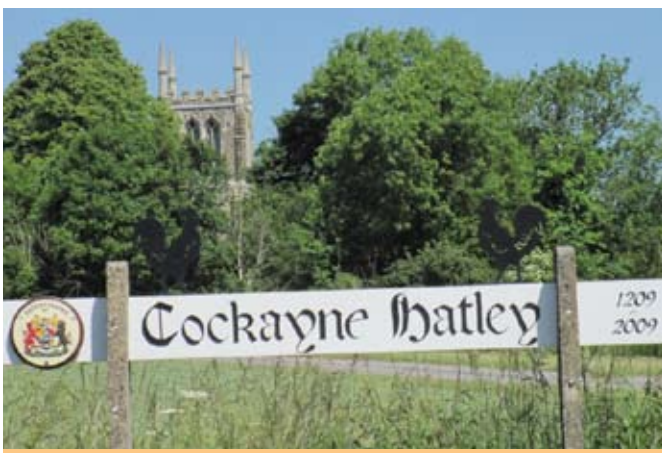


WRESTLINGWORTH & COCKAYNE HATLEY PARISH PLAN 2011-2016

"Having a parish plan can help to improve the life of our communities. It should bring a sharper focus to community life and help us to be more effective in the future, including doing things we might well not have done at all without it."

Ron Ram

Introduction



VIEW TOWARDS ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH,
COCKAYNE HATLEY



VIEW TOWARDS ST PETER'S CHURCH,
WRESTLINGWORTH

The Parish Plan started as a 'Potton Liaison' joint exercise with Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley, Sutton, Everton, Dunton and Eyeworth in around 2005. In those early days many meetings were attended in Eyeworth Village Hall but little progress was made. The Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley group became very frustrated and recommended to the Parish Council that we should go it alone, based on the feeling that other villages didn't share the same vision and it was unlikely that any questionnaire would be localised enough to deal with our issues.

The Parish Council applied for, and was awarded, grant funding in February 2007. In March 2007 the initial group of parish councillors developed flyers and events, including a marquee at the Wrestlingworth Show and Sale. There followed an event in The Chequers where I first became involved, volunteering among others to become a member of one or more focus groups. Checking my records I find that there were 13 draft versions of the survey questionnaire on which the plan is based, the first in June 2008 and a final version was printed and distributed in early April 2009 with a response rate in excess of 50%, which was very encouraging.

I would like to thank all past and present members of the focus groups for their time and effort and in particular Jon Hall, Carol Ashby and Janice Crabbe for their determination in getting the project off the ground. I would also like to thank Ron Ram for taking on the role as Chairman of the Parish Plan Steering Group, a role that he has performed excellently.

John Beal

Chair of the Parish Council



THE OLD BUTCHER'S SHOP WRESTLINGWORTH
IN 1898



THE OLD BUTCHER'S SHOP AS A HOUSE IN 2002

I became involved with the Parish Plan at a relatively late stage after joining the Parish Council. You can see from John Beal's letter that there has been a desire in Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley to have a Parish Plan and the energy to produce it. John Beal deserves special thanks for all the work he did in preparing the survey and analysing the results. Several focus groups began their work in June 2009 and have met as required since. The steering group started pulling ideas together in September 2009 and met six times up to June 2010 to produce the final draft plan, prior to parish consultations in September 2010.

Having a parish plan can help to improve the life of our communities. It should bring a sharper focus to community life and help us to be more effective in the future, including doing things we might well not have done at all without it. Near the end of the plan, where the proposals are set out in summary form, it will be seen that several of the proposals have already been initiated due to the energy and endeavours of the focus groups concerned, so some significant gains have been achieved even before the plan was finished!

Now we have got a plan we need to work together to see it is implemented.

Ron Ram

Chair of the Parish Plan Steering Group

Wrestlingworth

Wrestlingworth is a rural village, although few of its population are involved in agriculture. Nearly all land is under the plough, with the most popular crops being wheat, oil seed rape and soya. There are a few sheep and cattle. The land is heavy boulder clay with a lot of chalk and some flints. The geography is undulating. About 750 people live in the village which is attractive but not ' twee '. It was founded around the twelfth century and is therefore not mentioned in the Domesday Book. Most of the houses are modern and privately owned. There are a few farm houses which date at least from Tudor times. There is an Anglican church, and a church supported lower school for 4 to 9 year olds.

