



PEASEMORE PARISH PLAN

PEASEMORE

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The
Countryside
Agency



1920 - Church Cottages



1920 - Village Pond with 'Reading Room' behind the water cart

1920 - Main Street with Old National School
(Drake's Cottage on right).

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Peasemore School 1931

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work of producing this Parish Plan was initiated by the Parish Council and pursued by the Steering Group and its component Working Groups. Beginning with the Community Vision Day in 2002 it has always been the intention that the Plan reflects as fully as possible the views of the inhabitants of Peasemore. These acknowledgements identify those who have contributed in a variety of particular ways to the Plan's production. The Parish Council and the Steering Group wish to record their gratitude to the many people who have, not least by their attendance at the Vision Day and their response to the Questionnaire, helped to make the Plan a document which, we hope, can be owned by the whole village.

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Eliza Jacobs Outside The Old Shop, 1918



In November 2001 the Government produced its Rural White Paper; "Our Countryside: the future" identifying a number of measures for the future development of rural areas of England. One of these measures, 'Vital Villages', was launched by the Countryside Agency in April 2001.

One part of this scheme was The Parish Plan. It was envisaged that these Plans would help local councils involve local communities in identifying needs and issues and in doing so improve the quality of life of the people living in that area. Government Funding was allocated to the Countryside Agency to assist the implementation of these Plans. In December 2002 Peasemore Parish Council applied for, and

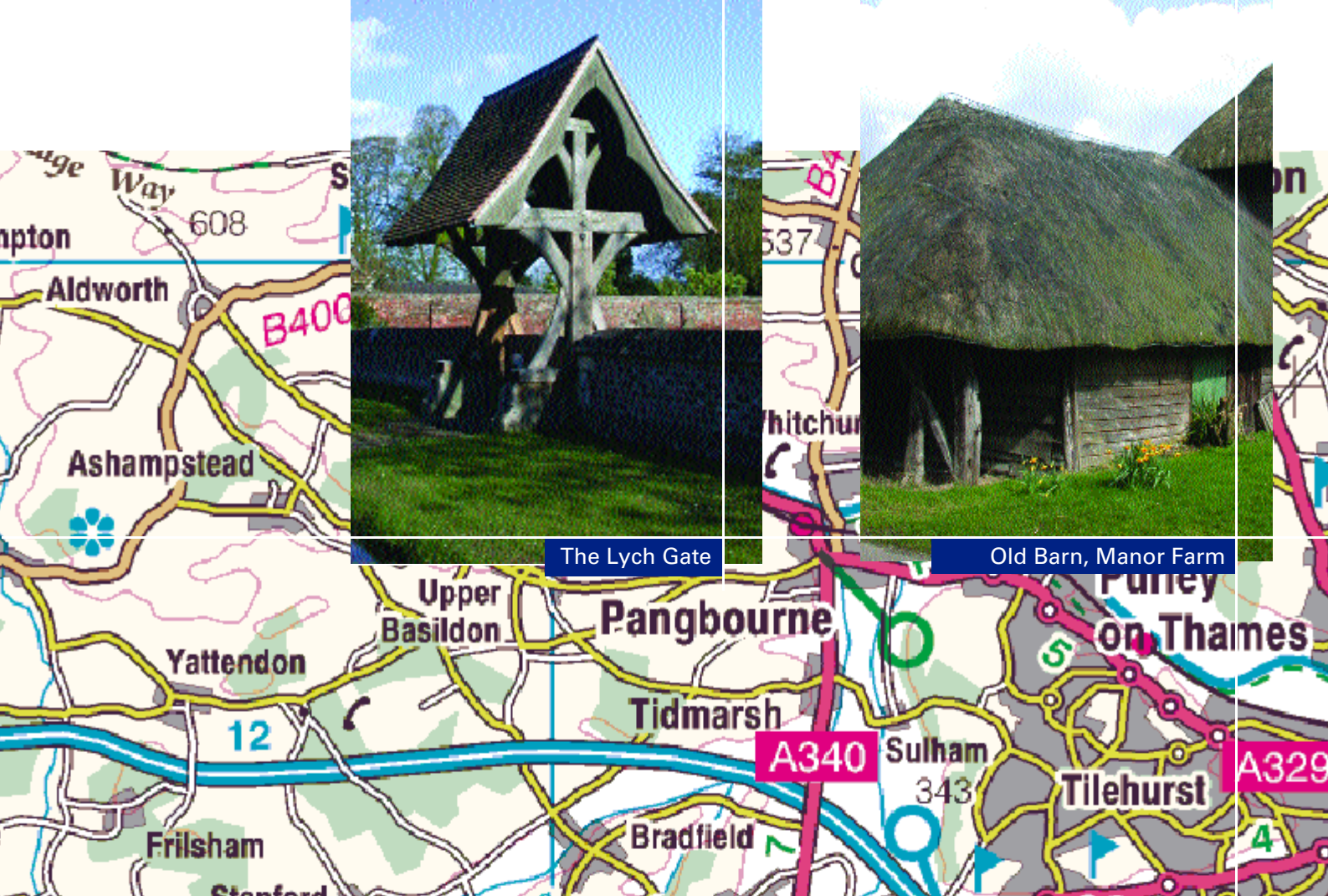
received, a grant from the Countryside Agency to produce a Parish Plan. Peasemore also received a grant from West Berkshire Council, as part of a pilot, supporting four parishes in West Berkshire to undertake parish plans.

The purpose of the Peasemore Parish Plan is to identify needs and issues in our community and to address them in the form of an action plan. This will then be used by the community, Parish Council and Local Council, as well as West Berkshire Partnership through the community Plan to guide change and to conserve and enhance what is important to us, for the benefit of future generations.

The Community Project

On 17th November 2001 two members of Peasemore Parish Council attended the West Berkshire Partnership, Vital Villages Workshop, at Brightwalton Village Hall.

A short time later the Parish Council decided that it should produce a Parish Plan to help identify needs and issues in the community.



The Lych Gate

Old Barn, Manor Farm

Consultation and Appraisal

This Parish Plan is the result of extensive consultation with villagers and outside bodies who have assisted us with specialist knowledge. In the spring of 2002 the Parish Council, in conjunction with members of the community, held a well supported 'Vision Day' to hear what the people of Peasemore had to say about what we want our community to be. Following this a questionnaire was distributed to every household. Residents over the age of eleven were asked to respond. Steering groups of interested volunteers, responsible for specific Key Issues, were set up. Several workshops, meetings and feedback sessions were held, at which all the residents of Peasemore

could express and refine their needs and views on our village/Parish. Each household received a full copy of the results.

83 of the 116 households in the Parish returned the completed questionnaire giving a 71.5% response [above the national average.] Prizes were offered as an incentive. 224 individuals over the age of 11 responded. A consultation workshop was held for children/young people of all ages in January 2004.

