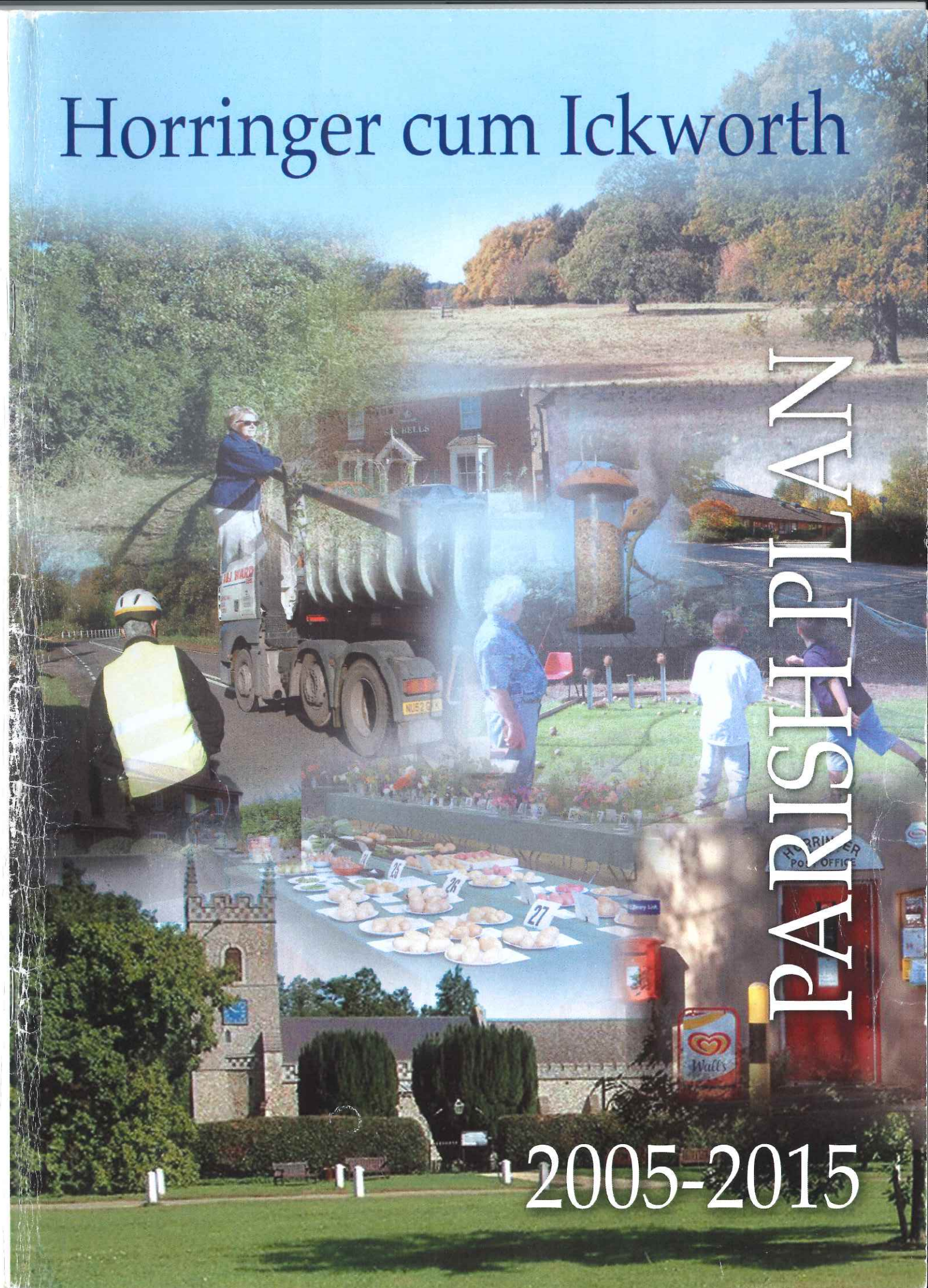




# Horringer cum Ickworth



PARISHPIAN

2005-2015





Horringer  
Village Green  
& Church

Horringer  
Post  
Office



Annual Flower Show



Annual Fete

## CONTENTS

Introduction and Explanatory note	2
Horringer-cum-Ickworth in context	3
Action Plans	8
Summary of objectives	41
Executive summary	44
Where next	49
Contributors	50
Maps	51

## A. Introduction and Explanatory Note

- A.1 In November 2002 the Horringer-cum-Ickworth Parish Council held a public meeting in the local community centre. The meeting was called to consider whether or not the Parish should produce a Parish Plan.
- A.2 At the conclusion of the meeting a number of residents volunteered to form a Parish Plan Steering Committee (the members' names are recorded on page 50) and the Steering Committee were charged to investigate and if feasible to take whatever steps were necessary to produce a Draft Parish Plan. We were grateful to Dave Butler for taking on the role of co-ordinator of the committee.
- A.3 After consulting St. Edmundsbury Borough Council and the Countryside Agency the committee commenced the difficult process of constructing a questionnaire, and we express our thanks to Jill King for all her hard work on the questionnaire. The questionnaire was delivered to all households within the Parish in May 2003 and there was an 84% response. The committee also circulated a separate leaflet to give residents an opportunity to offer their help for a variety of activities to which many responded and which has subsequently led to the formation of a new Wildlife Group and an extension of other activities.
- A.4 The next important step was to analyse the answers to the questions and we are indebted to Sam Davies for his work which provided the committee with the necessary information with which to commence the next stage.
- A.5 The steering committee invited residents to view the results of the questionnaire at an exhibition in late October 2003. We are grateful to the Countryside Agency for providing funding for most of the work.
- A.6 A number of members withdrew from the committee after the exhibition and the smaller remaining committee (members of which are listed on page 50) began the time-consuming work of drafting the Draft Parish Plan. The committee decided there should be 6 sections with an introduction and each section was drafted by an individual member. The task of editing the various sections was undertaken by Ian Macdonald to whom we express our grateful thanks.
- A.7 The Draft Parish Plan was finalised in March 2005 and it is to be monitored and then reviewed in 2015.
- A.8 The detailed results of the questionnaire can be made available by the Parish Council for inspection upon request.

## B. Horringer-cum-Ickworth in Context

### B.1. Location of the Parish

- B.1.1. The Parish of Horringer-cum-Ickworth is situated two miles south-west of Bury St. Edmunds in Suffolk on the A143, a main road linking Bury St. Edmunds and Haverhill, the two towns in the district of St. Edmundsbury.
- B.1.2. A map showing the Parish and other relevant maps can be found at the end of this document
- B.1.3. The Parish boundary is shown as a dotted line on Plan No.1

### B.2. Description

- B.2.1. The Parish has an area of some 1,340 hectares (3,312 acres) and comprises the village of Horringer, Ickworth House, a Grade I listed stately house of national importance, and its surrounding parkland, the hamlet of Horsecroft and various outlying farms and houses, including a number in Ickworth Park.
- B.2.2. To the north-west of Horringer village lie the National Trust property of Ickworth and beyond it the small village of Westley. These form a natural buffer between Horringer and the A14, a major trunk road linking the Midlands with Felixstowe, the country's largest container port.
- B.2.3. Green belt land separates Horringer from Bury St. Edmunds to the east. The Local Plan in course of preparation proposes building on land between Bury and Westley, but further encroachment towards Horringer is not envisaged within the period of the Plan, up to 2016.
- B.2.4. To the south of the Parish is gently undulating countryside typical of much of Suffolk.

### B.3. Brief History

- B.3.1. For many years, Horringer was an estate village with nearly all the houses being owned by the successive Marquises of Bristol, who owned Ickworth House, and occupied by estate employees.
- B.3.2. Following the death of the 4<sup>th</sup> Marquis, the House and surrounding gardens and parkland passed to The National Trust in 1956 and the direct link between House and village was gradually weakened, even though the subsequent Marquises continued to live in the East Wing until 1998.

B.3.3. The Bristol Estate sold off most of the cottages in Horringer over a number of years and, in many cases, adjoining cottages were knocked into one, modernised and extended. Today, the Bristol Estate owns only a few isolated small areas of land in the village.

B.3.4. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, St. Leonard's Park, a housing development of about 180 executive-style houses and bungalows, was built to the south of the A143. This more than doubled the size of Horringer and transformed its character.

B.3.5. Since then, there has been a certain amount of infilling but no major development and Horringer is now regarded as a "much sought after" residential village.

## B.4. Facilities

B.4.1. Horringer has more facilities than most villages of a comparable size. This is in no small measure due to the community spirit shown by successive generations of residents. Large numbers of people have been prepared to give up some of their spare time to set up and successfully run a wide range of activities, clubs and societies.

B.4.2. Examples of this community spirit include the following:-

- in 1998, the postmaster announced his decision to retire and close the Horringer Post Office, having been unable to find a buyer for the business. In a matter of weeks, the Parish Council, with the assistance of the Community Council, organised a temporary portacabin and subsequently built a new permanent Post Office attached to the Community Centre. About one-third of the total cost of over £30,000 was provided by donations and loans from local residents.
- the annual Flower Show and Fete held on the village green and in the Community Centre. Many village clubs and societies have stalls to raise funds and newcomers and children are encouraged to take part. The Flower Show has been held continuously for more than 100 years.
- the response to the Questionnaire giving rise to this Plan was over 84%, easily the best in Suffolk so far.

B.4.3. In addition to the Post Office, the Parish enjoys the following facilities:-

- St Leonard's Church;
- Ickworth Park Primary School, serving Horringer and six other local villages;
- Two public houses;

- Community Centre, run by a very active Community Council and hosting bottle and paper recycling facilities;
- Social Club, attached to the Community Centre;
- Play Area for the younger children, recently refurbished by the Parish Council;
- Village Green, still owned by the Bristol Estate but managed by the Parish Council;
- Cricket Club, with a home ground in Ickworth Park;
- Football and badminton clubs, although both these meet outside the village;
- Neighbourhood Watch scheme;
- Horringer Diary, a quarterly newsletter delivered to every household in Horringer;
- Village website (<http://www.horringer.suffolk.gov.uk>);
- More than 20 clubs and societies, ranging from the Horticultural Society to Women's Institute, Royal British Legion, Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies and Beavers, the Horringer Singers and many others.