As a small village it is on the margin of being able to sustain basic community facilities, such as pub, shop and school. There has been a decline in these and now there is one pub and a successful hairdresser, but no post office or village shop. For a lot of people the visible focus points in community life are now the pub, the church, the school and the pre-school group. Bus services have followed national trends over the past thirty years or so. A steep decline has been followed by a fairly recent renewal which links the village with Potton and Biggleswade, the nearest places of any size. Potton is three miles away and Biggleswade is six. The nearest doctor's surgery is in Potton. The nearest hospitals are nearly 20 miles away. The only other community services provided by state agencies are a mobile library and a mobile police station.

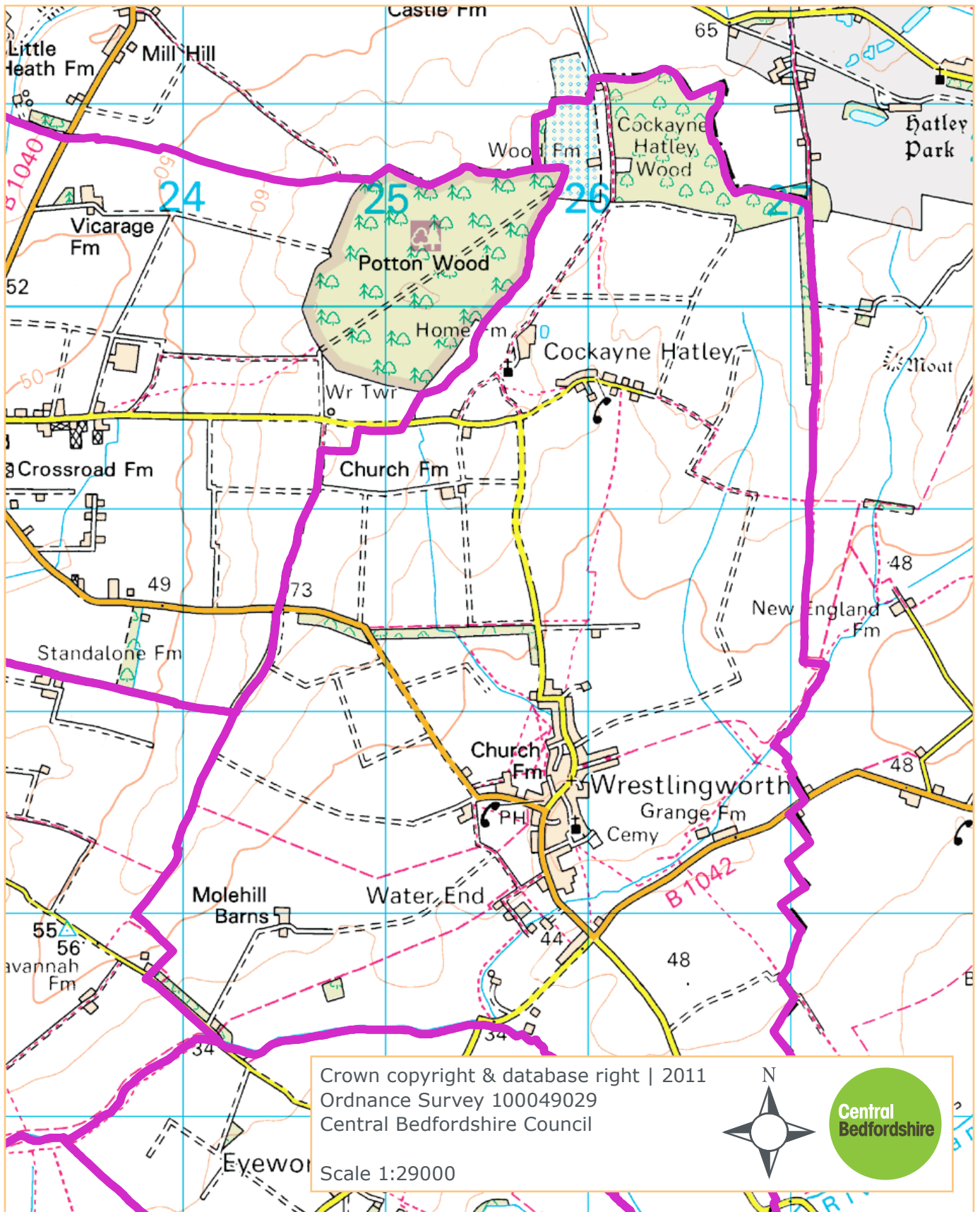
There is a good social mix in the village. About 20% of the inhabitants are from long resident families, i.e., over several generations. A significant proportion of other residents have been in the village a long time, but some come and go relatively quickly. Most people are in white-collar jobs of some kind, in local towns like Stevenage, Bedford or Cambridge. There are a number of self employed people and five farms. There is very little serious crime in the village but a more visible police presence would be appreciated. The village has a good age distribution and quite a lot of families have school age children, but they nearly all leave as they grow up. Due to the high level of house prices some people from within the village find it difficult to buy homes, although thought is being given to providing affordable housing for people who have a strong connection with the village.

