

# *Sherfield English*

## PARISH PLAN

Issue 2.01

1 December 2008

With minor up-dates, April 2011

*For more up-to-date details, particularly concerning Community Group  
activities and contact details, see [www.sherfieldenglish.org.uk](http://www.sherfieldenglish.org.uk)*

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Issue 2 is the formal issue  
following local and external consultation,  
and review by TVBC



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*by Chris Pybus, Chairman of the Parish Council*

Having been born and lived in the village all my life, I have been amazed at the way our village is adapting to change. In my youth the village relied on agriculture for most of its employment, but in its place we now we have many small businesses and people working from home, using the modern communication systems that are now available.

Not surprisingly therefore, the overwhelming view of the parish-wide survey was that priority should be given to preserving Sherfield English's future as a living community. But parishioners were equally concerned to prevent creeping suburbanisation, wanting to preserve the rural feel of the 'leafy lanes' and the open spaces in the heart of the village. And what came out top as everyone's most valued aspect of life in the parish? Tranquillity. It's a very peaceful village, despite having the A27 through its centre, and we all seem to hate noise, whether from lorries in narrow lanes or from the noisier leisure activities.

Research and evidence gathering for the Plan was started two years ago under my predecessor as Chairman, Arthur Smythe-Wright, but during my first year as Chairman an outline draft of the Plan was produced and accepted. In the last few months further meetings and discussions have produced valuable additional material for incorporation in this, the first issue of the full Parish Plan.

To implement the Parish Plan, turning words into actions, we can rely on a large number of residents through the many excellent associations and clubs we have in Sherfield English, not just the Parish Council and those who have contributed directly to developing the Plan.

I would like to thank all the many contributors for the hard work that has made the Plan a reality, particularly for the coordination work done throughout by our Project Manager, John Hartley. Also due special thanks are Paul Luckhurst and Ray Dixon, who have done most to progress the plan, and Mary Newman whose experience and contacts were invaluable, particularly in the research and consultation stages. Collectively the members of SERP and SEEP have provided the ready-made action committees for much of the real work behind the plan, and they will continue to earn our gratitude for years to come as we implement the Plan. Others who have made valuable contributions or given crucial advice are Smita Kulkarni, Elizabeth Gill, Mike Heath, Ross Bell, Nick Zorab, David Biddlecombe, Peter Dovey, Julia Noble, June Hoar, and Steve Cogdell. Outside the parish we are grateful for advice and support from David Bibby, Madelene Winters and Steve Lees in the Borough Planning Service, from our Borough Councillor Gordon Bailey and County Councillor Roy Perry, and from the Parish Plan teams in Kings Somborne and Longparish. Finally, and indeed especially, thanks are due to more than 130 parishioners who took the trouble to give us detailed comments and suggestions.

I very much look forward to the Plan's implementation and update, year by year, by future Parish Councils.

Chris Pybus

9 May 2007



*by John Hartley, Parish Plan Manager*

This is the first update of the Parish Plan, a year after the first issue. In that time the plan has been put out for review and consultation by external bodies as well as parishioners. No major changes were requested, but some sections have been augmented as a result, and some substantial appendices have been added.

As I said in the first issue, the Parish Plan has really been “business as usual” for Sherfield English, but on a more formal basis. Parish Plans, in general, were conceived by what is now the Department for Communities and Local Government to promote villages as living communities, and to give them more influence over their own affairs. Everyone in the village will recognise these as objectives we have been working on for years, things which flow naturally from a high level of community spirit. By national standards we are a well-organised village, with a strong track record of groups working cooperatively to achieve community goals, such as creating sports and social facilities, and protecting the environment. An appendix to this second issue lists no fewer than 18 local groups and societies.

All this comes from a village of little more than 200 households, with extensive continuity of families going back through many generations. It is to their credit that this essentially farming community has embraced an influx of professional people to create a modern village that really works. This has been recognised outside the village; in the same year that the Parish Plan was being developed the village won the Calor **'Best Village in Test Valley'** award, and was highly commended in the Hampshire **'Building Community Life'** award.

**Consequently we start the Plan having already achieved nearly every goal that commonly figures in Parish Plans:**

We have a highly successful Village Hall which typically hosts 20 events and meetings every month. We have a Community Association and a monthly newsletter taken by 95% of households. We have recently completed our second Affordable Housing scheme. We have sports and playground facilities that are among the best of any village in Hampshire. We have a well cared-for Church and a Chapel too. We even have a voluntary transport scheme, run cooperatively with neighbouring villages, to supplement public transport.

Perhaps crucially, we do not just live here, we work here too. Combining our questionnaire results with census data, we can see that 12% of adults have a job within the village, and a further 25% work from home, while only 22% commute to work. (20% are retired.) This means that about 60% of adults overall are working, and of them, nearly 2 out of 3 work locally. A big factor is that we still have four working farms and several other food producers, such as a water cress grower. There are numerous other local businesses, including a thriving village pub and restaurant, an expanding shop and Post Office, a golf course, an up-market touring caravan site, a nursery, a conservatory tea room which is a popular meeting place for villagers, and a farm produce shop. We have builders, engineers and specialist contractors, a garage with a workshop and a filling station. And the most significant factor of all: virtually every one of these farms and businesses is owned and run by people who live in or around the village.

**So what does a village as lively and well-organised as this need a Parish Plan for?** Quite simply, we need it to influence those things which we cannot just do for ourselves: things like improving the highways, promoting the development of small- scale businesses, conserving the environment, and shaping the pattern of the settlement itself. In short, those things which are County and Borough issues. We have had action plans for our own efforts for years; with the Parish Plan we now have a framework for action on all aspects of community life for the foreseeable future.

John Hartley

1 December 2008





### The Objective

The overall objective of the Parish Plan has been to identify the needs and aspirations of the village over the next 10 years, and turn these into an effective action plan. Most of the objectives commonly associated with Parish Plans have already been achieved in Sherfield English, and therefore our main specific objectives came down to influencing aspects of County and Borough planning policies.

### Management of the Plan

The Plan was initiated, and supervised throughout by the Parish Council, with day-to-day management delegated to a project manager – a volunteer with appropriate professional experience. The village already has effective voluntary groups undertaking the kind of projects which are expected to fall under the umbrella of a Parish Plan, and therefore creating yet another committee would have been counter-productive. These groups are the Sherfield English & District Community Association (SEDCA), the Sherfield English Recreation Project (SERP) and the Sherfield English Environmental Protection Society (SEEP).

The project manager reported to a Parish Council sub-committee, and presented progress to the whole Council at each of its meetings. At each stage in researching, consulting and preparing the Plan, the project manager formed ad hoc working groups, drawn partly from the village's existing action groups, and partly from individual volunteers. This proved to be a highly effective management strategy, allowing different aspects of the Plan to proceed in parallel, while permitting the maximum number of people to contribute. The village as a whole was kept informed, and invited to comment, through our web site (see below) and the monthly newsletter distributed by our Community Association.

### Consultation & Research

There were three phases in identifying the needs and aspirations of our parishioners:

The first, and most labour intensive, was the research phase, which we knew from the outset had to be based on a detailed questionnaire, but which also involved presentations at meetings and public events and the use of SEDCA's newsletter to invite comments and questions.

The second was an interactive one in which the values, concerns, and ideas expressed were turned into specific objectives and proposals. We created a web site ([www.sherfieldenglish.info](http://www.sherfieldenglish.info)) which has been used to disseminate a wide range of information, including a searchable table of all the text input that had been received, and a breakdown of the full questionnaire response. We also made continuing use of SEDCA's newsletter.

The third stage, the longest in elapsed time, was making as sure as possible that the whole village was behind the final document. We took a whole year over this phase, from the presentation of an outline plan at a Parish General Meeting in May 2006 to a much modified first full draft in April 2007.

In parallel with this we sought input from outside the village, principally from both Borough and County Councillors and Officers, but also from the experience of other parishes in creating their Parish Plans. In the Test Valley, both Kings Somborne and Longparish teams were generous with their time, as were officers of the TVBC Planning Service.

