

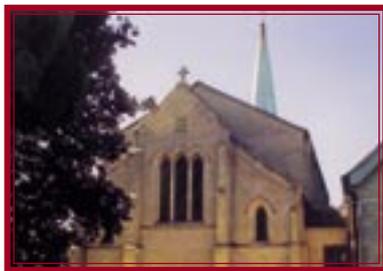
## Parish Plan



### ECONOMIC



### ENVIRONMENTAL



### SOCIAL



# Stowupland PARISH PLAN 2005

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Stowupland – a great place to live,  
whichever way you look at it



## Forewords:

### – from the Chairman of the Parish Plan Steering Group

Well, here it is at last, a Parish Plan for Stowupland. When we began this task back in March 2004 none of us on the Steering Group could have foreseen the effects preparing this Plan could have on the village. People were impatient to get involved and see things develop. The results so far have seen a revitalised village magazine; a Good Neighbour Scheme; more Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and a Fun Day and Live Music Event on The Green, the first for over 30 years I believe. At times the Steering Group seemed to spend more time in planning projects and events than it did on the Plan itself. The momentum and energy released surprised us all and although our task is now complete with the delivery of the Parish Plan this is by no means the end of the story.

The Plan is in two parts – the first part is the Report, a snapshot at December 2004 of what we thought of our village, its environment, village services and our social and economic concerns, in particular with regard to the expansion of neighbouring Stowmarket. The second part, the Action Plan, looks to the future. It sets out an achievable and long term vision for the future with priorities for action within the community. We want to see our village, its character and rural environment preserved for future generations. Most importantly the young people of our village are its future and the Action Plan needs to address the shortcomings in the provision of leisure facilities for them and affordable housing for those who wish to remain and build a life here.

This Parish Plan would not have been completed without your enthusiasm and energy. We thank you all for your efforts so far. But the job is not finished. The Action Plan needs your continuing support and involvement if we are to succeed in delivering it for the benefit of all of us. So please, get involved. The future we want for our village depends on it.

*Nic Perks*

Chairman, Stowupland Parish Plan Steering Group

### – from the Chairman of Stowupland Parish Council

I am very pleased to be able to write this foreword for the Parish Plan.

A great deal of work has been carried out since the public meeting in March 2004 agreed that Stowupland should have its own Parish Plan and to set up the Parish Plan Steering Group. Most residents of our village have contributed in some way, not least in completing a questionnaire seeking views on the village. This final document summarises residents' views on the village, their concerns and hopes for the future of Stowupland. It will inform and guide the Parish Council, Mid Suffolk District Council and Suffolk County Council.

I would like to thank members of the Parish Council for their support, the Parish Plan Steering Group and the many volunteers who drafted and delivered the questionnaires and analysed the data collected. I am grateful also for the help of Suffolk ACRE and the financial support from The Countryside Agency.

Completing the work in little over a year has been a remarkable achievement and the village has already started to see benefits. These include the formation of the Good Neighbour Scheme, new Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and a new group producing the much improved village magazine, Telstar, ten times a year instead of quarterly. A community events committee has been formed and organised our first fun day on The Green for many years. Our fundraising efforts have included very enjoyable quiz nights.

The Parish Council are strongly committed to the actions recommended in this Parish Plan and we want to involve as many residents as possible. We want to build on the community feeling that is apparent at events like the fun day. I urge everyone in the village to get involved in some way. Together we can make Stowupland a great place to live.

*Jerry Voden*

Chairman, Stowupland Parish Council

# Introduction to the Parish

Stowupland is a popular, vibrant, sprawling village situated about 2 miles outside Stowmarket, a thriving Mid Suffolk market town found just off the main A14 trunk road, which links the Suffolk towns of Ipswich (12 miles) and Bury St Edmunds (16 Miles). The coastal town of Felixstowe is about 25 miles away. Stowmarket provides a range of services including main line rail links to Norwich, Peterborough, Cambridge and London.

The village itself is about 1 mile from the A14 on the popular tourist route, the A1120, with its links to the A12 and the Suffolk Heritage Coast approximately 35 miles away. It remains physically separated from Stowmarket, surrounded as it is by mainly arable farm land and the A14 creating a natural boundary. The village retains its traditionally strong links with the farming community and the excellent road and rail links make the area popular with commuters as well as local people.

The population of the village has remained fairly constant at around the 2000 mark for a number of years now following substantial expansion in the latter half of the 20th Century. Major development of the village itself ceased some years ago but the more recent large scale expansion of Stowmarket means new housing estates are beginning to encroach on the parish boundaries.

The sprawling nature of the village and past development ensures that it is able to provide a range of housing in distinct parts of the village.

It has some very old properties mainly around the village green (one of the largest in Suffolk), Church Road and Saxham Street; there is a post war development and some larger modern developments, including substantial sheltered accommodation for the elderly.

The village is popular with all ages, from young families to the elderly, most of whom have convenient access to a wide range of services in the village and the neighbouring town of Stowmarket.

Within the village there are two Churches and two schools - a Community High School and a Primary School. There is also a village Pre-School operating on a daily basis; two public houses; a village hall acting as centre for a number of social activities, entertainments and meeting groups; a sports and social club; post office; garage and shop; two butchers, a Chinese takeaway and a fish and chip shop. Several farms are located within the parish boundary as are a number of small businesses providing plumbing, electrical, joinery, building, motor vehicle repair, tree surgery and agricultural services amongst others.

Like many other villages in Suffolk, Stowupland is having to contend with a number of challenges - challenges best faced as a community, working together alongside neighbouring parishes and with the support of local government organisations.

**It's a wonderful village to live in – let's hope it can remain so!**

**Love the village and are thrilled with the improvements to the Play Park.**

**I would love to see The Green more utilised with benches and trees being planted – involving young people in such schemes.**

# Why a Parish Plan for Stowupland?

In recent years it has become evident that the challenges facing Stowupland, as voiced by residents, needed to be identified and tackled. There were major concerns over the massive expansion of nearby Stowmarket and the effects this was having in terms of increased traffic through the village and increased fear of crime. There was a very real fear that Stowmarket might soon swallow up the village with the loss of village identity and its unique environment that was so important to all. A Parish Plan was seen to be an effective way of identifying and tackling these concerns.

A number of residents had also voiced concerns about Mid Suffolk Council planning policy towards villages such as Stowupland. The current Mid Suffolk Local Plan was adopted in 1998 to cover the period up to 2006. A review of the Plan started in 2002 with the publication of an Issues Report. This report invited public comment on the key planning issues to be considered during the review.

The public's response to the *Issues Report* included:-

- strong focus on housing, transport and environmental issues
- especially the scale and location of housing development and need for affordable housing
- need for adequate local services and infrastructure
- protecting the appearance and character of villages and the countryside
- concerns about traffic generation, especially lorry traffic
- support for improvements to footpaths, public transport and cycling provision

These are all issues on which many local residents held strong views and had already begun to voice their concerns.

*"I'd get more involved if I was aware of what's going on locally."*

Some consultation was carried out with parish councils; however, the review process had to be put on hold while the Government replaced Local Plans with a new system of Local Development Frameworks. Mid Suffolk are due to complete their Framework between the end of 2006 and 2007. A key part of the new system is the involvement of communities, as well as other stakeholders and commercial interests, throughout the process.

Mid Suffolk began the process in 2004 and so it was thought not only appropriate but vitally important that Stowupland begin work on its own Parish Plan at the same time. A Parish Plan would help us to get involved in planning the future of our village, provide Mid Suffolk with detailed local information which it was beyond their means to collect and help ensure development and other changes affecting our village would take account of local needs while safeguarding the village identity and environment.

