



WEST PARLEY PARISH PLAN



Map 1 - Parish Map

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Introduction

Towns and Parishes across Dorset have been preparing their own Parish Plans following Government guidelines issued in 2001 to encourage communities to have more of a say about issues relating to where they live.

Aim

The aim of the Plan is to present the ideas and wishes of all those people who live and work in the area for the future of the parish. We want to know what people need locally, what services, features and amenities they value, what extra they need; identifying any local problems that need dealing with.

The Plan should also be an opportunity to present to our local councils how residents wish them to deal with these and should be able to influence long term housing and development plans and contribute to how local services are managed and delivered. The Plan also presents a set of Action Plans to be taken forward by individuals or groups of residents, by the Parish Council and by other service providers.

Method

A Public Meeting was held in mid 2010 to explain what was proposed and there was strong support for a Plan to be created for West Parley. 28 residents volunteered to assist. A Steering Group was set up consisting of residents, representatives of the West Parley Residents Association and West Parley Parish Council to plan how residents' views could be sought.

A survey was designed, publicised and sent to residents, businesses and local groups and organisations. A separate survey form was produced for schools to get the views of young people who may not have filled in a questionnaire sent to their house. Everyone had a chance to give their views on a large range of issues affecting the village. The questions were posed in two ways; some were to be answered yes/no and others answered on a value judgement scale of 1 low to 5 high and a combined average figure was obtained.

Almost 1000 residents gave their views, about a third of all residents, about average for other Town and Parish Plan returns, and the results analysed. A group of residents drafted the text on the individual sections in the Plan and drew up the Action Plans with the Steering Group.

An 'open event' was held last July to present to the village the draft Plan and share and discuss the proposed actions.

Summary

The Parish Plan is a summary of how our community sees itself developing over the next 5-10 years. It should provide points of reference for decisions about our future involving social, environmental and economic issues. It is based on the views of the whole community.

There will be regular monitoring of the Action Plans to ensure that the wishes of residents are being listened to. Regular updates on progress on the Action Plans will be given to residents.

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West Parley Steering Group:

- John Cullen
- Barbara Manuel
- Richard Heaslip
- Rev. Charles Booth



Facts about the village:

Area - 453 hectares (1119 acres) of which 68% is rural.

Age profile - One third over 65, 14% aged 15 and under.

Population - 3560 in 2011.

Housing - 1530 properties, 95% occupier owned.

West Parley today



West Parley is a village of contrasts. It is semi rural, three quarters surrounded by attractive fields, woods, heath and the River Stour. Parts of the village go way back in time yet we have some of the busiest roads in Dorset going through us and major commercial developments and Dorset's only airport close by.

It is physically and constitutionally an entity of its own; a village with its own Council, school, village hall, recreation ground, churches, shops, post office and pubs - all the constituent parts of village life. It is far older than the recent settlements of Ferndown and Bournemouth. West Parley is referred to in the Domesday Book, has a church of Saxon origin and the remains of an Iron Age hill fort.

The existing character of the village attracts incomers to replace an ageing population and the Parish Plan Survey shows that residents value the character of West Parley and are staunch defenders of it. West Parley's distinct identity has also produced a strong community whose numerous volunteers provide and upkeep the public flower displays, clear the litter and maintain the pavements, paths and grass verges.

The Problem

West Parley has to assert itself if it is to keep its village status and its present character and identity. Today's economic and housing pressures threaten to virtually amalgamate it with Ferndown and/or North Bournemouth. Some developments - houses, roads, commercial expansion - may be inevitable. However, if West Parley is to continue as a separate community they must be planned in accordance with the Government's Planning Policy Statement 3, which states that *"development should create or enhance a distinctive character that relates well to the surroundings and supports a sense of local pride and identity"*.

What the Plan tells us

The main points in the Plan are:

- Residents feel a strong affinity with the village and like to live here. They are attracted by its rural and open nature and wish to keep this
- Around 100 new houses in the village are acceptable. Large scale housing development is strongly opposed as the green belt is highly valued
- The speed of traffic on main roads is excessive and some reduction is needed
- Short term parking is a problem and there is strong support for parking limits by shops
- Current local leisure and sports facilities could be improved
- Residents want to become more involved in interest groups and community affairs and be kept up to date with what is happening here
- There is general satisfaction with the local shops and health facilities



All Saints Church



Shops on Glenmoor Road



Our ancient past

West Parley has an ancient history. Worked flints and axe heads from the Neolithic Age (5000BC to 2000BC) have been found on the river terraces and the landscape is peppered with Bronze Age (2000BC to 700 BC) barrows (burial mounds). Mags Barrow, Parley Barrow and Ralph's Barrow in the parish and Gibbett Firs in East Parley, are all indications of substantial settlement here, but none more so than the Iron-Age Hill Fort at Dudsbury, overlooking the River Stour.

In earliest manuscripts Parley is spelt '*Perlei*', an Anglo-Saxon name meaning '*Pear-Tree Field*'. The use of the term '*field*' indicates an ordered agricultural life and there

is no reason to believe that Parley was any different from numerous other Saxon river settlements with farming dominating, as it still does, the fertile plain of the Stour.

