

ENFORD

PARISH PLAN

2015

ENFORD COMMUNITY LED PLAN

REVISION HISTORY

| Version | Date | Summary of Changes |
|----------------|-------------|---|
| 1.0 | 24-Jun-2015 | Initial issue. |
| 1.1 | 14-Sep-2015 | Minor grammatical/spelling corrections as a result of feedback from PPSG co-authors. Changes to page A-4 (planning). Corrections to Parish House Map (page A-1-1). |
| 1.2 | 9-Feb-2016 | Update of PPSG members (page 8). Update of the process description on page 9. Update of actions (pages 15-19). Implementation process and contact details on page 20. |
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FOREWARD

'On its current course, with no change of policy and no commitment to action, much of the countryside is becoming part dormitory, part theme park and part retirement home. Only if people in rural communities have ready access to local schools, local jobs, local shops and pubs and affordable homes will they and their children thrive, and will the nation meet its environmental and economic needs.'

A newly invigorated countryside is essential for hard-nosed reasons that affect our national future. The Rural Coalition is united in our conviction that our countryside is in urgent need of a new vision, and made-to-measure policies distinguished by the fact that none is imposed blindly from distant places but all emerge democratically from rural communities themselves.

The Rural Challenge

The above extract is from the '[Rural Challenge](#)'¹ document, published by the [Rural Coalition](#) in 2010. Many of the recommendations were later incorporated into the [Localism Act 2011](#), the aim of which is to devolve more powers to councils and neighbourhoods and give communities greater control over local decisions. The Rural Challenge document goes on to say:

'Sustainability cannot be achieved by how we currently live our lives. Change can sometimes be necessary to maintain vibrant communities and deliver more sustainable lifestyles. A more sustainable future for all rural communities is both essential and achievable. It demands a fundamental change of approach at both national and local level.'

'Parish and community level councils should be encouraged to prepare and publish a community action plan every four years.'

This is Enford's first attempt at producing a Parish Plan. The overriding aim has been to provide you with enough information about how your community works, and the aspirations of those who live here, such that you can play a full part in shaping your community should you wish to do so.

The Parish Plan Steering Committee
9 February 2016

¹ Please note that there are numerous links (to websites and online documents) throughout this plan. In order to access all this additional information, the plan needs to be read in electronic format, available on the Enford Newsletter website at http://enfordnewsletter.org/pdf/parish_plan/the_plan.pdf.

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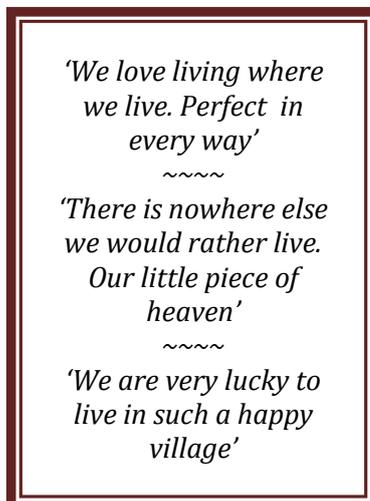
INTRODUCTION

What Is A Community Led Plan?

A Community Led Plan (CLP) is a plan or strategy for a town or parish (hence also referred to as a Parish Plan in this instance). Community Led Plans help communities to identify local needs and aspirations and give people a say (and an active role) in planning for their future.

This is how [Community First](#) describes the Community Led Plan:

'A parish plan gives everyone an opportunity to have a say about the issues affecting the community, and to suggest actions they would like to see taken in the future. Parish plans are non-statutory documents. The plan, when completed, highlights actions that can be taken by the community in partnership with the parish council. It can be used to influence service providers such as the Local Authority, and act as evidence of need when applying for funding.'



The Enford Plan

This Parish Plan was commissioned by the Parish Council in 2012 (the project was agreed and endorsed at the [April 2012 Annual Parish Meeting](#)) with the aim of finding out more about the community, what its residents think about living here and what makes us tick. Most importantly what measures might be taken to maintain, and improve, our happiness and well-being.

Since then, a number of public meetings have been held, and a survey conducted to answer some of these questions – all the information which was collected can be viewed on the newsletter website [here](#). In the latter half of 2013, the [National Census data](#) for Enford was also made available to the public, and this has added further to our understanding of our community.

The issues we uncovered will be discussed in detail later on in this document, however the picture which emerges can be summarised as follows:

- 'If it ain't broke – don't fix it.' The village has changed very little over the last ten years. Mostly, people are happy that it should remain that way, although it would be nice to have a village shop/post office.
- Not everyone wishes, or has the time, to be deeply involved in the community, nonetheless they appreciate the work done by the Parish Council, community halls, church and other service providers, and like to keep abreast of what is going on via the newsletter. There is a general aspiration for more social cohesion.

- The community is not unduly troubled by crime, and we tend to live fairly comfortably alongside the MOD and the farming community. A lot of people are however concerned about road safety.

Who Was Involved In Producing The Plan?

The Parish Council asked Steve Becker to lead the project and the Parish Clerk (at that time), Bill Vergette, to represent the council on the Parish Plan Steering Group (PPSG). Steve convened an inaugural public meeting in the Village Hall on 17 July 2012, where the following members of the community volunteered to join the PPSG:

Gill Gould; Tanya Becker; Terry Mundy, Anthony D’Arcy-Irvine

Bill Vergette retired from the council shortly after his appointment and was replaced on the PPSG, in October 2012, by another Parish Councillor, Adrian Orr. After Adrian moved away from the village in 2015, he was replaced by Cllr Nigel Murray.

Timescale

The plan has taken just under 4 years to reach fruition. You can follow the link [here](#) to see a list of the events and milestones along the way.

Acknowledgements

The PPSG would like to thank everyone in the community who contributed to the plan by attending the meetings and/or responding to the questionnaires and other consultation. We would also like to thank the Parish Council and Tidworth Community Area ([TCAP](#)) for sponsoring the plan.

A special thank you to Belinda Fowler from Community First, Devizes, for her untiring advice, support and enthusiasm throughout the whole process.

HOW THE PLAN WAS PRODUCED

The Process

After appointing someone to lead the project, and having formed the PPSG, the Parish Council delegated responsibility for producing the plan to the PPSG, ensuring they were represented on the steering group by at least one member of the council throughout. Thereafter the first task of the PPSG was the design of the first questionnaire. This involved extensive consultation with all the committees in the parish in order to ensure that the questions were fair, reasonable and unbiased and covered all the areas of interest. Questionnaire 1 was sent out to the community in December 2012.

Once the completed questionnaires had been collected, and the information analysed, the results of Questionnaire 1 were presented back to the Parish Council and other committees in Feb/March 2013, with a public presentation in July 2013.

Consultations And Research

During the following year, there was further consultation with the Parish Council - the outcome of which was added to the survey results and other data. At this point the more difficult part of the task began – ie. how to group the multitude of 'likes', 'dislikes', complaints, comments and suggestions, which we had gathered, into a concise list of issues and, from there, into a set of remedial actions which would benefit the community.

The first draft of the Action Plan was nonetheless completed and passed to the Parish Council for comment in September 2014, and to the other committees within the parish in November. It was always expected that some of the proposed actions would be supported, and others not so. As it was considered futile to try and implement actions without the support of the village committees, these actions were removed from the final draft of the plan. You can however follow these links to view see the original list of [issues](#) and [actions](#) proposed by the PPSG.

Questionnaire 2

For the remaining actions, the final stage of the process was to consult the community a second time so that we had a clear mandate, and a set of priorities for implementing the actions. This was achieved by a second questionnaire which was published in the October and November 2015 issues of the newsletter. The results of this survey were incorporated into the actions. The final plan was delivered to the Parish Council, and the PPSG disbanded in February 2016.

Community Involvement

As well as involving the Parish Council, input was also solicited from members of Village and Parish Hall committees, Parochial Church Council, Enford Community Organising Committee (Community Fund), Newsletter Committee, the Youth Club and the two pub managers.

Around 60% of households throughout the parish completed the first questionnaire, and a number of members of the community attended the two public meetings. There were 17 responses to the 2nd questionnaire, which equates to a response rate of 6% of households.

ISSUES WE IDENTIFIED

A full description of all the issues, and details of their current status, can be found in the 'Issues' document on the newsletter website [here](#). The document includes much additional information including:

- What precisely is the issue, and what evidence is there? What has already been done and what is being planned.
- How do people in the community want to address the issue? Is everyone in agreement or were there different viewpoints that needed to be accommodated?

