

Tewin Parish Plan

Developing a village community for the future.



“Tewin is a lovely village and reflects the rural ideal”



“The Green Belt must be protected”

“The roads and pavements need particular attention”

The Tewin Parish Plan

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1 Introduction

In creating the Parish Plan, with the information from the survey questionnaires, the Parish Plan Steering Group believes that with the community's support and active participation in the Action Plan, Tewin Parish can be an even better place in which to live.

2 Tewin Parish Today

The Parish of Tewin is approx. 26 miles due north of London. The National Census of 2001 showed a population of 1438 people in 562 households, figures that have not changed much in the ensuing years.

Tewin Parish is bounded by Hertford to the East, Old Welwyn to the West, Welwyn Garden City to the South and Stevenage to the North. The villages of Bramfield, Burnham Green and Datchworth are its closest neighbours. The B1000 provides the main road transport link, from which access can be made to enter into the Parish. The Parish is close to the main East Coast Railway line serving London and Scotland, with Welwyn North Station about 2 miles from Tewin. A restricted bus service serves Welwyn Garden City and Hertford.

The Parish falls within the jurisdiction of East Herts District Council, (the planning authority) and Hertfordshire County Council (the highways authority). The Parish of Tewin comprises several hamlets including: Queen Hoe, Tewin Water, Archers Green, Bulls Green, Tewinbury and Marden Hill.

The Parish is set amongst beautiful countryside, much favoured by Parishioners and visitors for cycling, walking and other rural activities. To the south runs the River Mimran towards Hertford.

The Parish is fortunate to have two public houses, one of which dates back to the 17th century, a Hotel/Restaurant and many small businesses. The Tewin village junior school currently has a roll exceeding 100 children, some of whom live outside the Parish.

The area around Tewin village green is a designated conservation area, including a village shop housing the recently re-opened community run Tewin Stores, and with high hopes of the post office facilities being re-instated soon. Tewin Memorial Hall, constructed in 1922, and based in Tewin Village is a busy venue for meetings and events, plus badminton, yoga, brownies and rainbows.

However, like many Parishes in East Hertfordshire, Tewin is undergoing considerable change and one of the purposes of the Parish Plan is to influence the changes to ensure our aspirations are fully taken into account and our voice heard prior to decisions being taken.



3 Why a Tewin Parish Plan?

The need for a Parish Plan in Tewin has come about by the changes and pressures all villages face in modern life and the essential need and desire of residents of the Parish to influence and have a greater say in how their village, community and environment can be maintained and where possible improved.

Once a traditional rural Parish, Tewin today is typical of many other similar villages on the edge of conurbations, a community that continues to enjoy what is left of the rural way of life but continually under pressure from creeping urbanisation and change of character.

The Parish of Tewin has always enjoyed a close community spirit despite being spread over a large area, separated by open countryside. A changing environment inevitably impacts on community spirit and brings into jeopardy the continuation of friendliness and sense of belonging associated with our Parish.

The Tewin Parish Plan survey has shown that most residents wish to preserve the traditional character of village life as far as possible as a relief against the inevitable pressures of urbanised modern living. It is essential therefore the voices and views of the residents have been properly recorded and made known when the inevitable changes are introduced and considered. The management of change and appropriate consultation are essential features in the process.

The Parish Plan seeks to address many of the issues facing our Parish and contains the views of the residents; what's good and those things where we would wish to see changes and improvements. It tells us about our hopes and aspirations for the years to come. Because changes are inevitable it is important the Plan is seen as a living document, reviewed and updated on a regular basis. It is in a sense a 'first edition' and the foundation upon which subsequent changes and additions can be incorporated.

