



# Whatfield Village Plan

The final report

Whatfield Parish Council



# Whatfield Village Plan

Final Report

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## Whatfield Village Plan Steering Group

- David Cross
- Ruth Lucas
- Pauline Creed
- Marion Leach
- Jean Seabrook
- Joy Wellings

I warmly congratulate all who have been involved in the production of this Plan. It really is a marvellous effort by everyone concerned. In many ways though, the work has only just started as the plan points to the future and I hope that the projects identified will be realised for the village. It is an opportune time to publish a parish plan because they are increasingly being recognised as a link to Strategic Planning Documents. Please be assured I am always available to help you in this in any way I can.



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

Jeremy Pembroke  
Leader Suffolk County Council

Thank you to all concerned for your various inputs towards the production of this plan. as you know I am your representative on the Planning & Development Committee and through the local strategy framework will try my very best to realise your aspirations. The Parish plan will be your blueprint for the future. I have been fighting for years to try and convince the powers that be Whatfield is a sustainable village. I trust your plan will prove that point. Other villages in Babergh have completed their plan which as with yourselves shows a good example of commitment, as your advocate at District Council level I will make every effort for it to succeed.



Thanks once again to all concerned,  
Yours

Brian L. Lazenby  
District Councillor

## We would also like to thank:

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Jeremy Pembroke  
Who provided the funding for this project.

Annette Gray of Suffolk ACRE  
For support and guidance.

Joy Wellings  
For her historical background information.

Whatfield Parish Council  
For their backing and patience.

Our Families  
Who have endured meetings and piles of paper.

## The Parish Plan Exercise



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

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

An open meeting in the village hall, in October 2004 arranged by the Parish Council, confirmed an interest in Whatfield having a village plan.

At that meeting six members of the community volunteered to set up a steering group. Others offered to help the project in different ways as it progressed - for example, by delivering and collecting questionnaires. The meeting also provided the newly elected Steering Group with an opportunity to discover what issues were important to Whatfield's residents.



Suggestion boxes were placed in The Street and the Village Hall and many people took the opportunity to air their view by this means.

The Steering Group did not actually obtain funding from the Countryside Agency but were set on their way by a generous donation from the locality budget of Jeremy Pembroke, our County Councillor.

The Group also attended courses with, and were assisted by, Suffolk ACRE a charity founded in 1937 to tackle the economic, social and environmental needs of communities in Suffolk.

The steering group went on to design a household questionnaire. It dealt mainly with access to essential services, leisure opportunities and community facilities.

The questionnaire also asked a few household questions which were designed to give us all an opportunity to glimpse the general composition of the village homes although the questionnaire was completely confidential.

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

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

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

## Whatfield in the past



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

The name Whatfield has not changed dramatically since the 11th Century when it was known as Quatefelda.

By 1042 the 'Qu' had become 'W' and hence the village became 'Watefelda' - a short step to today's Whatfield.

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

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

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



The work of the United Reform Church began in 1787 and the current Chapel was purchased in 1843. A notice board in the

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

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



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

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

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

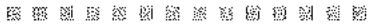
The first Clerk to the Council was paid £5 per year and it remained at this level for 45 years!

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

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

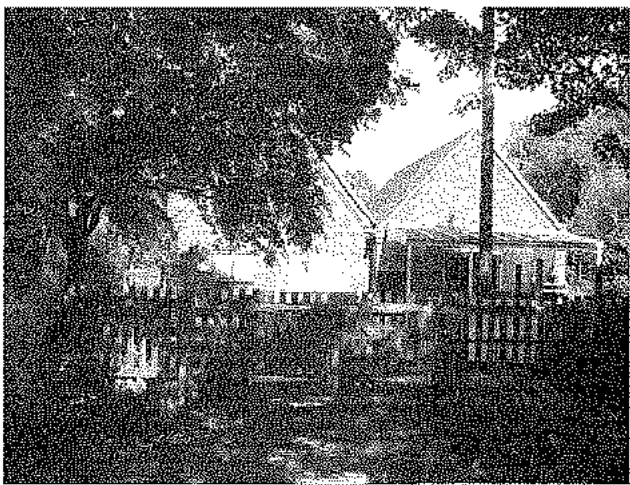
The meadow is one of the few left uncultivated in Suffolk.

## Whatfield today



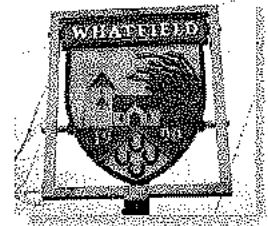
The last figures published show the Parish of Whatfield to be made up of 134 households with a total population of 310 people. The vast majority of properties are owner occupied. Only 3 new houses have been built in Whatfield since the 1991 census.

Over the last 25 years, whilst the population has remained fairly static, the village has lost 2 shops (one with Post Office facilities), a garage and pub. This may be inevitable due to many factors, such as out of town retail development and soaring property prices, however Whatfield can boast a fine primary school which has seen two new extensions built over the same period that the other services declined.



A strong village community spirit has been responsible for raising much of the money for these constructions. For more info: [www.whatfield.suffolk.sch.uk](http://www.whatfield.suffolk.sch.uk)

