

# ALRESFORD

## PARISH PLAN

2008-2013



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# INTRODUCTION

## Aim of the Alresford Parish Plan

The aim of the Alresford Parish Plan is to identify the positive and negative aspects of living in the village, and formalise the views and wishes of Alresford residents and workers regarding any changes that might be needed. This will enable statutory bodies, such as the Parish Council, District Council, and County Council, to have a clear understanding of the views of the village inhabitants or at least those of the respondents who completed the questionnaire. The plan, if adopted, should enable these or any other bodies to take a proactive role in many issues concerning the village.



The Old Church

### **Evolution of the Alresford Parish Plan:**

In March 2007 the Rural Community Council for Essex (at the request of Alresford Parish Council) held a workshop in the village hall for Alresford residents to consider what they did and didn't like about the village, what they

might like changed, and what could be done about it.

In Sept 2007, the RCCE held a meeting of interested volunteers who would form a steering group to expand and develop the results of the first meeting. The steering group became the Alresford Project Group, formalised at an Inaugural General Meeting in Jan 2008. Three questionnaires were compiled by the APG: for local businesses, youth and households. In June the business questionnaire was delivered and analysed, and the results posted on the village notice board; those results are included in this report. The other 2 questionnaires were delivered to all households in the village with the August edition of the Alresford Advertiser by their delivery team, in July 2008. This report summarises the results of the 203 questionnaires, which were returned, equivalent to 23% of households in the village.

Questions were posed on many topics including: village environment (cleanliness and appearance), transport, communal facilities including recycling, and the surrounding environment. Several parts of the questionnaire gave space for further comments, some of which have been incorporated into the main body of the report, especially where the same comment was made by several respondents; other received

comments have been included in the appendices.

In order to address the concerns raised by the report, action plans

were drawn up and are included in this report. The allotted priorities shown on the action plans indicate the level of concern.

## Alresford, Essex – History, Geography and Overview

There have undoubtedly been settlements in and around what is now the North Essex village of Alresford (alders by the ford) since the Iron Age and perhaps well before – the benefits of a fertile soil and proximity to the once plentiful fish stocks of the River Colne Estuary have provided countless generations of Alresford villagers with both a food and trade source.

Agriculture is still important to the area although the coming of the railway in the 19<sup>th</sup> century gradually turned the village into a commuter base with workers travelling to Colchester, Clacton, Chelmsford or London.



Iron Swing Bridge (Picture c.1905)

The southern boundary of the village is formed by Alresford Creek, a tributary of the River Colne that reaches the sea at Brightlingsea. The Creek is still navigable at high tide as far as Thorrington Tide Mill,

and provides moorings for a number of yachts. The old Roman Ford is clearly visible at low tide.

To the west is the town of Wivenhoe, which can be reached by road or by a footpath which follows the dismantled former railway line which ran adjacent to the river. This railway line, which opened in 1866 as part of the 'Tendring Hundred Railway,' went to Brightlingsea via a swing bridge over the Creek and was a victim of the sweeping cuts in railway services of Dr Beeching in 1964. The village of Elmstead Market borders Alresford to the north, the northern part of Alresford was previously known as Elmstead Heath; with Frating to the north-east and Thorrington to the south-east.

Alresford is surrounded by current and former gravel workings and the gravel was at one time exported to London and beyond via sailing barges from Alresford Creek. The remains of a conveyor system from the processing plant to the creek can still be seen between the main offices and the riverbank.

The centre of the village is now about a mile north of the Creek centred around the railway station. For a relatively small village with less than 1,000 homes, Alresford is

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Sand and gravel being loaded onto sailing barges in Alresford Creek

hard to match for the quantity and quality of its amenities. The main shopping centre is adjacent to the railway station (in Station Road) and has a Post Office, butchers and hairdresser as well as a fish-and-chip shop, a Chinese take-away and a carpet shop. The only remaining public house in Alresford is 'The Pointer' in Wivenhoe Road. There are also a surprisingly large number of small businesses. Along Main Road can be found various retail outlets. These include: a general store, estate agent, car sales and repairs, replacement windows, lawnmower repairs, furniture shop and a kennels. A number of industrial units are situated in Cockaynes Lane.



St. Peter's Church (Pictured just weeks before the devastating fire of 1971)

The village has a Primary School located at the junction of Ford Lane and Church Road. The village Church is St. Andrew's and is a

modern building that was built in 1976 to replace the magnificent St. Peter's Church which was tragically destroyed by fire in the early morning of October 2<sup>nd</sup> 1971. The shell of St. Peter's Church is still standing, with the War Memorial nearby.

Scattered throughout the Parish are a number of old or listed buildings notably Alresford Hall and The Quarters, an especially attractive property which has altered very little externally since it was painted by John Constable almost two centuries ago, and can be seen in this reproduction.



The Quarters as seen by John Constable in 1816

The Village Hall and Playing Field in St. Andrews Close are both much-used facilities. Attached as an annexe to the Village Hall, is the 'Pavilion'; home of the Colne Rangers Football Club and meeting place for Alresford Parish Council.

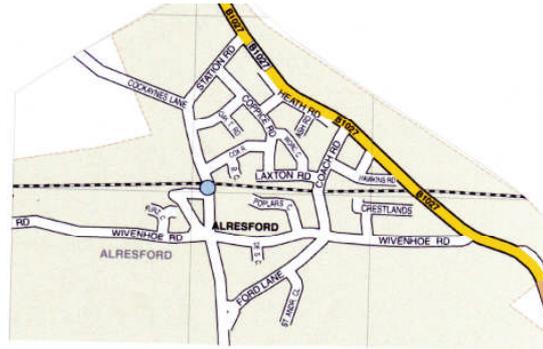
The provision of the railway station has influenced the development and planning of the village during the past 150 years, including the migration of the village centre from near the old church to around the station. The upgrading of the Colchester to Clacton railway line during 2008/2009 has brought

## Introduction

changes to the level crossings; with the replacement of the manually operated road crossing gates by automatic unmanned barriers remotely controlled from a signal box in Colchester.



Alresford Railway Station House and station staff –early 20thC



Map showing Alresford village centred on the railway station

This brief overview of Alresford is intended to indicate how Alresford has become the way it is, and maybe help in the future planning of the village. It is important that all users of the village have their say in the future of this unique and much appreciated Essex Village.

Written by Frank Belgrove

## Nature in Alresford

Responses to the Project questionnaire show that people living in Alresford appreciate their natural surroundings. Their enjoyment recognises the naturalness of these surroundings. Responses vary in the extent to which people take note of natural happenings, from those who simply observe garden birds at a bird table to others with specialist insect classification skills. Both are examples of people interacting with and profiting from nature in our community.

Alresford parish contains a surprising range of habitats, from coastal salt marsh to ancient woodland, from farmland to heathland. A full review of the natural wealth (biodiversity) of the parish is not possible in a small

space, but the parish has important populations of threatened or rare species such as Skylark, Turtle Dove, Dormouse, Water Vole, various bat species, Glow worms, Stag Beetles and many other unusual insects.