At all stages of the process the Parish Plan Committee endeavoured to consult with the statutory bodies; Countryside Agency, Community Council for Berkshire, West Berkshire Council and other Parishes

producing Plans.

This Plan identifies the needs, the concerns and the wishes of the community. It is designed to be a 'living document' representing the collective opinion of the people of Peasemore. It is a statement of the things we value most about our village and highlights the issues that have arisen from the consultation process; it is intended for use by: all residents who wish to participate as part of the community.

- the Parish Council
- landowners, businesses and farmers
- providers of services and utilities
- local authorities
- the Parochial Church Council
- other village organisations

The Parish is set in the North Wessex Downs 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' on the southern slope of the Berkshire Downs at about 500 feet above sea level. It is situated on soil which is mainly clay with flints on chalk. Peasemore is an ancient village standing at a high point on the Downs, midway between Wantage and Newbury and just three miles North West of junction 13 of the M4. Over the centuries the village, with its landmark church spire, has developed to become a mature settlement whose buildings fit comfortably into the landscape of arable farmland within which the village is set. The large cities and towns of London, Reading, Oxford and Newbury provide centres of employment

Peasemore's Interesting Past

The first reference to what became Peasemore Parish was in 951AD in King Edred's Charter when the boundaries of the Parish were defined and described as part of the Chieveley Parish. The village is first recorded in the Domesday book, in 1086, as Praxemere, and again in 1166 as Pesemere, meaning the 'pond by which peas grow', from the Old English 'pise' – peas, and 'mere' – pond¹. Peasemore is

first recorded on a map, drawn by Rocque in 1761, and again on a copy by Willis in 1768. The road network has not much changed since and a circular enclosure, which may be evidence of an Iron Age settlement (an archeological research project headed by BARG is currently underway) is clearly visible on successive maps.

A Neolithic stone axe head was discovered at Prince's farm in the 1950's [now at The Ashmolean Museum, Oxford] and a number of flint tools have been found at Warren Down. These have been authenticated by Newbury museum and suggest that the area has been occupied for at least five thousand years.

Christianity was established in the village during Saxon times

and probably centred around the Saxon Church on the site of the present Victorian, Gothic Church. Between 1078 and 1097 Richard of Peasemore built a chapel and cemetery here and this became the parish church in 1104, and was rebuilt in Victorian style in 1842². Rubble from the Norman Church was used as road foundations through the village!

The chancel cross was rescued by the Vicar of Brightwalton and now forms part of the Brightwalton War Memorial.

In 1809 the first Primitive Methodist Chapel was built near the site of what is now Walnut Tree cottage. This was replaced in 1831 by 'Ebenezer' at West View and the third Chapel was erected in 1923 on the site of what is now 'Furlongs'. All three Chapels in succession have been demolished but they reflect the strong Methodist community that existed on the Downlands in the 19th century. They continued to hold regular open air 'camp' meetings and services well into the 20th century on what is known as Mell Green.

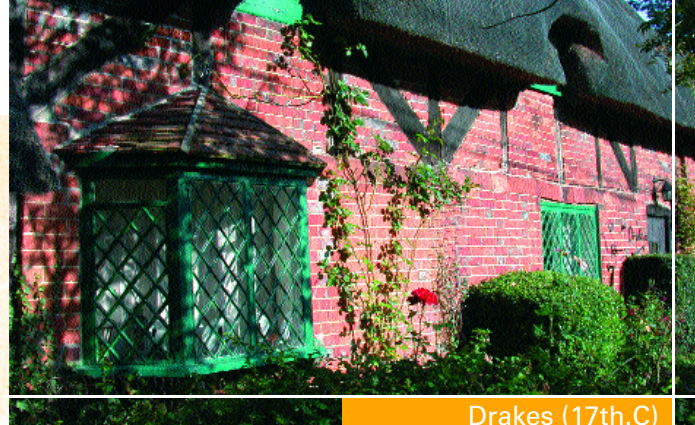


St Barnabas Church

The Manor is an early 15th century hall house, bought by Thomas Chaucer, the son of the great Geoffrey Chaucer in 1410 and altered and extended in the late 18th century. It is grade II listed³. Priors Side - the old name for Peasemore House was for many years owned by Poughley Priory, which is now occupied by Welford Aerodrome. The Priory was founded in 1160 and the Peasemore property of house and farmland was given to it shortly after its foundation. The Priory was dissolved by Cardinal Wolsey in 1525 to help finance the building of Christchurch, Oxford.

After Wolsey's downfall the Priory and Priors Side were forfeited and went to King Henry VIII. Shortly before this the de la Pole family, who were Lords of the Manor and supporters of Richard II, found themselves on the wrong side after the battle of Bosworth: and their property including Peasemore Manor was also forfeited to Henry VII. So, for a period in the 16th century almost the whole of Peasemore became crown property until it was sold off to private owners in Elizabethan times⁴.

A great fire broke out in Peasemore on 27th July 1736 when the whole of the centre of the village including barns and ricks were destroyed. It started in the area of Drakes and was declared a national disaster with over £1500 of damage done^{5,9}.



Drakes (17th.C)

Prior to the building of the Victorian Church School in 1850 the village school was sited in what is now known as Drakes Cottage. The village school finally closed its doors in the mid-1950's here are few natural water sources on the Downs, so settlements grew around ponds, which were later supplemented by wells. A 1912 map of Peasemore shows several ponds, one of which is probably that which gave the village its name, and even more wells. These were still in evidence in a map dated 1960. The village has always been an agricultural community, with the majority of the adult residents dependent on farming in some way or another for their living.

In 1891 30% of the male workforce was employed in farming, mainly sheep and corn, later this was cereals, then dairy, mixed livestock and arable followed on from this, and now arable⁶. Only in the last forty years has farming become a marginal occupation⁷.

Peasemore has, to date; eleven Grade II listed buildings. Priors, Widows and Princes' Farmsteads are recorded and

described in the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, Farmsteads survey, 1994. The Iron Age Enclosure is recorded as an ancient monument on WBC: Historic Buildings, Sites and Monuments Record 1/5/02⁸.

The present village hall was built in 1900 and prior to this social gatherings were held in the reading rooms; a single storey thatched cottage on the site of what is now the house called Las Vegas. Here villagers came to be "read to" whilst knitting and sewing.

At one time, and within living memory, all commodities were brought to the village by carrier and the village had two shops and a Post Office. All have long since disappeared but the numerous village social events are remembered with affection - the school and village concerts, dances, whist drives, fetes and carnivals, the Peasemore W.I. and the thriving cricket club with its annual family events including the ladies' match.

KEY ISSUES

The information collected on the community vision day coupled with research carried out by local historians and recent investigations by Berkshire Archeological Group has highlighted the fact that Peasemore, in spite of its ancient history, historic farmsteads, buildings and outstanding natural beauty has no designated conservation area. In fact, it is one of only two settlements of the fifty-one on the Downs not to have a conservation area. In response to Q48 'Should Peasemore have a conservation area?' 75% said 'Yes'. Therefore, the action is to make a formal application to the West Berkshire Council in the form of a detailed document requesting that Peasemore be granted Conservation status.

