Whatfield Village Plan

The final report
I warmly congratulate all who have been involved in the production of this Plan. It really is a marvellous effort by everyone concerned. In many ways though, the work has only just started as the plan points to the future and I hope that the projects identified will be realised for the village.

It is an opportune time to publish a parish plan because they are increasingly being recognised as a link to Strategic Planning Documents. Please be assured I am always available to help you in this in any way I can.

Well done Whatfield and I wish you well in its implementation.

Jeremy Pembroke
Leader Suffolk County Council

Thank you to all concerned for your various inputs towards the production of this plan. As you know I am your representative on the Planning & Development Committee and through the local strategy framework will try my very best to realise your aspirations.

The Parish plan will be your blueprint for the future.

I have been fighting for years to try and convince the powers that be Whatfield is a sustainable village. I trust your plan will prove that point.

Other villages in Babergh have completed their plan which as with yourselves shows a good example of commitment, as your advocate at District Council level I will make every effort for it to succeed.

Thanks once again to all concerned,
Yours

Brian L. Lezenby
District Councillor

We would also like to thank:

Jeremy Pembroke
Who provided the funding for this project.

Annette Gray of Suffolk ACRE
For support and guidance.

Joy Wellings
For her historical background information.

Whatfield Parish Council
For their backing and patience.

Our Families
Who have endured meetings and piles of paper.
The Parish Plan Exercise

Funding for parish plan exercises became available from the Countryside Agency in July 2001, following the publication of the Government White Paper of November 2000 entitled 'Our Countryside - The Future', in which the idea of parish and town plans was launched.

The project, called 'Vital Villages', was aimed at helping rural communities to 'help themselves' by identifying what they need in order to remain successful or to improve. By consulting the local people, it is ensured that the views of those who live in and care about their village and parish, are properly reflected in any initiatives that may follow. It is also intended that, with advice and support, communities can implement some improvements locally.

An open meeting in the village hall, in October 2004 arranged by the Parish Council, confirmed an interest in Whatfield having a village plan. At that meeting six members of the community volunteered to set up a steering group. Others offered to help the project in different ways as it progressed - for example, by delivering and collecting questionnaires. The meeting also provided the newly elected Steering Group with an opportunity to discover what issues were important to Whatfield’s residents.

The steering group went on to design a household questionnaire. It dealt mainly with access to essential services, leisure opportunities and community facilities. The questionnaire also asked a few household questions which were designed to give us all an opportunity to glimpse the general composition of the village homes although the questionnaire was completely confidential.

At the same time we used the opportunity to distribute a completely separate Suffolk ACRE housing needs questionnaire. This was analysed by Suffolk ACRE who found no overall specific cases of housing need in Whatfield. While it may be true there were few in specific need, the Village Plan Questionnaire itself showed a majority who would like to see more affordable homes in the village.

With the help of volunteers, Questionnaires were distributed at the end of 2006 to almost all of our 130 households (some were not inhabited at the time). 88 completed forms in sealed envelopes were collected. This was a little disappointing 68% response. Thank you to all those who did respond.

The steering group has analysed the data set out in the answers given and drawn some conclusions. These conclusions have led to the construction of an action plan involving all relevant organisations - Suffolk County Council, Babergh District Council, Whatfield Parish Council, the Police Authority, the Village Hall Management Committee and Neighbourhood Watch.
Whatfield in the past

The parish of Whatfield is situated on 1599 acres of high ground, 3 miles north of Hadleigh.

The name Whatfield has not changed dramatically since the 11th Century when it was known as Quatefelda. By 1042 the 'Qu' had become 'W' and hence the village became 'Watefelda' - a short step to today's Whatfield.

In 1086 the recorded population was 35 and the village boasted one mill.

A wooden Saxon church is said to have stood on the slight rise where St. Margaret's of Antioch now stands. A flint church was constructed on the site in the 13th century. The churches first recorded patron was Ben de Cokefield in 1330. In the 1500's a Tudor brick porch was added.

The Whatfield Registers, which began in 1585, are still intact.

The front garden of Chapel Cottages is the only pointer to the Chapel which is unusual being a brick built lean-to across the back of the pair of cottages.

The Salvation Army presence in Whatfield began in the early 1800's in a thatched cottage that lay back from the road near Church Lane. Land was purchased and the present hall erected in 1924.

Whatfield National Voluntary School was built in 1859 on 1 rood (1/4 acre) of glebe land bounded on the east side by cottages and to the North the public highway leading from Whatfield Church to the Rectory.

"Premises to be erected and used for the education of children and adults of the labouring and manufacturing and other poorer classes of the Parish of Whatfield".

The Whatfield Parish Council held its first meeting on Thursday 13th December, 1894 in the school room of Whatfield school.

The first Clerk to the Council was paid £5 per year and it remained at this level for 45 years!

Buckles meadow takes its' name from Fred Buckledee who leased the land from the Church Commissioners in about 1850.

