

# Newton Poppleford & Harpford Parish Plan





# Newton Poppleford & Harpford Parish Plan 2012

## Purpose of the Plan

- ◆ Identify what people want and create an Action Plan to enhance the quality of the Parish and the lives of those who live and work in it.
- ◆ Act as a dynamic reference document for statutory bodies (e.g. District and County Councils) when making decisions and policies that affect the Parish.
- ◆ Provide a useful guide for local projects and point of reference when seeking funds or assistance from outside agencies.
- ◆ Inform every household about the Parish Plan to provide a focal point for community interaction.



## Implementing the Plan

The Parish Council is the focus for promoting this Parish Plan. Many elements are not under its direct control, necessitating liaison with outside bodies.

### The Parish Council has a leading role to progress the Action Plan in areas such as:

- ◆ Lobbying Devon County Council (DCC), East Devon District Council (EDDC), the East Devon AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) Partnership, etc.
- ◆ Liaison with the Police, service providers and other outside bodies.

### The Parish Council can directly organise:

- ◆ Regular monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Plan.
- ◆ A centrally co-ordinated calendar of events and activities within the Parish, including those of local clubs and societies, hall bookings etc.
- ◆ Appointment of a co-ordinator for Environmental Action Days.
- ◆ Upgrading the PC website to encourage village organisations to include and update information on their activities and events, thus providing an information hub for the community.

### What local people can do to help:

- ◆ Become more involved with the decision-making mechanisms of the Parish, e.g. attending meetings of the Parish Council and having your say, becoming a Councillor, feeding in information about activities and events in the Parish, actively arranging and participating in local events.
- ◆ Work together in groups to support Environmental Action Days, e.g. pulling weeds such as Himalayan Balsam (summer), clearing/improving footpaths, litter-picking etc.
- ◆ Raise funds for some of the improvements wanted by local people.

### What Else Might be Achieved?

The Parish Council (unfortunately) does not have unlimited funds at its disposal, nor does it have a magic wand! The 'Actions' identified in the Plan can only be achieved through concerted effort; some might not be accomplished at all - but that doesn't mean we shouldn't try.



## Parish Priorities for Action

The top priorities identified from responses to the questionnaire are:

- ◆ **Traffic**  
The speed and volume of traffic on the A3052, and danger spots for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists.
- ◆ **Community Resources**  
A new hall, sporting facilities, surgery/medical centre, Parish Office.
- ◆ **Housing**  
Limited development (to protect the village environment), but to include a substantial proportion of social housing, and provision of sheltered or care home accommodation for older people.



Newton Poppleford & Harpford Parish Council



East Devon  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Clinton Devon Estates



## The Background

- ◆ Late 2010: The Parish Plan Working Group was established and funding was secured from the Parish Council, Devon County Council and the East Devon AONB Partnership.
- ◆ January 2011: Questionnaire issued for consultation with residents, with approximately 70% of households responding.
- ◆ During 2011: The results were analysed and assessed.
- ◆ January 2012: Initial presentation of results to the Parish Council and the public.
- ◆ October 2012: Formal adoption of the plan by the Parish Council.

## Thanks

The Parish Council wishes to thank:

- ◆ The members of the Steering Group that produced the plan.
- ◆ The parishioners who distributed and collected the questionnaires, and all those parishioners who took the time and trouble to respond.
- ◆ Those who helped with funding this project, including our County Councillor Christine Channon, the East Devon AONB Partnership, and Clinton Devon Estates.
- ◆ The Community Council of Devon for their advice and support.
- ◆ Those who helped with or contributed to the photography.



## Action

## Why is it needed?

## How might it be achieved?

## Partners & Priorities

### Traffic

Introduce measures to regulate and calm traffic in the parish.

The speed and volume of traffic causes many problems in the Parish and received the highest response. 67% of respondents feel that speeding traffic is a problem in the Parish and more than 50% of all respondents would like to see the introduction of traffic calming measures.

Improve the road safety for pedestrians and cyclists within the Parish.

A lack of continuous roadside footpaths in Newton Poppleford creates a danger to pedestrians and 66% of respondents feel that the volume of traffic, especially heavy goods vehicles, endangers both pedestrians and cyclists.

Address road safety concerns at "danger spots".

