



Granby
cum Sutton

Village
Plan

Foreword

Thank you for taking an interest in the Village Plan for the villages of Granby and Sutton.

This document is the result of the hard work and enthusiasm of residents of both villages. It is the product of a democratic process in which all residents had the opportunity to have their say.

The Plan outlines the hopes and aspirations of residents over the next few years and marks the beginning of the next stage of the process to continue to improve the quality of life for the local community. Judged on the efforts so far, we are confident that many of the goals identified in the plan will be realized.

The process has also brought people together and contributed to a stronger sense of community. We look forward to continuing our work together and will keep residents informed of our progress.





Introduction

What is a Village Plan?

Village or Parish Plans were announced by the Government in 2000 as a way of helping communities to engage meaningfully with the local planning process. A Parish Plan enables local people to decide how they would like their community to develop. All the issues discussed in this Plan were raised by residents at the various consultation sessions held in the villages and the plan is written and owned by the local community.



The Plan has the following functions:

- to provide a 'snap shot' of life in the villages today: a record or profile at the time.
- to consult with the community to help identify what people value and want to preserve and also what they would like to change
- to find ways of improving the villages and the lives of those who live here and to turn these ideas into an action plan
- to help when seeking funds or assistance from outside agencies
- to act as a reference point for statutory bodies e.g. the borough or county councils, when making decisions that affect the villages.

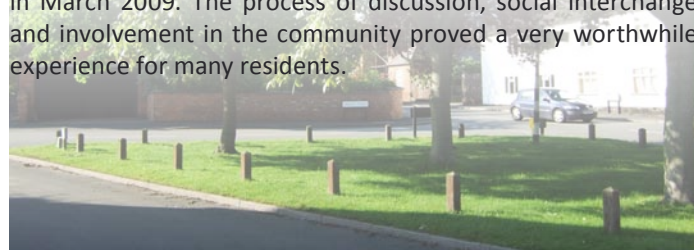


Background to a village plan for Granby and Sutton

The initial impetus for a Plan for Granby and Sutton came from the Parish Council who wished to seek the views of all villagers and involve as many of them as possible in forming a vision for the future of the villages.

In December 2007 an open meeting was arranged at the Village Hall and over 50 villagers attended. There was much interest and enthusiasm for working together in order to improve and preserve the character of both villages and to help draw up an agenda for the next few years.

Twenty volunteers offered to join a Steering Group in order to facilitate the planning process. The Group held regular meetings and managed the consultation process. It also raised funds to write and produce the final document. The consultation process took 12 months to complete and the Plan was finally published in March 2009. The process of discussion, social interchange and involvement in the community proved a very worthwhile experience for many residents.



Profile of the villages of Granby and Sutton

The parish of Granby cum Sutton is located in Nottinghamshire in the Vale of Belvoir, within sight of Belvoir Castle and on the southern boundary of the borough of Rushcliffe. Granby is the larger of the two villages that have a combined population of roughly 350 people. The villages are situated one mile apart.

A brief history of both villages

The two villages date back to before Roman times. Granby was probably named after the Scandinavian leader “Grani”. Both villages are included in the Domesday book of 1086 as having

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two churches- St Ethelburga's in Sutton and All Hallows in Granby. The latter was subsequently renamed All Saints. The patronage of All Saints was given to John Manners by Elizabeth I and it thereby descended to the Dukes of Rutland. It was extensively restored in 1888 and a pitched roof was added.

In the late 19th and early 20th century Granby included several farms growing cereals, pulses and root vegetables. In 1871 a village school was built, probably in response to the introduction of compulsory primary education. A surprising number of businesses were to be found including a saddler; a blacksmith; a wheelwright; a shoe repairer; a stilton cheese maker; 2 public houses; a post office and several bakers and butchers. A windmill was located halfway between the two villages and was used for grinding corn. Granby also had a Methodist chapel, a cemetery and its own cricket team.