In 1983 there was a meeting in the village hall to discuss conservation issues of glebe land. The meadow was purchased, for the village, by the Parish Council for £4,000.

The meadow is one of the few left uncultivated in Suffolk.
Whatfield today

The village hall, in part supported and used by the school, provides a valuable community meeting place and, together with the playing field host the, well supported, annual Village Fete, which has in recent years been expanded to include a very successful under 11's five-a-side football competition.

The hall also supports an active indoor bowls club which meets weekly and from time to time provides a venue for the ever popular Whatfield Players.

After 900 years of retaining its’ own parish priest, the picturesque Anglican St. Margaret's Church now shares a Rector with our five neighbouring parishes.

A strong village community spirit has been responsible for raising much of the money for these constructions. For more info: www.whatfield.suffolk.sch.uk
The Parish of Whatfield

Naughton

Whatfield

Footpaths
Parish Boundary

Tracks shown are not necessarily public rights of way.

Approx scale

1 Kilometre
1 Mile
Proposed ACTIONS are set out after many of the findings. These actions have been listed in a table towards the end of this report, together with the names of the groups most likely to be involved in tackling them.

We have also suggested a timescale for these actions which may take several years to implement.

Progress in tackling the matters mentioned will be discussed at the regular Parish Council meetings.

It may not be possible (or practicable) to implement the suggested actions but it is certainly worth trying.

What we like most about living in Whatfield

- The pure enjoyment of living in the countryside was far and away the most popular reason given for enjoying Whatfield living. Many mention the delightful views.

- Peace and quiet and a good community spirit are comments that were repeated time and time again in the replies.

- Good neighbours and friendly people reinforced the view above.

- Being close to (but far enough away) from the amenities provided by Hadleigh.

- Freedom from urban attitudes and a relaxing way of life were other popular responses.

- Many people enjoy the local walks.

- The lack of crime and general safety was cited by many residents as an import factor in their affection for Whatfield.

- There were many other individual reasons given for why we like living in Whatfield including our lack of street lights, being woken up by cockerels and being near to the Buy Rite store!
The Household Survey

This part of the questionnaire provides us with some background information about our households. It was completed by everyone who participated in this survey.

88 households completed the questionnaire.

These households are made up of 200 adults and children, 96 of whom are females and 104 males with over half the population in the 25-75 age group.

Some properties cannot be insulated due to their age and the method of construction. The figures, however, do suggest that there could be some relatively modern properties that do not have insulation and are therefore using far more energy than they need to.

**ACTION 1**

Draw together any information available to assist those who may be eligible for grant support to improve energy efficiency in their homes.

**ACTION 2**

Actively encourage people to use more sophisticated forms of energy saving.

- 12 homes (14%) do not have a lagged hot water tank;
- 9 homes (10%) do not have loft insulation;
- 20 homes (23%) do not have double glazing;
- 43 (49%) do not have cavity wall insulation.
- 52 homes (59%) are reducing their consumption of electricity by using low energy light bulbs.
- 2 properties have solar heating.
The Personal Survey

In this main section of the report, it should be appreciated that not all 200 respondents chose to answer every question. Any percentages given relate to the number of people answering the whole or part of a question.

Our Population

How long have you lived in Whatfield?
182 people answered this question

The survey confirms what we see with our own eyes - that there is a frequent sale of properties. Around 20% of properties have changed hands in the last 5 years.

Education

Numbers of children attending some form of preschool, school or college.
18 households answered this question

There are a total 37 children attending some form of educational establishment.

9 children attend various preschool groups.

9 children are at primary school of which 4 attend Whatfield Primary.

13 children attend secondary schools.

6 young persons are at university or college.

Personal Transport

How many road vehicles are used by your household?
83 households answered this question

Surprisingly there are 70 bicycles in the 83 households who answered this question.

Less surprising are the 134 cars and 12 vans i.e. well over one and a half cars per household.

Only 8 motorcycles were recorded.
Information and Communication

Which of the following do you personally read/use to gain information about what is happening in and around Whatfield?
172 people answered this question

123 (72%) name The Grapevine magazine as their main source of information about what is happening.

122 (71%) also cite The Roundabout.

107 (62%) use the more tradition local newspapers.

58 (34%) look at the notice board on the corner of Wheatfields.

38 (22%) mention the Village Hall notice boards.

118 (68%) find that word of mouth is useful. This healthy percentage would seem to point to a good community spirit.

The Roundabout being the area Church magazine has wider backing whereas our more neighbourhood based Grapevine relies exclusively on very local sources of income.

How useful do you find the various methods of village communication?
171 people answered this question

Full details of Village views on the various publications/notice boards are given below.

The results confirm the popularity of the Grapevine with nearly 22% giving it an Excellent rating.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>very poor</th>
<th>poor</th>
<th>useful</th>
<th>very useful</th>
<th>excellent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roundabout</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grapevine</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EADT</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evening Star</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheatfields noticeboard</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village Hall noticeboard</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word of mouth</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you access the internet?
169 people answered this question

Of the 169 people who answered this Question 69 (41%) never access the internet.

