



HERMITAGE PARISH PLAN 2013



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Introduction

This plan has been written by the Village Vision Group with the support of Hermitage Parish Council. This group was made up of:

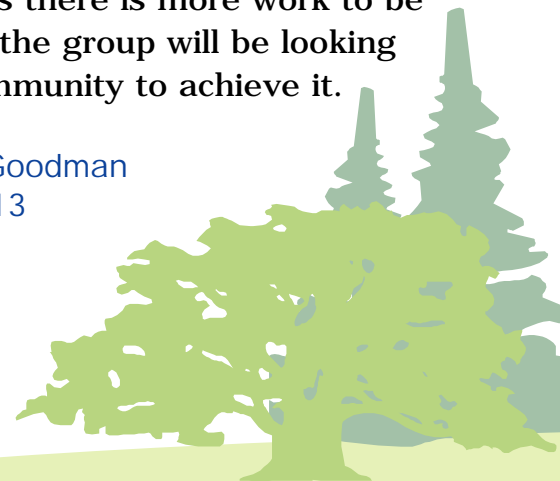
Margaret Goodman - Chairman
 Heather Whetter
 Ruth Cottingham
 Sue Plummer
 Charles Gilchrist
 Tim Clarke
 Margaret Fisher

The group are very grateful for all the help and advice they received from Sarah Ward and Tessa Hall from the Community Council for Berkshire and, from Greenham Common Trust, Melissa Elliott for assistance with producing the Survey and the analysis of the results, and Teresa Newson for the design and layout of this book.

This project has been supported through the North Wessex Downs Sustainable Development Fund - apply at www.northwessexdowns.org.uk

As Chairman of the Village Vision Group I would like to say thank you to all the group members for the effort and time they have expended in producing the Plan. It has been a long process and has taken far more of their time and efforts than was perhaps envisaged at the outset, but they have been there to the end and beyond. 'Beyond' because the Plan is now only the stepping stone to our village having a better future; if we are to achieve any of our aspirations there is more work to be done and the group will be looking to the community to achieve it.

Margaret Goodman
 August 2013



Hermitage past and present

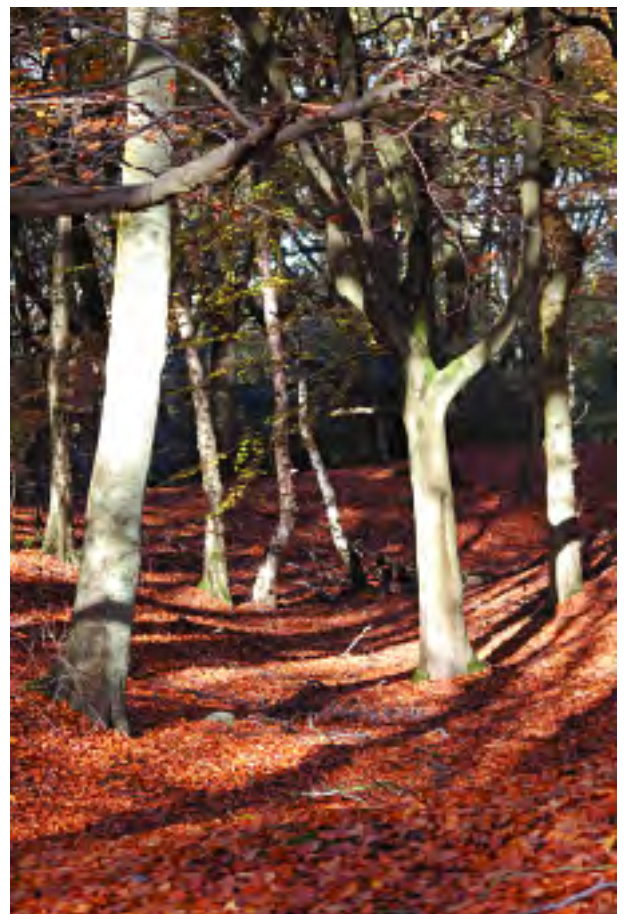
Hermitage is situated in the North Wessex Downs AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) with the woodland at Forest Edge categorised as a Wildlife Heritage Site. The main road through the village (B4009) is an ancient route predating the Roman Bath Road. The B4009 comes from Wallingford which was once a more important town than London and at one time was the county town for Berkshire. The settlement has developed from the crossing of this road and another ancient route coming south from the Downs, known as Old Street, this location being called Faircross. The earthworks at Grimsbury Castle are the remains of a fortified Neolithic Hill Fort.

There are few houses in the village older than Victorian and it has few listed buildings.

Developments in the last fifty years have included Briant's Piece, Dines Way, Lipscomb Close, Hermitage Green and Forest Edge. For more village history please go to the village website

www.hermitage.org.uk

The present day village has a population of 1943 with 1333 on the electoral roll. At the 2001 census there were 444 homes of which 89 were either social housing or privately rented; in 2001 the majority of these houses were detached homes with large gardens.



