



Shorwell Parish Plan

St. Peter's Church
(Vicars) 119
21K 733

Grave Yard

HARRIS MEAD

Welcome to the Household Version of Shorwell Parish Plan

Copies of the Library Version of the Shorwell Parish Plan mentioned in the text are available for consultation from Shorwell Parish Councillors, the Lord Louis Library in Newport and Brighstone Library. These contain not only the Household Version of the Plan, but also the full data Appendices and a copy of the Shorwell Landscape Character Assessment

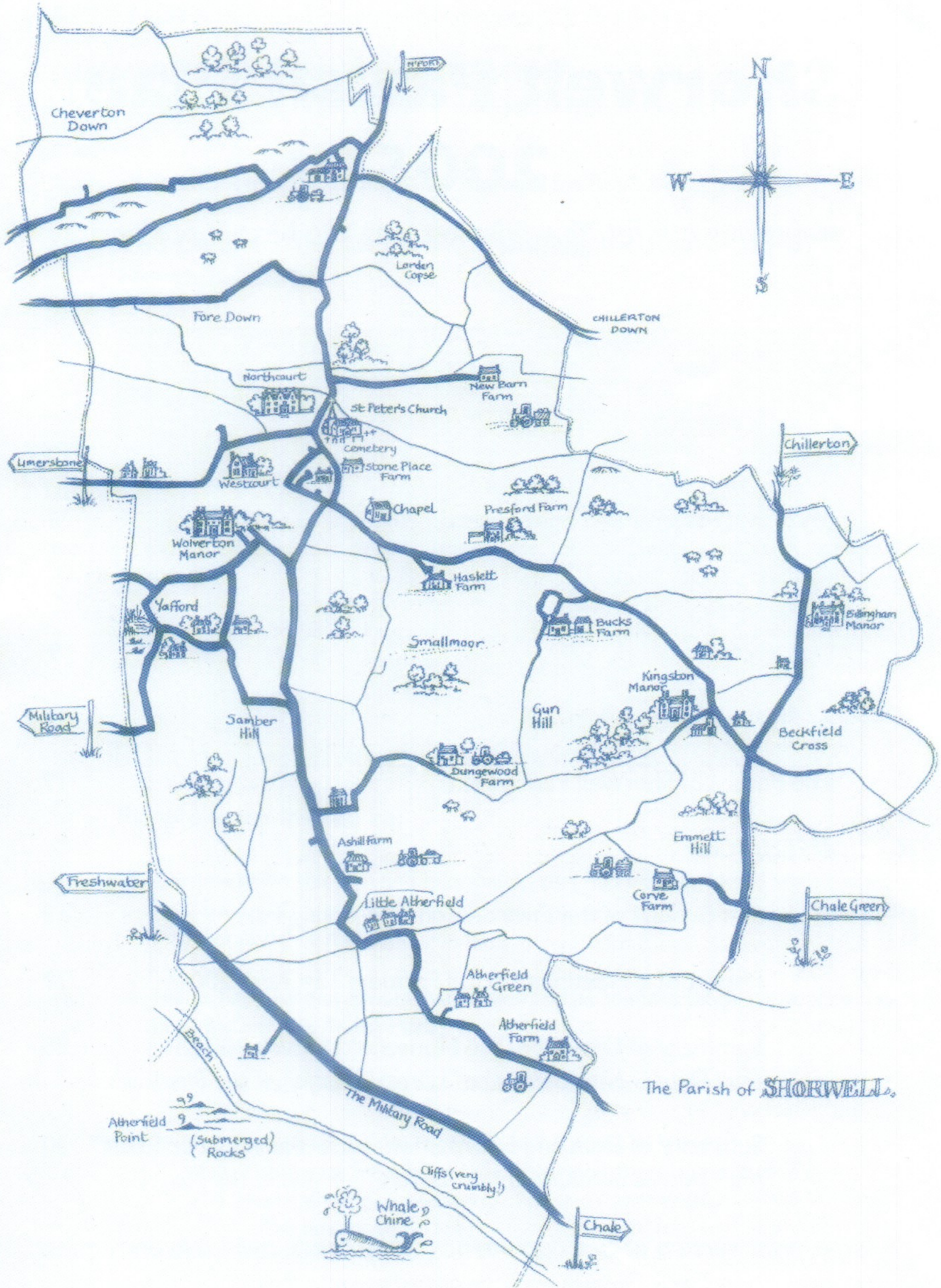
Shorwell Parish Plan 2005

Improving our future whilst keeping the best of our past

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A large-print version of this document can be made available on request.



Map drawn by Laura Humphrys

I The Parish of Shorwell on the Isle of Wight



The Parish of Shorwell is situated in the south west of the County of the Isle of Wight, which is separated from the Mainland by the Solent. It has around 700 inhabitants, with a higher than average number of older people, which are balanced by a good number of families and children of school age. The population is within the catchment area of Brighstone Primary School, which is 4.5kms away; and children also travel by bus to Nodehill Middle School, Trinity Middle School, Archbishop King Middle School and to Carisbrooke High School 7kms away.

Shorwell village contains a small Post Office / Shop and a Pub and has a regular bus service to the county town of Newport. There is a Church and Chapel in the village, a Parish Hall, a Social Club and a Recreation Ground.