At the other end of the scale 51 people (30%) use the internet at home on a daily basis with 34 (20%) doing so at work.

Of Whatfield’s 22 school children, 5 use the internet daily at school 8 weekly and 8 occasionally.

9 people occasionally visit internet cafes and one person uses the facility at a library on a daily basis.
Do you think the Village should have its own website?
155 people answered this question

104 (67%) answered 'Yes' to this question against 51 'No'.

This clearly indicates a healthy interest in moving forward.

Comments have also been made regarding ‘Welcome Information Packs’ being made available to new residents and as we have already discovered there seems to be a regular influx of new people.

**ACTION 4**
Examine the practicalities of setting up a Whatfield website and investigate if any resident could set up and run such a site.

**ACTION 5**
More use should be made of the various existing magazines for the Parish Council to simply let people know what it does.

**ACTION 6**
Thought to be given to the production of a ‘Welcome Pack’ for new residents.

How well do you think the Parish Council publicises its decisions and activities?
177 people answered this question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very well</th>
<th>Reasonably well</th>
<th>Badly</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Obvious room for improvement here! Despite 75 people believing the Parish Council publicised its activities, 66 people didn’t and a further 28 didn’t know!

How well do you think the Community Council publicises its decisions and activities?
177 people answered this question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>say this is done very well</th>
<th>say reasonably well</th>
<th>say badly</th>
<th>don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17 (10%)</td>
<td>90 (51%)</td>
<td>40 (23%)</td>
<td>30 (17%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Again there seems room for improvement.

As with the Parish Council, the the group saying 'badly' greatly outnumber the group saying 'very well'.

WHATFIELD VILLAGE PLAN FINAL REPORT
How well do you think the Village Hall publicises its' decisions and activities?
176 people answered this question

A familiar pattern emerges here.

23 (13%) say this is done very well
85 (48%) say reasonably well
47 (27%) say badly
21 (12%) don't know

SOCIAL AND EDUCATION

Do you think the School is important to the life of the village?
184 people answered this question

Over the years the school has on several occasions been threatened with closure and it is gratifying to note the importance placed upon its' place in village life.

Do you think the Village Hall is adequate for the needs of the village?
180 people answered this question

Out of the 180 people who replied a resounding 174 (97%) believed the village hall was adequate for the needs of the village.

Would you be prepared to help redecorate/spring clean the Village Hall from time to time?
179 people answered this question

Over 50% (well just over 50%) were prepared to help with work at the Village Hall.

It was close with 90 'yes' and 89 'no'.

Is the telephone service in the Village reliable?
175 people answered this question

In general most people were satisfied with the service provided.

39 (22%) say excellent
117 (67%) say satisfactory
14 (8%) say poor
5 (3%) very unreliable
What are your views on the facilities at the village hall?
176 people answered this question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Reasonable</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>No opinion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heating</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighting</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decoration</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toilets</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled access</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard of hearing</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General layout</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The results clearly indicate a high level of satisfaction in both the facilities offered and the level of maintenance.

The village hall committee should feel justifiably pleased.

The 'no opinions' represented only 20% of the answers which would seem to be an understandable proportion.

Facilities for the hard of hearing was the only area criticised by more people than those who found it good or reasonable. It is probably a difficult problem to surmount but it could be looked into.

What changes/improvements to the village hall would you like to see?
45 people answered this question

The numbers responding to this question was pleasantly surprising with a whole myriad of suggestions. Many are old chestnuts and the chairs have been upgraded since the survey was carried out.

The full list of comments will be passed to the Village Hall Management Committee however a sprinkling of the major suggestions are given here:

- Provision of changing/showers for both sports and theatre use.
- Larger car park and external lighting.
- More and improved toilet facilities
- Softer interior lighting for functions.
- After school clubs and playgroups.
- More playground facilities with slides and swings etc.
- Conservatory extension.
If new facilities/clubs/activities could be provided in Whatfield, what would you attend or use?
142 people answered this question

The 142 people who answered this question gave a total of 423 answers between them on a wide range of possible interests.

Film nights emerged as a clear favourite. The cost of providing these evenings is known to be expensive however given the interest it is undoubtedly worth investigating further.

As shown earlier in this report, communication is all important. There are people interested in a wide range of activities and there are people willing to help.

The Community Council, Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council need to use their various media skills to see, if at least, some of the village thirst can be quenched.

Would you be prepared to help with any of the below?
121 people answered this question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>No. of people prepared to help</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Leisure Classes</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art club</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choir</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative arts for children</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower club</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardening Club</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Club</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rambling Club</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better Citizens Group</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewing Group</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sporting Activities</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film Nights</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line Dancing</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage Stamp Machine</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of the third age</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitsun Drive</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Obviously these activities will not materialise by themselves and the answers to the next question would indicate that there are people out there prepared to assist with these varied activities.
Do you think the following educational and leisure activities should be provided for the young people of the village?
154 people answered this question

Would you be prepared to help with any of these activities for young people of the village?
124 people answered this question

These responses obviously demonstrate a need for further educational and leisure activities for the young people of the village.

