

St Mary Bourne
Parish Council

St Mary Bourne Parish Plan 2005

This booklet was published by the St Mary Bourne Parish Plan/Village Design Statement Steering Group
A web version of the document will be available at www.stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk
Any questions about the St Mary Bourne Parish Plan should be addressed to the Clerk of the Parish Council,
or by email to clerk@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk



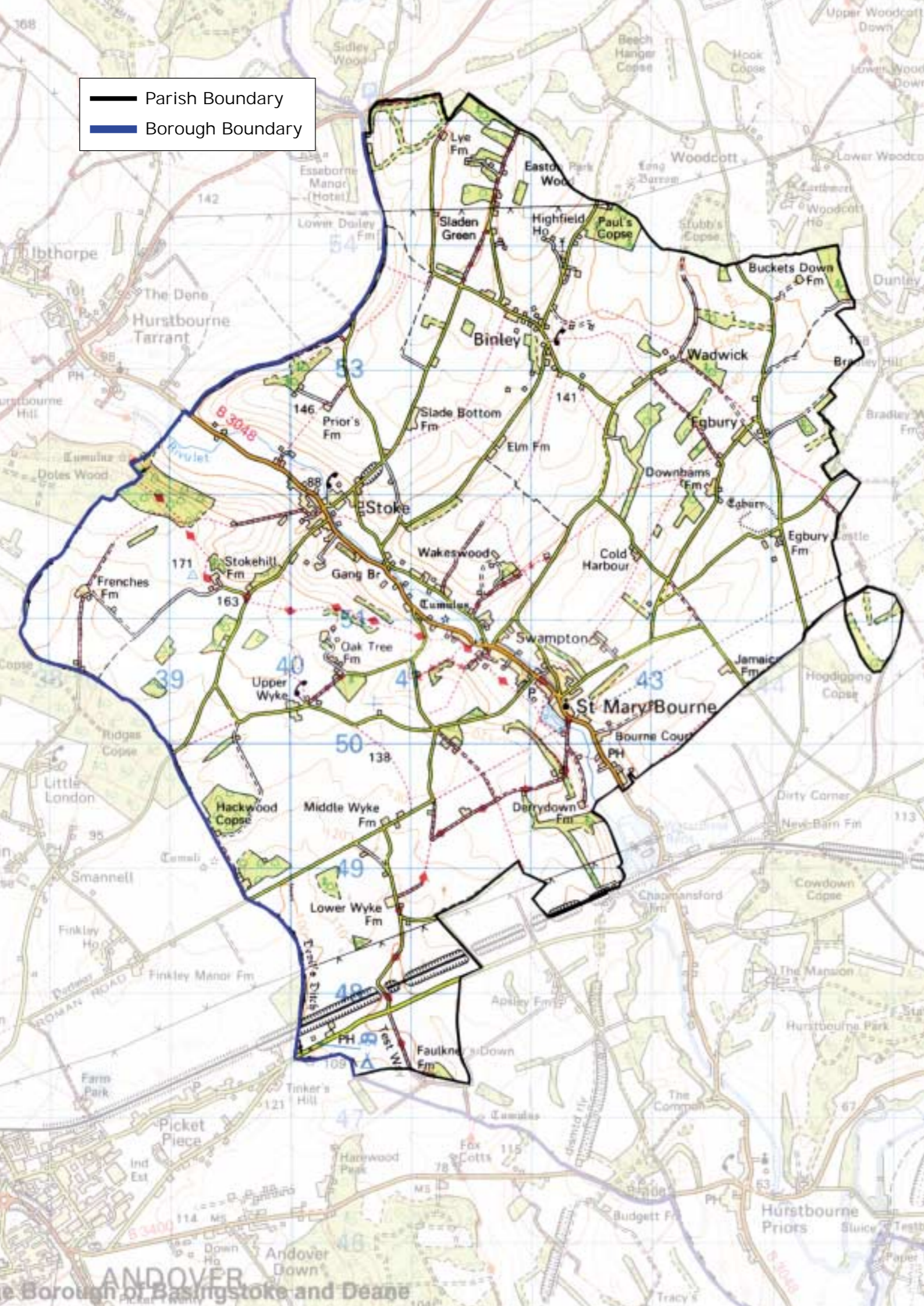
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A copy of this Parish Plan has been supplied free to all households in the parish and a stock kept to enable us to give one to those arriving in the near future.

Extra copies may be obtained from The Parish Council Clerk - Price £5.00.

What is a Parish Plan?

Parish Plans are a Government supported initiative to give those living in villages a way of deciding for themselves how they would like their village to develop. It reflects the views of all sections of the community and aims to:

- ✓ Identify those features and local characteristics that people value
- ✓ Identify key facilities and services that people value
- ✓ Identify local problems and issues to be tackled
- ✓ Make clear how parishioners want the community to develop in the future
- ✓ Create an action plan to achieve this vision.

The St Mary Bourne Parish Plan, which includes Binley, Egbury, St Mary Bourne, Stoke, Wadwick and the Wykes is a vision of how we would like our parish to be. It is a statement of how the community sees itself developing over the next few years and includes social, economic and environmental issues. Its creation has been championed by the Parish Council and funded by the Countryside Agency. The Countryside Agency is a government body that works to make the quality of life better for people in the countryside, and the quality of the countryside better for everyone.

Why create a Parish Plan?

Our Parish Plan provides us with:

- A way to influence decisions by local authorities and other service providers
- A basis for planned action by people in the parish
- A possible route for winning funds for local initiatives and activities
- A framework to help the Parish Council decide what their community needs them to focus on
- A way in which everyone can be involved in taking action to ensure the parish thrives and develops in the way they want it to

In short it is your say in how we develop as a community.

The Parish Plan sits alongside the Village Design Statement, which seeks to ensure that any future building development is based on an understanding of the parish's past and present. Its aim is to draw attention to the characteristics of the buildings, the open spaces and their setting in our villages in order to avoid unsympathetic development. It gives the residents a say in the future of the parish by producing clear and specific guidance regarding these qualities.

Some of the issues and opportunities we identified through the consultation process have already been resolved, and others can be tackled by the people in the parish without the need to go to others for support. The process of creating

this plan, which will develop and change as we tackle some issues and when others emerge, will also help to ensure the whole community is involved with, and committed to, the future prosperity of our community and the quality of life within the parish.

How we produced our Parish Plan

January 2003

Parish Council sets up Parish Plan Steering Group consisting of two Parish Councillors and eight volunteers

February 2003

Steering Group develops Parish Plan strategy, prepares Parish Plan brief, agrees questionnaire document and secures grant funding

March 2003

The Parish Plan project is launched to the parish in a Public Meeting

April 2003

Parish Appraisal Questionnaire distributed to all households in the Parish

July 2003

Steering Group evaluates questionnaire returns, collates all data and gathers related community views and opinions

September 2003

Working (Focus) Groups summarise findings; Steering Group publishes working papers 'Comments and Questions' and 'Questionnaire Results'

April 2004

Steering Group organises Open Day to share survey results with parishioners and to get more input and ideas

October 2004

Parish Plan written - draft documentation on circulation for review

February/March 2005

Parish Plan approved by Parish Council and published

- The Parish Plan is used to provide guidelines for influencing local development plans and community strategies
- The Parish Council is taking forward the actions together with other individuals and groups within the community or other service providers and statutory bodies
- The Parish Plan is being reviewed on an ongoing basis and will be amended every two years, as is practical and appropriate

This document is the culmination of many months' work by a Steering Group of volunteers from the parish, set up by the Parish Council. All residents in the parish in April 2003 were asked to submit views using the questionnaire distributed to every household. 600 questionnaires were sent out and 250 were returned, representing views from nearly six hundred parishioners. In addition, a Parish Plan Open Day was held in the Village Centre in April 2004 (combined with a parish litter clearing challenge) which displayed the results of the process to that date and asked for more comments and input – over a hundred people turned up that day, adding further comments and ideas. All the comments and responses have been recorded and analysed by several working groups of volunteer parishioners who looked for any common themes and well supported ideas.