Within the parish there are four hamlets: Atherfield, Billingham, Kingston and Yafford, together with isolated farms, coastguard cottages and many fine historic buildings.

The parish has a varied landscape and although it extends north beyond the chalk ridge that forms the east-west spine of the Island, it mostly faces south towards the coast. Located within the Island's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the parish contains open rolling downland, wet meadows and pasture, expansive flat arable fields, copses, woodlands, and an eroding 4 km Heritage Coastline.

Shorwell village retained most of the characteristics of a spring-line linear village until after the Second World War. Since then the development of additional housing, particularly bungalows, has led to a more nucleated shape. The village centre, with its thatched cottages and the presence of three manor houses dating from the 16th and 17th centuries, has however preserved a sense of timelessness. Some families have lived in the parish for generations, but between one-third and one-half of households have moved in during the last 10 years. Significant changes to the pattern and profitability of agriculture mean that most people of working age are employed outside the parish, or are self-employed.

2 The Parish Plan: Why it was created and how it was created

The Parish Council saw the creation of a Parish Plan as a means to gain a comprehensive overview of the parish. It would both identify needs and harness the skills and experience of parishioners in responding to those needs. In July 2003 they appointed Keith Parfitt to set up a Task Group that would co-ordinate the creation of a "Parish Plan".

Initially, members of the **Parish Plan Co-ordinating Group** were appointed by key bodies in parish life: the Parish Council, the Community Partnership, the Churches, and the Youth Club, plus a volunteer who responded to an advert in the Parish Newsletter. After a skills analysis at the first meeting, to identify gaps in knowledge and experience, membership was increased to represent a wider range of issues:

<i>Ian Attrill</i>	<i>Disability</i>
<i>Peter Bingham</i>	<i>Shorwell Parish Council / Treasurer</i>
<i>Jill Downer</i>	<i>The Churches / Long-term residents</i>
<i>Claire Hearn</i>	<i>Settlements outside the Village / Farmers</i>
<i>Yvonne Hide</i>	<i>Older People</i>
<i>Keith Parfitt</i>	<i>Convenor of the Task Group</i>
<i>Peter Savory</i>	<i>Community Partnership / Data processing</i>
<i>Mike Snow</i>	<i>Young families / Marketing</i>

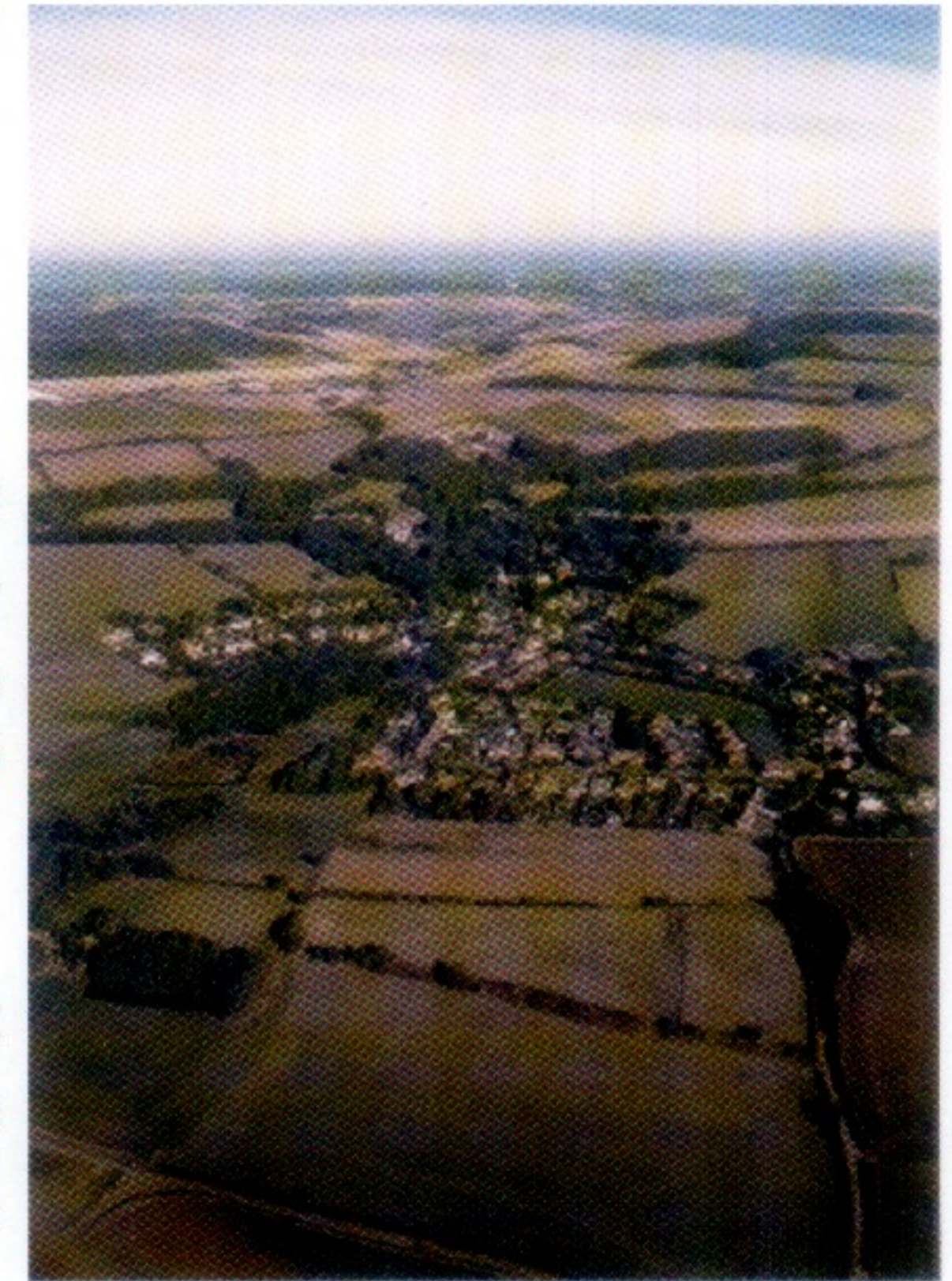
The Shorwell Youth Project was represented at initial meetings, but it proved more successful to consult directly with young people and the project staff.