There is also a good community identity. A lot of social activity takes place in the form of organisations which support community life and leisure groups that people can and do join. Organisations which support the village as a whole are the Parish Council, Church, The Memorial Hall Committee, and the Goodwill Fund. There is a lively village magazine called *The Village Link* that has a wide circulation and contains details about all the other organisations and activities.

A survey of Wrestlingworth was produced by the Wrestlingworth History Society in 2002 as part of its contribution to the Golden Jubilee Year. It contains a picture of life in the village, historical and contemporary, and was entitled *Wrestlingworth Recalled*. Copies are still available from the Wrestlingworth History Society. Comparison between the earlier survey and the one used to prepare this plan suggests there is a good degree of stability in local life. Many of the houses in the two villages were photographed in 2002 as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations and these are held by the Wrestlingworth History Society.

Cockayne Hatley

Although Cockayne Hatley is smaller, with a population of just under 100, it is mentioned in the Domesday Book, so it is an older community than Wrestlingworth. The village includes two houses from the seventeenth century, a stone-built old rectory from 1856, and a hall on the site of the medieval manor house.



The much visited grade I listed church is filled with imported Flemish woodwork of the seventeenth century, and a stained glass window from the fourteenth century, as well as the grave of Henley the poet. Cockayne Hatley has been linked with Wrestlingworth for administrative purposes since 1985 and joins Wrestlingworth in some activities, particularly the Goodwill Fund, but there is a concern that insufficient attention is given to Cockayne Hatley's needs and interests, and a special effort has been made to see this does not happen in the preparation of the present plan.

Generally the contextual comments made about Wrestlingworth apply equally to Cockayne Hatley.

The Parish Plan



AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF WRESTLINGWORTH



AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF COCKAYNE HATLEY

A Parish Plan for Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley, based on the views of residents, can help make a difference to the future of the villages. It sets out villagers' priorities and concerns. In particular it will inform democratically the Parish Council and other bodies about residents' wishes so that decisions can be based on reliable and widely understood information.

The plan will assist the Parish Council in setting budgets, choosing projects to support, and give guidance on how to respond to consultations promoted by outside bodies like Central Bedfordshire Council and National Government.

It will also help to identify unmet needs and focus attention on dealing with them. It is known that grant applications for village improvements have a far greater chance of obtaining funding when supported by a Parish Plan. This plan is an action plan for our two villages.

Consultation involved

The plan is based on a professionally prepared survey, for which financial support was obtained from the Rural, Social and Community Programme of the Department of Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs. The views of all the households were sought and there was a response rate of 52%. The full survey findings are available from the Parish Council. Early in the process the views of residents were sought via a stall at the Wrestlingworth 2009 Show and Sale, a 'planning for real' event, from the Youth Club, and from Cockayne Hatley Parish Church.

To help prepare the plan several focus groups were set up based on the concerns and issues the survey highlighted. The memberships of the focus groups have been a mixture of interested residents and Parish Councillors, and these have contributed to a steering group that was formed to oversee the analysis.

The needs identified by each focus group with its proposals are outlined in this plan. The membership of the Community Support focus group contained representatives from the Goodwill Fund and the parish churches. In addition the steering group has received valuable advice and support from Zoe Ashby of the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity, and staff from Central Bedfordshire Council, especially Laurent Martial, the Community Development Officer on Rural Affairs.

Thanks are also due to everyone from the parish who has contributed to the development of the plan, especially the members of the steering group who pulled it together - Robin Barratt, John Beal (who handled the survey work), Kevin Millard, Val Moles, Ron Ram (chair and drafter) and Hugh Williams.