B.4.4. Some facilities have been lost. The village shop, located conveniently on the St. Leonard's Park estate, closed in 1991, the victim of competition from supermarkets and high rates. The Post Office now sells a basic range of stationery and durable goods. The garage on the edge of the village closed in 2003 and is to be replaced by more housing, including some affordable housing. The mobile library service has been cut back but replaced in part by a Library Link in the Post Office.

## B.5. Population

B.5.1. According to the 2001 census, the population of Horringer was 931, having been 975 in 1991.

B.5.2. Between 1991 and 2001:-

- the proportion of those aged 0-15 increased from 15.1% to 20.0% (Plan Questionnaire – 19%), slightly above the Borough and County averages of 16.7% and 18.6%;
- the proportion of those aged 16-44 decreased from 36.5% to 28.4% (Plan Questionnaire – 24%), well below the Borough and County averages of 36.5% and 37.9%. Further analysis revealed a particularly dramatic drop in the age range 16-29, down from 16.6% in 1991 to 7.9% in 2001;
- the proportion of those aged 45-59 increased from 19.4% to 23.7% (Plan Questionnaire – 27%); the Borough average is higher at 28.1% but the County average is only 19.9%;



- the proportion of those aged 60 and over remained static at 29.0% (Plan Questionnaire – 30%), significantly higher than the Borough and County averages of 18.8% and 23.6%.

B.5.3. We have a preponderance of elderly residents and a dearth of young adults.

B.5.4. 48% of people have lived in the village for more than 15 years and a further 26% for between six and 15 years. A significant number of families have moved once or twice within the village. This is a clear indication that the Parish is a good place in which to live.

## **B.6. Employment**

B.6.1. In response to the questionnaire, 602 people aged 17 or over indicated their employment status. About a third work full-time and another third are retired.

B.6.2. 11% are self-employed and 6% are non-earning housewives / husbands. 12% work part-time and only 2 admit to being unemployed. Small numbers are in receipt of education or training, are sick or disabled or are doing voluntary work.

B.6.3. Just over half of those in employment work in Bury St. Edmunds. 6% work from home and another 10% work elsewhere in Horringer. Cambridge, Newmarket and Ipswich were the other main destinations.

B.6.4. A total of 38% work in the public sector (health – 15%, government – 13%, education – 10%) and the only other sector with more than 5% representation is retail (14%).

B.6.5. A large majority (89.5%) travel to work by car.

## **B.7. Environment**

B.7.1. Horringer is a popular village. It is big enough to sustain a good range of community facilities but small and compact enough to retain a real village atmosphere. It has the attractive facility of Ickworth Park on its doorstep. You can walk into the countryside from any point in the village within about 5 minutes.

B.7.2. The village is bisected by the busy A143 road. Earlier campaigns for a bypass came to nothing and a bypass is no longer even on the "wish list" of the highways authority, Suffolk County Council.

B.7.3. There are issues of traffic management, speeding, inadequate footpaths and lack of safe cycle ways which are dealt with in the Transport section.

B.7.4. For a number of years, the Parish Council has employed a local street cleaner whose efforts make a significant difference to the appearance of the village.

B.7.5. Most of the land surrounding the built-up area of Horringer is owned by the National Trust or a small number of private individuals. Their continuing help in preserving the amenity of the village is important.

## **B.8. What We Want To Do: Our Broad Objectives**

B.8.1. The Parish hopes that the creation of this Plan will enable the Parish Council, in conjunction with the residents and other bodies as appropriate, to achieve the following objectives:-

- B.8.1.1. Establish what the Parish wants and needs;
- B.8.1.2. Preserve what is good;
- B.8.1.3. Improve what is inadequate or outmoded;
- B.8.1.4. Provide new facilities where there is a proven need;

B.8.2. Change should be by evolution not revolution and only implemented after proper research and consultation.

B.8.3. In many cases, the Parish Council will need the co-operation and assistance of other bodies such as St. Edmundsbury Borough Council, Suffolk County Council and grant-aiding organisations.

B.8.4. Where appropriate it should be considered whether action needs to be taken in conjunction with neighbouring communities

## C. Action Plans

C.1. Transport	9
C.2. Development	17
C.3. Community Services	23
C.4. Environment	28
C.5. Leisure	34
C.6. Provision for Youth	39

## C.1. Action Plan - Transport

C.1.1. This section addresses four distinct areas concerning transport:

**Transport for All**  
**Road Safety**  
**Bicycles**  
**Pedestrians**

C.1.2. Throughout the section account has been taken of issues concerning:

- sustainability – in particular endorsing and, where necessary, championing minority forms of transport;
- people with disabilities – particularly reduced mobility, eyesight and hearing problems;
- environmental considerations - such as energy conservation through the use of bicycles and car sharing;
- traffic management – especially speed and noise of traffic and road safety.

### C.1.3. Transport for all

We need to plan for everyone's transport needs, especially those who have mobility problems, by the creation of a Local Transport Action Plan ("LTAP") for Horringer which will embrace all elements of this Action Plan.

#### C.1.3.1. Evidence from the survey

- a) The 2001 Census revealed that there were 410 households with a total of 615 cars or vans;
- b) 170 households had 1 car, 148 had 2, 30 had 3 and 13 had 4 or more;
- c) The vast majority of people in the parish have access to a car (respondents reported a total of 332 cars owned in the parish) leaving a few with a problem of getting about;
- d) 41 respondents who do not have a car (49 households according to 2001 Census) said they occasionally or often experienced transport difficulty; of these 11 said they had difficulty using the bus. Over 30 people regularly use the bus for shopping and work. All those under 17 years of age (over 200 people) rely on public transport or parents for lifts;
- e) A car sharing scheme has been set up recently.

## C.1.3.2. Objectives

- C.1.3.2. (1.) To seek to ensure that transport facilities suit all ages and stages.
- For example, better access to buses; bus stop kerbs compatible with new buses; taxi services whose drivers will carry shopping from the shop and into the house;
- C.1.3.2. (2.) To make provision for those with less than full mobility.
- The Parish should commission research into the facilities that make life easier for the less than fully mobile. This will provide the basis for action based on costing and cooperation with other authorities
- C.1.3.2. (3.) The Parish Council should set up a mobility task force, looking at transport.
- The Parish Council is in the best position to plan and coordinate action to reduce disadvantage for the young and lesser than fully mobile in getting about.
- C.1.3.2. (4.) The Borough and County councils should act as partners with the Parish Council in the provision of services for the disabled and those of school age.
- C.1.3.2. (5.) The Youth club should be invited to research youth transport needs.
- This will take some time and energy by those involved to ask the questions and assemble the answers.

## C.1.3.3. Funding and timescale

- Initially little expense will be involved but eventually substantial funding from local authorities will be needed to provide facilities for those with mobility problems.
- This can be started now, with action possible in a timescale of weeks for some actions and results and in months for more onerous tasks.

## C.1.4. Road Safety

- C.1.4.1. With more traffic it is more likely that there will be more accidents! With the continuing increase in road traffic in and through the Parish, what can and should we do to reduce the risk of injury and damage? How can we promote road safety?
- C.1.4.2. The A143 carries large volumes of commuting and commercial traffic through Horringer, much of it at excessive speed. A large number of children arrive at the school in cars from the surrounding area. Sharpes Lane and Gypsy Lane are relics of the age of horse and cart but have to accommodate increasing traffic volumes.
- C.1.4.3. People should feel safe when using the public highway, whether on foot, on bicycles or in cars. Threats to their safety come from speeding, the condition of the roads and pavements, and volume of traffic.
- C.1.4.4. The option of doing nothing is not available. This will only allow matters to deteriorate. The backdrop is one of increasing volumes of vehicles, greater demands and expectations both from walkers and cyclists.

## C.1.4.5. Evidence from the survey

- 296 people felt at risk from traffic on The Street and Westley Lane; 195 on Meadow Drive; 154 at the turning into the Community Centre; and 97 at the Ickworth Park entrance. 150 stated speeding or poor road surfaces are problems. 133 people stated that parking is a problem at the School. A majority rated as good or reasonable the pavements in Horringer. However, the path to Horringer Court was rated as poor by three times as many as thought it good or reasonable, 310 compared with 100.
- One idea proposed in the survey was to move the post box at the top of Meadow Drive to the lay-by near the school.

## C.1.4.6. Objectives

- C.1.4.6. (6.) The LTAP will take account of speeding drivers, traffic calming measures, consultation with residents and feedback from road users
- C.1.4.6. (7.) The Parish Council should take a prominent lead in promoting road safety

- This will be essentially as a lobbying force, ensuring that the Parish gets its fair share of attention by the local authorities. The policy and plan should be developed by an action group chaired by a Parish Councillor

C.1.4.6. (8) The LTAP should take account of the needs of horse riders

#### C.1.4.7. Funding and timescale

- a) There is little expense needed beyond the time, ideas and involvement of people prepared to take part in an action group. The action group should include members of the youth club who may be able to take forward agreed projects.
- b) Development of the LTAP is an essential medium term goal. The longer term actions and timescales will then flow in a structured way from the plan.

#### C.1.5. Bicycles

Bicycles are squeezed between provision for motor traffic and pedestrians, and cyclists frequently come off worst. For leisure and short journeys, bicycles are already the answer for many. Greater use of bicycles assists health, the environment and helps encourage independence in youngsters. The Borough has already provided an extensive cycle route in Bury St Edmunds where it has delegated highways powers.

##### C.1.5.1. Evidence from the survey

268 people said they would use a dedicated cycle route to Bury.

##### C.1.5.2. Objectives

- C.1.5.2. (9.) The Parish Council should seek to secure a designated cycle route and path to link with the Bury St Edmunds network.
- C.1.5.2. (10.) The Parish Council should encourage the route for the national Sustrans cycle path through Horringer and Ickworth.
  - Bicycle use will not meet its full potential without proper provision. Being so close to Bury, the Parish can easily tap into the town's excellent facilities. A relatively modest outlay would achieve a multiplier effect, benefiting greatly Horringer residents cycling into town. The benefits lie in promoting health and in improving access for residents to the town's shopping, employment and leisure

facilities. Wider environmental benefits accrue from reduced car use, reduced use of fossil fuels and reduced pollution from vehicle noise and exhausts.