Parish Plan Content

The Plan content is presented on the following pages, starting with an overview of the parish below and then followed in alphabetical subject order. Included is a general summary of the comments that were made most frequently and any actions that have been requested most often. The action items are also summarised at the end of this document.

The Parish – Past and Present

The Parish of St Mary Bourne with just over five hundred houses is located within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. One of the main features is the seasonal stream, the Bourne rivulet, a tributary of the River Test. The parish includes the larger village of St Mary Bourne with a population of approximately 1000 people, the smaller village of Stoke, resident population of some 170, and the hamlets of Binley, Egbury, Upper, Middle and Lower Wyke and Wadwick. The old hamlet of Swampton, close to the School, has now been incorporated into St Mary Bourne, as has the area known as Link, which stretches from the main village south towards the viaduct. Over the past one hundred years the population of 1200 has changed little but the number of houses has approximately doubled.

In the past, our parent church was at Hurstbourne Priors, three miles south

and mentioned in the Domesday Book. St Peter's Church was built as its chapel of ease – for the convenience of inhabitants of St Mary Bourne.

The parish is roughly divided in half by the Bourne Rivulet running from the north west to the south east, with the main valley road, the B3048, running alongside from Hurstbourne Priors in the south to Hurstbourne Tarrant to the north west. The parish is crossed by several important ancient tracks: the "Harroway" which clips the eastern edge at Chapmansford, originally a pack horse route from Cornwall to Kent taking tin for trade in Europe; the "Portway" Roman road running parallel to the north east / south east boundary and connecting Old Sarum to Silchester; and the 19th century London to the West Country railway line which is carried over the valley in the south east of the parish on a nine arch brick viaduct. A track which was used for transporting timber by oxen from the local area to the coast crosses the Bourne at Gangbridge between Stoke and St Mary Bourne. In addition to the B3048, our main road through the valley, we are served by a large number of minor roads and lanes which meander around the countryside linking the more isolated hamlets, houses and farms.

Despite being bisected by important ancient routes, the parish never served as a staging post on a principal route between local towns; and consequently it developed a self sufficient and rather isolated character. Until the 1950's the financial livelihood of most parishioners was from farming, with many supporting industries. Farming still provides the backbone to our commercial community, supplemented by a variety of other business enterprises including the blacksmith, the Village Shop, five Public Houses, a garden nursery, a vehicle service and repair garage, and a plethora of enterprises run by individuals from their homes or the small number of office premises we have.

Most of us who live in the parish of St Mary Bourne believe that we are most fortunate to be in a "real" village environment where newcomers are made very welcome by those who have been living here for a long time, perhaps for generations.



Gangbridge Lane from the Test Way

Of those who replied to the question *"How long have you lived in the parish?"*

- 9% said more than 50 years
- 16% said 26 to 50 years
- 18% said 16 to 25 years
- 29% said 6 to 15 years
- 20% said 1 to 5 years
- 8% said less than a year.

When asked *"Why did you come to live in the parish?"*

- 34% because they love the country way of life
- 21% for family reasons
- 17% because of work in the area
- 12% said they were born here
- 11% because of availability of housing
- 4% gave standard of Schooling as the reason

Asked *"How would you like the parish to develop?"*

- 55% replied "To stay as it is"
- 40% replied "As a working community"
- 3% replied "As a retirement community"
- 2% replied "As a commuter community"

Agriculture

From the responses to the Questionnaire, it was clear that many people choose to live in the parish because of its rural setting, with farming playing a major part in providing and maintaining the rural character. The Comments section of the survey showed many parishioners in favour of a "balanced commercial community, including agriculture" and are generally opposed to any development which would "spoil the charm of this beautiful village".

The current depressed agricultural scene within the parish is reflected nationally. The recession has forced farmers to cut costs, shed labour and in some cases to diversify. With a few exceptions, much of the labour that is required on farms within the parish is either contracted from outside or seasonal, such as some of the Pick Your Own workforce.

Some people suggested converting redundant agricultural buildings to light industrial, residential or small scale commercial use. This could benefit the agricultural community in terms of augmenting their income as well as providing buildings for which there is a demand. However planning permission for change of use is always needed and the setting of a business rate needs to ensure the proposed business is commercially viable.

ACTION

The Parish Council to encourage land owners to consider use of redundant agricultural buildings for other appropriate commercial or residential use, including affordable housing, and to comply with the new cross-compliance rules.

Binley

The hamlet of Binley is located in the north of the parish and consists of a loose settlement of houses and agricultural holdings. Until it closed in 1989, the Hurdlers Arms public house was well known and used; it is now converted into a dwelling. Near the main gate to Binley House are the ruins of the old Binley Reading Room. It has no roof now and is kept in a Trust. Recently three dwellings have been replaced by larger new houses and Elm Farm House will be rebuilt in 2005.

The roads between Binley and Wadwick and St Mary Bourne are in separate valleys affording pleasant walks through the open countryside. From Binley towards Binley Bottom and Gangbridge the beauty of the arable fields, the cowslip field and woodland are particularly notable. Binley currently has four working farms which grow mixed crops and they also retain both dairy and beef cattle and two sheep flocks.

Bourne Rivulet

This is an overflow stream to the chalk aquifers, which rises in the winter months, and dries out in summer and early autumn along two thirds of its length. The duration and volume of its flow is determined by the previous autumn and winter rain fall. Questionnaire results showed that many people value the stream for the character it brings to the parish and some are concerned about water extraction and the effect this has on its flow.



ACTION

The Parish Council to communicate their serious concerns to the Environment Agency and other bodies and insist that the agencies must carry out proper research into the effects of water extraction by Southern Water and Vitacress on the flow of the Bourne Rivulet.

Buildings

Buildings in the parish are of different ages and styles but generally of two-storey construction. Roofs are characteristically hipped or half-hipped (sloping at the ends as well as the sides) and of varying pitches, with rooflines commonly broken by dormer windows. Roofing materials are orange/red clay tiles, slate or thatch. Mellow red brick is extensively used throughout the parish as is knapped flint, with some older buildings incorporating chalk cob walls. Timber framed buildings with brick or brick and flint infill are characteristic of St Mary Bourne. Windows are traditionally timber casement or sash. Boundary walls of brick and flint are a traditional feature and there are examples of cob walling under a protective thatch or tiled coping.

Approximately seventy parish buildings have been "listed", but several listings cover groupings of up to four individual buildings.

The Village Design Statement will provide a description of the characteristics of buildings in the parish with guidance for new development or alterations to existing buildings and walls in order to ensure that such work is carried out in a sympathetic manner with regard to traditional designs and materials.