This biodiversity is under pressure from many factors including:

- a) climate change,
- b) agricultural changes resulting from market forces,
- c) lack of management in woods which changes their suitability for their flora and fauna, and
- d) damage done to native habitats by alien species.

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Alresford Creek

The Parish Project asks how people value their surroundings. A natural follow-up question would be: has a local community any power, or indeed any right, to adopt an active role in promoting the conservation of nature at its own level, i.e. on the land within its own boundaries? On land owned by the parish, that should not be an issue. A more difficult situation arises where private land is concerned, which is the bulk of a parish's area. The community as a whole encompasses all landowners as well as villagers, and a community based initiative would (arguably) be entitled to take such an interest. But it could only be done by working in co-operation with landowners as partners rather than by confrontation. This approach has the advantage of assuming that many landowners are interested in the nature residing in their property and would like to know how to nurture it.

A local community should, at least, be aware of the natural riches within its boundaries. The 'marginal' nature of many of the most important sites can make this difficult. The word 'marginal' implies: of low importance, of little public concern, even hidden. Many of the best habitats for wildlife are

in fact very literally marginal, being edges of streams, areas where woods shade into lightly used fields, etc. and are that way because of their low agricultural value. One site in the village has a colony of water voles (which have been almost exterminated by mink), it has retained its wildlife value by being prone to flooding and difficult to cultivate. Another place has a colony of rare insects (glow worms). Unfortunately, many fields which may have taken many years to develop a rich ecology can be changed overnight if market forces suggest they should be ploughed.



Colne River

Many natural sites act as a reservoir for the insects or birds which find their way into our gardens, such as the dragonflies that use our garden ponds which were hatched in the fishing lakes. Perhaps even more important to recognize is that natural species (such as bumble bees) which rely entirely on natural sites such as woodland edges for their survival, actually then play an enormous economic role as pollinators of our crops.

## Introduction



Sleeping dormouse from an Alresford Wood

If a community decides that it should try to play an active role in preserving the natural environment, what should it do? First there should be a communal awareness of nature which can be nurtured by the community working with those who know about nature, and with the landowners who are part of the community. Secondly, building on this awareness, the community should plan a strategy for species and habitat protection.



Bluebells in Cockaynes Wood

Many issues of species or habitat protection can be approached through the existing agencies, such as the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group or the Wildlife Trusts, which collect information on

important wildlife sites. These bodies, which often have close contact with landowners, may be the best agencies to secure some level of protection from inadvertent damage, and can direct agricultural incentives in the "right direction".



A Common Darter Dragonfly by Alresford Creek

There are many potential opportunities for informing people and deepening their enjoyment of nature, with events such as dawn chorus walks and bat walks, both of which have taken place in Alresford. At present there is no single organisation which could take on any of the above tasks although there are individuals who could do so. The formation of a group of this sort would be essential to improving the wildlife of Alresford further by co-ordinating with local landowners to increase the biodiversity of local sites.

Report compiled by Robin Cottrill

# RESULTS OF QUESTIONNAIRE

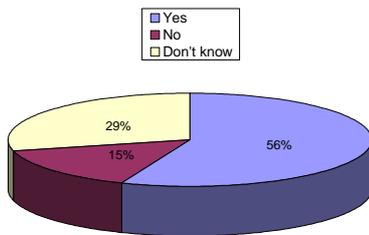
## Village Environment

The results from the questionnaire showed that the residents of Alresford have a desire to help improve the village and the environment by being green and clean.....

### Cleanliness

The main concern (of 74% of respondents) was the level of litter and dog mess and whilst 58% felt that the village should employ a sweeper/litter picker, the majority of residents were not prepared to pay extra council tax for this service. There was a strong desire expressed for more litter and dog waste bins at many locations, as listed in the appendix.

Should there be more litter bins?



*"Essex County Council should provide this (street sweeper) from the present tax"*

The grass cutting of the verges was heavily criticised by 60% of respondents both for its infrequency and standard of cutting.

## Refuse & Recycling Collections

Villagers have generally praised the refuse collectors with 91% stating that they do a good job.

Whilst the majority (69%) of residents were happy with refuse and re-cycling collections a large number of respondents indicated that they would appreciate a doorstep collection service for both garden waste and glass; and also the provision of a village facility for the collection of larger items.

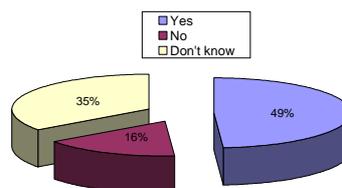
75% expressed a need for more information on what to put in the re-cycling boxes, and larger boxes for doorstep re-cycling collections were requested by 60% of respondents. 54% of residents would support a re-cycling stall and an exchange system for goods and services. An overwhelming majority (72%) would support the idea of shopkeepers reducing the use of plastic bags.

*"rubbish is still not sorted by many residents"*

*"grass cutting is poor"*

*"verges often look untidy"*

Should there be more dog mess bins?



*"rubbish outside shops is a disgrace"*

*"we don't need more bins – people don't use the ones we do have!"*

*"people should be fined for dropping litter....."*

*"bins needed where people congregate"*

*"the verges look tatty"*



Alresford Recycling Facility

*"when is plastic not plastic?"*

*"I cannot walk all the way to the village hall re-cycling – doorstep collection please"*

A few respondents wanted wheelee bins as a collection method.

*"re-cycling bins are always full"*

*"doorstep garden waste collection-excellent idea"*

*"I wish there was a doorstep collection for glass – I am a non-driver..."*

One thing is clear – villagers really do want a green and clean village.

## Infrastructure

The overall impression gained from the responses to this section of the questionnaire, was that most were happy with Alresford and its environs as they are and did not feel the need for any major changes to the village or the local area.



The General Store

98% of the households who responded used the local shops at least occasionally, most used them regularly. However, 50% felt that the area around the shops near the station should be improved. There were no reported mobility or access problems, with only 2% expressing any problems getting to the shops or doctor's surgery. 26% were unhappy with the level of street lighting, this almost certainly reflects the area of the village in which they live, as comments were made to the effect that *"Main Road, Bramley Close and Cox Road"* are all especially poorly lit. There were several comments to the effect that *'street lighting did not need to be on all night'*.

59% of respondents have a broadband connection, and 81% of them would like to see it improved. This is therefore an area that should be explored.



Flint decoration on the old school wall

The options were given of the preferential provision of: lower cost housing for sale or rent, and of the provision of sheltered housing, again for sale or rent. On both housing questions a very even split was shown, with no strong overall opinion being dominant. Whilst 56% felt that there should be more housing for purchase in lower price brackets "*especially by locals*", only 27% felt that any lower priced rented accommodation was needed. On the question of sheltered housing there was an even split on whether any was needed for purchase, though slightly more people were in favour of the provision of sheltered accommodation for rental (58%).



A verge in Alresford

## Transport in the Village

### Public

71% of respondents said they used the train and the bus services - with more using the bus than the train on a regular basis. A high number (80%) said they take the train occasionally. 23% said they would use a reinstated bus service on the main road but this probably reflects the number of houses affected.



