

Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Plan - 2007

...our villages today and our hopes for the future



The villages of Sixpenny Handley, Pentridge and Woodyates and the hamlets of Woodcutts, Minchington, Dean, Chase Crescent, Gussage St. Andrew, Dean End, Newtown and Deanland.

Why, what and how?



Open day

The government issued a Rural White Paper in November 2000 entitled 'Our Countryside: the Future' the object of which was to 'help rural communities to take charge of their own destinies' and 'to provide an opportunity to strengthen the first and most local form of government'. We were asked to consider how we want our villages to be maintained and to develop. We who live and work in these villages are encouraged to become more involved in the planning process. The views of all sections of the community should be reflected in this. Our Parish Council was asked to initiate the production of a Parish Plan.

The Parish Plan will build on the findings of similar exercises such as Village Appraisals.

What is the Parish?

In this context the 'Parish' is the area enclosed by the Civil Parish Boundaries of Sixpenny Handley and Pentridge. This includes the hamlets of Gussage St Andrew, Minchington, Dean, Woodcutts, East and West Woodyates, Deanland and Newtown.

Aim

The aim of the Plan is to present a survey of the ideas and wishes of all those people who live and work in the area for the future of the parish. We want to know what people need locally, what services, features and amenities they value, who may not be getting their fair share of support and why. We want to know what skills, expertise and knowledge exist in the community, and to discover what opportunities there are for local businesses and for cooperation, as well as highlighting local problems.

The Parish Plan should complement and help to deliver Local Planning Policies and Frameworks but cannot override an Adopted Planning Policy. We should be able to influence local housing and land management and should contribute to the ways in which local services are managed and delivered. In this we must identify the actions which can be taken forward by ourselves as individuals, by the Parish Council and by other service providers and statutory bodies.

Methods

As a basis for discussion we first needed to know our present situation and this was followed by an analysis of what people want; all considered under the headings: **Youth, Environment, Transport, Housing and Development, Crime Prevention, Churches, Local Amenities and Health.**

A Public Meeting was called by the Parish Council in October 2005. From the many volunteers who stepped forward a Steering Committee was formed and others agreed to head groups to address the topics listed above and to report back. Further meetings followed.



Contents

Why, what and how?	2
History	4
Reports	
Local Amenities	6
Health	8
Transport	9
Housing & Development	11
Crime & Prevention	13
Youth	14
Environment	16
The Church in Sixpenny Handley with Gussage St Andrew and Pentridge	18
Pentridge Village	19
Woodyates	21
The hamlets of Woodcutts, Minchington, Dean, Chase Crescent, Gussage St. Andrew, Dean End, Newtown and Deanland.	22
Action Plans	
Local Amenities	23
Health	24
Transport	25
Housing & Development	26
Crime & Prevention	27
Youth	28
Environment	29
Further reports	
Doctors responses to the issues relating to Health identified from the Questionnaire	30
The Parish Map	31

A questionnaire was designed, publicised and sent to all households and businesses in February 2006. Copies were also available in the village shops in Sixpenny Handley. The questions sought views and information under the headings listed above. The aim has been to give everyone in our community a chance to plan for the future. We also need to work out how to deliver what we want, to identify the actions needed to achieve our objectives, to establish responsibility, funding and target dates This comprises our Action Plan.

An Open Event was held to present the draft Action Plan on 22 April 2007. This was publicised with the help of 'the Ferndown Town Cryer' where members of the community were able to add their comments.

A budget was prepared with the help of Simon Thompson (Dorset Community Action Group) and in May 2006 a sum of £3065 was made available. (£2912 - Dorset Strategic Partnership and £153 - Parish Council)



Summary

The Parish Plan is a statement of how our community sees itself developing over the next 5-10 years. It should provide points of reference for decisions about our future involving social, environmental and economic issues. It should therefore inform higher authorities who might be concerned with regional and national issues. It is based on the views of the whole community. It is not to be written in tablets of stone and should be examined and reviewed regularly as conditions change.

History



View up through Sixpenny Handley High Street

With such a wealth of ancient sites and artefacts, perhaps unrivalled throughout the land, our villages lie in an area whose recorded history starts thousands of years ago. The Dorset Cursus of the early Stone Age, Bronze Age burial mounds and barrows yielding weapons, jewellery and pottery, the relics of Iron Age forts, a fine example of a raised Roman road and several villas and hoards of coins, Bokerley Dyke renewed as a defensive ditch to keep out the advancing Saxons, all indicate continuous occupation. After the hunter gatherers began to settle most of our forbears relied on agriculture and forestry.



In the Anglo Saxon chronicle of 877 there is mention of the village of Hanlee. By 1086 Handley, Pentridge, Woodyates and Gussage St Andrew are described in William I's Domesday Book with named farmers, areas farmed and numbers of stock. Handley in old English means 'high wood clearing' and Sixpenny is 'hill of the Saxons'.

In the NE corner of Dorset next to the county boundary the dry chalkland rises towards the escarpment in S Wilts. The land is mainly arable towards the SW with woodland to the north and downland on Pentridge Hill. The hamlets in the farming areas, Minchington, Gussage St Andrew, Dean and Woodcutts are ancient, while Deanland and Newtown originated in recent centuries as woodland was cleared. There has been common land in marginal areas for grazing.

Besides the farmers rearing livestock, tilling the fields and the foresters making hurdles and spars, there were villagers involved in the 'service' crafts and trades such as builders, carpenters, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, butchers, bakers, bootmakers, shopkeepers and in domestic service, as well as gamekeepers for the landowners. Also two special 'pastimes' which generated income, excitement, food and other benefits, were poaching and smuggling. Cranborne Chase, the ancient Royal hunting forest, is famous for harbouring the smugglers who landed their contraband in the Poole area and none of these is more famous than Isaac Gulliver, active in the 17th century. He married the daughter of a Handley innkeeper and three of their children were baptised here.

Our villages still function as a focal point in the Chase being geographically central in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (A.O.N.B.) and providing shops, school and amenities for the district.

There are few records of village life in the Middle Ages and we may be forgiven for thinking that the villagers lived in agricultural tranquillity and relative obscurity, enjoying a simple and frugal life for several centuries. There was an ancient market, and occasional taxation lists record names and amounts of money raised. Doubtless the Black Death took its toll in this area and even in the 19th century there was a plot in Handley called Pit Close near the crossroads. In Tudor and Stuart times men and money were needed by the monarchs for campaigns abroad and our villages supplied both. In 1536, 36 men of Handley offered a range of weapons such as bows and arrows, bills and three suits of armour. During the religious turbulence of the 17th century 143 men of Handley signed to give an oath of loyalty to the Protestant religion, whilst four 'desired longer time to consider' and one resolved 'not to take yt'. Manor Farm was the venue for hatching a notorious but abortive plot against the state in 1655 by the Royalist Colonel Penruddock, later executed.

The opening in the early 18th century of the turnpike road from Salisbury to Blandford, now the A354, improved communications. The Woodyates Inn, since demolished, was an important coaching stop where horses were changed and where George III often paused

Manor Farm was the venue for hatching a notorious but abortive plot against the state in 1655 by the Royalist Colonel Penruddock, later executed.

for refreshment on his way to Weymouth. The innkeeper then was a Mr Browning, direct ancestor of the famous poet Robert Browning. In 1805 the news of Nelson's victory at Trafalgar and of his death was carried from Falmouth to London by Lieutenant Lapenotiere. He made his 13th change of horses at the Inn. This journey along the Trafalgar Way was repeated in 2005 and there is now a plaque to commemorate the event mounted on a 3-ton Portland stone plinth at the roadside next to the bus shelter at Woodyates.

For a farming community the 19th century was a time of change and considerable hardship and unrest. Agricultural machinery threatened job security; the enclosures of common land by landowners deprived smallholders of livelihood; the repeal of the Corn Laws further increased poverty among workers whom the farmers could not afford to pay during the quiet season. There were riots around Handley as in other districts, with machinery destroyed and damage to property. Sheep and grain stealing were common. By 1901 the population of Handley had decreased by about one third from a peak of over 1200 in mid century.



On the other hand the Chase villages became self sufficient as the railways passed by. There was a monthly cattle and sheep market behind the old Star Inn. In 1873 the School was built for 250 pupils and the Church was rebuilt in 1877. The most dramatic event of the century was the great fire of 1892 in which most of the village houses were destroyed, especially those with thatched roofs. Of 86 houses

only 31 remained. The fire was started by sparks in a wheelwright's workshop near the church and it travelled rapidly, fanned by high winds. It has been said that the present state of much of what is now the older part of the village reflected a general lack of planning and coordination in the rebuilding process.

