

WELCOME

Welcome to the Tilton and Halstead Parish Plan

This is your Parish and this is your Parish Plan

“Our Village is a good village, but together we can make it better”

By working together to formulate our Parish Plan we have already:

- Brought our community closer together, by finding shared desires for local improvements and increased the level of activities in the parish.
- Dispelled preconceptions and discovered what local people really want and need in this area.
- Published a document that can be used to gain funding for projects in the parish.
- Provided a voice and a method for local people to let service providers know what type of support we want and need.
- Begun to prioritise all the actions we want to see in the parish.

If you can help to implement the actions please contact: Miriam Stoate (2597609), Julian Bird (2597500) or Ann Trangmar (2597626).

INTRODUCTION

At a public meeting in September 2007, to which every person from Tilton and Halstead was invited, a steering group of residents was formed to create a Parish Plan for the future.

With the help of the Rural Community Council (Leicestershire & Rutland), a wide range of consultation techniques were used to gather villagers' opinions including: an ideas wall, suggestion boxes around the parish, a Facebook account and questionnaires handed out to adults and young people. Our questionnaire launch day was supported by all the parish organisations and by our parish, district and county councillors. A draft Action Plan was displayed for consultation at our Village Fete on the 8th June 2008, on our website (www.leicestershirevillages.com/tiltononthehill/parishplan.html), in the Village Shop and in Tilton Village Hall. We have used our website, the village notice boards and parish newsletter to keep people informed and to encourage them to be involved.



Parish Plan Questionnaire Launch in the Village Hall

Tilton and Halstead have 236 households and a population of 529. 164 completed adult questionnaires were returned and represented the views of 56% of the adults in Tilton and Halstead (as some households completed one questionnaire to represent the views of more than one person). A total of 26 young people's questionnaires were also completed.

The responses from villagers have been compiled to produce the rest of this document and the Action Plan at the end. We believe that they give an accurate picture of the parish as it is now and the changes and improvements it needs for the future. We apologise for any errors or omissions. We ask that residents, Tilton Parish Council, Harborough District Council, Leicestershire County Council and the relevant service providers do all they can to help us achieve the actions for the future set out in our Action Plan.

Overall, there is unanimous agreement about the three things that adults like most about living in Tilton and Halstead. In order, these are:-

1. **Quiet, rural location**
2. **Friendly people and community**
3. **Access to motorways and towns nearby**

Although some people were concerned about the lack of a school, the prospect of the post office closing, “dog poo”, the isolated location, the strong winds and lack of affordable housing, there is a lot of agreement about the three things that people like least about living in Tilton and Halstead. In order, these are:-

1. **The volume and speed of traffic**
2. **Lack of good public transport**
3. **Lack of facilities and amenities**

Similarly, the young people’s questionnaire results showed that under 18s particularly like the quiet, picturesque, rural environment (19), the sports courts (10), the fact that the village is friendly and everyone knows each other (10), the shop (9), the feeling of being safe (6), the park (5), the pub (4) and the playing field (3). They do not like the lack of activities and facilities (13), the speeding cars and traffic on the main road in particular (10) and the lack of public transport (6).

After a historic background to Tilton and Halstead, there are summaries of the findings from each of the sub-groups involved in the Parish Plan process, namely: Traffic and Transport; Environment; Buildings and the Built Environment; Village Facilities, Services, Leisure and Amenities; Religion; Crime and Safety; Health Care, Social Care and Adult Education; Employment and the Local Economy; and Young People. This is followed by the Action Plan for the future.

To help the reader, the numerical results from the questionnaires are provided as bullet points; the current situation and ideas for the future are indicated by ***bold italics***; verbatim comments are summarised in *italics*; text about the young people, from their questionnaire responses, is underlined; and the associated action points, which appear in the Action Plan at the end of the document, are shown as, for example (**AP1**) to indicate action point 1.

All of the percentage results from the adult and young people’s questionnaires are available on-line at www.leicestershirevillages.com/tiltononthehill/parishplan.html. Please note that the percentage figures provided on-line and in the rest of this document refer to the TOTAL number of respondents i.e. 164 for the adult questionnaire and 26 for the youth questionnaire, rather than the percentage of those people who actually answered the question, unless otherwise stated.

The Tilton website (www.leicestershirevillages.com/tiltononthehill/) is being continually updated and will provide a way of implementing and advertising many of the Parish Plan actions points. If you want information about your group, club, service or business to be included on the Tilton website, please contact Gavin Young (e-mail: gavyoungmcr@yahoo.co.uk or telephone: 2597411).

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Tilton – more formally, the large and scattered civil parish of Tilton on the Hill, embracing the townships and ancient parishes of Halstead, Marefield, Tilton and Whatborough – is a relatively small but extensive village that sits astride both the B6047 and the road out towards Oakham, in that part of Leicestershire which is sometimes still called High Leicestershire.

