

EGERTON

Parish Plan



Foreword

This plan is the result of 3 years of voluntary work by a sub-committee of Egerton Parish Council from 2012-2014.

The intention of the plan is to provide priorities for action by the Parish Council over the next 5-10 years in accordance with the wishes of village residents. It should also serve as a precursor to an Egerton Neighbourhood Plan, to cover in more detail some of the planning issues which have emerged during the consultation process.

As Chairman of the Parish Plan Committee, I would like to thank the members of the sub-committee, and all those who have given time and very considerable effort to this important initiative.

CHRIS BURGESS
CHAIRMAN, PARISH PLAN COMMITTEE



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4 Executive Summary

The main priorities, in order of perceived importance.

8 Introduction

A summary of residents' views on Egerton as it is and how it should be in the future.

10 Preparing the Parish Plan

Outline of the timescale and the work of the sub-committee.

12 The Parish Surveys

Outlines the consultation process with village residents and the resulting actions.

14 About Egerton

A description of the village, its location, history, housing stock, local businesses and activities.

16 Planning and Environment

Includes sections on renewable energy, housing for older people, highways and transport.

28 Village Facilities

Covers the primary and pre-schools, improvements to the Millennium Hall and St James' Church and improved sports and recreation facilities.

34 Village Services

Includes broadband and communications, group purchasing of services and sewerage provision.

APPENDICES

39 Members of the Parish Plan Committee

39 Survey Results

Includes outcomes from the two questionnaires, the youth meeting and the village forum.

50 Egerton Parish Profile

Compiled from data provided by Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE).

Executive Summary

The main priorities, in order of perceived importance, are summarised here and covered in detail in the Plan. They arise from consultation with all village residents and indicate that the Parish Council and local community should:

Sustain the primary school and establish dedicated space for the pre-school
87% of respondents felt it essential to sustain Egerton's Primary School. One practical way to achieve this would be to re-locate the pre-school to the primary school. The Parish Council has already taken this project forward and the school governors have now agreed in principle that the pre-school should be housed at the school if at all possible, as it was felt that this would also help secure the future of the school. The Parish Council have obtained initial grants from the County and Borough Councils which, together with other fundraising, have enabled the project

to move forward, and outline plans for a purpose built building on the school site have now been submitted to Kent County Council for approval.

Publish and use guidelines for planning applications for renewable energy installations
The Parish Council should consider publishing a check-list of criteria, with guidance, to make their part of the planning process more transparent.

Support the urgent provision of better mobile phone reception throughout the village by supporting the installation of a transmitter either in the church or in other suitable sites such as tall buildings, or by the installation of a mast.

Support the earliest possible installation of high speed broadband
Full upgrade will not be complete until 2016 and, if this will not address village issues, the



Parish Council should lobby for an upgrade. The Parish Council should continue to monitor the quality of broadband and take any actions to help boost our speeds.

Install a map in the centre of the village showing key locations

Support more road marking to reinforce speed limits

Support the current plans for improved facilities in St James' Church

Investigate the possibility of additional housing for older people

A small working group has been established with the Parish Council to develop this proposal further.

Discussions with Ashford Borough Council and Kent County Council have taken place with the view to agreeing an 'exception site' for such a development. This would need to be close to the village centre where potential sites are limited. Great care will be needed to ensure that any development is for the benefit of the villagers and not just an expansion of the village. A proposal will be developed and presented to the village for consideration in due course.

Support village initiatives for group purchasing of utilities

Introduce marking of car parking spaces outside the Millennium Hall, and additional signs to the Millennium Hall car park in the village >

Lobby for reduction of noise pollution from the M20

Facilitate small to medium scale development of the Millennium Hall

The Parish Council should identify, as a priority, an individual or small group to work with the current Hall Management Committee to draw up a specification; after which an appropriate architect should be commissioned to review current designs and costings and to present revisions to both. Ideally the same group, with the support of the Parish Council, would then develop the fundraising strategy.

Ensure integration of the long term development of all village facilities including encouragement of increased recreational and leisure activities, and re-furbishment of the Games Barn.

Encourage involvement by all age groups in healthy activity; in particular, investigate the possibility of upgrading the Games Barn and installing tennis courts

Support and encourage improvement of the mains drainage network

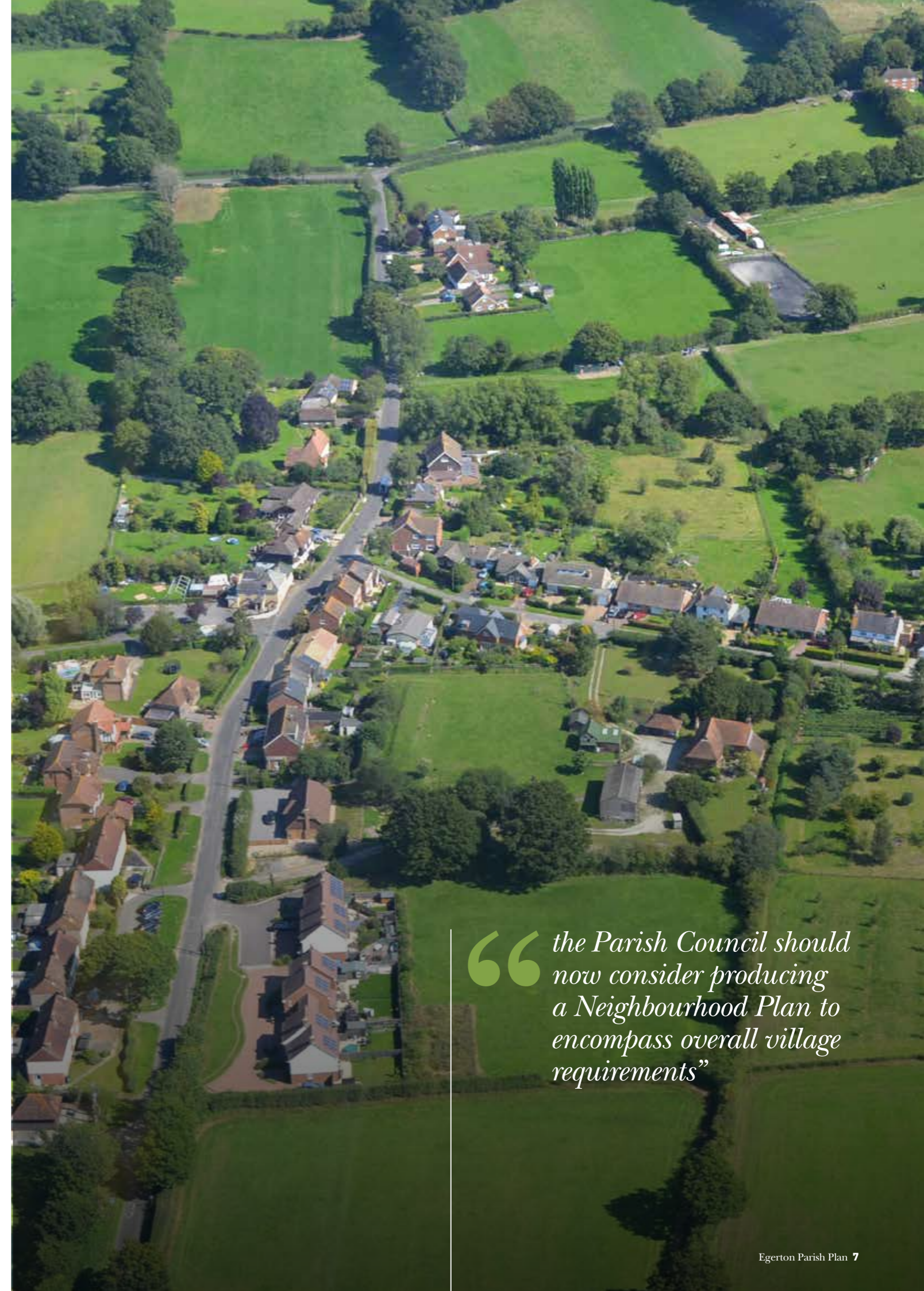
Investigate some extra low level lighting

For example bollard or bulkhead lights, to remedy any dark gaps in the existing partly illuminated pathways, with particular attention to the Elm Close vicinity to assist pedestrians and elderly residents.

Support the re-surfacing of the following roads as an immediate priority:

- Bedlam Lane
- New Road
- Rock Hill Road (lower)
- Crockenhill Road
- Forstal Road
- Mundy Bois Road

Revive its earlier proposals to KCC and Wealden Wheels to enable the setting up of an additional bus service that meets local needs such as journeys to and from hospitals, doctors and nearby train stations.



“ the Parish Council should now consider producing a Neighbourhood Plan to encompass overall village requirements”

‘Please don’t change too much *We love our village as it is*’

These words from one village resident about Egerton’s future sum up the views of a majority of respondents to the consultation process which has resulted in this Parish Plan.

The essence of the village character, which residents wish to maintain, was expressed in a number of different ways - for some it is the beauty of the rural setting and the peaceful environment, for others the balance of age groups and the wide range of activities available in the village.

This Plan includes a number of small-scale issues to be addressed by the Parish Council, and a few substantial ones which require the involvement of Ashford Borough Council, Kent County Council and/or the private sector - but, in essence, people live in Egerton because they like it and would like it to remain largely as it is.

However, the responses to the questionnaire also show an understanding of the need to respond to a changing environment, to ensure that services in the village are appropriate for all age groups and to 21st Century standards. Maintaining the character of the village requires active intervention to ensure that all age groups can continue to live as they wish, and that the

infrastructure necessary to this is well-maintained and future proof.

For example, much improved broadband speeds and mobile phone reception are understood to be essential if local businesses, the school and the self-employed are to thrive in a village environment, and also increasingly for everyday living in the 21st Century for most village residents, both old and young. Equally, both the primary school and the pre-school need to be secured for the future. Detailed planning issues fall outside the specific remit of a Parish Plan, but the results of the consultation indicate that people of all ages wish to remain in the village if at all possible, with specific support for the provision of specialist housing for older people.

Egerton’s wide range of activities is one of the aspects which residents appreciate; and the Millennium Hall, in its outstanding setting, provides opportunities to develop existing and new activities. However, residents also recognise that the Hall needs to be maintained and up-graded, if its position at the centre of village life is to be maintained; and that other village facilities such as the church, the games barn and the sports pavilion also need to be maintained, upgraded and used to their full potential.





Preparing the **Parish Plan**

At a Parish Assembly in May 2011, Egerton Parish Council proposed that a plan for the future of Egerton should be prepared, and asked for volunteers. Several villagers came forward and formed a sub-committee of the Parish Council, which first met in 2012. Membership of the committee has fluctuated but has always included up to four parish councillors; all those who have been members are listed in Appendix 1.

The committee's first task was to decide whether Egerton needed a Neighbourhood Plan, as defined in the recently introduced Localism Act, or a Parish Plan - a format which has been in existence throughout the country for some time. Following advice from Ashford Borough Council, it was decided not to produce a Neighbourhood

Plan, which would be concerned largely with planning and development, but a Parish Plan to cover wider village needs whilst encompassing all the requirements for a Neighbourhood Plan if that were required in the future. With this decision, the Committee defined its role - to produce a Parish Plan covering the way forward for the village over the next 5-10 years in all aspects other than detailed planning issues.

In view of the planning needs identified in the course of consultation, and the concerns expressed about the lack of transparency in some decision-making on planning issues, the sub-committee recommends that the Parish Council should now consider producing a Neighbourhood Plan to encompass overall village requirements, in line with current government recommendations and after consultation with everyone in the village.

The Parish Surveys

The first stage in the development of the Parish Plan involved the preparation and distribution to every household of a survey, the aim of which was to identify priorities for village residents. Results of this survey were analysed and further research undertaken on the main priorities identified by the survey. The Committee worked in small groups to undertake the research, which included consultation both within the village (including a youth group meeting) and with external sources.