An abbreviated summary of issues is provided below, with the actions summary following. Issue titles are preceded by an *issue* number to assist with cross referencing. At the end of each issue, in square brackets [], are the associated *action* numbers.

Communication

9/Broadband - 47% of survey respondents rated their broadband connection, in terms of speed and reliability, as either INADEQUATE or AWFUL (the main problem areas being the northern end of the parish, plus areas where there are insufficient lines due to too many shared / DAX phone lines). **[Actions: 2]**

17/ Database of Contact Details – There were a few concerns about privacy, but most people thought it would improve communication within the parish if key personnel had access to a comprehensive list of residents' contact details. **[Actions: 11]**

23/Passage of Information - There were a number of requests for improving communication within the village, through better use of the newsletter, email bulletins and notice boards. **[Actions: 6/7/8/9/10/12]**

35/ Bridge Building Lectures - The survey established that 89% of the community were NOT born in Enford and might benefit from better understanding of farming, country life and the history of the area. **[Actions: 1]**

40/ Emergency Planning - There was a need for a document which addressed what to do and who to contact in the event of various types of emergency. **[Actions: 3/4/11]**

42/Footpaths - The parish has a number of footpaths however these mostly radiate outwards on to the plain, and provide little connectivity between areas of habitation and to facilities such as the play park, village hall and pubs. **[Actions: 5]**

Community

4/ Community Cohesion - Not everybody feels included in the community - almost 2/3rds of survey respondents did not know many people outside their own locality. **[Actions: 5/6/9/11/12/16/17/20/22/35/41/42]**

11/ Engaging Volunteers - Over half of respondents thought that they did not contribute enough to their community, and a third said they would like to contribute more. **[Actions: 20/21/22]**

12/ Crime Prevention - Domestic crime is a fairly rare occurrence however, since the withdrawal of Salisbury Plain's MOD Police, there seems to have been an increase in illegal activity on the plain. **[Actions: 19]**

14/ Meeting the Needs of Older People and The Disabled - The general lack of pavement and street lighting, the absence of any amenities in the parish, combined with difficulties accessing public transport, all make life difficult for older people and disabled, especially those who do not have a car or are unable to drive. **[Actions: 8/12/16/17/25/28/32/40/41/50]**

15/ Meeting the Needs of Young People - Around 40% of survey respondents said they were dissatisfied with the activities and facilities provided for younger people in the parish. Over 50% of respondents, who have children, said that their children had never attended the village youth club or any of the organised holiday activities run for young people. **[Actions: 5/13/20/29/31/44]**

32/ Community Market - Around 85% of respondents said that they would buy from a local market, if one existed. Around 20% would use a local market for selling their own produce. **[Actions: 18]**

33/Allotments or Community Farm - A number of survey respondents would like to see allotments made available. **[Actions: 13/14/15]**

37/Litter - Almost half of survey respondents were occasionally or regularly annoyed about litter. **[Actions: 23/24]**

Energy

1/ Energy & Heating - The survey showed that a high proportion of residents could be getting a better deal on fuel if they belonged to a bulk purchase scheme. **[Actions: 6/37/38]**

29/Community Energy Project - The roof of the village hall is well situated for a solar panel array. The feed-in tariff is currently 13p /kwh for up to 10kw arrays (the hall should manage 10kw). **[Actions: 49/50]**

Village Facilities

2/ Community Transport - Members of the youth club felt that, rather than spending money on new sports facilities in Enford, a minibus would allow access (eg. for the youth club) to under-utilised public sports facilities in the area such as (Durrington, Pewsey, Amesbury and Tidworth), as well as shopping trips and the like for older people. **[Actions: 39/40]**

3/ Central Village Facility – The desire for a village shop and bakery was one of the most frequent observations in the survey. People really missed having somewhere in the village they could walk to, and exchange a bit of conversation with someone. **[Actions: 5/12/18/41]**

5/ The Village Hall – The range of activities needs to be expanded in order to draw in a wider cross-section of the community. The hire charges needed to be simplified, with additional concession for non-profit making organisations such as village governance bodies, charity fund raisers and the like. **[Actions: 20/34/35/42]**

7/The Church - There was a desire to see more use being made of the church as a general community asset. **[Actions: 20/21/22/43/46]**

38/Parish Hall - People who commented were quite polarised between those who consider it to be a part of the village's history, and would like to preserve it for posterity, and those who see it as redundant and would like to demolish it. **[Actions: 12/18/20/21/22/46/53]**

45/Outdoor Exercise Equipment - There were many different suggestions for extending the range and variety of sporting and recreational facilities at the village hall, however no one specific proposal had any significant level of support. **[Actions: 52]**

Governance

10/ Engagement of Parish Council With The Community - People wanted a better relationship with the Parish Council, and more information about what was going on (ie. transparency and accountability). **[Actions: 6/10/11/21/22/45]**

21/Integration & Coordination - The survey indicated that people sensed a lack of cooperation and communication between the various village committees, and would like to see them working more closely together with each other. **[Actions: 45/46]**

44/Selection of Community Area - After many years of being a part of Pewsey community area, Enford has been moved to Tidworth. The change of area designation has not benefited Enford as there are no direct bus (or even road) routes to Tidworth and the community does not use the shops there or send their children to its schools. Geographically Enford is linked to Pewsey and Amesbury via the Avon Valley and not with Tidworth across Salisbury Plain. **[Actions: 47]**

Housing

39/ Housing & Planning – What is our housing strategy? **[Actions: 51]**

Road Safety

18/ Traffic and Road Safety - Over 2/3rds of respondents had concerns over road safety, such as: speeding traffic; street lighting; car parking; HGVs and tractors causing road subsidence and erosion of verges; lack of pavement and use of C32 as a rat run to Upavon camp. **[Actions: 5/32]**

ACTION PLAN

With the assistance of the Parish Council, the Parish Plan Steering Committee has tried to respond to all the issues/suggestions which were raised by the community. Some have had to be filtered out as being clearly impractical, unaffordable or generally beyond the resources of such a small community as ours – where this is the case, we have said so.

Whilst attempting to allocate remedial actions against the issues, we discovered that there was a ‘many-to-many relationship’ – some issues generated multiple actions, and some actions were related to more than one issue. In the end, it was easier to produce 2 documents: one for the issues and one for the actions, and cross refer them to each other. You can view the full Action Plan, together with some thoughts as to how these projects might be taken forward, and by whom, [here](#). ‘Greyed out’ actions have since been either closed, completed or merged under another action.

An abbreviated summary is provided below. Action titles are preceded by an *action* number to assist with cross referencing. At the end of each issue, in square brackets [], are the associated *issue* numbers.

1/ Local Interest Lectures - The PPSG to organise some informal talks by such people as: local farmers, Defence Estates, environmental organisations, hunters, anglers, local industry, archaeologists, county council, etc to explain how the land and environment is used and managed. **[Issues: 35]**

2/Monitor Implementation of Broadband - The PPSG to monitor and report progress in bringing high speed broadband and 4G to the area via the broadband blog and occasional newsletter articles. **[Issues: 9]**

3/Duckboards for the Swan Inn - Swan Enford Limited to consider constructing a set of duckboards to enable pedestrian access, during time of floods, to the pub steps and car park from the other side of Hill House. **[Issues: 40]**

4/Emergency Plan – The Parish Council to produce a document addressing flooding , use of the defibrillator and general contingency planning in event of various emergencies. **[Issues: 40]**

5/New Footpaths - The PPSG to investigate the feasibility of creating new footpaths and/or cycle paths. **[Issues: 3/4/15/18/42/43]**

6/ Notice Boards - The PC to arrange for the rolling replacement of the existing notice boards, and to consider whether the new ones might be better located from where they are at the moment. **[Issues: 4/10/23/30]**

7/Village Hall Broadband Access – The Village Hall has a mobile broadband router/WiFi hub however, due to very infrequent usage, is generally disabled. VHMC to investigate option of a monthly contract so that top up is ongoing and automatic. **[Issues: 23]**

8/ Computer Help Sessions In The Village Hall - A series of 7 computer help sessions, to assist beginners to access information on-line, has already been run, however attendance was low. Need to review scope, content and timing, with a view to a new programme at a later date. **[Issues: 14/23]**

9/ More Reader Contributions In The Newsletter - Reader contributions to the newsletter, newsletter website or Facebook page are always gratefully received, however are rarely submitted. Newsletter committee to lead a campaign to improve reader contribution rate. **[Issues: 4/23]**

