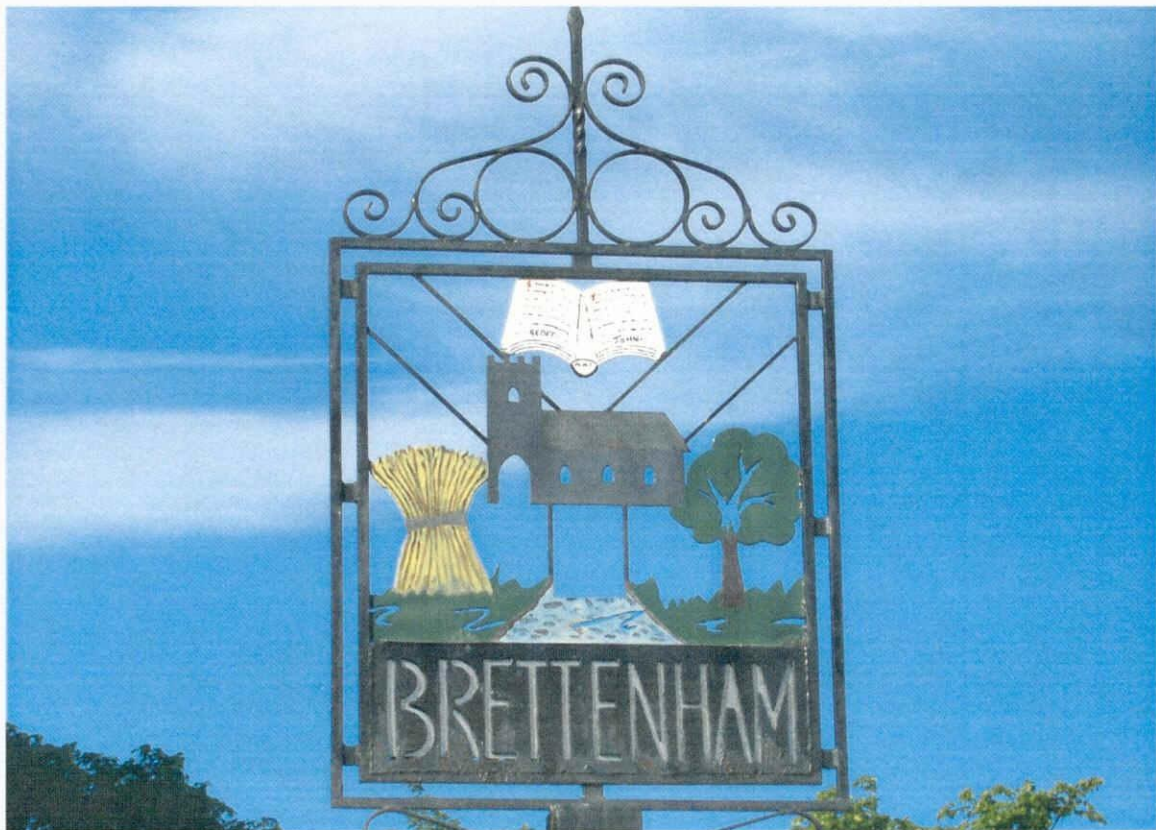


Brettenham Parish Plan

Report & Action Plan
2005



Prepared with the support of



June 2005**Brettenham Parish Plan - Report & Action Plan.****Steering Group**

Chairman:- Martin Dye:- 28, The Street, Brettenham

Secretary:- Tracey Brinkley, The Victorian School, Old School Corner, Brettenham.

Treasurer:- Carrie Dye, 28, The Street, Brettenham.

Committee:-

Lynne Golding, The Forge, 26, The Street, Brettenham.

Ian Manby, 29B, The Street, Brettenham.

Thelma Crane, Willow Cottage, The Street, Brettenham.

June & Fred Hatherall, Honeysuckle Cottage, The Street, Brettenham.

Lindsey Collings, St Mary's House, Church Road, Brettenham.

.....

Why a Parish Plan?

There has always been concern that the views and desires of residents are not considered sufficiently by Councils be they Parish, District or County. The purpose of this Plan was to enable you, the residents of Brettenham, to put forward your own views on various matters that concern the future of the village. Having ascertained these views, to then consider how these could be integrated into the functions and services provided by the Councils. If funding is required to implement any specific projects we need to ensure that evidence is made available to support any scheme.

The Countryside Agency launched the Vital Villages scheme that provided funding to successful local councils for the production of a Village Plan. Brettenham was fortunate to obtain a grant to finance the preparation of this plan and we hope that it will be possible to push for any necessary finance to implement all areas where it is felt action is needed.

We must stress yet again that the grant made for this project could not have been available for any other purpose.

M.E.Dye - Chairman

Note:- In order to provide accurate levels of opinion some results are as percentages and some as personal responses. This is due to the fact that some items affect few people.

TIM YEO MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

I warmly congratulate Brettenham Parish Council, and in particular the Steering Group responsible for producing the Brettenham Parish Plan, on the work which they have done.

The final document is an extremely interesting and well-produced account of the village, its evolution and present composition. The survey has yielded a comprehensive range of information about local issues and opinions and will be a valuable source document for future decisions.

By using the support available from Suffolk ACRE and the Countryside Agency the village has compiled a document which will be of very considerable value for years to come. Both the residents of Brettenham and the neighbouring community have reason to be grateful to all those who have worked on this project. As the Member of Parliament for South Suffolk, I too record my appreciation of these efforts and congratulate everyone who has been involved.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'T. Yeo'.

WORKING FOR SOUTH SUFFOLK

Westminster Office: Tel: 020 7219 6353 Fax: 020 7219 4857 E-mail: timycomp@parliament.uk

Constituency Office: The Penthouse, 43 High Street, Hadleigh, Ipswich, Suffolk IP7 5AB

Tel: 01473 823435 Fax: 01473 823536 E-mail: peterburgoyne@southsuffolk.fsnet.co.uk

Suffolk County Council - Mr. John Wyn Roberts

As the County Councillor for the Brett division I would like to register my support for the Vital Village Initiative team who have drawn up the Parish Plan for the village of Brettenham.

The villagers here have shown themselves to be a very caring community and they are to be heartily congratulated for successfully completing a project of extending the Village Hall in the last few months.

The Parish Plan will enable Brettenham to have the framework by which it can control future developments in the village and thereby secure the quality of life for its residents.

Babergh District Council - Mr. Desmond Keane.

I congratulate the residents of Brettenham in producing this Parish Plan. This is a very attractive rural village and the initiative of producing this comprehensive plan will help them with the continued support of the District and County Councils in their efforts to help the young and old in their village and achieve the wishes of all the village at the same time.

The enthusiasm of the village to provide an all inclusive village life can be seen in the total refurbishment and extension of their Village Hall, much of which was achieved by local voluntary assistance. I wish this 'go ahead' village all success with its future plans.

Brettenham Parish Council - Mrs Thelma Crane.

I write to confirm that Brettenham Parish Council has been involved with the Parish Plan since its inception. We organised the original meeting with Suffolk Acre to which everyone in the village was invited, the outcome of which was agreement to proceed with the Plan.

I am very pleased at the excellent response to the questionnaire and look forward to seeing this final Plan, copies of which will be given to every household and the various authorities and will, I am sure, be of immense use both historically and as a guide to how the village people would like Brettenham to develop.

Brettenham - Its History.
From the original by Malcolm Marjoram

The first documentary evidence of Brettenham is contained in Domesday (1086). There are four entries relating to the village. Robert, Count of Mortain held Brettenham as a Manor, while the Abbey of St. Edmundsbury held an estate stretching from Thorpe Morieux across to Brettenham and Risebroc (Dux Street) part of which eventually formed the nucleus of Ryece Hall Farm. Richard, son of Count Gilbert, had two holdings, 30 acres in the village and 10 acres in Risebroc (probably Dux Street).

