

BRIGHSTONE PARISH PLAN



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ASSOCIATED & SUPPORTING PUBLICATIONS

Brighstone Parish Plan Questionnaire:	June 2003
Brighstone Parish Plan Questionnaire:	August 2003
Planning for Real Exercise in Brook:	October 2003
Planning for Real Exercise in Brighstone:	January 2004
Housing Needs Survey:	February 2004

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The creation of this Parish Plan and Table of Proposed Actions has only been made possible by the support of the following organisations:-

The Countryside Agency

The Rural Community Council

Brighstone Community Forum

Brighstone Parish Council

All other Parish Organisation

Together with dedication and commitment of the Parish Plans Steering Group, the many who assisted with the questionnaires, all those who delivered and collected the Housing Needs Surveys, those who collated all the feedback from the questionnaires and surveys and all those parishioners who have attended meetings, put forward ideas and are keen to take forward the actions in the Brighstone Parish Plan.

INTRODUCTION

Background

The Parish of Brighstone comprises the villages and hamlets of Brighstone, Brook, Hulverstone, Mottistone and Limerstone. The idea of compiling a Parish Plan arose simultaneously in the Parish Council and in the Brighstone Community Forum. In October 2002 several Parishioners attended a Parish Plan Workshop held by the Isle of Wight Rural Community Council. Following the enthusiasm gained from this, an inaugural public meeting was held in Brighstone School on the 14th January with 24 Parishioners attending. This included a brainstorming session in which many problems and issues were identified. A Steering Group was formed consisting of 15 parishioners; this number fluctuated during the course of the exercise. An application was made to the Countryside Agency for funding in order to produce a Parish Plan; this was successful, with the maximum amount (£5,000) being awarded.

Several meetings followed and reports of these were published in the local Newsletter, which is distributed to every household in the parish. From these meetings several issues dominated the discussions and Working Groups were formed to address and take forward these main issues. The Groups were headed Transport, Youth, Housing, Social and Environment. Questionnaires, raising mainly general issues relating to these themes, were included in the Newsletters of June and September 2003 and prompted responses providing qualitative information and ideas.

In October 2003 Brook undertook a "Planning for Real" exercise in their village hall. In order to stimulate the interest of everyone to gain their views, ideas and aspirations, the event included activities for children and a barbecue. A three-dimensional plan of the area was created and parishioners were invited to place their ideas and needs on relevant positions on the plan. In addition disposable cameras had been issued previously for parishioners to take photographs of areas and buildings which they wished either to remain the same or to be changed. From a total population of 190, 71 parishioners attended the event, which was hailed as a great success.

In January 2004 Brighstone held a "Planning for Real" exercise over a 3-day weekend which attracted 360 parishioners. Children from the primary school had made a three-dimensional model of the village and this, along with charts, maps, plans and pictures of play equipment were displayed. Parishioners were invited to chart their gender and age, and then to place stickers on the displayed items, adding comments and ideas where applicable.

In February 2004 a "Housing Needs" questionnaire was distributed to every house in the parish and collected a week later. This attracted an excellent response and a high level of need for affordable housing was established empirically.

Views from the public meetings, planning exercises and questionnaires have helped form this plan and the proposed actions to create a vision for the future for Brook, Mottistone, Hulverstone, Limerstone and Brighstone.

The Parish

The coastal Parish of Brighstone, comprising the villages and hamlets of Brook, Hulverstone, Mottistone, Limerstone and Brighstone, is to the west of the Island and covers some 25 square kilometres. The area has many special designations including Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Conservation Areas.

Brighstone, the largest of the villages, has 644 households. The facilities include a primary school, parish church, Methodist chapel, library, museum, recreation ground and pavilion, village hall, Scout, Guide and Community Centre, a social club and GP surgery and pharmacy. Brook and Mottistone are hamlets and comprise 132 households with a village hall, and two parish churches.

