



The picture on the front cover is based upon the Millennium Tapestry that was designed by Cecilia Sutton and created by ladies of the village. The original may be seen in the village hall.

The seal of Henry of Eastry was reproduced on the front cover by kind permission of the Dean & Chapter of Canterbury. Archives (DCc/Ch Ant/E168 Canterbury Cathedral).

The Parish Plan Group is very appreciative of the help provided by many village residents in the preparation, distribution and collection of the questionnaires. Particular thanks go to Pam Seabright for undertaking the tedious task of transferring the data from the questionnaires to computer.

Members of the Parish Plan Group were much saddened by the recent deaths of two members of their group – Ken Austin and Di Webb. Members remain profoundly grateful to them for the significant contributions they made to the Village Appraisal Project. Special mention must be made of Di Webb who bore the brunt of the vast amount of computer work involved at all stages of the project. It was a massive and uniquely valuable contribution.

(John Driver, Don Gardiner, Sam Shevde, Sheila Smith (Chair), John Wright)



Fairfield House

Dear Reader,

The Eastry Parish Council hopes you find this document informative.

They would like to thank everyone involved in its production. Those of you that completed the surveys to provide the source data, and a special thanks to the Parish Plan Group that have worked very hard over the past two years, putting in a great deal of time and effort to produce this plan for the future of the Parish.

The Parish Council would also like to thank the various agencies that have given their help and support to the production of this document.

The Council have discussed this document in detail and a copy of their action plan is attached as an addendum to the Parish Plan. The action plan will be reviewed on a regular basis by the full Council; hopefully many of the issues raised can be resolved to every ones satisfaction in future years.

Yours faithfully,

*I Mollart*

Iris Mollart (Mrs)  
Chairman of the Parish Council.

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## **Introduction**

The Government published a white paper in November 2000 which stated that rural communities should have a greater say in decisions that might affect them. Following a public meeting in 2001, Eastry Parish Council established the Eastry Village Appraisal Group (later to become the Parish Plan Group) with the brief to determine the views and concerns of Parish residents about their village and life within it. The information was duly obtained by questionnaires distributed to all households in the Parish. It has been used in the development of this Parish Action Plan

The appraisal process has been facilitated by advice and guidance given by the Kent Rural Community Council, the Countryside Agency, and other villages that have been through a similar exercise.

## **Eastry Facts**

### **Origin and Housing**

Eastry is a village of Saxon origin. It lies on the A256 road between Sandwich, two plus miles to the north-north-west, and Dover, nine miles to the South. A bypass road on the east side of the village was completed in 1991, and carries much of the heavy traffic that would otherwise pass through the village. The centre of Eastry is a conservation area with some buildings dating from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries. The remainder of the village dates from the nineteenth century to the present time, and includes some post-WWII estates of private and social housing.



The Cross  
1900

The Cross  
2004



## Shops and Businesses

There are several retail facilities in the High Street. They include the Post Office, Village Stores, newsagent, DIY shop, Riding Habit, a baker, butcher, chemist, Chinese takeaway, fish & chip shop, two hairdressers, and two public houses. Additionally there are two plant nurseries (one with a farm shop), and a garage on the north-west outskirts of the village. A mobile greengrocer visits Eastry every Friday morning. The centre of the village also boasts an accountancy firm, an agricultural engineer, a tourist business, and the office of a local builder. A haulage company and lawnmower repair/sales business are located in the south west of the village. A range of other businesses operate from private houses in the village – carpentry, chiropody, driving tuition, electrical work, insurance, osteopathy, plumbing, roofing, tree surgeon, and special educational needs tuition.

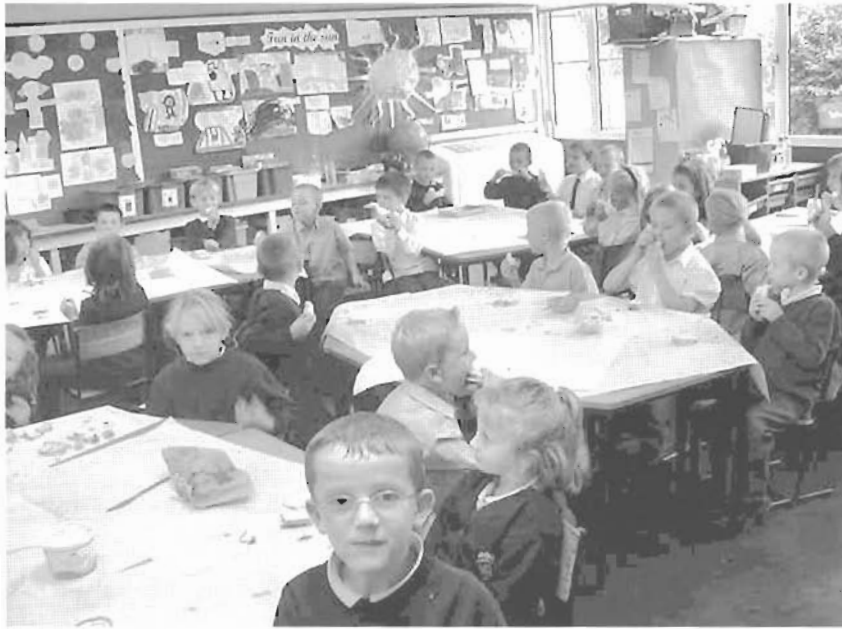
## The Church



The village Church of St.Mary the Virgin dates from c1230. The monks of Christ Church Abbey, Canterbury, built it lavishly in the Early English style of architecture. Remnants of the earlier Norman church can be seen in the lower tower and in the eastern wall of the nave. This latter is decorated with several medieval painted medallions that were professionally cleaned towards the end of the last century. The Norman church almost certainly replaced a Saxon building, but the origins of Christianity on this site are lost in antiquity.

