

Alderholt Parish Plan

The road to a brighter future



*Produced by the
Alderholt Parish Plan
Steering Group*

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The Alderholt Parish Council 'Badge of Office' incorporates the green of the countryside, the blue of the sky and the waters around us. Beneath the Alder tree stands an Otter, having made his home or 'Holt' in the village of Alderholt.

Introduction

Over the years, much has been written and recorded of the history of Alderholt, a brief summary of which follows this introduction.

History cannot be changed, but the future can be influenced if it is approached and structured in a way that can benefit the area in which we live.

An opportunity for local villages and communities to have an influence on their future, has developed from a Government White Paper "Our Countryside-the Future" published late 2000. It proposed the introduction of Parish Plans to "Identify Key Facilities and Services, set out the problems that need to be tackled, and to demonstrate how distinctive character and features can be preserved". The following year The Countryside Agency's "Vital Villages" programme set out how this could be implemented. The minister for Rural Affairs stated that Parish Plans could provide blueprints for the future survival of rural communities. The Government said the Countryside Agency, wants "local communities to take more control of their own lives; to say what they want doing in their own neighbourhood and to engage with others to get it done". Parish Plans it continued "will give the evidence to help inform policy-making by a range of organisations, from the local Planning Authority to Police and Health services".

Members of the Parish Council and the Local Action Group attended a presentation given by East Dorset Community Partnership in November 2004. This outlined the opportunities that were available for local communities to be pro-active in having an input in the future of their individual village. Further discussions were held between the Parish Council and the Local Action Group, and it was agreed to progress the idea of an Alderholt Parish Plan.

Financial assistance was to be made available for Parishes wishing to produce Parish Plans. A budget was drafted and an application submitted to Dorset Community Action for a grant of £2950. This was authorised in February 2005. Additional financial support of £330 was given by the Parish Council.

Having been granted the financial assistance to proceed, an "Awareness Evening" was held in February, and the "Village Awareness

Day" in April 2005. During these events, many thoughts, observations, concerns and aspirations were raised and duly noted.

From these presentations a group of residents and two Parish Councillors, volunteered to form the Alderholt Parish Plan Steering Group. A questionnaire was prepared, which incorporated many of the observations previously raised at the Awareness events, and delivered to every home in the Parish. All completed questionnaires were to be returned to the Spar collecting point by 18th October. On the day, a Town Crier toured the village to remind residents to return their questionnaires without delay. A return in excess of 40% was achieved.

All this information was analysed on our behalf by East Dorset Community Partnership, and returned to the steering group for action.

At this stage the steering group divided itself into teams or working groups, to specifically investigate and consult, and to seek information from a wide range of sources. These teams comprised of Youth, Education, Health, Traffic & Transport, Crime & Safety, Housing & Village design, Environment, History and the Community centre.

Having recognised the principle issues for attention, and the actions required,



Alderholt Awareness Day.

ownership of these items are then established. These may well include Dorset County Council, East Dorset District Council, Alderholt Parish Council and the Parish Plan Action Group. Timescales are agreed and monitored throughout the process in liaison with the Parish Council and East Dorset Community Partnership.

It is intended that the plan forms a part of the ongoing process to improve the environment and life within the Parish.

Any suggestions and new ideas you may have that will benefit the village, should be passed to the Parish Clerk for consideration by the Alderholt Parish Council.

We hope that when you have read this booklet, many of your questions, thoughts, concerns and aspirations for Alderholt have been answered.

Town Crier with villagers 18th October 2005.



Alderholt History

Artefacts dating back to the Stone & Bronze ages and Roman times have been found in the area, but the first use of the name Alderholt is found in Edward II reign, when a Manor was created and called Alderholt Park, on Cranborne Chase. Certain "Walks" were designated, enclosed and preserved as Royal hunting grounds. In the reign of Henry VIII it was disparked, and the deer destroyed, only to be enclosed again in the reign of James I.

In ancient times, the Royal Forest of Cranborne Chase where King John hunted, extended for miles all over this area, and owing to its great size and inaccessibility, it afforded sanctuary to poachers, outlaws and criminals of every variety. During the reign of Edward II (1315), the grounds of the Manor of Alderholt Park included a ditch which can still, to this day be seen along the footpath behind the old Surplus Store site, and eventually leads to the old railway line which crosses the Sandleheath Road.

Alderholt was the most eastern part of the Parish of Cranborne, which at the time was the largest Parish in England. It was bounded by Hampshire, running north east to the stream called Ashford Water, where just opposite Alderholt Mill, Wiltshire joined Hampshire. There is a village saying that a man standing in the stream in one county, could lay his hands on the other two. The first Squire Churchill (circa 1858) who owned land in all three counties, used to tell how he flushed a duck in Dorset, shot it in Hampshire and picked it up in Wiltshire.

In 1855, the main road connecting Cranborne with Fordingbridge was made up, and known as Alderholt Street. The different hamlets were separated by great stretches of common heath and bog land around them. The hamlet of Cripplestytle, the nearest to Cranborne, lies under Kingbarrow, the highest hill in the district, and from whose summit, on a clear day, can be seen the sea and the white cliffs of the Isle of Wight.

The enclosure act of 1858 initiated great changes. The freeholders, among whom Lord Salisbury and Squire Churchill were

the most important in Alderholt, built many cottages along this new main road, many of which can be seen today.

With the advent of the Salisbury and District Railway from Alderbury to West Moors commencing in 1866, Alderholt Street became Station Road, with the station being built in 1874 and called Daggons Road, so as not to be confused with Aldershot. The line was closed some 98 years later in 1964 by Dr. Beeching, implementing government policy.

From 1670 the Parish Church was located in Cranborne, but through the generosity of the then Lord Salisbury who donated the land, St James's Church was built and consecrated in 1849.

The village school dates from 1847, being a church foundation school from the beginning, and this was replaced by the present St James's school in Park Lane in 1982. The original building, known as the Old School, continued to be used for youth activities run by the Alderholt Youth Association (AYA) until its lease ran out a few years ago. It now operates as Kingswood Nursery School.

Alderholt boasts only one inn, The Churchill Arms. The shortage of pubs was made up



Victorian Village School.

by several beer shops where beer was not only sold but also brewed. Beer could not by law, be consumed on these premises, a condition sometimes leading to a difference of opinion with the local policeman.

Soil condition for crop production was rather poor, being mainly clay. Although a number of smallholdings made a living after the first world war, much of the local industry revolved around the use of the clay for brickmaking, as there were a number of brickfields operating, two of which were still in production in the 1920s. There were also a number of potteries in the village, two of which were located in Fordingbridge Road, and the remains of kilns can still be found in the area. Only one is still in production in Hare Lane.

The last train at Daggons Road 1964.





Alderholt celebrates King George V Coronation 1911.

The Reading Room was built in 1904 on land donated by Lord Salisbury. Lady Salisbury paid for the building and for it to be erected, with Squire Churchill providing the books and magazines.

This corrugated iron clad building, boasts an open coal fire for heating purposes, and is one of the few remaining examples of its type still in existence.

The first Village Hall was built by local labour in 1922 using two 1914-1918 war army huts, and heather was dragged from Cranborne common for use in the foundations. The present hall was officially opened on 13th January 1968 by Robert Cecil the present Lord Salisbury. Over the years, additions and improvements have been made to the hall, which would not have been possible without the support of the local community.

The Alderholt Steam Rally was first held in 1972 following a request from the Village Hall Management Committee to the Drama Club, for help in raising funds for a storage shed. This was a great success and further annual rallies were held, until the land in the village was no longer available.

Over the years the event had its ups and downs financially mainly due to adverse weather. Nevertheless over the 16 years the event raised approximately £12000, which provided extra income for clubs and organisations in the village until the Rally Committee took the decision to close the event. The last rally was held on the showground at Godshill in 1988.

The Parish Council dates from December 1894, and a Civic Service celebrating the Councils centenary was held at the Parish Church on 15th May 1994.

Alderholt: The Present.

Modern Alderholt really dates from 1971 when the Wimborne & Cranborne Rural District Council installed a main drainage system throughout the village, with a pumping station in Sandleheath Road, to send the effluent on to the sewerage works two miles down the road to Frog Lane in Fordingbridge.

This amenity was the signal for considerable housing development in the village which grew to such an extent that the population,

over a period some 30 years, has grown from under 800 to in excess of 3200.

There is very little building land left within the "Village Envelope" which was set by the Alderholt Village Plan in 1972. This was a non-statutory agreement between Alderholt Parish Council, Wimborne & Cranborne Rural District Council and Dorset County Council. Unfortunately during this growth period of mainly private housing development, provision for any accompanying infrastructure to encourage development within the community has been rather slow in appearing... until now perhaps?