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



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

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

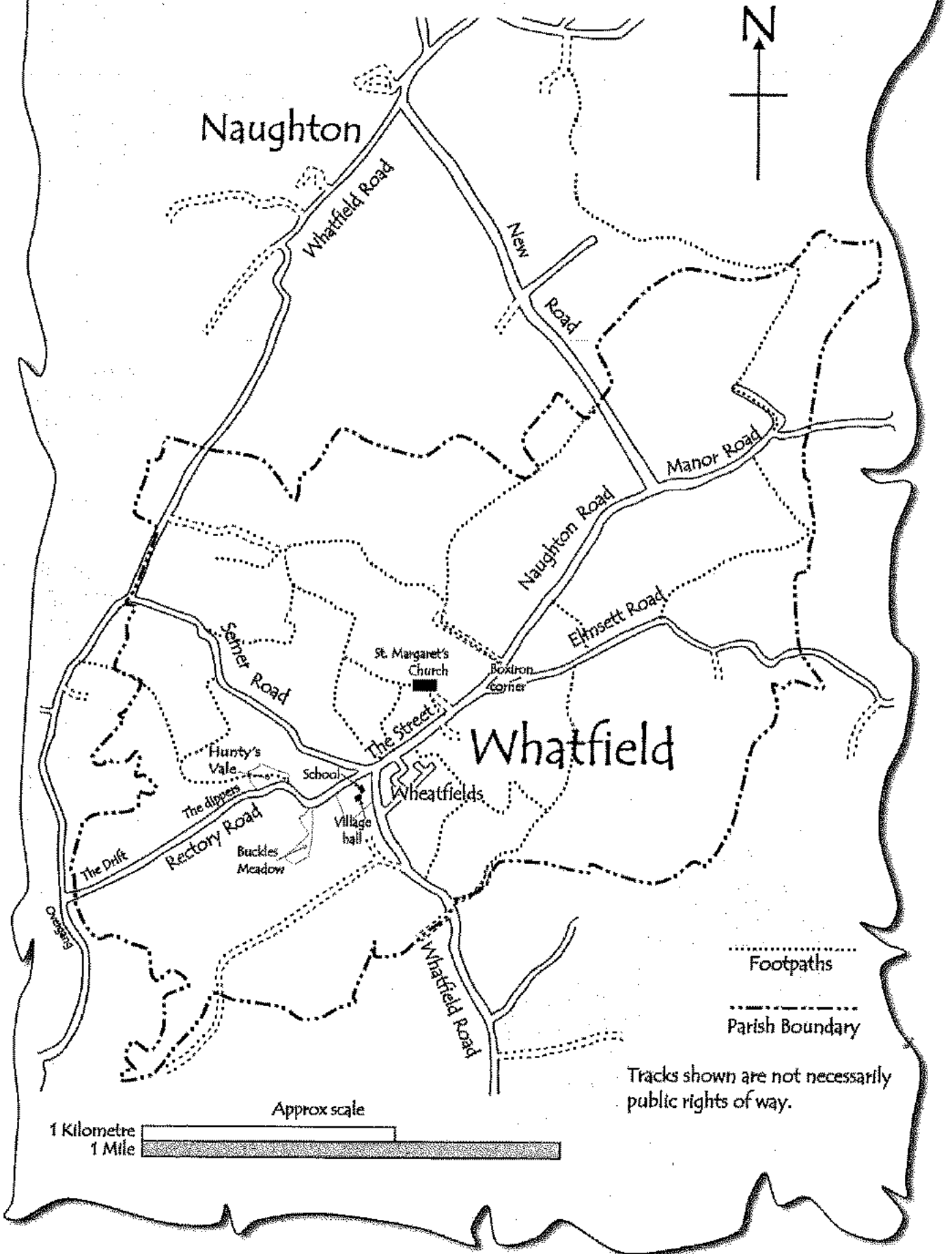


The United Reform Church continues as a place of worship and social meeting place.

The Salvation Army Hall is not only a place of regular worship but, since 1999, hosts a bi-weekly CAMEO (come and meet each other) get-together.

The community owned land and village spaces are well cared for by the Parish Council's team of Land Management, Wild Life, Tree and Footpath volunteers. They are currently in discussions with Babergh and Suffolk Wildlife Trust as how best we can maintain and improve our countryside environment.

# The Parish of Whatfield



## Findings from the completed questionnaires

.....

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

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

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

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

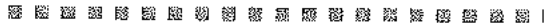


## What we like most about living in Whatfield

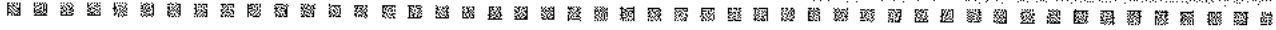
.....

- The pure enjoyment of living in the countryside was far and away the most popular reason given for enjoying Whatfield living. Many mention the delightful views.
- Peace and quiet and a good community spirit are comments that were repeated time and time again in the replies.
- Good neighbours and friendly people reinforced the view above.
- Being close to (but far enough away) from the amenities provided by Hadleigh.
- Freedom from urban attitudes and a relaxing way of life were other popular responses.
- Many people enjoy the local walks.
- The lack of crime and general safety was cited by many residents as an import factor in their affection for Whatfield.
- There were many other individual reasons given for why we like living in Whatfield including our lack of street lights, being woken up by cockerels and being near to the Buy Rite store!

# The Household Survey



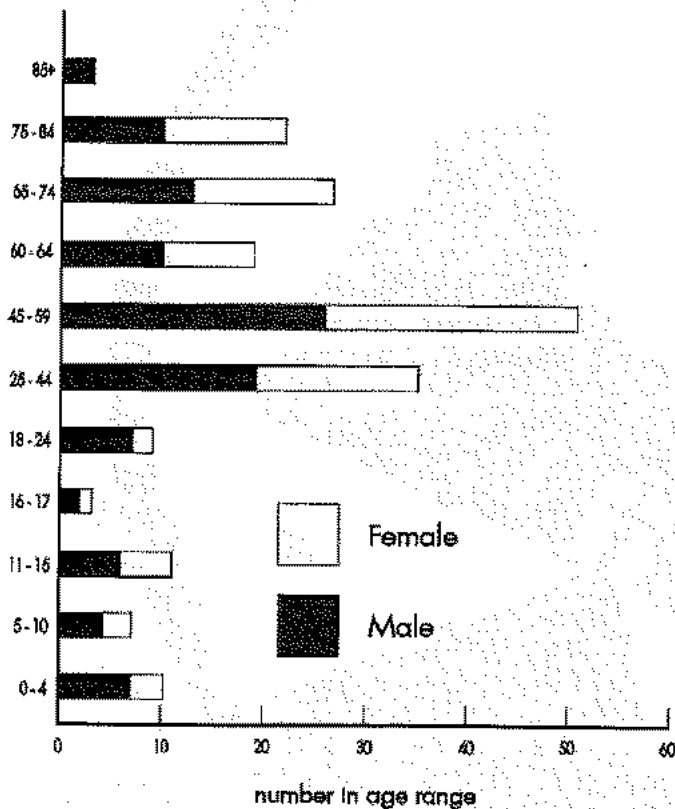
This part of the questionnaire provides us with some background information about our households. It was completed by everyone who participated in this survey.



88 households completed the questionnaire.

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

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



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

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

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



# The Personal Survey



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



## Our Population

### How long have you lived in Whatfield?

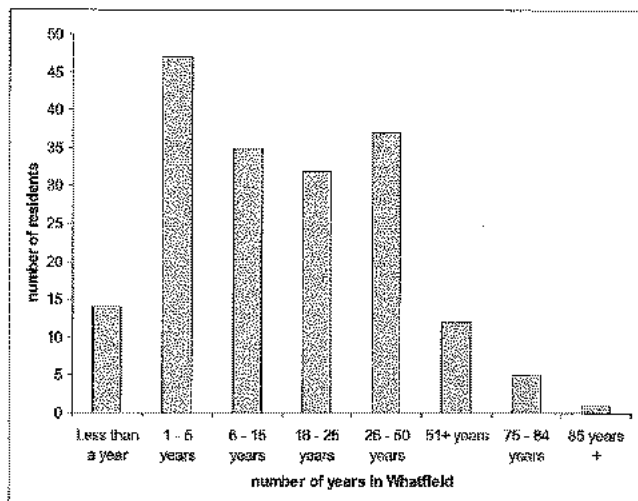
182 people answered this question



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



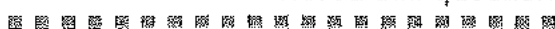
As the chart below shows there are however a large number of well settled people who give the village a welcome stability.