The Parish Plan Co-ordinating Group met on twelve occasions over an eighteen month period and members undertook work both within and between meetings. As a matter of principle, the Group sought to include all sections of the community and to include issues concerning the delivery of services, as well as economic activity.

There were six distinct phases of activity:

- ★ *Preparing the Application for Grant aid from the Countryside Agency started in December 2003 and a **Funding** offer was made in March 2004, to supplement local money, voluntary activity and the contributions of partner organisations like the Isle of Wight Rural Community Council, the Isle of Wight Council and the Isle of Wight Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Unit.*
- ★ *Planning how to create our Parish Plan, which included writing a **Marketing Plan**, identifying target groups for consultation and obtaining resources for data processing.*
- ★ *Operating Working Parties, particularly the **Environmental Working Party**, which co-operated with the Isle of Wight Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Unit to create*

the Shorwell Landscape Character Assessment¹. Its brief included issues concerning local affordable housing and tourism and it had seven sub-groups working between meetings². In order to root the activity in the community, three Guided Walks were organized during 2004. In addition, seventeen **local farmers** attended a consultation on issues concerning agriculture, sustainability and land-use³.



★ *Gathering Information* involved:

★ *Local organisations* - **Shorwell Youth Project, the Recreational Committee, the Parish Hall Committee, Social Club, Shorwell Women's Institute, Brighstone Surgery, St Peter's Church, and the Village Shop and Post Office.**

★ *The wider public* - through a stall and competition at the **Summer Fair**, plus **suggestion boxes** at the Crown, the Village Shop and Post Office, the Church, the Chapel and the Social Club.

★ *Every household in the Parish* - through a **Household Questionnaire**. This was distributed by 30 local volunteers who had been trained through two evening sessions. As a result of the forms being collected by neighbours, 77.3% of forms were returned and subsequently processed through the Compass Community Profiling Package⁴.

★ *Feeding back the views and information collected and consulting members of the parish concerning the actions that should be taken:*

★ The aggregated data collected through the Household Survey and all the other consultation exercises was displayed at a **"Planning for Real"**⁵ exhibition over a complete weekend in November 2004. Further questions were asked, with the aim of encouraging parishioners to consider solutions to the issues raised. People responded in a variety of ways, including putting labels on the model of Shorwell Village and the map of the Parish. In addition, there was a display of local historic photographs, a slide show of local wildlife and a continuous powerpoint presentation on the parish by the AONB Unit. 130 people attended.



1 *Shorwell Landscape Character Assessment, published 2005, is a companion to the Parish Plan, describing "the relationship between people and place over time". It is available for sale.*
 2 *List of members and Working Parties at Appendix 1*
 3 *Report included at Appendix 2*
 4 *Data and Information from the Household Survey is summarised at Appendix 3*
 5 *Data and Information from "Planning for Real" is summarised at Appendix 4*

★ *Planning our Future.* The aggregated data and information from all of this Consultation was analysed during December and January. The results were then presented to the Groups, Committees and individuals that had agreed to create and implement **Action Plans**, so as to take forward solutions to the concerns raised. This was followed by:

- ★ “Mapping our Future”, a mind-mapping exercise held in January 2005 to **identify key action areas** for each Group and to see how all of these proposals related to each other.
- ★ A Funding Workshop held in February 2005 to examine **sources of funding** for various proposed activities and also to identify areas where there will be difficulties in obtaining funding.
- ★ A session held in early April 2005 where the Groups **shared their Action Plans** and sharpened them up where necessary.
- ★ An all day **Exhibition of the proposals for action**, open to all parishioners at the end of April 2005 in the Parish Hall. Thirty-five people attended.

We would like to express **our thanks to all those who volunteered** their time, skills and experience to this process. Without them the Parish Plan would not have been created.⁶

3 Our Vision

The **slogan** we have used throughout our work has been:

“IMPROVING OUR FUTURE WHILST KEEPING THE BEST OF OUR PAST”

In the way we have worked, we have tried to **include as many people as possible**. About 70 individuals have taken part in Working Parties, or delivered and collected Household Surveys, or worked on displays and data presentation.