Tilton is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *Tillintone* (*Tila's tun*, meaning Tila's settlement). The parish has an ancient church that dominates a landscape which is extensively farmed with arable and pasture fields, horse paddocks, criss-crossing footpaths, a disused railway line and former ironstone quarries. At 700 feet (213m), Tilton is the highest village in the county.

The village stands at an ancient crossroads where the pre-Roman Jurassic Way intersected the old all-weather track between Leicester and Stamford. Both are believed to date back to the Bronze Age. Today's road links are equally impressive, taking the traveller roughly ten miles to Leicester, Market Harborough, Melton Mowbray, Oakham and Uppingham.

The railways arrived with a bang and left with a whimper: both Tilton (on the Melton-Market Harborough line) and Lowesby stations (on the line into Leicester) were closed a few months short of their 80th anniversaries, in 1959 and 1962 respectively, just before the Beeching Report. The ironstone quarry at Halstead was worked until 1963, leaving only the quarry workers' cottages built in the 1930s still standing today.

The Domesday Book can be used to estimate the village population as between 100 and 180 in 1086. After that, tax records and church returns suggest a very slow growth until the end of the seventeenth century. The rough and ready 1801 census estimate of about 300 had increased by 50% by 1871 and Halstead alone then grew by over 100 (50%) in the next ten years as railway construction and operation and ironstone mining attracted workers and their families to the area. After they left, the area declined and population reached a low of 330 in 1911. Since then, however, growth has been continuous – up to 400 in 1951 and nearly 550 in 2008, due to local authority building at Halstead Rise (the 1950s), the Digby Close developments (late 1960s) and four infill developments since 2000.

Services of different kinds have had various fortunes. The original twelfth century St Peter's church was expanded in the thirteenth and early sixteenth centuries and continues to provide religious services for the community to this day; as does Halstead Methodist Church ('the Chapel'), which was built in the 1840s on land donated by a local farmer. Electricity is believed to have come to the village in the late 1930s. The village school, having had a register of over 60 in the 1880s, moved to new premises on Marefield Lane in 1972, but closed in 2001 with only 12 pupils.

The Village Hall, first mooted twenty years earlier, was built by local subscription and opened in 1968. It continues to be a focus for village life and many organisations. The Post Office was closed in 2008, after 150 years in the village, although there is now a limited Outreach service from Oakham on three afternoons a week. The Village Shop continues to offer a variety of products, produce and services, as do Tilton Garage and the Rose and Crown public house, which is dated 1707, but based on an earlier structure.

St Peter's Church, the Rose & Crown and Main Street form the core of the village Conservation Area (see map on the back cover of this document). Tilton Cutting, south of the location of Tilton station, is a site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) because of the number of fossils in the rock strata unearthed by the railway workings. A type of ammonite found there by David Attenborough in his schooldays has been named after the village as *Tiloniceras acutum*.



Tilton Cutting

(Source: www.picturesofengland.com/England/Leicestershire/Tilton_on_the_Hill/pictures, Jez Taylor)

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

Methods of travel & destinations

- 87.2% of respondents have access to private transport (car or motorcycle).
- Whilst Leicester, Oakham & Billesdon (doctors' surgery) were the most popular destinations, Melton Mowbray (included within the 'Other' category on the questionnaire) was also popular.
- There was a wide variety of other destinations mentioned.
- To get in and out of the village to visit friends, go shopping, etc. the young people normally have lifts from their parents (22), take the bus (4), walk (1), bike (1), take a taxi (1) or get a lift from their parents to Billesdon to catch the bus there (1).

Public transport

- 68 adult respondents (41.5%) think that the provision of public transport is poor, 57 did not use it (34.8%) and 15 did not know about such provision (9.1%).
- 17 young people (65.4%) strongly disagreed or disagreed with the statement: "there is good public transport available to get me to and from the village".
- The two most popular improvements to public transport needed are more buses during daytime (35.4%) and better connections to other forms of public transport (29.9%) (AP1).
- 42 adult respondents (25.6%) use the Rural Rider bus, at least occasionally.
- 16 adult respondents (9.7%) use community transport schemes, at least occasionally.

Currently the only buses in the middle of the day are on Wednesday when there is one bus to Melton and one to Leicester. The bus timetable opposite the shop has been improved after complaints but still does not include Route 5 (to Leicester) (AP2).

A connection to Billesdon and a service to Market Harborough and/or Oakham were requested by some respondents and this included young people. (AP1).

Young people would like regular buses to Leicester especially on Saturdays. Also they would like to be able to visit their school friends so want access to Melton, Tugby, Uppingham and Oakham. Syston, Oadby and the Wigston area were also mentioned.

Bus shelter

- 18 young people (69%) strongly agreed or agreed that a bus shelter is needed (AP3).

There is currently no bus shelter.

Young people complained about having to wait for the school bus in the rain. The adults were not asked whether they would like a bus shelter.

Tilton Parish Council has considered provision of a bus shelter several times over the years but concluded that it would be too expensive. However, there are now more young people using school buses and so the possibility of obtaining funding to enable such provision will be explored.

