme of roadside mowing, between the requirements of road safety and the importance of letting wild flower seeds set.

On-going

B. CONSERVATION

1. The questions

- | | |
|---|---|
| - Should Waverley add to designated conservation areas ² in Hambledon? | - Yes (69%) |
| - Which parts of the village should they cover? | - Hambledon Hurst and Common (44%), Vann Lane/Upper Vann Lane (38%), Roundals Lane/Nutbourne Brickworks (17%), Hydestile (14%), Lane End (14%), Salt Lane/Markwick Lane (10%) |

The Waverley Local Plan 2002 permits limited development within Rural Settlements. However, some villages, including Hambledon, are not so categorised because they are too small or too loose knit. There is therefore a general presumption against development throughout the whole of Hambledon, not only because it is not a Rural Settlement but also because of its situation within the Green Belt and Countryside beyond the Green Belt³.

Further development constraints apply within designated conservation areas which are defined as “areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance” (policy HE8 of the Local Plan). Within areas which Waverley so designates, it is committed to “the retention of those s

2. Action

Timetable

Preserve the visual character of more of Hambledon

Responsibility: the Parish Council, which should

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| - discuss with Waverley Borough Council how this might best be achieved, having regard to (i) Hambledon’s “settlement” status and its situation within the Green Belt/Countryside beyond the Green Belt and (ii) the implications of giving conservation area status to parts of the Parish which are predominantly wooded; | During 2003 |
| - consult any landowners who might be affected by proposals to create new conservation areas. | During 2003 |

² Church Lane; Woodlands Road/Malthouse Lane/Cricket Green.

³ The only parts of the Parish lying in Countryside beyond the Green Belt are (i) east of Vann Lane, south of its junction with Upper Vann Lane, and (ii) west of the Hambledon Road, north of the footpath which runs from Hilltop Farm to Buss’s Common.

C. HOUSING AND BUSINESS

HOUSING

1. The questions

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- What sort of housing accommodation do you think Hambledon needs?- What types of housing development would be acceptable in Hambledon? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Affordable housing for locals (56%), small family homes (27%), starter homes (22%); large family homes (9%)- Conversion of redundant buildings (58%), single buildings in controlled locations (27%), groups of less than 10 buildings (25%), enlargement of existing houses (18%); no housing development is needed (20%) |
|--|---|

The responses raise a number of issues. The first concerns affordable housing. Do all those who want more affordable housing for locals mean just that⁴ or is there support for affordable housing per se? This could be the case, given that support for small family homes and support for starter homes ranked 2nd and 3rd in priority in answer to question 11.

The second concerns housing at the other end of the spectrum. Of those who responded to questions 11 and 12, only nine per cent thought Hambledon needed large family homes and only 18 per cent supported the enlargement of existing houses. Yet within the last five years 27 large new homes have been built in Hambledon and 50 per cent of all residential planning applications have been for the enlargement of existing houses.

As regards preferred types of housing development, even where redundant buildings exist, their conversion to residential accommodation will be subject to planning constraints laid down in policy RD7 (re-use and adaptation of buildings in rural areas) of the Waverley Local Plan 2002. The problem of density arises in the case of groups of buildings: unless they are three or less in number, policy H4 of the Local Plan requires them to be built to a minimum density of 30 per hectare.

Finally, 20 per cent of respondents do not want any more housing development in the village.

2. Action

Timetable

“Affordable” housing

Responsibility: the Parish Council, which should

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- invite villagers, via the Parish Magazine and a pick-up questionnaire in the Village Shop, to identify any suitable sites (including land which they might be able to make available) for affordable, including key worker, housing; | Summer 2003 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- itself investigate possible sites; | Summer 2003 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- if sites are available, conduct a further affordable housing needs survey; | Autumn/winter 2003 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- depending on the outcome of the above, enter into preliminary discussions with Waverley Borough Council and, if appropriate, the Rural Housing Trust. | During 2004 |

⁴ When the Rural Housing Trust surveyed the need for affordable housing for locals in 1999 (prior to building Duncombs Cottages) the initial short list comprised 14 qualifying applicants.

Housing development

Responsibility: the Parish Council, which should

- discuss with Waverley Borough Council how the creation of large family homes can be controlled;
- ensure that the amenity and character of Hambledon take precedence whenever proposed housing developments are assessed against policy H4 of the Waverley Local Plan 2002 and Waverley Borough Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance on housing densities;
- ensure that, as planning and development policy continues to evolve, Waverley Borough Council is aware of the continuing need to challenge applications to extend existing houses within the village, particularly where this would alter their overall character.