The church building is home to a thriving Christian community. Approximately one hundred adults and forty-five children meet each Sunday to worship God, and to support and encourage one another in Christian living. Groups meet for a variety of purposes and activities throughout the week, either in the Church Hall or in people's houses, as appropriate, and the Church has links with several village organisations. It is also an active influence in the village primary school and is a Christian presence in the village that is available to all who need it.

## Eastry Church of England Primary School



Known informally as The Gentle School – a title which it daily nourishes through its work with the village children of primary age – Eastry Church of England Primary School derives its formal title from the 1944 Education Act, though in essence from February 1853 when the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury Cathedral granted and conveyed a parcel of land for the building of a new school for “promoting the education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church.”<sup>2</sup> Ten days earlier the Church had taken over responsibility for the existing village school. The new premises were built next to the recreation ground in Church Street and the school began its life there in 1859. The building was described by the Rev.W.F.Shaw<sup>3</sup> as a “handsome and commodious structure, which combines a picturesque appearance with a thorough adaptation of every part to its particular use.”

When Eastry expanded during the years following WWII, the school proved too small to accommodate all pupils and for some time classes had to be held also in the Village Hall and the Parish Council Room.

A separate County Infants School was built at Cooks Lea in 1960 under its own headmistress, whilst the Church Street site became a de facto Junior School under its own head teacher. The two schools were amalgamated in 1969 under the authority of the then Junior School headmaster, Mr.Fright. They continued to occupy the two (split) sites. This arrangement ended in 1984 when the whole school was consolidated on the Cooks Lea site, and the Church Street building was sold for conversion to private dwellings.

The school now eagerly awaits the imminent completion of a three classroom extension at Cooks Lea. This will enable the three older classes finally to relinquish their temporary classrooms, two of which have been in use since 1984! The school has celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary during 2003.

2: Close Roll(Chancery)1853 Part 20, No.3.

3: Shaw, Rev.W.F., 1870, The Memorials of Eastry, pub: John Russell Smith.

## Great Oaks Small School

Founded two years ago, this private school caters for a small number of secondary age children who have been unable to fit into, or profit from, mainstream education. It provides a vital service to a small number of troubled families.

## **Bubbles Nursery**

The nursery, situated at the edge of the Gun Park, provides for children aged 2 to 5 years of age. School children up to age 12 can also be supervised from 8.00 am until school convenes, as well as from the end of the normal school day until 6.00 pm. This provides a necessary service to some working parents.

## **Village Organisations.**

Eastry supports a wide range of clubs, societies and associations. They include:

<u>Club/Society</u>	<u>Contact number</u>	<u>Club/Society</u>	<u>Contact number</u>
Bell Ringers	365460	Painting for All	611388
Billiards & Snooker	611451	Parent Teachers Association	611885
Bowls	611560	Royal British Legion	612412
Brownies	611013	Rural Interest Club	611648
Cricket	614219	Scouts & Cubs	812381
Football	614496	Woman's Institute	617807
Horticultural Society	611580	Young People's Club	613528
Girl Guides	617406	Theatrical Club	611781
Humpty-Dumpty Club	614320	Twinning Association	613346
Men's Club	611472	Women's Afternoon Fellowship	614794
Monday Evening Club	611592	Youth Action Group	611580

## **The Appraisal Process**

A small team from the Parish Plan Group designed a questionnaire based on examples and advice provided by the Countryside Agency and Kent Rural Community Council. Teams of volunteers then distributed the questionnaires to each household in the Parish, and also collected the responses a few weeks later. Largely as a result of the industry of the volunteer work force there was an excellent response rate.

The questionnaire contained 37 questions, both open and closed. The question boxes were structured such that each member of the household could express their views. Results were placed in an Excel spreadsheet for analysis - except those that related to church matters; these were passed to Rev.Genders.

## **Funding**

Funding for the project has been provided by grants from the Countryside Agency and Eastry Parish Council.





## Responses to Questionnaire

### Response rate.

The questionnaire was issued to 960 households and returned by 576 – a 60% response rate. This is well above national average. Some respondents did not answer all the questions, and 14 did not answer any. 1233 residents completed part or all of the questions.

### Age groups/Gender

There are 682 females (53%) and 612 males (47%) in the 576 households that responded.

