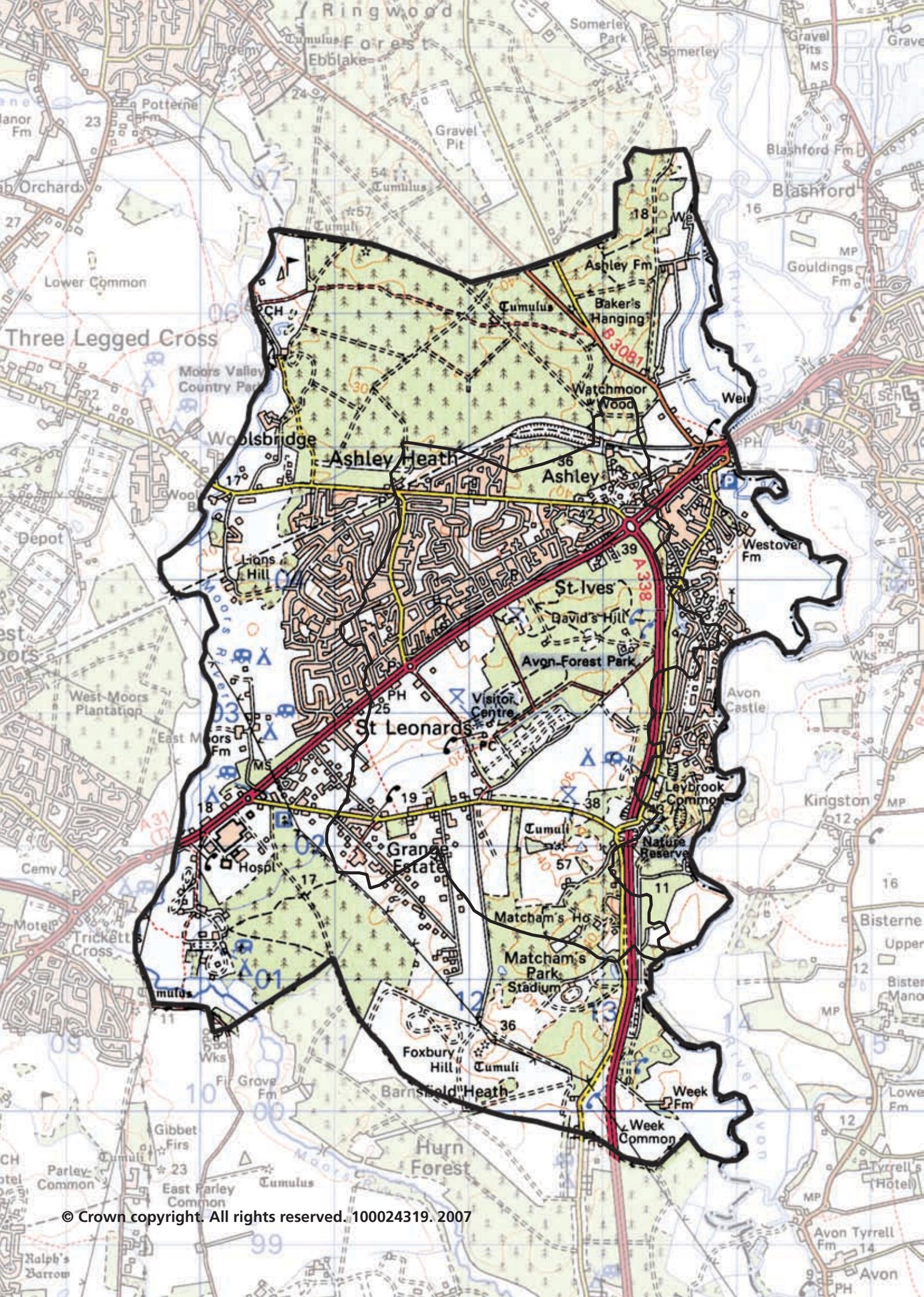


ST LEONARDS & ST IVES

PARISH PLAN
2007



Making our parish an even better place to live



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Introduction

With all the recent government legislation, the introduction of the Regional Spatial Strategy, Local Development Frameworks etc, you may well ask “what is the point of producing a Parish Plan”?

We all know how difficult it is to put forward our views as individuals; a Parish Plan enables us to do this as a comprehensive body in a clear documented form, thus giving what we have to say far more weight and influence.

On the 8th of July 2005, The Parish Council organised a Cheese and Wine evening with a view to recruiting willing and enthusiastic volunteer parishioners to form a Parish Plan Steering Committee. Those attending were also provided with opportunities to both write down and voice their concerns and aspirations. Whilst at times it proved challenging and even confrontational, it was good to see how strongly parishioners felt about issues surrounding this parish. The successful outcome was the recruiting of some 15 enthusiastic parishioners joined by two parish councillors acting independently.



The initial and majority funding for this plan has come from the Countryside Agency with much helpful support and assistance from the Dorset Strategic Partnership and with the backing of the Parish Council.

It is intended that this plan, which makes clear the views and concerns of the people of this parish, is taken forward not only by your parish council but also given consideration by other named local authority bodies and service providers in their future plans.



Your committee's involvement and approach

Your committee has met on a very regular basis to sustain the momentum required to complete this plan on your behalf. Initially, information was collated and analysed from the written and verbal comments received at the 'Cheese and Wine Evening'. This gave your committee a good indication of the nature of your concerns and assisted in devising the questionnaire sent out in September 2005.

To obtain views from the Parish children and youth, Love it / Hate it type surveys were provided with responses received back from the local school & Youth Club.

After much hard work, the committee completed the analysis ready for all to see at the Open Day in Spring 2006.

At the Open Day we were supported by many other organisations in the parish, so much so that space in the Village Hall became limited. The hard work involved in Planning and organising the Open Day was rewarded by the success of the event with attendance of some 500 people. Some of the views gained at The Open Day were verbal as well as written and although many of the comments and questions were similar to those raised by previous consultation, a few new issues were also brought forward.

The task of finally collating all the information gathered proved to be long and difficult, but by mid summer the chairperson of the committee had written a detailed summary.

The next task was to seek further information and comments on our findings from official bodies and experts. Two committee members were delegated to each subject heading: Roads and Transport, Housing and Development, Environment and Conservation, Services and Maintenance, Crime Prevention and Security and both Leisure, Recreational and Youth Activities.