The Alderholt Parish Plan will endeavour to redress the balance and provide positive ideas for the future development of the village.

Alderholt Community Centre

A near accident one autumn evening in 1990 at the entrance to the Old School in Daggons Road involving the then Lord Cranborne prompted him to remark, "We must do something about this!"

Since September 1984, following the opening of the new First School in Park Lane, the old school building, owned by Lord Salisbury's Estates, had been leased to the Wimborne District Council and sub-leased to the Alderholt Youth Association for the purpose of providing a headquarters and a meeting place for all the youth groups in the village who wished to avail themselves of the facilities. There were, however drawbacks, no pavements and no street lighting, which during the dark winter nights created potential dangers.

In 1991, resulting from Lord Cranborne's earlier experience and subsequent remark, a meeting was held for all users of the old school, when it was agreed to look into the possibility of erecting a community building in Stroud Firs at the rear of the reading room. Various problems were encountered and progress was slow, and things were put on the "back burner" until 1995 when a Community Centre Steering Committee was formed with Giles Arnold, Lord Cranborne's Land Agent, in the chair.

The initial plan was to provide a building which would effectively replace the facilities of the old school, plus a Sports Hall, a Public Library and a "Drop-in Centre" for young people. Later the Public Library and the Drop-in Centre were removed from the plan because the funding of the project was going to prove difficult.

Eventually the Lord Salisbury Estates planned to submit a planning application to the East Dorset District Council for a housing development plus a Community Centre building in Stroud Firs, to help finance the project. The application was refused.

Meanwhile the East Dorset District Council had offered the Alderholt Parish Council a grant of £210,000, of which £60,000 was to be set aside for planning and administration costs. The Parish Council then made an application to the National Lottery Millennium Fund for a further grant.

This application was also unsuccessful.

Regular meetings of the Steering Committee continued, attended by representatives from EDDC as and when appropriate. In 2000 the East Dorset District Plan was submitted for Government approval. The Salisbury Estates building development application, plus the Community Centre building, required an extension of the "Village Envelope". This was refused by the Department of the Environment Inspector, as were seven similar projects across the whole of East Dorset District. These refusals brought about the end of the Salisbury Estates involvement in the proposed Community Centre building and the Steering Committee was declared defunct.

In an effort to keep the project alive the Parish Council, in collaboration with the Recreation Association, late in 2001, voted that the proposed Community Centre should be built on the Recreation Ground. A new Recreation Association Community Centre sub-committee was formed under an independent Chairman Mr James Grazebrook.

Fresh interviews with the EDDC and all interested parties were once again held to decide what should be included in this latest building. A new set of plans were drawn up by EDDC Architects to give a sports bias and to include the Social Club, the profit of which would go towards the running costs of the Community Centre complex.

The Parish Council agreed in principal to renew the Recreation Ground Lease and to extend it to whatever period was necessary to facilitate the submission of a further application for a grant to the National Lottery Fund.

During 2004 it was not possible for the EDDC to reserve the earlier grant of £210,000 because of the lapse of time and it was now required for other projects, but a renewed application at a later date for the Community Centre Project would receive favourable consideration.

Meanwhile the Project sub-committee is awaiting the revised Recreation Ground Lease to be produced by the Parish Council and its Solicitor. It is currently with both the Parish Councils and the Recreation Association Committee's respective Solicitors. To date it has taken three years!

However, renewing the lease for the Recreation Ground has not been easy, with Sub-leases, change of trustees and Land Registry requirements and much more, but these matters are approaching a conclusion. This should be reached by the end of this year.

Once the lease is signed, the Community Building Action Group will get together and start the Lottery application all over again. They will also be applying to East Dorset District Council for the reinstatement of the funds that were withdrawn due to all of the delays. When this is all in place, with hopefully other grants forthcoming, the old pavilion and the sports club will be replaced with a brand new Community building.

Crime & Safety

Survey Findings

Whilst there are some causes for concern, compared to other areas, Alderholt is virtually a crime free village.

Our survey revealed that although there were over 800 villagers who had experienced incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour - Damage to property - Theft and Vandalism, the vast majority involved only a very small number of youths in the village.

The greatest problem is unacceptable behaviour and abusive language when challenged. The main trouble spots are

- Outside the Village Hall,
- The Spar/Charing Cross Shopping area,
- Within and around the Recreation Ground and the Club facilities.
- The site of the former Surplus Stores also receives regular attention from those bent on mischief.

Some incidents were reported to the police, and many people took the offenders to task personally. Others felt that contacting the police was a waste of time. Surprisingly 73% of respondents were not aware of the existence of a police incident line **01202 222222** for receiving such reports.

50 residents had personally intervened when young people were being anti-social with varying results from co-operation to abusive language. Many others were too afraid to challenge offenders for fear of repercussions.

CCTV Cameras

These were considered to be a deterrent with 498 respondents being in favour of their installation at the noted trouble spots, but only 44% of these would be prepared to pay towards the hire of the equipment.

It was noted that cameras would act as deterrents but that the trouble makers would be likely to change venues.

Crime

Over 90% of those commenting felt that there should be more policing in the village, but less than half were prepared to pay more for this service.

778 respondents had heard of "Homewatch". 345 people showed an interest in joining the scheme, and of these, 95 indicated a confirmed interest by giving their telephone numbers for further information.

The reported number of crimes in the Verwood Police area (which covers Alderholt) records a drop in crime of 25% and an increase of detections of 26%. These figures refer to 2005 vs 2004. In the six months ending April 2006 the police have a record for Alderholt of just 17 crimes on file and 43 calls in connection with anti-social behaviour in the village.



Speed Limiting

There is great concern, from all age groups, relating to the lack of adherence to the speed limits within the village. Particular references are made to Station Road during the rush hours, (when it becomes almost a race track): Hillbury Road and Earlswood/Birchwood Drives.



Comments

Since the survey was made there has been additional provision of police surveillance of the village. They have also conducted the Verwood police operations from the village hall committee room for two days in April, and another morning in July, thus ensuring a high profile presence. In excess of 150 residents popped in for a chat. Further similar operations are proposed, and the details are to be confirmed.

In response to the results of the youth survey, some actions are already in hand to update the existing facilities at the recreation ground.

The "In" pastimes for young people change frequently, and to meet their needs and avoid having bored and restless youngsters, there must be frequent appraisals of the village facilities.

Homewatch

The contact numbers of the 95 residents interested in joining the scheme has been passed to the Homewatch Association Treasurer, who is an Alderholt villager.

There are many benefits available to members, including various information booklets and leaflets. Many of these have been published by the Home Office and Dorset Police. All of these are free of charge.

The contact telephone number can be found on page 31 of this booklet.

Education

From St James' School Log Book 1906 and 1907:

In those days there were 141 children on roll, aged 5 to 14. 31 lived within a mile, 83 between one and two miles away, and 27 travelled more than two miles. All walked to school. Attendance was affected by the weather, the various stages of harvest, beating for the nearby pheasant shoots and, of course, outbreaks of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and other serious illness. Average attendance at this time was only about 70%. A single teacher would be responsible for three separate classes, all gathered in one room, totalling nearly 50 children.

In 1907, following the retirement of the then Head Teacher, a rather despairing County Education Officer reported that

"It is not possible to do any efficient work, the school being devoid of most of the elementary necessities. The pond is a lake of black mud, while the short path to the school door is well-nigh impassable."

He also mentioned that, it being January, he recorded temperatures of 33 degrees Fahrenheit (just above freezing) inside the school!

Today

St James' School is a thriving First School with 130 children, aged between 4 to 9 years on the roll. A recent OFSTED report described it as

"A very good school where the promotion of learning and values is nurtured strongly."

It is a Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) School, and has close links with St James' Parish Church, but welcomes children from any (or no particular) religious background.

There are two Pre-Schools in the village. Sunbeams, although run independently as a charity, is on the school site and has naturally, therefore, very good links with the school. It currently has about 50 children aged 2½ years, to school age, while its "Supertots" parents and toddlers group is supported by about 20 families.

St James' First School



This year, 2006, Sunbeams celebrates being a part of Alderholt for 40 years.

Kingswood, an independent Day Nursery, is located in the old school buildings in Daggons Road. It was opened in May 2004 and has about 70 children from birth to school age on their register. About 25% of these children come from the village, others from Fordingbridge, Verwood and other surrounding areas.

Normally, children in Alderholt, being in Dorset, (with its three tier system) proceed to Cranborne Middle School at 9 years old, and to Queen Elizabeth's Wimborne at 13. However, our proximity to Hampshire schools, (which operates a two tier system of primary schools feeding into secondary schools at age 11) means that parents in Alderholt have a choice. This choice gives rise to the main issues to emerge from the 2005 Village Consultation.

Summary of Village Consultation.

