

An aerial photograph of Edington Parish, showing a mix of green fields, a central pond, and a church building. The foreground is dominated by a grassy hillside. The text 'Edington Parish Development Plan' is overlaid in the center of the image.

Edington Parish Development Plan

Edington 2030

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Introduction

Parish summary

Edington is situated in the west of the local authority area of Wiltshire. There is a population of 734 according to the 2011 Census, comprised of 325 households.

The village is situated on the northern escarpment of Salisbury Plain and is an historically important village as the site of the Battle of Ethandun (Edington) in 878AD between King Alfred and the Danes. Being on the pilgrim route midway between Bath and Salisbury, it was the natural place for the Bonshommes order of monks to build a large priory, which thrived up until the dissolution of the monasteries in 1539 by Henry VIII.

Edington remained a key point on the main road between the two cities and being at an important junction between the farming area of Salisbury Plain and Trowbridge, the centre of the woollen industry, it flourished in the shadow of the sheep and weaving trades. With the advent of the railway in the 19th century, the main route was diverted through Westbury and Edington became a backwater, reverting to being a mainly farming community.



The adjacent villages of Edington and Tinhead were merged in a local government reorganisation many years ago.

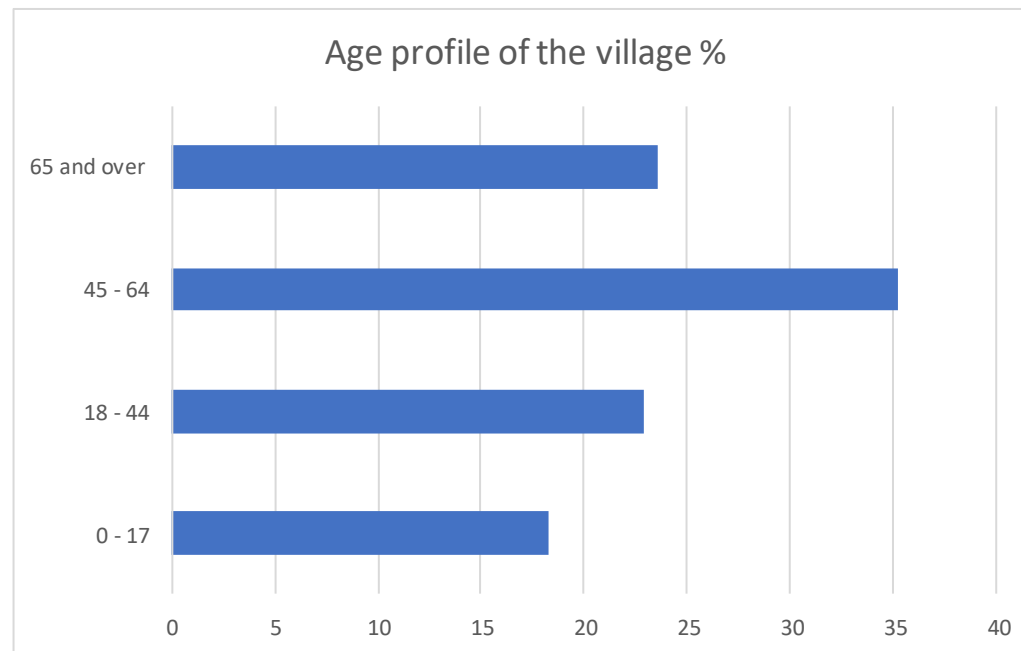
The village has many interesting buildings including the 14th century Priory Church which hosts the internationally renowned Edington Music Festival held annually and hosts choristers and musicians from some of Britain's greatest cathedrals.

Edington remains a most desirable village and the Parish Council have been keen to ensure that this remains so but at the same time try to ensure that opportunities exist for younger villagers to remain in the village with affordable housing.