Whilst helpful and positive responses were forthcoming in many instances, we have to report this was not always the case; there were times when considerable perseverance was required. In some cases the responses seemed to be more concerned with explaining in arbitrary terms, why something could not be done rather than looking for solutions.

It has been gratifying however, to see that in some cases as the result of contact with other official bodies, some action has occurred.

The final task of the committee has been to ensure the most highlighted issues in each category have been identified and to produce an action plan which clearly defines areas of responsibility, methods of resolution and those who need to be involved.

Whilst ideally it would be wonderful to obtain the views of every household, the Steering Committee has only been able to take into account those given by parishioners happy to avail themselves of the opportunities provided.

The remit of the Parish Plan Steering Committee has been to act independently and to consult with parishioners and other bodies as required ensuring the Parish Plan reflects fairly and in full the views you have expressed.



A little bit of History



Avon Lodge Station



Ashley Heath Station Sign



The Struan

In 1906 the population of this parish numbered 50 rising in less than 100 years to 6,672 (2001 census). Such growth has produced changes in the environment, not least in the number of properties that have been built. Land previously used for farms, orchards, market gardens, a riding school and even a zoo were built on to accommodate new inhabitants.

A **workhouse**, built in 1725 for the poor within the Parish, only closed its doors in 1936.

Avon Castle was built in 1875 as the seat of the Earls of Egmont. It was the house of a sporting and agricultural estate of about 1300 acres. A single-track railway line was built through Avon Castle for the sole use of the Earl.

The estate was sold in the 1930's, a considerable proportion of it becoming a stock farm. Twice during subsequent years, the Castle and its grounds were part owned by an hotel company until the 1950's when building plans were adopted for private residential development.

The first train arrived at Ashley Heath in 1927 and the last departed in 1964, leaving behind a railway cutting that is now a haven for cyclists, walkers and horse-riders and wildlife.

In the 1920's William Webb moved here from the Garden Estate he had created in Surrey and purchased 1500 acres of land in Ashley Heath to build his **Hampshire Heath Garden Estate**. He started building the 'Forge' as the intended station house, followed by 4 shops to serve his projected community, which took the form of the '**High Street**' and it remains to this day as the shortest high street in the country. The building itself is presently grade 2 listed so we can still enjoy the High Street just as William Webb planned it.

William Webb proceeded to build a large house '**Moorside**' for himself on the outskirts of the village, which was set well back from Horton Road. Following his death in 1930 the house passed through several owners until it finally became the Struan Hotel. Unfortunately this piece of Ashley Heath's history was destroyed in unseemly haste. The developers delivered their request for demolition to East Dorset District Council one Friday afternoon and the building was totally demolished on the following Saturday morning before permission was granted, resulting only in a minimal fine.

The original **All Saints Church**, for which the foundation stone was laid in 1912, was replaced with a new Church in 1973 to meet the needs of an increasing population.

The 1990's saw the building of a new Church Centre on the site of the old Church Hall, providing a wonderful base for the varied activities the Church offers.

The **St. Leonards and St Ives Parish Council** was newly formed in 1932. The minute book shows that at the Annual Parish meeting held on Friday the 31st March 1933, a suggestion for a new name for the Parish Council was put to the meeting. It was finally decided by a majority vote that the existing name of St. Leonards and St. Ives Parish Council should not be changed and so it has remained to this present day.

St. Leonard's Hospital was built in 1942 to care for American servicemen wounded in the D-Day landings, accommodating 1250 beds by 1944. In 1950 the hospital became dedicated to the care of the elderly, with the addition of extra departments such as Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy. It is now a community hospital within the Dorset Day Care Trust.

Children in the Parish used to have to walk into Ringwood for their schooling, whilst those who passed the necessary exams would then travel to Brockenhurst College on the train. A small private school existed until its closure in the 1950's. In 1971 St. Ives First School opened, offering all children the opportunity to be educated within a short distance of where they lived.

Within our boundaries we also have the **Sheiling Community**, established in 1951 to provide a residential school for children with a wide variety of special needs and as a working community for adults with disabilities.

The **St. Ives and St. Leonards Ex-Servicemen's Club** has expanded since its establishment in 1965, providing a venue for all.

Since 1966 we have had the **R.S.P.C.A** home dedicated to the care of animals in need.

During the past 100 years, the history of this parish has indeed been the history of change. An increasing population has resulted in the area becoming less rural.



Mothers Union Outing (1963)



The Workhouse

In 1906 the population of this parish numbered 50 rising in less than 100 years to 6,672 (2001 census).

The Parish Today



Lions Hill



Dartford Warbler (Photo provided by RSPB)



All Saints Church

It would be very wrong to think that this Parish Plan is all about negative issues, when in fact it is about how much we really care and why we do not want to see the distinctive character of the Parish gradually destroyed and turned into an urban sprawl.

Green Spaces and Heathland.

Our parish is blessed with a wonderful, varied landscape. We have woodland, heathland, country parks, streams and river valleys. These green spaces are in total larger than the residential area and give this parish its distinctive character. Practically all the green space is open access. Two of the heathlands, Avon Heath and Lions Hill are Sites of Special Scientific Interest (S.S.S.I's) The Crane River Valley in Moors Valley Country Park is also an S.S.S.I.

Both Moors Valley and Avon Heath provide many recreational/educational facilities for the young and old. Lions Hill is an unspoilt heathland for walking and wildlife and the Castleman trail way offers 16 miles of cycling, walking and horse riding trails.

Heathland is a very special feature of this parish. Lowland heaths help define the distinctive landscape of the South East Dorset region. Heathland has worldwide recognition as a rare and fragile habitat and we are part of something very special. Our two heaths are home to rare and endangered snakes, (adders and smooth snakes especially), both sand and common lizards and to rare and endangered birds such as the Dartford Warbler, Woodlark and Nightjar. The casual walker out enjoying a stroll does not easily see these, but they are there to be seen and heard with a little patience. Our local heaths have a crucial role in contributing to their survival.

Heathlands support a very characteristic and interdependent range of animals and plants above and beyond those rare species mentioned. Heather, of course is the predominant vegetation, but it has to compete with gorses and invasive trees. Management of these internationally important heaths is a big challenge. We have greenery all year round and the autumnal display of rolling purple heather in full flower is quite spectacular.