In drawing up the plan the steering group also sought views from outside itself about the future development of the parish, especially from the Wrestlingworth pre-school group, Wrestlingworth school, a group who had recently tried to reopen the closed Wrestlingworth village shop, and individual residents regarding housing developments.

Following completion of a draft there was a further consultation process, described in the final section titled, Making the plan a reality.

Findings and proposals of each focus group

Proposed actions are identified to one of three timescales. These are short - that is within two years from the date the plan is adopted, medium, which is taken to be between three and five years of that date and ongoing, i.e., responding to requirements, needs, and opportunities as they arise.

In this section there are references to a number of public bodies and services. Their full names are given here with the initials used later.

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC)
Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC)
Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE)
Police Community Support Officers (PCSO)
The Community Aggregates Fund (COMMA)
Department of the Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DoE)



TOP: CHILDREN AT WRESTLINGWORTH SCHOOL IN 1955

LOWER: THE HAIRDRESSER SHOP IN WRESTLINGWORTH



WALNUT TREE CLOSE - THE NEWEST HOUSES IN WRESTLINGWORTH

1. Housing, education and employment

Findings

- Need to develop a set of Parish Council planning guidelines for use in commenting on planning applications
- Need to explore further the requirement there is for affordable housing in the parish
- Need to support the local school and pre-school group, to help maintain pupil numbers
- Need to support networking among the self employed and people who work at home.



ONE OF THE OLDEST
HOUSES IN
WRESTLINGWORTH

Proposals

Proposal 1 Develop a set of planning guidelines for use by the Parish Council in commenting on planning applications with reference to the survey findings, advice from CBC, and consultation with interested parish groups.

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Develop a set of planning guidelines	Short	Parish Council

Proposal 2 Undertake a Housing Needs Survey to establish if there is a demand for affordable housing

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Carry out a housing needs survey to establish level of demand for affordable housing	Short	Parish Council and BRCC

Proposal 3 Support the local school and pre-school group to help maintain pupil numbers

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Support the local school and pre-school group and encourage their participation in community events	Ongoing	School, pre school group, and Parish Council

Proposal 4 Explore requirements for networking among the self employed and people who work at home

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Explore needs and how to meet them	Ongoing	Parish Council planning committee, CBC, self-employed and home worker residents

2. Highways & roads

Findings

- Quality of road conditions need improving
- Bushes and hedges overhanging the pavements need trimming back
- Signage & safety at the Cambridge / Eyeworth crossroads needs to be improved
- The requirement for additional dropped kerbs needs to be assessed
- Need to tackle dangerous parking in Wrestlingworth, especially in the High Street near Church Lane
- Need to address issues of speeding and HGVs travelling through the parish

TOP: THE HIGH STREET WRESTLINGWORTH IN 1908

LOWER: THE SAME SCENE IN 2011



Proposals

Proposal 5 Improve road conditions

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Identify problems and pass details on to CBC Highways Department with requests for remedial action. Make sure residents are aware of how to report problems to CBC Highways Department as and when they occur	Ongoing	Parish Council, CBC, and residents

Proposal 6 Improve trimming back of bushes/hedges overlapping the pavements

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Identify where the main problems are and discuss action required with property owners	Ongoing	Parish Council and property owners

Proposal 7 Improve signage & safety at the Cambridge / Eyeworth crossroads

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Investigate the feasibility of placing signs at the Cambridge / Eyeworth crossroads to the A1 (North) and A1 (South). Research the feasibility of options to improve safety at this crossroads	Medium	Parish Council and CBC

Proposal 8 Assess requirement for Dropped Kerbs and funding possibilities

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Identify locations where dropped kerbs are required, through discussions with local residents and CBC Highways Department. Explore funding sources	Ongoing	Parish Council, CBC, and residents

Proposal 9 Deal with dangerous parking problems, especially on the High Street near Church Lane

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Review parking problems as required and identify suitable measures to overcome issues	Medium	Parish Council, CBC, and residents

Proposal 10 Deal with issues of speeding and HGVs travelling through the parish

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Investigate the feasibility and usefulness of installing "Village Gates". Carry out speed checks and discuss with CBC possible solutions for areas where speeding is identified to be an issue	Medium	Parish Council, CBC, and Police

Proposal 11 Investigate feasibility of a Wrestlingworth, Eyeworth, and Dunton bypass.