## The Questionnaire

The questionnaire is particularly important as it provides documentary evidence that the Plan truly reflects the wishes of the whole village, not just the views of small coterie. Crucially, the value of this is dependent on the precise questions asked, since it is easy to ask questions that fail to expose people's real views. For instance, the question "Would you object to extra lorry traffic?" tells you absolutely nothing. Instead we asked "Would you welcome the development of a small industrial estate?" and on a different page, "Is there anywhere in the village that traffic speed or noise particularly concerns you?". Similar care was taken with all the questions.

However, choosing what questions to ask was in itself a research project. For this we used three approaches: First, invitations were issued at public events – the Parish Annual Meeting, an Open Forum, and via a stall at the annual Fun Day, where we attracted attention by running a competition with generously donated prizes. Secondly, through the village's monthly newsletter, and thirdly, and perhaps most productively, by requests for input to each of our community groups, principally SEDCA, SERP and SEEP (all mentioned above), but also our very active Women's Institute, the riding group, and so on, plus personal approaches to people likely to have a different perspective, such as farmers and business owners. Throughout we were also comparing our questionnaire to those in the many Parish Plans posted on the Internet, and listened to the advice and encouragement given to us by the TVBC Planning Service.

Four months later we had a 6-page questionnaire ready for distribution to every household in the parish. This was returned by 60% of households, along with a lot of written comments – whole pages in some cases. Overall we had everything we had hoped for: a good turn-out, quantifiable information on key issues, a remarkably consistent expression of priorities in the free-form comments, and a clear mandate for specific actions. The detailed results, including condensed comments, were posted on the web site, and are presented in Appendix 1. A summary was distributed with the SEDCA newsletter.

## The Plan Outline & feedback

Over the next 8 months we worked to distil all this information into specific proposals, several times seeking feedback through the same channels that we had used in the initial research. At the next Annual Parish Meeting, in May 2006, exactly a year after the project was launched, the first draft of an 'Outline Plan' was presented, and this was published with amendments two months later. A copy was sent to every household in the parish attached to the SEDCA newsletter, and was posted on the web site.

This Outline Plan was something concrete on which to assess reaction, and was a further chance to flush out any strong views which had not hitherto surfaced. We did not rush, but kept prodding at people to give us feedback. We also consulted outside the parish, most importantly with the Head of Policy, Steve Lees, at TVBC Planning Service, and talked to other parishes in the Borough, notably Kings Somborne and Longparish, who had completed their Parish Plans.

Fortunately, throughout this 8 month period there was no adverse reaction, what criticism there was being couched in constructive terms. By March 2007 we were ready to commit to the first full draft of the Plan, and this was finalised in a few intense weeks leading up the second anniversary of the project's start.

## SUMMARY

The Parish Plan is divided into sections, these being aligned with the interests of the various voluntary groups who will be implementing the Plan. Each aspect of the Plan can therefore proceed at its own pace, with identified actions being undertaken by different groups of people.

### Housing

The Plan proposes changes to TVBC's Planning Policy, and will seek, through negotiation with the Planning Service and our Borough Councillors, to have the proposals formally adopted. This will be an interactive process, perhaps over a number of years, rather than a one-off statement. However, it is abundantly clear that the village as a whole does want changes, and that these do not conflict with the broader aspects of Borough Policy.

The changes we propose have three main objectives:

- To preserve the essential character and identity of the village as a living community.
- To correct the imbalance between large and small dwellings.
- To replace the use of existing infill policy (SET06) with a mechanism similar to SET 02 (which takes account of character and environment in an urban context), allowing housing development to be controlled across the parish without forcing housing into the areas which are already most crowded.

### Business Development

The Questionnaire showed widespread appreciation of the need to encourage businesses within the village if we are to retain our identity as a living community, but equally widespread apprehension as to what form new businesses might take. By a large margin, the main concern was noise, this coming up in every context from waste recycling to the leisure industry. Worries about lorry traffic were in second place.

It is likely that the conversion of redundant agricultural buildings will play a large part in any business development. As with housing, specific proposals will be accompanied by extensive consultation, but no changes to Borough planning policy are needed.

Tourism is an important potential area for businesses in the village. The provision of accommodation, meals and refreshments seems to be non-contentious and generally welcome, but anything like a "tourist attraction" drew a very negative reaction in the Questionnaire. As with other things, the dominant issue was noise.

### Roads & Traffic

Most of the road and traffic problems in the village concern the A27, and have arisen from its past importance as a trunk road. The task for us is therefore to get its fundamental character re-aligned with its present main role of a B road connecting a string of villages with each other and the local market town.

We have set a target, over the timescale of the Parish Plan, of reducing the A27 speed limit to 40 mph throughout the parish, linking to the existing 40 limit in Shootash and taking it all the way to the County boundary. The route to achieving this is seen as one of changing the character of the road, rather than creating an enforcement challenge. Away from the A27, the problems are quite the opposite. Here the task is one of increasing safety without changing their character. Large lorries in narrow lanes are a perennial source of concern, but weight limits are made difficult by the needs of farms. The improvement and extension of paths for pedestrians and cyclists, and the creation of off-road routes for riders will be continuing objectives for the foreseeable future.

## Sports & Leisure

The Parish Plan follows the lead created by SERP, the Sherfield English Recreation Project, whose achievements in recent years have been extraordinary. A number of active sports clubs now operate under the SERP umbrella, including a football club with both adult and junior teams, a tennis club, croquet and bowls clubs, plus regular rounders and cricket events. We also have an active riding group which includes both adults and children from the parish and surrounding area. Their activities are supported by the presence of a respected Equestrian Centre in the village.

The Parish Plan's role will be to integrate SERP's and the local riding group's plans with more general projects, such as improving access to woodlands, wetlands and other potential amenity areas, or by creating off-road circuits around and through the parish for walkers, cyclists and riders.

The village has a relatively small number of children and young adults, but their interests and welfare are given considerable attention in the village. Foremost are a number of sports activities, while the riding group makes particular efforts to include children. A children's gardening club, with a dedicated plot provided at Gilbert's Nursery, started in 2008.

## Ecology

The Questionnaire showed that virtually everyone in the village cares about wildlife and the preservation of natural habitats. Our farmers are the people who do most of the work implied by this sentiment, but the importance of biodiversity and habitat preservation is increasingly being recognised at all levels of government, and this is producing a sea-change in funding policies. HCC now has a Biodiversity Information Centre, and members of SEEP are working with them to see what help the village can obtain.

A certain amount of habitat is publicly owned land, principally along road verges. The Plan will look for ways in which parishioners can enhance these public areas, and where appropriate, work with the farmers and landowners to achieve a mutual benefit. Some schemes, such as landscaping the area either side of the A27 between the Village Hall and the Church, and formal hedgerow surveys, are under discussion, but no specific proposals are included in this issue of the Plan.

## Services

There was surprisingly little comment on services in the Questionnaire, perhaps reflecting the fact that people in the countryside tend to be self-reliant by nature. Nonetheless there are significant problems for some people, particularly when it comes to public transport. The other issues are things like home help for the elderly, and healthcare provisions. To some extent, everything comes down to transport as the problem.

We do have a voluntary self-help network, the 'LINK Scheme', which works in cooperation with the neighbouring parishes of Plaitford and Whiteparish to provide support, such as transport to local services and amenities, such as the Post Office or the Doctors' Surgery. Efforts are being made to increase awareness of the scheme.

## Minerals & Waste

Mineral extraction, and more particularly what happens to the hole afterwards, has been an extremely contentious issue in recent years. Pressure will continue, and we clearly need a comprehensive strategy to coordinate our response, something rather more sophisticated than blanket opposition to everything.

Practically speaking the solution lies in a better understanding of how HCC policy works in designating extraction sites, and developing relationships with interested parties. Our strategy can then be to deflect future problems at an early stage, rather than leaving us with an exhausting fight when others have already made a large investment which is against the interests of the village as a whole.

# THE SHERFIELD ENGLISH PARISH PLAN

## SECTION 1 HOUSING



*These attractive houses are our second 'Affordable Housing' scheme, completed since the first issue of the Parish Plan. They are well placed, within easy walking distance of the village shop and PO.*

It is clear from consultation within the village, and in particular from the Questionnaire, that the village as a whole is sensitive to the conflicts that can arise between maintaining the village as a living community, and preserving its physical character of 'leafy seclusion'. An important part of this is getting the right balance of housing, and for reasons described below, the village wants to see changes to Borough Planning Policy. The main problems to be addressed are the shortage of smaller dwellings, and the present tendency for those new dwellings that are permitted to be in areas that are already most crowded.