10/PC Reports In The Newsletter - Parish Council and newsletter committee to continue to publish monthly 'digests' of PC activity in the newsletter. **[Issues: 10/23]**

11/ Parish Database of Contact Details - The existing databases of village addresses (electoral roll), phone numbers (parish phone directory) and email addresses needs to be merged into one database, then formally adopted by the parish council, and configured to allow its use by responsible people within the community, for example: Parish Clerk; NHW coordinator; Flood Warden; Church, community halls and ECF. **[Issues: 4/10/17/40]**

12/ Village Information Centre / Tea Room - The PPSG to continue to promote and facilitate the concept of weekly social venues with a view to hosting some or all of the following activities: coffee and chat; young children play sessions; online shopping; computer tuition; access information about events in the local area; meet with community police, parish council and other bodies; swap books, DVDs, children's toys and clothes, etc; buy and sell local produce. **[Issues: 3/4/14/23/38]**

13/ Identify Public-owned and MOD-owned Land - The Parish Council to identify and map the locations of public and MOD owned land within the parish which might potentially be used for allotments or children's play facilities. **[Issues: 15/33]**

14/ Confirm Demand For Allotments - The PPSG to confirm what is the actual demand for allotments, whether there would be sufficient volunteers to manage them, and to identify possible sites (from the results of the PC survey of MOD and publicly owned land, above). **[Issues: 33]**

15/Establishment of An Allotments Sub-Committee - An allotments sub-committee to be established under the jurisdiction of the Parish Council with a view to implementing management of allotments, once the requirement is confirmed. **[Issues: 33]**

16/Transport for Older and/or Disabled People – As a follow on to the free transport service, offered to attendees at Village Hall events, the PPSG to investigate whether the concept could be expanded to include more people willing to provide lifts to local shops, bus-stops and doctors surgeries, either on an individual basis or by participating through the LINK scheme. **[Issues: 4/14]**

17/Free and Subsidised Events At The Village Hall - The Village Hall to continue to lay on free and subsidised community events, to include some events specifically targeted at over-60s: over 60s lunches; dance evenings. **[Issues: 4/14]**

18/Community Market - The PPSG to investigate establishing an occasional market, probably at the VH, for members of the community to buy and sell local produce. **[Issues: 3/32/38]**

19/Re-establish Neighbourhood Watch - The area coordinator to seek to engage fresh volunteers to fill the NHW coordinator vacancies. **[Issues: 12]**

20/Register of Volunteers - The PPSG to build a register of community volunteers, where residents can specify what skills they have, what sort of activity they are particularly interested in and would be prepared to undertake, and on what basis (eg. hours per month, or number of days per year). This information to be added to the village database for use by approved users. **[Issues: 4/5/7/11/15/38]**

21/Publication of Minutes and Accounts - Village committees to ensure that the community are kept abreast of their activities via timely advance notice of meetings and events, published minutes, lists of members, accounts and occasional newsletter articles submitted to the newsletter committee. Newsletter committee to ensure that newsletter website is kept up to date with the above material. **[Issues: 7/10/11/38]**

22/Rotation of Committee Members - Committees are to endeavour to rotate membership on a regular basis so as to increase the number of people participating in the running of the community. **[Issues: 4/7/10/11/38]**

23/Community Litter Sweep - Parish Council are to re-instigate one day a year as a community litter sweep, advertise this in the newsletter and make available litter collection equipment on that day to anyone wishing to take part. **[Issues: 37]**

24/Litter Awareness Campaign - Parish Council and newsletter committee to establish an awareness campaign to combat casual littering and fly-tipping, and to promote community self help. **[Issues: 37]**

25/Car Sharing – PPSG to conduct a trial, of Wiltshire Liftshare (<https://wiltshire.liftshare.com/>) and the car sharing application for mobile devices (Bla Bla Car), to see how well it works. If successful, launch a campaign to get members of the community to sign up. **[Issues: 14/31/43]**

28/Older People Awareness Campaign - The newsletter committee to publish occasional articles dealing with loneliness (<http://www.beafriendtoday.org.uk/>) and the every day difficulties of living in the village. Discuss the need to befriend elderly residents, and assist with shopping, lifts to and from the bus stop, etc where possible. **[Issues: 14]**

29/Events For Young People In The Village Hall - The Village Hall to continue to host theatre productions, family fun days and similar events aimed at young people on the basis of 2 or 3 per year, during the holiday periods. **[Issues: 15]**

32/Road Safety Improvements - The Parish Council to maintain a list of endorsed, prioritised road safety improvement projects, to be used for mopping up local authority / MOD 'end of financial year' under-spends, as and when such money and resources once again become available. The document is to be placed on the newsletter website. **[Issues: 14/18/43]**

33/'On Your Bike' Newsletter Campaign - Newsletter committee to launch a campaign to promote the health and environmental benefits of cycling to the local shops as an alternative to driving. **[Issues: 43]**

34/Village Hall Hire Charges Review - The Village Hall committee should continue the current review, and update, of its hire charge structure and policy. **[Issues: 5]**

35/Village Entertainments Committee - The Parish Council to take the lead in facilitating an entertainments sub-committee. **[Issues: 4/5]**

36/Publicise Bulk Oil and Electricity Schemes - Newsletter committee to publicise bulk oil and electricity schemes, and encourage people to write in with their own energy saving experiences. **[Issues: 1]**

37/Promote Domestic Energy Efficiency - PPSG to publish occasional newsletter articles on topics such as: how to convert to Economy 7; alternatives such as heat pumps; low energy lighting; insulation; Green Deal. **[Issues: 1]**

38/Bulk Coal/Log Buying Schemes - PPSG to investigate whether there is a bulk coal and/or log buying scheme in this area. **[Issues: 1]**

39/ Public & Community Transport Officer - The Parish Council to appoint an officer with responsibility for overseeing the area of public and community transport. **[Issues: 2]**

40/Community Transport Services - The PPSG to investigate the mechanism for minibus hire, and other community transport, available to residents of Enford, and publicise this in the newsletter. **[Issues: 2/14]**

41/Community Shop / Bakery - The PPSG to meet with the two pub landlords and discuss ideas for expanding operations to include limited sales of groceries, newspapers and coffee/tea, cakes and bread outside of normal pub hours. **[Issues: 3/4/14]**

42/Community Participation - Residents to keep abreast of what is happening in the community, to attend events where possible and to play as active a role as circumstances allow. **[Issues: 4/5]**

43/Church Development Plan - The PCC is to publish a maintenance and development plan for the church, so that the community can understand the extent of work and cost required for its upkeep, and therefore be in a better informed position to engage with the PCC regarding the future of this key asset. **[Issues: 7]**

44/Play Parks Project Team - The PPSG, in conjunction with the PC, to re-establish a play parks project team to determine what sort of facility should be constructed, and where, and how it will be financed. **[Issues: 15]**

45/Precept Donations - The Parish Council is to develop criteria for allocation of donations from the precept, with recipients required to bid for the money, and to state what it will be used for. At subsequent precept meetings, recipients should be required to account to the PC for expenditure in order to qualify for a donation the next time around. **[Issues: 10/21]**

46/Village Coordination Meetings - The PC should chair bi-annual meetings with the other parish committees with a view to: coordination of event planning; coordination of mutual assistance between committees; monitoring governance of the parish committees; agreeing allocation of precept and community fund donations; coordinating and overseeing bids for community area grants and the like; monitoring progress of the Parish Plan. **[Issues: 7/21/38]**

47/Community Area Re-Allocation - The PC to consider the pros and cons of Enford remaining under Tidworth Community Area, and investigate whether we have the option of returning to Pewsey area at some point in the future. **[Issues: 44]**

49/Village Hall Community Energy Project - VHMC to consider investing in a solar PV array for the Village Hall, possibly in conjunction with electric vehicle and shopping scooter charging points in the car park. **[Issues: 29]**

50/Shopping Scooters – PPSG to investigate the feasibility of purchasing a community-owned shopping scooter, with attendant combined storage/charging points at one or two locations in the village. **[Issues: 14/29]**

52/Outdoor Exercise Equipment - The VHMC to investigate the costs of purchase, installation, maintenance, insurance and periodic safety inspections, agree a site with the other committees and seek funding from the ECF, precept and Area Board. **[Issues: 45]**

53/ Parish Hall Development Plan - The Parish Hall committee is to consult with the community and the PC, and then publish its development plan for the future of the hall, so that the community can feel confident that the hall will have sufficient funds to carry out such maintenance and renovation as is necessary to secure its continued existence. **[Issues: 38]**

IMPLEMENTATION

Although the chairman of the steering committee will continue to maintain the actions database (and individual committee members may choose to continue to be involved in one or more actions) having produced the plan, the steering committee has now disbanded and handed over responsibility for *overseeing* implementation to the Parish Council who will decide what happens next. The important thing to note is that the Action Plan belongs to the whole community.