How the land was used

From Saxon times to the Middle Ages local people would use an open system of farming, having a number of strips of land of one or just half an acre on the good land across the Stour valley. They would also be able to use the heath to graze their animals, collect wood and cut turf for fuel and use the open common grassland to graze animals.

West Parley had been owned by a succession of Lords of the Manor from around 1310 but in 1575 Sir Henry Weston sold his lands in West Parley to the sitting tenants as the medieval farming system died out, allowing the better land to be parcelled up into farms so that tenants could invest in new farming methods and improve output. For some time the heath was left unenclosed, but this was done in 1633 with local yeoman farmers being given ownership of long strips of land that are reflected in the landscape even now.

There would have been a number of tracks across the Common as local people moved livestock from their plots in the Stour valley and carried goods and livestock to market. The steady movement of horses and carts across the landscape meant that as one path spoilt another would be created and there were probably different paths for summer and winter as parts of the Common became waterlogged. Trees would have been cut for wood and grazing by cattle, sheep and pigs would have kept saplings at bay.

A growing community

From this time Parley was a slowly growing collection of small farms, such as Barnes Farm, Stocks Farm, Church Farm and Wood Town Farm, numerous smallholdings, and houses, including The Horns public house. Much of the settlement was along the prevailing east/west axis from Wimborne to Christchurch and south to the Saxon All Saints Church that was the main focus of village life.

Better houses, such as the larger farmhouses, were built in brick from clay fired on East Parley Common, but many houses were built of cob with heather roofs that fell into disrepair if not maintained. In the 1920's it was estimated that some 40 cottages in the area had been lost within living memory.

Recent Times

Parley was a fairly self sufficient community that changed little until about a hundred years ago. Census returns reveal a small and remarkably stable population with a number of old established families as yet little influenced by the rapid growth of neighbouring Bournemouth. West Parley became an occasional tourist destination from Victorian times using the ferry at Redhill to cross the river and residents used to go into Bournemouth to sell local market garden produce.

The Stour could be crossed with care in a horse and cart when the river was low but the death of two local girls in 1908 added to pressure for a better river crossing to link the expanding Ferndown to Bournemouth.



The construction of Ensbury bridge, first in 1910 and again in 1923 after the first collapsed, transformed both West Parley and Ferndown, with the main road to Bournemouth, still called New Road, creating a new Parley Cross and with it a new village centre with shops, post office and a garage. WW1 suspended major development but by the late 1920s / early 1930s the core of the current village was established.

Much of the land along Christchurch Road and to the north west of Parley Cross, still at the time part of the vast tract of unenclosed wild heathland, was sold for development, either as individual lots to people intent on building their own homes, or in more substantial portions to developers. A second wave of development in the 1960's and 1970's created the village we know today.

Those who settled here were often from elsewhere in the County or region and were generally quite young. A few are still with us and their recollections suggest a growing population still strongly committed to the idea of the village albeit substantially different from that which had endured to approximately the time of the Second World War. Distinguishing features of this period were the Guide Camp, started in 1931, Village Hall (the original Nissan Hut of 1948 was replaced by the Memorial Hall in 1964), St. Mark's Church (a daughter church of All Saints dedicated in 1957 and extended in 1976) and the Sports Pavilion and Club (opened by the late John Arlott in 1961). The dominant impression is that of a growing and thriving village welcoming to newer residents, many of whom became committed to local life.

Did you know?

- West Parley parish used to be much larger, including West Moors and Longham, but was reduced with local government reorganisation in the 1970's.
- The ecclesiastical parish still includes Tricketts Cross and is bounded by the Uddens Water but goes no further west than Dudsbury Road.
- Many family names have been noted in road names locally. Ellesfield Drive, Cammel Road, Plecy Close, Brune Way are named after past Lords of the Manor whilst Petwyn Close, Corbin Avenue and Lockyers Drive, now in Ferndown, are named after local farmers.
- Gibbett Firs, just outside the parish boundary in East Parley is the site of the last gibbet in the south of England. Part of it now forms the base of the sundial on the entrance path to All Saints Church
- There were gallows on what is now the Owls Nest Restaurant car park
- The front walls of the Curlew pub came from clay dug on Poor Common

In the Survey, residents gave a score of 4.3 out of 5 for the importance to them of the identity and special character of West Parley and this has been reflected in the number of residents who give their time to the community and are involved in local affairs.

In recent years the number of volunteers who keep the village clean, plant up and maintain the planters at Parley Cross and on New Road, distribute newsletters and pamphlets and clear the roadside litter near them has increased significantly. Many residents have time on their hands and wish to keep active and when seeing the results of improvements done so far they wish to be involved.

This community spirit extended to a group of residents standing for election to the Parish Council in May this year to ensure the massive house building threats were more strongly resisted and the Council became more proactive on community issues.

We are starting to see this community spirit in more tangible ways. The first village fete for many years was held in 2010 and another is planned for 2012 to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Many residents are members of local social or interest groups meeting in community halls whilst residents in some roads hold their own social events, such as BBQs and skittles evenings to meet their neighbours.