By the 12th century, Richard's descendants, who had by then taken the surname of De Clare and had been invested as Earl of Gloucester, had taken control of the bulk of the village with the exception of the Abbey land. By then both estates were being left to the Sampson family and were not separated again at a village level until the 17th century. It was William Sampson who established Brettenham Park when in 1247 he was given Royal permission to establish a hunting reserve on his demesne lands.

In the 15th century the Sampsons inherited the Fellbrigge estates by marriage and moved to Playford. They retained control of their Brettenham estates until c1512 when, through lack of a male Sampson heir, it passed through the female line to Thomas Felton. The Felton family held the Brettenham lands until the early 1600s when both estates were purchased by Thomas Cutler, who was a wealthy merchant and portman of Ipswich. In 1641 Ryece Hall Farm was settled by Thomas on his daughter Elizabeth, the wife of Doctor Matthew Wren (uncle of Sir Christopher). Ten years earlier, in 1631, Edward Wenyewe had purchased the freehold of Brettenham Manor from Thomas Cutler. The Wenyewe family had been slowly accumulating property in the village since their first appearance in the late 14th century. By 1636 Edward Wenyewe had constructed his family a new mansion within the grounds of the enclosed parkland.

The Wenyewe family were to stay in possession of the estate until 1847 when, after a long legal battle over the property, the executors of Colonel John Camac (husband of the last of the Wenyewes), were ordered by the Court of Chancery to dispose of the property. Prior to this, in an attempt to make the estate viable Colonel Camac had let the Hall, the most notable tenant being Joseph Bonaparte, ex-King of Spain and Naples and brother to Napoleon.

The Estate was bought by Mr. Joseph Parker in 1850 and although the family was not resident for long they did make some improvements. In 1856 a new wheelwrights shop was built on the site of an old derelict cottage; this eventually became the petrol filling station, itself now closed. In addition the old wheelwrights shop, opposite what is now the Village Hall, was demolished and a row of four cottages together with a new blacksmiths shop was constructed (Quality Row). The estate was sold again in 1860 to Mr. Thomas Beale, who carried out some further improvements by constructing a new Park Farm to replace the old farm buildings that were still situated in the Park. In approximately 1902 the estate was purchased by the Warner family of Essex. The estate was finally dissolved in 1956 when the Hall and Park were sold to Old Buckenham Hall School, bringing to an end almost 1000 years of estate history.

The farms and the cottages were also sold, mostly to their sitting tenants. From its beginnings, Brettenham had been a self sufficient agricultural community right up until the 20th century as most services required by the community could be obtained in the village. Like many other medieval villages it had had open fields that were farmed in common. But by the end of the 17th century these had been almost entirely enclosed and only fragments of these once large open fields remained, mostly as strips of glebe. However, many of the farms in the north of the parish reflected this history with their fragmented holdings until well into the 19th century.

Like any other agricultural community it also had its poor, although it does appear to have tried to deal with them as humanely as possible. The extent of poverty in the village is highlighted by the 1664 Hearth Tax. Out of 44 households 20 were deemed to be too poor to pay and were excused. In 1720, in an attempt to alleviate the problem, the village opened a workshop for 20 inmates. This was used to house the very poor and infirm until Brettenham joined Cosford Union in 1872; after this any residents destined for the workhouse were sent to Semer. The workhouse may have been the house that once stood on Townfield next to Quality Row as this seems to have fallen into disrepair at the time that the village workhouse was vacated. Most services were provided for the poor, ranging from medical treatment, clothing, firing, rent payments and house repairs. The most aged and infirm were also supported with weekly pensions. The parish also had a small number of Townhouses (almshouses) for the poor.

A school was constructed in 1841 and enlarged in 1871, to accommodate 80 pupils (the building on Old School Corner). By the end of the 19th century there was an average attendance of 50 per week. A new school was build by public subscription in 1908 on land donated by a local farmer. This school closed in 1959 with just 12 pupils.

The Village Hall

The hall began life, like the school and the chapel, in the early 1900's. It was built by Sir Courteney Warner Bt. as the Village Reading Room and newspapers were sent down from the Hall each day for the men of the village to read. A number of indoor games were introduced and the building served as a kind of working men's club. The deed of gift, by which Sir Courteney conveyed the premises to his son (later Sir Edward Warner) in 1920, describes the hall as the Village Reading Room and Public Hall. From this time, its use as a meeting place for village clubs and functions steadily developed. Following Sir Edward's death in 1955, the Brettenham Park Estate company conveyed the hall to the village for the sum of £ 100.00.

The Church of St Mary The Virgin.

The present church building dates from the 14th century, when the nave and tower were erected. The tower, which contains a medieval bell frame and three bells, is on the south side of the nave and its base serves as a porch. Only 14 Suffolk churches were so constructed. The chancel was added during the 1420's. The church contains a 14th century octagonal font, late 17th century Communion rails, fragments of medieval glass and a copy of the Vinegar Bible (1717)

Brettenham Today

21st Century Brettenham comprises 111 households spread widely across the Parish. Most residents either commute to work or are retired. The village lost its Village Store/Post Office, School and the Crown public house a very long time ago so the Church and Village Hall are now the only two community focal points remaining. We are fortunate that the Village Inn holds a pub night on the first Friday of each month in the Village Hall serving both excellent food and drinks.

We can, however, boast the presence of two public schools - Old Buckenham Hall, a preparatory school for boys and girls - and The Old Rectory, for dyslexic and dyspraxic children.

For such a small village we do have a surprising number of organisations within our midst.

- Village Fund - holding fund raising events - fireworks, dining club, safari suppers, Village Inn, etc.
- Drama Group (with Thorpe Morieux)
- Book Circle.
- Whist/Carpet Bowls/Cricket Club.

Apart from the schools there are four farms and a few small businesses providing a little employment but most people travel to work.

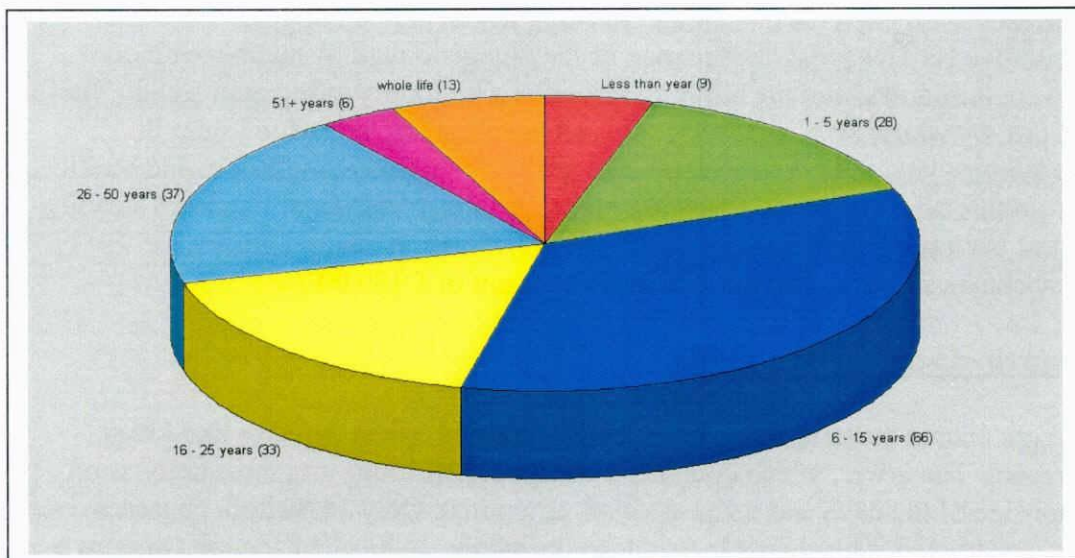
The Survey

The Plan Questionnaire was hand delivered and collected by the steering committee members returning 99 completed copies out of 111 . This, taking into account vacant properties and holiday homes, gave us a very satisfactory return. The 99 questionnaires expressed the views of 234 residents, details of which are outlined in the following pages.