Grimsbury Castle Earthworks



New Development at Hermitage Green

The 2011 census showed that there are now 218 rented properties. In recent years the trend has been for smaller homes and homes with smaller gardens as seen on the developments at Hermitage Green and Forest Edge.

The 2011 census shows only the majority of properties are family homes with 119 in single occupancy. There are almost equal numbers of males and females in Hermitage, 22% of population are under 18, 12% are over 65, of the rest only 5% are between 18 and 25. Full Census details can be found via the village website

www.hermitage.org.uk

The village was rated as an excellent place to live by 24% of those responding to the Survey and as good by a further 47%.

It has a well-respected Primary School with 200 children on roll employing 13 teachers and 13 learning support assistants. The school offers its pupils a wide range of extra-curricular activities including netball, football, rugby, judo, dance, recorder, art, Lower Junior Choir, model making and athletics. The school was rated as good at the last Ofsted inspection. The village also has a thriving Pre-school based in the Village Hall each weekday providing a key service to our community. Like the Village Hall the Pre-school is a registered charity relying heavily on local support for its fund raising activities. Pre-school has 38 children on roll and at the last Ofsted inspection was rated as good.



Hermitage Primary School



The Village Hall, based near the southern edge of the village is run by the Village Hall Management Committee and has been part of the community for 60 years. There are currently plans to sell this site and relocate the facility to Forest Edge. Several community groups meet regularly at the Village Hall including the Horticultural Society. The village also has a Church, Holy Trinity, which has a community room, the Adelaide Room, where among others the Parish Council meets each month.

Amenities in the village include Play Areas in Chapel Lane (Pinewood Park), at Forest Edge and at Hermitage Green and a Football Pitch at Forest Edge. The village has a Post Office with general store, a butchers, 2 pubs with restaurant facilities, car sales,

car repair, van hire and a computer repair business. There are also numerous home businesses.

The majority of respondents to the survey rated our village as a safe place to live and there were very few experiences of crime recorded. The environment was the most frequently quoted reason people gave for moving to the village and many villagers make regular use of our network of footpaths.



Horticultural Society Summer Show



Play Area at Forest Edge



Hermitage Parish Map

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Developing the Plan

This Parish Plan has been developed by Hermitage's Village Vision Group in order to refresh our original Plan, which was approved in 2006. This is now out of date due to the passage of time and the large increase in housing on the new developments at Hermitage Green and Forest Edge, which have put pressure on services, the School, the Village Hall, traffic and parking.

Whilst we have witnessed these changes we needed to know exactly what Hermitage residents feel about the village environment and village life. We wanted to know what is valued and needs to be preserved as well as what is lacking or poor and needs to be addressed.

To this end we held a number of consultation events, seminars and drop-in clinics to gauge people's concerns. From these we drew up a Questionnaire to give us tangible evidence about every villager's aspirations for the provision of a safer, healthier, greener, more prosperous and closer knit community. The results of the Survey were presented at the Annual Parish Assembly in April 2011 and have formed the basis for the actions itemised in the Plan.

Primary School children work on a village model



Timeline

2009

- Announcement of Plan Update by Hermitage Parish Council and invitation to village groups to join the process
- Preparation of Introductory Leaflet
- Attendance at Pre-school Christmas Fayre and Christmas Tree Event to advertise refreshment of the Plan



2010

- Distribution of Introductory Leaflet to all properties and businesses in Hermitage
- Attendance at Hermitage Horticultural Society Spring Show, Launch of the Hermitage Greening Campaign, Primary School Fete and Parish Walk to promote interest and involvement
- Working with Primary School Children to get their views of life in Hermitage
- 'Have Your Say Day'
- Preparing the Questionnaire



2011

- Distribution and collection of Questionnaire to every home and business in Hermitage
- Analysis of Questionnaire results
- Report of initial analysis at Annual Parish Assembly
- Preparation of the revised Plan



