

East Hendred Parish Plan 2008

Produced by local residents



*Sponsored by East Hendred
Parish Council and*



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Foreword

The East Hendred Parish Plan is the first to be produced by the village itself. The previous plan, published almost forty years ago, was prepared by Berkshire County Council.

This Plan was sparked off by proposals for new buildings in the old part of the village and the objections to which these gave rise. We were encouraged by the experiences of several local villages which had recently up-dated their plans and found the revised versions to be useful in the planning process. The village has for some time been under pressure from such developments as those following the decommissioning of the UKAEA Harwell site and the proposed new reservoir by Thames Water, as well as from additional housing.

In order to ascertain the views of the residents the Parish Council organised a meeting to discuss the issues. This attracted a good attendance and produced plenty of ideas as to how the village should develop, extending beyond new housing to include transport, security, environment and amenities. Over half of the households responded to a subsequent questionnaire and this Plan is based upon the answers. The Plan will now help to guide the Parish Council in their dealings with the District and County Councils and in their responses to planning applications.

Dame Jennifer Jenkins

Executive Summary

The purpose of this Parish Plan was for the people of East Hendred to show how they would like their village to develop over the next ten to fifteen years. The process started in Spring 2005, initiated by the Parish Council, and over the next two years volunteers from across the community have sought the views of all parish residents on a wide range of issues.

A full description of the process that was followed is given in Section 5. Briefly, an initial steering committee was formed and four sub-committees were set up to investigate particular issues and formulate questions for a questionnaire. Every household in the parish received a questionnaire and was invited to contribute. We were very pleased with the level of response. A different questionnaire was delivered to businesses and social organisations in the parish, and further input was sought from the youth club. We were also very pleased to receive contributions from both village primary schools, and quotations and drawings from these appear within the Plan.

All these responses formed the basis of a preliminary list of actions, which was on display at three village events in the summer of 2007 and on the village website (www.hendred.org) giving people the opportunity to comment. The final Action Plan presented in this document is the result of many hours of discussion, pulling together all the opinions and ideas that have been put forward.

The Parish Council has supported this initiative throughout. Five Councillors served on the steering committee, and the Parish Council has contributed to the costs of the project. Further funding was provided as a grant by the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, which also supplied training, advice and information. Help has also come from many other organisations, including the Vale of White Horse District Council and Oxfordshire County Council. I hope that they will be able to give serious consideration to the conclusions in this document as they make their future plans for our parish.

This document describes the parish and the process by which this Parish Plan came into being. It summarises the residents' vision for the future, and lists a series of 60 actions through which we hope to realise that vision. Some of these actions have already been started; others require the cooperation of other bodies, or will necessarily take a long time to put into effect. However, the existence of this list of actions gives us guidelines for the future of our village.

As Chairman of the Parish Council and Deputy Chairman of the Steering Committee, I would like to thank everyone who has given their time and energy to this project.

Dr John Sharp

Acknowledgements

This Parish Plan was produced only through the considerable efforts of the residents of the parish who volunteered to join the Steering Committee and its sub-groups:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Representing/Officer</i>	<i>Sub-group</i>
Dame Jennifer Jenkins	Chairperson	
John Sharp	Parish Council/Deputy Chairperson	Housing/Planning
Val Bacon	Parish Council	Environment/Energy
Sylvia Cox	Individual	Traffic/Policing
Edward Eyston	Parish Council/St Mary's Church/ Hendred Estate	Village Facilities
Vicki Farrar-Hockley	Individual	Housing/Planning
John Laverty	St Amand's School	
Phil Lawrence	St Augustine's Church	Traffic/Policing
Mary MacKinnon	Downs Golden Age	Village Facilities
John McKeown	Individual	Village Facilities
Sian Mitchell	Individual	Environment/Energy
Ivan Mulford	Sports Club	Village Facilities
Fergus Nicoll	Individual	Traffic/Policing
Kate Nicoll	Individual	Environment/Energy
Charles Pappenheim	Individual/Treasurer	Housing/Planning
Julie Pearce	WI	Environment/Energy
Fiona Price	Hendreds School	Environment/Energy
Sue Roberts	Parish Council	Traffic/Policing
Rachel Sutton	Parish Council	Housing/Planning
Diana Wheeler	Individual/Secretary	
Matthew Wild	Individual	Environment/Energy

The Steering Committee would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this project, and in particular:

Alison Blyth, VOWHDC Planning Dept

Nick Burroughs, VOWHDC Planning Dept

Roger Davis, OPFA

Terry Fraser – District Councillor VOWHDC

Deborah Lavin – Hendred Heritage

Kathrin Luddecke, OCC

Keith Mitchell – Traffic Consultant

Steve Moss, UKAEA

Anton Nath, ORCC

Fiona Newcombe, North Wessex Downs AONB

John Stevenson – Hendred Heritage

Sally Stradling, VOWHDC Planning Dept

Lee Turner, OCC Highways

Toby Warren, VOWHDC Community Strategy

Peter Williams, VOWHDC Planning Dept

Sylvia Cox, for most of the photographs

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Sarah Newman, for preparing the final layout

1. Background

Why the Plan has been written

- **What prompted the initiative**

The Government wants local communities to have more control of their own lives, to say what they want doing in their own community and to work with other organisations to get it done. The “Rural White Paper” published in 2000 proposed Parish Plans as an opportunity for everyone in the community to make themselves heard. The Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), the Vale of White Horse District Council (VOWHDC) and the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC) positively encourage all local communities to prepare Parish Plans, and the North Wessex Downs AONB also encourages the development of community Plans.

The local Planning Authority (VOWHDC) says that it takes account of village plans in making its decisions. Other organisations too use Parish Plans to identify local needs in developing their policies. The last plan for East Hendred was written in 1969 and is now so out of date that it is no longer relevant.

This East Hendred Parish Plan was commissioned by the East Hendred Parish Council in November 2005.

What the Plan hopes to achieve

- **Mission Statement**

A Parish Plan is “a statement of how the local community sees itself developing over the next few years”. It should:

- Reflect the views of all sections of the community
- Identify which features and local characteristics people value
- Identify local problems and opportunities
- Spell out how residents want the community to develop in the future
- Prepare a plan of action to achieve this vision.

The East Hendred Parish Plan Mission Statement is: “To help and encourage the people of East Hendred to produce a plan showing how they would like their village to develop over the next ten to fifteen years, addressing the implications of development and change in the village.”



A modern development, designed to be sympathetic to the village environment

From the Schools:

“I think there are enough houses in the village already so it’s a bad idea to build more, although there is a plan to knock one house down and build three in its place – I strongly disagree with this plan. To improve the planning system I think the Council should hold a meeting to discuss the planning application with anyone who is interested, not just consult between themselves.”

“We think that the council should hold a competition for children in the village and at the schools to design a road sign asking people to think about how they drive through the village.”



A modern development that changes the entire aspect of the High Street, looking north

The Plan covers all land within the parish boundary except the UKAEA Harwell site (see Appendix). Some of this site lies within the parish but is not within the remit of the Plan except where activity there impacts on the village.

- **What bodies it hopes to influence**

The Parish Plan is an expression of the hopes and fears of the residents of East Hendred. We hope that the Parish Council (PC), VOWHDC, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and ORCC will refer to this Parish Plan when considering future plans and policies that will affect our village. We recognise that this Plan must be interpreted in the context of other, wider plans including the emerging Local Development Framework for the Vale of White Horse, The Vale of White Horse Local Plan (2006), the Vale Community, the Oxfordshire County Council Plan to 2016 and the SE Plan, and it was an aim of the Parish Plan that it should be consistent with related policies set out in local authority planning documents.

Information in this Plan could usefully inform the policies of many other organisations and authorities serving East Hendred. These include education providers, local employers, housing authorities, tourism authorities, transport providers, Health Care Trusts, Thames Valley Police (TVP), and the Member of Parliament.

2. Introduction to East Hendred

Geographical

East Hendred is one of the 'spring line' villages lying along the northern edge of the Berkshire Downs, where water springs up at the foot of the chalk Downs. The parish stretches from the main railway line between Paddington and Bristol in the north, lying low in the Thames valley, to the ancient Ridgeway along the top of the Downs in the south. Wantage lies about four miles to the west and Didcot five miles to the east. Oxford, Newbury, Reading and Swindon are all less than 20 miles away. The A34 north-south trunk road runs about two miles east of the village.

The busy A417 road from Wantage to Reading runs east to west through the parish. The village lies along the 300ft contour, almost entirely to the south of the A417. The village centre clusters around the valley of the Hendred Brook, flowing from east to west to join the Ginge Brook, which forms the western boundary of the village. Beyond this is the smaller sister village of West Hendred. To the east, the parish extends to the junction of the A417 and the A4130 at Rowstock, then south to include part of the UKAEA Harwell site.

To the north of the A417 the soil is gault clay; in the centre it is greensand; and south of the village it is chiefly chalky loam on a subsoil of chalk. Most of the parish (to the south of the A417) is within the North Wessex Downs AONB, and the centre of the village is a Conservation Area (CA). The land outside the compact village centre is farmed.

Perhaps because East Hendred village is bypassed by the A417, and the old north-south route through the settlement was long ago superseded by the A34, its heart has survived to a great extent, with narrow, winding streets and lanes leading into field paths and ancient tracks.

Historical

Both the Ridgeway and the Icknield Way pass through the parish; there was a prehistoric settlement on the Downs and Scutchamer Knob on the Ridgeway is the legendary burial place of the Saxon King Cwichelm of Wessex. There has been a substantial settlement at East Hendred ever since.



East Hendred Heritage Trust maintains a museum at Champs Chapel and keeps a record of developments in the village

East Hendred was an important centre for trading wool and cloth in the Middle Ages, with a weekly market and two annual Fairs, held on the green area that still borders the High Street. There were five Manors in the village, including the Manor of the Arches, later Hendred House. The Pope granted permission for a private chapel to be built there in 1256; the Eyston family has lived in the house since 1443.

The Parish Church of St Augustine dates from the 13th century. In the tower is a rare faceless clock dated 1525 which has been wound by hand daily for nearly 500 years. There is also a Victorian Roman Catholic church, St Mary's, which serves a wide area. Almost uniquely, within St Augustine's church there is still a Roman Catholic chapel, the old resting place of the recusant Eyston family. This history explains East Hendred's two primary schools, one Church of England, the other Roman Catholic.

There are about 70 listed buildings in the village (the list is available on the village website). These include the three pubs and the village shop. Oldest of all is the 15th century Chapel of Jesus of Bethlehem, Champs Chapel, which is now the village museum. A wide variety of ages and materials are to be found in the houses. They are constructed from stone, brick, and timber and are tiled, half-timbered, plastered and thatched. There are several thatched cob walls.

Snells, a green space in the centre of the village alongside the brook, was probably once a village green but has long been enclosed. The village was in the heart of a historic fruit growing area with many orchards, some of which survive within gardens.

The old roads in the core of the village are little different from those shown in John Rocque's map of 1761, though there was quite extensive building, both private and Council, outside the centre in the 20th century – the population doubled between 1931 and 1961, from 648 to 1303. There were several racing stables in the village in the 20th century, all now closed and their premises converted to housing.

A fuller history of East Hendred is available on the website www.easthendredmuseum.co.uk.