Alresford Station with automatic gate

There was a high level of interest (70%) in creating a free car park at the station and also in having the station manned.

*"Station needs better security for night travel. Toilets and buffet/shop perhaps. Car park essential, perhaps CCTV on platform."*

The idea of creating and maintaining cycle ways and bridleways to Brightlingsea and Wivenhoe was better received with 72% of people thinking this would be a good idea.

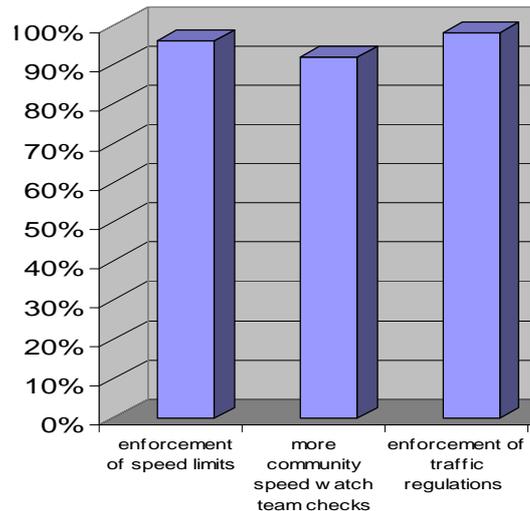
*"Need a more regular bus service on a Sunday."*

*"buses should not speed through our village"*

## Results of Questionnaire



Enforcement of speed controls



### Private

90% of people thought speeding was a problem on local roads. Some possible solutions to the problem were suggested, and these are listed below, ranked in descending order of popularity:

- 1 enforcement of traffic regulations such as no parking on ziz-zag lines and pavement parking
- 2 enforcement of speed limits
- 3 more community speed watch team checks
- 4 regular visits by traffic wardens to enforce the above
- 5 flashing speed limit sign
- 6 traffic calming measures on side roads

Parking. Parking both on pavements and on the zigzag lines outside the school was felt to be a problem by 64% of respondents. The use of visiting traffic wardens was suggested as a way of tackling this problem.

*"20 mph speed limit outside school."*

*"Stop parents blocking road when picking up children."*

The graph shows the top three most popular suggestions for dealing with road safety issues. All three methods getting almost equal votes.

The business sector report also gave weight to the view that certain speed limits are still too high in and around the village.

*"speeding on estate roads mainly 7.30 to 8.30 am and 5.00 to 6.00 pm"*

*"30mph needed on main road (B1027) from Farm shop until railway bridge..."*

## Community Facilities

The results from the questionnaire and the associated comments indicated that there is reasonable satisfaction with many of the facilities in the village – however the Village Hall, limited youth facilities and Village Hall car park security arrangements are a major concern.

## Results of Questionnaire

It was generally felt that the sports field itself did not require improvement and was kept to a high standard however a high percentage (78%) were in favour of CCTV to monitor the area and many complained about criminal damage around the Village Hall and playing field. More play equipment was a well-supported suggestion and there was criticism of delays in repairs being carried when existing equipment required maintenance.



Alresford Playing Field

It was generally felt that the area around the Church, Village Hall and playing field should be given a "makeover" in addition to improvements to the Village Hall interior. Projects that improve any of the facilities would be welcome by residents.



Alresford Village Hall

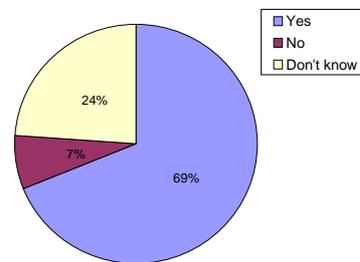
*"(improve) sports/general facilities, toilets"*

There was some criticism that communication channels between the Parish Council and residents were not as open as perhaps they could be and many residents who answered the survey indicated they wished to be consulted/informed more about parish council decisions.

*"who are the parish council?"*

*"get parish council to do things not just talk"*

Should the village hall be improved?



It was welcome news that many in the village were willing to volunteer their time to help with children and youth ventures – subject to these ventures being externally financed.

Suggestions that received popular support included: a village fete either in the winter or summer; and a village map mounted in a prominent position.

Extra medical clinics were wanted by over half the respondents to the questionnaire.. The point was raised by many that it is vital the older ones are not neglected in the Parish Plan.

It was noted that many residents were unaware of many facilities and amenities that exist in the village – it was surprising how few residents knew the whereabouts of the allotments for example.

*"Allotments! where are they?"*

There was very great demand for some kind of "drop-in" centre for young people.

*"Something for the young people – Youth Club?"*

*"everything is vandalised"*

*"More info about Doctors"*

*"Where is the Pavilion?"*

*"A more frequently updated and informative website is needed"*

Good communication within the community is vital so that facilities meet the needs of the residents.

## Crime and Safety

The crime and safety questions in the village questionnaire were included to reflect concerns and opinions gleaned from consultation events, group discussions, the local media and Parish Councillors. Importantly, 79% of respondents said that they felt safe living in Alresford. The recently launched Neighbourhood Policing initiative is in operation in the village.

Has the PCSO made a difference to the village?

The part-funding from Parish funds (collected as part of residents Council Tax) of a Police Community Support Officer was welcomed by the vast majority of residents who responded to the survey (68%). Many comments were written on questionnaire forms about the issue of the PCSO, those that did not

agree with this provision felt that they "were paying twice for policing", many more though were in praise of this arrangement. The concept of the "Village Bobby" who knows the community has been a success in Alresford – with certain crimes down by 60% (2008 Press release figures).



Alresford's PCSO

*"Much better now we have the PCSO – police never came out before when there was trouble from the teenagers"*

*"I would pay even more if PCSO worked later to stop drunks dropping beer cans everywhere"*

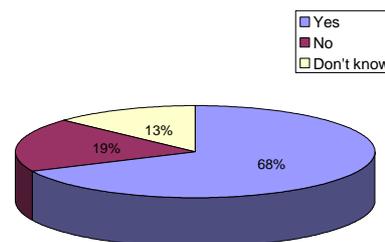
*"PCSO has improved the village"*

*"PCSO is excellent."*

*"Police not PCSO's "*

*"Why should we pay twice"*

Has the PCSO made a difference to the Village?



Many comments were directed at solutions to the problems of late night anti-social behaviour and it was felt that parents should involve themselves more to prevent under-age drinking and other issues.

Neighbourhood Watch operations do not appear to be working too well in parts of the village as quite a high proportion of residents are willing to join but do not appear to have street co-ordinators. 68% of respondents did know whether the NHW scheme was effective or not in their road. Many residents were unaware of the provision of a Neighbourhood Action Panel in the Tendring area and it will be important in the near future to really address this issue.

It is only a small minority that cause problems – the community must engage more with the police to keep this minority in check. The recent “policing pledge” for Alresford is an important step forward in developing true community policing. The policing pledge refers to information in the booklet that every property in Alresford should have received in November 2008 - Title -Policing Pledge. The Pledge lists points 1-10 that the police have promised to carry out mainly via the Neighbourhood Policing Team. In addition community interaction between residents and police is vital in the supply of "intelligence" led policing.