The Plan

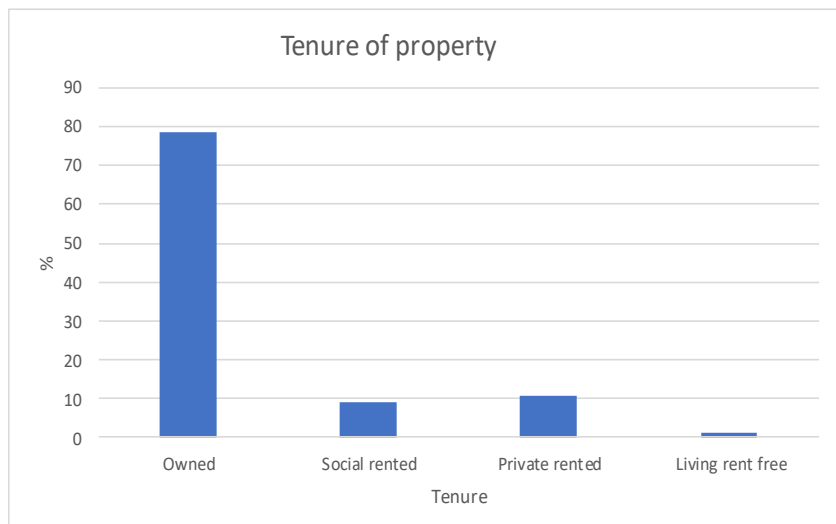
Edington in common with many villages has suffered a decline in community facilities over recent years. In 2005 the then Parish Council produced a village development plan to conserve what the parishioners valued and to provide a framework for change where it is needed.

Following on from the original plan produced in 2005 with an expected life span of approximately 10 years the current Parish Council have embarked upon producing a new plan for the village with a life span up to 2030. A village survey was undertaken and from that a number of areas were identified that the Parish Council along with the support of the villagers could look at in more detail to provide an enhancement to the village and preserve the existing characteristics of the village without allowing it to stagnate.



The Way Forward

The Parish Council set up a number of working groups chaired by villagers and these produced a series of reports on various



aspects of the village community. These reports have formed the basis of this new development plan—Edington 2030 and along with the summary of each groups findings and recommendations the Parish Council have produced a response and a set of planned actions to implement the recommendations and in some instances develop them further.

It is the intention of the Parish Council to revisit the plan every six months to assess progress made on implementing the proposals and this will be in addition to individual issues being raised and progressed at meetings throughout the year and these progress reports will be published on the village website.

Along with the new Edington Development Plan— Edington 2030, the Parish Council will work with Wiltshire Council to develop a Neighbourhood Plan that will feed into the Wiltshire Core Strategy.

Amenities and Facilities

Parish Hall



Although limited in terms of size and facilities the Parish Hall is in frequent use and plans are being drawn up for enhancement to the facility.

Farm Shop and Pub

These are considered to be valuable asset to the village, however it was felt by some residents that more could be done to meet the needs of the village and to encourage villagers to use them.

Playing field and teenage clubs

The existing facilities are well used however there was a request from villagers for more equipment to be installed catering for all age groups especially teenagers and older residents. There are no regular clubs in either Edington or Bratton and it was felt that this was partly due at least to the lack of interest from the age group most likely to use one.



Post Office

A valuable asset for the village which at least in the short term has a future, the long term future is dependant upon Post office Counters.

Three Villages Minibus

This is widely used particularly by older residents without their own means of transport. A need for sufficient volunteers to ensure that the service can be continued is essential.

The Link

A widely used facility by a number of residents of the village, but volunteers are declining. There is a need for more volunteers to come forward if this valuable service is to continue.



Recommendations

The Parish Council will work with the Parish Hall committee to ensure that the hall continues as a community asset and its facilities enhanced as and when resources allow.

The Parish Council will continue to invest in the playing field equipment by seeking grants and donations to allow them to enhance the facilities for all villagers.

Business and Employment

Village businesses

The village has a number of businesses and a diverse range of employment, these businesses are mainly in Station Yard or in converted agricultural buildings.

Village Survey

The village survey found that around 25% of those responding thought that the existing business and employment provision was poor and conversely the same number thought that it was good.