The numbers of respondents in each age group are: -

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>
0-4	69	45-59	273
5-15	171	60-74	273
16-24	90	75-84+	134
25-44	284		

### Housing

The majority of respondents are in owner occupied properties:

Privately rented	28
Local Authority rented	60
Housing Association. Rented	44
Owner occupied	410
Shared ownership	4
Part of employment	1
Sheltered	16
Other	0

36% of respondents are in semi-detached houses, 20% in detached houses and the remainder in varying types of bungalows, flats and terraced houses:

Detached house	111
Semi-detached house	197
Terraced	68
Detached bungalow	97
Semi-detached bungalow	46
Flat/maisonette	42

Respondents were asked if they were likely to move house in the next ten years, and what type of property they would look for:

<b>No move anticipated</b>	<b>546</b>
2 bed house	46
3 bed house	93
4/5 bed house	99
2 bed bungalow	102
3 bed bungalow	58
Flat/maisonette	23

The majority would like to become owner-occupiers, and have a garden. 122 people said that they do not intend staying in the Parish.

## Education

### School attendance.

Amongst primary school age children in the Parish, 79% attend the village primary school; 21% go to primary schools outside the Parish; 75% of children between 12 and 18 years of age are in secondary school and 20% in grammar schools. 3% attend special need schools and 2.0% attend preparatory/public schools. 68% of children below primary school age are in nursery school. An average of 2.1% go to various 'out of school' clubs.

### After-school activities.

No reasons were given for non-attendance at after-school activities apart from a very small 4% who gave lack of transport as the reason.

## Vehicles & Journeys

The number of vehicles in regular use per household is:

One vehicle	256
2 vehicles	190
3 vehicles	22
4 or more vehicles	7

The car-owning households make the following number of single journeys in a typical week:

0-4 journeys	52
5-8 journeys	87
9-12 journeys	78
13-25 journeys	145
More than 25 journeys	104

The 475 car-owning households possess 730 vehicles between them (1.5 per household), and undertake a total of approximately 6870 journeys per week. This equates to 9.4 journeys per week per vehicle, and 14.2 journeys per week per household. 87 households (15%) did not complete these questions, and it is assumed they do not possess a vehicle.

## Employment

72% of respondents between the ages of 16 and 65 are in some kind of employment; 9% are unemployed and 5% are permanently sick or disabled. 53% of respondents between the age of 5 and 24 are in full time education/training. 85% (343) of respondents over the age of 60 are retired, 300 are over 65 years of age.

## Transport

Respondents use the following means of transport to their place of work, training or study:

Private vehicle	459 (72%)
Public Bus	38 (6%)
Private Bus	17 (3%)
School Bus	44 (7%)
Taxi	5 (1%)
Motor cycle or scooter	13 (2%)
Train	3 (<1%)
Walk or cycle	58 (9%)
Not applicable	266

Half the respondents would use public transport if more were available; half said they would not.

Approximately a quarter of respondents said they would use a community bus if one were available; half said they would never use one.

Amongst the small number of respondents who use public transport, hardly anyone had experienced difficulties with its use.

## Use of Post Office

The Post Office is obviously a village necessity with 869 respondents using it for postal services, 345 for pensions/allowances, 180 for banking, 672 for car tax and/or payment of bills.

## New Development/Services

Residents were asked what additional shops, services or facilities they would use if available:

Greengrocer	130	Gift/craft/wool shop	10
Bank	119	Haberdashery	9
Garage/Petrol Station	109	Local taxi service	9
Cash machine	65	Sports shop	9
Coffee shop/ Tea room/Snack bar	54	Clothes shop	8
Dentist	28	Library	7
Video Library	28	Pizza/kebab takeaway	7
Restaurant	23	Better bus service	6
Gym	21	Late opening general store	6
Indian restaurant/takeaway	18	Pet shop	6
Wet fish shop	17	Cyber café	5
Better/family pub	16	Launderette	5
Supermarket/minimarket	16	Off-licence	5
Swimming pool	15	Shoe shop	5
Building Society	10	Total of others (less than 4 responses)	88

430 respondents support the development of more small businesses and 458 affordable housing. Support for other categories ranged from 185 for retail units down to 106 for light industrial units. Only 17 people favour large housing estates.

## Parking/Traffic

79% of respondents said they experienced no difficulty in parking at or near their homes; most people in fact park on their own property.

Considerable concern was indicated over traffic speed & volume as shown below, and to the question “Should we have traffic calming in the following roads?” the results were:

	<b>Definitely</b>	<b>Maybe</b>	<b>No</b>
Woodnesborough Lane	269	141	209
Gore Lane	228	142	214
Mill Lane	160	124	246
Brook Street	42	67	306
Sandwich Road	140	117	264
Lower Street	181	129	226
High Street	357	143	223

And to the question, “Is the volume of traffic too high?” the results were:

	<b>Definitely</b>	<b>Maybe</b>	<b>No</b>
Woodnesborough Lane	145	143	276
Gore Lane	161	111	264
Mill Lane	102	120	289
Brook Street	19	35	342
Sandwich Road	82	106	292
Lower Street	112	118	265
High Street	313	160	218

## Health

79% of respondents who said they used the services of the local doctors said they were good or reasonable, 30% think the same about the district nurses. On average 90% of respondents had not used the other services.

## Public Services

Well over half (522) respondents had not used the Ambulance, Fire and Police services. The first two of these are generally thought to be good, the last, poor.