Businesses in the area include a general grocery store, two Post Offices, newsagents/general store, hairdressers, National Trust shop, tea rooms, garage and petrol station, 3 public houses, holiday centres, guest houses and bed and breakfast establishments, approximately 7 farms, a building firm plus several small service providers such as gardeners, painters and decorators, plumbers, fencing suppliers, etc

Of the population, 39% are aged over 60, 18% aged over 75, 69% are economically active.

It was acknowledged that the village of Brighstone lost a major employer, a large tea garden, a few years ago and there seems to be a need for an economic regeneration strategy. However, this was felt to be beyond the scope of this Parish Plan, but it was suggested that this should be looked at and taken forward by the Parish Council.

The Vision

- A Parish that values its assets and rural character, but is prepared to encompass new ideas and changes which benefit both present and future parishioners.
- A caring community which provides for all ages.
- A community which takes opportunities to help itself.
- A community that benefits from improving the lifestyle of its people.
- A community which, although it has a high elderly population, realises the need to work to attract and encourage younger people to remain in and return to the community.

This report examines issues on a thematic basis, and relates to all of the villages in the Parish. Some specific issues concerning Brook are also identified. An Action Plan is to be found at the end of the document.

KEY ISSUES IN BRIGHSTONE, BROOK AND MOTTISTONE VILLAGES

From the questionnaires, public meetings and the “Planning for Real” events in Brighstone and Brook, residents highlighted various issues and needs which they wish to see addressed and which would benefit the whole community.

1. ENVIRONMENT

Garden Waste

A number of households have limited resources and the purchase of garden refuse sacks (for recycling by the Isle of Wight Council) causes difficulty. The idea of a local composting facility and/or available funding for the purchase of sacks is being pursued.

RECOMMENDATION – Local farmers to be approached and asked to dedicate a corner of land, accessible from the highway, for the composting of garden refuse. Alternatively the Community Forum should be asked to allocate an amount of money, each year, for the purchase of sacks. Allocation of these would need to be closely monitored and assessed. A third alternative is for volunteer drivers to be used to dispose of neighbours’ garden waste. *Action 1.1*

Renewable Energy



Solar heating system for hot water on a home in Brighstone

A high percentage of residents feel this is important but are at a loss to know how they can make a real impact on the environment. Solar heating has a proven record but is not being installed in new properties.

RECOMMENDATION – Contact local builders, utility companies, Isle of Wight Council and specialist firms, to discuss advantages/disadvantages of installing solar panels in new and existing properties. To investigate the feasibility of geo-thermal energy, water butts and renewable energy generally. *Action 1.2*

Dog Fouling

Dog fouling and barking were highlighted by residents as a health hazard and a nuisance.

RECOMMENDATION – Stricter enforcement of legislation is needed, along with the funding of additional dog bins. *Action 1.3*

Roads, Pavements, Traffic Speeds, Parking, Footpaths and Lighting

Motorists require improved road surfaces. Pedestrians need more pavements or walk-ways and traffic calming measures in order to reduce speeding traffic. Available parking space for cars and coaches needs to be addressed. Brook residents wished to see a more convenient footpath along the Main Road and between Brook and Hulverstone, where the public house is situated. The need for additional street lighting should be explored, while excessive flood-lighting should be discouraged.

RECOMMENDATION – Lobby the IW Council to spend extra money on the maintenance of roads and pavements; to install more pavements, walkways, footpaths; to install traffic calming measures on Main Road and New Road in Brighstone, in Main Road, Brook and on the Military Road, plus install more 30 mph signs in Brook; explore the need for additional street lights and seek ways of reducing light pollution. *Action 1.4, 1.5, 1.6 and 1.7*



Lack of footpaths can be hazardous for pedestrians of all ages



...especially when corners get cut by motorists!

Trees and Plants

Many residents highlighted the need to preserve and increase the numbers of trees and plants throughout the parish in order to maintain the quality of the natural environment.