## Surrounding Environment



Bluegates Farm

### Footpaths

Most villagers are satisfied with the number of local footpaths (61%) and bridleways, their maintenance (with 17% generously offering to help with footpath maintenance), and their signposting.

### Map

However, many wanted a village map (54%) and 66% felt that more signage on some of the walks would be appreciated.



Alresford Creek

### Cockaynes Wood

There was much support expressed for the attempt by the Cockayne's Wood Trust to obtain the gravel pits as a local amenity area.

## Youth Survey

Although only a relatively low number of households responded to the Youth Survey, the results were none the less interesting and informative. With an age range of 9 - 18 and an average age of 14, the vast majority attended the Colne Community College, Brightlingsea but replies were also received from those who attend the local Primary School as well as a variety of schools in Colchester.

The most used activity in Alresford was the playground with 50% rating it as adequate but 31% rated it as very poor or poor and only 19% rated it as good. More swings and equipment for older children were requested with an assault course, skate park, zip wire, climbing frame and benches/shelters suggested. The need for more to be done to prevent vandalism was also highlighted. Other activities used in the village were football and brownies/guides.

Many of those who replied travelled outside the village to Brightlingsea, Colchester and Wivenhoe to attend cricket, swimming, guides, judo, explorers, football, gym, table tennis, guitar, dance and performing arts.

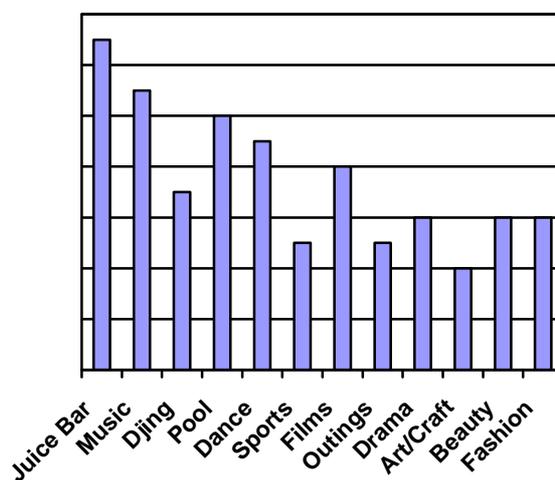
The most requested facility was an extra basketball hoop (mounted away from the hard court area), with a cricket pitch, skate ramp and goal posts following close behind. A swimming pool and an arcade were also suggested!

Of those who replied to the question of a Youth Shelter/Youth Club, the

Youth Club was the preferred option with 79% saying they would use it and only 21% saying they would not whereas there were 39% who said they would use a Youth Shelter with 61% saying they would not.

The vast majority were only prepared to pay £1 per session or less and would attend on average twice a week. The most requested activities to be provided were a juice bar, music, pool & dance but all the suggestions on the survey proved popular.

What young people would like.



The most popular sporting activity suggested was cricket, with rounders, badminton, swimming and basketball also proving popular. Other non-sporting activities suggested were quizzes, IT/gaming and woodwork.

On the question of public transport, buses were used more than trains with most finding public transport convenient to access. However, the following comments/requests were made:

## Results of Questionnaire

- More buses evening & weekend
- Better information for younger users regarding trains & stops
- Closer to home (probably not possible)
- Cheap fares on trains
- More often
- Cleaner buses
- Child fares on trains up to 16 years
- Bus stop on Colchester Main Road
- Clean the buses

It was generally felt that Alresford was a nice place to live with nearly 80% stating they liked living in Alresford. Most comments were positive and the fact that it is a quiet, pleasant village was appreciated. Many liked having the advantage of living in a village and being close to their friends while also being near to Colchester.



Football on the sports field

Some felt that it was a boring place to live with insufficient facilities for teenagers. Bullying at the playground and the creek was highlighted as a problem and concerns were expressed regarding drug taking/drug addicts. One person expressed a very strong

opinion against the PCSO and the use of CCTV.

In summary, it is felt there is a need for more facilities to be provided for teenagers and that they would be well used and appreciated.

It is noted that there appears to be a consistent request for cricket facilities and this is something that should be looked into and encouraged.

## Business Questionnaire

The Alresford Project Group sent questionnaires to the thirty business premises in Alresford to find out the views of the business sector on the future of the village. Of these thirty questionnaires thirteen were completed and returned to the group. The group wholeheartedly thanks those businesses that responded so positively.

The data that was collected is summarised as follows:

### BUSINESSES IN ALRESFORD

Include: limited companies, family businesses, partnerships and sole traders; operating in the areas of: agriculture, engineering, retail, wholesale, construction and property.

### EMPLOYMENT AND EXPANSION

There are estimated to be seventy-six full time employees at the firms located in Alresford who responded to the questionnaire. Only two of the firms are planning to expand and recruit more staff within the next 2-5 years. There is one company interested in acquiring land and office space and another who will

require storage space, parking and waste facilities.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Two businesses indicated that they currently provide items or services to the community free of charge (such as the provision of dog mess bins). Whilst one business criticised the overuse of plastic bags, the rest were not prepared to adopt specific environmental initiatives. When asked if they would consider any of the following options to promote /assist their business, the responses were as follows:

### Community Involvement and no. Firms Interested

Youth sports sponsorship	3
Police Special Constable business scheme	0
Police Community Support Officer sponsorship	1
A local business directory	2
Apprenticeships. Youth training schemes	3
Shared marketing (Co-op)	1
Shared Workspace	1
Involvement with Parish Council/Community projects	4

## SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE VILLAGE

1. **Village Appearance:** The main criticism was of the generally untidy and unkempt appearance of Alresford, which could be improved by cleaner streets, more litter and dog waste bins and better maintenance of verges and hedges.

Community areas should have improved security – such as CCTV at both the Station and Village Hall car park.

2. **Accessibility:** A village map showing the location of businesses is required, as is improved broadband/internet facilities. A car park near the station was requested.
3. **Transport:** It was suggested that speed limits should be reduced, especially on the road to Thorrington, as the roads were felt to be unsafe. Improved access to the A120 was also requested, and a fuel subsidy to help businesses located in villages.
4. **Youth:** It was felt that there were insufficient activities for the young, and that if training allowances were available these could be of benefit.

## SUMMARY

The results indicated that many businesses located in Alresford are interested in the general appearance of the village and feel improvements should be made. Concern was expressed about parking, speeding and security issues. Several firms would be interested in expanding their community involvement with the Parish Council, and many businesses feel that youth facilities and training schemes should be developed further.

## ACTION PLANS

The following list identifies those items which residents of Alresford feel are in particular need of being addressed. In most cases action to address these issues would be through, or in association with, the Parish Council, sometimes in conjunction with another body, such as the Youth Group. The Parish Council are to liaise with the relevant local strategic partnerships where necessary to implement the Action Plans. In order to determine the effectiveness of the action plans, a review should be undertaken, starting July 2010.

Priorities: H=high, M=medium, L=low.