The survey also showed that there was potential to provide more information on what is going on locally and encourage membership of local groups. E-mailing newsletters is an excellent way to communicate but there are many residents who do not have a computer.

The Ferndown and West Parley Directory, Neighbourhood Watch News and Parish Magazine are being used to update residents on local issues. Making sure residents are aware of all the interest groups, volunteer opportunities, meetings and events in the village will support the already strong community spirit.

There is potential for existing venues to stage new community events, such as quizzes and scrabble evenings.

Businesses form a key part of our community and can play a great role by sponsoring events and activities, raising their own profile in West Parley at the same time. They have contributed to large projects in the past, such as the Millennium Gardens and continue to support improvements to the village.



Millennium Gardens



Parley Sports FC

Community Space

A number of residents have suggested that we need new facilities in the village such as a bowls or tennis club and the possible new youth facilities explained on the page opposite. The existing burial ground at All Saints Church is almost full and a new ground will have to be found if residents are to continue to be buried in their community.

These are space hungry. There is open land in West Parley and the majority do not want it covered with large numbers of houses. In view of the value placed on the importance of local community and identity, residents may wish to donate land or funds to buy land to provide these facilities for the benefit of future generations.



Parley Sports Club

Residents consider there are adequate facilities for team sports at the Parley Sports Club at present.

Parley Sports FC plays in the Dorset County League whilst the Parley Cricket Club fields both Saturday and Sunday teams in both Dorset and Hampshire Leagues as well as Youth teams from Under 9s to Under 16s.

The Sports Club offers membership to use the bar and other social facilities, join in local pool and darts leagues and has a function room for hire.

The Survey showed however, that residents felt that there is a substantial unmet demand for indoor recreational activities – fitness classes for young and old, dance classes, meeting rooms for games and hobbies such as gardening, beekeeping are just some of the many examples quoted, although some of these are already held in the Memorial and St Marks Halls. There is clearly a need to make residents aware of what is actually available here and encourage usage.

The Survey of Young People showed there is a real need for youth facilities. All this needs a Community Centre in West Parley, which could be provided in one of two ways:

- a. By building a new community centre, designed by the community, with a large hall, a stage, meeting rooms, refreshment facilities, and an outdoor sitting space. This would cost some £500,000 and might be beyond the resources of West Parley. If however the District Council's proposal to build some 400 houses (mostly with young families) at West Parley takes shape, then a Community Centre would be a vital piece of infrastructure to be provided by the Council/developers.
- b. Many residents comment that the Memorial Hall is an excellent facility that could be used more as a community centre for the village. The fine village hall at Corfe Mullen shows what can be done. At present the Memorial Hall is run on an all comers basis and serves a wide range of users. It could be re-organised to serve the community in regular classes and sessions by day and as a supervised youth centre in the evenings. Achieving this, with some help from grants by East Dorset District Council and/or grants from relevant trusts, should be within the capabilities of West Parley.

Another option is for the currently unused Parley Leisure Centre to be refurbished to become a community facility for older residents, youth groups or small startup/ local groups to meet in a small setting.

The Memorial Hall was built in 1964 and can accommodate large formal or social events and has space for 50 cars. It is regularly used for fitness classes, dog training, flower arranging, line dancing, embroidery as well as meeting place for the Women's Institute, Townswomen's Guild and political groups.

St Mark's Hall in New Road is well used by many organisations. Baby and toddler, line and sequence dancing, art, Tai-Chi, yoga and karate groups regularly meet there.

The other West Parley facility that could meet a number of recreational needs is the large recreation ground next to the Memorial Hall. An excellent new playground has just been installed and further improvements are planned. With more features on the ground, it could be turned into a multi functional recreational park, still with a large central grass area, but with an attractive garden area with some benches. This would become a meeting point for young mothers and children. On a different part of the ground, a substantial tarmac area with a net and posts could serve as a basketball/volleyball facility for teenagers.

Walking is an all age recreational activity and in West Parley there are a number of attractive footpaths, many little used. Footpaths are currently signposted but much more could be done to encourage use of our local assets, learning from practice in other countries. Better signage with names, distances and average times on them would encourage usage.

Some nine circular local walks of between 2 and 10 miles have recently been identified by residents and are on the Parish Council website. There has been talk of improving access to the River Stour so that walks could be extended.



From its historic Saxon origins as a small farming community in the Stour valley the village experienced only slow growth until the Stour was first bridged at the bottom of New Road in 1910. Much housebuilding took place in the 1960s/70s along and behind the main roads so that the northern edge of West Parley met the southern expansion of Ferndown.

Since then there has been little housebuilding, but in recent years developments have been in large sites in good but underutilised locations. Large houses unsuited to modern needs are being replaced by apartments, averaging 6 to 8 apartments per site. This is a growing trend and is inevitable and broadly acceptable provided that it is not overdone to the point where it changes the character of particular roads.

New housing

The potential for other new housing is limited by existing green belt boundaries and by close proximity to internationally protected heathland where building is not allowed within 400 metres. Almost all non green belt land in West Parley has already been developed.

