

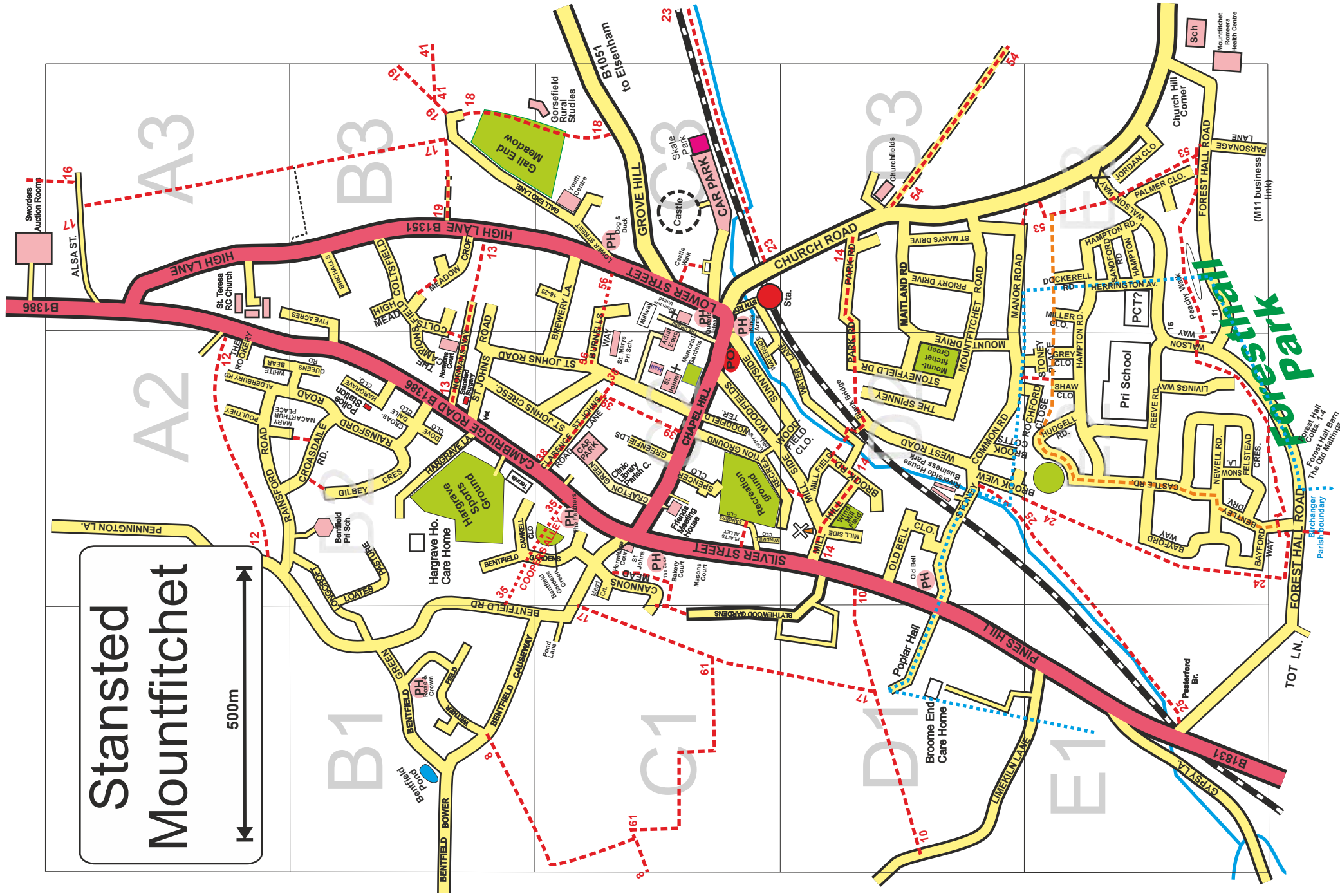
Stansted Mountfitchet

Community Plan



Stansted Mountfitchet

500m



Forest Hill
Forest Park

Parish boundary
Forest Hill
Cot. 1, 2
The Old Millings

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THE COMMUNITY PLAN – AN OVERVIEW

The timing of the preparation of the Community Plan coincides with a major period of change for the parish of Stansted Mountfitchet:

- The construction of Foresthall Park will add about 30% to the population of the parish with the challenges to create a single community and to handle a substantial increase in the workload.
- The planned move of St. Mary's School to Foresthall Park and the possible construction of a major new health centre on the same development will create more activity in the south east of the parish and will have implications for traffic flows.
- Two other factors are likely to have consequences for the parish, the rate at which the airport expands its activity, even without the prospect of a second runway, and any decision by Uttlesford District Council on the quantity and location of new housing.

The community is determined to fight to maintain Stansted Mountfitchet as a separate village with an active life of its own and to work to improve the quality of life for long-standing and new parishioners.

To achieve the latter will need much detailed work to mitigate the universal problems of traffic and parking and resources to provide more facilities, particularly for recreation, to meet the needs of this growing community. Alongside these ambitions the scope of the responsibilities taken on by the Parish Council and the resources needed to deliver these responsibilities at an acceptable cost to council tax payers will need to be resolved.

Although the preparation of the Community Plan has been hard work (and thanks to all who have contributed), **this worthy project will only be judged a success if action follows.** We will all need to continue to contribute ideas as the detail of the plan is executed. Hopefully patience and hard work will produce rewards. Meanwhile may we welcome our new parishioners on Foresthall Park and we look forward to working with you to build a successful community.

CREATING A COMMUNITY PLAN

Stansted Mountfitchet community plan is a document describing how this community could be developed over coming years to improve the quality of life for those who live here. The Plan should be seen as a strategic document which has been strongly influenced by the responses to completed questionnaires. The conclusions highlight issues from local residents and the means and priorities associated with tackling them. With this information, the Parish Council will be in a position to provide guidance to the councils for Essex and Uttlesford, and other agencies, relating to your preferences in respect of the future development of our community. Where appropriate, policies under the Adopted Uttlesford Local Plan are identified. This is not a static document and over time we will need to respond to new and emerging issues, pressures and trends.

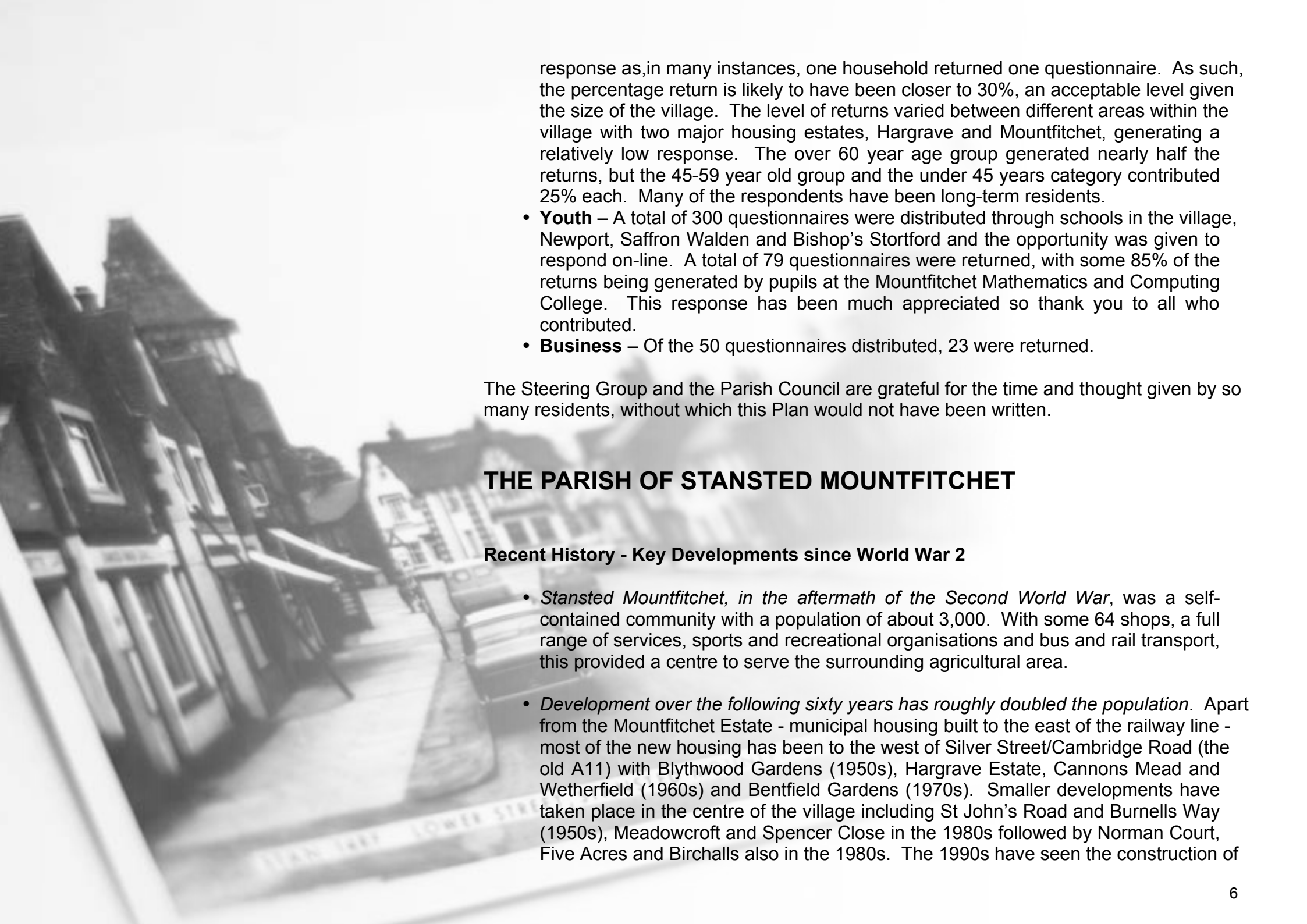
THE PROCESS AND THE QUESTIONNAIRES

Following an open day held in February 2008, a number of working parties were established to research and advise on key areas. With the help of a company specialising in consumer marketing, questionnaires were drawn up and delivered by hand with a stamped addressed envelope for replies. Following the deadline for responses, the statistical analysis was undertaken by IDA Consulting Ltd at a cost of £7,800 whilst the ad hoc comments were collated through the Parish Council. In March 2010 a presentation of the results was made to the Annual Parish Meeting while a summary was included in The Link magazine which is delivered free to every household. Subsequently draft reports were prepared for each area and considered and amended in April and May 2010 with the proposed action points again published in The Link. A second and more formal draft was completed during the early summer and amended in September 2010.

After consultations with other authorities and agencies, the Plan was finally approved by the Parish Council in October and lodged with Uttlesford District Council in February 2011.

Three questionnaires were distributed with the aim of obtaining answers from adults, youngsters aged 11-18 years and businesses. The response rate was as follows:

- **Adults** – A total of 5000 questionnaires (two per household) were distributed with 950 being returned, some 19% of the total. However, this probably understates the



response as, in many instances, one household returned one questionnaire. As such, the percentage return is likely to have been closer to 30%, an acceptable level given the size of the village. The level of returns varied between different areas within the village with two major housing estates, Hargrave and Mountfitchet, generating a relatively low response. The over 60 year age group generated nearly half the returns, but the 45-59 year old group and the under 45 years category contributed 25% each. Many of the respondents have been long-term residents.