Population structure

Peasemore is one of the smallest Parishes in the Downlands area with, at present, 116 households, a population of 282 and an electoral role of 214. Census figures⁷ give its population in 1891 as 263, 1911 as 237, 1951 as 197 and 1971 as 184. The decrease in population through the first half of the last century coincides with rural depopulation which was triggered by the decline in agricultural and rural employment. The projected population estimate for 2006⁷ is 126 households with 285 residents¹⁰.

Our Parish appraisal surveyed 72% of the households and showed that 48% of respondents were aged between 25-59 years, the majority being between 45-59, 23% in the age range of 5-17 years, 2% 0-4 years and 19% are 60 years plus. Compared with the national average our Parish population has an older demographic profile. The majority of the population is made up of young/middle aged working families very few of whom were born in the Parish.

Settlement pattern and residency

The majority of residents live in an owner occupied home [69%] that is their main residence. 31% have lived in the parish for between 6-15 years [Q16]. 19% of households are Housing Association or Local Authority rented and 11% of villagers occupy houses that are provided by an employer.

Detached properties form the largest percentage of house types in the Parish [59%], 19% are semi-detached, 16% bungalows and there are three rows of terraces at Mell Green, Bolton Row and Hatt Close. [Q5].

39% moved here with their family, 30% chose the area because of its attractive appearance, 23% moved here for employment, 12% because of family connections and 2% for retirement. [Q12]

"A Village community in a delightful rural setting"

Housing in the village and outlying Parish ranges from Medieval to modern present day. Well documented archive evidence shows that the village has grown from an ancient core centred around the Church¹¹. House prices in the village have risen steeply in the last ten years and the market for country homes is maintained by the zero unemployment rate in the Newbury area.

Housing

New housing development has been a sensitive and controversial issue for some time so the appraisal questionnaire attempted to glean the views and opinions of the residents.

The majority of residents [72%] want the settlement pattern of Peasemore to stay as it is; a quintessential, rural, Berkshire Downlands village environs. [Q 56].

"We are happy with the Village as it is"

75% of people, in answer to the question, "What is most important to you about Peasemore?" indicated that they choose to live in Peasemore because it provides the environment and situation that they desire. [Q18] Most people move to the area with their families because it is an attractive area within easy reach of employment.

"Please do not overdevelop"

Although the majority of residents want no further homes built [44%], numbers of other responses show that homes for young people, small family homes, homes for single people and homes for people with disabilities are desirable. [Q31]

"An integrated rural community, despite inevitable change, we should endeavour to keep its character"



In answer to Q32, "Is there need for more accommodation of the following types in Peasemore?" 40% stated that there was no need for any extra housing of any type, 30% want more low cost housing for sale, 29% more restricted sale houses for local people and 25% more local authority/Housing Association rented homes. Individuals were able to make multiple responses to this question but it did reveal a broad spectrum of views e.g. nine responses to the need for specially adapted housing and twenty-two for sheltered housing.

"Attractive, quiet village with a strong sense of place"

In the last 20 years Peasemore has seen the development of four cul-de-sacs, [a total of 25 dwellings] one of which consists of 10 Housing Association homes at Palmer Close. This rural, rented, affordable housing development was built ten years ago under the guidance of the Parish Council on land given to the village by Lt. Col. Rodney Palmer. All the homes in this development carry a 106 agreement which restricts their occupancy to people with close family connections with Peasemore.

"Small, unspoilt village of great charm, surrounded by open countryside"

"People should value its natural and built environment"

In 2003 the Parish Council processed 15 planning applications for extensions, alterations and additional houses. The number of planning applications has been steadily increasing over the last three years, in 2002 twelve were processed and in 2001 six. This process has led to conflict of opinion between residents, planners, landowners and environmentalists and to the general fear of large-scale development within the community. This recent history supports the need to produce a Village Design Statement which will reflect the views of our community.

KEY ISSUES

Need to produce a Village Design Statement which reflects the community's views about maintaining, conserving, protecting and improving the appearance and character of Peasemore. VDS to be submitted to WBC for adoption as Supplementary Planning Guidance.

30% of houses in the Parish come into the category of Housing Association rented, Local authority rented or tied. This is a high proportion when compared to most other small parishes.

"I was born in Peasemore and value traditional village life"

Residents from six households are currently in need of alternative accommodation [Q6] for employment reasons, for family reasons and the need to move to a larger or smaller home. [Q7] The majority of these home seekers would like to stay in Peasemore. Three respondents stated that they are hampered by lack of suitable stock to buy and five by lack of available Local Authority or Housing Association homes. Most need Housing Association rented or owner occupied homes. [Q8 & Q9]

"I would not like the village to become a commuter community, but it needs affordable housing for children to stay"

KEY ISSUES

The appraisal highlighted the need for more rented housing for village people with close family connections hence the action to write to Sovereign Housing requesting that a 106 agreement be applied to the letting of two houses in Hatt Close

Employment

The survey indicated that we are a community with people travelling out of the village to work and school.

30% of people in the Parish are employed within a 10 miles radius of the village, 22% work more than 10 miles away and 15% are retired. [Q20] The Parish supports a few small businesses including farms and agricultural concerns. 12% of residents work within the Parish itself.

The appraisal indicates that the community generally supports more job opportunities within the Parish and 48% of residents are in favour of encouraging more Bed and Breakfast facilities but it also indicated that residents are not in favour of small scale industrial workshops, small business or tourist development. [Q 21]



Blue Bells on the way to Roughdown

The Landscape and its Wildlife

The Countryside Agency describes the landscape of the Berkshire and Marlborough Downs as 'wooded downland...high, large-scale, rolling chalk landscape with intensive arable farming and sites of archeological significance'¹². The area was once heavily wooded and small tracts of ancient woodland still remain around Peasemore. But since Neolithic times the woods have been progressively cleared for farming: first with tiny enclosed fields for crops and livestock; then in strips surrounding medieval settlements; then in large fields bounded by the mainly hawthorn hedges of the enclosures¹³. It forms part of the North Wessex Downlands and is classified as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

There have been few major changes in the landscape for centuries. The rolling hills dotted with isolated farms and copses and criss-crossed by footpaths and bridleways; the long views: towards Inkpen, across Old Street to Beedon, and beyond the Wantage Road to Leckhampstead, would still be familiar to our forebears. The setting and extent of the village of Peasemore has also hardly changed: it is still a mainly linear development along two roads, the Street and Hill Green Lane, but most of the dwellings are not now thatched, and are sadly no longer shaded by giant elms. One marked change, though, is the extensive tree and hedge planting on Roughdown Farm, which in recent years has begun to provide increased nesting sites for birds and valuable wildlife corridors.