A village forum in March 2013 was open to all village residents, and over 100 attended. Displays on the main priorities were presented by the committee groups, with representatives of Ashford Borough Council also present.

The feedback gained from the initial survey and the village forum formed the basis of a final questionnaire which was approved by Ashford Borough Council and then circulated to all households in the village in November/December 2013. The views of almost 61% of village residents were received in response to the final questionnaire, a percentage which can be authoritatively regarded as more than sufficient to substantiate the proposals included in the Plan. The complete results of this final survey, and of the earlier consultation, are shown in detail in Appendix 2, and form the basis and validation of the plans which follow.



About EGERTON

The village of Egerton is within the Ashford borough and in the heart of Kent. The village spreads over a wide area with its centre on a 300 ft. ridge of Greensand 9 miles north-west of Ashford, from which there are magnificent views across the Weald of Kent and towards the North Downs across the Stour valley.

The 13th Century church of St. James' presides over many old cottages in the centre of the village. Most of the land is designated a Special Landscape Area.

1075 people live in Egerton, of whom 47.7% are male, and 18% are children (just below the England average of 18.9%). Over half are working adults (lower than the England average) and a quarter are aged over 65 (at 24.9% well above the England average of 16.3%). For further details, see the Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) Egerton Parish Profile at Appendix 3.

Egerton contains some 460* houses of which 90 or so are Listed. Almost every type of domestic architecture is evident in the village, from period hall houses, yeoman houses and Kentish barns, to modern bungalows, detached and semi-detached houses (see Egerton Parish Design Statement for further details). The oldest surviving houses in the village date from about the 15th Century, but the presence of the Church with 13th Century origins clearly indicates that the settlement is older than it appears.

The spread of dwellings over a wide area indicates the importance of farming in the Parish, today as in the past, with homesteads built where the land was worked. Damp pasture would be available on the Wealden Clays south of the village and richer soils would support arable farming on the better-drained soils on the Greensand Ridge. This pattern is broadly unchanged today, with orchards and crops on the high ground and largely livestock grazing on the lower fields.

In addition to farming, local businesses continue to support the community and to ensure that village life can be maintained. The village stores, supplemented by the weekly Farmers' Market, the garage and the local pubs are considered by many residents and visitors to be essential to village life**; local businesses also provide some local employment; and, although the working life of many villagers lies well beyond the village boundaries, there are an increasing number of residents who are, or hope to be, able to work from home for all or part of their working lives.

“The thing that is most important to me is the provision of high speed broadband, as someone who works from home and relies on the internet completely. This is essential for the future of the village in the modern age.”

The number of Egerton residents who are economically active is comparable to the England average, but a much higher percentage work from home (10.9% as compared with the England average of 3.5%). There is lower than average full-time employment but much higher than average self-employment. Available employment is lower than average, but the number of people receiving 'out of work' benefits is significantly lower than the England average (4.1% as compared with 9.8%). For further details, see Appendix 3.

In addition to the beauty of its surroundings, and its commercial life, Egerton is recognised well beyond its boundaries as a strong and active community, organising a wide range of activities and social events ranging from sports and health to art and music. The Tele-cottage courses, organised and run by village volunteers to encourage and assist with computing for both experts and beginners, provide a good example both of the spirit of the village and of a recognition of the need to keep pace with change if that spirit is to be maintained.

The strong sense of community has produced valuable village-owned assets which ensure that community life can be sustained in the future. The Millennium Hall, in its beautiful location overlooking the Kentish Weald, is a key village asset and central to many village activities for all ages. It also looks out over other essential village assets - the cricket and football pitches, the new Sports Pavilion, the children's play area, the skate park and the Games Barn - whilst behind can be seen the tower of St James' Church.

* 278 detached houses, 132 semi-detached houses, 49 terraced houses, 18 flats, 8 caravans or other temporary accommodation, ACRE Egerton Parish Profile 2013

** ACRE regards access to, and distance from, a post office and a village pub as essential to a sustainable community; and it is only these two services in Egerton that currently approach national averages in terms of distance. Further details in Appendix 3.

Planning and Environment

As explained in the introduction, this Parish Plan covers a whole range of issues of concern to Egerton's residents, and sets out a way forward for the identified priorities. However, in the consultation process, several planning and development matters emerged that seemed appropriate to include in this Plan and which suggested scope for further action.

Background

Egerton Parish Council (EPC) is consulted by Ashford Borough Council (ABC) about any planning applications for development in Egerton. Details are published on EPC's monthly meeting agenda. At its meetings, EPC takes into consideration any site visits, local knowledge, the Parish Design Statement, the ABC Local Development Framework and any material information or views made at the meeting or received earlier from local residents before reaching a conclusion about how it should comment to ABC. ABC then takes a decision, either using delegated powers at Officer level or through ABC's Planning Committee. EPC may ask the ABC Ward Councillor to refer a planning application to the Committee where the case is contentious and there are strong reasons to take a particular standpoint.

EPC has to take into account ABC's planning policies to ensure that cases are considered objectively, against common criteria. EPC can influence ABC's decisions – and has achieved this quite effectively - by being thorough in making pertinent comments and adding local knowledge or experience into its arguments.

The over-arching position taken by the Government and ABC in its Local Development Framework (LDF) is that development in the open countryside is severely restricted. Development needs are identified by ABC through consultation with parish councils and they are to be contained within the built confines of the village and possible minor infilling, subject to certain restrictions and in proportion to the size of the existing settlement and its pattern. In the LDF, no specific housing development was identified for Egerton other than for local needs. Exceptionally, with support from EPC and following a survey of residents' needs, a site was selected in Forstal Road in 2009 for a small number of units built by a housing association, in collaboration with ABC and EPC. This would have been outside what ABC terms "the village envelope" but it was permitted in view of a specific need identified through a village survey. The only other new development that might be permitted would be

'windfall' opportunities in small numbers, or the replacement of an existing dwelling past its "sell-by" date, or possibly on a gap between existing dwellings, provided that the gap is not a valued green space, and is not additional development in the garden plot of an existing dwelling. If however, there is a clearly demonstrated need for a dwelling associated with agricultural work, ABC may allow a dwelling to be built on a greenfield site, subject to an 'agricultural occupancy' condition. Development in woodland is not normally permitted either, and trees and hedges generally are to be protected.

Findings from the survey

During the first stage of the Parish Plan consultation process, the most significant aspect to emerge relating to potential development in the village was the question of older people's housing. Details of that topic are set out under a separate heading. A significant number of comments from residents in the final questionnaire also revealed a variety of views about the provision of housing for younger people and about keeping or building a stock of modest-sized housing in the rented and private sectors for Egerton residents who already live here but whose circumstances and needs

have changed. At the same time, there were reservations about the location, scale, design and layout of any new development – the key themes being to retain Egerton's character as a truly rural village.

The way forward

Planning issues such as these suggest that it might be expedient to build on this Parish Plan with a Neighbourhood Plan. Neighbourhood Plans allow local people to get the right type of development for their community, and establish general planning policies for the development and use of land in a neighbourhood, such as where new homes and/ or offices should be built and what they should look like. Such a plan can be detailed or general, depending on what local people want. Neighbourhood Plans can also identify on a map ('designate') green areas for special protection. Once in force, it becomes part of the legal framework and planning decisions for the area must be taken in accordance with it, as well as the Local Plan for the wider area. It is therefore recommended that Egerton Parish Council sets up a sub-committee to investigate and report on the scope for devising a Neighbourhood Plan. >

RENEWABLE ENERGY

There is some interest in the village in renewable energy in view of the depletion of fossil fuels, increasing gas and oil prices, the effects of burning fossil fuels on the environment and climate change. Renewable energy is derived from resources which are continually replenished as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves and geothermal heat. The village as a whole, its community facilities and individual residents could benefit from some of the renewable energy technology – but there are also concerns about the potential adverse impact of some features such as solar panels, solar ‘farms’, wind turbines and waste or biomass production, most of which are the subject of planning control.

Background

Modern life styles require changes in energy supply and provision of all services. Although updating of communication systems can be achieved with minimum visual impact, energy provision may well require some difficult decisions on the balance between visual impact and expected quality of service. For example, centrally generated electricity distribution suffers substantial transmission losses where local generation does not.

Solar thermal energy produces heat for hot water; solar photovoltaic energy produces electricity. Panels on roofs can look unsightly, and there are restrictions about their scale and position in conservation areas and on listed buildings. Banks of solar panels in fields could spoil wide views of the countryside but make a contribution to the national grid.

Wind power is the conversion of wind energy into a useful form of energy, such as using wind turbines to make electrical power, windmills for mechanical power, or wind pumps for water pumping or drainage. The siting of a single wind turbine, let alone a wind farm, would be a sensitive issue, despite the potential benefits.

Biomass is biological material derived from plant-life. Biomass can either be used directly via combustion to produce heat (such as wood) or indirectly after converting it to various forms of bio-fuel. Several landowners in Egerton already have small pockets of woodland or orchards that generate enough wood for their own domestic consumption. Although biomass burning releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, depleting the ozone layer, it is regarded as carbon-neutral because the trees planted to replace the ones used take in carbon dioxide. The creation of a biomass

production and processing plant could provide useful employment opportunities but it would also change the familiar farming landscape and could industrialize the rural locality, with associated traffic, noise and disruption.

Waste-generated energy is derived from various sources including municipal waste. A properly designed local plant could produce substantial amounts of energy with little impact on the local environment.

A number of other renewable energy systems are currently available, or in development, including ground source heat pumps which are now in regular use for buildings such as village halls.

energy proposals using a set of criteria or guidelines, and that village facilities should use renewable energy, is significant enough to warrant positive action.

The way forward

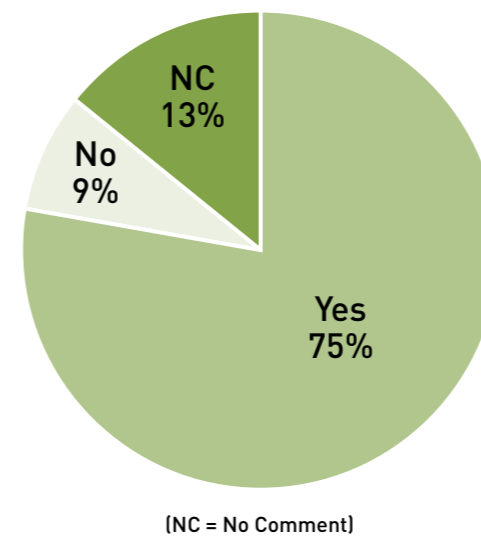
The Parish Council should encourage managers of community facilities and new building project managers to consider seriously the installation of energy-efficient measures or renewable energy sources when the need to install or upgrade heating and lighting systems is required.

The Parish Council should also consider commissioning and publishing a check-list of criteria, with guidance in the following categories, to make their part of the planning process more transparent to residents, whilst also demonstrating sensitivity to the environment, the needs of the local economy and the sustainability of the village.