RECOMMENDATION - encourage the planting of trees to replace those cut down and in new locations; encourage the planting of wild flowers along roadsides and footpaths. *Action 1.8*

2. COMMUNITY

Community Person/Policing

Residents wished to see some of the untidy areas being cared for which would benefit the residents and the tourists of the villages. Consideration should also be given to having someone to be around to spot tasks which need attention, respond to unruly behaviour, etc., along the lines of the Community Warden scheme in Ryde

RECOMMENDATION - Talk to and discuss with the Parish Council the idea of funding, through grants and the precept, on a self-employed basis a person who would carry out tasks e.g. weeding borders, cutting hedges and shrubs, cleaning signs, quartering, etc. and to deter and respond to unruly behaviour. *Action 2.1*

Broadband connection to the Internet

A surprisingly high number of people have a PC at home and a high percentage of those would like access to Broadband. Latest information from BT suggests that the Brighstone exchange will be modified by mid-November 2004 making Broadband available. *Action 2.2*

Welcome Signs



- not exactly welcoming to tourists and other visitors!

These were highlighted in the Planning Exercises and would be of benefit to the area for both residents and visitors.

RECOMMENDATION – Involve the Parish Council, Community Forum, the IW Council and the AONB Unit “Sense of Place” small grant fund, in giving money towards welcome signs for the villages. A competition could be held for ideas for the design. *Action 2.3*

One Community Centre in Brighstone

The issue of too many “community buildings” in Brighstone was raised, some of which are old and not particularly user friendly. Some people suggested having one purpose-built Community Centre in which all activities could be held.



Wilberforce Hall (front)
Scout HQ (background)

Recreation Ground Pavilion

Reading & Recreation Room
(Social Club)

RECOMMENDATION – Undertake a survey of all users of the existing halls to determine if there is a genuine need for one building and to rationalise what we have. *Action 2.4*

Seely Hall Brook



For Brook & Mottistone, the only community centre under the control of the residents is the Seely Hall, Brook which is of great importance in sustaining a sense of community. It is difficult in so small a place to generate sufficient income from village events to maintain the building and carry out necessary modernisation, despite the efforts of the Hall Committee.

RECOMMENDATION – Explore the possibility of grant aid for improvement to the Seely Hall. *Action 2.5*

Health



The Surgery, New Road

A large percentage of the elderly residents, without transport, wished to see the provision of Dentist, Optician and Complementary Medicine facilities in Brighstone. These would be visiting rather than permanent.

RECOMMENDATION - Contact dentists, opticians and complementary medical practitioners to visit Brighstone to consider setting up a practice in Brighstone. *Action 2.6*

Leisure

Various leisure activities were requested e.g. outdoor fitness trail, outdoor bowls, multi gym, day trips, etc.

RECOMMENDATION – Investigate the support for setting up some additional leisure activities in Brighstone and Brook. *Action 2.7*

Bus Shelter



A bleak place to wait for the School Bus!

The residents of Brook requested a Bus Shelter opposite Brook Triangle where children wait for the school bus.

RECOMMENDATION – Contact Highways Dept. & Southern Vectis to arrange a site meeting with a view to ascertaining if the provision of a Bus Shelter is possible. *Action 2.8*

Community Infrastructure and Facilities

Residents in all parts of the Parish were anxious that all possible steps need to be taken to ensure the sustainability of local infrastructure and facilities. At a time when village shops and Post Offices are under threat, appropriate steps need to be taken to increase their commercial viability. The continuation of Brighstone Primary School is vital if the village is to maintain a balanced demography, while the Surgery and its pharmacy are a vital service to the community.

RECOMMENDATION – there needs to be a strategy to encourage residents to make maximum use of local facilities. Lobby for the maintenance of facilities such as the Post Office, school and surgery. *Action 2.9*

3. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

A sub-group of the Parish Plan Steering Group was set up to explore the possible need for affordable housing in the Parish, and this group was able to secure technical assistance from Joanne Downey, the Rural Housing Enabler at the Isle of Wight Rural Community Council. A housing needs survey was drawn up, and with the assistance of some 30 volunteers, this was delivered to, and collected from every household in the Parish. This enabled us to achieve a 75% response rate.