Other methods of transport

- Only a small number of adult respondents showed an interest in schemes like "Dial a ride", car sharing or Taxi vouchers (6 each). Four drivers said they would be prepared to be part of a Volunteer Transport Scheme although only 3 people said they would use it if available.

As 14 people (8.5%) completed 'other' but made no comment, further investigation into the possible interest in these schemes may be a good idea. It is possible that more information should be circulated (AP31).

School Transport Plan

- The young people who completed their questionnaire go to the following schools: Uppingham Community College (8), Tugby Church of England Primary School (6), Billesdon Parochial Primary School (4) and a wide range of others (6).
- 20 young people (80%) said that they go to school on the school bus, 6 (24%) said that their parents provide lifts and 1 (4%) said they bike.
- 25 adults said they thought there should be a School Transport Plan but only 3 people gave their contact details. 23 adults thought there was one already.

As there is considerable congestion in the village particularly in the morning caused in part by school buses, there should be further investigation into the feasibility of a School Transport Plan (AP1).

Parking

- There were complaints about parking on pavements on Leicester Road and Marefield Lane. Parking outside the Village Shop and/or Village Hall sometimes obstructed the pavement and made it more difficult for pedestrians to cross the road.



At times it is difficult to cross the road outside the Village Shop as there are visibility problems for pedestrians due to parked vehicles.

Traffic turning from Melton Road presents a particular hazard outside the Village Shop as drivers are unable to see pedestrians crossing and are able to come round the corner at speed. This is a particular worry for the many school children crossing for the school buses twice a day.

A pedestrian crossing was suggested as a possible way to slow traffic (AP6).

Some comments from young people also highlighted difficulty crossing the road due to speeding traffic and vehicles pulling out near the Village Shop. Some asked for traffic lights (possibly meaning light-controlled crossings.)

Residents of Marefield Lane complained of vehicles parked on or partially on the pavement.

Walking

- To encourage parishioners to walk more, people asked for more and better maintained pavements plus more and safer crossings with dropped kerbs. Almost 40% (65) said that slower traffic would encourage them to walk more. They wanted better

signposting, easier access to footpaths, less vegetation and more dog-friendly stiles. 52 (31.7%) felt that leaflets illustrating walks would be useful (AP6).

More and/or wider pavements were requested and they need to be more wheelchair/pushchair friendly. For example, the camber of the pavement on parts of Leicester Road caused difficulties for some pedestrians (AP6).

Leaflets illustrating walks which are already available need more publicity (AP6).

The pedestrian crossing on Melton Road from Digby Close is dangerous to cross. (AP6).

A bend on the Leicester side of the crossing on Melton Road obscures the view of both pedestrians and drivers and the speed of many vehicles makes crossing the road hazardous.



A bend and excessive speeds of many vehicles make crossing from Digby Close hazardous.

Pedestrians between Halstead and Tilton have to cross Oakham Road three times to use the footpath. A sharp bend and excessive vehicle speed makes the crossing at the east end of Halstead near Pinfold particularly hazardous. Bends and trees which are often overgrown obscure the view towards Tilton at the crossing near Halstead Methodist Church and a pedestrian crossing is needed. The third crossing near the St Peter's Parish Churchyard wall is not easy due to a bend and poor visibility.



The speed of traffic, hidden bend and poor visibility as a result of overgrown vegetation make crossing the Oakham Road near Halstead Methodist Church dangerous.

Cycling

- Busy roads and speeding traffic are seen by most people as making cycling impossible in this area.

The speed of traffic on the B6047 and Oakham Road together with the width of the carriageway discourages most cyclists. The other roads, i.e. Loddington Road, are used by heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) which take up the whole of the road (AP5).

Traffic

- 132 adult respondents (80.4%) think that speeding traffic is a problem and 84 (51.2%) considered HGVs to be a problem.
- 17 young people (70.8%) strongly agree or agree that people drive too fast through the village and 11 (47.8%) strongly agree or agree that they are worried about road safety.

The Community Speed Watch in October 2007 and in June/July 2008 found that many drivers were travelling in excess of 40mph. The Police figures recorded before and after showed a slight reduction in speed. Vehicles slowing down to turn into Digby Close or right towards Oakham (similarly vehicles turning in the opposite direction from these side-roads which have not built up speed) affect the average speeds.

- Favoured traffic calming measures are: additional signs on the approach from Oakham (54) and more distinctive interactive signs (52) (the signs at Houghton and Glaston were mentioned as examples) on all three approach roads. There were also calls for speed cameras and a greater Police presence. Rumble strips were also a popular option (50) (AP4).

Clearer signs (maybe a flashing STOP sign) on the Oakham Road/Main Street junction near St Peter's Parish Church were asked for. Some drivers disregard the STOP sign. Other warning signs requested are near Station Cottages and Whatborough Cottages, Oakham Road and on Back Road and its junction with Main Street/Loddington Road and a sign and road markings on the B6047 to warn of vehicles turning from Back Road (AP4).