Demographic

The population of East Hendred at the 2001 Census (the latest figures available) was 1,092. This is made up as follows:

	<i>number</i>	<i>percentage</i>	<i>Oxfordshire</i>
			<i>percentage</i>
All people	1092		
Males	545	49.9%	
Females	547	50.1%	
Aged 0-4	58	5.3%	5.9%
Aged 5-15	195	17.9%	13.6%
Aged 0-15	253	23.2%	19.5%
Working age	615	56.3%	63.7%
Aged 65 and over	191	17.5%	14.5%

Statistics gathered in 2007 through the Questionnaire conducted as part of the Parish Plan process showed that in the households which completed the survey (rather more than half the households in the parish) the distribution of the age groups is as follows:

Aged under 10	14%
Aged 11-18	13%
Aged 19-64	53%
Aged 65 and over	20%

The population of the parish since 2001 has remained steady at just under 1,100. There is a mix of long-standing village families and newcomers.

There are 429 households in the village, made up as follows (2001 Census):

	<i>number</i>	<i>percentage</i>	<i>Oxfordshire</i>
			<i>percentage</i>
Households	429		
Lone parent with dependent children	15	10.6%	16.1%
Pensioner households (of which lone pensioners 49)	103	24.0%	21.6%
One person households (includes lone pensioners)	82	19.1%	26.2%
Married households (includes married pensioners)	182	42.4%	39.3%
Cohabiting households	30	7.0%	8.2%
Other households	46	10.7%	8.5%

Of these 429 households, only 46 (11.2%) do not have a car or van.

The majority of the adult population are working (2001 Census):

	<i>number</i>	<i>percentage</i>	<i>Oxfordshire</i>
			<i>percentage</i>
All people aged 16-74	757		
Economically active	539	71.2%	71.2%
Full time	325	42.9%	45.1%
Part time	91	12.0%	12.0%
Self employed	94	12.4%	9.3%
Claiming Jobseekers Allowance	11	1.8%	2.0%
Claiming Disability Allowance	15	2.5%	3.5%

More demographic statistics are given in the East Hendred Profile available at <http://www.oxfordshireobservatory.info>.

Figures from the more recent Parish Plan Questionnaire showed that 266 people are in employment in a sample in which 311 people are aged 19-64 years – approximately 85%, although this is not necessarily a representative sample and does not account for economically-active 16-18 year olds.

Social

East Hendred is far from being a sleepy village. It is an attractive place to live with considerable employment opportunities within easy travelling distance. When the 1860s village school was replaced in the 1960s, villagers transformed the old building into a thriving Community Centre, and there are many village organisations for young and old alike. (A list of village organisations is available on the village website, and organisations mentioned in this document are listed in the section titled 'Contacts'.) The village has a sports ground that is used by many from within and from outside the village. There is easy access to footpaths, bridleways and cycling routes.

The village has two primary schools and bus services run to several secondary schools in the neighbouring towns. There are three pubs, a shop and a part-time Post Office. There is an hourly bus service to Wantage and to Oxford via Didcot, which has a major railway station.



The village has three popular pubs that provide pleasant surroundings for locals and visitors

However, East Hendred is to some extent a victim of its own success, and the success of the region in which it lies. More than half the people using many village organisations come from outside the area, which supports local businesses and sustains those village organisations, but increases traffic and exacerbates parking problems. East Hendred is a desirable place to live, and house prices are high, which means local people often cannot afford to buy or rent properties in the parish. There is constant pressure from Government to provide more housing. Yet these demands conflict both with residents' wishes to preserve the character of the village, and with local guidelines to limit development within and around rural villages.

Traffic is a persistent problem, both in the narrow village streets and on the overloaded main roads of the area. Few households in East Hendred are without a car, but many houses do not have off-street parking space. Major housing developments are planned at Grove and Didcot; this will exacerbate the transport problems in the area.

For young people, particularly teenagers, there is not enough to do in the village and the bus service is too limited and too costly to travel easily to entertainments elsewhere. Old people also suffer from insufficient public transport links, and a lack of facilities such as a doctor's surgery within the village.

Other current concerns include the proposal to store high volumes of nuclear waste at the UKAEA Harwell site at the south-eastern edge of the parish, despite the published plan to fully decontaminate and clean the site by 2040. There are natural worries about the long-term safety of this scheme; consultation is ongoing. This UKAEA site is within the Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, about 100 hectares of which lies within the parish and is one of the largest enterprises in the area (see Appendix.)

Another concern is the proposal by Thames Water to build a reservoir at Steventon, just to the north of East Hendred. This would be the largest reservoir ever built in this country, covering an area of 3.75km by 2.5km surrounded by a high earth bund. Particular concerns include what the structure will look like, the additional heavy traffic during the many years of its construction, and the effect on the local microclimate. Two rounds of consultation have occurred and consultation continues.

From the Schools:

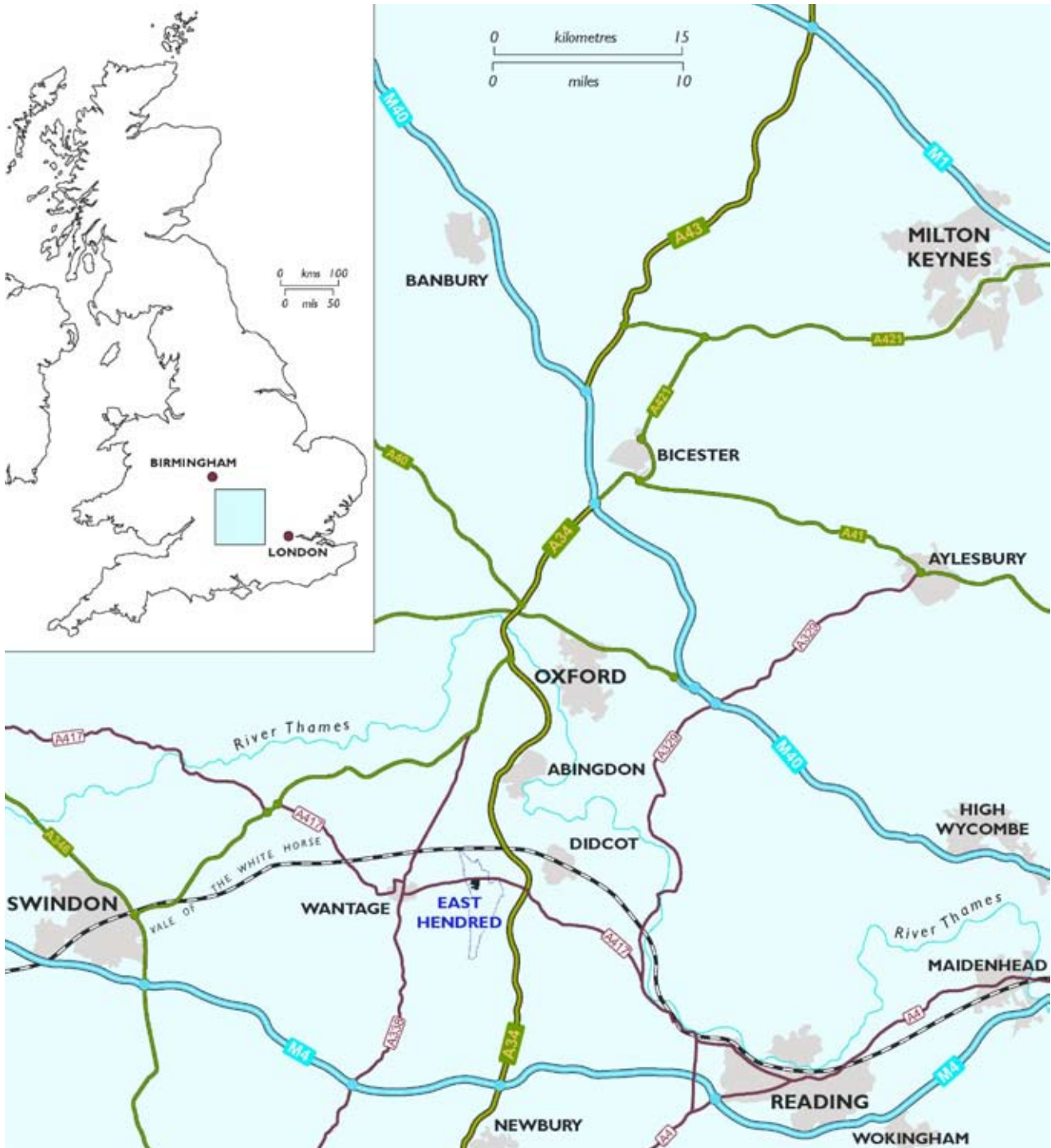
"If we had any more facilities in the village it would be overloaded with buildings and maybe pesky tourists, so I definitely don't want any public attractions. I really disagree with the idea of a rubbish dump in our village and more houses are just outrageous therefore I hope these plans are terminated! The facilities we've got are just fine and it won't kill us if we don't have a cinema in the fields."

"I like living in East Hendred because it's friendly, pretty and adventurous because there are lots of woods and fields to explore."

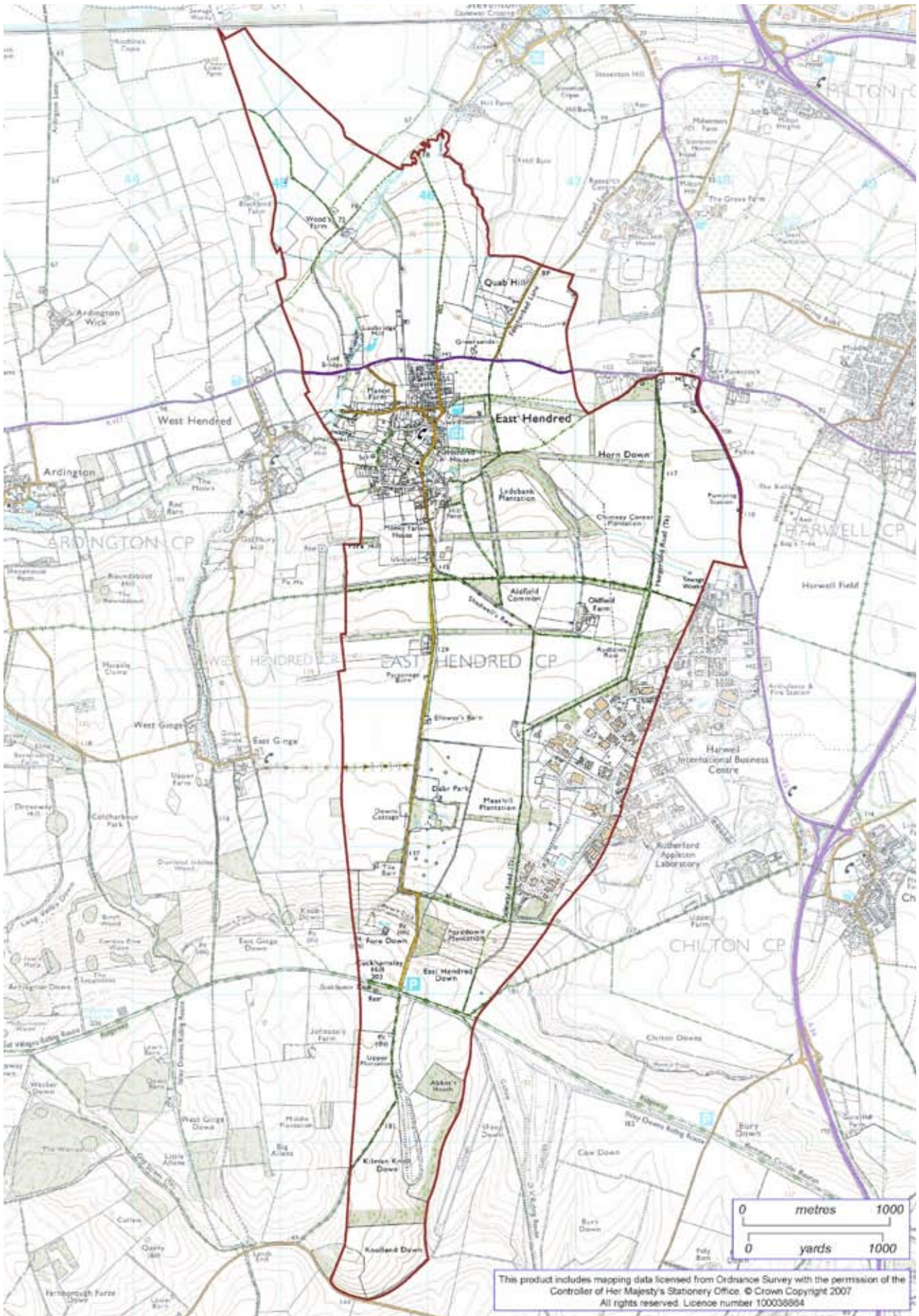
"East Hendred is an excellent place to live, not only is it a nice clean place, it has a lot of beautiful countryside and great places to walk."