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Investigate bypass feasibility	Medium	Parish Council(s), CBC, and DoE



TOP:
WRESTLINGWORTH
VILLAGE STORES IN
2002

LOWER: ONE OF THE
OUTCOMES OF THE
WRESTLINGWORTH
TIDY UP IN MARCH 2011



WRESTLINGWORTH POST OFFICE AND GENERAL SHOP CIRCA 1950

3. Transport, services and facilities

Findings

- Need to research feasibility of establishing a community meeting place (*Tea room and shop*)
- Need for improved cleaning of roads, pavements and the brook
- Need to encourage litter clearing to tidy up the parish
- Need to improve avenues of public communication among and between residents
- Need to explore possible improvements to local transport services
- Need to explore possibilities to improve access to local medical services
- Need to meet requests for allotments

Proposals

Proposal 12 Research feasibility of increasing meeting places in the community, e.g., tea room and shop

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Research feasibility and possible arrangements. Seek input from the former Save our Shop group	Medium	Save our Shop group, Parish Council, and CBC

Proposal 13a. Deal with road, pavement and brook cleaning

Proposal 13b. Encourage local litter clearing to help maintain tidy villages

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Support Parish Council clean up events	Ongoing	Parish Council, Parish Walking & Wildlife Group

Proposal 14 Improve public communication in the administrative parish

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Ensure the continuation of <i>The Village Link</i> Editorial group. Offer colour advertising in the Link to raise income. Explore setting up some web based communications	Ongoing	Parish Council and <i>The Village Link</i> Editorial Group

Proposal 15 Provide allotments to meet requests from residents

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Investigate the feasibility of potential sites for allotments in the parish and arrange a long term lease to secure provision	Short	Parish Council and CBC

Proposal 16 Contribute to the improvement of bus services

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Contribute feedback from local residents to the CBC Local Bus Service Review. Ensure all bus users are aware of the review and co-ordinate responses to CBC	Short and ongoing	Parish Council and <i>The Village Link</i> Editorial Group

Proposal 17 Improve access to medical facilities

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Promote the services offered by the Goodwill Fund to assist individuals to reach medical facilities. Discuss with Greensands Surgery the feasibility of providing outreach medical services within the parish	Medium	Parish Council, Goodwill Fund, Greensands Surgery



TOP: THE CLOPTON WAY SIGN AT COCKAYNE HATLEY

LOWER: THE PARISH WALKING AND WILDLIFE GROUP MOVING TO A BRIGHT FUTURE



THE ENVIRONMENT AROUND COCKAYNE HATLEY IN 2011

4. Environment and rights of way

Findings

- Ensure rights of way are all correctly way marked and accessible
- Increase availability of dog and general litter bins
- Identify and advertise new circular routes within the parish using current rights of way
- Identify potential sites for conservation projects
- Encourage and develop appreciation and awareness of the local environment

Proposals

Proposal 18 All rights of way to be correctly way marked and accessible

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Form a 'Parish Walking & Wildlife Group' to assume these responsibilities. A Parish Walking & Wildlife Group has been formed. Carry out a survey of the rights of way to identify any problem issues with surface condition, signage, overhanging vegetation etc	Ongoing	Parish Walking & Wildlife Group, Parish Council and CBC

Proposal 19 Increase availability of dog and general litter bins

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Identify new sites and advise Parish Council	Ongoing	Parish Walking & Wildlife Group, Parish Council, and CBC

Proposal 20 Identify and advertise new circular routes within parish using current Rights of Way

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Parish Walking & Wildlife Group to progress the identification and advertisement of new circular routes	Ongoing	Parish Walking & Wildlife Group and CBC

Proposal 21 Identify potential sites for conservation projects

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Parish Walking & Wildlife Group to progress the potential site identified by the Parish Walking & Wildlife Group and seek other locations	Ongoing	Parish Walking & Wildlife Group

Proposal 22 Encourage and develop appreciation and awareness of the local environment

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Include in objectives of Parish Walking & Wildlife Group	Ongoing	Parish Walking & Wildlife Group

5. Leisure and recreation

Findings

- Investigate need for increased seating and additional play equipment in the children’s playground
- Investigate demand for a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) or larger playing field
- Investigate need shown by some residents for a hearing loop in the Memorial Hall
- Assess need for improved heating facilities in the Memorial Hall
- Some recreational groups face difficulties setting up & clearing away equipment
- Assess what can be done to support increase of memberships among existing community groups
- Assess possibility of setting up a running club