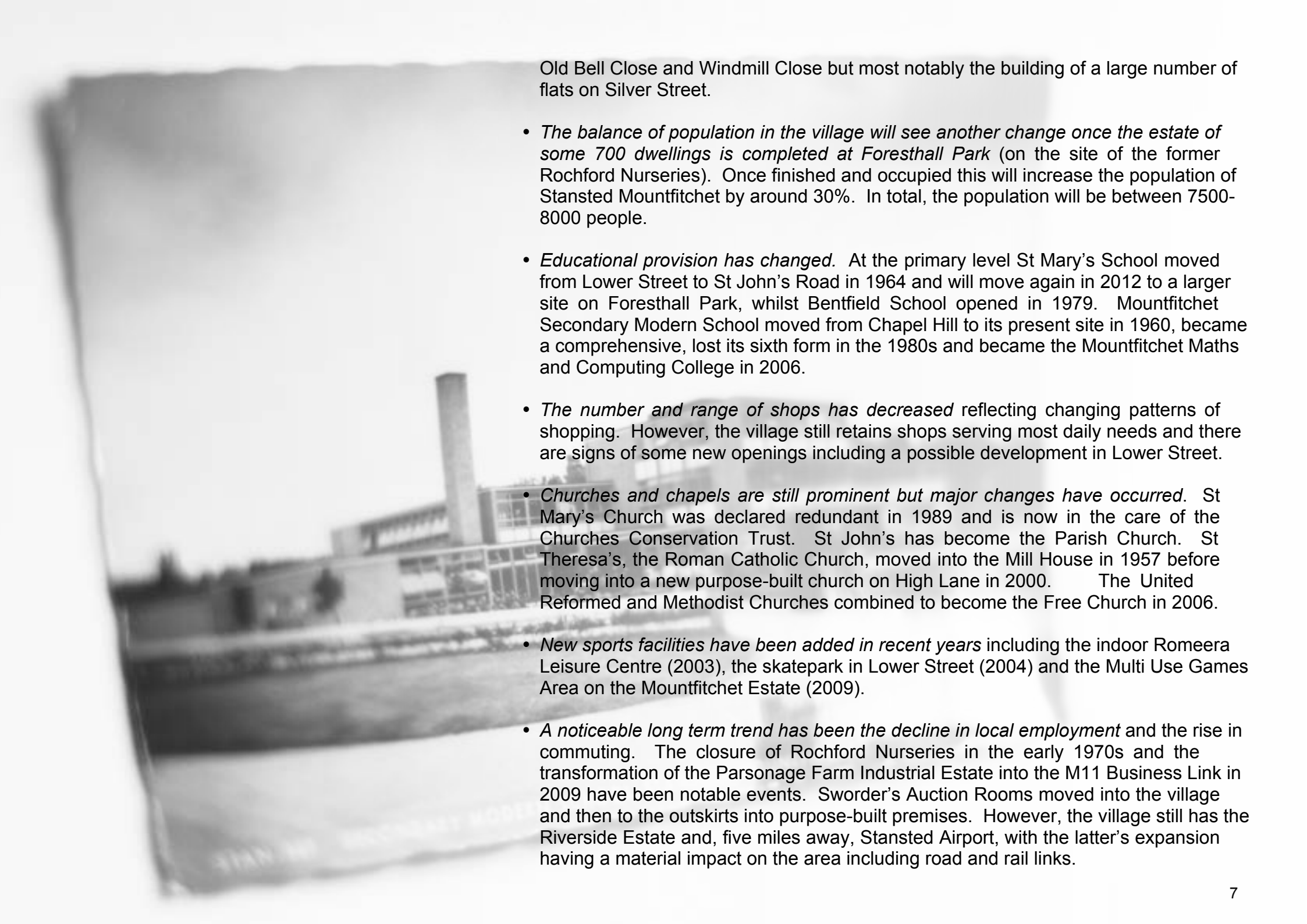
- **Youth** – A total of 300 questionnaires were distributed through schools in the village, Newport, Saffron Walden and Bishop's Stortford and the opportunity was given to respond on-line. A total of 79 questionnaires were returned, with some 85% of the returns being generated by pupils at the Mountfitchet Mathematics and Computing College. This response has been much appreciated so thank you to all who contributed.
- **Business** – Of the 50 questionnaires distributed, 23 were returned.

The Steering Group and the Parish Council are grateful for the time and thought given by so many residents, without which this Plan would not have been written.

THE PARISH OF STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

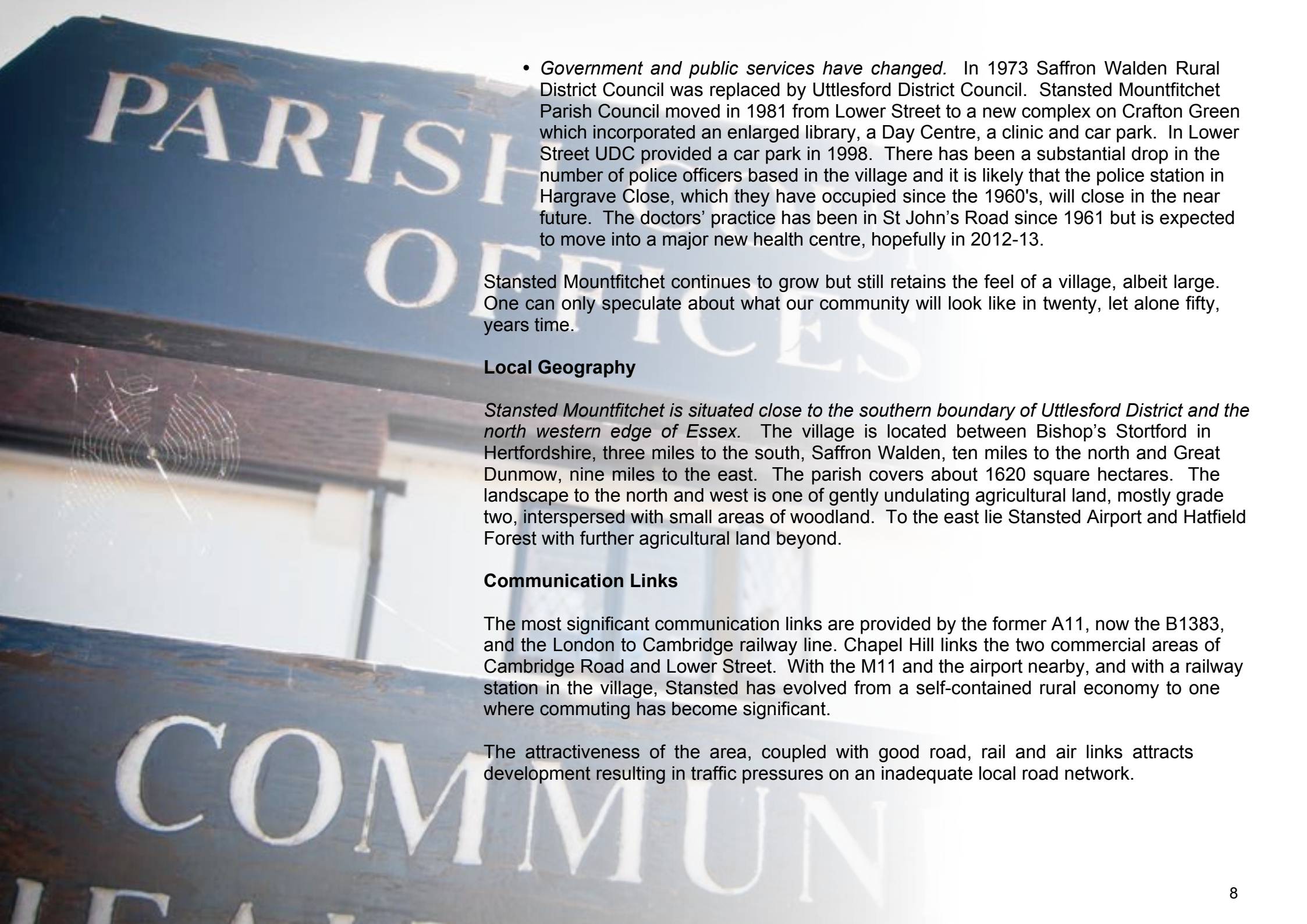
Recent History - Key Developments since World War 2

- *Stansted Mountfitchet, in the aftermath of the Second World War, was a self-contained community with a population of about 3,000. With some 64 shops, a full range of services, sports and recreational organisations and bus and rail transport, this provided a centre to serve the surrounding agricultural area.*
- *Development over the following sixty years has roughly doubled the population. Apart from the Mountfitchet Estate - municipal housing built to the east of the railway line - most of the new housing has been to the west of Silver Street/Cambridge Road (the old A11) with Blythwood Gardens (1950s), Hargrave Estate, Cannons Mead and Wetherfield (1960s) and Bentfield Gardens (1970s). Smaller developments have taken place in the centre of the village including St John's Road and Burnells Way (1950s), Meadowcroft and Spencer Close in the 1980s followed by Norman Court, Five Acres and Birchalls also in the 1980s. The 1990s have seen the construction of*



Old Bell Close and Windmill Close but most notably the building of a large number of flats on Silver Street.

- *The balance of population in the village will see another change once the estate of some 700 dwellings is completed at Foresthall Park (on the site of the former Rochford Nurseries).* Once finished and occupied this will increase the population of Stansted Mountfitchet by around 30%. In total, the population will be between 7500-8000 people.
- *Educational provision has changed.* At the primary level St Mary's School moved from Lower Street to St John's Road in 1964 and will move again in 2012 to a larger site on Foresthall Park, whilst Bentfield School opened in 1979. Mountfitchet Secondary Modern School moved from Chapel Hill to its present site in 1960, became a comprehensive, lost its sixth form in the 1980s and became the Mountfitchet Maths and Computing College in 2006.
- *The number and range of shops has decreased* reflecting changing patterns of shopping. However, the village still retains shops serving most daily needs and there are signs of some new openings including a possible development in Lower Street.
- *Churches and chapels are still prominent but major changes have occurred.* St Mary's Church was declared redundant in 1989 and is now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust. St John's has become the Parish Church. St Theresa's, the Roman Catholic Church, moved into the Mill House in 1957 before moving into a new purpose-built church on High Lane in 2000. The United Reformed and Methodist Churches combined to become the Free Church in 2006.
- *New sports facilities have been added in recent years* including the indoor Romeera Leisure Centre (2003), the skatepark in Lower Street (2004) and the Multi Use Games Area on the Mountfitchet Estate (2009).
- *A noticeable long term trend has been the decline in local employment* and the rise in commuting. The closure of Rochford Nurseries in the early 1970s and the transformation of the Parsonage Farm Industrial Estate into the M11 Business Link in 2009 have been notable events. Sworder's Auction Rooms moved into the village and then to the outskirts into purpose-built premises. However, the village still has the Riverside Estate and, five miles away, Stansted Airport, with the latter's expansion having a material impact on the area including road and rail links.

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- *Government and public services have changed.* In 1973 Saffron Walden Rural District Council was replaced by Uttlesford District Council. Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council moved in 1981 from Lower Street to a new complex on Crafton Green which incorporated an enlarged library, a Day Centre, a clinic and car park. In Lower Street UDC provided a car park in 1998. There has been a substantial drop in the number of police officers based in the village and it is likely that the police station in Hargrave Close, which they have occupied since the 1960's, will close in the near future. The doctors' practice has been in St John's Road since 1961 but is expected to move into a major new health centre, hopefully in 2012-13.

Stansted Mountfitchet continues to grow but still retains the feel of a village, albeit large. One can only speculate about what our community will look like in twenty, let alone fifty, years time.

Local Geography

Stansted Mountfitchet is situated close to the southern boundary of Uttlesford District and the north western edge of Essex. The village is located between Bishop's Stortford in Hertfordshire, three miles to the south, Saffron Walden, ten miles to the north and Great Dunmow, nine miles to the east. The parish covers about 1620 square hectares. The landscape to the north and west is one of gently undulating agricultural land, mostly grade two, interspersed with small areas of woodland. To the east lie Stansted Airport and Hatfield Forest with further agricultural land beyond.

Communication Links

The most significant communication links are provided by the former A11, now the B1383, and the London to Cambridge railway line. Chapel Hill links the two commercial areas of Cambridge Road and Lower Street. With the M11 and the airport nearby, and with a railway station in the village, Stansted has evolved from a self-contained rural economy to one where commuting has become significant.

The attractiveness of the area, coupled with good road, rail and air links attracts development resulting in traffic pressures on an inadequate local road network.