Other wildlife thrives in this parish, which include, roe deer, squirrels, foxes, badgers, owls, many other birds, bats. slow worms (in fact, these are legless lizards), grass snakes, newts, frogs and toads, Very little of this wildlife is furry and cuddly, although it can with care be observed and enjoyed by all. This parish has a proprietorial pride in having them share our territory. Not many parishes can share this distinction. This Parish is privileged to be able to offer such a wealth and variety of important open spaces.



St. Ives First School.

Central to the Parish, we are blessed with an immaculate village school and whilst the number of children of first school age within the catchment area is decreasing, the school attracts around 20% of its pupils from outside its area due to its excellent reputation.

A strong and vibrant St. Ives School Association consistently provides a variety of activities to include scrumptious Strawberry Fayres, an annual spectacular firework display and delightful amateur dramatics throughout the year. The school swimming pool facility, with a little support from our Parish council, is also open to, and much enjoyed by, the community in the summer months.

The pupil's responses to our Like/Dislike questionnaire showed very clearly how much they love their school.

Shopping and Services.

Although not all at a central point, the Parish is supported by a greatly valued post office, an attractive High Street with a pre-school facility, a chemist and hairdresser. Within the boundaries are a petrol station, garage, small convenience store, hotel, motel, two public houses, the doctors surgery, St Leonards hospital, the RSPCA and boarding kennels and cateries.

The mobile library visits the parish at various locations and the Vision Wimborne Dialaride service is available for people in wheelchairs or those having difficulty in using public transport.

In, addition, we have good recycling facilities by way of the kerbside collection on a two weekly basis and the ability at present to use the recycling centre at Verwood Road.

Recreation and Leisure

All Saints Church and church hall besides catering for the parish spiritual needs, hosts, two choirs, a flower guild, 3 yoga groups and a toddler group as well as The Mothers Union and a Sunday school.

We are fortunate to have recreational and educational interests for both the young and more mature. The village hall has good facilities and currently offers some 36 activities with organisations such as Age Concern, providing service to the community. We have a well-supported Tennis Club, which would be the envy of many parishes, and a very popular and respected Bowls Club. The Play area in Braeside is programmed for upgrading and there is also a Football/ Recreation field in Horton Road.

In addition we have the Ex Servicemen's Club, which, is open to the whole community for social gatherings.

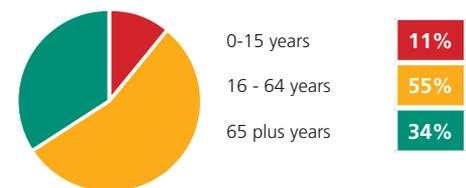
Home security

The excellent Home Watch group set-up within the parish continues to work towards a safer environment keeping members informed of the many aspects and services and methods they can adopt to protect themselves against crime.

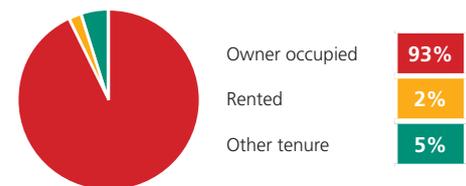


St Ives First School

Age profile:



Housing profile:



Post Office

"Nice conservation area, protected heath land"

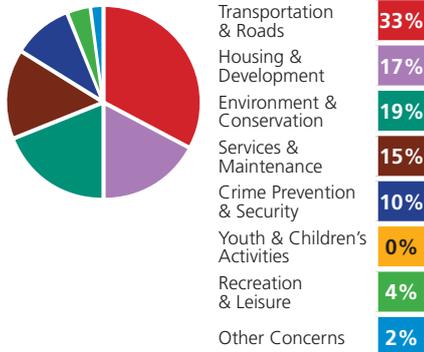
"Re-cycling - Very good, door service excellent"

"Excellent Village Hall"

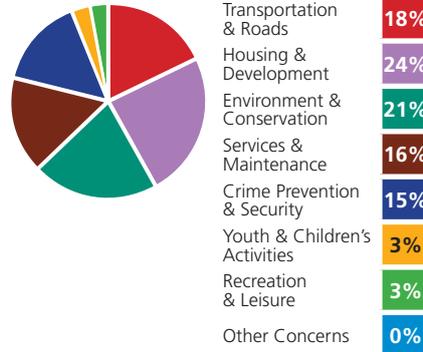
THE ISSUES

Although the consultation process provided three separate opportunities in differing formats, on each occasion the results were very similar as can be seen below:

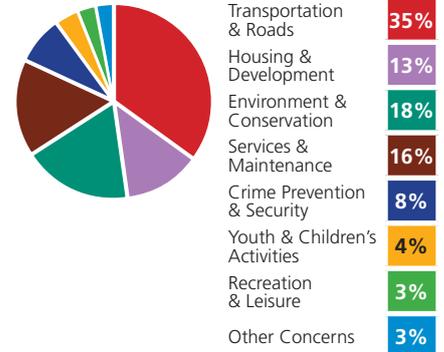
Issues raised at the Cheese and Wine Evening:



Issues raised in the Questionnaire:



Issues raised at the Open Day:



Crime Prevention and Security



By far the greatest concern shown by parishioners in this category is the perceived lack of Police presence. Many adverse comments were made and it is obvious that the Police need to address this issue.

There were also comments made regarding the use of police volunteers. Although a number of volunteers have been appointed from the general public, it seems the police require better planning in their use.

At present around 50% of households in the Parish are members of Homewatch. Although many responding to the questionnaire stated that they were members, there were those who had not yet considered membership.

There was some general unease over inappropriate youth behaviour especially in the area surrounding the village hall, in particular, graffiti, vandalism, abusive behaviour and perceived abuse of drink and possibly drugs. Several comments were received regarding the use of CCTV.

"Never see a Bobby on the beat"
"Poor service levels from Police HQ"
"We need coppers not more cameras"
"The job culture is intimidating to my generation"

Housing and Development

The Parish of St Leonards & St Ives is characterised by low-rise housing and spacious gardens, which most residents value and wish to retain.

The population is predominantly older but active, having identified the area to which to retire as an attractive urban parish, located within an area of woodland and heath.

To date, bungalows have provided manageable garden spaces and independence. Low rise housing is also provided by Park Homes on residential sites.

According to research by the Halifax, bungalows are Britain's happiest homes!