Policies in local development frameworks are supposed to be founded on a thorough understanding of an area's needs, precisely the issues a Parish Plan should cover. Many local authorities such as Mid Suffolk lack the resources to carry out local surveys. It, therefore, makes sense for them to use existing resources such as Parish Plans to inform the preparation of local development plans, and policies. It is our intention that Stowupland's Parish Plan be used as an important part of the evidence base on which Mid Suffolk District Council's future plans for our village and surrounding area will be based.

To have maximum influence we will be putting forward key features of this Plan as a Supplementary Planning Document with a view to it being adopted as part of the emerging Local Development Framework for Mid Suffolk.

*"The geography of Stowupland is difficult as it has at least three sections and is long and straggly."*

## Our Objectives

- To provide an authoritative statement of what the residents of Stowupland feel about their village now and their hopes for its future.
- To inform Parish, District and County Councils and other bodies providing important services to the community of the opinions of residents on the issues that are important to them.
- To set out an achievable and long-term vision for the future and to establish priorities for action within the community.
- To stimulate discussion among residents on what can and should be done, both now and in the future, to improve community spirit and involvement in making Stowupland an even better place to live.
- To secure the adoption as *Supplementary Planning Guidance* of the measures identified by residents to preserve their village identity and its unique rural environment.

**"To set out a vision of what is important, how new development can best be fitted in, how to preserve valued local features and to map out facilities which the community needs to safeguard for the future."**

*Rural White Paper*

## How Did We Go About It?

On 30 March 2004 a well attended public meeting in the village hall gave overwhelming support for a Parish Plan for Stowupland. A Steering Group was formed, charged with submitting an application to The Countryside Agency for grant funding to carry out a village survey and produce this Parish Plan. We are indebted to the Parish Council who has supported us throughout with a lot of encouragement as well as a generous donation. And to Suffolk ACRE who provided us with much needed advice when it mattered. Above all, however, the success of the venture is due to all those residents who contributed their thoughts and views and who gave so generously of their time and effort when called upon. Thank you.

## The timescale

- 30 March 2004 – initial public meeting
- April to September 2004 – planning, submission of application and receipt of grant
- September 2004 work begins on devising the questionnaires
- October to December 2004 – printing, distribution and collection of questionnaires
- January to April 2005 – data entry and analysis of the data from the questionnaires
- 25 February and 1 April 2005 – Quiz Nights to raise funds for the Plan
- 13 May 2005 Exhibition and Public Meeting to disseminate results of questionnaires
- June 2005 Questionnaire Report Summary distributed to every household
- June to October 2005 – writing, printing, and publishing the Plan
- November 2005 – a copy of the Stowupland Parish Plan delivered to every household

**“Positive action re. this questionnaire would be a good result!”**

## The Methodology

Early in the planning cycle the decision was taken to survey the village using two questionnaires; a main questionnaire to be completed by residents 16 and over and a Youth Questionnaire for the 9 to 15 age group.

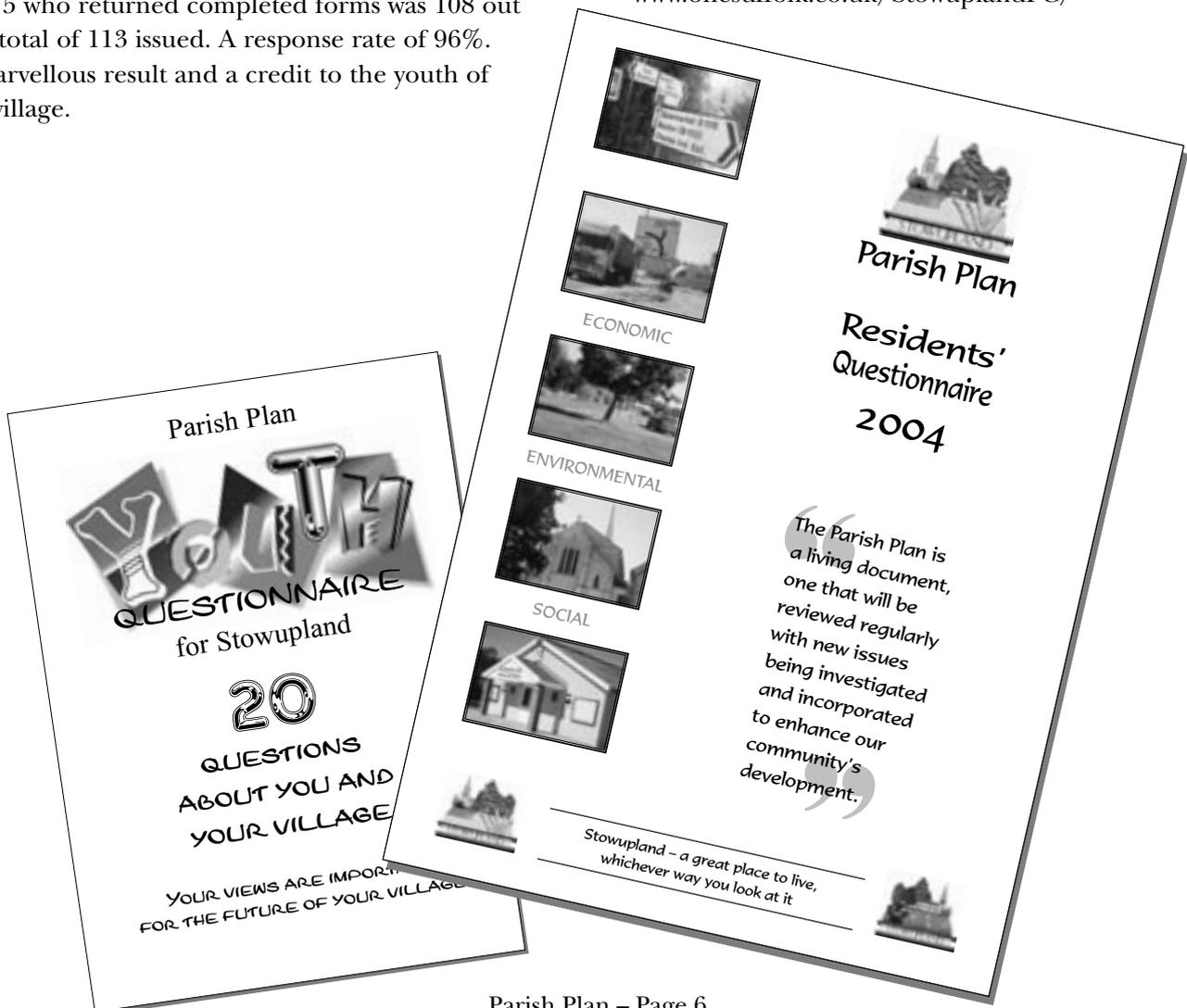
The data obtained was collated using a computer programme devised by the Countryside and Community Research Unit and Gloucestershire Rural Community Council specifically for Village Appraisals.

The main questionnaire contained 71 questions. At the time the questionnaires were distributed in November 2004 there were 853 properties in Stowupland of which 40 were unoccupied and so 813 questionnaires were distributed. 650 were returned completed, a remarkable response rate of over 80%. The 650 households who responded represent 1535 residents – around 75% of the total population of the village.

The Youth Questionnaire contained 20 questions. The number of young people in the village aged 9 – 15 who returned completed forms was 108 out of a total of 113 issued. A response rate of 96%. A marvellous result and a credit to the youth of the village.

The results of the two questionnaires were presented to the village at an Exhibition and Public Meeting held in the village hall on 13th May 2005. Hundreds of residents visited a variety of stands and displays providing information on the results whilst a number of village organisations and other bodies took the opportunity to showcase their activities. This was followed by the distribution of a booklet to every household setting out the main results from the questionnaires.