Categories:

- proposals for the installation of solar panels on roofs to maximise the generation of energy, balanced with the need to minimise the visual impact, in tune with the Parish Design Statement and taking account of listed building status or proximity to listed buildings, or the Conservation Area or other sensitive sites;
- proposals for solar panel farms that make best use of sunshine and light, and the need to verify if proposals directly help provide Egerton’s energy needs without creating blots on the landscape;
- proposals for the installation of individual or multiple wind turbines and the need for scrutiny of environmental, visual and noise implications;
- proposals for the creation of waste or biomass energy production and the need to assess the impact on residents, local roads, and other environmental implications. >

More Renewable Energy



Findings from the village survey

213 (76%) of the respondents to the survey thought that Egerton Parish Council should publish and use guidelines to help consider any planning applications for single or multiple wind turbines, solar panel farms or waste/bio-fuel works. 192 respondents (68.3%) thought that Egerton Parish Council should publish guidelines for the installation of solar panels on roofs. 211 respondents (75.1%) supported the idea that renewable energy should be considered to supply village facilities. Overall, the proportion of people believing that the Parish Council should consider planning applications for renewable

The percentages shown in the pie charts and in Appendix 2, Final questionnaire responses, are percentages of the total number of responses received. As some respondents did not answer every question the percentages do not always add up to 100%.

HOUSING FOR OLDER PEOPLE

In 2013 a quarter of village residents were aged over 65 (well above the average of 16.3% for England as a whole, according to Action with Communities in Rural England). With increased life expectancy, this percentage may well increase in the future. With the exception of the bungalows in Elm Close, for people of over 54 years of age who are eligible for social housing, there is currently no other dedicated accommodation in Egerton for older people who wish to remain in the village and downsize to semi-sheltered accommodation specifically intended for them – housing that is designed to be readily adapted to deal with growing disabilities and other problems associated with old age.

As a result, a significant number of older residents still live in large family houses, either owned or rented, and by remaining in them they

become less able to manage and maintain them and also deny younger families locally the opportunity to move up the housing ladder by purchasing them. This causes a problem right down the housing chain to first time buyers and those seeking starter units.

A separate survey, carried out at the same time as the final Parish Plan questionnaire, identified the potential for a small development of no more than 12-15 units, specifically for Egerton residents. The units would be built to a high standard so as to be wheelchair accessible and capable of easy adaptation to meet the needs of different disabilities. A local Community Housing Association or Trust, similar to that managing Egerton's 'Good Intent' cottages, would be established and it would be this Trust (with charitable status) that would have legal responsibility for the complex, which would be a mix of rental and shared equity property.

Such a project is in line with the Government's policy of encouraging support for older people who wish to continue living in their own communities for as long as possible. The cost to the state of providing financial backup for older people in residential or nursing homes is far greater than providing 'at home' support; and by allowing them to remain in their own homes within their own communities they will generally stay active and fitter far longer, be less of a burden on the health service, and also benefit from the support of their neighbours, friends and family locally, particularly in villages like Egerton. That also fits in neatly with many different aspects of national policy, including the Government's health and 'localism' agendas.

development. This would need to be close to the village centre where potential sites are limited. Great care will be needed to ensure that any development is for the benefit of the villagers and not just an expansion of the village. A proposal will be developed and presented to the village for consideration in due course.

HIGHWAYS

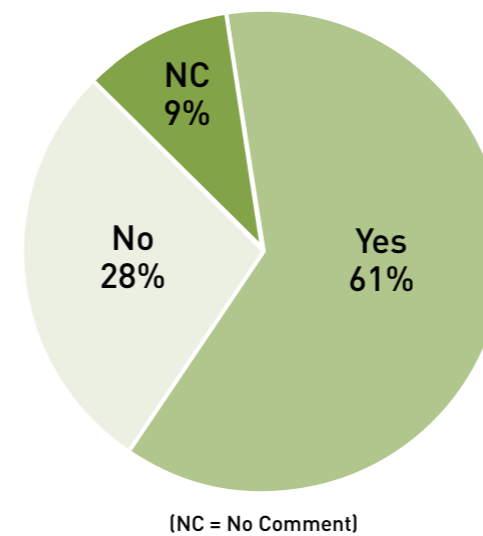
There has always been a delicate balance between those who need, or choose to use, highways and those who are disturbed or inconvenienced by such use, especially by motor vehicles. Against this general background, the village questionnaire has thrown up the following main issues: lighting of roads and public spaces; parking; speeding; and the condition of roads.

LIGHTING

Whether or not there should be more (or less) lighting around the village is a complex topic, since lighting has both positive and negative aspects. On the plus side, it has amenity benefits in terms of improving personal safety and convenience when moving around at night, and can also enhance the street scene if used architecturally to illuminate buildings, and especially public buildings like the Church and inns. Increasingly, it is also used to create a greater sense of property security. The disadvantages are that it can be wasteful of energy, a nuisance if illuminating people's bedrooms, disturbing for nocturnal wildlife reliant on darkness, irritating in obscuring night skies, and distracting and often dazzling for passing motorists and pedestrians.

The Police also have mixed views on security lighting, suggesting that in some cases it merely provides assistance for those committing crime. At present there is no street lighting in the parish, and roadside lighting is generally regarded as improving safety for road users, and pedestrians and cyclists in particular. However, its introduction would alter the rural character of the village and whilst making life safer for non-motorists, especially where there are no pavements, there is a counter-argument that it tends to lead to vehicles being driven faster because of the improved visibility and illusion of reduced danger. >

Housing for older people



Findings from the village survey

61% of the respondents supported the concept of local accommodation for the elderly. Of the 108 households that completed a separate, more detailed, questionnaire 23 households expressed positive interest in moving into local sheltered accommodation at some point over the next ten years.

The way forward

A small working group has been established with the Parish Council to develop this proposal further. Discussions with Ashford Borough Council and Kent County Council have taken place with the view to agreeing an 'exception site' for such a



Background

Given the conflicting issues around lighting, and the expected differences of opinion over its effects, it is important to achieve the optimum balance of outdoor lighting for the village. It also needs to be borne in mind that providing street lighting is very expensive to install, and could only be done with the support of the County Council as Highway Authority. In the current climate of funding squeezes, it is unlikely that lighting throughout the village would be supported, unless there was a compelling case to do so on serious road safety grounds, such as repeated injuries or fatalities.

Nevertheless, there might be scope to provide some more localised lighting to improve safety and convenience in certain parts of the village, and especially in the centre where activities tend to be focused. However, it would need to be achieved in a way which does not cause a nuisance, unnecessary sky glow, or encourage people to unduly loiter and present a late night noise nuisance.

Findings from the Village Survey

Given the problems and the low likelihood of introducing whole scale street lighting for the village, the Questionnaire sought opinions on more lighting in the centre of the village, including around the Millennium Hall and around the Glebe. In each case, there was a majority opposing the provision, with 145 persons (51.6%) against extra Hall lighting and 182 persons (64.8%) against extra lighting at the Glebe (with an extra 13.1% in each case expressing no opinion or support). Under the circumstances, there is insufficient local support to warrant positive action on significantly installing more outdoor lighting, other than perhaps some more localised improvements in parts where there is a high proportion of elderly or infirm persons.

The way forward

The Parish Council should investigate some extra low level lighting, ie. bollard or bulkhead lights, to remedy any dark gaps in the existing partly illuminated pathways, with particular attention to the Elm Close vicinity to assist pedestrians and elderly residents.



Elsewhere in the village and parish, introducing lighting is not recommended for action, due to the significant lack of support.

Householders need to be reminded of the need to respect the wishes and needs of others, and to consider the effects on others with regard to over-intrusive lighting, other than temporary festive lighting at Christmas.

CAR PARKING

The parking of vehicles in and around the parish can cause problems from time to time, in terms of shortage of available space, dangerous obstructing of pavements and carriageways, visual intrusion in the Conservation Area, lack of space for those attending the church, the village shop and the Millennium Hall, and general nuisance for neighbouring residents from congestion. Whilst these are common problems experienced by all communities, and to a far greater extent in urban areas, the problems are only going to intensify with more cars coming onto the road every year.

Creating extra space for off-road parking was identified as potentially worth exploring, but the downside can often be that whenever road space is freed up by removing parked cars, other vehicles simply fill up the vacuum, especially if it is seen to be more convenient. There is also an argument that the visual clutter of parked cars in the heart of the village is worth tolerating, because it helps to slow down through traffic by acting as a natural traffic calming device, without unsightly engineering features. Moreover, since many of the houses in the village centre predate the car, many do not have off-street parking space and some provision has to be made for residents' vehicles to avoid these homes becoming unmarketable.

Background

The suggestion by some villagers that parking restrictions be introduced has not been included in the Plan as it would risk favouring one road user over another, ie residents as against visitors to the church, shop, inn or school and would necessitate the introduction of unsightly signs and road markings. Improved signage and direction to the Millennium Hall parking area would be more appropriate, and besides residents' cars are largely only present in any significant numbers during evenings and weekends, when the shop is largely closed. In practice, serious congestion only occurs on an occasional basis, and typically when popular events coincide, such as weddings or funerals at the church at the same time as events at the Hall and/or peak school dropping-off/collecting time.

On a day to day basis, the car parks serving the Millennium Hall cope well with a wide range of parking needs, and are only fully occupied when there are well attended events taking place, such as weekend (non-village) wedding parties and some regular weekday group meetings. Congestion on some Wednesday afternoons is reported, but that is only once a month and is successfully dealt with by a volunteer car park marshal ensuring efficient use of the space. However, the lack of space marking in the car park can lead to poor use of the available space, especially by private parties using the Hall.

Findings from the Village Survey

In view of the need to maintain on-street parking in the village centre as a facility for all, opinions were sought on the need for more parking generally and the scope for extending or marking out the Millennium Hall car park. There was general support for improved directional signage to the car parks (164 persons (58.4%)), and marking out of the car parks for more effective use (168 persons (59.8%)), but only limited support for additional parking capacity (105 persons (37.4%)), for another site for additional car parking (67 persons (23.8%)) or for an extension of the Hall car park (93 persons (33%)). Under the circumstances, there is insufficient local support to warrant a new village car park, or

to extend the existing car parks, but there may be scope to improve the use and efficiency of the Hall car park by extra directional signage and possibly the marking out of spaces.

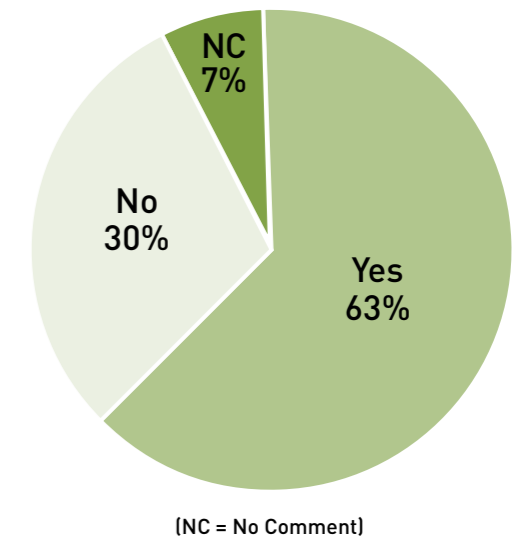
The way forward

The Parish Council should explore the possibility of providing some additional or more effective signage indicating the availability and location of the village car parks, to reduce indiscriminate parking and congestion in the village centre, for the benefit of both residents and visitors to the shop, church, pub, etc.

The Parish Council should also explore the scope for some marking out of either the parking spaces, or aisles between them, in the Hall car park, to optimise its use during times of intensive use.

The search for a new parking area and the extension of the Millennium Hall car park are not recommended for action, due to the significant lack of support for such initiatives, but this item may need to be revisited at some future date if congestion becomes intolerable.

More speed limit markings



SPEEDING AND CONDITION OF ROADS

Speeding is frequently encountered, but with rare enforcement of sanctions. 63% of respondents to the final questionnaire recommended better road marking to emphasize speed limits, though other methods of traffic calming, including speed >

cameras, were rejected by a majority of respondents. There were comments in favour of extending the speed limit to Green Hill and to Mundy Bois Road.