Constant infilling and back land developments are changing both Special Character Areas and the general character of the street scene.

Residents responded clearly and with conviction against the changing face of their Parish by opportunistic development proposals endorsed by the Planning Authority.

Contrary to the wishes of local residents and the Parish Council and despite poor public services, flats have been developed in the Parish.

It is feared that the development ratios required by the South Western Regional Spatial Strategy will only exacerbate higher density development.

There is support for the on-going parliamentary campaign against the designation of gardens as brownfield sites, which has resulted in properties with sizeable gardens being targeted for replacement by two, three or more new houses.

Residents have acknowledged and value the role of gardens within the natural environment.

Despite protection orders, development has taken precedence over trees on application sites to the detriment of the area. Re-planting schemes are not seen to be monitored.

Concerns about specific locations of flooding have been identified and Wessex Water has indicated approval for improvement within their current investment programme.



Oaktree Park

"Rights of builders appear to be taking precedence".

"Developers are getting away with murder"!

"We don't want another Ferndown with roads full of flats"

"The character of the area will be lost if infilling continues".



To be replaced by three dwellings

Environment and Conservation



"People not clearing up after they have walked their dog"

"Too many bonfires before 7pm".

"Colossal litter on A31 and A338"

"Too many trees and hedgerows being cut down for brick walls"

Green Spaces, Green Belt and Sites of Special Interest

It is very clear from the responses received that parishioners have a great deal of concern in respect of what is happening in this parish and feel that our landscape requires protection to ensure future generations are able to enjoy the area in which we live.

The major concerns surround protection of our green spaces, Green Belt and Sites of Special Scientific Interest with their associated wild life. There are clear concerns over unnecessary tree felling, the management and protection in general of our tree population and hedgerows being replaced by brick walls.

Recycling:

In general it was felt the facilities for recycling are good, however, some parishioners experience difficulties in handling and moving the recycling boxes and bags.

Dog Fouling

Although the majority of dog owners are responsible, we are still experiencing problems with dog fouling especially in the play-park areas. Besides being an offence, this is very unpleasant and a danger to health.

Bonfires

Bonfires are a cause for concern, not only can they be anti-social they also harm the environment.

Litter/Fly Tipping

The ever increasing problem of fly tipping in the parish is a cause for concern and parishioners are urged to report incidents and sightings to the Parish Council, East Dorset District Council or the Environment Agency. Fly Tipping carries a fine, which could apply to both the perpetrator and their client. Householders must check those they employ have an appropriate licence or the householder could become liable.



Services and Maintenance

By far the major causes of concern surrounds poor and inadequate maintenance of roads, pavements and verges.



Fallen pine needles exacerbated by fallen leaves in the autumn are not only unsightly and dangerous on wet pavements, but also cause blocked drains leading to flooding on roads.

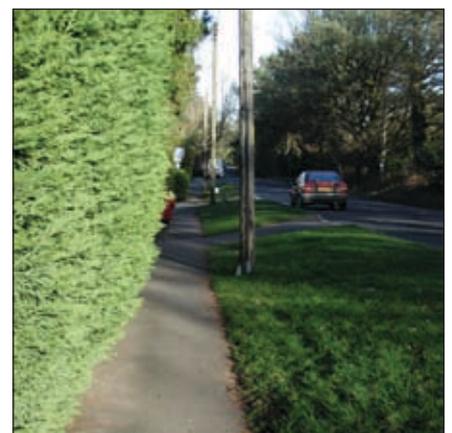
Overgrown hedges and trees emanating from both local authority and private land are also perceived to be an issue requiring attention.

Although street lighting gave rise to considerable comment, there was an almost equal split between those requiring more and those adamantly against. The issue of safety in respect of the lighting of junctions was not however contested.

“Road and pavement surfaces in some areas are appalling and dangerous”

“Roads not swept often enough causing blocked drains”

“Many pavements have overhanging hedges and trees”



Roads and Transportation



"Noise levels from A31 unacceptable"

"Waiting by A31 for a bus, very unpleasant and having to cross the A31 - dangerous".

"Lions lane, Woolsbridge Road, Matchams Lane and Horton Road are all lethal Rat Runs"

Roads:

Whilst the proximity of a good road system is in many ways an asset, there are drawbacks. Noise and pollution levels are high for those living near to the highways with specific concerns over the A31, A338 and Horton Road. The speed and density of traffic on these roads is a matter of great concern. The most recent figures supplied (2004) indicate an annual average daily flow of 48,000 vehicles through the parish on the; A31:46,000 on the A338 Spur road and 10,000 on the Horton Road.

The introduction of a 50mph speed restriction on the A31 within the Parish is beginning to bite although some motorists continue to drive well over this limit.

On the Parish side roads there is also a tendency for speeding and the use of some as "rat runs".

The Woolsbridge roundabout and the Horton Road junctions in particular require care and patience by drivers attempting to cross or join the speeding traffic stream, although the response from the Highways Authority was that the Woolsbridge Roundabout is operating satisfactorily.

There is considerable danger to pedestrians crossing the A31 to/from the bus stop at the St Leonards Hotel and requests for a further footbridge have been turned down on the basis of cost. There is some possible consideration of extending the footpath from the Hotel to the (bridleway) footbridge at St Ives End Lane.

In summary, matters that can be addressed locally, that is, by Parish or District Councils, may have a better chance of resolution than those requiring attention at Ministry level.

Transportation:

Whilst appreciating the detachment in general from the urban sprawl, the nearest comprehensive shopping centres are some 2 or more miles away in any direction, which makes travel necessary to buy the majority of daily necessities. For those who have their own transport, shopping in Ringwood, Ferndown or elsewhere is not an overriding issue.

Those without their own transport find public transport infrequent, time consuming and sometimes, depending on the service required, there is quite a distance to the nearest bus stop. For those with mobility problems, local transport is run by an effective voluntary organisation "Vision Wimborne Dialaride"

Low utilization and high running costs severely hamper increased frequency of public transport, hence the difficulty in pressing for more buses.



Youth and Children's Activities

A perceived lack of activities for children and teenagers concerned residents, although it is clear from many responses that there is a lack of knowledge of what actually is available. It is also noted from comments that there is a problem with convincing teenagers to join organised activities.