Promoting the Plan

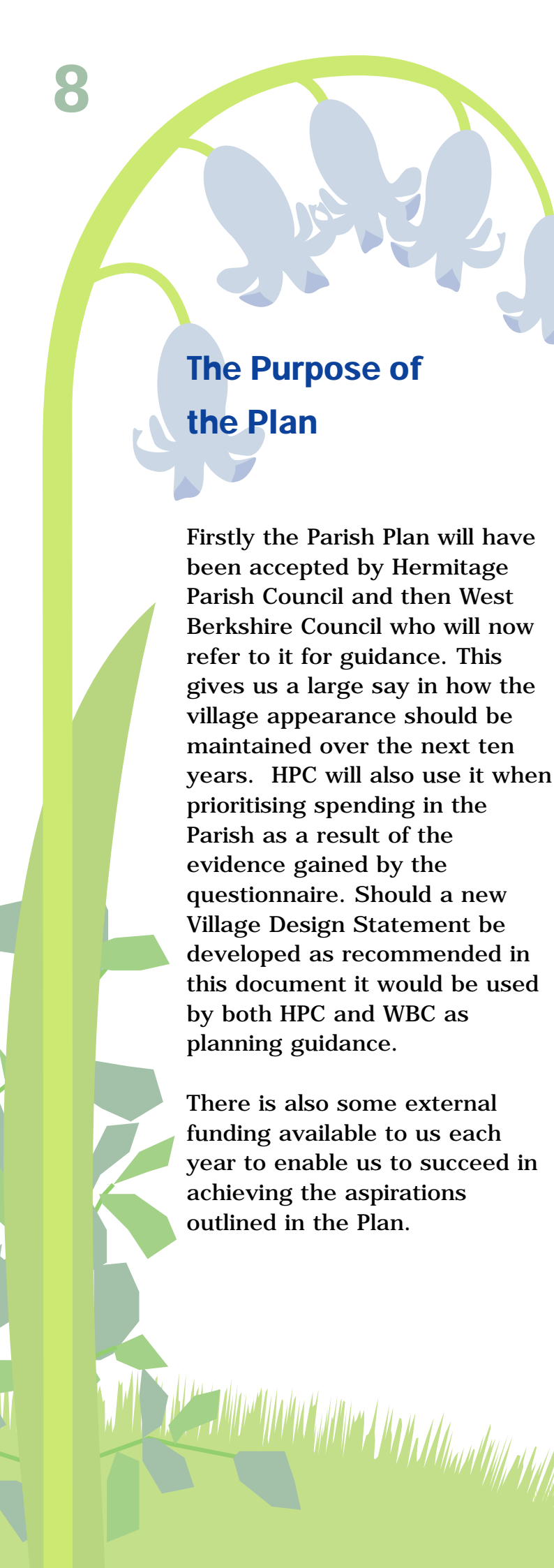
2012

- Writing the Plan
- Presentation to and acceptance of the Plan by Hermitage Parish Council
- Presentation to and acceptance of the Plan by West Berkshire Council

2013

- Publication of the Plan





The Purpose of the Plan

Firstly the Parish Plan will have been accepted by Hermitage Parish Council and then West Berkshire Council who will now refer to it for guidance. This gives us a large say in how the village appearance should be maintained over the next ten years. HPC will also use it when prioritising spending in the Parish as a result of the evidence gained by the questionnaire. Should a new Village Design Statement be developed as recommended in this document it would be used by both HPC and WBC as planning guidance.

There is also some external funding available to us each year to enable us to succeed in achieving the aspirations outlined in the Plan.

The document is available to anyone from the village keen to help promote or enjoy their own interests. We firmly believe that we can achieve a stronger social network with improved clubs and this can be achieved with better lines of communication. One of the characteristics of the new housing estates is that the village appears to be made up of distinct areas with little or no cross socialisation. A more ambitious events programme will help to bring the villagers to a better feeling of unity. Please feel free to take up one or more of the opportunities highlighted in the Plan as each improvement to your own quality of life helps the rest of us too.

Finally the Plan focuses our energy on what the majority of residents want from all aspects of living in Hermitage and the structure gives us a framework for success.

The Questionnaire was delivered to each of the 739 homes in Hermitage during January 2011 and collected during the next month. Residents could also complete the Questionnaire online. 267 completed Questionnaires were returned and these responses form the basis of this plan.

Overall, the response rate was 36%; 7% of Questionnaires delivered on Hermitage Green were returned, 25% from Forest Edge and 46% from the remainder of the village.

The 2006 Plan had many successes:

- It provided Hermitage Parish Council (HPC) with guidance in dealing with Planning Applications
- HPC have awarded grants each year to Cubs & Scouts and to the Youth Club when grants have been requested
- The pavement along the High Street was widened to improve pedestrian safety
- HPC has a councillor with responsibility for Rights of Way
- HPC has a contractor keeping bus shelters clean and in good order
- HPC resists housing development on brownfield sites
- HPC has strongly resisted infill planning applications
- HPC has placed more notice boards around the village
- HPC has awarded grants to Hermitage Village Hall Management Committee

More recently some of the evidence in the Questionnaire convinced HPC to take early action with certain issues before the Plan was published, as exemplified by new litter bins and dog waste bins around the village.



New Notice Board



Bus Shelter



New Dog Waste Bin



A Stronger Community

Communication

In order to become a more united village, we recommend that efforts are made to improve communication within the village. Apart from the favourite way of learning about village life, which is by chatting to friends and neighbours, there are opportunities to discover what is going on through the village magazine (The Pathfinder), via the village website, via the Hermitage Community Forum on Facebook and by reading the village notice boards. At the back of this booklet you will find contact details for all of these.