BELOW: TWO VIEWS OF THE CHILDREN’S PLAY AREA IN WRESTLINGWORTH



Proposals

Proposal 23 Increase equipment and seating in the Children’s playground

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Consult the young people in the village to discover what additional play equipment they would like to see. Identify and apply for grant funding. Look to provide additional seating in the children’s play area	Implemented	Youth Club, Parish Council, CBC, Streetcred Scheme, and ACRE

Proposal 24 Assess the feasibility of providing a MUGA or larger playing field

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Identify potential locations for a MUGA and potential sources of grant funding. Look into the possibility of a MUGA being used for tennis and 5 aside football (as these were the most popular activities highlighted in the questionnaire) as well as other sporting activities	Medium	Parish Council CBC, residents, and BRCC

Proposal 25 Explore the possibility of providing a hearing loop in the Memorial Hall

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Investigate costs and grants available for installing a hearing loop	Implemented	Parish Council, Memorial Hall Committee, Beds & Luton Grassroots Grant

Proposal 26 Explore the possibility of replacing the heating system in the Memorial Hall

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Investigate the costs and grants available for installing a new boiler and radiators	Medium	Parish Council, Memorial Hall Committee, Beds & Luton Grassroots Grant

Proposal 27 Identify ways of overcoming the difficulties some community groups face setting up and clearing away equipment

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Investigate the possibility of forming a support group, paid or voluntary, to help set up and clear away equipment for groups who are unable to do it for themselves	Ongoing	Parish Council, and Goodwill Fund Volunteers

Proposal 28 Increase membership of existing recreational groups

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Regularly promote the recreational groups and their contact details in <i>The Village Link</i> and neighbouring village magazines. Hold 'come along and give it a try' sessions to encourage people to attend	Ongoing	Recreational groups, <i>The Village Link</i> and other magazines

Proposal 29 Assess possibility of setting up a running club

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Advertise through <i>The Village Link</i> and posters around the villages	Implemented	Interested residents



LEFT: TOM DOBINSON
(NEIGHBOURHOOD
POLICE OFFICER)

CENTRE: ROGER
WILLIAMS (POLICE
COMMUNITY SUPPORT
OFFICER)

RIGHT: CHRIS
COPENHALL (POLICE
COMMUNITY SUPPORT
OFFICER)

THE LOCAL POLICE TEAM IN MARCH 2011

6. Crime and security

Findings

- There is a desire for a regular PCSO presence in the villages
- There is a desire for an increased coverage of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Proposals

Proposal 30 Seek a regular PCSO presence in the parish

Action/Method

Seek PCSO presence in the parish
Discuss the possibility of arranging the following with the Police:
Regular mobile police station including evening visits, PCSO to attend Youth Club, PCSO to attend other parish events

Timescale

Short

Partners

Parish Council and Police

Proposal 31 Establish a broader Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Action/Method

Increase neighbourhood watch coverage across the parish through the identification of additional street co-ordinators and volunteers

Timescale

Short

Partners

Parish Council, Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, and Police

TOP: THE CHEQUERS INN IN 2002

CENTRE: THE WRESTLINGWORTH MEMORIAL HALL IN 2011

LOWER: THE SHOW AND SALE IN 2009



7. Community support

Findings

The promotion of community spirit is a common theme throughout this plan. However several important needs of this type are not addressed elsewhere and they are listed below.

- Desirability of holding social events within the villages which help to develop community focus, e.g., village day, and small scale gatherings e.g., coffee mornings, concerts
- Need to identify additional volunteers to support established community groups and activities
- Need to establish a Parish Plan Action Group – group of local residents – to work with the Parish Council, parish churches and Goodwill Fund on ventures to benefit the whole community and to help implement the Parish Plan
- Need to support use of church buildings for wider purposes e.g., concerts and coffee mornings
- Need to increase support for and awareness of the Goodwill Fund
- Need to initiate new helpful ideas for community initiatives e.g., assistance to people without private transport to take waste to the Household Waste Recycling Centre at Biggleswade

Proposals

Proposal 32 Explore desirability and support for holding parish events which help to develop community focus, e.g., village day, and small scale gatherings e.g. coffee mornings.

