

Public Document Pack



Area EAST COMMITTEE - Wednesday 12TH AUGUST 2015

Please find attached the Henstridge Parish Plan.

Agenda No	Item
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| 10. | <u>Endorsement of Henstridge, Yenston and Bowden Parish Plan (Executive Decision)</u> (Pages 2 - 25) |
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Agenda Item 10

Endorsement of Henstridge, Yenston and Bowden Parish Plan (Executive Decision)

Ward Members: Cllr Tim Inglefield & Cllr William Wallace
Strategic Director: Rina Singh, Place & Performance
Assistant Director: Helen Rutter, Communities
Service Manager: Helen Rutter, Area East Development Manager
Lead Officer: Tim Cook, Community Development Officer
Contact Details: tim.cook@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01963) 435088

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to present a summary of the findings and actions from the Henstridge Parish Plan and to ask members to formally endorse the plan.

Representatives of the Steering group have been invited to the meeting to present the plan for endorsement.

Public Interest

Communities establish their own priorities and achieve their goals by mobilising residents and businesses. The priorities and issues for Henstridge, identified through consultation, are set out along with specific solutions and actions in a published document.

Recommendation

That Area East Committee formally endorses the Henstridge Parish Plan.

Background

Community Plans are effectively commissioned by the town/parish council and produced by local steering group with parish/town council representation. As they are primarily local documents, Town/Parish councils formally adopt them and endorsement by Area Committees has no legal status. Endorsement does however ensure that the community planning process is used to influence policy and action plans in particular the Area Development Plan (ADP).

Endorsement relates specifically to recognition of priorities and our support for helping them deliver the plan in a non-spatial sense but does not imply support for any land use allocation that would pre-empt a planning application.

The full plan is attached as a separate document.

The Process

Henstridge Parish Council appointed a small team to coordinate the process. The plan has been developed through research and consultation at 2 consultation events held in the village hall. The first of these events was attended by over 300 participants. A draft was developed from the data gathered at the events and a number of targeted sessions to try to address gaps in responses from specific demographic groups. The draft plan was then subject to further consultation before adoption by Henstridge Parish Council.

SSDC input has been minimal with some initial guidance provided at the beginning of the process and a grant through the Community grant scheme.

Actions based on key findings/major Issues

The final report survey findings and actions have been arranged under the themes, Our Community, The Local Economy, The Natural Environment, The Built Environment, Traffic and Parking and Leisure and Recreation activities facilities.

Details of each of the themes are in the report which has been circulated under separate cover.

Our Community

- 1) The Parish is considered either safe or very safe by the majority of residents. (5.2)
- 2) Good range of facilities (play area, skate park, MUGA, playing field & village hall. (5.4)
- 3) Aspiration to improve provision for young people to include a youth club, youth council activities for under 10s and for teens. (5.4)
- 4) Identified need for volunteer support for these activities. (5.4)
- 5) Further action is required to publicise activities for young people. (5.4)

The Local Economy

- 1) Good range of local businesses in the parish. Evidence that there has been a recent increase in local employment opportunities (6.1)
- 2) Identified need for better mobile phone signal & faster broadband(6.1)
- 3) Approximately 1000 people employed on the airfield and Marsh Lane trading estate (6.2)
- 4) Majority view that the pubs and restaurants are an essential part of village life. (6.3)
- 5) Village shop identified as an asset to the village however parking for both deliveries and customers was identified as an issue. (6.4)

The Natural Environment

- 1) Footpath/bridleway network identified as important assets to be maintained (7.1)
- 2) A campaign to encourage irresponsible dog owners to clean up after their dogs is needed (7.1)
- 3) Support for projects to connect rights of way within and between developments. (7.1)
- 4) Support for community energy schemes (7.2)
- 5) Improving the maintenance of public spaces was identified as a need (7.3)

The Built Environment

- 1) Whilst the general consensus is that there is no need or support for further building of housing of any sort, any future developments must meet the need of local people and sheltered housing was identified as an example. (8.1)
- 2) Parking and Traffic issues are a priority for the parish and will need to be addressed as any part of new development. (8.1 & 9)

Traffic and Parking

- 1) Pedestrian Safety is an issue with two areas identified as particularly dangerous (9.1)
- 2) Excessive speed of vehicles recorded outside the Primary School and the southern approaches to the village. (9.1)
- 3) Issues with the width of the carriageways and tight bends on the High Street (9.1)

- 4) Parking is a particular problem for some residents in Yenston and outside the village shop and Woodhayes. (9.1)

Leisure and Recreation activities/facilities

- 1) Longer term project to refurbish or rebuild the Village hall was supported. This is being considered and addressed as a key project for the parish. (10.1)
- 2) Making better use of the hall, extending the range of activities and improving publicity and communication identified as a short term action.(10.1)
- 3) Support for the provision of a 'Green Gym' facility and all-weather track around the playing field. (10.2)

Implementation of the community plan

The plan has been adopted by Henstridge Parish Council. It is expected that the Parish Council will instigate regular independent reviews of the Parish Plan to ensure that it is achieving the recommendations and to reappraise the relevance of the plan to the village at the appropriate times.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report however, if members agree the recommendation to endorse the plan, actions and projects identified will become eligible for support from the Community Planning Implementation budget subject to application.

Corporate Priority Implications

This work contributes towards increasing economic vitality and prosperity and ensuring safe, sustainable and cohesive communities.

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications

Improved local provision of facilities and activities within each village or town and increasing local participation reduce the need to travel.

Equality and Diversity Implications

The community planning process supported by SSDC aims to give every local resident the opportunity to have an input into the way in which their town or Parish develops.