The results and their interpretation form the main part of this report. A report of the statistical results as well as the detailed comments added to the responses from both questionnaires is also available. These will be made available to the groups and organisations who we hope to influence and those who expressed an interest in learning from the results. Unfortunately cost considerations prevent us forwarding the full statistical report and comments with this Plan but copies will be available for reference, limited distribution on application to Nic Perks (01449 774200) and on the village website [www.onesuffolk.co.uk/StowuplandPC/](http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/StowuplandPC/)

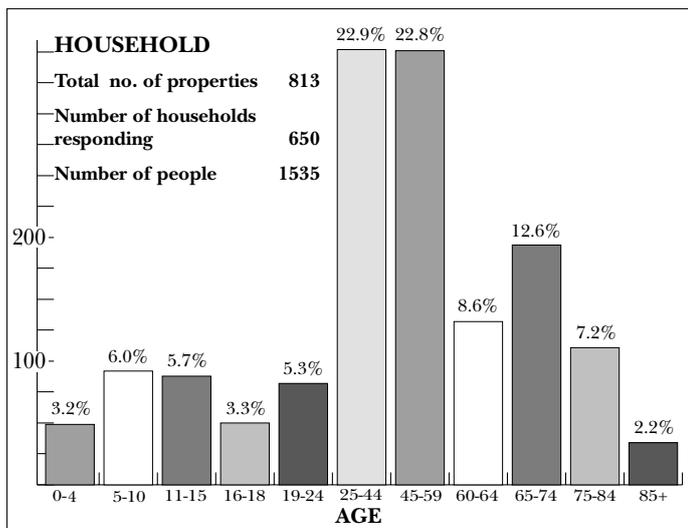


# REPORT: Household Data

## Population Profile

There were 1535 people including children living in the 650 households who returned completed questionnaires, out of a total population of around 2000. The population is split fairly evenly between the sexes – 49.6% male and 50.4% female.

## Age Distribution of the Population



The chart above shows that the population has an older rather than a younger age profile, with 30% over 60 years of age, a further 46% in the 25 – 59 age group and 18% below the age of 18.

When asked “**How long have you lived in the village?**” it is clear that a good proportion (37%) have lived here more than 25 years, 43% between 6 and 24 years, with 20% having moved here in the last 5 years. This seems to indicate a fairly stable but not a static population.

Only 163 people have moved away from the village in the last five years. 66 of these said they would like to return given the opportunity. Of those who moved away the predominant reasons given were lack of suitable accommodation to rent or buy with a small number (16) saying they were ‘unable to afford the cost of moving in Stowupland’. Most, however, had moved away for ‘further education’ (21), ‘to live independently’ (39) and ‘to set up a new household with a partner’ (55).

When asked “**How did you come to live in Stowupland?**” the answers were many and varied with no one reason a clear favourite. However, given the age profile and length of stay in the village referred to above it is interesting to note that only 5% of people seem to have retired here whilst nearly 20% came here to set up home.

## Current Housing Provision

There is a wide range of housing available within the village. Some of the properties are very old but the majority are post Second World War and to be found on two main developments – Broomspath / The Heights and Reeds Way/Trinity and Columbyne. Over 46% are detached and semi-detached houses with another 40% consisting of detached and semi-detached bungalows. There is good provision of sheltered housing in Jubilee Court and another substantial development of sheltered housing is under construction in Reeds Way.

## Education

There were 253 responses to the question about attendance at a Play Group right up to and including post 16 education. Numbers attending a Play Group/Nursery School (29) were similar to those undertaking post 16 education (31). The bulk of children in full-time education were fairly evenly split between Primary School (60), Middle School (69) and High School (64). There is a Pre-School, Primary School and a High School within the village. Most children attending a Middle School do so in Bacton, a neighbouring village.

## What is it about Stowupland that makes it a desirable place to live?

The reason for the popularity of the village with all ages is not hard to find. When asked “**Which of the following is important to you about Stowupland?**” 80% said ‘the location’ with ‘the environment’ and ‘the community’ coming a close second and third.

# REPORT: Business, Retail & Tourism

## The Issues

1. How to provide job opportunities in Stowupland in small workshops and businesses.
2. Should retail services be developed or expanded? Can this be cost effective? Can a larger proportion of residents be persuaded to use the services that are provided?
3. Should visitor activities be encouraged and promoted?

“You could wish for more but they would be unviable.”

“It has everything that is required of a village.”

## The Vision for the Future

1. Better job opportunities in the village without unacceptable building development.
2. A wider range of viable retail services used by a larger proportion of residents.
3. Better use of our natural environment for appropriate visitor activities.

“A nice tea room with people who love children and the elderly.”

## Business and Job Opportunities

Around 100 people living in Stowupland also work in Stowupland. Over 40% of those completing a questionnaire were in favour of creating more jobs in the village, compared with less than 10% against. The preferred methods of creating jobs were small business developments, small industrial workshops and craft workshops. Some of this could be achieved by conversion of redundant farm buildings but 25% either had reservations about this or were not in favour at all.

“There should be more opportunities for employment of young people.”

## Retail Services

The questionnaire results showed that around half of the people living in Stowupland use the shops and services in the village. The most frequently used were the service station/shop, Post Office, butchers and the public houses. However, the results were obtained before Stowupland Chippy opened. Over 30% of houses made use of milk and newspaper deliveries.

The Post Office is an important facility used for much more than postal services, particularly buying stationery, paying bills and collecting pensions and allowances. Respondents commented that they would like to obtain Road Fund licences at the Post Office. There were also a significant number of requests for a grocery and village shop and a small number of requests for a bakery, hairdressers and tea shop.

## Tourism

The A1120, the main road through the village, is signed as a tourist route. However, only 29% of respondents felt that overnight tourists should be encouraged, and then only in bed and breakfast or guesthouse accommodation. Caravan and camping sites were not favoured.

There is little or no promotion of visitor activities. More than half of the respondents felt that Stowupland is suited to walking, nature study, horse riding and farm visits or trails.

# REPORT: Traffic & Transport

## The Issues

1. Excessive traffic speed, particularly on A1120 (Church Road) and Saxham Street.
2. Increasing levels of traffic from new housing developments in Stowmarket.
3. High volume of large lorry traffic in Church Road and Saxham Street in particular.
4. Traffic congestion at junction of B1115 and A1120 at peak times.
5. Parking congestion in Church Road (A1120) in the vicinity of the two schools and village hall and on The Heights and Reeds Way.
6. Improvements to bus services including:
  - Reliability
  - Routes
  - Timetables
7. Concern over size of buses on routes through housing estates, The Heights in particular.
8. Safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

“The traffic in Church Rd. Too many vehicles, particularly lorries. The speed of these. Church Road has most of village facilities - Churches, Garage/ Shop, Pub, Schools, Post Office. It should be the focal point of village and centre - but traffic prevent this.”

The motor car is the most important means of transport for most residents but significant numbers of people rely on public transport on a regular or occasional basis.

## Access to and use of vehicles

Nearly 90% of the 1,165 respondents have access to a motor vehicle. The main use was for leisure and shopping (80%) with some 50% using their vehicles to travel to and from work. 143 people use their vehicle to take children to school or college. However, the catchment area for the two schools in the village is much wider than the village and so it is not surprising that traffic and parking congestion at school drop-off and pick-up times is seen by so many residents to be a major problem.

## Increasing Traffic Volumes

The A1120 is the main route through the village and carries high volumes of traffic at peak periods. People have noticed significant increases as the large, new housing developments in Stowmarket become populated. Much of that development is taking place up to the A14 boundary between Stowmarket and the village. This has led to increased congestion and associated safety risks particularly at the junction of the B1115 and the A1120 at peak periods.