Respondents gave a very positive verdict on the local Dorset Schools. 310 (out of 368) 84% rated St James' as excellent or very good, and only 15 (4%) as poor or very poor.

The equivalent totals for Cranborne Middle (from a response of 323) were 257 (79%) and 12 (3.7%), and for Queen Elizabeth's (from a response of 298) were 194 (65%) and 24 (8%).

265 respondents expressed satisfaction with provision in the village for pre-schoolchildren, with only 6 disagreeing.

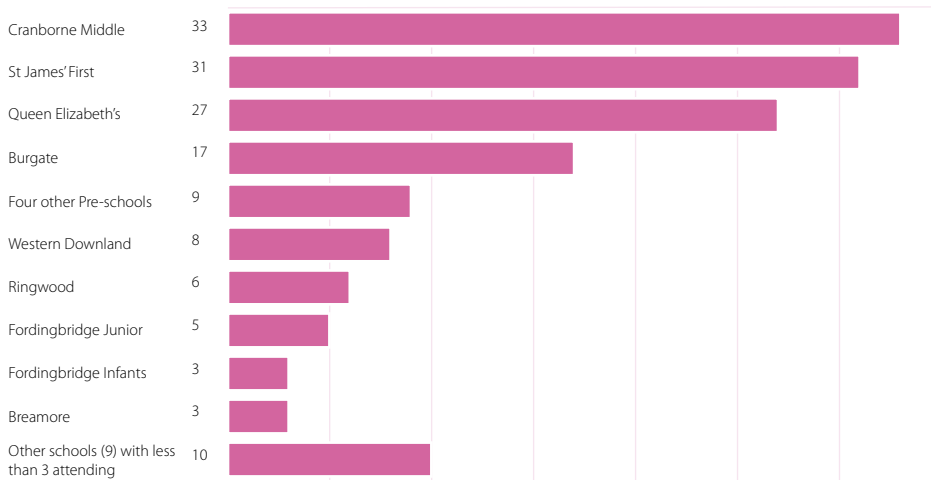
Alongside this positive assessment, however, the survey gives some indications of the significant number of children now going to schools outside the Dorset catchment area.

The Youth Survey asked "What is your school?"

A total of 22 different establishments was, we thought, quite high for the 152 respondents who answered the question.

91 children (almost 60% of the total) attend one of the three Dorset Schools, but as the table shows, there are a number of other schools attended by several Alderholt children.

The results indicate, predictably, that small numbers attend private, or special schools, and schools a long way out of the area (perhaps due to parents working there or having moved from there).



The questionnaire also invited respondents to explain their reasons for sending children out of the catchment. The answers, were of course, varied. Two referred to their children's special needs, one to their child having friends elsewhere. Eight expressed their view that the schools elsewhere were better. Another four said they based their decision on what they heard from other parents. The greatest concern from twenty one parents related to the distance to Cranborne and Wimborne, and with some particular concerns relating to the bus service provided.

Conclusions

Parental choices of schools are made for varied reasons and with heartfelt seriousness. This Parish Plan has no intention, or wish, to comment on such choices. This document is however concerned with the building up of the life of this village community, and to this end must be aware that an exodus of a significant majority of children from the local schools has implications for community life.

- Car journeys are increased.
- The network of children's, and parents friendships become centred elsewhere. Community life is weakened as a result.
- The process also has implications for the success, the morale and even the viability of our local schools.

These factors weigh on the minds of many parents when making decisions, although naturally their own children's needs are uppermost in the process.

St James' First School



Footpaths, Access to the Countryside and Environment

Footpaths

Alderholt is in a beautiful part of Dorset set between the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty of Cranborne Chase, and the New Forest National Park. We are fortunate to live in a part of the country that has so many natural benefits and resources, that are easy to overlook and to take them for granted. It is a popular area for visitors and in particular walkers and hikers.

The Parish has in excess of 30 Footpaths but only 3 Bridleways. These are on the whole well signposted and the footpaths are generally in good repair.

More than 62% of replies to the question "Do you use the local countryside" indicated a positive response. Access to our surroundings is available across 33Km of Footpaths and Bridleways, with some areas designated as "Freedom to roam". One area of particular interest is King Barrow Hill, an area in excess of 23 acres, and the highest point in Alderholt, with three footpaths converging on the top of the "barrow". The views from this point are quite outstanding.

"Our access to the countryside is not restricted in any way" is the general feeling of 57% of respondents.

The questionnaire highlighted villagers appreciation of the environment where they live. Some misunderstandings exist as to their right of access, whether gates should be placed across footpaths, or if cattle should be grazed in fields crossed by footpaths.

To clarify some of these, the definition of a Footpath is as follows:

Public right of way for walkers, but not at the side of a carriageway. It can run on a farm track. Access by foot only.

Definition of a Bridleway is more detailed:

Public right of way for walkers and those on horseback or leading a horse, but not a way at the side of the carriageway. Pedal cyclists also have a right of way but must give way to walkers and horse riders. A bridleway can run along a farm track. Motorised vehicles are prohibited.

Gates and styles are permitted on footpaths and bridleways, giving cattle the freedom to graze, but also safely enclosing the fields. It must be recognised that Alderholt is an

agriculture based community, and the country code insists that all gates are closed after access is gained across fields, for the security of the livestock within.

To help with the future public understanding of the countryside, and how we can all enjoy it, there are plans to take information into the village school. This will be similar to the "Country Code".

The Parish Plan committee with the assistance of the Parish Council, are planning to publish an information leaflet about the village. It will include advice as to the suitability of access on the footpaths, and highlighting some circular walks.

A copy of the definitive Footpath & Bridleway map with summary details, is included as part of the Parish Plan. A copy will also be placed in the Village Notice Board in the Village Hall car park, and a definitive map of Alderholt village will be placed alongside.

Some of the comments made in the questionnaire relating to overgrown footpaths etc. have already been passed to the Parish Rights of way officer, Julia McConnell. She has passed them on to Dorset County Council, as it is their responsibility to action these matters. To date many have been resolved.

In the long term, it is hoped to install "Kissing Gates" to make access easier on footpaths where they cross pastureland and grazing fields. These gates allow walkers easy access, and at the same time keeping livestock secure. The upgrading of some footpaths to bridleways is also under consideration, but these are both long term objectives due to cost and legal implications with the relative bodies involved.

Summary

If we, and our future generations are to continue to enjoy this unspoiled countryside which surrounds us, it is our responsibility to care for it now and do what we can not to upset the balance of nature and all it has to offer us.

Kissing Gate.





View from Kingbarrow Hill

Environment

This particular heading in the questionnaire raised concerns principally relating to four subjects, and these were:

- Dog waste
- Litter
- Overhanging trees/shrubs
- Recycling and Safer Cycleways



Dog waste and its proliferation across the parish, is not only unsightly but a health hazard. The Parish council have recently purchased an additional waste bin of a more secure type, and it is sited in the recreation ground. Particular areas that villagers have highlighted are:

Commencement of the bridleway end of Blackwater Grove E34/10: Footpath from Daggons Road to Alderholt Park E34/41: Car park and footpath on Forestry commission land at Drove End: and footpath E34/9 by side of the reading room. This is the responsibility of inconsiderate dog owners.

Many comments suggested implementing the current legislation and Naming and Shaming the guilty parties. All residents need to be alert and challenge these thoughtless dog owners.

Litter in all forms including dog waste, spoil the appearance of many parts of the village, and is a hazard that needs to be addressed. Additional litter bins have been suggested and to be sited as appropriate.

Overhanging trees, shrubs and bushes restricting footpath width, and covering road signage. In some areas similar problems effect visibility at road junctions. These incidents should be reported to the Parish Council who will then raise this safety issue with Dorset County Council grounds maintenance department for action.

Recycling

The considerable quantity of cardboard that householders collect during the course of a week, currently ends up in the general rubbish. What a waste! Rather than have an additional container at every dwelling, we will seek support from East Dorset District Council to install a container alongside the other recycling units in the Churchill Arms car park.

Cycleways

Improving cycleways and a safer route to Fordingbridge, has a number of supporters. A suggestion to bring the disused railway track into use as a cycle way has been investigated, but unfortunately it is not possible as much of the land is under private ownership.

As a more general issue, a Village Clean Up Day has been suggested, when fellow villagers can work in groups to improve the visual impact of the village, for everyone's benefit. This could include Hedges, Footpath edging and generally tidying up. This may encourage a greater pride in our village.

