

# West Bergholt Parish Plan

## Parish Plan Group Members:

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# What is a Parish Plan (and who is producing it?)

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## ■ The Plan and what it aims to achieve

- It is simply a snapshot of a community, what is important to it and what it wants to achieve in the future
- Advice on forward planning (actions) on all aspects from sport to transport such as is relevant to the village
- An engagement document for the Parish Council (we hope!) and for all those organisations which provide services for people in the village
- A voice for the village!

## ■ About the Parish Plan Group

- A small group of volunteers typically 4 or 5 at any one time
- Carry out all tasks from publicity to questionnaire design and analysis
- The more volunteers the swifter the progress!



# What is a Parish Plan (and who is producing it?)

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- About our links to the Parish Council (PC)
  - Chair is member of the PC
  - Plan is not “owned” by the PC but helps to inform it of priorities in the village
- About links to Rural Community Council for Essex
  - This advisory body for small volunteer organisations, makes awards for funding to produce a plan
  - Has provided £1700 to our group
  - Provides free advice on producing plans and sets up events whereby Parishes can share experience and good practice



# Producing the Plan

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## ■ Step by Step approach (2005-2007)

- Step 1: Form Group and research broad issues
- Step 2: Canvass local opinion
- Step 3: Consider results, publicise and verify findings
- Step 4: Draft a plan of important aspects, draw up plan of possible action and consult
- Step 5: Publish and continue planning!

## ■ Current timeline

- Step 3 achieved (May-June 2007)
- Step 4 Summer and Autumn 2007
- Step 5: Jan 2008



# Finding the Evidence!

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- Sourcing public opinion
  - Early stages established the following categories:
    - Social and community life, environment, public amenities, Shops and facilities, Housing and planning, Community safety and crime, Transport, Representation and Council services
- Surveys carried out
  - Businesses, Organisations, Households, Younger people



# Business thinks....

- The Survey of 60 businesses, 25% responded
- The results
  - 75% are owner occupied; 60% have employees
  - Range of replies from shops, pubs, professional and building services
  - Advantages of being in West Bergholt included
    - Proximity to Colchester, A12 and rail; few competitors, reasonable rent and rates; pleasant village environment
  - Issues/suggestions for business include: poor and erratic broadband; lack of room to expand; parking; planning restrictions; recruitment and retention of staff; business part of website
  - Issues for employees: 66 bus service



# Organisations consider....

47 clubs and organisations surveyed, 14 replies (30%)

## ■ Good/Bad points

- Good variety of clubs
- Excellent open space
- Litter nuisance/dog fouling
- Poor street lighting
- Traffic noise
- Good range of services
- Access to hospital by bus difficult
- Parking by co-op an issue
- Poor footway maintenance
- Low crime levels

## ■ Suggestions

- Youth club,
- Tennis coaching
- Dentist
- Smaller properties
- Cycle links
- Foot police patrols
- Youth rep. on Parish Council
- Better banking
- Transport to Supermarkets
- School crossing lights



# Younger people think....

- Pupils in the 11-16 age group targeted at 8 schools including the catchment school at Stanway
- The response rate; 42 young people responded
- The results
  - 85% rated the village as either very good, good or satisfactory place to live
  - Transport is rated as good, as are sporting facilities
  - But some specific complaints about 66 bus service such as cost, timetables and reliability
  - Areas for improvement include
    - lack of a meeting place, need for youth club,
    - additional sports facilities, a music venue,
    - skate park,
  - Additional sports clubs required including
    - table tennis, tennis coaching



# You think....

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- The survey: all households receiving Bulletin
- The response rate: 215 replies (12%)
- The results to date (demographics)
  - 50% of our sample had lived in WB over 16 years
  - Average age of people is in the 25 to 59 bracket
  - Response was roughly 50:50 working to retired ages
  - Roughly equal numbers of men and women
  - Huge range of “tick box” pieces of information; see separate analysis on display



# You think...General Comments

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- 15 blank areas in the questionnaire were left for specific comments – people certainly used these!!
- Transport is the most popular category of concern
- Issues with speeding, traffic calming, bus issues and parking
- Environmental concerns are maintenance of footpaths and footways, litter and dog fouling
- Planning concerns include:
  - Infill, housing mix, pressure on school, affordable housing
- Suggestions for Parish Council
  - Traffic issues
  - Anti-social behaviour
  - Facilities for teenagers
  - Character/appearance of village and
  - Over development aspects



# Overall Survey Conclusions

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## ■ Conclusions

- The village is appreciated, has a good range of service and facilities (although these could be improved!) and the issues are generally around transport, anti-social behaviour, young people's activities and planning matters
- There are plenty of good lines of inquiry to follow up which will help produce a plan for engaging with those who provide services and to shape the development of the village in the future.