73% of respondents feel that there are a number of particular traffic "danger spots" in the Parish. The main ones have been identified as:

- Exits from side roads onto the A3052, especially at Harpford and Burrow
- Bridge over River Otter.
- Centre of village by the Post Office (including pedestrian crossing).

• Area by the Old Toll House and mini-roundabout at Exmouth Road.

Reduce the volume of traffic through Newton Poppleford, especially heavy goods vehicles.

The traffic endangers pedestrians and cyclists, and increases pollution.

Improve and control parking in the village.

Inadequate off-street parking leads to obstruction and irresponsible parking.

### Transport

Improve the bus service to Ottery St Mary.

There is currently no direct public transport to Ottery St. Mary which is a big problem for people attending the Coleridge Medical Centre. The connecting service (at The Bowd) is infrequent.

Improve the bus stops on both sides of the A3052 at Burrow.

Puddles form at both of these bus stops causing waiting passengers to be drenched by passing traffic.

Make safe access to the bus stops.

The bus stops are currently unsafe for passengers waiting for/alighting from buses, as they have to walk in the road.

Erect a bus shelter with seat at the east end of Station Road near the junction to Back Lane.

Elderly residents, often with walking difficulties, from sheltered housing in the Millmoor area of Newton Poppleford are required to stand at this bus stop in all weathers, without access to a seat or a shelter.

Investigate the possibility of cheaper bus fares for under-18s.

Current bus fares are very expensive for those youngsters (older than 'child' but under 18) wishing to access facilities outside the village as the full adult fare is charged.

### Environment

Establish local volunteer co-ordinator.  
Maintain a database.

There are identified needs and a number of volunteers, but no existing means of co-ordinating these.  
No existing data on volunteers and the tasks needed.

Improve the maintenance of footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths.

Many people use and enjoy the network of footpaths, but their condition at times (e.g. overgrown, dog-fouling) discourages use.

Introduce a 20mph speed limit through the villages of Newton Poppleford and Harpford, backed up by flashing speed warning signs and 'gentle' speed cushions.

DCC.  
Police.

Provide continuous footpath both sides of main road.

DCC.

Provide pedestrian crossing over the main road (A3052) between Back Lane and Millmoor Lane.

All points are partially addressed by 20mph limit as above.

DCC & Police; landowners where appropriate.  
Sustrans/DCC.

Improve visibility.

Provide cycle/foot bridge adjacent to existing road bridge.

Improve visibility at end of pedestrian crossing. Raise height of traffic lights to make them visible from further away.

Paint traditional white stripes on crossing area.

Provide all-weather hard-surfaced and illuminated footpath/cycleway behind Toll House as far as King Alfred Way (and beyond when possible).

DCC.

Investigate provision of pinchpoint i.e. directional priority system.

Investigate possibility of 4-way traffic light control, and/or improve visibility of the roundabout.

Improve long-distance signage to direct traffic along A30.

Lobby for a bypass.

Encourage people to use 'green transport' (foot, cycle, buses etc).

DCC.  
Parish Council.  
Ask transport providers to offer competitive cost tickets.  
Parish Council & local landowners.  
Police .

Provide additional off-street parking: maybe a section of Webbers Meadow.  
Better enforcement to prevent illegal/irresponsible parking.

Provide a more frequent and better timetabled connecting service (with the route from Sidmouth to Ottery St Mary).

Stagecoach.  
DCC.

Raise ground level at bus stops to prevent puddles.

Parish Council can improve inside the bus shelters. DCC for road/pavement work.  
DCC and landowners.

Install adequate footpaths at the bus stops near the end of Burrow Lane (west); alternatively relocate the bus stops.

Install bus shelter with seating.

Parish Council, possibly with commercial provider.

Press for the introduction of concessionary travel at all times for those in full time education under the age of 18.

Central Government; our MP (Hugo Swire) DCC.  
District Councillor representations.

Parish Council could endorse and publicise environmental action days and liaise with East Devon AONB Partnership. Appoint a co-ordinator for teams of volunteers.

Parish Council to encourage support of the P3 (Parish Paths Partnership) Officer. There is a role for volunteers to assist where appropriate.