Churches

There are two churches in the parish. The largest church is St Peter's at St Mary Bourne which dates from 1157, although its present form is a product of a sequence of additions and alterations. The tower of St Peter's is prominent in



many St Mary Bourne village views, and the churchyard is well maintained and remains a tranquil place. Regular services are held on Sunday mornings and evenings, and Thursday mornings throughout the year.

The Methodist Church, opposite the School in St Mary Bourne, has services on most Sunday mornings throughout the year.

A third church in the area, St James, set in beautiful countryside at Woodcott, belongs to the Benefice but is situated just outside the parish.

The following table summarises how parishioners responded to the questions relating to places of religious worship.

Are places of religious worship important?	67%	Yes
Valuable –		
as historic buildings	15%	
as a community focal point	12%	
for funerals	11%	
for hearing of church bells	11%	
for baptisms	11%	
for weddings	11%	
as places in which to worship	10%	

There was only one negative comment, which was that "bells of churches are an imposition and inconsideration to those living nearby."

Clubs and Societies

There are many activities, organisations, clubs and societies in the parish. At the time of writing these include: Aerobic classes, Badminton, Bowls Club, British Legion, Circuit Training, Cricket Club, Football Club, St Mary Bourne and District Horticultural Society (Flower Show), Methodist Women's Own, Parents & Toddlers, Play Group, Priors Players (drama), Riding for the Disabled, Short Mat Bowls, St Peter's Church (Bellringers, Choir, Sunday Club, Scramblers, Women's Fellowship, Youth Group), Stoke Village Fund, The Lunch (monthly community lunch), Pilates and Yoga classes.

Commercial Activities

Until the 1950s the financial livelihood of many parishioners was from farming with many supporting tradespeople, including rope makers, waffle makers, hurdle makers, bee skep and basket makers, blacksmiths and cobblers. Only the farmers and blacksmiths survive today and the number of shops, garages, pubs and other facilities has decreased.



There are now a variety of commercial enterprises including the Village Shop, five pubs, a garage, gardening and catering businesses, a garden nursery and a variety of enterprises run by individuals from their homes or the small number of office premises in the parish. There is a government surplus and reclamation yard, which attracts business from a very wide area and provides local employment, and a Pick Your Own facility which increasingly attracts business both locally and from a wider area. The blacksmith forge provides traditional blacksmithing services as well as selling spare parts and craft metalwork. It also repairs and replaces tyres.

Other trades and services available in the parish include computer and secretarial services, accounting, plumbing, a caravan site, electrical engineering, property maintenance, boarding kennels, a golf driving range, catering, painting and decorating, joinery, nursing care and a Woodland Burial site.

In answer to the question *“Should the following be encouraged in the parish?”*, respondents showed support as follows:

Small Business Development	47%
Shops	30%
Industrial Workshops	12%
Offices	12%

The comments section included views ranging from “none, it’s a residential area” to support for “cottage and craft” type industries, “a tea room at the Village Shop” and “anything to ensure the community grows and thrives”.

Community Support

In addition to pastoral support provided by the churches, there are other important volunteer organisations which provide much appreciated services and help in the community.

St Mary Bourne and District Neighbourcare aims to give a helping hand at times of need. It encourages neighbours to provide support for local people and can help with collecting prescriptions, shopping, form-filling, transport, and visiting sick or elderly. Neighbourcare also organises social afternoons from time to time.

St Mary Bourne United Charities Trust is a small local charity that can provide financial help.

‘The Lunch’ provides a monthly occasion for people of all ages to come together in the Village Centre and chat over a leisurely low-cost light lunch. This new venture started in the Autumn of 2004 and is proving to be a popular social event.

The Kingfisher Day Centre provides a day care centre for frail and elderly people. Although based at Whitchurch, St Mary Bourne parishioners are able to use this valuable service.

For those interested in helping to prevent crime in the parish a network of Neighbourhood Watch coordinators is in place to communicate with the police. The local beat officer provides monthly newsletter updates for the notice boards and the parish magazine.

Education

St Mary Bourne has a village Primary School which currently has five classes for 4 to 11 year olds with 140 children in total. The staff comprises the Head Teacher, five class teachers, one SEN teacher (Special Educational Needs), five teaching assistants, two special needs assistants and two office staff.



School facilities include a music room, library, extensive playing fields and a large hall. One issue raised in the survey was that approximately 46% of pupils within the Primary School live outside the catchment area (52% in 2004 – it changes with each new child). This is partly due to children being educated privately elsewhere, but mainly because of there not being enough children within the catchment area. In one year there were only 5 children from within the parish. Without children from Whitchurch, Andover and surrounding villages the school may not be able to continue.

Adult Education

In reply to the survey question on provision of adult education classes, 35% percent of respondents said that they would be interested in computing classes held within the parish, and during 2003 and 2004 a Learning Bus sent by Cricklade College has enabled many to pursue this activity.

The next most popular request (31%) was for Arts & Crafts activities. Also a number of people expressed interest in exercise and keep fit classes of various kinds.

ACTION

The Village Centre Trustees to support groups of interested people in setting up Arts & Crafts groups and Exercise classes in the parish.

Egbury

Egbury is a hamlet in its own small valley approximately one and a half miles to the east of St Mary Bourne. A scattering of cottages and two substantial houses are set along the north side of the narrow lane that leads eventually to the main village. The south side of the lane is filled with an extensive set of modern farm buildings which grew out of the smaller brick and flint 19th century originals.

The houses and cottages are mainly 18th century. The hamlet is surrounded by cultivated arable farmland gently sloping up and away on either side. The lands to the south are immaculately kept and fenced with post and rail.

Egbury has seen considerable changes since 1994 when the Eagle Star Insurance Group sold up. The estate has since been divided, with a new set of farm buildings appearing on the hill to the north of the hamlet, while cottages, formerly occupied mostly by farm workers or retired workers of the estate, have been sold off.

The abiding impression of Egbury has been its pastoral tranquillity. This is largely preserved despite the changes and the inevitable noisy intrusion of modern life.

Electricity

The survey showed that some parishioners are concerned about an occasional loss of power during stormy weather. Some also requested that power lines should be buried.

Environment

The question "Which of the following should be done to help protect and enhance the local environment of the parish?" had the following responses:

Preserve open space between villages	24%
Protect Hedgerows	22%
Preserve space between homes	19%
Better river maintenance	19%
More tree planting	15%

Comments ranged from "stop graffiti" to "solve the sewerage problem", with many people concerned about the problem of litter and dog fouling spoiling the environment. Other suggestions include better maintenance of our footpaths and hedges and "clearing the ivy from neglected trees".

ACTION

The Parish Council to ensure that the Village Design Statement reflects parishioners' views on preserving open spaces between villages, preserving open spaces between homes, and protecting hedgerows.

Flooding

Several questions focused on flooding and the sewerage system. 25% of the people who answered the questions about this had been affected by flooding in the parish and 76% of them felt the issue is not under control.

Since the questionnaire was completed, the following activities and remedial actions have taken place:

- The river has been dredged and deepened from Springhill to Derrydown. This should prevent the flooding of private residences and roads which has occurred in recent years
- The part of the Bourne rivulet which flows through the water meadows beyond Derrydown surgery towards the Vitacress factory has also been dredged
- The river bed under the two road bridges in St Mary Bourne has been cleared of silt and debris to help improve the river flow



Flooding in January 2003

ACTION

Parish Council to monitor and liaise with the Environment Agency on the clearing of river weeds.