Planning authorities have produced options during the last few years for large high density housing estates in the green belt to the East and West of West Parley, specifically in the Dudsbury Hill fields behind Ridgeway and the New Road field to the South East of Parley Cross. Numbers ranging from 100 to 900 have been cited in various options.

Survey results

The Parish Plan Survey showed that a large majority of West Parley residents value the present character and identity of West Parley very highly and placed great stress on this being maintained. Further, it is widely accepted that West Parley’s infrastructure, most particularly the roads, is barely adequate at present and would be overwhelmed by large housing estates.

Residents’ comments in the Survey are in line with government policy, which is to protect the green belt. This is particularly so in the case of West Parley, where the two large green belt fields are part of a ‘key gap’ between Bournemouth and West Parley. The maintenance of such key gaps i.e. the avoidance of urban sprawl, is the primary purpose of green belts.

Residents understand the need for new housing stock in the village but are concerned that once the open spaces surrounding the village are built on then the essential character and identity of the village would be lost. Asked to choose between differing scales of housing development over 80% accepted that West Parley should take its share of much needed housing and that a sustainable figure would be around 100 houses added to our present stock of some 1550.

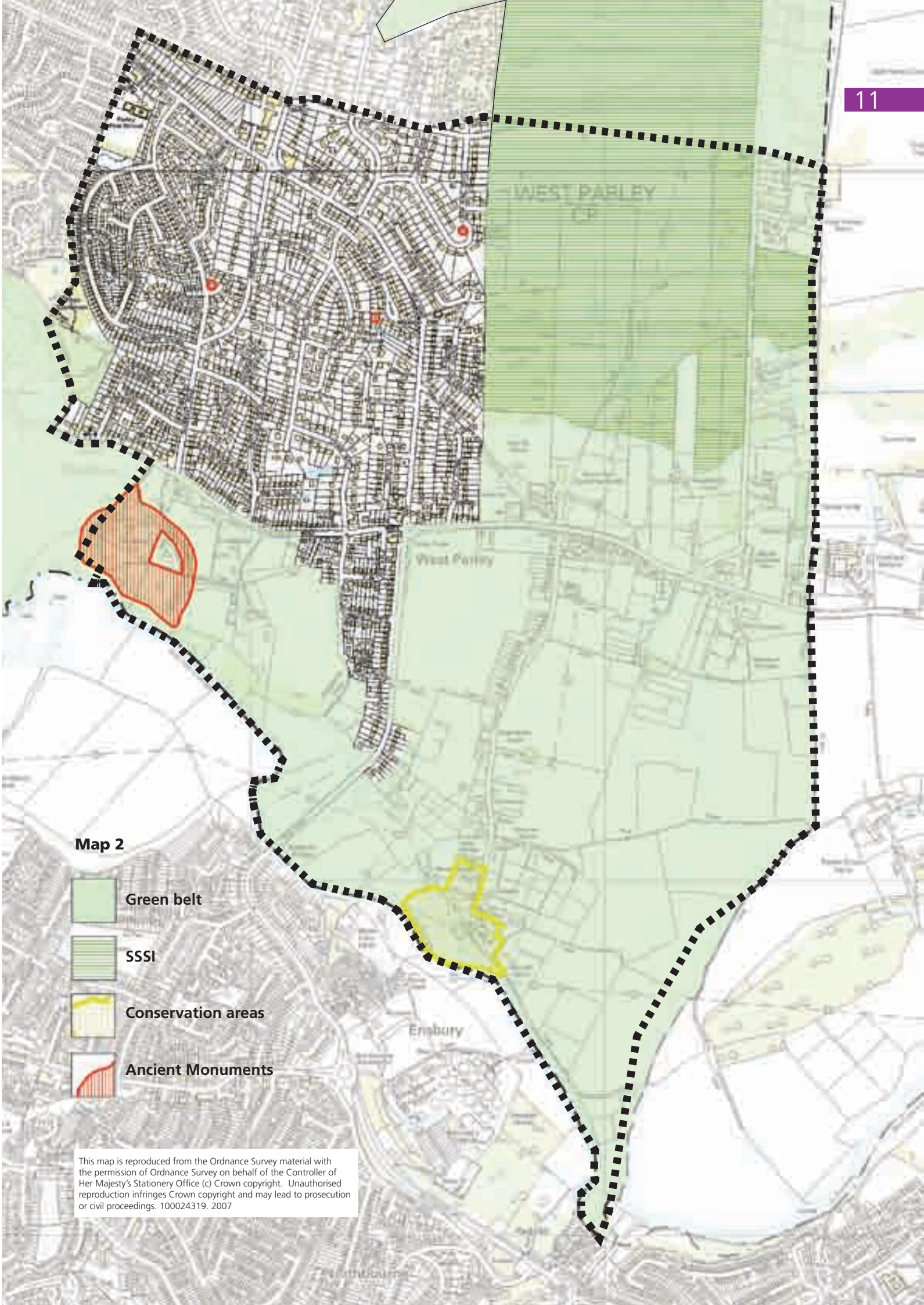
The preferred option is to build houses in small to mid sized closes in the several open clearings along the B3073 Christchurch Road to the east and west of Parley Cross. Such ribbon development has the merit in principle of being both traditional and broadly acceptable.