## Information

Over half of the respondents said the local paper was the best information source but most people use all the sources. Nearly half said the Parish council publicised their activities well or reasonably well.

## Council Tax

58% of respondents would be unwilling to pay extra council tax, 23% would be prepared to pay £5 more, 10% would pay £15 more and 9% would pay an extra £20 more per year. In most cases, the respondents would make this conditional.

## Sports/Leisure facilities

Most respondents think the children's playground and sports fields facilities are good or reasonable. However, when the 5 to 60 age group is considered, social and recreational facilities are thought to be poor. Conversely, facilities for those under 5 and over 60 were felt to be good.

Over 200 residents said they would like to see a wider variety of sports facilities and clubs:

Sports centre/keep fit/aerobics/yoga/judo	60
Social club/organised outings	21
Sport & other activities for teenagers	20
Better youth club & building	17
Sport & play group for children	13
Sports club	13
Tennis courts/club	12
Badminton club	9
Dance classes/club	9
Swimming club	9
Art classes/club	6
Football club/youth football	6
After-school club	5
Community centre	5
Computer/video club	5
Cyber café/computer club	5
Total of others (less than 4 responses)	56

The need to cater more appropriately for teenagers in particular was noted.

## Social Behaviour

The following crimes/anti-social behaviour gave most concern to residents:

Vandalism	824	Theft/Burglary	648	Drugs	511
Bullying	232	Mugging	37	Drunkenness	199

<u>Areas where people feel unsafe &amp; why</u>		<u>Proposed actions to deal with the matter</u>	
Gun park - youth behaviour	162	Police foot patrols - evenings particularly	383
High Street (youths)	38	Better lighting	61
Church Street/Church yard (youths)	36	More activities for teenagers	34
Where youth congregates	26	Action against offenders/drug dealers/troublemakers	26
Mill Lane/Mill Green/Mill Hill (youths)	13	CCTV	17
Path from High Street to Gun Park (youths)	13	More parental control & responsibility	16
Whole village after dark	12	20mph speed limits	11
Path from Mill Lane to Gun Park (youths)	11	Neighbourhood Watch	9
Bus shelter (youths)	10	Community Warden	8
Gore Lane - lighting/traffic/HGV/no path	9	Enforce yellow lines	5
Dark areas	6	Total of others (less than 4 responses)	15
Allotments - youth behaviour	5		
Bottom of Lower Street (traffic)	5		
Mill Lane/Gore Lane junction (parked vehicles)	5		
Path from High Street to Wilmott Place (youths)	5		
Woodnesboro' Lane/ Gore Rd junction (traffic)	5		
Woodnesborough Lane (traffic)	5		
Total of others (less than 4 responses)	28		

## Religion

252 respondents use the Church for Sunday worship, 283 for baptisms and 482 for weddings and funerals. 404 respondents see the Church as an important focal point for the village, whilst 607 view it as an historic building.

325 respondents cited religious views as their reason for not belonging to the Church; whereas 60 cited times of services and 51 style of services.

Other things respondents would like to see the Church doing:

More interaction with community/social events	27
Vicar to visit more widely -single people, elderly, bereaved	23
Old style/better magazine	13
Involve teenagers & children more	11
Comforting sick & bereaved	7
More friendly outlook needed	7
More week-day activities	7
Bell ringing	5
Wider use of church hall	5
Total of others (less than 4 responses)	32

## Comments

Respondents were asked to make general comments about Eastry on the last page of the questionnaire. These were quite varied, but could be grouped together under three headings – likes, concerns, and wants/actions.

### Likes:

	Results
Twinning	67
Friendly people & community spirit	66
Convenient shops/services/facilities	52
Clubs & activities	12
Church	11
Convenient for work or school	7
Quiet & small	7
Local history	5
Total of others (less than 4 responses)	13

### Concerns:

	Results
Parking (paper shop & High Street) on yellow lines	35
Bad behaviour/vandalism of youth	27
HGV traffic - Gore Lane & Mill Lane	17
Vandalism	15
Traffic Speed - Mill Lane, Gore Road, Cooks Lea, Mill Lane, Woodnesborough' Lane Foxborough Hill, Sandwich Road	11
Total of others (less than 4 responses)	29

### Wants/Actions:

	Results
Village policeman - more law & order	25
No village growth	17
General tidy-up. Remove eyesores, bangers, litter.	16
More car parks & double yellow lines	13
More activities for teenagers	12
More buses to Deal, Sandwich, Dover/cheaper taxis	11
Traffic calming/reduction & speed limits	9
More green spaces/trees/flower beds/baskets	9
Action against littering & dog fouling	8
Development of Hospital site	7
More volunteers for village activities	6
Information on village activities/newsletter	6
Sympathetic development of Eastry Court Farm	6
Total of others (less than 4 responses)	56

## **Issues Raised**

Apart from the matter of lighting, all of the significant concerns raised by the questionnaire require more information or external advice before any proposals may be put forward for their resolution. Also, each is a major project in its own right and it is unlikely that more than one or two may be dealt with at any one time.

## **Lighting**

The need for more lighting on footpaths, and the long-standing requirement for better lighting at the Felderland Lane junction were identified.