The War Memorial bears testimony to the part played by men of the village in the two World Wars. During WWII Handley Common was cultivated and after the war it was decided to create small holdings there, concentrating on dairy farming. For most of the 20th century the name of 'Sixpenny Handley' was carried far and wide by the fleet of pale blue coaches run by Victory Motor Services, later Victory Tours. The business began in 1921 and sadly went into liquidation in 2005.

Whilst the village changed slowly in earlier times there was expansion in the later years of the 20th century both in numbers of houses and in provision of amenities. Infilling continues and there are now about 650 homes within the civil boundaries of our parishes, of which 29 are in Pentridge. In addition to the Churches, School and Inns we have Village Halls, a fine Sports Pavilion and extensive playing fields, Playgrounds, a Medical Centre, Town Farm Workshops and the shops, and now a Skate Park, opened in April 2007.

This brief history summarises many centuries of community life in a rural setting. Many now travel to employment elsewhere, work from home or are retired, but the traditions of agriculture and forestry continue to be the background of our lives. The pages that follow will describe more fully the variety of enterprise and activity in our villages today and our hopes for the future.



Handley Stores



Clarke's the butchers



One of Victory Tours first buses

There are many inhabitants of our villages who have first hand memories of the events of recent years and Rob Jesse has gathered much material in his Book of the Parish.

Local Amenities



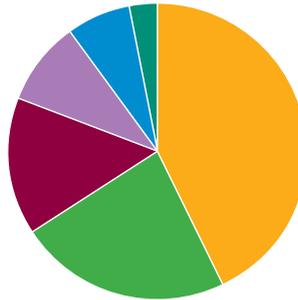
The Roebuck Inn

The Village and Parish have a very good and varied selection of businesses, services and amenities. The main ones include a Post Office, 2 pubs, newsagent and convenience store, hardware shop, workshop units, butchers, caravan and camping park and school. (Some of the other businesses and amenities are listed later in this report).

The amenities group met to discuss and prepare this report based on comments and responses taken from the questionnaire sent to Parishioners,

Requests for additional facilities from questionnaire

Additional workshops	43%
Café /Coffee shop/Take-away	23%
Pool table/skittle alley	15%
Bins	9%
Bus shelter	7%
More tourism	3%



43% of people agreed to additional workshops for local businesses at affordable rents. To encourage local employment additional sites for new or expanding businesses should be investigated. This could involve the change of use of farm buildings or new units being built.

A food outlet was also a popular request, and a pool table and skittle alley were also mentioned. The owners of the Post Office have recently started a tearoom/coffee shop which is proving to be popular. It was also suggested that rubbish bins should be placed in the High Street and the surrounding area. There were a lot of additional comments about the need for bus shelters, particularly by the Parish Office Area and outside the Roebuck.

The parish lies in the heart of Cranborne Chase, which is in an AONB. Tourism should be encouraged to help support and sustain local businesses.

Several issues overlap with other areas of the Parish Plan (health centre, parking, late bus service) and have been addressed in the relevant sections. A skate park for the youth was also a very popular request (refer to section on youth).

The Village and Parish have a very good and varied selection of businesses, services and amenities



Local Amenities and Facilities:

The Sixpenny Handley Village Hall has many diverse uses which include Chase Pre-School, Bowling, W.I., Dance Club, Film Shows, Theatre Productions, Wedding Parties and Chase Community Friends (CCF) Lunch Club to name but a few. The village hall and pavilion should be more widely publicised. This would help support existing activities and encourage new users. The wireless internet connection to the hall may create some further opportunities. There is also a village hall in Pentridge.

The recreation ground and pavilion are used by the Clubs of the Sports Association; football, bowls, cricket and tennis. Some facilities need maintaining and modernising, particularly the areas used for equipment storage.

Within the recreation ground there is a play area, a new skate park and a large open space for general use. This area is also used for the village flower show. There is also a play area for younger children in Mulberry Court.

There are already over 40 businesses in the Parish not including working farms. Other businesses, services and amenities include churches, doctors surgery, hair dresser, public bus route, taxi service, upholsterers, garage, Citizens Advice Bureau, door step milk delivery, mobile fish and chip, parent and toddler club, funeral director, art and craft gallery, tourist accommodation, allotments, garden club, Home Watch, mobile library, dog bins, public telephone, recycling centre, Scout group, etc.

The 'Downsman' is a bimonthly magazine which is an important means of communication within the parish.

The existing recycling centre is located at Church Farm. Several comments were made in the questionnaire about recycling cardboard and garden waste.

Schools in the Parish

The Happy Nappy parent and toddler group was started in 1992, and takes place in Sixpenny Handley village hall. It provides an opportunity for parents to socialise with others while their children play safely.

The Chase Pre-School - A playgroup was formed 30 years ago in Sixpenny Handley. It is now called the Chase Pre-School and runs three sessions each week during term times from Sixpenny Handley Village Hall. They also run a Link Group in the buildings and grounds of Sixpenny Handley First School for one afternoon per week during the Summer term.

Sixpenny Handley First School - The school of Sixpenny Handley is a thriving first school. Children from Sixpenny Handley, Pentridge, Chettle, Farnham, Woodcutts, Dean and Minchington attend the school. Children transfer to Cranborne Middle School at the end of Year 4 (9 years old). The school was built in 1873, and has recently undergone extensive alterations and additions, providing excellent facilities which was opened by HRH the Duchess of Gloucester in July 2004.

The numbers of pupils on roll is now 82, having doubled over the last twenty years. The school sets high standards and is successful and popular. It was named in Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools Annual Report 2005 as one of two "highly successful" primary schools in Dorset. There are six teaching staff and six teaching assistants/support staff currently employed by the school.



Sixpenny Handley Village Hall



Mulberry Play Area



The Sports Pavilion

The school sets high standards and is successful and popular.



Sixpenny Handley First School



Sixpenny Handley Surgery

The Village practice started in 1944 with Dr Paul Harris and Dr Zoë Harris. In 1984 Dr Iain Geddes, Dr Chris Brown and Dr Hugh Pelly joined forces to start the Sixpenny Handley and Broad Chalke Practice. They were joined for a short time by Dr Alison Stables. When she left Dr Elizabeth Nodder came to work with Dr Geddes and Dr Pelly. Dr Geddes retired in 1995 and Dr Mark Morgan was his replacement.

Current Situation

Health care in the area comes from several providers. There is a group practice which operates from purpose-built surgeries in Sixpenny Handley and Broad Chalke. The practice covers approximately 200 square miles of rural farmland and includes numerous villages and hamlets. The Cranborne Practice provides services to some of the patients in the area. The main hospitals providing secondary care are found in Salisbury, Poole, Bournemouth, Shaftesbury and Blandford. Chase Community Friends (CCF) offers a transport service to patients who are unable to get to a surgery or hospital themselves.

Dr Pelly, Dr Nodder and Dr Morgan are the partners responsible for the Sixpenny Handley and Chalke Valley Practice. There is a practice manager, Bill Carter and a full team to help operate the administrative side of the practice. The practice is a dispensing practice offering prescribed medicines in the acute and repeat situation.

We have a small nursing team consisting of three practice nurses and three community nurses. They are assisted by a Health Care Assistant and three phlebotomists. There is a skilled group of people who provide support for nursing care called the Locality Patient Care Team. We have a health visitor and a nursery nurse who are responsible for the health and welfare of the birth - 5 year age group. All of the nursing team operate from one small office in Sixpenny Handley.

In addition to these core services we have other health care professionals attached to the practice. There is a physiotherapist, a chiropodist, a foot care assistant, two counsellors, a midwife and a representative from the Citizens Advice Bureau.

In total we have approximately thirty people operating from four clinical rooms and four administrative areas in Sixpenny Handley and three clinical rooms and two administrative areas in Broad Chalke.

Healthcare for the Future

We are lucky to live in a very healthy area with excellent NHS and private health care facilities. However, there is still a lot of chronic disease like heart disease, respiratory problems and diabetes in the area. There remains a significant incidence of cancer related illnesses as well. Our level of teenage pregnancy and the use of drugs dependence is low, although significant. Other medical services like dentistry and optometry services can only be accessed by travelling to a local town.

To continue to provide a high standard of primary healthcare services, the Sixpenny Handley Surgery building needs to be enlarged. There are not enough dedicated areas for the whole team to work from, waiting areas are too small and car parking space is a serious problem. There are also issues of respecting the privacy of patients attending the surgery and a lot of these problems will be addressed with more space.