C.1.5.2. (11.) The Parish Council should implement a plan to achieve greater use of bicycles

- More provision would lead to greater use – we need to see greater use to justify the provision. Accurate monitoring of usage is needed to support this. A calculated but minimal risk-taking is needed.

C.1.5.2. (12.) The Parish Council should coordinate consultation with County Highways, Borough (tourism and leisure), Sustrans (the sustainable transport charity), cyclists and other interests.

The Parish Council cannot do this single handed. They should recruit a working group from interested residents, including children in the consultation process. The local authorities have a prominent role here too.

##### C.1.5.3. Funding and timescale

- a) The most critical resource implications are of people and time. A strategy that is well researched and well thought through will attract funding, or at least get us on to the project lists of the local authorities.
- b) Cycling provision may be addressed by a policy with short, medium and long term actions. Short term issues are:-
  - commitment by the Parish Council, an active working group, both aiming to establish an agreed "cycle route" with an achievable destination, clear signposting, identified milestones and monitoring of progress at each milestone.

#### C.1.6. Pedestrians

Pedestrians need footpaths, whether as footways by the roadsides, residential streets or as definitive footpaths. These need to be maintained on an active and planned basis. Paths should be accessible for pushchairs and wheelchairs as well as for the able-bodied on foot.

##### C.1.6.1. Evidence from the survey

Although all footpaths received criticism, the worst were seen as The Street, Sharpes Lane and Bury Road. A huge 310 people rated the footpath to Horringer Court as poor.



## C.1.6.2. Objectives

C.1.6.2. (13.) The Parish Council should monitor the condition of footpaths.

- Priorities for this policy are access for those with disabilities, footway maintenance, one or more circular walks including permissive access over private land and a footpath map of the parish and surroundings.
- Footpaths are part of the highway and their maintenance should be a priority on a par with the roadways. Wherever possible, leisure use of the countryside should be available to those in wheelchairs and pushchairs. Walking should be encouraged as an alternative to the car for short journeys.

C.1.6.2. (14.) The Parish Council should provide leadership in promoting access for all.

- The object of attention is the Highway Authority for Suffolk, the County Council. An action plan should be submitted to them for approval, including actions by the Parish Council to support the county council.

C.1.6.2. (15.) The Parish Council should promote mobility and transport improvements, with assistance from residents on a residents' taskforce

## C.1.6.3. Funding and timescale

a) The County Council is the main partner in this.

b) There are three options for funding:

- spend nothing and lobby the county council as hard as possible to provide the resource for paths as is their obligation;
- raise the Parish Council precept and carry out a range of identified essential actions, if and to the extent that the Parish Council has the power to do so;
- do both of these and raise further funds through grant aid for circular walks as a tourist and leisure resource for the borough.

## C.1.7. Action Plan Summary

C.1.7.1. (1.) To seek to ensure that transport facilities suit all ages and stages.

C.1.7.1. (2.) To make provision for those with less than full mobility.

C.1.7.1. (3.) The Parish Council should set up a mobility task force, looking at transport.

C.1.7.1. (4.) The Borough and County councils should act as partners with the Parish Council in the provision of services for the disabled and those of school age.

C.1.7.1. (5.) The Youth club should be invited to research youth transport needs.

C.1.7.1. (6.) The LTAP will take account of speeding drivers and traffic calming measures.

C.1.7.1. (7.) The Parish Council should take a prominent lead in promoting road safety.

C.1.7.1. (8.) The LTAP should look after the needs of horse riders.

C.1.7.1. (9.) The Parish Council should seek to secure a designated cycle route and path to link with the Bury St Edmunds network.

C.1.7.1. (10.) The Parish Council should encourage the route for the national Sustrans cycle path through Horringer and Ickworth.

C.1.7.1. (11.) The Parish Council should implement a plan to achieve greater use of bicycles

- C.1.7.1. (12.) The Parish Council should coordinate consultation with County Highways, Borough (tourism and leisure), Sustrans (the sustainable transport charity), cyclists and other interests.
- C.1.7.1. (13.) The Parish Council should monitor the condition of footpaths.
- C.1.7.1. (14.) The Parish Council should provide leadership in promoting access for all.
- C.1.7.1. (15.) The Parish Council should promote mobility and transport improvements, with assistance from residents on a residents' task force.
- C.1.7.1. (16.) The Parish Council to work with Suffolk County Council in the Preparation of a Local Transport Action Plan for Horringer.

## C.2. Action Plan - Development

- C.2.1. The Questionnaire considered three possible types of development:
- Housing development
  - Commercial development
  - Recreational development
- C.2.2. These need to be considered in the context of the planning restrictions laid down in the St. Edmundsbury Local Plan.
- C.2.3. In both the existing Local Plan and the Deposit Draft for its replacement, the built up areas of Horringer have a tightly-drawn housing settlement boundary with the Sharpes Lane part separated from the main part where the Low Way footpath meets The Street. This boundary is shown edged red on Plan 2 at the end of this document (with acknowledgements to St Edmundsbury Borough Council)
- C.2.4. The dotted boundary shows the conservation area. Open areas are shown coloured green and areas where special planning restrictions apply within the housing settlement boundary are hatched green.
- C.2.5. The rest of the Parish lies in the countryside.
- C.2.6. Within the settlement boundary, only a small amount of infill housing development would be permitted. There is a presumption against any form of development in the countryside but a small group of affordable dwellings adjoining the settlement boundary would be allowed as an exception if there was a proven need.
- C.2.7. As part of its representations to the Borough Council on the Deposit Draft for the replacement Local Plan, the Parish Council has requested that the Play Area at the top of Holly Close be designated as a Recreational Open Space (see section on Leisure). The Borough Council has accepted this.

### C.2.8. Housing Development

#### C.2.8.1. Costs

The lack of starter homes/affordable housing, a preponderance of larger houses plus little house building for 30 years, a relatively static population plus desirability equals high house prices. For example in May 2004, a three-bedroom detached chalet bungalow was on the market for £285,000 and a two-bedroom dormer bungalow was offered at £245,000.

## C.2.8.2. Prior Development

- Former estate cottages have been amalgamated and extended;
- St. Leonard's Park – executive style houses and bungalows were built in the late 1960s, early 1970s;
- Some infilling has taken place since then but no major development;
- There has been a reduction in the number of properties available for rent. Of the 46 former Council properties in The Street, College Close, Godfreys Close and Godfreys Cottages, 19 were sold off under the Right to Buy legislation before the remainder were transferred to Havebury Housing Association. There are several properties which are rented privately but at rents of up to £900 per month in some cases;
- An increase in house extensions has taken place resulting in enlargement of properties:
  - 1989-1993 - 10
  - 1994-1998 - 22
  - 1999-2003 - 32 (of which 22 were in the last three years);
 A dramatic decrease in those aged 16-29 has taken place (down from 16.6% in 1991 to 7.9% in 2001);
- The garage site is being developed to include six affordable dwellings.

## C.2.9. Evidence from the survey

- C.2.9.1. Out of 333 household replies, 278 live in owner-occupied property.
- C.2.9.2. 24 live in private rented accommodation and 19 in Housing Association and / or former local authority housing, 7 have job-related accommodation and 5 are unspecified.
- C.2.9.3. Of the 333 who replied, 208 were in detached houses, 62 in semi-detached houses and 50 in bungalows or terraced houses.
- C.2.9.4. 602 people indicated how long they had lived in the Parish. Of those, 290 have lived here for more than 15 years and a further 154 for between six and 15 years.
- C.2.9.5. 550 people answered the question "Do you think Horringer can accommodate new housing?" 263 were in favour of small groups or infill, 233 said no and only 7 were in favour of estates. There were 47 don't knows. Reasons given for not wanting any more housing (many giving more than one reason) were:
- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| b. Spoil the environment                | 207 |
| c. Pressure on infrastructure           | 137 |
| d. Would lose village appeal            | 10  |
| e. Limited school, shopping and parking | 7   |
| f. Traffic                              | 4   |
- There is no suggestion that the present housing settlement boundary should be relaxed.

- C.2.9.6. The individual replies to the question "What kind of housing do you think Horringer needs?" were:
- |                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| a. Starter homes            | 176 |
| b. Sheltered housing        | 115 |
| c. Family homes             | 100 |
| d. Homes for disabled       | 61  |
| e. Homes for single persons | 56  |
- An overwhelming proportion, 173 as against 28, wanted new homes to be for those already living in the village as opposed to those from elsewhere.
- C.2.9.7. Most people want a choice of housing to buy or rent but of those expressing a preference, 74 wanted to buy and 48 to rent.
- C.2.9.8. There were 492 replies to a slightly different question, "Should housing be encouraged?"
- |                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| a. In favour              | 136 |
| b. Yes, with reservations | 171 |
| c. No                     | 115 |
| d. No strong opinion      | 80  |
- C.2.9.9. "Where should any new housing be built?" 225 replied and the areas mentioned most were:-
- |   |    |
|---|----|
| a. Low Way / The Street<br>(opposite Street Farm) | 58 |
| b. Garage site                                    | 52 |
| c. Adjoining Street Farm                          | 32 |
| d. Sharpes Lane                                   | 27 |
- NB. These areas are marked using the same letters; see Map 2
- C.2.9.10. Building either opposite or adjoining Street Farm would blur the distinction between the main part of Horringer and the Sharpes Lane area.
- C.2.10. Objectives
- C.2.10. (1.) To facilitate the provision of affordable housing and possibly sheltered housing, the need for which is indicated by replies to the questionnaire. Alternatives to new building, apart from infill, such as subdivision or conversion of large houses into flats or maisonettes should be considered. The six affordable units proposed for the garage site will help to meet this need.



## ACTION PLAN - DEVELOPMENT

- C.2.10. (2.) To encourage St. Edmundsbury Borough Council to have full regard to the preferences of Horringer, stated in this plan when considering applications for affordable housing in Horringer, both to buy and to rent.

- As stated in paragraph 2.9.9, the favoured areas are shown in general terms on Map 2.
- The need for those who want affordable housing to have their names added to St. Edmundsbury Borough Council's housing waiting list should be publicised. 15 households from Horringer are currently on that list per questionnaire.