Recommendations:

- Parish Council to review lighting on footpaths in the village.
- Prioritise these, and refer the matter to the District Council for action.
- Chase up the request for lighting at Felderland Lane junction.

## **Crime.**

Residents identified vandalism, theft/burglary and drugs as their main concerns. Police statistics indicate that criminal damage is indeed the most reported crime, with burglary some way behind. Drug related crimes are not a significant issue in Eastry.

Vandalism and anti-social behaviour by a youthful element within the village appeared as a dominant theme throughout the questionnaire responses. Although some of the problem may be related to lack of youth amenities, there is likely to be a core of individuals who would not benefit, or be attracted by, more constructive pastimes. Respondents were of the view that provision of more youth amenities needs to be balanced by firm action against troublemakers. Recent statements from Central Government make it clear that the police and Magistrates Courts are being encouraged to deal more effectively with antisocial behaviour, but there is also a need for members of the community to assist police in their activities. Areas such as the Gun Park are considered 'no go' after dark because of abusive and threatening behaviour by youths. This is quite unacceptable and action is required.

The Village Warden scheme has been a great success, but there is still no obvious police presence in Eastry.

Recommendations:

- Obtain and circulate comparative crime statistics for Eastry and some other Kent villages.
- Parish Council to initiate a dialogue with police to develop a strategy for tackling crime, particularly anti-social behaviour – what Eastry can do to help itself, and what more the police can do.
- Explore the use of CCTV in vulnerable areas.
- Ask other villages how they have dealt with bad youth behaviour.

## **Youth Activities**

About 25% of the village population is less than 19 years old, and a very small proportion of these are responsible for the many reports of vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

It is quite apparent from the sight of youngsters hanging around at various locations within the village in the evenings that it would be advantageous to have properly managed facilities where they could congregate and be less likely to get into mischief. There are good Scout, Beavers, Guides, and Brownie organisations in the village, but these do not meet every evening, and may well attract different, less problematic, groups of young residents. Eastry Young Peoples Club has been in existence for many years, but has suffered from lack of appropriate accommodation.

A new building for the Young People's Club, pre-school nursery breakfast club, and after school club is to be finished in the spring of 2004. Many years of work have been invested in this project, and a grant from the Single Regeneration Budget has allowed its completion. It is envisaged that the Club will be open for several nights per week, with separation of the age groups to facilitate better targeting of activities. A major challenge is to find

suitable volunteer helpers, but it is hoped that the new building and organisation will encourage more participation by parents.

The Detached Youth Worker (Jerri Smith) and the Rural Warden (Bob Priestley) have organised a Youth Action Group in order to gather the views of young people.

There are no indoor sports facilities for young people.

Recommendations:

- There may be some advantage if there were better co-ordination in the activities of the various groups striving to provide facilities for village youth - benefits of shared facilities, shared experience, and possible access to greater funding. Is this something that the Parish Council could consider?
- Seek funding for youth workers.
- Tap into the experiences of youth organisations and other villages to identify useful activities, and other facilities for our young people.

## Parking

Parking in a number of locations such as Mill Lane, junction of Mill Lane and Gore Lane, but primarily the High Street were raised as concerns. High Street parking has the benefit of reducing traffic speed, but there are not enough gaps to allow cars to pull in. The volume of through traffic exacerbates the problem – see below. A related issue is the limited number of parking spaces available in the car park and Village Hall. Parking at the Village Hall is short term (for shopping) only, unless for activities in the Hall itself.

Parking outside the Newsagent is a perennial problem that has been made worse by the changes at the junction with Woodnesborough Lane. The double yellow lines, as elsewhere in the Village, are generally ignored.

There is no quick (or low cost) solution to the parking issue, but a long-term strategy is required because the problem will only become worse with time. It is recommended that the following questions be addressed:

- How many parking spaces are available in the car park, High Street and Village Hall?
- How often are all the spaces occupied?
- How many High Street residents need to use public parking spaces?
- How many cars park for a short and how many for a long time period?
- If the High Street is used for short term and resident parking only, is there any other location (Hospital site for example) that could be used for longer term parking?
- Can we increase the size of the existing car parks adjacent to the surgery, or the Village Hall?
- How can we enforce the double yellow lines?

## Traffic

The traffic load (and speed) is considered by residents to be too high on Gore Lane, Mill Lane, High Street/Lower Street and Woodnesborough Lane. It is unclear how much of this is through traffic that might otherwise use an alternative route. The road junction at Poison Cross has recently been modified to reduce the speed of traffic entering Woodnesborough Lane.

The results of the questionnaire suggest that there are already more than 6,800 vehicle movements through the village each week caused by residents, and each additional house will add an extra 14 vehicle movements. Additionally, there is through traffic. Since there are provisional plans to build 60 new houses on the Hospital and Tarmac/Topblock sites, it is important that consideration is given to how we might adapt to the increased traffic, which might otherwise make a bad situation worse.

Recommendations:

- Undertake a traffic survey between 8-10 am, and 4-6 pm covering Lower Street, Sandwich Hill, High Street, Woodnesborough Lane, Mill Lane, and Gore Lane. Determine the proportion of local versus through traffic.
- Review mechanisms for encouraging traffic to use routes that do not pass through the village.



