

SHALFORD

Community Workshop – Saturday 4th March 2006



NOTE:- It is important to remember that these are the priorities of those present at the Workshop. The Village Appraisal, undertaken as part of a Parish Plan, will enable the views and opinions of all village residents to be gathered. The information from the workshop will help with the design of the appraisal questionnaire.

Jan Cole, RCCE 08/03/06

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Introduction

The Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) was established in 1929 as a registered charity which aims to improve and enhance the quality of life for those who live and work in the rural areas of Essex. It encourages self-help community projects and speaks out to the relevant authorities on issues that matter to people living in rural Essex.

The work of the Rural Community Council of Essex is based on enabling communities to become strong, active and empowered, capable of doing things for themselves - defining the problems they face and then tackling them together. This can be achieved through the preparation of a Parish Plan.

The plan will assess local needs and aspirations and include an action plan to improve services and facilities. Parish Plans were promoted by the Countryside Agency from 2000 to 2004 as part of their Vital Villages programme. The Government's Rural Strategy, published in July 2004, outlines the importance of Parish Plans and their links to statutory planning processes and civil renewal.

Participants

Total of 33 people	
Male	15
Female	18

Ages	
Under 12	0
12 – 18	1
19 – 30	0
31 – 50	4
51 – 70	21
Over 70	7

Lived in Shalford	
Less than 1 year	3
1 – 5 years	3
6 – 10 years	7
11 – 25 years	9
Over 25 years	11

Housing

The number in brackets after the comments indicate the number of votes

Special		
	Housing density low Haven't found anywhere better to move to yet	
Problems		
	Lack of affordable housing	(2)
Improvements		
	No expansion of village boundary/village envelope	(7)

Health

Special		
	Freshwell Health centre	(4)
Problems		
	None	
Improvements		
	None	

Education

Special		
	Good School	(1)
Problems		
Improvements		

Local Government

The number in brackets after the comments indicate the number of votes

Special		
	None	
Problems		
	None	
Improvements		
	More support for parish council	(3)

Community Networks

Special		
	Popular parish to visit	(1)
	Friendly and welcoming/community spirit	
	People – a close and accepting community	(1)
	Outlying residents feel included	
	People keen to see improvement	
	Community with Church, school, pub	
	Church activities for Christmas	
	Community library	
	The new Shalford News	(2)
	New Shalford website – excellent for those with computers	
Problems		
	A community that is spread out/the ‘village’ is fragmented	
	Including new people into village	
	Involving younger people	
	Lack of community feel in pub	
	Absence of a shop	(1)
	Lack of a central ‘high street’ where people might meet	(1)
	Village Hall is underused; people not sure how to book	
	Need better communication about what is happening in the village	(1)
	Shalford News needs to be more frequent	
	General maintenance of pavements for wheelchair users and people with disabilities	(2)
Improvements		
	Wheelchair friendly pavement created from Water Hall Lane to church entrance	(1)
	More face to face contact/activity	(1)
	More pop in sessions	(1)
	More community news/info/activity	(1)
	What about a monthly events news and the quarterly larger Shalford News	(1)
	More marketing info on the activities	
	More info about village hall use	(2)
	More notice boards/new boards in the George, the bus stops, Ambrose Corner	
	More publicity on the village website	
	Email activities to a distribution list	

Develop the Friendship Club more Community spirit in pub More signage to improve identity / sympathetic signage	
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Crime and Community Safety

The number in brackets after the comments indicate the number of votes

Special	
Very Low crime rate No crime/Feel safe	(1)
Problems	
None	
Improvements	
Enforcement of existing laws	(1)

Arts, Culture and Heritage

Special	
Still a small village – not joined up Small Village ‘Feel’ Historic Society Horticultural Society WEA Bowls Club FOSTAC Church and Chapel Bendeloves Trust	(1)
Problems	
Village identity/signage Don’t find out about Historic Society/Horticultural Society Activity	
Improvements	
None	

Sport, Leisure and Open Space

Special	
Rural Space Playing Field where younger people can meet friends Local park facilities/ lovely park Well maintained village hall Social organisations	(1) (1) (1)
Problems	
Lack of wheelchair and disabled access to park Lack of facilities or youth club for teenagers/no organisation of activities for youth; especially 12 years + Children playing in the wrong areas; near roads The table tennis equipment, billiards and snooker tables in the village hall not ever used We have the right facilities but are not using them well; tennis court, rounders club	(4) (1)

Shalford Bowls club has a lack of members People using our village hall are not respecting it.	
Improvements	
More facilities and activities for younger people	(2)
A youth club based in the village hall so the facilities are better used	(1)
Make sure people take responsibility for tidying hall	
Publicise the tennis court availability	
Tennis Club	
Rounders Club	
Sign – No Ball Games and encourage use of Village Green	

Transport and Traffic

Special	
Easy access to rest of the world	
Public footpaths availability	(1)
Problems	
Speeding traffic/ ignores 30 mph limit	(12)
Lorry traffic/large and heavy vehicles	(13)
Sharp bends	
Four wheel drivers agro/condition of Park End Lane	(3)
Green Lane misuse, abuse and children playing	
Lack of traffic law enforcement	(2)
Lack of road maintenance	(2)
Not enough public transport	(2)
No bus service to Broomfield Hospital (although one goes via Wethersfield and Great Bardfield)	
Poor footpath from Cliffields to The George	(1)
Too much signage/too many road signs	(2)
Lack of directional sign to Shalford Green	
Improvements	
Traffic calming/more speed signs/Speed reduction measures	(28)
Restrict heavies on back lanes	
Better barriers for Green Lane	(2)
Off road clubs to be informed that Park End Lane Bridleway is out of bounds. Their maps show they can drive there	(3)
Community Transport/Community Bus	
De-cluttering of road signs	(1)

Economy and Business – Shops, Services And Employment

Special	
New mobile shop is good for those in central Shalford	
Problems	
Mobile shop van is too large to enter small lanes	
No village shop or post office	(11)
Improvements	
Shop and post office	
No industrial development	(3)

“Clean” Environment – Air, Water, Energy, Waste

The number in brackets after the comments indicate the number of votes

Special		
	None	
Problems		
	Why hasn't the amenity site been closed?	(7)
	Fly tipping	(1)
	Litter	
	Foul tasting water – too highly chlorinated	(1)
Improvements		
	Pressure on water company to improve standard / taste of water	

“Green” Environment – Landscape and Nature Conservation

Special		
	Rural environment	
	Peace and quiet	(5)
	Village Park	
	Picturesque location	
	Pant Valley Environment	(3)
Problems		
	Future development at Stansted	(3)
	Bad Stansted airport proposals will ruin everything	
	Ditch maintenance by hedges/roads	
Improvements		
	Bridleway and footpath improvements	(1)
	Cutting of hedges more regularly B1053 Braintree/Wethersfield	
	Replace Village Oak Tree on Village Green	(2)

Summary of Top Priorities

Traffic Speed restrictions	40
Heavy vehicle restrictions	13
Village shop and post office	12
Four wheel drivers; Park End Lane/Green Lane	8
Resist expansion of the village envelope	7
Activities/facilities for teenagers	7
Peace and quiet	5

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