Background Papers: *Henstridge, Yenston and Bowden Parish Plan 2015*

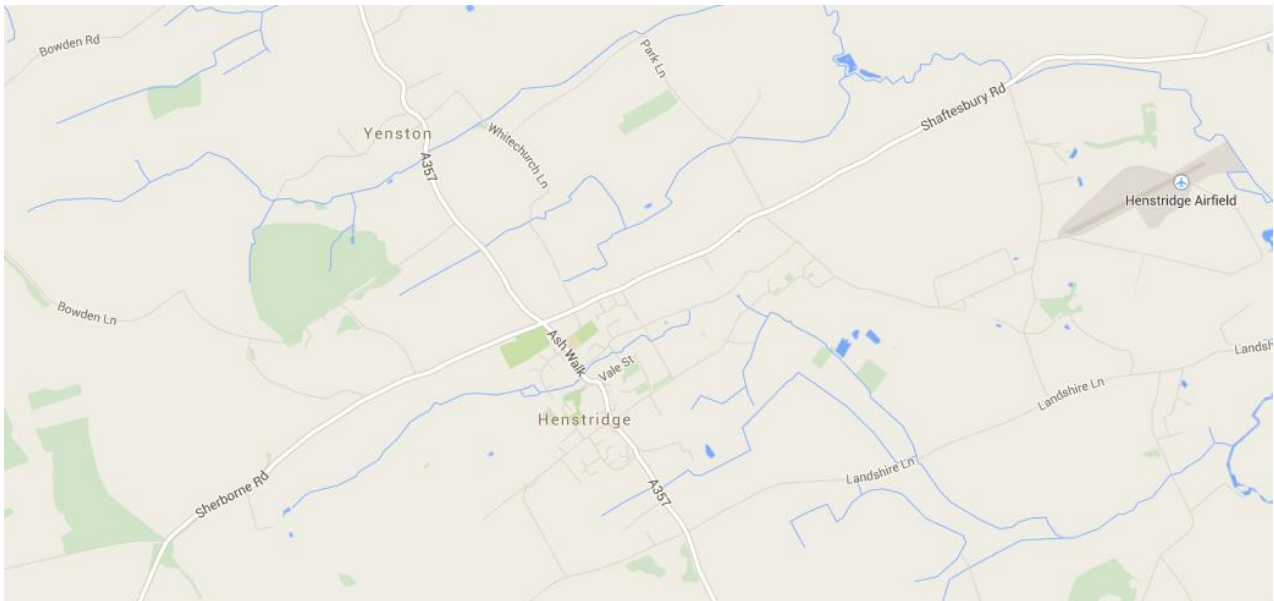


**HENSTRIDGE, YENSTON and BOWDEN
PARISH PLAN
SPRING 2015**

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1 Our Parish Map



The Parish of Henstridge, Bowden and Yenston is centred on the A357/A30 junction. It consists of 773 households, and has a population of 1836.

2 Key Points

- Parking and Traffic continue to be a source of concern through the parish.
- The Parish does not want further bulk housing, any building needs to be sympathetic to the needs of the parishioners and in keeping with existing buildings.
- We value our green spaces and countryside; these should be maintained and kept clear of litter.
- The Parish supports local businesses.
- The Parish seeks to maximise the use of assets like the village hall, the recreation ground and the church for a range of activities.
- This plan should be read in conjunction with the Design Statement for Henstridge that was completed in 2001. (Scanned copy provided in conjunction with this document).

3 Developing a Parish Plan

3.1 Why have a plan?

Parish Plans provide a blueprint for the future survival of any community by addressing, in a strategic and coherent way, the issues facing our community. Parish Plans are able to influence the Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) and the preparation of the Local Development Framework (LDF) that, by statute, has to be prepared by every District Council.

The Localism Bill was given Royal Assent on 15 November 2011 and became an Act. This takes powers from central government and hands them back to local authorities, neighbourhoods and communities giving them the freedom and flexibility to achieve their own ambitions. This Act will give us increasing opportunity and powers in the future to make more of our own decisions within the parish. It is therefore even more important that the parishioners have recorded their wishes so that they can be taken into account when decisions are made. Whilst the Parish Plan isn't a

statutory document, SSDC integrates it into local planning and service delivery procedures and gives it weight when considering planning applications.

It is important for communities to develop and own their parish plans, to best reflect the opinions and wishes of the community. If a community does not create and own a Parish Plan then the District Council will, in effect, have to write one for them under their responsibilities to develop a Local Development Framework.

3.2 How This Plan was Developed

To develop this parish plan, the parish council appointed a small team to coordinate the process. This team reviewed a number of plans written by other parishes, sought advice on the process from SSDC, and planned consultation events with the public to better inform the process. There were 2 consultation events held in the village hall – on 22nd May 2014 and on 20th September 2014. The first session attracted over 300 participants, and the second session about 90 participants. Details of the information gathered at these events are included in Appendix 1 at the end of this document. It is worth noting though that the age profile of the people attending the consultation events was significantly older than the age profile of the residents. Some efforts were taken to get the opinions of younger residents, including attending a family day in Woodhayes on August 15th 2014, approaching the brownies group, and engaging with parents at the school gate.

Following the open consultation, a draft plan was written during December - February, and then circulated for comment. (A copy was placed on the village website, on the parish council website, and several hard copies were made available in the pubs and the village shop.)

The consultation period ended in mid April, and the final version of the plan was then completed, ready for publishing by the beginning of June 2015.

4 About the Parish and its History

The parish is an economically diverse area, with both large and small houses, mixed age ranges, rural and village based housing. In 2001 a comprehensive Design Statement was completed, describing the village, its housing stock, conservation areas, architecture and buildings. It is recommended reading, in conjunction with this Parish Plan.