**Action needed** **urgency**

### **Village Infrastructure**

Area around shops in Station Road to be improved	H
Broadband connection to be improved if possible	H
Install more signage on footpaths (history/wildlife)	M
Support Cockaynes Wood Trust	M
Improve street lighting in Cox Rd, Main Rd, Wivenhoe Rd	M
Improve street cleaning	H
New village sign	L
Provide (and use) alternative energy source for street lighting	L

### **Crime And Safety**

Continue to part – finance Police Community Support Officer	H
Investigate increase in PCSO powers – to cover parking offences normally dealt with by local council traffic wardens	M
Raise profile of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes	M
Inform residents about the Neighbourhood Action Panel (Tendring Rural South)	H
Liaise with community on crime and safety issues	H

### **Community Facilities**

Increase security at Village Hall/playing field area with CCTV	H
Improve signage at Village Hall buildings, marking of doors etc. Int. and ext. decoration of hall	M

## Action Plans

Site a village map	H
Monthly news letter required	H
Better communication methods required between residents and Parish Council	H
Organise Summer fetes and other community events - to include all age groups	H
<b>Public Transport</b>	
Free car park at the station	H
Have the station manned all day	H
Create and maintain cycle ways and bridleways to Wivenhoe	H
Create and maintain cycle ways and bridleways to Brightlingsea	H
Reinstate bus service on the main road	M
Up to date and cleaner buses (Cedric's)	M
<b>Private Transport</b>	
Enforcement of traffic regulations such as no parking on ziz-zag lines and pavement parking	H
Enforcement of speed limits	H
More community speed watch team checks	H
Regular visits by traffic wardens to enforce the above	H
Flashing speed limit sign	H
Traffic calming measures on side roads	M
Cycle racks	L
Make the village 20mph	L
B1027 40mph between Thorrington and Wivenhoe.	L
<b>Environment</b>	
Deal with litter problem	H
Reinstate village sweeper/litter picker	H
Provide more info on re-cycling	H

## Action Plans

Improve verge maintenance	M
Arrange more litter bins	H
Discourage plastic bags in local shops	H
Arrange central collection point for large unwanted items	H
Arrange larger recycling boxes	H
Arrange garden rubbish collections	L

### **Alresford Youth**

Improve playground equipment for older children	H
Additional basketball hoop away from hard court	H
Cricket Pitch	H
Youth Club	H
More buses weekends/evenings	M
Cleaner buses (Cedric's)	M
Cheaper fares/child train fares to 16yrs	M
Climbing frame	M
Skateboard Ramp	M
Ensure all young people have access to play areas/creek	M
Main Road bus stop	M
Better information on train/bus times	L
Possible provision of youth shelter	L
Goalposts	L
Prevent Vandalism of play equipment	L
Assault course/zip wire	L

## OFFICE OF NATIONAL STATISTICS DATA ALRESFORD ESSEX

Population: 2125  
(2005)

(2006)

WORK	%	TRANSPORT TO WORK	%
Persons economically active	63.29	Persons who work from home	11.6
Persons retired	18.42	Persons who go by train	7.8
Persons looking after home	4.54	Persons who go by bus	4.5
Sick/disabled	4.23	Persons who drive to work	63
Students	3.85	Passengers driven to work	6.14
Unemployed	1.64	Cycle to work	2.89
Other	4.3	Walk to work	3.45
HEALTH		Taxi to work	0.38
Persons in good health	93	Other (combined transport)	0.24
Persons with poor health	7	TRANSPORT IN GENERAL	
AGE STRUCTURE		Persons who own a private vehicle but often use public transport	98
0 – 9 yrs	10	Persons without private transport who rely on public transport	2
10 – 17yrs	12		
18 - 25 yrs	6		
26 - 44 yrs	25		
45 - 64yrs	32		
64 + yrs	15		
TENURE			
Owner occupiers with or without mortgage	88		
Rented (Council)	4.11		
Rented (Private)	7.89		

## COMMENTS from questionnaires

Litter bins – suggested additional sites and votes for each site		I would like garden waste collected
Crestlands	2	re-cycling bins are always full
Orchard Estate	1	allotments always having smelly fires filling my house with smoke
Main Rd	1	what idiot cuts the grass
Station Road	1	re-cycling does not include glass also not enough bags supplied
Coach Rd	2	grass cutting is awful
Ford Lane	3	(refuse collection) often late and does not always take re-cycling
Church Rd	2	No more housing
All corners/cross roads	1	Shops near station need makeover
Village Hall & Playing Field	3	Verges not tidy & are messy after cutting
Creek	2	Garden areas maintained
Outside school	2	The man that cuts the grass verges is not doing his job properly, he cuts far too short and it is a hit or miss job and at the moment is a waste of valuable money.
Main Road/Cockaynes Rd junction	1	Allotment access not good since fence put up - walking access only.
Dog mess bins – suggested additional sites and votes for each site		Would not like to see village expand with more housing
Conifer Close	1	Recycling collectors not 100%, they leave a lot behind
Crestlands	5	Verge maintenance has started to improve since early in the year, but some gutters are full of weeds and drains not always cleaned
Pointer Pub	2	Attention paid to improving the Millenium
Orchard Estate	2	Garden at the junction of Coach Rd and Ford Lane
Main Rd	4	I wish the doorstep recycling collection included glass - as a non-driver it isn't always easy to take all my jars to the village recycling bins
Station Road/shops	4	I think we are quite lucky to have an half-hourly bus service between Colchester-Brightlingsea.
Coach Rd	4	I would like to get to Essex County Hospital without changing buses in Colchester
Ford Lane/Old Church	6	I would like to see the collection of ALL recycling materials as other councils do.
Church Rd	2	Shops always out of stock and expensive.
Footpaths	1	Opening times are also irregular at weekends. Post Office is more reliable.
All corners/cross roads	3	Poor standard of grass cutting
Village Hall & Playing Field	6	More cycle paths – NOT half of pavement
Wivenhoe Rd	1	Recycling bins too small
Creek	4	Cats rip black bags for refuse
Outside school	1	Need to improve infrastructure before agreeing to more housing
Main Road/Cockaynes Rd junction	1	Verge maintenance not done often enough and sometimes badly done
We don't need any more bins, just more people to use the ones we already have		Clumsy mowing on verges, haphazard and careless
Several more distributed around village		Verges were left with grass everywhere
Litter mess is a problem but dog mess isn't		
grass cutting is poor		
green boxes are too small		
people should be fined for dropping litter –		
and what about the horse manure		
the maintenance of verges is not done enough		
we could have a facility for garden waste		

## Appendix II Respondents' Comments

PCSO should issue tickets to litter louts (not sure if this is done).

Needs more information on re-cycling and better containers.

Not enough recycling facilities offered to households as opposed to the village as a whole.

The grass is never cleared away and always looks messy after it has been done.

Maintenance needed in Hawkins Road outside premise No 11 right across road weeds growing in gutter.

The grass cutting service leaves all the grass cuttings which are then thrown around by children.

Alresford Parish Council has the highest precept in the Tendring Area, so why should we pay any more.

All items are mixed together.