Village Statistics 2005 (Based on questionnaire results only)

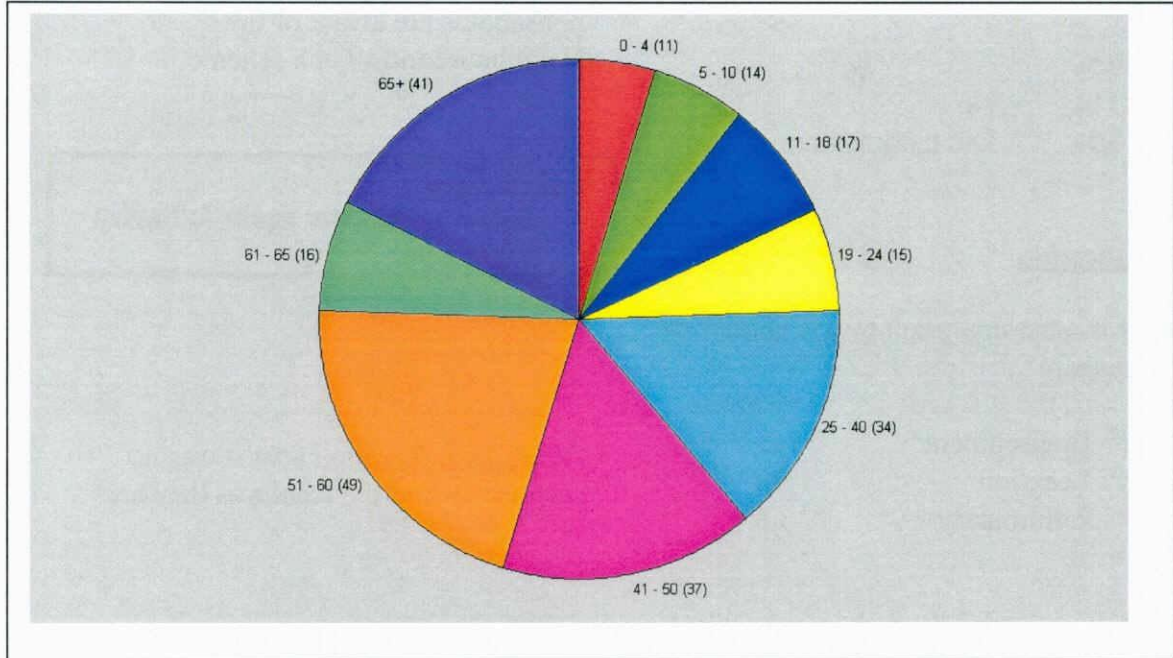
The early questions established a number of breakdowns of population etc. as now detailed.

Period of Residence.

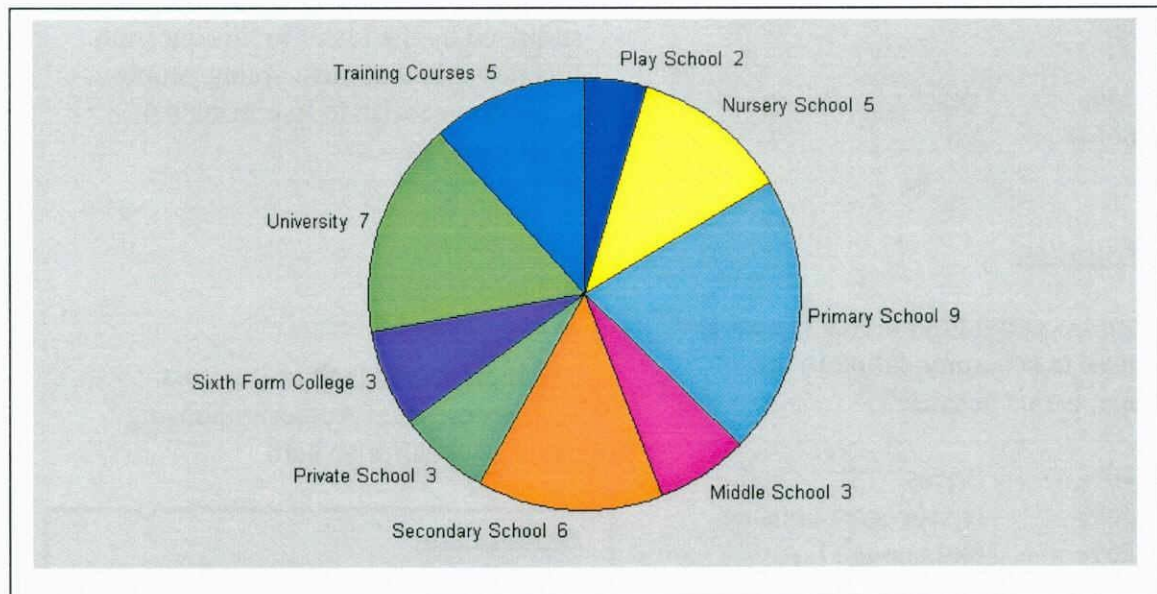


Village Statistics - 2005.

Distribution of Age Groups.



Distribution of Current Education of Children.



Notes.

Nearly 50% of the village population is over 50 years old.

Of the 25% over 60 a large proportion are single and living alone

One third of younger people are in further education .

GENERAL

8.1 Question

Is your dwelling within a Neighbourhood Watch scheme?

>>>>>

- 80 % Yes
- 2 % No
- 18 % Did not know.

It is pleasing to know that most households are aware of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

Action Plan.

- **Publicise scheme again in Parish Magazine.**

8.2 Question

What is most important to you about Brettenham?

>>>>>

- 1st Environment 142
- 2nd Location 98
- 3rd Community 68

Being a conservation area it was no surprise to find the results as they are.

8.3 Question

Is any individual in your household, or your whole household currently in need or soon will be in need of alternative accommodation in the village?

>>>>>

- 14% Yes
- 86% No

Bearing in mind some of the comments raised during the original Parish Plan meeting held by Suffolk Acre we were surprised by the result to this question. It is possible that most young people today do not wish to live in such a quiet location.

8.4 Question

If your household/individual is unable to move to accommodation in the village, is this because?

>>>>>

- 40% Prices
- 35% No low cost housing.
- 25% Not enough L.A. housing.

The high prices, lack of low cost housing or Local Authority housing came as no surprise here.

Action Plan.

- **Action relating to these last two questions follows on the next page.**

There were no comments on these four questions.

HOUSING.

9.1 Question

Do you think Brettenham should have new housing?

- 50% Yes
- 37% No >>>>>>
- 13% Didn't Know

Comments.

See Question 9.2

It was surprising that so many people were in favour of some type of additional housing in Brettenham. We were expecting a strong NO to this question considering how many said yes in question 8.3

See comments below as to types.

9.2 Question

Would you have any objections in principle to a development which might help to meet the housing needs of local people? >>>>>>

- 70% No
- 20% Yes
- 10% Had no opinion

Again a very encouraging result although governed somewhat by the wide range of comments and concerns voiced over type and scale.

There were a few (9) strong negative replies voicing the view that it would spoil the rural nature of the village.

Comments.

Individual or small developments.
Tasteful small family homes.
Kept to minimum.
Yes, if fits in with rest of village.
Rented accommodation.
Bungalows/disabled.
For village people only - no outsiders.
To help families stay in village..
Too late.
Must have more or village will die.

Action Plan.

- **Meet with Babergh District Council housing department.**
- **Establish level of local need.**
- **Discuss with Suffolk local housing enabler.**

9.3 Question

What kind of additional accommodation do you think Brettenham needs? >>>>>>

- 25% For houses for young people
- 26% For small family homes.
- 19% For single accommodation.
- 13% For no further homes needed.
- 17% Were undecided.

The replies to this question were very much in line with the views expressed in the previous question. With property prices in the village so high it is impossible for the children of village families to remain here unless they live at home.

ENVIRONMENT

10.1 Question

If you have used any of the following services which cover Brettenham during the last year, how do you rate the service? >>>>>>

- Doctor - 159 people : good / reasonable.
- District Nurse - 34 people : good/reasonable.
- Health Visitor - 16 people ditto.
- Home Help - 6 people : good, 5 poor.
- Meals on Wheels - 5 people : poor.