THE KEY ISSUES

The likes and dislikes about living here

- Many respondents stressed heavily the desire to live in a village with a heritage of old buildings and also being close to open countryside. Maintaining a separate identity with a community spirit was important, as was being in easy proximity to Bishop's Stortford and the motorway.
- Dislikes included the level of traffic, nearness to the airport, quality of public transport, inadequate affordable housing and anti-social behaviour.
- The overall quality of life in the village was thought to be worse than it was ten years ago, by the older respondents to the questionnaire.

Traffic and parking concerns

- Traffic speeding on all main roads
- Inadequate off-street parking and the use of pavements to park
- There are not enough pedestrian crossings
- Poor street lighting and lack of night lighting in some areas

The local environment is important to all age groups

- Stansted Mountfitchet should remain a separate community surrounded by countryside
- Reduction in the volume of through traffic
- No further expansion of the airport beyond current permissions. This would still permit a doubling in the number of passengers per annum to 35 million.
- Support for care of woodlands and hedges including more tree planting
- The proper maintenance of footpaths is a high priority
- There was opposition to any substantial housing development, extensions and infilling must be in keeping with the surrounding environment



Crime and policing continue to worry many respondents

- Main concerns are speeding, vandalism, litter and drunkenness
- There was a wide demand for more police officers and a more visible presence
- Longer opening hours at the police station, along with quicker communication and response times were requested

Other issues which command support

- Need for better health facilities
- The addition of a sixth form to Mountfitchet Maths and Computing College
- Desire for a swimming pool
- The need for better and more imaginative play equipment
- The need for a venue suitable for drama and music Development of routes for safer cycling
- Organised activities for younger age groups in the school holidays Support for the Parish Council to add selectively to its responsibilities
- More communication through holding meetings and via the website

RESPONSE FROM YOUNG ADULTS

- The issues important to this age group were surprisingly similar to those of the other respondents - education, crime, places to hang out, health and the environment
- There was no great demand for additional facilities apart from a swimming pool, a juice bar and an arts centre
- There were few differences on the shape of the village in the future with opposition to major new housing developments and a second runway
- Little support was indicated for establishing a youth council

WHAT IS IN THE PLAN?

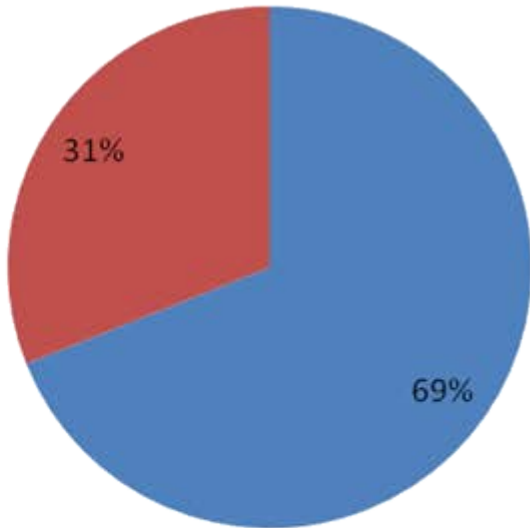
The Plan is divided into sections, one for each subject. Each section contains a summary of the context, current position, and way forward while at the end of the Plan a list of action points provides a programme to achieve the desired objectives. All the action points detail timescale, who should lead on the action and how, if known, it will be funded. Where policies are quoted, these refer to the Uttlesford Adopted Local Plan 2005. The Parish Council has printed copies of the Community Plan for each household in the parish. Copies will also be available at the Parish Council Office, the Library and local schools, or you can download it from the website: www.stansted.net

WHAT NEXT?

The Plan has been based on a wide-ranging consultation and thanks are due to everyone who has participated by completing the questionnaire, coming to meetings or helping on working parties. The Council recognises that the Plan will not please everyone in every aspect – in a large village like Stansted Mountfitchet, even an action supported by 90% of the people could be opposed by as many as 500 people. Nonetheless, the Plan is a consensus on how Stansted Mountfitchet should develop over the next decade. If the Plan is to be realised, the community must continue to be involved. The Parish Council has the responsibility to carry out, or encourage others to carry out, the actions laid out in the Plan. So please give it your support. A successful implementation of the Plan could sustain and enhance our community for many years to come.

Total Dwellings

■ Existing ■ Foresthall Park



THE FUTURE SHAPE OF STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

The context

The addition of Foresthall Park to the catchment area of the parish is a major change. Strong opposition would be mounted to any further attempts to significantly enlarge the community.

The current position

- *The population is in the process of rapid growth.* Following a period of relative stability, the construction of around 700 dwellings at Foresthall Park will increase our population by about 30%.
- *The village is expanding to the south.* Following the construction of Foresthall Park the proportion of the population living to the south of the railway bridge will rise from 24% to about 41%. The relocation of St Mary's School to the new development and the construction of a major health centre will have implications for a number of areas under discussion in the following sections.
- *The proposal under the Local Development Framework to construct a new town, or indeed any substantial number of dwellings, in the Elsenham and Henham area would pose serious problems for this parish given the current infrastructure.* Following policy changes by the government future development in Uttlesford District is under review.
- *Stansted Mountfitchet remains a community with development limits* and the protection of green belt land, which has maintained it as a village separated from Bishop's Stortford, Birchanger, Elsenham and Ugley.
- *Stansted Airport has permission to expand from its current 18 million passengers per annum (mppa) up to 35mppa on the existing runway.* The government has stated that no second runway will be built although this decision may not prove permanent. The impact of the airport on employment, air quality, noise issues, local traffic and public transport remains significant.
- *The growth in the housing stock, before the development of Foresthall Park, consisted of flats and infilling, resulting in increased density.*

The way forward

- *Stansted Mountfitchet must remain a separate community* with any coalescence towards Birchanger, Bishop's Stortford, Elsenham or Ugley considered unacceptable. [Policies S6 and S7 Uttlesford Local Plan]
- *Support the retention of greenbelt* apart from minor variations at Elms Farm or Pines Hill which would result in substantial gain for the community.
- *No more major housing development in or around the parish.*
- *No second runway* at Stansted Airport - this view was supported by 76% of respondents. More efforts need to be made to ensure that the needs of the local community are balanced against those of airport users.
- *A number of small sites with potential for development have been identified* in Uttlesford District Council's Strategic Housing and Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). The Parish Council agrees with six sites – two on Cambridge Road (Sworders and Concord), Bentfield Road commercial site, (application for 9 dwellings approved in 2011), Braefield on High Lane, Elms Farm (subject to planning and highways issues being resolved) and Pines Hill. Two additional sites at the Three Colts (Cambridge Road) and St Mary's School (St John's Road) are also worthy of consideration. If these sites were developed then, depending on density, about 166-267 dwellings would be added to the stock of 3300 once Foresthall Park is complete. This would represent an increase of between 5% and 8%. [Policies S1 and H1]
- *Greenbelt boundaries should largely be retained* and are supported by over 90% of respondents. [Policy S6]
- *Oppose the construction of large, out of character blocks of flats* especially where there is no outdoor space. [Policy GEN2]
- *Require all new buildings to be in keeping with the surrounding environment.* [Policy GEN2]
- *Oppose gated developments* as creating an unnecessary divide within a safe community.
- *Consider creating a new conservation area* around the St John's Area.

HOUSING – SPECIFIC RATHER THAN GENERAL NEED

The context

There is a need for smaller houses suitable either as first time family homes or to meet the requirements of down-sizing, and opposition to the construction of more small flats built to a high density.

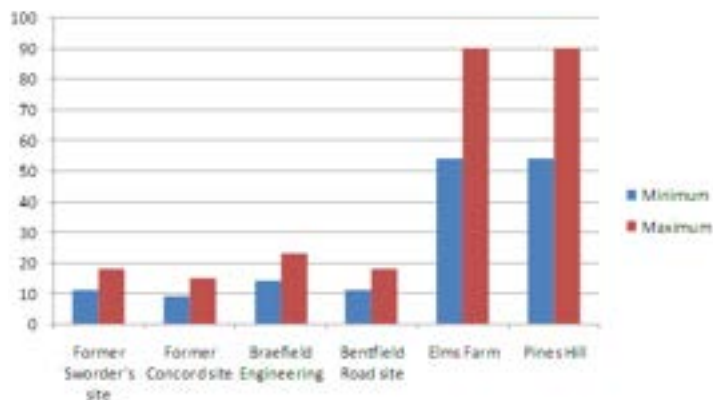
The current position

- *The need for alternative housing* was indicated by 7% of those responding to the questionnaire with a desire for larger or smaller dwellings, the needs of elderly relatives and employment featuring as reasons. Affordability is the main obstacle.
- *Most people were looking for 2-3 bedroom homes* with only 10% seeking one bedroom and 16% four bedrooms.
- *Houses and bungalows* were by far the most desired form of accommodation.
- *No place like home?* Responses showed that over a third of those who moved away would like to return to the village.

The way forward

- Concentrate on building *two and three bedroom family houses*. [Policy H10]
- Seek to meet the *demand for bungalows*
- *Adapt existing sheltered accommodation* such as Mead Court to modern standards and add additional accommodation
- *Affordable housing* remains a priority. [Policy H9]

Areas identified for possible future housing



ROADS, TRAFFIC AND PARKING

The context

Throughout the consultation, and in the survey responses, these issues recur frequently with over 50% registering the level of traffic as their main dislike of living in Stansted Mountfitchet. Over the past thirty years the increase in car ownership, the expansion of Stansted Airport, the increased size and weight of heavy goods vehicles and housing development in the area have all combined to increase substantially the volume of traffic. This has raised parking issues and increased actual and perceived risks, given a local road system that has barely changed in decades. The M11 has prevented local gridlock but traffic volumes on many roads are at, or above, pre-motorway levels.