Alderholt footpath map and summary

Route Code	Status	Length	Grid Reference	Statement
E34/1	Footpath	768.57	SU12531346	Road at Home Farm south eastwards over railway to Fordingbridge Road
E34/10	Bridleway	2,652.32	SU10631152	Charing Cross Road via Cranborne Common to Verwood parish boundary
E34/11	Footpath	1,146.42	SU10401217	Road near Daggons Church generally southwards to join Path No 10 east of Blackwater
E34/12	Footpath	2,360.60	SU10201163	Road opposite Daggons Farm via Cranborne Common to Verwood parish boundary
E34/13	Bridleway	1,558.06	SU09561153	Cripplestytle southwards via Cow Bridge to Edmondsham parish boundary at Telegraph Plantation
E34/14	Footpath	1,029.91	SU09151129	Road east of Vale Acre Farm to Edmondsham parish boundary at Telegraph Plantation
E34/15	Footpath	148.57	SU07941172	Parish boundary north west of Gotham Farm to road at Cranborne parish boundary
E34/16	Footpath	553.93	SU08631201	Gold Oak Farm, Cranborne/Alderholt road to Batterley Drive at Little Thames Copse
E34/17	Footpath	448.22	SU08841220	Road east of Gold Oak Farm south east across Batterley Drive to join Path No 13 at Cripplestytle
E34/18	Footpath	341.30	SU09511230	Path No 13 at Cripplestytle via King Barrow to Cranborne Road
E34/19	Footpath	461.89	SU08981271	Alderholt/Cranborne road opposite Batterley Drive to Crendell/Cripplestytle road south west of Londonderry
E34/2	Footpath	989.34	SU12411382	Road north of Home Farm via Hill Farm to join Path No 3 south of Perry Copse
E34/20	Footpath	686.28	SU08541254	Alderholt/Cranborne Road north westwards via Sammels Copse to Pye Lane (Path No 21)
E34/21	Bridleway	1,305.84	SU08271273	(Pye Lane) Alderholt/Cranborne road via Rushmore Farm to Cranborne Parish boundary at Little Common
E34/22	Footpath	577.91	SU08421301	Path No 21 (Pye Lane) at Rushmore Farm north eastwards to road at Crendell
E34/23	Footpath	354.51	SU08311324	Path No 21 (Pye Lane) north eastwards to road at Crendell
E34/24	Footpath	462.65	SU08511350	Road at Crendell north eastwards to county boundary west of Lopshill
E34/25	Footpath	1,629.08	SU09911319	Road at Broxhill via Hart's Farm to join Path No 27 near St James Church
E34/26	Bridleway	1,224.30	SU09711290	Road opposite Cripple Style Chapel north eastwards to county boundary at Lower Daggons
E34/271	Footpath	1,208.98	SU10551317	Road near St James Church, Daggons, northwards to Cheaters Lane
E34/28	Footpath	261.29	SU10701360	Path No 27 eastwards to Higher Wood (but not beyond)
E34/29	Footpath	575.49	SU10681399	Road at Lower Bullhill Farm northwards to county boundary thence to Damerham
E34/3	Footpath	1,613.23	SU12531401	Road at Alderholt Mill Farm to county boundary west of Ashford
E34/30	Footpath	1,434.44	SU11611284	Daggons Road via Birch Hill and Stroud Firs to Alderholt/Sandleheath road south of Hill Cottage
E34/31	Footpath	1,599.22	SU11381342	Path No 30 at Birch Hill via Alderholt Park to Alderholt/Sandleheath road at North Lodge
E34/32	Footpath	274.68	SU11741404	From Bullhill Lane south easterly to join Path No 31
E34/33	Footpath	801.73	SU11301454	Bullhill Lane west of Andrew's Copse to county boundary at Hawkhill
E34/34	Footpath	358.44	SU10161271	Alderholt/Cranborne road via Daggons Farm to join Path No 25 at Daggons
E34/35	Bridleway	297.92	SU09491254	Cranborne Road to join Path No 26
E34/38	Footpath	317.13	SU10321233	Path No 12 east and south east to join Path No 11
E34/39	Footpath	207.51	SU09341234	Path No 18 at King Barrow north west to Cranborne Road west of Chapel
E34/4	Footpath	564.73	SU12641305	Fordingbridge Road southwards via Bonfire Hill to Alderholt/Ringwood road
E34/40	Footpath	757.30	SU09471220	Path No 18 south west of King Barrow, east and north east to Cranborne Road
E34/41	Footpath	441.24	SU11171278	Daggons Road west of Inn generally north to join Path No 31
E34/42	Byway	386.24	SU12661321	The Alderholt to Fordingbridge C1 road (including the grass triangle) south west to Path No 6 at Bonfire Hill
E34/5	Footpath	295.94	SU12811315	Path No 4 eastwards to county boundary near Wolvenerate Copse
E34/6	Footpath	223.02	SU12441310	Park Bottom Road corner via Common to join Path No 42 at Bonfire Hill
E34/7	Footpath	139.95	SU12721253	Alderholt/Ringwood road at Hillberry eastwards to county boundary
E34/9	Footpath	329.61	SU11991290	Park Bottom Road near Reading Room north and west to join Path No 30 (over railway)
E34/Hants	Footpath	80.95	SU11921437	Small section of FP in Dorset that links a Hants FP just to the north of Alderholt Mill

Health

Survey findings and background information

Accessibility to Dental Treatment on the NHS.

Of the respondents to the question regarding access to an NHS dentist, 60% attend the Fordingbridge Dental Practice where there is NHS Dental provision. Despite the expansion of this practice in recent years however, there is currently no availability for new clients wishing to access NHS Dental treatment, and the practice does not keep a waiting list.

When the new Dental contract came into effect in April 2006 the New Forest the Primary Care Trust (PCT) stated that NHS treatment should be more readily available because:

- The PCT is responsible for Dental provision in the area.
- The PCT is providing money that must be used for Dental services.

Those with good oral health will be asked to attend less frequently enabling more patients to be seen.

In the mean time NHS Dental treatment is available to newcomers in Blandford, Poole and Bournemouth.

Healthcare provision by the local practitioners.

The majority of respondents are registered with the Fordingbridge Medical Practice, with Cranborne being the other main provider. Both these surgeries provide consultations in the village, Fordingbridge at the Park Lane Surgery and Cranborne at the village hall. These services are provided during the day time, and are largely for those having difficulty travelling to Fordingbridge or Cranborne.

The overall opinion was that the service provided is excellent but several comments were made in the questionnaire, which have already been investigated.

- Park Lane surgery does not have adequate sound proofing between the waiting room and consulting room.
Response: Sound proofing of the walls is not feasible but staff have taken note of this concern and will provide a radio from which Classic FM will be relayed in the hope of drowning out consultation sounds.
- The threshold into Park Lane surgery is unsuitable for wheelchairs.
Response: Staff are already aware of this problem and have recently provided removable rubber ramps.
- The village hall facility is not regarded a proper surgery for the Cranborne practice.
Response: This is regarded as a "Luxury" service to enable those needing regular review to see a doctor in the village. The Cranborne Doctors consider the Village Hall adequate for this purpose and there are no plans for other arrangements in the foreseeable future.
- Prescription service.
Response: Fordingbridge surgery ask for 3 working days to prepare repeat prescriptions. Cranborne ask for 48 hours. However if the medication is to be brought to a surgery in Alderholt, the wait could be longer, depending on when the next surgery is. As both surgeries issue at least a month's supply, patients need to think ahead and order in time.

However both surgeries assure us that in the event of a late order risking interruption in treatment, this would be treated as a "special" priority.

The New Ford Wing





Fordingbridge Hospital

Dissatisfaction with the out-of-hours service raised the following concerns.

- It took too long to speak to a Doctor
- The wait for a visit was too long
- The outcome was unsatisfactory.
- The visiting Doctor did not have access to the patients medical records.

The majority of the incidents reported will have occurred before the Out-of-Hours Answering Service, previously managed by Primecare, was contracted by the New Forest PCT to West Hampshire Ambulance Trust. The PCT believe that the service has now improved.

As yet the PCT has not invested in the requisite ICT (Information and Communication Technology) to enable access to medical records when dealing with an emergency visit (as happens in some other parts of the country).

The healthcare facilities at Fordingbridge Hospital are well used by Alderholt residents, who would like reassurance that outpatient clinics, physiotherapy, X-ray, in-patient services including palliative care and respite care will continue to be available.

The threat to closure is past and no major changes to the outpatient facilities are planned. The 20 bed in-patient facilities will continue and in the future will be "Nurse-led" though this is dependent on nursing staff being willing to undertake the necessary training. There are plans for more patients to be transferred to Fordingbridge Hospital following both emergency and planned Orthopaedic Surgery but in the mean time, the New Forest PCT are actively liaising with the Bed Bureau at Salisbury District Hospital to identify patients suitable for transfer for ongoing care. There are plans for 2 beds to be made available for emergency respite care. The New Forest PCT recognises that palliative care is delivered well at Fordingbridge Hospital in the purpose built unit.

