

## Summary of the

# East Hendred Parish Plan 2008

*Produced by local residents*

*This is a summary of the Parish Plan published in February 2008. It contains sections from the Plan that explain how it came to be written (the 'Executive Summary'); the recommendations from the four sub-groups who worked on the Plan, in the form of their 'Visions for the future' in the areas that they discussed; and the 'Action Plans' that resulted. It also describes how these Action Plans will be carried forward and monitored by the Parish Council ('Next Steps').*

*The sections of the Parish Plan that are not in this summary include a Background to the Plan, explaining why the Plan has been written and what it hopes to achieve; a description of East Hendred; an account of the process by which information for the Plan was gathered and how the Plan was written; and the detailed findings of the four sub-groups. It also includes several maps and photographs to illustrate the points that are made, and a number of quotes that convey some of the opinions of people who responded to the Parish Plan questionnaires, and of village schoolchildren.*

*This summary is being delivered to all households in the parish. The full version of the Plan is available on the village website ([www.hendred.org](http://www.hendred.org)), and a limited number of printed copies are available on application to the Parish Council Clerk.*

## Executive Summary

The purpose of this Parish Plan was for the people of East Hendred to show how they would like their village to develop over the next ten to fifteen years. The process started in Spring 2005, initiated by the Parish Council, and over the next two years volunteers from across the community have sought the views of all parish residents on a wide range of issues.

An initial steering committee was formed and four sub-committees were set up to investigate particular issues and formulate questions for a questionnaire. Every household in the parish received a questionnaire and was invited to contribute. We were very pleased with the level of response. A different questionnaire was delivered to businesses and social organisations in the parish, and further input was sought from the youth club. We were also very pleased to receive contributions from both village primary schools, and quotations and drawings from these appear within the Plan.

All these responses formed the basis of a preliminary list of actions, which was on display at three village events in the summer of 2007 and on the village website ([www.hendred.org](http://www.hendred.org)) giving people the opportunity to comment. The final Action Plan presented in this document is the result of many hours of discussion, pulling together all the opinions and ideas that have been put forward.

The Parish Council has supported this initiative throughout. Five Councillors served on the steering committee, and the Parish Council has contributed to the costs of the project. Further funding was provided as a grant by the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, which also supplied training, advice and information. Help has also come from many other organisations, including the Vale of White Horse District Council and Oxfordshire County Council. I hope that they will be able to give serious consideration to the conclusions in this document as they make their future plans for our parish.

The Parish Plan document describes the parish and the process by which this Parish Plan came into being. It summarises the residents' vision for the future, and lists a series of 55 actions through which we hope to realise that vision. Some of these actions have already been started; others require the cooperation of other bodies, or will necessarily take a long time to put into effect. However, the existence of this list of actions gives us guidelines for the future of our village.

As Chairman of the Parish Council and Deputy Chairman of the Steering Committee, I would like to thank everyone who has given their time and energy to this project.

*Dr John Sharp*

## Visions for the Future

### ***The natural environment***

- A local nature reserve in the area adjoining the proposed new footpath between Snells Hall and Fordy Lane. This would ensure the conservation of a valuable area of semi-natural habitat, important for wildlife and people, running through the heart of the village. It includes a section of the brook, adjoining water meadow and woodland, all of which help to support local biodiversity. Since this footpath will be used by children walking to the Hendreds School, schoolchildren could be involved in the creation and management of the nature reserve from the earliest stages. Hendred Estate, which owns the land, has already approved this proposal.
- The old orchard at the back of Abbey Manor restored and designated a Community Orchard, stocked with local fruit varieties, and traditional juice- and cider-making skills revived. A wildlife assessment has already been completed and initial work on clearing brambles and scrub has begun, with the approval of the Hendred Estate which owns the land.
- The churchyard surrounding the parish church, and particularly the grassed areas, managed in a way that enhances its value for native wildlife. (The churchyard is no longer used as a graveyard.) St Augustine's PCC has agreed to do this. An invertebrate survey has already been completed, and more studies of mammals, plant life and birds could be undertaken.
- The Hendred Estate at the Higher Level Scheme for the Single Payment Subsidy. This would allow more sustainable management of the land surrounding the village (eg planting hedges, sowing wildflowers on buffer strips and creating beetle banks.)
- Existing public green spaces preserved and protected - *see also the discussion of protection for green spaces in the section on Housing, and action H8.*