One of the comments was 'Ask the children what they would like' so we did and this is what they asked for:

Local cinema, drama groups, ice rink, skateboard ramp, bigger pool at the school, roofed so that it can be used on cold days, extra football nets at Braeside, more children joining Beavers and more shops.



Youth and Children's Facilities: The Play area in Braeside is programmed for upgrading and there is also a Football/Recreation field in Horton Road.

In addition in the Breaside Village Hall area, we have, tennis with coaching available, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and of course the Freedom Youth Club.

"Not aware of what is available"

"We feel there should be more done for youths to stop them getting bored and causing damage and anti-social behaviour in our park".

Recreation and Leisure



Bowling Club

"It would be a good idea to issue a monthly/quarterly broadsheet to all households letting them know what is on at the Village Hall to encourage interest in events"

"Events to bring the community together would be good"



Pilates in the Parish Hall

The overwhelming number of comments concerned the lack of publicity of activities at the Village Hall, with suggestions including issuing a quarterly magazine and setting up a web site.

Many people wanted to see events being held which would bring the community together, with more social activities for working mums, quiz nights, craft club, computer courses for the more mature, local natural history/conservation discussions and open house for teas and coffees.

All Saints Church and church hall besides catering for the parish spiritual needs, hosts two choirs, a flower guild, 3 yoga groups and a toddler group as well as The Mothers Union and a Sunday school.

We are fortunate to have recreational and educational interests for both the young and more mature. The village hall has good facilities and currently offers some 36 activities with organisations such as Age Concern, providing service to the community. We have a well-supported Tennis Club, which would be the envy of many parishes, and a very popular and respected Bowls Club.

In addition we have the Ex Servicemen's Club, which, is open to the whole community for social gatherings.



Age Concern outing leaving the Parish Hall

Other issues

When reading this you may say, why have you not included the issue I raised?

The reason for this is that there was an insufficient number of concerns raised on this issue to justify its inclusion in the Plan. It does not however, preclude you from pursuing the matter with the Parish Council.

Where do we go from here?

As your representative body, the Parish Council has the ultimate responsibility to take this plan forward and to review the requirement for plan updates.

The Action Plan designates a number of differing bodies responsible for carrying-out specific requirements. It is also necessary for parishioners to become actively involved. We all have a part to play in protecting our environment.

An annual review with a six month check will be required to ensure this plan is effective and for each individual or group to report on the progress made in each category of concern.

Other parishes that have completed their Parish Plans are now in the process of, or considering setting up local action groups whose main task is to monitor the Plan's progression. This usually involves not only those of the original Steering Group, but also other members of the Parish who wish to become involved.

A Plan must not be seen as a one-time document. Circumstances change and there will be new ideas in the future. You can of course continue to communicate your ideas and concerns by contacting the Parish Council and or by attending any of the Open Forums of the regular Full Council, Planning, Amenities and Finance meetings.



Roads and Transportation - **Action Plan**

| ISSUE | INFORMATION OBTAINED | ACTION REQUIREMENT | PARTNERSHIP | TIMESCALES |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| Excessive speeds on Horton Road | The reduction of the speed limit to 30mph is unlikely to meet with Dorset County Council National Policy | Situation to be kept under review, with further approaches to Dorset County Council as found necessary | Parish Council Liaison with Dorset County Council | Medium to long term |
| Wide loads in transit on Horton Road, often without escort | Police require prior notification and screen very wide loads. Many move in early hours and self-escorting is allowed by the Police | Need to have more detailed information of genuine wide loads, which are without escort. That is, vehicle registration, date and time | Parishioners Dorset County Council Traffic Management and Police | Ongoing to be kept under review |
| Traffic congestion from Woolsbridge Industrial Estate onto Horton road | | Consideration of a relief Road onto A31 | Highways Agency | Long term |
| Speeding on side roads | Speed Indication Devices agreed for some locations have only been provided on a very minimal basis | Need to draw more attention to 30mph speed limit on side roads: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater use of Speed Indication Devices • Spot checks by police • Painting of speed limit signs in roundels on road surfaces | Dorset County Council Police Traffic Management Parish Council | Short term and ongoing |
| Access difficulties from Woolsbridge Road onto A31 | Highways Authority believes that the Woolsbridge Roundabout is operating satisfactorily | Survey of situation required, followed by further representation | Highways Authority Parish Council | Short to medium term. To be kept under review |
| Problems in crossing A31 safely from Little Chef to St Leonards Hotel side | Highways Authority aware, but cannot justify cost of an additional footbridge, estimate £1 million Will consider a safe footpath being installed from the present footbridge subject to funding and other priorities | Safe footpath required as a minimum | Highways Authority | Medium /Long Term |
| Speeding continuing on A31 | Enforcement of the 50mph speed limit ongoing by Police | Speed Cameras in the 50mph limit zone | Safety Camera Partnership/ Highways Authority | Medium Term |



| ISSUE | INFORMATION OBTAINED | ACTION REQUIREMENT | PARTNERSHIP | TIMESCALES |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| Excessive noise from A31 | Per Highways Authority, as and when repairs required, quieter road surfacing material will be used The use of noise barriers considered to be ineffective due to the number of access roads and private entrances | Continue to pursue quieter road surfacing | Highways Authority | Medium term/ ongoing. To be kept under review |
| Anti social Parking | Need to gather more detailed information and evidence | Identification of locations requiring yellow lines Provision of lines and adequate enforcement | Parish Council East Dorset District Council Dorset County Council Police | Ongoing to be kept under review |
| Poor transportation services | Present bus services are X35 to Bournemouth via Ferndown (approx 2 hourly) and Southampton X34 to/from Ringwood and Bournemouth, 3 per day Monday to Saturday and 2 hourly Sunday 135/134 starts Ringwood to Bournemouth (approx 3 hourly) X3 to Bournemouth/ Poole bus from Ringwood <i>*Information subject to changing timetables</i> | Lack of easy service to Poole In general an infrequent service, with a need to demonstrate existing services are adequately used and if there is a definite economic need for more Representation recommended on the East Dorset Transport Theme Action Group | Parish Council Dorset County Council | For review |
| Transportation for the disabled Information regarding 'Vision Wimborne Dialaride' | Dial-a-Ride, is an organisation based in Wimborne which provides a taxi service for people of any age with severe mobility problems. there is no charge, but donations are agreed at time of booking: <i>Tel: 01202 680699 9:30 -12:30 Monday - Friday</i> | None specific - advisory only | Leaflets available from Parish Office | Supported by grant from the Parish Council providing there is actual proven use |