This should be undertaken by the Parish Council in cooperation with St. Edmundsbury Borough Council, local landowners, Registered Social Landlords (Housing Associations) and house builders.

### C.2.11. Funding and timescale

- C.2.11.1. The Parish Council may incur some pump-priming costs, but the main costs will fall on the developers.
- C.2.11.2. Action should be instituted now as a high priority but actually producing the housing is likely to be medium term.

### C.2.12. Commercial Development

- C.2.12.1. As Horringer is a residential village; should there be any commercial development?
- C.2.12.2. The National Trust is becoming more commercially-minded at Ickworth, e.g. hotel, vineyard, West Wing development, but there are no obvious areas within the village for commercial development, particularly now that the garage has closed and is to become a residential development. The game farm at Horsecroft does not impinge upon the main part of the village. The only commercial premises in Horringer village are the Post Office and two public houses.

### C.2.13. Evidence from the survey

The Questionnaire asked whether certain forms of development should be encouraged. About 450 replies were received in each category but only 106 replies were received to the question asking where any of these commercial developments might be located and that includes those where people have made suggestions in more than one category. This and the high proportion of "no strong opinion" replies in several categories are an indication of the general lack of enthusiasm for any commercial development in the Parish.

## ACTION PLAN - DEVELOPMENT

The replies, in summary, were:

- C.2.13.1. Small scale industrial workshops were opposed by 275 (60%) of the respondents.
- C.2.13.2. Those for and against small business development were evenly split but a clear majority of those who commented wanted any such development to take place on the garage site. That site is now to be developed with housing.
- C.2.13.3. More favoured craft workshops than were against but 154 (33%) had no strong opinion. Favoured locations were the Community Centre, Ickworth and the garage site.
- C.2.13.4. Half (224) thought that tourism should be encouraged and 197 wanted more jobs in the Parish but there was a clear preference for any tourism development or job creation to take place at Ickworth. 133 and 187 respectively had no strong opinion.
- C.2.14. Objectives
- C.2.14. (3.) The Parish Council together with residents should preserve the residential nature of the village by resisting commercial development proposals. None of the categories mentioned in the Questionnaire achieved the support of a majority.

### C.2.15. Recreational

- C.2.15.1. Other sections draw attention to the need for a playing field where those who have outgrown the Play Area in Holly Close can go to kick a ball about or take other recreational exercise. This would have to be on the edge of the village as there is no suitable space within the built-up area. As the greater part of the population is on the south-east side of the A143, it would be preferable to locate the playing field on that side of the road to avoid as far as possible the need for users to cross a busy main road.
- C.2.15.2. If a sufficiently large area of land can be acquired, a range of recreational facilities, not just a playing field, could be provided conveniently on the same site. There is a clear demand for somewhere for skateboarders to go other than on the estate roads and footpaths. The replies also indicate that the provision of facilities such as a basketball area or tennis court will generate demand from those who do not currently participate in these activities.
- C.2.15.3. In the longer term, when the Community Centre needs replacing (this may be 20 years or more ahead) this could be financed by relocating it to the recreation area and releasing the present site, which is owned

by the Parish Council, for re-development. The nature of that development would have to be the subject of wide-ranging consultation with the residents of Horringer and the local planning authority at the time.

### C.2.16. Action Plan Summary

- C.2.16. (1.) The Parish Council together with other interested parties should consider opportunities to provide affordable starter homes and, if possible, sheltered housing, not just through infill or other new building but also alternatives such as subdivision or conversion of large houses into flats or maisonettes;
- C.2.16. (2.) To encourage St. Edmundsbury Borough Council to have full regard to the preferences of Horringer, stated in this plan when considering applications for affordable housing in Horringer, both to buy and to rent.
- C.2.16. (3.) The Parish Council together with residents should seek to preserve the residential nature of the village by resisting commercial development proposals.

## C.3. Action Plan - Community Services

- C.3.1. The Parish of Horringer-cum-Ickworth can be considered one of the less deprived areas in the country. It is fortunate to lie so close to Bury St. Edmunds, whilst being surrounded by areas of special landscape and including a sizeable conservation area.
- C.3.2. Community Services should cover not only the aspirations of parishioners but also incorporate a clear statement of existing services and their possible development and extension.

### C.3.3. Evidence from the Survey

In the Parish Plan Questionnaire the questions applicable to Community Services covered:

- Community Services;
- Neighbourhood Watch;
- Re-cycling & Refuse Collection;
- Village Information.

#### C.3.3.1. Community Services

- a) Fundamentally the responses identified that over 93 % (some 460+) respondents had no difficulty in reaching the necessary services of the hospital, doctor, dentist etc., or the Council offices or leisure facilities. So far as our local services were concerned the Post Office and Ickworth Park ranked highest in use, followed by the Community Centre.
- b) It was interesting to note that 42% i.e. 254 people knew the name of the local police officer and the key areas for improvement were identified as speeding by 122 respondents and to a lesser extent 53 people were concerned about the need for more visible police patrolling.

#### C.3.3.2. Neighbourhood Watch

A very high proportion of respondents, 86% (499 respondents) were aware of the Neighbourhood Watch and, of the 14% who were not, 10% were in the 25 - 59 age group. The only points made by a small number were that the Scheme should have a higher profile and that the names of the co-ordinators should be publicised.

## C.3.3.3. Re-cycling and Refuse Collection

A high proportion of 381 people, i.e. 74%, recycle paper glass and garden refuse weekly or monthly, but the majority, 221 people, would be happy to recycle textiles, plastics and cans if the service was available. The Refuse Collection service got good marks; 335 out of 340 rated it so.

86% put their brown bins out fortnightly. Of those responding, only 87 people in the parish have a compost container or heap.

## C.3.3.4. Village Information

There was good support for a Village Information Pack. 62% (some 300 respondents) thought it should be available to all newcomers to the parish and 41 respondents (8.5%) were interested in contributing to the Horringer Diary.

Only 150 were aware of the Village Website but there was greater awareness of the Milk round (by 316 or 95% of respondents); the Paper deliveries by 283 or 85%; the Egg round by 244 or 75% and the Fish van by 174 or 52%.

## C.3.4. Objectives

- C.3.4. (1.) To maintain the existing facilities within the community, i.e. the School, the Community Centre, the Post Office, the re-cycling facilities, the children's play area and the village green.
- C.3.4. (2.) To maintain the publication of the Horringer Diary, the Village Website, and the Neighbourhood Watch scheme.
- C.3.4. (3.) To identify, negotiate and purchase a piece of land within the Parish for the recreational use of the village.
- C.3.4. (4.) To increase re-cycling facilities;
- C.3.4. (5.) To seek to develop links with the West Suffolk College for possible adult education courses.
- C.3.4. (6.) To work with the responsible Authorities to enhance the outlook and servicing of the village e.g. to see if the existing electricity lines can be re-laid underground or to bring a gas supply and mindful of the age profile of the village, to work with the Authorities to develop Care in the Community.
- C.3.4. (7.) To maintain all existing group activities in the village and to support their development and to encourage further activities.

## C.3.5. Points in Support of the Above Objectives

## C.3.5.1. Existing facilities

- a) As a Parish we are fortunate to still have our Post Office, thanks to the positive action of our Parish Council in 1998. How long we will be able to retain the Post Office will probably depend to a greater extent on outside circumstances rather than on local input. It is well used and needs to have increased support.
- b) It also contains a useful Suffolk Library Link. Additionally the village has the continuing benefit of the Mobile Library on a regular basis but its continuation will depend on the level of demand.
- c) We were also pleased that, when the former Horringer CVA Primary School was closed, the Ickworth Park Primary School was sited on St. Leonard's Park. The school makes a very telling contribution to our village life, although we are sorry that the Oakleaf Club has closed.
- d) The Community Centre is without doubt the "hub" of village activities, and it must be a priority to maintain it, although its natural life span could be no more than 25 to 35 years. The Centre will require re-roofing within the next ten years and funds are needed for the refurbishment of the existing car park.

## C.3.5.2. Village Communication

- a) Communication in the village is good with the regular circulation of the Horringer Diary. It is a valuable asset and needs to be encouraged and maintained. The provision of a Village Information Pack will soon be in place.
- b) The Village Website needs to be kept up-to-date but this can only be achieved with the positive support of all our active groups. Further thought needs to be given to its development and the financing of any costs involved.
- c) Crime is thankfully low in the village, but we need to maintain good links with the local police and develop our Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

## C.3.5.3. Land Requirement

The Parish does have a well planned and utilised play area for small children but serious consideration must be given to the acquisition of a recreational area of land in the first instance for the use of older



children and others as well as in the long term the re-siting of the existing Community Centre on the other side of the A 143.

#### C.3.5.4. Community Development

- a) There is a demand for re-cycling and whilst the newspaper and glass facility is proving successful residents clearly wish to be able to re-cycle their plastic, textiles and cans and we should consider such an extension to our facilities.
- b) Consideration should be given to the possible development of links with the West Suffolk College especially for adult education classes.
- c) Consideration should be given to the introduction of a "befriending" – Good Neighbour Scheme – and be investigated through Suffolk Acre.

#### C.3.5.5. Services Development

- a) During the distribution of the questionnaire, attention has been drawn to the existing electricity wires and telephone lines in parts of the village and approaches should be made to the relevant bodies to see if these could be replaced by underground cables.
- b) There is also a lack of gas supply to the village and the possibility of bringing gas to the village needs to be explored to enable villagers to have a wider choice of services.
- c) For those with computers, we welcome the introduction of Broadband. This will encourage more people to consider the possibility of working from home.
- d) The questionnaire analysis identified the age profile of the village and with the level of retired people of 195 (i.e. 33%) being above the county and national average there is a need to develop further care within the community to enable as many people as possible to remain in their own homes.

#### C.3.5.6. Activity Development

Whilst there is a wide range of activities existing within the village, there will always be the possibility for extension and new group activities should be encouraged so long as they enhance the existing range. However this may put pressure on our existing facilities. Since

the questionnaire was distributed a Wildlife Group has been formed and a car sharing scheme is now in operation.