Peaceful Sutton has an interesting history. In 1520 the hamlet of Sutton belonged to Sir John Savage but his son, also John, confessed to the murder of a certain John Pauncefort. Henry VIII pardoned John junior for this crime provided that he paid the sum of £4000. Consequently the land and village passed to John Manners, later to become the 4th Earl of Rutland¹. Oliver Cromwell fought a bloody battle at the bottom of Sutton Hill and human skeletal remains from the fight were found in the 1960s.

Over the years Sutton has boasted a castle (near the current site of Grange Farm), a four sail windmill, the church of St Ethelburga and a thriving Independent Methodist Chapel, founded in 1860, that was for many years the focal point of the village until it closed down in 1995 after a steady decline in its congregation. One amenity that is consistently missing from Sutton's history is a public house.

Granby and Sutton have a joint Parish Council consisting of seven elected representatives. It has the responsibility for the administration and maintenance of the cemetery, the village greens and the Village Hall which is the old school house in Granby. The Parish Council provides a link between the villagers, Rushcliffe Borough Council and Nottinghamshire County Council and administers the village precept. There is also Parochial Church Council which serves the needs of the parishioners of All Saints Church, Granby.

The nearest city is Nottingham, which provides the focus of employment and shopping opportunities for many villagers. The nearest towns are Bingham, Grantham, Melton Mowbray and Newark-on-Trent.

Details of the villages can be found on the Parish Council website at <http://www.parish.council.freeuk.com>.

Physical environment

There are approximately 150 properties in the two villages. All Saints Church dates back to the 11th Century and stands in a closed churchyard in the centre of Granby. It consists of a nave, chancel, tower and vestry. The six bells provide a distinctively beautiful peal.

Granby, which is a designated conservation area, still has two popular public houses - the 'Boot and Shoe' and the 'Marquis of Granby'. The Village Hall (formerly the Village School) which serves both villages is the only community hall. It is a Victorian building with fairly high maintenance requirements. It also has a small play area at the rear but this is not well equipped and not well suited to ball games.



There are no shops in Granby or Sutton. The only provisions that can be purchased are alcohol from the pubs or eggs from the garage! There is a vehicle repairs garage and MoT station. Most children under 11 years travel by bus to attend Orston Primary School.

Secondary age pupils attend Toot Hill School at Bingham; Grantham Girls' or Kings High School for Boys' in Grantham or the Nottingham High Schools.

Activities

Currently these include:

- The Women's Institute
- The Thursday Ladies Club
- The Luncheon Club
- The Church Bell Ringers
- The Village Events Committee
- Weekly Yoga classes
- Monthly Coffee Mornings and Book Swaps
- The Gardening Club



Most of these groups use the Village Hall for their meetings. The Hall is also used for special events and fund-raising activities, such as:

- Fashion Shows
- Special Suppers/Social evenings
- Private Parties
- Various committees

In 2008 a summer event was held for the first time in a few years and it is intended that this will become an annual occurrence.

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Transport

The villages are situated approximately 14 miles from the City of Nottingham and 11 miles from Melton Mowbray. The nearest selection of shops is in the small market town of Bingham, approximately 3 miles away. There is a fairly regular bus service from Granby to Nottingham (until 5.00pm) and a two hourly service to Bingham and Melton Mowbray.



The villages are also reasonably close to the M1, A1, the main East Coast rail line to London Kings Cross (from Grantham and Newark on Trent) and East Midlands Airport. According to the 2001 census, 120 people in the Parish travelled to work by car, van or motor-cycle, whilst only 6 relied on public transport to do so. A further 41 people either worked at home or relied on other means of transport. The 2001 census also indicated that there were only 8 households without a car or a van.