The Questionnaire showed clearly that there is no mandate to create a 'centre' for the village, or to 'join up' the area around the Post Office with that around the church and pub.

The changes we propose have these principal objectives:

- Despite the call for planning policy changes, the over-riding concern is to preserve the essential character and identity of the village as a living community, creating stability over a 10 to 20 year period. The Plan confirms that dispersed small groups of housing is in fact the essence of the character of the village, and that any development should be broadly compatible with the description of 'leafy seclusion', as already used to characterise the village in Borough policy.
- To replace the use of existing infill policy (SET06 in the June 2006 TVBC Planning Policy Document) with something generally applicable across the parish, placing emphasis on respect for the character of each area and the visual amenity enjoyed by existing residents and visitors alike. The main objective is to stop those new houses that are permitted being squeezed into the areas that are already most crowded, creating pockets of suburban density. A new planning concept, referred to here as an 'Area of Village Character', is proposed and is central to our plan. The philosophy of this is described below, but a workable implementation will require external consultation, and ultimately a proposal by the Borough Planning Service. When this has been developed it will be added to the Parish plan as an appendix.

Within these constraints, we wish to correct the housing imbalance by adding a proportionate number of small and medium sized homes. These will be tuned to the needs of two groups:

- Younger people (in their 20s and 30s), particularly the children of present residents, who currently have no option but to move away from the village.
- People in later retirement, who also face difficulty staying in the village when their existing homes become impractical.

To prevent nullification of these objectives, these property deeds will need to include covenants against significant extension, a procedure which is already being used effectively elsewhere. We recognise that having such properties together in a small group is socially attractive, since it tends to promote mutual assistance, but it would be against the character of a village like Sherfield English to have a large development. The modified policy will therefore call for small developments of perhaps

four to six dwellings. Given the scale of these dwellings, the number of buildings would probably be no more than half the number of dwellings.

## Preservation of character

Intuitively it is easy to grasp the essential characteristics of Sherfield English: The houses are in small groups, separated by extensive fields, woods and wetlands. The properties are typically set well back from the road, with high hedges and trees all around. The gardens are usually large, and often amount to smallholdings. The roads, with the obvious exception of the A27, are narrow, often winding, and always very leafy. There are no kerb-side footpaths, or indeed kerbs, something which universally distinguishes the truly rural village from those which have been suburbanised. Generalisations about plot and house size can be made, and will vary from group to group, but in all there is a distinct absence of uniformity. The same is true of building style.

Turning this into a workable policy statement, something robust enough to withstand the best efforts of consultants working to externally defined agendas, is something else. However, we can all see that the character of the village is being steadily eroded by the present policy: the small area in Newtown Road which is within an SET06 (infill) zone is becoming highly suburbanised despite being at the furthest possible distance from the village's amenities, while everywhere else changes are dealt with on the same basis as properties which are truly in open countryside, rather than within a village. It might be tempting to think that the latter is no bad thing, particularly if you think 'preservation' is synonymous with 'no change', but it is in fact both damaging and dangerous. Damaging, because it works against the preservation of the village as a living community, and dangerous because any policy which is based on a demonstrable untruth is vulnerable to a sufficiently well-funded attack.

## Village or suburbia?



*Residential areas are typically leafy, with houses set back behind hedges. This is Mill Lane.*

The crucial question is whether we can find a succinct definition of what distinguished a village from a section of suburbia. The sense of community is perhaps the strongest feature, but while this informs present needs and past causes, it does not produce measurable physical characteristics by which properties can be characterised.

Of the physical factors already mentioned, the 'leafy seclusion' is certainly a characteristic in Sherfield English, but so too might it be in many suburbs. Indeed the phrase 'leafy suburbs' will spring readily to most people's lips.

However, a clear difference emerges when we consider the intimacy of connection with the surrounding countryside. This is a very real difference between a rural village and suburbia, and for many this is the whole point of living in a village.

Some measure of this must therefore feature strongly in the proposed definition of an Area of Village Character. The more developed villages in the Test Valley have some back-to-back housing, but as a general rule properties back onto fields and woods. Allowing for exceptions, it is genuinely a characteristic of villages that distinguish them from suburbs, and it is certainly a characteristic of Sherfield English. Practically speaking, therefore, the most concrete rule that we can derive from this is a universal ban on back fill - the development of the 'field behind' an existing row of houses.

Building size, spacing and plot size are the next, and perhaps most readily measurable, factors to be considered. If you are looking for reasons to live in a village, having more space around you might be high up the list, but it does not clearly distinguish a village from a spacious suburb. Nor does everyone in a village have, or even desire, a large garden. We should, however, note the common occurrence in villages, but not in suburbia, of small dwellings in large plots.



There is another dimension to size: variability. This is a true characteristic of villages – classically the juxtaposition of the manor house and the row of cottages. This is a clear difference from suburbia, where houses congregate in similar – often identical – sizes. Having said that, every village tends to have some areas where a pattern has been established – a cluster of thatched cottages, or a lane of grand houses for example. Where such a pattern is visible we should preserve it, but equally, if the dominant pattern in a group is variability, that too should be worth preserving.

### Preferred Development Areas

We wish to encourage a modest degree of development, while limiting its potential impact. We believe, based on feedback to date, that small scale developments are most likely to be acceptable to parishioners in areas where development of a similar nature already exists, and particularly in areas close to the A27.

This ties in well with existing Borough Policy, which prefers residential property to be within walking distance of relevant amenities. For Sherfield English this means the Shop / Post Office, the Sports Field, the Church, the Hatchet Inn, and the Village Hall. Closeness to the bus stops might also be a consideration. Development for commercial use, by contrast, will be more readily permitted by the Borough around redundant farm buildings, and our concern will then be to ensure that this does not create unwelcome lorry traffic in quiet residential lanes.

There are no specific proposals for development in the Parish Plan. If any are to be put forward at a later date there will be extensive prior consultation.

### Action:

The Parish Plan Manager and an appointed member of the Parish Council are together representing our interests to the TVBC Planning Service.

A Village Design Statement is being drawn up as a matter of priority, and this will be put forward for adoption by the Planning Service.



*Many of the village's businesses are thriving, and the proportion of villagers working within the parish is well above both the national and borough average. Combining those having jobs in the village with those working from home took the total to 37% of all adults.*

*This is Gilbert's Nursery on Dandy's Ford Lane.*

The Questionnaire showed widespread appreciation of the need to encourage businesses within the village if we are to retain our identity as a living community, the connection being specifically mentioned in many comments.

Although very few parishioners were opposed to the principle of encouraging business, most expressed some concern. By a large margin, the main concern was the potential for noise, this coming up in every context from waste recycling to the leisure industry. Worries about lorry traffic were in second place.

This means, for instance, that there is support for small scale retail outlets, business centres and workshops (particularly if related to rural activities) and even a conventional industrial estate, but every specific expression of support was qualified by an equally specific expression of concern about noise.

Fortunately noise is a measurable quantity, and is now officially recognised as a form of pollution. We should therefore be able to count on support from the Planning Service in setting specific limits on noise in determining the suitability of any new enterprise for location within the Parish.

### Redundant Farm Buildings

There are numerous examples throughout the Test Valley of rural industrial estates and business centres which blend in visually, and offend no-one. As the Plan develops over the years it will draw on the best examples for ideas, but it is likely that the conversion of redundant agricultural buildings will play a large part. We are a long way from any specific proposals, and both comments and informal proposals are invited.

### Tourism

Tourism is another potential area for businesses in the village. The provision of accommodation, meals and refreshments seems to be non-contentious and generally welcome, but there is probably little the Parish Plan can do to influence the provision of these services one way or the other. On the other hand, anything like a "tourist attraction" drew a very negative reaction in the Questionnaire. As with other things, the dominant issue was noise. Where a potential conflict arises between amenity and noise, etc., as has happened at Hill Farm, our policy is to foster a resolution through a formal 'Liaison Group' sponsored by TVBC.

### Action:

A sub-committee of the Parish Council is representing our interests to the TVBC Planning Service and Borough Councillors.