Autumn 2003

On-going

On-going

BUSINESS

1. The questions

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| - What types of small business premises are needed in Hambledon? | - None (54%) |
| - What is needed to attract more local businesses into Hambledon? | - Nothing (48%) |

2. Action

None, given that around half the responding households did not support the promotion of business opportunities within the village.

D. TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

TRANSPORT

1. The questions

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- What is the main form of personal transport for each individual in your household?- What does your household use the personal transport for?- Which form(s) of public transport does your household (however occasionally) use?- Where does your household go using public transport?- What would be convenient destinations?- How many times would your household use a bus service (assuming frequent services)?- Would your household use dial-a-ride or a voluntary transport scheme? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Car or van (579 individuals); other (84)- Shopping (92%), to the doctor, etc (82%), to work (58%), to the station (33%), to school/college (30%)- Train (75%), bus (19%)- Social events⁵ (36%), to work (30%), shopping (26%)- Godalming (66%), Guildford (50%)- Once a week (20%), once a month (18%), twice a week (15%); never (30%)- No comment (72%) |
|---|--|

Given the rural location of the village and the lack of regular (bus) or near-by (train) public transport, there is a huge dependency on personal transport.

Although some households use the train, the location of the railway stations means that personal transport is required to reach them. Even fewer households use the (very infrequent) bus services and some of the respondents will almost certainly have included the park-and-ride service into Guildford - which has to be accessed by personal transport. Even if more frequent bus services were available, the indications are that a large proportion of people would not use them.

It is too late to change the culture of personal transport use and the incidence of car journeys is likely to rise rather than decline. Nevertheless, some opportunities exist for pooling journeys (suggestions for mitigating the impact of traffic are discussed in the next section).

2. Action

Timetable

Personal Transport

Responsibility: the Parish Council, which should

- encourage villagers to car-share wherever possible, including on school runs.

On-going

Public Transport

Responsibility: the Parish Council, which should

- make people aware of existing bus services, including the Waverley Hoppa;
- investigate possibilities of improving public transport facilities via SCC's local committee in Waverley and in particular
- lobby for the introduction of a "transport token" scheme, usable on public transport and for taxis.
-

On-going

On-going

Summer 2003/on-going

⁵ Interpreted as anything other than work or shopping – ie including leisure, entertainment, sport, etc.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

1. The questions

- | | |
|--|---|
| - What road safety measures would you like introduced? | - Speed restrictions (74%), passing places in narrow lanes (45%), speed humps/other traffic calming (33%) |
|--|---|

The traffic-related issues identified in Section A – environment – are also addressed within this section. Section A identified speeding traffic and traffic noise as the most regular sources of disturbances to villagers; that 75 per cent of households want traffic flows reduced; and that 20 per cent were concerned about vehicle damage to verges.

A significant proportion of traffic is generated from within the village itself; but there is a perceived increase in rat-running and in the number of HGVs. Together these have resulted in an uncomfortably high flow of traffic through the village, discouraging people from walking or cycling and making it dangerous for horse-riders who have to use the village lanes to access bridleways.

As has been said before, traffic is not going to go away. Indeed, a traffic count along Malthouse Lane and the Hambledon Road in 1996⁶ gave an average daily total of 2,256 movements along this 2k stretch of a narrow rural road - and forecast that this would rise to as many as 6,159 by 2025. Nor is quantity the only problem: size also matters. Cars, vans, HGVs and farm equipment are all getting larger, with consequential damage to road surfaces, verges and banks. Traffic noise and pollution are both on the increase.

If traffic cannot be reduced, it has to be managed. Although the overwhelming desire is for speed restrictions, their enforcement depends on regular monitoring by the police. Solutions that make use of natural features and varying road widths, rather than blanket speed limits, to reduce traffic speed are therefore being investigated by, amongst others, the Surrey Hills AONB⁷ through its integrated transport management schemes. Other relevant initiatives are “quiet lanes”⁸ and the “rural road hierarchy”⁹, both of which aim to influence driver behaviour. The latter proposes making low speeds the norm (30mph for villages, 40mph for minor rural roads are suggested, for introduction by 2005) and requiring a case to be made for permitting (and signing) anything higher.

All road management schemes have the potential for introducing a profusion of signing. This would damage the rural nature of the countryside which the schemes are otherwise designed to protect. Signing regulations will therefore need to be flexible: for example, using village name plates as surrogate 30mph limit signs.