Within the overall aim of creating a more unified community where everyone is aware of what happens in our village and is welcomed and encouraged to participate, we hope that this Plan will achieve:

- A Stronger Community
- A Healthier Population
- A Greener Village
- A Safer Place for all residents and visitors
- A More Prosperous Locality

This Plan deals, as the Questionnaire did, with each of these in turn. Some of the aspirations will impact on more than one of the above facets.



The Village Magazine

HPC is urged to appoint a councillor who will become a co-ordinator for all the forms of communication to help improve awareness of the various means of communication available in Hermitage, to improve usage by all village groups of all forms of communication for advertising their events and activities and constantly review the extent of information available on the website.

Planning

The planning section of the Questionnaire gave the greatest level of response. There are very strong feelings that the village has seen enough development; there is opposition to infill building, high density development meaning homes have only smaller rather than larger gardens and homes being built with minimal parking space. In the event of the village being forced to accept further development there was support for sheltered accommodation for older people and starter homes being included. There was equally strong feeling that developments should have play areas placed centrally rather than being peripheral to homes. The way forward to achieving this is twofold; first to revise the existing Village Design Statement and secondly to develop a Neighbourhood Development Plan that would incorporate the views of locals and



Dines Way



Yattendon Road

be accepted by both HPC and WBC as part of the general planning policies for the development and use of land in our neighbourhood.

In order that residents are aware of what happens HPC should ensure that all planning applications they receive for development inside our village or in nearby communities are notified on the website and in the village magazine and on the Hermitage Community page on Facebook. This action will help to ensure that our voice is heard on any development close to us.



The current Village Hall should be well managed and maintained for community use until such time it is no longer required or viable.

Holy Trinity Church has a small community room which, with improvement, could be available for greater community use.

Community Buildings

There were 232 answers to the question of support for the new Village Hall and of these 140 supported the move. Since then the Village Hall Management Committee has secured planning permission for the new hall and support from the village for the sale of the existing Village Hall and is actively seeking funding to progress the project. Whilst acknowledging that many residents have reservations, the aspiration must be to safeguard a multi-functional, fit-for-purpose community building and achieve this by securing funding for ongoing maintenance and/or new development. It is essential that the whole community is kept aware of the progress on the development of the new hall and that they understand and accept the rationale for decisions taken.



Holy Trinity Church



Village Hall 50th Anniversary

Events and Activities

The responses to the questions asked about events, activities and classes suggest there is an eagerness for more to happen inside the village. In particular there is support for village-wide events such as an annual fete, a hog roast and treasure hunts. Many activities suggested in the questions or in the answers do already happen without the wider village being aware of them. The establishment of a Village Events Committee to co-ordinate the activities of existing groups, to extend the range of activities available and to encourage wider participation, especially through better publicity, would surely harness the enthusiasm for activity.

HPC holds an Annual Parish Assembly each year in early spring. To encourage local residents to attend this gathering, the practice of delivering invitations to every house should continue. The Parish Council also hosts a tea after the Annual Village Walk in the summer, giving villagers the opportunity to speak with Parish Councillors - both aspects of this event should continue with wider advertising to encourage bigger numbers attending. The final event hosted by HPC is the Christmas Tree Light Switch-on, held early in December which has proved to be a popular event, but considered to have much more potential for growth.



The Village Walk



Party in the Park, June 2012





Cubs

The church

Whilst the number of respondents to the question 'What role should the Church play in the community?' was not large, the church are anxious that the church building and activities be regarded as a spiritual and practical resource accessible to all, able to make a positive contribution to the life of our local community. They will attempt to achieve this by engaging with children, young people and their families as well as older members of the community both inside and outside the Church. The Pathfinder is produced by the Church and is a community magazine containing both village and church news and the Parochial Church Council would like to see this continued and developed.

Young People

Over the course of preparing this Plan several sessions were held both inside and outside school with the under 18s in the village and views expressed then have been incorporated. However the survey for young people only gave 17 responses leading the group to conclude that the major aspiration for our younger population is to have better engagement with the adults and to this end HPC is recommended to have a councillor who liaises with the village school and even has links with the school council. For older children, views and opinions of teenagers should be sought, preferably by encouraging the resurrection of a regular Youth Club in Hermitage. Those young people who did respond to the Questionnaire reported the village lacked an all-weather play area and felt such a facility would encourage more participation in sport and reduce the boredom factor.

A Healthier Population

The creation of a healthier population is a two part project. The first being the increase in the number of opportunities for sports and fitness within the community and the second being the investigation and progressing of the possibility of more village based health facilities.

The first project would be the creation of a Sports and Recreation Group that would start by establishing what facilities and groups already exist in the village. The group would then encourage a range of physical activities suitable for all ages and abilities.

The survey shows support for cycling and there should be support for the creation and maintenance of a network of cycle tracks.