A good response to this question although the response to some of the categories was by only a few who make use of them.

Action Plan.

- **Notify Bildeston Doctors of the positive results**
- **Contact Home Help service with results.**
- **Contact meals on wheels ditto**

10.2 Question

Do you have problems collecting medicine on prescription? >>>>>>

- 95% No
- 5% Yes

This result suggests few problems.

Action Plan

- **Identify any with problems and incorporate in Good Neighbour Scheme. (See 18.1)**

10.3 Question

How often do you use the village playground? >>>>>>

- 4 People - weekly
- 26 " - monthly
- 140 " - never.

With only 25 children under 10 years of age the response suggests that most make some use of the facilities together with friends or visitors.

10.4 Question

How would you rate the facilities provided in the children's playground. >>>>>>

- 50% - Good / Reasonable
- 7% - Poor
- 43% Had no opinion.

Of those that use the playground most feel that the facilities are reasonably good. Other comments made included the need for a path from the car park, more equipment although it is maybe necessary to establish a need before adding more items.

Action Plan

- **Obtain funding advice from Suffolk Acre fund advisory service..**

Comments.
 Better maintenance of site.
 Surfacing under swings.
 Toilet facilities and dog waste bin

Note:- Steps have already been taken in increased maintenance of the playing field by the Parish Council.

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 Surfacing under swings.
 Toilet facilities and dog waste bin

Note:- Steps have already been taken in increased maintenance of the playing field by the Parish Council.

11.1 Question

How important is the quality of the countryside around Brettenham to you?

>>>>>

96% - Important/Very Important

Bearing in mind the reason given by most for choosing Brettenham to live in was the environment, this result was to be expected.

11.2 Question

How important are the following features of the surrounding countryside to you?

>>>>>

Important or Very Important.

- Small woods 99%
- Hedges 98%
- Meadows/green fields 97%
- Traditional Farm Buildings 80%
- Ponds 93%

Most people are very aware of the need to preserve the existing quality of our surroundings and have voted accordingly. Unfortunately most traditional buildings no longer exist, barns having long been converted to residential use.

Action Plan

- Carry out Tree/Hedge Survey.

11.3 Question

What do you think could be done to improve the environment of Brettenham?

>>>>>

- Plant or preserve more trees 305
- Keep hedges tidy 114
- Plant more hedges 107

70% of those who responded to this question felt that these actions were worth doing although 25% felt further action was not necessary.

Note:- It has been very pleasing to see that the owners of our local farms have in the last few years been planting both new hedges and trees.

11.4 Question

Would you be prepared to help with the following?

>>>>>

- Protecting Habitats 74
- Creating Habitats 40
- Surveying Trees 30
- Maintaining Footpaths 26
- Annual Litter pick 62

A good response to this. It will be hoped that words can be turned into actions if any schemes go ahead.

Action Plan

- Discuss need for assistance with footpath maintenance with Footpath Liaison Officer
- Appoint tree warden.
- Contact BDC - Bags. Gloves etc.

Comments.
Note:- Litter pick carried out by Parish Councillors annually

12.1 Question

Are 'dog mess' bins required in the following locations? >>>>>

- Field Paths 50
- Street locations 83
- Not required 71

12.2 Question

In relation to local footpaths, can you answer the following questions? >>>>>

- Know where they are?
90% - Yes
10% - No
- Can use without difficulty?
86% - Yes
14% - No
- Are they well signposted?
83% - Yes
17% - No
- Are you willing to help maintain?
23% - Yes
77% - No

12.3 Question

If you experienced difficulties when using local footpaths, which if any, of the following difficulties did you find? >>>>>

- 16% Not kept clear
- 29% Paths obstructed.
- 10% Poor way marking.
- 45% Had no difficulty.

12.4 Question

In relation to footpaths - would you like to see any of the following? >>>>>

- Maps of local paths. 109
- Walks leaflets 93
- Guided Walks 31

A significant number felt that bins are required and that owners should clear up after their pets. Sadly this is not always the case.

Action Plan

- Ask Parish Council to get updated cost of both provision and clearing.

We are very lucky in Brettenham to have a good number of easily walked paths and few people had problems.

Comments.

See question 12.3

Action Plan

- Request that Footpath Liaison Officer check way marking and pass any observations onto Suffolk County Council.

Comments.

Crops across paths.
Fields ploughed too close to hedges
Paths not reinstated quickly enough.

Action Plan

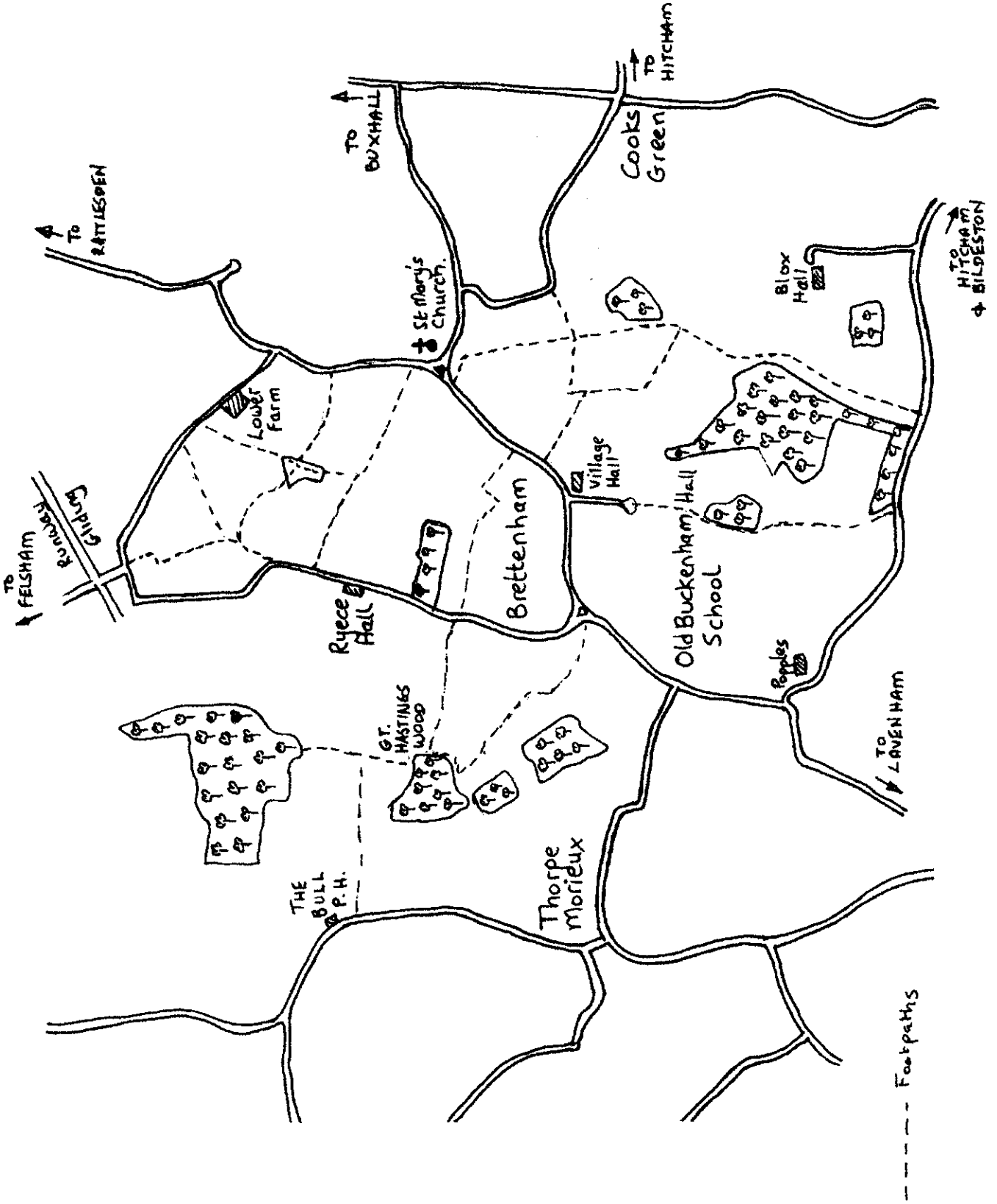
- Make farmers aware of these few observations.