When asked what improvements people would like to see, more than 500 people out of 1175 said

*Increased traffic at peak periods*



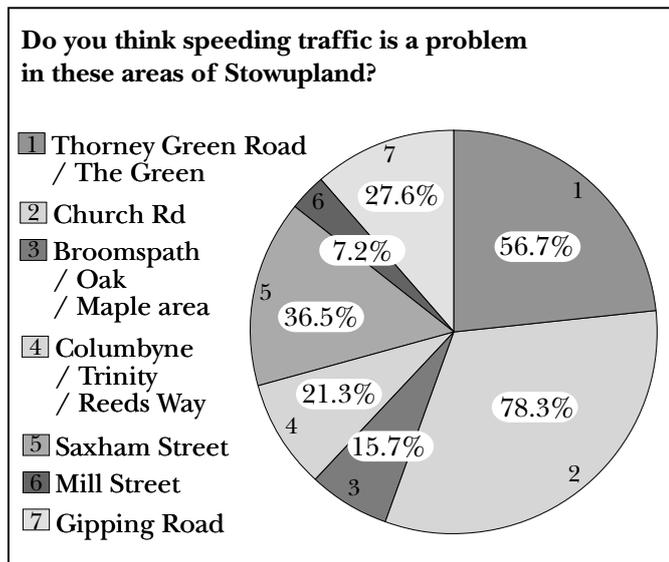
they wanted to see a roundabout installed at that junction. Over half the respondents to the Youth Questionnaire identified the adjacent area outside the service station as by far the most dangerous place to cross the road because of speeding traffic. It remains to be seen whether the proposed new bridge over the railway with associated road links will ease any of the congestion.

## Speeding

Speeding traffic through the village is seen to be a serious problem. Of 1042 responses nearly 80% identified Church Road (A1120) as the main problem area. This figure increased to 100% of responses from those who live in Church Road. The other problem areas were Thorney Green Road/ The Green area (nearly 60%) and Saxham Street (nearly 40%). There is considerable support for enforcement, extension and even reduction of speed limits in areas such as Church Road and Saxham Street. Suffolk County Council Highways Department has put in place some measures on Church Road (A1120) following discussions with the Parish Council. More are clearly needed.

## Parking

Again the main problem area is Church Road (A1120) in the vicinity of the two schools and village hall where there is also a large car park. Entering and leaving this car park at school drop-off and pick-up times can be hazardous. Some comments were also made about parking on The Green and the increasing volume of cars parked in residential streets such as Reeds Way and on The Heights.



## Large Goods Vehicles

The subject of lorries generated a lot of comment ranging from banning them from coming through the village altogether to support for signage to encourage large lorries to use the major routes away from the village (60% of the 1175 responses). Replies also indicated a particular problem with the numbers and size of lorries using Saxham Street, often as a short cut to the A140.

*“Reduce volume, especially heavy lorries, and speed of traffic through what should be a quiet village. Also make travelling to and from school safer for our village.”*

*“Restrict lorry size on this stretch of road (Church Road). Prevent HGV's from using road as a short cut from A140 to A14.”*

## Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety

The narrowness of the pavements (where they existed) on parts of Church Road contributed greatly to pedestrians' feelings of insecurity when walking to and from the High School, village hall and the Primary and Pre-Schools, in particular when the larger lorries and coaches were passing. Residents thought it too unsafe to cycle on Church Road at peak times because of the volume of traffic and the large vehicles using that road. Many residents called for more cycle paths (40%), more or better footpaths (56%), more pavements (30%) and safer routes to the schools (26%). The Youth Questionnaire responses indicated that cycling was a popular means of getting about and 76% said they would use foot/cycle paths, if they were available, to go to school or visit friends.

## Public Transport Issues

There was little take-up for the idea of car sharing in the village but 371 residents said they would use a volunteer car service as a passenger. This issue has been forwarded to the Good Neighbour Scheme to consider taking forward.

On the whole most of the village is reasonably well served for public transport links. There is a mainline rail link in Stowmarket and good links to the A14, both between 1 and 3 miles away depending on where you are located in the village.

There is a regular bus service to most parts of the village. This service is important to a significant number of people as it is the only real alternative to private or hire motor vehicles for many in the village. The main use is for shopping with 44% of respondents (out of 946) saying they used the service either often or occasionally. When asked where they would like to see improvements in the bus service the main issues concerned reliability (32%), routes (26%) and timetable (27%).

A number of people commented that there is no bus service at all for parts of the village; for example there is no bus service for Saxham Street. A number of comments were also received concerning the bus routes through estates such as The Heights. In particular the problems that the bus drivers faced in negotiating parked vehicles at certain times of the day. There was a feeling that perhaps the buses were far too big to negotiate the narrow roads around such housing estates.

*Better, safer cycle routes throughout the village.*

## The Vision for the Future

1. Appropriate traffic management measures in place and a marked reduction in vehicle speeds throughout the Parish.
2. Traffic management measures and roads infrastructure to direct traffic away from the village and onto the A14 and other more suitable routes, with a reduction in traffic through the village.
3. Signage in place to discourage large goods vehicles from using the A1120 and Saxham Street as a shortcut, with a corresponding reduction in large goods vehicle journeys through the village.
4. Feasibility study completed on the A1120/B1115 junction and a pedestrian crossing to the garage. A roundabout or other suitable junction and pedestrian crossing installed.
5. Policy agreed with residents, schools, village hall and other interested parties to manage congestion at peak times.
6. A reliable bus service that provides realistic options for commuting, leisure and shopping to all areas.
7. Smaller buses introduced on routes serving the greater part of the village.
8. Feasibility studies completed on provision of cycle routes, more and better footpaths and pavements, including safer routes to the schools, in the village. Appropriate facilities in place.

*Stop LARGE buses using estates and small roads.*

# REPORT: Housing & Development

## The Issues

1. Fears that we will lose our separate village identity and our rural environment in the face of:
  - a) large scale housing developments in neighbouring Stowmarket, now up to the Parish boundary, and the
  - b) rapidly increasing population numbers that these developments bring with them.
2. The fear that further Stowmarket housing developments will encroach into Stowupland and effectively swallow up the village.
3. The rapidly increasing population of Stowmarket leads to fears over the social and environmental impacts including:
  - a) increased traffic through the village and associated safety fears, and
  - b) increased crime and fear of crime.
4. Increasing concerns over future Mid Suffolk District Council planning policy towards villages like Stowupland.
5. Insufficient publicity given to planning applications which affect Stowupland.
6. Not enough affordable housing to meet the needs of young people and families who wish to remain in the village.

## Development issues

The questionnaires gave people the opportunity to comment on issues that were important to them and unsurprisingly there were significant numbers and consistency of views on housing development, and not just within the parish boundary. Many said they were increasingly worried by the encroachment of large-scale housing estates up to the boundary with Stowmarket and expressed increasing concern about future Mid Suffolk District Council planning policy towards villages such as Stowupland. A number of people also thought that insufficient publicity was being given to planning applications that affected the village. These views were expressed at the well-attended public meetings and in the form of narrative comments (71) in answer to the question posed at the end of the questionnaire **“If you could change one thing about Stowupland what would it be?”**

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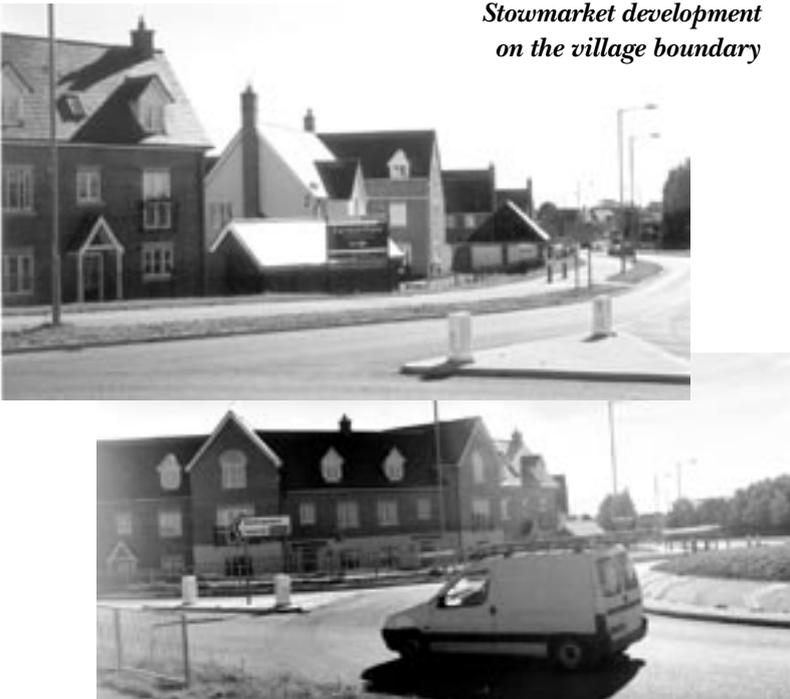
*Stowmarket - only one field away  
a major concern in the village*



**“Stop any further development – This increasing encroachment of Stowmarket.”**



*Stowmarket development on the village boundary*



## Housing

Residents were asked for their views on the type of properties and future development of the village. Of 1143 responses received 35% said “No further homes were needed” with over 40% considering that there was a need for “Homes for young people” and again over 40% feeling that there was a need for “Small family homes”.