ACTION

The Parish Council to review the status of remedial actions, undertaken or planned, regarding flooding of the Bourne rivulet, with the Environment Agency.

Footpaths

Our footpaths are well used by locals and visitors, with or without their dogs. The "Footpath Officer", assigned by the Parish Council, is responsible for ensuring these are kept walkable.

On behalf of the Parish Council, the Footpath Officer is also working to undertake a range of countryside access improvements across the parish, in partnership with Hampshire County Council Countryside Service and North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. These improvements will include improving stiles and gates, surfacing paths, way-marking routes and providing information for walkers and local people.

The survey showed that many people are keen to preserve footpaths as a feature of the parish and have requested kissing-gates rather than stiles wherever possible.

Dog fouling is a big issue on footpaths and some people have requested more bins for dog mess along favourite routes to encourage more dog owners to clean up after their dogs.

ACTION

The Parish Council to encourage any initiative to maintain and improve the footpaths and Rights of Way in the parish.

ACTION

The Parish Council to investigate the possibility of more bins being installed along key dog walking routes.

ACTION

The Parish Council to liaise with B&DBC to provide more signs reminding people to pick up litter and dog mess.

ACTION

The Parish Council to request Hampshire County Council to consider replacing stiles with kissing gates where practical.

Gas

There is no mains gas supply to households, although a pipeline does run through part of the parish. There are no plans to provide gas, and some people commented that the provision of mains gas may encourage further undesirable development in the area.

Health

Several people commented on how lucky we are to have our own Doctors' surgery and dispensary in the parish, although some parishioners prefer to use alternative surgeries at Whitchurch and Andover.

Hill & Valley Parish Magazine

This is the monthly parish magazine for the Benefice of Hurstbourne Priors, Longparish, St Mary Bourne and Woodcott. As well as information about church matters such as the Vicar's page and service listings, there is much of general community interest for our parishioners.

Other regular features included in the magazine are obituaries, children's birthdays, Parish Council meeting minutes (planning applications are now included as requested by many), and advertising for local businesses.

73% of respondents to the question relating to the magazine thought it to be good, 27% thought it reasonable and just 0.5% rated it poor.

Housing

Results from the questionnaire showed a range of views in terms of what people wanted and did not want for future housing development in the parish. Many of the buildings erected over recent years have been built in styles that are not traditionally associated with the area and thought by some to be out of harmony with the surrounding properties. Others like the variety and understand the need for lower cost building development which may not incorporate more traditional design features or materials.



Denham Terrace

In answer to the question *"What do you think of the number of houses that have been built in the parish over the last ten years?"*, over 40% responded "number about right", 17% said "too expensive" and 17% said they were of "unsympathetic design". The comments section relating to housing was the largest and most diverse of all the sections and included the following opinions:

Approximately sixty people mentioned brick and flint as a "traditional" design feature they would like to see incorporated in future building development and fifteen said they would like to see thatch.

Over thirty people wanted more affordable, starter or smaller houses being built, with some requesting more shared ownership schemes. A similar number of people were both for and against the building of larger family houses.

Several people mentioned Hirst Copse positively and suggested the idea is copied in the future to provide affordable housing. One person stated, "a concerted effort should be made to supply houses for young local people so they have the opportunity to live in St Mary Bourne, e.g. Hirst Copse", and another requested "smaller individual houses built on brownfield sites within the existing conservation area, with no developments of more than four houses."

From the comments made, it seems the parish must find a way to provide the right mix of new housing – smaller, starter, and larger family homes; and ensure these are built in a style and with materials which complement and enhance our rural environment without spoiling the views we cherish or overloading the sewers and roads.



Hirst Copse

Asked "What type(s) of housing development would be acceptable in the parish?"

- 33% said 'conversion of redundant buildings'
- 26% said 'single dwellings in controlled locations'
- 21% said 'small group(s) of less than 10'
- 11% said 'no further homes needed'
- 8% suggested "expansion on the edges of the villages"
- 1% only suggested "carefully designed larger group(s)"

Asked "What types of houses are needed in the parish?" the replies were as follows:

- 32% semi-detached houses
- 21% detached houses
- 16% each terraced houses and bungalows
- 11% flats and maisonettes
- 4% larger detached houses

ACTION

The Parish Council to ensure that the Village Design Statement reflects the fact that protection and maintenance of the landscape is of great importance to parishioners, and that any development should safeguard the open views and landscape. Also that any development should reflect the character of the area in terms of size, scale & density, and that the design is in keeping with current buildings, using materials that reflect traditional colour and texture. Alterations should be carried out in the same way.

ACTION

The Parish Council to ensure that the Village Design Statement reflects the view that any new residential development should allow for a mix of housing types to ensure a cohesive and balanced community; and that new building development should be sensitive to the character of the parish.

ACTION

The Parish Council to liaise with B&DBC to provide more signs reminding people to pick up litter and dog mess.

Internet

Many parishioners use the Internet and 33% of respondents to the question thought that communications in the parish would be improved by Broadband. BT has since responded to the demand and Broadband is now available in the parish.

There are several Websites relating to the Parish of St Mary Bourne and its local businesses, including the following:

- St Mary Bourne Parish Council:
www.stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk
- St Peter's Church:
www.stmarybourne.org.uk
- St Mary Bourne Village Centre:
www.communitate.co.uk/hants/stmarybournevillagecentre
- St Mary Bourne Primary School:
www.schools.hants.org.uk/st-marybourne
- St Mary Bourne Cricket Club:
www.smbcc.org
- Bourne Valley PYO:
www.bournevalleypyo.co.uk
- Blacksmith:
www.blacksmith.inuk.com

Kissing gates

These were mentioned in the Comments section of the survey as a preferred method for footpath access, rather than stiles which are not as accessible for those who are less agile.



Lake

The lake in St Mary Bourne is a valued feature of our parish and was the brainchild of Dr Evans, the local medical general practitioner for many years. The lake was excavated in early 1970 as a haven for waterfowl and wildlife. It was given to the village by Dr Evans in 1990. It is fed by groundwater in the Valley and the level of water varies throughout the year. In places the bottom shelves very steeply and the lake is very deep. Fishing rights are reserved (a fishing syndicate of local people stock it with trout) and under the deed of gift no public access is allowed. The lake is looked after by the Parish Council.



Law and order

The crime rate in the parish is at present well below the national average. It may be for this reason that police resources have been diverted away and the nearest local police presence is five miles away in Whitchurch. For some this is a cause for concern as crime rates might rise considerably before the parish will have a permanent police presence again.

The question "Have any of the following affected you in the parish?" received the following responses:

Speeding	34%
Vandalism	17%
Burglary	12%
Theft	10%
Rowdiness	9%
Car crime	8%
Drunkenness	6%
Drug taking	4%
Mugging	0%

In response to a question relating to the need for additional measures, the following responses were received:

More activities for young people	36%
Greater police presence	28%
Better consultation between Police & local people	14%
More Neighbourhood Watch schemes	11%
Drug and alcohol abuse education	11%

ACTION

Neighbourhood Watch to liaise with the police and jointly arrange meetings when needed.

ACTION

The Parish Council to encourage and support the local Neighbourhood Watch network and ensure that the Police Beat Officer and other police maintain a regular visible presence.