## Education

### Numbers of children attending some form of preschool, school or college.

18 households answered this question



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

9 children attend various preschool groups.

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

13 children attend secondary schools.

6 young persons are at university or college.

## Personal Transport

### How many road vehicles are used by your household?

88 households answered this question



Surprisingly there are 70 bicycles in the 88 households who answered this question.

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

Only 8 motorcycles were recorded.

# Information and Communication

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**Which of the following do you personally read/use to gain information about what is happening in and around Whatfield?**

172 people answered this question

\*\*\*\*\*

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

122 (71%) also cite The Roundabout.

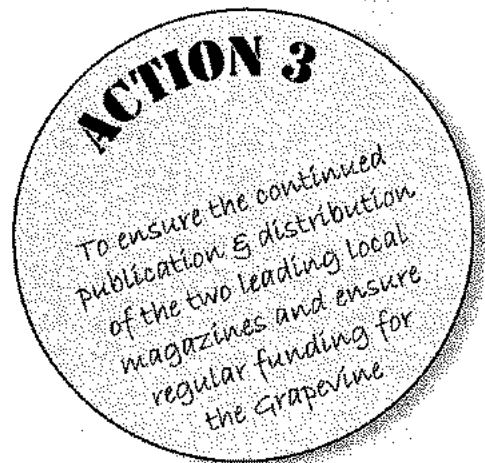
107 (62%) use the more tradition local newspapers.

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

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

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

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



## How useful do you find the various methods of village communication?

171 people answered this question

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

Method	very poor	poor	useful	very useful	excellent
Roundabout	8%	2%	35%	22%	16%
Grapevine	5%		33%	24%	22%
EADT Evening Star	4%	12%	26%	16%	4%
Wheatfields noticeboard	4%	7%	24%	8%	2%
Village Hall noticeboard	3%	5%	21%	6%	2%
Word of mouth	2%	5%	34%	23%	8%

## Do you access the internet?

169 people answered this question

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

Of Whatfield's 22 school children, 5 use the internet daily at school, 8 weekly and 6 occasionally.

9 people occasionally visit internet cafes and one person uses the facility at a library on a daily basis.

### Do you think the Village should have its own website?

155 people answered this question  
\*\*\*\*\*

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

This clearly indicates a healthy interest in moving forward.

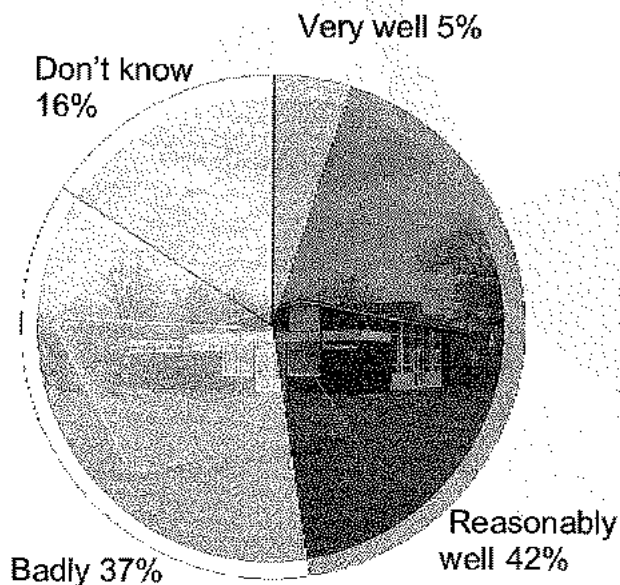
**ACTION 4**  
Examine the practicalities of setting up a Whatfield website and investigate if any resident could set-up and run such a site.

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

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

### How well do you think the Parish Council publicises its' decisions and activities?

177 people answered this question  
\*\*\*\*\*



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

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

### How well do you think the Community Council publicises its decisions and activities?

177 people answered this question  
\*\*\*\*\*

Again there seems room for improvement.

- 17 (10%) say this is done very well
- 90 (51%) say reasonably well
- 40 (23%) say badly
- 30 (17%) don't know

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





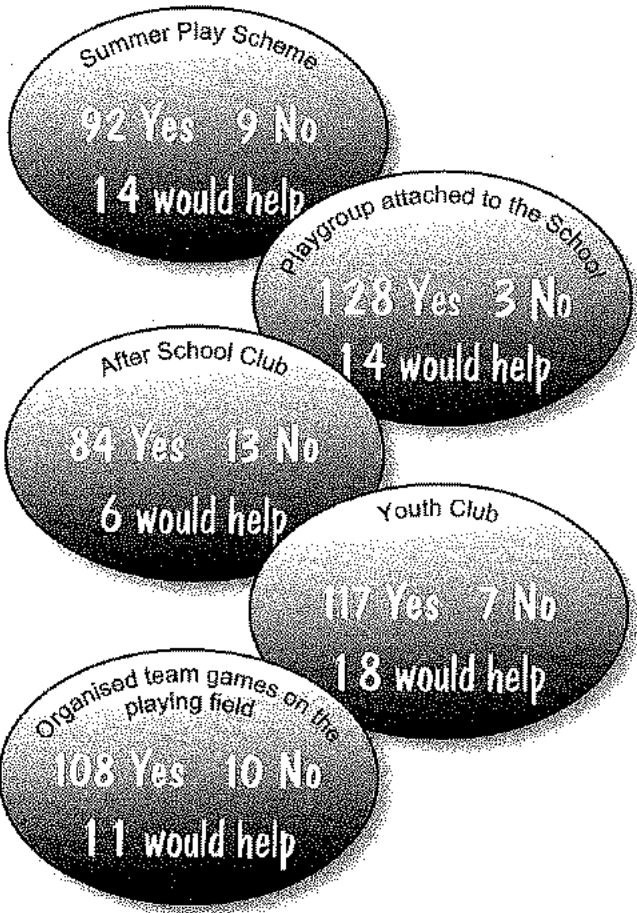


**Do you think the following educational and leisure activities should be provided for the young people of the village?**