Condition of Roads. Potholes were most frequently mentioned by respondents, though the general road surface in certain places also attracted attention. Just under 62% of respondents felt that not enough was done to compel the local authority to repair potholes quickly, sufficiently, or at all. A few people were unclear as to how pothole problems should be reported. The overall problem is exacerbated by the fact that many ruts are often not, strictly speaking, in the highway; they are in the verges, and, depending on the precise circumstances, might be classified as under private ownership and outside local authority control. The questionnaire response highlighted Forstal Road, and its continuation as Bedlam Lane, as the worst road surface, although Crockenhill Road, New Road and the lower part of Rock Hill Road were also noted.

The way forward

- The Parish Council should continue to do all it can to alert the Kent Highways Authority (KHA) to defective road surfaces, and should follow this up when necessary. Residents should also be encouraged to report directly to KHA by phone or online.
- The Parish Council should put pressure on KHA to introduce road marking of speed limits.
- The Parish Council should also encourage KHA to have speed limit zones extended for certain roads.
- All drivers, local and visiting, should be actively encouraged to adhere to speed limits.
- The Parish Council should continue to apply all possible pressure on the appropriate authorities to reduce environmental pollution, for example traffic noise from the M20.

FOOTPATHS

Footpaths are legal rights of way, and therefore any act designed to prevent or discourage their use is in principle subject to a civil or criminal penalty in the Courts. For those who cannot, or choose not to, drive a motor vehicle, footpaths

are sometimes little short of essential; for example, within Egerton parish Link Hill, Burnt Mill and Egerton House are all some two miles by road from the village centre but less distant by path or track.

Another important function of footpaths is to give an opportunity for recreational exercise; this is true for everyone, and not just for those wishing, or needing, to exercise a dog or horse. Walking, and running, groups have become a part of village life.

Attention must therefore turn to what prevents, or at least discourages, the use of the legal right, or diminishes the pleasure attached to making use of it. It is of considerable concern that, in the final questionnaire, over 20% of respondents stated that they had experienced difficulty of one kind or another in making use of footpaths.

The chief problems appear to be:

- **obstruction** eg a fallen tree. The Parish Council is already actively involved in resolving issues such as these as quickly as possible, once reported, through the Footpaths Warden, and thereafter as needed to KCC;
- **defective stiles** are less of a problem now than in the past, as many have been replaced by kissing gates. However, some stiles remain and can present potential danger to walkers when slippery, broken or loosened by wet weather;
- **missing or vandalised signposts**, linked to **aggressive landowners**, present a social rather than an environmental issue. Responsible walkers, who do no deliberate or careless damage to land, property, plants or livestock, should report incidents to the Parish Council via the Footpaths Warden or, in extreme cases, to the Police;
- **flooding or mud** is only a serious issue occasionally and for those located in the lower lying areas of the village.

The way forward

Footpath walkers should be encouraged to continue reporting problems to the Parish Council, who should continue to support the work of the Footpath Warden.

TRANSPORT

One issue which emerged from the first survey, and was noted again by some residents (see below) in the final survey, was the lack of an adequate bus service for village residents of all ages, whether for leisure activities or for travel to and from work. *‘The public transport facilities are so bad that this will make us have to move’* and *‘It is vital to have a regular transport scheme as there is no other way to reach a local GP’* were two specific comments.

Data from Action with Communities in Rural England, Egerton Parish Profile, dating from 2011-13, concludes that all distances and travel time by public transport to public services is significantly above Kent and England averages. For example:

- **hospital** - 66 minutes as compared with Kent average of 32 minutes
- **supermarket** - 28 minutes as compared with Kent average of 9 minutes
- **Job Centre** - 15.2 km as compared with England average of 0.3km
- **Secondary School** - 8.5 km as compared with England average of 1.1km
- **GP** - 6.2km as compared with 1.2km

Bus companies are subsidised by KCC (who in turn receive dedicated Government funding) to run what would otherwise be uneconomic, but essential routes. The service to Egerton is one of these. A previous attempt to run an extended Bus 123 service to Headcorn failed after a short-term pilot scheme, through lack of demand. There may be some scope, subject to Department for Transport criteria, for not-for-profit community transport schemes, such as Wealden Wheels, to run a form of scheduled service where there is a justifiable need, although it is understood that the regulation on issuing permits to run a bus service are complex.

The way forward

Egerton Parish Council should revive its earlier proposals to KCC and Wealden Wheels to enable the setting up of an additional bus service that meets local needs such as journeys to and from hospitals, doctors and nearby train stations.



EGERTON

Village



Village Facilities



LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT OF VILLAGE FACILITIES

Over half of those responding to the final questionnaire were in favour of an integrated approach to the long-term development of village services. Whilst retaining the current devolved management structure for existing services and facilities, the Parish Council should consider how to ensure that long term development priorities, identified in this plan, are achieved within agreed and achievable timescales.

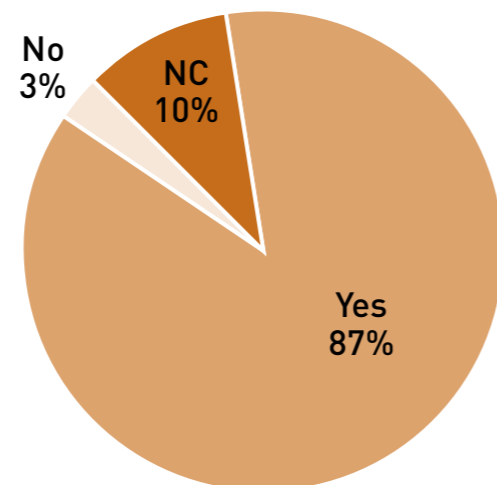
SUSTAINING EGERTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

87% of all respondents felt it was essential for the wellbeing of the village to sustain Egerton's Church of England Primary School. The school is at the heart of village life, with its connections with the church and the wider community. It is a 'good' school with dedicated teaching staff and governors, attracting around 200 pupils, a great many from outside the parish. Sustaining the primary school was the highest positive response out of all the questions in the second survey.

RELOCATION OF EGERTON PRE-SCHOOL

One practical way to sustain the primary school would be to relocate the Pre-school close to, or within, the school. The results of the final questionnaire showed that over 71% of respondents were in favour of finding a dedicated space, and over 67% were in favour of relocation to a new building. Relocation would secure the future of the Pre-school, enabling it to operate all day by

Sustaining Primary School

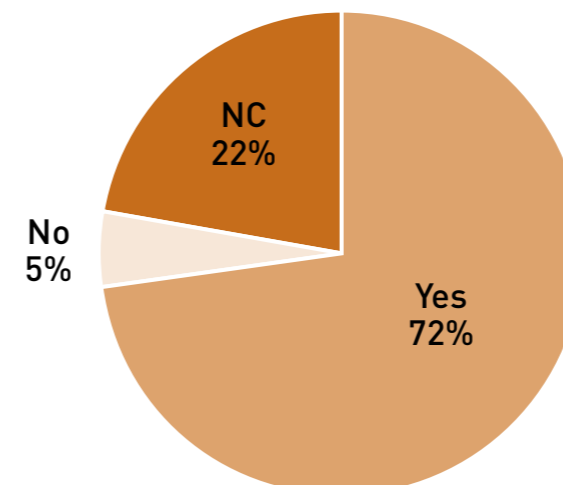


(NC = No Comment)

providing additional sessions in the afternoon, which it is unable to do at the Millennium Hall. The Parish Council has, for some time, been looking for a permanent, purpose-built location for Egerton Pre-school, ideally as part of the Primary School.

As one of the highest priorities for a large majority of village residents, the Parish Council has already taken the project forward and the school governors have now agreed in principle that the Pre-school should be housed at the school if at all possible, as it was felt that this would also help secure the future of the school. Initially it was thought that the Pre-school might be accommodated within the existing school building but this proved to be impractical and the necessary alterations and extension too expensive.

Dedicated Pre-school space



(NC = No Comment)

The way forward

Planning permission is now being sought, and a planning application has been submitted to Kent County Council by the school governors, for a separate building to be erected on the school site. The Parish Council has obtained initial grants from the County and Borough Councils which, together with other fundraising, have enabled the project to move forward. However, a major fundraising exercise will have to be undertaken to pay for the new building and the other costs associated with the move.

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE MILLENNIUM HALL

The Millennium Hall has proved a great asset to the village, both for its aesthetic qualities and position and for the range of uses it has enabled.

Alongside the enlargement of the very successful Tele-cottage annexe, additional requirements for village use have been identified - for example, secure archival storage for village records; additional storage for chairs and tables and village clubs' equipment; 'green room' or changing rooms for the Players, the Music Club and Festival, sports and fitness clubs. Structural changes and additions to the present building would be needed to meet any or all of these requirements and to provide medium to long term solutions.

The Hall is now 16 years old and the cost of maintenance and replacement is increasing, and will continue to do so. If facilities and access could be improved, additional fees from external, commercial hire would help to offset this cost and would provide at least some of the additional requirements for village use in the future.

Some 10 years ago, and in response to the possibility of a major grant, plans were drawn up by the Hall architects for an extension on the current Pre-school play area, with a second storey above, and for another extension, with a toilet and small kitchen facility, behind the stage. Although the grant funding was not forthcoming, these plans gave the Parish Council an indication of the possibilities for further development of the Hall, following the successful completion of the Tele-cottage. >

Four options for development were considered and costed in outline by the Parish Plan Committee:

- **No development.** Although no major investment would be required, this option is not cost-neutral. As the building ages, there will be increased costs for repair which the current level of village and external hire charges will not meet. Steps will therefore have to be taken to increase income by approximately 50% over the next 5 years (ie c.£10,000 pa), if the condition of the Hall is to be maintained. An increase in earned income of this level is not achievable without a major adjustment to the present pattern of use; and even then might need additional subventions/grants.
- **Small scale development** to construct an extra flat-roofed room in the current Pre-school play area, to modify the committee room and doctor's room, to open up a door into the entrance hall from the kitchen and to modify the chair store and current Pre-School storage. This would allow more than one village activity to take place in the hall at the same time, would improve village social functions and would also allow day-time commercial hire. The foundations, joists, etc should be sufficient to support an additional storey at some future date. Renewable energy sources should be specified. More accurate costings are still needed to validate an estimate of £5,000 for modifications to the committee room and doctor's room, and £97,500 for the construction of a 6.5 x 7.5m extension (calculated at a cost of £2000 per sq m, including most fittings and finishings). **£103,500**
- **Medium scale development** – as above but with a second storey archive/meeting room above and modifications and up-grading of the kitchen. This would allow improvements as above but would also allow important historical material about the village to be stored and accessed safely. It would add a further £50,000+ to the costs, giving a total of **£150-175,000**.



- **Large scale development** - as above but with additional room/s constructed at the back of the stage as a 'green room'/changing rooms, etc. This would achieve all the previous benefits and would also make theatrical and musical events much more feasible (whether village or commercial hire) and would still further improve storage, etc. The additional 'green room' of 11.5 x 4m would add a further £92,000. **£250,000**

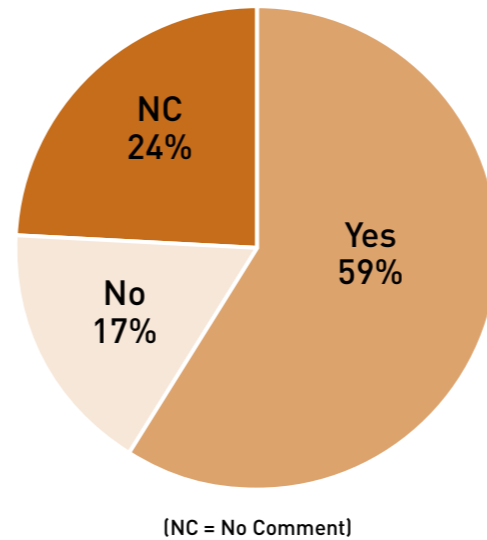
Findings from the village survey/s

Responses to the first questionnaire and at the open forum and youth meeting were as follows:

- Some general support for a youth/social/drop in type centre, though limited numbers of youngsters in the village to give regular support;
- Village archive was mentioned as important by several respondents in the first questionnaire and at the forum; as were improved space for social, cultural and indoor sports and fitness facilities;
- The Millennium Hall was specifically mentioned by 6 people as being a very positive asset for the village; and 15 people were positive about clubs and social events/ activities; 5 people at the forum wanted to see a village hall extension.
- Responses to the final questionnaire indicated 152 (59%) of respondents were in favour of small scale development; 98 (35%) were in favour of a medium scale development while only 68 (24.2%) were in favour of the large scale development.