The second project will involve a group of people talking with the Downland Practice to explore the provision of more locally based services and, if necessary, other Health Service providers could be approached. There was a high level of support for suggestions that a Mother and Baby Clinic,

Vaccination Clinics and similar services could be made available within Hermitage. The lack of private transport combined with the absence of a bus service between Hermitage and Chieveley made getting to the doctors, midwife or Health Visitor very difficult for some people.



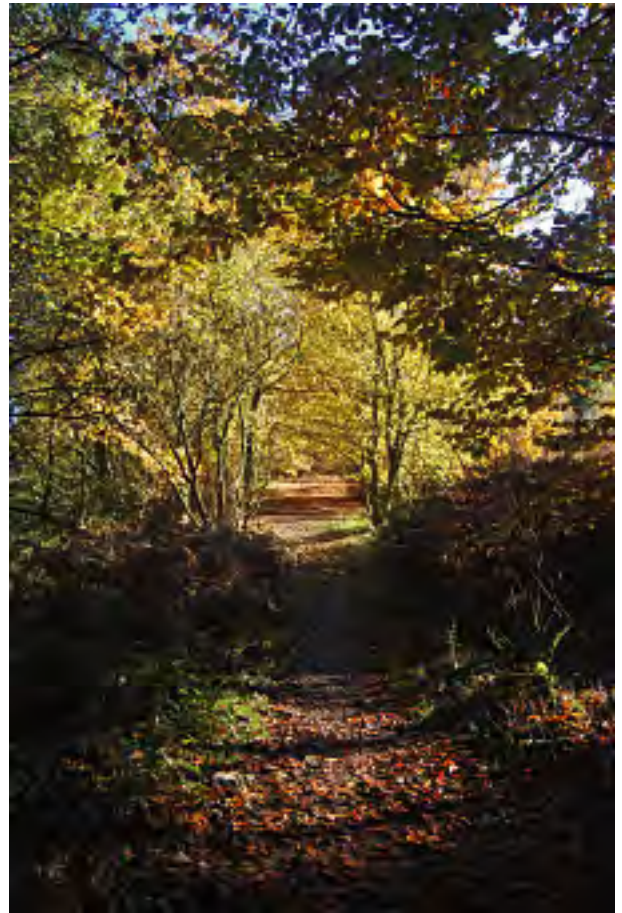
Cycling round Hermitage



A Greener Village

The Greening Hermitage Campaign came into being two years ago and will continue to promote a more sustainable lifestyle for all of us, publicising awareness of the effects of climate change and depletion of our world's finite resources, and developing ways of providing advice and assistance to all residents. The forum intends to sponsor the creation of an Energy Conservation Group, which will initially identify ways to encourage households to save energy and money.

The Campaign will also continue to investigate ways to increase the amount and type of recycling that is available locally.



Fence Wood

The provision of allotments has been a long standing aim of HPC and a lot of effort has gone into getting land that could be used as allotments. The Questionnaire responses showed that there is enough interest from villagers to make this a worthwhile exercise and so dialogue with local landowners will continue, together with exploration of funding options and development needs of an allotment site.

The quality of the environment was the most common reason for choosing Hermitage as a place to live. HPC recognises that residents appreciate the place of our village within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). In this context the Plan aspires to conserve and enhance our environment. A sufficient number of villagers volunteered to become members of a Community Working Party that could undertake a wide variety of tasks to assist with this aspiration from litter picking to rhododendron clearing.

The Parish Council should endeavour to provide sufficient litter bins and dog waste bins that are emptied frequently to help reduce the volumes of litter and dog mess that concern residents.

The issue of fly tipping needs to be addressed and an advertising campaign to begin the education process is essential.

In Hermitage we have a well patronised network of footpaths, bridleways and byways and the Questionnaire responses show that residents value the facility these provide. HPC is encouraged to continue to nominate a councillor who will be responsible for ensuring any problems with these paths are reported and dealt with in a timely manner.



Flytipping



Footpath



A Safer Place

Responses to traffic questions came second only to those concerning planning. There were serious concerns about parking, traffic speed and volume and their effect on all road users. A group is needed to conduct further surveys of these issues so that WBC can be presented with evidence

as the basis for improved road safety in Hermitage.

Answers in the Questionnaire showed Hermitage to be a safe place to live with low crime statistics. There is, however, interest in membership of Neighbourhood Watch Groups.



The School Rush Hour



Traffic on Hampstead Norreys Road

A More Prosperous Locality

There are a number of businesses based in Hermitage and a significant number of home based workers. The production of a Hermitage Business Directory would be a useful aid to many of these. Its compilation should be further investigated with the aim of having both a print version for distribution to all homes and businesses and to be included on the Village Website for all to use.

Relatively slow Broadband in the village is seen as a significant issue. Accordingly there was significant support for faster Broadband. This would help not only businesses and home workers, but also the whole community at large. Efforts to achieve faster Broadband into the village should be explored by HPC, at every opportunity with WBC and providers.

