Chairman's Foreword

During last year's hot summer and the long dark winter months, a small dedicated team were beavering away at a comprehensive compilation of research papers, difficult statistics and questionnaire results. All these have now emerged from their seemingly dormant stage into the full flowering report you have before you. The beginnings of this endeavour, born as it was from a government sponsored initiative and funded entirely from outside grants, seem lost to memory and indeed, it has taken a long time but it is none the less for that. What initially might have seemed to some as an unnecessary exercise in navel gazing has turned into a strident affirmation of being and a prospectus of the way forward. Did you know that, far from being an area of mainly retired people, we have the largest proportion of young people in the population of any ward in the district? Our plans should reflect this.

We have more access to the countryside and woodlandscapes, nature reserves, etc., than many parishes ostensibly deeper than we are in the rural hinterland. Yet this area is only just over an hour from the edge of central London, less than an hour to being on a ferry bound for Europe, has a lovely city and town to shop in just a bus ride away and the coast is a few minutes away on a pedal cycle. No wonder so many people want to live here! So, we must plan to retain and conserve what we have and cherish, yet amend those factors we consider undesirable.

May I commend this report to you, but not without mentioning a few special people by name here, to whom we owe a huge debt of gratitude and without whose outstanding contributions and effort this document would never have seen the light of day. They are Carol Davis, Megan Taylor and her daughter Angharad (our computer experts) and last but not least our indomitable secretary, Monica Blyth, who kept our collective noses to the grindstone and who should really get a job as a Government Whip!

Yours,

Malcolm White

Chairman Parish Plan Steering Group

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The Herne & Broomfield Steering Group would like to thank the following for their support:

Nick Karslake - CCC Leisure and Cultural Services
David Kincaid - CCC Conservation
Dennis Button - KCC & CCC Highways
Inspector Ray Carver - Kent Police
Kathy Bugden - KRCC
David Terry - Countryside Agency
Debbie Adams - CCC Rural Community Development Officer
Diana Webb - Eastry

Grateful thanks to the Countryside Agency for financial support and to Herne Junior School for use of their premises for the 'Planning for Real' Days and to Herne & Broomfield Parish Council.

We appreciate all the help that was given freely by volunteers who helped with delivering the questionnaires and helped with the photo shoot for the 'Planning for Real Day' and to Rita Condé for allowing us to use her sketches. Thanks also go to Carol Davis for permission to use her photographs to enhance this publication.

Special thanks to Megan Taylor who gave up many hours collating and inputting information and bringing everything together for the final document and to Monica Blyth for organising all the meetings and keeping things moving forward.

Herne & Broomfield Parish Plan has been funded by the Countryside Agency - £5000
Canterbury City Council funded the 'Planning for Real' exercise - £500

Questionnaires were distributed in the Summer of 2002, the 'Planning for Real' Days were held in December 2002. The information in this document is correct at the time of publication.

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Photographs © Carol Davis 2004

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WHAT IS A PARISH PLAN?

Parish Plans are being prepared by 1,000 local communities throughout Britain with the help of the Countryside Agency in order to:

Set out a vision of what is important, how new development can best be fitted in, the design and quality standards it should meet, how to preserve valued local features and to map out the facilities which the community needs to safeguard the future.

A Parish Plan is a document outlining how a community sees itself developing over the next few years by:

- Identifying local problems and opportunities
- Setting out an achievable and long term vision for the future
- Preparing a plan of action to achieve this vision

It should address **all** issues of concern to the **community**, be prepared by the **community itself** and be based on **information** provided through **survey**, **research** and **community participation**.

The Parish Plan will help the local planning authority to guide proposals for development so that it better responds to local circumstances and needs. The Plan will also feed into the "Community Strategy" of the City Council.

The local community has been involved in the preparation of this Parish Plan through their responses to the Parish Plan Questionnaire, by taking part in the Planning for Real exercises and through those local people who have formed the steering committee.

Funding for the Parish Plan has come from the Countryside Agency (£5,000) and Canterbury City Council's "Can Do" Fund (£500).

This publication is based around the compiled and analysed record of the response from the villages. It is a snapshot of the facts and opinions in Herne and Broomfield as they were in 2002 and the action plan that is proposed as a result.



Rita Conde

HOW THE PARISH PLAN WAS PRODUCED

Herne & Broomfield Parish Council felt that a Parish Plan for the Parish would be an informative exercise, in order to find out how people viewed the place in which they live and what they would like to see for the future.