That there are people willing to help is also encouraging and there would appear to be no reason why this enthusiasm should be wasted.

This is an opportunity not to be missed. Support is available for such initiatives from the District Council.

In addition to the above, 4 people suggested they would be prepared to help organise other activities

RELIGION

Is St. Margaret's Church important to you for:
151 people answered this question

- 129 (85%) regard it as important as an historic building
- 111 (74%) regard it as important for funerals
- 100 (66%) regard it as important for weddings
- 84 (56%) regard it as important for baptisms
- 59 (39%) regard it as important for worship
- 43 (28%) regard it as important socially

Is the Salvation Army Hall important to you for:
55 people answered this question

- 24 (44%) regard it as important for worship
- 54 (98%) regard it as important socially
Is the Chapel important to you for:
34 people answered this question

☐ 13 (38%) regard it as important for worship
☐ 33 (97%) regard it as important socially

Would you like to see any of Whatfield's places of worship used as a meeting place for any of the following activities?
146 people answered this question

☐ 93 (64%) thought they could be used for concerts.
☐ 78 (53%) thought they could be used for meetings.

They were a very small number of people answering 'no' to this question however there does seem to be a high level of support for a concert to be held.

It would be interesting to see if anyone could come forward to organise a suitable concert.

SERVICES
(including emergency services)

Is there a need for a Good Neighbour scheme in Whatfield?
185 people answered this question

97 people (59%) feel there is a need for a 'good neighbour' type scheme.

14 people actively said 'no' with 54 (33%) answering 'don't know'

How often would you be prepared to help a Good Neighbour scheme in Whatfield?
149 people answered this question

121 (71%) people indicated they would be prepared to help occasionally, once a month or once a week. Clearly that number of people would not be needed, but from such a large and willing resource there should be no difficulty in setting up and maintaining a scheme in the village.

ACTION 12

Ask the relevant bodies if they would be happy for their facilities to be used for meetings or concerts.

ACTION 13

Establish and maintain a Good Neighbour scheme covering the whole village.
Are you aware there is a neighbourhood watch scheme in Whatfield?
176 people answered this question

This question threw up some interesting and possibly strange responses.

126 (59%) of those answering the question were aware that a scheme existed, however only 16 (7%) were already members and only 13 people expressed any interest in joining the scheme. 40 people were not aware a scheme already existed and 20 people actively stated they had no interest in joining a scheme.

The assumption must be that people in Whatfield already feel secure and that they see no need for a Neighbourhood Watch. Possibly the relatively close-knit relationship that many inhabitants enjoy provides its own unofficial security scheme.

Do you feel the following are issues in Whatfield?
105 people answered this question

It is presumably a sign of satisfaction that only 105 people answered this question and, with the demise of the village pub, almost inevitable that 'Drunkeness' was not mentioned by anyone. 'Drug taking' was an issue for 3 people.

The remaining replies are somewhat predictable:

How do you regard the police coverage of Whatfield?
174 people answered this question

The 14 who answered 'Good' combined with the 54 'Reasonable' were marginally out-voted by the 70 (40%) who considered that the police coverage was poor.

36 people expressed 'no opinion'
There has been some vandalism and a few thefts but by-and-large our concerns are small.

It is the dog fouling and litter that perturbs some of us. Several mention litter in The Street and dog fouling seems prevalent on footpaths and village spaces and the possibility of providing further dog litter bins has been raised.

What are your views on the quality of the following services in Whatfield?
186 people answered this question

As the table below shows, most people are satisfied that fundamental services reach good to reasonable levels.

Mobile phone reception received the most "poor" responses with refuse collection the second most "poor".

Although broadband reception only registering a 14% 'poor' rating of all those who replied, this does actually represent around 30% of actual users. This is not really acceptable and the service will probably deteriorate as more people go on-line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Reasonable</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>No opinion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mains water supply</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mains drainage</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mains electricity supply</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refuse collection</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone land lines</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile phone reception</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet broadband provision</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roadside care/street cleaning</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard TV reception</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital TV reception</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio reception</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital radio reception</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal deliveries</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambulance</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Would you like gas in the village?
184 people answered this question
66 (36%) said 'yes', 45 (24%) said 'no' and 73 (40%) had no opinion.

The steering group has investigated the possibility of gas being supplied to the village but the costs would certainly be prohibitive even if many of the people who answered 'no' or 'no opinion' suddenly decided to be "converted"

Would you consider joining a bulk heating oil purchase scheme?
174 people answered this question
112 people representing a considerable 64% of those who answered would like to join a bulk heating oil purchase scheme.

It is now believed that a few villagers already have some form of bulk purchasing scheme and perhaps they could assist in the set up of another scheme or perhaps enlarge the current one.

How often do you use the mobile library?
180 people answered this question
4 people use the mobile library on a regular basis with a further 20 making using it occasionally.