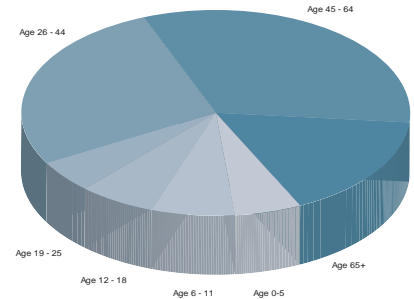
Population

According to the 2001 census there were 136 households with a total of 328 people, of whom 253 were between 16 and 74. Since the 2001 census several new houses have been built and the population has grown slightly. Today there are estimated to

be 150 households in Granby and Sutton with a total population of approximately 330 people.

These are made up as follows:

- 80 residents in Sutton, 250 in Granby
- 20% are children under 18 years (approx.60). Approx. 20 are under 5yrs
- 16% are 65 years or over
- 33% are aged 45-64
- 31% are aged 26-44
- Approx. 50% are men, 50% women-very evenly spread.



Employment

During the 20th century the employment opportunities within the villages decreased significantly. In particular the numbers of people working within agriculture and the services which supported it have declined. The vast majority of those in employment travel to work outside of the villages. An increasing number of residents work from home for some or all of the week. Other employment is provided by several farms, stables, two public houses and a service garage.

The Consultation Process

Following the initial village meeting in the autumn of 2007, a consultation process was initiated to enable everyone in the parish to contribute their views and to keep in touch with the way in which matters were progressing.

The first step was the circulation of a very simple village “survey” by questionnaire, asking everyone to consider what they liked most, and least, about their community. They were also asked to suggest changes that would improve village life. The response rate was a commendable 72% of households. The results of the survey were analysed and produced in user-friendly charts (Appendix I) that were circulated throughout the villages by newsletters, coffee mornings, and web sites.

These results subsequently formed the basis of a weekend consultation exercise that took place in June 2008 as part of Granby and Sutton Summer event. The most frequently cited items from the survey were the subject of an opinion poll at which all residents were invited to vote for the issues that had been raised, in terms of relevance and importance. It was also an opportunity for residents to meet the members of the Steering Group and discuss any additional concerns and ideas. Interested volunteers were also recruited to help with any actions following the consultation process.

These results were analysed and organised into a first draft of an Action Plan in July 2008. The steering group and volunteers were then organised into various working parties to discuss the identified issues and decide on goals, strategies and responsibilities within the identified timeframe.

Consultation with younger residents



All children, parents and grandparents were invited to an informal consultation in the village hall on a Saturday morning in November 2008. The meeting was fairly well attended and people had the opportunity to raise issues concerning younger people, complete a questionnaire on existing facilities and make suggestions for additional activities and play equipment. The results were analysed and incorporated into the Plan (Appendix II)



Issues raised by residents

Many positive aspects of life in Granby and Sutton were highlighted by villages including the peace and quiet of an unspoilt rural setting, the friendliness of neighbours, a good community spirit, two popular pubs in Granby, the church and village greens, the low crime rate and opportunities for walking and cycling.

For the purpose of the action plan the issues that need to be addressed are organised into three sections (see enclosed Action Plan):

1 The Environment

The most frequently cited issues concerned traffic in the villages. Many motorists ignore the signs and speed through the villages, which is intimidating and creates a real danger to pedestrians and other road users. Some Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) also pass through the villages unnecessarily. Speeding traffic has been recognised as a long-standing issue and various solutions have been considered by the Parish Council over the years.

Recommended actions:

1. Explore the provision of strategically placed vehicle activated speed signs
2. Carry out a monthly speed watch by volunteers

3. Consider the installation of village gateways and make a decision whether to proceed with them.

Another environmental issue concerns the maintenance and signage of footpaths, roads and pavements. People commented that some footpaths are poorly maintained and, in some cases, impenetrable. Elsewhere signs are not clear or are non-existent. Roads are not always gritted when indicated and litter sometimes accumulates in the villages.

Recommended actions:

1. Set up a scheme whereby groups of volunteers adopt individual paths and maintain them
2. Pursue funding to improve signage and maintenance.
3. Lobby the appropriate authorities concerning repairs to pavements
4. Include litter picking and gritting (when indicated) in existing village clean up sessions

The lack of car parking facilities is another concern, particularly when events take place at the church, pubs or village hall in Granby.