Health and lifestyle education and preventative medicine are now recognised to be vital to improve all of our health. Dedicated areas for this to be carried out are required.

Transport



The High Street

The Highways and Transport Group investigated the comments on transport related matters based on the responses from the Parish Plan Questionnaire. A series of meetings were held to discuss the main issues which can be conveniently broken down into the headings - Road Safety, Traffic Calming, Parking, Public Transport and the Sixpenny Handley Bypass. A member of the County Council's Highways Division was invited to comment on traffic calming measures and road safety.

Road Safety

A powerpoint presentation entitled 'A walk up the High Street' followed three parents walking with children from the Crossroads to the school. It highlighted the narrowness of the High Street and danger spots for children at pinch points along the route. One mother described the walk to school as a "nightmare". It was agreed that there was little incentive for parents to walk children to school either along Back Lane or the High Street in view of lack of footways.

Since the school had a wide catchment there would always be a certain number of children arriving by car, more so during the winter months.

Apart from the narrowness of the High Street, and lack of footpaths, traffic often travelled at speed, which was intimidating for pedestrians, old and young alike.

Traffic Calming

At the second meeting Steve Howard, Team Leader of the County Highway Authority, explained the advantages and pitfalls of installing traffic calming measures. Variable Message Sign (VMS), sleeping policemen and roundabouts were expensive to install and may be inappropriate for the village. He pointed out there had been very few accidents in Handley High Street, and indiscriminate on street parking contributed to reduced traffic speeds. A one way system could cause traffic to speed up. He also warned of the impact on local shops if inappropriate traffic calming systems were introduced. He suggested that Speed Indicator Display System (SIDS) already being used were cost effective traffic calming.

Parking

The questionnaire identified parking as one of the main concerns, at the School, the Surgery and in the High Street. The East Dorset District Local Plan identified a new parking area near the school, within the District Council's ownership. It was agreed that the group progress provision of a parking drop/off area near the school, to provided extra parking for residents on Common Lane, extra staff parking for the school and a pull-in for buses. A lollipop lady or zebra crossing is likely to be needed.

Although there was limited parking provision at the surgery it was understood that the surgery were seeking a new location, and parking is likely to be considered at that time.

With respect to the High Street, two possible areas for car parking were identified, but were unlikely to be made available for that use. It was agreed that on-street parking was an effective form of traffic-calming, and yellow lines were not needed.

Public Transport

A number of respondents to the questionnaire had complained of the reduction in bus services, particularly to and from Salisbury. Others requested better links to Shaftesbury, and Verwood and Wimborne. Wilts and Dorset had reduced services in response to limited demand, and often buses went through the village with 4 or 5 passengers on board. Nordcat (North Dorset Community Transport) were contacted and confirmed they were

One mother described the walk to school as a "nightmare". It was agreed that there was little incentive for parents to walk children to school either along Back Lane or the High Street in view of lack of footways.

willing to extend a service to the Parish if there was demand. However when this was advertised in the Downsman there was no response. Hence this line of enquiry is not at this stage being pursued.

Nordcat did not recommend the capital investment in a community bus, which in their view would sit on a driveway for much of the week. A letter had been sent to Nordcat by the Youth Group requesting the hire of a mini-bus to transport young people out of the village for evenings and weekends. Nordcat have said they are prepared to hire 15/20-seater buses (at a very reasonable rate) at the week-ends if volunteer drivers are available.

Bus Shelters

Although there are limited bus services, they are used regularly in the mornings and evenings, and many people, old and young alike, have to stand in the rain. It was important that bus shelters be provided at the BT Exchange/Roebuck and at the cross roads as soon as possible. It may be necessary to review the location of bus stops and provide other shelters at some stage in the future.



Bus stop at crossroads

The Bypass

Although the High Street was sometimes hazardous, much of the life and vitality of the village is created by the services and facilities there. The village is very fortunate to have shops, post office and stores, a public house and hairdresser. New transport measures should not compromise these key amenities.

The main congestion in the village is created by HGV's and it is not unusual for lorries to hold up traffic. Therefore instead of a by-pass there should be a weight restriction on the High Street. If HGV traffic were diverted onto Back Lane, selective widening would be needed to provide a minimum width so two lorries could pass. By restricting the widening to the minimum required the impact on the character of Back Lane would be minimised. The hedgerow would need to be translocated on certain sections, on others there was already sufficient width. There would also need to be a review of drainage at Frogmore.

It would also be necessary to widen and realign Red Lane, but this should also be to a minimum width referred to above. These recommendations are broadly consistent with the policies contained in the East Dorset District Local Plan. The Local Plan recognises that certain new developments should not proceed until the road widening has taken place, and in this way may generate commuted sums to contribute to the cost of the works. This may be the only realistic way of funding the road widening. With this in mind it is considered that proposed housing development at Frogmore should only take place when the road widening and drainage scheme have been implemented.



Back Lane

Housing & Development

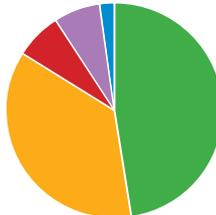


Old view of the High Street

Sixpenny Handley was a traditional, thatched Dorset village prior to the fire of 1892. As a result it has few historic buildings, and its main attractions are its picturesque setting and its position within the heart of the Cranborne Chase. It was subsequently rebuilt in more modern materials. More recent development has allowed areas of the village to be built in different styles, in some ways lacking continuity. Over the last 30 years Sixpenny Handley has doubled in size.

How would you like to see the parish grow in the next 15 years?

Stay approx as it is:	48
Increase by approx 10%:	37
Increase by approx 25%:	7
Increase by approx 50%:	7
Double in size:	2

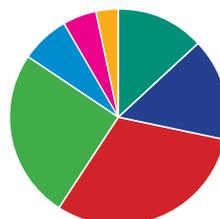


The results of our questionnaire indicate that approximately half the parish want it to stay the same, the other half want it to expand and grow. The village has excellent amenities: shops, butcher, post office, pub, hairdresser, doctor's surgery, and light industrial units to support local employment. In order for these businesses to survive, it was recognised in the responses to the questionnaire that future growth is essential.

Housing

It was recognised that the community needs specific types of housing, as shown in the table below. The questionnaire particularly highlighted a desire and need for affordable housing for young local people. There were also several comments made about the need for additional housing for the elderly.

Homes for first time buyers	30
Small family homes	25
Homes for single people	15
Housing Association houses for rent	13
Homes for people with disability	7
Homes for long term letting	5
Large family homes	3



Littlefield Lane

The East Dorset Local Plan and the future

Planning policy issues are currently covered under the East Dorset Local Plan, which runs until 2011.

Local Development Framework

This is the new local plan (taking over from East Dorset Local Plan)

- It must conform in general with the Regional Spatial Strategy and National policy
- commits to consulting Parish Plan groups

This consultation process is ongoing, gathering evidence this year. Before the document is finalised, the Parish will have to make representation on its views for the future. This Parish Plan will be a part of this process.

The South West Regional Spatial Strategy

- covers the period from 2006 to 2026 for the whole of the south west
- covers housing, transport, economic development, environment etc
- 5400 new homes in East Dorset (1.2%), nearly half of which will be in towns where infrastructure already exists (Poole/Bournemouth)
- Just 10 new homes per year in rural East Dorset

Villages will lose out if not allowed to grow. The majority of new homes are going to be in larger conurbations, but rural areas should not be ignored. The village envelope could be extended to accommodate some extra growth. Sixpenny Handley will request a village design statement which will protect the unspoilt areas of the village. The issue of flooding and groundwater levels within the village must be considered and requires further investigation. This must be taken into account of when any new planning applications are submitted.

Villages will lose out if not allowed to grow, the majority of new homes are going to be in larger conurbations, but rural areas should not be ignored.



Units at Manor Farm

Light Industry

The questionnaire identified that additional workshops should be available to encourage small businesses. Additional workshops could be provided within the parish, and with the possible diversification of farm buildings subject to the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Crime & Prevention



Homewatch coordinators

Policing for this area was organised from Blandford Police Station, which had just a handful of officers covering an area of 128 square miles. Since the 1st October 2007 responsibility for policing our area has transferred to Wimborne Police Station. Our detached Beat Officer from Wimborne, PC61, Jane Brittain, has specific responsibility for policing the parish. She covers a large area but visits the parish as often as her duties allow. We have also been allocated a new Community Support Officer, PC SO 5388 Nick Torok.