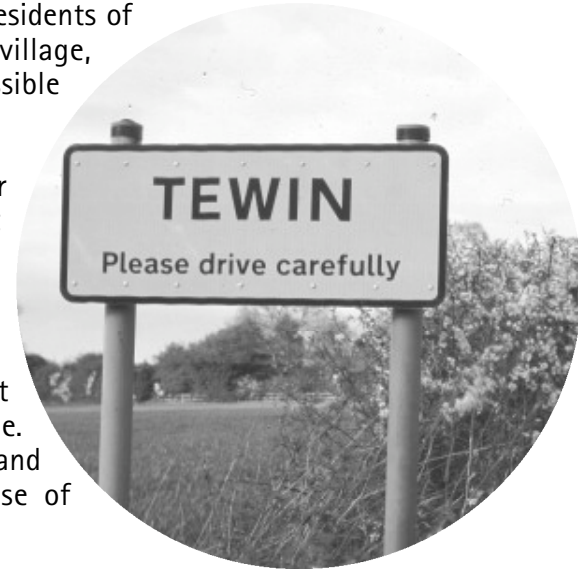
Tewin Parish Plan has four principal aims:

- To build a stronger community spirit across the whole community.
- To identify aspects of life in our Parish that residents wish to preserve and those they would like to change or improve
- To contribute to the Parish Council's strategy for the Parish for the next five to ten years and thereby strengthen the Council's mandate and it's authority with different layers of government and other stakeholders.
- To create the financial and manpower resources-and the enthusiasm-to carry out the plan on a manageable and realistic timescale.

No Parish Plan can tackle all of the issues and concerns the community faces but it can highlight the key issues and endeavour to put into place the means by which they can be addressed. Equally we must ensure we do not try to turn the clock back, or become too bogged down in minor irritations. The challenge contained in the plan is to harness community spirit for the benefit of the Parish and for future generations to come.

The plan's success is partly dependent on the willingness of residents of the Parish to volunteer their time, energies and skills to make much of the Plan's aims and actions come to fruition.

Support from the sidelines is most welcome but hoping others will do the work will not be enough. Taking part will give a sense of enjoyment coupled with the knowledge and satisfaction that it will benefit the wider community. What is in the Plan is in our hands to take forward and it would be a great opportunity lost if it were allowed to sit on the top shelf collecting dust.



4 Giving our community a stronger voice.

Four main factors drive the need for a Tewin Parish Plan

- Changing lifestyle in a village community
- The need to have a greater say in our own affairs
- To ensure the opinions and aspirations of the community are fully documented and placed on public record.
- To put in place a realistic and achievable Action Plan to take forward the outcomes from the Parish survey.

Changing lifestyle

Tewin Parish's rural and generally peaceful setting, yet well served to reach Central London, is perhaps the main reason people choose to live here. However the Parish of Tewin has long ceased to be a purely rural parish dependant on agriculture and countryside pursuits. The Parish is protected under the District Plan from large-scale building development but is now designated a category 1 village despite Parish Council objections, bringing with it the possibility/likelihood of limited development. Like many rural communities, Tewin Parish is under threat from many directions.

- The knock-on effect of development in the surrounding area including huge housing expansion in and around Welwyn Garden City, Stevenage and Hertford.
- The consequences of airport expansion at Luton and Stansted.
- Increased traffic volumes and speeds on our roads. Roads through our Parish are heavily used as short cuts to avoid congestion elsewhere.

Changes in population within the Parish itself result in changes in lifestyle and aspirations. Whilst a small number of people work from their own homes within the Parish, most travel to work outside the Parish or commute to London and surrounding towns. With a highly mobile population, changing lifestyles and often reliance on business and leisure interests outside the Parish, it becomes increasingly important to build and sustain community spirit within an aging population, which is the lifeblood of the community.

Greater Say

It is Government policy to devolve more power to communities and there have been examples to confirm this policy. The Tewin Parish Plan has identified parishioner' views on a wide range of local issues and puts forward suggestions for improving life in the community and preserving those aspects that give our Parish its unique identity and character.

The Parish Plan should therefore provide the Parish Council with a stronger mandate in its dealings with District and County Councils as well as regional and central government agencies. There is already evidence from other communities that views expressed through a Parish Plan can influence policies in key areas.