Recommended action:

1. Identify possible additional parking for the church and the village hall

Inadequate utilities and services including the lack of a gas supply to Sutton and the very slow broadband speed to both villages.

Recommended actions:

1. Explore the feasibility and costs of providing gas and consult with Sutton residents
2. Survey broadband speed within the villages and lobby Internet Service Providers to improve facility to the villages.

It was thought that the general appearance of the villages could be further improved by additional features and better management of dog fouling and village greens.

Recommended actions:

1. Identify costs, options and designs of decorative village signs
2. Improve the approaches to the village with flowers at signs to villages

3. Promote responsible dog ownership
4. Direct contractors to collect grass cuttings more efficiently when mowing greens etc.

Social and community

It was agreed that village life could be significantly improved by increasing social and community activities in the two villages. Apart from the pubs, Granby village hall is the main facility for social activities and the plan includes strategies to increase use of the hall.

Recommended actions:

1. Advertise and promote a wider range of activities and clubs in the village
2. Consult Parish Council and review the management structure and booking arrangements for the village hall
3. Explore the availability and purchase of a sports / playing field
4. Make improvements to the existing play area at Granby village hall
5. Identify suitable land for allotments and pursue its provision

Other village facilities that were identified as desirable include a community shop, information centre and coffee shop, additional seating on the outskirts of the villages and a garden of remembrance and water supply for the cemetery.

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Recommended actions:

1. Consult with Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire for advice on the Community Shop project.
2. Visit existing community shop projects in neighbouring villages and consult organisers.
3. Explore the feasibility and available resources for a community shop in Granby or Sutton
4. Consider if a community shop could also incorporate an information centre and coffee shop
5. Provide additional seating around villages
6. Provide a garden of remembrance at the cemetery

Sutton has a well supported Neighbourhood Watch Scheme that helps to prevent crime and promote awareness of safety. Granby has no such facility and although crime is relatively low in the area some residents thought a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme would be a welcome addition to the village.

Recommended actions:

1. Consult with Sutton NWS and local police to establish a Granby scheme.
2. Investigate the need for a support rota for older people in the villages

3. Villagers were concerned about future housing and planning developments, particularly in the light of an agenda to increase housing on green belt land.

Recommended action:

1. Meet with Rushcliffe Borough Council Officers to consult and comment on future plans for development in the area.

Transport

The rural nature of the parish means that travel around the area is difficult for some residents. There is currently a limited bus service to Granby but none to Sutton. Older residents face a particular challenge in this respect.

Recommended actions:

1. Conduct feasibility study with neighbouring villages into the possibility of extending the bus service
2. Review existing volunteer transport schemes for those without their own transport and consider additional services if required.

Next steps

The production of this parish plan completes the first phase of the development of an on-going process. Following endorsement by the Parish Council, the Borough and County Councils the action plan will be implemented. Goals will be



pursued and strategies implemented and the ultimate success of the Plan will be judged on the results and the eventual impact on the quality of life for Granby and Sutton residents.

We need your help to make a difference. If you want to get involved the actions you should contact any member of the steering group. The steering group will continue to monitor the implementation plan and communicate with local residents on progress made.





Granby and Sutton Village Action Plan 2009

Introduction

This document has been compiled by Granby and Sutton Village Plan Steering Group following extensive consultation with residents of both villages throughout 2008.

This action plan will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.