Fordingbridge Surgery.



Housing and Village Design

Introduction

In answer to the question, "Have we adequate facilities and amenities in Alderholt?" 8% of the community wanted a Leisure/Community/Sports Complex, whilst others wished to upgrade the Village Hall. 9% wanted more shops with approximately half of the comments requesting a Coffee Shop/Take Away/Restaurant. The second most requested facility was for a Chemist. There was also some support for Youth facilities, an additional public house, a dentist and a full time doctor's surgery.

An overwhelming majority of respondents are against any building outside the "Village Envelope". Some wanted no more building in the village at all. A number commented that development on both the old Surplus Store, and The Village Hall sites would be acceptable. Those voting for no "in filling" exactly negated those voting for "In filling". No building on "Green Areas" was mentioned but there was some support for building within the boundaries of Station Road, Ringwood Road and Hillbury Road.

With regard to the Surplus Stores site, many people wanted to see "Commercial" properties developed there, with the majority of those wanting to see the return of the Surplus Stores. This was followed by new shops, leisure, community recreational facilities, and then housing. The last option was for "A mixed development.

When asked what facilities should be provided if the site were given planning permission, 8% of respondents voted for shops, followed in order of preference with community/leisure centre, and a play area, with adequate "onsite" parking. Concerns were also raised over the current mains water pressure, and what effect further development would have on this major utility.

Other more general facilities included upgraded roads, improvements to Public Transport, and a petrol station. A number wanted easier access to the woodland known as High Wood behind the Surplus Store site, and there was a real interest in creating a centre point in the village.

Comments on development and planning issues were strongly worded. Principal concerns related to the need to severely restrict new housing developments, and in particular In Filling. These restrictions to apply, at least until more facilities are made available, and the infrastructure in the village is updated. (eg Roads, Water, Transport, Recreational facilities etc). All future developments must have "Off Road" parking. We need to keep our open spaces within the village. Future housing design needs to be "In Keeping" with our village and there were great concerns over Alderholt developing into another "Dormitory Town" like Verwood, and to this end, more local input should be considered in future planning decisions.

History of village housing and design

At the turn of the 14th century, a small hamlet had been established around the Green in Alderholt Street (now Sandleheath Road) and it is here that the oldest house in Alderholt, Manor Farm, is situated, which is some seven hundred years old. It is thought that the village was originally placed here because of the Reading Beds, which were a good source of clay, and by 1392 nine villagers were paying to dig clay. Very little changed over the next 300 years

In the early 1500's seven kilns were situated between Alderholt Corner (now Pressey's Corner) and Red Lion Cottage, which was formerly a pub.



Cranborne Estate Cottage

This clearly demonstrates that the area along Sandleheath Road, around Pressey's Corner and to Red Lion Cottage along the Fordingbridge Road, has the oldest properties in the village. Not only do we have thatched properties in this area, but slate roofed "Greenfield" on 'Pressey's Corner' has been dated as 16th century, and The Old Well House in Fordingbridge Road was built in 1709. After the building of the Fordingbridge to Cranbourne Road in 1855, and the enclosures act of 1858, 'Pressey's corner' became the centre of the village. "Moonacre Cottage" was known as Palmers Stores, "Greenfield" was a Butchers, and a bakery traded between these two making a small "parade".

At the other end of the village, along Daggons Road, (named after Richard Daggon), the railway line was built and in



Part of the original village centre

1874/5 Daggons Road Station was opened. Houses were built from Pressey's Corner along Station Road to the Railway line, and it is along this Road that we can see a number of examples of Victorian properties, the old single story Cranborne Estate cottages, as well as more modern bungalows and houses.

One will notice however that some of the more modern houses have followed the Victorian example of inserting ribbons of different coloured bricks.



Earlswood



The next period of large-scale building took place from the 1970's when the houses around Windsor Way, Earlswood and Birchwood Drives were built.

More recently there have been small developments along the Ringwood Road but currently, other than plans for Alderholt Surplus Stores, development appears to be restricted to infilling.

Following a meeting with East Dorset District Council Officers on 27th February 2006 it was suggested that Alderholt would not be a priority area for large-scale development because of the poor access roads. It was also advised that the Government "target" is to build only 20 houses per year in the whole area between Sixpenny Handley and Alderholt. It was also recommended that the village could commission a "Design

Statement" for the guidance of those seeking planning permission to build.

Summary

As we have demonstrated, the village was built in three periods. There was only a small amount of development from the 14th to the beginning of the 18th century. In the 19th century, a flurry of building ensued, partly due to the new road and the railway, and in the middle of the 20th century, there was considerable growth.

These three parts of the village, from a design point of view, should all be treated differently when planning permission is sought for the erection of an infill property or an extension to the existing one. What may look fine in the modern part of the village would look totally out of place in the pre 20th century part. An older style house, for instance, would be out of character in, say, Earlswood Drive.

Therefore, the oldest parts of the village should to be treated as an AREA OF SPECIAL CHARACTER. This designation would not preclude development, but would seek to define the characteristics of the area that should be protected and ensure that, when development did take place, it

would protect rather than destroy these characteristics.

It is clear that the majority of the village do not want the "Village Envelope" extended for any reason. Future development should be restricted to sensible in-filling and to the Alderholt Surplus Stores site, which could also include within its development some of the facilities that the village needs.

Affordable Housing

The current requirement of East Dorset District Council is for 40% of dwellings on developments of 5 or more homes, or in excess of 0.25 hectares in size, to be affordable housing.

The Surplus Stores site is being asked to provide 30%, because negotiations began before the Council revised the percentage upwards. (Richard Henshaw EDDC 09/05/2006). If built within the village envelope affordable housing is made available to anyone on the Council waiting list, however David Morgan the Housing Enabling Officer has assured the Parish Council that any local person, who is on the housing waiting list, will have their case for acquiring one of these houses looked at sympathetically. There is a device, which

allows stretching the village envelope, if it includes affordable housing and, in such cases, this affordable housing must be offered to local people.

The results of the village survey would suggest that, if correct, this is not an acceptable policy, and as the Alderholt Stores is the only possible site within the village envelope for major development, any affordable housing should be made available, firstly to local Alderholt people, and any device for breaking the village envelope should be dropped forthwith.

Future Planning Policy

It would appear that planning principles already agreed by the Council are all contained in The East Dorset Local Plan (Adopted January 2002) Policies HODEV 1 – 8 and DES 1 - 12 and the Countryside Design Summary. (Adopted August 1999) We urge that these rules be strictly enforced and that they will not be overturned should a disappointed developer decide to appeal. It is obvious that more stringent application of the planning department's own guidelines could have avoided some of the recent "unusual developments" being given building permission in the first place.

The future design of the village will largely be shaped by past development and to that end, we would strongly recommend the following:

The area along Sandleheath Road between Alderholt Mill and its junction with Fordingbridge Road, and the junction of Hillbury Road and Station Road and along Fordingbridge Road to Wolvercroft Nurseries, (this encompasses Pressey's Corner) is all treated as an area of "Special Character" and given the same extra consideration regarding any planning proposal. To enable this whole area to be treated equally it would be necessary to modify the existing village envelope by cutting it back to the Hillbury Road/Station Road junction, when the Spatial Strategy is introduced following the expiration of the current Local plan.



It is also clear that the way local objections are handled is far from satisfactory. At a time when Central Government is urging more local democracy (and the financing of Parish plans such as this is an example), far more consideration needs to be given by the planning department to local objections to proposed developments.

Possibly this is where the Parish Council might have a greater input. By being made aware and shown the objections, commenting on them and adding their own opinions gained through local knowledge, these observations and opinions should have a greater bearing on the final decision making process. Also Parish Council objections need to be much more subjective and quote actual transgressions from the District Council's own design statements.

Future development should also always consider a general movement towards creating a village centre. For historic reasons the village centre has moved from Sandleheath Road, through Pressey's Corner and has settled around the Charing Cross part of the village. Here, presently are shops, the village hall and a small green area, all not too far from the only public House. Any future development plans should strongly support the policy of improving this existing village centre. This could also include redevelopment of the existing Village Hall to meet 21st century requirements.

Shops and Commerce

Whilst shops and commerce are desirable, our modern day habits mean that more shops would not automatically be a commercially viable proposition; therefore, other ways will have to be investigated, to overcome this problem.

The Alderholt Surplus Stores site was re-designated for housing, without consultation with the Parish Council some years ago, and therefore without breaching the village envelope, there is very little opportunity for land to be made available for building small commercial premises.