3. Maps

East Hendred is located in the Vale of White Horse, Oxfordshire.



Location of East Hendred



The Parish of East Hendred

4. The Process

The Parish Plan was launched in the Spring 2005 edition of the *East Hendred Bulletin*, a newsletter delivered to every house in the village. As well as outlining the need to replace the 1969 Plan, the article asked for volunteers to join the Steering Committee, and attached a questionnaire to identify the main issues and concerns of those living or working in East Hendred. Only 31 questionnaires were completed, and the findings were published in the Winter 2005 issue of the *Bulletin*.

However, at that stage 14 people offered their help (some representing village bodies, others individual volunteers), and at a meeting on 18th November 2005 four sub-groups were set up to investigate particular issues:

- **Traffic, Parking, Policing and Security**
- **Housing and Planning**
- **Environment and Energy**
- **Village Amenities, Employment and Tourism.**

Dame Jennifer Jenkins, a resident of the village for 40 years, was appointed Chairman of the steering committee, and a formal Mission Statement and Terms of Reference were adopted. The other officers appointed were Dr. John Sharp as Deputy Chairman, Diana Wheeler as Secretary and Charles Pappenheim as Treasurer. The committee included five members of the PC.

Help and advice

The steering committee made contact with ORCC, VOWHDC, OCC Highways Department, the North Wessex Downs AONB, UKAEA Harwell, Vale Housing Association (now Sovereign Housing) and Sustrans, seeking their input and information about their future plans that might affect East Hendred. Members of these organisations attended steering committee meetings or talked with committee members and offered valuable advice.

Some steering committee members attended seminars on Parish Plans run by ORCC and by the Community Development Network.

The committee applied for an Oxfordshire Parish Plan Grant and in November 2006 received a grant of £1150. A further £2000 was given by the PC.

Involving local people

On 31st March 2006 the sub-groups presented their preliminary findings to a meeting of the full steering committee. The meeting agreed to invite wider opinions from residents at the May Fete in the village, and set up an information stall with displays on the four main topics. A stream of people came to the stall, providing very useful feedback on the sub-groups' ideas. This exercise was repeated at the Family Show in September, but unfortunately the weather was so bad that attendance was low and the stall had to be dismantled early.

Meanwhile each sub-group developed questions for the Village Plan Questionnaire, which was distributed in October 2006. In order to maximise the response rate, members of the steering committee and other volunteers delivered the Questionnaire personally to every household in the parish, explaining what it was about, and a week later called again to collect the results. Questionnaires could also be returned to the village shop.

Just over 400 copies of the Questionnaire were distributed, and 233 were completed and returned. The results were processed by the sub-groups and the raw data published on the Parish Plan section of the village website. This was publicised in the Spring 2007 issue of the *Bulletin*.

As well as the Questionnaire, members of the Steering Committee interviewed representatives from village organisations and businesses, and the two schools contributed their Year 6 (10 to 11 year old) pupils' views about the four subject areas of the four sub-groups. Many of their observations appear as margin quotes in this document.

A separate Questionnaire for young people was drawn up. It was distributed at the Youth Club and was also available at the village shop and in the village schools. Only 22 of these Questionnaires were returned, most from the Youth Club, including four from teenagers who live outside the village.

Formulating the Action Plan

All the information collected was analysed by the sub-groups. Each sub-group produced a report, and these were presented to the full steering committee on 3 February 2007.

Taking into account the constraints imposed by external bodies, the sub-groups then formulated the Action Plans contained within the First Draft of the Parish Plan. They were assembled into a single document for discussion by the steering committee, using the Countryside Agency's example ("Our Village Parish Plan 2003-4" *The Countryside Agency* CA198 December 2004) as a model. The First Draft was completed in June 2007.

The Action Plans were displayed at the three village fetes held in June, in the foyer of Snells Hall for the last two weeks in June and on the village website to give everyone in the village the opportunity to add their comments. This was publicised in the Summer 2007 edition of the *Bulletin*. The comments received were considered by the steering committee and incorporated into this Final Draft of the Plan, which was presented to the PC in December 2007 and discussed. The Plan was published in February 2008 and has been adopted by the PC.

A summary of the final Plan will be distributed to every household in the village. The complete Plan will be available on the village website, and a limited number of copies of the full Plan will be available upon application to the Parish Council Clerk.

5. Results from the Questionnaire

The answers provided by residents of the parish were a major source of information for the Steering Committee. The questionnaire and the answers provided can be seen in the Parish Plan pages of the East Hendred website.

5.1 Environment and Energy

Current situation

The Parish is set in an attractive environment comprising mainly arable farmland, rolling pastures with chalk streams, and deciduous woodlands. There is much-valued public green space at the heart of the village in the wide grassed area along the side of the High Street, and Chapel Square. In the area called Snells, footpaths run between fields sloping down to the Hendred Brook and the Penney children's play park. There is a small churchyard around the parish church and a larger village graveyard adjoining Snells. Green spaces in the form of large gardens and open spaces that are not accessible to the public, such as the fields in Snells and adjoining Hendred House, make an important contribution to the character of the village.

The village lengthman keeps verges and open spaces in order. There is great pride in the village: of all the questions in the Questionnaire, the one that elicited the most responses (219) was about the Best Kept Village Competition run by ORCC. East Hendred won an award in 2001 and many other times in the past, and in 1991 took first place in the winners category, becoming top village in the county. By an overwhelming majority (202 to 17), respondents voted to continue entering the competition. This has now been replaced by the 'Village of the Year' competition, and East Hendred was 'Highly Commended for Communication' in 2007.

There is a network of footpaths, bridleways and cycleways within the parish. These include the ancient trackways of the Ridgeway along its southern edge and the Icknield Way just south of the village; long-used paths linking East Hendred with neighbouring villages in all directions; and the recent Sustrans cycle route between Didcot and Wantage, which runs past the Harwell Science and Innovation Campus.

The vast majority of the parish comes within the boundary of the North Wessex Downs AONB. The centre of the village is a Conservation Area (CA) and discussions about extending



Snells is an open space in the heart of the village and a great asset to the village



Site of the proposed nature reserve between Snells and Fordy Lane

this are in progress. Both designations offer some protection from large-scale development to both the built and natural environment, but this should not make us complacent about the current and future natural environment of the parish.

The UKAEA programme of decommissioning and restoration of land in the Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, some of which lies within the parish, will take until 2040. Local interests are represented by Parish Council representatives on the Harwell-Chilton Campus Local Stakeholder Group.

The Environment and Energy sub-group of the Parish Plan Steering Committee focused on four main areas. A fifth matter – the proposed reservoir at Steventon – arose during 2007, too late to be included in the Questionnaire.

The natural environment

Issues raised

There was overwhelming support in the Questionnaire responses for management of the natural environment to be more sympathetic towards wildlife. 81% of respondents supported the idea of creating a community woodland or orchard; 90% wanted public open spaces to be managed with wildlife in mind; and 96% wanted landowners to be encouraged to manage the countryside in a more sustainable way.



The Abbey Manor orchard which is being developed as a community orchard

Vision for the future

- A local nature reserve in the area adjoining the proposed new footpath (see below) between Snells Hall and Fordy Lane. This would ensure the conservation of a valuable area of semi-natural habitat, important for wildlife and people, running through the heart of the village. It includes a section of the brook, adjoining water meadow and woodland, all of which help to support local biodiversity. Since this footpath will be used by children walking to the Hendreds School, schoolchildren could be involved in the creation and management of the nature reserve from the earliest stages. Hendred Estate, which owns the land, has already approved this proposal.
- The old orchard at the back of Abbey Manor restored and designated a Community Orchard, stocked with local fruit varieties, and traditional juice- and cider-making skills revived.

A wildlife assessment has already been completed and initial work on clearing brambles and scrub has begun, with the approval of the Hendred Estate which owns the land.

- The churchyard surrounding the parish church, and particularly the grassed areas, managed in a way that enhances its value for native wildlife. (The churchyard is no longer used as a graveyard.)
St Augustine's PCC has agreed to do this. An invertebrate survey has already been completed, and more studies of mammals, plant life and birds could be undertaken.
- The Hendred Estate at the Higher Level Scheme for the Single Payment Subsidy. This would allow more sustainable management of the land surrounding the village (eg planting hedges, sowing wildflowers on buffer strips and creating beetle banks.)
- Existing public green spaces preserved and protected.
See also the discussion of protection for green spaces in the section on Housing, and action H8.

Footpaths, bridleways and cycle tracks

Issues raised

The Questionnaire responses showed that a large percentage of villagers use the footpaths (96% of respondents), bridleways (71%) and cycle tracks (61%) in the parish. Generally people were satisfied with the existing level of provision, although there was considerable concern about the recent change in route of the bridleway between The Lynch and the Icknield Way without due consideration or consultation, and there were calls for more cycle tracks, for example to enable more children to cycle to school, and to access nearby workplaces such as Milton Park.

There were many comments about the condition and maintenance of all three types of path. People expressed concern about the dog fouling, deep ruts, mud, overgrown vegetation and generally poor condition of very many of the footpaths, bridleways and cycle tracks. The Ridgeway in particular has become deeply rutted by motorised vehicles and can be treacherous for walkers and riders. It is hoped that this will be alleviated by the permanent ban on non-agricultural motorised traffic along the Ridgeway imposed by OCC. A number of respondents mentioned that obstacles such as stiles and kissing gates limit access to footpaths by wheelchair and push-chair users and cyclists. Horse riders expressed concern about barbed wire on the bridleways.

Public consultation about Thames Water's proposed reservoir at Steventon is in progress, and East Hendred residents have suggested that if it is built, a cycle track should be constructed from East Hendred across the railway line to the planned leisure facilities at the reservoir.