#### C.3.6. Action Plan Summary

- C.3.6. (1.) The Community Council to take action in due course for the repair and eventual replacement of Community Centre;
- C.3.6. (2.) The Community Council to discuss the development of the village website with the webmaster and editorial team;
- C.3.6. (3.) The Parish Council to investigate the purchase of recreational land;
- C.3.6. (4.) The Parish Council to initiate discussions about the further development of re-cycling facilities;
- C.3.6. (5.) The Community Council to discuss and consult about links with West Suffolk College concerning adult education courses;
- C.3.6. (6.) The Parish Council to initiate discussions about replacing some phone and electricity cables with underground cables and bringing a gas supply to the village;
- C.3.6. (7.) The Parish Council to discuss provision for care in the community.
- C.3.6. (8.) The Community Council to discuss the introduction of a Good Neighbour Scheme.

## C.4. Action Plan - The Environment

The location and brief history have been covered already in the "in Context" section. The addition of the St Leonard's Park Estate in the 70's is a good example of caring for the environment. The planning complements the area and does not intrude on the historic aspect of Saint Leonard's Church, large green open space and the many listed houses along The Street viewed when entering the Parish from Bury (10 minutes by car) via the A143. A large proportion of the people who have settled in Horringer have done so because they preferred the "village and country life". It is not surprising that there is such a good deal of interest in and involvement with the local environment. There are many points which have been raised by the Questionnaire concerning environmental issues, some of these are touched on in other sections, but the most important are listed here:-

- Preservation of the existing landscape
- Woodlands and Trees
- The proximity of Ickworth Park
- Wildlife (flora and fauna)
- All those factors which damage our environment such as problems of dog fouling; overgrown hedges; light pollution; traffic; the state of the Community Centre car park and fly-tipping.

### C.4.1. Preservation of the existing landscape

Horringer and Ickworth enjoy a rich diversity of open spaces with footpaths, parkland, arable and pastureland as well as woods, hedges and ponds some of which are indicated on Plan 2. The population is relatively low at only 70 inhabitants per square kilometre but this includes the area of Ickworth Park.

#### C.4.1.1. Survey Evidence

- a) The community is very stable with around half of respondents having lived in the area for 15 years or more. This creates strength and security for the village.
- b) The "Village Green", trees, historic buildings, meadows, green spaces, rivers and streams all considered important to people of the Parish with at least 60% of individuals rating them 'Very Important'.

### C.4.1.2. Objectives

- C.4.1.2. (1.) To preserve the rural landscape and village features;
- C.4.1.2. (2.) To maintain the existing planning restrictions and encourage policies to avoid developments that will impact adversely on the village landscape and environment.

### C.4.1.3. Who should take responsibility

This will involve all levels of planning authority; Regional, County, Borough and Parish.

The time scale for this is continuous.

## C.4.2. Woodlands and Trees

Within the Parish there are several areas of woodland and large numbers of ancient or 'veteran' trees

### C.4.2.1. Evidence from the Survey

Around half of the people surveyed believe that it is important to preserve and look after woodlands and trees and plant more of them.

### C.4.2.2. Objective

- C.4.2.2. (3.) To ensure that owners of woodlands and trees are encouraged and supported in maintaining them. Failure to do so could lead to loss of trees and woodlands which have taken hundreds of years to become established.

### C.4.2.3. Who should take responsibility

- a) The Parish Council should take a lead and keep records of important woodland tracts and trees and express interest in them. They could seek help from the wildlife audit group in doing this.
- b) This needs to be a combined effort in cooperation with local landowners and village residents. Initial recording and liaison need not necessarily be expensive. However, the need for grant aid for larger projects should not be ruled out.
- c) The establishment of records and landowner liaison should be complete within two years.

- d) The Parish Council should monitor Tree Preservation Orders and maintain records for the village.

### C.4.3. The proximity of Ickworth Park

The National Trust owns the property of Ickworth House, Park and Gardens which is accessed from the village. Village people enjoy the Park and its surroundings but visitors to the property and adjacent hotel increase the flow of traffic into the village along a main trunk road that is already stretched by the volume of traffic at peak times.

#### C.4.3.1. Evidence from the survey

Our Parish questionnaire showed that nearly 500 people were impressed by Ickworth as a place of peace and beauty, as a place to see wildlife (405 people) and for walking (306 people), but some were concerned about traffic and the extra volume generated by the 'success' of Ickworth in attracting visitors to the property from far and wide.

#### C.4.3.2. Objective

- C.4.3.2.** (4.) To make sure that village residents continue to benefit from Ickworth as an asset on the doorstep but to minimise problems associated with it.

#### C.4.3.3. Who should take responsibility

- a) Parish and Community Councils and the National Trust.
- b) There needs to be improved communication with the National Trust either by an initiative from the Parish Council or the Community Council.
- c) Possibly, a report should be produced and a presence from the National Trust at the annual Parish meeting encouraged.
- d) No real expenses need be involved, just time and effort.
- e) Action re communications should be ongoing and there should be an annual review of the overall situation.

### C.4.4. Wildlife

#### C.4.4.1. Evidence from the Survey

People gain interest and pleasure from observing wildlife. In our survey 183 people indicated that they would like to get involved with surveys of wildlife within the Parish.

#### C.4.4.2. Objective

- C.4.4.2.** (5.) To record the presence and frequency of as many species as possible within the Parish, subject to the limits of knowledge of 'amateur naturalists'. This could lead to protection of some threatened species but also to control those whose populations are increasing at a dramatic rate. It is necessary to do this so that people can continue to enjoy wildlife whilst not feeling threatened by it.

#### C.4.4.3. Who should take responsibility

- a) The Parish Council should support and encourage this activity through the Community Council.
- b) Parish Council, Community Council, Local Landowners and the Suffolk Wildlife Trust all have a role to play in maintaining healthy wildlife populations within the Parish.
- c) In the short term resources will be small and readily drawn from voluntary help. However grant-aided projects may develop if major habitat redevelopment or culling programmes are thought to be necessary.
- d) Interested people should form a local wildlife group to undertake survey work in consultation with the local 'Suffolk' Wildlife Trust so that factual records are available and if necessary action plans made. Results can be published locally but will also contribute to a wider picture.
- e) Progress of the wildlife group should be reviewed annually.

### C.4.5. Factors detrimental to our Village Environment

#### C.4.5.1. Evidence from the Survey

- a) The Parish Questionnaire raises a number of 'small' issues which nevertheless are important to some people and therefore need to



be addressed as part of an ongoing review of our village environment. The main concerns were the following.

- b) There were 139 complaints about dog fouling with The Low Way being the worst area affected;
- c) There were also concerns about fly-tipping at a number of locations;
- d) 25 people were concerned about the state of the Community Centre car park;

#### C.4.5.2. Objectives

- C.4.5.2. (6.) To instigate a more formal system for dealing with such issues and wider use of the 'Open Forum' at the beginning of each Parish Council meeting, so that villagers can air their concerns and, where possible, issues can be addressed;
- C.4.5.2. (7.) Provision of bins for disposal of dog waste at strategic locations around the village. This will lead to a more responsible attitude by dog owners and, coupled with more vigilant policing by dog wardens, should reduce the problem significantly. In the case of dog fouling, this is necessary for reasons of hygiene and prevention of possible disease and pollution.

#### C.4.5.3. Who should take responsibility

- a) The Parish Council should use its powers to deal with the issue of dog fouling.
- b) Partners in this issue are the Parish Council, responsible dog owners and those individuals whose walkways are affected.

#### C.4.5.4. Resources

- a) Provision and servicing, via the Parish Council, of as many dog waste bins as are required, particularly along the Low Way and close to the footpath leading from Holly Close to the Street.
- b) This requires urgent attention and the issue should be reviewed annually.

### C.4.6. Action Plan Summary

- C.4.6. (1.) All levels of planning authority should take action to preserve the rural landscape and village features, to maintain the existing planning restrictions and to encourage policies to avoid developments that will impact adversely on the village landscape and environment.
- C.4.6. (2.) The Parish Council should take a lead in monitoring Tree Preservation Orders and keeping records of important woodland tracts and trees to ensure that owners of these woodlands and trees are encouraged and supported in maintaining them.
- C.4.6. (3.) The Parish and Community Councils and the National Trust should ensure that village residents continue to benefit from Ickworth as an asset on the doorstep but to minimise problems associated with it.
- C.4.6. (4.) The newly established Wildlife Group should continue with its objective to record the presence and frequency of as many species as possible within the Parish.
- C.4.6. (5.) The Parish Council should use its powers to instigate a more formal system for dealing with such issues as dog fouling, fly tipping and make wider use of the 'Open Forum' at the beginning of each Parish Council meeting, so that villagers can air their concerns and where possible issues can be addressed.
- C.4.6. (6.) The Parish Council should provide bins for disposal of dog waste at strategic locations around the village.

## C.5. Action Plan - Leisure

- C.5.1. The responses to the Parish Plan Questionnaire showed that leisure is an important part of the lives of people in Horringer.
- C.5.2. There are good facilities for walking and rambling within Ickworth Park and there are maintained walks and footpaths within the Parish.
- C.5.3. There are plenty of good cycle routes in the area, for example within Ickworth Park, national cycle route 51 passes through the parish and the NS/EW cycle routes meet in Bury St Edmunds, but it is difficult to connect safely with these from the main population areas of the village. This is particularly relevant for children as Horringer Court Middle School, the catchment area school, is within easy cycling distance.
- C.5.4. The Village Hall is a centre of leisure activities and there are many facilities within Bury St Edmunds.

### C.5.5. Evidence from the survey

- C.5.5.1. 583 respondents walk often or occasionally in Ickworth Park and 229 know where the footpaths are in the village.
- C.5.5.2. 40% of respondents cycle and 100% of those who answered the question (45% of respondents) want a cycle route into Bury St Edmunds.
- C.5.5.3. About half of respondents stated that they were interested in and appreciated the wildlife within the village environment. This was given also as a main reason for enjoying Ickworth Park. 168 people specifically expressed interest when a meeting was arranged with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust (see section on Environment).
- C.5.5.4. There is an interest in leisure activities covering a wide range of activities. Respondents to the survey take part in a wide range of activities. Many activities already take place but lack of resources and other difficulties are holding some of this potential back. The village hall is fully booked during the week. Respondents also listed a wide range of activities that they would take part in if they were available in the village. More than 40 separate activities were mentioned.