Documentation of opinions and aspirations.

The Parish Plan is a written record of the views, opinions and aspirations of the Parishioners. It will support not only the Parish Council in any discussions and negotiations but should also prove helpful and supportive when seeking, for example, grants for improvements or new projects.

It will provide up to date evidence, taken from an independently analysed survey of the Parishioners with an 86% questionnaire return figure and cannot under any circumstances be considered hearsay, out of date or without proper foundation. If it is to pass the test of time it is however important that the Plan must be recognised as a living document subject to review at regular intervals.



Proposed Action Plan

The Parish Plan will provide the opportunity to put in place a realistic and achievable Action Plan to implement the outcomes from the survey. It will build on the strengths and rectify the shortcomings. It must be achievable in terms of resources, both financial and otherwise and, of course, timescale.

Commitment and enthusiasm are two essential ingredients for the Plan to succeed and will need extensive involvement from the Parishioners. There is little doubt there are Parishioners with all the necessary skills to take the Plan forward and when community spirit is added, we have a great opportunity to make a difference.

5 The Parish Plan process

The Government encouraged villages to prepare Parish Plans in consultation with their residents. The notion of a Parish Plan for Tewin was initiated from discussions in the community led by the Tewin Society with the Parish Council and later supported by East Herts District Council.

Key events included:

- A Public Meeting in Tewin Memorial Hall, attended by many Parishioners in November 2005, voted in favour of creating a Parish Plan. As a curtain raiser a list of issues and key areas was identified and recorded and later taken forward when the survey questionnaire was designed.

- Formation of a Parish Plan Steering Group in February 2006.

- Steering Group's terms of reference approved by the Parish Council.

- Grants obtained from East Herts. District Council (£1500), Tewin Parish Council (£1000) and the Lottery Fund (£1000).

- Parish Plan questionnaire drafted by the steering group, successfully piloted and subsequently designed by the University of Hertfordshire Business School for analytical purposes.

- Volunteers distributed the questionnaire to 554 occupied households and collected 475 completed returns giving an impressive 86% return rate, one of the highest rates achieved in East Herts. Not all respondents answered all the questions.



- Focus Group meeting held with children of Tewin Cowper School. (Outcomes from Focus Group meeting-See appendix B)
- Data from the completed questionnaires independently entered onto a spreadsheet, principally by the University, and a quality control exercise completed by members of the Steering Group.
- Data subsequently analysed by the University of Hertfordshire Business School and a report submitted to Steering Group.
- Interim report, including the University report, submitted to Parish Council.
- Steering Group invited by the Parish Council to prepare a draft Action Plan.
- Draft Parish Plan (including Action Plan) completed and submitted to Parish Council.
- Public Meeting held for final consultation on draft Parish Plan.
- Parish Plan adopted by the Tewin Parish Council in May 2008.

Community involvement

The Steering Group recognised the need to involve the community in terms of participation and feed back. One challenge was to convert enthusiasm and support at the initial Public Meeting into volunteering and active involvement in the piloting process, the distribution and collection of questionnaires and the participation in the focus group. The Steering Group would like to place on record their appreciation of the support received in this respect.

Regular monthly progress reports on the Parish Plan were published in the Parish News and the Parish Council received interim reports at their meetings. The survey revealed a large number of key issues relating to Transport, Roads, Housing and the Environment. The Parish Plan Steering Group are recommending the formation of separate Steering Groups, to take forward, in conjunction with the Parish Council, some of the identified actions arising from the report. Again it will need volunteers to join these groups and continue the community involvement.

Parish Plan Steering Group

Members of the Steering Group are shown at appendix C

Questionnaire design and content

The Steering Group carefully examined the issues and concerns raised at the initial Public Meeting in November 2005 and found they could be classified under four main headings:- Transport, Facilities / Activities, Housing, Roads and Environment. It was also deemed essential to obtain some demographic information relating to Parishioners. The questionnaire was therefore designed in five sections, piloted, and delivered to all occupied households in the Parish. Anonymity and confidentiality were respected.