What our Natural Environment means to us

The findings in this section of the parish plan are partly from the Parish Plan Questionnaire; delivered to every household (these are shown in percentages from questionnaire respondents (QRs), partly from responses to questionnaires targeted to special groups, e.g. older residents, regular walkers, farm-workers and partly from informal conversations in the street or at the pub. Throughout all the questionnaires, formal and informal, and all the conversations carried out whilst researching the Plan, the words most commonly used to describe what is special about the parish of Peasemore are:

"Peace and quiet beauty"

and the features most valued are

"The variety of landscape and wildlife"

"The dark and being able to see the stars"¹⁴

The Landscape

Despite the majority of parishioners having little direct contact with the land, except perhaps as a leisure amenity, for walking, cycling or horse-riding, 98% of QRs consider the countryside around Peasemore 'very important' or 'important'. Moreover, 60% think that all landscape features should be protected. Given special mention were:

"The hills and long views"

"The beauty and tranquillity"

"The variety of hedges and copses, woods and open fields"

"The diverse habitats"

"The views of the village from the South, west and North-East"

"The church spire is a marvellous landmark for miles around"

79% of QRs believe that diverse wildlife habitats should be improved, and many that more trees and hedges should be planted, and that the pond should be improved for wildlife (Fig 2). The 2002 Countryside Agency report "Our Countryside, Our Future" recommends working in partnership with local farmers and landowners particularly with regard to managing hedgerows and set-aside for wildlife.

Trees, hedges, flowers and ponds

The great majority of questionnaire respondents believe hedges, ponds, and trees should be protected. Fourteen tall, mature trees have been felled in the village in the last 15 years. However, many residents have planted new trees.



Village Pond

"the hazel tunnels are Peasemore" Many residents think that the hedgerows around Peasemore are not only beautiful, but provide valuable food and shelter for wildlife.

"the hazelnut tunnels... lovely to walk through in dappled shade"

"hedgerows should be cut

after the berries have been eaten"

A log kept by one resident from January to July 2003 identifies 63 species of wildflower¹⁵. 94% of QRs considered wildflowers important or very important. Of special mention were:

"the blue bells in Hayley Copse"

"the aconites and snow drops in Brown's avenue brighten January and February"

Ponds, particularly Mitchell's pond in the middle of the village, and Mell Green pond which was the original historic village pond, are especially important to local people, both as landmarks, and as wildlife habitats.

The village pond is one of the most-mentioned features that local people loved in Peasemore:

"protect ponds.. recreate ponds on old recorded site"

"protect... the moorhens on the village pond"

"(I Love) the pond in the centre of the village with its wildlife"

Many suggested that the village pond needs management - some cleaning and improvement for wildlife.

KEY ISSUES

Wildlife conservation. The aim is to enhance/improve what could be bettered and to establish the link between "enhance" and "protect". The action is to improve the village pond for wildlife by creating a three year management plan.

The improvement of wildlife habitats. The aim is to plant more trees and hedges. The action is to liaise with farmers and landowners for planting sites

Birds, butterflies, bats and mammals

The vast majority of QRs considered wild creatures in the parish to be either important or very important, - 94% for birds and 91% for mammals (Question 49) and that we should 'encourage' and improve habitats for wildlife (Question 47).

"all the lanes are alive with creatures"

98 species of bird have been recorded as frequenting the parish and 14 species of butterfly¹⁶. This last figure is only part of the picture - the wildflower meadow at 'The Old Rectory' hosts many more species, as yet unrecorded.

"the red kites, buzzards,...owls...and many other sorts of bird"

The church is home to a colony of pipistrelle bats, now protected under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act; and the fields and woods abound with fallow and muntjac deer, badgers, foxes,

grey squirrels, hares, rabbits, hedgehogs, moles, weasels, stoats, rats and mice. Many residents value the variety of wildlife around us:

"good to see the return of kites"

However, some residents regret the loss of numbers of some once common species:

"sad to see the decline in larks and lapwings"

There is cautious support for recording species in order to monitor change and for forming a group interested in wildlife; there are several suggestions for benefiting wildlife. These range from protecting the moorhens on the pond through establishing wildlife corridors and building more owl nest-boxes to inviting the Berks., Bucks., and Oxon., Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) to talk about creating garden wildlife habitats

"the British Trust for Ornithology has noticed a sharp decline in swallow, swift and house martin numbers in Peasemore"



Footpath to Peasemore House

Footpaths and Bridleways

An encouraging number of residents know where the footpaths and bridleways are in the parish but very few walk them. They are, however, considered worthy of protection and a large number of volunteers would be willing to help maintain them. Perhaps it is enough that the paths are there to be enjoyed sometimes.

KEY ISSUES

To recognise what we have that is good about the wildlife special to our Parish. The action is to create a Parish map highlighting important and cherished features and to reproduce it for display on the village noticeboards.

Loss of species. The aim is to preserve what we have and form strategies to combat loss. The action is to record and publicise species numbers. Use evidence of change to encourage better practice; in farming, in gardening, in treatment of our natural surroundings.

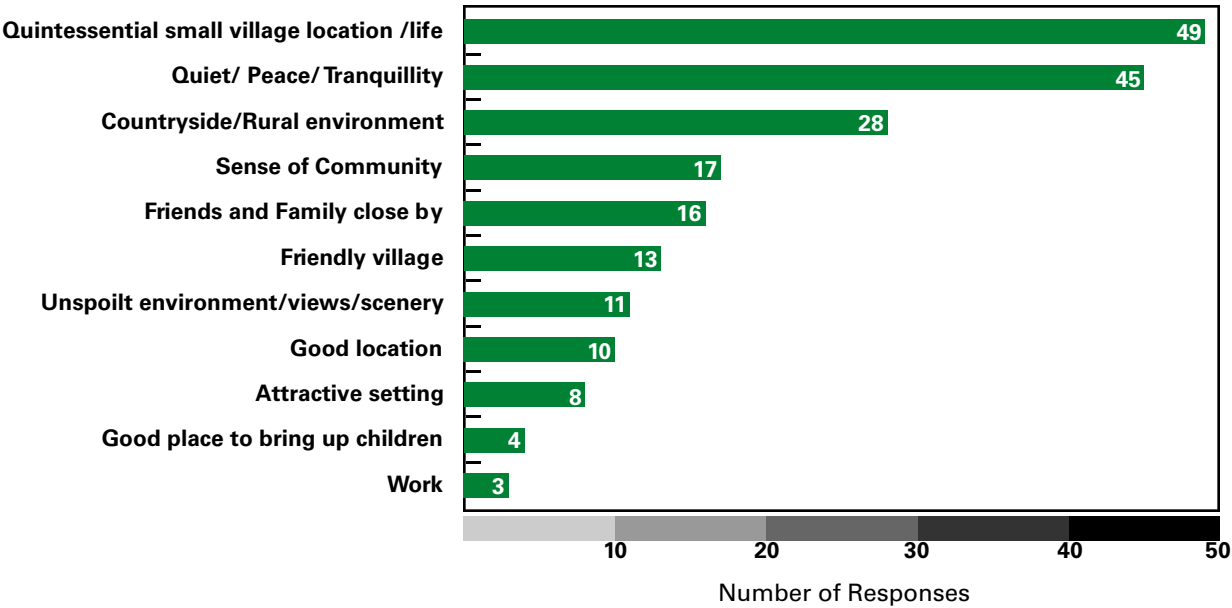
Participation and education. The aim is to promote enjoyment and participation. The action is to organise guided walks, night walks, competitions, illustrated talks and activity days.