Shops and businesses



West Parley is adequately served with shops and facilities on Glenmoor Road and at Parley Cross. There are general stores at both locations, a surgery, a pharmacy and a post office, together with a range of hairdressers, beauty shops, chiropractors and takeaways. There are also a number of bathroom, kitchen and tile shops serving a wider area.

Type of housing in West Parley	
Detached house	48.5%
Semi/terrace house	1.2%
Bungalow	42.3%
Flats	8.0%
Type of household in West Parley	
Single pensioner	13.6%
2+ pensioners	27.4%
Single non-pensioner	3.7%
2+ non pensioners	34.8%
Lone parent	0
2 adults and 1 child	5.8%
2 adults & 2+ children	10.3%





It's busy here... with West Parley being dissected by major north/south and east/west main roads, it is inevitable that roads and road traffic dominate the life of a major part of the village.

With Parley Cross being one of the busiest road junctions in Dorset with a daily flow of over 20,000 vehicles on both Christchurch Road and New Road, West Parley suffers from peak time traffic congestion for a considerable distance from the traffic lights, sometimes up to the airport entrance in Summer and for up to ½ mile on other approaches. This means that residents find it difficult to exit their roads, pedestrians have difficulty crossing the main roads, a high level of traffic noise is ongoing and disruptive and vehicle emissions have a negative impact on air quality.

Improvements to Parley Cross were last made in 1995 and the need for further significant improvements has been recognised for some time by Dorset County Council. Permission to expand Bournemouth Airport was linked to financing improvements at Parley Cross. Designs that should improve capacity are now being considered.

To make crossing easier, residents have asked for pedestrian crossings to be installed at a number of points on New Road whilst more recently proposals for two sets of traffic lights close to the former Dormy hotel site as part of its redevelopment are now being strongly opposed by local residents in both Ferndown and West Parley.

It is suggested that all these issues are dealt with by looking at New Road as a whole and coming up with an overall design that satisfies both highways planners and residents.

Long term plans may ease our traffic problems. There are proposals in the South East Dorset Transport Plan (SEDTP) to link south of the airport to Canford Magna then on to Canford Bottom that would divert west / east traffic away from Parley Cross but these plans are long term aspirations and unlikely to happen in the current financial climate.

Speeding

The Survey showed that residents had a number of demands to improve safety for both pedestrians and vehicles. Speeding is a particular problem both approaching and moving away from the Parley Cross traffic lights.

Almost 60% of residents thought that a 30mph speed limit on the main roads is correct as for most of their length there are houses and street lights on both sides. Speed limits in both West Parley and Ferndown do not now reflect the urbanisation of the whole area and do not match the speed limits for similar areas in Bournemouth and Poole.

Dorset County Council have been asked to consider reducing the speed limits in our local area but have refused. The results of the Plan give more weight to residents’ demands and further discussions will take place.

Speeding is also a problem in Glenmoor Road close to the shops and Parley First School.



Parking

Congestion due to large numbers of parked cars at school drop off / pick up times makes the potential for accidents in Glenmoor Road much greater. Parking restrictions close to the school have been suggested and this has been agreed by Dorset County Council.

The parking problems by the shops at Parley Cross have been getting worse for many years. The service road has attracted long term parkers who car share into Bournemouth or park to save airport charges. A two hour parking limit is being considered.



Parley Cross

Cycle Paths

West Parley has a number of cycle paths, but some of these had become overgrown. In the last 18 months parish volunteer workgroups and Dorset County Council workmen have cleared them to restore them to their full width.

The Survey brought out a number of comments about the need for new cycle paths on New Road up to Ferndown and into Glenmoor Road.

Public Transport

Our current bus services are:

	Route	Operator
4c	Bournemouth to West Moors - via Ferndown	Transdev Yellow Buses
13	Bournemouth to Wimborne - via Ferndown	Wilts & Dorset
89	Wimborne to Castlepoint - Saturday only	NORDCAT

The Survey comments showed residents wanted buses to Castlepoint, Bournemouth and Poole Hospitals and better co-ordination of bus timetables so that services did not follow each other.

Bus priority routes from Ferndown through West Parley into Bournemouth have been identified in the SEDTP but the current road widths make implementation difficult.

The Survey showed that 63% of residents did not use the local buses.



Health



Over 80% of the Survey replies said there are sufficient health services in easy reach although most of these services are outside the parish, with only one Doctors' practice, on Glenmoor Road, being within. The majority of residents seem content that some travelling to health facilities is inevitable. West Parley has one of the highest car ownerships per head in the County with over 90% of households having a car so transport for the majority is not an issue.

The major comment was for better availability of dentists with good support for a drop-in clinic at Parley Cross. Also mentioned were the suggestion of a chemist attached to the Glenmoor Road doctors' surgery, better night service and surgeries being open on Saturdays.