6 Principal outcomes of the survey

Profile of Parishioners

Not surprisingly the survey revealed that approx 50% of the respondents lived in Tewin Village and 25% in Tewin Wood. 20% of parishioners were under 18 years and 30% over age 60. The survey also revealed 35% of males and 38% of females were in the 40-59 age group.

Just under half the respondents said they were in employment, 23% had retired, 18% were in full time education and 11% homemakers.

The Parish has a fairly stable but certainly not static population. There have been at least 97 new households in the last 5 years but 62 households have lived in the Parish for more than 40 years. The average period of residency is approx 22 years, again demonstrating the popularity of living in the Parish.

Transport

The transport section of the questionnaire focused on which form of transport parishioners use to go to work, school or college. It also surveyed the 388-bus usage. The main finding of this section was the dominant means of transport used by Parishioners is the private car.

- 51% of households have 2 cars
- 56% of household members use a car as their main means of transport to work, school or college.
- The average number of cars per household is 1.76

The bus service is important for a small minority of the community.

- 20% of respondents use the bus-but the majority only once or twice a year.
- Only 12 respondents said they use the bus daily to go to work.
- 23 children use the bus daily to go to school
- 35 respondents use the bus weekly.

Other sections of the questionnaire highlighted a number of transport related issues. The Environment section identified considerable dissatisfaction with road maintenance and road drainage and less, though significant, dissatisfaction with pedestrian walkways and parking within the village area. Concern is expressed regarding traffic speed, traffic volumes and heavy vehicles using the local roads. The Facilities section notes that walking and recreational cycling are popular with residents. The same section identifies an improved bus service among the most requested facilities.

These observations are taken into account when proposing an action plan. With a high level of car ownership in the Parish it is not surprising that parking is an issue, especially in the village area. In particular, the "School Run" creates congestion in Cannons Meadow and on Lower Green in the morning and mid afternoon. It is recommended that this issue be further investigated with a view to producing a parking policy for the village area.

The poor condition of the roads within the Parish is a major cause for concern and the County Council must continue to be pressed to address the matter. At the same time consideration should be given to what pedestrian walkways and cycle routes might be incorporated.

Similarly the issues of traffic speed and volume through the Parish must be a priority. Presumably the majority of local road users are residents of the Parish but it does appear there is an increasing volume of through traffic using the roads as a means of avoiding more major routes.



As regards the bus service, it has to be a case of "use it or lose it". In recommending that the Parish Council establish a Bus Usage Group charged with stimulating demand for the service among local people it is hoped we can influence decisions taken by East Herts District Council. If we can improve usage of the bus service we are in a stronger position to negotiate its frequency and timings.

Facilities/Activities

The questionnaire was completed just as Tewin Garage closed and before the original Tewin Stores ceased trading. The village felt the loss of these amenities. The chief mechanic at Tewin Garage obtained premises at Tewin Hill Farm and has continued to carry out car repairs and maintenance. A panel beater now trades next door to him. So this amenity is now restored, albeit without the sale of petrol and diesel.

The Shop Steering Group has made excellent progress in setting up the return of Tewin Stores as a community shop. The result is a much more vibrant and social atmosphere within Tewin village and has been widely welcomed by the community. Older Parishioners in particular highlighted in the survey that they missed the conviviality of the shop during the period it was closed.

The Shop Steering Group also have future plans to reopen the post office section and provide tearoom facilities within the shop following requests contained in the completed questionnaires.

Other key points arising from this section of the survey were

- The 11 – 18 year olds would like a meeting place or Youth Club for themselves also as well as improved indoor and outdoor sports provision.
- 86% of residents were in favour of a children's playground for 0 – 8 year olds, which has now been provided and has proved very successful.



The footways and bridle paths referred to in the questionnaire were those across the fields and around the village. However respondents took the opportunity to raise concerns about the pavements alongside the roads in general; in particular, the possible need for the extension of the footway along Upper Green Road from Godfries Close to the Plume of Feathers.