A "Children Playing" sign is requested in Marefield Lane.

Road Signs

- Opinions as to the number of signs, too few or too many, varied. It was suggested that a survey of all signs would be a good idea.

A sign showing the road name for Back Road at the junction with B6047 was asked for by one respondent.

The 30mph sign on Marefield Lane needs moving to what is now the edge of the village and one of those on Back Road which was removed when the Wilson Estate was built needs replacing (and possibly moving to past the Manor Farm Walk entrance) (AP4).

Additional Comments

- There was an over-riding theme that there are too many HGVs in the Parish (AP5).

There are reports of an ever increasing number of very large HGVs using unsuitable rural roads, particularly Loddington Road. Some HGV drivers drive too fast for road conditions.

ENVIRONMENT

Importance of the Natural Environment

- The vast majority of the 164 respondents considered all eight identified features of the natural environment within the parish to be important, namely hedgerows (90%), verges (88%), surrounding countryside (88%), mature trees (87%), green spaces within the village (82%), private gardens (74%), the Eye Brook stream (71%) and the disused railway line (63%).
- Nearly one half (46%) identified ‘more trees’ as a way of improving the natural environment within the parish, and 45% the reduction of the impact of household waste water, etc. into the Eye Brook.

Given the rural location of Tilton and Halstead and its network of footpaths into the surrounding countryside, the overwhelming support by inhabitants for these natural features is not surprising. Nevertheless, much of the surrounding countryside is agricultural with relatively limited wildlife, Tilton Railway Cutting (part of the disused railway line), which is owned by the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust and is a Geological Site of Special Scientific Interest, being the only recognised nature reserve in the parish. Respondents showed a clear interest in improving the natural environment in the parish, resulting in several potential actions (AP9, 10 & 14).



Colborough Hill and the mixed farming landscape in Tilton parish east of Halstead.

Detraction from the Physical Environment

- 61% of respondents considered dog fouling to detract from the parish’s physical environment.

- 65% considered litter in verges/on footpaths to detract from the parish's physical environment. The organisation of a formal voluntary litter picking scheme was supported by 38%. This would reinforce the work of volunteers who already litter pick.

Although other issues were cited by respondents including light pollution, aircraft and vehicle noise, flies and fly-tipping, addressing dog fouling and litter were considered to be by far the most important matters (AP7 & AP8). It is important to publicise that dog mess can be deposited in ordinary litter bins around the parish.

Recycling of Household Waste

- 45% of respondents identified kerbside plastic collection, and 40% an increase in the types of materials that can be collected, as ways to recycle more household waste.

Additional items suggested for recycling included waste food, aluminium foil, clothes, batteries, drink cartons, large cardboard and plastics other than bottles.

Although Harborough District Council already operates an active recycling scheme, there was a clear commitment from respondents to increase their recycling.

Additional recycling provision could come from kerbside collection e.g. for plastic and food waste (AP11), and an expansion of the facilities at the existing recycling centre in the car park of the Rose and Crown Public House in Tilton (AP12). Comments from some respondents indicate that further clarification of the existing recycling system is required e.g. the use of green wheelie bins for cardboard.



The Central Recycling Collection Point in the Rose and Crown car park.

Environmental Improvements to Home and Garden

- Interest was shown by significant minorities (ranging up to 21% of respondents) in all environmentally friendly improvements (energy saving measures, composting and water-saving devices), and renewable energy generation at the house, business and parish level; and in allotment gardening in the parish.
- A number of respondents stated that they already have some of the environmentally friendly measures identified in the questionnaire (e.g. double glazing, compost bins).

Nevertheless, the responses indicated that raising environmental awareness, probably through a public exhibition (to include special purchase offers), would be a valuable undertaking (AP13).

Additionally, the possibility of acquiring some common land for use as allotments, tree planting, etc. should be investigated (AP14).

BUILDINGS AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Desired new house building over the next twenty years

- 35% of respondents (52 out of 148) thought no additional homes should be built in the parish over the next 20 years, while 30% would accept up to 20 homes.
- 21 (14%) thought between 21 and 50 new homes would be desirable, 4 (3%) between 51 and 100, and 26 (18%) would accept “whatever is required”.
- Making reasonable assumptions, the weighted average of all these responses generates a range of desired new housing of 20-40, i.e. 1-2 new homes per year.
- There is no significant difference in these results by gender, although the younger (under 35) and oldest (over 74) age groups would appear to welcome more extra homes than those aged 35-74.

Lack of affordable housing

- 21 respondents out of 154 (14%) had a member of their family who had to leave the parish in the last five years because of the lack of affordable housing.
- 44% of respondents were in favour of a small scheme of affordable housing for local people (rented or shared ownership).