- ★ Once we had collected our data, all those who visited the “Planning for Real®” exhibition (nearly 20% of the population), had the opportunity to **find solutions** to the issues raised.
- ★ Responsibility for practical **Action** has been accepted by organisations within the parish, together with some individual volunteers.
The Vision that has emerged from this exercise starts with a sense of gratitude and appreciation that the Parish is such a **beautiful place**. It has extraordinary variety, both in terms of its scenery, and in the character of Shorwell Village and its hamlets, that have their roots in prehistory. Part of this heritage is the result of the landscape and part has arisen through the settled communities and agricultural roots of the past.
- ★ We are fortunate that there are living links with the past, through **families that have been here for generations**.
We therefore place a priority on being able to remain in the parish, in a period when both the housing markets and patterns of employment have radically changed.
- ★ Stability is however deceptive and **over 40% of those who responded to the Household Survey had lived in the parish for 10 years or less**.
We therefore place importance on integrating new residents into the community, with opportunities to offer their skills and experience for the common good.
- ★ Over **27% of the population is past retirement age**, whilst there are also **around one hundred children and young people under 18 years of age**. All age groups are equally members of our community, all need to feel valued, and none should feel that their needs and hopes are being ignored.
We therefore hope to increase the opportunities for people to meet across the generations and value each other.
- ★ A small proportion of **people have disabilities, some are chronically sick, and some spend much of their lives caring for members of their family**.

It is therefore a priority for us to include them in community life as much as possible and to find ways of providing support in appropriate ways.

★ **People in the parish have a very varied range of skills.**

We therefore need to ensure that it is easy for them to contribute in practical ways, in action groups and committees; everyone should have the chance to “do their bit” and no-one should feel lumbered with doing things for ever!

★ We believe that by including and valuing what each person has to offer, we can assemble the necessary skills to **improve the quality of community facilities such as our Parish Hall and Recreation Ground**, so they can be used more widely.

★ We believe that we should **protect the overall character of the village** and its hamlets and safeguard against unsuitable development in the future. We acknowledge however, that the village and its hamlets are the product of continual development, particularly since the 2nd World War.
We therefore wish to promote policies that enable appropriate and affordable development.

★ **Our unique environment is a key component in making decisions** about the social and economic life of this community.
We therefore believe that it should be actively treasured by the many varied interests that work within it and enjoy it, so that it is passed on to future generations in good shape.

Overall, our Vision is built upon respect for each other and for the place in which we live, its past, present and future. The proposals for Action that have emerged are responses to the needs and aspirations that people have expressed and to the principles outlined above. It is from this stance that we propose: **TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF SHORWELL.**



4 An Agenda for Action

The summary Action Plans below give an overview of what is proposed and which village organisation or person will be responsible for taking things forward. The detailed Action Plans can be found at Appendix 7 of the Library Edition.

Summary of Action Plans

Parish Council

★ **Provide additional Cemetery spaces**

Parish Councillor Charlie Warne and Revd Jon Russell will work to have this In place by summer 2007 either by extending the existing cemetery or by creating a new cemetery.



★ **Safety concerns associated with traffic, roads and footpaths**

Parish Councillor Charlie Warne and Peter Dawson will start summer 2005 and progress all these issues over time:

- ★ Improve and apply a consistent pattern of road signs within the parish
- ★ Ensure that existing signs are observed through traffic control
- ★ Put pressure on IW Council to provide or improve pavements in key locations
- ★ Ensure proper highway maintenance, for the repair of pot-holes and re-surfacing of some key roads
- ★ Negotiate a strategic plan with the Highways Authority to undertake work on a long-term basis, rather than doing it all piece-meal



★ **Launch a Parish-wide Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**

The Parish Council will appoint one of its members to arrange a launch in Autumn 2005.

★ **Provide additional affordable housing for local people in the Parish**

Bob Keats will take the lead, with a view to a small number of new houses being built in response to local needs by 2007.

★ **Write a Local Planning Guidance Policy to be adopted by the IW Planning Authority**

The Parish Council will identify a lead person to work with a small group to develop a planning guidance policy for the Council, and to safeguard the area against unsuitable development.

★ **Develop the management and communication processes of the Parish Council, using the standards of the national “Quality Council” scheme, to include monitoring the implementation of the Parish Plan**

Parish Councillor Charlie Warne as Chairman will oversee improvements in management and communication.

Recreational Committee

Keith Cram (Chairman) and the Committee will:

- ★ *Improve the environment in the Recreation Ground to be organised on a self-help basis.*

★ **Provide recreational facilities for young people**

by planning provision of new play equipment when funding becomes available in 2006/7. A new member will be appointed to help the Committee apply for grant funding.

★ **Promote recreational facilities for young people**

by encouraging and advising young people and parents who wish to start new games and activities, including a Family Fun Day.



★ **Provide recreational facilities for adults**

Investigate demand through the Newsletter, and establish a Steering Group of potential users to explore the cost and practicality of new activities.

★ **Provide support facilities for recreation**

Arrange a booking system for use of the changing rooms at the Youth Club. Disability access will be built into new and existing facilities “where reasonably practicable”.

★ **Generate capital finance and income to support recreational activities**

Help and advise on local fund-raising and appoint a new member to apply for grant-funding.

Parish Hall Committee

Denis Russell (Chairman) and the Committee will:

★ **Safeguard the long-term future of the building**

Respond to the Structural Engineer’s Report, to prevent spreading of the walls and the risk of water coming in.



★ **Fulfil legal obligations as a provider of public facilities**

Ensure compliance with legislation on Health and Safety, Hygiene and Access for Disabled people. This will cover the car park, toilets, kitchen and electrical installation.