154 people answered this question

**Would you be prepared to help with any of these activities for young people of the village?**

124 people answered this question



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

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

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

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

## RELIGION

**Is St. Margaret's Church important to you for:**

151 people answered this question

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

**Is the Salvation Army Hall important to you for:**

55 people answered this question

- 24 (44%) regard it as important for worship
- 54 (98%) regard it as important socially

**Is the Chapel important to you for:**

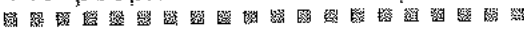
34 people answered this question



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

**Would you like to see any of Whatfield's places of worship used as a meeting place for any of the following activities?**

146 people answered this question



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

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

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

**ACTION 12**

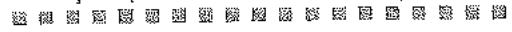
*Ask the relevant bodies if they would be happy for their facilities to be used for meetings or concerts.*

**SERVICES**

**(including emergency services)**

**Is there a need for a Good Neighbour scheme in Whatfield?**

165 people answered this question

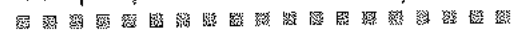


97 people (59%) feel there is a need for a 'good neighbour' type scheme.

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

**How often would you be prepared to help a Good Neighbour scheme in Whatfield?**

149 people answered this question



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

**ACTION 13**

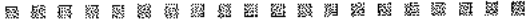
*Establish and maintain a 'Good Neighbour' scheme covering the whole village*





**Are you aware there is a neighbourhood watch scheme in Whatfield?**

176 people answered this question



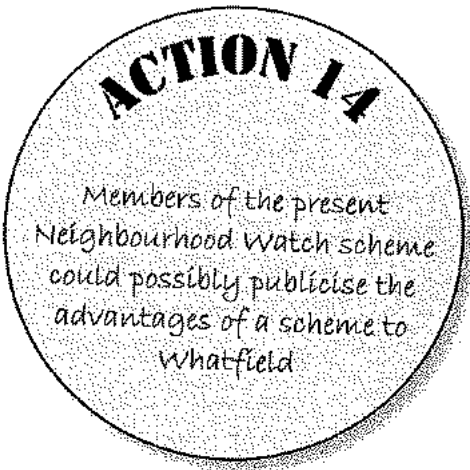
This question threw up some interesting and possibly strange responses.



126 (59%) of those answering the question were aware that a scheme existed, however only 16 (7%) were already members and only 13 people expressed any interest

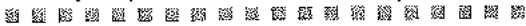
in joining the scheme. 40 people were not aware a scheme already existed and 20 people actively stated they had no interest in joining a scheme.

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



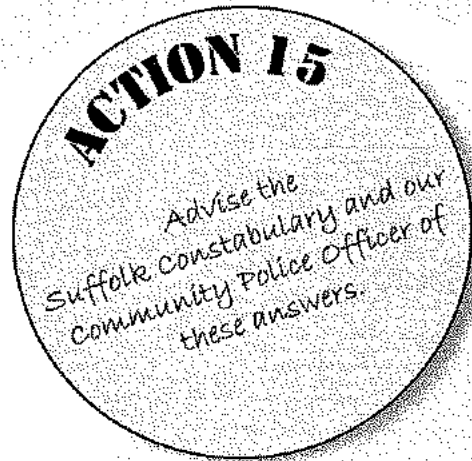
**How do you regard the police coverage of Whatfield?**

174 people answered this question



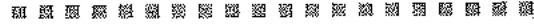
The 14 who answered 'Good' combined with the 54 'Reasonable' were marginally out-voted by the 70 (40%) who considered that the police coverage was poor.

36 people expressed 'no opinion'



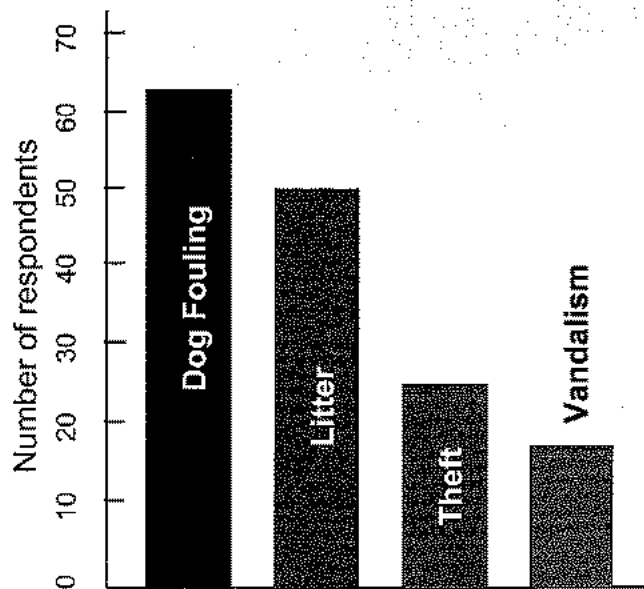
**Do you feel the following are issues in Whatfield?**

105 people answered this question



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

The remaining replies are somewhat predictable:









As can be seen, from the table on the previous page, the majority of those answering would like to see improved frequency. Changes to available routes was the other widely supported topic.

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

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

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

154 people answered this question



29 (19%) people would like one bus shelter. 86 (56%) wanted two shelters to be provided and 39 (25%) specifically answered 'No'.

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

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

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

144 people answered this question

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

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

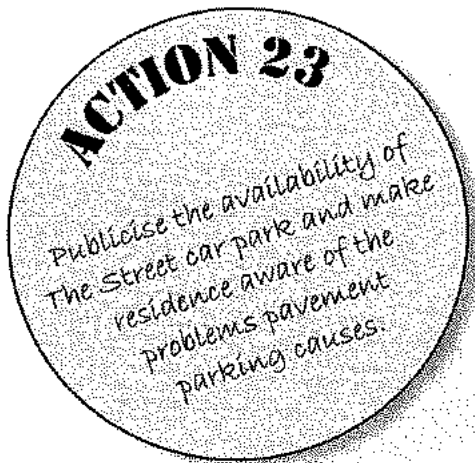
33 people answered this question

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

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

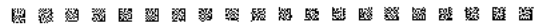
Some cars are parked half on the road with their wheels on the pavement and 11 people have highlighted vehicles blocking pathways as a problem. This specifically affects some wheel or pushchair users who are forced into the road.

19 people answered that they have problems with their entrance being blocked.