House on recent development in Tilton for sale at £425,000

(Source: www.thinkproperty.com/property/14510271, 5/8/08)

Types and location of new housing

- The most popular categories of additional housing were “starter homes” (65 mentions), “affordable homes” (36 mentions for rental and 26 for shared ownership) and “family homes” (28).
- Much less favoured were “executive housing” (4 mentions), “private homes for rent” (7) and “flats” (9).
- When presented with the possibility of a “small scheme of affordable housing for local people”, 66 respondents (44%) were in favour, 21% against and 35% did not know.
- Additional comments on desired locations varied greatly. For example, 9 people stated that new housing should be on brownfield sites and not use up green spaces, while 3 others suggested building on the playing field and 4 on the large field between Back Lane and Leicester Road.
- The location of new housing must also consider existing buildings and associated problems. For example, Halstead Methodist Church was flooded with raw sewage due to two separate blockages occurring in the mains sewage drain in 2008.

Currently there is no parish strategy covering the desirable scale, type, design and location of new housing.

It is desirable on economic, social and environmental grounds for such a strategy to be developed, and agreed to by the Parish Council (AP15).



Sympathetic development of Manor Farm, Tilton on the right hand side

Designated Buildings, Features and Areas

- 98 respondents out of 150 (65%) knew that within Tilton and Halstead there existed Buildings of Architectural Importance (BAIs) and Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs).
- Only 66% of respondents were aware that a Conservation Area had been designated (in 1976).
- The proportions thinking these features were not adequately protected (e.g. from vandalism or future development) were small: 11% for BAIs and SAMs and 17% for the Conservation Area. Most people did not know whether they were adequately protected or not.

In Tilton and Halstead there are 20 buildings which are “officially” of architectural importance and 40 scheduled ancient monuments (also termed ‘Known Archaeological Remains’.) Some of these are shown on the map on the back cover of this document.

Because over a quarter of respondents said they would be interested in more information, descriptive information about BAIs and SAMs, directed at both residents and visitors, should be researched, written and published (AP16).

VILLAGE FACILITIES, SERVICES, LEISURE AND AMENITIES

Methods of access to local news and information

- 72.6% of people gain access to local information by word of mouth.
- 65.9% gain access via the PPP (*a parish newsletter with an annual subscription charge of £2.50 for 11 issues*).
- 49.4% use the village notice boards (*located near the Village Hall and Village Shop*).

Other sources of local news mentioned were the Village Shop and the Rose and Crown pub.

Methods of access to the Internet

- 70.7% of respondents access the internet at home.
- 18.3% (30 respondents) do not have access to the internet at all.

Using Leicestershire Villages website

- Nine respondents expressed an interest in using the Tilton webpage (www.leicestershirevillages.com/tiltononthehill) to add information and 8 requested training.

Contact details have been provided and training will be arranged (AP17).

The Tilton website is already being expanded and updated.

Village Hall

- 81.1% of respondents use the Village Hall at least occasionally.

Verbatim suggestions included tidying up the exterior of the Village Hall and the Rose and Crown Car Park.

- 21 young people (80.8%) said that they would attend or possibly attend film showings at the Village Hall (AP18).
- Adults were not asked about film showings.



Tilton Produce Show in the Village Hall, 2006



Tilton Village Hall

The Play Area (near the Village Hall)

- 34.2% of the adult respondents take children to the play area at least occasionally.

There were requests from the adult respondents that the facilities on the children's play area are improved (AP19).

- The majority of young people (92%) use the play area near the Village Hall, even if only a few times a year.

The young people suggested that the play area could be improved by adding new equipment, with more variety plus swings, an assault course, etc. for young teenagers and keeping the equipment clean. A lack of space was mentioned and one respondent suggested moving the play area to the playing field (AP19).



The Play Area near the Village Hall, which needs updating.

The Playing Field

- 23.8% of the adult respondents use the playing field at least occasionally.

There were requests from the adult respondents to improve the facilities on the playing field - football posts and cricket nets were both suggested (AP20).

Suggestions of what the young people would like to see happen at the playing field included the following sports facilities: football (9), rugby (4), basketball (4), cricket (3) and skateboard mini ramp (2) (AP20).

Other suggestions included activities, sports coaching, an adventure play ground/climbing frame/assault course/play ground, a swimming pool, events/parties/festivals and staying as it is.



The Playing Field

Tilton and District Sports Club

- 12.1% of adult respondents are paid members of the Tilton and District Sports Club for tennis, less for football and basketball.
- 10 young people (40%) said they were members of the Sports Club, 9 (36%) were not and 7 (28%) did not know about the Sports Club (AP 21).
- The young people currently use the sports court mainly for football, basketball and tennis.

Two young people said they did not use the sports court because they did not know anyone else to play with.

The most popular improvements mentioned by the young people were to have hockey facilities, basketball markings and another net at the other end of the court (AP21).

The Tilton and District Sports Club has been publicised in the PPP (parish newsletter) and details will be included on the Tilton website.



Sports Court

Sports coaching

- Tennis lessons/coaching was the most popular choice by the young people respondents.