Last Minute Update

Unfortunately, and to the discredit of East Dorset Planning Committee, on the 3rd October 2006, permission was granted to erect another dwelling on Pressey's Corner. This was in spite of severe objections from all the neighbours, the Parish Council and their elected representatives. It was also against a recommendation from the head of the planning department to refuse. This is not the only recent case of unwanted "cramming" in the village, and the fact is mentioned purely to illustrate the sort of problems the village will face on any future development schemes.

Traffic and Transport

Introduction

The responses to the survey questions relating to Traffic & Transport covered a very wide range of concerns and observations. It was considered to be more advantageous to the majority of villagers to address those matters which appeared to be of greatest importance.

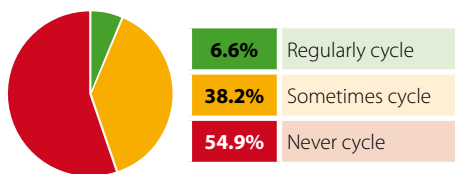


Pressey's Corner

Our survey found that a high proportion of Alderholt residents own their own car. Of the **924** adults over 20 years of age, who completed this part of the survey, (444 male and 480 females), confirmed **871** cars were available for their use. This leads us to the conclusion that majority of households have access to at least one if not two vehicles. The major use of the car was for Social use 702, followed by Shopping 592, Work 528 and School runs 84.

Of the 871 cars, **92%** parked off road and **8%** on road.

The question relating to the use of a pedal cycle confirms the following:



Traffic

The six main areas of concern in priority order are as follows.

1. Enforcement of speed restrictions on all roads in the village.
2. Pavement to be installed along Daggons Road, from the Churchill Arms, past the Kingswood Nursery School, and through to the War memorial at St James' Church. A 30mph speed limit to be applied from the Church to the

present boundary by the Churchill Public house.

3. More off-street parking.
4. Improved signage with regard to speed limits. High visibility poles.
5. Extend the 40mph speed limit in Ringwood Road to the village border.
6. With the proposed development of the Surplus Stores site, there is concern over the increased number of vehicles using the area of road immediately outside the Churchill, as this is where the access road will be situated.

Approach

As costs, technical knowledge and experience are always key factors in plans of this nature, advice has been sought from Dorset Highways Authority. A Senior Engineer visited the village and was met by a member of the Parish Plan steering group and a District councillor. This "on site" meeting allowed an inspection of these Areas of Concern, and summary comments of what can realistically be achieved. Some of the concerns and requests have already been identified and dealt with. For example "Speed Roundels" on the distributor roads, and road markings on the Presseys Corner/ Station Road bend. Regarding the proposed development of the Surplus Store site, no pertinent comments can be made, as the planning application from the developer is still under review.

Enforcement of speed limits can only be resolved by use of special Speed Cameras and Police speed checks. Cameras are nationally under discussion as to their real use in reducing accidents. Police speed checks are seldom used due to the number of officers required, and to their availability. The use of SID's (speed indicator device) is part of Dorset traffic policy, but owing to the small number available in the County, is not often seen in Alderholt.

The proposed pavement from the Churchill Arms to St James' Church would be very expensive and would probably be a Mid to Long term project in the overall scheme of road maintenance and upkeep in Dorset.

Although more off street parking was a fairly widespread comment, it could be argued that cars parked in the road, do in fact help to slow down the traffic speed. There are times when Station Road effectively becomes a single carriageway due to inconsiderate parking. Negotiating the junction at Charing Cross is of general concern due to vehicles being parked both sides of the road. Plans are being considered for the installation of yellow lines around the area in question.



Charing Cross

Although support for increases in the number of speed restriction signs in the village was quite strong, it was felt that what we had was about right. The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England is a powerful lobby, and wishes to reduce unnecessary signs in the countryside and villages to combat urbanisation. Dorset County Council is promoting an approach to reduce the urbanisation of our rural towns and villages, by endeavouring to reduce the visual impact and the number of signs used. As referred to earlier, Speed Roundels have been installed on village approach roads, but it is the vehicle drivers who have to obey the instructions.

The extension of the 40mph speed limit in the Ringwood Road is not considered necessary, as these limits are based on statistics held by County Highways Department. It would be unlikely that drivers would obey further restrictions on Ringwood or Hillbury Roads.

Until the developer registers further plans for the Surplus Store site, consideration as to the method of traffic calming and safe access, is on hold. What is certain, is that should a housing development take place, there will be a large increase in traffic, and indeed pedestrians with young families. All these important factors will be given due consideration and safe access for all concerned will be paramount.

Transport

Alderholt is a village with a poor public transport system, serviced by three different bus companies, and although the Parish Plan has identified a need for a better bus service, in reality very few people are actually using the facility.



Daggons Road by War Memorial.

It is hoped that now pensioners are able to travel free (as long as the journey starts or ends in Dorset) there will be an increase in passengers, which will in turn result in more buses running, offering an improved service. From April 2008 the pensioner Free Fare scheme will again change, and they will then be able to travel anywhere in the country on local buses, free of charge.

The Wilts and Dorset Bus Company have recently changed their timetable to enable people going in the Salisbury direction to get to and from work. The bus leaves Alderholt (Monday to Friday) at 7.20am and goes via Fordingbridge. It arrives in Salisbury at 8.17am, returning from Salisbury at 17.40pm. In theory this should enable people to travel to Fordingbridge and then catch a connection to other places of employment. However the returning Salisbury bus arrives in Fordingbridge at 18.29, and because of the times that the buses leave other likely places of employment, it would be difficult for many people to catch, leaving them to face a two mile walk home. This area does

need addressing, and will be even more necessary after the Alderholt Surplus Stores site has been developed.

There are, other transport systems in operation, and one of these is run on a volunteer basis. This is the Dorset Country Cars scheme, and is for people with no transport of their own, and who are not fit enough to use public transport, or who have no access to other means of transport to make essential trips. At present, these trips can include appointments with Doctors, Dentists, Opticians, Podiatry, etc. but not for shopping trips, or Hospital appointments. The service can also be used to visit friends or relatives in local hospitals or nursing homes where no public transport system is available. There is a mileage limit of 25 miles each way, and the current passenger charge is 25 pence per mile. All contact details for Dorset Country Cars are to be found under "Useful Contact Names".

Another scheme, for people, who are able to access the Internet, is the Dorset Car Share Scheme. With this scheme, you do not have to own a car. Just log on, put in the journey that you need transport for and hope that someone responds with the offer of a lift. If everyone that undertook a journey offered help, and those that needed help would use the web site, then this could be made into a successful scheme and could be of special use to those making regular journeys to and from work. Contact details can again be found under "Useful Contact Names".

There is a scooter lease scheme available for 16–24 year olds, to enable them to get to work or full time education. This is operated by East Dorset District Council. The lease runs for the period of one year and includes all of the safety equipment needed. The Council feel that this will give the young adult time to save for his or her own transport. Contact details can again be found under "Useful Contact Names".

Salisbury Hospital will pay for costs incurred in getting to the hospital for an appointment with a consultant. This help is for people who are on selected benefits (see leaflet HC11, available from DHSS or the Job

Centre in Ringwood). The hospital will pay bus fares, petrol costs, or as a last resort taxi fares if no other transport is available.

There is still a need to fund travel to Hospital appointments, for people who have no personal transport or who fall outside the various benefit schemes. They are unable to recoup their costs. Alderholt Parish Council is looking into various ways of funding such a scheme, but has currently come across all sorts of problems in implementing this. The Countryside Agency grants to fund schemes such as this has been withdrawn and to date the E.D.C has been unable to make a monetary contribution. They are in talks with various groups and the Parish Council plan to set up a scheme in the future.

Alderholt is very fortunate that the Parish Council endeavours to be pro-active with regard to transport. Until recently the council arranged for an additional two Cango bus stops to be sited for easier access in areas where people had to walk a long distance to the existing stops.

Prior to agreeing the final draft of the Alderholt Parish Plan notification was received advising complete withdrawal of the Cango bus service by Hampshire County Council. This was due to insufficient passenger numbers and substantial irrecoverable overheads.

Further investigations and enquiries are in hand, in an endeavour to address this unfortunate situation that affects Alderholt residents.

Youth Facilities

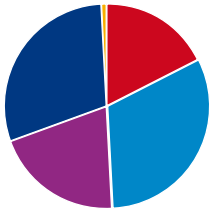
Introduction

The Youth Questionnaire produced just under 100 returned forms, which included responses from 164 young people in total. This represents roughly one quarter of the children in the village.

We would like to thank everyone who replied including the family members who helped the very young ones.

Gender and ages

85 boys and **78** girls answered the gender question and the analysis by age was as follows:



Under 5 years	29
5 - 9 years	52
10 - 12 years	33
13 - 15 years	49
Age not given	1

Clubs and organisations

103 young people gave details of **31** different clubs or activities in which they took part. Because there were 146 participants, clearly some took part in more than one activity. Initially the existence of 31 clubs seemed encouraging especially given the closure of many within the village in recent years.