**Would you like to see pavements in areas where none exist?**

169 people answered this question

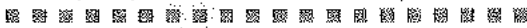


	Yes	No
The Street and Naughton Road	121	45
Wheatfields	15	44
Rectory Road	21	56

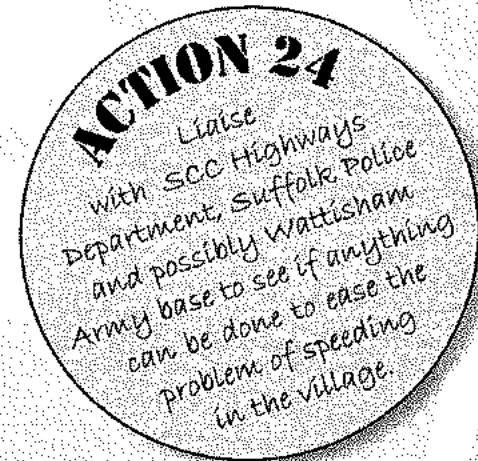
**The Street and Naughton Road** attracted 68 people wanting the existing 30 mph limit to be reduced. 102 thought some form of traffic calming should be introduced and 121 wanted pavements.

**What is your view of the speed limit in Whatfield?**

175 people answered this question



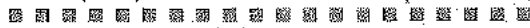
	Yes	No
Adequate	96	11
Should be reduced in the Street and Naughton Road	68	24
Should be increased in the Street and Naughton Road	2	35
Should be reduced in Wheatfields	20	23
Should be introduced for Rectory Road	59	12



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

**Do you think some form of traffic calming should be introduced?**

160 people answered this question



	Yes	No
The Street and Naughton Road	102	54
Wheatfields	14	60
Rectory Road	26	59

**Rectory Road** - 59 want a speed limit to be introduced against 12 who don't. The majority were also against any form of traffic calming or pavements in this unspoiled rural lane.



**Do you consider there is a need for a weight restriction on lorries using the village?**

173 people answered this question



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

	Yes	No
The Street	110	58
Naughton Road	94	60
Wheatfields	79	49

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

**Would you be interested in a car sharing scheme?**

165 people answered this question



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

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

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

174 people answered this question



121 people would like to see more off street parking or lay-by(s). 53 people did not want to see more parking places.

**ENVIRONMENT**

**Would you be prepared to help with any of the following?**

107 people answered this question



	People prepared to help
Maintaining footpaths	34
Work to maintain village land	31
A wildfire audit	63



**What do you think should be done to improve the countryside and protect the wildlife round the village?**

173 people answered this question

\*\*\*\*\*

	Very Important		Worth Doing		Not Necessary		Don't Know	
Improve the wildlife habitat on Buckles Meadow	54	(31%)	65	(38%)	27	(16%)	23	(13%)
Improve the wildlife habitat on Hunty's Vale	55	(32%)	75	(43%)	16	(9%)	26	(15%)
Improve the wildlife habitat on the village land in the drift	59	(34%)	53	(31%)	29	(17%)	24	(14%)
Plant more trees	56	(32%)	55	(32%)	28	(16%)	20	(12%)
Plant more hedges	55	(32%)	37	(21%)	35	(20%)	30	(17%)
Nature trail	31	(18%)	51	(30%)	38	(22%)	36	(21%)

Buxton Corner, Whatfield

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

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

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

Although not so enthusiastically supported the majority would also like to see more hedges and the creation of a nature trail.

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

**ACTION 31**  
Undertake a feasibility study into the possibility of developing a Nature Trail

**What is your opinion of the appearance of the following open public spaces?**

171 people answered this question



	Good		Reasonable		Poor		No Opinion	
Village Green	123	72%	49	29%	0	0%	5	3%
Church Yard	79	46%	62	36%	17	10%	16	9%
Hunty's Vale	24	14%	77	45%	39	23%	30	18%
Buckle's Meadow	41	24%	96	56%	4	2%	29	17%
Village land in the drift	30	18%	93	54%	26	16%	16	9%
Grass areas in the village	51	30%	93	54%	11	6%	14	8%
Verges on the outskirts of the village	22	13%	112	65%	31	18%	5	3%
The ford and overgang	39	23%	111	65%	11	6%	9	5%

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

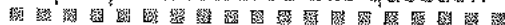
The majority also approved of the verges on the outskirts.

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

Possibly dog litter bins would help both physically and psychologically but whether we need to erect more signs around the village may be open to debate.

**Is dog fouling a problem in the following parts of the village?**

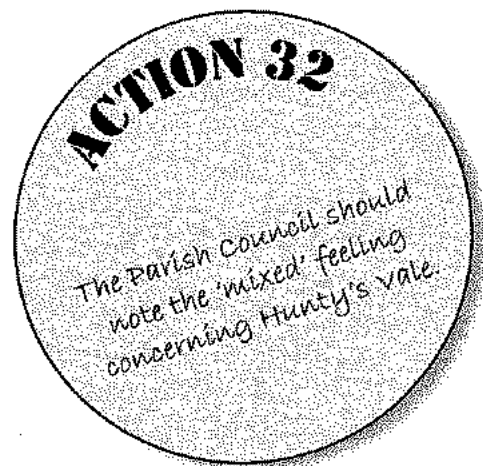
63 people answered this question



Only 63 people answered this question but 44 of these identified roads, pavements and verges as problem areas.

30 of them thought similarly about roads and verges around the village.

Footpaths attracted 27 critics, the School playing field 14, Buckle's Meadow 7, Churchyard 4, Allotments 3 and Hunty's Vale bringing up the rear with 1.



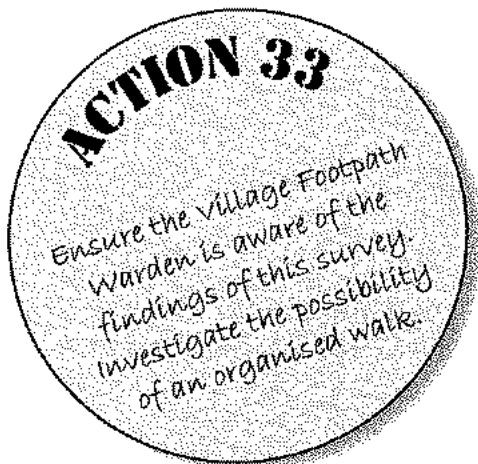
**What do you know about local footpaths and bridleways?**

168 people answered this question

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

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

Sign posting has improved since this survey.