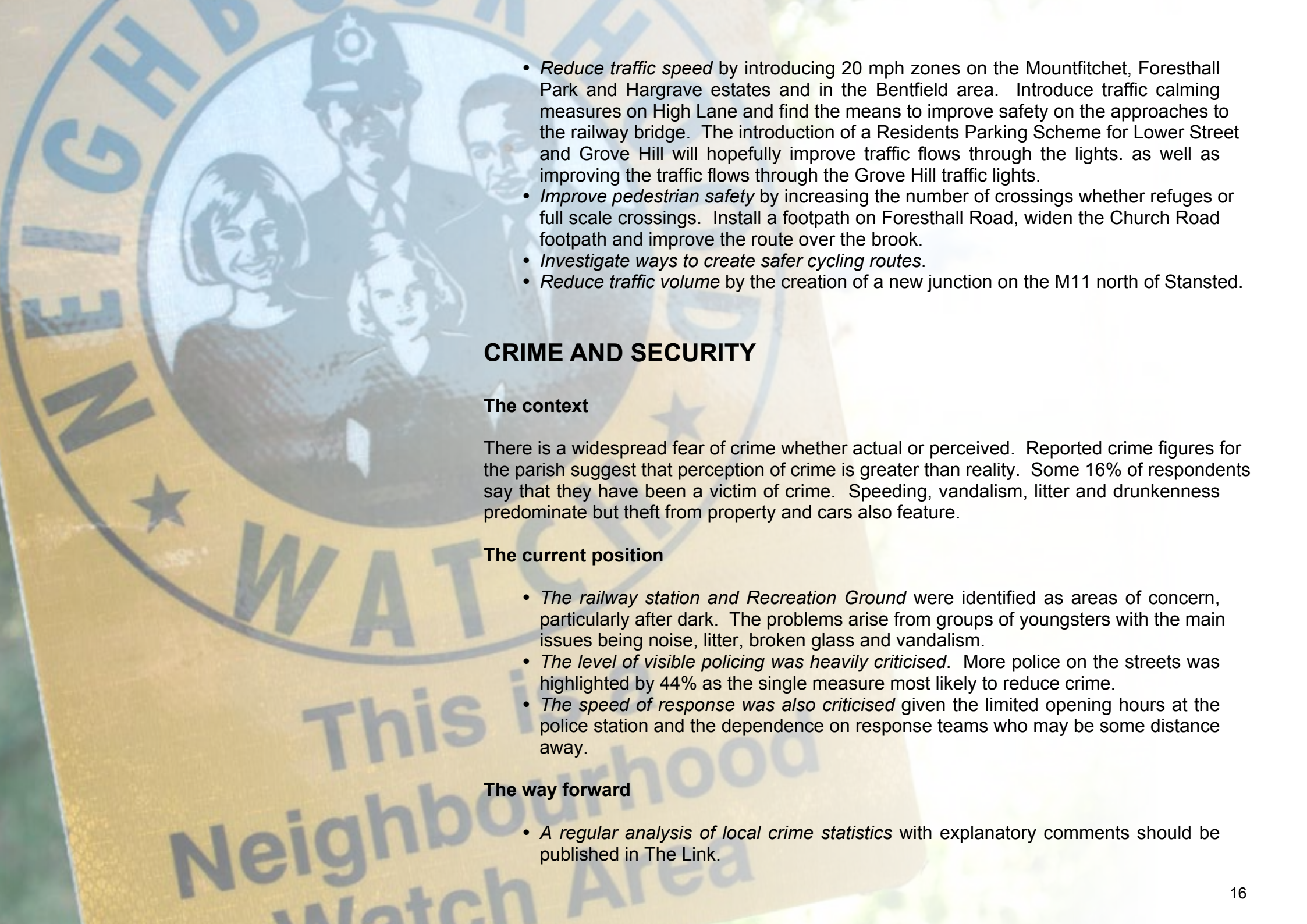
The current position

- The most serious traffic problems are parking, speed, the number of goods vehicles, traffic volume, congestion and noise.
- Danger was an issue for 73% of pedestrians and 57% of drivers with specific locations being Cambridge Road and Chapel Hill followed by Silver Street and Church Road. Approaches to the railway bridge are of particular concern.
- Measures to reduce speed receive strong support. These included vehicle-activated warning signs, village entry and weight and width restrictions and traffic calming measures. 20 mph speed limits received overwhelming support. On bus routes it is recognised that speed bumps may not be the answer.
- Pedestrian safety measures were dominated by the wish to stop parking on pavements, followed by more dropped kerbs, cleaner pavements and more crossings.
- Street lighting is regarded as reasonable or good but there are many ad hoc comments which suggest that standards and coverage could be improved.

The way forward

A substantial number of recommendations attempt to resolve some of these issues. A full list is shown in the action points towards the end of this Plan but the key ideas are:

- *Help parking issues* by using part of wide footpaths, introducing regulations to reduce commuter and airport parking and seeking incentives to increase the use of car parks.

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- *Reduce traffic speed* by introducing 20 mph zones on the Mountfitchet, Foresthall Park and Hargrave estates and in the Bentfield area. Introduce traffic calming measures on High Lane and find the means to improve safety on the approaches to the railway bridge. The introduction of a Residents Parking Scheme for Lower Street and Grove Hill will hopefully improve traffic flows through the lights. as well as improving the traffic flows through the Grove Hill traffic lights.
 - *Improve pedestrian safety* by increasing the number of crossings whether refuges or full scale crossings. Install a footpath on Foresthall Road, widen the Church Road footpath and improve the route over the brook.
 - *Investigate ways to create safer cycling routes.*
 - *Reduce traffic volume* by the creation of a new junction on the M11 north of Stansted.

CRIME AND SECURITY

The context

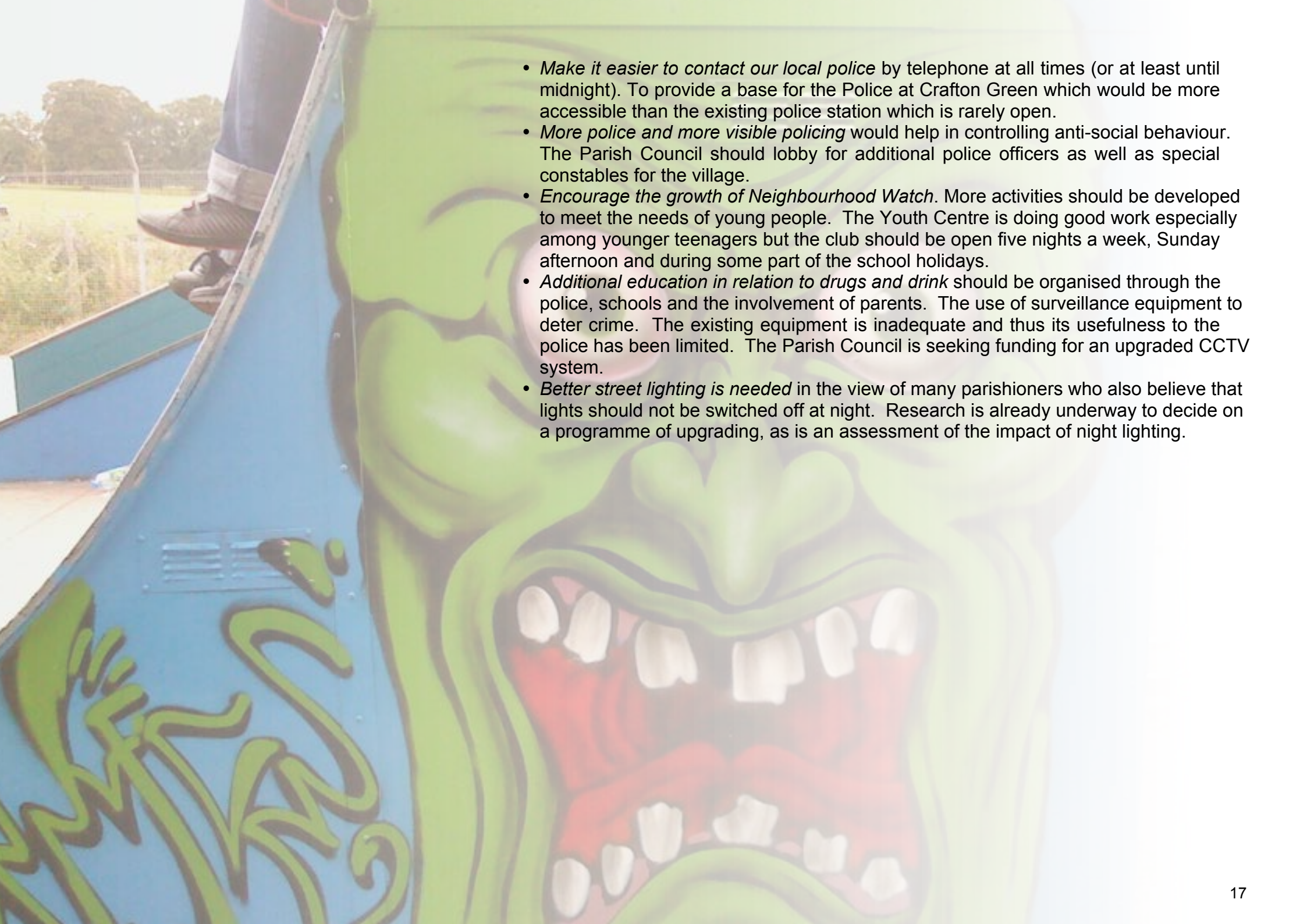
There is a widespread fear of crime whether actual or perceived. Reported crime figures for the parish suggest that perception of crime is greater than reality. Some 16% of respondents say that they have been a victim of crime. Speeding, vandalism, litter and drunkenness predominate but theft from property and cars also feature.

The current position

- *The railway station and Recreation Ground* were identified as areas of concern, particularly after dark. The problems arise from groups of youngsters with the main issues being noise, litter, broken glass and vandalism.
- *The level of visible policing was heavily criticised.* More police on the streets was highlighted by 44% as the single measure most likely to reduce crime.
- *The speed of response was also criticised* given the limited opening hours at the police station and the dependence on response teams who may be some distance away.

The way forward

- *A regular analysis of local crime statistics* with explanatory comments should be published in The Link.



- *Make it easier to contact our local police* by telephone at all times (or at least until midnight). To provide a base for the Police at Crafton Green which would be more accessible than the existing police station which is rarely open.
- *More police and more visible policing* would help in controlling anti-social behaviour. The Parish Council should lobby for additional police officers as well as special constables for the village.
- *Encourage the growth of Neighbourhood Watch*. More activities should be developed to meet the needs of young people. The Youth Centre is doing good work especially among younger teenagers but the club should be open five nights a week, Sunday afternoon and during some part of the school holidays.
- *Additional education in relation to drugs and drink* should be organised through the police, schools and the involvement of parents. The use of surveillance equipment to deter crime. The existing equipment is inadequate and thus its usefulness to the police has been limited. The Parish Council is seeking funding for an upgraded CCTV system.
- *Better street lighting is needed* in the view of many parishioners who also believe that lights should not be switched off at night. Research is already underway to decide on a programme of upgrading, as is an assessment of the impact of night lighting.



CONSERVING AND ENHANCING THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

The context


Stansted Mountfitchet is, for the most part, surrounded by attractive farmland and countryside while the village itself has many trees. These factors rank highly in the decision of many parishioners to live here. With hard work we can conserve and enhance this scene.

The current position

- The substantial majority, at least 74%, feel that *all aspects of the countryside are important to them* including fields, woods, hedges, water courses and farm buildings. [Policy ENV8 - Uttlesford Local Plan]
- *Improving the village environment* would be achieved by keeping verges mown and tidy, ensuring housing extensions are in keeping or complement the street scene and reducing parking on pavements. There was support for more hanging baskets, flowers and trees
- *The open countryside* between this community and other settlements was rated as very important by 80% of respondents.
- *Footpaths are well used* for recreational walking and their proper maintenance receives a high ranking.
- *Environmental services received mixed reviews*. Those most criticised were road and footpath maintenance, road gritting and street cleaning (including dog fouling).
- *The disabled and those with pushchairs* face obstacles on footpaths including parked cars and A-boards.

The way forward

- *The maintenance of the greenbelt* is a prime objective to prevent merging with other communities. [Policy S6]
- *The maintenance and promotion of footpaths* should receive a high priority including the 'twitchells' within the village. All footpaths should be passable with stiles and gates maintained.
- *New or improved footpaths* should be completed on Foresthall Road, Church Road and over the brook to Millfields.
- *More troughs and hanging baskets* and the refurbishment of the area around the fountain are priorities. The appearance of the car parks could be improved by

The background of the page is a photograph of a park. In the foreground, there are large, green and yellowing leaves of trees. In the middle ground, a large brick house with a chimney is visible, and behind it, a white windmill with four sails. The sky is clear and blue. The overall scene is a peaceful, rural landscape.

screening the recycling bins. The narrow verges on the Mountfitchet estate should be removed to make way for parking bays.

- Negotiations should continue with the objective of *enabling Stansted Park to be used as a public open space* as well as providing land for junior football.
- *A review of all street furniture* should be undertaken and consideration given to maintaining what is necessary in a good condition.
- *Stansted Park provides stunning views* from Chapel Hill and the Windmill and this should be protected at all costs.
- *Surplus agricultural land* should not be used for more housing but sustained for rural leisure activity.

SPORT AND RECREATION – ENJOYMENT AND FITNESS

The context

The Parish has a reasonable range of facilities available but there are areas of inadequacy, and some facilities which may be very desirable but hard to obtain.

The current position

- *Available facilities* include two cricket clubs, a football club, a tennis club, a bowls club, a skate park, a multi-use games area, a Leisure Centre and various play areas.
- The amount of *public open space is insufficient* for a village of this size.
- *There is a network of footpaths*, in and around the village.

The way forward

- *A swimming pool* was wanted by 65% of respondents. Possible sites, capital availability and revenue support should be investigated.
- *The preservation of Hargrave Park as a sports area* or as an important green space is supported by 60% of the respondents.
- *There is support for junior football in the village* and the search for up to ten acres of land with a suitable lease or for purchase will continue. [Policy LC4].
- *The Romeera Leisure Centre* would be more popular with a wider range of classes at reasonable cost.
- *There is a demand for cycle paths* especially from the young.