**“Build homes for the young people of the village that they can afford.”**

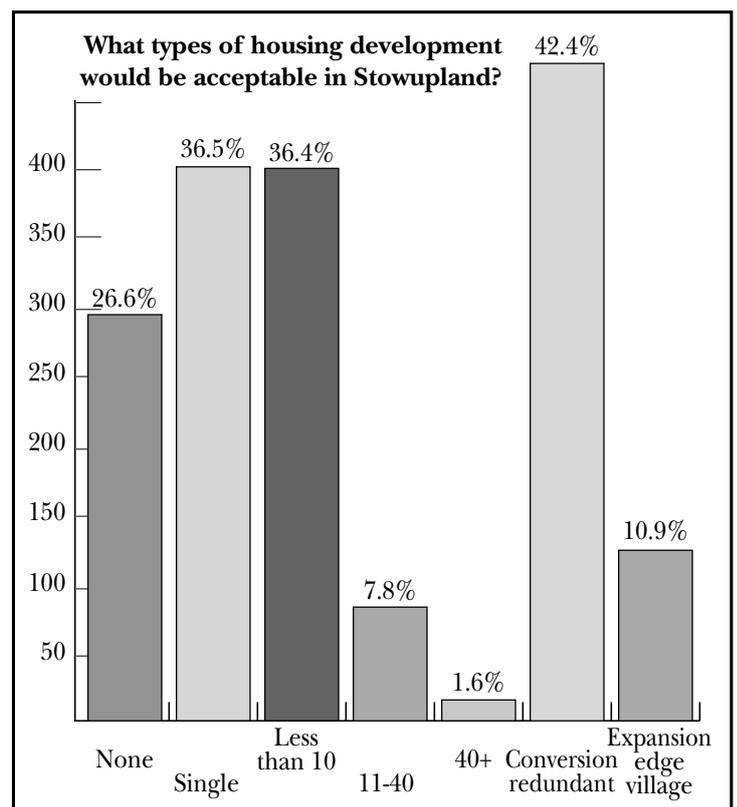
When asked “**What sort of housing development would be acceptable in Stowupland?**” around 40% said they were in favour of “Single dwellings within existing housing area” (a vote for limited infill), 40% for “Small group(s) of less than 10 properties” and 40% for “Conversion of redundant buildings”. And a significant number (27%) felt that no further development would be acceptable. Local planning applications for many years now have tended to be of the “conversion of redundant buildings” type, extensions to existing properties, and new development(s) which have tended to be either single dwelling infilling or small developments of less than 10 properties. The main exception has been the new sheltered housing development in Reeds Way.

**“To stop future over development and leave Stowupland as a rural area and not add town facilities.”**

## Residency

There are currently 853 properties in the parish of which 40 were empty at the time of the survey. 251 people (around 20%) have lived in the village for 5 years or less. This fact, coupled with the lack of major development in the past few decades, suggests the village has had a fairly stable population for some considerable time. There is little evidence of any second homes and the close proximity of Stowmarket with all its services and good transport links makes the village a popular place to live.

People like living here. The location (80%) and the environment (nearly 60%) were particularly valued by residents. People have settled in the village for a variety of different reasons, none of which stood out, but once settled they tend to stay here. The evidence for this is the fact that of 1252 responses received 165 people were born here but 730 have lived here over 15 years and of these 454 have lived in the village over 25 years.



“Would not like too much more building, there has been so much over the last few years. I love our village. It will soon no longer be a village, if things keep going as they are.”

## Future Planning

There has been a recurrent theme running through the views expressed in the questionnaires and at the public meetings. People genuinely want to see the village character and rural environment preserved, not only for themselves and their families but for future generations as well. Mid Suffolk District Council and Suffolk County Council expansion plans for neighbouring Stowmarket have the potential to improve the quality of life for many in this part of Mid Suffolk, but there is a real need for all concerned to take into account local views and consider the potential social, economic and environmental impacts on Stowupland and its residents.

Residents are particularly concerned at the already noticeable increase in road traffic through the village, and there is a fear that such a rapid increase in population on our doorstep may also lead to increased crime and pressure on already stretched public services.

The views of residents need to be heard and the adoption of relevant parts of this Parish Plan as Supplementary Planning Guidance in the Local Development Framework is essential. Similarly the Parish Council needs to maintain and develop strong links with other local parish councils to inform and influence planning policy towards the whole of this part of Mid Suffolk.

## The Vision for the Future

1. Village envelope, character and rural environment preserved for future generations.
2. Mid Suffolk District Council and Suffolk County Council expansion plans for neighbouring Stowmarket take into account the social, economic and environmental impacts on Stowupland with particular regard to road traffic and law and order issues.
3. Strong links between Stowupland Parish Council, other local councils and Mid Suffolk District Council to inform and influence planning policy towards the village and the surrounding areas.
4. Views of residents adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance by Mid Suffolk District Council in the Local Development Framework.
5. Any new building restricted to single dwellings, small family homes in developments of less than 10 properties, sheltered and affordable housing.
6. More affordable housing made available to meet the needs of young people and families who wish to remain in the village.

*Increased traffic coming into the village*



“We like it as it is, that’s why we moved here to walk and enjoy the village and the open spaces.”

# REPORT: Health Facilities

## The Issues

1. A small but significant minority of residents find difficulty in getting to health services often or occasionally whilst others need adaptations to their homes because of health problems.
2. A need identified for a 'Good Neighbour' type scheme in the village.

On the whole Stowupland is well served for health care services of all types. The majority of residents rated the quality of services provided as good to reasonable. It was also noticeable that, apart from visits to doctors and dentists, around two thirds of the 1055 respondents had not had cause to use the other services available in the past year. There is growing concern over pressure on services caused by the rapid expansion of neighbouring Stowmarket.

As was to be expected with such a wide range of age groups, some had a health problem/disability which affected their day-to-day living (188) and a few (64) said they required adaptations to make their home more suitable.

Good transport connections and close proximity to Stowmarket mean that many residents found little difficulty in attending doctor and hospital appointments, collecting prescriptions, and the like. However, a significant minority (10-15%) often or occasionally had difficulty in accessing services particularly hospital and the doctor.

“Having only been here one year – I have been most impressed with everyones help and kindness.”

## Good Neighbour Scheme

In response to the question: “Is there a need for a ‘Good Neighbour’ type scheme in Stowupland?” 574 people said “Yes”. A further 492 said they didn’t know. A reflection perhaps of the fact that at the time the questionnaires were sent out many knew very little about such schemes?

*Following such obvious demand, and with a number of people expressing an interest in taking a scheme forward, a public meeting was arranged and a committee formed. Stowupland now has its own Good Neighbour Scheme up and running for the benefit of the whole village.*



*The number to call if you require assistance or more information about the Scheme is **07818 607 005**.*

“I would appreciate help occasionally with garden – like digging, trimming shrubs etc.”