ACTION

The Parish Council to encourage and support any programme of drug and alcohol abuse education and drugs awareness events initiated in the parish.

Leisure (see also Clubs and Societies)

Three hundred and forty four people felt there was a need for more activities for young people in the parish. The New Recreation Area has since been built on the area of the old bowling green, next to the car park at the St Mary Bourne Village Centre.

Library

A mobile library visits the parish on alternate Thursdays. It stops in St Mary Bourne at the Village Centre and the Coronation Arms, and at the White Hart at Stoke.

Lighting

A strong view was expressed by many parishioners that village life is enhanced by dark night skies "without the need for street lighting".

Litter

In response to the question "In keeping the parish tidy, are you in favour of the following?", the main support (around 20%, 240 respondents) was for the following:

More dog mess bins	22%
More Litter Bins	21%
Entering 'Best Kept Village' competitions	21%
Annual 'Spring Clean Day'	19%

Comments in this section included many relating to litter and dog fouling. There were several quite vociferous comments concerning dog fouling, with suggestions ranging from the provision of more dog mess bins to other suggestions of applying rigorous penalties for owners who do not clear up after their dogs. The problem of dog mess on the recreation ground was also highlighted. One person wanted owners to clear up after their horses, and another wanted the ducks culled because of the mess they caused. A few mentioned the need for "spring cleaning" or more regular cleaning of the streets, and others wanted more litter bins.

Other comments included requests for the removal of litter from the hedges, more street cleaning, for adults to set a better example, and enforcing the law for those who drop litter or fly tip in the parish.

ACTION

The Parish Council to consider replacing existing damaged litter bins by the main notice board and opposite the War Memorial.

ACTION

The Parish Council to encourage local residents to pick up litter and organise regular spring and autumn cleaning events.

New Recreation Area

The survey confirmed the need for a hard surface games area in St Mary Bourne. This amenity project was already in progress and, following a real community effort, the new Games Area, on the site of the old bowling green and adjacent to the Village Centre and the Under 12 Play Area, was opened on 11 December 2004. The project was funded by various grants and local fundraising activities.

In addition to a fenced hard surface for football, basketball, tennis and other ball games, the area can be used for many other activities, as required by youth of all ages, as well as by adults. The new Games Area, the adjacent Under 12 Play Area and the entire grassed Recreation Ground can be viewed from the refurbished old bowling green pavilion coupled with an open shelter and benches.



Notice Boards

The parish has a number of official notice boards:

- At St Mary Bourne Village Shop (Parish Council and Shop)
- By the Village Centre Play area (Parish Council)
- By the bridge in St Mary Bourne (for general use)
- Outside the School (two - for School use)
- In Stoke (one for general use and one for the Parish Council)

There are also many ad hoc notice board sites – mainly telegraph poles along the roadsides.

67% of respondents thought the notice boards by the Village Shop were good, with 32% rating them reasonable and 1% rating them poor.



Stoke notice boards

Several people commented positively, specifically about the Stoke notice board, and there was general support for all the existing notice boards which seemed to be appreciated and well used.

Open Spaces

The river, lake, trees, shrubs, woodland and open spaces within the parish are key features which are valued by residents and visitors. Rights of Way (including the Test Way) enable access to the many views over the valley for walkers and riders.



Test Way approaching St Mary Bourne

Parish Council

The purpose of the Parish Council is to ensure that the local environment is maintained and developed to satisfy, as far as possible, the wishes of the electorate, and that the community facilities meet the needs of the parish.

A total of nine (unpaid) Parish Councillors serve on the Parish Council, including a Chairman and Vice Chairman, together with the (paid) Parish Clerk. The full Council meets ten times a year, the Planning Committee meets twelve times a year. These meetings are open to the public and members of the public may speak at the beginning of each meeting.

The Planning committee is responsible for looking at and commenting on all planning applications and reporting to the Borough Council any alleged breach of planning laws. The Finance committee is responsible for looking after the Council's money.

The Recreation Ground and Lake committee is responsible for looking after the recreation ground and lake in St Mary Bourne and the play areas in St Mary Bourne and Stoke. The Footpath Officer is responsible for looking after all the footpaths and bridleways in the parish.

Agendas and minutes of all Parish Council meetings are published on the Parish Council website and are available at the Village Shop and from the Parish Clerk. Summaries of minutes of all meetings are published in Hill & Valley, the parish magazine, and often in the local press. Planning meeting agendas and reports are also published on the Parish Council notice boards in St Mary Bourne and Stoke.



In February 2005 The Parish Council received notification that they had been awarded 'Quality Council' Status.

This award has been achieved as a result of the Parish Council working as an effective, actively involved, properly managed, hard working team of Councillors and Parish Clerk.

The Government scheme launched in March 2003 gives recognition to Parish and Town Councils who can demonstrate through a series of tests that they are in touch with their communities, competent and capable of taking an enhanced role within the local government framework.

The award will give the council greater credibility in the eyes of the local community and the principal authorities; enable them to be more representative of the local community and able to deliver more local services and be eligible for additional grant funding.

Parish Council work is partly funded by the Council Tax set by Hampshire County Council. In addition the Parish Council has to raise a "precept" to cover local costs such as maintenance of sports fields and play areas.

Parish Council elections normally occur every four years. The current Parish Council was elected in 2002 and this was the only contested election in the Borough (with 16 candidates standing for nine seats) reflecting a high degree of local interest and village democracy.

Anyone over 21 years of age who is a British national or a citizen of the Commonwealth or the European Union, and with local connections during the whole of the preceding 12 months, can stand for election. The next Parish Council election is due to take place in 2006.

Parking

Based on the responses to the question "Is street parking a safety risk in the parish?", this appears to be a concern. 67% of respondents said Yes, 25% said No and 8% had No Opinion.

Comments at the Open Day were divided on the issue. Some thought that street parking slows traffic down and is therefore a good thing. Others felt that people park inconsiderately on the road and it is dangerous. Village parking areas were suggested, possibly rented, and several people strongly said "No Yellow Lines". Parking at or around the School was thought to be a problem by several people, and it also causes difficulty to nearby residents.

ACTION

The Parish Council to develop solutions to reduce on-street parking and to discuss them with highways authorities.

Planning

The response to the question "Do you think sufficient publicity is given to planning applications which affect the parish?" was that 43% said Yes, and 57% said No.

48% of respondents do not attend open parish meetings on important subjects, with 28% saying they attend occasionally and 25% saying they do attend.

ACTION

There were several requests for planning applications to be included in the Hill & Valley magazine and these are now included – see also Parish Council website and notice boards.

Public Houses

There are five Public Houses in the parish – the Bourne Valley Inn, the Coronation Arms, the George Inn, the White Hart and the Wyke Down Country Pub. All offer meals as well as alcohol and soft drinks, and all have restaurant and

function rooms of varying kinds. The Bourne Valley Inn also has 10 bedrooms to let and the Wyke Down Country Pub runs a caravan site, a golf driving range and intends to add a 20 room hotel block to the site.



The George Inn

Recreation Ground

The recreation ground is a large expanse of grass with a pavilion and storage building. It is fringed by an area of wood containing a variety of wildlife on one side, by the lake to the south, a field to the north and the St Mary Bourne Village shop and Village Centre car park on the other side.