It will be seen from the next page that a footpath map is already to hand. This is to be incorporated into a new leaflet showing all the Brettenham walks together with pictures and notes.

Action Plan

- Discuss with Footpath Liaison Officer possible reinstatement of guided walks.

Brettenham Footpaths.
(Not to scale)



TRANSPORT

14.1 Question.

What is, or would be, your main transport to work, training or study?

>>>>>>

- 73% Car
- 7% Walking
- 3% Bus
- 3% Bicycle
- 14% Do not travel

14.2 Question.

Do you have any transport difficulties in getting to?

>>>>>>

- 92% - No to Shops.
- 90% - No to Doctors
- 95% - No to Leisure
- 94% - No to Work
- 99% - No to College.

14.3 Question.

If you use the bus, how often do you use it for the uses given and what improvements would you like to see made in the service?

>>>>>>

- 88% Never use for Shopping
- 98% Never use for Doctor
- 91% Never for Leisure
- 96% Never for Work
- 15% - Route/timetable improvement

14.4 Question.

If you use the LAMBS Bus, how often do you use it for the uses given and what improvements would you like to see made in the service?

>>>>>>

- 98% Never use for Shopping
- 100% Never use for Doctor
- 98% Never use for Leisure
- 99% Never use for Work

Due to the rural nature of the village most of the Brettenham residents are mainly car based.

Very few use the rare bus service with only 5 females relying on it for work. A few respondents work from home with one thankful not to be working, training or studying!

Although the majority in all cases had no problems with transport there were a number who have considerable difficulty in getting to shops and for medical visits. Young people have severe transport problems until able to drive.

Note:- See Good Neighbour Scheme. (see 18.1)

:- LAMBS Bus

The vast majority of people never use a bus and some said they have never seen one in the village. There is a daily a.m. and p.m. bus to and from Bury, a Wednesday and Saturday market day bus to Bury and a Thursday market day bus to Stowmarket.

Action Plan.

- Discuss timetable improvements with operators.
- Publicise location of bus stops in village in magazine and notice board.

Although most people never use the LAMBS bus 3 do use it often for shopping and one for work. A few occasionally use it for social purposes although the charges are thought to be expensive by some.

Action Plan.

- Use Parish Magazine to clarify how bus operates.

15.1 Question.

Are the local taxi services adequate for your needs? >>>>>>

- 35% - Yes
- 11% - No
- 54% - Had no opinion

Few people commented on the taxi services. Some were not aware just how many reasonably priced local taxi services there were.

Comment.
One person thought that there was an opportunity for someone to start a local service.

Action Plan.

- **Add all local taxi services to list of useful contacts at end of report**

15.2 Question.

Would you be prepared to take part in a scheme to share private vehicles for? >>>>>>

People who said yes.

- Shopping 32
- School 16
- Leisure 34
- Work 29

Whilst a good number of people said yes to taking part in such a scheme it will be seen from the question below that very few said they would use the scheme as a passenger.

One wag offered the use of the crossbar of his bicycle!

15.3 Question.

If you have a car, would you be prepared to take part in a voluntary transport service? >>>>>>

- 27 - Yes
- 128 - No

It would seem that there are a fair number who would help those who would benefit from the scheme but who are reluctant to come forward for help - see last question.

15.4 Question.

Would you use a voluntary car service as a passenger? >>>>>>

- 1 Weekly
- 1 Monthly
- 42 Occasionally
- 119 Never.

Action Plan.

- **Identify destination and timing of those willing to help.**
- **Identify those in need of help with medical visits, shopping etc.**
- **Advertise in Parish magazine to source the above - maintain confidentiality if requested.**

ROADS

16.1 Question.

Do you think there are any major 'danger spots' on the roads in Brettenham? >>>>>

- 60% - Yes
- 24% - No
- 16% - Had no opinion.

Comments.

Village Hall corner (26)
 Old Rectory School (11)
 OBH junction (10)
 Dux Street (9)
 Church corner (6)
 The Street (6)
 Popples junction (4)
 Cars parked on Village Hall side of bend. (4)

There were 27 separate areas noted, the main ones listed opposite. One person noted that it was the drivers that were dangerous not the roads.

Action Plan.

- **Contact above owners/county highways to look into above and rectify as necessary. Suggest on site meeting.**
- **Request that off road parking is observed as much as possible.**

16.2 Question.

Do you think speeding traffic is a problem in Brettenham? >>>>>

- 70% - Yes
- 20% - No
- 10% - Had no opinion.

Speeding is considered a considerable problem in the village, The Street being so straight inviting excess speed.

Action Plan.

- **In the short term request more regular visits from the Speed Indicator Device.**

16.3 Question.

Would you support the following speed control measures in Brettenham? >>>>>

- Extension of speed limit. 14%
- Traffic calming. 11%
- Lower speed limit. 12%
- More enforcement. 25%
- More road warning signs. 16%
- Flashing speed signs. 17%
- None of the above. 5%

How speeding should be controlled brought a wide spread of opinion with more enforcement the slight favourite. It is felt by many that the parents on the OBH school run are the worst offenders.

Action Plan.

- **Discuss with OBH/Old Rectory Schools the need to stress to parents the need to observe the limit.**
- **Request more speed traps from police.**
- **Discuss with highways the possibility of some warning signs especially on Village Hall corner.**

17.1 Question.

Should Brettenham have street names?

>>>>>>

- 49% - Yes
- 35% - No
- 16% - Had no opinion.

Comments.

Too urban

No one can find me

Emphatically not!

In appropriate style

To help locate houses - fire/ambulance

etc.

NO

People are always lost.

This question has raised a considerable amount of comment both for and against. The problem Brettenham has is that there is no consistency in the house numbering. Adjacent numbers could be some distance apart leaving it very difficult to locate houses let alone the correct road. 35% feel that street name boards would be too urban and half think it essential.

Action Plan.

- Look into cost of providing discreet road signs.
- Prepare large scale map of village for display on notice boards.

Note:- See map at end of document.

17.2 Question.

What do you think of the state of the following?

>>>>>>

- Roads 72% - Good/reasonable.
- Paths 57% - Good/reasonable.
- Verges 71% - Good/reasonable.

Comments.

Garden hedges need trimming back

What pavements?

Verges overgrown.

Stop cars parking on pavements.

The state of the roads and verges in the village were generally considered good with the exception of isolated areas most of which have been brought to the attention of the Highways Dept. The condition of our pavements was not so well regarded with some sections in poor repair and some very narrow due to overhanging hedges.

Action Plan.

- Request that householders cut back their hedges where necessary.
- Check with SCC/BDC re. Pavements.

17.3 Question.

What do you think could be done with the local roads and paths to make the countryside more attractive? >>>>>>

Important/Worth doing

- Remove Litter 85%
- Keep Verges Tidy 80%
- Let Verges Grow. 51%
- Close some footpaths. 10%
- Open more footpaths. 39%
- Create Bridleways. 39%

Holding an annual litter pick was popular when held some years ago and it was suggested that it become a regular event. The problems with FP8 were again raised - these have not been resolved.

Action Plan.

- Work with P.C. to assist with annual litter pick.
- Assistance from BDC as before.

COMMUNITY.

18.1 Question.

If there was a 'Good Neighbour' scheme where people help those less able, would you use it and would you help with it? >>>>>>

- 19% - Yes.
- 61% - No.
- 20% - Did not know.

- 16 - Would help on a weekly basis.
- 33 - Would help monthly
- 83 - Occasionally.