The survey revealed 69 households in housing need – 11 families with children, 20 couples, 38 single people (young and old), and one extended family. The housing need was identified as flats (24), bungalows (17) and houses (30), with most people indicating a need for one or two bedrooms. Ten respondents indicated a need for warden assistance.

The survey clearly indicates a considerable need for affordable housing for local people with the need clustering around young people (single, couples and families) and older people. The results suggest a scheme which provides both rented accommodation and shared ownership which allows people, especially younger people, to gain a foothold on the housing ladder.

The Parish Council is now taking forward the recommendation to support the implementation of an affordable housing scheme. Funding (£1.3million) has now been secured to build 12 units and a project group has been established with a view to the scheme actually starting in 2005.

RECOMMENDATION – Take the scheme forward in conjunction with a Housing Association, the Parish Council and IW Council. *Action 3.1*

4. TRANSPORT

Coach and Car Parking



Vehicles parked in Main Road.....and New Road.....

In the “Planning for Real” exercise, residents highlighted car parking as being a problem, both in the centre of Brighstone and in New Road outside the School and the Surgery. There is a Car Park in Warnes Lane but elderly residents visiting the Surgery are unable to walk from the Car Park to the Surgery.

....in and near the Tea Rooms.....- and the Car Park is almost empty!!



RECOMMENDATION – Investigate the possibility of identifying an area of land suitable for coach/car parking and accessible to the centre of the village. *Action 4.1*

Cycle Racks

From responses received from residents during the planning exercise, there is nowhere in the centre of Brighstone to park cycles. It was suggested that cycle racks would be useful and well used.

RECOMMENDATION – Three sites identified for Cycle Racks. Funding needs to be sought for this provision. *Action 4.2*

Cycle Track



The need for a cycle track from Brighstone to Shorwell was highlighted by many residents during the planning exercise. The main road between Brighstone to Shorwell is becoming busier and dangerous for cyclists. Various landowners would need to be consulted and involved with this project.

RECOMMENDATION – Hold a Public Meeting and invite all the landowners/Sustrans and Cycle Wight to see if agreement could be reached to create a cycle track, running alongside the stream from Waytes Court, Brighstone to Shorwell and if practicable, Brighstone to Mottistone and Brook. *Action 4.3*

Bus Services

Existing services are good in comparison with rural services in many other parts of the country, but they depend to a considerable degree upon the Government's Rural Bus Grant and assistance from the IW Council. Recent changes to the timetable have significantly reduced the service to Mottistone, Hulverstone and Brook. Buses are socially important, meeting the needs of young people whose friends and colleagues are often in Newport and also the needs of the elderly – a substantial part of the village populations – who cannot use a car.

RECOMMENDATION – Emphasise to the IW Council and possibly the M.P. the social importance of maintaining and improving the adequate bus service. *Action 4.4*

5. PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Play Equipment



The Parish Council owns the Recreation Ground on which there is play equipment which does not wholly conform to EU standards. New up-to-date equipment is required and depending on costs and funds available may be installed in stages.

RECOMMENDATION – Firms to be approached for estimates for a modern play area. Fundraising to be organised locally and grant funding to be sought. *Action 5.1*

Play Area & Equipment in Brook

A need was identified in the “Planning for Real” exercise for a play area and some equipment for the children in Brook.

RECOMMENDATION – Meet with the Brook children and parents to gain an idea of where they would like the play area to be if possible. *Action 5.2*

Skate Park/Ramp

The need for a skate park or ramp for the older age group of children was identified and strongly argued for by children who attended planning meetings. At present children either go to Newport or Freshwater to skateboard parks or skateboard in the centre of the village by the Bus Shelter. The latter causes a nuisance and a danger. Identifying a suitable site for a Park or Ramp

is necessary as a first step. The cost of a Park could be prohibitive and supervising it may be difficult.

