

## **West Bergholt Parish Plan**

### **Report Following Consultation with Village Groups and Organisations.**

A Questionnaire was sent to 47 village Clubs and Organization, 14 replies were received giving a 30% response.

The positive and negative responses with ideas for improvement were as follows:-

#### **Social and Community Life.**

It was felt that these was a good variety of clubs for children and adults but it would be beneficial if there were more day-time clubs, an afternoon WI or Flower Club was suggested.

It was also suggested it would be an asset if there was a coffee/tea/cake shop where locals could meet, but equally the village has adequate pubs and restaurants.

On the sports and recreation scene, there are good sports facilities but it was suggested that there should be tennis coaching so the courts are used more. The play areas should be improved.

It was also suggested that existing clubs should welcome the youth of the village to join them.

A permanent well run Youth Club would be an asset as teenagers need channelling at night as connections to Colchester are limited.

#### **Environment.**

With good footpaths, but no bridle ways, 3 play areas, 2 large fields it was felt there are sufficient open spaces throughout the village but the Swings area at Orpen Hall needs attention. There was much concern about, litter and broken glass around the village. It was suggested that via The Village Bulletin householders should be encouraged to remove litter from outside their homes and the school could make children vigilant about litter.

There was great concern regarding dog excrement especially on Poors Land and Cooks Hall Road. A dog litter bin would be an asset outside the old church.

It was felt that there was poor street lighting. Adherence to speed restrictions would help noise pollution.

#### **Public Amenities.**

Excellent doctors surgery, chemist, health visitor and baby clinic. A suggestion was for a dentist within the village. The negative, attendance at hospital via public transport is difficult.

Every reply mentioned the problems of parking. It was felt the roads are clean and of fair quality, but council taxes should be utilised more to improve these.

The lack of street lighting was not a problem as long as pavements are well maintained and hedges are cut back which also means that village signs can be seen. It was suggested that new developments within the village do not have street lighting to conform to the rest of the village.

#### **Shops and Facilities.**

The village is fortunate to have an excellent Coop, Post Office, Chemist, Cash machine and cash-back facility at the Coop. There were concerns that the Post Office may have to close in line with other villages. The postal deliveries are excellent. The downside is the problems that the Coop and Post Office have caused with parking, especially near the New Church Road junction and pedestrian crossing; this should urgently be addressed before an accident occurs. It was requested that transport to large supermarkets on a monthly basis for the elderly would be appreciated.

#### **Housing/Planning.**

On the whole it was felt there was a good cross section of housing. There is a need for smaller properties, bungalows, sheltered housing and residential care. It is sad to be forced to leave the village to go into care. It was felt the village will be cramped if more houses are built and garden land should not be sold off. 'Highwoods' type developments are not wanted as the village feel would be lost.

### **Transport.**

There is an excellent bus service but if prices were lower it would encourage less use of cars. It is a good walking area but there is a lack of cycleways.

The major problems were with parking, especially around the school and Coop. It was suggested to encourage more villagers to walk children to school and the shops, but if cars are necessary to use the car-park. Crossing lights at the Coop should flash during the day and activated speed signs should be a high priority on the major through roads as speeding through the village is a problem. It was suggested School Lane should be one-way with double yellow lines on New Church Road. It was felt because of increased traffic and congestion a fatal accident is waiting to happen.

### **Community Safety and Crime.**

It was felt that policing is non-existent although crime levels seem to be low except for the occasional mindless vandalism around Orpen Hall and the Scout Hut. The mobile van is not as effective as foot patrols and a police presence would be an asset at school times.

### **Representation and Council Services.**

The village web site is useful and there is good contact with the Parish Council who are receptive to comments. Villagers and young people should be encouraged to attend Parish Council meetings. It was suggested that there should be a young person on the Parish Council to voice their problems. The Borough Council seems remote and difficult to gain information from. There is an excellent Parish Magazine and Village Bulletin who will publish issues if requested.

### **Other Areas.**

There is a good village feel in West Bergholt. It was suggested the village does not need any more housing, pavements, lighting or double yellow lines, if these are required then move to where they are.