Key facts about the Parish include:

- The Domesday book records the existence of a mill in Henstridge, dating back to 1086.
- The first record of a church locally is dated 1175.
- The population of Henstridge has grown over the last 20 years – in 1991 there were 1443 residents, in 2011 it had grown to 1814 people (including children).
- Conversely the number of shops and restaurants has decreased over this same time period, with only one shop, 2 pubs and 1 restaurant remaining in the parish.
- The trading estate has grown in variety and size, and now provides accommodation to a number of businesses.
- There has been a primary school in the village since 1872, with current enrolment of 100 students, and employing 25 staff members.

5 Our Community

5.1 About you and your household

The 2011 census data provides good statistical information about our community. There are 773 households, with a population of 1496 people over the age of 16, and population of 1814 including

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children.

Some key statistics have been included below – please note though that these are based on the 2011 census.

The housing stock consists of detached, semi detached and terraced accommodation in the main. There is a broad mix of ages, with a significant number of retired people, mixed with working families.

A quarter of households have a single resident, with a further 40% having only 2 residents.

Households by Type			Households by Age of HRP		
Detached	340	44%	<35	98	13%
Semi Detached	200	26%	35-54	266	34%
Terraced	192	25%	55-64	182	24%
Flat or Maisonette	40	5%	65+	227	29%
Caravan or Temporary	<u>1</u>	0%	Total	<u>773</u>	
Total	<u>773</u>				
Household by Economic Activity			Households by Number in Household		
Employed Full time	401	52%	1	192	25%
Employed Part time	106	14%	2	316	41%
Unemployed	15	2%	3	133	17%
Student	2	0%	4	88	11%
Retired	204	26%	5	32	4%
Long term sick or disabled	26	3%	6	7	1%
Carer	12	2%	7	4	1%
Other	<u>7</u>	1%	8+	<u>1</u>	0%
Total	<u>773</u>		Total	<u>773</u>	
Households by Type of Heating					
No Central Heating	25	3%			
Gas Central Heating	70	9%			
Electric Central Heating	260	34%			
Oil Central Heating	294	38%			
Solid Fuel Central Heating	31	4%			
Other Central Heating	14	2%			
Two or More Types	<u>79</u>	10%			
	<u>773</u>				

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And how about the People who live here?

AGE RANGE of Residents			Children and Young People		
Under 16	340	19%	Children Aged Under 5	125	32%
16-24	172	9%	Children Aged 5-10	130	33%
25-34	167	9%	Children Aged 11-15	85	22%
35-54	472	26%	Children Aged 16-19	55	14%
55-64	341	19%		<u>395</u>	
65-74	230	13%			
75+	114	6%			
	<u>1836</u>				
Health (all residents including children)			Qualifications for those aged 16 and over		
Very Good Health	817	45%	No Qualifications	344	23%
Good Health	655	36%	Level 1 Qualifications	225	15%
Fair Health	252	14%	Level 2 Qualifications	244	16%
Bad Health	67	4%	Apprenticeship	58	4%
Very Bad Health	23	1%	Level 3 Qualifications	186	12%
	<u>1814</u>		Level 4 Qualifications and	380	25%
In addition 208 people provide unpaid care for others in the parish.			Other Qualifications	59	4%
				<u>1496</u>	
Residents with Second Addresses					
No second address	1729	95%			
Second address in UK	61	3%			
Second address outside UK	24	1%			
	<u>1814</u>				

Statistics on Businesses are available for the region of South Somerset. There are 285 businesses registered for VAT or for PAYE in the region.

Regional Businesses - across all of South Somerset

Less than 2 years old	30	11%
2-3 years	25	9%
4-9 years	75	26%
10+ years	155	54%
	<u>285</u>	

5.2 Crime and Safety

The Parish is considered to be very safe. The overwhelming majority of respondents stated that they felt “very safe” or “safe”. The parish is in the Wincanton Rural South region for crime reporting by Avon and Somerset Police. The website www.Police.uk provides detailed information on a month by month basis covering all reported incidents.

<http://www.police.uk/avon-and-somerset/AE030/crime/> provides access to regional maps that detail crime by type of crime, and by location and date.

5.3 Parish and District Council

Parish and town councils are the grass-roots of local government. They are local authorities and although they have a limited number of statutory duties, they do have wide powers, should they

decide to use them and they may, with the agreement of the district or county council, exercise certain functions normally carried out by those councils.

The local Parish council has a website <http://www.henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk/> that will provide details of the work the council undertakes, including details of meetings, information on councillors, information on council responsibilities, and how you can interact with your council.

The council has a responsibility to be transparent, responsive and open. Parishioners are welcome to attend the council meetings, and there is an annual meeting held in the Village Hall specifically to address issues. However, the council must continue to strive to be more integrated with the community and to be responsive to the needs raised. This Parish Plan will help to provide a framework for the activities of the council, providing guidance on the priorities for local residents.

5.4 Young People in our Parish

The census data shows that there are 255 children under the age of 10, and a further 140 teens and young people under the age of 20. The parish welcomes families, and this plan ought to reflect the needs and wishes of this group.

The recreation area at the junction of the A30 and the A357 provides a large playing field and a variety of facilities. These include:

- a children's playground which caters for children up to about age 7
- a skate park providing ramps for skateboards, scooters and bikes
- an all weather court with basketball hoops and markings
- a large field which can be used for cricket or football
- changing facilities in the village hall

During the consultation events many residents stated that further activities for children and young people were needed including a youth club, youth council, organised activities for under 10's and for teens. Provision of these activities rely on the availability of people to set up, run and manage them – either as a volunteer, or via a paid youth worker. Facilities such as a Green Gym, available for all to use, were suggested and supported.