### ***Footpaths, bridleways and cycle tracks***

- Better conditions on existing footpaths, bridleways and cycle tracks. This would include better surfaces, clearer signage, hazards such as barbed wire removed where not appropriate, and more dog excrement bins. Access for wheelchairs and pushchairs would then be improved.
- A footpath between Snells Hall and Fordy Lane to provide an alternative vehicle-free route for children walking to and from the Hendreds School, and for pre-school children going for walks along the Furlong. This would offer an opportunity for establishing a local nature reserve for native wildlife (see above). It would also reduce the volume of traffic on Church Street.
- More cycle tracks – *see the section on Traffic.*
- No contraventions of the ban on non-agricultural motorised vehicles on the Ridgeway.

### ***Waste management***

- More household waste recycled and composted. The suggested target is for all households in the village to recycle at least 25% of their rubbish by 2008, and 55% by 2020. Also, for a Combined Recovery Rate (recycling + composting) of 31% by 2008, and 61% by 2020.
- Examples of green boxes, brown bins etc on show at public events such as Village Fetes, along with information about how to obtain them. This would help to achieve the waste management targets.
- A regular 'green' column in the *Bulletin* to distribute up-to-date information on recycling methods and benefits – for example, that it costs £29 a year for a brown bin, but an average household spends £32 a year going to the recycling centre. This column would also be used to spread information about other environmental issues, for example ways to improve energy efficiency and obtain grants. *The first 'green' column appeared in the Summer 2007 edition of the Bulletin.*
- A parish composting scheme, to complement the brown bin scheme, if investigations show this would be effective.

### ***Energy conservation***

- An energy audit of the village, to make it possible to measure and demonstrate improvements in energy efficiency within the parish, and to enable comparison with other parishes and villages.
- Grants taken up to improve energy efficiency in homes and public buildings, and for local energy generation.
- A local energy advice service to promote efficient energy use and local generation of renewable energy in the parish.

- An active policy to promote the efficient use of energy, with specific targets for energy use over the next 15 years. The targets suggested, in line with current national government targets, are:
  - 20% saving in energy used within the parish
  - 20% energy in the parish to be generated from renewable sources, preferably within the parish, using wind, solar, geo-thermal sources or biofuels.
 These targets to be phased in over time with clear intermediate targets, such as 10% by 2012, 15% by 2017 and 20% by 2025.

### **Proposed reservoir at Steventon**

- Safeguard the interests of the community by seeking, assessing and responding to information on the potential impacts of the reservoir on East Hendred.
- If the reservoir goes ahead, the plans must ensure that East Hendred gains what it can, for example through the provision of bridleways and cycle routes between the village and the reservoir.

### **Housing and Planning**

- What is good in the village formally identified, protected and preserved through a Survey that identifies the many special architectural features and materials in the village as examples of good practice; and this followed as a “style guide” in planning decisions.
- The overdevelopment of some parts of the village halted.
- The character of the village within the Conservation Area, as in the Vale Local Plan (Policy HE1) preserved; and the CA extended to include those sites identified in the East Hendred Conservation Area Appraisal.
- Listed buildings, and the setting of listed buildings, preserved.
- Sites that provide village amenities and green spaces protected from house building. These include:
  - Snells
  - the “green strip” highlighted in an appeal statement from the Planning Inspectorate dated April 2005, which includes the Mill Lane sports field, the lower part of Fordy Lane and Snells
  - the village greens (on High Street and Chapel Square)
  - the allotments
  - the Furlong
 (All except the allotments, the Furlong and the sports field are also protected by the CA.) This is covered by the Planning Guidance relating to “Green Space” in the VWHDC Local Plan (2011) Policies H10 and HE1. *See also Action E5 in the Environment section.*
- A wider range of housing available, for a wider social mix of ages, incomes and sizes of family group. In particular, sheltered housing would meet the needs of the ageing population, enable older local people to stay in the village and release housing stock for younger families. *Three potential sites for affordable housing are being investigated. Current policy is to site sheltered housing in towns since large schemes with full warden service are difficult to provide in villages.*
- When sites become available for new houses, small houses are built rather than large ones. *Planning permission decisions are also influenced by the Local Development Framework, now being developed by VOWHDC.*
- Government targets met for high efficiency new housing, and the target of carbon-neutral new housing by 2016.