★ **Provide facilities in line with current expectations**

★ install a new kitchen with heating and extraction systems

★ improve the heating and insulation of the whole building

★ create a pleasant small room within the building

★ replace chairs and tables

★ redecorate throughout

★ Improve the lighting

★ Improve the floor surface

★ **Organisational measures**

Promote greater use of the Hall with the additional advantage of generating more income.

★ **Infrastructure**

★ create a new legal structure and formalise the relationship with the Social Club, to protect everyone involved

★ develop a plan to increase income, so as to maintain the Hall

★ appoint a new member to apply for grant-funding for the larger capital sums needed

The success of these plans will determine the speed with which work can be Undertaken.

Youth Club

★ **Provide opportunities for children under 14 years**

The new Chairman and the Committee will support the provision of a club for younger children. They will appoint a new member to apply for grant-funding to cover the staffing costs.



Community Volunteering

★ **Provide local voluntary transport**

Ian Attrill will recruit drivers to provide a car transport service, operating under the Island-wide "Optio" Scheme.

★ **Provide support with basic tasks around the home or garden**

Ian Attrill will recruit volunteers able to do small jobs around the home and garden, operating under the Island-wide RSVP Scheme

★ **Create a Carers' Support Group**

Revd Jon Russell will provide assistance through St Peter', to a Group offering mutual support to those caring long-term for a relative or friend

Environmental Working Party

★ **Create a local Countryside and Heritage Group**

The aim will be to organise guided walks, invite occasional speakers, and encourage interest in all aspects of the parish environment, both natural and historic. Group members will be involved in the following projects:

★ **Oral History Project**

Mary Barton, Alan Phillips, Denis Russell, Mike Ridett, Christine Hounslow and Yvonne Hide will tape-record the experiences and memories of older residents of the parish, to create a permanent record.

★ **Create an Informal Archive for the Parish**

Promote the creation of an informal archive that catalogues records, papers and photos, some of which they might be willing to loan for photocopying, research or exhibition purposes.

★ **Field Names Project**

Mary Barton and Richard Etherington will continue research into old field names. Publication may occur at a later date.

★ **Water Courses Project**

Peter Buckland, Jennie and Keith Parfitt and Denis Russell will add a detailed historical perspective to the work already done on water courses in the Shorwell Landscape Character Assessment.

★ **Ancient Highways Project**

Mary Barton, Denis Russell and others will research historic highways in the parish.

★ **Local Conservation / Restoration Project**

Peter Buckland and others will organise a local practical project for people of all ages – perhaps pond clearance and restoration.

★ **Community Archaeology Project**

The County Archaeological Centre will be asked to organise an excavation or field-walking project within the parish.

Brighstone Surgery

★ **Work to overcome barriers to the inclusion of disabled people at the Surgery by improving access to the building and providing a toilet for disabled people**

★ **Gain support for capital development of the Brighstone Surgery buildings**

★ **Work towards the provision of a purpose-built surgery in Brighstone by the year 2020**

5 The Future of Shorwell Parish Plan

The future of this Parish Plan lies in **Your** hands and the hands of every other reader. The Plan is the formal property of Shorwell Parish Council, and they will want to monitor the Actions that follow from the Plan, but every household which has contributed to this Plan has an interest in seeing it implemented. The Isle of Wight Council and the Local Strategic Partnership have a duty to recognise local consultation, and Shorwell Parish Council will be working with them to see that the Parish Plan is built into their wider plans for the whole Island, as appropriate.

The Aim of our Parish Plan has been to “improve our future whilst keeping the best of our past”. At one level, this has resulted in a series of practical proposals about people, facilities and services; equally important however, are the intangible things that have emerged, which say something about the need for us to maintain and improve the quality of our shared life in this community. In their concerns, people expressed the hope that:

Both long term residents and new-comers will be able
to contribute their skills and experience

Young and old will have opportunities to meet and get along together

Those who are sick or disabled and their carers will be understood
and have a valued place among us

It is just as important for us to fulfil these aspirations, as it is for us to be able to have pride in public assets like the Parish Hall and the Recreation Ground. It is all part of a philosophy of building upon our past and not being stifled by it, so that we are not only good stewards of this beautiful place, but also of each other.

*Keith Parfitt
Parish Plan Co-ordinator
October 2005*

APPENDIX I

SUB GROUPS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING PARTY

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Watercourses	<i>Peter Buckland Jennie Parfitt Denis Russell</i>
Wildlife	<i>Jennie Parfitt Mike and Pat Ridett</i>

THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Settlement	<i>Christine Hounslow</i>
Economic Issues	<i>Jon Russell</i>
Historic Buildings	<i>Jackie Biggin Alan Phillips</i>
Place Names	<i>Alan Phillips</i>
Field Names	<i>Mary Barton</i>
Archaeology	<i>Paul and Jackie Biggin Alan Phillips</i>
Cultural Heritage	<i>Alan Phillips</i>

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE WORKING PARTY

*Ian Attrill
Richard Etherington
John Harrison
Claire Hearn
Yvonne Hide
Bob Keats
Keith Parfitt (Convenor)
Vic White*

John Brownscombe of the AONB Unit supported the Environmental Working Party at all stages, and produced the Shorwell Landscape Character Assessment booklet, encapsulating the work undertaken.