Further efforts need to be made to publicise activities, and to encourage people to support and develop activities for our young people. The annual Action plan ought to include specific details and budget for youth activities.

5.5 Our Church

The Church of St Nicholas has stood at the heart of the village of Henstridge since the twelfth century. Records from this time conclude that the chancel was the first part of the church to be built, the nave in the late 14th century and the tower in the 15th century. The tower houses three bells, the great bell, the middle bell and the smaller bell. The present Church is the result of an almost total rebuild in 1872. It supports an active congregation, both adults and children.

Over the centuries the church has been the place where people have gathered at times of national and local celebration, and times of sorrow. As well as Sunday Services, the church enables our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life, from baptism, through confirmation, marriage and funeral services. The ministry of the church is available to all parishioners who wish to avail themselves of it. In recent years progress has been made in attempting to make the church more useful for wider community use. This includes clearing pews from an area of the church and the installation of a servery where drinks can be prepared and food served; and the provision of toilet facilities.

Along with the traditional church services, the church is used for a range of community concerts, festive occasions and community activities and fetes.

During the consultation events, a number of people supported the role of the church in village life – to contribute to community spirit, and of course to remain available to continue their traditional roles.

5.6 Our Schools

St Nicholas Church of England Primary School currently has 100 pupils on roll. The school has 25 members of staff, with 4 full time teachers in each classroom with another teacher employed for 2 days each week. This allows flexibility and support for targeted teaching programmes.

The school continues to focus on improvements. Some recent focus areas are, the summer installation of our new school library this year, the recent purchase of new Maths resources for all classes (funded by our PTFA), the development of brass tuition in Key Stage 2 classes and also expert Music teaching by our wonderful music subject leader. The children here also benefit from extra tuition for English and Maths.

The school garden continues to thrive. With cooking being part of the new national curriculum now, this space is as precious as ever. All pupils benefit hugely from the Green Finger sessions each week.

For more information on all of the activities at the school, please go to the website:

www.stnicholashenstridge.co.uk

As a church school, daily collective worship sessions are central to all work and there is strong liaison with the church. Our Christian Values focus for this term has been: (1) Courage and (2) Respect and Reverence.

6 The Local Economy

6.1 Local Business

The parish has a range of local businesses, some within the village of Henstridge, others located on the trading estate and the airfield. Businesses continue to grow; there is evidence of a recent increase in local jobs.

There are also a number of people who run small businesses from their homes, although the exact number of these is difficult to ascertain.

During consultation it was apparent that there is mixed opinion on the merits of the local businesses. However, most were in agreement that better communications (mobile signal and faster broadband) was a very important requirement for businesses, and for individuals.

From the 2011 census

- There were 285 businesses in South Somerset registered for VAT or PAYE
- 66% of households had someone in full or part time employment
- 26% of households were retired
- Unemployment in the parish was reported at 2%, which is substantially below the national average

6.2 The Airfield

Henstridge is unique in Somerset in having its own active airfield. Located in the South East corner of the parish, it was formerly a wartime naval base named HMS Dipper. The good fellowship between the military personnel based there and the people of Henstridge is commemorated by the weather vane made and donated by them and located on the church roof.

Unsuitable for agricultural use, it has over the years developed into a thriving small airfield for leisure, training and business flying and is the home base for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. Away from the runways and around the perimeter, the airfield offers the space requirements for a significant number of businesses that range from one of the largest egg producers in the country to a pre-germinated turf supplier, together with many other specialist services, suppliers and fabricators The Marsh Lane trading estate, essential for a range of local products and services is also part of the airfield. Altogether, its businesses employ around 1000 people, providing much needed local work within walking or cycling distance of the village.

6.3 Our Pubs and Restaurants

There are records of an inn in the parish dating back to 1619, and by the latter part of the 17th century there were several alehouses. The Duke of Marlborough on Horseback was recorded in 1717.

The Ash or Virginia at Henstridge Ash, later the Virginia Ash Hotel, dates back to Tudor times. For many centuries it was the centre of village life and was the initial meeting place of the friendly society, and the Somerset and Dorset Joint Railway Company held its first board meeting there.

The Bird in Hand on the corner of Blackmoor Lane was built in the early 18th century and is still going strong. The Bird hosts a number of community groups including the book club, the monthly quiz, WI events and a number of coffee morning and lunch events. It also houses a skittle alley which is in use most evenings.

Opposite the current Virginia Ash lies India Cottage restaurant, previously a Reading Room. It provides both eat in and take away facilities.

During consultation it became apparent that most believed the pubs and restaurants were an essential part of village life and should be supported.

6.4 Our Village Shop

Henstridge has a village shop, which also provides post office facilities, a dry cleaning service, some banking facilities, newsagent, and lottery and off licence sales. The shop is family owned and run, providing an excellent service and meeting point.

During consultation, the shop was viewed as an asset to the village. Concerns were raised about parking outside the shop, both customers and delivery vans.

6.5 Henstridge Golf Club

Henstridge Golf Club is now under new ownership. It is part of a sports and leisure development in South Somerset. It includes a nine-hole golf course designed to offer something to golfers of all abilities and a fully Licensed Clubhouse Bar and Restaurant.

The new owners are looking to further expand the facilities on offer.

6.6 Clubs and Societies

There are a wide range of clubs and societies in the village. The Henstridge OnLine website provides contact details for these - <http://www.henstridgeonline.co.uk/clubs.php5>

These clubs include activities for children (Brownies, Rainbow), sports activities (football, cricket), activities for adults (CAMEO, line dancing, U3A, WI, Loose Ends).

During consultation, it became apparent that better communication about the clubs and activities would be welcome, so that all might join activities. There is an excellent web site (Henstridge Online) providing much of this information, but possibly some residents are not aware of it, or indeed not particularly computer literate.