Housing and Development - Action Plan

| ISSUE | INFORMATION OBTAINED | ACTION REQUIREMENT | PARTNERSHIP | TIMESCALES |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| <p>Character of Area/ Street Scene:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over development • Excessive infilling • Back Land Development • Lack of protection for trees on development sites | <p>The South Western Regional Spatial Strategy stipulates a minimum figure of some 30 dwellings per hectare. (1 hectare = 2.471 acres)</p> <p>In all Local Authority areas</p> <p>East Dorset District Council Forward Planning has indicated they may be able to show some flexibility with numbers</p> | <p>To resist over development it is important that opinions, concerns and objections, are very clearly made known, not only to the Parish Council but also to Planners and Councillors at East Dorset District Council</p> <p>Residents Associations and Local Action Groups to act as co-ordinators, and attend both Parish and East Dorset Planning Meeting Open Forums</p> <p>Residents to support the on-going parliamentary campaign to protect gardens from unsustainable and opportunistic development</p> <p>East Dorset Tree Officer to ensure tree felling is limited, both prior to, and after development</p> <p>Replanting to be monitored</p> | <p>Residents</p> <p>Parish Council Planning Committee</p> <p>East Dorset District Council Planning</p> <p>East Dorset District Council Tree Officer</p> <p>Natural England</p> <p>Dorset Highways Authority</p> | <p>With immediate effect on a 20 year projection</p> |
| <p>Introduction of flats</p> | <p>Nationally development of flats has now reached saturation point. (2006 House builder of the Year Survey)</p> <p>Per East Dorset District Council, Bournemouth Council has grave concerns that the large number of flats has resulted in insufficient family homes.</p> <p>Local Estate Agents advise that bungalows are the most desired type of property in this area</p> | <p>Residents Associations /Action Groups to actively resist further unsuitable development of flats. This parish is very much characterised by its low-rise housing and spacious gardens</p> <p>Residents to provide active support for the Parish Council by attending the Open Forum of Planning Committee Meetings</p> | <p>Parishioners</p> <p>'Residents Associations'/Local Action Groups</p> <p>Parish Council</p> <p>East Dorset District Council</p> | <p>Immediate and ongoing</p> |



| ISSUE | INFORMATION OBTAINED | ACTION REQUIREMENT | PARTNERSHIP | TIMESCALES |
|---|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| Planning Decisions | Statement of Community involvement should encourage improved consultation with Residents | In accordance with The Statement of Community Involvement, Parish Council to seek Pre-Planning Application discussions Greater transparency of decision making by East Dorset District Council officers and the Appeals process East Dorset to improve communication and consultation with residents during both the planning and appeals processes | Parish Council East Dorset District Council Forward Planning East Dorset District Council Planning Officers Planning Inspectorate | With immediate effect and ongoing |
| Affordable Housing (<i>Social/rented/intermediate</i>) | The term 'Affordable Housing' relates to; social rented and intermediate housing High land values in the Parish makes provision difficult Regional Spatial Strategy could lead to East Dorset rolling back the 'Green Belt' | Affordable housing/rented accommodation to be matched with actual need within the Parish | Parish Council East Dorset Community Partnership/ Dorset Community Action East Dorset District Council Forward Planning | Ongoing and to be kept under review |
| Infrastructure/ foul sewerage and implications for further development | Per Wessex Water: known specific locations of flooding within St. Leonards and St. Ives have been identified and approved for improvement within their 2005 to 2010 investment programme Wessex Water rely on East Dorset Planning authority to advise on both small and large-scale development. applications | East Dorset District Council Planning to ensure consultation with Wessex Water Residents to monitor flooding and drainage problems and report to Parish Council for referral to East Dorset District Council and Wessex Water | Wessex Water East Dorset District Council Planning and Forward Planning | Immediate and ongoing |

Environment and Conservation - Action Plan

| ISSUE | INFORMATION OBTAINED | ACTION REQUIREMENT | PARTNERSHIP | TIMESCALES |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| Protection, maintenance and enhancement of green spaces, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) and their associated wild life | <p>Within the Parish, heath land, woodland and green space occupies some 2 to 3 times the area of that occupied by residential properties.</p> <p>We have Moors Valley Country Park, Avon Heath Country Park, Lions Hill and Jubilee Copse.</p> <p>There is a continued need for volunteers to take an interest and provide valuable assistance in the maintenance of our Sites of Special Scientific Interest.</p> | <p>Reinforce support and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote amenity and recreational Appoint volunteers as co-ordinators and promote the engagement of residents in conservation management. Engage schools and youth activities Ensure in all cases clear liaison with site managers | <p>East Dorset District Council</p> <p>Parish Council</p> <p>Forestry Commission</p> <p>Dorset County Council</p> <p>Moors Valley Country Park and Avon Heath Rangers</p> <p>Herpetological Conservation Trust</p> <p>R.S.P.B</p> <p>Schools and youth groups</p> <p>General public</p> | Immediate and ongoing |
| Protection of Green Belt | Under threat by Regional Spatial Strategy | Ensure continued representations are made to East Dorset District Council, Dorset County Council and the South West Regional Authority | <p>Parish Council</p> <p>East Dorset District Council</p> <p>Dorset County Council</p> | Continuous requirement/ ongoing |
| Management and protection of tree population in residential areas. | <p>Parish Council progressing a Tree Warden Scheme.</p> <p>A leaflet on Protected Trees/ a guide to tree preservation procedures is available from East Dorset District Council</p> | <p>Parish Council to actively set up a Tree Warden Scheme with clear procedures for liaising with Tree Preservation Officers</p> <p>Clarify procedures for Tree Preservation Orders and provide ease of access for instigation by parishioners</p> | <p>Parish Council</p> <p>East Dorset District Council</p> | Short term and ongoing Progress to be monitored |
| Re-cycling | Parishioners with genuine physical difficulties in handling and moving the recycling bins, boxes and bags ready for emptying on collection days, can apply for assistance from East Dorset - A form is available on request | <p>Promote and encourage continued and greater use of recycling facilities</p> <p>Raise awareness of the assistance available in respect of recycling receptacles</p> <p>Extended use of 'Wheelie Bins' for re-cycling</p> | <p>Parish Council</p> <p>East Dorset District Council</p> | Short Term and ongoing |