Glass/garden waste not collected.

Verge cutting of grass. All they do is make a mess of it, they never cut all of my grass.

As much as I agree with recycling if you are elderly and without transport it is impossible to carry articles to the bins. Occasional door collections would help.

Re-cycling blows all over the village on a windy day and its just left there nobody bothers to pick it up.

Good except need carton recycling.

Verge cutting not carried out to a satisfactory standard.

We are down Ford Lane so Tendring do not provide any recycling facilities.

Refuse often not taken. No facility for garden recycling.

Dog bins should be sited at owners eye level.

Dogs should not be allowed as it is annoying to step in the mess they deposit – access has been made difficult for the grass cutter as the boundary has been moved.

Extra bins at the creek as more people seem to be allowed to 'live aboard' or camp for extensive time and they make no contribution to costs they should be charged.

Recycling is not all picked up at times and as the men tip the rubbish in it spills out and is not picked up.

Verge maintenance is a disgrace – razed grass down to soil and mess left everywhere. Allotment maintenance – shed erected against rules.

I think people should be responsible for their own litter after all they take it they should bring it home.

Shops:

high prices, poor presentation and cleanliness.

only use Mitchells' Farm shop as others including the PO have dropped in standards/service

they do not look clean and well cared for.

groups of youths hanging around intimidate me.

Important that the village is not developed too much

Small homes required built to look good and be eco friendly.

Very limited development only

If you could call it 'broadband' – the service is very poor we do not get true broadband

We need more affordable housing for local families

Problems with housing:

between Hawkins Road into Coach Road.

a street light at Coppice Rd/Station RD would be good.

make people clear up their gardens and property.

In general I think Alresford is a pleasant well run village. I have lived here for 36 years

and have never wanted to move away

More publicity for village organisations before they have to close due to lack of support.

There is no over 60s club at present, could this be started.

I am 88yrs old and handicapped in my walking so I cannot be very active as I have been in the past but I do support your objectives

The fact that I am 75 colours many of my reactions, also the fact that I do not go out at night except on rare occasions.

We pay the highest Council tax in the Tendring District & have the fewest facilities (some of us know why), to ask for more, I think, is an affront.

Perhaps our councillors should do more about the village infrastructure and less of the Tendring infrastructure. The encouragement of housing improvement grants for insulation, solar heating etc, thereby doing our bit for the planet.

I have lived here for 38 years on and off & I think it is a lovely village even if it does lack a few things, like things for the children etc, but all in all for a small village it doesn't do to bad.

Not quite what was expected

(Questionnaire) having had the village plan explained from elsewhere. What about housing growth, retention of woodland &

## Appendix II Respondents' Comments

open space, acceptable areas for gravel extraction, small industrial growth?

We need to keep the Post Office & have longer surgery hours, ie open appointments. Metal loops or brackets for locking cycles up at the shops/village hall.

Transport to Westcliff Theatre & Princes Theatre Clacton

A village lottery.

The rear & front of the shopping parade needs urgent transformation.

The overall appearance of the village has deteriorated in the last 40 years, no one seems to be interested or have respect for their properties. A member of the family was threatened at the railway station by teenagers riding their bikes up & down the platform. The gatekeeper was reluctant to reprimand, commenting that this is a regular occurrence. A very unpleasant experience.

Big aggregate lorries speeding along Wivenhoe Road early mornings 6.30am. Are they allowed along Wivenhoe Road (Coach Road end)?

As many items would have a cost, they could only be justified if that cost was within the present community charge. It's easy to increase rates, not always easy to pay.

Devise a rewards scheme that would encourage village youths to take part in community projects, such as litter picks, football field maintenance and general stewardship of areas such as the playing field, hard courts etc.

Why do we pay higher council tax, but get less collected than Colchester.

Streets often look grubby & rubbish near to shops.

Vehicles are still left on parts of the footpaths. Mothers with prams and older citizens with wheelchairs find this difficult. Also the footpath outside the carpet shop & crossing needs to be lowered for prams & wheelchairs.

Have lived here for 40 years but never really felt a part of the place. It seems like a commuter suburb plus housing estate not a village, but it is quiet & peaceful.

Much of the questionnaire is vague & too generalised to provide useful information. As a disabled pensioner I feel that I am invisible and the questionnaire ignores our group

Your question "Would you be prepared to pay more?" – when I last checked the Parish Council tax Alresfordians already pay more than any other council in TDC (about 27)

not 5% or 10% more but 40% than the next most expensive.

The area of Poplar Close is always in need of a sweep – although I agree people should keep their own area tidy, very often they don't and the drain areas become very dirty. In other areas quite often cars are parked on the pavement which is very dangerous not only for mothers with prams and young children but older folk too.

Alresford is a lovely place BUT individuals need to be more involved in village life, have a sense of ownership. Residents should be asked what they want. I am very pleased to fill in this questionnaire. I have also heard 'we' may be getting a new village sign. This is a good idea.

Good place to live – must keep 'yob culture' in check – superb countryside.

Need to enforce present speed limits not introduce new ones

All pavements should be swept regularly. Footpaths (over fields etc) should be well maintained.

There should be a good 'real' police presence in the village.

The Parish rates are the highest in Tendring with no significant advantages compared to other villages.

This was a poor questionnaire – some questions ask for simplistic answers without qualifications.

We need a council lead environmental strategy.

It is a brilliant place to live. We don't want to turn it into 'Suburbia' but there is room for improvement. A well thought out questionnaire – thank you for your hard work.

Plant more trees.

Lovely village 40 yrs ago but going downhill fast.

Thank you.

A wonderful village. I am very lucky to have been welcomed to the village. The shops by the Station are important and, following closure of Crossways, are vulnerable.

Why are our Community rates so high? I would suggest that our PCSO could fine those who leave their litter behind perhaps that would tidy up the village so there would be no need for litter picks.

A village wind turbine for village hall and street lighting.

Turbines to generate electricity for parts of village.

Spend money in the cleanliness section.

## Appendix II Respondents' Comments

Council tax should pay for this [footpath clearing].  
[improve area around shops] V. important.  
Footbridge over Creek:  
- this should not be done.  
- do not want this at all.  
it would make more sense to dredge the old ford crossing.  
[more signage] if discreet.  
Bridle ways as these can be used for cyclists also.  
Support for Cockaynes Wood Trust:  
- because this is going to happen anyway  
- this was gravel extraction agreement  
Footbridge over the Creek might be the dream. If not what about a footpath from Thorrington Mill to the Creek on the Brightlingsea side instead of having to walk from Alresford to Mill then to Brightlingsea Church and down to Creek then along the Colne to Batemans.  
To make the village appearance of a more historic nature, more trees, flowers etc.  
get parish council to do things not just talk  
increase size of village hall to allow smaller function rooms  
village hall needs to be decorated, toilets are a disgrace – events are often held at the church, I wonder why!  
where is the pavilion?  
everything is vandalised  
(improve) sports/general facilities, toilets  
who are the parish council  
Local groups eg horticultural & historical to be more visible and vocal  
Something for young people – Youth Club?  
Chairs & tables outside carpet shop, for Post Office to sell tea & sausage Rolls.  
Village needs a Youth Club.  
Only informed about Parish Council decisions through Alresford Advertiser.  
An additional room is needed at the Village Hall.  
The village could do with a chemist.  
More cultural activities ie debating society or book club.  
A pharmacy as part of village shops.  
[allotments] where are they?  
Need Alresford advertiser every month not every two months.  
Would be useful to have a health visitor clinic based in Alresford. At present mothers have to use Wivenhoe or Brightlingsea.  
More info where docs surgery is – I travel to Elmstead.  
Village Hall and Pavilion should be community building not PCC charity .