18.2 Question.

How often do you use the following shops and services? >>>>>>

- Hitcham P.O. Stores.
10 : Daily, 33 : Weekly,
71 : Occasionally, 48 : Never.
- Felsham P.O. Stores.
7 : Daily, 25 : Weekly,
89 : Occasionally, 46 : Never
- Lavenham Library.
0 : Daily, 5 : Weekly,
30 : Occasionally, 123 : Never
- Lavenham Pharmacy.
0 : Daily, 7 : Weekly,
110 : Occasionally, 68 : Never
- Bildeston Shops.
2 : Daily, 19 : Weekly,
83 : Occasionally, 54 : Never.

18.3 Question.

Do you require assistance with various aspects of shopping. >>>>>>

- 99% - No to all.

The idea of a formal 'Good Neighbour' scheme was fairly well received and, although most would not need it themselves, a substantial number felt they could make use of it and a pleasing number of individuals said they would help.

Action Plan.

- **Consult Suffolk Acre**
- **Via Parish magazine locate those in need of help and put them in touch with near neighbours who would be prepared to help.**

'Use it or lose it' is the phrase most associated with small local businesses so the results to this question were most illuminating. Lavenham and Bildeston seem to be out of the way for Brettenham people with the two nearest P.O. Stores sharing almost equal custom. Brettenham is served by the Mobile Library and the local Health Clinic has a Pharmacy which may have impacted on the results.

Action Plan.

- **Pass results to all bodies involved in order that they may consider advertising in magazine or notice board.**

It is hoped a 'Good Neighbour' scheme will assist the few with problems.

19.1 Question.

If the following services were available would you use them?

>>>>>>

- Grocer 32% - Yes
- Library 31% - Yes
- Banking 27% - Yes
- Butcher 33% - Yes
- Milkman 38% - Yes

It would seem that most people would prefer to shop in the local town shops or supermarket and that mobile services would not be terribly well supported. There is both a milkman and now a butcher visiting the village as well as the mobile library. We omitted to mention the newspaper round so have no feedback on this.

19.2 Question.

How many times a month do you use the following services?

>>>>>>

- Post Office Counters
23 : 10+ times, 120 : 0 - 10 times, 26 : Never.
- Bank Counter Services.
16 : 10+ times, 110 : 0 - 10 times, 33 : Never.
- Cash Points.
20 : 10+ times, 93 : 0 - 10 times, 37 : Never.
- Building Society.
4 : 10+ times, 67 : 0 - 10 times, 85 : Never.

The value of our local Post Offices is well illustrated here in the amount of use that is made of the wide spread of services offered. It is now possible to carry out a number of Banking services at the Post Office thus saving longer trips to town. There are no cash points within an eight mile radius of the village.

19.3 Question.

If you use a local Post Office do you use it for?

>>>>>>

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| | Yes |
| • Postal Services | 139 |
| • Pensions/Savings/Giro | 46 |
| • Vehicle Tax/TV/Bills | 136 |
| • Information Leaflets | 36 |

Action Plan.

- Investigate the provision of a list of services offered by each Post Office for village notice board.

The results to this question are largely covered by the notes above. It is pleasing to see so many positive replies. Can also be used for currency exchange.

19.4 Question.

If a community shop were opened in Brettenham would you use it or help with it?

>>>>>>

- 78% Would use daily or occasionally.
- 24% Would help.

Action Plan.

- Despite response, not likely to be viable due to small catchment area.

This suggestion has been well received and would be used if both stock and price levels were right. It was pointed out that our original Post Office was little used.

20.1 Question.

If there was an Internet shopping scheme in Brettenham would you be interested in using it? >>>>>>

- 29% - Yes
- 71% - No.

There are already a number of households in the village who use the Internet to shop but the response was rather low. If those people would be prepared to join with others perhaps an item in the Magazine would be useful.

INFORMATION

20.2 Question.

Where do you usually get information about events taking place in Brettenham? >>>>>>

- Notice Board 39
- Parish Magazine 178
- Other sources 26

This question has illustrated just how good the Magazine is in promoting village events. All organisations should be encouraged to make full use of this facility

Comments.
Word of Mouth.

Action Plan.

- Consider provision of a larger parish notice board as existing one mainly used for Council items.

20.3 Question.

In relation to information, do you think the village needs? >>>>>>

- Another Notice Board 15
- Local Information Point 33
- Displayed Village Map 73

This raised a number of comments as follows:-

Village not big enough for another notice board.
Too urban
A notice board for bus timetables.
Displayed Village Map showing street names and house numbers.

20.4 Question.

Do you think the information available about what's going on is? >>>>>>

- Good 69%
- Reasonable 27%
- Poor 0%
- No opinion 4%

There were no comments made about this question as most points have been covered elsewhere.

20.5 Question.

When Broadband becomes available will you use it? >>>>>>

- 159 People Yes.

Broadband is due this year and it seems that those using the internet will make use of it. Consider provision of Internet point in Village Hall

21.1 Question.

If you are seeking employment how do you get information about jobs? >>>>>>

- 18% - Job Centres.
- 19% - Word of Mouth
- 29% - Local Press.
- 17% - County Press
- 17% - Internet

21.2 Question.

Would a job vacancy board displayed in Brettenham be useful? >>>>>>

- 25% - Very useful.
- 15% - Quite useful.
- 29% - Useful.
- 31% - No use at all.

21.3 Question.

Would you be prepared to help with? >>>>>>

- Parish Magazine. 33
- Tree Warden. 17
- Neighbourhood Watch. 42
- Village Hall. 35
- Parish Council. 24
- Planning Village Events. 45

LEISURE.

21.4 Question.

Do you participate in any of the following Brettenham/Thorpe activities? >>>>>>

- Drama Club 13
- Musical activities 8
- Whist Drives 1
- Gardening Club 4
- Dining Club 21
- Swimming Club 22

The sources of job information are spread evenly over the various options. The use of the internet is an interesting development in these technical times.

Action Plan

- Obtain details of job web sites for inclusion in magazine.
- Advertise local vacancies on Brettenham Web site.

Although 40% of respondents said the a job vacancy board would be useful in the village, servicing it would be a problem.

Action Plan.

- Offer village web site as notice board via magazine.

In most communities it is the same individuals who take on most of the work so the number of volunteers for the various organisations is very encouraging.

Action Plan.

- Send form out with magazine / this report to obtain names of those willing to take on various posts that are vacant.

The most striking result to this question was only one responding to the Whist Drive. As these evenings are well attended it would appear that the majority are from outside the village. The Dining and Swimming clubs are well supported. There is now also Carpet Bowls held in the village hall.

22.1 Question.

Which clubs/activities would you attend in Brettenham if they were provided? >>>>>>

- Indoor Bowls 15
- Senior Citizens 11
- Rambling Club 25
- Art Club 18
- Monthly Cinema 47 .

22.2 Question.

If you do not take part in any leisure activities, is it because? >>>>>>

- Do not want to. 78
- Other reasons. 5

22.3 Question.

Would you use the following leisure time activities for young people? >>>>>>

- Summer play scheme. 20
- After school club 12
- Sunday school 12
- Youth Club 16
- Sports. 23

Comments.
Monthly Children's Club
Arts and Crafts.

22.4 Question.

Where would you advertise any event you were organising? >>>>>>

- Notice Board 49
- Parish magazine 57
- Local paper 24
- Post Office 35
- Do not organise. 78

It was pointed out that there are other activities not mentioned such as the Book Club, Cricket Club, Village Inn and individual events organised by the Village Fund.

Action Plan.

- Investigate possibility of Monthly Cinema although this already visits Hitcham close by.

It was disappointing to have so many people who do not support any village event. If the village is to retain a good community spirit it is important for as many as possible to socialise.

The organisations such as Youth Club and Sunday School which have at one time or another existed received very little support. It has been very difficult to find volunteers to organise these before.

Action Plan.

- Carry out magazine survey to see if there are any residents prepared to take on clubs.
- Suggest parents of smaller children might consider some kind of holiday club.
- Investigate if Fund prepared to help financially.

There are few surprises here, most locations for advertising having already been covered elsewhere.

CHURCH.