*Village speed limits across Hampshire are being reviewed, so incongruities like this de-restriction sign in a residential lane should disappear.*

When people talk about roads they tend to focus on the problems, and forget that they are an essential amenity for everyone in the village. Even the presence of the A27 is more of an asset than we give it credit for. Without it, we would long since have lost our village shop, garage, nursery and tea rooms, and even the pub would be at risk. All these businesses depend on custom from outside the village to be viable, and practically speaking this means they depend on the A27.

The problems that do exist with the A27 have arisen from its past importance as a trunk road. That function has now largely, although not completely, disappeared, but there has been little change in its character.

### Changing the character of the A27

A major task for us is to get the fundamental character of the A27 re-aligned with its present role, which is essentially that of a B road connecting a string of villages with each other and the local market town. It does not need to be a fast road, or one with anything like its present capacity. Its capacity is already severely limited by its passage through a narrow built-up street in the centre of Whiteparish, the next village to the west of us. To the east of us there will continue use by lorries visiting the mineral extraction site near Roke Manor, but this traffic does not come our way.

A constraint is that the parallel A36, the designated trunk road between Southampton and Salisbury, is severely compromised by its passage through the populous villages of West Wellow and Landford, and during any kind of disruption significant traffic loads can be transferred to the A27. It is therefore in our interests to support West Wellow if they decide to lobby for a by-pass, subject to the route being acceptable. We can then campaign for a re-designation of the A27 through Shootash, Sherfield English and Whiteparish as a B road on the basis of the A27 itself being diverted to the Ower roundabout with the A36.

Regardless of formal re-designation, we can lobby to get the character of the carriageway changed throughout the village, particularly where it presently passes between houses as a wide, straight road which invites high speed and overtaking.

### Speed limit reduction

A closely related objective is a reduction in the A27 speed limit to 40mph throughout the parish, linking to the existing 40 limit in Shootash to the east, and taking it all the way to the County boundary in the west. This, we are proposing, is to be achieved without undue recourse to 'enforcement' techniques, such as cameras, but by making the character of the road match the lower limit, making it natural to drive more slowly. Input from traffic professionals will be essential, and we have already made representations to Hampshire Highways Authority (HHA).

Away from the A27, the problems are quite the opposite. Here the character of the roads is in harmony with their function, and the task is one of increasing safety without changing their character. Large lorries in narrow lanes are a perennial source of concern, but weight limits are made difficult by the needs of farms. An 'Access Only' restriction might reduce the volume, but research and consultation is needed to substantiate this.

Government policy now recognises the need for roads within villages to have a lower general speed limit, and we are talking to HHA about our minor roads. Here it is likely that a 30 mph limit will replace the existing default of a 60 mph limit. Roads whose limit will change are likely to include Mill Lane, Steplake Lane, Graemar Lane, Church Lane, Pound Lane, Newtown Road, Doctors Hill, and other similar roads.

While welcoming lower limits, we do not want to introduce a lot of urbanising 'street furniture', so the safety issues need a more direct approach to back up lower limits. Essentially this means improving sight lines in critical areas, and providing more paths and off-road routes for pedestrians, cyclists and riders, separately or together where appropriate.

## Paths & Tracks

The possibility exists to link key locations in the Parish by routes which are quite separate from the roads. We will look for opportunities to do this, especially where existing paths can be better linked up.

Even alongside the main road, however, there are segments which lack a footpath, and calls to correct this were prominent in the Questionnaire. Since the first issue of the Parish Plan action has been initiated to correct this, and the first results are expected during 2008. Generally, even those paths which exist need to be maintained to a higher standard, and this also is a feature of the Action Plan for the coming year.

The development of paths and tracks away from the roads ties in with 'Sports & Leisure' activities, which are discussed in Section 4.

## Action:

An appointed member of the Parish Council is representing our interests to HCC, and more specifically to HHA.

A 'Roads and Paths' Action Plan is being developed by a Parish Council sub-committee, and a first draft has been considered by the full Parish Council.



*The Sports Field on the corner of Steplake Lane. Beside the football pitches in the foreground there are tennis, bowling and croquet courts, and a children's adventure play area. Funds are now being raised to build a pavilion.*

For Sports and Leisure, the Parish Plan is to follow the lead set by the Sherfield English Recreation Project (SERP). Their achievements in recent years have been extraordinary, and would put even the long term aspirations of most Parish Plans to shame.

We have football pitches used by both adult and junior teams, croquet and bowls lawns, hard courts for tennis and other games, and a children's adventure play area. Both cricket and rounders are played regularly, and annual events such as a horse show and a 'Fun Day' are highly successful, attracting people from a wide area.

SERP is currently fund-raising for a sports pavilion to replace the temporary buildings which presently provide changing and toilet facilities. More details are given below.

The Parish Plan's role will be to support SERP, and to integrate its plans with more general amenity projects, such as creating off-road circuits around the parish for walkers, cyclists and riders. Riding is very popular within and around the village, with more than 100 local riders of all ages. There is an active riding group in the parish, and an Equestrian Centre on the Wellow side of the village.

We are examining the possibility of using 'Permitted Access', governed by a legal agreement, for such schemes, thus avoiding the problems commonly associated with 'Rights of Way'. This approach is supported by the Borough, who are interested in expanding the use of long-distance paths for leisure use.

### SERP's Fund-raising Achievements

Up to the end of 2007, SERP has raised a total of £208,410 of which approximately £102,000 has come in the form of grants and £106,000 from donations and fund raising. Regular events, particularly the Fun Day at the end of August, continue to be important fund generators. Peter Dovey was generous in making the land available for the Sports Field.

### SERP's Plans

SERP's immediate plans focus on the provision of a pavilion for the Sports Field. The plan is to provide 4 team changing rooms, 2 officials' changing rooms, a kitchen, a clubhouse area, male/female/disabled toilets and a store, covering in all an area of approximately 110 square metres.

Funding of about £250K is the target for the new pavilion. If sufficient funds are raised the clubhouse area could be expanded to cater for indoor sports and recreations, such as table tennis or pool.

Looking to the longer term, SERP feel there will be a need for additional parking in the future, and possibly some flood lighting, the most likely being the hard-court area. We should also note that businesses have a role to play in developing our leisure facilities.

## The Village Hall

An idea that in the long term a pavilion at the Sports Field could be integrated with a new Village Hall has been considered in detail, but there are as many disadvantages as advantages, and this therefore remains only as a long term possibility. The two main problems were that the complication of dual functions would slow down or even jeopardise implementation of the plans for a sports pavilion, and that the proposed location for the pavilion on the Sports Field is too close to residential property to be suitable for noisy social events in the evenings.

The existing Village Hall is in fact sound, successful and well located, with only a shortage of parking space needing attention within the near future. The kitchen was completely re-fitted in 2007.

## Young People

The village has a relatively small number of children and young adults, mainly because the overall population is small, but also because the population age profile is older than average for the Test Valley, something which is commented on in the Housing section. Consequently activities and facilities for young people in the village are typically intended to include residents of surrounding villages. Foremost are the sports activities, including football, tennis and the annual rounders event, while the riding group makes particular efforts to include children. The groups organising these activities are well established, and contact details are given in Appendix III. Updated information can be obtained from the village web site, [www.sherfieldenglish.info](http://www.sherfieldenglish.info).

A Children's Gardening Club, with a dedicated plot provided by Gilbert's Nursery, was started in 2008 and was immediately popular. It has sections for both vegetables and flowers – contact details in Appendix III and on the web site.

For younger children there is also the Adventure Playground, created by SERP, as part of the Sports Field.

When it comes to purely social activities, the village is very inclusive of young people in its organised events, but there are no purely social (as opposed to sports-related) facilities specifically for teenagers. The problem is one of numbers: In 2008 the total count of teenagers (ages 12 to 17) in the parish was 27. This is too few to make a dedicated social facility, such as a Youth Club in the village hall, viable, despite a willingness to organise it.

Future plans for young people are therefore centred on the sporting and outdoor activities described above.

## Action:

The next objective, set by SERP, is the creation of a sports pavilion to support activities on the Sports Field. Fund raising for this is well under way. Overall we are grateful to members of SERP for being, in effect, the Parish Plan action committee for sports and leisure. SERP's status in this respect has been formally recognised by the Parish Council.