### **Traffic and Policing**

- Improvements at the junction of White Road and the A417.
- No speeding in the village.
- Reduction of the speed limit on the A417 through East Hendred.
- Less on-street parking, by both residents and visitors. This could be by encouraging people who have garages to use them to house their cars, rather than park on the road; and by providing a village car park for visitors’ cars.
- Protection for the fabric of the banks and verges, for example by positioning posts or planting shrubs.
- Less traffic in the village.
- Better public transport services, particularly in the evenings.
- More pavements in the village. In particular, sunken sets could be placed along the stretch without a pavement in Church Street to mark a ‘pavement zone’ for pedestrians.

- More cycling, and more cycle tracks. For example, the farm path from East Hendred to Rowstock (in collaboration with Hendred Estate) could be developed into a Sustrans-accredited surfaced track providing access to Milton. The Furlong could be similarly developed and accredited, enabling (with a Sustrans bypass to the north of West Hendred churchyard) level access to Ardington, Lockinge and Wantage.
- More Police patrols in the parish.
- Neighbourhood Watch (NW) schemes covering the whole parish.

### **Amenities**

- More and/or better facilities for sport and recreation in the village, to cater for all interests and so that all have sufficient space and access. This will include a solution to the parking problems in Mill Lane (see section on Traffic); and more village people involved in running village organisations.
- New recreational facilities for teenagers. Their own area, shelter or hall could give the youth a sense of belonging in the village. Establishing a village youth committee would also help teenagers feel involved and take responsibility for their actions and themselves. Teenagers should be involved in the planning process.
- The village shop still thriving.
- The Post Office open, and for longer hours.
- Snells Hall and the two village schools still thriving.
- Better village 'furniture' –more benches and noticeboards in the most appropriate places.

### **Tourism**

- More visitors to the village to support village events, fetes and social activities as well as businesses such as the shop and pubs, encouraged by the provision of facilities such as a visitors' car park, public toilets; better publicity for events; and an infrastructure for circular and historic walks or tours. *The provision of a car park is covered in the section on Traffic by action T2; VOWHDC advise that public toilets are very difficult to fund and manage*

### **Employment**

- More local employment opportunities, achieved through the development of existing village businesses and the provision of additional suitable premises for small businesses of the type that provides jobs that village people support.
- More local people employed in the village, achieved by encouraging local businesses to employ village people.

## The Action Plan

This section contains the actions arising from the four sub-groups, together with a note of the progress made on each action at the time of publication (February 2008).