Issues arising

Broadband and mobile phone connection was inadequate for some businesses. There is a significant difference in broadband speeds around the village despite BT improving the provision. Mobile phone coverage is very much dependant upon the service provider EE appears to be very good in most places, O2 is very patchy and others fluctuate.

Traffic

Concerns about the routes used by some vehicles and that they should be encouraged to access the village via the A350 rather than along the B3098 or even in some cases Lower Road or Tinhead Road.



Tourism

It was felt that this was an area that could be developed as the village and surrounds have great appeal.

Development of existing provision

Station Yard has the potential for some further development and other sites could be developed if they did not lead to significant increases in traffic.

Existing businesses

These should be promoted more in a variety of ways. In view of the rapid pace of change and scale in agriculture, particularly likely post Brexit, new building and conversions of existing buildings may well provide business opportunities within farmyards.



Recommendations

The Parish Council will continue to press for better broadband provision and mobile phone coverage along with improvements to the road system.

The Parish Council will view favourably modest and sensitive plans for business development.

The Edington website should be recommended to businesses as an excellent promotional aid.

Environment and Footpaths

Introduction

It has been recognised that there is an overarching need to protect Edington's rural landscape character and environment and the issues identified will assist in ensuring that they are protected and enhanced for future generations.

Littering

Various hot spots have been identified within the village and principal among these are various locations along the B3098 where various detritus is deposited from passing vehicles.

Dumping including green waste

Fly tipping has been on the increase in recent times and there would appear to be a correlation between Wiltshire Council starting to charge for the collection of green waste and the increase in the fly tipping around the village.

Village Pond

Over the years the village pond has become silted up resulting in low levels of oxygen and aeration.



Footpath to connect the two sides of the village

A permissive path is provided between the two sides of the village in a field however this is less than ideal at certain times of the year.

Protection of Green Spaces

The green spaces within the village such as the playing field and the pond area should be protected.

Improved signage for footpaths

The footpaths are considered a great community asset, and there will shortly be a new publication detailing the village footpaths. However some footpaths are unclear either due to poor signage or occasional action by contractors of the landowner in damaging or removing them, usually the problem is addressed and the footpath restored.

Maintenance around the village

There is a need for a village working group to assist in the maintenance of footpaths and other items around the village.

Recommendations

There should be a regular village litter pick.

Fly tipping should be reported as soon as it is seen to reduce the possibility of copycat tipping.

Continue with the enhancement and maintenance of the pond area.

Re establish a village working group to enable repairs and enhancements to be carried out around the village.

Highways, Traffic and Transport

Parking

There are numerous places around the village where parking has become a problem either due to careless actions by some residents or by the lack of off street parking for some properties.

HGV's

A continuing problem within the village as the B3098 and the local village roads are unsuitable for large lorries and vans.

Community transport opportunities

The research carried out has shown that the existing community schemes of the link and the Three Villages Minibus (TVM) are widely used and greatly appreciated by their users. Local bus provision is limited and constantly under threat and does not always meet the needs of villagers without their own transport.



Speed limits

The group identified the value of speed watch and to supplement it looked into the establishment of 20mph zones around the village.

Street lights

Some members of the group felt that there was a need for more street lighting around the village.

Maintenance of the local roads and footpaths

The Parish Steward regularly carries out maintenance work around the village on footpaths and roads



Recommendations

The Parish Council will work with the Parish Steward to maintain the footpaths and roads where he is able to do so and to inform Wiltshire Council of other issues.

The Parish Council is actively pursuing with Wiltshire Council a strategy for reducing the number of lorries on local roads.

Support for the Link scheme and TVM will continue to ensure that it provides the necessary service to the village.

Housing

General consensus

There has been very little progress since the 2005 Development Plan, many of the issues that were relevant then remain today. The 2014 Housing needs survey supported limited development but there was no appetite for large developments.

Affordable housing

A lack of affordable housing makes it difficult for younger people to get on the housing ladder in the village, forcing those that have grown up here to move away and preventing new families from joining the village.