APPENDIX 2

REPORT OF A MEETING OF LOCAL FARMERS

13th April 2004

'The State of Farming in Shorwell, Isle of Wight'

★ **Public Infrastructure**

- ★ **Local roads** are in a very bad state of repair, with potholes, subsidence of the road surface, break-down of hips, blocked gullies and consequential flooding. Sustainable agriculture involves both large machinery and heavy transport. Farmers therefore need roads that are both adequate for heavy use and acceptable to tourists, whose B & B income supplements farming. Achieving this requires an adequate programme of planned road maintenance and repair.
- ★ **Access to essential local services** – primary schools, hairdressers, local shops - from a farm is only possible by car and this is undermined by proposed charges to village car parks. Taken together with proposed charges for parking at local beauty spots, this amounts to an added premium on country life, and also undermines rural tourism.
- ★ **New traffic flows and one-way systems in Newport** have made access to the south and west Wight more difficult for locals and visitors alike.

★ **Local Services**

- ★ **Local facilities** such as the Village Shop and Post Office and the Pub are greatly valued by those who have to make a journey even to reach Shorwell village centre.
- ★ **Access** from the outlying parts of the parish to Shorwell village is difficult for those no longer able to drive and an appropriate, affordable response needs to be made in the Parish Plan.

★ **Sales, Market Values and On-costs**

- ★ **There has been a long-term decline in the market value of crops:**
Malting Barley fetched £135 per ton in 1973, plummeted in the interim period, and has now risen again to a mere £99 per ton.
- ★ **Foreign Competition**
By the end of the summer, there will be only one dairy herd in the South Wight, because producers make a loss on the price offered by Supermarkets. The import

of low value commodities like milk, from as far away as Poland, creates an unnecessary dependence on foreign producers and in addition the transport implication is environmentally unfriendly.

The Isle of Wight Grain Group is a successful consortium of producers that works as a co-operative to market and sell grain. Changes in UK regulations mean that the cost to members will need to be increased. Meanwhile, Eastern European imports in the enlarged European Union will undercut British producers and may make most Island grain production uneconomic.

British farming is highly regulated and high quality food is produced. Some foreign imports of potatoes have been found to be contaminated with DDT, which has not been used on British farms since the 1950s. British produce needs to be compared with imports produced to similar standards, and imports of lower quality should be indicated on supermarket shelves.

The cost of transporting potatoes on the ferries amounts to £10 per ton.

★ **Dominance of Supermarkets in controlling farm gate prices**

The price of many products is held artificially low – below the cost of UK production for milk, beef, lamb, etc - by supermarket buying practices. Products which could be produced at home are imported:

- taking no account of the environmental cost of transport

- without properly evaluating quality and safety issues raised by foreign imports produced in less regulated countries.

The situation for Shorwell farmers would be helped by supermarkets stocking a proportion of locally produced products, **if** the means could be found to avoid sending products to a central mainland packaging station for subsequent transport back to the Island. This process:

- retains the supermarkets' control of the value added to farm-gate prices by use of their packaging facilities

- increases the cost of the product by unnecessary, environmentally unfriendly transport.

It was acknowledged that farmers, like the rest of the population, use supermarkets for price, choice and ease of shopping; but that the stores' purchasing practices raise serious problems for the future of British farming.

★ **Economies of Scale, or increased specialisation**

It has become increasingly difficult for small farmers to cover their overheads and derive a meaningful income. Should there be:

An encouragement for small farms to undertake market gardening, or other small scale, direct sales to supplement regular farm income?

An attempt to create larger units as each farm becomes available for sale – and how could this work, given that each farm is an independent business?

Attention given to the processes at work when farmers retire, with death duties to face – and the potential loss of expertise if children do not inherit the business?



Direct Sales

The need to increase the value added to farm gate sales has resulted in:

★ **The Farmers' Market**

The Farmers' Market, held each Friday in Newport, provides members with the opportunity for direct sales to the public, thereby increasing value-added to the producer. The cost of a stall is £23.50 per week (which can be shared by a group of farmers) with an annual membership is £58.75.

The Farmers' Market is however, only appropriate for a limited range of products, where small quantities have a relatively high sale value (e.g. not grain crops, or potatoes). Even vegetables such as cauliflower in season, which need harvesting 3 times per week, are inappropriate in a weekly market; farmers could not afford to operate more frequently, because of:

- the time away from the farm
- the overhead costs of operating a stall

Certain niche products like honey are viable, but cannot be copied without flooding the market and making it unprofitable; each niche product has to be unique.

Customers tend to be retired, higher-income households (typically purchasing other food from M&S) and the market has not yet appealed to the broad cross-section of households.

The installation costs of the Farmers' Market is £170; and the tapered initial subsidy provided by the Isle of Wight Council is being progressively withdrawn. This may make it uneconomic for some members and the venture could then fail for lack of support.

★ **Proposals for a mobile abattoir**

This idea has not been progressed for economic reasons:

The abattoir itself could be viable, **BUT**

The necessary facilities for hanging the meat to mature prior to sale cannot be economically provided within the regulatory framework

★ **Further niche marketing ideas**

Food Boxes that encourage people to learn how to prepare and cook a range of healthy food (are farmers in a position to do this??)