LEISURE AND THE ARTS

The context

There is a wide range of leisure pursuits on offer with many organisations. There are gaps, notably for some of the younger age groups, but these could be improved at relatively modest cost. The proximity of Bishop's Stortford is a factor in determining the viability of some facilities.

The current position

- *The equipment on the play areas* at the Recreation Ground, Mountfitchet Green and Bentfield Green is limited and criticised as being unimaginative as well as not meeting the needs of older youngsters.
- *The Scouting and Guiding organisations* meet in the village but the nearest Girl Guides is at Manuden. All groups operate waiting lists.
- *The skatepark and the multi-use games area* are relatively recent facilities and are well used. Use of the skatepark in darker evenings would increase if an economic way to provide lighting could be found.
- *There is a wide range of organisations covering various interests* including the Local History Society, Gardening Club, Music Club (Music @ Stansted), Women's Institute, Shalom Group and political parties. In addition there are numerous ad hoc events arranged by the churches and other organisations, including walks. Adult education classes are available.
- *Activities devoted to those in or nearing retirement* include the Day Centre, the over 60's club and most recently U3A (University of the Third Age). The Day Centre has seen declining numbers, but on the other hand U3A, which began operating locally in May 2009 now offers over 18 activities and has quickly recruited around 300 members.
- *Reading remains a major leisure pastime* and the library is well used. In 2009 the library had 1328 members of which 580 were under sixteen years. The trend in borrowing over the past few years has remained static at around 38,100 books per year.
- *The Children's Centre and Youth Centre* located in Lower Street are playing increasingly important roles in meeting the needs of toddlers and parents and young people. The Youth Centre, with some financial help, now opens four nights a week



and plans to add a fifth. About 110 young people are currently members, while average attendance per session is 30.

- *Our village organisations meet at a number of different venues*, including the Day Centre which is owned by the Parish Council.
- *Improvements to the skatepark* are considered possible by about half of the youth respondents.
- *Local organisations are the lifeblood of the village and are run by a network of volunteers*. Their efforts would be enhanced by the provision of suitable premises more appropriate to their needs.
- Responses from the main and youth surveys suggest that *additional facilities and activities would be well received*, including drama and live entertainment, music, a cinema, arts centre and swimming pool.

Main survey

Drama
 Live entertainment
 Cinema
 Swimming Pool (see Sport)

Youth survey

Arts Centre (see below)
 Swimming Pool (Sports)
 Juice Bar
 Internet Cafe

- *An Arts Centre* would provide facilities for theatre, performing arts, arts and crafts and concerts.
- *A new flexible purpose-built complex* may be possible on the Crafton Green site, and could incorporate the space for drama, music, workshops, facilities for film, video making, photography and dance
- Discussions are taking place to *improve community services on the Crafton Green site* including better library facilities, a community information centre, police and a new Parish Council office.
- *Demand for allotments* is rising and the 34 currently available are over-subscribed. The provision of allotments is one of the Parish Council's statutory responsibilities and as such additional land is being sought
- *Village events have always contributed to community life*. The loss of the Carnival and the Arts and Crafts Exhibition perhaps indicate declining enthusiasm. However, the questionnaire responses suggest that these may be revived by a new group of volunteers. Other organisations, such as the schools, also run major community events.



The way forward

- A decision needs to be reached on *the desirability and viability of a major development at Crafton Green* or indeed elsewhere in the parish. Other options should be considered to meet demands for drama, music and workshops. More research will be needed to assess the level of support for these activities and to establish whether they could be accommodated in other venues.
- To pursue discussions with Essex County Council, Uttlesford District Council and the Police Authority over the *proposed services at Crafton Green*.
- Consult and decide on schemes to *improve equipment in play areas*. Once plans and costs are finalised, external funding will need to be secured.
- Redesign the play areas to stimulate more imaginative play as well as satisfying older children.
- Discussions should continue with the Youth Centre to ensure that funding is available for *the centre to open from Monday to Friday in the evenings and possibly Sunday afternoon* as well as for some weeks in the school holidays.
- Talk to local schools about developing a *playscheme in the summer holidays*.
- *Consult the users of the skatepark about ways to improve the facility*. Funding should be sought to provide secure fencing.
- *Seek land to provide allotments for rent*. If a suitable site is identified then its development will need funding, most of which will have to come from external sources.
- Attempt to contact volunteers to see *whether village events such as the Carnival and the Arts and Crafts Market can be revived*.
- Seek to ensure that leaders and premises are available to meet the needs of the Scouting and Guiding organisations.

RETAILING, RESTAURANTS, PUBS AND SERVICES

The context

The village has retained a reasonable range of shops given the commercial pressures and the proximity of Bishop's Stortford. The number of eating places has grown and the range of local services has been sustained. [Policies RS2 and SM1]

The current position

- *The number of shops has fallen over the past twenty years* with about twenty having closed. The parish has done well to hold on to as many retailers as it has given the current economic climate and proximity to Bishop's Stortford.
- *The village retains a reasonable range of shops* serving regular needs with three food shops, a butcher, a greengrocer, a baker, two newsagents, a florist and a chemist.
- *The remaining stores* are largely directed towards carpets, furniture and furnishings. There are no clothes shops. Two premises are vacant.
- *Shops in the village are used daily*, if only for top-up and late shopping (nearly 80% of respondents confirm this). Most respondents do their weekly shopping at supermarkets in Bishop's Stortford and Thorley.
- *Factors working against the local shops* appear to be poor choice, lack of short-term on-street parking and high prices.
- *More people are eating out* or buying takeaways and this is reflected by the number of restaurants and cafes and take-away outlets. The village pubs also serve food.
- *Local services are generally well used*. These include the post office, garages, hairdressers and beauticians, builders, plumbers, electricians, gardeners and the vet.

The way forward

- *Convenient parking is important to customers*, but if it is thought difficult then it is easy enough to drive to Bishop's Stortford.
- *The maximum amount of short-term parking should be provided on Cambridge Road and Lower Street*. In addition the businesses should be encouraged not to park their own vehicles on the streets for long periods, thus depriving customers of convenient parking for what is often a short visit.

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL
LOWER STREET CAR PARK
LONG STAY
PAY & DISPLAY
AT MACHINE TICKET INSIDE WINDSCREEN
between 08.00 hrs. - 18.00 hrs Mondays to Saturdays
Sundays and Bank Holidays free
30p
50p
£1.00

- *Discussions are taking place to provide pedestrian access from the Crafton Green car park to Cambridge Road. The arrival of Tesco Express has increased the urgency for a short convenient route to the car park.*
- *Arrange with Uttlesford District Council to permit one hour parking without charge in both pay and display car parks.*
- *The environment of the main shopping streets should be attractive. Lighting, the state of street furniture, signage and the use of hanging baskets and tubs all have a role to play. Resurfacing of the footpaths in Station Road would be beneficial as would flowers outside the station.*
- *Consider whether Lower Street could benefit from Christmas decorations.*
- *The car parks in Lower Street and Crafton Green need to be seen as safe and attractive. The planned upgraded CCTV system should help to improve security and some shrubs and plants could soften and improve the appearance of these areas.*

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The context

The village is fortunate to have a station and several bus services but there are ways in which these services could be improved for the benefit of parishioners.

The current position – Rail

- *Stansted Mountfitchet is on the London Liverpool Street to Cambridge line, and lies between Bishop's Stortford and Stansted Airport.*
- *The train service operates with a mix of fast, semi-fast and slow trains, all of which are restricted to two lines as far as Hackney Downs.*
- *The station ticket office is open between 6am and 1pm Monday - Saturday and between 8am and 3pm on Sunday. There is one ticket machine on the Cambridge platform and a waiting room on the London platform which is closed at 1pm. The station has not been maintained to the standard of others along the line.*
- *Most rail users are season-ticket holders travelling to London. For these more than 500 commuters, the peak period service is critical.*
- *Although the majority of rolling stock is ageing, it is gradually being replaced by new trains.*
- *Overall the rail service was rated as at least reasonable by nearly three-quarters of respondents. Although as many of those are able to travel outside the peak periods, this may underplay the issues facing commuters.*

The way forward

- *It seems that from December 2011 improvements will be made to the train timetable to the benefit of the village. Use of routes to the North should be encouraged.*
- *Create a better station* by improving the furniture, lighting and signs to the standard seen elsewhere on the line and provide a ticket machine on each platform.
- *Open the waiting room all day* and at weekends and preferably encourage the provision of a coffee shop.
- *Improve capacity* by increasing the platform length to take twelve coaches.
- *In the long term, doubling the number of lines between Bishop's Stortford and Tottenham Hale* would increase capacity and speed.

The current position – buses

- *Stansted Mountfitchet is served by four bus routes – 7, 7a, 301 and recently the 510.*
- *The 7 and 7a cover a number of villages, the airport and Bishop's Stortford as well as the Herts & Essex Hospital.*
- *The 301 serves the route between Bishop's Stortford and Saffron Walden.*
- *The 510 travels between Harlow, Bishop's Stortford, Stansted Mountfitchet via Foresthall Park to Stansted Airport.*
- *The timing and reliability of services, access for the disabled, cleanliness of buses and the availability of information are all concerns.*

The way forward

- *Lobby for the following improvements to the bus services: Timing adjustments to routes 7 and 7a and 301 in order to provide a bus service at approximately half hour intervals.*
- *Extension of routes 7 and 7a to Walson Way on Foresthall Park to provide connections for the new estate to the village and for parishioners to Harlow and the airport by changing onto the 510.*
- *Re-route the 301 via Walson Way to link Foresthall Park to the village and on a direct link to Saffron Walden.*
- *Establishment of flexible ticketing between buses and trains by means of a residents' card with discounts.*
- *A direct bus service from Stansted Mountfitchet to Stansted Airport.*

EMPLOYMENT

The context

Stansted Mountfitchet and the surrounding districts of Uttlesford and East Herts are areas of high employment but local earnings are not necessarily high. Increasing passenger numbers at Stansted Airport may have a beneficial impact on employment.

The current position

- *Employment levels are high* in this parish.
- *Stansted Airport provides direct employment* for about 12% of local people. Other businesses supplying goods and services add indirectly to the numbers.
- *A substantial proportion of parishioners commute* to work, with London being the major destination followed by Bishop's Stortford, Saffron Walden and Harlow.
- *A third of those responding* to the questionnaire who are working part-time would like to increase their hours.
- *Those seeking employment* use a number of methods, including local press, word of mouth, the job centre and the national press.

The way forward

- *There is strong support for a job vacancy board* to be displayed in the parish.
- *Attempt to retain existing commercial areas* in order to sustain a balanced community.

HEALTH

The context

Primary health care in Stansted Mountfitchet also serves a number of adjacent villages. The PCT has plans for a major new health centre to replace the inadequate facilities in St John's Road and the cramped conditions at Crafton Green Clinic.

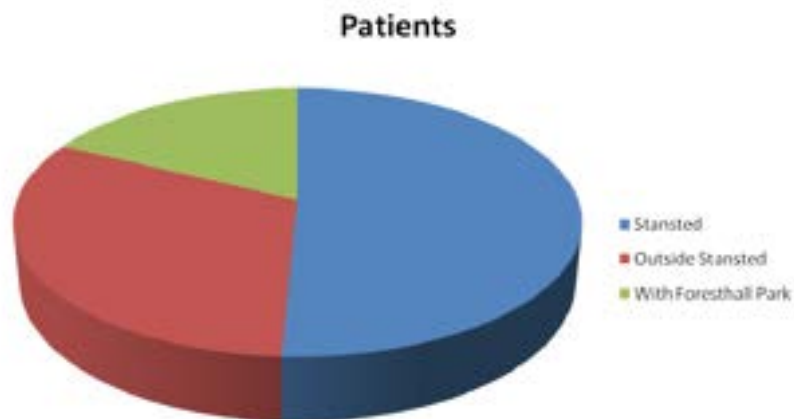
The current position

- *The two-storey surgery in St John's Road* has a list of 8,624 patients with 50% living outside of the parish. Residents also attend practices in Elsenham, Bishop's Stortford (South Street) and, to a much lesser extent, Newport. The existing surgery is cramped and does not meet current standards.
- *The clinic located on the ground floor of Crafton Green House* covers speech therapy, child protection and a diabetic eye clinic as well as providing a base for midwives and health visitors. The accommodation is again far from ideal.
- *There is a dental surgery in Woodfields* but there is no provision for NHS patients.
- *The Boots pharmacy* on Cambridge Road is well used and delivers an efficient service. Any threat to this facility would cause great concern.
- *Other facilities* in the village are privately run and include chiropodist, chiropractor, osteopaths and physiotherapists.
- *The Herts & Essex hospital* now offers only limited services including a minor injuries unit (on weekdays), limited testing and x-rays. In-patient facilities are restricted to a geriatric unit. *Saffron Walden Community Hospital* offers various out-patient rehabilitation services.
- *Major hospital services* are provided at Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow, St Margaret's in Epping and Addenbrookes in Cambridge. The nearest private hospital is the Rivers Hospital at High Wych and is currently owned by Ramsey Healthcare. The distances to the three main hospitals range between 12 and 24 miles.