## ■ Survey reports available now



# Next steps

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- Reports will be available via the web/bulletin (Autumn 2007)
- A draft plan will be published (Winter 2007)
- Consultation will follow (Winter 2007)
- Final plan submission to RCCE and PC (Winter 2007-8)



# Can I still give you some ideas?

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- Yes – we are always happy to receive ideas about what is important in the village and what you would like to see happen
- The slides which follow are a prompt for you to let us have your thoughts



# Social & Community

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- This part of the survey asked about your participation in village activities, sources of information and what you like about the village
- You Told Us.....
  - Good range of clubs and societies – but some gaps
  - Importance of access to town, A12/rail
  - Being close to the countryside and being part of a village are highly valued
  - Bulletin and local papers are main sources of information
- **We need your ideas on addressing or improving on these aspects in the plan**



# Environment

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- This area asked about how you valued the open spaces and public footpaths and environmental problems there are in the village
- You Told Us.....
  - Open spaces and public rights of way are very important and well used
  - Litter is a problem as is dog fouling
  - Anti-social behaviour causes concern
- **We need your ideas on addressing these matters in the plan**



# Public Amenities

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- This area is how you feel about the provision of Council services and publicly available facilities
- You Told Us.....
  - Street cleaning, verge/hedge maintenance and refuse collection is good
  - Children's play areas are good but facilities for young people are poor
  - Opinions on street lighting vary, opinions are equally split on this issue
  - Access to services is generally good
- **We need your ideas on addressing these matters in the plan**



# Shops and Facilities

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- This area is all about your thoughts on the day to day retail facilities available
- You Told Us.....
  - You use and value the grocery shops and post office facilities available but have to go elsewhere for other services such as DIY and banking
  - You use local trades services available in the village
  - You would be keen to see the range of retail opportunities expanded eg bakers, fresh veg, DIY, tea shop
- **We need your ideas on addressing these matters in the plan**



# Housing and Planning

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- This area is all about your views on new development, housing type and planning matters
- You Told Us.....
  - No more large scale development needed
  - Smaller developments should focus on affordable housing and provision for older people
  - You have concerns about the impact of new housing
  - You have concern about new development fitting in with the village character
- **We need your ideas on addressing these matters in the plan**



# Community Safety and Crime

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- This area is all about how safe you feel in the village and your experience of crime and nuisance
- You Told Us.....
  - You feel very or quite safe at all times, but over 25% of you have been victims of crime or nuisance
  - You know of the neighbourhood watch schemes in the village
  - You are interested in more local Police presence
- **We need your ideas on addressing these matters in the plan**



# Transport

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- This area is all about how you travel and the issues you feel are important
- You Told Us.....
  - You are slightly concerned about bus services
  - You are concerned about traffic speeds, volumes,
  - You are concerned about cycling and pedestrian environments
- **We need your ideas on addressing these matters in the plan**



# Representation & Council Services

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- This area is all about the Parish Council, its priorities and how easy it is to interact with other councils
- You Told Us.....
  - You know what the PC does but most of you have never attended a meeting
  - The PC needs to make more of its business accessible to the public
  - Getting information about other council services is not easy
- **We need your ideas on addressing these matters in the plan**



# Want to get involved?

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- The Parish Plan depends upon its membership which at present is 5 members each of who can devote a small amount of time to creating the plan
- We need more volunteers to finalise the plan and work on the actions we identify
- **Please contact either the Chairman (Chris Stevenson on 01206 241708 or the Secretary (Catherine Bailey) on 01206 242520 if you would like to help in any way!**



# Missed The Household Questionnaire?

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- Want to register your thoughts?
  - Ask for a blank copy (limited supply!)
  - Fill out a form with one of the Parish Plan Group members today
  - Give us your email address and we will send a copy!
  - Look on [www.westbergholt.net](http://www.westbergholt.net) shortly.