Suggested plan for implementation is as follows:

- **Newsletter Ballot** –The newsletter ballot (Autumn 2015) allowed members of the community to prioritise the actions in the action plan and provided people with the opportunity to volunteer their assistance with one or more pet projects.
- **Creation of Project Teams** – Based on the priorities indicated by the ballot, and the amount of assistance on offer, the PC are now in a good position to decide which projects have sufficient support to take forward. Where this is the case project team(s), drawn from the volunteers, should be established to manage the project(s).
- **Parish Plan Progress Meetings** – The Parish Plan will remain an agenda item on monthly Parish Council meetings. In addition the PC should aim to hold a dedicated Parish Plan progress meeting once a year (as recommended in Action 46).

The Living Plan

Having begun implementation of the first Enford Parish Plan, it is hoped that another team will step forward to take on the next issue of the plan in around 5 years time.

Contacts

Contact details for members of the Parish Plan Steering Committee are:

- Tanya Becker – tanya@stbecker.plus.com
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- Terry Mundy - terry.mundy@lr.org
- Cllr Nigel Murray - nigel@nigelmurray.net
- Steve Becker – steve@stbecker.plus.com

ANNEX A - OUR COMMUNITY

History Of Enford²

The parish of Enford comprises several hamlets: East Chisenbury, West Chisenbury, Compton, Enford³, New Town, Fifield and Coombe. The village is spread out over a length of approximately two miles, with the parish church of All Saints & St Margaret at the centre. The village is situated on the edge of Salisbury Plain on the River Avon, and within the District of Kennet and County of Wiltshire.

It is believed that Enford was a well established settlement centuries before the keeping of records. The downlands are known to have been settled during the Neolithic period and there is evidence of a Roman villa near the river with a Romano-British settlement at Chisenbury Warren. The name 'Enford' can be traced back to a Saxon Charter of 934 A.D. when it is recorded that the whole parish of *Enedford*, which means 'Ford of the Ducks', was given to St Swithun's Priory at Winchester by King Athelstan, a grandson of Alfred the Great. *Enedford* is later mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086 A.D. as still being held by the Bishop of Winchester although in the 16th century, at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries, Henry VIII gave the parish to the Culpepper family.

Since its earliest days the economy of the parish has been based on agriculture, with sheep grazing and arable production on the downland, whilst the water meadows and rich soils of the river flood plain have been used for hay production and summer grazing. In medieval times Enford was a thriving community sited along the wool pack route⁴ leading from the Cotswolds down to the coast.

By the seventeenth century the general pattern of development that survives until the present day began to emerge. The great majority of farm buildings, cottages and dwelling houses were built on the valley sides, high enough to avoid the risk of flooding but low enough to take advantage of shelter provided by the higher downland. By the early nineteenth century the flood plain contained a network of water meadows, and the grazing and arable land stretched for several miles out onto the downland in the east and west.

At various stages of its evolution, the parish had several mills, a bakery, a shop, a blacksmith, a petrol station on the A345, a third pub (the Three Horseshoes) a post office, police station, a resident vicar and its own school. However the beginning of the twentieth century also witnessed the acquisition of farm land by the War Department for military training on Salisbury Plain. This factor, combined with the steady mechanisation of the farming industry eventually led to a massive drop in the number of farm workers, and ultimately the disappearance of many of the amenities which used to support them.

² The Enford Newsletter [History](#) web page has links to many articles and resources about the history of Enford.

³ Since the beginning of the nineteenth century the hamlets of Enford, Littlecott and Longstreet have coalesced to form a single village east of the river leaving only a small part of the original hamlet of Enford above the west bank.

⁴ One of the cottages still existing on the west bank is believed to have been a 'sheep stealer's' dwelling with an opening conveniently positioned at track level for the owner to extract lambs or sheep from the flocks as they passed by.

Housing & Planning

Like many other villages in Wiltshire, Enford is a patchwork of houses from different eras. Some, such as Chisenbury Priory, Cobweb Cottage in East Chisenbury, All Saints Church, the original vicarage (renamed Enford House in 1976) and the Swan Inn, date back to 17th and 18th centuries while others are more modern and belong to the 20th and 21st Century.



Twenty nine of the houses from the earlier centuries are listed Grade II and are constructed from various combinations of brick, stone and locally sourced flint and chalk - some are timber framed, others have thatched roofs. Although some of these houses stand in gardens, several, particularly along the very narrow part of Long Street, have front doors opening directly onto, or close to, the road.

Salisbury Plain has been farmed and grazed throughout many centuries with settlements established all over the chalk grasslands. Until the middle of the 20th century the annual cycle of growing and producing food helped to knit together the community as each person was involved in some way or other. Housing in the hamlets developed within this farming context and farm cottages were built for the many labourers alongside the larger farmhouses. Since the turn of the 20th century, ownership of property in Enford and the surrounding hamlets has changed considerably. This was largely due to the Army, who first conducted exercises on the plain around 1898 - from that time the War Office/MOD has continued to buy up large areas of land.

Many farms and smallholdings were affected by the presence of the army, as well as the increasing use of farm machinery. Jobs in agriculture became much more difficult to find and houses were bought and built by the War Office for employees. A good example is Littlecott House which used to be the official residence of the Station Commandant, then that of the Air Officer Commanding RAF Upavon and, more recently, that of various senior army officers. Elsewhere in the village the somewhat quirky house numbering system remains a legacy of former MOD ownership. With the reduction in farming and increased cost of housing, families who had lived and worked in the area for many years began to move from the parish.

Recent Developments

In the Water Lane area, a considerable number of houses were built in the middle of the last century on land that was once farm land and paddocks and, in the latter part of the last century, the Parish of Enford has become a particularly desirable place to live with small pieces of land in gaps and on the extremities of the parish being bought for new builds. For example, in Coombe and Coombe Lane where once stood the extensive outbuildings of Coombe Farm, now stand 3 large modern dwellings.

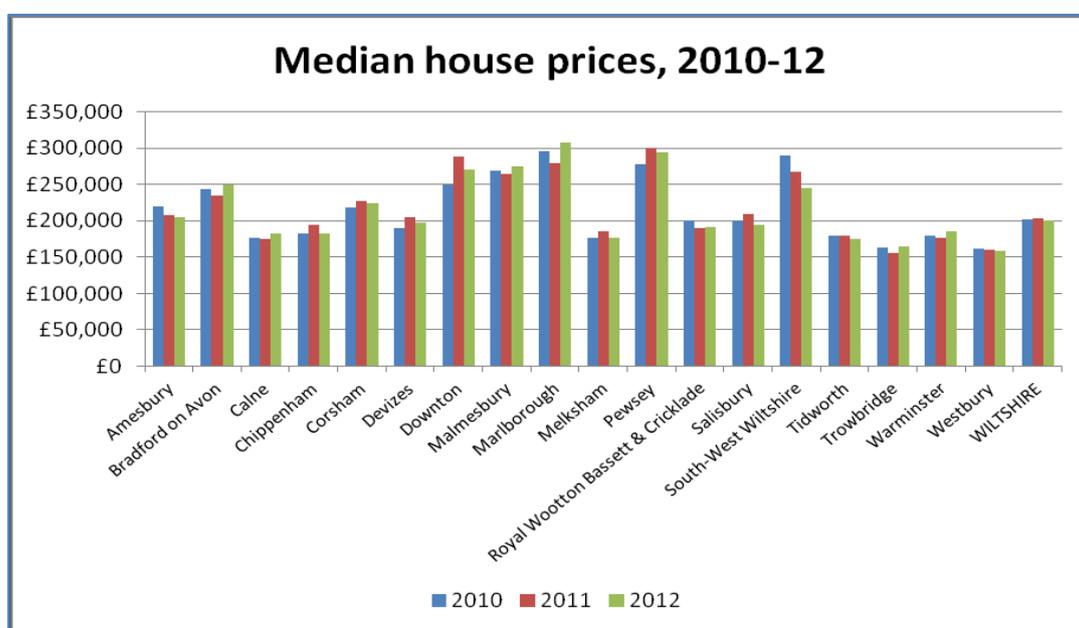
Despite the desirability of living here, essential facilities, such as shops, post office and school, have not survived, such that a recent proposal from Wiltshire Council to build affordable homes for older people behind Paddock Close was unanimously rejected by the Parish Council due to inadequate infrastructure and access to public transport.