The Parish council also has a website, which provides details of council meetings and other council related activities. <http://www.henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk/>. In addition, we have a local magazine called **Wots's On** that is published 4 times a year, and distributed to all households.

There was a desire for additional activities, including making further use of the village hall for drama, movies, dinners etc. Provision of these activities rely on the availability of people to set up, run and manage them – generally as a volunteer, or via the parish council or the village hall committee.

During consultation it was mentioned to make better use of the open spaces at the recreation ground. The addition of an all weather track around the outside of the field, and the addition of a “green outdoor gym” were both suggested.

7 The Natural Environment

7.1 The Countryside and Rights of Way

The Blackmoor Vale is widely viewed as the most important visual amenity to the village. There are many public footpaths and a number of bridleways that help to maintain the rural character of the village. During consultation it became apparent that these were viewed as important assets, which must be maintained properly for the enjoyment of all.

Irresponsible dog owners must be encouraged to clean up after their dogs, footpaths need to be cleared and maintained, and stiles need to be kept in a good state of repair.

Opportunities to develop connecting rights of way within and between developments should be encouraged (for example the plan to create a long range path on the site of the Somerset and Dorset Railway).

7.2 Community Renewable Energy

The Parish supports community energy schemes. There is extant planning permission for a biomass facility within the airfield, but the infrastructure to transmit energy thus produced does not yet exist. This is a responsibility of SSE.

7.3 Public spaces

There are a number of public spaces in the village – the war memorial, the recreation ground, the walking paths and bridleways, the church yard, the allotments, the school playing fields. Maintenance of these spaces is viewed as being a bit haphazard, relying on volunteers to litter pick, and with limited funds for gardening and landscaping. During consultation many felt that improving the maintenance of these areas would enhance the overall view of the village.

8 The Built Environment

8.1 Housing

The housing stock in the village is very mixed ranging from larger older homes, to a number of estates, to smaller cottages, to social housing. Many of the older homes in the centre of the village have now been set up as a designated conservation area.

During consultation there were very mixed opinions on the future housing needs – ranging from affordable housing, to more sheltered housing for older people. There was consensus that the village did not need, nor could support substantial further building of housing of any sort. Any housing must be cognizant of the traffic and parking issues within the parish.

Future developments must be in line with the needs of the parishioners, such as sheltered housing, and proper consideration must be given to parking and traffic issues. As noted in section 9, this issue is very important to the majority of villagers

8.2 Communication

Improvements to broadband speeds and mobile signals are both viewed as important for village residents and village businesses. It is important that this is emphasized within the Parish Plan, to ensure that both the Parish Council and the District Council use what influence they may have to accelerate this.

A second aspect of communication also emerged – that of keeping villagers better informed about activities, services and support. There are 2 village related websites that are currently able to provide good information, but many were unaware of these. Better advertising of these sites and the Somerset County Council sites is needed.

Key sites are: <http://www.henstridgeonline.co.uk>

<http://www.henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk/>

<http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/>

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/>

9 Traffic and Parking

9.1 Roads and traffic

The Parish straddles the busy intersection of the A30 and A357. The road through the village (A357) is very narrow in parts, with houses and cottage opening directly onto the street. There is substantial traffic through the village, including cars and trucks.

During consultation, traffic issues rapidly emerged as a topic of significant import amongst the residents ... analysis after this first event confirmed that a majority of parishioners would like to see an improvement. In particular there was strong belief that further building and housing development must not be allowed to exacerbate current traffic problems.

However it is worth noting a few realities of traffic in the 21st century:

- The roads within the Parish are deemed to be relatively safe as there has only been one recorded accident within the past 5 years¹.

¹But the criteria that has to be met for an accident to be recorded, doesn't tell the whole story; anecdotal evidence continues to indicate that vehicles do collide with each other and graze buildings and fittings along the High Street and pedestrians continue to "take their life into their

Henstridge, Yenston and Bowden - our future in our hands

- The A30 and A357 are major thoroughfares and as such are unlikely to ever be down graded².
- There is no weight restriction upon the highway and no plans to impose one.
- There is a height restriction at Templecombe railway bridge.
- Freight traffic can legally use any road down which it can fit.

A second consultation event was held in September as a result of which it proved possible to group the concerns into 4 broad categories which can then be prioritised and addressed. The specific details and recommendations are included in Appendix 2.

- **Pedestrian safety:** There are two areas on the High Street (A357) where there are no dedicated pavements - in the narrows between Vale Street and Furge Lane and the southern end of Stalbridge Road to the county boundary at Landshire Lane. This means that any pedestrians, the elderly, the infirm, the disabled, those on mobility scooters or parents walking their children to and from school, have to run the gauntlet in the main carriageway of a busy "A" road thereby creating a significant hazard to both themselves and fellow motorists.
- **Speed of Vehicles:** Speed Indicator Devices consistently prove that many vehicles fail to observe the 30mph speed limit; this is less of a problem in Yenston due to the traffic lights, but still a feature of traffic approaching from the North. Excessive speed is frequently recorded outside the Primary School and on the southern approaches to the Village from Stalbridge.
- **Width of Carriageways and Tight Bends:** during a visit in August 2014, the SSDC Area Traffic Engineer declared that the High Street between Vale Street and Furge Road is not wide enough to permit the safe passage of 2-way traffic and that the blind S-bends by the Village Shop and Manor Farm in Yenston significantly restricts visibility of on-coming traffic.
- **Parking:** There is no off road parking for the residents of the council houses in Yenston ... at present they must park on a blind bend in the main road and trust to a couple of strategically placed traffic cones and the alertness of fellow drivers, which judging by the number of skid marks on the tarmac, is not always that good!! There is inadequate off road parking outside the village shop, along the High Street and other parts of Henstridge away from the main road .. especially on Woodhayes.