| ISSUE | INFORMATION OBTAINED | ACTION REQUIREMENT | PARTNERSHIP | TIMESCALES |
|--|---|--|---|---------------------------------|
| Refuse Collection and disposal facilities | | Provision of a monthly collection of larger household items Raise awareness of the availability of the Verwood disposal facility | East Dorset District Council | Short/medium term and ongoing |
| Dog fouling | The Clean Neighbourhood Act 2005 also permits both District Councils and Parish Councils to make dog control orders The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 is the legislation used to designate areas making it an offence not to pick up after your dog. The penalty is a maximum fine of level 3 of the standard scale (currently £1,000) | Raise public awareness of problems with and caused by dog fouling Greater use of Dog Welfare Officer patrols Increase number of Dog Fouling bins | Parish Council East Dorset District Council | Short Term and ongoing |
| Litter | | Increase the number of litterbins in the Parish and ensure regular emptying | East Dorset District Council | Short term/ ongoing as required |
| Bonfires | The Environmental Protection Act 1990 provides a remedy where bonfires are proven to be a nuisance | Encourage more thoughtfulness with regard to lighting bonfires Monitor and keep a record in the case of habitual bonfire nuisance | General Public Parish Council East Dorset District Council/ Environmental Health | Ongoing as issues arise |

Services and Maintenance - **Action Plan**

| ISSUE | INFORMATION OBTAINED | ACTION REQUIREMENT | PARTNERSHIP | TIMESCALES |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| Maintenance of Verges | Per Dorset County Council, cuts should be 15/16 times per annum in built-up areas. 2/3 times in rural areas | Carryout monitoring to ensure cuts are taking place at a sensible time and as prescribed | Dorset County Council East Dorset District Council Parish Council | Spring/Summer 2007 and ongoing |
| Maintenance of Roads and Pavements | There are Roving repair teams set up under the auspice of Dorset County Council known as Parish Maintenance Units Such units' carryout minor repairs as reported to them on; potholes, blocked or covered gullies, obscured or damaged signs, minor damage to kerbs, channels, road edges and verges | Encourage Parishioners to report such defects to the Parish Council Parish Council to prepare and submit a list of defects to Dorset County Council to programme required minor repairs ready for the next scheduled visit from a Parish Maintenance Unit | Parishioners Parish Council Dorset County Council | Short Term and ongoing Progress to be monitored |
| Dirty and damaged road signs | Dorset County Council are responsible for all warning signs, the condition of which are checked annually at the end of the winter season | Interim damage and unsatisfactory condition of signs requires to be reported as above | Parishioners Parish Council Dorset County Council | Ongoing with regular monitoring |
| Road Sweeping <i>(excluding A31)</i> Issue with falling pine needles and leaves | This is the responsibility of East Dorset District Council | Regular and additional sweeping required, during period of Pine needle and leaf falling | East Dorset District Council | Short term and ongoing with regular reporting of problems |
| Overgrowth on Council owned land affecting roads and pavements | Although there is a programme, this has on occasion fallen behind, causing problems when cutting takes place Due to cost implications flailing is used | Improved timetable to ensure this occurs earlier thus avoiding unnecessary and unsightly cut back damage. Programme also to ensure appropriate removal of resulting fallen cuttings | Dorset County Council | Short term and ongoing with regular monitoring |



| ISSUE | INFORMATION OBTAINED | ACTION REQUIREMENT | PARTNERSHIP | TIMESCALES |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| <p>Overgrowth emanating from private residences onto roadways, pavements and footpaths</p> | <p>When brought to their attention, the Parish Council arranges for the Parish Clerk to write to the householder(s) concerned</p> <p>Local Authorities have the power of enforcement where advice and reasonable requests fail and where there is found to be a genuine obstruction/ safety issue</p> <p>Leaflet available from East Dorset District Council</p> | <p>Continue as at present. Genuine problems to be reported to Parish Clerk and investigated</p> <p>Letter of request to carryout the necessary cut back of offending foliage etc. to be sent</p> <p>Where there is a lack of co-operation, enforcement to be progressed through East Dorset District Council</p> | <p>Parishioners Parish Council East Dorset District Council Dorset County Council</p> | <p>Regular ongoing monitoring</p> |
| <p>Excess water flooding on roadways due to drainage issues</p> | <p>Parish Council have instituted a member as the 'Flood Warden' this councillor holds a general record of occurrences</p> | <p>Occurrences of flooding to be reported to Parish Council for the attention of the Flood Warden</p> <p>Dorset County Council to Monitor and investigate causes</p> | <p>Reporting by Parishioners Parish Council Dorset County Council</p> | <p>Immediate as problems arise</p> |
| <p>Street Lighting</p> | <p>The feedback resulting from the consultation processes made available to parishioners shows an almost equal split between, those who would like more street lighting and those who would not</p> <p>This being the case, only the safety issues have been included in this plan</p> | <p>Inspection required of all road junctions for safety purposes, to ensure streetlights are suitably placed and clearly visible to the required level of safe illumination</p> | <p>Dorset County Council and their appointed contractor</p> | <p>Immediate with progress being monitored</p> |

Crime Prevention and Security - **Action Plan**

| ISSUE | INFORMATION OBTAINED | ACTION REQUIREMENT | PARTNERSHIP | TIMESCALES |
|--|--|---|---|-------------------------|
| Greater police visibility required | Dorset Police consider cover is sufficient for the present low crime rate in the Parish. | Continue to consult with Dorset Police in respect of present local policy and encourage more regular evening/ night-time patrols in the vicinity of the Braeside Village Hall | Dorset Police East Dorset District Council | Immediate and ongoing |
| Consideration of the use of Police Volunteers | A number of volunteers already identified but utilisation remains under review | Greater planning required to identify where and if, volunteers can be utilised in an acceptable and safe manner | Dorset Police | To be kept under review |
| Police to use local publications to inform of problems and provide feedback | Police already use various methods including, local newspapers and publication; <i>Homewatch Magazine, Parish Newsletter, Parish Notice Boards, Church Newsletter, and local free press</i> Homewatch is an excellent source of information for those who are members | Encourage continued use of Parish Newsletter Encourage more parishioners to become members of Homewatch | Dorset Police Homewatch | Short to medium term |
| Homewatch membership | Just over 50% of the households in the Parish have still not signed up to belong to Homewatch, despite concerns raised over crime and security | Membership of Homewatch is highly recommended. Recruitment of more street co-ordinators required | Homewatch Parishioners | Ongoing |
| CCTV at the village hall | Security under review with Parish Council | Action by Parish Council | Parish Council | Short to medium term |