RECOMMENDATION – Find a suitable site, acceptable to residents and young people and provide equipment. To provide Mobile Ramps may be the acceptable alternative. *Action 5.2*



Hang-Out Facility

At present the Bus Shelter in the centre of the village is the main meeting place for teenagers, which is not ideal for them or for local residents. The Exercise showed a need for a more suitable place for teenagers to meet. The possibility of using the Pavilion and encourage the teenagers to decorate it and look after it should be explored and alternatives discussed with the young people.

RECOMMENDATION – Consult with the young people in the Parish to seek their views on more suitable meeting-places. *Action 5.4*

ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations are used in the Action Plan:

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BCF	Brighstone Community Forum
BPC	Brighstone Parish Council
CC	County Councillor
FR	Fund-raising
IWC	Isle of Wight Council
RCC	Rural Community Council
SE	Southern Electricity
VHA	Vectis Housing Association

This final part of the Parish Plan sets out the actions which are recommended in response to the various issues raised by the Plan. It indicates the suggested priority, the lead organisation and various partners likely to be involved, along with the resources required and the anticipated timescale.

Recommendation	Action	Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead	Resource	
1.	ENVIRONMENT						
1.1	Garden waste	Approach farmers/supply sacks/volunteers.	Medium	Landowners/BCF	Now to end 2005	BCF	Voluntary/ BCF
1.2	Renewable energy	Talk to specialists and IWC	Medium	IWC/Utility companies	Now to end 2005	BCF	Voluntary
1.3	Dog fouling	Stricter enforcement/additional dog bins	High	IWC/Env. Health, BCF and BPC	Now to end 2005	BPC	Voluntary/IWC
1.4	Lighting	Questionnaire and personal approach	Low	SE/Police/Env. Agency	Sept. 2004 to Sept. 2005	BPC	Voluntary/IWC
1.5	Roads and pavements	Lobby IWC to spend more on roads and to install pavements	Medium	IWC/ BPC	Now to end of 2005	BPC	Council Tax
1.6	Traffic speeds	Lobby to obtain larger 30 mph signs and traffic calming	Medium	BPC/BCF	Ongoing	BPC and BCF	Residents
1.7	Footpaths	Establish exact route	Low	IWC/Landowners	Ongoing	BPC	Ramblers
1.8	Trees and plants	Encourage the planting of trees and plants	Medium	BPC/BCF/Tree warden	Ongoing	BPC and BCF	Residents

2	COMMUNITY						
2.1	Community person/policing	Clerk to discuss with PC	Medium	Parishioners/PC	Now to end 2005	Clerk	Grant/precept
2.2	Broadband to the community	Campaign to obtain Broadband in the area			Achieved in Brighstone		
2.3	To erect "welcome signs" at entrances to villages	Hold campaign for design. Involve BPC, AONB	High	BPC/BCF/AONB/Parishioners	Now to mid 2005	BCF	Grants/FR
2.4	To consider one new community centre for Brighstone	Survey all users of halls, determine the need and rationalise	Low	Parishioners/BCF	Now to end 2005	Parishioners/grant organisations	Grants/FR
2.5	To improve the Seely Hall facilities	Pursue grants and fund-raising	High	Seely Hall Committee/Parishioners/Grant orgs	Now to end 2006	Seely Hall Committee	Grants/FR
2.6	To bring dentist, optician and comp. med. Facilities	Contact dentists, opticians and comp. Medics to visit Brighstone	Low	Parishioners/BCF	Now to end 2006	BCF	Self funding
2.7	To increase leisure facilities	Survey the need for more leisure facilities	Low	Parishioners/BCF	Now to end 2005	BCF	Grants/FR
2.8	Bus shelter in Brook	Arrange site meeting with IWC and Southern Vectis	High	IWC/Southern Vectis	Now to April 2005	BPC	Council Tax
2.9	Use and maintain local facilities	Encourage the use of local facilities and lobby for maintaining them	Medium	BPC/BCF/Residents/Service providers	Ongoing	BPC	Self funding