Issue	Action	Who	Timeframe	Progress
Through traffic and excessive speed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the provision of strategically placed vehicle activated speed signs Carry out a monthly speed watch by volunteers Consider the installation of village gateways or other more effective signage at village entrances and make a decision whether to proceed with them. 	Speedwatch group & Parish Council Steering group in liaison with NCC Highways	January 2009 January 2009 April 2009	achieved
Overgrown footpaths badly maintained or signed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up a scheme where groups of volunteers adopt individual paths and maintain them Pursue funding to improve signage and maintenance. 	Footpath group	April 2009 April 2009	
Pavements / cycle tracks poorly maintained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby the appropriate authorities concerning repairs to pavements 	Parish Council	ongoing	
Roads not gritted and litter problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include litter picking and gritting (when indicated) in existing village clean up sessions 	Village clean up group	ongoing	
Lack of parking facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify possible additional parking for the church and the village hall 	Steering group	April 2009	
Absence of gas supply to Sutton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the feasibility and costs of providing gas and consult with Sutton residents 	Steering group	January 2009	

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The Environment

Issue	Action	Who	Timeframe	Progress
Slow broadband service to villages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Survey broadband speed within the villages and lobby Internet Service Providers to improve facility to the villages.	Residents and steering group	February 2009	
General appearance of villages could be improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify costs, options and designs of decorative village signsImprove the approaches to the village with flowers at signs to villagesPromote responsible dog ownershipArrange for grass cuttings to be collected more efficiently when mowing greens etc.	Steering group Steering group Parish Council Parish Council	June 2009 April 2009 Ongoing January 2009	



Issue	Action	Who	Timeframe	Progress
Need for more clubs and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertise and promote a wider range of activities and clubs in the village • Consult Parish Council and review the management structure and booking arrangements for the village hall • Explore the availability and purchase of a sports / playing field • Make improvements to the existing play area at Granby village hall • Identify suitable land for allotments and pursue its provision 	Residents & Newsletter Ed Steering Group Steering group Playground group Allotment society	Ongoing March 2009 December 2009 December 2009 December 2009	
Additional social and community facilities needed for villages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire for advice on the Community Shop project. • Visit existing community shop projects in neighbouring villages and consult organisers. • Explore the feasibility and available resources for a community shop in Granby or Sutton • Consider if a community shop could also incorporate an information centre and coffee shop • Provide additional seating around villages • Provide a garden of remembrance at the cemetery 	Steering group Steering group Steering group Steering group Parish Council Steering group & Parish Council	January 2009 September 2009 September 2009 September 2009 May 2009 September 2009	

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Social & Community

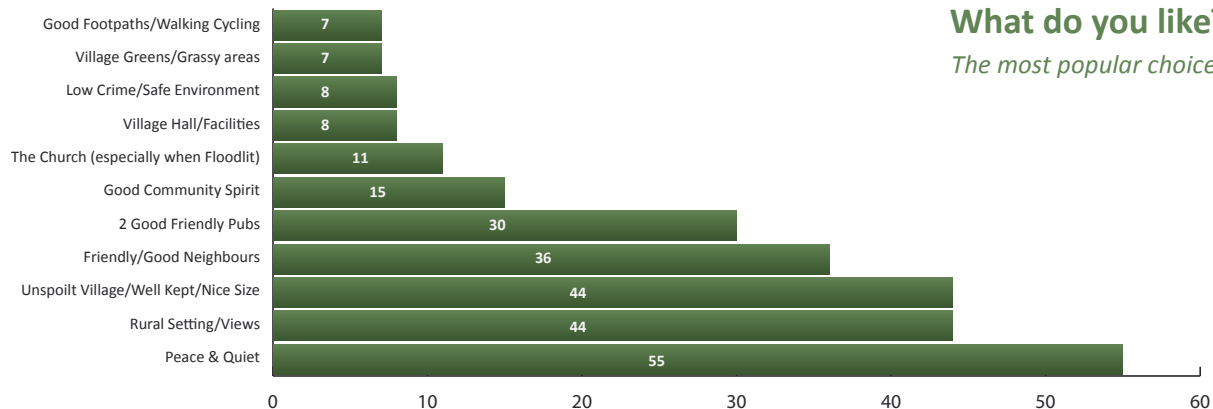
Issue	Action	Who	Timeframe	Progress
Crime and safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult with Sutton NWS and local police to establish a Granby scheme. Investigate the need for a support rota for older people in the villages 	Steering group Steering group	April 2009	
Preserve and improve village hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out roof and floor repairs Fit new skirting boards Resolve ongoing damp and ventilation problems and internally decorate Fit new curtains / blinds Upgrade seating and tables 	Parish Council Parish Council Parish Council Parish Council Parish Council	Jan 2009 April 2009 Sept 2009 May 2009 June 2009	Achieved
Future housing development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with Rushcliffe Borough Council to consult and comment on future plans for development in the area. 	Steering group	January 2009	