Home Ownership

The parish plan survey did not seek to establish the ratio of home ownership to rental occupation⁵. But there has been a significant shift from rental occupation to ownership within the parish over the last few decades. Home ownership has an impact on the economic environment because when property prices escalate there is a sense of financial well being amongst home owners who are more inclined to embark upon home improvements thus invigorating the local economy.

The most recent set of median property prices for the Pewsey area, within which the parish is located, would indicate house price stability (as detailed in the chart below) but 2013 prices, yet to be published, indicated 3 to 4% local house price escalation.

It is interesting to note that the Pewsey area enjoys the second highest property prices in Wiltshire second only to Marlborough, courtesy in part, if not in its entirety, to ease of commuter access to London, a facility from which the Enford Parish benefits



Future Developments

The [Wiltshire Core Strategy](#) document aims to meet the needs of Wiltshire’s communities in the form of a 10-year plan that provides for the new jobs required by our economy and the new homes for our growing and ageing population whilst balancing the need to protect the natural environment.

⁵ See section on Demographics for information on housing statistics.

Although there are no strategic plans involving Enford, with the return of large numbers of military personnel and their families to this area⁶, the Garrison towns of Bulford, Larkhill and Tidworth are set to grow in size and the local housing, rental and jobs market may become distorted for a while.

Planning Applications

The Parish Council are very aware that careful consideration needs to be taken in response to any planning applications whether they are for individual properties, groups of houses or any form of industrialisation. The infrastructure (eg. sewage, water and drainage) is old and would need updating which would be costly and represent a financial obstacle to any proposals for anything other than large developments .

Other than the Grants Road area, properties within the Parish represent 'ribbon' developments, the adherence to which has preserved the rural environment, consistent with the conservation areas which both run through and border the Parish in the form of the Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSIs).⁷

It is difficult to conceive development plans beyond individual property infill, within the existing ribbon developments, which would preserve the 'rural idyll' referenced by many of the respondents to the questionnaire and which would not impact on the sanctity of the protected status of the Parish.

The ribbon development of the Parish follows the route of the river and as such is largely situated in the river valley. Consequently the spectacle of the rural landscape, within which the Parish is situated, is best appreciated from the high ground. It is therefore from this high ground that both the visual and environmental impact of any proposed developments should be judged.

The community was developed around farming and agriculture which still serve as the backdrop, together with the military down land, to the Parish's rural landscape and has jointly contributed to its preservation to this day. It is important that the unique landscape, acknowledged through its protected status, is preserved not only for the parishioners and science but also for future generations to appreciate such an unspoilt environment, untouched by the progressive demands for development and industrialisation.

Any planning requests are submitted to the Parish Council for consideration. Generally applications fall into three categories:

- Small items such as tree cutting or felling are simple and easily dealt with during a Parish Council meeting.
- Where plans may affect neighbours or those living/working close by, opinions will be sought from those people and will be taken into consideration by the Parish Council.
- If a decision about an application is in the interest of the whole parish a public meeting will be held to openly discuss the matter.

⁶ According to the [Army Rebasing Programme](#), we will see some 4,300 additional Service personnel plus their families relocate to Salisbury Plain between now and 2020.

⁷ Designations assigned to the River Avon and the down land which bounds the Parish to the East and West, incorporating the protected status defined in the Environmental section of this plan

Business & Commerce

In 1885, Kelly's Directory of Wiltshire listed the various professions and businesses that could be found in the parish of Enford. These included Thomas Carter, a boot and shoemaker, Henry Davies, a bricklayer and James Nash, a shopkeeper. Among the outlying hamlets were James Pennells, a marine store dealer, William Wedge, a beer retailer, Thomas Bushells, a shopkeeper and William Weeks, a plumber, painter and glazier. The pubs in Enford Parish comprised The Swan and The Three Horseshoes. The principal employment within the parish at that stage was agriculture with the larger farms typically employing up to 40 full time staff.

At the turn of the 20th Century the War Department bought much of the agricultural land surrounding the parish and agricultural jobs became much more difficult to come by and there was a shift of employment



away from agriculture towards the War Department. The Parish Plan survey did not directly address the issue of the nature of employment, but the Ministry of Defence continues to be a significant employer in the parish, with residents serving (or having served) as military personnel or as MOD Civil Servants.

Agriculture contributes significantly to the parish environment but much less so in terms of employment. Due to the advent of mechanisation, the numbers employed on the farms in the parish have declined to no more than 3 or 4 staff per farm.

Of the businesses described in Kelly's Directory of 1885 only The Swan remains in its original form, as a commercial business. New businesses that have emerged include Bed and Breakfast facilities to meet the demand of the burgeoning tourism attracted to Salisbury Plain.

Most of the retailers have disappeared but the parish continues to be well served by the services such as carpentry, heating services, builders and fencing services.

The Parish Plan Survey indicated that 20% of respondents had at least one family member who was self-employed or who ran their own business and this statistic reflects the ease with which businesses can now be run from home through efficient internet access.

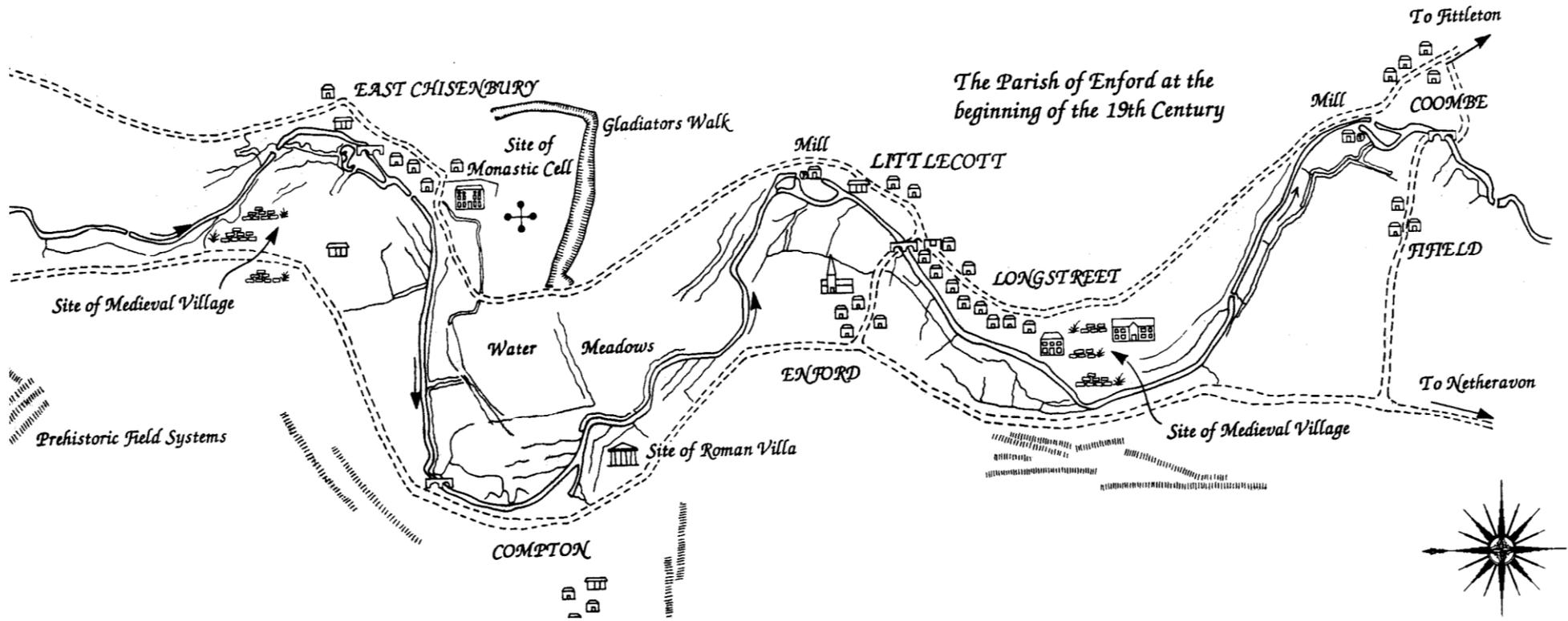


Figure 1 - Enford In The 19th Century

Environment

The dominant aspect of the parish is the River Avon and the associated water meadow network, from which the parish derives its aesthetic beauty. It is both an integral and unifying aspect of the parish, linking the diverse settlements visually and physically.