It would be nice to see the return of the baby clinic, perhaps extended to include chiropody, advice on long term conditions, diabetes, cancer, myxoedema, cardiac etc. More self help health support generally. If the hall was made available on a regular basis this could then further extend for occasional talks, demonstrations and treatment sessions for alternative therapies as well.  
(we need) proper full time policing with power to act  
vandalism situation much improved with presence of PCSO -has improved over last six months  
I am very happy living in Alresford.I do find it difficult to get involved due to being single and in my fifties – I hope to phone the number provided on this form  
dispersion needed of large groups of older kids who intimidate the community and make a mess and cause noise disturbance – a voluntary ban after a certain time?  
more community events should be held  
need a police station or office/house  
how about a Tesco express  
until we actually punish crime we wont stop it  
our village is already nice. There are good enough facilities for my needs  
much improved now we have the PCSO – police never came out before when there was trouble from the teenagers  
a small element are a let down, litterers, vandals, speeders, the thoughtless and bone-idle parkers  
the ticket office is not open when I need it  
the contractor who cuts the grass should be given an eye test  
name and shame the vandals  
It is a good place to live but the cost of housing is losing us our community and turning us into a dormitory village  
people are too busy with their own live to join in the community  
PCSO has improved the village  
why must we pay twice for the police  
PCSO is now essential  
Groups of youths loitering around shops and station are threatening  
PCSO is useless  
Living on my own I feel relatively safe in my own home, but would hesitate to answer the door after dark, especially since my fence was vandalised  
I think the parents of the drug-fuelled youths wandering the village should be

## Appendix II Respondents' Comments

made responsible for their children. I have had solar lights stolen from my garden. Most of the crime in Alresford is vandalism so maybe if more facilities for young people were available this might ease the problem Railway Stns at Hythe, Gt Bentley etc to be manned to stop troublemakers arriving in Alresford to cause trouble Liason between police and village seems pretty good since PCSO came Cost for PCSO is money well spent but should come out of the Police budget Policing is now left solely to PCSO who only seems to appear mid morning and afternoon. PCSO and WPC appear to be playing at being social workers, perhaps the £17 should go to social services Deal with gangs of youths (or parents) they do live in the village and are not outsiders Make Parish Clerk part-time and use savings towards another PCSO Concerning Poplars Close – cars continuously park on the pavement – many houses have 3-4 cars plus the bottom end of the close becomes very congested indeed. Pedestrians are left to walk on the road. I do not want to just see Police I want a zero attitude to antisocial behaviour and drunkenness. Byelaws should be enforced. PCSO is excellent. More late night policing required to stop drunken youths causing trouble. Police presence is needed in the area by the shops and Cockaynes lane between 7-11pm. Broken glass and rubbish bags are being left on the pavement outside the shops by the station which is a health and safety issue that requires addressing. [PCSO] No we need a REAL police officer. 'Youths' have always misbehaved. A proper upbringing would keep the misbehaviour to acceptable levels. Police not PCSO's – why should rate payers pay twice? I oppose CCTV in Alresford. PCSO deals with a pathetic number of cases. I would definitely not wish to loose our PCSO. Street lighting at Wivenhoe Road, Conifer Close end needs looking at. This is a very dark area and the lack of lighting should be given priority asap. The funding of the PCSO is paying twice for the same service. We see little evidence of the PCSO on the outskirts of the village.

I would pay even more for the PCSO if she would work later to book those who get drink & drop beer cans & bottles. A zebra crossing/bus stop by Coach Road for school kids to cross. People found causing damage or involved in other criminal activity should be named & required to remedy any damage or nuisance caused. Concerned about the young people who wander the streets between 7-9.30pm. Very pleased with the PCSO response when we had an incident involving young people at our house. Bring back proper police into the village to act on their own initiative without the nanny state paperwork. Instil in parents the need to set boundaries & take responsibility for their own children. Allow parents to set their own punishment without government intervention. I have never seen a PCSO in the village. Alienation & demonisation of the young plays some part in causing the anti social behaviour, ways should be found of bringing the young back into the community. Prompt response by the police when crimes such as vandalism are reported. post office is an essential part of the village maintain footpaths more often at the Creek get parish council to actually do things not just talk no bridge over the Creek –put in a cycle way shop assistants –have attitude smells like a burger bar we do not need any more houses in Alresford, lets keep it a Village shopkeepers should be made to maintain their areas keep old church as a church new owners of shop do not keep it clean outside their premises in my estimation the shops have gone downhill but the Post office is quite good a car park at the station so the road can be swept and those of us who live here can actually get in our gateways can we have a lights off campaign we do not need street lights on all night no more houses needed need a new shopkeeper who actually stocks what you want not buckets and spades and half dead plants, just one brand of cigarettes/balloons/wedding gifts having to buy (house) out of the area miss lower village shop, always use Post office

## Appendix II Respondents' Comments

need housing for villagers only  
remove old telephone boxes the one in  
Coach Road has not worked for five years  
clean out bus stops –disgraceful  
sheltered housing for Alresford residents  
1h parking around the shopping area to  
extend to Wivenhoe Rd  
Parking difficult – people leaving cars all day  
The display of shrubs etc on the grass verge  
near pedestrian crossing at junction of  
Church Road/Wivenhoe Road should be  
replaced by low flower beds as the present  
display partially blocks the view of traffic  
coming from the right when one is waiting  
to exit Church Road  
Do not want any more houses built in village  
because of infrastructure – roads, school,  
water table etc  
Area around old Church is nice as a  
conservation area.  
Footbridge would be convenient for  
Alresford residents but yobs/vandals from  
Brightlingsea would have easy access to  
village  
Keep the footpath clear of brambles etc  
along the creek to Wivenhoe  
Not enough footpaths on rural section of  
Wivenhoe road  
PO should be updated with modern  
weighing equipment for parcels. Wivenhoe  
charges less using their digital scales  
I use the Post Office regularly but not the  
other shops, especially now the general  
store is now where the Old Corner Café  
used to be  
Sunday buses are very poor and there are  
inadequate timetables at bus stops  
proper footpath between Alresford and  
Wivenhoe  
people on Main Road have to get taxi if they  
are unable to drive  
the 74 and 78 both come together on the hr  
Colchester Main Road is totally ignored and  
is the worst road for accidents – no police  
presence whatsoever  
speed cameras not in correct place it is just  
a revenue source  
we need more mobile speed units on main  
road  
there is a difference between parking  
slightly on the pavement to make road  
accessible for emergency vehicles and  
blocking the path to pedestrians  
we are both elderly and as a disabled person  
I am taken everywhere by car, the  
pavements are not wheelchair friendly  
this questionnaire is a good idea