Currently HPC resists development of residential property on brownfield sites to encourage business and employment opportunities.



Crown Butchers



The Post Office Stores



The Fox Public House



The Action Plan

Aspiration

Action

Priority

Responsibility

Evidence

Timeline

Attribute

1. To create a more unified community where everyone is aware of what is happening in our village and is welcomed and encouraged to take part.

a) Promote awareness of all forms of communication in Hermitage - the Pathfinder, village website and notice boards and the Hermitage Community Group page on Facebook

High

HPC
All Village Groups
All villagers

This was the stated aim of the Village Vision Group and the difference in response rates between the 3 main areas of the village demonstrates the lack of unity
The response rate from the older parts of the village was 46%, from Forest Edge 25% but Hermitage Green only 7%

Implemented

Stronger

b) Produce an Information Pack listing local organisations and businesses for distribution to every home in the village

High

HPC
Charles Gilchrist

From 2013

Stronger

c) Establish a role for a Parish Councillor as a Village Communicator

Medium

HPC

Implemented

Stronger

d). Create a friendlier website with more detail of village activities with a dedicated and pro-active Parish Council section

High

HPC



From 2013

Stronger

e). Encourage all community groups to use our local methods of communication to widen the audience for any event

Medium

HPC
Webmaster
All local groups
Pathfinder Editor

From 2013

Stronger

2. To update the Village Design Statement to reflect the views expressed in the survey

a) Ensure that the design of parking in any new development reflects the community's rural location with its more limited public transport services

High

HPC
WBC

90% of respondents agree

Implemented

Stronger

b) Encourage HPC always to comment on parking issues when responding to Planning Applications

High

HPC

Implemented


Stronger

The Action Plan



Aspiration	Action	Priority	Responsibility	Evidence	Timeline	Attribute
2. To update the Village Design Statement to reflect the views expressed in the Questionnaire (continued)	c) Ensure the density of future developments reflects the prevailing character of this rural area	High	HPC WBC	72% of respondents agree that new homes should have larger rather than smaller gardens	Implemented	Stronger
	d) Encourage HPC to oppose garden grabbing when responding to Planning Applications	High	HPC WBC	62% of respondents are opposed to future infill development	Implemented	Stronger
	e) Include a policy ensuring that where play areas are included in future development they are centrally placed	High	HPC WBC	56% of respondents agree	Implemented	Stronger
	f) Reflect the community support for starter homes and sheltered accommodation in the design of new development	High	HPC WBC	44% of respondents agree	Implemented	Stronger
3. To enable the village to shape any future development, by producing a plan which would allow HPC to establish general planning policies for the development and use of land in our neighbourhood, recognising its location within the North Wessex Downs AONB	Work closely with WBC on the production of the Site Allocation and Delivery Development Plan Document	High	HPC	80% of respondents feel the village has seen sufficient development 62% of respondents are opposed to future infill	Implemented	Stronger



The Action Plan

Aspiration	Action	Priority	Responsibility	Evidence	Timeline	Attribute
4. To develop a Neighbourhood Plan	a) Consider the development of a Neighbourhood Plan with neighbouring parishes	High	HPC, CCB, WBC Neighbourhood Plan Group		From 2013	Stronger
	b) Conduct a Housing Needs Survey	High	HPC CCB	There is interest in sheltered accommodation and starter homes	Implemented	Stronger
5. To ensure the community is aware of all Planning Applications received by HPC	a) Add planning application detail to the Parish Council section of the village website and encourage residents to voice their concerns to HPC + WBC. Update the site when decisions are available	High	HPC Affected Residents	<p>More than 90% of respondents answered questions in the survey relating to planning matters demonstrating a clear interest</p> 	Implemented	Stronger
	b) Report all Planning Applications in The Pathfinder, on the village website and on the Hermitage Community Group page on Facebook	High	HPC		Implemented	Stronger
	c) Work with neighbouring villages to ensure the Hermitage voice is heard on development close to our village	High	HPC		Implemented	Stronger
6. To safeguard a multi-functional, fit-for-purpose community building	a) Secure funding for ongoing maintenance and/or new development	High	The whole community	<p>60% of respondents answering this question support the new hall 40% of voters on sale of current hall were opposed to the idea</p>	Implemented	Stronger
	b) Inform the whole community of progress on the new hall development and ensure that they understand and accept the rationale for decisions taken	High	VHMC		Ongoing	Stronger
	c) Manage current hall for community use until such time it is no longer required/viable	High	VHMC		Ongoing	Stronger