Main Street

One of the main objectives of the Parish Survey was to give the community the opportunity to say, in their own words, what they value about Peasmore. The information shows what they would most like to see preserved or maintained.

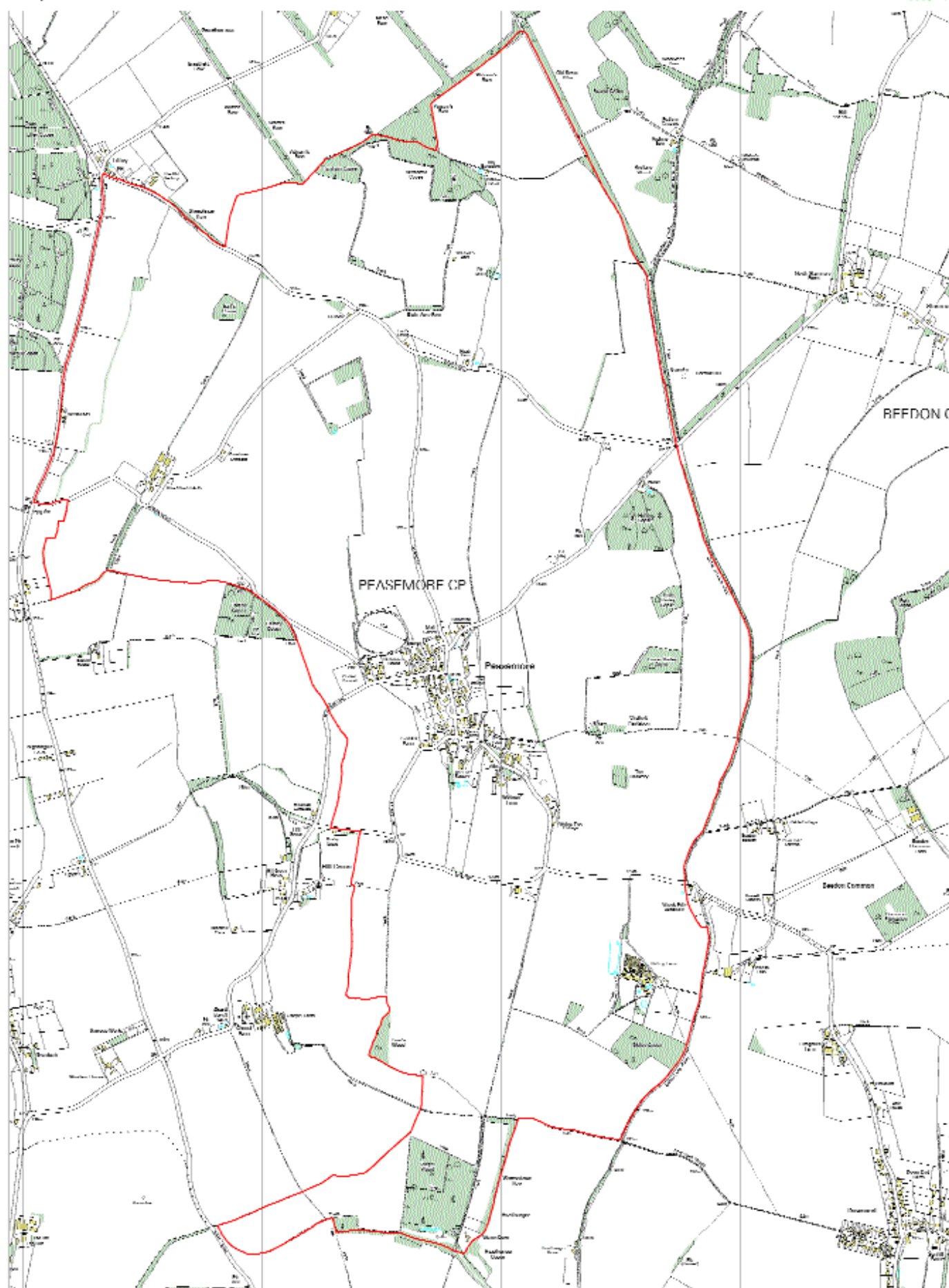
The chart below summarises the number of responses in answer to question 19.
“What is the most important thing to you about Peasmore?”



Peasmore Parish Map

01May2004

1:7000



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The Fox and Hounds



Village Hall

Community

Character of the Village community

Whilst the majority of the inhabitants are 'incomers' the village still retains a nucleus of highly valued people who have lived in Peasemore for many years and, in some cases, all their (long) lives. Like all rural communities the character of the population has changed radically in the last half century. Only a handful of people still have a direct connection with agriculture and many of the working population now commute long distances to work.

There is a large number of young people under 18 in the village (Q2), as well as a substantial number of people over 65. 13 people live alone (Q1)

In the absence of a village shop there is no obvious meeting place, apart from the village pub. However, anyone strolling through the village or walking a dog is likely to meet someone else doing the same thing. The arrival and departure of the school buses also provides an opportunity for people to congregate. Events organised by the Social Committee and, occasionally, by the church provide opportunities for getting together, as does the worship regularly offered in the church. In the summer the sports field and cricket pitch is also a focus of social exchange. The low level of traffic driving through the village still makes it possible for children to congregate and play on and around the roads through the village.

The village has a friendly feel to it and there is the generally held belief that people in Peasemore 'look out for' one another.

In answer to the survey question (Q18) 'What is most important to you about Peasemore?' 'community' ranked only third (14.3%) behind 'the environment' (42%) and 'the situation' (35%). Anecdotal evidence suggests, however, that community relationships are highly valued but, perhaps, taken for granted.

"Being part of the community and being close to my friends"

Whilst survey responses suggested interest in a variety of new initiatives for maintaining and improving community spirit, such things can only happen if interest translates into active support.

Communication was highlighted as a major concern. Plans are in hand to provide more notice boards around the village in order to ensure that information about village events is as widely disseminated as possible. A seat outside the Village Hall would create a place 'where people can sit and chat' (Q42).

Another form of communication, the setting up of a skills register, is also recommended.

KEY ISSUE

Maintain and strengthen community links through providing facilities and events which encourage people to meet/talk/ get together.

Extend the source of information (noticeboards) which is currently most widely used and encourages people to meet/talk



Footpath from Prince's Lane



The Children's Play Area

Whilst Peasemore does not have a traffic problem and our children do therefore play in the street, there were concerns raised that some additional signage or environmentally sensitive traffic calming might be implemented to safeguard them still further.