However, more detailed analysis revealed that 18 of these clubs almost certainly lie outside the village. A further 6 are clubs associated with the Churches. We cannot be certain that those taking part in the remaining 7 actually do so within the village but it is possible that some of them do. These 7 (in order of popularity) are as follows:

	Participants
Tennis	15
Football	10
Cricket	7
Brownies	6
Rainbows	6
Little Jims	4
Yoga	3
Totals	51

A further analysis shows the following:

Type or name	Number of participants		
	Within the village	Outside the village	Total
Sports related	32	22	54
Church related	40	-	40
Little Jims	4	-	4
Uniformed	12	16	28
Others	3	17	20
Totals	91	55	146

All of this tends to support the view that unless you are able to pay, or are attached to one of the Churches there is very little provided by way of activities for the young people who live in the village. This is especially true for the older children aged 12 years and over. We believe that this situation must be addressed very soon.

NB: Almost 60% of adult respondents felt that there were adequate facilities for the under 12's.

Youth Facilities

When asked to name the improvements which young people would most like to see, the requests which headed many of the lists were:

1. Youth/Leisure centre or club
2. Improved football/sports facilities
3. Swimming Pool
4. Improved bus services

When all the suggested improvements were considered, the ones which were mentioned most frequently were:

1. Youth/Leisure centre of club
2. Improved football/sports facilities
3. Better skate park
4. Swimming Pool

Whereas a café/chill zone/shelter received a measure of support, a drop-in centre had very little from the young people themselves.

73% of adult respondents, however, supported a drop-in centre, and **17.5%** of these were prepared to help staff it as volunteers. Support for the siting of such a facility from the adult respondents, was

equally divided between the Recreation Ground and close to the Village Hall.

General Village Appreciation

- **64%** of young people liked living in Alderholt.
- **24%** said it was okay
- **Less than 5%** said they did not like living here.

Young people liked having:

- Friends close by
- The Recreation/Park area
- Living in the country.

They disliked,

- Vandalism and anti-social behaviour
- Poor sports facilities
- Being bored
- Lack of adequate public transport.

Conclusions

Facilities of any kind for young people in Alderholt are limited, and for 12-16 year olds they are virtually non-existent.

The returned questionnaires show that positive action is needed to improve this situation. Unfortunately a lack of planning whilst the village was being developed means that there are probably only two sites where additional facilities can be accommodated. These are at the Recreation Ground and the area around the Village Hall, or within the Hall itself. In the latter case funding would be needed to subsidise the hire costs etc.



Alderholt Village Map



Crime & Safety - Action Plan

To provide safety and security for all residents be they young or old

Issue	Actions	Ownership	Partners	First Check Date
Anti-Social Behaviour	Liaise with Schools, Youth workers, and local police officer to raise awareness of the problem through education.	Alderholt Local Action Group	Head Teachers Verwood Police Youth workers Youth Forum Representatives	February 2007
Damage to Property Theft and Vandalism	Ensure that all residents are aware of the Homewatch Scheme, and encourage increased membership of the scheme.	Local Homewatch Representative	Alderholt Local Action Group Parish Council	On-Going
Police Incident Line	Inform Residents	Parish Council	Verwood Police Alderholt Parish News	January 2007
CCTV Cameras	Seek Planning Permission for CCTV cameras at the Recreation Ground and the Village Hall	Parish Council	Alderholt Local Action Group Verwood Police East Dorset District Council Highways Authority	March 2007
Speed Limit	Explore available traffic calming measures and/or speed restrictions, and to implement where possible	Parish Council	Alderholt Local Action Group Verwood Police East Dorset District Council Highways Authority	March 2007

Education - Action Plan

Issue	Actions	Ownership	Partners	First Check Date
<p>The Head Teachers of St. James', Cranborne Middle and Queen Elizabeth's Schools have met to discuss the findings of the village survey, together with a senior officer of Dorset Education Authority and a member of the Parish Plan team.</p> <p>The Heads, although they regularly meet together, recognized the desirability of doing so just to focus on the mutual support for their schools. They have resolved to pursue these actions</p>	<p>Promote more actively in the village and in the local media the benefits of the education they can provide for our children. Many parents would welcome more information at an earlier stage when thinking about their children's schooling.</p>	The School Heads	Parish Council & Management of Sunbeams, Supertots and Kingswood Day Nursery.	April 2007
	<p>Publicise the wider benefits of our local schools (each of which is developing facilities for use by the local community)</p>	The School Heads	Parish Council and Dorset Education Department.	April 2007
	<p>Provide an open meeting for parents and others to hear about, and to discuss any concerns about Dorset's education provision.</p>	The School Heads Dorset County Council - Education Department	Parish Council and Village Hall Management.	April 2007
	<p>This meeting to particularly address concerns about school transport and to be attended by the County Transport Officer.</p>	The School Heads Dorset County Council - Education Department		April 2007

Footpaths, Access to the Countryside and Environment - Action Plan

To encourage residents and visitors to appreciate and enjoy what the countryside has to offer.

Issue	Actions	Ownership	Partners	First Check Date
Resolve the overhanging tree and bush problems.	To ensure safety is top priority in keeping pavements and footpaths clear of obstructions	East Dorset District Council Dorset County Council	Parish Council Residents	Immediately On going
Dog Fouling	Enforce present legislation Name and Shame offenders. Promote health awareness	East Dorset District Council Dorset County Council	Parish Council Residents	April 2007
Litter	Education through Schools. Additional litter bins in village	Dorset County Council East Dorset District Council	Parish Council Educational establishments Alderholt Local Action Group	May 2007
Pride in our village	Village clear and tidy up day	Parish Council	All residents School Local organizations	Spring 2007
Cardboard recycling	Cardboard recycling bin in Churchill car park	East Dorset District Council - Environmental Services Dept.	Parish Council All residents	Spring 2007
Improve waymarking fingerboards on Footpaths/Bridleways	To indicate destination	Dorset County Council	Parish Council	June 2007
Improve conditions on Bridleways	Bring the surface up to an acceptable standard	Dorset County Council	Parish Council Local horse riding fraternity	July 2007
Easier access to the countryside	To include a copy of Footpaths and Bridleways map in every Parish Plan	Dorset County Council - Environmental Services East Dorset District Council	Alderholt Local Action Group	January 2007
Poor standards on rights of way in Hampshire between Alderholt and Fordingbridge	To improve access and safety during use in Hampshire	Hampshire County Council	Parish Council	August 2007
Ongoing maintenance of footpaths throughout the village	Form an "Adopt A Footpath Group" in village	Parish Council	Alderholt Local Action Group	Summer 2007

Health - Action Plan

Issue	Actions	Ownership	Partners	First Check Date
Accessibility of dental treatment on the NHS	Monitor any problems in accessing NHS dental treatment	Parish Council	Hampshire Primary Care Trust	Autumn 2007
Accessibility of the Inpatient and Out patient Healthcare facilities at Fordingbridge Hospital.	Discussion with New Forest PCT(Practice based commissioning team) to ensure that Fordingbridge Hospital Services are accessible to all Alderholt residents (independent of the GP Practice they are registered with and despite cross-county boundaries)	Parish Council	Fordingbridge Hospital Management Hampshire Primary Care Trust Dorset Primary Care Trust Local PALs (Patient Advice & Liaison Service) groups.	Autumn 2007
Dissatisfaction with Out-of-Hours Service	Keep register of specific incidents of dissatisfaction and anxiety and communicate these to the relevant provider of Service	Suggest Parish Council appoint person to be contact with concerns.	Fordingbridge and Cranborne GP Surgeries Hampshire PCT. West Hampshire Ambulance Trust(which manages the OUT of hours service for all Fordingbridge practice patients) Dorset Primary Care Trust.	Autumn 2007
Lack of information regarding patient's medical history at time of emergency consultation.	Lobby for improved ICT in order to deliver a safer service.	Parish Council	Fordingbridge & Cranborne GP Surgeries. Hampshire PCT West Hampshire Ambulance Trust	Autumn 2007