A series of four tennis coaching sessions ran during the summer holidays of 2008 (AP22).

- Young people were also interested in other sports lessons/coaching and particularly football, then in descending order: hockey, basketball, cricket and taekwondo (AP22).

Other village facilities and groups

- 17.7% of adult respondents are involved in the Tilton and District History Group.
- Less than 10% are involved with Petanque, the Parent and Toddler group, the Friendship Club, Luncheon Club and Discussion Group.

Recreation

- Less than 10% of respondents took part in allotment gardening, performing arts, creative arts or organised sports.
- 14.6% of respondents (24) would like to see allotment gardening available in the parish (AP14).

Suggestions for additional recreational activities included walking/rambling groups and organised sports in the Village Hall (but no two suggestions were the same!).

Mobile library service

- Only 30 respondents (18.3%) use the mobile library, 67.7% do not use it and 10.4% did not know about it.
- 12 (46.1%) young people said that they would use or possibly use the mobile library if it visited after school.

*In theory the mobile library currently visits the village for 30 minutes (11.30-noon) every other Tuesday and parks in the Rose and Crown car park. The general feeling was that the service could be improved by advertising the visiting times more, adding in extra stops and by changing to late afternoon/early evening visits. Concern was also expressed as to the reliability of the service. **Feedback will be given to Leicestershire Libraries (AP23).***

RELIGION

Church Attendance

- 65 respondents attend Sunday services (35 at St Peter's Parish Church, 14 at Halstead Methodist Church, and 16 elsewhere).
- More people attend Sunday services weekly at Halstead Methodist Church (9) than at St Peter's (4).
- 80 respondents attend Seasonal services (57 at St Peter's, 7 at Halstead Methodist Church and 16 elsewhere).
- Excluding Sunday services and United services:
St Peter's is more popular for Seasonal services, funerals, weddings and baptisms.
Halstead Methodist Church is more popular for Carol singing choir and Bible study.
- 3 people would like to attend St Peter's, one person would like to attend Halstead Methodist Church and one person was not aware of Halstead Methodist Church.



Halstead Methodist Church

New Activities for Young People

- The things that the young people said that they would use or possibly use if they became available in the village included art/craft activities run in the holidays (16) (AP42), a drama group (14), a children's after school Christian club (7) and a Sunday School (4).
- Parents/guardians said that their children would use the following now or within the next five years: an after school club (11), a holiday scheme (9), an after school Christian club (7) and a Sunday School (6).

An after school club will begin fortnightly in term times as soon as possible to include art/craft activities and drama and to link to festivals in the holidays (i.e. Christmas and Easter) with a Christian component (AP41).

Early Bird services for young children started at Halstead Methodist Church twice a month from July 2008 to include art/craft activities (AP24).

Plays and Music

- 50 people (30.5%) felt that there is scope for St Peter's Parish Church to be used as a place to enjoy plays and music.

A musical event will be arranged at St Peter's Parish Church (AP25).

Historical

- 44 people (27%) felt that there was scope for St Peter's Parish Church to meet other needs as a historic place.
- Nineteen people said they would be interested in joining a Friends group to help support the historic fabric of the Parish Church.

Those who volunteered to be part of the "Friends of St Peter's Church" group will be asked if they can help arrange the musical event at St Peter's Parish Church (AP25).



St Peter's Parish Church, Tilton

(Jeff Chapman, www.picturesofengland.com/England/Leicestershire/Tilton_on_the_Hill/pictures/1018588)

Prayer

- 30 people (18.3%) felt that there was scope for St Peter's Parish Church to meet needs as a place for private prayer.

St Peter's Parish Church is already open during the day and this arrangement will continue.

Bell ringing

- 10 people said that they would be interested in bell ringing.

Two open bell ringing evenings have been arranged with a tour and demonstrations (AP26).

CRIME AND SAFETY

Feeling safe around the village

- Less than 2% of adult respondents feel unsafe during the day and 4% at night.

These feelings are due to poor lighting in specific areas and previous incidents of house and vehicle crime.

Better street lighting was called for by 28 people (17%). It was reported to be poor in some areas e.g. in Halstead Rise and between Tilton and Halstead, but too bright in other places such as Melton Road and Leicester Road. (AP 29)

- 2 young people responded that they do not feel safe in the parish when they meet strangers.

Types of crime thought to be a problem

The major areas of concern were –

- Burglary listed by 42 people (25.6%).
- Crime involving vehicles by 39 people (24%).
- Vandalism by 5 people (3%).
- Overall there were a high number of people who said that they did not know if particular crimes were a problem.

Actual crime figures for the parish have been provided by the local police and these are available from the Crime and Safety sub-group (AP 27).

Contacting Community Police

- Only half the respondents know how to contact the Community Police.

A poster giving information and showing photographs of local officers has now been displayed on the village notice board (AP 27).

Meeting with Community Police

- 68 people said they would attend a public meeting to discuss their concerns.