Smaller properties in short supply

This can create stagnation in housing turnover. Older people living in family homes unable to downsize and remain within the community. This “blocking” of family homes may then result in smaller homes being extended into larger homes and thereby reducing the stock of smaller homes.

Appropriate size of extensions for size of housing plot

Infill plots—Developments of sites already located within the structure of the village was favoured. Small developments of one or two houses located around the village would have a smaller impact on services and character than one larger development.

Green field sites—Serious consideration should be given to small greenfield sites but only if there is support from the community, character and form of village respected. “Green spaces” within the village are not felt to be suitable.

Policy Limits

The Wiltshire Core Policy relates to the removal of the Policy Limits of the District Plan. The knock on from this is that although Edington is a small village and only small scale infill is allowed at present, Core Policy 44 relating to Rural Exception Sites will permit development outside these constraints so long as certain criteria are met.



Recommendations

Proposed developments respect the character and form of the village.

The majority of houses proposed should be “affordable” to younger people.

Any development must have the support of the local community.

Social Well Being

Social wellbeing is the extent to which you feel a sense of belonging and **social** inclusion; a connected person is a supported person in society. Lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs are all important to our **social well being** and quality of life.

Consensus

It was felt by the working group that being sociable in the village was difficult as many of the properties were along a busy main road with no footpaths. However there are a number of organisations that meet regularly and their details can be found on the village website.

Village clubs and facilities that assist Social Well Being

Three Villages Minibus— Provides a valuable resource for the village

Mobile Library—This visits once a month and it was felt that volunteers could collect books for people unable to get to the van.

Cricket Club in Erlestoke—This provides a facility for villagers across the area.

Edington and Tinhead WI—Meets monthly in the Parish Hall

Edington and District Gardening Club—Meets monthly in the Parish Hall

Reading Circle—Meets monthly

The Church—The Church building is open during all daylight hours as a place where anyone can go to meet with others or be alone to pray and contemplate in addition to the planned weekly services etc.

Edington Arts—Hold regular events in the village

Edington under 5's—Meets weekly in the Parish Hall

Steeple Rocks Choir—Meet weekly

Coffee morning—Meets weekly in the Three Dagers pub

Bell Ringers—Meet weekly in the church

TVM lunches—These are organised on a monthly basis in the Parish Hall

U3A—Meets fortnightly in the Parish Hall

Crafty morning for young children—Meets weekly in the Three Dagers Farm Shop

Recommendations

The working group recommended that a “Health and Wellbeing” incentive be started in the village.

Support the parish hall committee to modernise the parish hall and improve disability access as important centre for community activities which support social well being.

Monitor and help maintain condition of public areas such footpaths and play field as green spaces is proven to improve mental well being and provide areas for social interaction

Appendices—

Details of the Issues and Actions

Amenities and Facilities

THE ISSUE	BACKGROUND	ACTION
Village hall too small for larger activities	The Parish Hall was identified in the 2005 plan as being small for the village and since then some enhancements have taken place within the facility and the addition of a car park , developed by the Parish Council has improved the provision	In the short term it is hoped that all villagers will support the activities of the Parish Hall committee as there is little possibility of a larger hall in the near future or distant future.
Farm shop and pub sustainment	The pub and farm shop were established in 2010 and 2013 respectively and are in private ownership. There is a feeling among the villagers that more could be done to encourage villagers to use the facilities and the management have been proactive in trying to attract more local custom.	Liaise with the management and try to influence them in providing offers to local residents. The management already work with the Parish Council and some local groups to provide additional support for village events such as the village Christmas tree and May Ball.
Playing field and teenage clubs	The playing field has been a very well used facility for the village and is in constant use especially at weekends and in school holidays. The Parish Council have continued to develop the facilities available and are very grateful to the local businesses and organisations that have contributed to the purchasing of additional equipment. Due to the size of the village the council are unable to purchase equipment from the revenue received in rates from Wiltshire Council and will continue to look for sponsorship, donations and grants for future enhancements.	The Parish Council will continue to provide additional equipment as the finances become available, and will ensure that the equipment provided will meet the needs of as wide as section of the village as possible.