Although rural locations such as ours retain more of the traditional values of working together and benefit from the fact that many people are known to one another, the Homewatch scheme has provided a focus for crime prevention and reporting, and a sense that 'something is being done'. There is extensive Homewatch area signing throughout the parish paid for by the Parish Council but maintained by Homewatch personnel. Several times a year the Homewatch Co-ordinators meet to review any reported crimes and unusual goings-on and to plan ahead. Sometimes these meetings have been attended by Dorset Police. In addition, Homewatch representatives also attend meetings at Blandford arranged by the Police for leaders of all the local village Homewatch schemes. Information from the Police and the public forms the basis of a report in each issue of the Downsman to keep everyone up to date.

The lack of a regular, visible police presence is no doubt a factor behind the problem of petty vandalism within the village. We are fortunate to have Yogi Patel, a highly experienced Special Constable who willingly helps out with traffic management at village events and who makes uniformed patrols of the parish when he can. He is now equipped and when authorised is able to patrol the Parish. Like all 'specials' his efforts are entirely voluntary. Parishioners owe a considerable debt to Yogi for the duties he undertakes.

Violent and armed crimes are almost unheard of here, while big robberies are rare (although both the Post Office and the village shop have been raided in the last few years). The more typical crime pattern is of one or two reported crimes each month across the entire parish. Whilst any crime is of concern, nearly all the reported incidents can reasonably be described as 'minor'. Thefts from garden sheds and from vehicles parked up at local beauty spots are the most frequent.

Damage to property, particularly the recreation ground, village hall, sports pavilion and area around the village cross-roads, has been a recurring theme in recent years. The incidents have so far been relatively minor but the overall costs add up. This is anti-social behaviour of the first order, nearly all the targets are public property there for the benefit of the parish as a whole. The culprits are suspected to be local youths accompanied by others from outside the parish, few in number but an ongoing problem. In the past there have been sporadic episodes of drug taking and peddling within the parish but with few convictions. Dorset Police allocate their resources based on the number of reported crime incidents.



Crime prevention measures should be considered for any future planning applications. Parish Councillors and residents should be aware of such issues.

To ensure that crime rates remain low, and criminals who spoil things for the rest of us are brought to justice, the community must work with Homewatch and the local police. The duty really rests with every parishioner to take appropriate precautions.

Always be alert and contact the police or your local Homewatch co-ordinator if you see anything suspicious.

Youth

The following report and recommendations have been drawn up by the Youth Group sub-group of the Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Plan. It is hoped that the recommendations will be submitted to and endorsed by the Parish Council.

The Youth Group prepared a separate Parish Plan Questionnaire directed at the young people of the Parish and was very encouraged by their response. The youth related matters investigated by the Youth Group were based on the results of this questionnaire. A series of meetings then took place to discuss the main issues in further detail. Additionally each of the existing Groups in the Parish that deal with matters relating to young people were asked to prepare submissions for inclusion in the Youth Group section of the Plan.

At the same time meetings were taking place between representatives from the Parish Council and the Youth Group with the East Dorset District Council Anti-Social Behaviour Officer, Bob Bailey, and the East Dorset District Council Youth Development Officer, Dave Auburn, to consider youth related problem areas within the Parish. It was clear from these meetings that several of the matters being considered by the Youth Group were likely to help address the problem areas, and were very much in line with the thinking of both Bob Bailey and Dave Auburn who openly supported the Youth Group's ideas.

Skateboard Park

The provision of a skateboard park was considered and discussed at length in meetings, both formal and informal, with the parish young people as this showed as a high priority in the questionnaire. It was felt that there was little for them to do locally and nothing to enable them to use up surplus energy. This was also something that they had already looked into and had, with the support of Ron Wood, the former parish vicar, started fundraising. The newly appointed vicar, Mel Durrant, has expressed his continuing support. They had also had plans drawn up with costings prepared. Matters had not progressed further due partly to the departure of Ron and also to the apparently prohibitive cost. It was felt that the starting point should be the initial supply of a basic skateboard area at a site with room for later expansion and that suitable funding possibilities should be explored. Various sites were then looked at and considered. A successful application for funding was made to Dorset County Council Youth and Community Services. A skatepark has now been installed and has been extensively used throughout the summer months.

It was felt that there was little for them to do locally and nothing to enable them to use up surplus energy.



Shelter or drop in centre

The questionnaire results showed the urgent need for an informal meeting place to give the young people somewhere to congregate with suitable shelter against bad weather. There was no such facility resulting in groups gathering at various locations within the parish, which were a cause of concern both for residents and for the groups' own safety. This was considered at length and was perceived by the County Council representatives as an issue requiring urgent attention. The Youth Group went on to explore facilities provided elsewhere and which would best meet our current urgent needs. Sites and possible funding were then considered at length. Funding was obtained in conjunction with the skateboard park and a shelter installed adjacent to it. Possible further shelter facilities will be explored.



Transport

The questionnaire highlighted the urgent need for transport to enable the young people to be able to get out of the parish to places where there were facilities and activities for them. At present they view one of the problems as being their inability to visit suitable places to meet their needs, resulting in boredom and frustration in an area with few facilities for them. This was considered at length and discussions held between the Youth Group and the Highways and Transport Group to explore what was available to rectify this situation. Nordcat have identified that a minibus could be made available at weekends provided there is enough demand and volunteer drivers can be supplied.

Local activities

There are excellent local facilities for some sections of the community such as Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Rainbow Guides, etc. all of which are thriving and providing a wide range of activities for their members although the Scout Hut is in serious need of complete replacement. There is, however, a considerable lack of less formal facilities. These have been discussed at length and consideration given as to how the situation could be improved by, for instance, the possibility of re-forming the Youth Club, making available somewhere for a pool table, table tennis, the supply of goalposts and area for cricket in addition to the formal Sports Club facilities and a kick-wall. Possible closer links between the young people and the existing sports clubs were also discussed as it is felt there are already good facilities available which they are either unaware of or, for some reason, reluctant to use. Negotiations are now underway in conjunction with the school for the possible provision of a Multi Unit Games Area.

Environment

The Parish is located in an area of exceptional natural and built heritage in the heart of rural Dorset. The aim of the Environment Group is to maintain the quality of our environment, both locally, in preserving and enhancing the character of the village and its setting, and on a broader scale by contributing to initiatives to increase biodiversity and reduce our carbon footprint. Two key aims of the Environment Group are to carry out a Carbon Footprint Assessment for the Parish, and to reduce the amount of waste, by collecting and recycling waste as part of the Sixpenny Handley community recycling initiative (SHReD). We also aim to support initiatives for environmentally friendly farming practice and the promotion of growing and buying locally grown produce.



The countryside around Sixpenny Handley

an area of exceptional natural and built heritage in the heart of rural Dorset

Natural Heritage

The Parish is located in the Cranborne Chase AONB, adjoins two Nature Reserves and includes sites of Special Scientific Interest. Garston Wood, located on the edge of the village, an area of semi-natural woodland, has been coppiced for generations and is now an RSPB reserve. Many people in the questionnaire give the landscape character of this part of rural Dorset as one of the main reasons for choosing to live in the village.

Our aim is to contribute positively to the natural heritage with nature conservation and habitat improvement initiatives. Already school children visit and learn about coppicing at Garston Wood, and put traditional coppicing skills to good effect at the Ancient Technology Centre in Cranborne. Our 'Living Churchyard' has received awards for its development of habitat and biodiversity. It is intended to improve the nature conservation interest of the parish by tree planting and improvements of the ponds.



Garston Wood

Built Heritage

There is evidence of human activity from almost all periods of history around the village. It has extensive areas of archaeological interest including the Dorset Cursus (pre-2000 B.C.) Oakley Down Bronze Age Barrow Group (2000-1000 BC), and Ackling Dyke Roman Road, all at Handley Cross. There is a deserted Iron Age settlement at Penbury Knoll, Pentridge (500 B.C.) and exceptional remains of a Roman Villa at Minchington Farm and a 11th C church. So it has been a popular place to live for some time.

However much of the mediæval and post-mediæval character of Handley village was lost in the great fire at the end of the 19th Century. Consequently many of the thatched properties have been lost and there is no distinctive pattern to the built form of the village. It is felt that greater pride could be taken in the character of the village, through a variety of enhancement schemes. This includes the preparation of the village design statement, and initiatives to improve areas such as the War Memorial.