## The Vision for the Future

1. Access to health services - support and assistance available to all who need it, when they need it.
2. A thriving, well supported and well used Good Neighbour Scheme run for the benefit of all in the village who may need its services.

# REPORT: Emergency Services

## The Issues

1. Concerns over crime and anti-social behaviour.
2. A need for a greater police presence in the village and more consultation between police and local people.
3. Improved street lighting.
4. More Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in the village.

“Feel safe in most areas but would not use unlit areas at night.”

## The Vision for the Future

1. Residents feel much safer and more secure in the village because of:
  - a) greater police presence,
  - b) quick responses to incidents,
  - c) good consultation between local people and local police, and
  - d) appropriate crime prevention information and measures agreed, implemented and available to all.
2. Improved environmentally sensitive street lighting installed.
3. Neighbourhood Watch Schemes up and running in all parts of the village where residents have expressed an interest in having one.

Only around 30% of residents had used the emergency services. Of those who had used the emergency ambulance most rated it as ‘good’. The police service was the most widely used and the one where people were most critical over the level of service. Over a third of respondents (417) thought the service was poor and two thirds (700) thought that a greater police presence was needed. 42% also suggested that better consultation between local people and the police would help.

*Full details of the Questionnaire results have been made available to our local Community Police Officer.*

The main issues around crime and anti-social behaviour involved concerns about vandalism (60%), theft (47%), drugs (41%) and car crime (38%). 1 in 5 residents said they were not concerned about levels of crime in Stowupland. Interestingly the Youth Questionnaire revealed a much higher level of concern by young people over drugs and anti-social behaviour (72% each) and bullying (40%). Of the 36% of young people who indicated they felt unsafe in certain areas, those around the High School and The Green came out top because of concerns over bullying and at night because of a lack of adequate street lighting in those areas.

There was less, but still significant, support for more crime prevention measures such as drug/drink education (33%), CCTV (12%) and other measures to combat crime. Improved street lighting was the most popular measure and around 65% of respondents indicated they were in favour. It was noticeable that residents of the main estates were markedly more in favour of better street lighting than those who lived around The Green and in more outlying parts of the village, where concerns over increasing light pollution were expressed.

Fear of crime, as indicated from the findings above, also needs to be set against the fact that monthly police reports still show a very low level of reported crime in the village. Some expressed concern that the rapidly increasing population of Stowmarket may lead to an increase in current levels of crime and anti-social behaviour around the village in the future.

## Neighbourhood Watch

263 people said they would like a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for their area.

*A number of people also expressed a willingness to take a scheme forward as local co-ordinators. Meetings were held and to date two further schemes have been set up and other possible schemes are being explored.*

# REPORT: Sports & Social Groups

## The Issues

There is a wide range of facilities and activities available to residents. However:

1. A significant proportion of residents are unaware of the facilities and activities that are available.
2. Facilities are used by only a small proportion of residents.
3. Are the facilities and activities that are available the right mix for the residents?

*Social events involving families.*

*Music/Drama/Dramatics group to put on productions in village hall as it would join all types and all ages.*



There is a wide range of sporting activities and social facilities available in the village. The village hall and the sports and social club are used by around 80 residents at least monthly; other facilities and activities are less frequently used.

Some of the facilities are used more by people from outside the village than by residents and it is possible that some of these facilities could not be provided without support from outside the village. Similarly, some of the sports clubs are managed by people from outside the village and the teams include few residents. This is partly because people in the village are unaware of the clubs but, in some cases, players are brought in to improve the quality of the teams, restricting places for local residents.

Around 30% of respondents said that they were unaware of what is on offer at the Community Sports Centre, sports and social club, the village hall and the church hall and around 20% said that they were not interested. Although around 40% said that they do know what sports and social facilities and activities are available, many of those same people asked for activities which are already available. This demonstrates the need to better communicate and promote the activities that do exist, in particular, what is available at the Community Sports Centre.

Responses to the youth questionnaire indicated the need for a wide range of activities. Many of these were requested by adults too. With careful planning, many new activities can be accommodated in existing buildings.

## The Vision for the Future

1. Every resident better aware of what is on offer.
2. Existing facilities and activities widely used by residents.
3. New facilities and activities provided to meet the demands of residents.

*Sports facilities in the village are very good for all age groups.*

# REPORT: Youth / Youth View



## The Issues

Many of the issues voiced by young people were raised in general questionnaire responses and are covered elsewhere. Issues affecting young people especially are:

1. There are few facilities or activities specifically for young people.
2. Concerns about drugs, alcohol, smoking and anti-social behaviour.
3. Feeling unsafe, particularly around the High School.
4. Cycling and walking are not safe and easy options for school or visiting friends. More footpaths and cycle tracks are needed.
5. Difficulty getting to places outside the village, especially Bacton, Mendlesham and Ipswich.

“A more sympathetic view towards teenagers in the village.”

113 young people aged 9 to 15 completed the Youth Questionnaire. Of these 48 live in the Broomspath/Heights development and 27 in the Columbyne/Trinity/Reeds Way area. 54% are male and 46% female. They are evenly spread across the age range.

51% attend Bacton Middle School, all travelling by bus. 39% attend Stowupland High School, all walking to school. Over 60% intend to take A Levels or equivalent and of these 60% intend to go to university or college. The responses indicated a wide range of interests in respect of job or profession after university.

Only a third of young people attend after school activities; most of the rest say that they have no desire to do so. Of those who are unable to attend but wish to, lack of transport is the main reason. There is a strong reliance on parents providing transport, and little alternative if that transport is not available. There is a need for transport from Bacton Middle School for those who attend, or wish to attend, after school activities.

## Traffic & Transport

Some 40% of young people expressed difficulty in getting to and from various places, particularly Bacton, Mendlesham and Ipswich. Parents being unable to provide transport was cited by half of these people as the main reason. Almost as many mentioned one or more of the following:

- Lack of public transport
- Too far to walk or cycle
- Too dangerous to walk or cycle

76% said that they would use foot/cyclepaths, if they were provided, to go to school or visit friends.

70% specified danger spots on roads in the village; most cited the A1120, particularly crossing the road to the service station, Church Road and the Creting turn. Many mentioned the speed of traffic as a concern.

## Youth Facilities

55% of young people are involved in clubs or groups, few of them in the village. Many more would be involved in a wide range of activities if they were provided in Stowupland. A youth club is a high priority and this would be able to provide some of the facilities requested, including music and dance. Some of the sporting activities could be arranged at the Community Sports Centre. It may be possible to arrange transport to other activities and sports, which it would not be cost-effective to provide in the village. There is a need to investigate ways of providing transport so that young people rely less upon their own parents.

The Playpark is much appreciated by younger children but it also attracts young people too old for the play equipment. Facilities such as ramps for skateboarding and BMX bikes should be considered. However, it is vital that young people are fully involved in the planning and running of clubs and activities provided primarily for their use. This could take the form of a Youth Council.

38 young people expressed an interest in taking part in environmental projects in the village.

*More needed for children and teenagers – carefully and properly supervised.*

*Something to do, such as a skate park or an activity club.*



*A club where we can go after school, to meet friends, where we can have some safe fun. Please.*

## The Vision for the Future

1. A wider range of sporting and other activities available.
2. Reduction in anti-social behaviour and lower level of concern about drugs, alcohol and smoking.
3. Unsafe places investigated and action taken so that young people can feel safer in all parts of the village.
4. New cycle routes and a better network of footpaths within the village and beyond.
5. Transport available for young people to surrounding villages and to Ipswich.