<i>Item</i>	<i>Aim</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Timescale</i>	<i>Current Status</i>
E1	Improve natural environment	Create then manage local nature reserve	immediate then ongoing	Nature trail between Snells and Fordy Lane being progressed
E2	Improve natural environment	Designate then manage community orchard	immediate then ongoing	Clearing of the site is well advanced and apple juice production has commenced
E3	Improve natural environment	Manage churchyard as nature reserve	immediate then ongoing	This is being investigated, along with other nature reserve projects
E4	Improve natural environment	Encourage the Hendred Estate to work towards the Higher Level Scheme for the Single Payment Subsidy	ongoing	
E5	Protect public green spaces	Undertake a survey of areas in the village which have been used by the public for more than 20 years; register these as village greens	during 2008	
E6	Improve footpaths etc	Provide new footpath between Snells Hall and Fordy Lane	ongoing	Being worked on in conjunction with the nature trail (E1)
E7	Improve footpaths etc	Monitor and improve condition of existing footpaths, bridleways and cycle tracks	ongoing	
E8	Protect the Ridgeway	Provide notices on Ridgeway telling people who to call if they see infringements of the ban on non-agricultural engined vehicles	immediate	
E9	Protect the Ridgeway	Monitor adherence to the ban on non-agricultural motorised vehicles on the Ridgeway	ongoing	
E9	All Environment aims	Provide 'green' column in the <i>Bulletin</i>	immediate	The first column appeared in the September 2007 edition
E10	All Environment aims	Set up an Environment group within the village with strong links to the PC	immediate	The Hendreds Environment Group was established in Autumn 2007
E11	Improve waste management	Set recycling targets: all households to recycle at least 25% of all rubbish by 2008; Combined Recovery Rate of 31% by 2008, 61% by 2020	by 2008/2020	
E12	Improve waste management	Publicise recycling at village events	ongoing	
E13	Improve waste management	Investigate the possibility of a parish composting scheme to complement the brown bin scheme	as soon as practical	
E14	Improve energy efficiency	Investigate then implement village energy audit	2008	
E15	Improve energy efficiency	Investigate grants available to facilitate more efficient energy use	ongoing	The Environment Group is following up
E16	Improve energy efficiency	Introduce a local energy advice service to promote more efficient energy use	by end 2007	A group called Henergy has been established to support and monitor more efficient use of energy in the parish.
E17	Improve energy efficiency	Introduce an active policy to promote more efficient use of energy, including	during 2008	Henergy will address this as part of its activities.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
		targets for energy saving and use of renewable energy		
E18	Monitor decommissioning work at Harwell site	Continue PC representation on Local Stakeholder Group	until completion (2040)	PC representatives attend regular meetings of stakeholder group
E19	Safeguard the community from negative effects of the reservoir	Monitor potential impacts	until completion	PC representatives attend RAP meetings
E20	Maximize planning gain from reservoir	Put forward ideas (e.g. for bridleway from East Hendred to the reservoir)	during 2008	
H1	Encourage architecture compatible with the existing look of the village	Produce a guide that identifies the character of local buildings and their setting to act as a guide for future building and changes	2008	
H2	Discourage further development of over-developed areas	Commission a study to identify areas that have been over developed and which should not be developed, and discuss this with the Vale Planning Department	1 <sup>st</sup> stage – 6 months	
H3	Protect the character of the village CA	Raise awareness of local planning guidelines that protect the CA; review all new developments and extensions in the CA against these criteria	ongoing	
H4	Extend the CA	Identify extensions to the CA and provide input to current CA review	CA review completed 2007	PC took part in discussions on the draft discussion document produced by VOWHDC
H5	Protect listed buildings and the setting of listed buildings	Commission photographs of village listed buildings and their settings for reference in planning and development	2008	
H6	Protect listed buildings	Review all proposed extensions and modifications to listed buildings carefully against current design guidelines	ongoing	
H7	Protect the setting of listed buildings	Review all new developments and extensions adjacent to listed buildings carefully against the criteria in the Vale Local Plan	ongoing	
H8	Avoid house building on sites that provide village amenities, and green spaces	Ensure that the Vale District Planners are aware of these sites	ongoing	
H9	Encourage and support the provision of affordable housing using available sites and 'exception sites'	Follow up three existing potential sites. Investigate further sites	ongoing	
H10	Support the building of sheltered accommodation	Conduct a needs survey. Identify possible sites. Discuss the feasibility with providers of sheltered housing	1 year	
H11	Encourage the building of smaller new houses, when development sites become available	Communicate the need for smaller houses to VOWHDC Planners	ongoing	