Most respondents selected one of the three options, although a small number selected all three. The results therefore indicate an overall positive response to the need for improvement but serious concern over the cost and disruption of a large scale development.

Small scale Hall development



The way forward

The positive response to a small to medium scale development, combined with an alternative location for the Pre-school, would allow a significant increase in commercial day time use (to avoid the concerns of late night noise raised by residents of Elm Close), as well as the provision of additional space and facilities for village activities.

The Parish Council should therefore facilitate the setting up of an individual or small group to work with the current Hall Management Committee to draw up a specification as a priority, after which an appropriate architect should be commissioned to review current designs and costings and to present revisions to both. Ideally the same group, with the support of the Parish Council, would then develop the fundraising strategy.

Approximately £20,000 has already been raised for further Hall development. This should be used to develop the detailed plans and costings and to provide the basis for a fundraising programme.

IMPROVED FACILITIES IN THE CHURCH

Over 60% of respondents to the final questionnaire were in favour of improved facilities in St. James' Church.

The way forward

A plan has now been drawn up by representatives of the Friends of St James' and the Parochial Church Council (PCC) with the aims of:

- creating access to the church that takes into account the difficulties inherent in a Grade 1 listed building, while seeking to provide better accessibility and facilities for disabled people;
- creating a flexible worship space for the development of the Family Service and other informal services. One option would be to clear the pews and the pew platform from the north aisle and introduce flexible seating on that side;
- creating a space that is welcoming and hospitable for both religious and secular activities. One option is the introduction of a toilet and wash facility.



The church would thus become a welcoming area for many village activities, for example:

- gatherings after baptisms, funerals and weddings
- meeting place for social groups or committee meetings
- midweek service for parents and toddlers
- concerts
- school activities
- fundraising events

The cost of development will be significant, but the PCC and Friends of St James' hope to emulate Egerton's successful fund-raising efforts on other village projects.

IMPROVED SPORTS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

The Parish Council should encourage and help initiatives which promote healthy lifestyles through physical and mental activity within the village. Activities could be individual or group, in- or outdoors. Secondary objectives would be to promote use of existing facilities and new activities as appropriate.

Background

The current approach is very community-based. The Recreation Ground includes the Millennium Hall, Games Barn and Sports Pavilion. The communal recreation field comprises a cricket field (there is also an all weather training net) and a football pitch, both of which are used for organised games, coaching etc., and surrounding



play/walking areas. A children's playground, caters for the under-11 age group and a skateboard park for those a bit older. Walkers use recreational areas, public roads and footpaths.

When the weather is fine there are regular cricket matches and coaching of juniors (summer) and football matches (winter). The children's playground is well used and the skateboard park is used quite frequently. There is a fair amount of walking (structured and informal including dog-walking), running, circuit training, cycling, keep-fit and non-physical activity. The Millennium Hall is used for a wide range of activities, including ballet, yoga, table tennis, keep fit, quizzes, amateur theatricals, Film Society, concerts, club meetings, social events and private parties. The Games Barn is, or has been, used for numerous sports and leisure activities including indoor bowls, badminton, pilates etc.

The Sports Pavilion provides changing facilities for organised sports and is also used for other recreational and social activities, including meetings of committees and other small groups such as the Community First Responders.

Other factors affecting future plans

The village has a strong track record in designing, facilitating and managing community-based activities. This is founded on a sense of community and ownership for all. Group activities currently available in the village tend to be organised by older members of the community with experience and time. However, it is important that younger members of the community are, and are seen to be, included/involved.

Current organisation of sport and recreation in Egerton is mainly ad hoc and dependent on groups of interested people and, in some cases, individuals. The most important single body is the Egerton Playing Fields Committee (EPFC), which is constituted as a trust by Egerton Parish Council to lease, operate and manage the two sports fields and Sports Pavilion facilities for recreational games or activities for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish. The Committee is responsible for both day-to-day operations and funding, and longer term planning.

Findings from the village survey/s

The support for the long-term development of village facilities (51.2%) and the Games Barn (47.3%) are strong, given that they were completed by those who 'use them on a regular basis', and have implications for the way these facilities are implemented (integration) and improved (Games Barn upgrading).

There was weaker support for facilities which particularly target the needs of younger people. However, because a minority of responding households have young people in them, whereas the survey was completed by older people (who might be less aware of young peoples' needs), it is argued that the responses under-represent the needs of younger people in the community.

There was a strong response on Recreation and Education, broadly comparable with the other major issues on show at the village forum. This included a wish for more sports/fitness facilities, both outdoor and indoor, and a number of specific suggestions, in particular for tennis courts.

A Youth Meeting was held to assess the interest of young people in village facilities, attended by 12 – 17 year-old youngsters (15) and a few adults. Feedback included support for: activities targeted towards young people (clubs, events); participation in existing (adult-run) clubs; a public tennis court; the skateboard park (requires some improvement) and better public transport to livelier centres.

The way forward

The greatest interest and focus is on activities likely to be most successful in promoting participation in healthy activities. Encouragement should be given to those disposed to change (progress may help to encourage those less disposed to change).

It is recognised that this will be a long-term initiative and comprise a mix of:

- increasing awareness of what is already available (short term; 0 – 3 years);
- identifying and developing new initiatives (medium term; 3 – 6 years); and
- identifying and developing new infrastructure (medium + long-term mix; 6+ years)



To achieve this, and in response to the positive questionnaire response to an integrated management approach, the Parish Council should seek from the Egerton Playing Fields Association (who lease the playing fields from the Parish Council) and other sports clubs and groups a commitment to identify a single group (either existing or new) whose aim would be to:

- identify the activities to be promoted, including collection of existing activity levels and their potential assessed to contribute to improved health levels
- establish what can be learnt from other villages in deciding how we might become more active
- promote better usage of existing initiatives and facilities
- identify new activities to be used within existing buildings, e.g. broadening table tennis and re-instating an annual tennis tournament.
- identify new facilities, e.g. tennis court/s

UPGRADING OF THE GAMES BARN

With almost 50% of respondents to the final questionnaire in favour of improvement to the Games Barn, this should be a medium level priority for the Parish Council. An upgrade should help to make optimum and most appropriate use of the Games Barn, the Millennium Hall and the Sports Pavilion.



Village Services

BROADBAND AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mobile phones. The current coverage is poor with few residents able to get good reception in their houses and proper 3G communication. 4G services are available in Ashford but extension to Egerton seems unlikely in the near future.

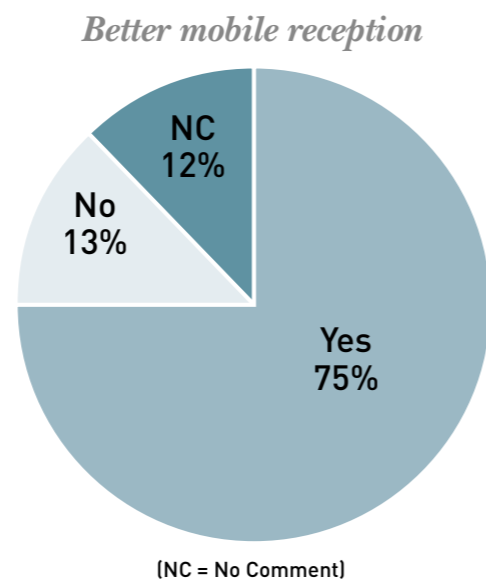
Broadband speeds are increasingly important to the everyday existence of people of all ages. Many residents working from home will be dependent on high speed broadband for the success of their businesses; internet access is an essential tool for the young, both for education and for social/recreational activities, and the latest developments rely on good transmission speeds; and virtually all village residents will be using the internet as part of everyday activity. The ACRE parish profile for Egerton (details in Appendix 3) indicate that in 2013 10.9% of economically active Egerton residents work from home, already three times greater than the England average of 3.5%.

Background

Landlines reach all homes served either by the exchange in the Forstal or in Pluckley. The local exchanges are BT controlled and offer an up to 8MB service for broadband, although many parts of the village rarely if ever reach this level. In effect, this gives most of the village a service of around 2MB but there are still houses that cannot get better than dial up speeds.

Mobile connection within the village is poor. Coupled with traditional/ stone houses and the big range in height from sea level, additional transmitters would be highly beneficial. With the nearest masts at the M20 motorway there are a number of no signal areas. This is of great concern to members of the Community First Responder (CFR) group, who require a consistent Vodafone signal to keep contact with their control. Some calls are currently lost as phones desperately search for a local mast that will give adequate reception.

TV Connection. The majority of houses are able to get Digital TV using an aerial mounted on the house, or an adjacent structure where listing prohibits this. For those for whom this is not possible, satellite-based reception is an alternative, subject to listed building consent where required.



Outcome of the village survey

75.4% of respondents wanted better reception on their mobile phones, and 73% were in favour of installation of a device to improve mobile phone reception (with only 12.5% against).

The way forward

Mobile phones. From the survey it is clear that this is of major importance for many villagers, whether for commercial or personal use, and for emergency communication in a rural area. The Parish Council should initiate action to help address the poor mobile signal either in consultation with the PCC for a transmitter on the church or at other suitable sites such as tall buildings or by the installation of a mast. Previous objections based on suspected medical harm to those living nearby can reasonably be discounted, as no respected research shows evidence of any significant damage. Electro-magnetic radiation levels received from transmitter masts are significantly lower than those from use of personal handsets and are of the same order as Wi-Fi and electrical circuitry that features in most homes.

A transmitter in the church tower would be completely hidden from sight and funds raised from rental would help fund maintenance. Transmitters are easily hidden now. The best place for any transmitter is as high as possible with good line of sight. The PCC has now indicated that it would be willing to play its part in assisting with this project.

Broadband. The Government, Kent County Council and BT have agreed to a process of upgrading local exchanges to a fibre optic link offering speeds up to 20MB. The first upgrade was planned for the first quarter of 2014 and addressed the TN27 postcode in Headcorn. A second group in late 2014 addressed Pluckley. As of February 2015 the Egerton exchange is still marked as coming soon, implying within the next 6 months. Full upgrade will not be complete until 2016 and, if this does not resolve the current problems, the Parish Council should then lobby for a further upgrade. This should give most of Egerton acceptable transmission speeds. For those houses still on slow connections satellite-based options could be considered, which use fast downloads from the satellite and use the phone lines only for uploading.

Additional schemes are available to set up local hotspots and beamed links for broadband. These, however, are significantly more expensive and need infrastructure (transmitters) to work. It is hoped that, with the proposed improvements, this should not be necessary. In the short term residents should register on the BT site expressing a desire for BT Infinity. The Parish Council should continue to monitor the quality of broadband, invite feedback from residents, and register any continuing deficiencies with the appropriate local and commercial organisations with the aim of boosting local broadband speeds. >

GROUP PURCHASING OF SERVICES

Purchasing almost any commodity or service as an individual is invariably more expensive than if we, as a community, can negotiate as a cooperating group, using pre-arranged efficient buying procedures with suppliers. Suppliers are more likely to compete with each other with lower prices and special offers for larger scale business than when dealing with just one service to a single person.