Issue	Action	Who	Timeframe	Progress
Limited bus service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct feasibility study with neighbouring villages into the possibility of extending the bus service 	Steering group	May 2009	
Need scheme for those with no access to own transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review existing volunteer transport schemes for those without their own transport and consider additional services if required. 	Steering group	ongoing	

Transport

Appendix I

Survey Results

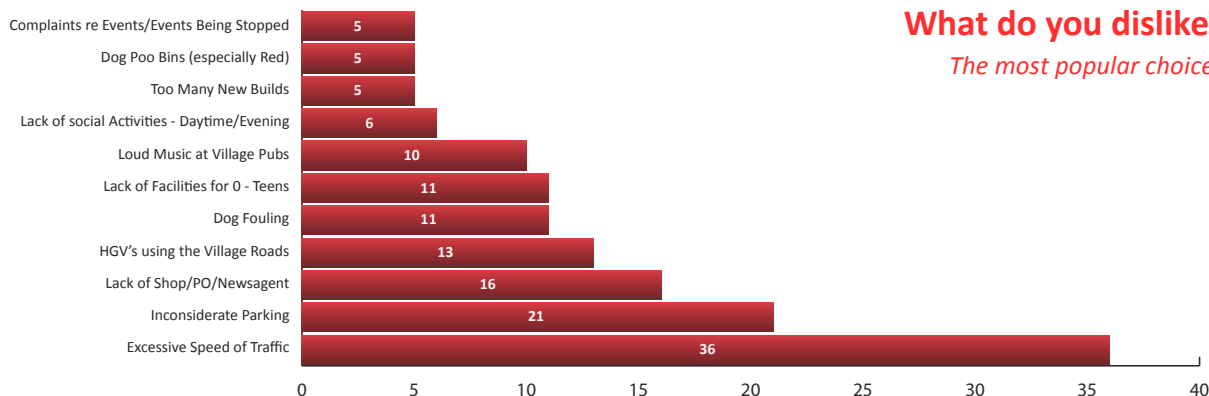


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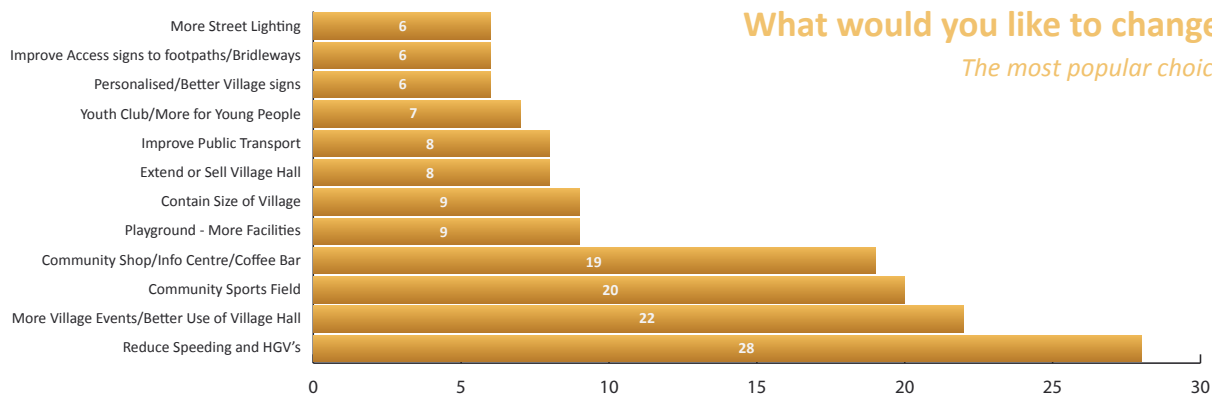
What do you dislike?