This is one of the main focal points of the parish and is used for a range of activities throughout the year. These include cricket and football matches, outdoor games for the Play Group, and it is also used as a venue for large parish celebrations such as the Millennium party and the annual Flower Show and Fête. As an everyday facility it is well used by dog walkers, by children playing ball games and by visitors admiring the view of the lake.

Refuse & Recycling

There is a household refuse collection once a week, which includes the provision of a recycling bin or bag for paper, aluminium cans, plastic bottles and cardboard, but not glass. There is a public recycling centre next to St Mary Bourne Village Shop.

Almost 10% of respondents to the question on possible improvements to keep the parish tidy requested more types of recycling bins and nearly 8% wanted more sites for these bins. There were a few comments that said that the Village Centre paper recycling bins were often full, and there was another request for recycling bins further up the valley, not just in St Mary Bourne. Open Day comments suggested having extra bins for cardboard which have since been provided.

ACTION

The Parish Council to liaise with B&DBC to ensure that Village Centre recycling bins are emptied more frequently.

ACTION

The Parish Council to liaise with B&DBC to consider the provision of additional recycling bins further up the valley, e.g. at Stoke.

Roads

The Parish of St Mary Bourne has one major road running through it that follows the valley floor alongside the Bourne Rivulet. This is the B3048 which approaches St Mary Bourne from Hurstbourne Priors in the south and continues through Stoke to Hurstbourne Tarrant in the north-west. Many refer to this as the "main road" and although generally it is of a reasonable standard and width, there are places where its narrowness and bends can be awkward.

In addition to the B3048, several minor roads provide routes between the villages and hamlets within the parish,

and to the towns of Andover and Whitchurch. Mostly intersecting with the B3048, these roads tend to be narrow in nature with several bends. The principal minor roads are:

- St Mary Bourne to Andover
- St Mary Bourne to Whitchurch
- St Mary Bourne to Wadwick and Binley
- St Mary Bourne to the Wykes via the Andover road
- St Mary Bourne to Egbury
- Gangbridge to Binley
- Stoke to Andover
- Stoke to Binley and Wadwick

The question "If you feel there are danger spots on the roads in the parish, please state where they are" produced one hundred and ninety five comments, the largest number of comments for any of the questions in the survey. Most of the comments concerned the B3048, the main road running through the parish. The following areas were perceived as the "danger spots", with the number of comments referring to each.

Denham Terrace	38
Church Street	38
The George to the War Memorial	33
School area	10
Egbury road	6
Derrydown to the Viaduct	5
Stoke – main road	5
Stoke to Binley road	4
Parking opposite access / entrances	4



As can be seen from the following summary of responses to the question "Will the parish be improved by any of the following schemes?", only 15% were in favour of more or better pavements and walkways.

More or better public footpaths/bridleways	24%
More flowers	22%
More trees	21%
More seating	17%
More pavements and walkways	15%

Another question asked "Will the parish be improved by any of the following road schemes?", which produced the following responses:

Better maintained storm water drainage	33%
More off-road parking	27%
More winter gritting	17%
Better road sweeping	8%
Street lighting	8%
Cycle paths	6%

There were twenty five comments in all relating to this question and seven of them were vociferous in their opposition to more street lighting. In addition there were comments on the following:

- School run traffic increase causing problems of traffic volume and speeding
- Certain blind spots when pulling on the main road
- Areas with no pavements being dangerous for pedestrians

ACTION

See Parking

Sewers

The villages of St Mary Bourne and Stoke are on mains sewerage, but the hamlets of Binley, Egbury, Wadwick, and the Wykes are not. Mains water is supplied in St Mary Bourne and Stoke, but is not available in all of the outlying hamlets. Residents have concerns about the adequacy of the sewerage system as the water table along the valley floor is such that from time to time there is infiltration into the sewerage system in both St Mary Bourne and Stoke.

66 respondents (15%) reported that they had been affected by the overflowing of the sewerage system, and 68 percent thought that the foul sewer had not been properly maintained. 59% felt that the current measures being put in place were not sufficient to solve the sewerage problems, and 35% had no opinion on this.

ACTION

The Parish Council to monitor Southern Water's efforts to prevent infiltration and flooding of the sewerage system at times of a high water table.

Speeding

Traffic speeding is a major concern to many people, and 34% of survey respondents said they had been affected by it within the parish. This response was double that of the next highest rated problem which was vandalism.



Many areas were perceived by respondents as danger spots, with the following areas, in order of concern, being perceived as hazardous. The first three are viewed by parishioners as being particularly dangerous.

- 1) Denham Terrace
- 2) Church Street
- 3) The George to the War Memorial
- 4) The School area
- 5) Egbury Road
- 6) Derrydown to the Viaduct
- 7) Stoke main road
- 8) Stoke to Binley road
- 9) Parking opposite access/entrances

The following shows the responses to the question "Which of the following would you support?"

"Children at play" signs	22%
Introduce lower speed limit	19%
Better road warning signs	18%
Extend the area of the speed limit	17%
Traffic calming	16%
Speed cameras	9%

This question also elicited seventy-two comments, the main issues being as follows:

Speed cameras or electric warning signs	17
Restricted on-road parking	15
Restricted HGV access	11
Sleeping Policemen / road humps, cobbles	7
Increased road signs (7 for, 2 against)	9

During the Open Day several suggestions were received for traffic calming measures or safety features, including sleeping policemen and traffic viewing mirrors; although several people were very definitely against speed cameras.

ACTION

The Parish Council to liaise with the Police and Highways Authority to consider a reduction of the speed limit in the centre of St Mary Bourne.

ACTION

The Parish Council to liaise with the Highways Authority to provide 'children at play' signs in selected areas within the parish.

ACTION

The Parish Council to ensure that Hampshire County Council keep Speed Limit signs clearly visible all year round with overgrowth cut back.

Sporting Activities

There is a regular village cricket team, which plays on (and helps to maintain) the recreation ground pitch throughout summer weekends and occasionally during the week. There is now also a public tennis court on the new Games Area. Tennis is a popular village sport which is celebrated each year with a local "friendly" tournament.

Football is played under floodlights at the back of the recreation ground, and on Saturday mornings youth teams play on the ground nearest to the car park. Occasional local football teams use the recreation ground.

There is an active bowling club, which plays competitively and recreationally through the summer months on a high quality bowling green with its own pavilion. The St Mary Bourne Village Centre is also used for short mat bowls, badminton and keep fit classes of various kinds.

See under New Recreation Area for further information about sporting facilities.



St Mary Bourne

St Mary Bourne was recorded as a village settlement in the Domesday Survey and is the largest village in the parish with a population of approximately 1000.

Situated in the village are St Peter's Church and the Methodist Church, three Public Houses, a Primary School, the Village Shop, a Recreation Ground, the Village Centre (which comprises a large hall, committee room and clubroom), and a number of local businesses.

There are over 70 'listed buildings' of which some 40 are thatched; this comprises the largest concentration of thatched buildings in the Borough.

Both St Peter's Church and the local Primary School play a leading part in encouraging a community spirit.

The cricket, football and bowling clubs make full use of the excellent Recreation Ground. The new Village Centre was built and equipped to a high standard in 1993, followed by the new Village Shop and Post Office in 200. The new bowling green with club house was opened in 1999, allowing the old bowling green to be redeveloped. The New Recreation Area opened on this site in December 2004 with facilities for all ages includes a tennis court.