### C.5.6. Objectives

The objective of this plan is to encourage and facilitate these various leisure activities.

- C.5.6. (1.) To draw up a plan of all footpaths and examine the routes to see where they could be extended and where circular walks could be developed.
- The possibility of connections with other walks should be examined. Footpaths should be well signposted and the plan given publicity on a regular basis. There may need to be negotiation with local landlords to develop permissive paths;
- C.5.6. (2.) To examine the feasibility of developing a connection cycle route;
- C.5.6. (3.) To study and encourage the means for protecting existing wildlife (see Environment section);
- C.5.6. (4.) To examine the letting pattern of the village hall to see if time could be found for additional clubs and societies;
- C.5.6. (5.) To initiate discussion with the school to see if facilities there could be used;
- C.5.6. (6.) To find a piece of land for a recreation field to be developed as a village facility;
- C.5.6. (7.) To explore the possibility of evening classes being held in the village.
- C.5.6. (8.) To continue to press St Edmundsbury Borough Council to designate the Play Area at the top of Holly Close as a Recreational Open Space in the Replacement Local Plan.

### C.5.7. Points in support of the above objectives

- C.5.7.1. There is a high proportion of retired people in Horringer and the survey showed a high level of interest in leisure activities.
- C.5.7.2. Therefore, leisure activities highlighted as a result of the questionnaire must form part of the Parish Plan to make sure that present facilities are protected and future development is not unnecessarily restricted.
- C.5.7.3. Walking and cycling are important leisure activities for many residents and so the village plan should include action to extend and develop the possibilities for both. Cycling is important, both from the point of view of physical well being and as a way of cutting down on traffic congestion. Safe routes from the village are required for this activity to develop to the maximum of its potential. Wildlife issues must be a part of the plan to ensure that people can continue to enjoy the wildlife of the village.

### C.5.8. Responsibility for action

- C.5.8.1. The Parish Council should be responsible for making sure that the implementation of this plan takes place. They will need to delegate the work to interested groups and individuals, but will need to review the position as an agenda item at least once a year. The Parish Council should be responsible for all issues involving local landowners and the necessary dialogue with external bodies such as the Borough Council etc...
- C.5.8.2. The Parish Council should identify interested individuals and groups to develop the various issues highlighted in this plan for leisure and should provide support and resources as identified as this work progresses. The Community Council will be an important element in this work.
- C.5.8.3. The Community Council should establish means for people interested in activities to be able to contact like minded individuals to establish the level of interest in particular activities covering a range of requirements, including evening classes, clubs and sports.
- C.5.8.4. The Parish Council should be responsible for finding a suitable piece of land for a village recreation field.
- C.5.8.5. The development of a cycle route will require study because there are serious difficulties to overcome. The principal problem is the main A143 road going through the village. Almost certainly both the Borough and County Councils will need to be involved.

### C.5.9. Partners and stakeholders

- C.5.9.1. Leisure activities are basically for village residents, but there are other parties that have an interest in some of these:
- The Borough and County Councils are interested in reducing car traffic and Sustrans want to develop their cycle routes (see Transport section);
  - Local landowners want to protect their property and privacy;
  - West Suffolk College and the Leisure Centre and others are always looking for new customers.
- C.5.9.2. There will be other interested parties identified as activities develop.

### C.5.10. Funding and timescale

- C.5.10.1. This plan can largely be implemented with minimum of resources apart from the time and effort of individuals involved.
- C.5.10.2. Leisure must be financed by the individuals taking part, by such means as club subscriptions and charges for specific activities. Most of this is within the remit of the Community Council.
- C.5.10.3. Where other resources are required, for example costs for producing a map of walks, then the Parish Council should provide the necessary finance. They will also be the focus of the application of grants or other larger sums of money for more ambitious projects.
- C.5.10.4. The Community Council is able to act immediately as a focus for groups and individuals to start new leisure activities. A village welcome pack has been produced so newcomers to the village are already aware of what the Council can do and the Horringer Diary can be used to tell people to contact the Council if they wish to start a new activity.
- C.5.10.5. An interested group of walkers should be identified as soon as possible to produce a map of current walks and make suggestions for new walks within three months. The map should be produced within six months; new walks will depend on their scope.
- C.5.10.6. The development of a cycle route is more complex and will need a medium timescale. The first priority is to establish a small group to do the work. A route will need to be identified and agreement reached with local landowners. Both the National Trust and Sustrans have an interest and so an initial study will take six months to one year.

### C.5.11. Action Plan summary

- C.5.11. (1.) The Parish Council should identify an interested group of walkers and with them draw up a plan of all footpaths and examine the routes to see where they could be extended and where circular walks could be developed.
- The possibility of connections with other walks should be examined. Footpaths should be well signposted and the plan given publicity on a regular basis. This may need negotiation with local landlords to develop permissive paths;
- C.5.11. (2.) The Parish Council should work with interested parties to examine the feasibility of developing a connection cycle route (see Transport section);



- C.5.11. (3.) A wildlife group should study and encourage the means for protecting existing wildlife (see Environment section);
- C.5.11. (4.) The Community Council should examine the letting pattern of the village hall to see if time could be found for additional clubs and societies;
- C.5.11. (5.) The Community Council should initiate discussion with the school to see if facilities there could be used;
- C.5.11. (6.) The Parish Council should explore ways of finding a piece of land as a recreation field to be developed as a village facility (see Community Service section);
- C.5.11. (7.) The Community Council should explore the possibility of evening classes being held in the village.

## C.6. Action Plan - Provision for Youth

- C.6.1. The questionnaire showed that we have an active group of young people.  
The areas that are highlighted as being of most concern to our youth are:
- C.6.1.1. Provision of a Youth Club;
- C.6.1.2. Provision of a Play area for older children;
- C.6.1.3. Better transport to enable them to attend other activities, which are not currently available in the village but are available elsewhere.
- C.6.2. The general comments from the group of 188 youngsters aged 7-16 was to provide somewhere for them to be able to "hang out" as well as to carry out sporting or other such activities.
- C.6.3. The profile of the village shows us that the population of children less than 7 years is growing; therefore, they will also require more appropriate facilities as they grow.

### C.6.4. Evidence from the Survey

Up to 25% of the young people aged 7-16 requested a Youth Club and an area for older children to play a variety of sports/activities. A Youth Club has already been set up and is running successfully.

### C.6.5. Objectives

- C.6.5. (1.) To maintain the development of the Youth Club recently set up following the questionnaire;  
\* To support the organisers of the Youth club by helping with finance issues;  
\* To work with St Edmundsbury Borough Council in determining whether a paid Youth Leader would be beneficial;
- C.6.5. (2.) To investigate the possibility of providing a play area for older children within the village;  
\* To approach landowners regarding suitable land for recreational purposes;
- C.6.5. (3.) To look at transport issues.  
\* To understand what issues there are around transport and what is required to enable better mobility for the youth and the rest of the Parish;  
\* To work with St Edmundsbury Borough Council's Youth and Community Development Officer in relation to transport issues

## ACTION PLAN - PROVISION FOR YOUTH

- C.6.5. (4.) To look at the difficulties in crossing the main road in conjunction with other road safety issues – speed for example.

### C.6.6. Who should undertake these

The Parish Council must have an overview of each proposal in the Plan. They should link in with other partners as required such as:

- \* Borough Council
- \* County Council
- \* Countryside agency
- \* Suffolk Acre

### C.6.7. Resource implications

- C.6.7.1. The Youth club has already been set up but will need to be able to access funds to continue this early stage of development. It is then hoped that they would attract funds from other sources as well as an annual grant from the Parish Council through the precept.

- C.6.7.2. The acquisition of land is another much larger venture. It would require discussion with the Borough Council to enable the Parish Council to explore a variety of avenues with regard to funding for this costly scheme.

### C.6.8. Timescale

- C.6.8.1. The Youth Club is up and running. It should be supported to continue as it evolves.

- C.6.8.2. The investigation for land should take place as a priority. The discussion regarding possible revenue avenues should start alongside this investigation. The young people will want to know that the Parish is actively looking into their request for somewhere to “hang out”. They will grow older and the younger ones will want to know that a facility will be there for them as they mature – preferably within the next year or so rather than the next generation of young people!

### C.6.9. Action Plan Summary

- C.6.9. (1.) To maintain the development of the Youth Club recently set up following the questionnaire, by supporting the organisers and providing advice and assistance with finance;
- C.6.9. (2.) To investigate through the Parish Council the possibility of providing a play area for older children within the village (see the Action Plan for Community Services);
- C.6.9. (3.) To look at transport issues pertaining particularly to young people (see the Action Plan for Transport).