23.1 Question.

Have you attended the Church in Brettenham? >>>>>

- Within last week. 13
- Within last month. 11
- Within last year 47
- Attend elsewhere 28
- Do not attend anywhere 58

Although only 24 attend on a regular weekly/monthly basis a further 47 have attended at some time during the year and 28 attend elsewhere. The Old Rectory School use the Church on a daily basis but OBH no longer attend.

Comments.
No Family Service.
More welcoming for community activities.
Lack of facilities -toilets etc.

Action Plan.

- **If the Church is to survive and flourish it should consider a need to hold more family friendly services.**

23.2 Question.

Is the Church important to you? >>>>>

- For Sunday worship 39
- For Baptisms 46
- For Weddings/Funerals 87
- For special services 95
- As community focal point 48
- As a historic building 113

The Church is obviously important for members of the village but for very varied reasons. Less than 10% find it important for regular worship, the remainder for occasional special services and events.

23.3 Question.

Would you like to see the Church used for the following? >>>>>

	Yes	No/no opinion
• Concerts.	97	48
• Meetings	44	58
• Playgroup.	22	62

There is support for the Church to be used for other events. Indeed there have been concerts and exhibitions before but are restricted by lack of facilities.

Action Plan.

- **Investigate need for and possibility of providing kitchen/toilet facilities.**

PARISH COUNCIL.

24.1 Question.

Have you ever attended a meeting of the Parish Council? >>>>>>

- 22% - Yes
- 78% - No

It is regrettable that so few people have attended a meeting of the council especially as a large proportion of those responding to the next question are aware of the Public Forum.

24.2 Question.

Are you aware that at all Parish Council meetings there is a Public Forum where anyone can ask questions and have their say? >>>>>>

- 78% - Yes
- 22% - No

This is an ideal opportunity for members of the public to question or clarify any doubts over any decisions taken by the Council and bring up any matters of concern.

Action Plan.

- Promote the Public Forum via magazine/notice board.

24.3 Question.

Have you ever attended the Annual Parish Meeting which is open to all electors of the parish to hear and comment on reports from village organisations and representatives? >>>>>>

- 27% - Yes
- 73% - No

At the Annual Parish Meeting all electors have the opportunity to hear reports from village organisations as well as the County, District and Parish Councils and question their representatives.

24.4 Question.

How well does the Parish Council publicise its decisions and activities? >>>>>>

- 33% - Very well
- 50% - Reasonably well
- 2% - Badly
- 15% - Had no opinion

All Parish Council activities are published monthly in the magazine for all to see together with the notes available in the Church so there is no excuse for anyone not being aware of decisions taken.

24.5 Question.

Are you aware that Parish Council information is available in the Church? >>>>>>

- 55% - Yes
- 45% - No

This is fairly evenly split.

Action Plan.

- Have regular monthly reminder in Parish magazine under P.C. notes.

25.1 Question.

Do you feel your elected representatives in local government are sufficiently aware of local concerns and feelings? >>>>>

- Parish Council 59% Aware
41% Not aware/no opinion
- District Council 47% Aware
53% Not aware/no opinion
- County Council 38% Aware
62% Not aware/no opinion

The Parish Council have come out best in this question with the more remote bodies fairing correspondingly worse.

Action Plan.

- Encourage local people to be more proactive in village politics by attending meetings etc.

25.2 Question.

Do you think sufficient publicity is given to planning applications which affect Brettenham? >>>>>

- 58% - Yes
- 19% - No
- 23% - Had no opinion

Most feel that our P.C. handle planning well. All applications are advertised on the notice board as they come in and comments are always welcome. One person was concerned that all are included the magazine.
Check with P.C.

25.3 Question.

What is your opinion of the way the planning system is implemented in Brettenham? >>>>>

- 86% Are satisfied
- 14% Are dissatisfied.

Comments.
Poor Babergh communication.
If consistent with legislation.
I am unaware how system works and how much say various bodies have.

Action Plan.

- Parish Council to attend training session on New Development Framework.

25.4 Question.

What sort of development would you support in Brettenham? >>>>>

Comments - see page 9.

56% Support small housing developments.
44% Small workshops etc.

25.5 Question.

If items raised in this report need finance where should it come from? >>>>>

- Private Funds 47%
- Taxes 13%
- Fundraising. 40%

People are very resistant to any increases in taxes so these percentages were to be expected.

Action Plan.

- Liaise with Village Fund for possible finance.
- Approach Suffolk Acre for Funding Advice.

General Comments.

This is a general selection of the comments made by **RESPONDENTS** to the questionnaire.

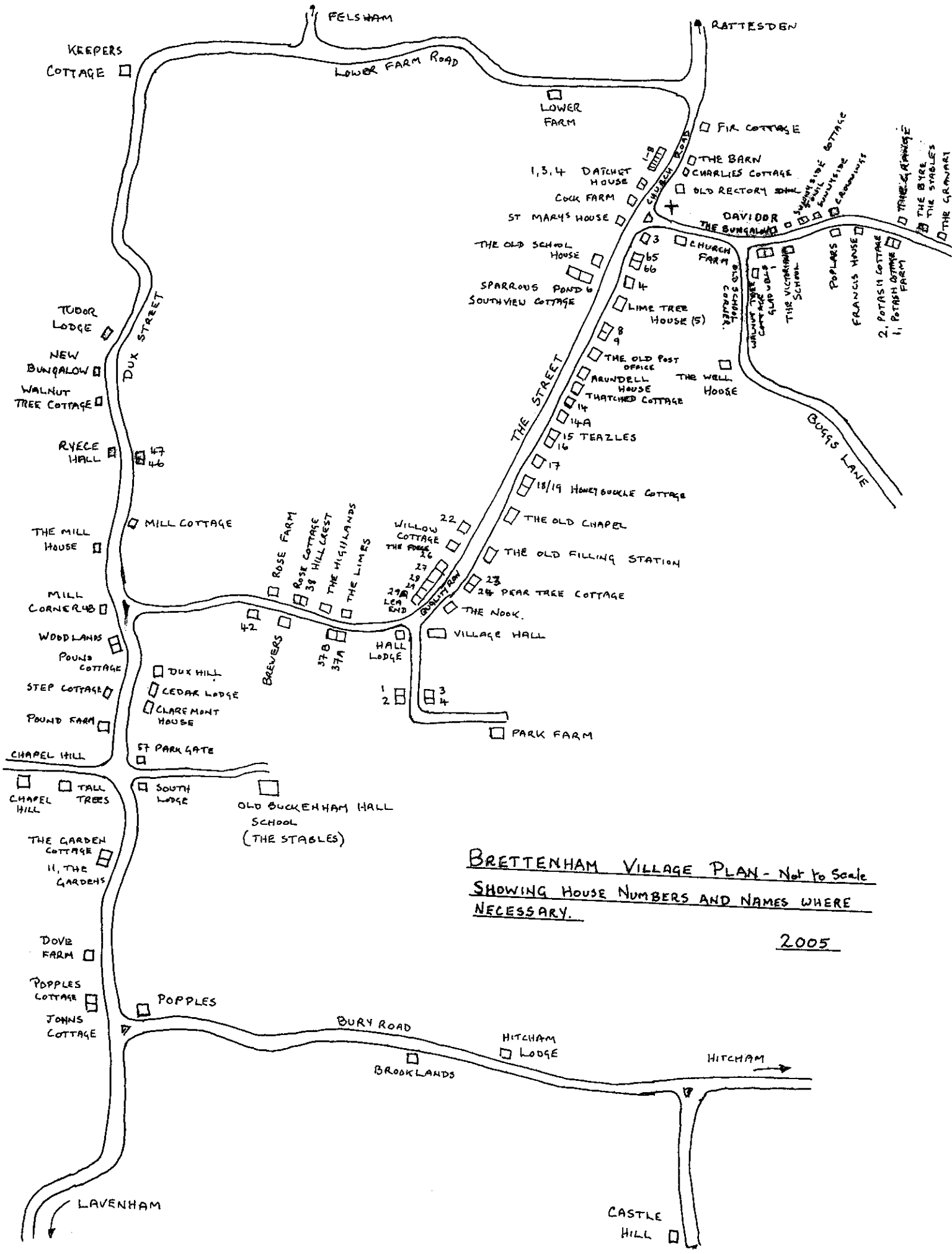
- Well done for asking for input - wholeheartedly support.
- Most of the questionnaire is totally pointless and, we understand has been expensive to produce - another example of 'one size fits all' phenomenon. Brettenham may not be perfect but most of the people who live here do so because of the way it is - warts and all. It does not need to be 'Islingtonised'. There seems to be an obsession with 'organising'.
- The local council looks after our needs and this is a waste of good time and money. The questions asked do not apply to this village, which is self-sufficient.
- Actually the village is pretty good the way it is now. This is my 5th village so I do feel qualified to express this opinion. The only improvement I could suggest is more involvement and contribution by the residents.
- A waste of time and money.
- The planning restrictions in Brettenham are too strict and are preventing much 'new life'. The rural charm of Brettenham should be protected, however, with careful design of country dwellings the balance could be maintained. Current planning is not allowing Brettenham to blossom.
- A search by my solicitor before I purchased my property made it very clear that no more houses could be built in Brettenham.
- Unless some new development (affordable housing) takes place in the village, it is pointless discussing community shops, club activities etc.
- It is ridiculous that in our small village we have different committees for similar objectives.
- Fund raising ideas by the 'fund' must be for the ordinary people of the village. We are not all drinkers and wealthy people.
- Brown bins are a good idea but I don't think we should pay an annual fee for them. I'm disappointed we have no recycling points for glass, paper and clothes now.
- Should there be an internet phone line in the new village hall? Is it possible to have a defibrillator positioned in the village?