Stoke

To the North West, along the valley, is the second largest village in the parish, Stoke. It has one Public House, The White Hart, with a function room. The village consists of a varied mix of dwellings loosely scattered around two road junctions. In recent memory, Stoke boasted a Garage, offering repairs and petrol, a Butcher's Shop and a General Store and Post Office.



Some houses in Stoke are of notable period architectural interest, amongst them Stoke House, Stoke Hill Farm and the Round House. The new houses at Willow Tree Farm and Priors Farm are fine examples of modern architectural skills.

Stoke has nearly doubled in size in the last 30 years. It now has a mix of new bungalows, suitable for the elderly and for young couples, and some new larger homes; both of which have been developed in small groups. Stoke also has a small but much used young children's Play Area. There is an active community group, the 'Stoke Village Fund', formed during WWII to help the Spitfire Fund, that runs a variety of events most years for the benefit of the residents.

Transport Issues

The parish is currently served by public transport in the form of the 'Cango' bus service, which runs from St Mary Bourne and Stoke to both Andover and to Whitchurch Railway Station. However, there is no service on Sundays.

Questionnaire results show the primary means of weekday transport to be private car or van (76%), followed by walking (8%), 'Cango' bus (5%), with train plus car (4%) fourth.

Of those that responded to the question "Do you have transport problems in getting to the following?", 18% had trouble with getting to Hospital; the majority of these respondents were in the over 66 age range. Problems with getting to the Doctor, Hospital, Chemist, Optician or Dentist accounted for 59% of the responses.

16% of the respondents had problems with transport for shopping, while 13% had problems attending leisure facilities; both mostly in the 12 to 18 and the over 66 age ranges. Almost 50% of the responses to this question were made by people over 66 years with 35% being made by people under 30 years.

In response to the question *“Do you use the bus service for any of the following?”*, the significant themes were:

Of those that make use of the bus service, 45% use it for shopping trips, and over half of these people are in the 50+ age range

30% use it for Social and Leisure purposes, of whom 22% are in the 12 to 18 years age range and 45% are over 50 years of age

22% of people who use the bus services are in the 12 to 18 year age range, and most do so for social or leisure activities or shopping

There were several comments concerning bus services, including the suggestion that more buses are needed to Hitchchurch rail station for commuters to London. One comment suggested that the ‘Cango’ booking rules were confusing, and there was a request for a bus to catch the first “cheap day” return train to London in the morning which currently isn’t served by ‘Cango’. Comments were also made about the width of the ‘Cango’ buses on our country roads.



To the question *“Would you use the bus service more if any of the following were improved?”*, the response was:

- 22% would if the frequency was improved
- 15% would if evening services were improved
- 15% would if the routes were improved
- 13% wanted improved timetables
- 12% wanted improved weekend services
- Cost was an issue for only 1% of respondents

For students attending Cricklade College in Andover, there is concern that the bus might be withdrawn due to lack of use, which would leave no public transport alternative.

Nearly 50% of parents who responded to an education question related to transport, said that their children were unable to take part in after-school activities because of the lack of transport home, and 20% said that the cost of the activities stopped them taking part.

ACTION

The Parish Council to maintain contact and to liaise with transport authorities/companies to develop and improve rural public transport services to St Mary Bourne, Stoke and the hamlets.

Utilities

Utility questions included *“Will the parish be improved by moving utility supply services underground?”*. 34% of respondents believed that this would mean an improvement, 33% thought availability of main gas would be an improvement, and also 33% thought that internet access via broadband would be an improvement.

Concern was expressed about the electricity supply and winter power cuts. Some wanted to be connected to the mains gas supply, whilst several felt this might lead to “other development”.

Village Centre

St Mary Bourne Village Centre adjoins the recreation ground, the new games area, the children’s play area and the village shop, with shared car parking facilities.

The old village hall was built in the early 1950’s but, by the late 1980’s was clearly in need of major refurbishment. In 1989 the decision was taken to refurbish the clubroom which is a listed building and to demolish the old hall and rebuild it. By 1993 the present hall was opened at a cost of £300,000, nearly half of which was raised within the parish. Although primarily for the use of the local community, it is available for people outside the parish.



The main hall is large enough for 120 people to sit at tables or up to 200 ‘theatre’ style. It is used regularly for indoor sporting activities such as Bowls and Badminton, and it has a kitchen/bar and a stage for musical and theatrical productions. Upstairs is the Committee Room and next door is the Clubroom, a self contained facility with its own access, small kitchen and toilet which is used every weekday during term time by the Play Group for the under fives.

The Village Centre was mentioned by many people as a key feature they wished to preserve in the parish.

Village Design Statement

The Village Design Statement (VDS) is intended to provide guidance to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council for proposals for any development (buildings, extensions, walls etc) and to supplement local planning policies in order to assist the way the planning system works.

It is produced by local people and its aim is to seek to ensure that any future changes, large or small, are based on an understanding of the parish's past and present. The VDS will draw attention to the characteristics of the buildings, the open spaces and their setting in the parish in order to avoid unsympathetic development of all types. It gives the residents a say in the future of the parish by producing guidance regarding these qualities. Copies are available from the Parish Council and the VDS can be viewed on the Parish Council website.

Village Shop

The Village Shop is owned and run by the people of the parish. It was promoted and launched by the local community, reacting to a perceived need, and was well supported financially by the residents of the parish, by the Parish Council and by the Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, the Hampshire County Council and by the Countryside Agency.

It offers a wide selection of groceries and non-food products. A number of locally produced items are on offer and there is an off licence section. The Shop also provides a range of Post Office services. There is a dry cleaning service and a source for e.top-up for mobile telephone users.

The provision of this range of services with Post Office facilities was only possible because the Shop was purpose-built, on land managed by the Parish Council who charge a peppercorn rent. This shop can only remain viable with the continuing support of the local residents, and with the levels of rent and rates remaining low.

The survey shows that the shop is widely used by all age groups. The pattern of use indicates that many, particularly some of the older members of the community, see the Shop as a social centre as well as a retail outlet. A number of helpers in the Shop are local volunteers and this is felt to be an important feature and asset. The questionnaire showed that 96% of respondents use the shop regularly, or as needed.



Wadwick

Wadwick is a small hamlet lying on one of three 'bottoms' which fall towards the Bourne Valley. Like the settlements of Egbury and Binley this is historically an agricultural settlement, largely unaltered in modern times. The name derives from the Old English 'Wada's specialized farm', probably a dairy farm. Lower Wadwick House is a fine grade II listed farm house dating from the early 19th century looking out over open countryside, typical of the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Remnants of a busy agricultural past can be seen in the network of footpaths and drove roads crossing the countryside here. With no through vehicular traffic this is a quiet spot, beloved of horse riders, cyclists and walkers.



Woodland

About one twelfth of the area of the parish which was covered in woodland in the 19th century was steadily felled during the 20th century, which changed the look of our countryside. In the last 15 years, several woods of broad leafed trees have been planted for eventual commercial felling, and these are restoring some of the woodland character to the area. The Village Design Statement proposes the planting of native trees and shrubs to encourage the preservation of this character.