## SUMMARY OF OBJECTIVES

No.	Objective	Plan para
1	To seek to ensure that transport facilities suit all ages and stages	C.1.3.2.(1)
2	To make provision for those with less than full mobility	C.1.3.2.(2)
3	The Parish Council should set up a mobility task force, looking at, amongst other issues, transport	C.1.3.2.(3)
4	The Borough and County councils should act as partners with the Parish Council in the provision of services for the disabled and those of school age	C.1.3.2.(4)
5	The Youth club should be invited to research youth transport needs	C.1.3.2.(5)
6	The Parish Council should prepare, in consultation with the highways authorities, a traffic management policy and action plan	C.1.3
7	The Parish Council should take a prominent lead in promoting road safety	C.1.4.6.(7)
8	The Parish Council should seek to secure a designated cycle route and path to link with the Bury St Edmunds network	C.1.5.2.(9)
9	The Parish Council should encourage the route for the national Sustrans cycle path through Horringer and Ickworth	C.1.5.2.(10)
10	The Parish Council should implement a plan to achieve greater use of bicycles	C.1.5.2.(11)
11	The Parish Council should coordinate consultation with County Highways, Borough (tourism and leisure), Sustrans (the sustainable transport charity), cyclists and other interests	C.1.5.2.(12)
12	The Parish Council should monitor the condition of footpaths	C.1.6.2.(13)
13	The Parish Council should provide leadership in promoting access for all	C.1.6.2.(14)
14	The Parish Council should promote mobility and transport improvements, with assistance from residents on a residents' task force	C.1.6.2.(15)
15	To facilitate the provision of low cost housing and possibly sheltered housing, the need for which is indicated by replies to the questionnaire.	C.2.10.(1)
16	To encourage St. Edmundsbury Borough Council to have full regard to the preferences of Horringer, stated in this plan when considering applications for affordable housing in Horringer, both to buy and to rent.	C.2.10(2)

## SUMMARY OF OBJECTIVES

- |    |  |             |
|----|--|-------------|
| 17 | The Parish Council together with residents should preserve the residential nature of the village by resisting commercial development proposals. None of the categories mentioned in the Questionnaire achieved the support of a majority | C.2.14.(13) |
| 18 | The Community Council to take action in due course for the repair and eventual replacement of Community Centre   | C.3.4.(1)   |
| 19 | The Community Council to discuss the development of the village web site with the webmaster and editorial team   | C.3.4.(2)   |
| 20 | The Parish Council to investigate the purchase of recreational land  | C.3.4.(3)   |
| 21 | The Parish Council to initiate discussions re the further development of recycling facilities  | C.3.4.(4)   |
| 22 | The Community Council to discuss and consult about Links with West Suffolk College concerning adult education courses  | C.3.4.(5)   |
| 23 | The Parish Council to initiate discussions about replacing some phone and electricity cables with underground cables and bringing a gas supply to the village  | C.3.4.(6)   |
| 24 | The Parish Council to discuss provision for care in the community  | C.3.4.(6)   |
| 25 | All levels of planning authority should take action to preserve the rural landscape and village features   | C.4.2.1.(1) |
| 26 | To maintain the existing planning restrictions and encourage policies to avoid developments that will impact on the village landscape and environment  | C.4.1.2.(2) |
| 27 | The Parish Council should take a lead in keeping records of important woodland tracts and trees to ensure that owners of woodlands and trees are encouraged and supported in maintaining them  | C.4.2.2.(3) |
| 28 | The Parish and Community Councils and the National Trust should ensure that village residents continue to benefit from Ickworth as an asset on the doorstep but to minimise problems associated with it                                  | C.4.3.2.(4) |
| 29 | The newly established Wildlife Group should continue with its objective to record the presence and frequency of as many species as possible within the Parish  | C.4.4.2.(5) |

## SUMMARY OF OBJECTIVES

- |    |   |             |
|----|---|-------------|
| 30 | The Parish Council should use its powers to instigate a more formal system for dealing with such issues as dog fouling, fly tipping and make wider use of the 'Open Forum' at the beginning of each Parish Council meeting, so that villagers can air their con | C.4.5.2.(6) |
| 31 | The Parish Council should provide bins for disposal of dog waste at strategic locations around the village  | C.4.5.2.(7) |
| 32 | The Parish Council should identify an interested group of walkers and with them draw up a plan of all footpaths and examine the routes to see where they could be extended and where circular walks could be developed  | C.5.6.(1)   |
| 33 | The Parish Council should work with interested parties to examine the feasibility of developing a connection cycle route (see Transport section)  | C.5.6.(2)   |
| 34 | To study and encourage the means for protecting existing wildlife (see Environment section)   | C.5.6.(3)   |
| 35 | The Community Council should examine the letting pattern of the village hall to see if time could be found for additional clubs and societies   | C.5.6.(4)   |
| 36 | The Community Council should initiate discussion with the school to see if facilities there could be used   | C.5.6.(5)   |
| 37 | The Parish Council should explore ways of finding a piece of land as a recreation field to be developed as a village facility (see Community Service section)   | C.5.6.(6)   |
| 38 | The Community Council should explore the possibility of evening classes being held in the village   | C.5.6.(7)   |
| 39 | To maintain the development of the Youth Club recently set up following the questionnaire, by supporting the organisers and providing advice and assistance with finance  | C.6.5.(1)   |
| 40 | To investigate through the Parish Council the possibility of providing a play area for older children within the village (see the Action Plan for Community Services)   | C.6.5.(2)   |
| 41 | To look at transport issues pertaining particularly to young people (see the Action Plan for Transport)   | C.6.5.(3)   |

## D. Executive Summary

### D.1. Introduction

D.1.1. The responses to the parish plan questionnaire represented a variety of views, many of which confirmed the expectations of the steering committee. There were, however, some points made which explored new ground and enabled the committee to formulate more clearly the objectives for this plan.

D.1.2. The objectives identified accompany each separate action plan and are useful in this way when addressing a particular topic. This executive summary seeks to attach to them the broad headings of:

- short term (action taken quickly and closed)
- medium term (some time needed to develop the topic)
- long term (time needed to resolve the issue)

D.1.3. This is not always obvious or easy and may need adjustment at a later stage of consideration. It is important also to avoid the temptation when reading this report to identify these headings as priorities. Short term does not necessarily equate with either immediacy or top priority.

D.1.4. There are 41 separate objectives set down in the action plans. This executive summary merges a number of these as well as summarising them and omits some other shorter and simpler objectives which can be read directly from the action plans. Numbering references are to the original objectives in the action plans and the summary shows short, medium and long term assessment.

### D.2. Objectives

#### D.2.1. Broad objectives (see Horringer in context)

- To establish what the Parish wants and needs;
- To preserve what is good;
- To improve what is inadequate or outmoded;
- To provide new facilities where there is a proven need.

#### D.2.2. Action Plan objectives - See table herewith

D.2.2.1. Transport		Action Plan	Term
a)	To establish a Local Transport Action Plan for Horringer to address: facilities for all ages and for those with disabilities, road safety and traffic management	1 – 2	Short/Med.
b)	To address cycle issues, particularly: a link route to the Bury St Edmunds cycle network, to encourage the Sustrans national cycle route through Horringer and to promote greater use of cycles.	3	Med/Long
c)	To monitor footpaths.	19	Med/Long
D.2.2.2. Development			
a)	To encourage affordable housing.	5	Medium
b)	To persuade St Edmundsbury BC to recognise the need for affordable housing in Horringer.	5	Medium
c)	To preserve the residential nature of the village.	6	Ongoing
D.2.2.3. Community Services			
a)	To prepare for the repair and eventual replacement of the community centre	8	Long
b)	To investigate the purchase of recreational land.	10	Short
c)	To seek to extend recycling.	11	Medium
d)	To initiate discussions concerning main services.	13	Medium
e)	To consider care in the community.	14	Medium
D.2.2.4. Environment			
a)	To preserve the rural landscape and village features.	15	Ongoing
b)	To record woodland tracts and trees.	15	Ongoing
c)	To work with the National Trust for the benefit of the village.	16	Ongoing
d)	To instigate a more formal system for dealing with fly tipping, dog fouling etc.	18	Ongoing



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## D.2.2.5. Leisure

a)	To draw up plans of footpaths and examine routes to be developed.	19	Medium
b)	To examine the lettings pattern of the Community Centre with a view to extending availability for clubs and societies.	20	Ongoing
c)	To explore the possibility of evening classes being held in the village.	12+20	Med/Long

## D.2.2.6. Provision for Youth

a)	To continue to support the newly formed youth club.	21	Ongoing
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## ACTION PLAN

No.	Topic	Plan para	Action	Who	When
	<i>Please refer to the plan text for full details of each topic, and objective</i>				
1	Transport facilities to suit all ages and stages	C.1.3.2.(1)-(4) C.1.3.2.(5)	a) Set up a mobility task force; all ages b) Research into youth transport needs	a) Parish Council/St. Edmundsbury Borough Council b) Youth Club	Ongoing Short Term
2	Traffic management and road safety	C.1.4.6.(6)-(8)	Prepare Local Transport Action Plan for Horringer	Parish Council with Highways Authority	Short Term
3	Cycle paths and the encouragement of cycling	C.1.5.2. (9)-(12) C.5.6.(2)	Encourage cycling, find a route into Bury St Edmunds and support Sustrans route through the village	Parish Council/St. Edmundsbury Borough Council/Suffolk County Council/Sustrans	Medium Term
4	Pavements	C.1.6.2. (13)	Monitor Footpaths	Parish Council and Highways Authority	Short Term
5	Affordable and sheltered housing	C.2.10.(1) C.2.10.(2)	a) Facilitate provision of affordable and sheltered housing b) Encourage St.Edmundsbury Borough Council to have regard to the preferences of the residents of Horringer	Parish Council/St. Edmundsbury Borough Council	Medium Term
6	Commercial development	C.2.14.(3)	Preserve residential nature of village by resisting commercial development	Parish Council	Ongoing
7	Car Park	C.3.4.1 & C.3.5.1(d)	Investigate the costs to repair the car park and seek funding	Parish Council	Short/Med
8	Community Centre	C.3.4.(1)	Maintain, develop, re-build of centre	Community Council	Long Term
9	Village website	C.3.4.(2)	Develop website	Community Council	Ongoing
10	Recreational land	C.3.4. (3) C.5.6.(6) C.6.5.(2)	Investigate possibilities to buy/lease land	Parish Council	Short Term
11	Recycling	C.3.4.(4)	Develop recycling facilities	Parish Council	Medium Term
12	Adult education/recreational courses	C.3.4.(5) C.5.6.(7)	Dialogue with West Suffolk College and others	Community Council	Medium Term
13	Gas, phone, electricity	C.3.4.(6)	Gas supply to village. Hide cables	Parish Council	Medium Term

# ACTION PLAN

No.	Topic	Plan	Action	Who	When
14	Care in the community	C.3.4.(6)	Investigate and discuss possibilities	Parish Council	Medium Term
15	Environment and landscape	C.4.1.2.(1)-(2) C.4.2.2.(3)	Preserve rural landscape and village Parish Council environment. Record woodlands/trees and encourage maintenance	Borough Council, County Council	Ongoing
16	Ickworth Park	C.4.2.3.(4)	Develop and improve contact/information flow	Parish Council, Community Council, National Trust	Ongoing
17	Wildlife	C.4.4.2.(5) C.5.6.(3)	Record and monitor wildlife	Community Council, Wildlife group	Ongoing
18	Miscellaneous problems concerning residents	C.4.5.2(6) C.4.5.2(7)	a) Instigate a more formal system of liaison with villagers b) Provision of dog waste bins	Parish Council	Ongoing
19	Walks and footpaths	C.5.6.(1)	Plan of recreational footpaths; development of walks	Parish Council	Medium Term
20	Additional clubs and societies	C.5.6.(4)-(5)	Examine letting pattern of Community Centre, use of Village School	Community Council	Ongoing
21	Youth Club	C.6.5.(1)	Encourage and support the Youth Club	Community Council/St. Edmundsbury Borough Council	Ongoing

# WHERE NEXT?

## E. Where next?

- E.1. In presenting this Draft Parish Plan to the Parish Council the steering committee sees its work as complete. It has been an arduous and very time-consuming task but the committee feels it has been well worth while and hopes that the resulting Parish Plan will assist the Parish Council in its work by providing an agenda for some considerable time into the future.
- E.2. The committee believes that the Parish Council now needs to consider the appointment of an Implementation Group to carry through the recommendations and to implement, monitor and review the Parish Plan. There is also a need to provide feedback to the people of Horringer about the plan, its content and the Parish Council's response and proposals
- E.3. With this in mind we look forward to the benefits which will result from addressing the issues involved.