Vision for the future

- Better conditions on existing footpaths, bridleways and cycle tracks. This would include better surfaces, clearer signage, hazards such as barbed wire removed where not appropriate, and more dog excrement bins. Access for wheelchairs and pushchairs would then be improved.
- A footpath between Snells Hall and Fordy Lane to provide an alternative vehicle-free route for children walking to and from the Hendreds School, and for pre-school children going for walks along the Furlong. This would offer an opportunity for establishing a local nature reserve for native wildlife (see above). It would also reduce the volume of traffic on Church Street.
- More cycle tracks. *See the section on Traffic.*
- No contraventions of the ban on non-agricultural motorised vehicles on the Ridgeway.

Waste management

Issues raised

The disposal of waste generated by households and businesses in the parish is not dealt with in an efficient or effective way. Unless we change our habits, the waste generated per head of population in 2008 will be some 360kgs.

Many people in the parish either do not know of the facilities available or are unwilling to take part in schemes to reduce the amount of waste they produce or increase the amount that is recycled. A majority of Questionnaire respondents have a VOWH green box for recycling household paper, glass etc (94%), but the operators report that this service is not used very effectively; a water butt (63%) and a compost bin (66%). However, only 33% have a VOWH brown bin for recycling cardboard and garden waste. Many reasons were offered for this, including:

- Cost
- Lack of knowledge about where/how to obtain one
- A general unwillingness to get involved with the brown box scheme.

Vision for the future

- More household waste recycled and composted. The suggested target is for all households in the village to recycle at least 25% of their rubbish by 2008, and 55%

by 2020. Also, for a Combined Recovery Rate (recycling + composting) of 31% by 2008, and 61% by 2020.

- Examples of green boxes, brown bins etc on show at public events such as Village Fetes, along with information about how to obtain them. This would help to achieve the waste management targets.
- A regular 'green' column in the *Bulletin* to distribute up-to-date information on recycling methods and benefits – for example, that it costs £29 a year for a brown bin, but an average household spends £32 a year going to the recycling centre. This column would also be used to spread information about other environmental issues, for example ways to improve energy efficiency and obtain grants.
The first 'green' column appeared in the Summer 2007 edition of the Bulletin.
- A parish composting scheme, to complement the brown bin scheme, if investigations show this would be effective.

Energy conservation

Issues raised

The East Hendred Parish Council conducted a review of renewable energy for the village in 2005 (Renewable Energy Feasibility Assessment – East Hendred; Final Report to Thames Valley Energy). Various sources of renewable energy were addressed in the report, including biomass, wind, heat pumps, solar, thermal and photovoltaic technology. All of these could make some contribution to reducing the village's carbon footprint, but by far the greatest potential improvement lies in reducing the amount of energy that is wasted.

Since that report was produced there have been considerable changes in the economics, efficiency and availability of renewable energy sources, and Government targets have been set. Feedback from the Questionnaire suggests a strong will within the parish to promote and support an effort to improve energy efficiency and use locally generated, renewable energy.

A large majority of people responding to the Questionnaire (82%) were interested in and would use a local advice/support service on energy saving.

Vision for the future

- An energy audit of the village, to make it possible to measure and demonstrate improvements in energy

From the Schools:

"I think the environment is great because of all the views and things like that."

"Cutting down bus fares will stop the use of cars and people will use buses which means less pollution."

"The views are the best."

"I think that East Hendred has a lovely environment because of all the plants and wildlife, plus the village doesn't have much litter about."

"The village is in very good condition because of how the council has kept it clean and neat!"

efficiency within the parish, and to enable comparison with other parishes and villages.

- Grants taken up to improve energy efficiency in homes and public buildings, and for local energy generation.
 - A local energy advice service to promote efficient energy use and local generation of renewable energy in the parish.
 - An active policy to promote the efficient use of energy, with specific targets for energy use over the next 15 years. The targets suggested, in line with current national government targets, are:
 - 20% saving in energy used within the parish
 - 20% energy in the parish to be generated from renewable sources, preferably within the parish, using wind, solar, geo-thermal sources or biofuels.
- These targets to be phased in over time with clear intermediate targets, such as 10% by 2012, 15% by 2017 and 20% by 2025.

Proposed reservoir at Steventon

Issues raised

Thames Water have proposed building a reservoir covering about seven square kilometres to the north of East Hendred parish, between Steventon, Drayton and East Hanney. Although Thames Water has produced detailed proposals and held two public information/consultation events, the proposal will not be taken forward until Thames Water has produced a Statutory Water Resource Management Plan at the end of 2007. This plan will address the subject of water resource management across the entire Thames Water area and it is assumed that the reservoir proposal will be included in that plan. Public consultation on the plan is scheduled to take place in April 2008, with the plan being published in 2009.

East Hendred Parish Council is represented on Reservoir Affected Parishes (RAP), a group of councillors from villages that would be affected by the reservoir.

Vision for the future

- Safeguard the interests of the community by seeking, assessing and responding to information on the potential impacts of the reservoir on East Hendred.
- If the reservoir goes ahead, the plans must ensure that East Hendred gains what it can, for example through the provision of bridleways and cycle routes between the village and the reservoir.

5.2 Housing and Planning

Current situation

East Hendred is a quiet and pleasant parish of about 440 households. Its houses range across the spectrum from 15th century to new, and from one-bedroomed cottages to large manor houses.

The great majority of houses are owner-occupied, and approximately 80 are privately owned and rented. There are 61 houses let by Sovereign Properties (formerly VHA), and six houses are managed by Oxford Citizens Housing Association (OCHA) as 'affordable housing' under schemes such as 'staircase mortgages'.

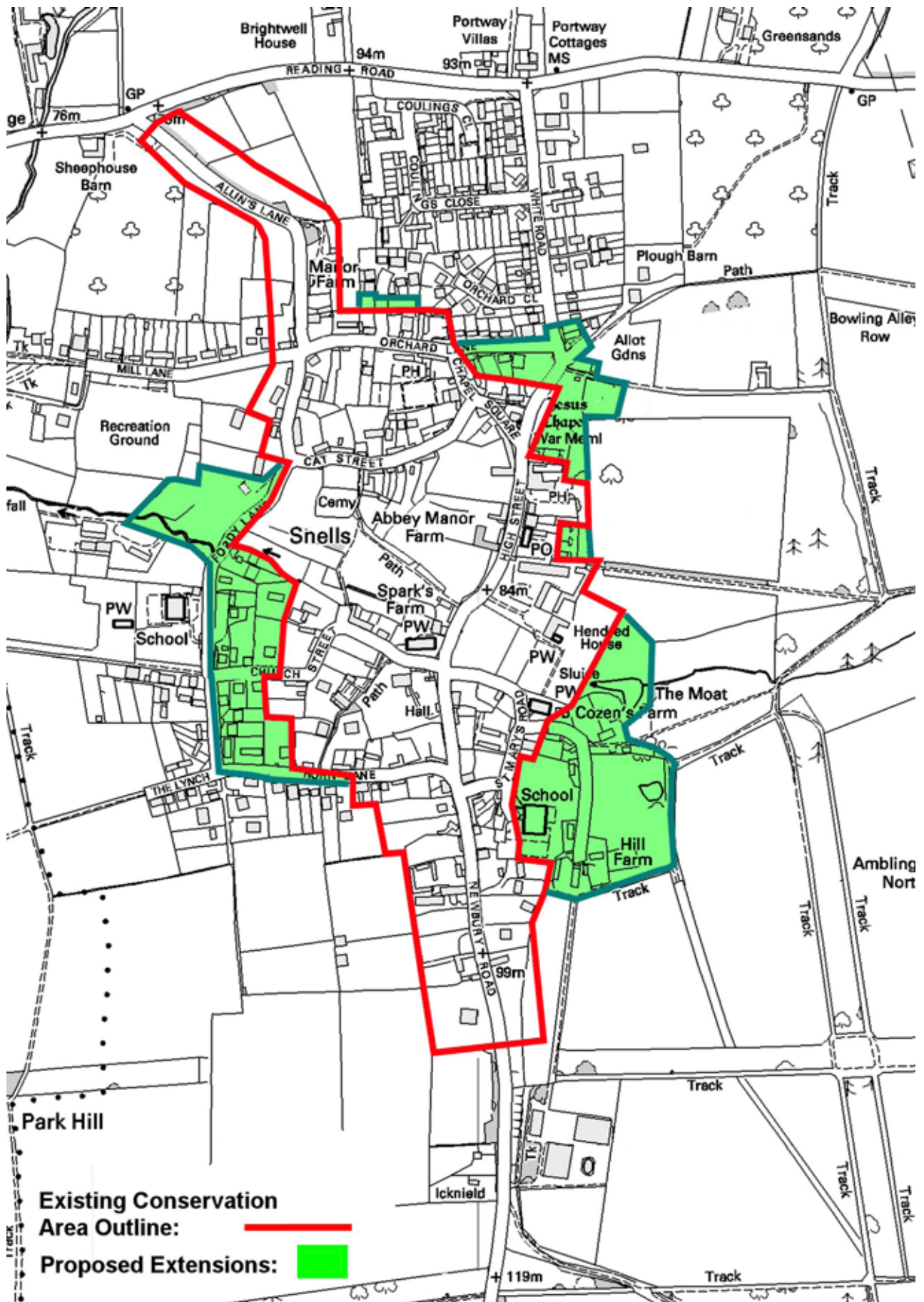
There are two Grade I and about 70 Grade II listed buildings in the village. This indicates the high proportion of architecturally and historically interesting buildings.

New building has been steady at two to four houses per year for many years, although in 2007, six new houses are being built. The character of most parts of the village has been changed by new building.

The Conservation Area covers the core of the village, and most of the parish is also within the North Wessex Downs AONB. Both these designations place restrictions on all building, both housing and commercial. Development is also constrained by the VOWHDC 2006 Local Plan. Under this plan, East Hendred is designated a 'larger village' because of the facilities available, and therefore development is restricted to the built-up area of the village, and limited to infilling and minor development – up to 15 dwellings on an individual site. The Local Plan (Policy H17) also makes it possible to develop 'exception sites' outside the built-up area of the village for affordable housing, providing that a clearly established need has been demonstrated.

In planning for the future, Government targets have also to be taken into consideration.

The VOWHDC has commissioned an appraisal of the East Hendred Conservation Area (CA), and the Consultation Draft was published in 2007. This highly detailed document includes proposals for extensions to the existing CA. The map on the following page shows extensions to the CA put forward in this plan. With a few exceptions, these are the same as the extension proposals in the consultation. No reductions are shown.



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Map showing the existing Conservation Area, with suggested extension shown in green

Issues raised

The majority of local residents (126 out of 208 answering this question in the Questionnaire) feel that the past rate of building of new houses in the parish (two or three a year) should continue. With the recent increase in building activity, several residents feel that the amount of new building is having a negative effect, by bringing increased traffic and by changing the look of the village. The few remaining open spaces between houses are being built on, and together with the significant number of extensions, this has resulted in some areas of the village starting to look overcrowded. Preserving spaces between houses is part of protecting the historic character of the village.