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Amenities and Facilities continued

THE ISSUE

Future of the Post Office facility

BACKGROUND

The Post Office was set up in Pauline's garage after the closure of the original Post Office in the City. This continues to provide a vital service to the villagers.

ACTION

Work with Pauline to ensure that Post Office Counters do not decide to close this vital community asset.

Importance of the Three Villages Minibus (TVM) and Link facilities

The TVM was set up in 1986 and has been well supported ever since both financially and in numbers of passengers.

The Parish Council recognise the importance of this valuable community asset and will do all within its means to continue to support the venture.



Business and Employment

THE ISSUE

Broadband and mobile phone inadequate for some businesses.

Traffic problems within the village were a concern and the view commonly held was that lorries in particular should be encouraged to access the village via the A350. Improvements to the B3098 were also a priority.

Modest development of the village to avoid stagnation and create local employment was supported. Suitable development should also be encouraged particularly if there was little significant impact on traffic problems.

BACKGROUND

BT have improved the provision of broadband within the village but it is still very poor in a number of areas and the differences are even significant between properties in the same road. Mobile coverage varies according to the service provider.

Whilst recognising the need for some large vehicles to make use of the local roads to deliver and collect goods from local farms and businesses, some hauliers are using the local roads as short cuts to and from the Westbury area and even further afield. Lower Road and Tinhead Road in the village are totally unsuitable for large vehicles.

One of the recommendations of the Housing Needs survey conducted in 2014 was that there should be more housing in the village to accommodate the needs of local people seeking a property and thereby remaining in the village. This development could progress alongside the development of local businesses.

ACTION

Investigate with BT why the provision is not uniform across the village and try to establish a program to upgrade/enhance the provision for everyone.

The Parish Council are working with Wiltshire Council to establish a priority working group to look at the possible actions that could be taken to reduce the number of vehicles using the road and to minimise the impact of those vehicles that have a legitimate reason for driving through the village.

The Parish Council will work with all interested bodies to bring about opportunities to develop both housing and businesses.



Continued on next page.

Business and Employment continued

THE ISSUE

Conversion of existing buildings to use spare rooms, garages etc. should be supported. In view of the rapid pace of change and scale in agriculture, particularly likely post Brexit, new building and conversions of existing buildings may well provide business opportunities within farmyards.

Any new developments should be encouraged to include facilities to the benefit of the community e.g. shop, parking areas, community centre etc.

Tourism is an area that many felt should be encouraged as the facilities and general attributes of the village and surrounding area have great appeal. The Church, the history of the area, the proximity of the downs, the developments of Longleat and Brokerswood all indicate a likely increase in tourism.

BACKGROUND

With the changing patterns of agriculture there are an increasing number of redundant buildings that could be converted into either business units or provide accommodation for local people.

The redevelopment of the village pub into the Three Daggers complex has brought about a significant improvement to the village facilities.

Tourism has been a somewhat neglected area within the village but recently there have been a number of additional tourist accommodation facilities. The historical events in the village have been overlooked but lend themselves to a potential tourism opportunity as well as the development of tourist hotspots in the near locality.

ACTION

Work with all interested parties to bring about new opportunities.



Any future development opportunities put forward should be viewed as an opportunity to enhance the village facilities providing that they do not detract from the present village environment.

The village should endeavour to promote tourism in the area and thereby providing additional employment opportunities for local people. Whilst promoting any developments the Parish Council must ensure that the developments do not detract or damage the very environment that the tourists are visiting.

Continued on next page

Business and Employment continued

THE ISSUE

The existing businesses within the village could be promoted more. The websites of businesses and the village website could develop better links and a business hub developed to mutually aid and promote village businesses.

BACKGROUND

There has been very little coordinated attempts to promote local businesses for a variety of reasons.

ACTION

The Parish Council will work with local businesses to provide them with more opportunities to promote their businesses via the village website and to encourage closer cooperation between the businesses and perhaps establishing a village business forum.