If a community shop and/or mobile shop opened in Whatfield how often would you use it?
180 people answered this question

Community Shop
Occasionally 28%  Monthly 3%
Weekly 66%

Mobile Shop
Never 12%  Weekly 38%
Occasionally 47%  Monthly 4%

Would you like more litter and dog waste bins in Whatfield?
180 people answered this question
39 were not concerned, 36 said 'No' but 105 (58%) wanted more bins.
A total of 127 people said that they would use a community shop weekly and a further 61 occasionally or monthly.

The response to a mobile shop was less enthusiastic with 59 people indicating they would use such a facility weekly.

**ACTION 20**

Promote a feasibility study for a community shop with an eye to its social value as well as its convenience.

**TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

Which of the following is your most frequently used means of transport to and from the village?
191 people answered this question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Means of Transport</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>(%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Car/Van</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>(80%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorcycle/Scooter/Moped</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>(1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Bus</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>(10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Bus</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>(0.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxi</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>(0.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>(5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>(5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you regularly use a railway train either for work or pleasure?
175 people answered this question

Only 27 (15%) people of those who answered this question use the train regularly leaving 148 (85%) who don't.

Which of the following places would you travel to more regularly if there were more frequent public transport to and from Whatfield?
88 people answered this question

Of the 88 people replying 54 (62%) would travel more frequently to Ipswich and ...

47 (54%) to Hadleigh
35 (40%) to Colchester
31 (36%) to Sudbury
19 (22%) to Stowmarket
11 (13%) to Manningtree

Would you like to see any changes to the existing bus service with regard to:
136 people answered this question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>(%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Routes</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>(19%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>(27%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>(4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliability</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>(7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus stop location</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>(10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled access</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>(1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>(62%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As can be seen, from the table on the previous page, the majority of those answering would like to see improved frequency. Changes to available routes was the other widely supported topic.

**ACTION 21**

Carry out a survey to find out exactly what additions or changes to the bus service would be regularly supported.

**Would you like a Bus shelter to be provided?**

154 people answered this question.

29 (19%) people would like one bus shelter. 86 (58%) wanted two shelters to be provided and 39 (25%) specifically answered 'No'.

County Council funding for one shelter was available some time ago but Babergh would not grant approval as a 'need' had not been demonstrated.

We would now appear to be able to demonstrate a 'need'.

**ACTION 22**

Investigate if funding is still available identify suitable location(s). Approach Babergh for planning approval.

**Where do you usually park any vehicles for which you are responsible?**

144 people answered this question.

- In a garage beside your home: 48 (31%)
- In a garage elsewhere: 2 (1%)
- Off the road beside your home: 66 (43%)
- Off the road on private land: 24 (15%)
- Off the road on public land: 6 (4%)
- On the road: 9 (6%)

**Do you experience any of the following parking problems where you live?**

33 people answered this question.

- Limited places to park: 14
- Vehicles blocking your entrance: 19
- Vehicles blocking pathways: 11
- Vehicles parked on grassed areas: 14

The low response to this question would imply that we have few parking problems.

Some cars are parked half on the road with their wheels on the pavement and 11 people have highlighted vehicles blocking pathways as a problem. This specifically affects some wheel or pushchair users who are forced into the road.

19 people answered that they have problems with their entrance being blocked.
Would you like to see pavements in areas where none exist?
169 people answered this question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Street and Naughton Road</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheatfields</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rectory Road</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Street and Naughton Road attracted 68 people wanting the existing 30 mph limit to be reduced. 102 thought some form of traffic calming should be introduced and 121 wanted pavements.

What is your view of the speed limit in Whatfield?
175 people answered this question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>View</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adequate</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Should be reduced in the Street and Naughton Road</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Should be increased in the Street and Naughton Road</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Should be reduced in Wheatfields</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Should be introduced in Rectory Road</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you think some form of traffic calming should be introduced?
160 people answered this question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Street and Naughton Road</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheatfields</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rectory Road</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wheatfields does not have the same problems as the village's main road nevertheless nearly half those who answered the speed limit question wanted a lower limit. The vote was 60 against 14 for the introduction of traffic calming whilst 15 people wanted additional pavements.

Rectory Road - 59 want a speed limit to be introduced against 12 who don't. The majority were also against any form of traffic calming or pavements in this unspoiled rural lane.
Do you consider the upkeep of roads, pavements and footpaths in Whatfield to be adequate?

174 people answered this question.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ROADS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Street and Naughton Rd.</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheatfields</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAVEMENTS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Street and Naughton Rd.</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheatfields</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOOTPATHS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Around Whatfield</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The general consensus was that road maintenance was adequate although 40% felt that more could be done for the pavements in The Street and Naughton Rd.

41% were dissatisfied with the state of the footpaths. Some improvement has been noted since the survey was carried out but perhaps a separate review should be considered.

Are Street Lights needed in Whatfield?

180 people answered this question.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Street</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naughton Road</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheatfields</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside the School</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside the Village Hall</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A somewhat contentious question with the village fairly evenly split as to the general need for street lighting.