There was a distinct environmental theme in many of the comments on facilities; requesting for example, improved recycling facilities, including garden rubbish, and a farmers' market in the Memorial Hall. Many long-standing residents also wanted a return to the days when Tewin had its own fortnightly Doctor's surgery, with no necessity to travel to WGC or Welwyn.

Whilst the reinstatement of the surgery might be considered unlikely, those without cars would have a much better chance of accessing the doctor's surgery and the QE II hospital, as well as the existing farmers' markets in Welwyn or Hertford, and Welwyn North station, if the public transport were improved. Such transport could include volunteer drivers if insurance and other concerns were met, as well as regular bus services and taxis.

Overall respondents requested more information about village facilities available, and for some, such as the mobile library, to be available in the evening for people who are out at work.

The recent advent of the brown garden waste bins is another step forward in addressing the recycling issue highlighted within the survey.

Housing

Almost three quarters of the respondents in the survey stated that the Parish does not need more houses. Of those that did respond to the contrary, a development of up to 12 houses was favoured. Detached houses with 3 bedrooms were the most selected style of new house.

Clearly there is a strong voice to stop any further housing development within the Parish. Most of the comments received strongly support the view that the character and charm of the Parish and its community would be adversely affected if further housing development were allowed to take place. The results of this Housing survey must be brought to the attention of the Planning authorities at every opportunity with a view to influencing future decision-making.

Subsequent on the expansion of the Tewin village boundary and after the Parish Plan survey was completed, there is a real prospect of infill housing to the north of the village and a well attended Public meeting was held in the summer of 2007 to discuss the issue.



Roads and Environment

The survey revealed respondents were seriously concerned with the poor maintenance and drainage of the roads within the Parish and considered them a high priority. Although street lighting received a high level of importance, further analysis will be necessary, as it would appear there were strong voices for and against the installation of street lighting and this may be a localised issue.

There was a strong voice from respondents for the need for dog waste bins and this view was echoed by the school children at the focus group meeting. Street parking, as mentioned earlier, does appear to be an important issue in parts of the Parish, particularly around Tewin village green and close to the school.

On a positive note there was a 92% satisfied response to refuse collection, demonstrating the continuing improvement to this service. Similarly general satisfaction was expressed with regard to seats and benches, litterbins provision, road markings, trees and their maintenance.

Households were also asked to comment on issues that may be important to them now and in the future. Again our roads and the manner in which they are used and by whom were key concerns. Traffic speed, amount of traffic and use by heavy vehicles figured prominently in respondents concerns both now and in the future. Crime and vandalism was also seen as a concern now but with a marked increase in concerns for the future.

There was quite a contrast in regard to concerns regarding light and commercial aircraft. There was considerable concern now with light aircraft from Panshanger but fewer concerns for the future. In regard to commercial aircraft the survey revealed the opposite view. A marked increase in concern for the future, no doubt reflecting an increase in air traffic if Luton and Stansted were allowed to expand.

Light pollution, noise pollution and pests (e.g. rabbits) were not generally regarded as concerns either now or in the future but of course there are areas of the Parish which do not support this view.

From the responses received there are a number of priority issues to be addressed, particularly in regard to roads and drainage issues. The Parish Council has tried to address the problem on several occasions and is continuing to do so. The survey outcomes should prove helpful to the Council in bringing further pressure to bear on the appropriate authorities. Many of the comments received mirror those made by the school children during the focus group meeting.

Further Analysis

The outcomes and percentages contained in this report are based on a statistical analysis of the completed questionnaires and have no regard at this stage to a more localised or detailed approach. It is accepted that what is perceived as a problem in one area may not be a serious issue elsewhere.

The questionnaires and more particularly the report produced by the University will need further consideration in this respect.