I have lived in Alresford for a long time and  
have been connected with playschool,  
church and Thursday club and womens  
guild. I would not want to live anywhere  
else.  
people who insist on abandoning their cars  
sticking out into the road by the rail station  
should be birched!  
trains too dear  
make the village 20mph  
cut speeds on the main road  
the automatic crossing gates will mean  
because of my age I will have to wait like  
many other elderly people for 2-3 trains as I  
cannot walk over the stairs  
bus timetable never intact  
in the past month I have witnessed two cats  
killed on our roads by speeding drivers it is  
only a matter of time before it is a child  
the Cedric bus service is very poor, the  
buses are in poor mechanical condition, bad  
timing and too fast  
they just slow down for the camera ,you  
need an average speed  
there should be adequate parking at the  
station for commuters  
I live near Station Road I have problems  
getting my car off the drive because of  
people parking over the drop kerb  
enforce fines for people using mobile  
phones  
check vehicles are taxed and insured –fine  
equivalent to cost of insurance  
do something about the speeding vehicles  
before a pedestrian is killed  
Yellow lines from station to Wivenhoe Rd all  
day  
If train was cheaper I would use it  
Cyclists using pedestrian pavements still a  
problem. It would be acceptable for young  
children to use the pavements if they were  
instructed to give way to pedestrians  
We still seem to have a number of 'boy  
racers' speeding through the village  
Speeding is definitely a problem along Main  
Rd & Wivenhoe Rd. An introduction of a 2<sup>nd</sup>  
speed camera operating on traffic going  
towards Thorrington would be good.  
A 30mph limit on the Colchester Main Road  
would be welcomed to make it less  
dangerous for everyone crossing the road  
and animals on the road.  
I think we are very lucky to have so much  
public transport which is usually on time  
If cars park on pavements and there is  
plenty of room for pedestrians, prams  
wheelchairs etc, I think its OK. If the cars

## Appendix II Respondents' Comments

are parked on the roads they would be impassable as most people have more than one car.

More trains to stop at Alresford

Parking on Wivenhoe Road is a particular problem as it is a bus route & has relatively large vehicles using it regularly.

Parking on pavements is a big problem for pedestrians – particularly those with pushchairs/wheelchairs & is on the increase. It affects other motorists too as it reduces their visibility

More trains to stop at Alresford

B1027 should be 30mph through village part

First Buses are excellent, Cedrics are awful, they need safety checks as do some of the drivers (diesel fumes are very bad sometimes).

Try to make rail travel half price, like on National Express coaches.

Traffic humps should be on all roads in the village. Stop all pavement parking & more use of yellow lines.

The buses don't always turn up & Cedric drivers drive too fast.

More trains should stop at Alresford so if going to London for a show don't have to drive to Wivenhoe or Colchester.

Don't use the shops as difficulty with mobility.

Make sure of bus service to General hospital especially on Sunday.

1/2 Barriers are dangerous as someone will try & cross when they are down. Full skirted barriers must be installed.

Road structures on Wivenhoe Road are dangerous, as they narrow road allowing 1 vehicle a a time to pass, & there is no warning of the road narrowing. The 2 roundabouts at Coach./Wivenhoe Road & Ford Lane unnecessary & should be flattened & removed.

Train Fares too expensive.

More Police patrols required to catch speeding mopeds along Wivenhoe Road at night.

30mph needed on the Main Road between Farm shop & Wivenhoe side of railway bridge.

Extend zig zag lines outside school, & fine people parking on the pavements, this might encourage parents to leave their cars at home & walk to the school. Parents living far away could park in the village hall car park & walk from there. MUCH SAFER.

A better connection between the slow & fast trains needed.

Get rid of the farmer who blocks the cycle path to Brightlingsea at Thorrington Mill. Tenpenny Hill is too dangerous for cyclists. Give warnings to pavement parkers before fining.

Speeding is a problem on Wivenhoe Road. Parked cars in Station Road a problem, even though main offenders have off street parking space.

Traffic calming measures needed on the main Wivenhoe Road at each end.

Traffic calming measures needed. The installation of a roundabout at the School Lane (Elmstead) junction with the B1027 would serve as an efficient speed regulator. Would like to see a full bus timetable inc service 78 on all bus stops.

A flashing speed sign required at the entrance to Wivenhoe Road.

### Public transport use

<b>Bus to:</b>	no. users
Colchester	21
Clacton	7
Brightlingsea	6
Wivenhoe	3
University	1
Stanstead	1
<b>Train to:</b>	no. users
London	16
Colchester	11
Wivenhoe	3
Clacton	2
Walton	1
Chelmsford	1

Reinstate bus service on main road (B1027). Would be nice to have a clean modern bus instead of Cedric's old ones.

[walking bus] would not use it but v. good idea

Buses should not speed through our village. Very pleased station has been cleaned up – love the flowers etc

DO NOT want automated gates – they will be vandalised.

We are actually very fortunate with our bus and rail services compared to many villages – but we need to press for continued improved services in order to encourage residents to use this form of transport rather than cars

More investment in services

(toilets/passenger comfort) at rail station

Buses need to adhere to speed limits

Bus timekeeping.

## Appendix II Respondents' Comments

Poor quality of Cedric's busses.  
How about ANY cycle paths?! Some would be good anywhere.  
Bus times are too close together.  
What is a walking bus scheme?  
Very sorry to have lost the Brightlingsea service (except for Cedric's).  
Speeding on estate roads mainly 7.30-8.30am and 5.00-6.00pm.  
Why don't we have stickers to say we love living in Alresford and we don't like those who speed etc.  
Roads leading into Alresford need lower and enforced speed limits – B1027 should be 40mph all the way Thorrington and Wivenhoe.  
Fines for pavement parking:  
- Caution/warning first.  
- But within reason – sometimes parking slightly on pavement is the safest option.  
- Especially on the corner of Crestlands and Wivenhoe Rd where the grass verge has deep ruts in it caused by parking a vehicle. Particularly when they have adequate space to park on their own property!

Parking on pavement is dangerous, illegal and unnecessary. Drivers have little thought for pedestrians, wheelchair users.  
Speed limit sign should be painted on the roads not small signs covered by trees and bushes.  
Designated parking for the shops and commuters would ease congestion for residents by the crossing gates.  
The present speed limits are adequate. Those who exceed the limit would do so even if it were reduced to 20 or even 10mph.  
Solar powered [speed sign].  
Traffic calming measures(speed bumps) along main stretch of Wivenhoe road and the road from the school to the Creek.  
Main problem with speeding is on Wivenhoe Road.  
Parking is going to be a problem if car numbers increase. A pity.  
Main Colchester Rd near railway bridge treated as a racetrack by many motorists (particularly motorbikes).

# Acknowledgements

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In memorandum.

Sadly Ruth Ford passed away during the compilation of this Parish Plan.