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

145 people answered this question



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

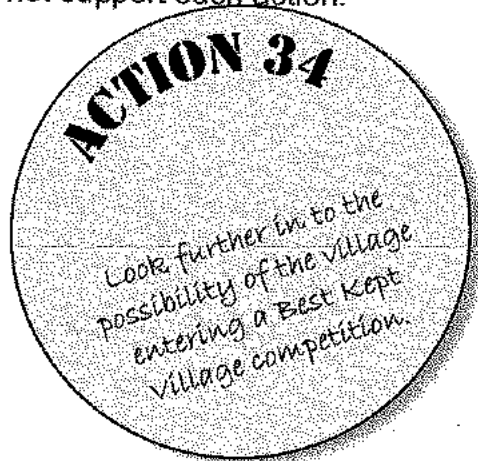
There are some 'eyesore areas' and the Parish Council are aware of these

and are contacting the owners with a view to improving the situation.

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

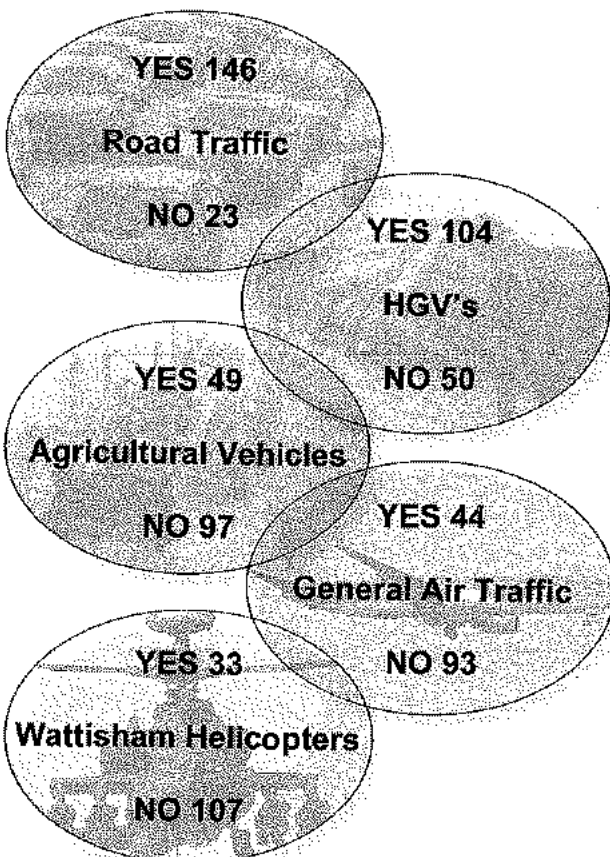
132 people answered this question

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



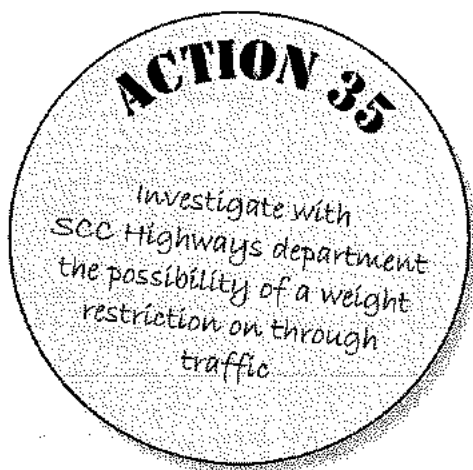
**Are you concerned about the effect of the following on the village?**

176 people answered this question



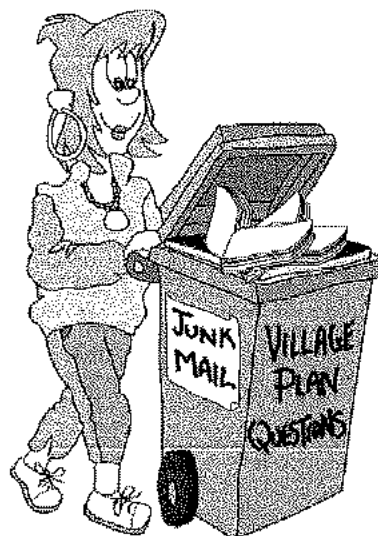
Again we find that road traffic is a major issue for the village.

This issue has already been raised under Action 28 and to a certain extent Action 24. A weight restriction might provide a possible solution for the HGV question but there seems little can be done to restrict the volume of cars.



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

167 people answered this question  
 □



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

Overall people seem happy with waste disposal facilities.

The full results were:  
 (as % of all those answering the question):

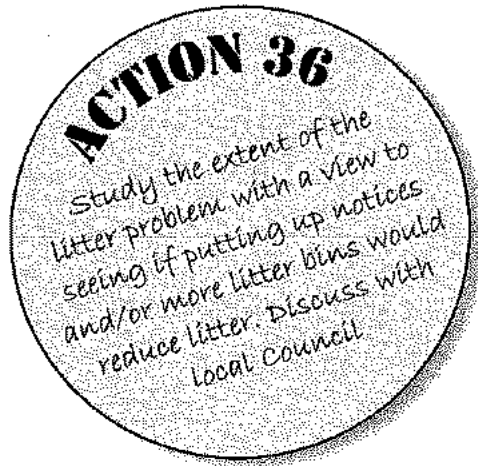
	Happy	Not happy
Items that cannot be put into the wheelie bins	47%	33%
Garden Waste	66%	17%
General Waste	78%	17%
Textiles	78%	8%
Recyclable packaging etc.	87%	6%
Glass	89%	2%
Paper	89%	3%

**Is litter a problem in the following parts of the village?**

170 people answered this question



	% saying 'Yes'
Roadways, pavements and verges in the village.	14%
Roadways and verges around the village.	19%
Public footpaths	4%
Hunty's Vale	1%
Buckle's Meadow	0%
Church Yard	1%
School Playing Field	15%
Allotments	0%
Other	2%



**HOUSING**

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

140 people answered this question



	People in favour
1 to 2 houses	10
2 to 5 houses	16
5 to 10 houses	30
20+ houses	35
Affordable homes	114
Commercial	6
Light/Cottage industry	26
Other	3

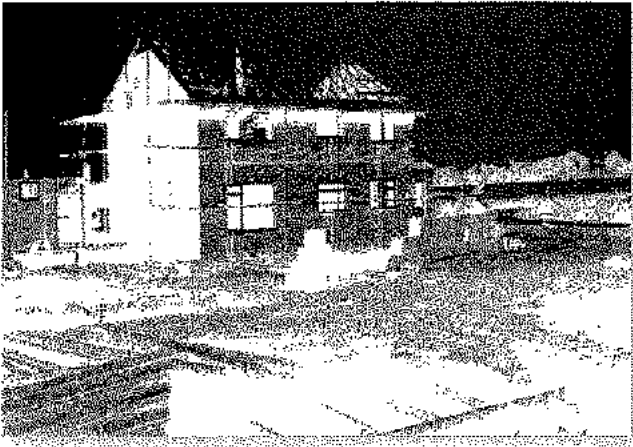
140 out of a potential 197 people answered this question.