Sourcing the produce for school meals

★ **Diversification**

Farmers have diversified into other areas to broaden their income base:

★ **Farm gate sales** of eggs, vegetables and flowers

★ **Direct sales to the Village Shop** of eggs, potatoes, asparagus etc

★ **Bed and Breakfast and Self-catering accommodation**

★ **Barn conversions** into units of accommodation

★ **Niche products** such as honey and asparagus

★ **Increased co-operation** in the use of machinery, packaging facilities or marketing strategies (as in France or Spain)

But

Does this run counter to the fierce independence of farmers?

Do not farmers all need the same machinery at roughly the same time?

Is it too late, at this time of change and low incomes, to attempt something so bold?

– Or is there no choice??

★ **National and European Policies and the Reform of CAP**

The Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs is preparing policies to implement the UK response to the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, as well as responding to the increase in member states in the EU. This has been done by inviting contributions from the Country Landowners and Business Association, which may hopefully create more practical proposals. This means that:

★ **There is no current policy framework** within which farmers can plan their future

★ **The future grant regime** to support farmers, both in agricultural and non-farming land use, is still unknown

★ **Short-, medium- and long-term planning** is therefore very difficult; but:
Is there a window of opportunity to react to different future policy / funding scenarios, so as to be “fast off the blocks” when policies are announced, with a combination of:

Co-operation
Diversification
Niche sales
“Park” keeping!

★ **Social and Public Issues**

Representation of the rural Parish of Shorwell and its farming community has become more difficult and there is a feeling of being disenfranchised.

★ **The new boundaries** of the Rural Central Ward on the Island have moved Shorwell Parish from its historic and geographical relationship with Brighstone in the South Wight to a partnership with Gatcombe and Arreton. These have a different pattern of agriculture and community life and are situated in the centre of the Island, on different routes into Newport. This makes it difficult for the new Isle of Wight Councillor to represent Shorwell. There is no criticism of the individual, but as a resident of Arreton, it is impossible for her fully to represent and understand Shorwell.

★ **The situation of having a farmer as an Isle of Wight Councillor** in the past was a source of great confidence. However:

It is only possible for a farmer to spend the time involved as an Isle of Wight Councillor by delegating the main responsibility for the farm to a family member

The Isle of Wight Council includes only four rural Councillors, and so their voice for rural areas and for agriculture is vastly diluted by the town vote

★ **Public perception** of farmers and access to farmland:
Farmers often feel “got at” by members of the public, some of whom treat access to farmland as a right, without respect for farming, the land, or the environment. Farmers’ land can be subject to abuse through fly-tipping, gates left open with stock in the field, break-up of paths and downland

★ **Affordable Housing** for local people was broadly welcomed by the group as a way of retaining rural identity and continuity at a time of soaring house prices

★ **The Framework for Local Authority Policy Development** in the future:
All policy development will require a clear “expression of community interest” that demonstrates that the local community has expressed its view on proposals. This should create a climate in which it is easier to take part in decision-making.

★ So far as **Planning** is concerned, the new Local Development Framework will evolve over the next two years. It will be a folder of documents, replacing the Unitary Development Plan, and will contain:

A core strategy for development and growth

A statement of community involvement

Plans for housing provision

Plans for employment

Area Action Plans, Supplementary Plans, Stakeholder Consultation. The framework should build on the existing Unitary Development Plan, Regional Planning Guidance and the Community Strategy for the Island. Parish Plans themselves should in turn influence the Community Strategy

★ **Issues that have emerged since the meeting**

★ The constraints of “agricultural occupancy” and the need for more flexible operation of the Planning system

APPENDIX 3

SUMMARY OF DATA AND INFORMATION FROM THE HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

conducted September / October 2004

The complete Data is available in the Library Version of the Parish Plan

Data from 204 households was analysed out of a total of 300. This comprises 470 individual adults, 18 children and 18 young people

★ About the People

Over 42% of the people have lived in the Parish for 10 years or less;
16% have lived here for more than one generation;
33 people work from home and 16 people would like to do so;
84 are retired.

★ Disability:

5 people suffer hearing loss;

4 suffer sight loss;

26 experience physical impairment.

★ **Access for disabled people** is a problem in a wide range of places, including the Parish Hall, Churches, Social Club, Youth Club, Surgery, Pub and Shop.

★ **Carers:** 17 people are caring for an elderly or long-term sick or disabled person on a regular basis.

★ Local Services and Facilities

★ **The Village Shop and Post Office** is widely used, (several times a week by nearly 90 households and weekly by a further 40)

★ Nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of those analysed were registered at **Brighstone Surgery**

★ Over $\frac{1}{2}$ of the people would like more information on **Parish Council** business.

★ 102 people wanted the existing **Cemetery extended**, against 16 who wanted a new one.

- ★ There was widespread **concern about roads and pavements:**

 - Their state of repair

 - The need for some additional pavements

 - “Danger” spots on the roads for both vehicles and pedestrians

 - Problems of road safety and speeding

- ★ Very few people had a **fear of crime**, but nearly 80 people would like to join a **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme** for Shorwell Village.

- ★ There was concern about various **nuisances**, particularly:

 - Dog noise and mess (64 households)

 - Rubbish and litter lying around (36 households)

 - Traffic Noise (14 households)

 - Noisy neighbours (20 households)

- ★ **The need for Affordable Housing** for local people was expressed by 9 individuals, and a further 6 have had to move out of the area because they could not afford to live locally.