Youth and Children's Activities - Action Plan

| ISSUE | INFORMATION OBTAINED | ACTION REQUIREMENT | PARTNERSHIP | TIMESCALES |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| Improve and enhance Play Park and Youth facilities | Plans to upgrade the childrens play park with areas for younger and older age groups, already has an approved 50% funding by the Parish Council | Remaining funding to be obtained, company and design to be selected | Parish Council East Dorset District Council | Medium term |
| | Tennis Club has established a Junior section | Publicity | Tennis Club | Ongoing |
| | Creation of new BMX track at Watchmoor Wood | Track to be completed | Forestry Commission Andrew Morris Community Parish Engagement Officer | Ongoing until completion |
| | 7 aside pitch and goals installed at the Horton Road village green | Ongoing monitoring of effective use | Parish Council | Ongoing requirement |
| Improve the Promotion and Publicity of available Facilities | Tennis Club has established a Junior section List of activities at Breaside available from the Village Hall or on Parish Council website www.stleonardspc.org.uk | Constant updating and distribution of the list within the Parish. Use the Community Newsletter to advertise both facilities and activities | Parish Council Village Hall Management Committee | Short term with ongoing requirement. Progress to be monitored |

Recreation and Leisure Action Plan

| ISSUE | INFORMATION OBTAINED | ACTION REQUIREMENT | PARTNERSHIP | TIMESCALES |
|--|--|---|---|------------|
| Greater Participation by local Organisations in Village Hall Management | Each organisation approached to sit on the Management Committee. A lack of volunteers is leading to a change of structure (<i>at AGM in October 2006</i>), a core committee of 8/10 to be established, with an extra committee able to offer suggestions but not be part of the Management | More volunteers from each organisation needed who are prepared to sit on the Management Committee | Village Hall Management Committee | Ongoing |
| Improve the Promotion and Publicity of available Facilities | St. Ives School swimming pool is open to the public over the summer holidays Braeside Hall is also available for hire for the running of classes and activities | Improved and more regular publicity required Consider introduction of a website and annual dedicated newsletter | St Ives School Association Parish Council Village Hall Committee Village Hall Secretary to arrange booking | Ongoing |
| Introduction of wider range of activities | The creation of new BMX track at Watchmoor Wood is also for use by adults | Input by individuals/ Organisations who can offer an activity Support by parishioners for additional recreational activities | Village Hall Committee | Ongoing |



This Plan reflects what you had to say, your concerns, issues and aspirations.

Whilst it would wonderful to be able to achieve everything, continued pressure for more housing has to make us realise that it is impossible to stop development. We have to allow for younger families moving into the area, which means also catering for their specific needs. This plan clearly illustrates that we have to do our best to ensure that future development is kept in keeping with its surroundings, and that our Parish retains its sylvan appearance and character.

The fact that our Sites of Special Scientific Interest are presently protected is of major importance and we need to ensure as far as is possible that such protection continues.

Making our parish an even better place to live in and going forward in a realistic manner whilst preserving and conserving the good things is what this plan is all about.



Useful Information

Dorset Home Beat Officer - P.C. 1758 Nigel Richards supported by Police Community Support Officer Ben King - Telephone 01202 22222.

Police, Fire Ambulance - dial 999 for emergencies only and state which service required (if Police required and you have an 01425 telephone number please state 'Dorset Police').

Police non-emergency - Telephone 01202 222222 - if phoning from 01425 numbers, state that you live in Dorset.

Local Doctor's Surgery Cornerways (Off Woolsbridge Road) - Telephone 01425 476707

After hours - when unwell and Doctor's Surgery is closed.
Telephone: 0844 8111 3060

NHS Direct - 24 hour service telephone 0845 46 47

Local Chemist - Bretts Pharmacy, High Street Ashley Heath.
Telephone 01425 470982.

St. Ives Post Office and Stores - 72 Ringwood Road St. Ives.
Telephone 01425 472046

Post Office opening times:

| | | |
|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| Monday | 0900 to 1300 | 1400 to 1730 |
| Tuesday | 0900 to 1300 | 1400 to 1730 |
| Wednesday | 0900 to 1300 | 1400 to 1730 |
| Thursday | 0900 to 1300 | 1400 to 1730 |
| Friday | 0900 to 1300 | |
| Saturday | 0900 to 1230 | |

St. Leonards & St. Ives Parish Council - Telephone/fax 01425 482727.
Details of dates of meetings, minutes, agendas and other helpful information available on website: www.stleonardspc.org.uk Full Parish Council meetings held on the last Wednesday of every month - open forum 7:30pm.

Village Hall bookings - Elaine Linden - Telephone 07847 430815

Mobile Library:

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Braeside Road | 9:30 to 11.00 | Alternate Tuesdays |
| Monkworthy Drive | 11:10 to 11:45 | Alternate Tuesdays |
| Ex-Servicemen's Club | 11:55 to 12:25 | Alternate Tuesdays |
| Sunnyside Park | 16:40 to 17:00 | Alternate Tuesdays |
| Oak Tree Farm | 9:30 to 10:30 | Alternate Wednesdays |

Vision Wimborne Dialaride - For people in wheelchairs and those who have difficulty in using public transport.
Telephone 01202 880699. Office open 9:30am to 12:30pm Monday to Friday.
Answerphone at other times.



Acknowledgements

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All the residents children and youth who took the time to complete our questionnaires and all those who joined in the consultation processes contributing their views, concerns and ideas.

Jenny House - Chair of the **Parish Plan Steering Committee** would also like to say thank you to all the members of the Committee for their enthusiastic support and dedication.



The Parish Steering Committee:

Kate Arnold, Brenda Baker, Kenneth Brooks, Tony Davis,
Brian Frecknall, Jenny House, Pamela Johnson,
Jean Howard-Jones, Rose King, Brian Klinger, Gerry Milsted,
Mike Packham, Barbara Scarfe, Margaret Wilkins
and David Wilkinson.