Wykes

To the west of the parish are the hamlets of the Wykes; Upper, Middle and Lower. The Wykes comprise sparse groupings of isolated farmsteads and hamlets, linked by narrow country lanes, set in gently undulating chalk land and large woodland blocks, so providing a remote, quiet, settlement of rural character. The Devil's Ditch, a scheduled ancient monument, is located here and the prehistoric track known as the Harrow Way and the Roman Portway pass through this area.

The Wykes each have a farmhouse and there are good views south from Upper Wyke towards Andover. North of Upper Wyke Farm are several old oak trees and woodland, which create part of the valley edge seen from the Test Way footpath.

ACTION SUMMARY

TOPIC	ACTION ITEM	REVIEW DATES
Agriculture	The Parish Council to encourage land owners to consider use of redundant agricultural buildings for other appropriate commercial or residential use, including affordable housing and to comply with the new cross-compliance rules.	May 2005 November 2005 May 2006
Bourne Rivulet	The Parish Council to communicate their serious concerns to the Environment Agency and other bodies and insist that the agencies must carry out proper research into the effects of water extraction by Southern Water and Vitacress on the flow of the Bourne Rivulet.	May 2005 November 2005 May 2006
Education	The Village Centre Trustees to support groups of interested people in setting up Arts & Crafts groups and Exercise classes in the parish.	August 2005 June 2006
Environment	The Parish Council to ensure that the Village Design Statement reflects parishioners' views on preserving open spaces between villages, preserving open spaces between homes, and protecting hedgerows.	March 2005
Flooding	a) The Parish Council to monitor and liaise with the Environment Agency on the clearing of river weeds. b) The Parish Council to review the status of remedial actions, undertaken or planned, regarding flooding of the Bourne rivulet, with the Environment Agency.	November 2005 November 2006 September 2005 September 2006
Footpaths	a) The Parish Council to encourage any initiative to maintain and improve the footpaths and Rights of Way in the parish. b) The Parish Council to investigate the possibility of more bins being installed along dog walking routes. c) The Parish Council to liaise with B&DBC to provide more signs reminding people to pick up litter and dog mess. d) The Parish Council to request Hampshire County Council to consider replacing stiles with kissing gates where practical.	ongoing April 2005 ongoing ongoing
Housing	a) The Parish Council to ensure that the Village Design Statement reflects the fact that protection and maintenance of the landscape is of great importance to parishioners, and that any development should safeguard the open views and landscape. Also, that any development should reflect the character of the area in terms of size, scale & density, and that the design is in keeping with current buildings, using materials that reflect traditional colour and texture. Alterations should be carried out in the same way. b) The Parish Council to ensure that the Village Design Statement reflects the fact that any residential development should allow for a mix of housing types to ensure a cohesive and balanced community; that development should be sensitive to the character of the Parish and normally not exceed two and a half storeys and be limited to infilling on existing frontages, small scale back land development and the replacement of existing houses, or exceptionally it might be confined to small scale construction of affordable housing on brown field sites.	March 2005 March 2005

ACTION SUMMARY continued

TOPIC	ACTION ITEM	REVIEW DATES
Housing	c) The Parish Council to ensure that the Village Design Statement specifies that any proposed development should take into account the current deficiencies in the main sewerage system, as well as road capacity and road safety issues.	March 2005
Law and Order	a) Neighbourhood Watch to liaise with the police and jointly arrange meetings when needed.	ongoing
	b) The Parish Council to encourage and support the local Neighbourhood Watch network, and ensure that the Police Beat Officer and other police maintain a regular visible presence.	March 2005 September 2005 March 2006
	c) The Parish Council to encourage and support any programme of drug and alcohol abuse education and drugs awareness events initiated in the parish.	ongoing
Litter	a) The Parish Council to consider replacing existing damaged litter bins by the main notice board and opposite the War Memorial.	March 2005
	b) The Parish Council to encourage local residents to pick up litter and organise regular spring and autumn cleaning events.	March 2005
Parking	The Parish Council to develop solutions to reduce on-street parking and to discuss them with highway authorities.	October 2005
Planning	There were several requests for planning applications to be included in the Hill & Valley magazine and these are now included – see also Parish Council website and notice boards.	completed ongoing
Refuse and Recycling	a) The Parish Council to liaise with B&DBC to ensure that the Village Centre recycling bins are emptied more frequently.	ongoing
	b) The Parish Council to liaise with B&DBC to consider the provision of additional recycling bins further up the valley, e.g. at Stoke.	April 2005
Roads	See Parking	
Sewers	The Parish Council to monitor Southern Water's efforts to prevent infiltration and flooding of the sewerage system at times of a high water table.	March 2005 ongoing
Speeding	a) The Parish Council to liaise with the Police and Highways Authority to consider a reduction of the speed limit in the centre of St Mary Bourne.	May 2005
	b) The Parish Council to liaise with the Highways Authority to provide 'children at play' signs in selected areas within the parish.	ongoing
	c) The Parish Council to ensure that Hampshire County Council keep Speed Limit signs clearly visible all year round with overgrowth cut back.	ongoing
Transport Issues	The Parish Council to maintain contact and to liaise with transport authorities/companies to develop and improve rural public transport services to St Mary Bourne, Stoke and the hamlets.	ongoing

POSTSCRIPT

Not every specific comment or piece of data can be included in this parish plan. We have summarised those views and opinions which are held by the most people, and included a few contrary ones for interest and balance. If you feel strongly that your opinions have not been fairly or correctly represented, or that we have made some errors in interpretation or analysis, please put your objection, preferably in writing, to the Parish Council.

We are also very keen to hear from anyone who can further develop the action plans included in this document, or who can add any important data, views or information that we have missed. We intend to keep an updated copy of this plan on the St Mary Bourne website where you can keep track of any actions that have been taken, and any new thoughts and ideas.

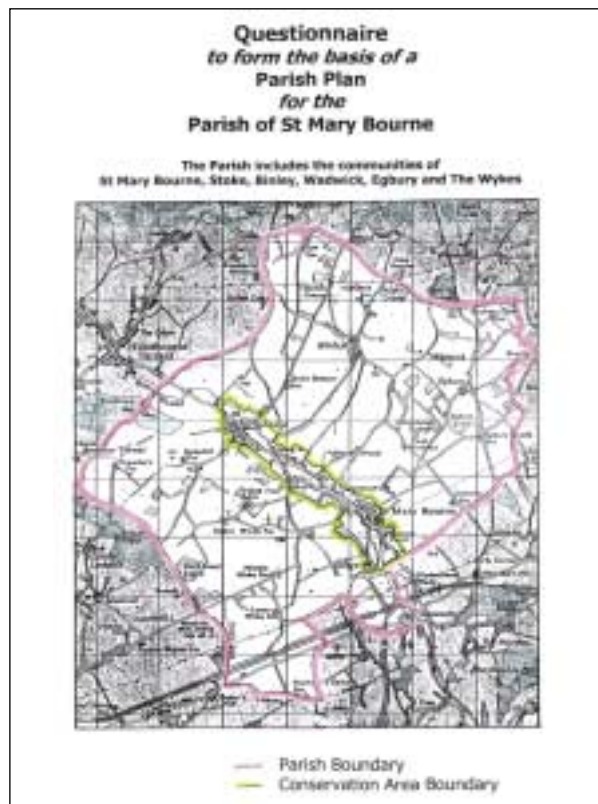
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 Valerie Kennett (Steering Group Chairman)
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YOUR PARISH
 COUNCIL
 2005/2006

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