Community

Apart from the Natural and Built Environment the amenities of the village are a vital component of its character and contributor to community spirit. Therefore the aim is to promote community initiatives for all age groups and to foster and reinforce community spirit within the village through the many amenities available.

What do you think makes your particular village and the parish a distinctive place to live?

Almost 60% of the comments to this question referred to the setting, location and the accessibility to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which surround the Parish. Location to major towns and cities was another important and popular comment. The excellent amenities within the village were also supported by more than 50% of the replies, combined with living in a working community and a commutable location.

Should guidance be given to ensure that any new building has due regard to the character and appearance of the village.

This was a yes/no survey: 91 responded yes, whilst only 1 responded no, although 5 people commented that it was too late, looking at some of the properties recently built within the village, somewhat lacking in character and a mish mash of styles. It was suggested that if possible a brick and flint construction be maintained, and more thatch roofs to be encouraged. Any new build should be more in keeping to retain the village character. This matter is being followed up by the planning and development group of the parish plan.

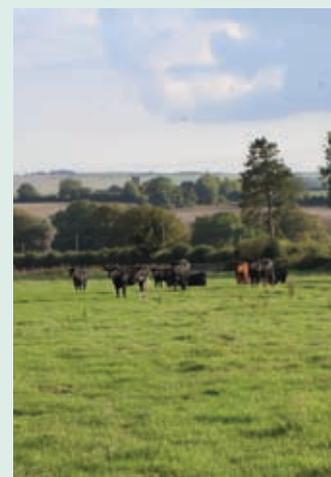
Are there any particular areas where you would like to see an improvement, if so what and where?

It was felt that parking in the village High Street is a problem which should be addressed.

Walking to school should be encouraged as there is no safe place to park. Litter in all forms, including dog waste, spoils the appearance of many parts of the village and is a hazard that needs to be addressed. Additional litter bins are a priority. The village is currently setting up a community garden waste collection scheme SHReD.

“The fact the village has retained its local shops and has a sense of a living community.”

“It is a living and thriving village.”



View from Upwood

“Ideal location close to major towns/cities but situated within beautiful countryside.”

The Churches in Sixpenny Handley, Gussage St. Andrew and Pentridge



For the best part of a thousand years the Churches have been places where people have come together to celebrate, to cry, to ask questions and share doubts, and to explore the meaning of life. The Church has been loud and bustling and full of life, as well as quiet and still and full of peace. They are places for important moments in everybody's lives. They are beautiful, but they have never been just a heritage site. Our role, as the Church in this place, is to bring the love of God to the people, and the people to the love of God. Out of this we are constantly looking at how we can best serve our communities.

It is an exciting future for the Church in this place.

Gussage St Andrew's medieval wall paintings were rediscovered during renovation work in the mid-twentieth century. St Rumbold's, Pentridge, was mentioned in the Domesday Book and rebuilt in 1855, and has associations with the family of the poet Robert Browning. St Mary the Virgin, in Sixpenny Handley, was built in Norman times, although it was altered in 1831 and again in the 1870s. In 1841 the village's first school was built where the Vicarage now stands. In 2006 St Mary's won the Bishop's Prize in the Living Churchyard scheme.

Issue	Actions	Ownership	Partners	First Check Date
The pattern of services and events to be attractive and feed the spiritual growth of everyone in our villages.	To have traditional and modern services every week.	The Vicar and the Parochial Church Councils	Service leaders and all who contribute to worship	Ongoing
	Activity Days for children, possibly expanding these into monthly events.	The Vicar and the Parochial Church Councils	All who participate in leading and contributing to these events	Ongoing
	Wednesday morning 'fellowship' time, with a range of activities in the Church and Vicarage, including soup lunches, coffee mornings, Bible study, Holy Communion and Informal Prayer. Also daytime and evening groups, including Men's Group, Mothers' Union, Bible Study, Prayer and Fellowship Groups.	The Vicar and group leaders	All who participate in leading and hosting events	Ongoing
Environment	The living churchyard project. In this, the land is managed to encourage native wild flora and fauna. The scheme is starting up at Pentridge.	The Vicar and the Parochial Church Councils	Churchyard Management Teams	Ongoing
Access	At Sixpenny Handley clearing the view of the Church from the village and making the Vicarage garden safe for small children. We are aware of the difficulties of parking.	The Vicar, the Church Wardens and the Parochial Church Councils		October 2007
Disabled access	At Sixpenny Handley, erecting a handrail on the footpath outside the Church gate, as well as making alterations to the path from the parking area outside the Vicarage making it appropriate for wheel chairs At Gussage St Andrew there are already steps built into the path, making the chapel as accessible as is possible.	The Vicar, the Church Wardens and the Parochial Church Council	Sixpenny Handley Parish Council	Ongoing
	At Pentridge building steps and a sloping path to the lane.	The Vicar, the Church Wardens and the Parochial Church Council		October 2007
Buildings	Major work will soon be needed on the tower, with considerable financial implications. As part of this we are looking at the possibility of putting in a full peal of bells.	The Vicar, the Church Wardens and the Parochial Church Council		Ongoing
	Improving heating and sound system in Sixpenny Handley Church, which will make the Church building a very strong resource for the whole parish.	The Vicar, the Church Wardens and the Parochial Church Councils		Ongoing
	Water supply into the Church, making the serving of coffee and tea much easier, and a toilet tucked around the back of the tower.	The Vicar, the Church Wardens and the Parochial Church Councils		Completed

Pentridge Village



Pentridge village is considered separately to Sixpenny Handley as the two villages are in general very different in character and requirements, although a few of the issues stated here are also listed under the different sections for Sixpenny Handley. The history of Pentridge is included in the section of the Parish Plan which describes the history of the entire parish. The Parish of Pentridge includes the villages of both Woodyates and Pentridge (separated by the Roman Road), the latter being in a Conservation Area, with several listed buildings and scheduled monuments. This section deals with Pentridge village and surrounding area as Woodyates is described in a separate section.

References in other sections of the Parish Plan to percentages of respondents to questionnaires are not relevant to Pentridge as only one person replied to the questionnaire. Data on Pentridge issues was therefore compiled following individual discussions with residents, at least one member of each family in the village being questioned.

While most residents are generally contented with living in Pentridge, the main concerns of many are that the character, beauty and historic value of the village should not be destroyed and they are prepared to be vigilant in maintaining what is of value in Pentridge. The main issues of concern are listed in the following Action Plan, under the headings of Environment, Buildings and Facilities and Transport.

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Actions</i>	<i>Ownership</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>First Check Date</i>
Environment:				
Doorstep recycling facility	Facilities should be available as in Sixpenny Handley.	East Dorset District Council		2008
Safe access to church gate	Path from bridleway to church gate essential for Health & Safety reasons.	Parochial Church Council	Dorset Community Action	2008
Litter collection	One rubbish bin (heritage style) on village green.	Parish Council	Relevant authority	Summer 2007
Adequate and appropriate sign posting	Signposts (fingerboards) at entry to village to direct walkers to village green and church.	Parish Council	Dorset County Council	2008
Footpath & bridleway maintenance throughout Pentridge parish	Ongoing path clearing to be continued indefinitely.	Parish Council	Dorset County Council	Ongoing
Unobstructed bridleways	Easily opened gates on bridleways for horse-riders.	Parish Council	Local landowners Dorset County Council	2008
Destruction of bridleways by vehicles	Essential to avoid environmental destruction (both physical and noise levels) caused by inconsiderate use of vehicles, e.g. scrambles motor bikes, on bridleways.	Dorset County Council Parish Council	AONB Dorset County Council	Ongoing
Avoidance of environmental destruction	Environmentally destructive agents such as wind turbines, and/or telephone masts, not to be permitted in Pentridge parish.	Parish Council	East Dorset District Council Planning Other relevant authorities	Ongoing
Noise levels	Noise levels at all times to be within reasonable limits.	Parish Council	Organisers of special events	Ongoing
Buildings and Facilities				
Village hall improvement - to conform to Health & Safety standards	Rebuild kitchen & toilets and make disabled access.	Village Hall Committee/Parish Council	East Dorset District Council and other relevant authorities	2008
Provision for babies and toddlers	Facilities including furnishings for babies and toddlers groups to be made.	Happy Nappy Group/ Parish Council	Dorset Community Action	2008



Map illustrated by Judith Gillespie Smith

Building restrictions	Restrict the number of dwellings in Pentridge to the number already existing. Protect the village from unsympathetic building (e.g. when making alterations/ extensions), need for local residents to have more say in planning decisions. Commission a Village Design Statement and listen to local requests.	Parish Council Local residents	East Dorset District Council Planning Department.	Ongoing
-----------------------	--	-----------------------------------	---	---------