A third of the population of West Parley is aged 65 or over, possibly due to the rapid expansion of the village in the 1970s/80s. A large elderly population, similar to other parts of East Dorset and Christchurch, who may be property rich but have a low income, brings accompanying needs.

Whilst people are living longer and most are generally in better health than previous generations, the need for medical facilities has grown steadily. With a preference for residents to stay in their home for treatment and support as much as possible, this can create some issues of isolation for some residents, especially if they are on their own.

Partnership for Older People Programme (POPP) in partnership with the WRVS have started a befriending scheme which will include visiting isolated elderly, walking the dog, accompanying walks, shopping and reading. It is run by volunteers and will cover both Ferndown and West Parley areas.

POPP have established a volunteer car service for Ferndown and West Parley. The scheme allows residents to attend hospital, doctors, dentists and hairdressers as well as any social visits using volunteer drivers, who are given a petrol allowance. The client is asked for a donation to cover the cost. The scheme co-ordinator usually works from home and the scheme covers the telephone costs.

Other services that will help the community, such as drop-in coffee mornings and a local lunch club to provide a regular meal, are being considered.

Young People



Parley First School

Due to the high price of property in the village, there are relatively few young families living locally and therefore a lower than average number of children and young people.

The only school in the village is Parley First School, in Glenmoor Road.

A Survey of local children and young people's views, carried out through Parley First School and Ferndown Middle and Upper Schools, showed that the views expressed by younger West Parley residents were mainly the same as the views of older residents. Concerns about litter and keeping the village tidy, street lighting, the number of road crossings, the volume of traffic and the number of cycle lanes were offered whilst the hope for new play facilities has been achieved this year.

There are a range of activities for young people here, starting with Mother and Toddler groups up to sports and social facilities at Parley Sports Club but a small local under 16 population means that young people rely heavily on leisure and social facilities outside the parish, in Ferndown and Bournemouth / Poole.

Yet the Survey showed that more local facilities would be welcomed. Further work needs to be done to clarify what young residents would like to be made available.



River Stour

Environment



The natural environment is an important and integral part of the Parish. It's where many of us go to relax and to 'get away from it all' and enjoy its wide range of flora and fauna including the rare dartford warbler, sparrow hawks, otters and deer.

The landscape is distinct in its geological variety; from the expanse of Parley Common in the north with its large areas of open heath and mixed woodland on the edges to the low lying flat Stour river terrace yet rising to Dudsbury Hill and Castle Rings, a listed Scheduled Ancient Monument. A wonderful escarpment highlights this prominent hill feature which is visible from the west, particularly on the footpath from Longham Bridge.

The village has some little wildlife gems hidden away. There are two ponds in the lane to Wood Town Farm and three at the southern end of Parley Common that attract a wide range of insects and birds to these quiet settings. Much of the rest of the rural area is made up of farmland and pasture, which are separated by a network of old boundary hedges that provide essential wildlife corridors.

Although the percentage of rural landscape is still relatively high, those businesses engaged in agriculture have steadily declined over the past 30 or 40 years. West Parley now has only two active farms left: Brambles Farm run by the Rossiter family with livestock and crop growing, and the 24 acre Church Farm owned by Edna and Andy Ross which is a PYO (Pick your Own) enterprise. The farm has needed to diversify into holiday letting in order to survive.

Other parts of the rural landscape which are not farmed, heath or woodland and recreational areas, are generally given over to the pasturing of horses, including livery businesses, camping and caravanning sites, and garden centres.

Trees

A large number of trees, primarily within the urban area, are protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) which are made by the District Council. New TPOs are added from time to time, especially when a specimen is threatened by proposed development.

Several key rural areas of woodland are also protected by TPOs, namely:

- Dudsbury Hill - in and around Castle Rings (Iron Age Hill Fort). There is evidence that some of the mature oaks adjacent to a paddock are veteran trees. This information has been passed to East Dorset District Council's Tree Section for further investigation.
- A large deciduous mixed woodland (site of the former Stewarts Nursery) - adjacent to 108 New Road, at the southern end of the field southeast of Parley Cross
- Parley Wood, an SSSI of mixed deciduous woodland. A management plan, as agreed between the Parish Council and Natural England, currently exists and is being implemented by East Dorset Countryside Management to improve access and for the long-term health of the woodland itself.



The Survey showed strong support for maintaining and enhancing the environment locally. Residents wished to see more trees along the roadsides and for the verges to be kept clean and tidy. The green verges are a feature on many of West Parley's roads. An increasing number have been planted up with daffodils, which have greatly improved the appearance and given a burst of yellow in Springtime just before the pink cherry trees are in bloom.

Almost 70% of residents said that they had walked either Parley Wood or Parley Common in the previous year. This indicates they are a useful 'green' resource for the village. Amphibian & Reptile Conservation (ARC) currently manage the Common and have a programme to restore open heathland, including cattle grazing in Summer months.



Although situated within the adjoining parish of Hurn, Bournemouth Airport, the only commercial airport in Dorset, has a considerable effect on West Parley.