Environment and Footpaths

THE ISSUE

Littering including fly tipping

Village pond

Footpath to connect the two sides of the village

Protection of green spaces within the built up area

Improved signage and maintenance for footpaths

BACKGROUND

There are specific issues for the village with the B3098 running through the middle of it and the thoughtless action by some people of discarding of their rubbish out of the vehicle window. As well as the above there has been an increase in fly tipping and the general depositing of litter and dog waste by some people around the village

Over the years the pond has slowly silted up and has fallen into a less than desirable state.

The current permissive paths across the field between Edington and Tinhead are usable in fine weather but become almost impassable at certain times of the year. In the past the Parish Council has looked at the possibility of providing a more suitable path but have been unable to find a satisfactory solution.

Areas such as the playing field and the pond area should be protected

There have been occasional instances in the past when contractors working for farmers have removed or reduced footpaths. A number of footpath signs and gates have fallen into disrepair and there is a need for regular monitoring of all of the village footpaths. Most farmers take great care in maintaining our footpaths and keeping them open. There are problems from time to time but this often tends to be due to oversight or natural events and not intentional.

ACTION

The Parish Council have been monitoring the situation and have recently installed more litter bins. The issue of the B3098 cannot be solved easily however the impact can be reduced by regular litter picking along all of the roads in the village.

The Parish Council have been given a grant from Wessex Water to improve and enhance the pond area and the area will now be maintained on a regular basis.

The Parish Council will revisit the options to provide a more weather proof path between the two sides of the village and it will remain an ambition of the council.

The Parish Council will look into registering specific areas as community assets

The Parish Councillor with responsibility for footpaths will monitor the paths around the village and work with the Wiltshire Council footpaths officer to ensure that any accidental damage is repaired and footpaths are reinstated.

The Parish Council will shortly be publishing a new footpaths booklet.

Continued on next page

Environment and Footpaths continued

THE ISSUE

Volunteer group like Eves for basic maintenance

Improve the biodiversity around the village

BACKGROUND

For a number of years there was a village maintenance group that met most months to carry out maintenance around the village, recently this has ceased to exist. Some maintenance has been carried out by volunteers on an ad hoc basis, and this has included the maintenance of the benches around the village.

The planting up of banks and triangles with wild flowers and spring bulbs, encouraging the gapping up of hedges and making them more species rich will gain for biodiversity and help with public pride.

ACTION

The Parish Council will look at the reintroduction of an Eves type group to carry out routine maintenance around the village. This work will supplement the tasks carried out by the Parish Steward on his regular visits.

The parish Council will welcome the members of this group in carrying out planting schemes around the village to enhance the bio diversity.



Highways, Traffic and Transport

THE ISSUE

Parking around the village

BACKGROUND

There are numerous places around the village where parking has become a problem either due to careless actions by some residents or by the lack of off street parking for some properties.

ACTION

The council will work with local residents to try and ensure that parking is not causing an obstruction to other road users especially emergency vehicles. Future planning applications will be scrutinised to ensure that adequate parking is provided within the boundary of the property.

HGV's and large lorries using unsuitable roads

The size and frequency of large lorries and vans using the village roads has become an increasing problem and although it is recognised that some vehicles need to access the village to service farms and businesses, some vehicles are using the village roads merely as a short cut to other places.

The Parish Council are working with other local parishes and Wiltshire Council to look at ways and means of reducing the throughput of vehicles.

Community transport opportunities

The Link scheme and the TVM have served the village very well for many years, however bus services have diminished at the same time.

The Parish Council will continue to support the Link scheme and TVM whilst encouraging other transport opportunities such as car sharing.

Although the Parish Council have no direct input into the provision of local buses it will continue to make representations via the local Wiltshire Councillor to ensure that wherever possible local services are maintained and even possibly improved upon.

Speed limits

Speeding traffic is an issue not only along the B3098 but also along other roads in the village,, including Tinhead Road and Lower Road.

The Council will continue to actively support the Speedwatch initiative and will work with Wiltshire Council to implement suitable measures to reduce the speed of traffic through the village, including the use of Speed Indicator Devices.