*There are bluebell woods all around the parish. This is Church Grove, officially designated as a SINC (see text), just west from the old churchyard and Manor Farm.*

The Questionnaire showed that virtually everyone in the village cares about wildlife and the preservation of natural habitats. Our farmers are the people who do most of the work implied by this sentiment, and government funding to them is increasingly recognising this role. A certain amount of habitat is publicly owned land, principally along road verges. The Plan will look for ways in which parishioners can enhance the public areas, and where appropriate, work with the farmers and landowners to achieve a mutual benefit.

Some schemes, such as landscaping the area either side of the A27 between the Village Hall and the Church, and formal hedgerow surveys, are under discussion, but no specific proposals have been formulated so far.

### Bio-diversity

The village is not working in a vacuum with respect to ecology. HCC now has a Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC), and members of SEEP have been consulting them, and seeking assistance for possible projects within the parish. There are no areas within the parish which have statutory protection, areas such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) or National Park areas. However, there are numerous non- statutory designated sites, generally known as Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and Biosites. The location of these is shown in Appendix 2.

There are in fact 27 areas of land in the parish that have been designated in some way, and a proportion have been surveyed by HBIC with the landowners agreement. Currently another four landowners are proposing initial surveys by HBIC to see if their sites are of interest for a fuller survey.

The records are kept on a database and include the type of habitat, birds, insects, animals, reptiles, plants etc. Constant monitoring is carried out to identify any changes in the balance.

The Sherfield English Environmental Protection Society is in discussion with HBIC, the Wildlife Trust and the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), with the view to improve the natural ponds that exist in Sherfield English.

Tree planting schemes have been undertaken in the past and it is planned to continue with this work.

### Action:

Members of SEEP are working with the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre to improve recognition of the ecological assets we have in the Parish, wherever the landowner supports such action. They are also investigating opportunities for external help and funding for research, maintenance and, where appropriate, improvement of these assets.





*The Village Hall is much appreciated, with 20 events or meetings in a typical month.*

There was surprisingly little comment on services in the Questionnaire, perhaps reflecting the fact that people in the countryside tend to be self-reliant by nature.

Nonetheless there are significant problems for some people, particularly when it comes to public transport. The other issues are things like home help for the elderly, and healthcare provisions. To some extent, everything comes down to transport as the problem.

The traditional model for public transport, the fixed bus route with a fixed timetable, is clearly not working in the more dispersed rural areas right across the country, so we are not facing unique problems. Some alternatives are being experimented with in the Test Valley, and elsewhere. Until something workable emerges we are depending on the volunteers who provide a local self-help network.

### Self-help network

We do have a successful voluntary self-help network, the 'LINK Scheme', which works in cooperation with the neighbouring parishes of Plaitford and Whiteparish. Its primary aim is to provide something akin to a taxi service to local services and amenities, such as the Post Office or the Doctors' Surgery, and efforts are being made to increase awareness of the scheme.

The Plan also recognises that we need to give continuing thought to how well the village works for older people. The age profile of our population, as shown by all recent official censuses, is already biased towards 50 and 60 year olds. Unsolicited comments in the Questionnaire response showed that this age group, more than any other, is calling for more young couples in the village to restore balance, and while we should clearly strive to keep a sustainable population balance, we must equally recognise that we are likely to have an ageing population with specific needs.

Finally, many people were concerned about road safety in front of the recycling bins by the Hatchet. Ideas for improving the situation, or for an alternative location, are invited.

### Action:

An appointed member of the Parish Council is representing our interests to our Councillors and the relevant departments of TVBC and HCC.



*There is sand under many fields in the parish, but those that are close to houses and businesses should not be at risk of exploitation.*

The geology in Sherfield English, as in neighbouring villages, is fine sand and clay overlying chalk, and in the past there has been small-scale sand extraction in many parts of the parish. Sand extraction, and more particularly what happens to the hole afterwards, has become a contentious issue in recent years, not just here, but across the whole of the Test Valley. We clearly need a comprehensive strategy to coordinate our response.

We cannot aspire, realistically, to totally preclude all new sand extraction sites throughout the Parish, but we can expect them to be kept out of visually and environmentally sensitive parts of the village, areas where lorries would be intrusive, and locations where there would be noise and dust implications for nearby residents.

The more important objective is restricting the use made of the hole left by the extraction. There should be no automatic assumption of any kind of backfill, even if restricted to inert matter, such as building rubble or incinerator ash.

Practically speaking the solution lies in a good understanding of how HCC policy works in designating extraction sites, and developing relationships with interested parties. Our strategy is to deflect future problems at an early stage, rather than leaving us with an exhausting fight when others have already made a large investment which is against the interests of the village as a whole.

This kind of research and representation effort has been undertaken for many years in the village by members of The Sherfield English Environmental Protection Society (SEEP), and although the society is presently able to focus more on the positive aspects of the environment, such as biodiversity projects and hedgerow surveys, they have made a commitment to continue representing the parish's interests.

### The work being undertaken by SEEP

SEEP is a group of people who have been both researching and lobbying on environmental matters on the village's behalf. They have worked on developing relationships with key people in Hampshire County Council (HCC), but have also been attending conferences and going to meetings to gain a better understanding of minerals usage and extraction, and the treatment of waste in all its forms. They have therefore developed a good understanding of how best to deflect the worst effects from the village, rather than simply relying on the weight of protest when the inevitable happens.

Meeting the UK's needs for mineral extraction and waste treatment are difficult and contentious issues. The County Planners' priority is to ensure that essential needs for the county as a whole are met, whilst that of local communities is to minimise the effect of those needs on their environment. To improve understanding of this complex problem HCC, through its Minerals and Waste Planning department invited a cross section of people to become 'Stakeholders' in a process called Materials Resources Management. As a result both SEEP and the Parish Council have attended many meetings over a 3 year period, culminating on the production of a document called 'More From Less' which was published in March 2005.

Stakeholders had to gain an understanding of the Government's Planning Policy Statements, the South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA) recommendations, and due to our close proximity with Wiltshire, the South West England Regional Assembly (SWERA) recommendations. Hampshire County Council Minerals and Waste Planning (HCCMWP) Department also have their own planning documents to be considered. For Sherfield English this work was done by members of SEEP.

'More From Less' did not have the status of a statutory document, and in May 2006 HCCMWP therefore went on to produce the 'Hampshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework Strategy' document. Both SEEP and the Parish Council have formally commented on this document and the public inquiry has been completed. The document is being forwarded to Government, together with the Inspector's comments, for ratification in 2008.

Historically, 20% of the waste generated has been municipal, 30% Commercial and Industrial and 50% Demolition and Construction. Most of this went to Landfill sites. It was agreed by all parties during the production of the 'More from Less' document that a waste hierarchy should be set up:

- First priority: Reduce waste
- Second priority: Re-use waste (recycling, composting and energy recovery)
- Thirdly, and only as a last resort: Waste going to Landfill.

European Legislation also requires a reduction in future landfill, and this has resulted in a Landfill Tax on an increasing scale. In Hampshire a third Incinerator has recently come on-line in Southampton. This, coupled with HCC's recycling programme, has dramatically reduced the amount of municipal waste that goes to landfill, this being now mainly the inert ash from the incinerators.

The Landfill Tax has had a major effect on the Construction Industry with more on-site recycling of demolition materials being carried out. Legislation now requires the design of facilities to use more sustainable materials where possible, and construction companies are now monitoring waste on site.

The economy is vibrant in Hampshire and with this comes an increasing demand for construction activities (roads, homes, etc.), which in turn requires sand and gravel. In Sherfield English we sit on particularly good quality sand and currently three sites have been identified as possible future extraction sites. Both SEEP and Parish Council have been lobbying that if local extraction is unavoidable, it should not be followed by landfill. Our requests have been noted and the Strategy document modified. It is noted that extraction sites in rural areas should be returned directly to agricultural use where this is feasible, but otherwise should be considered as nature or leisure sites, perhaps being made into lakes for the purpose.

#### Action:

Our interests will be taken into account only if the village continues to monitor the whole situation from planning to implementation. This is a huge commitment of people's time but it is vital for the future environment of the village. We are grateful to members of SEEP for being, in effect, the Parish Plan's action committee for these matters, a status which has been formally recognised by the Parish Council.