There is however a majority for the provision of lighting outside both the school and village hall.

Conduct a survey to see exactly where lighting is required and to establish the reasons for the obvious disparity of opinion.
Do you consider there is a need for a weight restriction on lorries using the village?
173 people answered this question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Street</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naughton Road</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheatfields</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is concern about the number of heavy lorries. In a later question over 100 people specifically mentioned their concern about HGVs together with 150 who cited road traffic in general.

Would you be interested in a car sharing scheme?
165 people answered this question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>90</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Only 7 people indicated their willingness to participate in a car sharing scheme.

ACTION 28
Contact SCC Highways Department to investigate whether signs should be introduced that will take traffic away from the village back onto the main A115.

Do you consider there is a need for more off street parking and/or lay-by(s) in Whatfield?
174 people answered this question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>People</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>121 people would like to see more off street parking or lay-by(s). 53 people did not want to see more parking places.</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107 people answered this question</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ENVIRONMENT
Would you be prepared to help with any of the following?
107 people answered this question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>People</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WHATFIELD VILLAGE PLAN FINAL REPORT PAGE 24
What do you think should be done to improve the countryside and protect the wildlife round the village?
173 people answered this question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Worth Doing</th>
<th>Not Necessary</th>
<th>Don't Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improve the wildlife habitat on Buckles Meadow</td>
<td>54 (31%)</td>
<td>65 (38%)</td>
<td>27 (18%)</td>
<td>23 (13%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve the wildlife habitat on Hunty’s Vale</td>
<td>55 (32%)</td>
<td>75 (43%)</td>
<td>16 (9%)</td>
<td>26 (15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve the wildlife habitat on the village land in the drift</td>
<td>50 (34%)</td>
<td>53 (31%)</td>
<td>29 (17%)</td>
<td>24 (16%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant more trees</td>
<td>50 (32%)</td>
<td>58 (34%)</td>
<td>36 (21%)</td>
<td>30 (18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant more hedges</td>
<td>55 (32%)</td>
<td>37 (21%)</td>
<td>30 (17%)</td>
<td>30 (18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature trail</td>
<td>31 (18%)</td>
<td>51 (30%)</td>
<td>38 (22%)</td>
<td>37 (21%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

30% of those answering the question considered that improvements to village land and tree planting were very important with a further 30% to 40% believing such work to be worthwhile.

It also became apparent that some people do not know where some of the locations mentioned were. (This we hope can be rectified by looking at the map of the Parish earlier in this report).

There is a minority who do not believe such work is necessary.

Although not so enthusiastically supported the majority would also like to see more hedges and the creation of a nature trail.
What is your opinion of the appearance of the following open public spaces?
171 people answered this question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Space</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Reasonable</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>No Opinion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Village Green</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Yard</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunty's Vale</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckle's Meadow</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village land in the drift</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grass areas in the village</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verges on the outskirts of the village</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The ford and overgang</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

People are happy with the general appearance of the village and those who give their time and energy into the upkeep of these areas should feel justifiably pleased.

The majority also approved of the verges on the outskirts.

Is dog fouling a problem in the following parts of the village?
63 people answered this question

We appear to have a minimal problem with dog fouling but 30% of people responding to the questionnaire mentioned it.

Possibly dog litter bins would help both physically and psychologically but whether we need to erect more signs around the village may be open to debate.
What do you know about local footpaths and bridleways?

168 people answered this question

120 know where the local paths are  42 don’t
80 can use them without difficulty  48 can’t
70 think they are well sign posted  60 don’t
47 know a footpath map is available 113 don’t
80 interested in organised walks  98 aren’t
8 are willing to lead footpath walks

There was a high proportion of people who did not know that a footpath map is available, so it maybe reasonable to assume that some of these answers only relate to paths actually used by respondents. (Map on page 6 gives a rough guide to footpaths).

Sign posting has improved since this survey.

Would you be willing to support entry in a Best Kept Village competition as a way of improving the appearance of the village?

132 people answered this question

86 people expressed a willingness to support entry into a Best Kept Village competition as a way of improving the appearance of the village. 46 people said they would not support such action.

ACTION 34

Are you concerned about the effect of the following on the village?

176 people answered this question

- Road Traffic: YES 146, NO 23
- HGV’s: YES 104, NO 50
- Agricultural Vehicles: YES 49, NO 97
- General Air Traffic: YES 44, NO 93
- Wattisham Helicopters: YES 33, NO 107

Again we find that road traffic is a major issue for the village.

Are you concerned about the appearance of some privately owned properties?

145 people answered this question

Only 19 people expressed concern with the appearance some privately owned properties. The vast Majority (128) had no concerns.

There are some ‘eyesore areas’ and the Parish Council are aware of these and are contacting the owners with a view to improving the situation.
This issue has already been raised under Action 28 and to a certain extent Action 24. A weight restriction might provide a possible solution for the HGV question but there seems little can be done to restrict the volume of cars.