There was considerable concern shown in the survey (Q36) over daytime property crime, when the village is very quiet, and over fly tipping. We have a neighbourhood watch scheme and a review of this will be carried out with input from the Police.

KEY ISSUE

Slow traffic through Village and make drivers more aware of children in road and need for care

Peasemore does not have a formal good neighbour scheme. The survey response (46.6%, Q35) indicated support for the implementation of such a scheme. Most of what such a scheme traditionally offers does appear to happen already in the village. Specific views on this issue will be sought by community groups to see if a formal scheme would be desirable.

KEY ISSUE

Reduce level of concern over burglary, theft and fly tipping

The survey revealed a significant interest (Q38), especially amongst young people, in some form of basic shop/post office services. This is unlikely to be economically viable except as a social service, but possible utilization of the pub to service this need in some way, will be investigated.

KEY ISSUE

Enhance the number of activities available within the Village for all ages and backgrounds.

KEY ISSUE

Provide a small scale way to purchase basic items

Whilst it was not highlighted by the survey, widening computer ownership and the recent availability of Broadband Internet access in the village has renewed interest in a Village website and the use of e-mail and bulletin boards as an additional form of communication. The domain name www.peasemore.com has been registered by one of the residents for the use of the community. A copy of the planned parish map will be displayed on village notice boards in due course.



The Village Pavilion

Youth activities

There are already a number of community activities for young people in the village or nearby, including: football, cricket, tennis (Chieveley) and a Youth Club (Beedon). It is hoped that the Youth Club will occasionally meet in Peasemore and that some form of local summer activities for young people can be arranged. The Downland Youth Network is pursuing young people's interests in the local area.

There were requests for additional play equipment at the sports field, particularly swings and a marked football pitch. There is considerable support for participation in activities (Q40) but very few who are prepared to organise.

Young people (under 18) are being invited to consult together to enable them actively to determine their own needs and interests.

Dog fouling is a perennial problem in most communities and owners are reminded to clear up after their dogs, disposing of excrement at home and not allowing their dogs to foul near play equipment.

Transport

90% of the village use private cars as their main method of transport, yet over a third experience difficulties in getting to other places from Peasemore. There is limited public transport serving Peasemore but its timing does not support travel to work or evening activities. Specific needs, such as young people's after school activities are not usually on bus routes at all. School transport is an essential service, saving many car journeys especially in winter when local roads are not treated. Cycling on narrow country lanes is often made unsafe by cars and motor cycles driving at speed.

Car sharing schemes had limited support. Some of this happens already informally and in a small village we think this is probably the best way to handle this.

KEY ISSUE

Discourage dog fouling in all public areas and encourage owners to clean up after their dogs

TOPIC

1.Lack of conservation status for Peasemore

OBJECTIVE

To achieve designation of conservation status for selected area of Village

ACTIONS

Apply to West Berks Council for designation of Conservation area for Peasemore. Application to take the form of a detailed document

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY

Parish Council

TIMESCALE

February 2003

PARTNERS

Local Historians
B.A.R.G.
English Heritage
WBC Conservation Officer

ACHIEVEMENTS /TARGETS

Conservation document submitted to Mr G Lugg Head of Planning WBC
15th Feb 2003

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Parish Council in Partnership with WBC

TOPIC

2.Village Design

OBJECTIVE

To produce a VDS which reflects the views of the community about maintaining, conserving, protecting and improving the appearance and character of Peasemore.
To have it adopted by WBC as Supplementary Planning Guidance

ACTIONS

To produce a VDS document and submit to WBC for adoption as Supplementary Planning Guidance

To publish for the community of Peasemore

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY

Built environment steering group.
Parish Council

TIMESCALE

August 2004

PARTNERS

B.A.R.G., K.Wallace BA, English Heritage BBOWT, BTCV , English Nature, Farmers Landowners Local Historians

ACHIEVEMENTS /TARGETS

See Actions

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Funding — Local Heritage Initiative, Parish Council

TOPIC

3.Need for more rented housing

OBJECTIVE

To augment the 106 agreement to two existing Sovereign houses in Hatt Close.

ACTIONS

To write to Sovereign Housing requesting that a 106 agreement be applied to the letting of two houses in Hatt Close.

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY

Parish Council

TIMESCALE

January 2004

PARTNERS

Steering group
Sovereign Housing

ACHIEVEMENTS /TARGETS

Letter written Jan 2004

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Parish Council

TOPIC

1. Community

OBJECTIVE

Maintain and strengthen community links through providing facilities and events which encourage people to meet/talk/ get together.

ACTIONS

Carry through plans for upgrades to Village Hall to maintain it as village focus. Extend range of events which are organised there.

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY

Parish Council

TIMESCALE

New toilets and disabled access scheduled April 2004.

PARTNERS

Peasmore Committee, Greenham Common Trust, West Berks Council, CCB Village Halls Adviser, Microsoft Ltd, other funding bodies

ACHIEVEMENTS /TARGETS

External work complete. New heating installed Dec. 2003.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Funding secured from local fund raising and grant applications. Current work is all funded. We will continue to work with a range of funding / advisory bodies as well as local fund raising.

OBJECTIVE

Maintain and strengthen community links through providing facilities and events which encourage people to meet/talk/ get together.

ACTIONS

Provide Bench outside Village Hall as a meeting place, and bench on sports field

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY

Parish Plan Community team

TIMESCALE

December 2005

PARTNERS

Parish Council

ACHIEVEMENTS /TARGETS

Bench (tree trunk) on cricket field provided free by local landowner.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Quotes and estimates to inform amount to be fundraised

OBJECTIVE

Extend the source of information (noticeboards) which is currently most widely used and encourages people to meet/talk

ACTIONS

Provide three notice boards throughout village

Provide a new large notice board at the Village Hall

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY

Parish Plan Community team

TIMESCALE

December 2005

PARTNERS

Parish Council

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Quotes and estimates to inform amount to be fundraised