The way forward

- *The provision of the new health centre*, after fifteen years of discussions, is the key primary objective. The need is urgent for both patients and medical staff. It is hoped that this major facility will be located in the centre of the village or on Foresthall Park.

- The new health centre *will incorporate additional services* as well as providing space to meet the needs of a growing population.
- *With perhaps 2000 people at Foresthall Park*, pressure on primary care services will increase. The existing complement of two full-time and two part-time doctors will be inadequate to service 10-11,000 patients.
- *The appointment system at the present surgery comes in for considerable criticism* with difficulty in making contact and in making forward bookings. In the new centre more appointments should be bookable in advance with longer opening hours and weekend availability. Even at the existing surgery changes need to be made.
- Wherever the new health centre is located there will be *the need to provide regular public transport* between Foresthall Park and the centre of the village. Lower or more flexible parking charges at the hospitals were requested.




EDUCATION

The context

Happy and successful schools make an immense contribution to a community and, although the Parish Council has little power in this area, it will help wherever possible.

The current position

- *There are three schools within the parish* of which two are primary (Bentfield and St Mary's) and one is secondary, Mountfitchet Mathematics & Computing College (MMCC).
- *At primary school level* about 60% of children attend the two village schools with the remainder attending schools in a number of surrounding villages.
- *At secondary school level* the position is more complicated with the schools in Bishop's Stortford, which have been viewed as offering high standards, having taken a percentage of Stansted pupils. Newport and Saffron Walden, particularly the former, are other destinations. A high percentage of Stansted's children attend secondary schools outside the village while at MMCC 28% of the roll come from Stansted.
- *As MMCC does not offer education beyond the age of sixteen*, pupils move to other schools offering sixth form choices particularly Saffron Walden County High (where there is a relationship), Harlow and Cambridge.
- *The schools in Stansted Mountfitchet are all facing significant challenges:*
 - *St Mary's.* The school is set to move from its existing location in St John's Road to a new site encompassing an enlarged school on Foresthall Park. Whilst the prospect is exciting, there will be practical problems of access to overcome and possibly, in the longer term, airport noise.
 - *Bentfield.* The school has emerged from special measures following an Ofsted inspection and has now received a good report.
 - *MMCC.* As a result of an Ofsted inspection in the Autumn of 2009, the school, quite unexpectedly, was placed under special measures. A new head was appointed from September 2010 and significant progress has been made in addressing the issues. The lack of a sixth form or vocational education has had an adverse impact on the reputation of MMCC and persuaded a lot of parents to look elsewhere. The school achieves outstanding results with dyslexic children and others with special needs.

The background of the page features a faded image of a school sign for St. Mary's C/E Foundation Primary. The sign is dark with a crest at the top and the school's name in large, light-colored letters. Below the name, there is a telephone number and a name, both partially obscured by the text overlay.

Although the school is one of the smallest in Essex, it has considerable potential and demand is likely to increase following the building of Foresthall Park.

- *Adult education classes*, covering a variety of subjects and activities for around 80 regular attendees, take place in St John's Road on the site of the former Peter Kirk School. In addition there are a number of ad hoc activities as well as a range of courses for people with learning disabilities (regular attendees number between 12 and 16).

The way forward

- *The provision of vocational and sixth form education at MMCC should be pursued* and the plan set to achieve this objective which was shelved for financial reasons should be revived. There is a lack of facilities for vocational training and education throughout the district of Uttlesford.
- *A relationship between the Parish Council and MMCC should be developed* for the benefit of both.
- *Pedestrian access to both MMCC and the planned new primary school on Foresthall Park needs improvement.* A new footpath from the Foresthall estate to MMCC needs to be constructed, the footpath on Church Road needs to be widened and the route from Foresthall to the centre of the village should be improved over the brook and beyond.
- The increase in the volume of traffic, both vehicular and pedestrian, makes it even more essential to *improve safety on the approaches to, and over, the railway bridge on Church Road.*
- *The provision of improved transport links to Foresthall Park* becomes more of a priority with the proposed move of St Mary's School.
- *A more detailed assessment should be made of the state of adult education* looking closely at the subjects and activities offered, the timing of classes and charges. Meanwhile additional publicity should be considered.

COUNCILS AND COUNCILLORS

The context

Stansted Mountfitchet is served by three councils, Essex County Council, Uttlesford District Council and Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council.

The current position

- *Essex County Council* is responsible for strategic services such as Education, Highways, Libraries and Social Services. Stansted forms part of the single member Stansted County Division which includes many other villages such as Newport and Elsenham. The electorate is approximately 14,000. The last county elections were held in 2009. The Council is based in Chelmsford although there is an area highway office in Harlow.
- *Uttlesford District Council* is the planning authority and is also responsible for services such as environmental health, housing and refuse collection. For electoral purposes Stansted is divided into two wards, each returning two councillors. Stansted North also includes the parish of Ugley. Stansted South includes the Foresthall development. The Council is elected every four years and the last election was held in May 2011. The Council is based in Saffron Walden.
- *Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council* is the only tier that speaks exclusively for Stansted. It is currently composed of 15 members, 7 representing the Stansted North Ward and 8 representing the Stansted South Ward. The council is elected every four years and the next elections are due to be held in May 2012. The Parish Council is responsible for open spaces, litter collection and the majority of street lighting in the village. The Council is also a co-trustee of the Windmill.

The main findings of responses to the community plan questionnaire were:

- *Essex County Council* is seen to be reasonably effective in meeting most of its responsibilities. The best areas are libraries and street lighting. The greatest area of concern is Highways. A third of respondents said they knew the name of their County Councillor and how to contact him.
- *Uttlesford District Council* is also seen to be reasonably effective in meeting most of its responsibilities. Best areas are refuse collection and street cleaning. The greatest area of concern is Local Planning. Nearly half of respondents said they knew the



name of the District Councillors and how to contact them.

- *Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council* is seen to be effective in meeting most of its responsibilities. The best areas are: baskets & troughs, litter collection, gardening, grass-cutting and street lighting. However, provision of open spaces and play equipment were identified by respondents as areas for improvement. Nearly two thirds of respondents stated they knew the name of some of their Parish Councillors and how to contact them.

The way forward

- *More than one authority is involved in the provision of services* such as lighting and the maintenance of verges. If possible such duplication should be avoided. There is support in the questionnaire for the Parish Council to become the sole lighting authority.
- *There are opportunities for SMPC to take on additional responsibilities and powers* covering areas such as community information (including tourist information), the remainder of the street-lighting (currently owned by ECC) and enforcement activities. Much will depend upon the financial and staffing implications but the possibilities need to be examined.
- *To consider the provision of a Community Information Centre* in conjunction with the District Council which will provide access to all tiers of local government under one roof. If agreed it will depend upon space being available in or around Crafton Green House once the clinic moves to the new health centre.
- *To convene an annual round table conference with voluntary organisations* to consider issues and needs.



COMMUNICATIONS

The context

Most people have little interest in the work of their local councils unless a specific issue prompts involvement. However, effective communication may promote interest and a sense of community spirit.

The current position

- The Parish has a wide range of facilities for communication:

The Link

The Village magazine available to all, with a 90% favourable response in the Survey

Noticeboards
SMPC Newsletter
SMPC Office
Councillors

There are five available to all except commercial interests is included in The Link and on the Parish website is open to everyone, either by post, phone, in person or e-mail are accessible to all in person, by phone or e-mail. Contact details displayed in SMPC pages in The Link and on the web site The public can attend all Parish Council meetings and have the opportunity to address members at the start of Full Council meetings. In addition, there is the Annual Parish Meeting and other ad hoc working parties.

Council Meetings

For those with Internet access - www.stansted.net
This will be a new feature as the website develops
This is a voluntary phone service aimed at our elderly, disabled or housebound residents

SMPC Web site
Email list
Helpline

- Most parishioners (69% based on the questionnaire returns) are happy with the availability of information about village affairs. Of those having difficulty the majority fell within the 18-24 year old age group.

The way forward

- For the Parish Council to *review the services offered at Crafton Green* including the opening hours of the office.
- *New noticeboards* will be erected on Foresthall Park.

The Health Centre...
15 October 2010

... again! The PCT will be holding a public meeting to discuss the Health Centre on Monday 18th October, 7pm, at the Mountfitchet Maths and Computing College.

[Read more.](#)

Nearly Gone...
8 October 2010

...but not quite. The rest of the willow will be removed on the contractor's second visit - in case you were wondering - which shouldn't be too distant an event.

[Read more.](#)

Conservation Day at the Brook...
13 September 2010

... Last Sunday 12th September saw a bunch of volunteers clean up a section in Water Lane near the Scout Hut.

[Read more.](#)

So, it's Lower Street...
21 October 2010



... Or is it?

At the public meeting on Monday the PCT outlined their plans for the health centre. Their preferred location is the Castle garage in Lower street, although they have taken up the option on the land at Forest Hall and will continue with both projects in parallel. The developers will have until the end of the year to show significant progress on plans for the Lower street site, or they will proceed at Forest Hall.

Whichever path is taken, Stansted should have a new health centre by the end of 2012.

Your Parish Council Chairman, Geoffrey Sel, writes...

- Profile Councillors and staff members with photographs in the newsletter and online.
- Continue to build an email contact list of parishioners.
- Consider creating a specific section on the SMPC website for young people.
- Encourage village organisations to create and update web pages linked to the SMPC website.
- Display information related to younger parishioners on the Youth Centre noticeboards.
- Consider the creation of an online forum for discussion of village issues.



FORESTHALL PARK

The context

The Parish Council's working party, which includes a number of Foresthall Park residents, is working hard to address the major changes for the village in terms of maintenance, access and transport. Once fully built and occupied this major new development, will increase the population of Stansted Mountfitchet by approximately 30%.

The current position

- Foresthall Park, which is being built by three developers, has around 350 occupied or sold dwellings out of a planned total of between 600 and 712. Once fully developed there will be, under current plans, 51 five-bed houses, 168 four-bed houses, 246 three-bed houses, 132 two-bed houses or flats and 60 one-bed flats. [Policy H1 - Uttlesford Local Plan]
- St Mary's, the existing primary school in St John's Road, will be relocating to larger premises on the estate in 2012
- The Primary Care Trust has taken the decision to build a substantial new health centre. Two sites, the Castle Lotus site in Lower Street and a site at Foresthall Park, are being pursued in parallel with the preferred option being Lower Street. Providing there are no planning or funding issues, the centre should be open by the end of 2013.
- Access and transport issues will provide early challenges given a population rise, a new school and possibly a health centre which will generate a lot of extra traffic.
- Community facilities on the estate are few. There are currently no shops or public houses. However, the new school will provide a hall, plus kitchen and toilet facilities, which will seat about 120 people. The Romeera Leisure Centre is only a few hundred metres away.
- Play areas have been provided. There are two main areas, one off Walson Way which is open and another is planned on the land behind the houses in Brook View. Additionally there are several smaller areas. All of these will require regular checks and maintenance.
- The landscaped areas will be expensive to maintain. Not only are there many grassed areas and verges, but also the many shrubs and trees, will require costly attention.