Part of the village where the density of housing seems to have reached a maximum

Most of the housing stock in the village is expensive, and this limits the social mix. Some village people, and in particular young people, are unable to buy or even rent properties in the parish. Some of the businesses interviewed said that a disadvantage of being located in the village is the difficulty young employees have in renting accommodation locally. 44 households responding to the Questionnaire want affordable housing for people who are expected to move out of their current home within the next ten years. This implies a requirement for many more affordable houses than there are in the village now. There has been a continuing effort to provide affordable houses, the main obstacle being the lack of available building sites. Three sites are currently being investigated for affordable housing.



A potential site for affordable housing

There is an ageing population in the village. 36 respondents to the Questionnaire stated a need for sheltered (warden-controlled) housing in the next ten to fifteen years. There is clearly a need; this needs to be quantified.

Most new housing in the village is large, expensive houses with three or more bedrooms. Overall, more than 80% of Questionnaire respondents think that new houses should have three or fewer bedrooms – for people whose children have left home as well as for young people.

The great majority of respondents (135 against 52) think that the Conservation Area should be extended to protect more of the village. This expresses the desire to conserve the natural and green areas in the parish, as well as to restrict new developments and extensions in more of the village.



Existing housing for senior residents

Residents expressed a lot of interest in energy saving, and several responses showed that insulation and other energy saving methods were lacking in their homes, particularly



An outlying recent development on the site of a former hotel provides modern homes in the parish without further crowding the village centre

From the Schools:

“I think this village has too many houses and no space to make way for parking in driveways. No more houses should be built!”

“There’s just the right amount of houses I think, because if there were more then the village would be too crowded.”

“I like the fact that lots of the houses in East Hendred are made to look old and are old. I also like that it has a few thatched houses.”

where they were rented. These issues are being addressed by the Hendreds Energy Group.

Vision for the future

- What is good in the village formally identified, protected and preserved through a Survey that identifies the many special architectural features and materials in the village as examples of good practice; and this followed as a “style guide” in planning decisions.
- The overdevelopment of some parts of the village halted.
- The character of the village within the Conservation Area, as in the Vale Local Plan (Policy HE1) preserved; and the CA extended to include those sites identified in the East Hendred Conservation Area Appraisal.
- Listed buildings, and the setting of listed buildings, preserved.
- Sites that provide village amenities and green spaces protected from house building. These include:

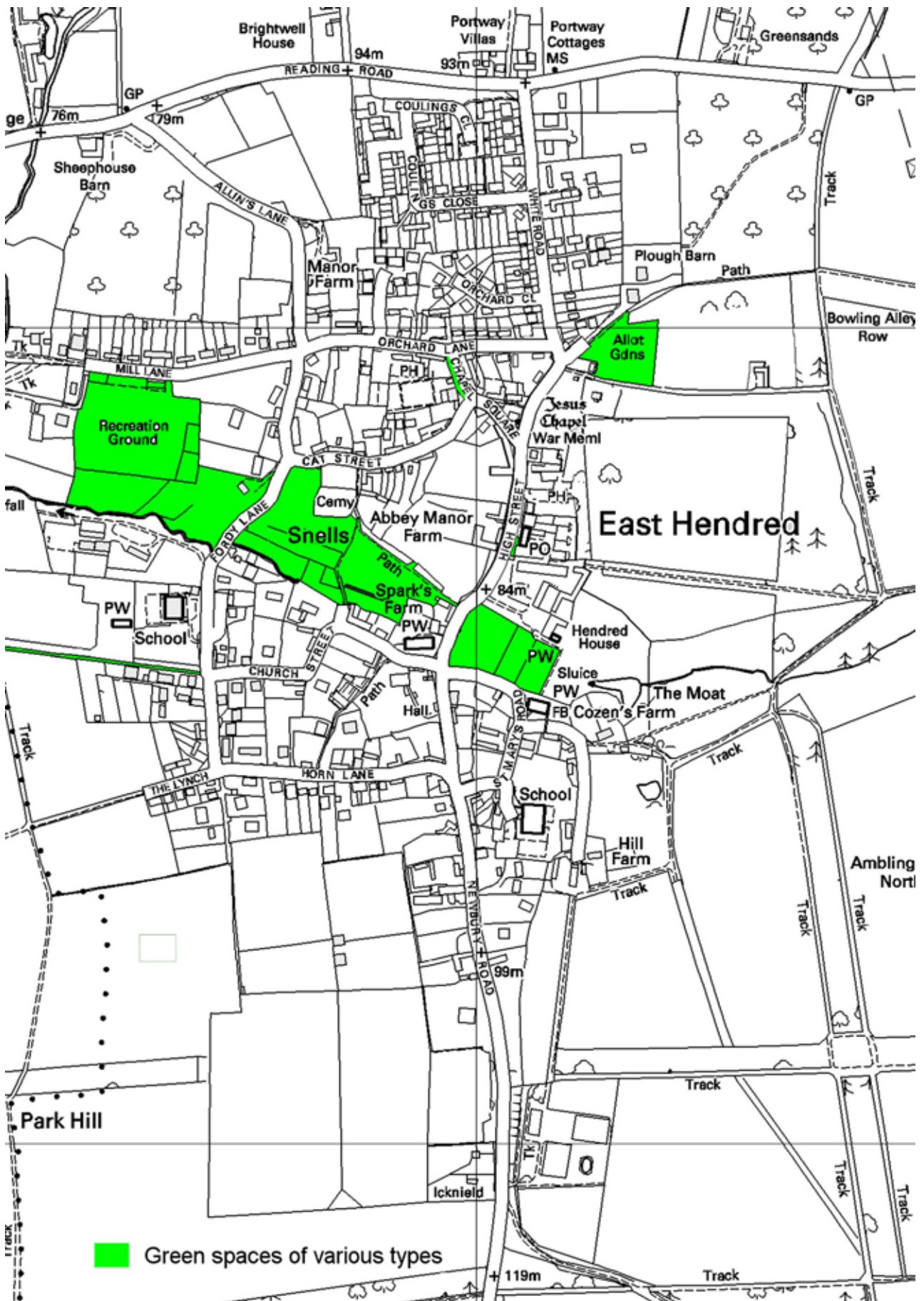
- Snells
- the “green strip” highlighted in an appeal statement from the Planning Inspectorate dated April 2005, which includes the Mill Lane sports field, the lower part of Fordy Lane and Snells
- the village greens (on High Street and Chapel Square)
- the allotments
- the Furlong

All are shown on the map opposite. (All except the allotments, the Furlong and the sports field are also protected by the CA.)

This is covered by the Planning Guidance relating to “Green Space” in the VWHDC Local Plan (2011) Policies H10 and HE1.

See also Action E5 in the Environment section.

- A wider range of housing available, for a wider social mix of ages, incomes and sizes of family group. In particular, sheltered housing would meet the needs of the ageing population, enable older local people to stay in the village and release housing stock for younger families. *Three potential sites for affordable housing are being investigated. Current policy is to site sheltered housing in towns since large schemes with full warden service are difficult to provide in villages.*
- When sites become available for new houses, small houses are built rather than large ones. *Planning permission decisions are also influenced by the Local Development Framework, now being developed by VOWHDC.*
- Government targets met for high efficiency new housing, and the target of carbon-neutral new housing by 2016.



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Map showing green spaces in the village

From the Questionnaire responses:

“I do not rely on public transport – when I had to use it for a round trip to Wantage for half an hour’s shopping, it took over 3 hours!!”

“Buses must be cheaper. I took one child to the Health Centre a year ago and it cost over £7 return!”

“I had to get a car.”

“People who live in the village should walk round the village.”

5.3 Traffic and Policing

Current situation

There is no through route through the village so the village streets are used only by local traffic and those travelling to the Ridgeway. There are only two access roads into the village from the A417, White Road and the sunken ‘hollow way’ Allins Lane. Many of the village roads are narrow, and it can be difficult for vehicles to pass each other or parked cars. In several village streets, delivery vehicles are forced to block the road. Many houses in the village do not have off-street parking, particularly along White Road, which is the main route into the village, and Church Street, which leads to one of the schools. There is no public car park.

Alternatives to travelling by car are limited. An hourly bus service runs through the village to Wantage and Oxford (via Didcot and Abingdon), but the last bus to Wantage runs at 20:04 and to Oxford at 18:37, and there is no service on Sundays. The journey to Oxford takes almost 90 minutes. For people unable to use other forms of public transport, OCC and VOWH provide the ‘Octabus’ dial-a-ride service, but this is not well used. ORCC is in the process of undertaking a transport survey of the village, and its findings will be used by bus service providers.

The Harwell-Chilton Science campus, the VWHDC and OCC and other bodies, have been active in supporting cycle tracks. The Sustrans cycle route 44 from Wantage to Didcot runs through the parish, but its route to Wantage, the nearest town, involves using some roads.

Crime in East Hendred is low. Thames Valley Police supplied the following crime statistics for East Hendred from November 2005 to October 2007:

Criminal damage to vehicles	10
Theft from a motor vehicle	10
Burglary other than a dwelling	8
Fraud/deception	8
Burglary to a dwelling	6
Criminal damage to buildings	6
Theft	6
Taking a vehicle without consent	5
Common assault	5
Harassment	2
Drugs possession	1

Police Community Support Officers based at Milton Park make regular patrols in the village, which is important for village security. The village has a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, which circulates useful information on crimes and crime protection, but this is voluntary and does not cover all areas. There is also a Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) organised by Wantage East Police Group, which brings together representatives from the PCs of neighbouring villages to tackle local priorities. The priority for our area is currently speeding.



Morning traffic leaving the village

The Traffic and Policing sub-group of the Parish Plan Steering Committee separated its findings in these two main areas:

Traffic

Issues raised

- There is widespread concern about the junction of the A417 and White Road. 85% of Questionnaire respondents support a roundabout or traffic lights at this junction, and the DGA changed its meeting time specifically to avoid accidents at the A417 junction. A survey in 2006 by the transport sub-group showed that an average of one car every two seconds passes the White Road junction between 07:30 and 09:00, but despite the heavy congestion on the A417 the Local Transport Plan (LTP) indicates that this junction is not a priority at present.
- People are concerned about cars speeding in the village, where the speed limit is 30mph. 71% of Questionnaire respondents backed active speed warning signs – Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) – as a way of encouraging drivers to slow down.
- People are generally in favour of reducing the speed limit on the A417 through East Hendred.
- On-street parking is a major issue in the village, and an increasing problem as the ownership of cars grows. 66% of respondents (mainly those in White Road, Church Street, Orchard Lane and Chapel Square) reported problems arising from on-street parking. Three (out of 16) village businesses said that access problems caused by parked cars on the road deterred some customers.
- Parking is a problem at both churches, neither of which has a dedicated car park; and for the football clubs. There is a reciprocal arrangement whereby the car park at the Plough can be used by the bowls club and the football clubs, but there are complaints about inconsiderate



Our schoolchildren are concerned about traffic in the village



Insufficient off-street parking leads to congestion and hazards at busy times



Large vehicles have difficulty on small village streets

parking outside the sports ground in Mill Lane. Similarly, some of the organisations meeting at Snells Hall are concerned that when the car park is full, their members park on the pavement in Church Street. Other village organisations pointed out that though parking is not a problem for them at present, it would be if they had more members or visitors. There was convincing support (68% of Questionnaire respondents) for the provision of a central car park.