3	HOUSING						
3.1	Affordable housing	Form Action Group	High	BPC/ VHA/ RCC/ IWC	Now to end 2006	VHA/BPC	£1.3 already secured
4	TRANSPORT						
4.1	Car and coach parking	Identify land for extra parking	High	IWC/ BPC/Landowners	Ongoing	BPC	IWC/businesses
4.2	Cycle racks	Acquire space and cycle racks in Brighstone village	Medium	IWC/Sustrans/ Cyclewright	Achieved	BCF	BCF
4.3	Cycle track	Create a cycle way from Brighstone to Shorwell along the stream	Low	Sustrans/Cyclewright/ IWC/Landowners/ Shorwell PC	Now to end 2006	BPC	Voluntary/Sustrans
4.4	Bus services	Maintain and improve bus services, esp. to Mottistone, Hulverstone and Brook	High	IWC/Southern Vectis	Now to end 2006	BPC/CC	IWC/Southern Vectis

5	PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE						
5.1	Play equipment	Renew and replace equipment on the Recreation Ground	High	DEFRA/Lottery/Awards for All/Europe	Now to mid-2005	Rec. Ground Admin. Cttee	Grants and FR
5.2	Play area in Brook	Identify possible sites and secure funding	Low	Landowner/DEFRA/Awards for All	Now to end 2006	BPC	Grants
5.3	Skate Park/Ramp	Acquire suitable site, assess risks and acquire equipment	High	IWC/BCF/BPC/Parents	Now to end 2005	BCF/BPC	Grants
5.4	Hang-out facility for teenagers	Consult further with young people regarding meeting places and other facilities	Medium	BPC/BCF/Young people	Now to end 2005	BPC	Voluntary/grants

for your notes . . .

REGISTER OF FINANCIAL AND OTHER INTERESTS
BRIGHSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Under the Local Government Act 2000 it is a requirement for all Members to complete this register within 28 days of the adoption by the Council of the Code of Conduct. If your circumstances change you are required, with 28 days of the change, to submit written notification of the change to the Monitoring Officer/Clerk to the Council.

Name of Member.....

I set out below my interests under the various headings (please put "None" where appropriate):

Financial Interests:

1. I am employed or in business as:

2. a) The name of the person who employed or had appointed me is:

b) I am a partner in the firm of:

c) The names of companies that remunerate me as a director are:

3. The following (other than the Council) have made a payment to me in respect of my election or any expenses incurred by me in carrying out my duties:

--

4. I have a beneficial interest in a class of securities of the following corporate bodies that have a place of business or land in the authority's area that exceeds the nominal value of £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body:

--

5. There are the following contracts for goods, services or works between the authority and myself or a firm in which I am a partner, a company of which I am a remunerated director or a body of the description specified in sub-paragraph 4. above:

--

6. I have a beneficial interest in the following land which is in the area of the authority (Give address or other description sufficient to identify the location):

--

7. The address or other description (sufficient to identify the location) of any land where the landlord is the authority and the tenant is a firm in which I am a partner, a company of which I am a remunerated director, or a body of the description specified in sub-paragraph 4. above is:

--

8. I have a licence (alone or jointly) to occupy for 28 days or longer the following land within the area of the authority (Give address or other description sufficient to identify the location):

Other Interests:

9. I am a member of or hold a position of general control or management in the following bodies to which I have been appointed or nominated by the authority as its representative:

10. I am a member of or hold a position of general control or management in the following:

- a. Public authorities or bodies exercising functions of a public nature:

- b. company, industrial and provident society, charity, or body directed to charitable purposes;

- c. body whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy;

d. trade union or professional association.

Date:.....

Signed:.....

RECEIVED:

Date:.....

Signed:.....
(Monitoring Officer or his representative)