History

The airport opened in August 1941 during World War 2 as RAF Hurn and was home to Spitfires, Wellingtons and Typhoons and towards the end of 1942 the airport became a base for a number of American squadrons.

However, towards the end of the war the airport was transferred to the Ministry of Civil Aviation and was for a short time the UK's only international airport with flights to New York, Sydney and Johannesburg as long distance destinations.

In 1958 Palmair began holiday charter flights that only ended last year. In 1969 the airport was sold to Bournemouth County Borough Council and Dorset County Council who subsequently sold it on in 1995 to National Express.

In 1996, after an extension to the runway, Concorde made its first landing at the airport to mark the improved facility. Having expanded the routes, the airport was to change hands again when in 2001 it was sold to the Manchester Airport Group.

In December 2006 Manchester Airport Group agreed to invest £32 million to redevelop the airport, which will take until 2015 to complete.

Site

The site of the airport extends to approximately 366 hectares, 67 of which are next to several international and locally designated sites of nature importance, some of which are in the 'green belt'. The site not only serves as an airport but also as an ever growing business park which currently employs about 2500 people with a 93% building occupancy rate. Many of the businesses are aviation related and it has the potential to attract major new investment, thereby creating a range of new employment opportunities.

The site is reasonably close to the trunk road network being approximately one mile from the A338 Spur Road which connects to the A31 trunk road at Ashley Heath. While the airport is located in close proximity to West Parley there is no regular bus link.

Present and Future

Planning consent was given by Christchurch Borough Council in 2007 for a new terminal building and for increased capacity of the airport to three million passengers per annum. The new departure building was opened in the summer of 2010. It is twice the size of the old building. A new arrivals building was completed in the summer and it is anticipated that by 2015 the expansion of the airport will create over 1900 new jobs.

Airport surveys show that most passengers live in South East Dorset and travel for leisure purposes. The airport is a member of 'Airport Service Quality' monitoring and was recently assessed second out of all European airports with less than five million passengers per annum.



New departures terminal
(photo Christchurch Borough Council)



Bournemouth International Airport

Survey results

Over 80% of West Parley residents have used the airport and value the convenience of a local airport. The business park is also appreciated for the employment it gives to local people. However residents do not want the airport to develop into a major airport and have considerable concerns regarding the lack of infrastructure to support the existing enterprise apart from any significant growth.

A major concern is the noise of the small social aircraft and the unacceptable periodic testing of engines. Night flights also cause considerable concern and disturbance. However, the airport regulations give it a maximum number of night time 'noise points' that it must not exceed and usually only some 40% of the allowance is used and for some time it is much less.

Residents showed strong support for East Dorset District Council to play a greater part in decisions made regarding the airport which currently are solely the prerogative of Christchurch Borough Council.

It is also felt that residents must continually monitor and comment on all new policies relating to the airport and press for an improved infrastructure at Parley Cross and Hurn. A link road direct to the A338 Spur Road is looking unlikely due to high costs.

While residents considered an increase in employment is to be welcomed this should not be implemented until improved public transport and major road improvements are in place.

A safe place to live

West Parley is an exceptionally safe place to live as confirmed by the crime statistics from 1st January to 1st November 2011.

	Dorset County	West Parley
Robbery	236	2
Criminal Damage	3741	9
Vehicles Damaged	3290	6
Anti Social Behaviour	34,295	71
Burglary	4610	19
Theft from person	669	0

Most crime is theft of property from sheds and garages and there is some criminal damage. There can sometimes be a spate of similar crimes when individuals target this area.

The biggest problems are seen to be petty crime and vandalism, particularly damage to planters and bus shelters. Speeding on the main roads late at night is also an issue and there has been a recent increase in theft of metals due to high commodity prices. The fact that there is so little crime here makes any crime seem more noticeable.

Police are especially aware of an increased risk of fraud and scams targeted against elderly and vulnerable residents. Some illegal trading has taken place but can be quickly dealt with. Violent and armed crimes are almost unheard of.

Survey results

Feedback from the Survey showed a surprisingly high score of 3.5 out of 5 when asking about residents’ concerns about crime. The figures above show there is little to worry about. By far the most comments from residents are on the perceived need to see a police presence but scarce police resources are allocated on the basis of numbers of reported crime incidents so perhaps we should accept how lucky we are living in such a safe place.

The police operate ‘Safer Neighbourhood Teams’ in the village. These is a full time Police Constable who manages three Police Community Support Officers, one of whom is dedicated to the village. The Team holds regular street corner meetings to get feedback from residents on their concerns.

A Neighbourhood Watch scheme covers the whole of West Parley. The main aim of the Watch is to reduce crime and the fear of crime in the local community and help create a caring community. A ‘good traders’, list is issued annually to ensure that residents can use reputable traders that are recommended by their neighbours. The Watch also holds an annual essay competition in the local Upper and Middle schools to engage with young people and raise their awareness of crime issues. A quarterly Community News magazine is a constant update to all residents on crime and safety issues.

Despite the efforts of co-ordinators, there are some gaps in the Watch coverage as volunteers move on. Volunteers are always needed to help maintain the service.