2. Action

Timetable

Responsibility: the Parish Council, which should

- | | |
|--|----------|
| - continue to make representations for the introduction of a 40mph speed limit on the A283; | On-going |
| - encourage villagers to set a good example by driving through Hambledon at speeds they would like used by others; | On-going |

⁶ Lost Lanes – a joint report by CPRE Central Office and local groups (August 1996).

⁷ Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

⁸ Designated under the Transport Act 2000 to influence driver behaviour and encourage walking and riding.

⁹ Designated under the Transport Act 2000 as part of government’s road safety strategy (not yet in force).

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - encourage villagers to co-ordinate deliveries – eg of oil and calor gas; - investigate other possibilities for reducing the size and number of HGVs delivering to or passing through the village; - with the help of the Surrey Hills AONB office and Surrey Police, obtain speed profiles of the route from Hydestile crossroads to Lane End and along Vann Lane; 	On-going Summer 2003/on-going Autumn2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ask Surrey Police for the loan of a battery-operated mini radar to obtain accurate information regarding traffic speed through the village; 	Summer 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - work with the Surrey Hills AONB office to implement all those aspects of its integrated transport management scheme that would benefit Hambledon, if necessary asking villagers if they would be prepared to contribute funds via the Parish precept; 	Summer 2003/on-going
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - promote good road management within Hambledon via SCC's local committee in Waverley; 	On-going
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - monitor progress in introducing the rural road hierarchy, asking the MP for South West Surrey to pursue if appropriate, and press for the introduction of all relevant aspects of its policies within Hambledon. 	Summer 2003/on-going

E. UTILITIES AND OTHER SERVICES

1. The questions

- | | |
|--|---|
| - Which services need to be improved? | - Road surfacing (31%), electricity supply (23%), mains water/leaks (21%), storm water management (21%), winter road maintenance (20%), mobile phone coverage (16%), fixed line telephone (14%) |
| - Which services should be introduced? | - Waste recycling (134 households), mains drainage (105), mains gas (71), broadband (56), cable TV (37) |

The responses highlight dissatisfaction with the state of the local roads. Away from the main roads repairs are patchy and badly done. Potholes and surface water are a constant danger - the latter particularly so in frosty weather given that it is no longer policy to grit C-class roads (one of the many “economies” resulting from a seriously under-funded Surrey County Council transportation and highways department).

Most of the village lacks mains drainage and mains gas. This is environmentally unsatisfactory. The rise in the water table increases the pollution from cesspits and septic tanks and their emptying, together with the replenishment of calor gas or oil tanks, increases the amount of heavy traffic in the village. A scheme to extend mains drainage to some parts of Hambledon¹⁰, in response to proven pollution, is already four years behind schedule. Unfortunately, under current legislation¹¹ it is the water companies that are required to provide public sewerage – but only where there are environmental or amenity problems.

The built-in trip mechanism in the overhead power cables appears to be too sensitive and short breaks often occur. Mains water leaks are sometimes left unrepaired for weeks and often damage roads and banks – this is both wasteful and dangerous.

The patchiness of mobile phone reception, due to the surrounding hills and remoteness of masts, is perhaps preferable to a proliferation of masts. The constant interruption, often for days, to fixed line telephone communications is a serious problem and is mainly due to the antiquated state of the underground cabling. The introduction of broadband is dependent on sufficient expressions of interest within an exchange area – no new cabling or masts are needed.

A waste recycling scheme (paper and cans, soon to include glass) already operates in parts of Hambledon¹² and is due to be phased in to the rest of the village during 2003.

¹⁰ Properties on the east side of Woodlands Road and at its junction with Lane End; and on the south side of the Cricket Green.

¹¹ Water Industry Act 1991, S.101A.

¹² Petworth Road, Lane End as far as Wormley Lane, Wormley Lane.

2. Action

Timetable

Road maintenance

Responsibility: the Parish Council, which should

- take every opportunity, both individually and collectively with other local councils and including lobbying local Councillors and MPs, to get more funds allocated to the year-round maintenance of rural roads;
- investigate the possibility of more grit bins being provided near to known dangerous black spots;
- maintain pressure on SCC to carry out road repairs/maintenance whenever these are required within the village.

On-going

Summer 2003

On-going

Mains drainage

Responsibility: the Parish Council, which should

- maintain pressure on Southern Water to meet the scheduled start date of the present scheme (autumn 2003);
- explore all possible avenues for getting mains drainage extended to the whole of the village.