Transport				
Danger of speeding vehicles	Speed restrictions: (a) Restriction to 50 mph at junction of A354 with Pentridge turning. (b) Reduction to 20 mph within Pentridge village.	Parish Council	Dorset County Council Highways Authority	2008
Restriction of vehicle size	Limit size of vehicles using lane into Pentridge (Morgans Lane).	Parish Council Dorset County Council	Dorset County Council Highways Authority	2008
Danger caused by overhanging trees	Overhanging trees obstructing roads, electricity and telephone cables to be cleared.	Parish Council	Dorset County Council, Highways East Dorset District Council Highways Authority Electricity Co. and BT	2008
Hospital transport scheme	Transport scheme essential for those incapacitated by age or illness (especially for regular attendance at hospital) similar to the Wilts Link Scheme.	Parish Council Voluntary Assistance	Dorset County Council NHS Chase Community Friends	2008
Road condition	Road cleaning and drain clearance essential to prevent flooding and mud on road.	Parish Council Parish Maintenance Unit	Dorset County Council Highways Authority	Ongoing
Provision for bus users	Bus stop sign and bus shelter on A354 near West Woodyates/Pentridge turning.	Parish Council	East Dorset District Council Wilts & Dorset Bus Co.	2008

Woodyates



Woodyates is situated on the borders of Wiltshire, Hampshire and Dorset and was a Romano-British Camp situated on the Roman Road running from Sarum to Blandford Forum. It also sits on the edge of Bokerley Dyke, a fortified 4th Century bank running along the West edge of Martin Down and straddling the main road. There are many Roman artefacts, found in Woodyates, in the Museum at Dorchester.

The main landmark at Woodyates was a substantial coaching inn. It was at the Woodyates Inn, back in 1685, that the luckless Monmouth, fleeing from defeat at Sedgemoor, abandoned his horse and, disguised as a shepherd, was finally discovered by his pursuers at Horton.

The Inn was the home in the 1740's of Robert Browning, the first known forefather of Robert Browning, the poet.

In 1805 the messenger from Plymouth carrying news to London of Nelson's victory at Trafalgar changed horses at the Inn. This is commemorated by a fine plaque on Portland stone by the main road. (Otherwise known as Trafalgar Way.)

Environment

Footpaths - and areas for walking are considered superb. The lanes are considered a little unkempt for the level of council tax paid i.e. overhanging trees and hedgerows, drain clearing and road sweeping.

Main A354 - There are many that would like a 50mph limit on the approach to the Woodyates junction, as with Cashmoor and Tarrant Hinton. It is a very fast road with regard to safety and slower traffic would reduce considerable traffic noise in the village.

Planning

Although the inhabitants appreciate living in an A.O.N.B this status is in some way responsible for three untidy sites at the approach to Woodyates:

1. Dilapidated pigsty, farm building to the south of the A354 immediately opposite the Woodyates turning.
2. Unsightly, unused, rusty farm buildings on Chapel farm to the north of the A354 - visible from the main road.
3. A pretty brick and flint redundant Methodist Chapel (illustrated) falling into disrepair, which is the first building on the left after turning into Woodyates.

The planning restrictions seem to impede attractive and suitable improvements on these sites. Suitable farm buildings, attractively designed affordable housing, and/or workshops could be of considerable benefit to the village and would improve the unattractive and 'run-down' image Woodyates sometimes presents.

Aspirations

The general view of the inhabitants of Woodyates is that they are happy living in an unspoilt and rural environment, and no fundamental change is wanted in the village itself. We are fortunate to have the services provided by Sixpenny Handley in the form of shops, post office, surgery, school and recreation ground. The predominant changes that seem to be wanted for the 'district' are sheltered housing, affordable housing and a better bus service.

The Hamlets of Woodcutts, Minchington, Dean, Chase Crescent, Gussage St. Andrew, Dean End, Newtown and Deanland.

Newtown and Deanland lie north of the village of Sixpenny Handley. The other hamlets lie at the south west end of the parish. Minchington and Gussage St Andrew were early hamlets in the Gussage valley. Woodcutts was in existence in 1244 and Dean by 1278, both associated with St Andrew. The nave of the Chapel of Gussage St Andrew is from the 12thC and there are 13thC wall paintings. Today these hamlets have retained most of their charm.

The following summarises the views and comments from some of the residents of these hamlets.

● Crime and Safety

There were several comments regarding the fact the local policeman was rarely seen. CCTV suggested at Sixpenny Handley village hall to try and reduce vandalism. Of concern to some people was the dangerous and noisy driving of motorbikes around the lanes.

● Health

The main concerns raised were;

1. Need for a larger surgery
2. Surgery waiting times too long
3. Longer opening hours for surgery
4. More parking needed at the surgery

Many people commented on the excellent service provided by Chase Community Friends.

● Housing and Design

- There is a need for affordable housing for locals

● Education

- Educate children/youth to respect the community and environment

● Transport

- Local taxi service would be desirable
- What about lift sharing?
- More frequent buses

● Environment

- A more extensive recycling collection service
- More footpath maintenance
- Better maintenance of drains

Local Amenities - Action Plan

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Actions</i>	<i>Ownership</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>First Check Date</i>
Rubbish bins.	Parish Council to find and purchase suitable sites.	Parish Council	Parish Council Residents	ASAP
Café/coffee shop Take Away.	Location - Church Farm Caravan Park.	Private		On going
Bus service to village	Lobby to maintain service	Parish Council	Parish Council Wilts & Dorset	ASAP
Bus Shelters.	Funding and suitable design.	Parish Council	Parish Council Residents East Dorset District Council Dorset County Council	ASAP
Tourism.	Approach AONB Information and exhibition area. Possible site - Campsite Café.	Local Area		On going
Sports and recreational activities.	Maintain and enhance level in within parish.	Parish Council	Parish Council East Dorset District Council Dorset County Council Dorset Community Action Sports Association	On going
Allotments	Maintain and enhance.	Parish Council	Parish Council Land owner	On going

Health - Action Plan

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Actions</i>	<i>Ownership</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>First Check Date</i>
Agreed site to be sourced for new Surgery.	Investigations and discussions to be carried out.	Sixpenny Handley & Chalke Valley GP's	Dorset Primary Care Trust Consultation with local community Parish Council East Dorset Planning Dept	Spring 2008
Funding to be secured for new Surgery.	Submission of appropriate application for funding.	Sixpenny Handley & Chalke Valley GP's	Dorset Primary Care Trust	Spring 2008
Car parking to be given full consideration when sourcing site for new Surgery.	Discussions with East Dorset District Council.	Parish Council Sixpenny Handley & Chalke Valley surgery	Parish Council Dorset Primary Care Trust East Dorset District Council	Spring 2008
To support existing transport arrangements offered by C.C.F. to local community. To improve transportation to Health Services for members of the Parish.	Surgery to inform patients service of Chase Community Friends if needed. To encourage local support for Chase Community Friends.	Chase Community Friends	Chase Community Friends Surgery Parish Council Local Community	Spring 2008

Transport - Action Plan

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Actions</i>	<i>Ownership</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>First Check Date</i>
Weight restriction imposed on the High St. Back Lane widened for HGV's.	Investigation of minimum width.	Dorset County Council Parish Council	East Dorset District Council Parish Council Dorset County Council	June 2008
Investigate possibility of contributions from development adjoining back lane to improve traffic flow.	Update on developer contributions for road schemes.	Parish Council East Dorset District Council	East Dorset District Council Parish Council Dorset County Council	September 2009
Application for parish owned Speed Indicator Display System (SIDS).	Discussion with Parish Council on funding.	Parish Council, East Dorset District Council Dorset County Council	East Dorset District Council Parish Council Dorset County Council	Winter 2007
Footpath from Common Road to village hall.	Submit application to Dorset County Council capital fund.	Parish Council, Dorset County Council	Parish Council Dorset County Council	May 2008
Continuous Footpath from bottom of village to school.	Initial investigations about feasibility.	Parish Council, Dorset County Council	East Dorset District Council Parish Council Dorset County Council	Winter 2008
Provision of Common Road car park to accommodate school drop off area and staff parking.	Draw up a feasibility study.	Approach to East Dorset District Council Dorset County Council Local residents and School	East Dorset Housing Association East Dorset District Council Parish Council Dorset County Council	May 2008
Provide bus shelters.	Handley Crossroads, The Roebuck, Pentridge.	Parish Council AONB Dorset County Council	AONB East Dorset District Council Parish Council Dorset County Council	January 2008
Provision of minibus for Youth visits.	Application to Nordcat. Request for volunteer drivers.	Parish Council	Parish Council East Dorset District Council Nordcat North Dorset District Council	Winter 2007