It is possible to reduce the cost to residents of services and commodities such as heating oil, liquid gas, electricity, telephone, broadband and TV, by group and bulk purchasing in Egerton. That can be done in two ways, as a cooperating group of residents, or as an individual. As a group, the opportunity is to purchase single commodities in bulk such as fuel oil, electricity, gas and coal at cheaper prices than those available to individuals. As individuals, we can purchase a package of services, such as TV, broadband, telephone (home and mobile), electrical power and gas.

Background

Considerable interest has been shown by residents in forming cooperative groups to economically purchase various services, particularly fuel oil and electricity. Some residents already purchase a “package” of services as individuals. These are established practices in the UK. Discussion with some residents indicated that although they were

often aware of this type of purchasing activity, particularly for fuel oil and TV/Broadband provision, they were not sure how to go about setting up the process. Whilst group purchasing arrangements are available for fuel oil in particular, it would be useful for residents to learn of the options available for other commodities, and the best way to go about purchasing them. Hence it may be desirable to provide information and guidelines for Egerton residents and even negotiate contracts on behalf of the whole village.

Findings from the Village Survey

People’s concerns revolve around exactly how Group Purchasing would be set up and they require a better understanding of what is involved. Respondents that “commit” to supporting these initiatives need more information and guidance, before they are likely to actually sign up to any agreements. Organisation and understanding of any arrangements are vital. A proportion of villagers are already part of a group or syndicate for heating oil supply, but there is a substantial and keen group who are not.

Respondents also emphasized that affordability should not be confused with straightforward cost savings. Some concerns were expressed that this exercise might be an advertisement for particular services or commodities, but these concerns are unfounded as there is no recommendation to residents to adopt any commercial proposals.

Of the 281 people that responded, 60% (169) would take part in a bulk Electricity supply group arrangement providing there were financial and/or service benefits.

Similarly, a Mains Gas group arrangement is supported by 39% (110) of the 259 respondents. For Fuel Oil, 31% (88) of the 254 respondents to the question want to be part of a purchasing group. Many others are already part of a group or have alternative heating arrangements.

Although more information was requested, commitment was made by 50% of the 263 respondents to forming a group of residents purchasing Communications (TV +Telephone +Broadband).

A similar proportion of 48% (134) would, either as a group or individually, support the establishment of a purchasing group and/or an authoritative negotiating guide for the supply of a utilities Package of any of the above commodities and services.

The results indicate that there is enough demand to justify the Parish Council promoting the idea that volunteer residents get together to produce a guide to the services and benefits on offer to Egerton residents from suppliers.

The way forward

Clearly the Parish Council is not able to negotiate commercial deals on behalf of residents. However, the Parish Council should consider the following actions:

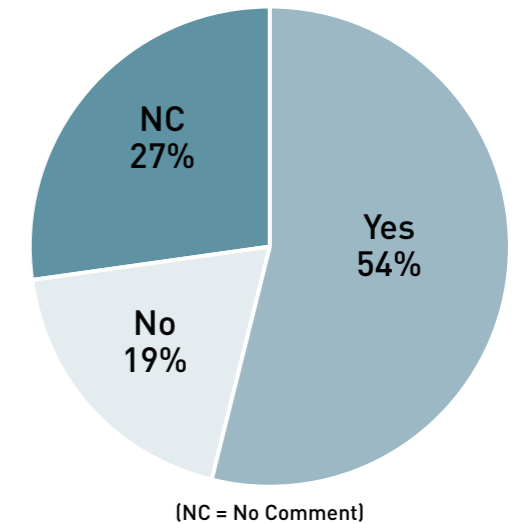
- a) Facilitating presentations by suppliers of Gas, Electricity, Heating Oil, Communications (TV/ Telephone/Broadband) to better inform residents on Group Purchasing benefits the suppliers can offer;
- b) Facilitating the setting up of a group of interested volunteers to produce a printed Guide for residents, telling them how to go about joining together in purchasing groups, including supplier lists, existing group contacts, the processes to follow and the potential benefits;
- c) Whilst avoiding commercial involvement, offering itself as an initial contact on behalf of residents, for supplier(s) of beneficial services, pending the setting up of a collective group.

SEWERAGE PROVISION

Background

Sewage disposal usually has low interest and does not have a high profile - until it fails - but for many years, sewage disposal has been troublesome for some properties in Egerton. Additional housing is thought to have aggravated the current capacity situation. At various times the system has been modified and upgraded but it would seem that minimal work has been done to alleviate an immediate problem, with little regard for long term reliability and the expanding needs of the village.

More/better mains drainage

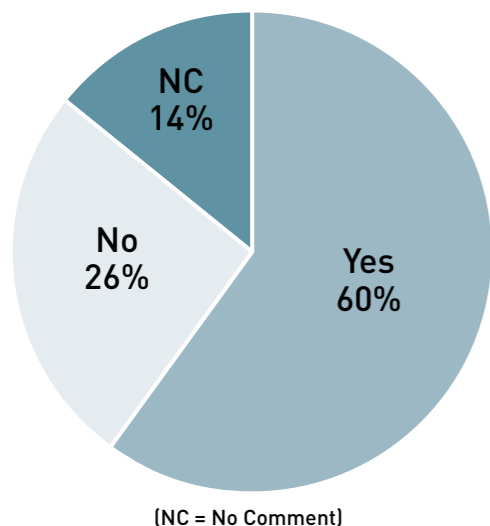


There is a need to investigate the case for improved provision of sewage disposal services for the residents of Egerton (see overleaf). In particular, low-lying areas such as Egerton Forstal have long suffered from pumping station failure and consequent sewage back-up. The extreme unpleasantness and health risk of a less than perfect disposal system has a dramatic negative effect on the quality of everyday life for those affected. It has seemed impossible for lone households to get any satisfaction from service providers when systems have failed.

Findings from the Village Survey

Over 53% of the 282 respondents in Egerton are served by a main sewerage system. 46% of households are not on the mains, mostly using their own installed processing systems, such as septic tanks, cess pits or bio-digesters such as Klargesters. A minority of respondents have experienced blockages (12.1%), pollution (7.8%) and unpleasant odours (15%) although not all of these are attributable to the “mains” sewerage network, the balance being old private systems which may well be poorly maintained. The majority of those connected to the main sewerage network have very few problems - those that do find the consequences very serious indeed. For a minority of residents the inadequacies of the sewerage system are verging on the intolerable, whilst for many others a mains connection is not available to them. >

Group purchasing (electricity)



For some, the sewerage system appears to be at its operational limit, with inadequate capacity or reliability and with no scope to cater for more connections/new users.

There is a particular problem with sewage and flooding in Egerton Forstal, which suggests that major improvement work needs to be carried out before any more housing is built in the village, since the system seems unable to cope even with the existing houses.

What is now required is a comprehensive review of all sewage disposal within the Egerton village area to enable the most effective long-term solution to be identified and implemented. No less than 53%(150) of the 249 respondents support the upgrading and expansion of the mains sewerage system.

Way forward

Taking up this problem on behalf of Egerton residents has been, and should continue to be, a priority for the Parish Council. The strength of the affected residents' current concern with the sewerage problems in Egerton Forstal indicates a pressing need for the Parish Council to make

further approaches to Southern Water, the Environment Agency and Ashford Borough Council (which has public health responsibilities) to deliver an acceptable solution not only for the villagers adversely affected but also for the village as a whole.

The Parish Council should apply to Southern Water for a map detailing the existing sewerage network (cost at February 2015, £48.00).

Southern Water should be asked to survey the complete existing mains sewerage system and identify those parts that are fit for purpose and those parts that are not, and to produce a project plan to up-grade those elements of the system that are found deficient or below an acceptable standard.

At the same time Southern Water and other appropriate bodies should assess the scope for extending the existing network where practicable to areas/households that need and wish to connect to it.

The financial justification and sources of funds for the various options outlined above need to be investigated and a draft financing plan produced by a group of existing residents, with the support of the Parish Council.

Appendices

Appendix 1

MEMBERS OF THE PARISH PLAN COMMITTEE

Chris Burgess (Chairman)
Lois Tilden, Chris Stevens, Jane Carr (Secretaries)
Jerry Crossley
Sarah Elworthy
Elaine Graham
Timothy Harman
Tessa Hilde
Malcolm Iles
Richard King
John Lawton
Peter Rawlinson
Alison Richey
Gary Robinson
Robert Walker
Richard Wall

Appendix 2

SURVEY/CONSULTATION RESULTS

Summary results of the first survey

(in which village residents were invited to identify what they like and dislike about the village from a list of options identified by the Committee, to which they were invited to add others that they considered to be important)

LIKES RESULTS

Description	No of Times Mentioned
Community	65
Village Location - Rural	22
Peaceful	15
Clubs - Social Activities / Events	15
Environment & Appearance	11
Shop & Post Office	9
Countryside	7
Village Hall	6
School	4
Church	3
Pub	3
Garage	3
Enthusiasm & Energy of villagers	2
Generally good facilities	2
Games barn	2

Building appearance	2
Everything	2
New Housing in Chantler Meadow	1
Facilities for children	1
Chapel	1
Farmers market	1
Freedom	1
Solitude	1
Volunteering	1
Village design statement	1
Village Businesses	1
Village atmosphere	1
Village amenities	1
Low Crime Rate	1
Sports field	1
Lack of Street Lighting	1
Planning application review	1
Owners caring for their property	1
No through traffic	1
Wealdon Wheels	1
Neighbours	1
Library bus	1
Unique village	1

DISLIKES RESULTS

Description	No of Times Mentioned
State of roads	10
Poor Broadband	6
Speeding	6
Public Transport Generally & to local Services (Doctor)	5
School Traffic & Parking	5
Recycling plastic and cardboard	4
Poor Mobile Phone Signal	4
Noise Pollution - Road & Air	4
Too many road signs & Markings	4
Lorries	4
Travellers Sites	3
Dog Fouling	3
Lack of parking on The Street	3
Appearance	2
Light Pollution	2
Lack of commitment by villagers to utilise village services	1



DISLIKES RESULTS (continued)

Description	No of Times Mentioned
Muck spreading - excessive	1
Mobile Homes on Green Belt Land	1
Not enough older property	1
Newcomers complaining	1
Lack of mains gas supply	1
Not enough people use village shop	1
Lack of employment opportunities	1
Paved over grass	1
Lack of allotments	1
Lack of activities suitable for young adults	1
Fly Tipping	1
Elderly not considered to be a priority for their safety	1
Disappearing hedgerows	1
Community	1
Ashford Planning Department	1
Ashford BC not acting on Village concerns	1
Lack of mains drainage	1
Residents Personal Mail Delivery Arrangements	1
Village house design planning consideration	1
Village Hall Traffic & Parking - Access via Elm Close	1
Village Hall Parking	1
Village children not guaranteed school place	1
Urbanisation of the village	1
Too many stiles on footpaths	1
The weather	1
Shop not open long enough	1
Shop doesn't sell newspapers	1
Others moaning about school parent parking	1
Road to Charing Heath	1
Not sufficient free Bridle Paths	1
Private swimming pools	1
Poor refuse collection	1
Poor maintenance of hedges and verges (beyond village centre)	1
Planning Restrictions	1
Planned extension of village hall	1
Village risks becoming the preserve of middle classes - housing costs	1
Parish Questionnaires	1
Nothing for the kids to do	1
Not sufficient properties for older residents	1
Same people organising events	1

ANY OTHER TOPIC RESULTS

Other Topic	No of Times Mentioned
Travellers	4
Private Housing for Old People	3
Speeding	3
Speed restriction enforcement	3
Dog Fouling	2
Light Pollution	2
Noise Pollution	2
Powers of local PC	2
Public Transport	2
Village Boundaries	2
Air Quality	1
Availability of newspapers	1
Clubs and societies	1
Consideration for the Village Design statement	1
Control of light aircraft	1
Village swimming pool	1
Drop in centre	1
Flower, Fruit & Veg shows	1
Free Bridleways	1
Lack of Long Term or Born here residents on committees	1
Public toilets	1
Village Archive	1
Sites not for development	1
Pathways	1
Telecottages	1
Access to Village Hall via Elm Close	1
Specialist bungalows for the infirm	1
Village tennis court	1
Relationship between Ashford Planning and Parish Council	1
Repeat prescription delivery service - Lea Valley medical practice	1
Road surface water drainage	1
Self Build opportunities	1
Shared social assets (e.g. Marquee)	1
Sites for development	1
Localism	1

Youth Meeting Summary

FRIDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2012

The meeting was pleasingly well attended with 15 youngsters between the ages of 12 and 17yrs old.