A meeting in the Village Hall was arranged for 7th September 2008 involving the Community Police Service and Neighbourhood Watch (AP 27).

Crime Prevention

- 62 people (38%) felt that a Neighbourhood Watch would help to reduce crime and improve safety. 32 people (20%) felt this about Countryside Watch.
- 10 people would be prepared to be a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator.

There was reference to informal watching which already takes place between some neighbours.

“As a community we all help each other- reporting suspicious activity, etc.”

Discussions with the Community Police indicate that co-ordination of this very positive existing village network together with effective two way communication with the police could aid crime prevention. This was explored at the public meeting on 7th September 2008 (AP 28).

- 17 people (10%) were in favour of the installation of CCTV.

However, one comment was:

“CCTV is a terrible idea. It doesn’t work and reduces trust in public behaviour. This would be a very negative step for a place like Tilton.”

- 76 people (46%) thought that more regular police patrols within the village would help tackle crime and improve safety (AP 27).

HEALTH CARE, SOCIAL CARE & ADULT EDUCATION

Health Care

- The overwhelming majority of respondents (80.5%) use the Billesdon Surgery.
- More than half of the respondents (56.7%) use the prescription service there.
- 32.3% say they use the Pharmacy there.
- Although a majority (54.9%) say they are satisfied with the out of hour's doctors' service, a significant minority (25.6%) are dissatisfied. This concern seems to be across all age groups.

The verbatim comments identified both the out of hours service and transport to the surgery as problems.

More information is required on the out of hours doctors service, and contact will be made with the Billesdon Surgery to make sure this is more widely disseminated on the Tilton website, village notice boards and in the PPP (AP 30).

There is a transport problem for some groups of people. Currently some needs are met by informal arrangements. Voluntary Action South Leicestershire has a model scheme for volunteer drivers and they will be contacted to see if this is appropriate to the local community (AP 31).

Social Care

- Although a small proportion of the total (8.5%) said they have need of support with everyday tasks, this is a significant proportion of the over 75 age group.
- A larger proportion (14%) said that they were not aware of how to access day services, etc.
- A number of respondents said they did not feel included in village life (12.8%).

A minority of the community need more information on services available in Tilton and Halstead. The existing village 'Welcome Pack' will be updated and re-issued on the Tilton website and paper copies will be available on request (AP 32).

Adult Education

- A significant number of respondents indicated interest in courses for recreational enjoyment (39.6%), computer skills (22.6%) and language courses (23.9%).
- A large number (44.5%) expressed a preference for evening sessions.

There is significant interest in evening classes, or classes out of working hours. The Rural Training Centre at Owston has been contacted, and they are starting several new courses on Saturdays and on Tuesday evenings. There are a number of organisations in Tilton and Halstead which already organise evening talks and discussions will be held with them to see if they can be made available to a wider audience (AP 33). If funding becomes available to allow evening classes to be held locally in a more formal way this opportunity will be explored.

EMPLOYMENT AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Use of businesses and services located in the parish

- The Village Shop is used daily or weekly by 78% of people answering the question.
- At the time the questionnaires were completed there was a full-time Post Office (PO) located in the Village Shop and this was used daily or weekly by 65.9% of respondents.

The full-time PO in the shop has subsequently closed and a part-time PO now operates for three afternoons a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) at the Village Hall. The Campaign to Save Tilton Post Office arose out of the Parish Plan group and fought to maintain a full-time PO in the parish. Many respondents voiced their great concern at the anticipated loss of the PO.



The Village Shop

- The Rose and Crown pub is used daily or weekly by 30.4% of respondents.
- Tilton Garage (the village petrol station) is used daily or weekly by 8.5%.
- Mobile services (*a fresh fish van on Friday lunchtime, a Fish and Chip van on Saturday lunchtime and 5pm on Tuesdays, a milk float and/or the mobile library on alternate Tuesdays*) were used daily or weekly by 9.1% of respondents.

Suggested improvements for parish businesses

Respondents suggested various improvements they would like to see at the Village Shop, Rose and Crown pub and Tilton Garage. These responses have been passed on to the relevant businesses (AP34).



The newly decorated Rose and Crown public house

New businesses within the parish

- Future businesses that respondents would find to be desirable or acceptable include tea rooms (69.5%), craft workshops (61%) and leisure facilities (57.3%).
- Small business workspace units are viewed as desirable or acceptable by 50.9%, garden centres/nurseries by 50% and shops by 48.2%.
- Unacceptable businesses include large industrial estates (72%) and takeaway food outlets (50%).

Home working and local businesses

- 59 respondents work at home, the majority, occasionally or some of the time.
- 11 respondents run a business within the parish.
- 8 local businesses/home workers said that inclusion in a local business directory would help them, 5 said a business club would help, and 3 were interested in free web pages, shared services for business (e.g. photocopier, fax), training opportunities and small industrial/workspace units within the parish.

Free webpages will be made available on www.leicestershirevillages.com/tiltononthehill in order to create a local business directory (AP35).