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Investigate support for a Village Day and assess the demand for additional small scale gatherings. Deal with related organisational needs	Short	Parish and community groups

Proposal 33 Identify additional volunteers to work for established community and leisure groups

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Raise awareness of existing facilities and activities taking place in the villages. Use <i>The Village Link</i> and posters to highlight how residents can become involved with different community groups and activities	Ongoing	Parish Council and community groups

Proposal 34 Establish a Parish Plan Action Group – group of local residents – to work with the Parish Council, parish churches and Goodwill Fund on ventures to benefit the whole community and the taking forward of the Parish Plan

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Set up a Parish Plan Action Group	Short	Parish Council, Goodwill Fund, parish churches, and community groups

Proposal 35 Support use of church buildings for wider purposes e.g., concerts and coffee mornings

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Discuss with the churches the support demonstrated through the parish survey questionnaire for the buildings to be used for alternative purposes, for example concerts, choirs, coffee mornings	Ongoing	Parish Council, St Peters Church, St John the Baptist Church

Proposal 36 Increase support for and awareness of the Goodwill Fund

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Support and encourage new "Friends of The Goodwill Fund". Promote volunteering and advertise the role of the Goodwill Fund using <i>The Village Link</i> , flyers etc	Ongoing	Goodwill Fund and Parish Council

Proposal 37 Consider and initiate new ideas for community initiatives

Action/Method	Timescale	Partners
Discuss needs with residents, Parish Council, churches and Goodwill Fund	Ongoing	Residents, Parish Council, churches, and Goodwill Fund



Action plan summary

Proposed action plan in summary form, with lead bodies, and timetables

(Proposal numbers are shown in brackets)

The time scales of proposed actions are as follows.

- **Short** - is within two years from the date the plan is adopted.
- **Medium** - is between three and five years of that date.
- **Ongoing** - is responding to established requirements.

In the short term

- Develop a Parish Council planning guideline, through the Parish Council planning committee **(1)**
- Complete a housing needs survey, through the Parish Council planning committee and CBC **(2)**
- Provide allotments to meet residents' requests through Parish Council and CBC **(15)**
- Explore possibilities to improve local transport facilities, through Parish Council and CBC **(16)**
- Increase equipment and seating in the children's playground, through Youth Club, Parish Council, CBC, Streetcred Scheme, and ACRE. **(23)** IMPLEMENTED
- Provide a hearing loop in the Village Hall through the Parish Council, Memorial Hall committee, and Beds and Luton Grass Roots Grants **(25)** IMPLEMENTED
- Assess possibility of setting up a running club, through interested residents. **(29)** IMPLEMENTED
- Establish a regular PCSO presence in the villages, through Parish Council and Police **(30)**
- Establish a broader Neighbourhood Watch scheme, through Parish Council, Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and Police **(31)**
- Explore possibilities for holding regular village events through Parish Council and community groups **(32)**
- Set up a Parish Plan Action Group (possibly based on the Community support focus group) to work with the Parish Council, the parish churches, the Goodwill Fund, and community groups on ventures for the whole community and the implementation of the Parish Plan in general **(34)**

In the medium term

- Improve signage at the Cambridge / Eyeworth crossroads **(7)**
- Implement introduction of dropped road kerbs, through the Parish Council and CBC **(8)**
- Deal with dangerous parking problems, through Parish Council, residents and CBC **(9)**
- Deal with traffic issues, through Parish Council, residents and CBC **(10)**
- Investigate feasibility of a Wrestlingworth, Eyeworth and Dunton bypass **(11)**
- Research feasibility and possible arrangements for increasing meeting places in the villages, through Save our Shop group, Parish Council and CBC **(12)**
- Explore how to improve local medical facilities, through Parish, CBC, and medical practitioners **(17)**
- Explore possibility of providing a MUGA, through Parish Council and community groups **(24)**
- Explore replacing heating system in Memorial Hall, through Parish Council, and Hall Committee **(26)**