## Appendix I THE QUESTIONNAIRE AND RESULTS

A copy of the Questionnaire itself can be downloaded from the web site [www.sherfieldenglish.info](http://www.sherfieldenglish.info) along with a full copy of the Text Response Table. The latter contains all the 'free text' responses which were encouraged to supplement the 'yes/no/neutral' and 'order preference' questions. Reproduced here are the collated responses to specific questions:

Intro	Total number of households returning form:	121 (= about 60%)		
	Average no. adults responding per household:	1.70		
	Households with email:	68%		
	Households with broadband:	37%		
	Households planning broadband:	18%		
	Combined 'have + planned' broadband:	55%		
	How long have you lived here? – Average of responses:	20 years		
		Yes	Neut	No
Part I	Do you enjoy living in Sherfield English?	94%	6%	
	Is its special character worth some effort to preserve?	87%	10%	
	Do you care about preserving the 'leafy lanes'?	95%	4%	
	Should we preserve small housing clusters with no concentrations?	87%	10%	
	Do you care about tranquillity?	93%	7%	
	Do you like having working farms?	93%	6%	
	Do you care about roadside footpaths on larger roads?	89%	7%	
	Are you concerned about traffic speed near Post Office / Rec?	66%	6%	
	Do you support central refuge here?	45%	20%	35%
	Are you concerned about traffic speed near the Pub / Mill Lane Junction?	56%	6%	
	Do you support traffic calming here?	44%	23%	34%
	Is there anywhere else that speed/noise is a problem?	49%	6%	
	See Text Response Table for general road & traffic comments			
	Do you feel we have had more than our fair share of landfill?	90%		
	Is it acceptable to site new waste facilities within village?	2%	6%	92%
	Do you object to new sand extraction?	77%		
	Open request for a reason (see Text Response Table)			
	Percentage of objectors giving a reason:	65%		
	Do you use the recycling bins by the Hatchet?	67%		
	See Text Response Table for all suggestions in this category			

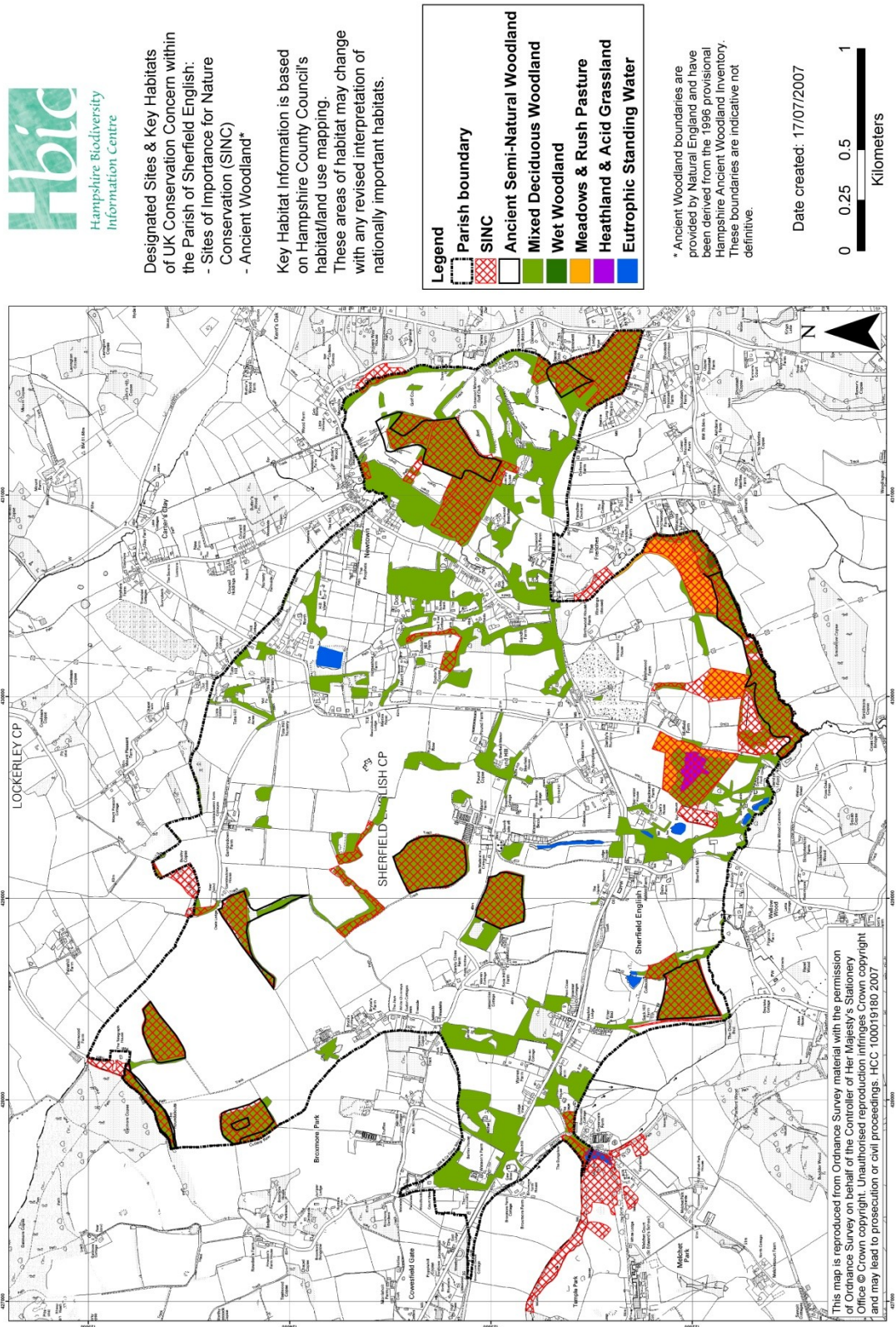
Part I cont.	<i>Responses to the following 3 questions are rated on a scale of 0 to 5 points</i>				
	Waste site - level of concern re lorry traffic:	Average score:	4.38		
	Waste site - level of concern re noise:	Average score:	2.83		
	Waste site - level of concern re Pollution/smell:	Average score:	3.09		
			Yes:	Neut	No:
Part II	Do you support the principle of our Parish Plan?		90%		
	Do you agree with a “leafy lane / scattered settlement” description?		95%		
	Should preserving this be a main objective?		90%		
	Do you feel our amenities would be more secure with more people?		74%		
	Do you support idea of a few dozen more houses in small groups?		76%		
	Should houses be spaced apart from each other?		79%		
	Is having space around you one of the most important things?		94%		
	Should we stipulate a larger than usual plot size?		58%		
	Should we demand trade-offs?		36%	40%	23%
	Is there a particular need for Affordable Housing?		58%		
	Do you personally know someone wanting one?		29%		
	Is there a particular need for small/medium sized houses?		72%		
	Do you personally know someone wanting one?		26%		
	Should most be within walking distance of amenities?		53%	22%	25%
	Would village benefit from having more of a 'Heart'?		47%	29%	24%
	<i>See Text Response Table for all suggestions in this category</i>				
Part III	How many adults working from home?	% of all adults in survey:	25%		
	Should we try to encourage this?		35%		
	How many adults with a job in or around the village?	% of all adults in survey:	12%		
	Do you support creating a small Industrial Estate?		32%		
	Do you support creating a small Business Centre?		38%		
	Do you support diversified farming?		32%		
	Do you support retail developments?		28%		
	Do you support restaurants & cafes, etc?		31%		
	Do you support leisure developments?		26%		
	Do you support tourism developments?		21%		
	<i>See Text Response Table for all suggestions in this category</i>				

		Yes:	Neut	No:
Part IV	Do you use the village shop / PO?	80%		
	Do you use the farm shop?	15%		
	Do you use the pub?	23%		
	Do you use the SERP recreation ground?	27%		
	<i>See Text Response Table for suggested improvements to all above</i>			
	Have you been to a party / concert in Village Hall (not a club meeting)?	68%		
	Do you take part in community activities?	68%		
	How many different community activities?	Average response: 2		
	Do you enjoy walking in the parish for leisure?	77%		
	Do we need more or better footpaths & trails?	57%		
	Do you ride in or near the village?	13%		
	Do we need more or better bridleways?	37%	38%	25%
	Do you enjoy visiting woods?	79%		
	Do we need better access to woods?	37%	36%	27%
	Do you enjoy visiting rivers & wetlands?	69%		
	Do we need better access to rivers & wetlands?	41%	38%	21%
	Do you get pleasure from seeing wild flowers?	93%		
	Is there anything the parish should do to encourage wild flowers?	45%	48%	6%
	Do you get pleasure from seeing wildlife?	87%		
	Is there anything the parish should do to encourage wildlife?	27%	52%	21%
	Is there any wildlife you consider to be a pest?	59%		
	Open request to list pests – see Text Response Table			
	Anything the parish should do to control these pests?	26%	49%	25%
	<i>See Text Response Table for all suggestions in this category</i>			

The Text Response Table and the Questionnaire itself can be downloaded as PDF files from the village web site:  
[www.sherfieldenglish.info](http://www.sherfieldenglish.info)

## Appendix II SITES OF INTEREST FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

This map of the parish shows the location of designated 'Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation' (SINCs), with a breakdown of habitats and land uses across the parish. Thanks to HBIC and OS, who retain copyright in the map.