The Action Plan

Aspiration	Action	Priority	Responsibility	Evidence	Timeline	Attribute
7. To extend the range of activities, events and classes available to Hermitage	a) Establish a Village Events Committee to co-ordinate the activities of the existing groups and encourage all groups to work together to run village wide events such as an annual fete	Medium	The whole community	<p>Answers to the Questionnaire showed a broad level of support for a widened range of activities.</p> 	From 2013	Stronger
	b) Encourage the continuation of the Annual Village Walk with tea served afterwards by Parish Councillors giving parishioners the opportunity to talk with them	Medium	HPC The whole community		Ongoing	Stronger
	c) Continue the Christmas Tree event	Medium	HPC		Ongoing	Stronger
	d) Ensure every household receives an invitation to the Annual Parish Assembly to encourage as many people as possible to attend	Medium	HPC		Ongoing	Stronger
8. To increase the health and fitness of the population of Hermitage	a) Increase the number of opportunities for sport and fitness within the community through the establishment of a Sports and Recreation Group (SRG)	Medium	Village Vision Group, SRG	<p>Of those responding to the survey 68% said they would support the extension of sports provision in the village</p> 	From 2013	Healthier Stronger
	b) Encourage advertising of facilities and classes available	Medium	The whole community, SRG		From 2013	Healthier
	c) Encourage walking groups, including themed walks to ensure that people of all ages and abilities can participate	Medium	Existing Clubs and Groups		From 2013	Healthier

The Action Plan

Aspiration	Action	Priority	Responsibility	Evidence	Timeline	Attribute
8. To increase the health and fitness of the population of Hermitage (continued)	d) Encourage attendance at Annual Village Walk	Medium	HPC	Of those responding to the survey 68% said they would support the extension of sports provision in the village	From 2013	Healthier
	e) Support the creation and maintenance of a network of cycle tracks	Medium	HPC		From 2013	Healthier Greener
9. To investigate and progress the possibility of more health facilities	a) Open dialogue with the Downland Practice and PALS	High	Village Vision Group, HPC, The Downland Practice, PALS	Only 17% of respondents felt some health services sited in Hermitage would not be desirable	From 2013	Healthier
10. To make Hermits more aware of future threats including climate change and enable them to be better prepared for the challenges of scarcer resources and higher fuel costs	a) Continue the forum established under the 'Greening Hermitage' banner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote awareness of the effects of climate change and resource depletion Encourage residents to adopt energy saving measures promoted by the Greening UK Campaign 	High	Hermitage Greening Campaign (HGC)	45 respondents to Q30 (17% of total) expressed a desire to support this campaign	Implemented	Greener
	b) Create an Energy Conservation Group (ECG) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify simple measures for households to adopt in order to conserve energy Encourage residents not 'on the grid' to join the CCB Oil Club Identify opportunities of generating energy from renewable sources such as solar and wind 	Medium	HGC Village Vision Group	99 respondents to Q26 (37% of total) expressed interest in a village Energy Conservation Group	Implemented	Greener Stronger
	c) Create a knowledge base able to provide residents with practical advice and assistance especially where grants are available	Medium				




The Action Plan

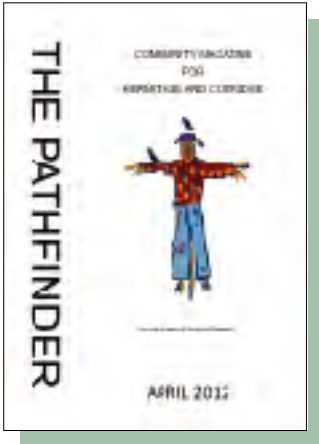

Aspiration	Action	Priority	Responsibility	Evidence	Timeline	Attribute
11. To improve the amount of recycling offered locally	a) Open dialogue with WBC and waste contractors b) Publicise re-sale or re-use options for unwanted items c) Publicise available recycling facilities	Medium	HGC Village Vision Group	189 respondents to Q27 (70% of total) were willing to take recyclable waste to a collection point in the village (this represents waste not collected at the kerbside)	Implemented	Greener
12. To obtain land for allotments and set up a Village Allotment Group	Continue dialogue with local landowners to find a suitable site	Medium	HPC	75% of respondents support provision of allotments	From 2013	Greener
13. To conserve and enhance our environment so it remains in keeping with a village in the North Wessex Downs AONB	a) By creating a Community Working Party that would, for example, hold back the ingress of Rhododendrons, pick litter, plant spring bulbs, investigate ditch blockages etc. b) Ensure adequate dog mess bins and address fly tipping as well as improving knowledge of local civic amenities c) Provide adequate litter bins	Medium	Village Vision Group HPC WBC Community Working Party	In response to Q9: 58% of survey respondents expressed concern about dog mess 46% about fly tipping 43% about litter 78 respondents (29% of total) expressed interest in a local environmental group	From 2013	Greener