- The fabric of the banks and verges in the centre of the village is suffering from traffic damage, both from parking on the verges and from traffic passing on the narrow roads.
- Many Questionnaire respondents mentioned the danger, particularly to mothers with pushchairs, posed by cars parked on the pavement in Church Street and lack of a pavement along about a third of its length. This is the main route to the Hendreds School and the only way from the car park at Snells Hall, which must be used by parents driving their children to the school since there is no parent parking available at the school itself.
- The table below summarises how children travel to schools in East Hendred and compares this with the average for Oxfordshire:

	<i>Car</i>	<i>Bus</i>	<i>Walk or cycle</i>
Pre-school	57%	0	43%
Hendreds School	28%	14%	58%
St Amands School	21%	64%	14%
East Hendred total	27%	34%	39%
Oxfordshire average	29%	19%	51%

These figures imply that on any school day, up to 72 cars may be making two trips a day in the village. Children would like to walk or cycle to school, but are deterred by the lack of safe pavements and cycle tracks. In particular, there are no direct cycle tracks to Ardington and Lockinge or to Rowstock.

- Questionnaire respondents were also concerned about the lack of pavements in Horn Lane, Fordy Lane and Allins Lane.
- Numerous respondents to the Questionnaire describe problems they have travelling to the Health Centre in Wantage and to other amenities by public transport. These include the need to change buses to go to the Health Centre; bus frequency; expense; that the bus service finishes early in the evening; and that the service is unreliable. 99 respondents said that they would use

public transport if more were available. Suggested improvements included buses in the evening and on Sunday, a late bus from Oxford, a faster service to Oxford, a direct service to the Health Centre and hospitals, cheaper bus fares, and an extension of the bus route to the Church. (A limited bus service on Sundays and public holidays is now in place.)

Vision for the future

- Improvements at the junction of White Road and the A417
- No speeding in the village
- Reduction of the speed limit on the A417 through East Hendred.

This is at present under review by the Highways Authority, and local opinions were sought in September 2007 about a reduction to 40mph for a trial period of two years.

- Less on-street parking, by both residents and visitors. This could be done by encouraging people who have garages to use them to house their cars, rather than park on the road; and by providing a village car park for visitors' cars
- Protection for the fabric of the banks and verges, for example by positioning posts or planting shrubs
- Less traffic in the village
- Better public transport services, particularly in the evenings
- More pavements in the village. In particular, sunken sets could be placed along the stretch without a pavement in Church Street to mark a 'pavement zone' for pedestrians.

See also Action E6 and discussion of a new footpath between Snells Hall and Fordy Lane, in the 'Environment' section.

- More cycling, and more cycle tracks. For example, the farm path from East Hendred to Rowstock (in collaboration with Hendred Estate) could be developed into a Sustrans-accredited surfaced track providing access to Milton. The Furlong could be similarly developed and accredited, enabling (with a Sustrans bypass to the north of West Hendred churchyard) level access to Ardington, Lockinge and Wantage

See also the section on Footpaths, bridleways and cycle tracks under 'Environment'.

From the Schools:

"People should walk to school if they live in the village."

"To improve our village environment I think people should not bring cars through the village unless it is absolutely necessary. Also people should walk more to places such as school because if you live in the village then they are short walks."

"I think the village is as safe as it can be."

"I think the village is safe but teenagers hanging around sometimes scare you."

"I don't feel very safe in the village because of the teenagers and gangs, who hang about everywhere. I don't feel threatened by them, just slightly intimidated because they don't use actual violence, just say things that are designed to embarrass you and make you feel like a toddler compared to them. They think it is big and clever but it is not."

"We need more places to park down White Road because all the cars are parked on the side of the road and you have to pull out right to the middle to get around them."

From the Schools:

“The only pollution in Hendred is cars and the only thing we could do is cut down the bus fares but the council can’t do that.”

“They should make more car parks round the village so cars don’t get in the way of other drivers.”

“There are a lot of cars parked on the road and I think someone should put a car park in somewhere in the village.”

“Something needs to be done about the amount of cars coming into the village and where they park.”

Policing

Issues raised

148 respondents to the Questionnaire felt that security in the village was satisfactory; 50 did not. Most of the businesses interviewed (14 out of 16) and the majority of village organisations had no problems with security.

However, there is some vandalism at the sports ground. The Tennis Club reports that the wire-netting fences are persistently holed even when the gates are left unlocked, and that those who break in then use the courts to kick a ball around in footwear that damages the surface. The Cricket Club reports a steep rise in nuisance behaviour in the last 12 months. One youth group commented that other local youths occasionally hurl scorn at the group in public, but that “A sharp word usually disperses them.” There are also some concerns about the security of equipment kept in shared storage space at Snells Hall.

Vision for the future

- More Police patrols in the parish.
- Neighbourhood Watch (NW) schemes covering the whole parish.

5.4 Amenities, Tourism and Employment

Current situation

East Hendred enjoys many amenities, including:

- a village shop and Post Office
- three pubs
- two churches
- two primary schools
- a Community Centre (Snells Hall) which incorporates a large hall with stage, a kitchen and bar, two small meeting rooms, and a computer room in which beginners' courses are run
- a pre-school
- a sports ground with football and cricket pitches, two tennis courts, and a pavilion
- two children's playgrounds
- a bowls club (indoor and outdoor)
- a museum
- a fortnightly mobile library service to two points in the village.

A host of village organisations (see Section 7.2, Contacts) meet in Snells Hall, at the sports ground or their own premises. St Augustine's church is used as a venue for concerts and talks. There are several fairs and fetes each year run by various village organisations.

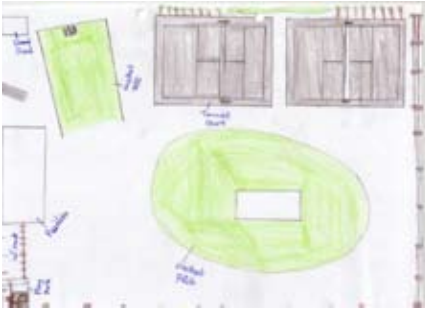
There are two village noticeboards, and the Parish Council funds a newsletter, the *Bulletin*, which is delivered to every household in the village three or four times a year. There is also a village website, www.hendred.org, which publicises events, and a free weekly email service describing what's on in the villages of East and West Hendred. At present this email is sent to over 100 addresses.

There are two children's play parks in the village, one in Snells and the other at the sports ground. Both of these are well-used and ideas are being developed for providing play equipment for older children.

There is a limited amount of tourism in the village. Walkers on the Ridgeway come into East Hendred for accommodation or refreshment; visitors come to the pubs, the museum, and to various village events; others are drawn by the old buildings and peaceful ambiance. Parking is a problem when large numbers of people come into the village by car – for example, for weddings or funerals; and there are no public toilets in the village.



The play park at the sports ground is suitable for younger children



Village children and adults appreciate the sports ground

There are several businesses in the village. As well as the shop and pubs there are B&Bs; small service businesses, most housed in converted agricultural buildings; Clearwater Hampers on the north side of the A417; two vineyards; and three farms.

The Amenities sub-group of the Parish Plan Steering Committee divided its findings into three main areas:

Amenities

Issues raised

Questionnaire respondents and those interviewed made a number of specific requests. The most frequent were:

- Better facilities at the sports ground. The sports ground is used regularly by five thriving sports clubs, and is usually the venue for the Family Show. It is often praised for both its attractive setting and its facilities. However, these facilities are over-stretched, given the increase in numbers of people playing sport. The men's and the boy's football clubs, and the men's and the junior cricket club, would like to expand, if more space was available. One club said it needs: "Bigger car park, bigger field, more changing rooms." All five clubs have over 50% of their members living outside the village, most of whom travel by car. This can cause parking problems in Mill Lane.
- Some young people asked for a football pitch "of their own" since they are discouraged from using the official pitches just to "kick around". There is a small "kick-around" area next to the Penney Play Park in Snells, but space for informal recreation in the village is limited.
- Support for the village shop, which is seen as an essential part of the village. Households and businesses alike list the village shop as the most important facility in the village. 175 Questionnaire respondents (out of 233) put the shop in the top three village facilities, and 12 of the 16 businesses said that the shop was particularly important to them. 153 against 13 Questionnaire respondents said that if it was necessary to its continuing, the village shop should be supported by the Village Precept. The village shop is well run and the current shopkeepers have introduced more freshly prepared food and also very successful wine tasting evenings.
The Hendred Estate, which owns the premises which house the shop and post office, intends to continue its support of these businesses in the future for the general good of the community.



The village stores and post office are the most popular amenities in the village

From the Young People's Questionnaire:

What single change would make East Hendred a better place to live for you?

- *Activities to do at weekends and school holidays.*
- *Have our own football goals*
- *Skate park*
- *Astroturf football pitch*
- *Football pitch*

- Support for the post office. There is considerable alarm that the post office may be closed under the current rationalisation plans for sub post offices. Village businesses as well as households place a high value on the post office – it emerged as the second most important village facility. There were several calls for longer opening hours (it is at present open only three mornings a week). 133 against 14 Questionnaire respondents said that if it was necessary to its continuing, the village post office should be supported by the Village Precept.
It seems that closure of the East Hendred post office is unlikely because of the criterion that in rural areas, 95% of the population should be within three miles of a post office.
- Facilities for teenagers. Despite the number of village activities and organisations, there are limited facilities in the village for teenagers. A Youth Club has recently started, but teenagers say they need an area of their own. A number of respondents to the Young People’s Questionnaire said they would be willing to joining a youth committee to influence what is provided for young people in the village (7 out of 19). However only 3 out of 18 parents were willing to help organise and run activities for young people.
- Newcomers to the village would benefit from a Welcome Pack.

Other issues raised include the need for public toilets, more notice boards and benches. A few people asked for a village tea-room or coffee shop. In general, people are strongly in favour of supporting facilities through the Village Precept.

Some other significant points were raised about village amenities, notably:

- 11 (out of 23 interviewed) village organisations have a majority of members who live in East Hendred; but all the organisations have at least one member from outside the village, and 11 of them have from 50-85% of their members living outside the village. Some specifically serve an area greater than East Hendred (for example, the two schools, St Mary’s church, East and West Hendreds WI, Downs Golden Age, the Twinning Group and E&W Hendred Cricket Club) so would be expected to have members from elsewhere. Two groups see being based in East Hendred as an advantage because it provides a good catchment area. But whilst having groups with members from outside the village helps to ensure that a wide range of active and successful organisations are available to village residents, would

From the Schools:

“The village shop is very useful. Lots of people in the village go there. We think it looks good on the outside giving a good impression of the village.”

“There isn’t a lot of tourist things to do but that is good because we don’t want our village full of tourists.”

“The village is a good place to live in because it’s quiet and there are lots of parks for young children to play in.”

“I think we should have a few more litter bins around the village, maybe where the gangs hang out. They would then hopefully be encouraged to put rubbish in bins.”

“The sports ground is really good. To improve it we could:

- *make a basketball area*
- *make a rugby pitch so there could be a rugby team*
- *have a running track round the cricket pitch*
- *improve the parking to make more space*
- *the play area has good equipment but it needs to be clean and tidy.”*

“We think that the notice board outside the shop should have information about what clubs there are and if there are any special events going to be on in the next few weeks.”



Snells Hall and the Penney Playpark are situated in the green area that contributes greatly to the pleasant rural feel of the village

From the interviews:

“There’s a lack of village interest – new blood comes from outside.”