Housing & Development - Action Plan

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Actions</i>	<i>Ownership</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>First Check Date</i>
Need for more continuity of design of future housing.	Village design statement.	Parish Council	Parish Council East Dorset District Council	Spring 2008
Need for extra housing.	Do detailed survey to establish specific needs.	Parish Council	Parish Council East Dorset District Council	Autumn 2008
Village envelope and Landscape Assessment.	Review existing boundary with a view to possible re-alignment.	Parish Council East Dorset District Council	Parish Council East Dorset District Council AONB	Autumn 2008
Local housing and development.	Lobby LDF for planning and Development Matters.	Parish Council	Parish Council East Dorset District Council	Winter 2007
Need for local business premises.	Provide additional workshops, possible use of farm buildings.	Parish Council	Parish Council East Dorset District Council	Ongoing
Re-location of doctor's surgery.	Investigate all sites, impact on landscape taking into account local opinions, access issues.	Sixpenny Handley and Chalke Valley GP's	Dorset Primary Care Trust Parish Council East Dorset District Council Local people	Ongoing - From Spring 2008
Need for housing for the elderly.	Do detailed survey to establish specific needs.	Parish Council	Parish Council East Dorset District Council Dorset Primary Care Trust	Autumn 2008
Review ground water and flooding in the village.	Investigate causes of flooding and look into how/if this can be alleviated.	Parish Council East Dorset District Council	East Dorset District Council Environment Agency Parish Council Wessex Water	Winter 2007

Crime & Prevention - Action Plan

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Actions</i>	<i>Ownership</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>First Check Date</i>
Foster whole community approach to preventing crime.	Bring crime prevention message to school, all youth groups, other community groups, elderly and visitors.	Whole community	Dorset Police Homewatch Parish Council School Youth Groups Community Groups	Ongoing
Need for good communication: Crime reporting and crime prevention.	Better police incident line. Maintain 'Homewatch' signage. Downsman reports and delivery.	Dorset Police Homewatch	Dorset Police Homewatch Parish Council	Winter 2007
Incorporate crime prevention into all planning and development decisions.	'Secure by design'. Lighting dark areas. Avoid remote and easily vandalized features.	East Dorset District Council Parish Council	East Dorset District Council Parish Council Homewatch Dorset Police	Spring 2008
Address anti-social behaviour.	Prosecute vandals. Involve parents. CCTV.	Dorset Police East Dorset District Council	Anti-social Behaviour Officer (EDDC) Crime Prevention Officer (Dorset Police) Parish Council Homewatch	Winter 2007
Secure beauty spots.	Raise theft awareness. Better signage.	Homewatch	Homewatch Parish Council	Spring 2008
Drugs awareness.	Education.	Dorset Police Dorset County Council	Dorset Police School/Youth Groups	Ongoing
	Rapid response to drug presence and taking.	Dorset Police	Dorset Police School/Youth Groups	Ongoing
Visible Police. Presence.	More uniformed patrols.	Community Beat Officer	Community Beat Officer Special Constable Community Support Officers	Ongoing from Autumn 2007

Youth - Action Plan

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Actions</i>	<i>Ownership</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>First Check Date</i>
Provide recreational Skate equipment and Shelter.	Source funding and contractor.	Parish Council Youth Group	Parish Council Contractor Dorset County Council Youth Opportunities	Project completed - March 2007
Monitor use of equipment.	Regular checks and liaise with youth.	Youth Group Parish Council	East Dorset District Council Youth Development Officer Parish Council Youth Group Sports Association	Ongoing
Investigate environmentally friendly shelter/ extension of recreation facility.	Source funding. Agree position and design.	Parish Council East Dorset District Council	A.O.N.B. Parish Council East Dorset District Council Dorset County Council	April 2008
Replace outdated and seriously dilapidated Scout Hut.	Source funding. Agree design. Source contractor.	1st Woodcutts Scout Group	1st Woodcutts Scout Group Parish Council Scouts Organisation	March 2008
Improve transport links for youth and other group.	Liaise with transport providers.	Youth Group. Parish Council	Youth Group Nordcat Community bus services Parish Plan Transport Group	April 2008
A suitable location be sought for the supply of pool, table tennis and other similar activities on a regular basis.	Sites to be investigated. Recruit helpers.	Youth Group	Village Hall Management committee Sports Association	March 2008
Provide kick wall/ outdoor activity for general purpose use.	Upgrade/Strengthen existing. Basketball boarding. Provide further facilities.	Youth Group	Sports Association Parish Council Youth Group	May 2008
The possibility of re-launching the Youth Club to be explored.	Examine need and possibilities.	Dorset Youth Association	Dorset Youth Association and Community Services East Dorset District Council Youth Development Officer.	Ongoing
The existing young people based organizations be fully publicized, encouraged and where appropriate expanded and further developed.	Update and expand existing facilities.	Youth Group	Youth Groups Sports Groups Scouts, Beavers, Cubs, Rainbows and Explorers	Ongoing

Environment - Action Plan

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Actions</i>	<i>Ownership</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>First Check Date</i>
Recycling of garden waste.	Formation of village composting unit.	SHReD Sixpenny Handley Recycling Direct Parish Council	East Dorset District Council Dorset County Council Parish Council	On going from the end of May 2007
Fly tipping.	Provide appropriate sites for all types of waste in village.	SHReD	East Dorset District Council Parish Council Dorset County Council	On going from the end of May 2007
Pride in village.	Competitions for floral displays. Window boxes, hanging baskets and front gardens.	Committee of village people Flower Show Committee of village	Possibly Parish Council, SHReD and Flower Show Committee	Summer 2008
	Campaigns to increase awareness of litter control and dog fouling.	Parish Council		Spring 2008
Tree planting.	In and around the village.	Parish Council and Local Land Owners	The villagers, particularly the young people	A.S.A.P.
Ponds.	Four ponds in the village converted to conservation areas of ecological importance.	Parish Council	Village people	A.S.A.P.
Flooding in southern end of village.	To investigate means of controlling flooding, caused by heavy rains in the northern end of River Allen catchment area. With special reference to any new building.	Parish Council Villagers and Developers and Land-owners	East Dorset District Council Dorset County Council Environment Agency Wessex Water	A.S.A.P.
Village carbon and ecological footprints.	Estimate the footprints as accurately as possible.	Villagers and Parish Council	East Dorset District Council Dorset County Council Environment Agency SHReD	2008
The village youth.	Environmental awareness campaign.	Village School Village youth and Scouts	Parish Council SHReD	A.S.A.P.
The Living Churchyard.	The churchyard to be managed as a wild-life sanctuary, for both indigenous plants and animals.	St. Mary's Church	Dorset Wildlife Trust	Ongoing