Ongoing

- Support the school and pre-school group, through school, pre-school group and Parish Council **(3)**
- Explore requirements for networking support among self employed and home workers **(4)**
- Identify highways and roads needs and how to meet them, through Parish Council and CBC **(5)**
- Organise village 'tidy ups', through Parish Council and community groups **(6)**, **(13a)**, and **(13b)**
- Improve opportunities for public communication, through Parish Council and *The Village Link* editorial group **(14)**
- Rights of way to be correctly way marked and accessible **(18)**
- Increase availability of dog and general litter bins, through the Parish Walking and Wildlife Group, Parish Council and CBC **(19)**
- Identify and advertise new walking routes in the parish, through the Parish Walking and Wildlife Group, Parish Council and CBC **(20)**
- Identify potential sites for conservation projects, through Parish Walking and Wildlife Group **(21)**
- Encourage appreciation of the local environment, through Parish Walking and Wildlife Group **(22)**
- Identify ways of overcoming difficulties some leisure groups have in setting out and clearing away equipment , through Parish Council and community groups **(27)**
- Regularly promote recreational groups, through *The Village Link* and other magazines **(28)**
- Identify additional volunteers to work with established community groups, through Parish Council and community groups **(33)**
- Support use of church buildings for wider purposes, through Parish Council and churches **(35)**
- Increase support and awareness for Goodwill Fund, through Goodwill Fund and Parish Council **(36)**
- Consider and initiate new helpful ideas for whole community initiatives **(37)**

Making the plan a reality

Making the plan a reality

- The Parish Plan for Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley is now adopted by the Parish Council. This is based on the draft plan sent to all households in the early autumn of 2010 asking for feedback, either at the Wrestlingworth Show and Sale on 4th September 2010, or in writing. A number of comments were received, the majority of which supported actions in areas like road layout and maintenance, parking, and bus provision already identified in the draft plan as requiring attention. However some new helpful ideas were made, which has generated a new proposal, number 37. This provides for responding to such ideas in an ongoing way.
- This plan will be used by the Parish Council to guide actions over the next five years, with a review of aims and objectives after five years.
- The Parish Council will monitor progress in fulfilling the plan within the timescales set out in it. Regular progress updates will be shared with the parish as a whole.
- However the Parish Council will require considerable support to implement the plan, particularly from the churches, the Goodwill Fund, and the Memorial Hall. The formation of a Parish Plan Action Group is the most likely way momentum will be obtained in achieving the ideas and aims of the plan.
- Before disbanding later in 2011, the Parish Plan Steering Group should, in association with the Parish Council, make the aims of the plan better known, getting residents involved, and generating ways of implementing it, including promoting the formation of a Parish Plan Action Group.

Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Parish Council

Spring 2011



THE PARISH COUNCIL AT WORK IN 2011

LEFT TO RIGHT: RON RAM (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN), PIERRE PETROU, CATHERINE DEAR (CLERK), JOHN BEAL (CHAIRMAN), SHARON HARRIS, ANN CURRY.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks are due to parish residents for the photographs used, especially to Ron Pickford and Martin Hall. Wrestlingworth History Society provided help in choosing older pictures. We are grateful to Bedfordshire Police for granting us permission to use photographs of their officers.

Letter to residents

Every household in our parish has been sent a copy of this plan. The Parish Council hopes it will, in future, play an important part in stimulating our community life. As the plan is based on the ideas and views obtained from a parish survey to which a large number of residents responded, it is really your plan.

You now have the opportunity to help make the plan work. Earlier in this section it is made clear that the Parish Council cannot do this just on its own. The impact of the plan will be proportional to the level of wider involvement we obtain, which has to come from the residents, and it can happen in two ways.

Firstly, there is a constant need for update and reflection. Now that you have read through the plan you may have comments and thoughts that could be generally helpful. The Parish Council would like to hear these. They will guide the development of the plan. If you think you can help in any way, however small, let the Parish Council know.

Please pass on ideas you have to the Chairman of the Council;

John Beal, Chairman of the Council
82, High Street, Wrestlingworth, SG19 2EP.
email: john4beal@gmail.com
phone: (01767) 631494.

Secondly, the proposals of the plan are divided into seven focus areas, each of which will have a focus group of six or seven residents to support the Parish Council in making the plan work, and it is through these that the plan will achieve real impact. The plan makes clear what matters each focus group will deal with. If you believe you can make a contribution in one of them, or would like to know more about how they will work, please contact the Deputy Chairman of the Parish Council;

Ron Ram, Deputy Chairman of the Parish Council
21, Braggs Lane, Wrestlingworth, SG19 2ER.
email: ronald@zales.demon.co.uk
phone: (01767) 631706.

Many thanks for reading this plan, and for any contributions you may want to make.

The Parish Council.
Spring 2011