*Ensure greater provision for young people – seeing young people become active citizens of Stowupland.*

*We feel there should be a range of facilities / activities appropriate to different age groups.*

# REPORT: Religion

## The Issues

1. How to develop further the work of the religious groups in Stowupland.
2. How to generate a greater awareness of what the local religious groups have to offer.
3. What part can be played in the general desire to improve community spirit?
4. The view that the church buildings exist for the benefit only of the regular congregations.



There are two places of worship in Stowupland – the Parish Church of Holy Trinity (Church of England) and Stowupland Chapel (United Reformed Church).

The Parish Church aims to provide different styles of worship, from traditional to modern all-age services, with either two or three services held every Sunday throughout the year including a variety of seasonal and commemorative services. The URC Chapel normally holds one service each Sunday. The Parish Church and the Chapel have a good relationship, working together on special occasions.

From the answers gathered by the main questionnaire, the two places of worship in Stowupland are important to 21% of respondents for Sunday worship. Those who attend worship outside Stowupland (22%) do so, principally, because they either belong to a different denomination or seek an alternative style of worship.

While the majority of respondents said they do not attend any place of worship (81.5%), they nevertheless indicated an appreciation of the role of the local Church in many areas of its work. As might be expected, 47% looked to the Church for the occasional offices of baptisms, weddings and funerals, and a significant number (25%) acknowledged the pastoral care available to the community in times of crisis, such as bereavement or sickness, or in the form of practical assistance. However, the figures would seem to suggest reluctance by many to come forward and ask for the help that is readily offered to anyone in need.

Interestingly, one-third of respondents in each case valued the Parish Church as an historic building and focal point for the community, with 17% recognising the opportunities for fellowship and social activities to be found at both the Parish Church and the Chapel.

38% of people who responded to the question thought the local religious groups contributed to community life and were involved to a sufficient degree – a measure perhaps of the progress that has been made in recent years.



Children and young families occupy a special place in the work of the Church – held to be important to 10% of respondents and reflecting the age profile of the parish.

It is already known that lack of transport is an issue for some parishioners in attending Church, particularly the elderly or infirm, bearing in mind the position of the places of worship in relation to the outlying areas of the village. With 50 residents indicating a need, a way has to be found of providing the transport they seek, possibly through partnership with the newly formed Good Neighbour Scheme.

The role of the local Parish Church and the Chapel is to serve the community where it can and engage fully with all that happens in the parish.

The Church and Chapel both have facilities which are available for community use.

## The Vision for the Future

1. To be even more accessible to the community through the formation of an Outreach Group and to be equipped to meet the needs of parishioners.
2. With better communication, especially through Telstar, to reach and inform a greater number of people on a regular basis.
3. Further links forged with village organisations for the benefit of community life in Stowupland.
4. The church and chapel buildings acknowledged as a resource for the whole community.

“Use the Church and Chapel for fellowship.”

## REPORT: Environment & Utility Services

### The Issues

1. Dissatisfaction with street lighting.
2. Properties without connection to mains gas.

### The Vision for the Future

1. Improved environmentally sensitive street lighting.
2. Mains gas provided at reasonable cost to all properties requesting connection.

On the whole these services: mains water, gas, electricity, telephone, recycling, refuse collection, sewerage and television reception came out well with around 80% of residents rating them either ‘good’ or ‘reasonable’. Highway maintenance, cleansing and winter gritting were rated ‘good’ or ‘reasonable’ by around 60% of respondents but street lighting was rated ‘poor’ by nearly 50% of respondents and ‘good’ by only 10%. However, it is important that any additional street lighting does not damage the visual environment. Care would need to be taken in selecting locations for new street lights.

Some 400 respondents have no mains gas and of these 139 would like to be connected, including 40 in Saxham Street.

# REPORT: Information / Local Government

## The Issues

1. Residents need to be better informed of Parish, District and County Council decisions.
2. Elected members should be more aware of local concerns.

“More pro-active Parish Council or at least seen to be so.”

Just over half of those responding felt that the Parish Council publishes its decisions and activities well or reasonably well. Also, just over half felt that Parish Councillors are aware of local concerns and feelings. Only 34% felt that the District Councillor is aware and the figure for the (former) County Councillor was 22%.

*Since the survey, Eleanor Ramsey has become the County Councillor for the new division which includes Stowupland.*

Clearly, there is much to be done to raise awareness and ensure that residents are kept informed of Parish, District and County Council policies and decisions. The parish website provides a useful way of reaching many residents and could be more widely used. Also the village magazine, Telstar, which is now being published with ten issues per year, will help, as will the greater awareness raised by community events in the village.

“How about publishing decisions that have been made at Parish Council meetings in Telstar.”

Responses to the questionnaire indicate that most people feel that they are adequately informed about what is going on in Stowupland. 83% said that they get their information from Telstar even though at the time it was published only quarterly. 65% said that they get their information from notice boards. Only 10% said that there is insufficient information available.

Asked if Telstar should be published monthly, over 45% said that it should. A request for help in producing Telstar resulted in a very positive response.



*Its production is now a team effort, its quality and content have improved greatly and ten issues are now published per year. Two early editions of the new monthly magazine were entered into the countywide competition for parish magazines and were placed sixth – only a few points behind the winner.*

## The Vision for the Future

1. Residents well informed of decisions made by Parish, District and County Councils.
2. Elected members are fully aware of the concerns and feelings of residents and these are taken into account in arriving at decisions that affect the village.

# REPORT: Environment

## The Issues

1. Maintain a belt of open countryside around Stowupland, particularly the land between Stowmarket and the village.
2. Preservation and enhancement of the physical environment in and around the village.
3. Preservation of the character of The Green.
4. Improvements to and maintenance of trees (individual and woodlands), hedgerows, ponds and footpaths in and around the village.

The physical environment in and around Stowupland is very important to the residents. When asked **“What elements of the countryside around Stowupland do you value?”** well over 80% of the 1144 respondents said ‘open landscapes’ and ‘The Green’.

The ‘tranquillity’ (70%) and ‘local identity’ (57%) also scored highly.

There was a lot of support for a range of measures for improving the environment in and around the village. In particular – cleaning out ponds (66%), keeping hedgerows tidy (55%), keeping The Green trimmed (52%) and planting trees, preserving individual trees and looking after the woodlands (around 50%).

There were also alternative views expressed by a significant minority (around 33%) to cut the grass on The Green less regularly and letting hedgerows grow naturally as well as planting more hedgerows.



*The Green*

**“In no way should the village green be spoilt – peaceful and tranquil.”**

Also on the subject of hedgerows there was good support for Stowupland carrying out its own Hedgerow Survey and this is now to be taken forward by a team of volunteers from the village.

The subject of ‘footpaths’ also generated a lot of responses and views. Footpaths in and around the village are clearly well used by residents. Over 90% of those who responded to the question on ‘improving the environment’ said footpaths should be kept clear with the main problems identified being ‘bushes/nettles’ (43%), ‘crops encroaching onto paths’ (29%) and ‘mud/water/ditches’ (28%).

It was also encouraging to learn that 38 out of the 108 respondents to the Youth Questionnaire expressed an interest in taking part in environmental projects.

**“Plant thousands of trees.”**

## The Vision for the Future

1. All the land between the village and Stowmarket remains undeveloped.
2. Regular maintenance of trees, hedgerows and ponds.
3. Hedgerow Survey completed and results fed into Suffolk Hedgerow Survey.
4. More hedges planted.
5. More trees planted and new green spaces created in and around the village for the benefit of residents.
6. Character of The Green maintained and preserved for future generations.
7. All footpaths maintained to a high standard. A survey of existing footpaths completed with any necessary changes and new footpaths adopted as necessary for the benefit of all residents.
8. A range of environmental projects organised with and undertaken by young people in the village.

# REPORT: The Community

## Community Involvement

One of the original objectives for the Parish Plan was “to stimulate discussion among residents on what can and should be done, both now and in the future, to improve community spirit and involvement in making Stowupland an even better place to live.”