After informal small group chats and refreshment, we had a whole group discussion.

The following topics were discussed:

- Lack of bus transport at weekends, particularly to Ashford(1) and Maidstone(2)
- Discussed access to Charing as would then be able to catch bus or train
- School friends did not live in Egerton and wanted to be able to meet up at weekends. This was a popular subject with comments from most participants

More bridlepaths

This comment from a keen horse rider, who felt restricted to bridleway to Pluckley or having to pay £80 to belong to TROT.

Footpaths

Comment on overgrown footpaths by horserider.

Skate Park

Three or four comments on the lack of grip on the skate park surface, particularly supported by the boys. They would prefer a wooden surface, though a more practical option may be a rubber surface that could be attached to the current equipment.

Tennis Court

This was generally supported and some later discussion on a versatile all-weather area that could be multifunctional was mooted

Youth club

Some general support for a youth/ social/drop in type centre, though acknowledged limited numbers of youngsters in the village to give regular support.

Some youngsters congregate at the skate park, but in general not much enthusiasm for some form of outdoor shelter/ congregation point when suggested by an adult.

Village Clubs

Discussion on large number of clubs and activities in village that youngsters could join (this was raised by an adult). Some youngsters aware of these activities but felt uncomfortable/not sure of welcome to join in with older people. Also (although not exclusively) often wanted something for their own age group.

Reasons for attending

Most people had been encouraged to attend by their parents. They had also heard of it from the egertonteens Facebook page kindly set up by Louis Robinson. They generally felt this was a good way of communicating with each other that they could organise themselves. Louis is going to continue to manage this page and youngsters can register with him through Facebook.

Discussions on organising a couple of teen events a year eg BBQ like this evening received some mild enthusiasm.

Forum Reports

ENVIRONMENT, HIGHWAYS AND UTILITIES

Responses 123 ticks on sheet, 54 written (included within the 123)

Potholes 17

Excessive speed around the village, traffic etc. 11 plus 4 traffic

Road signage 15. More speed limits, less signs better placed.

Road surfaces, drainage etc. 6

Parking especially school 6

Recycling 5

Waste disposal, fly tipping 10

Trees, ponds, hedges, etc. 9

Church, Garage, Shop, pub 15

Newspapers 3

Noise and light pollution 6

New facilities

Village hall extension	5
Village tennis court	1
Play group premises	1
Doctors, dentists others	2

As can be seen the vast amount of conversations concern traffic in some form or guise with little marked on some topics. For the main this was due to happiness with the current status, especially with garage, shop, etc. There is obviously scope for the supply of better information more effectively as things such as newspaper delivery are now catered for (Jackies News).

HOUSING, PLANNING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Housing & Planning

We had 130 comments which included the following:

Comment	YES	NO
Council & Housing association (local needs)	12	
**Older Peoples Sheltered Housing (private or local authority)	49	
Private Housing	11	
Any new development including extensions & annexes	1	4
Building type, design & location including farm building & business	3	1
**Private housing for Older people	15	1
Relationship between Ashford Planning and Parish Council	1	
Self Builders	4	
Travellers		3
Consideration for the Village Design Statement	3	
Specialist Bungalows for the infirm	1	
Sites for development	2	
**Starter Homes	19	

Communications

We had 145 comments including the following:

Comment	YES	NO
Control of light Aircraft	2	
**Telephone Masts	20	21
**Broadband	29	
Allotments	1	
Local People priority	2	
Website to improve	2	
Police – more activity needed	9	

Do you use the following?

Comment	YES	NO
Public Transport	6	1
Notice Boards	9	
Telecottage	17	
Local Press	12	
Neighbourhood Watch	14	

Other comments

To protect wildlife in the village.
 To set aside land for wind turbines etc; specify where development is NOT appropriate.
 Developing new housing will create greater market for local services, buses and businesses as well as providing greater range of skills and labour.
 Encourage list of people vulnerable to things like snow, mower cuts, elderly, infirm etc to identify local neighbours willing to be called to help in emergencies – not just national emergencies.

** Denotes priority

RECREATION AND EDUCATION

71 comments were received overall, with 22 written by attendees. Comments were positive rather than negative for the most part, with negative comments presented in the form of a wish for, or suggestions for, improvement.

Most of the comments could broadly be included in the specific issues that had already been identified from the questionnaire:

School – there were no comments directly relating to the school

Pre-school, after school/holiday care schemes – 3 for all of these, and 1 for extended hours for pre-school

Adult education – Flower arranging and Cricket coaching for all ages each had 1 for

Library service – 1 comment that it could be improved; another suggestion that the library should visit the school to encourage youngsters to enjoy reading for pleasure

Walking/dog walking/rambling/access to the countryside – 2 positive comments and 1 suggestion that this would be a way of introducing young people to the countryside

Playground – there were 4 comments on possible improvements including more fitness equipment, extending the age range, a climbing wall

Youth facilities – there were 2 comments that these needed to be both sports and social. 5 were for pop concerts and/or discos

Sports/fitness facilities – attracted the most comments, 40 in all, broken down as follows:

Tennis courts 16 for
(although there was 1 alternative proposal to set up a tennis club using existing privately owned courts)
 Outdoor sports/keep fit facilities (general) 3 for

Outdoor sports/fitness equipment 5 for
 Swimming pool 4 for
 Table tennis 4 for
 Improved indoor facilities 3 for
 Keep fit for the older generation 2 for
 Badminton 1 for
 Golf driving range 1 for
 Children’s football coaching 1 for

In addition, it was noted that the Games Barn leaks!

Parish land – there were 4 for allotments, with 1 suggestion that young people should be encouraged to learn from others who were more experienced, and 1 that there should be a community allotment for families or those who need assistance

In addition:

Theatre in the church 1 for
 Archive 3 for
(1 with the comment that it would need central organisation, 1 that postcard images and photographs could be digitized to allow wider access)



UTILITIES & ENERGY

Wind Power

Wind farms or turbines wanted No 9 Yes 2 Not sure 1

Solar Power

Solar Panels wanted No 1 Yes 6 Not sure 3

Sewerage

Sewage system for Egerton need improvement Yes 4

Electricity

Like the idea of a collective electricity contract Yes 4

Power cuts are a problem No 1 Yes 1

Alternative(Local) Fuels

We need to promote more wood burning and bulk buy Yes 3

We want a Bio-mass plant local sustainable fuel source Yes 3

Wood-chip burning Yes 1

Heating Oil

Group purchasing would be good Yes 9

Gas

Group purchasing should be negotiated Yes 4

More Gas Mains are needed Yes 5

Light Pollution

Light pollution reduction/energy saving should be encouraged Yes 1

Water

Need a much better water supply in specific village areas Yes 2

Geothermal

Air source is good No 2 Yes 2

UTILITIES & ENERGY

Detailed Issues Raised

Wind Power

Wind farms too noisy, not in my back yard!
 We need to look into a communal wind turbine and we need to publish more details about it.
 I like wind turbines.
 Don't like the cost structure of Wind Power.
 Not worth it.
 These are a waste of money.
 I hate wind power.
 I like wind farms.
 Don't like wind farms or turbines.
 Don't like wind power, it's ugly.
 They are noisy and not efficient. Can they look like "Old Windmills?"
 No to wind turbines x2.

Solar Power

Solar panels position limited by visual planning constraints where I am.
 Solar Panels should be put on the Millennium Hall and Games Barn.
 Solar Panels are good providing they are hidden.
 Can we bulk purchase Solar Panels.
 The deals are not so good now, not such a good return.
 Don't like Solar Panels visually.
 Little Chart are trying to get a field full of solar panels, it's a good idea.
 I like Solar x 2.
 Solar farm is good but no to panels.

Sewerage

Sewerage is a big problem in Egerton Forstal still, the system is too small to do the job properly.
 The main village sewerage system is too small and at its limits.
 We want an adequate and better sewage arrangement but not encourage more housing.

Electricity

Like the idea of a collective Electricity contract but not sure how you would go about it.
 Group purchasing would be good.
 Power cuts are not a big deal now like they were a few years ago.
 We still get a few power cuts.
 If we could negotiate a communal deal I would like it.
 Negotiate collectively for Electricity as fast as possible.

Alternative (Local) Fuels

We need to promote more wood burning and/or biomass as local sustainable fuel source.
 We should try buying wood in bulk.
 Wood is good but coal is bad.
 Communal bulk wood supply would be good.
 What about wood-chip burning, it works well in schools?
 We want a Bio-mass plant.
 Excrement should be used to generate power of some sort.

Heating Oil

A survey of oil needs and locations would be good for group purchasing.
 Group purchasing would be good.
 The Oil syndicate at Wittersham works well.
 Pluckley have a Purchasing Club and it works well.
 A community order to keep tanks half full would be good.
 Bulk supply is a good idea.
 We need to organise bulk deliveries again.
 Buy oil by the Community method.
 Negotiate collectively for Oil as fast as possible.
 Joint purchase please.

Gas

Group purchasing to get discounts (OVO give a good deal).
 I would like Mains gas.
 Mains gas is needed.
 We need a gas main to the Field Mill area.
 We want mains gas please.
 Buy gas by the Community method.
 We need a gas main to Mundy Bois.

Negotiate collectively for gas as fast as possible.
 Joint purchase please.

Light Pollution

Light pollution and energy saving should be combined. Encourage and publish benefits.

Water

Stevens Close needs much better water pressure, please do something.
 Village needs a better supply.

Geothermal

Air source works very well for hot water but not for heating, better than oil.
 There is investment help for environmentally friendly energy.
 Air source is expensive and inefficient, especially for my swimming pool
 Ground source is not worth the investment.