<p>TOPIC</p> <p>2. Village Activities</p>		<p>TOPIC</p> <p>3. Traffic speed and Control</p>
<p>OBJECTIVE</p> <p>Enhance the number of activities available within the Village for all ages and backgrounds.</p>	<p>OBJECTIVE</p> <p>Enhance the number of activities available within the Village for all ages and backgrounds.</p>	<p>OBJECTIVE</p> <p>Slow traffic through Village and make drivers more aware of children in road and need for care</p>
<p>ACTIONS</p> <p>Try daytime get together event – format to be discussed with those normally in village during daytime.</p>	<p>ACTIONS</p> <p>Summer Activities</p> <p>Investigate what WBC and others offer.</p>	<p>ACTIONS</p> <p>Review with Parish Council</p>
<p>LEAD RESPONSIBILITY</p> <p>Parish Plan Community team</p>	<p>Investigate if Beedon Youth Club could occasionally meet in Peasemore</p>	<p>LEAD RESPONSIBILITY</p> <p>Parish Council</p>
<p>TIMESCALE</p> <p>August 2003</p>	<p>LEAD RESPONSIBILITY</p> <p>Parish Plan Community team</p>	<p>TIMESCALE</p> <p>August 2003</p>
<p>PARTNERS</p> <p>Church</p>	<p>TIMESCALE</p> <p>December 2004</p>	<p>PARTNERS</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>ACHIEVEMENTS /TARGETS</p> <p>First daytime event held August 2003, success. See how best to continue them.</p>	<p>PARTNERS</p> <p>Downlands Youth Network, Beedon & Peasemore youth club, WBC Youth Service, Berkshire Association of Young People</p>	<p>ACHIEVEMENTS /TARGETS</p> <p>Review with Parish Council favoured keeping issue under village control. Letter from P.C. sent to all residents Summer 2003. PC trained for SIDS Nov 2003</p>
	<p>ACHIEVEMENTS /TARGETS</p> <p>£6000p.a. for 2 years funding for youth worker to run weekly youth session in Peasemore</p>	<p>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</p> <p>No costs expected at present. (eg. signs not required, traffic calming rejected).</p>
	<p>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</p> <p>May require further work at village hall. Costs for events may be needed also.</p>	

TOPIC

4.Concerns over Crime

OBJECTIVE

Reduce level of concern over burglary, theft and fly tipping

ACTIONS

Organise a review with the Police, reinforce existing neighbourhood watch scheme. Work with neighbouring parishes to pool resources / advice.

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY

Parish Plan Community team

TIMESCALE

December 2004

PARTNERS

Parish Council, Neighbourhood Watch coordinator as primary. Also may consult WBC Community Safety, Thames Valley Police. Rural Action Group for fly tipping.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Minimal

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY

Parish Plan Community team

TIMESCALE

June 2004

PARTNERS

Community council for Berkshire Post watch

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Unknown at this stage. We are aware of several funding sources but concern is for ongoing viability rather than startup costs.

TOPIC

7.Dog Fouling

OBJECTIVE

Discourage dog fouling in all public areas and encourage owners to clean up after their dogs

ACTIONS

Erect signs asking dog owners to keep their animals away from the play equipment. Small scale publicity campaign – ongoing.

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY

Parish Council

TIMESCALE

Ongoing

ACHIEVEMENTS /TARGETS

Letter sent by Parish Council to all residents. Summer 2003

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Cost of signs would fall on Parish Council if required.

TOPIC

6.Facilities

OBJECTIVE

Increase provision at sports field

ACTIONS

Investigate costs and feasibility of swings, slide or other sports facilities (eg netball/basketball)

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY

Parish Plan Community team

PARTNERS

Parish Council, Peasemore Committee

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Awaiting estimates – some funding sources identified.

TOPIC

5.Village shop and Postal services

OBJECTIVE

Provide a small scale way to purchase basic items

ACTIONS

Investigate if there are any feasible options for any sale of sweets and basic items

TOPIC	TOPIC	TOPIC
1.Wildlife special to our Parish	2.Wildlife Conservation	3.Improvement of wildlife habitats
OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE
To recognize what we have that is good	To enhance/improve what could be bettered and to establish the link between 'enhance' and 'protect'	To plant more trees and hedges
ACTIONS	ACTIONS	ACTIONS
Create a parish map highlighting important and cherished natural features. Reproduce for display on the Village noticeboards and future website. Link this to the action point of walks (eg could inform a leaflet on a walk around the village)	Improve village pond for wildlife by creating a three year management plan	Liaise with farmers and landowners for planting sites.
LEAD RESPONSIBILITY	LEAD RESPONSIBILITY	LEAD RESPONSIBILITY
Parish Council – Countryside officer	Parish Council – Countryside officer	Parish Council – Countryside officer
TIMESCALE	TIMESCALE	TIMESCALE
One Year	On going three year plan	Three years
PARTNERS	PARTNERS	PARTNERS
Team of volunteers – Older people with special local knowledge. Others who have done this (eg other parishes, CCB). Volunteers – Newbury Volunteer Bureau/Millennium Volunteers?	BBOWT, BTCV and volunteers, WBC Ecologist , WBC Countryside (Paul Hendry)	Farmers, landowners and volunteers, especially children
ACHIEVEMENTS /TARGETS	ACHIEVEMENTS /TARGETS	ACHIEVEMENTS /TARGETS
An attractive way of sharing what is special about our natural environment	Cleaner Pond with planting more suitable for wildlife. Increased biodiversity	One native tree or two metres of hedge for each parish household
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
Paper, paint, parish map, photographs for initial design. Funding options are Countryside Agency and Heritage Lottery Fund.	Tools, buckets, Wellingtons, sludge removal.	Tools, stakes, tree guards and ties, research funding for plants - possibly a local nursery

TOPIC	TOPIC
4.Loss of species	5.Participation and Education
OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE
To preserve what we have and form strategies to combat loss.	To promote enjoyment, understanding and participation
ACTIONS	ACTIONS
Record and publicise species numbers. Use evidence of change to encourage better practice; in farming, in gardening, in treatment of our natural surroundings	Occasional guided walks, night walks, competitions, illustrated talks, activity days. Investigate working with neighbouring parishes.
LEAD RESPONSIBILITY	LEAD RESPONSIBILITY
Parish Council – Countryside officer	Parish Council – Countryside officer
TIMESCALE	TIMESCALE
Every three years	Ongoing
PARTNERS	PARTNERS
English Nature, BTCV, RSPB, BBOWT as advisors. Volunteers, especially farmers, children and young people WBC Ecology Officer (Jeremy Davy)?	BBOWT & RSPB as advisors, local naturalists, volunteers, especially children and young people
ACHIEVEMENTS /TARGETS	ACHIEVEMENTS /TARGETS
Species records and in time, a reduction of species loss	A more active interest in our surroundings and wildlife
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
Survey sheets, notebooks, pens & pencils, binoculars, handbooks. Research funding for materials.	Posters & leaflets to advertise a venue for talks, prizes for competitions Research funding for materials.

The full detailed results of the Parish appraisal, were distributed to every household in the Parish during the summer of 2003.

Peasemore Parish Wild Flowers

This list was compiled from flowers observed blooming on walks around the parish, during the following months, it is by no means exhaustive. The common names are from Phillips, R. 1975 Wildflowers of Britain Pan: London, 1975.