Summer/autumn 2003

During 2003/on-going

Mains gas

Responsibility: the Parish Council, which should

- obtain outline information about the feasibility and cost of mains gas installation and make the results known via the Parish Magazine so that, if appropriate, they can be pursued by interested groups of villagers.

During 2003

Mains water, electricity, telephones

Responsibility: the Parish Council, which should

- encourage villagers to report water leaks, cuts in electricity supplies and interruptions to fixed line telephones, to strengthen its hand in its discussions with suppliers;
- open discussions with Thames Water, Southern Electricity and BT and press for improvements to their services.

On-going

During 2003/on-going

Waste recycling

Responsibility: the Parish Council, which should

- monitor the extension of the present scheme and its planned expansion.

On-going

Broadband

Responsibility: Editor, Parish Magazine, who should

- continue to encourage readers on the 01428 exchange to register their interest; monitor the BT broadband web site; and advise when broadband becomes available within the 01428 area.

During 2003

Cable TV

At the moment there is no strong demand, so no action is proposed. However, as digital reception in the area is poor, the need for a future survey should be kept under review by the Parish Council.

F. HAMBLEDON VILLAGE SHOP AND POST OFFICE

1. The questions

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- How often does your household use the shop?- Why does your household use the shop?- Why does your household shop outside Hambledon?- What does your household use the Post Office for? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Twice a week (26%), once a month (23%), once a week (19%), once or more than once a day (12%), never (20%)- Like to support local shops (29%), need last-minute items (16%), saves time (11%), like the social contact (10%)- More choice elsewhere (52%), goods cheaper elsewhere (23%), more convenient to work/children's school (13%), better quality (4%); other - mainly opening hours - (8%)- Postal services (41%), utilities/other bills (9%), banking services (8%), pensions/other benefits (4%), foreign currency (3%); nothing (16%) |
|---|--|

Most households take advantage of the lower prices/greater choice of goods offered by supermarkets and combine shopping with work/taking children to and from school. These are acceptable reasons for shopping outside Hambledon and need not give rise to concern, given that many of these same households also use the village shop. However, the main reason for using the shop is a sense of commitment to support a village venture and its continuing success will depend in large part on retaining customer loyalty. Whilst it probably has to be accepted that the shop will never be more than a convenience store, on-going efforts must be made to encourage existing customers to use the shop more frequently and to attract new, if only occasional, customers. Shop facilities are necessarily limited; but possibilities for up-grades must be kept under constant review, as must the quality and range of goods and services. It is also interesting that the majority of "other" reasons for not using the shop were its opening hours – something else that it might be useful to investigate.

The lack of take-up of non-postal services at the Post Office needs to be addressed. Why do more people not use it to cash cheques, get their foreign currency and pay their utilities' bills? And why do 16% of households never use the Post Office, given that there is never a queue?

2. Action

Timetable

Improve the take-up of services offered by Hambledon Village Shop and Post Office

Responsibility: Hambledon Village Shop Committee, which should

- initiate and implement an action plan.

| During 2003

G. COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. The questions

- | | |
|---|--|
| - What services would your household like available in Hambledon?
- Is there a need for a voluntary “good neighbour scheme”? | - Mobile library(17%), walk-in doctor’s surgery (17%), prescription service (17%)
- Yes (43%) |
|---|--|

The level of interest in a mobile library, a surgery and a prescription service is sufficient to warrant their investigation – particularly as there is a strong correlation between the numbers wanting them and those without personal transport. Whilst the idea of a surgery is probably not realistic, a weekly visit by a nurse might be a possibility. The good neighbour scheme should certainly be pursued, particularly as an unofficial one is already in operation.

2. Action

Timetable

Good neighbour scheme

Responsibility: the Parish Council which should

- investigate the insurance implications of an official scheme and how premiums might be funded;
- providing insurance is not an obstacle, invite the leader of the present unofficial scheme to recruit sufficient co-leaders and a pool of helpers to promote and run an official scheme.

Summer 2003

Summer/autumn
2003

Mobile Library

Responsibility: the Parish Council, which should

- discuss with Surrey County Council the threshold level(s) for reinstating the service, with a view to
- ascertaining, with help from the good neighbour scheme, how many people would support a weekly service based, say, at the Village Hall and, if numbers warrant it, pursue further with SCC.

Summer 2003

Autumn 2003

Doctor’s surgery

Responsibility: the Parish Council, which should

- discuss ideas for a surgery or weekly visit by a nurse with the local Primary Care Trust, with a view to
- ascertaining, with help from the good neighbour scheme, how many people would use the service and, if numbers warrant it, pursue further with the Trust.