*“Best venue in the county!”
[of the sports ground]*

From the Hendred Estate:

“The Village Shop and Post Office is a drain on the Estate annually and regularly when it needs structural repairs. It does not manage to pay for its upkeep and maintenance. We intend to continue to subsidise its existence for the general benefit of the village. The village would be a poorer place without both facilities.”

they all be viable if outside support declined? It is important to encourage people living in East Hendred to support village organisations. Some comments made in the interviews suggest that this is not always the case. “Difficulty in getting leaders” was cited more than once as a disadvantage of being based in East Hendred – see also the comment about parent helpers for youth activities above.

- Snells Hall is widely recognised as an important village facility. It is well used with over 400 bookings each year, both by village organisations (nine different organisations use it for their regular meetings) and for events from parties and Brownie Pack Holidays to fairs and plays. A major extension was built to celebrate the Millennium, and the car park was greatly enlarged in 2004. Some of those interviewed had specific suggestions for improving the facilities at the Hall. These are matters for the Snells Hall Management Committee.
- The two schools are a positive asset to the village. A County Schools survey is in progress, and both schools are preparing School Travel Plans, which may suggest solutions to the problems of schools traffic within the village. The Hendreds School Travel Plan has been completed and approved by OCC.
- It is interesting there are few non-sports ‘interest’ groups in East Hendred – no art, gardening or bridge clubs, such as are often found in villages of a similar size.

Vision for the future

- More and/or better facilities for sport and recreation in the village, to cater for all interests and so that all have sufficient space and access. This will include a solution to the parking problems in Mill Lane (see section on Traffic); and more village people involved in running village organisations.
- New recreational facilities for teenagers. Their own area, shelter or hall could give the youth a sense of belonging in the village. Establishing a village youth committee would also help teenagers feel involved and take responsibility for their actions and themselves. Teenagers should be involved in the planning process.
- The village shop still thriving.
- The Post Office open, and for longer hours.
- Snells Hall and the two village schools still thriving.
- Better village ‘furniture’ – more benches and noticeboards in the most appropriate places.

Tourism

Issues raised

The Questionnaire showed that people are largely in favour of encouraging more tourists to the village. 130 (against 66) said visitors should be encouraged on a regular basis, and 175 (against 19) said they should be encouraged to come to specific events. The reasons given against encouraging more tourism are principally about parking and traffic problems, but also the threat to the peaceful village atmosphere. The individual comments from the schoolchildren are unanimously against more tourists!

St Augustine's PCC is at present investigating how best to replace its Parish Room, a small hut with no disabled access; and to provide toilet facilities at the church for public events such as concerts.

Vision for the future

- More visitors to the village to support village events, fetes and social activities as well as businesses such as the shop and pubs, encouraged by the provision of facilities such as a visitors' car park, public toilets; better publicity for events; and an infrastructure for circular and historic walks or tours.

The provision of a car park is covered in the section on Traffic by action T2; VOWHDC advise that public toilets are very difficult to fund and manage

Employment

Issues raised

16 businesses with premises in the village were asked to complete a short questionnaire, and 12 returned responses. These businesses provide 140-150 jobs, with one also providing an extra 150 temporary jobs each year before Christmas. About one-third of those employed by these businesses live in East Hendred. In the households that responded to the Questionnaire there are 266 people in paid work. Of these, 18% work in the parish, 42% work within 20 miles of the village, and the rest travel further than that.

The Questionnaire identified a need for more local employment for village people – 109 respondents said they would like to see more employment in the village (against



A recent conversion of agricultural buildings into business premises

58 who would not), and 67 said they would like to work in the village. Most of the existing businesses plan to stay in East Hendred and five of them have plans to expand, but two may do so outside the village. One firm that moved to the village increased the number of local jobs by about 50 in 2007. Several more agricultural buildings may be suitable for conversion to business premises.

The type of employment that residents would like to see in the village varied. Most frequently mentioned by respondents to the Questionnaire supported was small businesses, and some emphasised that they should be appropriate to a rural area. The next largest group would welcome any type of employment. Several wanted jobs for young people.

Businesses in the village stimulate each other. The village facilities most used by employees of the businesses are the shop, the post office, and the pubs. Local employment is also an effective use of redundant rural buildings and when local people are employed, minimises carbon dioxide emissions incurred by commuting, and reduces traffic coming into the village. The only point raised against employment within the village was increased traffic.

Six of the businesses surveyed listed disadvantages of working from East Hendred. These include that it is difficult to reach without a car, and that many young people cannot afford to rent accommodation nearby.

Vision for the future

- More local employment opportunities, achieved through the development of existing village businesses and the provision of additional suitable premises for small businesses of the type that provides jobs that village people support.
- More local people employed in the village, achieved by encouraging local businesses to employ village people.

6. Next Steps

This Parish Plan includes many ideas for action. Some of these actions are already being carried out and some will be initiated in the future. The Parish Council needs to take responsibility for organising or carrying out most of the actions, because they fall within its areas of responsibility. However, in some cases, people who are not on the PC have been or will be organising action themselves.

In order to monitor progress on the development of the Parish Plan, the PC has had a review of Parish Plan progress as a regular agenda item for its monthly meetings. With the adoption of the Plan by the PC, this will be replaced by a new regular agenda item calling for a progress report on Parish Plan actions.

The PC will monitor progress in each of the four main areas of the Action Plan in the following ways:

- **Environment** – as a direct result of the Parish Plan process, the Hendreds Environment Group has been formed in order to organise village-wide responses to various environmental challenges such as reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, conservation of the natural environment and development of a village nature reserve. This group will follow up the actions listed in the Environment section of the Parish Plan. Good liaison with the PC is assured, since several parish councillors are members of the group.
Actions on footpaths and the Ridgeway will be followed up by the PC.
- **Housing and Planning** – at the local level these areas are the responsibility of the PC. Progress on the actions in these areas will be reported at PC meetings.
- **Traffic and Policing** – actions on speed limits and parking are the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council and the PC will follow up such action plans with the OCC.
- **Amenities** – the Action Plan calls for the establishment of a new sports workgroup involving sports clubs, schools, the PC and the Hendred Estate. This workgroup will be responsible for initiating and progressing actions to do with sports facilities.
The East Hendred Community Centre committee has responsibility for the maintenance and development of village hall (Snells Hall).
Maintenance and development of the village playgrounds are the responsibility of the PC.
Other actions will be initiated and monitored as appropriate by the PC.

48 7. The Action Plan

This section contains the actions arising from the four sub-groups, together with a note of the progress made on each action at the time of publication (February 2008). Action plan item numbers are prefixed by E for Environment, H for Housing and Planning, T for Traffic and Policing, and A for Amenities.

Item	Aim	Action	Partners	Timescale	Current Status
E1	Improve natural environment	Create then manage local nature reserve	Hendred Estate; ORCC; VOWHDC Community Grant scheme?	immediate then ongoing	Nature trail between Snells and Fordy Lane being progressed
E2	Improve natural environment	Designate then manage community orchard	ORCC; AONB Sustainable Development Fund?	immediate then ongoing	Clearing of the site is well advanced and apple juice production has commenced
E3	Improve natural environment	Manage churchyard as nature reserve	PCC; VOWHDC Community Grant scheme?	immediate then ongoing	This is being investigated, along with other nature reserve projects
E4	Improve natural environment	Encourage the Hendred Estate to work towards the Higher Level Scheme for the Single Payment Subsidy	Hendred Estate	ongoing	
E5	Protect public green spaces	Undertake a survey of areas in the village which have been used by the public for more than 20 years; register these as village greens	PC; OCC	during 2008	
E6	Improve footpaths etc	Provide new footpath between Snells Hall and Fordy Lane	PC; Hendred Estate	ongoing	Being worked on in conjunction with the nature trail (E1)
E7	Improve footpaths etc	Monitor and improve condition of existing footpaths, bridleways and cycle tracks	PC; OCC Highways	ongoing	

Item	Aim	Action	Partners	Timescale	Current Status
E8	Protect the Ridgeway	Provide notices on Ridgeway telling people who to call if they see infringements of the ban on non-agricultural engined vehicles	RMG; PC	immediate	
E9	Protect the Ridgeway	Monitor adherence to the ban on non-agricultural motorised vehicles on the Ridgeway	RMG; PC	ongoing	
E10	All Environment aims	Provide 'green' column in the Bulletin	PC; OCC for information on Community Action Groups	immediate	The first column appeared in the September 2007 edition
E11	All Environment aims	Set up an Environment group within the village with strong links to the PC	PC	immediate	The Hundreds Environment Group was established in Autumn 2007
E12	Improve waste management	Set recycling targets: all households to recycle at least 25% of all rubbish by 2008; Combined Recovery Rate of 31% by 2008, 61% by 2020	Envt Group; OCC for information on Community Action Groups	by 2008/2020	
E13	Improve waste management	Publicise recycling at village events	Envt Group	ongoing	
E14	Improve waste management	Investigate the possibility of a parish composting scheme to complement the brown bin scheme	Envt Group	as soon as practical	
E15	Improve energy efficiency	Investigate then implement village energy audit	Envt Group; VOWH Energy Efficiency Officer; TVE; EU funding?	2008	
E16	Improve energy efficiency	Investigate grants available to facilitate more efficient energy use	Envt Group	ongoing	The Environment Group is following up

Item	Aim	Action	Partners	Timescale	Current Status
E17	Improve energy efficiency	Introduce a local energy advice service to promote more efficient energy use	Envt Group	by end 2007	A group called Henergy has been established to support and monitor more efficient use of energy in the parish.
E18	Improve energy efficiency	Introduce an active policy to promote more efficient use of energy, including targets for energy saving and use of renewable energy	Envt Group; OCC for information on Community Action Groups	during 2008	Henergy, part of the Hendreds Environment Group set up to encourage efficient use of energy in the Hendreds, will address this as part of its activities.
E19	Monitor decommissioning work at Harwell site	Continue PC representation on Local Stakeholder Group	PC	until completion (2040)	PC representatives attend regular meetings of stakeholder group
E20	Safeguard the community from negative effects of the reservoir	Monitor potential impacts	PC, RAP	until completion	PC representatives attend RAP meetings
E21	Maximize planning gain from reservoir	Put forward ideas (eg for bridleway from East Hendred to the reservoir)	PC, RAP	during 2008	
H1	Encourage architecture compatible with the existing look of the village	Produce a guide that identifies the character of local buildings and their setting to act as a guide for future building and changes	PC; North Wessex Downs AONB; VOWHDC Planning Officers; Hendred Heritage	2008	
H2	Discourage further development of over-developed areas	Commission a study to identify areas that have been over developed and which should not be developed, and discuss this with the Vale Planning Department	PC; VOWHDC Planning Department	1st stage – 6 months	

Item	Aim	Action	Partners	Timescale	Current Status
H3	Protect the character of the village CA	Raise awareness of local planning guidelines that protect the CA; review all new developments and extensions in the CA against these criteria	PC; VOWHDC; AONB	ongoing	
H4	Extend the CA	Identify extensions to the CA and provide input to current CA review	In hand with VOWHDC	CA review completed 2007	PC took part in discussions on the draft discussion document produced by VOWHDC
H5	Protect listed buildings and the setting of listed buildings	Commission photographs of village listed buildings and their settings for reference in planning and development	PC; Hendred Heritage	2008	
H6	Protect listed buildings	Review all proposed extensions and modifications to listed buildings carefully against current design guidelines	PC; VOWHDC Planners	ongoing	
H7	Protect the setting of listed buildings	Review all new developments and extensions adjacent to listed buildings carefully against the Vale Local Plan criteria in the Vale Local Plan	PC; VOWHDC Planners	ongoing	
H8	Avoid house building on sites that provide village amenities, and green spaces	Ensure that the Vale District Planners are aware of these sites	PC; VOWHDC Planners	ongoing	
H9	Encourage and support the provision of affordable housing using available sites and 'exception sites'	Follow up three existing potential sites. Investigate further sites	ORCC; Sovereign Housing; PC	ongoing	