The built part of the parish is located just above the floodplain of the Avon as it cuts a valley north to south through the chalk downland of Salisbury Plain. The parish sits on the transition between the alluvial deposits of the valley floor and the chalk of the valley sides and downland.



The parish is designated a Special Landscape Area, as is the whole of Salisbury Plain. It also falls within the Salisbury Avon Landscape Character Area (LCA) and to the east and west is bordered by the Salisbury Plain LCA. The River Avon is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and Special Area of Conservation. These ecological designations are of particular importance - the latter in particular places restrictions on development and land use which may affect the ecological resources of the river. It also places requirements on all potential developers to carry out survey, impact and mitigation studies, known as an Appropriate Assessment, on any project which may have

an impact on the river.

Trees also make a significant contribution to the landscape of the parish and their preservation is critical to the retention of its character. Examples of tree preservation orders include an ash and two sycamore trees at All Saints Parish Church together with two mature yew trees at Longstreet House. Other important trees throughout the conservation area, however, are afforded protection under conservation area designation.



The historic landscape of the parish was in part defined by old sheep and cattle droves which are now designated as public rights of way and bridleways, frequented by hikers and walking parties en route to the open plain – these offer a further enhancement and dimension to the environment which benefit the residents of the parish.

It is difficult to imagine that the rural idyll which we currently enjoy, would have been preserved as it is were it not for the presence of the MOD - such large open spaces would otherwise have been earmarked for development of one form or another. However it is the open plains that surround the parish, serving as

manoeuvring/live firing ranges for the MOD, which deliver many of the [environmental benefits recognised in the Parish Plan survey](#).

There is of course a price to pay for such benefits afforded by the presence of the MOD, and associated military operations such as aircraft noise, [which was identified within the survey as an environmental concern](#), are one of them.

Flooding

Recent years have also seen an increase in winter rainfall⁸, with attendant increased flooding within the valley. Some of this due to the river, however much as a result of the high water table causing springs to erupt – the latter also being the cause of much potholing in the roads.

Demographics

The oldest census data (from 1881) shows that there were around **200** houses in the parish at that time. This stayed fairly constant until post-WWII when a substantial number of new houses were built in and around Water Lane.

As at 2011, total dwellings stand at **281**. Over the same period, population has dropped from around **869** to **625** – so the average occupancy level has gone down from **4.3** per dwelling to **2.2**. 67% are owner occupied and 33% rented either from local authority or privately.

The 2011 census records details of **264** households, suggesting that **15** out of the 281 houses were unoccupied at the time of the census. The electoral roll for 2011 also shows that there were registered voters in **255** out of the 264 occupied dwellings, suggesting that in **9** of the households the occupants normally live somewhere else.

The village is not a ‘retirement home’ just yet however, as can be seen from the charts below, we have a demographic ‘bubble’ of 40-70 year olds, and a demographic ‘hole’ in those under 40. At present we benefit from a surplus of healthy, middle-aged adults however the benefits could decline as the bubble and hole move inexorably to the right of the chart. It is probable that the bubble is self-replenishing – Enford is undoubtedly a desirable place to live, and people who can afford to will always want to move here in later life. But what the charts also suggest is that the hole is self-emptying – it is not difficult to understand that, once children leave education, mostly they must also leave the village in order to find work and somewhere affordable to live.

⁸ According to the [Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan](#) published by Wiltshire Council, total annual rainfall is unlikely to change, however, the patterns of rainfall could shift with total summer rainfall likely to decrease by around 20% and winter rainfall predicted to rise by around 15% by 2050.

The extract, at the [beginning of the document](#), from the ‘Rural Challenge’ provides us with some sobering

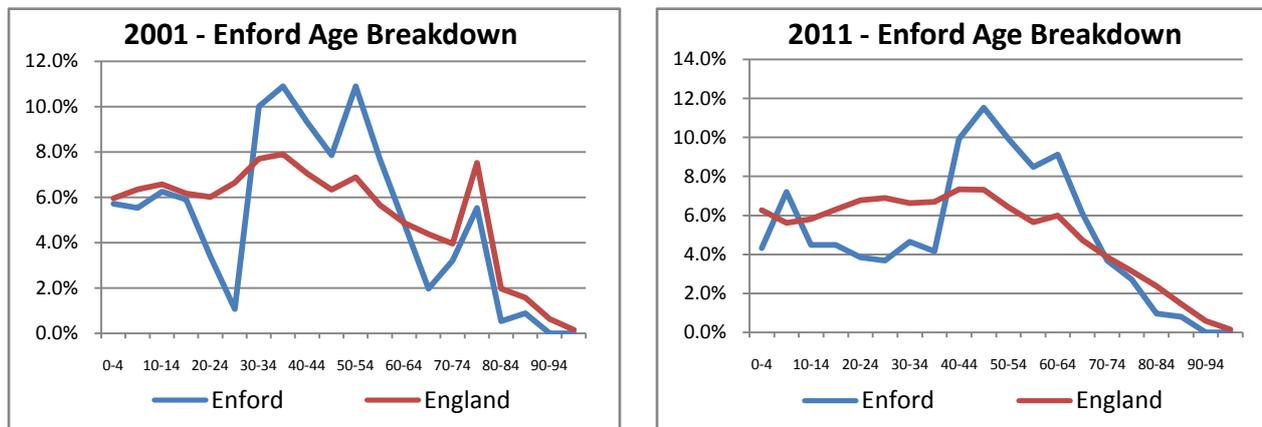


Figure 2 - National Census Figures

thoughts. In these times of massive cutbacks to local services, all communities are faced with the choice of either becoming more self-reliant or seeing services and facilities disappear. For those of us who are young, employed and have cars, this does not present a great problem, but for the elderly, the disabled and those unable to drive, living in rural communities starts to become tenuous.

It is natural that parents will always strive to give their children the best quality of life – what we, as a community, also need to ponder is how to do the same for the elderly. We will all be there one day!

Community Life

Following the decline of employment in local agriculture, the loss of Enford C of E Primary school in 1989 deprived the village of one of the last major nuclei for social cohesion. Whereas, once, children formed close friendships at the village school before graduating into local employment, it is now not uncommon for neighbouring children to attend different schools and colleges, and then almost certainly commute out of the village (if not move out entirely) to work in later life.

This has affected the village sports teams, and a whole range of other social activities, where both parents and children now put their energies into supporting the schools – with the village community taking second place. Neither does village social life revolve any longer around the church and, in these times of economic austerity, even the pubs have to attract a significant amount of business from outside the village in order to survive.

The Parish Plan survey also showed that we have a predominantly ‘immigrant’ population – with just **11%** of the population having been born in the parish. With such a large proportion of the community having their ‘roots’ outside of the village, unsurprisingly many of us spend a lot of time travelling out of the village to visit friends and relatives elsewhere.

Nonetheless, village social and cultural life continues to thrive and, given that there are only 280 houses in the village, we seem to do pretty well.

Village Hall

The new Village Hall was built on the site of the old Village Hall and Youth Club which was, in turn, formerly the village school. Funded by donations from the National Lottery and the Football Foundation, it is a state-of-the-art, energy efficient facility with a ground source heat pump and composting sewerage system. In addition to a main function hall and conference area, the building also houses a well-equipped kitchen, and showers and changing rooms for sports teams. The Village Hall management committee also look after the adjacent recreation ground.

As well as being the main venue for village sport, the youth club, special interest clubs, village fete and other entertainment events, the secluded and picturesque setting also makes it a popular venue for private parties and wedding receptions.

Parish Hall

The Parish Hall (Parish Reading Room) is one of many buildings, which were erected throughout Wiltshire, at the beginning of the 20th century, intended as places where men could go to read newspapers, as an alternative to the pub. Since then it has been used for many purposes from playschool to gymnasium, and is still an occasional venue for jumble sales and parties.

The hall was registered with the Charity Commission in 1999, with members of the Parish Council initially acting as trustees. It now has its own management committee who look after the day-to-day running of the hall⁹. Given its place in local history, some of the more long-standing residents, in particular, have an attachment to the building and, although showing its age, would like to see it continue to be maintained.

All Saints Church

The existence of a church at Enford is implied in the Domesday Book (1086). To the right of the path on the approach to the church, is the stump of an ancient stone cross (either a village or churchyard cross) which was known to be in its present position in 1007. There are a number of websites dealing with the history of the church, one of which is [here](#).