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

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

More regular visits from the road sweeper might be beneficial.

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



**GENERAL**

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

139 people answered this question



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

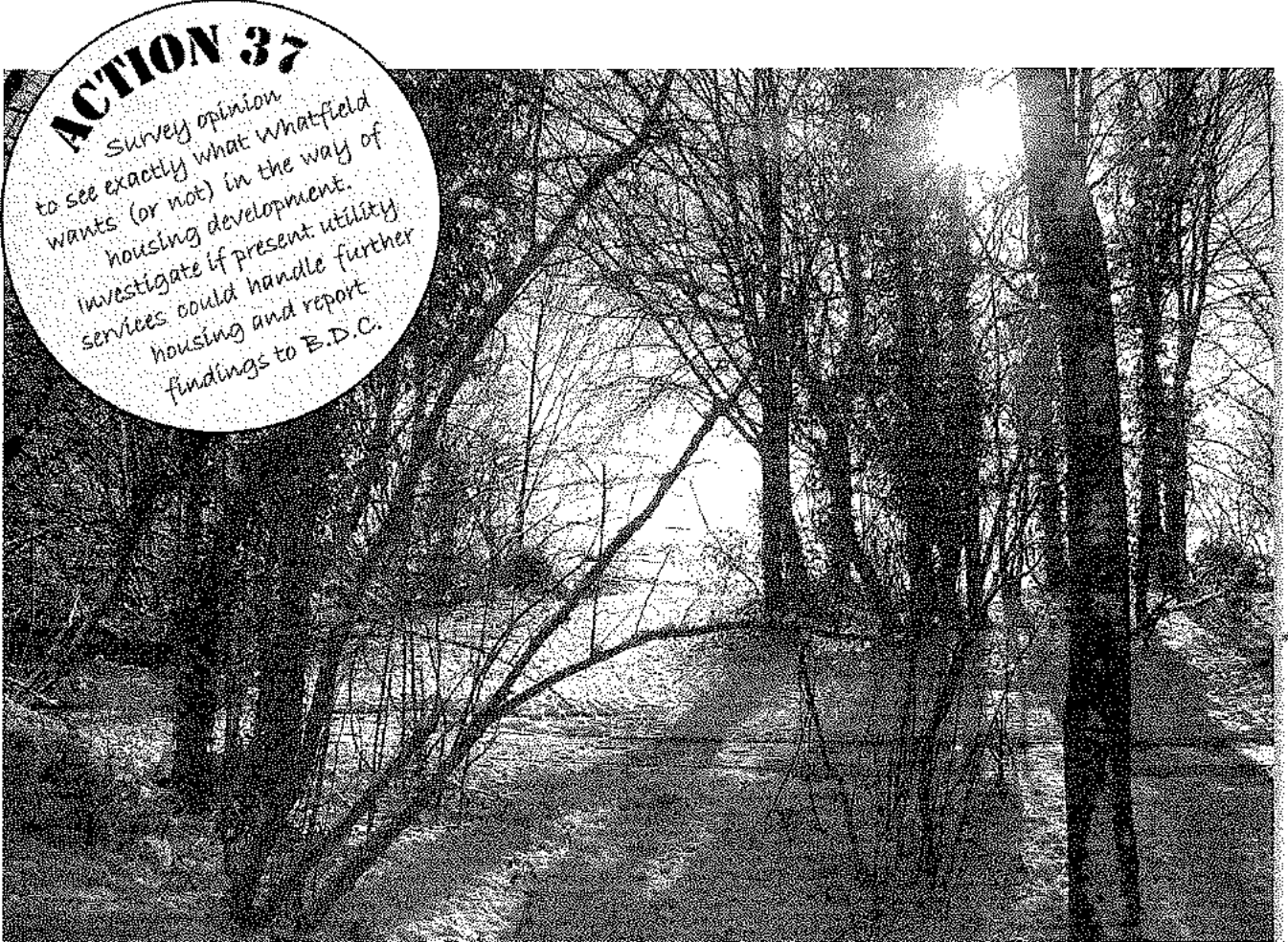
Building is a contentious issue, with some villagers vehemently against whilst others are just as committed to expansion.

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

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

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

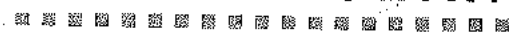
Sponsorship in the form of Grant Support etc. is always a possibility.



**ACTION 37**

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

## WHAT DO WE DO NOW?



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

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

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

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

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

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



## WHATFIELD VILLAGE PLAN

- Help with Village Hall spring cleaning or redecoration
  
- Help with the organisation of any of the following clubs or activities:
- Adult leisure classes
- Art Club
- Choir
- Creative arts for children
- Flower Club
- Gardening Club
- Music Club
- Rambling Club
- Senior citizens group
- Sewing group
- Sporting activities
- Film nights
- Luncheon clubs
- Postage stamp machine
- University of the Third Age
- Whilst Drive
  
- Help with any of the following activities for young people
- Play group attached to school
- Summer Play Scheme
- After School Club
- Youth Club
- Organised team games on the playing field
- Other (please advise)

Help with a Good Neighbour scheme

Join a bulk heating oil purchase scheme

Help man a Community Shop

Take part in a car sharing scheme

Help with any of the following countryside and wild life projects:

Maintaining Footpaths

Work to maintain village land

Wild Life audit

Help set up and/or run a Whatfield website

Organise a concert in a 'new' Whatfield venue

Name

Address

Telephone number

Email





## WHATFIELD ACTION PLAN (2007 - 2012)

This plan will be reviewed at Parish Council Meetings over the next 5 years.  
This plan will become a working document, and time-scales will be adjusted.