Summer 2003

Autumn 2003

Prescription service

Responsibility: the good neighbour scheme, which should

- set up, promote and run the service (collections likely to be limited to the Witley and Chiddingfold surgeries).

During 2003

H. PLAYGROUND

1. The questions

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| - Should Hambledon have a playground? | - Yes (55%); no or no comment (45%) |
| - If so, in what vicinity? | - Cricket Green (34%), Village Shop (13%) |

The responses suggest a need to investigate the possibility of creating a playground in the vicinity of the Cricket Green or the Village Shop. However, a real level of commitment needs to be established given that many houses have gardens which provide play areas, Hambledon Nursery School has its own playground and those in adjacent villages do not appear to be much used. A willing landowner is another essential prerequisite. There will be significant resource implications in financing and maintaining a playground, particularly at a time when both the level of vandalism and statutory controls are on the increase.

2. Action

Timetable

Investigate the feasibility of creating and the need for a playground

Responsibility: the Parish Council, which should

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| - ascertain whether the landowners would be prepared to have a playground on either of the preferred sites and, if so, on what terms; | Summer 2003 |
| - seek advice from adjacent Parishes as to the cost/use made of their playgrounds; | Summer 2003 |
| - ascertain whether planning permission for a playground is likely to be granted; | Summer 2003 |
| - canvass villagers' views as to whether they would be prepared to contribute to the cost via the Parish precept; | Autumn 2003 |
| - conduct a further survey of all households with children to determine (i) the ages and number of children who would use the playground and at what frequency and (ii) which parents or other family members would be willing to initiate, implement and maintain it; | Autumn 2003 |
| - from the foregoing, establish a group to develop a fully-costed action plan for fund-raising, constructing and maintaining a playground, including ways of ensuring compliance with all appropriate statutory requirements. | Autumn/winter 2003 |

Note: each action point is dependent on a positive response having been received to the previous one.

I. RECREATION AND LEISURE

1. The questions

- | | |
|---|--|
| - How could cricket and football facilities be improved? | - New cricket pavilion (29%), new football pavilion (19%); no improvements needed/no comment (38%) |
| - In which additional activities would your household participate if they were available? | - Tennis (20%), art/photography (13%), brownies/cubs (9%), badminton (9%), bowls (7%), bridge (6%), guides/scouts (6%), table tennis (5%), squash (5%) |

Hambledon Cricket Club's site is provided by the Cricket Green Trust, whose application for a new pavilion has already been approved by the local planning authority. So far £15,000 has been raised to help finance its construction, but a further £15,000 is needed to unlock grants (for which applications have been made) to meet the balance. If these are not forthcoming, substantial funds will still be required to up-grade the existing pavilion to meet the new Health and Safety regulations which come into force in 2004.

Hambledon Football Club has free use of its present site but grants for a new pavilion depend on a club leasing or owning its own ground. The Club therefore needs to negotiate the lease or purchase of a site – and grants for grassroots football are at present available. If a site could be found and were large enough, it might be possible to include tennis courts.

Facilities for many of the other sports and leisure activities are already available in adjacent villages and/or in Godalming, Haslemere and Guildford. If any of them is also to be provided in Hambledon, a case will have to be made for its sustainability – in terms of take-up, management and cost. Of those listed above, tennis – even if it could be combined with a new football facility – would be costly as regards both set-up and on-going costs (though the former might reduce if any privately-owned courts could be made available). The cost of providing all the other activities would be minimal: between them they could be accommodated in the Village Hall or the Cricket Pavilion – or perhaps at St Dominic's School. But for all activities, a dedicated core of people to promote and organise them will be essential, as will a reasonable number of regular participants.

2. Action

Timetable

Cricket

Responsibility: the Cricket Club, which should

- continue its fund-raising activities for a new pavilion.

| On-going

Football

Responsibility: the Football Club, which should

- try to find a suitable location (which might also provide facilities for tennis) to buy or lease and, if successful, identify sources of finance and start a fund-raising campaign.

| During 2003/on-going

Other activities

Responsibility: the Parish Council, which should

- place forms for each activity in the Village Shop, the Village Hall, etc, for people to register their interest as players and/or organisers, plus an indicative level of commitment;
- for each activity which, from the responses, would appear to be sustainable, invite one of the respondents to take the lead in developing an action plan for establishing, promoting and running a group.

| Summer 2003

| Autumn/winter 2003