Item	Aim	Action	Partners	Timescale	Current Status
H10	Support the building of sheltered accommodation . Identify possible sites for sheltered housing.	Conduct a needs survey	OCC; DGA OCC Care providers	1 year	ORCC is conducting a Housing Needs Survey. The PC is assisting with this.
H11	Encourage the building of smaller new houses, when development sites become available	Communicate the need for smaller houses to VOWHDC Planners	VOWHDC; PC	ongoing	
H12	Encourage the building of smaller new houses, when development sites become available	PC to comment on future applications to encourage smaller houses	PC	ongoing	
H13	Encourage higher energy efficiency and use of renewable energy in newly built houses and extensions	Raise the profile of this topic with the planning authority	TVE; VOWHDC	ongoing	
H14	Encourage higher energy efficiency and use of renewable energy in newly built houses and extensions	Encourage applications for new housing and extensions to meet new Government targets	PC; TVE; VOWHDC	ongoing	

Item	Aim	Action	Partners	Timescale	Current Status
T1	Improve access to A417 from village	Campaign for a scheme to improve access at the A417/White Road junction, particularly at peak times, highlighting safety and congestion	PC; OCC Highways; TVP	2008	PC is liaising with Oxfordshire Highways on 40mph speed limit on A417.
T2	Reduce on-street parking problems	Identify individual problem areas; investigate localised solutions	Local property owners; PC; OCC Highways; TVP; both schools	2008	
T3	Reduce speeding within the village	Investigate SIDs and other traffic calming measures; encourage their use in the village	PC; OCC Highways; TVP; NAG	2008	
T4	Protect banks and verges from further damage	Identify sites; investigate individual solutions	OCC Highways; Operators of large vehicles/buses	ongoing	
T5	Maintain and improve transport services	Provide information on existing schemes to hospitals and surgery, and investigate extending these	ORCC Transport Advisor; bus companies. ORCC Transport Survey in hand	ongoing	
T6	Reduce traffic	Investigate supporting a car sharing scheme	PC	2008	www.liftshare.org identified as being effective and easy to use
T7	Encourage cycling for local journeys	Develop specific cycleways in and adjoining the village	Sustrans; PC; OCC Rights of Way Department	2008	
T8	More cycle tracks	Investigate provision of direct cycle tracks to Wantage and Rowstock	OCC Highways Dept – cycle track officer	ongoing	
T9	Increase police presence	Encourage more patrols from PCSOs, especially in evenings	TVP; NAG	ongoing	
T10	Develop NW schemes to cover all the village	Encourage and build NW scheme	NAG	ongoing	

Item	Aim	Action	Partners	Timescale	Current Status
A1	Accommodate increasing demand for sporting facilities	Develop global sports strategy for the village	New sports workgroup involving sports clubs, schools, PC, Hendred Estate; OPFA; consult with other PCs (eg Woodcote, Brightwell)	end 2008	
A2	Accommodate increasing demand for sporting facilities	Investigate available sports spaces in the village including sports ground and school sports fields	Sports workgroup	end 2008	
A3	Increase village facilities for recreation	Explore requirements (facilities/people) to increase recreational opportunities	PC to initiate	ongoing	A kickaround area with football goals has been established next to the Penney Play Park, in Snells
A4	Provide recreation facilities for teenagers	Set up a youth committee to identify needs	PC; youth organisations	2007	First meeting held September 2007
A5	Provide recreation facilities for teenagers	Investigate funding for identified needs and availability of funding of professional organiser for youth activities	OCC Youth Service; grant bodies; other local PCs to fund joint Youth Worker?	ongoing	
A6	Retain and extend the hours of the village Post Office	Liaise and campaign with the Post Office; take every opportunity to influence stakeholders	PO Network; PC; VOWHDC, ORCC; village postmaster	ongoing	
A7	Support Snells Hall	Review and update facilities to meet the changing needs of users	Snells Hall Management Committee; PC; ORCC	ongoing	The EHCC Committee maintains the Hall and is currently managing a kitchen refurbishment.
A8	Support village schools	Co-operate with schools eg to resolve travel to school issues	Schools; PC; OCC	ongoing	

Item	Aim	Action	Partners	Timescale	Current Status
A9	Improve village furniture	Install additional notice boards and benches around village	PC; investigate Community Arts Scheme	2008	
A10	Improve opportunities for informal gatherings	Investigate tea/coffee shop and use of Snells Hall for regular coffee/tea mornings	Village shop; Snells Hall; pubs	ongoing	
A11	Provide public toilets	Investigate feasibility of providing public toilets	PC; Hendred Heritage; PCC	ongoing	
A12	Provide a 'Welcome Pack' for newcomers to the village	Develop a welcome pack based on the West Hendred pack	WI; West Hendred PC; churches	2008 then ongoing	
A13	Encourage more visitors to local events/organisations	Provide more visitor information eg circular/historic walks	Hendred Heritage; PC; VOWHDC Tourist Group	ongoing	
A14	Encourage more visitors to local events/organisations	Link village and Vale websites to publicise village events	VOWHDC Tourist Group; village webmaster	ongoing	
A15	Encourage local employment	Develop a strategy for economic activities in the village	PC; Hendred Estate; Business Link	Strategy 2008 - ongoing	

Contacts

For further information about the Parish Plan please contact:

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A list of village organisations and contacts is maintained on the village website, www.hendred.org. A list is also printed in the *Bulletin*, which is published quarterly.

Contacts for organisations mentioned in this Parish Plan include:

		<i>Tel:</i>	<i>Email/website:</i>
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Snells Hall Management Committee Chair	Dr. John Sharp	833367	J.V.Sharp@btinternet.com
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St Augustine's Parish Church The Rector	Rev. Rita Ball	833235	ritaball@wanadoo.co.uk
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Downs Golden Age	Mrs Betty Holliday	833400	
Brownies	Mrs Linda Harris	833126	
Scouts (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts)	Mr Andy Brewer	861498	www.1stcuckhamsley.co.uk

		<i>Tel:</i>	<i>Email/website:</i>
Morland Bowling Club	Mr Keith Haynes	525493	
Indoor Bowls Club	Mr Ken Taylor	833359	Kenneth.taylor2007@btinternet.co.uk
Hendreds Heritage	Mr Tony James	833471	www.easthendredmuseum.co.uk
Hendreds Twinning Group	Mrs Margaret Sharp	833367	www.hendred.org.uk/twinning
WI	Mrs Julie Pearce	835689	jpxpol@tiscali.co.uk
Cricket Club	Mr Ivan Mulford	820316	
Football Club	Mr Steve Mulford	818027	www.easthendredafc.com
Tennis Club	Mrs Lorraine Clayton	833792	www.hendredstennis.co.uk
Hendreds Environment Group	Mrs Sarah James	831568	sarahjames@fs2.com
Vale of White Horse District Council		520202	
Oxfordshire County Council		01865 792422	
Thames Valley Police (non-emergency)		0845 8505505	
Octabus		01865 876176	

Glossary

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
CA	Conservation Area
DGA	Downs Golden Age
EHCC	East Hendred Community Centre (Snells Hall)
LTP	Local Transport Plan
NAG	Neighbourhood Action Group
NDA	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
NW	Neighbourhood Watch
OCC	Oxfordshire County Council
OCHA	Oxford Citizens Housing Association
OCSI	Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion
Octabus	An Oxfordshire Community Transport Bus Service offering dial-a-ride services for those who are unable or find it difficult to use public transport
OPFA	Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association
ORCC	Oxfordshire Rural Community Council
PC	Parish Council
PCC	Parochial Church Council
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
PO	Post Office
RAP	Reservoir Affected Parishes Group
RMG	Ridgeway Management Group (The National Trails Management Group managing The Ridgeway)
SERCC	South-East Rural Community Council
SID	Speed Indicator Device
TVE	Thames Valley Energy
TVP	Thames Valley Police
UKAEA	United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority
VOWHDC	Vale of White Horse District Council
WI	Women's Institute

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Renewable Energy Feasibility Assessment – East Hendred; Final Report to Thames Valley Energy *East Hendred Parish Council* September 2005

Appendix

Harwell Science and Innovation Campus

The world-renowned Harwell Science and Innovation Campus straddles the Parish's south eastern boundary. In 2006, the Government announced its intention to develop the Campus, already one of the largest centres of science and technology enterprise in Europe, as a global centre for science and innovation based around the major science facilities located there, notably the Diamond synchrotron.

The Campus is already one of the largest employment sites in Oxfordshire. There are currently approximately 4500 employees working in some 80 organisations at the Campus. A number of East Hendred residents work at the Campus.

Approximately a third of the 300 hectare Campus lies in the Parish of East Hendred. This north west flank of the Campus comprises two relatively distinct areas: To the north is an area previously developed for housing known as the 'Aldfield Estate' (and an adjacent field currently in agricultural use). To the south is a larger area which currently forms part of the nuclear licensed site within the Campus. This area is under the control of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and is the subject of a decommissioning and restoration programme currently being carried out by the UKAEA. This programme, which is removing the nuclear liabilities arising from Harwell's historic atomic research role, is due to be largely complete by 2040, this date having changed due to spending cuts by the NDA. The Parish Council, working through the stakeholders' group and our elected representatives, is seeking to have these spending cuts reviewed with a view to achieving decommissioning and restoration closer to 2020, the date originally set by the NDA. Restored land will be released by the NDA for redevelopment as part of the overall Campus. This area also supports the main radioactive waste management and storage facilities on the site. These facilities, which are currently being enhanced, are expected to remain on site well beyond the completion of the restoration programme.

The Campus is a significant national asset and is recognised in the Regional Economic Strategy, the Oxfordshire Structure Plan and the emerging South East Plan (the regional spatial strategy) which will replace the Structure Plan. The Vale of White Horse District Local Plan sets out policies specific to the Campus. The Local Plan designates the whole Campus for employment generating uses. Significant growth in investment and employment levels on the Campus is anticipated over the next 10-20 years. The rate of growth will clearly depend on the level of investment and the commercial market at any time but also on the level of investment in housing and sub-regional infrastructure (notably transport).

Within the next 10 years development of the Campus is expected to be concentrated in the western, southern and central areas of the campus, i.e. within the Chilton and Harwell Parishes, where property is already available for re-use and is close to the principal access points to the site from the A4185. Significant development is already underway in these areas. Nevertheless, some development of the Aldfield Estate area is also expected in this timeframe.

To realise the Government's vision for the Campus and to unlock the scientific, economic and social potential of the Campus, UKAEA and the Science and Technology Facilities Council, the two principal owners of the Campus, are proposing to form a joint venture with an investing private sector partner. The joint venture is expected to be implemented in 2008 and to take the lead role in the physical development of the Campus.