Parish Council, East Devon District Council (EDDC), AONB Partnership, local volunteers.  
P3 Co-ordinator in conjunction with Parish Council, and liaising with local property owners.

## Community Facilities

Provide a new, all-purpose Community Centre in Newton Poppleford, with facilities for indoor sports, and adequate parking.

Encourage support for local shops, pubs, restaurants and other amenities such as sports clubs etc.

71% of written-in comments on the questionnaires referred to the lack of provision for indoor sporting activities. The community has outgrown the current Village Hall in Newton Poppleford; it does not offer space for indoor sports and has inadequate parking facilities. The Hall is also in a bad structural state of repair and is poorly insulated.

To maintain a thriving and vibrant community.

Identify suitable site(s). Investigate possibility of joint project with the education authority.

DCC, EDDC and Parish Council.  
Grant providers.

Arrange an exhibition in a local hall at which local businesses could present/show-off their wares or services, and an open day to raise awareness of sports clubs and local organisations.

Parish Council, local businesses and clubs/organisations.

## Medical

Provide a new and larger medical centre.

The existing small surgery does not comply with current practice guidelines (e.g. involves a lone doctor working; no facilities for routine procedures and does not cater for mixed gender consultations). The doctors wish to have a 2-surgery medical centre, which would enable either 2 doctors or a doctor and a nurse to work together, and enable simple regular procedures/check-ups to be carried out.

Wishes of local population who currently must travel to Ottery St Mary or Sidmouth to collect prescriptions. (There is a restricted delivery service available).

Provide dispensary facility within new/enlarged medical centre.

Identify suitable site and build a new and larger surgery/clinic in Newton Poppleford, possibly in conjunction with new Community Centre.

NHS (and maybe local councils).  
Coleridge Medical Centre.

Encourage businesses to open a pharmacy in the village. (If a new surgery is built this might be feasible).

Private enterprise, possibly encouraged by EDDC Economic Development.

## Housing & Employment

Limit the development of additional dwellings in the parish to no more than 50 over the next 10 years.

78% of respondents did not wish to see more than 5% increase in housing in the next 10 years, i.e. maximum 50 dwellings.

Improve infrastructure to accommodate limited new development.

Existing facilities and utilities already at limits (e.g. school, medical etc.).

Provide for the specific needs for different types of property.

Of those who identified a specific housing need:  
\* 52% wanted starter homes to buy or rent.  
\* Approx 15% wanted family homes to buy or rent.

Encourage development of retirement community, including residential and nursing care facilities alongside semi-independent living units. Encourage the development of new employment opportunities.

Approx 30% of those who identified a specific housing need wanted later life care within the village.

15% of people work at home or close by, 40% travel up to 10 miles and 25% travel between 11 and 30 miles. 53% of respondents wanted more jobs in the parish.

Identify/allocate suitable sites for development, taking due account of the AONB and flood plain.

EDDC and Parish Council.

Relocate the school to a larger site to allow for expansion.

DCC.  
Landowners (for a site).

Ensure that planning applications for housing include mixed provision for: a) social housing, b) low cost open market housing, c) family housing.  
Encourage private enterprise to build a dual-registered (i.e. residential and nursing) care facility in the parish. Ideally this should have independent 'close care' units associated with the care home.

EDDC.  
Parish Council,  
Builders/developers.  
EDDC Economic Development.

Encourage the provision of live/work units so that small enterprises can start up locally.

EDDC Economic Development.

## Communication & Information

Set up comprehensive and co-ordinated calendar of local events on the internet.

There is no single reference point providing this information (including hall bookings).

Improve Parish Council's communications by providing a central point for information.

There is no central point for information in the parish. Some respondents would like a Parish Office in the village which could disseminate and store information, alongside the website. The majority of residents (62% of respondents to the question) who wanted additional options would like to have more information available via the internet.

Appoint a 'Calendar Co-ordinator' for local events. N.B. A parish office would help to facilitate this matter.

Parish Council.

Set up a Parish Office within the parish and accessible to all residents. Get more local organisations to have pages on the Parish Council website. Encourage those organising events to ensure that the website is updated to show all activities.

Parish Council.  
Parish Council. (Suggest reduction in cost of pages for each club/organisation, and individual password access for updating). All village organisations should be asked to keep sections of the website up to date.