The church is managed by its own Parochial Church Council, and is served by the newly-formed [Avon River Team ministry](#), which administers the parishes through which the River Avon runs in this part of Wiltshire. In addition to marriages, christenings and funerals, services are generally held every week.

⁹ Although no longer involved in day to day running, the Parish Council remain as Custodian Trustees of the Parish Hall with overall responsibility on behalf of the community.

Children's Play Parks & Youth Club

The children's play park is well situated behind Grants Road, in close proximity to the main concentration of young families. It is maintained by the PC and occasional working parties of volunteers. The possibility of an additional play area in an adjacent piece of land, owned by WC, is currently being looked into.

The well-attended youth club, which meets every Friday night, operates out of the Village Hall. In addition to weekly sessions, the YC lays on a number of events (including carol singing) each year.

The Red Lion

The Michelin-starred Red Lion in East Chisenbury is privately owned and is leased to the current tenants, Guy and Brittany Manning – it has recently acquired an adjacent bungalow (Troutbeck) which has been converted into guest bedrooms. The Red Lion website is [here](#).

The Swan

The Swan in Longstreet is owned by 'Swan Enford Limited' with a number of shareholders who are for the most part current members (or ex-members) of the community. Company details can be found on the internet [here](#). The Swan's website is [here](#). The recently instigated Thursday morning coffee, cake and gossip sessions (The Hub) are proving to be a great success for the village. The Swan is currently managed by Peter and Emma Jefferies.

Enford Community Fund & Organising Committee (ECF)

The ECF is a non-public organisation set up, following the demise of the Enford & Chisenbury Flower Show, with the aim of raising and distributing funds within the community and to charities that hold a particular significance to the people of the parish.

Income is generated by the organisation of the annual summer fete and, to a lesser degree, the fireworks night, and is dispensed via the free children's Christmas party, and in the form of cash donations to various charities and organisations within the village. In the period June 2009 to August 2013, the ECF awarded almost £11,000.

Enford Newsletter

At the heart of community life is the Enford Newsletter, which has been running since 1967. Partly funded by the Parish Council, and various groups in the village, with the rest coming from advertising revenue and donations, it is distributed free of charge to every household ten times a year.

Recreational & Sport

At the time of writing, we have ongoing: one (sometimes two) adult football teams and a Saturday children's football club; an annual golf championship held at Upavon; the Avon Valley Cricket club (based at Rushall); circuit training in the Parish Hall; Camera Club, Gardening Club, Short Mat Bowls, Yoga, Pilates and Keep Fit sessions and a Friday evening Youth Club.



Cultural & Entertainment

Starting with a New Year's Eve party to mark the beginning of 2013, the following year saw: nine film nights, two music evenings, a village picnic and a theatre production in the VH; a concert in the church; summer fete, fireworks and children's party; two Christmas fairs plus various jumble and car boot sales, a book sale and shopping events. In addition a mobile library visits Water Lane on a fortnightly basis. Details of events in and around the village can always be found on the [newsletter website](#).

The Future

It is a fact of life that, without support of people from outside the parish, many of the activities would not have attracted enough people to be financially viable – in that respect, the dispersal of children to various schools up and down the Avon valley also benefits the community by bringing in people from other communities.

In 2012, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee party at the Village Hall showed what could be achieved with a 'cross party' village committee supported by the Parish Council. It is reassuring to know that the community can still pull such events out of the bag, almost on par with the [ox roast of 1953](#).

Village entertainment provides vitally important opportunities for the community to socialise. When we stop doing that, we stop being a community.

Governance

There are elected representatives at several different levels of government. Each level of government has specific responsibilities.

Parish Council

There are 253 town and parish councils within Wiltshire. Town/parish councils are the first layer of local government. They are elected local authorities whose role is to engage with local people and respond to their needs by representing them as community advocates or by providing services. Parish and town councils have a range of functions:

- As community representatives on other bodies (such as Wiltshire Council's Community Area Boards)
- Powers to provide facilities.
- Powers to be notified of proposals and surveys.
- Other miscellaneous powers.

Each town and parish council is made up of councillors who, on the whole, are elected through the ballot box. Elections are held every four years and the last elections in Wiltshire took place in May 2013. Anyone can stand for election to a parish council provided they are: a British, Commonwealth or EU citizen; at least 18 years old.

Councillors can also be co-opted onto the Council. This happens when there are not enough candidates at the time of an election to fill all the vacancies or, when a vacancy occurs mid-term. In these circumstances

the existing elected councillors, provided there is a quorum (ie. one third of the whole numbers of members with a minimum of three), can co-opt members to fill the remaining vacancies. The full rules governing the election of Parish Councillors are [here](#).

Parish or town councillors are elected to represent a geographical area known as a ward. The parish of Enford is divided into 2 wards (Enford North and Enford South). The North Ward (which has 3 seats) comprises East and West Chisenbury. The South Ward (which has 8 seats), comprises the rest of the parish. A list of Parish Councillors, and other relevant information, can be found on the newsletter website [here](#).

Other Parish Committees

In the case of Enford, the services provided by the parish council are supplemented by the work of several other committees. The membership of these committees is published each month in the parish newsletter. Governance documents, minutes of meetings, accounts, etc (where they exist) can be found on the newsletter website archive.

- **All Saints Church Parochial Church Council (PCC)** There are no published terms of reference for Enford PCC however general rules for PCC accountability are on the Church of England [website](#), and the Avon River Team ministry website (which encompasses activities at All Saints, Enford) can be found [here](#).
- **Enford Village Hall Committee** The committee's terms of reference and statement of accounts are [here](#).
- **Enford Parish Hall Management Committee** Terms of reference governing the activities of the management committee are [here](#).
- **Enford Community Fund and Organising Committee** The organisation's terms of reference and statement of accounts are on the newsletter website [here](#).
- **Newsletter Committee** There are no published terms of reference for the newsletter committee, however they do publish an annual statement of accounts on their website [here](#).

County Council

The next level of government is the Unitary Authority (UA). The county of Wiltshire contains two UAs: Swindon UA and Wiltshire UA. The Unitary Authorities are responsible for all aspects of local services and policy, including planning, transport, roads (except trunk roads and motorways), waste and recycling, public rights of way, education, social services and libraries.

Wiltshire UA (which comprises most of the county in geographical terms) contains 98 electoral divisions, each of which has its own county councillor. The electoral division boundaries are selected to give each county councillor the responsibility for roughly the same number of inhabitants. The parish of Enford lies within the electoral division of 'The Collingbournes and Netheravon' – this is currently represented by **Cllr Charles Howard (Conservative)**, who was re-elected on 2 May 2013 (uncontested).

To assist the UA with local decision making and delivery of local services, a number of area boards exist throughout the county. These boards are also empowered to spend money on local projects (the Community

Grants Scheme). Enford Parish Council is represented on the Tidworth Area Board. You can read more about Area boards [here](#).

UK Parliament

Claire Perry (Conservative) is the current MP for Devizes, and represents us in the House of Commons. The House of Commons is responsible for making laws in the UK and for overall scrutiny of all aspects of government.

European Parliament

The South West of England is also currently represented in the European Parliament by 6 MEPs.

- Julie Girling (Conservative)
- Ashley Fox (Conservative)
- Julia Reid (UKIP)
- Clare Moody (Labour)
- William (The Earl of) Dartmouth (UKIP)
- Molly Scott Cato (Green)

Their role is to scrutinise proposed European laws and the budget of the European Union, and provide oversight of its other decision-making bodies.

Council Tax and Precept

The services provided by the County Council, as well as police and fire services, are paid for partly by council tax. Wiltshire Council collects the council tax on behalf of all these organisations, and details of how the money is re-distributed are [here](#).

Your council tax payments also include a sum of money (typically around 5%) called a 'precept', which is used by your parish council to improve facilities and services for local people. The amount of precept is determined each year, individually by each parish council, and you can see how Enford compares with other parishes [here](#).

The parish council publishes a statement of account each year showing how the precept was spent - these are published on the notice boards and the newsletter website [here](#).

Transport, Connectivity & Road Safety

Buses

Enford is served by the 'Salisbury Reds' bus service. We are on route X5 (see timetable [here](#)) which runs between Salisbury – Pewsey – Swindon. During weekdays and working hours there is a bus in either direction roughly every hour. This is perhaps adequate for travelling into Salisbury or Swindon, but not quite so good for a quick trip to the shop in Netheravon – typically this would entail waiting an hour for a return bus.