9.2 Public transport

The parish is supported by a regular bus service to local towns including Yeovil, Wincanton, Sherborne and Sturminster Newton. In addition there are other less regular services to further destinations. Information on bus routes and times can be found online at

<http://firstgroup.com/ukbus/dorset/>

10 Leisure and recreation activities/facilities.

10.1 Village Hall

The Village Hall is located at the junction of the A357 and the A30, in the main recreation ground.

² own hands" when walking through the narrows.

² In any case, downgrading is not the answer. Citizens of Melbury Abbas will confirm this ... and they live on a C road!

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It provides a range of facilities, including a large meeting room with a stage, a smaller meeting room, kitchen and toilet facilities, and sports changing rooms. It is a wooden building, utilitarian in design, and while it is an asset, there is mixed opinion on its suitability.

During consultation views on the village hall were presented. The vast majority of the community agree the need for a Village Hall. A high proportion of the community are eager to use it; many would like to see more community and youth type events being held.

Many residents expressed a wish to extend or improve the facilities. These ranged from small improvements, to much more ambitious plans to resite the hall, to rebuild the hall or to undertake substantial refurbishment. The specific details of the consultation can be found in Appendix 1. Due to the likely cost of some of the suggestions, implementation of these improvements will need to be addressed as a separate project, with a dedicated team of fund raisers.

In the meantime, it is suggested that better awareness of the activities, extending the range of activities available, and making better use of the current facilities form part of the current action plan.

10.2 Sports facilities

There are a number of sports activities centred on the Village Hall and the Recreation Ground. There is an active cricket team, a sports morning for over 50's, a children's playground and skate park and a line dancing group. During consultation it became apparent that there is a wish for further activities. The council is pursuing the provision of an open air "green" gym, and an all weather track around the edge of the playing field, which received considerable support at the two consultations.

11 Appendix 1 – Consultation feedback statistics

The first consultation was "open form". White boards were erected around the village hall, and those attending were invited to add any suggestions to any of the boards. They were also invited to "tick" any suggestions that they favoured, and to "cross" any they disagreed with. There was some overlap amongst the suggestions, collated results are shown in the table below.

Category	Suggestion	Number of Ticks
Additional Leisure Activities	More things for little people & young people	26
Additional Leisure Activities	Youth Club/activities	48
Additional Leisure Activities	Youth Council	3
Additional Leisure Activities	Youth Football	2
Additional Leisure Activities	Cinema to Village Hall	23
Additional Leisure Activities	Bring back the Jostle	22
Additional Leisure Activities	Bring back Church Fete	12
Additional Leisure Activities	More classes and activities at Village Hall - for all age groups	5
Additional Leisure Activities	Adult Education opportunities at V Hall (Yoga, IT)	27
Additional Leisure Activities	Get community spirit going by asking people to donate their skills	14
Additional Leisure Activities	Local people attending & supporting local events e.g. music at The Ash	3
Airfield	Support for the airfield in general, and potential for more businesses	24+9
Airfield	More light industry at the airfield	14+9

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Category	Suggestion	Number of Ticks
Airfield	Enforce Airfield Planning breaches	1
Airfield	Less industry on airfield	1
Communication	Oil fuel buying collective wanted	19+1
Communication	New Welcome to Henstridge Pack, with village info (including website)	7
Communication	Better awareness of websites (Henstridge and Parish Council sites)	6
Communication	No visits from local MP's County/District Councillors	5
Communication	Village diary to see events in advance	4
Communication	Wot's On – delivered on time to Yenston	1
Communication	Bus timetable	1
Communication	More representative Parish Council	
Dogs & related detritus	More poo bins (Bottom of Southmead lane please)	15+12+26+10
Dogs & related detritus	Dog owners need training	8
Dogs & related detritus	Empty poo bins more often	6
Dogs & related detritus	PC needs a policy re dog owners responsibilities	2
Dogs & related detritus	Find ways to reduce dog fouling	1
General litter	Litter on verges	11
General litter	More waste bins	11
General litter	Rubbish bins with lids	4
General litter	More rubbish bins	3
Green Activities	Solar power farm (possibly at Airfield)	19+5
Green Activities	Anaerobic digester at the airfield	11
Green Activities	Need green energy plan	6
Green Activities	Community owned wind turbine	5
Green Activities	Recycling centre (possibly at Airfield)	1
Green Activities	Transition Activities group towards a more sustainable future	1
Housing	No more houses in village	35+28
Housing	No more social housing	14
Housing	Existing housing to be considered when approving new builds - refer to Village Design Statement	15+14+5
Housing	More building	2
Housing for elderly	Need old peoples home	10
Housing for elderly	Need more council bungalows	10
Housing for young / families	Need affordable housing for young singles and couples	21
Housing for young / families	Self build	5
Leisure/ Recreation Facilities	Tennis Courts	18
Leisure/ Recreation Facilities	Protect recreation areas & Playing Field	4+2+4
Leisure/ Recreation Facilities	Dirt jumps for BMX	3
Leisure/ Recreation Facilities	Basketball Hoop needed	2+1