Housing and Village Design - Action Plan

Issue	Actions	Ownership	Partners	First Check Date
East Dorset District Council to accept the design principles of the plan	Lobby East Dorset Council to work within the guidelines proposed in the Parish Plan	East Dorset District Council	Parish Council	March 2007
The need for a central focal point for Alderholt	Investigate ways to create a village green	Parish Council	East Dorset District Council	Summer 2007
Necessity for the village to not become just a dormitory town	Encourage new shops/industry to the village	Developers of new builds	Parish Council	When/as applicable
The need to protect the older part of the village from unsympathetic development	Lobby for the creation of the area along Sandleheath Road, around Pressey's Corner, and along Fordingbridge Road to Wolvercroft Nurseries, to be made an area of "Special Character" and reduce size of village envelope around Pressey's Corner in order that the whole area be treated in the same way	The new Spatial Strategy Plan	East Dorset District Council	Immediate
The need for residents to have more say in planning decisions	Advise Alderholt inhabitants to send objections to any new planning proposals INDIVIDUALLY (not in petition form) to the planning department in good time AND copy them to the Parish Council	Parish Council	Villagers	Ongoing
Viability of a new sports/leisure centre	Create a survey, to find out how much support there is for a leisure centre, if the running costs were to be born by the village	Management committee of the recreation ground	Parish Council	May 2007
Control of building styles	Commission a village design statement	Parish Council	East Dorset District Council - Planning Department	July 2007

Traffic and Transport - Action Plan

Issue	Actions	Ownership	Partners	First Check Date
Transport to work	Ask the Parish Council to lobby for bus' to enable people to use public transport to and from work	Parish Council	East Dorset District Council	May 2007
Hospital transport scheme	Work with the Parish Council to find solutions to the problems involved	Parish Council	Traffic & Transport TAG	February 2007
Enforcement of speed restrictions	Request the Parish Council to lobby the Dorset District Council Traffic Dept.	Parish Council	Traffic & Transport TAG Dorset Safety Camera Partnership and Police	June 2007
Spar Shop area, Ringwood Road, Pedestrian crossings Station Road	It will be necessary to strongly lobby the Dorset County Council through the Parish Council to create a better and safer area.	Parish Council	Dorset County Council East Dorset District Council Traffic & Transport TAG and Police	August 2007
Pavement from the Churchill Arms PH to St James' Church	Dorset County Council Highways Dept.	Parish Council	Dorset County Council East Dorset District Council Traffic and Transport TAG and Police	July 2007
Horse Riders on Ringwood Road, a horse and rider sign in the appropriate place	Dorset County Council Highways Dept.	Parish Council	Dorset County Council East Dorset District Council Traffic and Transport TAG and Police	August 2007

Youth Issues - Action Plan

Issue	Actions	Ownership	Partners	First Check Date
To involve the young people of the village in matters which affect them	An open day to be arranged as soon as possible with a view to setting up a Youth Forum	Alderholt Local Action Group	Alderholt Youth Association. P.L.A.Y. Verwood and Alderholt Youth workers. Alderholt Congregational Church.	February 2007
Improve recreation facilities in the village particularly at the recreation ground	<p>The Parish Council in conjunction with it's proposed advisory body to create an outline plan (with timetable) for the siting of the skatepark equipment which they own.</p> <p>This to include details of what other equipment might be installed on the land available.</p> <p>There have been earlier requests from young people for goal ends, a youth shelter and Proludic equipment for the older youth.</p> <p>These items should all be costed and included in any plan. Funding for these and similar future projects need to be investigated.</p>	Alderholt Parish Council	Alderholt Local Action Group Recreation Association Youth Forum Representatives P.L.A.Y. East Dorset District Council's Youth Dev. Officer.	April 2007
Loss of youth club and other facilities	<p>Examine possible alternatives .eg, Use of the Village Hall: Use of the Reading Room: Use of the Verwood "Kabin"</p> <p>Also examine how the use of any of the above facilities might be funded.</p>	Alderholt Local Action Group	Village Hall Management Committee Alderholt Youth Association. Reading Room Committee Youth Club and Youth Forum Representatives East Dorset District Council's Youth Dev. Officer.	April 2007

Issue	Actions	Ownership	Partners	First Check Date
<p>Re-introduction of Youth football and other sports facilities</p>	<p>Ascertain the level of participation there is likely to be for regular coaching and team creations for this activity.</p> <p>Examine the feasibility of the establishing of two different age groups for regular sessions; e.g.under 11's and under 15's.</p> <p>Investigate possible facilities,and pitch(es) availability.</p> <p>Approach Dorset F.A. and other organisations currently involved with youth sports in the East Dorset District Council area.</p>	<p>Alderholt Local Action Group</p>	<p>Alderholt Recreation Association</p> <p>St. James's First School</p> <p>Dorset County F.A.</p> <p>Active Dorset CSP</p> <p>East Dorset Housing Association</p> <p>East Dorset District Council's Youth Dev. Officer.</p>	<p>June 2007</p>
<p>As can be seen in an earlier section of this booklet the conception of some form of a Community Building in the village began in 1991.</p> <p>So many people in answering questions in the 2005 questionnaire about required facilities clearly felt that this was an important issue.</p> <p>The responses from younger people also highlighted the need for a central building for indoor sports and other leisure activities which are totally absent at present.</p>	<p>As indicated in the narrative section of this plan, there is some cause for optimism that the issue of the revised/new lease will be resolved in the near future. Nevertheless, we believe it is imperative that the two main parties, namely the Parish Council, and the Recreation Association, process this venture forward by active and regular contact with each other, so that the project does not remain in solicitor's offices or anywhere else for a further unacceptable period of time.</p>	<p>Alderholt Parish Council</p>	<p>Alderholt Recreation Association</p> <p>Community Building Action Group</p> <p>Alderholt Local Action Group</p> <p>East Dorset District Council</p>	<p>On-Going</p>

Useful Contacts

Highways & Refuse Disposal	Dorset County Council		01305 251000
	East Dorset District Council		01202 886201
	'Clarence'	Road Maintenance	0800 232323
	Alderholt Parish Council	Clerk: Maria Humby	01425 657587
CrimePolice	Incident Report Line		01202 222222
	Homewatch	Steve Butler	01725 517412
Doctors	Fordingbridge/Alderholt	Appointments	01425 653430
	Cranborne/Alderholt	Appointments	01725 517272
Housing	East Dorset District Council		01202 886201
	Alderholt Parish Council	Clerk: Maria Humby	01425 657587
Environment	Environmental Agency (DEFRA)		0800 807060
	East Dorset District Council	Lindsay Cass	01202 886201
Youth	Alderholt Brownies (Age 7 - 10)	Clare Morris	01425 655119
	Alderholt Rainbows (Age 5 - 7)	Sue Broderick	01425 654951
	Group Scout Leader	Sheenagh Bradford	01425 656620
	Alderholt Youth Club	Clare Osborne	01425 656767
	Alderholt Youth Association	Liz Fenwick	01425 654276
	Kingswood Day Nursery	Michelle Wood	01425 656451
	Sunbeams Pre-school Group (2 - 5 years)	Angela Hibberd	01425 654045
	Supertots (0 - 3 years)	Liz Clemas	01425 654467
	St James' Church of England (VC) First School	Clare Tickel (Headteacher)	01425 653063
Leisure and Sport	Alderholt Art Club	Eileen Hunt	01425 654385
	Alderholt Friendship Club	Elizabeth Edmunds	01425 656326
	Alderholt Cricket Club	Ian Cole	01425 655764
	Alderholt Football Club	Terry Gulliver	01425 652697
	Alderholt Dramatic & Musical Club	Carol Clare	01425 656051
	Alderholt Luncheon Club	Maggie Williams	01425 653337
	Alderholt Sports & Social Club	John Davis	01425 656307
	Alderholt Recreation Association	Ian Cole	01425 655764
	Alderholt Sequence Dance Club	Olive Crockett	01202 814183
	Alderholt Tennis Club	Martin Norton	01425 656364
	Alderholt Short Mat Bowls Club	Brian Currie	01425 657881
	Alderholt Wives Group	Jacque Butler	01425 654581
	Alderholt Cross Stitch Club	Doris Guest	01425 657446
	Churches	St James' Parish Church	Rev. Philip Martin
'Little Jims' for tiny ones		Jo Wright	01425 657565
Parish News Co-ordinator		Jean Mortimer	01425 652019
Alderholt Congregational Church		Rev. Chris Sinkinson	01425 653482
The Tabernacle		Stan Broomfield	01425 657333
Crendell Methodist Church		Bet Zebedee	01725 517362
Citizens Advice Bureaux	Fordingbridge		01425 652643
	Ringwood		01425 473330
Sundry	Alderholt Village Hall	Booking: Margaret Fordham	01425 656309
	Alderholt Village Hall	Caretaker – Don Cowley	01425 657133
	Saturday Market	Elizabeth Edmunds	01425 656326
	Alderholt Reading Room	Booking: Lawrie Hooley	01425 652434
	Alderholt Veterinary Surgery		01425 654202
	Dorset Country Cars	Jacque Butler	01425 654581
	Mobile Library (Alternate Thursdays)	Dorset County Council	01202 873272
	Alderholt Local Action Group	Steve Butler	01725 517412
	Alderholt Parish Plan Steering Group	Norman Jones	01425 656825



The Reading Room

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