Police and Communities Together (PACT) is a forum for the Police, Parish Council, Neighbourhood Watch and residents to work together to proactively deal with preventing crime and improving safety for residents. The local PACT group is currently working to put parking restrictions in place at Parley Cross, installing lighting at the Glenmoor Road car park, reducing speeding in a number of areas and a number of other road issues.

Community and Activities Action Plan

Issue	Actions	Ownership	Partners	1st check date
Ensure use of existing facilities is maximised	Encourage use of all sports and leisure facilities by all means including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">raising awareness of facilitiesproviding financial supportcollaborating as requiredidentify and encourage new uses / users of facilities	Parish Council	All sports and leisure groups	March 2012
Encourage residents to be more involved with community activity	Identify opportunities, communicate details and provide support for community schemes including volunteering for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">improving appearance of villagebefriending schemespatient car schemes	Parish Council	POPP	March 2012
Business involvement	Encourage business involvement in community	Parish Council	-	March 2012

Recreational Facilities and Sports Action Plan

Issue	Actions	Ownership	Partners	1st check date
Improve facilities for residents	Agree plan for further improvements at Memorial Hall	Trustees	Parish Council	June 2012
	Improve condition of Millennium Gardens and put in new facilities in Recreation Ground	Parish Council	-	December 2011
	Agree plan for use of former Parley Leisure Centre	Parish Council	Schools and youth groups	March 2012
	Agree plan for Sports and Social Club	Sports and Social Club	Parish Council	March 2012

Housing & Development Action Plan

Issue	Actions	Ownership	Partners	1st check date
Need for extra housing	Lobby EDDC for review of housing needs locally	Parish Council	-	December 2011
Location and number of new houses	Work with EDDC to agree where housing preferred	Parish Council	-	December 2011
	Monitor Localism Bill and prepare for design and creation of Neighbourhood Plan	Parish Council	Residents	Ongoing
Use of local shops	Encourage residents to support local shops by raising awareness	Parish Council	Shops	March 2012

Roads and Traffic Action Plan

Issue	Actions	Ownership	Partners	1st check date
Impact of traffic on West Parley	Press to reduce speed limit to 30mph on main roads	Parish Council DCC	EDDC	March 2012
	Justify case for new pedestrian crossings on New Road (if not affected by long term road plans)	Parish Council DCC	EDDC	December 2011
Clarify plans and timescales for road improvements to Parley Cross	Ensure new traffic layout minimises impact on residents	Parish Council DCC	EDDC	December 2011
Parking issues	Monitor plans for parking restrictions at Glenmoor Road and Parley Cross shops	Parish Council DCC	EDDC	December 2011
Footpaths and cyclepaths	Agree new sites	Parish Council DCC	EDDC	March 2012

Health Action Plan

Issue	Actions	Ownership	Partners	1st check date
Need for health provisions	Check if provision is deficient for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">dentistsout of hours serviceSaturday working by Doctors	NHS	Parish Council	December 2011
Community support for needy	Identify those in need in community and work with agencies to resolve issues	POPP	Residents	December 2011

Young People Action Plan

Issue	Actions	Ownership	Partners	1st check date
Provide more play facilities	Agree plan for more play facilities in Recreation Ground	Parish Council	Residents	March 2012
Provide more youth facilities	Research opportunities to provide local facilities, especially reuse former Leisure Centre as supervised youth club	Parish Council	DCC EDDC Police	March 2012
Encourage more involvement in the community	Provide publicity for all youth activities locally	Parish Council		December 2011

Environment Action Plan

Issue	Actions	Ownership	Partners	1st check date
Pride in village	Increase awareness of litter issues and dog fouling	Parish Council	-	March 2012
Improve look of the verges	Identify all sites for tree replacements, new flower beds and any other improvements, including new planters at Glenmoor Road shops and replacements at Parley Cross	Parish Council	-	December 2011
Bus shelter	Agree plans for improving shelters at Parley Cross	Parish Council	-	March 2012
Environmental audit	Review all community assets to identify repairs and replacements needed	Parish Council	-	Annually
Natural habitat	Support Green Infrastructure Strategy	Parish Council	DCC EDDC	When issued
	Ensure mature trees are protected by TPOs	Parish Council	EDDC	Ongoing

Crime and Safety Action Plan

Issue	Actions	Ownership	Partners	1st check date
Visible police presence	More uniformed patrols	Dorset Police	-	Ongoing
Maximise Neighbourhood Watch coverage	Identify gaps in coverage and fill	Neighbourhood Watch	Parish Council	March 2012

Keep up to date...

West Parley Parish Council web site
www.westparley-pc.gov.uk for news
(Subscribe to regular newsletter)

Neighbourhood Watch Community News -
Distributed every 3 months to members
(Annual subscription £1)

Ferndown & West Parley Directory -
Distributed in West Parley every 2 months

Parish Magazine - Every month from Church
(Annual subscription £3).

Barrington Centre News - Events and activities
at the Barrington (Pick up copy at reception).

www.dorsetforyou.com - Type in your
postcode in 'my local' section for West Parley
information.





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