The location of the bus stops, relative to housing, doesn't help matters. For example, from Field View to the nearest bus stop is well over half a mile; from the far end of Coombe Lane it is almost a mile. Given the narrowness of the C32 (particularly through Longstreet) however, the A345 is likely to remain the only viable bus route.

Unsurprisingly, very few households claimed in the survey to use public transport to get to the shops, and it would appear that even those who are entitled to free public transport (eg pensioners) generally don't use it if they have alternative means.

Car Use

Given the low take-up of public transport, it was inevitable that the survey should expose the community's high car dependency. Car usage creates its own attendant problems: wear and tear on the road surface and verges; environmental pollution; increased congestion; demand for parking space; and of course road safety concerns.

Road Safety

Despite living in an era of unprecedented cutbacks in local authority spending, members of the Parish Council (past and present), sometimes in conjunction with neighbouring councils, have achieved some notable successes, for example:

- **A345 30 MPH Limit at New Buildings** – A lot of newer residents may not remember how hazardous it used to be when pulling out of New Buildings on to the A345, or for pedestrians crossing the road, until the 30mph speed limit signs were moved further outwards along the road, beyond the environs of the housing.
- **Speedwatch** – Enjoyed several years of intensive activity under the leadership of Cllr Stan Bagwell, but has been dormant since he and several others retired from the council. Cllr Michael Fay is currently in the process of resurrecting it.
- **A345 General 50 MPH Limit** – Introduced last year.
- **C32 30 MPH Zones** – These have very recently encompassed Coombe and Coombe Lane.

Nonetheless there are ongoing road safety concerns (see the summary [here](#)) and it is proposed that a parish strategy, containing an endorsed, prioritised agenda of mini projects, could prove to be a useful internal road map as well as a tool for mopping up local authority/MOD 'end of financial year' under-spends, as and when such money and resources once again become available.

Services

Comprehensive information about public services (health, social services, schools & nurseries, support for elderly and disabled, waste disposal, leisure centres, volunteering opportunities, etc) can be found on the [Wilts County Council website](#). Contact details for most of the services below can be found on the newsletter website [here](#). Some additional notes are below.

Police and Neighbourhood Watch



The last decade has seen significant cutbacks in police budgets and staffing levels, with wide scale deployment of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in place of regular police officers, and closure of smaller local police stations.

Our Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) is currently based in Tidworth. We also have a Neighbourhood Watch scheme which has been running since 2001. Details of local NHW coordinators are [here](#).

Since the withdrawal of Salisbury Plain's assigned MOD Police, the role of policing the plain has fallen to training area safety staff. There is anecdotal evidence that the reduction in staff has led to an attendant increase in illegal activity such as theft from farm buildings, hare coursing and off-road driving. Nonetheless we still enjoy a very low crime rate in comparison to much of the country, and survey evidence suggests that members of the community are not overly worried about crime.

Schools

Until 1989, Enford had its own primary school. Nowadays, as the parish survey indicated very clearly, children from the parish are scattered over a number of schools in the area. The nearest, and most well-attended schools, are: the primary school at Netheravon; and the secondary schools at Durrington and Pewsey – these are also served by school buses.

Litter and Waste Collection

In addition to weekly household waste collection, we also have recycling centres at Boscombe Down and Everleigh. WC are also responsible for the provision and maintenance of public litter bins, as well as for emptying them on a weekly or fortnightly basis.

Parish Councils can provide additional bins at their own expense, but are then responsible for emptying these, eg. Enford Play Park. This rubbish can be put out with ordinary household waste providing it is in plastic orange rubbish bags obtainable from WC at additional cost.



The PC and NHW have also, from time to time, organised village litter sweeps. If you want to do this for your street, litter picking equipment can be loaned from the PC.

With the plain no longer policed, increased fly tipping is perhaps inevitable – should you encounter fly tipping, don't touch it, ring WC on 0300 456 0105. Visit this [web page](#) for more information.

Shops, Post Offices & Banks

The absence of any of these facilities in Enford was one of the recurring themes in the survey – especially among none car users. Quite apart from the inconvenience (not to mention difficulty for some older residents) of having to catch a bus, people said they missed the simple pleasure of being able to walk to a shop and exchange a bit of gossip.

Nonetheless we continue to be very well-served by shop/post offices in Netheravon and Upavon and, where a 'big shop' is needed, most of the major supermarkets now deliver groceries direct to the door.

Apart from the occasionally annoying practice of returning undelivered post to Marlborough, we also seem to have an efficient and punctual mail delivery service.

Gas, Electricity and Oil

Having no mains gas supply, the community is reliant on alternative sources of heating, most notably oil, electricity and solid fuel. This differs markedly from the national average (see chart below). With oil and electricity heating costing 1.4 times and 2.7 times (respectively) that of mains gas, this puts rural dwellers at a significant economic disadvantage.

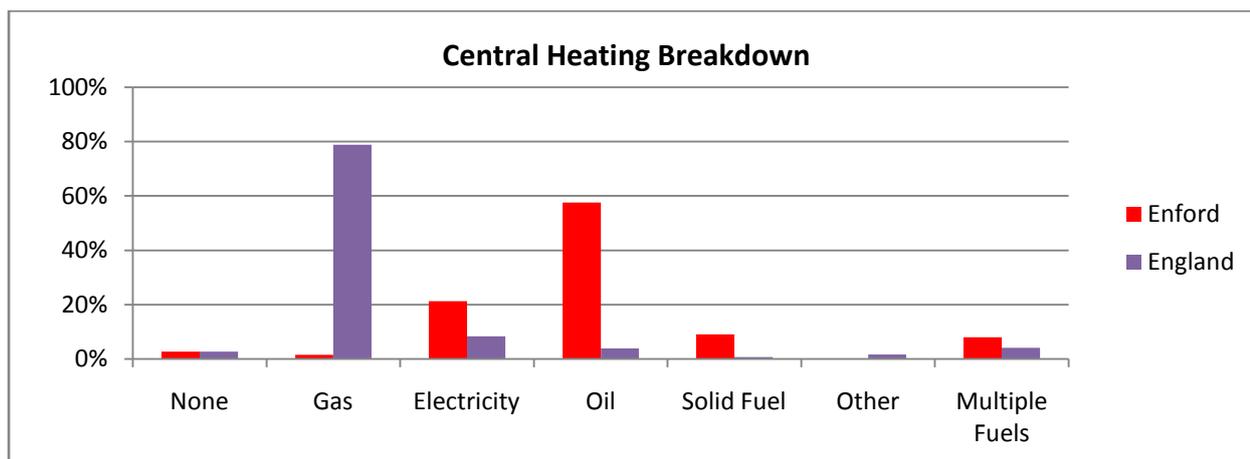


Figure 3 - National Census Data

For those using electricity as a main source of heating, taking advantage of the ongoing fall in the cost of solar PV panels would appear to be a pragmatic move if you can afford to do so. There are also further cost savings to be made, for both oil and electricity users, by utilising one of the bulk purchase schemes which are publicised in the newsletter from time to time.

Internet

The ability to bank, to shop, to communicate and to access services via the internet has now become so easy that, living in rural areas devoid of high street facilities, is no longer necessarily a great disadvantage – provided of course you have access to the internet. However, whilst most of us have access, with a few exceptions, speed and reliability has been poor to adequate.

This situation is already improving following the rollout of the 'Rural Broadband' programme, with the street cabinet in Enford having been upgraded to a fibre optic connection in May 2015 – although sadly not all of the parish will benefit from this.

If you would like to know more about this topic, visit the [Broadband Blog](#) on the newsletter website or [contact Wiltshire Online](#).

Appendix 1 – Housing Map

As mentioned earlier in the document, house numbering in and around the parish is quirky to say the least. This is a legacy of the MOD house building phase when (so it is understood) new houses were simply allocated consecutive numbers from a register, regardless of their location.

For example number 509 is in Littlecott, numbers 512-539 are in East Chisenbury, 555-566 are New Buildings, 764-767 are in East Chisenbury again, 831-833 are in West Chisenbury, 862-863 New Buildings again, 864-867 Enford Farm Road and finally 898-899 in Fifield. These house numbers may provide some indication of the order in which they were built, but nothing about their location.

The confusion is exacerbated by the fact that around 35% of houses have no number at all, just a name, many of which are similar or even identical. For example, we have: 2 x Church Cottages, an Old Chapel and a Chapel House; a Glebe House and a Glebe Farm House; a High Banks and High Bank Cottage; 2 x Old Post Offices, etc.

With this in mind, it is hoped that the map (overleaf) will assist new (and even some of the older) members of the community in finding their way around.

Enford 2015