The respondents also had the opportunity to add free text comment. The comments were extensive, and often expressed conflicting views. Nevertheless the comments should not be treated lightly and need further consideration before actions are taken. In view of the high volume of the comments, they are not included in this report but can be seen as part of the University report which will be available on the Tewin website.



7 Action Plan

This report concludes with an Action Plan. See Appendix A. It is divided into a number of "actions", each aimed at the issues identified in the survey. It is accepted that the Parish Council are currently addressing many of the issues and concerns that unsurprisingly have also been identified by Parishioners within the survey. It would be counter productive therefore and not making the most effective use of perhaps a limited number of volunteers coming forward, for a newly formed steering group to simultaneously mirror the efforts of the Parish Council. It would therefore be both desirable and practical to allow the Parish Council to complete their plans in respect of those issues before further consideration.

Equally there are a number of issues within the Action Plan that have been the subject of involvement by the Parish Council in recent times that have proved insurmountable for reasons beyond the control or influence of the Parish Council.

This does not mean such issues should not be revisited or reviewed in the future but perhaps should be given a lower priority until sufficient volunteer group members become available to provide fresh ideas in an endeavour to assist in resolving the issues.

The Action Plan issues therefore fall into three distinct groups-1) issues that are currently active within the Parish Council, 2) issues that have historically proved impossible to resolve and 3) those that would benefit from the formation and input from steering groups. A narration is provided within the Action Plan on the current position relating to each action issue. Three new Steering Groups will be formed- Housing, Bus Usage and a Further Analysis group that will address those issues deemed localised and therefore requiring further research and analysis before any firm conclusions can be formed.

New Steering Groups

No action plan will achieve its purpose if there is not the will and momentum to take it forward. As stated earlier it will be necessary to form new steering groups to take specific actions forward through to completion, thus spreading the workload. Within a Parish of our size there must be a considerable number of Parishioners with the skills, talents and drive to join one of the proposed Steering Groups and make a difference. The Shop Steering Group have proved with their enthusiasm and commitment to create a community-based shop, that all things are possible provided volunteers come forward with the will to succeed.



The Parish Council's role

In all future activities growing out of this Action Plan, the Parish Council has a central role to play, particularly those with financial considerations or where consultation is necessary with the District or County Councils. Once the Action Plan is complete and adopted, the Parish Council will accept ultimate ownership.

That is not to say that in the absence of any further help from Steering Groups, the Parish Council will simply implement the Action list. There are many practical problems, which may also thwart the Steering Groups-but, on the other hand, it is hoped that the extended expertise of the Steering Groups can come up with novel solutions.

The effective monitoring and coordination of the Action Plan by the Parish Council is a key component in leading to a successful conclusion. The Parish Council may wish to support or provide a small central "Action Programme Group" to act as a point of reference for everyone involved in the actions flowing from this plan. Such a group should also meet from time to time to review and monitor overall progress, review priorities, and publish regular reports to the Parish Council and Parishioners.



Appendix A - Action Plan

1. Address parking problems in the Village

The initial analysis of the Parish Plan questionnaire did not provide details of where the parking problems were perceived to be.

Recommendation: An Analysis Working Group will be established to further analyse the results.

2. Reduce traffic speed and volumes

3. Traffic calming measures; seek to deter through traffic

4. Improved road surface maintenance and drainage

5. Campaign for prohibition of heavy goods vehicles

Dealing with highway issues is one of the major activities of the Parish Council.

The Council:

- Holds regular and frequent meetings with Hertfordshire County Council Highways Department.
- Has been instrumental in achieving improvements to the drainage in School Lane and in Churchfields Road opposite Margery Lane. Constantly asks for potholes to be filled and gulleys to be cleared.
- Is prepared to persevere until issues are properly resolved e.g. with the recent swallow hole in Hertford Road.
- Has conducted traffic surveys using a portable speed measuring device.
- Is conducting investigations into the viability of a permanent flashing speed sign.
- Has acquired extra "unsuitable for heavy vehicles" signs on the Hertford Road.
- Publishes a list of outstanding issues in an appendix to the Parish Council minutes every month

Hertfordshire County Council Highways is on a tight budget, which will be further reduced in 2008-09 by the loss of central government funding. This will place a limit on progress that can be achieved in the immediate future.