BRETENHAM ACTION PLAN.

This table is a summary of the Action Points made in the preceding pages and should be read in conjunction with same.

ISSUE	ACTION	LEAD ORGANISATION	PARTNERS	RESOURCES	PRIORITY
HOUSING Page 9.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate possibility of Low Cost Housing. 	Parish Council	Babergh District Council local housing enabler.	To be researched.	Medium.
ENVIRONMENT Page 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade playground facilities. Footpath maintenance. Litter clearing. 	Parish Council Action Group	Parish Council Suffolk Acre Babergh D.C.	Village Fund Funding Advice. Biffawards	High
TRANSPORT Page 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better information on Bus times /routes. LAMBS Bus. Car Sharing. 	Parish Council Action Group	Suffolk C.C. LAMBS Bus Parish Magazine	Parish Transport Grant. Rural Transport Partnership	Medium
ROADS Page 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speeding problems. Traffic calming. Street Name signs. Re-new pavements in certain areas. 	Parish Council. Action Group	Suffolk C.C. Suffolk Police	Suffolk C.C. Suffolk Police	High
LEISURE Page 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly Cinema. Children's Club/summer play scheme. 	Action Group. Village Hall.	Parish Magazine	Volunteer parents.	Low

ISSUE	ACTION	LEAD ORGANISATION	PARTNERS	RESOURCES	PRIORITY
<p>COMMUNITY Page 18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instigate Good Neighbour scheme. • Advertise list of local services provided by Post Offices. • Shared Internet shopping. 	<p>Parish Council Action Group</p>	<p>Parish Magazine Suffolk Acre</p>	<p>Suffolk Acre</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>INFORMATION Page 20</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of second notice board. • Encourage more people to insert information in magazine. 	<p>Parish Council</p>	<p>Parish Council</p>	<p>Village Fund</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>CHURCH Page 23</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss with PCC the provision of a regular family service, etc. • Investigate provision of facilities with 	<p>Action Group</p>	<p>P.C.C. Village Fund</p>	<p>P.C.C. Village Fund</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>PARISH COUNCIL Page 24</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Public Forum at Council meetings. • Make more aware of PC information in Church. • Raising funds for schemes identified in this report. 	<p>Parish Council</p>	<p>Parish Council Suffolk Acre Parish Magazine</p>	<p>Suffolk Acre Funding Advice</p>	<p>Medium</p>



BRETTEHAM VILLAGE PLAN - Not to Scale
SHOWING HOUSE NUMBERS AND NAMES WHERE
NECESSARY.

2005

Useful Contacts.

(Whilst every effort has been made to ensure these numbers are correct we cannot guarantee their accuracy.)

Citizens Advice Bureau.	676060/676280
Babergh District Council.	01473 822801
Suffolk County Council.	01473 583000
EDF Electricity.	0800 7 838 838
Anglian Water.	0845 7145145
Suffolk Police.	01473 613500
Bildeston Surgery .	740254
West Suffolk Hospital.	01284 713000
Ipswich Hospital.	01473 703522
Stowmarket Tourist Information.	676800
Stowmarket Job Centre.	623500
One Railways.	0800 0525504
National Travel.	0871 200 3456
Local Bus Information.	0870 608 2 608
LAMBS Bus.	01787 888084/247555
Mid-Suffolk Leisure Centre.	674980
Hitcham Post Office.	740224
Felsham Post Office.	736260
Cockfield Post Office.	01284 828201
Bildeston Post Office.	740251
Hadleigh Post Office.	01473 822144
Rattlesden Play Group.	736460
Rattlesden Primary School.	736335
Beyton Middle School.	01359 270347
Thurston Upper School.	01359 230885
Buxhall Crown.	736521
Felsham Bells (Wines).	736268
Hitcham White Horse.	740981
Thorpe Bull.	01284 828320
Greenwood Waste Disposal.	740286
Binders Waste Disposal.	01473 831582
Tramor Waste Disposal.	01787 313795

BRETENHAM ACTION PLAN AND PROGRESS

ISSUE	ACTION	LEAD ORGANISATION	PARTNERS	RESOURCES	PRIORITY	PROGRESS
HOUSING	Investigate possibility of Low Cost Housing	Parish Council	Babergh District Council Local Housing Enabler	To be researched	Medium	No further action at this stage
ENVIRONMENT	Upgrade playground facilities Footpath maintenance Litter clearing	Parish Council Action Group	Parish Council Suffolk Acre Babergh D.C.	To be researched	High	All actioned
TRANSPORT	Better information of bus services/routes LAMBS Bus Car sharing	Parish Council Action Group	Suffolk C.C. LAMBS Bus Parish Magazine	Parish Transport Grant Rural Transport Partnership	Medium	Updated bus services noted in parish magazine and timetables included in PC file in church
ROADS	Speeding problems Traffic calming Street Name signs Renew pavements in certain areas	Parish Council Action Group	Suffolk CC Suffolk Police	Suffolk CC Suffolk Police	High	Method of speed control suggested by SCC was rejected as a result of village survey. White line at VH corner – details in Mag. Widening of pavements underway with SCC Highways.
LEISURE	Monthly Cinema Children's Club/summer play scheme	Action Group Village Hall	Parish Magazine	Volunteer parents	Low	Monthly cinema operative – see Mag Day courses for children undertaken by Rev Law during holidays
COMMUNITY	Investigate Good Neighbour scheme Advertise list of local services provided by Post Offices Shared internet shopping	Parish Council Action Group	Parish Magazine Suffolk Acre	Suffolk Acre	Medium	PC decision not necessary to join SA Good Neighbour scheme since there is already a strong community spirit which would prevail in emergencies
INFORMATION	Provision of second notice board Encourage more people to insert information in magazine	Parish Council	Parish Council	Village Fund	Low	Second noticeboard in existence at village hall. New one at Church. Encouragement for articles in parish magazine.
CHURCH	Discuss with PCC the provision of a regular family service etc. Investigate provision of facilities	Action Group	PCC Village Fund	PCC Village Fund	Low	Regular monthly family service Provision of facilities still outstanding
PARISH COUNCIL	Promote Public Forum at Council meetings Make more aware of PC information in Church Raising funds for schemes identified in this report	Parish Council	Parish Council Suffolk Acre Parish Magazine	Suffolk Acre Funding Advice	Medium	Public Forum takes place at each PC meeting where Cty Cllrs/Dist Cllrs report/discuss, members of the public have a chance to raise issues and reps from organisations in the village report.