**ACTION 35**

Investigate with SCC Highways department the possibility of a weight restriction on through traffic.

Are you happy with the disposal or recycling arrangements for the following?

167 people answered this question

The least satisfactory disposal arrangement was for items that cannot be put into wheelie bins.

Overall people seem happy with waste disposal facilities.

The full results were:

(as % of all those answering the question):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Happy</th>
<th>Not happy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Items that cannot be put into the wheelie bins</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden Waste</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Waste</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textiles</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recyclable packaging etc.</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Is litter a problem in the following parts of the village?

170 people answered this question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>% saying 'Yes'</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roadways, pavements, and verges in the village</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roadways and verges around the village</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public footpaths</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunty's Vale</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckle's Meadow</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Yard</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Playing Field</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allotments</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The roads and fringes in and around the village received most cause for concern however only a relatively small percentage of people judged this to be a problem.

Roadsides tend to collect litter blown by the wind and passing traffic and there is no evidence to suggest passing traffic generates litter itself.

More regular visits from the road sweeper might be beneficial.

The fact that 15% also mention the School Playing Field does give some concern. This litter must be either be generated by those using the area or blown in from outside.

Housing

Would you like to see further housing (or other development) in the village?

140 people answered this question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of houses</th>
<th>People in favour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 houses</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 5 houses</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 10 houses</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20+ houses</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affordable homes</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light/Cottage industry</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

140 out of a potential 197 people answered this question.
Building is a contentious issue, with some villagers vehemently against whilst others are just as committed to expansion.

Young families bring life to a community but the housing market has prevented several ex-Whatfield Children from fulfilling their desire to return to Whatfield.

There is building land available in Whatfield and further studies should be made into exactly where and what development existing residents desire - or not.

**GENERAL**

If suggestions raised by the questionnaire require money for implementation, where should that money come from?

139 people answered this question

35% said private contributions
27% said council tax increase
71% said local fundraising
50% said sponsorship
11% said by other means

The general consensus was against any form of taxation which provides a challenge for the Parish Council who will carry the main burden of addressing the matters raised by this report.

Sponsorship in the form of Grant Support etc. is always a possibility.

**ACTION 37**

Survey opinion to see exactly what Whatfield wants (or not) in the way of housing development.
Investigate if present utility services could handle further housing and report findings to B.D.C.
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

As you will have noticed throughout the report the Steering Group has highlighted various ACTIONS which they think should be implemented as a result of the opinions and views expressed in the answers to the questionnaire.

The Steering Group has formed these points into an ACTION PLAN which is designed to take the village’s 'wish list' further. This is tabulated in the next few pages.

These ACTIONS (some of them ambitious) will only become reality if many of us in the community take a hand in driving them forward.

Groups of people are needed to get projects going - so if you were one of the people who answered 'yes' to some of the questions (or would just like to help) - now is your chance.

If you are prepared to step forward and help in any of the action areas, check off the appropriate boxes, opposite, cut it out and return it to:

Whatfield Parish Council c/o:
David Cross
Street Farm
The Street
Whatfield
IP7 6QN

WHATFIELD VILLAGE PLAN

Help with Village Hall spring cleaning or redecoration

Help with the organisation of any of the following clubs or activities:
- Adult leisure classes
- Art Club
- Choir
- Creative arts for children
- Flower Club
- Gardening Club
- Music Club
- Rambling Club
- Senior citizens group
- Sewing group
- Sporting activities
- Film nights
- Luncheon clubs
- Postage stamp machine
- University of the Third Age
- Whilst Drive

Help with any of the following activities for young people
- Play group attached to school
- Summer Play Scheme
- After School Club
- Youth Club
- Organised team games on the playing field
- Other (please advise)
Help with a Good Neighbour scheme
Join a bulk heating oil purchase scheme
Help man a Community Shop
Take part in a car sharing scheme

Help with any of the following countryside and wild life projects:
Maintaining Footpaths
Work to maintain village land
Wild Life audit

Help set up and/or run a Whatfield website

Organise a concert in a ‘new’ Whatfield venue

Name
Address

Telephone number
Email
WHATFIELD ACTION PLAN (2007 - 2012)
This plan will be reviewed at Parish Council Meetings over the next 5 years.
This plan will become a working document, and time-scales will be adjusted.
These actions are listed under headings which will bring the plan into line with Blocks in the Local Strategic Partnership's Community Strategies.

Proposed action

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING: MARKET HOUSING**

**ACTION 37**
Survey opinion to see exactly what Whatfield wants (or not) in the way of housing development. Investigate if present utility services could handle further housing and report findings to B.D.C.

**CULTURAL, SPORTING & RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

**ACTION 10**
All village bodies should get together to find out who would be interested in organising new clubs.

**ACTION 11**
Meet with potential volunteers in an attempt to generate some organised leisure time activities for our young people.