- Parish Council/District Council to assess value of traffic calming measures such as yellow cross-hatching at the entrances to the village, flashing 30mph signs (as in Littlebourne), and other traffic calming devices.
- Ask Kent police to carry out occasional speed checks, particularly on Lower Street and Sandwich Hill.

## Village Development

Although no development is permitted outside the village confines, the Tarmac and Eastry Hospital sites are available for new housing. There is outline planning permission for up to 24 houses (plus play area) on the Tarmac Site but there are constraints imposed by the overhead power lines and poor access onto Herondon Road. A mixed development of housing (~40 ) and light industrial units is planned for the Hospital site. However there are two listed buildings (one of which is the chapel adjacent to Mill Lane) and access difficulties that must be addressed in any detailed proposals. As there are other light industrial units available in the district, and access is a problem, it might be worth reconsidering the inclusion of such units on the Hospital Site.

Much of the development in the past ten years has focused on affordable housing (Mill Green, Centenary Gardens), and there is probably now a need for a wider range of housing. Feedback from the questionnaire suggests that there is a demand for more bungalows and 4/5 bedroom houses. There could well be a number of aging residents who would prefer to move to a bungalow if available, and this in turn would release properties that are more suited to house younger families. There is very little support for large housing estates.

A number of questionnaires queried the future of Eastry Court Farm, which has become much of an eyesore. The Farm is actually outside the Village boundary (so no housing), and access is poor, which limits development options.

Recommendations:

- Parish Council to recommend to the District Council that no industrial units be included in any development on the hospital site, because road access is poor, and alternative developments at Betteshanger and the north of the village would be more practical.
- Carry out a review of current housing stock and compare with the predicted demographic profile in ten years time.
- Parish Council to initiate discussions with appropriate individuals concerning the condition of Eastry Court Farm, with a view to finding ways of tidying and improving the buildings and land.
- All future building applications to include an assessment of the impact on services, parking and traffic movements within the village.

## Shops and Post Office

Many questionnaire respondents would like additional retail outlets, particularly a greengrocer, in the village. However, there are no vacant outlets available, and economic viability would be uncertain. Fruit and vegetables may be obtained at Martins Farm Shop, and a mobile greengrocer does visit the village on Fridays. A number of shop premises have been converted to houses in the past 10 years, but such a change of use is unlikely to receive approval in the future

Although many residents would like a bank in the Village, it is unlikely that this will occur. However, the Post Office now provides a range of banking facilities, and there is now a cash machine in the Village Stores.

The Post Office provides a critical service to many Eastry Residents and people in the surrounding area, particularly for pension and benefit payments. Its survival is dependant upon good customer support, particularly with the current change in the way that pensions and benefits are being paid. The Post Office now offers a free automated banking service that allows access to current accounts held with all major banks and building societies. Information is available from the Post Office.

Eastry would probably benefit from having additional retail outlets, but these would have to be small and low cost. Creation of the right mix of shops would reduce the need to travel outside the village, and encourage more use of the existing ones.

Recommendations:

- Ask the Countryside Agency and Kent Rural Community Council for advice on how best to achieve a viable retail centre for the Village.
- Produce a long-term plan for the creation of some additional small retail outlets within the village. Some villages have achieved this by having a covered market open for a few mornings a week. Is this a possible use for the chapel on the hospital site?

## Public Transport

Although the Government has the stated aim to reduce road use, currently about 63% use the car as main means of transport. It is predicted that car use will increase by 30% by 2011. Public Transport services are particularly poor in rural areas, but it is unrealistic to expect bus companies to run buses that are not used. It would be useful to learn what services are currently available, and what can be done to encourage the use of public transport. Realistically, even a major investment of money and voluntary effort is unlikely to have much impact on car use, but it is important that those without their own transport are not isolated.

Recommendations:

- Parish Council to publish a leaflet annually indicating availability of public transport services to local towns and villages, Thanet, Tesco, and the various hospitals that serve our community. Also the telephone numbers of local taxi firms, and sources of additional travel information.
- Obtain statistics of current bus use from bus companies, and reliability of the service.
- Seek advice on “Dial-a-Ride” services.
- Seek advice from Dover District Council and the Countryside Agency.
- Encourage the local bus companies not to use double-decker buses.

## Village Appearance.

The village would be more attractive if action could be taken to reduce litter, dog fouling and old cars on the one hand, and also introduce some cosmetic changes such as trees, flowers, hanging baskets on the other hand. The Horticultural Society has taken responsibility for improving the garden area behind the bus shelter in the High Street.

Recommendations:

- Parish Council to pursue more actively the plans to landscape the area in front of the Parade Shops.
- Parish Council to initiate a “Keep Eastry Tidy” campaign – volunteer groups to comb different parts of the village to pick up litter. School and Youth Club to be involved.
- School children to be encouraged to use their ‘pester power’ on older siblings and parents not to drop litter.
- Parish Council to plant several specimen trees and shrubs on the Gun Park and Recreation Ground. Ask residents to participate in a ‘buy-a-tree’ campaign.
- Health Authority to be encouraged to plant major specimen trees on southern edge of hospital site to soften the view of the buildings from the approach road.
- More action against dog fouling. Parish Council to review the use of a dog warden, ‘doggy bins’, and publicity to minimise the problem.