January & February

Snowdrop
Aconite
Hazel Catkin
Wood Anemone Sweet, & Dog

March

1. Celandine
2. Dandelion
3. Daffodil
4. Violet - Pale Wood,
5. Primrose
6. Pink Dead Nettle
7. Blackthorn
8. Daisy
9. Cowslip
10. Ground Ivy

April

1. Stitchwort, Greater & Lesser
2. Bluebell
3. Cherry Blossom
4. Cow Parsley
5. Birdseye Speedwell
6. Yellow Archangel
7. Garlic Mustard
8. Herb Robert
9. White Dead Nettle
10. Shepherd's Purse

May

1. Hawthorn
2. Pink Campion
3. Black Medic
4. Buttercup
5. Hedgerow Cranesbill
6. Wood Spurge
7. Wood Avens
8. Dog Mercury
9. Forget-Me-Not
10. Goosegrass
11. Speedwell - Wood, Germander
12. Goldilocks
13. Vetch -Bush, Pink, Kidney
14. Achillea, Pink
15. Clover - Pink, White
16. Dog Rose
17. Bramble
18. Jack-go-to-bed-at-noon
19. Solomon's Seal
20. Evergreen Alkanet
21. Wild Strawberry
22. Comfrey
23. Convolvulus
24. Fumitory
25. Agrimony
26. Woundwort

June

1. Briar Rose
2. Rosebay Willow Herb
3. Scentless Mayweed
4. Poppy
5. Self-heal
6. Scabious
7. Scarlet Pimpernel
8. Bedstraw - Yellow, White
9. Silverleaf
10. Pink Bugle

July

1. Hard Heads
2. Pink Mallow
3. Achillea, White



Peasemore Parish birds

The birds on this list are those seen fairly regularly in the parish - not 'one-offs'. Many thanks go to Jack Nickson and Walter Brown for their invaluable help in compiling the list.

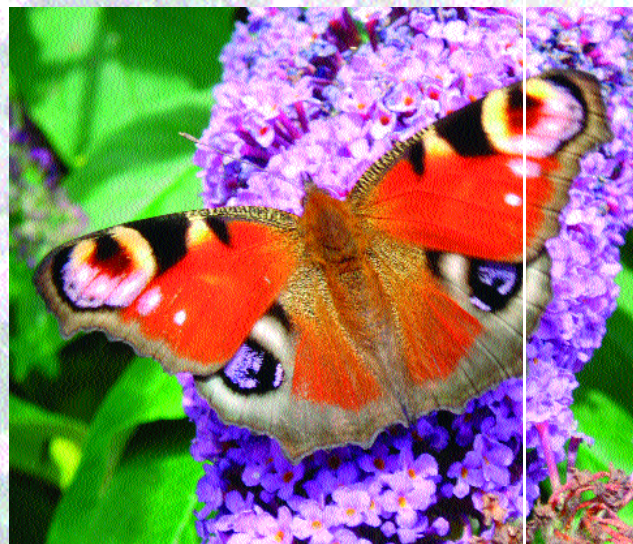
Blackbird
Blackcap
Brambling
Bullfinch
Bunting, Reed
Buzzard
Chaffinch
Chiffchaff
Crow
Crow, Carrion
Coot
Cuckoo
Dove, Collared
Dove, Stock
Dove, Turtle
Fieldfare
Finch, Gold
Finch, Green
Flycatcher, Pied
Flycatcher, Spotted
Goldcrest
Goose, Canada
Gull, Black-headed
Gull, Common
Gull, Herring
Hen Harrier
Heron
Hobby
Jackdaw
Jay
Kestrel
Kite, Red
Lapwing
Linnet
Lark, Sky
Magpie
Mallard
Martin, House
Martin, Sand
Moorhen
Nuthatch
Owl, Barn

Owl, Little
Owl, Short-eared
Owl, Tawny
Partridge, Red-legged
Pheasant
Pigeon, Wood
Pipit, Meadow
Plover, Golden
Redpoll
Redstart
Redwing
Robin
Rook
Siskin
Sparrowhawk
Sparrow, Hedge (Dunnock)
Sparrow, House
Starling
Stonechat
Swallow
Swan, Mute
Swift
Thrush, Mistle
Thrush, Song
Tit, Blue
Tit, Coal
Tit, Great
Tit, Long-tailed
Tit, Marsh
Tit, Willow
Treecreeper
Wagtail, Grey
Wagtail, Pied
Warbler, Garden
Warbler, Willow
Wheatear
Whinchat
Whitethroat, Lesser
Woodpecker, Green
Woodpecker, Great spotted
Wren
Yellowhammer

Peasemore Parish butterflies

This list represents only a small number of those butterflies that frequent the parish. We need an experienced entomologist to complete it.

Brimstone
Comma
Fritillary
Gatekeeper
Holly Blue
Large White
Marbled White
Meadow Brown
Orange Tip
Painted Lady
Peacock
Red Admiral
Small Tortoiseshell
Speckled Wood
Silver-washed Fritillary



Addresses of agencies agreeing to act as advisors/consultants for implementing Peasemore Parish Plan, Action Plan

Berks, Bucks, and Oxon Wildlife Trust
Kerry O'Flinn
Community Wildlife Officer(Bucks)
Calvert Education Centre
kerryoflinn@bbont.cix.co.uk

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers
Community Officer
BTCV
Suite 2
16 Bridge Street
Caversham
Reading
Berks RG4 8AA
0118 9475049

Funding for Action Plan Projects
Contact West Berks Council
T: 01635 42400

Community Council for Berkshire 01635 523857

RSPB
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Kirsty Meadows
Agriculture & Rural Development
Central England Office
RSPB
46 The Green
Banbury
Oxon OX16 9AB
01295 676466
kirsty.meadows@rspb.org.uk

English Nature
English Nature
Northminster House
Peterborough PE1 1UA
01733 455100
enquiries@english-nature.org.uk
www.english-nature.org.uk

Peasemore Parish Council
Email: Peasemore@hotmail.com

End Notes

- ¹ Mills, 1991.
- ² Page and Ditchfield, 1924.
- ³ English Heritage, Undated.
- ⁴ Brown, W. Some more History of Peasemore, Unpublished, 1999,
- ⁵ Berkshire Records Office
- ⁶ Dills, 1998.
- ⁷ West Berkshire Census statistics, 1961 and 1981
- ⁸ West Berkshire Council Sites and Monuments record, SMR No. 3287-01333.03.000 NGR SU471762
- ⁹ Letter from Ralph Shirley, Rector of Peasemore to William Archer, Lord of the Manor, 1736.
- ¹⁰ West Berkshire Council, Census Population projections.
- ¹¹ Berkshire Records Office, Reading
- ¹² Berkshire Character Landscape assessment, downloaded from: http://www.berks-jsu.gov.uk/enviro_charakter.htm October 2003,
- ¹³ Taylor, C. Fields in the English Landscape, London: Dent, 1975.
- ¹⁴ Mentioned in the NWD ANOB's action plan (action point A14, pools of darkness) – see www.northwessexdowns.org.uk
- ¹⁵ See Appendix 1.
- ¹⁶ See Appendices 2 and 3

PEASEMORE CP

Key:

PAV Pavilion

PH Pub

VH Village Hall

OS Open Space
(Designated WBC)

† Church

■ Ancient Farmsteads
RCHME 1994



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in the Peasmore Parish.**

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