Childcare

- 18 parents/guardians said it was difficult or extremely difficult to find the childcare they want within the parish and only 12 parents/guardians said it was easy or OK.
- 6 parents/guardians said that they would use a registered childminder, 4 a baby sitter and 2 a nanny/au pair for their children if they became available in the parish now or within the next five years.

There are future employment opportunities in the parish for a registered childminder, a baby sitter and a nanny/au pair.

Local Exchange and Trading Scheme

- 26 people expressed an interest in a LETS scheme. (The Local Exchange and Trading Scheme is a local community based mutual aid network in which people exchange all kinds of goods and services with one another, without the need for money.)

People interested in LETS will be contacted to see if they want to start a scheme (AP36).

YOUNG PEOPLE

Not enough to do

- 60% of young people strongly disagreed or disagreed with the statement: “there are plenty of things for me to do in the village” and many of them made comments such as “there are no activities for us”.

Comments from parents support this: *“There is nothing on offer to school age children at all.”*

New activities for the future

- The things the children said that they would use or possibly use if they became available in the village are: a tuck shop (open on summer evenings) 76% (19), a youth club 68% (17) (AP38), art/craft activities run in the holidays 64% (16) (AP42), a drama group 56% (14), a uniform organisation 28% (7) (AP39) and a youth shelter 28% (7).
- 52 parents/guardians of under 18s completed the questionnaire. Some said that their children would use the following now or within the next five years: an after school club (11) (AP41), a youth club (11) (AP38), a uniform organisation (i.e. Brownies/Scouts) (11) (AP39) and a holiday scheme (9) (AP42).



New! - Tennis coaching for Young People, Summer 2008

Village Events

The young people suggested a number of different events that they would like to see in the parish and the most popular included a bonfire night (10), a scarecrow weekend (9), a sports day (6), a fun day (5) and a talent show (2). Events surrounding Christmas, Easter and New Years Eve were also suggested as were crafts, drama and cooking.

An Easter Bonnet Parade was organised for young people for Easter 2008.

Youth Council

- 38% (10) of young people are interested in representing their village on a Youth Council (AP 37).

The Youth Council should be consulted about all the Action Points of relevance to young people. They could also work with others to organise children’s participation in village events (summer fete, harvest festival, etc.)

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY

OF

BRITTA HALCROW

WHOSE ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT WE SADLY MISS.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the residents of Tilton and Halstead for the time and thought they have taken to express their opinions and ideas for the future and Tilton Parish Council for their suggestions.

The Rural Community Council (Leicestershire and Rutland) and in particular, Dean Boonham, have been very helpful. We also received useful comments and maps from Dr Matthew Kempson, Policy Officer at Leicestershire County Council.

The Chair of the Parish Plan group was Miriam Stoate, the Treasurer was Julian Bird and the Secretary was Ann Trangmar.

The sub-groups of the Parish Plan consisted of the following people:

- Traffic and Transport: Julian Bird and Norma George.
- Environment: David Duckett, Chris and Miriam Stoate, Gavin Young and Ian Halcrow.
- Buildings and the Built Environment: Paul Herrington, Peter Braint, Simon Brown, Grahame Voss and Michael Dawkins.
- Village Facilities, Services, Leisure and Amenities: Moira Page, Mike Ball, Sindy Modha and Britta Halcrow.
- Religion: Liz Auterson, Christine Keeling, Sandra Lesson, Helen Farnsworth, Norma George, Colin Farthing, Jess Young, Alex Uff, Miriam Stoate, Anna Hall.
- Crime and Safety: Ann Trangmar, Deborah Slatter and Ian Halcrow.
- Heath Care, Social Care and Adult Education: Jim Auterson, Kathy Bird, Tricia and Richard Smith and Ann Trangmar.
- Employment and the Local Economy: Phil and Joanna Jesson, Roy Jackson and Britta Halcrow.
- Young People: Deborah Slatter, Sarah Gilbert and Miriam Stoate.

Harry Clements, Jim Auterson and Paul Herrington contributed to the Historic Background.

Edward Davis made helpful comments with respect to the Tilton and District Sports Club.

Ian Halcrow and subsequently Gavin Young have maintained the Parish Plan information on the Tilton website.

The following people distributed and collected the questionnaires: Jim Auterson, Julian and Kathy Bird, Peter Braint, David Duckett, Stephen Clayton, Margaret Henderson, Steve Cooke, Ann Trangmar, Sindy Modha, Gavin Young, Paul Herrington, Alex Uff, Joanna and Phil Jesson and Helen Farnsworth. Anne Wise designed a flyer to publicise the Parish Plan launch.

Photographs by: Julian Bird, Norma George, Chris Stoate, Deborah Slatter & Andrew Booth.

Questionnaire data were inputted by: Deborah Slatter, Gavin Young, Julian Bird, Jim and Margaret Henderson, Tim Clamp and Lucy Robinson.

We are grateful for a Community Champions grant of £2000.