- The ponds next to Forest Hall Road are inhabited by the great crested newt, a protected species, and may require professional maintenance.
- Litter and dog mess bins will need to be provided along with additional staff to empty them.

The way forward

- *Review the range and standard of play equipment.*
- *Accepting responsibility for play areas, landscaping maintenance and litter collection* will be dependent upon negotiations with Uttlesford District Council and the developers to secure an acceptable financial settlement. The Parish Council will incorporate Foresthall Park into its regular litter collections.
- *Noticeboards will need to be erected* in agreed locations.
- *Footpaths close to the estate and between Foresthall Park and the centre of Stansted Mountfitchet will need improvement* with most of the work being funded out of the Section 106 monies. (This is a financial contribution made by the developers as part of their planning consent).
 - Forest Hall Road – a footpath from the southern end of Palmer Close to Church Road to permit a safe route to MMCC and the Leisure Centre.
 - Black Bridge to Millfields – improve the bridge over the brook and the footpath up to Millfields to provide a safer route to the centre of the village and St John’s Church.
 - Widen the Church Road footpath or provide an additional footpath to improve safety from MMCC and the estates.
 - Provide a pedestrian link from Jordon Close to Walson Way to improve the currently unsafe access along Church Road.
- *Consider traffic calming measures* along Walson Way and Church Road. This is important given the likely increase in pedestrian and vehicle traffic from residents, the school and possibly the health centre.
- *Public transport links to the village are non-existent* although the 510 bus service connects the estate to Stansted Airport, Bishop’s Stortford and Harlow. The 7 and 7A services need to be extended to connect Foresthall Park to the centre of the village.
- *Additional off-street parking will be required* to meet the future needs of St Mary’s School.



An aerial photograph of Stansted Airport, showing the large terminal building with a white roof, several runways, taxiways, and parking lots filled with cars. The surrounding landscape is a mix of green fields and some buildings in the distance.

STANSTED AIRPORT

The context

An airport which currently handles fewer than 18.6 million passengers per annum (mppa) and falling, but has planning permission to handle thirty-five mppa, will have material, economic and environmental impacts over a large area which includes this parish. Vigilance, co-operation and negotiation will need to continue with the airport, the planning authorities, public transport providers and the Government to minimise the severity of these implications. This will ensure that future growth is within permitted capacity and that existing agreements made with the planning authority are undertaken in a way which minimises their impact on the parish.

There also needs to be a recognition that BAA's aspirations are not only for additional growth beyond 35mppa on the existing runway, but also a second runway when the time is right. Steps need to be taken now to encourage Government policy to be developed in a way which provides safeguards for the future and prevents expansion going ahead at the expense of community well-being.

The current position

- *The weakening economy has taken its toll on the number of passengers using the airport with a fall of 21% from the peak annual figure of over 24mppa.*
- *Airlines concentrate largely on leisure destinations in Europe with low cost airlines accounting for over 95% of the passenger numbers. Ryanair and EasyJet are the dominant players – in 2009 they handled about 87% of all passengers. Long haul airlines have come and gone but currently Air Asia X appears set on a growth path. Currently they operate seven flights a week which account for a disproportionate share of the noise complaints made to BAA because of the noisy aircraft which they use.*
- *Low cost airlines need to use their aircraft in an intensive manner with each flying an optimum four round trips per day to maximise profitability. This translates into early starts between 6 - 7am and late finishes between 11 – 11.30pm. Sleep can be disturbed during these periods. Early and late flight movements in turn require transport, whether by road or rail, to be available throughout the night.*
- *The airport received planning permission, after a long and acrimonious public inquiry, to increase its annual passenger numbers from 25mppa to 35mppa on the existing*

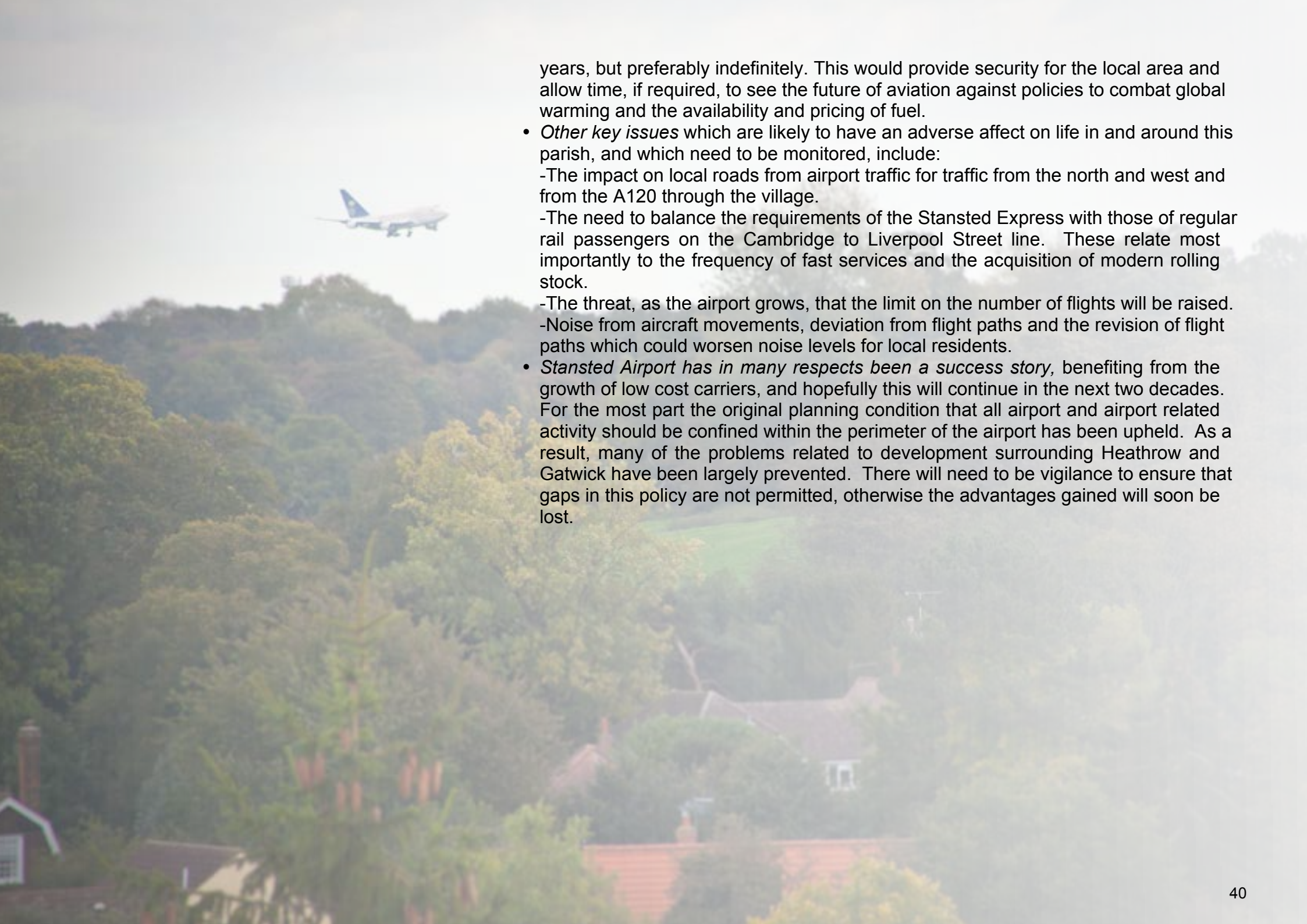


runway. However, the refusal of the Government to permit a second runway has resulted in BAA withdrawing its application.

- *The number of flights reached a 12 months peak of 193,700 in November 2007* whilst in the year to the end of August 2010 the number was 148,004. This compares with the permitted maximum of 264,000 of which 12,000 may be at night (between 11.30pm and 6am). The number of night flights will be reviewed during 2012. Cargo flights show a different pattern. In the 12 months to August 2010 they rose by 10%. Aircraft used for freight tend to be noisier and are often flown at night, further adding to the noise burden.
- *Larger aircraft, such as the Airbus A380, are expected to start using the airport in 2011.* Noise levels may be a concern and, if so, should be addressed (Source: Federal Aviation Administration).
- *The impact of the airport's operations on this parish and the surrounding area is both positive and negative.* The Parish Council does not have an issue with the airport as such, but has argued that major expansion, rivaling that of some of the largest airports in the world, would create pressures that would forever change the pattern of life in this beautiful and rural area. It is against this background that the way forward needs to be considered.

The way forward

- *Stansted Airport is well-established and is likely to grow over coming years* albeit that the rate of growth will depend upon economic trends. However, the long-term outlook points to the airport reaching a size which may offer some benefits but will also create significant issues for the parish. These will need to be mitigated by careful planning and investment.
- *The Parish Council is unlikely to exercise much influence on the key issues* but it is crucial that concerns are not over looked and are brought to the attention of the airport and other relevant authorities. To this end the Parish Council has revived its dialogue with management of the airport.
- *Stop Stansted Expansion has been very effective in challenging the airport* on current issues and even more on its proposals for expansion. This organisation has also established close contacts with Government Departments and all local MP's to help them represent the community concerning airport related issues. Close relations, and where necessary financial support, should be maintained.
- *The recent success in removing proposals for a second runway from the agenda needs to be consolidated, with a binding moratorium* not to proceed for at least fifty



years, but preferably indefinitely. This would provide security for the local area and allow time, if required, to see the future of aviation against policies to combat global warming and the availability and pricing of fuel.

- *Other key issues* which are likely to have an adverse affect on life in and around this parish, and which need to be monitored, include:
 - The impact on local roads from airport traffic for traffic from the north and west and from the A120 through the village.
 - The need to balance the requirements of the Stansted Express with those of regular rail passengers on the Cambridge to Liverpool Street line. These relate most importantly to the frequency of fast services and the acquisition of modern rolling stock.
 - The threat, as the airport grows, that the limit on the number of flights will be raised.
 - Noise from aircraft movements, deviation from flight paths and the revision of flight paths which could worsen noise levels for local residents.
- *Stansted Airport has in many respects been a success story*, benefiting from the growth of low cost carriers, and hopefully this will continue in the next two decades. For the most part the original planning condition that all airport and airport related activity should be confined within the perimeter of the airport has been upheld. As a result, many of the problems related to development surrounding Heathrow and Gatwick have been largely prevented. There will need to be vigilance to ensure that gaps in this policy are not permitted, otherwise the advantages gained will soon be lost.

ACTION PLANS

ROUTE

PLANNER FOR

PROGRESS

A series of actions is required to turn the vision set out in this Community Plan into reality. Whilst some of these may be accomplished quickly, others may have to be pursued over the medium to long term. Some actions may fall within the power and resources of the Parish Council but others will be dependent upon co-operation and/or funding from other authorities or agencies.

An action plan is laid out below and is divided into the short term (under one year), medium term (one to five years) and long term (up to ten years). Each year the Parish Council will review the Action Plan and report on the successes and failures so that parishioners have the opportunity to assess progress. At the same time, the programme will be adjusted in the light of changes in policies or circumstances. Although not listed as a partner throughout, it should be assumed that Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council will be involved in all the action points even if only in a lobbying capacity.