★ **Recreational Facilities**

- ★ **Children aged 8 – 12** expressed a strong desire for improving, replacing and maintaining the play equipment on the Recreation Ground

- ★ **Young people aged 13 – 17** requested sports and keep-fit activities

- ★ **92 Adults** thought there should be a **skate-board park** somewhere! – but only 2 children and one young person wanted this

- ★ **102 Adults** requested a Health and Fitness Club; and 28 said they would be willing to run one

★ The Parish Hall

★ The Condition of the Parish Hall

was thought to be only fair by 90 households and poor by 21

the **seating** was thought to be fair by 92 users and poor by 20

the **kitchen** was thought to be fair by 42 users and poor by 17

the **toilets** were thought to be fair by 55 users and poor by 29

79 households though **an additional smaller room** would be an improvement

★ Parishioners' Participation in Parish Groups

32 were involved in **Church or Chapel**

25 were involved in the **Youth Club**

19 were involved in the **Women's Institute**

19 were involved in the **Social Club**

15 were involved in the **Drama Club**

11 were involved in the **Autumn Club**

★ Access

★ People were prevented from visiting friends and relatives by:

Lack of **private transport** - 81

Cost of ferries - 73

Lack of **public transport** - 23

Cost of transport - 26

Family and friends **live too far away** - 24

Lack of support with **childcare** - 4

Caring for a **sick or elderly person** - 4

Access was not a problem for 81 people.

★ 18 people (9.2%) **do not have use of a car during the day**

★ 13 people regularly experience **transport difficulties**

★ The **cost** is a major problem for 28 (15.1%)

★ The **bus service** is important for 47 people and essential for 26

★ There were a variety of concerns about the **quality of the bus service**, particularly **cost, timetable**, and the **waiting environment**

★ Nearly half of people think **some bus stops are not in a safe position**

★ 50 people said they would use a **community minibus or taxi**

★ 30 people said they would use a **car club**

★ **Children** wanted more **buses**

★ **Young people** also thought the buses were **too expensive**

★ **Help Required with Certain Tasks**

12 wanted help with **gardening** and 12 with **decorating**

5 needed help to **change tap washers**

★ **The Natural Environment**

159 people use existing **countryside footpaths**

★ **Volunteers Involved in Distributing and Collecting the Questionnaires during September and October 2004**

Pat Attrill	Jennie Parfitt
Paul Biggin	Keith Parfitt
Jo Brown	Beate Parsons
Stephen Brown	Elizabeth Pease
Sarah Campbell	Peter Rayner
Jerry Christopher	Pat Ridett
Peter Dawson	Nigel Rowe
Tricia Dennis	Dave Puttick
Claire Hearn	Deanne Puttick
Yvonne Hide	Mike Snow
Joy Holdsworth	John Town
Christine Hounslow	Linda Turner
Holly Keats	Diana Wainwright
“Nick” Nichols	Sharon West
Martin Owen	Vic White
	Yvonne Willoughby

★ **Data Processing**

Peter Savory

APPENDIX 4

SUMMARY OF DATA AND INFORMATION FROM "PLANNING FOR REAL®" and subsequent events

The complete Data is available in the Library Version of the Parish Plan

★ The people who attended "Planning for Real"® on 27th - 28th November 2004

Age	Male	Female
5-12	3 + 1 visitor	
13-19	2	1
20-34	1	2
35-49	7	10
50-64	20	30
65+	33+ 1 visiting parish councillor from Kent	18
Total	66	61

★ People were invited to:

- ★ **Comment** on the data and information that had been collected from the Household Survey. This resulted in a great deal more detailed information that has been incorporated into the Action Plans
- ★ **Make suggestions** about what could be done to make things better; this too, has been fed into the Action Plans
- ★ **Say what they most liked or disliked** about the Parish:

This gave opportunities for those with a sense of humour!
 Many comments were from minorities of between 1 and 3 people.
 The overwhelming impression is of peoples' appreciation of:

- The beauty of the area
- Accessible walks
- Lack of street lights (and disapproval of security lights!)
- Community spirit
- Friendliness

★ **Design and Analysis of “Planning for Real®”**
on 27th – 28th November 2004

Jennie Parfitt

★ **Presentation of “Planning for Real®”**

Mary Barton
Peter Buckland
Sandra Dawson
Keith Parfitt
Pat Ridett
Estelle Thomas

John Brownscombe
Ruth Buckland
Jennie Parfitt
Mike Ridett
Denis Russell

★ **Staffing “Planning for Real®”**

Ian Attrill
Peter Dawson
Claire Hearn
Keith Parfitt
Peter Savory

Peter Bingham
Jill Downer
Yvonne Hide
Pat Ridett
Mike Snow

★ **Design, Presentation and Analysis of “Mapping Our Future”**
on 29th January 2005

Jennie Parfitt

Keith Parfitt

★ **Presentation for Funding Workshop** on 8th February 2005

Michael Bulpitt of the Isle of Wight Council

★ **Design and Analysis of Action Plans** from January until April 2005

Jennie Parfitt

Keith Parfitt

★ **Action Plans produced by**

Environmental Working Party
Parish Hall Committee
Youth Club staff
Bob Keats
Brighstone Surgery

Parish Council
Recreational Committee
Ian Attrill
Peter Dawson and Charlie Warne

★ **Design and layout**

The Revd Jon Russell, Alan Phillips, Jennie Parfitt and Keith Parfitt