Final questionnaire

1. RESPONDENTS (ABOUT YOU)

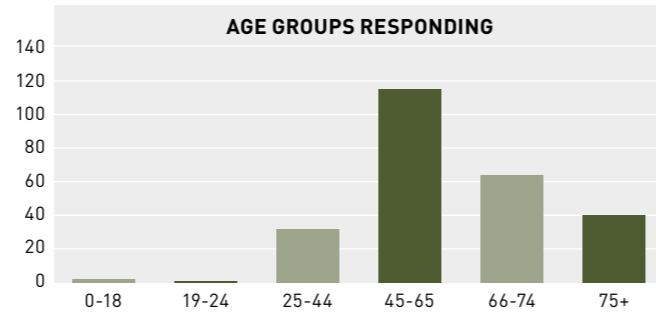
No. of people represented 533 (60.6%) 2013 888

No./Gender of respondents

Male	127	
Female	154	
Total	281 (61.9%)	454 h/holds

Age groups

0-18	2
19-24	1
25-44	34
45-65	121
66-74	68
75+	43



Occupation

Employed f/t	92	Other:	20
Employed p/t	35	Self-employed	14
Housewife	23	Semi-retired	1
Education f/t	1	Disabled	2
Unemployed	0	Company director	1
Retired	108	Voluntary	1

Ethnicity

White	271	Mixed	1
Black	1	Gypsy	1

2. POSITIVE RESPONSES (highest to lowest)

A. Issues with over 50% positive response	YES	NO	NC
Do you think it is essential that the primary school is sustained?	238 (87%)	8 (3%)	26 (10%)
Should the PC publish and use guidelines for any planning applications for single or multiple wind turbines, solar panel farms or for waster or biofuel works?	213 (75%)	39 (13.9%)	25 (12.5%)
Would you like better reception on your mobile phone?	212 (75.4%)	35 (12.5%)	34 (12.1%)
Renewable energy to be considered for village facilities	211 (75.1%)	22 (7.8%)	37 (13.1%)
Device to improve mobile phone reception	204 (73%)	35 (12.5%)	24 (8.5%)
Would you support a full day pre-school in a dedicated space?	200 (72%)	15 (5.3%)	61 (21.7%)
PC to publish guidelines for installation of solar panels on roofs	192 (68.3%)	49 (17.4%)	36 (12.8%)
Relocation of the pre-school to a new building?	189 (67.3%)	22 (7.8%)	61 (21.7%)
Map in centre of village and on web site showing key locations	185 (66%)	68 (24.2%)	26 (9.3%)
More road marking to reinforce speed limits	178 (63%)	84 (30%)	21 (7%)
Improved facilities in Church	171 (61%)	36 (12.8%)	69 (24.6%)
Housing for older people	170 (60.5%)	78 (27.8%)	26 (9.2%)
Group purchasing of electricity	169 (60%)	74 (26.3%)	38 (13.5%)
Car Park to be clearly marked for more effective parking	168 (59.8%)	72 (25.6%)	18 (6.4%)
Small scale development of village hall	162 (59%)	42 (17%)	62 (24%)

Additional signs to Car Park on roads into village	164 (58.4%)	99 (35.2%)	15 (5.3%)
Reduction of noise pollution from motorway	161 (57.3%)	46 (16.4%)	74 (26.3%)
Households on mains drainage	150 (53%)	130 (46.3%)	2 (0.7%)
Lobby for improvement/expansion of mains drainage network	150 (53.7%)	53 (18.9%)	77 (27.4%)
Integration of long term development of village facilities	144 (51.2%)	31 (11%)	65 (23.1%)
Group purchasing of communications	142 (50.5%)	72 (25.6%)	49 (17.4%)
B. Issues with less than 50% positive responses but with more positive than negative responses	YES	NO	NC
Group purchasing of combined utilities	134 (47.7%)	70 (24.9%)	53 (18.9%)
Upgrading games barn	133 (47.3%)	48 (17.1%)	83 (29.5%)
Tennis courts	124 (44.1%)	87 (31%)	60 (21.4%)
Indoor fitness equipment/classes	120 (42.7%)	78 (27.8%)	59 (21%)
Group purchasing of gas	110 (39.2%)	74 (26.3%)	75 (26.7%)
Medium scale village hall development	98 (35%)	81 (28.8%)	78 (27.8%)
Expansion of the mains gas network	71 (25.3%)	48 (17.1%)	130 (46.3%)
C. Issues with more negative than positive responses	YES	NO	NC
More signs for speed limits	120 (42.7%)	136 (48.4%)	24 (8.5%)
Enough info on how to report potholes	107 (38%)	146 (52%)	24 (8.5%)
Additional parking capacity	105 (37.4%)	134 (47.7%)	34 (12.1%)
Steps to enforce the speed limits (ie speed cameras/traps)	102 (36.3%)	148 (52.7%)	30 (10.7%)
Extension of village car park	93 (33%)	138 (49.1%)	32 (11.4%)
More lighting in the environs of the Millennium Hall	92 (32.7%)	145 (51.6%)	37 (13.1%)
Improved outdoor fitness equipment	91 (32.4%)	105 (37.4%)	72 (25.6%)
Group Purchasing of oil	88 (31.3%)	88 (31.3%)	78 (27.8%)
Traffic calming	83 (29%)	18 (6%)	184 (65%)
Youth social events	78 (27.8%)	112 (39.9%)	76 (27%)
Large scale development of village hall	68 (24.2%)	79 (28.1%)	111 (39.5%)
Another site for additional parking	67 (23.8%)	143 (50.9%)	41 (14.6%)
More lighting in the centre of the village (Glebe and George)	63 (22%)	182 (64.8%)	37 (13.1%)
Hostility on footpaths	57 (20.3%)	197 (70.1%)	27 (9.6%)
Holiday clubs	55 (19.6%)	123 (43.8%)	79 (28.1%)
Enough pressure on KCC to repair potholes	50 (17.8%)	174 (61.9%)	48 (17.1%)
Sewerage odour	42 (15%)	215 (76.5%)	13 (4.6%)
Sewerage blocks	34 (12.1%)	222 (79%)	13 (4.6%)
Sewerage pollution	22 (7.8%)	223 (79.4%)	17 (6.1%)

Roads most urgently in need of re-surfacing (206 responses):

Bedlam Lane	64
New Road	36
Rock Hill (lower mostly)	26
Crockenhill Road	24
Forstal Road	14
Mundy Bois	10
Most	7
Coach Road	7
Field Mill Road	5
Newland Green	4
Grigg Lane	4
Wanden Lane	4
Kingsland Lane	3
Chapel Lane	2
Forge Lane	2
Iden Lane	2
Egerton House Road	1
Green Hill	1
Stone Hill	1
Small country lanes	1

3. GROUPED RESPONSES (for multi-part questions)

	YES	NO	NC
Improvement to the Village Hall			
i) Small scale	162 (59%)	42 (17%)	62 (24%)
ii) Medium scale	98 (35%)	81 (28.8%)	78 (27.8%)
iii) Large scale	68 (24.2%)	111 (39.5%)	79 (28.1%)
Relocation of Pre-school			
i) Essential to sustain primary school	238 (87%)	8 (3%)	26 (10%)
ii) Support for full-day pre-school	200 (72%)	15 (5.3%)	61 (21.7%)
iii) Relocation to a new building	189 (67.3%)	22 (7.8%)	61 (21.7%)
Sports and recreation facilities			
i) Holiday clubs	55 (19.6%)	123 (43.8%)	79 (28.1%)
ii) Outdoor fitness equipment	91 (32.4%)	105 (37.4%)	72 (25.6%)

iii) Tennis court/s	124 (44.1%)	87 (31%)	60 (21.4%)
iv) Indoor fitness equipment	120 (42.7%)	78 (27.8%)	59 (21%)
v) Youth social events	78 (27.8%)	112 (39.9%)	76 (27%)
Broadband and communications			
i) Better mobile reception	212 (75.4%)	34 (12.1%)	35 (12.5%)
ii) Installation of an unobtrusive device	204 (72.6%)	24 (8.5%)	35 (12.5%)
Group purchasing of services			
i) Electricity	169 (60%)	74 (26.3%)	38 (13.5%)
ii) Mains gas	110 (39.2%)	74 (26.3%)	75 (26.7%)
iii) Fuel oil	88 (31.3%)	88 (31.3%)	78 (27.8%)
iv) Communications	142 (50.5%)	72 (25.6%)	49 (17.4%)
v) combined packages	134 (47.7%)	70 (24.9%)	53 (18.9%)
Sewerage			
i) On mains drainage	150 (53%)	53 (18.9%)	77 (27.4%)
ii) Blockages	34 (12.1%)	222 (79%)	13 (4.6%)
iii) Pollution	22 (7.8%)	223 (79.4%)	17 (6.1%)
iv) Odours	42 (15%)	215 (76.5%)	13 (4.6%)
v) Lobby for improvement/expansion	150 (53.7%)	53 (18.9%)	77 (27.4%)
Renewable energy			
i) Published guidelines on turbines etc	213 (76%)	39 (13.9%)	25 (8.9%)
ii) Guidelines on solar panels on roofs	192 (68.3%)	49 (17.4%)	36 (12.8%)
iii) Renewable energy for village facilities	211 (75.1%)	22 (7.8%)	37 (13.1%)
Speeding			
i) Speed cameras, traps to enforce speed limits	102 (36.3%)	148 (52.7%)	30 (10.7%)
ii) Traffic calming measures	83 (29.5%)	184 (65.5%)	18 (6.4%)
iii) More speed limit signs	120 (42.7%)	136 (48.4%)	24 (8.5%)
iv) Greater use of road markings	178 (63%)	84 (30%)	21 (7%)
Road surfaces			
i) Information on how to report potholes	107 (38%)	146 (52%)	24 (8.5%)
ii) Pressure on KCC to repair potholes	50 (17.8%)	174 (61.9%)	48 (17.1%)
Lighting			
i) Around Millennium Hall etc	92 (32.7%)	145 (51.6%)	37 (13.1%)
ii) Around the Glebe etc	63 (22%)	182 (64.8%)	37 (13.1%)

Appendix 3

DATA FROM ACTION WITH COMMUNITIES IN RURAL ENGLAND, EGERTON PARISH PROFILE, OCTOBER 2013. DATA SOURCE, OFFICE OF NATIONAL STATISTICS

A sustainable community is 'Active, inclusive and safe. Fair, tolerant and cohesive with a strong local culture and other community activities'.

Social and Cultural

1,075 people (47.7% male)

455 households

195 children under 16 (at 18% just below England average of 18.9%)

617 working age adults (57.1%, below English average of 64.7%)

265 people over 65 (24.9%, well above the English average of 16.3%)

65 single pensioner households (14.8%, above English average of 16.3%)

10 lone parent families (well below the English average)

Equity and prosperity

Well below the England average for working age DWP benefit claimants (6.4% as compared with 13.9%); and well below for housing and council tax benefit claimants, and income support claimants, but much closer to the average for pension credit claimants. Children in poverty significantly below the England average.

Pupil attainment at Key Stages 1 and 2 at or above the England average.

Very low indicators of health deprivation; although in line with the England average for limiting long-term illness.

Economy

Number of economically active residents close to England average; but 10.9% working from home as against England average of 3.5%.

Lower than average full time employment (32.5% as compared with England average of 38.6%); but higher than average self-employment (20.1% as compared with 9.8%).

Lower than average recipients of 'out of work' benefits (4.1% as compared with English average of 9.8%); but less than average available employment.

Above average number of working age residents with skills qualifications, and lower than average number with no qualifications.

Higher than average number of managerial, professional, administrative and skilled workers; with construction as the largest employment sector.

Housing and built environment

278 detached houses

132 semi-detached houses

49 terrace houses

18 flats

8 caravans or other temporary accommodation

362 owner occupied

48 social rented

31 private rented

12 other rented

(well above Kent and England average for owner occupation)

Above average house prices; and affordability ratio

Above average vacant 'household space'

Well above average without central heating (8.7% as compared with Kent average of 4.3% and England average of 2.7%)

Transport and Connectivity

30 households without cars (6.6% as compared with 20% average in Kent and 25.8% in England)

145 households with only one car (31.6% as compared with 42% average for Kent and 42.7% for England)

All travel times to key public services are significantly longer than Kent average:

hospital - 66 minutes as compared with 32

supermarket - 28 minutes as compared with 9

town centre - 28 minutes as compared with 19

Services

Distance from key services is significantly greater than the English average, with the exception of the post office and the pub:

Job Centre - 15km as compared with 0.3km

Secondary School - 8.5km as compared with 1.1km

GP - 6.2km as compared with 1.2km

The percentages shown in the pie charts and in Appendix 2, Final questionnaire responses, are percentages of the total number of responses received. As some respondents did not answer every question the percentages do not always add up to 100%.





EGERTON

Parish Plan