There are numerous groups, societies and clubs in Sherfield English – 18 at the last count. The Village Hall is used by many of them, and is also available for informal groups and private parties – see Village Hall details below.

An up-dated version of the information below can be found on the 'Groups' page of the village web site:

[www.sherfieldenglish.org.uk](http://www.sherfieldenglish.org.uk)

There is also a 'Diary' page there with further information. Village news is best obtained from the monthly Community Association (SEDCA) newsletter (see below), and there is also a Parish Magazine covering some of the same ground, but with more news related to the church – contact details below.

### The Village Hall

The Village Hall is available for private parties as well as clubs. It has a large and a small room, which can also be combined to make one very large room. There are modern facilities, with a good kitchen, and effective heating. The hall is well used, with around 20 bookings in a typical month.

•Contact: Pearl Dovey 01794 322410

### The Community Association - SEDCA

#### **Sherfield English & District Community Association**

SEDCA's monthly newsletter is essential for everyone in the village, and is delivered everywhere. If you want to get on the subscription list (only £2 pa) contact David Griffiths, similarly if you have an item to go in next month's issue - contact details below. Copy deadline is usually 21st of the month. SEDCA covers everything that is happening in the village, from news on major planning issues to club event reports, and is taken by about 95% of households in the village.

SEDCA hosts an annual Harvest Supper in early October each year, which features live music and entertainment as well as fine food. Generally about 100 people from the village are there.

•Contact: David Griffiths: 01794 323469 or if possible email to [sedca@sherfieldenglish.org.uk](mailto:sedca@sherfieldenglish.org.uk)

### Gardening

#### **Sherfield English Gardening Club**

The Gardening Club is very strong in the village. In addition to meetings (in the Village Hall) on the 1st Tuesday of the month, it organises a large number of visits to gardens and nurseries of special interest. See the village web site 'What's On' page or the SEDCA newsletter for the next one or two talks and visits.

•Contact Smita Kulkarni 01794 340379 (*Tessa East recently retired as coordinator*)

#### **Children's Gardening Project**

This is a new activity, started in spring 2008, and is already very popular. The project uses plots kindly provided by Gilbert's Nursery - it's an area next to the Dahlia field. There are sections for both vegetables and flowers. All children in and around the village are invited to take part. Either leave your name at the Nursery or contact Smita.

•Contact Smita Kulkarni 01794 340379





## The Sports & Recreation Field

### Sherfield English Recreation Project 2000

SERP 2000 is the umbrella group for everything to do with the Sports & Recreation Field, which they created from scratch a few years ago. Funds are currently being raised for a Sports Pavilion, and donations, large or small, will be much appreciated. The Sports & Recreation Field is located on the corner of Steplake Road and the A27, just by the Post Office. In addition to the sports listed below, there is an outdoor children's Adventure Playground, and various events are held throughout the year. The main annual event is a Fun Day and Dog Show in August, but there are many others, such as a Fireworks & Bonfire Night (See the village web site 'What's On' page or the SEDCA newsletter for dates).

SERP 2000 has its own web site: <http://mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk/SERP>

•Contact: SERP 2000 Chairman: Stephen Dovey 01794 884319

<p><b>Football Club</b></p> <p>The Sherfield English Football Club is a very active group, with both junior and adult teams - Come along on Fridays at 6.30pm.</p> <p>For full details visit their web site at <a href="http://www.sefc.info/">http://www.sefc.info/</a></p> <p>•Contact Stephen Dovey 01794 884319</p>	<p><b>Bowls &amp; Croquet Club</b></p> <p>The bowling and croquet greens are in use throughout the summer, with competitions every week: Bowling on Mondays at 6.30pm, and Wednesdays at 2.00pm. Croquet on Tuesdays at 2.00pm, with an advanced players session on Fridays at 2.00pm. New members are very welcome.</p> <p>•Contact Roy or Jenny Hayter 01794 884840</p>
<p><b>Tennis Club</b></p> <p>The club plays on the new hard courts at the Sports &amp; Recreation Field. There is a 'play as you come' session on Thursdays at 6pm, at which coaching may be possible. Everyone welcome. Courts can be booked at any time by calling Pauline (see below) who holds the key at No.1, Eastwood. For the time being booking is free, and open to all village residents.</p> <p>•Contact Pauline James 01794 884773</p>	<p><b>Rounders</b></p> <p>Rounders is a big sport in Sherfield English, and last year's main event was contested by no less than 10 teams, with plenty of children in every team. The competition is intense, but very good humoured. The annual event is held in June – dates from the village web site or SEDCA newsletter..</p> <p>•Contact Barbara Griffiths 01794 323469</p>
<p><b>Netball Club</b></p> <p>The new court is proving popular, with player meeting on Fridays at 6.30pm during the season. New players very welcome.</p> <p>•Contact Toni Leigh 01794 323325</p>	<p><b>Cricket</b></p> <p>An annual 'Village v Manor' match has been the highlight of the cricket season for several years.</p> <p>•Contact Stephen Dovey on 01794 884319</p>

## Riding, Walking and Golf

### Riding

There are over a 100 riders in and around Sherfield English, many of whom, including a good many children, ride with the village group. There are several local livery yards, the closest being the Wellow Wood Equestrian Centre on the south edge of the village.

- Livery yard contact: [Louise Dovey 01794 324797](#)
- Riding Group Contact: [Elizabeth Gill 01794 323575](#)

### Walks

There are regular group walks in and around the village, usually about 5 miles long. The walks leave from the Village Hall, and are on the last Friday of every month. There is also an annual village 'Bluebell Walk' which starts from the Hatchet. For all walks, just turn up. Details of special walks are in the monthly SEDCA newsletter, and on the village web site. General information contacts below.

- Contact: [Jenny Hayter 01794 884840](#) or [Elizabeth Gill 01794 323575](#)

### Footpaths

There are footpaths and other rights of way across all parts of the parish, some linking up with longer range paths. The best source of information is on the Hampshire County Council web site:

[www.hants.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.hants.gov.uk/countryside)

### Dunwood Manor Golf Club

This commercially-run golf course lies entirely within the parish, and is used by informal groups of village residents. The club house is normally accessed from Danes Lane, but direct access from the village is provided by a bridleway across the course from Newtown Road.

There is an Iron Age hill-fort at the centre of the course, and most of the western part is designated as a SINC – Site of Importance for Nature Conservation.

See [www.dunwoodgolf.co.uk](http://www.dunwoodgolf.co.uk)

- Contact details in the Business Directory, Appendix IV.



## Other Recreation Groups

<b>Tap &amp; Dancercise Class</b> Thursday mornings in the Village Hall. ♦Contact: Debbie Digance 01794 399915	<b>Painting Class</b> Tuesday evenings at Woodlands, Bunny Lane ♦Contact: Roy Hayter 01794 884840
<b>Pilates Class</b> Monday mornings in the Village Hall. ♦Contact: Karen Sanchez: 02380 346100 or <a href="mailto:kezsanchez@hotmail.com">kezsanchez@hotmail.com</a>	<b>Whist Club</b> Thursday evenings in the Village Hall. ♦Contact: John Broad 01794 322958
<b>Ballet for Children</b> Wednesdays at 4.00pm in the Village Hall. ♦Contact: Nikki Jones	<b>Mother &amp; Baby</b> 'Wake Up UK'. Tuesday morning in the Village Hall. ♦Contact: A N Other



## Church

### St Leonard's Parish Church

Sunday Service at 10.45am

Concerts and other events throughout the year. See the village web site 'What's On' page, the SEDCA newsletter, or of course the Parish Magazine.