Recommendation: The Parish Council will continue actively to promote road maintenance and traffic safety

6 Improvements to Footways

The Parish Council has started to investigate how best to extend the footway from Godfries Close up to Tewin Garage. From there they hope to extend it across Maypond Green, to join up with up with the footway to be created along the new verge that will result from the new housing development adjacent to Seven Acres. This will provide a complete footway from Lower Green to Upper Green, as requested by many of the responses to the questionnaire.

Beyond this it was not clear from the initial analysis, where further problems were perceived, and to what extent responses on footways/pavements were confused with responses on public footpaths/ bridleways.

Recommendation: The Analysis working group (see 1 above) will further analyse the results.

7. Consider localised street lighting

The initial analysis of the Parish Plan questionnaire did not provide details of where there was a desire for street lighting.

Recommendation: The Analysis working group (see 1 above) will further analyse the results.

8. Stimulate bus use / liaise with Bus Authorities and Residents

The 388 bus service operates under various constraints:

- provision of buses at appropriate times for school children (the 388 service would not run as a regular service if it did not also provide the transport to Hertford and Ware schools).
- the current need to provide a service from Hertford to Welwyn Garden City via Birch Green and Cole Green, which hence determines the round journey time.
- it is only viable to use a single vehicle and the driver is constrained by legal working hour limits.

As a consequence, it is difficult to optimise the service for other users e.g. interconnection with trains at Welwyn North at times convenient for some commuters.

The Parish Council is aware that the bus service is a lifeline to a minority of residents in Tewin, and is also regarded as a major asset to the village by a wider body of residents. It was instrumental in preventing excessive cutbacks to the service in 2004, has endeavoured to maintain a consistent number of daily trips in both directions, including late afternoon services, and continues to liaise with HCC Passenger Transport Unit.

Recommendation: A small working group will be formed to monitor and encourage use of the bus service and to investigate other options for transport to essential services such as medical appointments.

9. Restore Village Shop

10. Provision of drop-in Tea-room

11. Encourage mobile shops to visit Tewin

Following the closure of Tewin Stores in June 2007, the Parish Council facilitated the formation of a Steering Group that went on to achieve the re-opening as a community run shop in February 2008. The Parish Council also supported the Steering Group financially.

The Shop Steering Group has now become an independent body, The Tewin Stores Association, which is already encouraging mobile shops to visit, and planning to open a tea room.

Recommendation: The Parish Council will receive occasional reports on progress.

12. Improve Bridleways and Footpaths

The initial analysis of the Parish Plan questionnaire did not provide details of where the problems were perceived to be.

Through the "Parish Paths Partnership", the Parish Council spends around £1200 yearly on maintaining the footpaths and bridleways. It also liaises with the Hertfordshire County Council Rights of Way Service and the Countryside Management Service over improvements to the paths and repairs to gates and stiles.

The Parish Council does try to rectify the worst stretches of footpath surface, but it also recognises that too much improvement is not consistent with being a rural parish.

Recommendation: The Analysis working group (see 1 above) will further analyse the results.

13. Improve Parish Communication

Recommendation: The Parish Council will include details of the various sources of information in its newsletters which are delivered to every house in the parish.

14. Viability of a youth club

Various attempts to run a youth club have been made over the years. New legislation applicable to people working with children has made it more difficult.

The Parish Council is now investigating the possibility of making use of the facilities of existing youth clubs in other neighbouring parishes.

Recommendation: The Parish Council will continue this work.

15. Influence Housing Development Recommendations

16. Create a Parish Housing Plan

The Parish Council comments on all planning applications in the Parish.

If there is a significant planning event, then the Parish Council will usually arrange a village meeting to inform every body.