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Category	Suggestion	Number of Ticks
Leisure/ Recreation Facilities	Full Court Basketball Court	
Leisure/ Recreation Facilities	More accessible play equipment for play park	1
Leisure/ Recreation Facilities	Repair zip wire on rec for children	14
Leisure/ Recreation Facilities	Replace Village hall with versatile building of interesting design	14+3
Leisure/ Recreation Facilities	Parish to offer to/purchase Glebe Field and use as more central site for new village hall	6
Leisure/ Recreation Facilities	Improve village hall facilities	10
Leisure/ Recreation Facilities	Use existing Village Hall site for sports changing rooms	4
Leisure/ Recreation Facilities	Improve stage at village hall	1
Leisure/ Recreation Facilities	Costa machine at the V Hall	1
Leisure/ Recreation Facilities	Changing rooms at school	4
Leisure/ Recreation Facilities	Ease business rates for pubs	10
Parking	Enforce no parking opposite Post Office and no parking outside post office (especially on pavement)	11
Parking	Demand for more parking at the shop	9+1
Parking	Demand for less parking at the shop	8
Parking	Cars block top end of Vale St	2
Pavements & Cycleways	Join up pavement to Stalbridge & A357	21+7+9
Pavements & Cycleways	Pavements - Townsend to Landshire Lane	6
Pavements & Cycleways	Pavements - Cotton Corner to the Post office	6
Pavements & Cycleways	Footpath from Henstridge to Yenston	13
Pavements & Cycleways	Cycle Path Yenston to Stalbridge	3 or 8
Pavements & Cycleways	Improve / provide more cycle ways	15+2+11
Pavements & Cycleways	Raised walkway at corner of Park Lane (always flooded) for walkers	1
Private properties	Residents to be encouraged to improve appearance of front gardens, hedges and verges	19
Promoting Local ventures	Support for outlets such as Quiet Corner Farm and Gal- ingale, wish for them to expand.	Y=45, N=2
Promoting Local ventures	Demand for more jobs, particularly part time, with local transport.	21+15
Public green spaces	Maintain churchyard	17+5
Public green spaces	Plant more trees	8+4
Public green spaces	Green belt / fields in centre of village	6
Public green spaces	More bulbs at Southend	4
Public green spaces	Get verges around village cut and cleared of weeds	3
Public green spaces	More allotments	3
Public green spaces	Create Community Garden next to Church Car Park	

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Category	Suggestion	Number of Ticks
Rights of way/public paths	Protect / Improve / Provide more footpaths	100 +8
Rights of way/public paths	Protect & repair stiles / footpaths	29+4
Rights of way/public paths	Extend Stur railway to meet Henstridge	10
Rights of way/public paths	Better signage of footpaths	9+8
Rights of way/public paths	Footpath over A30 bridge	2
Rights of way/public paths	Increased frequency of cutting back nettles etc on public footpaths - parallel to Wessex Court	1
Rights of way/public paths	Surface public footpaths with gravel	
Roads	Install traffic lights by school	Y=5+8, N-1
Roads	Repair potholes - Furge Lane, Church St, Oakvale Lane, Furge Grove	11
Roads	Heavy Lorries through village/weight limit	37+9
Roads	Ring Road	7
Roads	Clear drains more than once every 2 years	6
Roads	Improve Furge Lane drainage	15
Roads	Improve Shaftesbury road paths and drains	3
Roads	Fix drain outside Bird	1
Roads	Clear road sign for Marsh Lane	2
Safety	Stop parking near school	14
Safety	Signs to say people are walking, where there are no pavements	13
Safety	Village bypass	13
Safety	Antagonism between near neighbourhoods – get people to work together	11
Safety	More visual policing	9
Safety	Enforce zebra crossing more	8
Safety	More CCTV cameras to deter vandalism	8
Safety	Designate the village as a 'no cold calling' zone	8
Safety	Hunt straying onto A30 - dangerous	7
Safety	Road signage for Yenston sharp bend	7
Safety	Increased traffic in side roads as a result of new building	4
Safety	Lack of play areas in social housing areas – danger for children and causing problems for residents	
Support services - services	Would like more services to be offered from the village shop / PO	43 for shop
Support services - services	Doctor's surgery	36+2
Support services - services	Vet	17
Support services - services	Dentist	10
Support services - services	Mobile library	4
Support services - services	More policing	12
Support services - services	Church needs loos & other facilities	22
Support services - services	Café	
Support services - services	Set up a credit union	
Support services - services	Bus Services improved and lower fares	12+25
Support services - services	Bus service to coincide with train times	15

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Category	Suggestion	Number of Ticks
Support services - services	Adopt Henstridge Phone box	10
Support services - services	Adopt Yenston phone box and use it - defibrillator / community notice board / book exchange	1
Support services - services	Lack of support for school & pre-school	10
Support services - services	Before school & after school provision	1
Support services - services	No local presence/base for Parish Council	4
Support services - services	Plan for extension to Churchyard for the future	1
Support services - services	Residents Skills Audit for those who may give their time as they can	1
Support services - services	Create improve connection of village to Blandford and Yeovil	1
Support services - utilities	Mains gas wanted in the village	3+21+29
Support services - utilities	Improve broadband speeds	103+21
Support services - utilities	improve mobile phone coverage	48
Support services - utilities	improve provision of renewable energy	16
Support services - utilities	Improve Drainage and Sewage	15
Support services - utilities	Improve water services	9
Traffic Speed	Speed bumps at school	Y=2, N=1
Traffic Speed	Traffic – 20 m.p.h limit in various parts of village / police enforcement	38+15+7+7+6+6
Traffic Speed	Speed signs on Shaftesbury Rd that indicate speed	10
Traffic Speed	Cameras on traffic lights	8
Traffic Speed	Traffic calming / controls	8
Traffic Speed	Speed signs at Townsend that indicate speed	1

The second consultation event was more targeted, with specific questions being asked to gain further information on

- Type of additional activities that would be welcome
- Parking and traffic related issues
- Needs for further housing in the village
- Support for local business
- How the Parish council should spend its money.

The table below details the responses to these targeted areas.