The Council will also endeavour with the support of other agencies to monitor road incidents.

Highways, Traffic and Transport continued

THE ISSUE

Street lights

BACKGROUND

There are a limited number of street lights around the village and some villagers have expressed a wish too increase the provision of lighting to enhance security and safety on the village roads.

ACTION

Before any additional lighting is considered a survey of all villagers will need to be undertaken as some villagers have expressed a wish for a moratorium on more lighting.

Maintenance of the local roads and footpaths

Maintenance of footpaths and roads around the village has been undertaken by local contractors and in recent years also by the Parish Steward

The Parish Council will continue to ensure that the use of the Parish Steward is maximised and when resources permit to employ local contractors to undertake additional work as and when it becomes necessary.

A new local footpaths booklet is in the final stages of production and this will be available to purchase

Housing

THE ISSUE

General consensus

BACKGROUND

There has been very little progress since the 2005 Edington Development Plan, many of the issues that were relevant then remain today. The Wiltshire Council Parish Housing Needs Survey— July 2014 supported limited development but there was no appetite for large developments.

ACTION

The Housing Needs Survey of 2014 recommended any development should concentrate on households unable to afford accommodation on the open market. The survey indicated that the minimum needed to meet this was three shared/ low cost housing homes plus three one bedroom homes and one three bedroom home with subsidised rent. This requirement was identified as what was required in the three years from 2014 to 2017, to date this has not been met. The report also stated that “the survey only identified the needs of the responders to the survey and that this is only a quarter of the evidence required to fully assess housing need in the parish.” (1)

Affordable housing

A lack of affordable housing makes it difficult for younger people to get on the housing ladder in the village, forcing those that have grown up here to move away and preventing new families from joining the village.

The Parish Council will actively pursue every opportunity to provide additional housing in the village and will look at all opportunities to provide this including working with land owners, housing developers and housing associations etc.

Smaller properties in short supply

This can create stagnation in housing turnover. Older people living in family homes unable to downsize and remain within the community. This “blocking” of family homes may then result in smaller homes being extended into larger homes and thereby reducing the stock of smaller homes.

Although the Parish Council recognises this as an issue, it feels that there is a limited amount that can be done to address this, however it will ensure that any opportunities that may develop in the future to address this will be considered.

(1) Edington Parish Housing Needs Survey 2014—

Housing continued

THE ISSUE

Policy Limits

BACKGROUND

The Wiltshire Core Policy relates to the removal of the Policy Limits of the District Plan. The knock on from this is that although Edington is a small village and only small scale infill is allowed at present, Core Policy 44 relating to Rural Exception Sites will permit development outside these constraints so long as certain criteria are met.

ACTION

The Parish Council will provide the villagers with an opportunity to develop an Edington Neighbourhood Plan. This will give the council the opportunity to develop a clear housing strategy with Wiltshire Council and enshrine it within the Wiltshire Core Policy.

The council will endeavour to ensure that the housing needs of all villagers are met over the next ten years and to address the shortfall from the previous four years. We will work with Wiltshire Council to fully assess the housing needs in the parish. We will also take into account the Wiltshire Council's Housing Register, the Strategic Housing Market Assessment and the advice of allocation staff who manage the Register.



Social Well Being

THE ISSUE

Ensure that all villagers needs are met wherever possible.

Start a "Health and Wellbeing" incentive

BACKGROUND

It was felt that the increasing needs of some members of the community need to be addressed by positive action being taken by the Parish Council

It was felt that the increasing needs of some members of the community need to be addressed by positive action by the Parish Council and that there needs to be a programme of development of the incentive.

ACTION

The Parish Council will continue to support clubs and societies in the village.

The Parish Council will continue to support the Church as a place which has a contribution to the health and well being of many of all ages in our community.

The Parish Council have already assigned one member to the role of Health and Well being coordinator. The introduction of Health and Well Being Champions by the Westbury Area Board will enable the council to add to the available resources.



Acknowledgements

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