*These actions are listed under headings which will bring the plan into line with Blocks in the Local Strategic Partnership's Community Strategies.*

Proposed action	LEAD ORGANISATION and others possibly involved	Suggested time-scale
<b>AFORDABLE HOUSING MARKET HOUSING</b>		
<b>ACTION 37</b> Survey opinion to see exactly what Whatfield wants (or not) in the way of housing development. Investigate if present utility services could handle further housing and report findings to B.D.C.	PARISH COUNCIL Babergh District Council	Within 2 years
<b>CULTURAL SPORTING &amp; RECREATIONAL FACILITIES</b>		
<b>ACTION 10</b> All village bodies should get together to find out who would be interested in organising new clubs.	PARISH COUNCIL VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE COMMUNITY COUNCIL	Within 2 years
<b>ACTION 11</b> Meet with potential volunteers in an attempt to generate some organised leisure time activities for our young people.	PARISH COUNCIL VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE COMMUNITY COUNCIL	Within 2 years
<b>ACTION 12</b> Ask the relevant bodies if they would be happy for their facilities to be used for meetings or concerts. Advise the replies to any interested parties.	PARISH COUNCIL Church, Chapel, Salvation Army	Within 2 years
<b>PUBLIC TRANSPORT</b>		
<b>ACTION 21</b> Carry out a survey to find out exactly what additions or changes to the bus service would be regularly supported.	PARISH COUNCIL	Within 3 years
<b>TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT</b>		
<b>ACTION 24</b> Liaise with SCC Highways Department, Suffolk Police and possibly Wattisham Army base to see what can be done to ease the problem of speeding in the village.	PARISH COUNCIL S.C.C.Highways Dept. Police, Wattisham Army	Within 2 years
<b>ACTION 25</b> Investigate with SCC Highways Department whether a speed limit could be introduced in Rectory Road.	PARISH COUNCIL S.C.C.Highways Dept.	Within a year
<b>ACTION 28</b> Contact SCC Highways Department to investigate whether signs could be introduced that would take traffic away from the village back onto the main B1115	PARISH COUNCIL S.C.C.Highways Dept.	Within 2 years

<p><b>ACTION 35</b> Investigate with SCC Highways department the possibility of a weight restriction on through traffic.</p>	<p>PARISH COUNCIL S.C.C.Highways Dept.,</p>	<p>Monitor annually</p>
<p><b>PARKING</b> <b>ACTION 23</b> Publicise the availability of The Street car park and make residents aware of the problems pavement parking causes.</p>	<p>PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY COUNCIL</p>	<p>Within a year</p>
<p><b>ACTION 29</b> Although it may be difficult to find alternative parking solutions, the number of positive replies indicate further analysis of the problem should be undertaken.</p>	<p>PARISH COUNCIL</p>	<p>Within 2 years</p>
<p><b>ROAD &amp; FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE</b> <b>ACTION 26</b> Identify the exact deficiencies people feel exist in the village's pavements and footpaths.</p>	<p>PARISH COUNCIL</p>	<p>Within a year</p>
<p><b>ACTION 33</b> Ensure the Village Footpath Warden is aware of the findings of this survey. Investigate the possibility of an organised walk.</p>	<p>PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY COUNCIL</p>	<p>Within a year</p>
<p><b>SHOPPING &amp; SERVICES</b> <b>ACTION 17</b> Monitor Broadband reception in the village to enable users to speak authoritatively about problems to their service providers.</p>	<p>PARISH COUNCIL</p>	<p>Within a year</p>
<p><b>ACTION 20</b> Promote a feasibility study for a community shop with an eye to its social value as well as its convenience.</p>	<p>PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY COUNCIL</p>	<p>Within 3 years</p>
<p><b>BUILT ENVIRONMENT</b> <b>ACTION 27</b> Conduct a survey to see exactly where street lighting is required and to establish the reasons for the obvious disparity of opinions.</p>	<p>PARISH/COUNCIL</p>	<p>Within a year</p>
<p><b>NATURAL ENVIRONMENT</b> <b>ACTION 30</b> Continue the work currently underway to improve the wildlife habitat.</p>	<p>PARISH COUNCIL</p>	<p>Monitor progress annually</p>

ACTION 31	Undertake a feasibility study into the possibility of developing a Nature Trail.	PARISH COUNCIL Whatfield CEVCP School	Within 5 years
ACTION 32	The Parish Council should note the 'mixed' feeling concerning Hunty's Vale.	PARISH COUNCIL Community Council	Within 2 years
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH &amp; POLLUTION</b>			
ACTION 16	Study the feasibility of providing more dog litter bins and consider ways to change some dog owners' attitude to dog fouling.	PARISH COUNCIL	Within 2 years
<b>RECYCLING &amp; WASTE MANAGEMENT</b>			
ACTION 36	Study the extent of the litter problem with a view to seeing if putting up notices and/or more litter bins would reduce litter. Discuss with local Council.	PARISH COUNCIL Babergh District Council	Within a year
<b>ENERGY</b>			
ACTION 1	Draw together any information available to assist those who may be eligible for grant support to improve energy efficiency in their homes	PARISH COUNCIL District Council	Within a year
ACTION 2	Actively encourage people to use more sophisticated forms of energy saving	PARISH COUNCIL District Council	Within a year
<b>ACCESS TO INFORMATION</b>			
ACTION 3	To ensure the continued publication and distribution of the two leading local magazines and ensure regular funding for the 'Grapevine'.	PARISH COUNCIL	Within a year plus regular monitoring
ACTION 4	Examine the practicalities of setting up a Whatfield website and investigate if any resident could set-up and run such a site.	PARISH COUNCIL	Within 2 years
ACTION 5	More use should be made of the various existing magazines to the Parish Council to simply let people know what it does.	PARISH COUNCIL	Within a year
ACTION 6	Thought to be given to the production of a 'welcome pack' for new residents.	PARISH COUNCIL Community Council, Whatfield School, Church, Salvation Army.	Within 2 years

ACTION 7 Community Council should give some thought to improving communication with the community.	COMMUNITY COUNCIL	Within a year
ACTION 8 Village Hall Committee should give some thought to improving communication with the community.	VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE	Within a year
<b>COMMUNITY ASSETS</b>		
ACTION 9 Village Hall Committee could look into possible ways to assist the hard of hearing.	VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE	Within a year
ACTION 19 Investigate the need and siting of further dog waste and litter bins required in the village	PARISH COUNCIL	Within 2 years
ACTION 22 Investigate if funding for a Bus shelter is still available. Identify suitable location(s). Approach Babergh for planning approval.	PARISH COUNCIL Community Council	Within 2 years
ACTION 34 Look further in to the possibility of the village entering a Best Kept Village competition.	PARISH COUNCIL	Within 2 years
<b>VOLUNTARY/COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>		
ACTION 13 Establish and maintain a 'Good Neighbour' scheme covering the whole village.	PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY COUNCIL	Within 2 years
ACTION 14 Members of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme could possible publicise the advantages of a scheme to Whatfield.	NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH COMMITTEE	Within a year
ACTION 15 Advise the Suffolk Constabulary and our Community Police Officer of these answers.	PARISH COUNCIL	Within a year
ACTION 18 Investigate how a bulk heating oil purchase scheme could operate and ascertain what the potential savings could be.	PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY COUNCIL	Within a year