Board / Category	Question	TOTAL	
		Agree	Disagree
Henstridge needs more activities of this type:			
Community Activities/Recreation	Under 5's, Mother and toddler	15	2
Community Activities/Recreation	Children's (age 6-11)	18	2
Community Activities/Recreation	Pre teen / teen	41	1
Community Activities/Recreation	Adult / sport	34	0
Community Activities/Recreation	Activities for older people (60+)	34	1
Community Activities/Recreation	General entertainment	46	0
Community Activities/Recreation	A youth council	11	5
Community Activities/Recreation	A youth club	39	0

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Board / Category	Question	TOTAL	
Community Activities/Recreation	A green gym (in the rec ground)	35	3
Henstridge needs more housing of this type:			
Housing	Private housing – large / small houses, flats	15	18
Housing	Social housing – large / small houses, flats	24	25
Housing	Affordable housing / shared ownership	34	10
Housing	Self build / community project housing	28	10
Housing	Sheltered/specifically designed housing for older people	40	5
Housing	NO MORE HOUSING	21	6
Suggestions for how to deal with the traffic problems particularly on the A357:			
Traffic	A traffic control scheme on the A357 incorporating a pavement between Vale St and Furge Lane	53	6
Traffic	A more extensive traffic calming scheme with more pinch points and speed bumps	17	21
Traffic	A permanent 20 mph speed limit by the school	50	12
Traffic	NO CHANGE AT ALL	7	8
Suggestions for how to deal with parking issues, particularly in the vicinity of the shop:			
Parking	More parking restrictions (double yellow lines) on the main road near the shop	30	14
Parking	More off road parking	44	5
Parking	NO CHANGE AT ALL	3	4
Suggestions for ways to support and improve our local economy:			
Local Economy	Support for home workers	31	1
Local Economy	Local jobs, with transport	34	2
Local Economy	Businesses to be encouraged at the Airfield	48	4
Local Economy	Community energy programmes (ie anaerobic digester, solar farm)	31	18
Local Economy	WE DON'T NEED ANY MORE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT	4	14
How do you think the Parish Council should spend its money?			
Spend	Pay for maintenance / clearing of central green spaces, pathways and stile repair	58	0
Spend	Pay for better litter picking / clearing of dog debris	34	19
Spend	Pay for more flowers and trees in shared spaces	31	9
Spend	Pay for community programmes for teens and young people	45	6
Spend	Pay for something else - WHAT	5	1
Spend	WE SHOULD NOT SPEND ANY MORE MONEY	2	7

In addition to these boards, there was significant discussion about the village hall.

Village Hall

- A village hall is viewed as an important asset, but many attending the consultation prefer

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the layout and services provided by other Halls they have visited

- Many people would like to see improvements to and/or replacement of the current hall. They believe the current hall lacks functionality and looks temporary - this implies it needs a better design and build.
- On site car-parking and ease of access are essential characteristics.
- Historically the sports clubs have only provided 17% of the overall funding
- Security is the single biggest concern over the future of the Hall.
- Potential options include:
 - Do nothing
 - Repair and Refurbish
 - Re-build on new site
 - Re-build on current site
 - Integrate into the Church

12 Appendix 2 – Traffic and Parking Recommendations and Action Plan

Pedestrian Safety:

Conclusion 1 - dedicated pavements should be provided in "The Narrows" and extended southwards along the Stalbridge Road to the county boundary; most parishioners support this initiative.

Speed of Vehicles:

Conclusion 2 - The temporary 20 mph speed limit outside the school has been made permanent.

Conclusion 3 - A more extensive and effective traffic calming scheme should be introduced on the southern approaches to the Village from Stalbridge; this will need to incorporate the pavement in conclusion 1 above.

Width of Carriageways and Tight Bends:

Conclusion 4 - A significant traffic control measure should be introduced along the High Street between the Vale Street and Furge Lane to control the flow of traffic to one direction at a time; this will need to incorporate the pavement in conclusion 1 above; a majority of parishioners support this initiative which, depending upon its design, could provide more off-road parking outside the Village Shop as well (see conclusion 6 below).

Conclusion 5 - Improved signage warning of on-coming vehicles in the middle of the carriageway and mirrors to improve visibility around and facilitate entry/egress from hidden entrances on the blind bends should be installed.

Parking

Conclusion 6 - Off - road parking must be provided for the council houses in Yenston; more off - road parking should be provided along the High Street and consideration given to building a Village Car Park.

Traffic and Parking Action Plan

It is proposed that, where appropriate, trials are conducted prior to any permanent schemes being installed. This would help inform the final design and ensure that everyone involved fully understands the potential impact, consequences and benefits of any proposed installation. This would seem to be of particular relevance when considering any work within "The Narrows". HALT have volunteered to help with observing and recording the results of any such trials.

The specific Action Plan would be to implement the following. Wherever possible, progress on all these schemes should be progressed concurrently, not sequentially and kept under close review by the Parish Council.

- a) Off road parking to be provided for the residents of the council houses in Yenston.
- b) Improved signage warning of on-coming vehicles in the middle of the carriageway and mirrors to improve visibility around and facilitate entry/egress from hidden entrances on the blind bends should be installed.
- c) A trial be conducted within "The Narrows" to inform the design of any permanent installation; if this scheme could control traffic flow between Vale Street and Furge Lane, it would have the added advantage of increasing the space available for parking outside the Village Shop and provide more off-road parking along the High Street.
- d) The current traffic calming scheme at the southern end of the village be re-designed to to incorporate an extension of the pavement to Landshire Lane. The feasibility of this is

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dependent on a number of landowners along that section of the road being prepared to relinquish a strip of land to allow for its construction - negotiations are on-going.

- e) The council consider how best to provide a Village Car park.