**ACTION 12**
Ask the relevant bodies if they would be happy for their facilities to be used for meetings or concerts. Advise the replies to any interested parties.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

**ACTION 21**
Carry out a survey to find out exactly what additions or changes to the bus service would be regularly supported.

**TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**

**ACTION 24**
Liaise with SCC Highways Department, Suffolk Police and possibly Wattisham Army base to see what can be done to ease the problem of speeding in the village.

**ACTION 25**
Investigate with SCC Highways Department whether a speed limit could be introduced in Rectory Road.

**ACTION 28**
Contact SCC Highways Department to investigate whether signs could be introduced that would take traffic away from the village back onto the main B1115

**LEAD ORGANISATION**
**and others possibly involved**

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<th>Suggested time-scale</th>
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**Suggested time-scale**

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<td>Babergh District Council</td>
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ACTION 35
Investigate with SCC Highways department the possibility of a weight restriction on through traffic.

PARISH COUNCIL
S.C.C.Highways Dept. Monitor annually

PARKING
ACTION 23
Publicise the availability of The Street car park and make residents aware of the problems pavement parking causes.

PARISH COUNCIL
COMMUNITY COUNCIL Within a year

ACTION 29
Although it may be difficult to find alternative parking solutions, the number of positive replies indicate further analysis of the problem should be undertaken.

PARISH COUNCIL
Within 2 years

ROAD & FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE
ACTION 26
Identify the exact deficiencies people feel exist in the village’s pavements and footpaths.

PARISH COUNCIL
Within a year

ACTION 33
Ensure the Village Footpath Warden is aware of the findings of this survey.
Investigate the possibility of an organised walk.

PARISH COUNCIL
COMMUNITY COUNCIL Within a year

SHOPPING & SERVICES
ACTION 17
Monitor Broadband reception in the village to enable users to speak authoritatively about problems to their service providers.

PARISH COUNCIL
Within a year

ACTION 20
Promote a feasibility study for a community shop with an eye to its social value as well as its convenience.

PARISH COUNCIL
COMMUNITY COUNCIL Within 3 years

BUILT ENVIRONMENT
ACTION 27
Conduct a survey to see exactly where street lighting is required and to establish the reasons for the obvious disparity of opinions.

PARISH COUNCIL
Within a year

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
ACTION 30
Continue the work currently underway to improve the wildlife habitat.

PARISH COUNCIL
Monitor progress annually
ACTION 31
Undertake a feasibility study into the possibility of developing a Nature Trail.

ACTION 32
The Parish Council should note the 'mixed' feeling concerning Hunty's Vale.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & POLLUTION
ACTION 16
Study the feasibility of providing more dog litter bins and consider ways to change some dog owners' attitude to dog fouling.

RECYCLING & WASTE MANAGEMENT
ACTION 36
Study the extent of the litter problem with a view to seeing if putting up notices and/or more litter bins would reduce litter. Discuss with local Council.

ENERGY
ACTION 1
Draw together any information available to assist those who may be eligible for grant support to improve energy efficiency in their homes.

ACTION 2
Actively encourage people to use more sophisticated forms of energy saving.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION
ACTION 3
To ensure the continued publication and distribution of the two leading local magazines and ensure regular funding for the 'Grapevine'.

ACTION 4
Examine the practicalities of setting up a Whatfield website and investigate if any resident could set-up and run such a site.

ACTION 5
More use should be made of the various existing magazines to the Parish Council to simply let people know what it does.

ACTION 6
Thought to be given to the production of a 'welcome pack' for new residents.

PARISH COUNCIL
Whatfield CEVCP School
Within 5 years

PARISH COUNCIL
Community Council
Within 2 years

PARISH COUNCIL
Within 2 years

PARISH COUNCIL
Babergh District Council
Within a year

PARISH COUNCIL
Within a year

PARISH COUNCIL
District Council
Within a year

PARISH COUNCIL
Within a year

PARISH COUNCIL
Within a year plus regular monitoring

PARISH COUNCIL
Within 2 years

PARISH COUNCIL
Within a year

PARISH COUNCIL
Community Council, Whatfield School, Church, Salvation Army.
Within 2 years
ACTION 7
Community Council should give some thought to improving communication with the community.

ACTION 8
Village Hall Committee should give some thought to improving communication with the community.

COMMUNITY ASSETS

ACTION 9
Village Hall Committee could look into possible ways to assist the hard of hearing.

ACTION 19
Investigate the need and siting of further dog waste and litter bins required in the village

ACTION 22
Investigate if funding for a Bus shelter is still available. Identify suitable location(s). Approach Babergh for planning approval.

ACTION 34
Look further into the possibility of the village entering a Best Kept Village competition.

VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY SELF-HELP

ACTION 13
Establish and maintain a ‘Good Neighbour’ scheme covering the whole village.

ACTION 14
Members of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme could possibly publicise the advantages of a scheme to Whatfield.

ACTION 15
Advise the Suffolk Constabulary and our Community Police Officer of these answers.

ACTION 18
Investigate how a bulk heating oil purchase scheme could operate and ascertain what the potential savings could be.