SHORT TERM ACTIONS (target under one year)

Sector	Issue	Proposed Action	Partners
Future of Stansted	Retention of greenbelt	Support existing boundaries	UDC
	Resist over development	Reject applications especially for flats	UDC
	Sympathetic development	New build to suit surroundings	UDC
Housing	Add to sheltered accommodation	Improve standards at Mead Court	UDC
Roads, traffic and parking	Safer traffic speeds	Install village entry treatments	ECC
		Traffic calming High Ln, Church Rd, Walson Way	ECC
	Grove Hill congestion	Review phasing of traffic lights	ECC
	Parking on pavements	Issue guides on pavement parking	Police/UDC
	Obstruction of footpaths	Residents/Parish Council to cut back plant growth	SMPC
	Parking on Cambridge Road	To prevent parking on both sides of the road	ECC
		To increase number of short-term parking bays	ECC
		To introduce a loading bay outside Tesco Express	ECC
	Car parking charges	Free one-hour parking in both car parks	UDC
	Residents Parking Scheme	Implement for Lower Street/Grove Hill	ECC/UDC
Crime and security	Report crime statistics	Police provide/SMPC publish	Police/SMPC
	Open youth club on more days	ECC and SMPC to consult	ECC/SMPC
	Effective CCTV system	Secure funding for the system	UDC
	More targeted police presence	Discuss places and times with police	Police
	More speed checks	Identify and agree locations	Police
	Opening hours of police station	Seek volunteers/agree hours	Police
	Neighbourhood Watch	Build and use network	Police/NhW
	Reduction of underage drinking	Discussions with licensed outlets/parents	Police/NhW/

			Schools
Local Environment	Protect woodland/hedges	Discuss with landowners/planning	SMPC/UDC/ UDC/landowners
	Maintenance of twitchels	Regular inspection/maintenance	SMPC/ECC
	Footpath on Forest Hall Rd	Use Section 106 money from developers	ECC/SMPC
	Improve Water Lane	Use Section 106 money from developers	ECC/SMPC
	New book of walks/map	Design and fund publication	SMPC
	Renovate fountain area	Prepare and cost plan	SMPC
	Screen recycling bins	Discuss with UDC	SMPC/UDC
	Planting at Crafton Green CP	Prepare scheme	SMPC/UDC
	Maintenance of Churchyard	Discuss way forward with Church	Rector
	Review litter collection resources	Discuss options	SMPC
Reduce litter	Discuss with schools/pubs/takeaways	Schools/ pubs/take-aways	
	Grit for winter weather	Encourage provision of more grit bins	ECC
	Review street furniture	Review all streets	ECC
	Christmas decorations	agree a scheme with local traders	SMPC/traders
Sport and Recreation	Lack of open space	No new development without public open space	UDC Planning
	Existing sports	Promote tennis and bowls clubs	Club committees
	Romeera Leisure centre	Discuss changes and marketing	UDC/Romeera
	Quad biking/motocross/fishing	Discuss with other authorities	East Herts/UDC B.Stortford TC
Leisure and the Arts	Re-equip play areas	Finish consultation and seek funding	SMPC/Schools
	Summer playscheme	Seek partners/funding/venue/staff	SMPC/Schools
	Improve skatepark	Consult with users	SMPC/youth
	Land for allotments	Discuss with landowners	SMPC
	Village events	Seek to contact volunteers	SMPC/volunteers
	Demand for new activities	Specific consultation to test demand	SMPC
	Development of Crafton Green	Seek professional advice on options	SMPC
		Further research to evaluate need	SMPC
Retailing, restaurants, services	More short-term on-street parking	Consider removing yellow lines outside Tesco	ECC
		Limited day-time waiting on Lower Street	ECC
	Facilitate use of Crafton Green CP	Negotiate footpath access to Cambridge Road	SMPC/landowners
	Introduce one-hour free parking in car parks	UDC	

	Improve street environment Improve appearance of car parks	Resurfacing footpaths/upgrade street furniture Consider planting schemes	ECC SMPC/UDC
Transport-Rail	Improve timetable A better station	Stop one express service per hour in each direction Stop two expresses per hour during rush hour Improve furniture, lighting and signs Ticket machines on both platforms Waiting room open all day and at weekends A proper coffee shop	National Express National Express National Express National Express National Express National Express
Transport - Bus	Improve connection times 7/7A Improve connection times of 301	Advance timing of 06.49 ex airport Advance timing of 08.49 ex Bishop's Stortford Retard by 10 minutes travelling north	Bus Company Bus Company Bus Company
Employment	Make job finding easier	Provide a job vacancy board	SMPC/Job Centre
Health	New health centre	Work with PCT to secure a site	PCT
Education	School/council relationship Community involvement Safe access to Foresthall Park	Develop regular contact with schools Plans to combat potential rise in airport noise Discuss with students and teachers Improve bridge over brook and footpath Improve surface and lighting in Water Lane Additional footpath along Church Road Footpath on Foresthall Road to MMCC	Schools ECC Schools ECC ECC ECC ECC
	Use of existing St Mary's School site	Hold discussions with ECC, Diocese and parishioners	ECC/Diocese
Councils and Councillors	Parish boundaries Duplication of local services Improve services at Crafton Green Relationship with voluntary orgs	Redraw boundary to include all of Foresthall Park Draw up list and negotiate with relevant authorities Discuss with other authorities (police,ECC,UDC) Organise an annual conference	UDC UDC/ECC SMPC SMPC
Communications	Noticeboards	Maintain/add new boards at Foresthall Park Increase size where possible	SMPC

		Separate section for Parish Council items	
	Build on success of The Link	Make PC pages more readable (photographs) Profile staff/councillors (also on website)	SMPC SMPC
Foresthall Park	Landscaping review Negotiate terms of handover Create plan to handle litter Install litter and dog bins Provide noticeboards Grasscutting	Developer to amend/make good prior to handover Agree timing and financial settlement Consider staffing and mechanical options Identify locations Identify sites Cost maintenance programme. Identify non-viable verges	UDC/developers UDC/developers GF Residents Residents Contractors
	Gardening	Cost maintenance programme - identify non-viable areas	Contractors
	Ponds	Seek specialist advice	Contractors
	Footpaths	Forest Hall Road Church Road Black Bridge - Millfields Jordon Close - Walson Way	ECC ECC ECC ECC
	Traffic calming measures	Identify areas and install	ECC
MEDIUM TERM ACTIONS (target one to five years)			
Future of Stansted	No second runway at airport Development on selected sites Extensions to Conservation Areas	Lobby for a legal commitment Agree locations with UDC Identify and lobby for inclusion	UDC/ECC/SSE UDC SMPC/UDC
Housing	Increase stock of 2-3 bed houses Meet demand for bungalows More affordable housing	Encourage developers to provide Encourage developers to provide Requirement of planning permission	UDC UDC UDC
Roads, traffic and parking	Pedestrian safety crossing roads	Full crossing on Silver Street Full crossing at Croasdaile Road Refuge on Lower Street Refuges along Church Road	ECC ECC ECC ECC
	Reduce speed limits	To 30mph west of Bentfield Bower To 20mph at Mountfitchet/Hargrave/Bentfield	ECC ECC
	Streetlighting	Review policy on night-lighting Negotiate to take over ECC lights	ECC ECC
	Pavement parking	Use part of wide pavement on Cambridge Rd Use part of selected pavement on Mountfitchet Est	ECC ECC

	Direction of traffic	Signage on B1383 to A120 for airport/M11	ECC
	Fountain junction Cambridge Rd	Review traffic arrangements at junction	ECC
	Risks at railway bridge, Church Rd	Measures to improve safety	ECC
	Reduce commuter/fly parking	Consider parking restrictions	SMPC/ECC/UDC
	Crafton Green car park	Access to Cambridge Road	SMPC/landowners
Crime and Security	More activities for the young	Identify needs	Schools/Youth Club/ECC
	Secure police presence in village	Look to provide accommodation to replace the police station	SMPC/ECC
	Seek additional police officers	Present case to the Police Authority	Police Authority
	Develop a drug/drink education programme	Work with relevant agencies	SMPC/Police Authority
			Police/Schools/Youth Club
Local Environment	Maintenance of footpaths	Regular inspection and maintenance	SMPC/ECC/landowners
	Visual enhancements	Develop a three year programme	SMPC/UDC
	Remove verges Mountfitchet Est	Seek support from ECC	SMPC/ECC
	Assess verges on Foresthall Park	Devise maintenance programme	SMPC
	Brook at Lower Street car park	Consider a planting scheme	SMPC/UDC/Castle
	Maintenance of empty premises	Discuss with landowners	SMPC/UDC/landowners
	Right of Way extension	Lime Kiln Lane to Gypsy Lane	landowner/ECC
	Parish Cemetery	Endeavour to acquire land to extend further	SMPC/landowners
Sport and Recreation	Junior football	Contact all landowners	SMPC/landowners
	Open up Stansted Park	Negotiations with Gemmill Bros.	SMPC/UDC/Gemmill's
	Encourage cycling	Seek ways to construct cycle paths	ECC
Leisure and the Arts	Improve skatepark	Install new secure fencing/seek funding	SMPC
	Development of Crafton Green	Seek funding	SMPC/ECC/Police/UDC
Transport-Rail	Comfort on trains	Ensure heating system functions properly	National Express
	Quality of trains	Secure new rolling stock (keeping best of old)	National Express
	Improve timetable	Expresses stopping at SM to connect with Bishop's Stortford not Harlow	National Express

Transport-Bus	Bus service to Foresthall Park	Extend 7/7A to Walson Way (connect with 510)	Bus Company
	Bus service to Foresthall Park	Re-route 301 via centre of SM to Foresthall Park from BS/SW	Bus Company
	Improve service	Better timetable information	Bus Company
	Timetable	Improve bus and bus/train connections Flexible ticketing between buses and trains Produce handy "pocket-size" timetables	Bus Company Bus Company ECC
Health	Access to health centre	Ensure good public transport	ECC/PCT/Bus Co
	Improve appointment system	Make it easier to make contact More advance and earlier/later appointments	Practice/PCT Practice/PCT
	Reduce parking charges at hospitals	Emphasis on regular attendees	PCT
Education	Secondary school provision	Analyse existing and proposed availability	ECC/Herts CC/ Schools
	Education over 16yrs at MMCC Adult education	Lobby for sixth form and vocational education Consult on range and timing of courses	ECC/School ECC/parishioners
Councils and Councillors	Move Parish Council offices	Assess options/plan move	SMPC
	Community Information	Develop a centre alongside Parish Council	UDC
	Village or town	Consult over status	SMPC
Communications	Website	Develop comprehensive website	SMPC
		Identify means to update regularly	SMPC
	Talking with parishioners	Section for youth interests E-mail alerts for those interested	SMPC SMPC
	The Link	Public meetings on specific issues Develop a Braille version	SMPC SMPC
Foresthall Park	Improve public transport links	Extend 7/7A routes	ECC/Bus Co
	Involvement in the village	Ask organisations to be proactive	Organisations
Stansted Airport	Communicate concerns/issues	Brief attendees at SA Consultative Cttee	UALC/SSE
	Improve knowledge of airport issues	Initiate regular meetings with SA management	Airport
	Continue to monitor airport policy/ action	Support successor body to SSE	SSE
	Legal commitment to prevent second runway	Lobby MPs as appropriate	Sir Alan Haselhurst
	Airport/M11 traffic using village roads	Seek regular traffic surveys Sign traffic away from village	ECC ECC

Impact on railway service

Discuss with airport/rail operator
Encourage rail users action group

Airport/
Nat Express
SSE
UDC

Continue restriction on night flights
Maintain all airport related activity
within airport

Maintain vigilance/lobby UDC

LONG TERM ACTIONS (Target up to ten years)

Future of Stansted

Maintain Stansted as a
separate community

Oppose any major developments

UDC

Housing

Reduce number of permissions
for 1-bed flats

Oppose applications

UDC

Roads, traffic and parking

Safe cycling
Reduce traffic on B1383
To consider ways of reducing or
Improving traffic flows along the
B1383

Seek schemes for cycle paths
New junction on M11 to serve Saffron Walden

ECC
Highways Agency
ECC

Sport and Recreation

Swimming pool

Contact UDC re funding opportunities

UDC/Govt Dept

Transport-Bus

Direct service from Stansted to
Airport
Evening and Sunday services
Upgrade quality of buses

Re-route 510 or extend 7/7A

Extend 301 and 7/7A
to match quality of 510

Bus Company

Bus Company
Bus Company

Transport-Rail

Additional parking

Investigate availability of land east of the station

Railtrack

NOTES

NOTES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Stansted Mountfitchet *Community Plan*

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