The Action Plan

Aspiration	Action	Priority	Responsibility	Evidence	Timeline	Attribute
14. To build on the current healthy patronage of our local footpaths, bridleways and byways	By ensuring HPC has a nominated Rights of Way representative who will ensure problems are reported and corrected	High	HPC WBC	In reply to Q32, 168 respondents (35% of total) walked local foot paths weekly with 190 (71% of total) using these paths at least once a month.	Implemented	Greener
15. To improve road safety for all users	By establishing a Road Safety Group that would investigate traffic concerns and liaise with HPC and WBC By encouraging HPC to continue its promotion of a cycle track between Hampstead Norreys and Hermitage and onwards to Newbury	High	Road Safety Group HPC WBC	92% of pedestrians responding to the Questionnaire were concerned about traffic speed and/or volume 45% of motor cyclists 53% of motorists	From 2013	Safer
16. To re-establish a Neighbourhood Watch Group	Canvas villagers for a co-ordinator and set up membership	High	HPC	58% of respondents would want to be members of a NHWG	Implemented	Safer
17. To strengthen and promote business within Hermitage	a) By the production of a Hermitage Business Directory	Medium	Charles Gilchrist	74% support from business respondents 	2013	More Prosperous
	b) By achieving a faster Broadband provision	High	HPC		From 2011	More Prosperous
	c) Promote business via a local Craft/Business exhibition on an annual basis	High	Village Vision Group HPC		From 2013	More Prosperous

The Action Plan

Aspiration	Action	Priority	Responsibility	Evidence	Timeline	Attribute
18. For the church to play as full a part as possible in the life of our community within the constraints of numbers of church members and funding available	a) By engaging with children and young people inside and outside the church	Medium	Church		From 2013	Stronger
	b) By progressing involvement with older community members	Medium	Church		From 2013	Stronger
	c) By making best use of The Pathfinder as a community magazine	Medium	Church		From 2013	Stronger
	d) By making the Adelaide Room available for some greater community use	Medium	Church		Ongoing	Stronger
19. To address the concerns of residents with regard to fly tipping, litter and dog mess	a) Publicise locations of all dog waste bins and litter bins and ensure they are emptied sufficiently often. Provide more bins	High	HPC	Respondents were concerned about dog fouling - 58% fly tipping - 46% litter - 43%	From 2011	Stronger
	b) Publicise information about local civic amenities	Medium	HPC		Ongoing	Stronger
20. To better engage with the under 18 population of Hermitage	a) Appoint a parish councillor as liaison with the village school to work with the head and the school council	High	HPC HVHMC Cubs/Scouts	A separate survey for under 18s was produced but only 17 were returned 	From 2013	Stronger
	b) Provide more play / exercise equipment and facilities for all children and young people recognising a specific shortage for the age group 14+	Medium	HPC Youth Club School		From 2013	Stronger
	c) Engage with young people by restarting the Youth Club	Medium	HPC Church		From 2013	Stronger



Useful Contact Information

For further information about the Plan or to volunteer in any area please contact Margaret Goodman on **01635 201807** or email margaret-goodman@hotmail.com

Local Government

District Councillors

Graham Pask..... **01635 864 023**

Quentin Web..... **01635 202 646**

Parish Council Clerk

Bill Goudge..... **0118 977 3553**

Local Schools

Hermitage Pre-school..... **01635 201 517**

Hermitage Primary School..... **01635 200 355**

The Downs School..... **01635 270 000**

Local Organisations

Cubs/Scouts..... **01635 201 114**

Downland Volunteers..... **01635 578 394**

Guides..... **01635 866 637**

Hampstead Norreys WI..... **01635 201 300**

Hermitage Horticultural Society..... **01635 200 966**

Hermitage Church

Rector

(The Revd. Canon Rita Ball)..... **01635 200 967**

Magazine Distribution

(Jill Burgess)..... **01635 202 478**



Emergency Numbers

Electricity Emergency.....	0800 072 7282
Gas Emergency.....	0800 111 999
Community Police Officer.....	101
Citizens Advice.....	01635 520 120

General Numbers

Village Hall bookings.....	01635 201 288
HPC Notice Boards.....	01635 203 462
The Bunk Inn.....	01635 564 000
The Fox Inn.....	01635 200 772
The Lamb.....	01635 200 348
The White Horse.....	01635 200 325
Hermitage P.O. Store.....	01635 200 278
Crown Butchers.....	01635 200 300

Local websites and Email Addresses

Hermitage Pre-school.....	www.hermitagepre-school.co.uk
Hermitage Horticultural Society.....	www.hermitagehortsoc.co.uk
Hermitage Village Website.....	www.hermitage.org.uk
Rainbows/Brownies.....	hermitagebrownies@hotmail.co.uk
Hermitage Community Facebook Page.....	www.facebook.com/groups/hermitageuk
Hermitage Church.....	www.hermitage-church.org.uk
To advertise in The Pathfinder.....	Bunmi@sowande.com
To put copy in The Pathfinder.....	hermitage-pathfinder@hotmail.com



Charles Gilchrist has produced a fascinating and detailed report on our local Flora and Fauna and this can be found at www.hermitage.org.uk



HERMITAGE PARISH PLAN 2013
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**Hermitage
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