Both the choir and the bell-ringers welcome new members. The church has 8 tower bells which are recognised as being among the best in England. See the contacts below to receive the monthly Parish Magazine, £4 pa.

- ♦Rector: *The Revd George Biggs recently retired – no new appointment has been announced*
- ♦Churchwardens: Bob Taylor 01794 322354  
Jenny Hayter 01794 884840

### Wellow Wood Methodist Church

Sunday Service at 6.00pm

The chapel is in Wellow Wood Road, on the southern edge of the parish.

- ♦Minister: Revd Rosemary Richter 01722 334833
- ♦Steward: Mark Dovey 01794 340295

### The Church Council

The Church Council is responsible for the land in the parish that belongs to the Church of England. This includes land once used by the village primary school on Salisbury Road

- ♦Contact: Hayley Duke-Glover



## WI

### Sherfield English Women's Institute

The village has a very active and well supported WI which meets regularly in the Village Hall on the 4th Tuesday of the month. See the web site 'What's On' page for other dates, and the SEDCA newsletter for regular reports. There are also regular trips, and other events. The Skittles team has an awesome reputation across the county, having several times won the Annual Skittles County Championship. New members are very much welcome, and are promised a lively and entertaining time.

•Secretary: [Fay Heath](#) 01794 884252

•President: [Margaret George](#)

## SEEP

### Sherfield English Environmental Protection Society

SEEP exists to do something positive about protecting and enhancing the environment in the village. Their high-profile activities have been concerned with landfill and waste processing in the village, in which context they are now recognised as official consultees by the County Council's Regulatory Committee. They do much more than simply coordinate objections to inappropriate developments, and have often raised the money for professional consultants in areas such as noise monitoring.

They are also involved in natural history projects, such as a hedgerow survey project being planned in association with the Hampshire & IoW Wildlife Trust and DEFRA.

A newsletter is produced and delivered throughout the village from time to time, and there are several social events throughout the year, with proceeds going towards their various projects. There is an annual Plant Sale in May - details on the village web site 'What's On' page.

•Secretary (contact to join SEEP): [Ruth McFadyen](#) 01794 884575 email [hrm@soton.ac.uk](mailto:hrm@soton.ac.uk)

•Chair: [David Shaw](#)

## Parish Council

### Sherfield English Parish Council

The Parish Council meets about every 6 weeks in the Village Hall – dates are posted on the 'Parish Council' page of the village web and in the SEDCA newsletter. Every meeting starts with an 'Open Forum' at which parishioners are invited to raise topics and join in discussions. They are also, of course, invited to stay and observe the Parish Council's formal meeting which follows.

The Parish Council also manages the village web site and administers the Parish Plan through a sub-committee. Each of the main groups in the village (SERP, SEEP, etc) reports regularly to the Parish Council on its activities. A separate trust runs the Village Hall.

Contact details for all Parish Councillors can be found on the village web site:

[www.sherfieldenglish.info](http://www.sherfieldenglish.info) - Click on the 'Parish Council' link.

•Contact: Chairman (2008): [Chris Pybus](#) 01794 341 119

## Appendix IV VILLAGE BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The following businesses operate in Sherfield English, or just outside. The list covers only those whose services are locally available to the general public.

CATEGORY	Business	Address	Post-code	Contact	Phone	Web site or email	Info
<b>Retail</b>							
Cafes, Pubs, & Restaurants	The Hatchet Inn	Salisbury Road	SO51 6FP	Paul Williamson	322 487	<a href="http://www.hatchetinn.com">www.hatchetinn.com</a>	Pub and restaurant, garden
	The Conservatory	Dandy's Ford Lane	SO51 6DT	Sarah & Toni	323 867		Tea rooms, home-made dishes and cakes
Food shops	Village Shop & Post Office	Graemar Lane	SO51 6FW	Mrs Thick	322 468		Post Office, food and general household stores
	Manor Farm Shop	Pound Lane	SO51 6FJ	Julia Noble	322 497	<a href="http://www.manorfarmpork.co.uk">www.manorfarmpork.co.uk</a>	Pork bred and raised in the village
	Pyesmead Farm	Plaitford	SO51 6EE	David Pybus	323 386	<a href="mailto:enquiries@pyesmeadfarm.co.uk">enquiries@pyesmeadfarm.co.uk</a>	Home produced lamb & beef
Garage, petrol etc	Glebe Garage	Salisbury Road	SO51 6FL	B Pybus	322 358		MoTs, repairs, fuel, gas refills
Nursery	Gilberts Nursery	Dandy's Ford Lane	SO51 6DT	Nick Gilbert	322 566		Garden Centre, Dahlia specialist
Other sales	Beaver84	Bunny Lane	SO51 6FT		884 876	<a href="http://www.beaver84.co.uk">www.beaver84.co.uk</a>	Scaffolding, site barriers, etc.
	Farm & General Supplies	Bunny Lane	SO51 6FT		884 456		Farm & related materials.
<b>Leisure &amp; Tourism</b>							
Bed & Breakfast	St Brelades House	Mill Lane	SO51 6FN		324 766		4* ETB
	Woodlands	Bunny Lane	SO51 6FT	Jenny Hayter	884 840		4* ETB
	Woodpeckers	Prophets, Newtown	SO51 6??	Sue Johnson	342 400		4* ETB
	Greenvale Farm	Melchet Park	SO51 6FS	Sue Brown	884 858	<a href="http://www.greenvalefarm.com">www.greenvalefarm.com</a>	4* ETB
Caravan & Camping	Hill Farm	Branches Lane	SO51 6FH	Geoff Billett	340 402		C.C.rated. Small shop in season
Golf Courses	Dunwood Manor G Club	Danes Lane	SO51 0GF	Pro: Heath Teschner	340 663	<a href="http://www.dunwoodgolf.co.uk">www.dunwoodgolf.co.uk</a>	5767 yds, par 69, woodland
Livery Yards	Wellow Wood Equestrian Centre	Wellow Wood Road		Louise Dovey	324 797		Livery yard and services. Instruction. Group rides.
<b>Services</b>							
<i>Next page</i>							

CATEGORY	Business	Address	Post-code	Contact	Phone	Web site or email	Info
<b>Services</b>							
Boat sales	C J Marine	Branches Lane	SO51 6JW	Chris Pybus	342 245	<a href="http://www.cj-marine.co.uk">www.cj-marine.co.uk</a>	San Boat, C Marine, Wind Ribs. Also used.
Builders	Ablett Ltd	Ash Hill	SO51 6FU		884 235		Builder
	F.Harbach Ltd	Newtown Road	SO51 6JY		323 513		Builder
	Rod Thick	Graemar Lane	SO51 6FW	Rod Thick	322 468		Builder, brickwork specialist
Bulk materials, haulage	W.H.Berry & Sons	Pound Fm, Branches Lane	SO51 6FH	John Berry	322 908	<a href="http://www.whberry.co.uk">www.whberry.co.uk</a>	Bulk sand, gravel, stone, topsoil, bark, etc. Haulage.
Engineers	Hayter Engineering	Bunny Lane	SO51 6FT	Roy Hayter	884 223		Mechanical engineering
Garden Services	Trim's	Ash Hill	SO51 6FU	Nick Gilbert	884 176	<a href="mailto:trimslandscape@aol.com">trimslandscape@aol.com</a>	Landscaping, turf laying, specialist pruning, etc
Nursing Homes	Dunwood Manor Nursing Home	Off A27 near Shootash	SO51 6FD	Alison Bruce	513 033	<a href="http://www.sentinel-healthcare.co.uk">www.sentinel-healthcare.co.uk</a>	Caters for 55 residents over 60, modern facilities including hydro-therapy, 12 acres of grounds
	Waverley Lodge	Off A27 near Shootash	SO51 6FD	Alison Bruce	513 033	<a href="http://www.sentinel-healthcare.co.uk">www.sentinel-healthcare.co.uk</a>	As above, but caters for 26 young physically handicapped.