<b>Item</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
H12	Encourage the building of smaller new houses, when development sites become available	PC to comment on future applications to encourage smaller houses	ongoing	
H13	Encourage higher energy efficiency and use of renewable energy in newly built houses and extensions	Raise the profile of this topic with the planning authority	ongoing	
H14	Encourage higher energy efficiency and use of renewable energy in newly built houses and extensions	Encourage applications for new housing and extensions to meet new Government targets	ongoing	
T1	Improve access to A417 from village	Campaign for a scheme to improve access at the A417/White Road junction, particularly at peak times, highlighting safety and congestion	2008	PC is liaising with Highways Department on 40mph speed limit on A417.
T2	Reduce on-street parking problems	Identify individual problem areas; investigate localised solutions	2008	
T3	Reduce speeding within the village	Investigate SIDs and other traffic calming measures; encourage their use in the village	2008	
T4	Protect banks and verges from further damage	Identify sites; investigate individual solutions	ongoing	
T5	Maintain and improve transport services	Provide information on existing schemes to hospitals and surgery, and investigate extending these	ongoing	
T6	Reduce traffic	Investigate supporting a car sharing scheme	2008	<a href="http://www.liftshare.org">www.liftshare.org</a> identified as being effective and easy to use
T7	Encourage cycling for local journeys	Develop specific cycleways in and adjoining the village	2008	
T8	More cycle tracks	Investigate provision of direct cycle tracks to Wantage and Rowstock	ongoing	
P1	Increase police presence	Encourage more patrols from PCSOs, especially in evenings	ongoing	
P2	Develop NW schemes to cover all the village	Encourage and build NW scheme	ongoing	
A1	Accommodate increasing demand for sporting facilities	Develop global sports strategy for the village	end 2008	
A2	Accommodate increasing demand for sporting facilities	Investigate available sports spaces in the village including sports ground and school sports fields	end 2008	
A3	Increase village facilities for recreation	Explore requirements (facilities/people) to increase recreational opportunities	ongoing	A kickaround area with football goals has been established at the Penney Play Park, in Snells
A4	Provide recreation facilities for teenagers	Set up a youth committee to identify needs	2007	First meeting held September 2007
A5	Provide recreation facilities for teenagers	Investigate funding for identified needs and availability of funding of professional organiser for youth activities	ongoing	

<i>Item</i>	<i>Aim</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Timescale</i>	<i>Current Status</i>
A4	Retain and extend the hours of the village Post Office	Liaise and campaign with the Post Office; take every opportunity to influence stakeholders	ongoing	
A5	Support Snells Hall	Review and update facilities to meet the changing needs of users	ongoing	The EHCC Committee maintains the Hall and is currently managing a kitchen refurbishment.
A6	Support village schools	Co-operate with schools eg to resolve travel to school issues	ongoing	
A7	Improve village furniture	Install additional notice boards and benches around village	2008	
A8	Improve opportunities for informal gatherings	Investigate tea/coffee shop and use of Snells Hall for regular coffee/tea mornings	ongoing	
A9	Provide public toilets	Investigate feasibility of providing public toilets	ongoing	
A10	Provide a 'Welcome Pack' for newcomers to the village	Develop a welcome pack based on the West Hendred pack	2008 then ongoing	
A11	Encourage more visitors to local events/organisations	Provide more visitor information eg circular/historic walks	ongoing	
A12	Encourage more visitors to local events/organisations	Link village and Vale websites to publicise village events	ongoing	
A13	Encourage local employment	Develop a strategy for economic activities in the village	Strategy 2008 - ongoing	

## Next Steps

This Parish Plan includes many ideas for action. Some of these actions are already being carried out and some will be initiated in the future. The Parish Council needs to take responsibility for organising or carrying out most of the actions, because they fall within its areas of responsibility. However, in some cases, people who are not on the PC have been or will be organising action themselves.

In order to monitor progress on the development of the Parish Plan, the PC has had a review of Parish Plan progress as a regular agenda item for its monthly meetings. With the adoption of the Plan by the PC, this will be replaced by a new regular agenda item calling for a progress report on Parish Plan actions.

The PC will monitor progress in each of the four main areas of the Action Plan in the following ways:

- Environment – as a direct result of the Parish Plan process, the Hendreds Environment Group has been formed in order to organise village-wide responses to various environmental challenges such as reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, conservation of the natural environment and development of a village nature reserve. This group will follow up the actions listed in the Environment section of the Parish Plan. Good liaison with the PC is assured, since several parish councillors are members of the group. Actions on footpaths and the Ridgeway will be followed up by the PC.
- Housing and Planning – at the local level these areas are the responsibility of the PC. Progress on the actions in these areas will be reported at PC meetings.
- Traffic and Policing – actions on speed limits and parking are the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council and the PC will follow up such action plans with the OCC.
- Amenities – the Action Plan calls for the establishment of a new sports workgroup involving sports clubs, schools, the PC and the Hendred Estate. This workgroup will be responsible for initiating and progressing actions to do with sports facilities. The East Hendred Community Centre committee has responsibility for the maintenance and development of village hall (Snells Hall). Maintenance and development of the village playgrounds are the responsibility of the PC. Other actions will be initiated and monitored as appropriate by the PC.