## Social Amenities

There are a number of halls in the village, and many clubs and societies. There are no sports facilities, or café, although yoga, aerobics and keep fit classes are now being held in the Village Hall. There is a sports pavilion on the Gun Park, but its fabric is in such a bad state that it should be replaced with a new structure.

Recommendations:

- Explore the feasibility of having a sports hall/community centre in the long term. Consult the Countryside Agency and other villages to learn from their experience – where have they succeeded and what sources of funding are available?
- Seek funding for a new sports pavilion.

## **Youth Survey**

In 2002, questionnaires were given to a number of the young people of the village and the responses may be summarised as follows:

### **Likes:**

The Gun Park but is unsafe (yobs).  
Shops, chip shop, and Youth Club.  
Nothing to do so nothing to like!

### **Dislikes:**

The village is boring, with too few activities.  
The litter, vandalism and yobs.  
The playing field for Centenary Gardens only has a football pitch.  
Dangerous roads.

### **Wants:**

More activities.  
Better Youth Club with separate nights for under 12s and over 12s.  
More Warden patrols at times when vandals/yobs are most active. More action against vandals.  
Better skate ramp.  
Somewhere to go in the evenings and on wet weekends.  
Nets in the football goals.  
More transport to Sandwich, Dover and Canterbury.

### **Responses:**

- An adventure playground has now been built on the play area of Centenary Gardens.
- A team of young people are raising funds for football goalposts.
- Other issues are addressed in the earlier sections of this document.

## **Concluding Comments**

The foregoing Parish Plan, which necessarily involved gauging the opinions of Eastry folk about their village and life within it, has highlighted a range of issues that village people would like to see addressed. The Parish Plan homes in on a selection of these issues and gives priority for action to those that the Parish Plan Group considers most urgently in need of addressing and on which beneficial progress can soon be made.

The document also makes clear that at this early stage of the 21<sup>st</sup> century Eastry remains an attractive place in which to live. Its location makes for ready access to striking coastal and inland scenery as well as the admirable cultural centre of Canterbury. It is almost unique among East Kent villages in the range of shops that flourish here. It boasts an enviable range of sporting and other recreational and social activities, and it is not without its own areas of natural beauty.

The problems caused by, for example, excessive speeding cars and by small groups of young people behaving anti-socially are common to many villages. The tasks which the Eastry Parish Plan invites the Parish Council to tackle and in so doing mobilise the support of the majority of residents are tasks that can lead to significant improvements in the quality of life for everyone in Eastry.

## Action Summary

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Recommended Actions</u>
<u>Crime</u> Vandalism and antisocial behaviour	1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Obtain and circulate comparative crime statistics for Eastry and some other Kent villages.</li> <li>2. Parish Council to initiate a dialogue with police to develop a strategy for tackling crime, particularly anti-social behaviour – what Eastry can do to help itself, and what more the police can do.</li> <li>3. Explore the use of CCTV in vulnerable areas, particularly the Gun Park.</li> <li>4. Ask other villages how they have dealt with bad youth behaviour</li> </ol>
<u>Parking</u>	2	<p>Address the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many parking spaces are available in the car park, High Street and Village Hall?</li> <li>2. How often are all the spaces occupied?</li> <li>3. How many High Street residents need to use public parking spaces?</li> <li>4. How many cars park for a short and how many for a long time period?</li> <li>5. If the High Street is used for short term and resident parking only, is there any other location (Hospital site for example) that could be used for longer term parking?</li> <li>6. Can we increase the size of the existing car parks adjacent to the surgery, or the Village Hall?</li> <li>7. How can we enforce the double yellow lines?</li> </ol>
<u>Traffic</u>	2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertake a traffic survey between 8-10 am, and 4-6 pm covering Lower Street, Sandwich Hill, High Street, Woodnesborough Lane, Mill Lanc, and Gore Lane. Determine the proportion of local versus through traffic.</li> <li>2. Review mechanisms for encouraging traffic to use routes that do not pass through the village.</li> <li>3. Parish Council/District Council to assess value of traffic calming measures such as yellow cross-hatching at the entrances to the village, flashing 30mph signs (as in Littlebourne), and other traffic calming devices.</li> <li>4. Ask Kent police to carry out occasional speed checks, particularly on Lower Street and Sandwich Hill.</li> </ol>
<u>Lighting</u>	3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Parish Council to review lighting on footpaths in the village.</li> <li>2. Prioritise these, and refer the matter to the District Council for action.</li> <li>3. Chase up the request for lighting at Felderland Lane junction.</li> </ol>