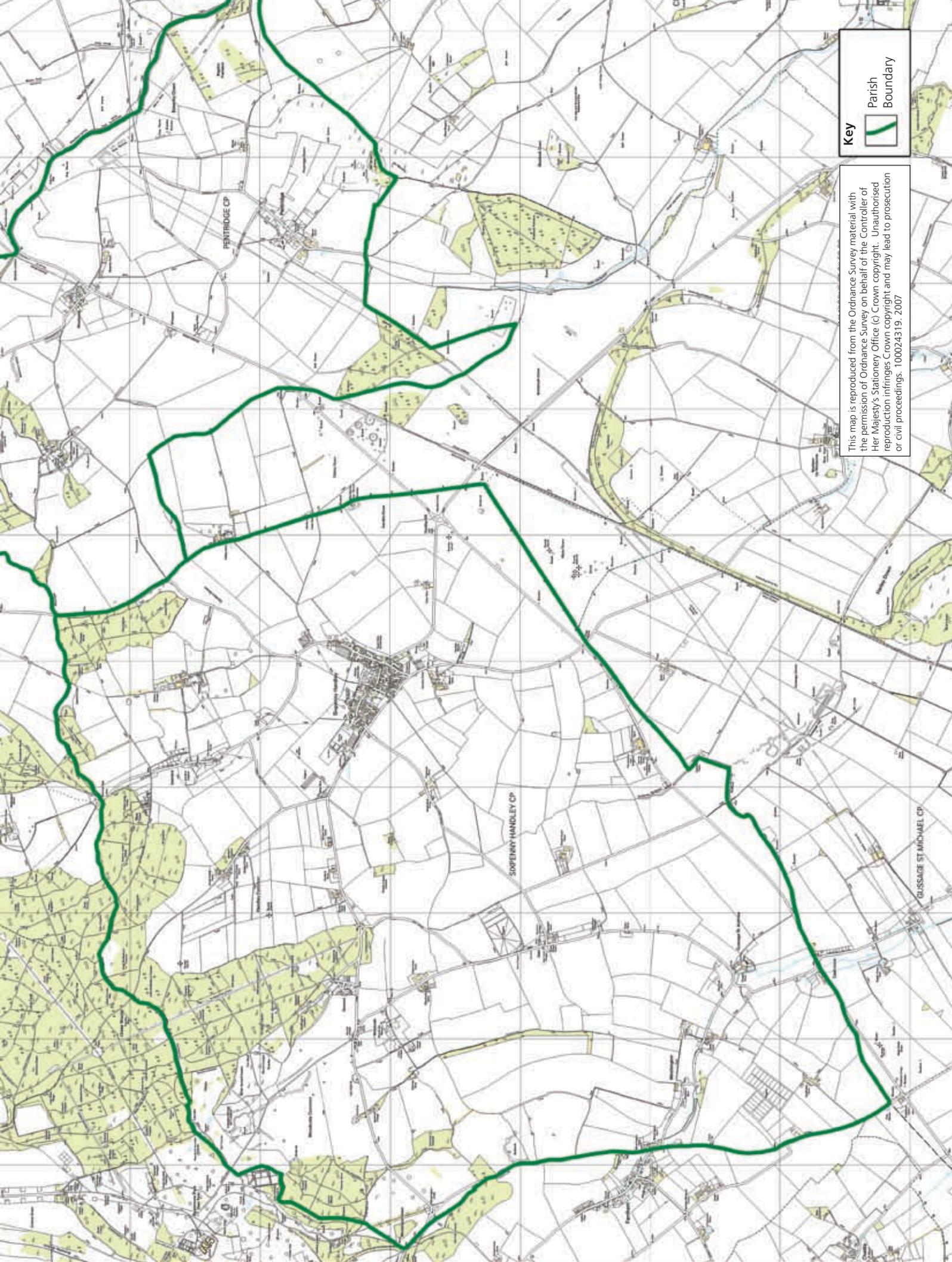
Doctors responses to the issues relating to Health identified from the Questionnaire

Would you like to see increased health facilities made available?

Of those that replied to the above question: 34% replied No, 11% were happy and 55% replied Yes, and gave the following comments

1. X-ray dept
Because of issues of cost, size and maintenance of equipment and health and safety issues this is not under consideration
2. Doctor on call nights and weekends.
3. As a widow I hate the idea of being ill at night, on Tuesday afternoons or at the weekends.
Urgent medical advice and care is available 24 hours a day. The NHS changed the way out of hours medical care is offered in 2005. It is possible to obtain medical advice from NHS Direct all the time. The local out of hours provider for our area is South West Ambulance Service (formerly Dorset Ambulance Trust). Doctors, nurses and paramedics staff the service. Most of the doctors are experienced GPs. The out of hours service operates for urgent problems and not for routine enquiries.
4. Complete health checks once a year.
Health checks have always been available. The government encourage screening for certain diseases. If you would like a health check please make an appointment with the practice nurse.
5. Small cottage hospital. Odstock a nightmare from all points of view.
Unfortunately it is impractical for many reasons to have a cottage hospital within the parish area. However services are available from the local community hospitals in Blandford Shaftesbury and Sherborne. The complexities of medical care and the need for specialist services have led to centralisation of most medical care.
6. More use of surgery for minor operations.
The doctors at The Sixpenny Handley & Chalke Valley practice offer a variety of minor medical procedures. However more complex surgery is best carried out by suitably experienced surgeons in the hospital setting. In the event of problems arising it is essential to have adequate back up from the hospital teams.
7. Day surgery for minor operation.
Please see above. It would not be a good use of tax payers money and the NHS budget to staff and maintain small specialist units all over the country.
8. Local doctor on a rota system looking after patients 24hrs a day including weekends - not outside cover with no local knowledge of patients problems.
Please see the answer to comment 2. While local knowledge of patients and their situations can be very helpful, it is often not necessary in an urgent situation.
9. Larger surgery.
10. Larger surgery with increased parking.
11. Do you experience problems parking at any of the following, shop, home, school, church, surgery?
18 responses with Yes. (Comments were "Surgery car park can appear full; inside 5 patients at the most attending", "patients having to park on the road" "Surgery nearly always full with staff parking".
Dr Hugh Pelly, Dr Elizabeth Nodder and Dr Mark Morgan are the doctors responsible for providing medical services to our community and local area. It is accepted that the surgery is too small to cope with the increased demands of general practice. The doctors have been working hard to try to gain support from the local primary care trust to start the process of building a bigger surgery. They are currently in discussion with the Dorset Primary Care Trust, East Dorset District Council Planning Department, the Parish Council and several local landowners. Various sites are being considered and once planning permission has been given the doctors hope to build a new surgery. Local support has already been given and news of further developments will be released as soon as possible.
More space including car parking space will be a priority in order to provide an up to date surgery, which will last well into the future. Enough parking for patients and staff and other visitors is essential.
12. Keep fit facilities.
13. Multi gym in Village Hall.
14. Sixpenny Handley gym with priority use of parish owners.
Although local facilities would be desirable, the provision of keep fit facilities is well catered for in the surrounding areas. Salisbury, Blandford and Wimborne all have sports centres. Prescriptions for exercise can be obtained where appropriate from your doctor.
15. Easier access to appointments, understanding we all have jobs to do and cannot fit into the surgeries restricted times to see a doctor. Since first moving to the village have seen surgery hours shortened
16. Fed up with a 9 -6 not user friendly when leaving the village before 9 and returning after 6. Increased hours could help with preventative medical matters. Also makes it very difficult to collect prescriptions during surgery hours.
17. To be able to see your doctor in a reasonable time and to see a doctor the same day and at the weekends.
The Sixpenny Handley & Chalke Valley Practice surgeries are open from 8.30 am to 6.30 pm on every weekday. The telephones lines are open between 8.00 am and 6.30 pm on every weekday. The NHS reduced opening times of all GP surgeries when the out of hours alterations took place in 2005. However the Urgent Care Service based is run by South West Ambulance Trust and provides medical care at all other times when the surgery is closed. Experience at the surgery of offering early appointments shows these appointments are generally filled by people who do not work. However in order to try and offer health care to people who work away during the day, the surgery offers morning telephone consultations on each weekday. Any medical matter can be discussed and often resolved on the telephone. Currently there is no plan to lengthen the surgery opening times or offer appointments at the weekends. For this to happen the NHS would have to change the arrangements and fund any changes.
18. Bigger clinic, pharmacy, emergency room and ambulance facilities to the hospital.
A bigger surgery is planned. Minor accidents can be managed in the surgery during working hours but most accidents have to be dealt with in adequately staffed Accident and Emergency Department.
19. A local place for the elderly, they have to leave the village, friends and familiar things, alienating them from all that is familiar.
The CCF already provides a service for this group of our community. This is well attended but more support from the community would enable this serviced to be developed.
A memory support group used to meet on Thursday mornings at the surgery but was, in part, stopped because of lack of numbers
20. 4 replies requested a visiting Dentist.
21. 12 replies requested an optician/visiting.
We would all like a local dental service and optician.
However for a dentist or an optometrist to be able to work in the community, suitable premises would be required and then enough patients using the service would be necessary. The changes in general dental services are controlled by the NHS and may not be flexible enough to attract someone to work in such a small community. Again size and workload would not make this a very attractive community in which to set up an optician. It might be worth asking a local dentist or optometrist what they think.
The doctors in Sixpenny Handley hope the new surgery development will be able to accommodate other health professionals including dentistry and optometry.

The final point was raised by the question below about sheltered accommodation. Do you think that sheltered accommodation should be available for the elderly, who find house and garden too much but do not wish to leave the village? This was a yes/no answer, and 104 responded Yes.
The village is quite well provided for in this respect. Sadly the wardens are no longer visiting and the service is only supported with an alarm call system. This reflects the financial provision for this form of social services.



Key
 Parish Boundary

This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (c) Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. 100024319. 2007



This Parish Plan Steering Committee would like to thank everyone who gave their support, time and assistance without whom this Parish Plan could not have been completed.

November 2007 1K