*The Steering Committee for the Parish Plan  
December 2005*



## F. Contributors to the Parish Plan

### F.1. Members of the Steering Committee

Jean Booth, Dave Butler, John Cannon, Sandy Carmichael, Peta Cook, Robin Davies, Samantha Gathercole, Paul Gribble, Gareth Hogg, George Irving, Jill King, Eric Lucas, Mike Pelling, Joyce Ringer, Mel Sheard, Adrian Smith and John White.

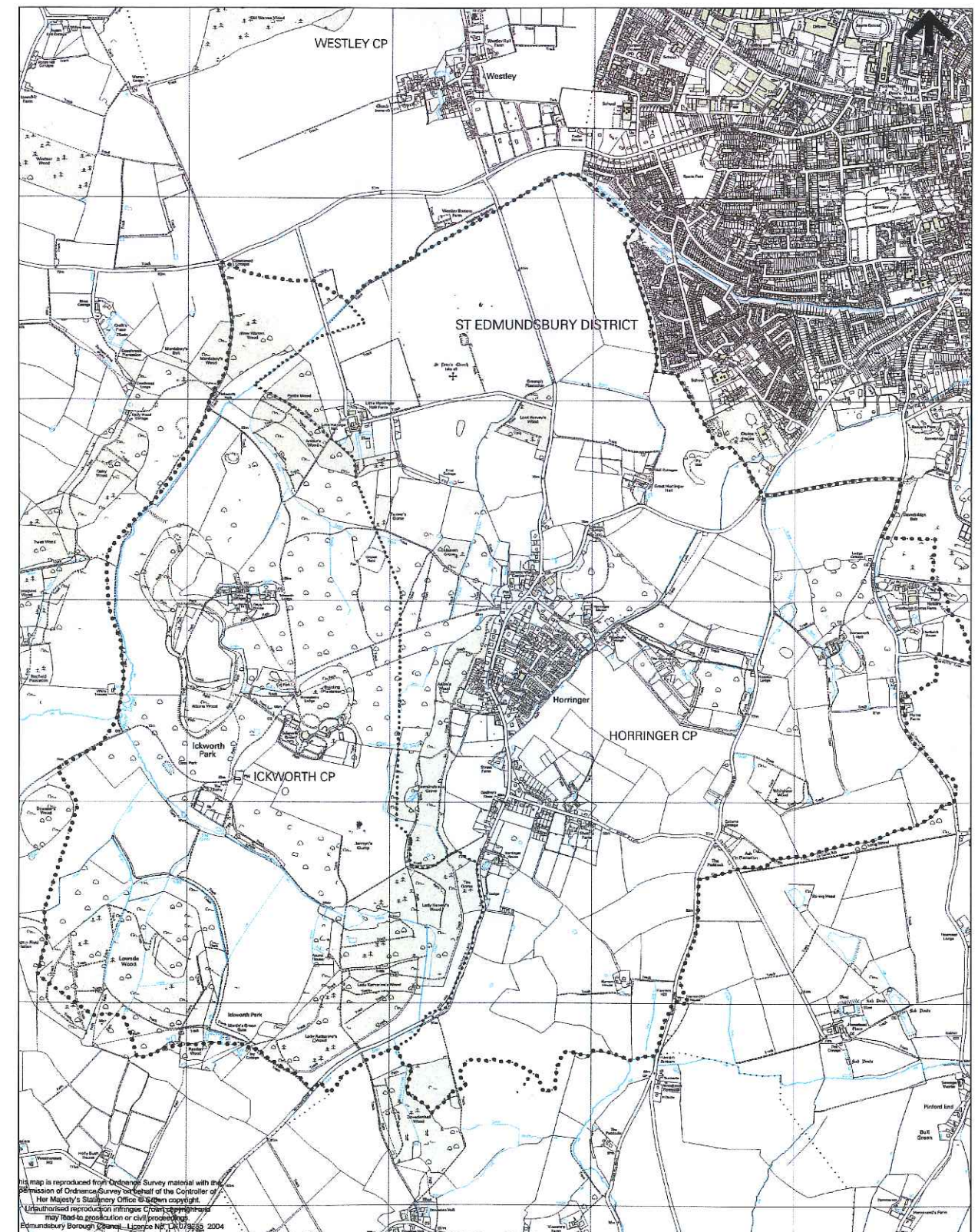
### F.2. Members who dealt with the Drafting of the Draft Parish Plan

Jean Booth, Dave Butler, John Cannon, Sandy Carmichael, Peta Cook, Robin Davies, Paul Gribble, Mel Sheard and John White.

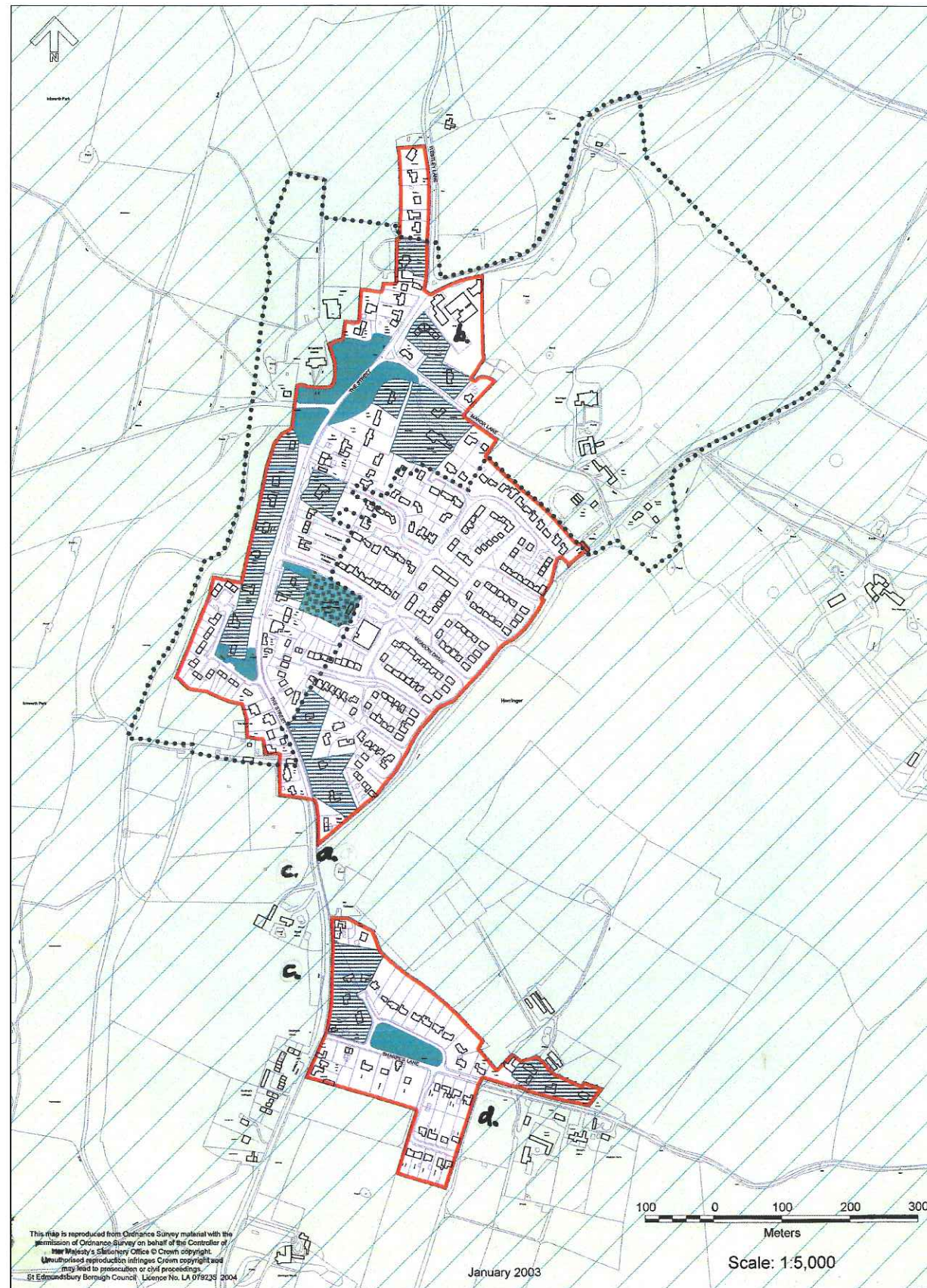
### F.3. Final Editing





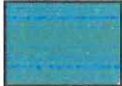
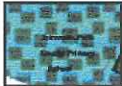
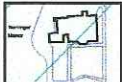
Ian Macdonald.

MAP 1. Showing Parish Boundary as black dotted line







-  Countryside Surrounding village.
-  Housing Settlement Boundary
-  Area Subject to Planning Restrictions.
-  Recreational Open Space (School, play area, Holly Close).
-  Amenity Open Space, village green and smaller grassed areas.
-  Conservation Area
-  Special Landscape Area (surrounds village)

**Part of legend is incorrect.**

**Please refer to text on  
Page 17.**