

Hunton Parish Plan 2011 - How are we Doing ?

The initial consultation and questionnaire completion of our Parish Plan took place in 2010. The results highlighted several areas of interest and concern for village residents. These were prioritised and form the basis of Hunton Parish Plan 2011. The 4 priority areas are; **Highways and Transport; Village Infrastructure; Environment; Community.** **Progress to Date:**

Plan Priority 1. Highways and Transport

The Parish Council lobbied for improvements to the traffic problems raised by residents and as a result the KCC agreed to fund the instalment of the village gateways and new signs as well as repairs to West and East Street including reinstatement of the hedge line along the recreation ground.

Hunton was chosen as one of two villages in KENT to trial the 20mph limit during school hours.

Gateways advising of this have now been installed.

Speeding has always been a concern and a group has been set up which has successfully bid for grant money to purchase speed watch equipment for West Street. This group has been trained by Kent Police and will be operating in West Street soon: so beware!

Plan Priority 2. Village Infrastructure

King George V Playing Fields

The need for more facilities in the Recreation ground was identified in the Parish Plan. The Parish Plan Committee was able to successfully bid for a small communities grant on behalf of the King George V Playing Fields Committee for new play equipment. This was installed in January and is now ready for action.

Hunton CEP School Involvement in the Community of Hunton.

The children, staff and PTA of Hunton CEP School have been active within Hunton during the year 2012. They were involved in both the village fete and the Christmas fair, having a stall at both events.

Two pupils gave a short report at the Hunton Parish Council AGM about school life.

Links with the parish church of St Mary's remain strong. Pupils took an active part in a number of church services including the Mothering Sunday Service, a special service to celebrate Father's Day and the annual Nativity and Christingle services. Two Year 6 pupils confidently read at the Carol Service on the 23rd December. The school decorated a Christmas tree for the porch of the church.

Since 2008, the village school has been judged in two successive inspections as an outstanding church school and good with outstanding features by Ofsted; the school has grown in reputation and there are now more children on roll than ever before! This is to be celebrated although it also brings with it some pressures around traffic and parking. The school has been proactive in supporting ways to solve this problem. The school is still supporting the development of the much needed footpath which would allow a walking bus to operate from the village hall car park thereby supporting the parish plan priorities regarding traffic, speeding and parking.

Hunton Village Club

Since the compilation of the Parish Plan and the forming of new groups Hunton Village Club has become the venue for meetings of these new groups along with those groups who already use it. A number of villagers play Mahjong on the first Monday of each month and the Gardening Club, Book Club, Orchard Group, Parish Plan Steering Committee and Fete Committee now all use the club on a regular basis. This is important to ensure the future of the club and new societies or organisations are always welcome. February has seen the introduction of Lent lunches on Thursdays where home-made soup, bread, cake, tea or coffee are available between 12.30 and 2pm in a cafe atmosphere.

At present the club is undergoing a complete internal redecoration and continues to be run by volunteers from the village. Please drop in to see how it's changing.

Pop up Shop

The first pop up shop will be coming to Hunton on Saturday 30th March 9.30 – 12.30 pm outside the Church. The aim is to provide a unique opportunity to purchase local produce – jams, cakes, bread, traditional and seasonal items the likes of which cannot be found in local shops and supermarkets and which are sourced from Hunton. Tea and coffee will be available.

Plan Priority 3. Environment

Village Hall Solar Power

The Village Hall Committee with the Parish Council commissioned a feasibility study for the production of solar generated electricity. As a result the Parish Council invested in a solar panel system. The electricity savings will benefit the hall and the generation of income will repay the investment and provide an income for the benefit of the village for the next 25 years. We are one of the first village halls in Kent to take advantage of this, and at the high tariff.

Litter Pick Team

We re-commenced village clean ups on 15 October 2011. It was very hard work as the job had not been done for a while. The collection on the first day constituted 30 black bags of rubbish, 20 car tyres, 3 car seats, a toilet and sink and some "sold" boards for local estate agents. Since that date the team has had four more clean ups. This has resulted in the job getting easier and takes less time to complete. The team consists of 18 volunteers now and this has helped to speed things up. On average they still pick up about 15 black sacks of general rubbish but it is worthwhile to see Hunton look so tidy.

Community Orchard

The benefit of another recreational area in the parish was on the Parish Plan wish list. Fortunately a small derelict area in the playing fields was available and the Parish Council as trustees was able to provide this. The Community Orchard Group produced a questionnaire, the results from which will be used to bid for funds for the creation of a community orchard. Hunton is part of a group of parishes bidding for funding jointly with the guidance of Pippa Palmer Orchard Advisor of the North Downs AONB team. If we are successful work will start on this during the coming year.

Plan Priority 4. Community

Village Fete and Community Events

At the beginning of 2011 a Village Fete and Community Events committee was formed. Since then there have been 2 very successful village fetes and a third one for this year is planned for June 22nd 2013. Money raised from these events has been used to buy pop up gazebos used for the fete and the Christmas Fair and are available for other village events. The funds also provided the Christmas lights which decorated the Village Hall this year. More lights are planned for this year.

A Christmas Fair was held in December and a second one is planned for this year.

A number of groups have been established to meet demand including gardening, books and walking.

Gardening Group

Hunton Gardening Club, is an informal group established in Autumn 2011 for locals who enjoy gardening and related topics whether they are novices or experienced gardeners. About 50 Hunton residents are involved. Apart from occasional winter meetings in the Village Club there are visits to local gardens & specialist plant growers for inspiration. The group swaps or shares excess seeds, plants and plentiful crops, requests recipe ideas or provides invites to events. Contact with the organizers of other local gardening groups provides invitations to attend their outings and events.

Village Communications

The village website and the production of the village diary provide a comprehensive central source of information about village events. A village "Welcome Pack" has been produced for the benefit of those who are new to the village.

Activities

The increased activities in the village has meant that other events, not mentioned in the Parish Plan, e.g the Hunton pantomime and monthly Mahjong group have been organised for the village and well attended.

We welcome this increased community spirit and the benefits it brings for all of us. We now look forward to what we can achieve in the next 12 months.

Annette Trought

Chair Hunton Parish Plan Steering Committee