Organising community events was one of the ways suggested to achieve this end. One of the biggest assets of the village is its village green, one of the largest in Suffolk, but little or no use was being made of it for community events.

The main questionnaire asked two questions:

1. **“Should more use be made of the village green for community events?”** The answer was a resounding ‘yes’ with two thirds of respondents (754) in favour.
2. **“If community events were planned which of the following would you be prepared to do?”** 541 people offered their help in areas such as planning, catering, running stalls/stands, arranging sports events and taking responsibility for children’s events.

The main questionnaire also included a tear-off page where residents who wanted to become involved and help in any of the activities highlighted could tick the activity they were interested in and give their name, address and telephone number to be contacted later. 71 residents completed this sheet and provided a nucleus of volunteers who took responsibility for organising a range of successful groups, activities and events well before the publication of this Parish Plan –

a Good Neighbour Scheme; more Neighbourhood Watch Schemes; an editorial board who successfully took over the running of the village magazine, ‘Telstar’ and Quiz Nights to raise money for the Parish Plan and the ‘Goats for Africa’ appeal; a working group who organised a highly successful Village Fun Day and Live Music Event on The Green – the first for over 30 years. More events are now planned for the future.

## Community Spirit

The final question asked **“What do you think could be done to improve ‘Community Spirit’ in the village?”**. The range of innovative ideas that poured in from residents will provide the inspiration for many more village events and activities for some time to come. The Parish Council has already given the go-ahead for the formation of a committee to organise future events for the village.



*Enjoying the first Fun Day!*

## Where to Now?

What should happen now? Well the production of this Parish Plan sees the end of the task for the Steering Group. Our findings and recommendations are summarised in the Report and Action Plan that make-up this Parish Plan together with suggestions on which body or group should take them forward.

The findings from the questionnaires are being circulated to all those bodies and organisations who have expressed an interest in the outcomes together with all those who we think should be influenced by the views expressed by so many of the residents of Stowupland.

It will be of particular importance to take forward the main issues with Mid Suffolk Planning Department to ensure that the Stowupland Parish Plan informs the preparation of local development plans and policies through the adoption of the main findings as Supplementary Planning Guidance. It is this Guidance which will eventually form part of the evidence base for the Mid Suffolk Local Development Framework.

**Above all the Parish Plan now needs a strong commitment from the Parish Council and the continued enthusiasm and whole-hearted support of the residents of Stowupland to ensure that this Parish Plan builds on the achievements of the community to date and, because people believe it does –**

**“... set out a vision of what is important, how new development can best be fitted in, how to preserve valued local features and to map out facilities which the community needs to safeguard for the future”**

**will continue the work to ensure that the Action Plan is vigorously pursued and delivered.**

# Acknowledgements

## Steering Committee

Nic Perks	Chairman
Jerry Voden	Vice-Chairman
Tony Stevens	Secretary
Keith Welham	Treasurer
Julia Gladwell	Design & Publicity

Roy Cooper

Christine Williams

Ben Miller

Former members who provided valuable help and support along the way:

Rob Day

Helen James

Caroline Oliver

Pam Kowalczyk

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The timely advice and assistance of



Assistance has come from many sources but we would particularly like to thank the Reverend Canon Deirdre Parmenter and Holy Trinity Church who have so generously allowed the Steering Group to hold their regular meetings at the Church Hall without charge.

Stowupland Parish Council who have provided constant support for our work as well as making a generous donation.

The Questionnaire, Report Summary and the Parish Plan were designed and set by Julia Gladwell and printed by Gipping Press Ltd.

Last but not least the Steering Group are grateful to all those residents who contributed their opinions, views and ideas as well as their support for this Parish Plan. We could not have done it without you. Thank you all.

# A C T I O N   P L A N

ACTION	LED BY	PARTNERS	PRIORITY
1. Lobby Suffolk County Council for improvements to A1120/B1115 junction	Parish Council	Suffolk County Council Mid Suffolk District Council	High
2. Lobby Suffolk County Council for traffic safety improvements to main routes through the village	Parish Council	Suffolk County Council	High
3. Lobby Suffolk County Council for traffic management measures and signage to discourage large goods and other vehicles from using the A1120 and Saxham Street as a shortcut and to direct traffic away from the village and onto the A14 and other more suitable roads	Parish Council	Suffolk County Council	Medium
4. Pursue measures to result in speed reduction on other roads in the village	Parish Council	Suffolk County Council	Medium
5. Press for a more reliable and extensive bus service for the village	Parish Council	Suffolk County Council Suffolk ACRE Bus companies	High
6. Press for a better designated and well-maintained network of footpaths and cycle routes	Parish Council	Suffolk County Council	Low
7. Work with others to improve the safety of children walking and cycling to school and leisure activities	Parish Council	Suffolk County Council Schools Other interested organisations	Medium
8. Investigate and set up a youth club/drop in centre and other facilities for young people	Parish Council	Youth Council Suffolk Clubs for Young People Mid Suffolk District Council Suffolk County Council	High
9. Encourage wider enjoyment of our natural environment and investigate facilities for tourists	Parish Council	Mid Suffolk District Council Tourist Information Centre Suffolk ACRE	Low
10. Produce Supplementary Planning Guidance with the aim of retaining our village identity, its unique rural environment and influencing future development plans, including the provision of more affordable housing, for future generations	Parish Plan Steering Group	Mid Suffolk District Council Parish Council Suffolk ACRE	High
11. Ensure that the newly set up Good Neighbour Scheme develops and thrives	Good Neighbour Scheme Committee	Parish Council Suffolk ACRE	High
12. Set up new Neighbourhood Watch Schemes	Residents	Current NW Co-ordinators Parish Council Suffolk Police Co-ordinator	Medium
13. Work closer with Suffolk Police to achieve more visible police presence and quick response to incidents	Parish Council	Community Police Officer Suffolk County Council Police Authority Member of Parliament	High

# A C T I O N   P L A N

ACTION	LED BY	PARTNERS	PRIORITY
14. Environmentally sensitive street lighting installed where required	Parish Council	Residents Suffolk County Council	Low
15. Promote awareness of existing sports and social activities throughout the village	Parish Plan Steering Group	Community Sports Centre Sports & Social Club Village Hall Committee Other village organisations	Medium
16. Investigate and develop new sports and social activities	Parish Council  Parish Plan Steering Group	Community Sports Centre Sports & Social Club Village Hall Committee Other village organisations	Low
17. Provide better information to residents about Parish, District and County Council decisions	Parish Council	Parish Councillors Councillor - Suffolk CC Councillor - Mid Suffolk DC	High
18. Establish: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• better communication between Parish Councillors and residents</li> <li>• better liaison between Parish Councillors and neighbouring Parish Councils</li> </ul>	Parish Council	Residents Other Local Councils	High
19. Establish programmes for maintenance of ponds, trees and hedges in public areas and for planting more hedgerows	Parish Council	Residents Suffolk ACRE	Low
20. Arrange community events for residents of all ages	Parish Council	Community Events Committee Village organisations Residents	High
21. Set up and undertake environmental projects	Parish Council	Mid Suffolk District Council Residents Young people (Youth Council) Local schools Environmental organisations	Low
22. Ensure that the character of The Green is preserved for future generations	Parish Council	Residents Mid Suffolk District Council Suffolk ACRE	Low
23. Set up Hedgerow Survey	Parish Plan Steering Group	Greenprint Forum - Suffolk Hedgerows Survey Sub-Group	Medium
24. Ensure that the village magazine, Telstar, continues to receive the funding and support it needs to flourish	Parish Council	'Telstar' Team	High
25. Investigate the provision of more 'Green Spaces' within the village and parish boundary for the use and enjoyment of all.	Parish Council	Residents Mid Suffolk District Council Suffolk County Council Suffolk ACRE	Low

# Stowupland