The most popular choices



What would you like to change?

The most popular choices



Appendix II :

Granby Play area

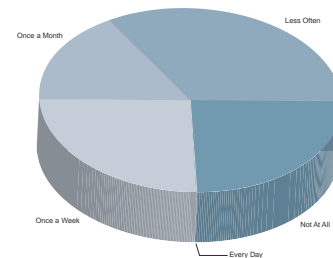
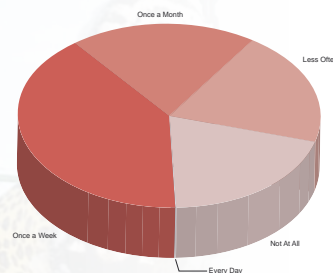
1 *Top three examples of things people liked about this space?*

- Very Safe / Enclosed
- Handy for the Village
- Accessible / nice open space

2 *Top five examples of things people do not like about this space?*

- Not enough to do / equipment
- Aimed at younger children only
- Too Small
- Can get muddy / wet
- Need better seating

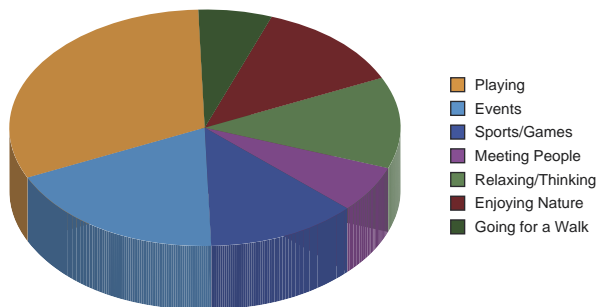
3 *How often do you come here?*



	Every Day	Once a Week	Once a Month	Less Often	Not At All
in the SUMMER	0	6	3	3	3
in the WINTER	0	3	2	4	3



4 What do people use this space for?



5 Top 5 Responses on how well the space works

- I can get here easily
- This space is always open when I want to come here
- I can do what I would like to do here
- This space is easy to get around
- This space is easy to find

6 Top 5 Responses regarding the current space

- This place is well looked after
- This place is clean
- Noise is not a problem here
- I feel safe here
- The air is clean here

7 Top 5 responses on the difference this space makes to the village

- This is an important space to the local area
- Everyone feels welcome here
- People mix well here
- People who live around here are involved in running this space
- I can have fun here

8 Top 5 things that people thought would make this space a better space are:

- More Seating
- Multiplay units for young and older children
- Shelter from the rain
- Sort out flooding
- Hard / all weather surface

What people wanted young people to have / do in this area

Larger space for ball games
More seating
Balance between equipment and space
Not be a hideaway for older children
Challenging equipment

What people wanted children to have / do in this area

Challenging equipment
Picnic area
Baby swing
Sandpit (covered)
Imaginative equipment
Paddling pool / dip
Balancing Trails
Sheltered seating

What people wanted adults to have / do in this area

Skittle Alley like Cropwell Butler
More seating
Exercise equipment for adults
Picnic Area
Boules Pitch
Chat – social area



Appendix III:

Steering Group Members at 1st January 2009

Shirley Taylor

Chair

Andy Betts

Parish Councillor

Christine Baxter

Secretary

John Daw

Angela Dobson-Riley

Simon Grattan

Carole Headland

Michael Headland

Treasurer

Kiran John

Carola Jones

Andrea Jex

Su Kennedy

Loz Shore

Philip Straw

Parish Councillor

Alastair Stutt

*In addition thanks go
to other contributors/
Steering Group Members
in 2008:*

Malcolm Scott

Carole Scott

Julia Bell

Malcolm Pyrah

Carolyn Desforges



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