<u>Youth Activities</u>	4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There may be some advantage if there were better co-ordination in the activities of the various groups striving to provide facilities for village youth - benefits of shared facilities, shared experience, and possible access to greater funding. Is this something that the Parish Council could consider?</li> <li>2. Seek funding for youth workers.</li> <li>3. Tap into the experiences of youth organisations and other villages to identify useful activities, and other facilities for our young people.</li> </ol>
<u>Village Appearance</u>	4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Parish Council to pursue more actively the plans to landscape the area in front of the Parade Shops.</li> <li>2. Parish Council to initiate a “Keep Eastry Tidy” campaign – volunteer groups to comb different parts of the village to pick up litter. School and Youth Club to be involved.</li> <li>3. School children to be encouraged to use their ‘pester power’ on older siblings and parents not to drop litter.</li> <li>4. Parish Council to plant several specimen trees on the Recreation Ground. Ask residents to participate in a ‘buy-a-tree’ campaign.</li> <li>5. Health Authority to be encouraged to plant major specimen trees on southern edge of hospital site to soften the view of the buildings from the approach road.</li> <li>6. More action against dog fouling. Parish Council to review the use of a dog warden, ‘doggy bins’, and publicity to minimise the problem.</li> </ol>
<u>Shops and Post Office</u>	5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Ask the Countryside Agency and Kent Rural Community Council for advice on how best to achieve a viable retail centre for the Village.</li> <li>3. Produce a long-term plan for the creation of some additional small retail outlets within the village. Some villages have achieved this by having a covered market open for a few mornings a week. Is this a possible use for the chapel on the hospital site?</li> </ol>
<u>Village Development</u>	5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Parish Council to recommend to the District Council that no industrial units be included in any development on the hospital site, because road access is poor, and alternative developments at Betteshanger and the north of the village would be more practical.</li> <li>2. Carry out a review of current housing stock and compare with the predicted demographic profile in ten years time.</li> <li>3. Parish Council to initiate discussions with appropriate individuals concerning the condition of Eastry Court Farm, with a view to finding ways of tidying and improving the buildings and land.</li> <li>4. All future building applications to include an assessment of the impact on services, parking and traffic movements within the village.</li> </ol>
<u>Social Amenities</u>	5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explore the feasibility of having a sports hall/community centre in the long term. Consult the Countryside Agency and other villages to learn from their experience – where have they succeeded and what sources of funding are available?</li> <li>2. Seek funding for a new sports pavilion.</li> </ol>
<u>Public Transport</u>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Parish Council to publish a leaflet annually indicating availability of public transport services to local towns and villages, Thanet, Tesco, and the various hospitals that serve our community. Also the telephone numbers of local taxi firms, and sources of additional travel information.</li> <li>2. Obtain statistics of current bus use from bus companies, and reliability of the service.</li> <li>3. Seek advice on “Dial-a-Ride” services.</li> <li>4. Seek advice from Dover District Council and the Countryside Agency.</li> <li>5. Encourage the local bus companies not to use double-decker buses.</li> </ol>

# **Action the Parish Council is undertaking on Issues identified in the Parish Plan.**

## **1. Crime**

The Parish Council has a close working relationship with the Community warden; they are also working with the Youth and Community office and hope to provide a “Teen Shelter” and “Kick Wall”.

**Action Parish Council**

## **2. Parking**

The Highways sub-committee have been consulting with the DDC highways department for the past year and aim to find a way to reduce parking problems without interfering with local business trade. This is an ongoing process that is regularly discussed by the Parish Council. The Parish Council have also asked DDC planning department to take parking issues into consideration when dealing with any planning application for the High Street area.

**Action Highway Committee**

## **3. Traffic**

The Highways sub committee have asked for Traffic calming in Lower Street and Woodnesborough Lane. The DDC highways department have included a flashing sign for Lower Street, in their budget bid for 2004/05. The Parish Council will also sponsor “Speed Watch” as long as there are enough volunteers willing to help.

**Action Highway Committee**

## **4. Lighting**

This is an ongoing problem, the Highway’s Committee meet about once a year to walk the Parish and identify dark spots. Lighting request are then forwarded to DDC. In the past the Parish Council have paid for additional street lighting when DDC have had budget restraints.

**Action Highway Committee**

## **5. Youth Activities**

The Allotments and Leisure Committee are currently reviewing the future use of the Pavilion. As part of this review and with the support of the School, Football Club and Cricket Club, they are attempting to get under 11 football and Cricket teams going. It is felt this will also help with future Anti Social behaviour problems.

**Action Allots & Leisure Com**

## **6. Village Appearance**

For the past three years, the Highway Committee have been working with shop owners, solicitors DDC planning department to get plans for the parade drawn up and agreed. An end to this process now seems to be in sight.

The Parish Council paid for three new dog waste bins in 2003/04. They also continue to provide free of charge “pop the scoop bags”.

**Action Highway Committee**

## **7. Shops and Post Office**

The Parish Council are extremely concerned about the future of the Post Office and are endeavouring to start a dialogue with Post Office Counters Ltd.

**Action Parish Council**

## **8. Village Development**

The Parish Council are seeking, with the help of it District Councillor, to get the site of Eastry Court Farm buildings included inside the confines of the village. They are also in contact with the land agent acting for the owners of the site.

**Action Parish Council**

## **9. Social Amenities**

As mentioned above the Allotments and Leisure Fields Committee is looking into the future of the Pavilion, however grant funding will not be available unless a future need for a sports facility of this type can be proven.

**Action Allots & Leisure Com**

## **10. Public Transport**

Cllr Hooper is the Kent Association of Parish Councils Dover area representative for public transport. She has spent a lot of time investigating various schemes that may be of help to the Parish.