Although a significant majority of respondents to the questionnaire said that the parish did not need any more houses, this is not something that we have control over. It is legitimate to propose developments that fall within the current planning rules. The Parish Council has adopted a pragmatic position of seeking to ensure that any developments are in keeping with the nature and characteristics of the parish.

Recommendation: To this end, a working group will be formed to consider producing a Village Design Statement to indicate to developers and planners what we would like to see as best practice in any new housing in the parish.

17. Review of litter / dog waste requirements and recycling opportunities

The topic of recycling facilities has arisen a number of times in recent years, but there are no obvious sites in the village which are easily accessible to the majority, unobtrusive, and accessible by the collection vehicles. With the advent of household collections of paper, cans, bottles and garden waste the problem has largely solved itself. There are a number of litter bins around the parish which are emptied weekly.

There appear to be some conflicting views on the disposal of dog waste.

Recommendation: The Parish Council will determine and publish a policy on dog waste.

18. Light Aircraft Control

Panshanger Airfield operates within the prevailing rules. The flight circuit around the village is a voluntary arrangement by the airfield to minimise disturbance to residents.

When the Parish Council receives complaints about the behaviour of light aircraft, these are passed on the airfield.
Recommendation: The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation.

19. Commercial Aircraft issues

Both the Parish Council and the Tewin Society monitor news about local airports and flight paths. Up to now any effect on Tewin has been minimal.

Recommendation: The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation.

20. Crime and vandalism – promote Neighbourhood Watch

A Parish Council representative attends regular meetings with the local community police, which also cover Neighbourhood Watch.

Periodically, community police attend Parish Council meetings to provide an update on the current situation. A mobile police van also attends Tewin Village on a regular basis.

When a specific situation arises (e.g. problems in the bus shelter opposite the Rose & Crown), the Parish Council co-operates with the community police, to try to resolve it.

Overall, the level of crime and vandalism in Tewin is very low.

Recommendation: The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation.



Appendix B

Focus Group: Tewin Cowper School Pupils

Present

6 children, Mrs E. King (Head teacher), John Sheridan, Linda Adams, Pat Hedger

General Impressions by the Children

The children all liked living in Tewin for the following reasons:

- There are two village greens to play on, which were regarded as very important to the children.
- The village environment is quiet.
- The roads are not too busy and are safe for riding bicycles.
- The children enjoy the views, countryside, and the grass in the area.
- They all use the local footpaths and know where they are even if some are muddy

Children's Pastimes and Activities

The children either participated in or enjoyed the following activities:

Tewin tennis club & the tennis courts,

Brownies,

Church workshops

Bell ringing,

Scarecrow competition,

Tewin Village fête,

Jumble sales,

Carol singing and the Christmas tree on Lower Green,

Tewin Orchard and Nature Reserve.

They were also very involved in the many school activities, including swimming, football, plays, sports, and computers.

What The Children Disliked

The children disliked:

- Dog mess in areas where they played.
- Litter.
- Cigarette ends on the ground.
- Older children hanging about and calling names.
- Some cars, which drive too fast through the village.
- Cars parked on paths and causing an obstruction.

What The Children Would Like

Children's wishes included:

- A playground.
- A youth club for different age groups.
- A maze, hopscotch, spirals marked on a new playground.
- Street lighting.
- A footpath to Upper Green and Tewin Stores because of speeding traffic

Appendix C

Members of the Steering Group

John Sheridan	(Chairman)
Malcolm Allen	(Secretary)
Steve Stott	(Treasurer)
Linda Adams	
Pat Hedger	(August 06-)
Antony Powell	(June 06-)
Mike Howe	
Russell Hedger	(February 07-)
Rosemary Nodder	(Feb.06-Nov.06)



“...we think Tewin is an “oasis” in the countryside and we like it just as it is...”

“The character of the village will be destroyed if the green open spaces are taken away”





"Tewin is a lovely place to live. Long may it remain"

"We are looking forward to
the new playground"

"Tewin is a village with rural facilities"

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