On 18th July 2001 residents were invited to attend a meeting to form a group to start the process. The meeting was advertised in the local press and posters were placed on Parish notice-boards. The meeting was well attended and residents were asked to put forward their names if they were interested in being part of the steering group. Several more meetings were held and a steering group of about 14 was established.

A grant from the Countryside Agency for the Parish Plan was applied for and agreed.

Previously produced publications from other areas were reviewed, advice from professional sources was sought and ways of consulting with residents were looked at. It was decided to canvas opinion from the Parish in two different ways, so a questionnaire was delivered to every household, with a freepost envelope for the response, and a 'Planning for Real' exercise, that would also involve the younger people of the Parish, was held at the local junior school.

Mrs Webb from Eastry very kindly gave us a copy of the Eastry village questionnaire. It was then possible to alter the questions to suit, which saved a tremendous amount of time as setting it all up from scratch would have taken many hours. There was a 26% response to the questionnaires, which were then collated and put onto computer. There were several people involved in this without whom the job would never have been finished since it was extremely time consuming. The information it produced was excellent, as can be seen from the finished document.

The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) were consulted regarding the 'Planning for Real' exercise and Helen Able (from BTCV) attended many of the meetings prior to the exercise, offering help and advice.

A photo safari was held in which members of the steering group and friends went out with cameras and took pictures of anything they thought relevant in the Parish including good areas and areas in need of improvement. The results were then displayed on boards at the 'Planning for Real' day and people were asked to comment.

A map of the Parish was mounted and taken along to Herne Junior School where the children coloured in the various aspects, after which they were able to give their own comments. The map was then presented with the photo display at the 'Planning for Real' event at the school on a Saturday in December when local residents were able to attend to put their views across; the recommendations from which are in the completed document (and the raw data is available from the Parish Office).

Previously, in 1997, a Parish Appraisal, involving many organisations and individuals, had been carried out. An Appraisal questionnaire was delivered to every household and, although the Appraisal was not published, the results have strongly influenced Herne & Broomfield Parish Council's policies and views and some of the information has also been included in the Parish Plan. Many of the concerns raised at that time have been addressed.

Following the consultations were many months of putting all the information together, the most time consuming part of the whole project. A little over a year after the consultations finished the information was ready and the draft for the final document needed to be compiled. A small group of

people (the steering group was now reduced to 8) worked very hard over the next couple of months to produce what is now the final publication. Discussions over layout, what should be included, etc. whether there should be some colour photographs, colour of cover and quality of the finished article were all discussed at length.

It has taken 3 years and a great deal of hard work from the volunteers, who have taken part, to complete this Parish Plan from its inception and we hope you enjoy the finished document.

The present Steering Group have agreed to oversee the progress of the Action Plan.

INTRODUCTION

In order to make the Parish Plan easily understood, both by people within the Parish and those outside bodies, such as the local authorities and funding agencies, that will need to use it to achieve the proposals set out in the Action Plan, this document has been divided into four parts with additional and supplementary information in two appendices.

Part 1 sets out the background to the Parish in terms of its history, its location, its principal institutions and its natural assets.

Part 2 covers the results of the Parish Plan Questionnaire sent out to all residents in 2002.

Part 3 sets out the background to 'Planning for Real', how the exercise works and how the process was adapted for use in Herne and Broomfield.

Part 4 brings together the recommendations from both the questionnaire and the 'Planning for Real' events and develops the proposed Action Plan for the Parish from those recommendations.

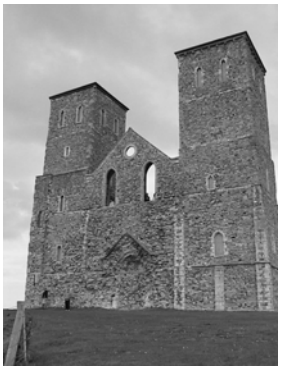
Appendix A gives information on the Parish from the local government structure to the listed buildings and a list of the principal local organisations.

Appendix B brings together all the data collated from the questionnaire and the 'Planning for Real' events.

Throughout the document quotations from local residents, made as they filled in the questionnaire, have been used to highlight points – both good and bad about the Parish. In general residents felt positively about the Parish, which should provide the community with the driving force for the Action Plan to succeed.

Early beginnings in Herne

compiled by Carol Davis



Over the years there have been isolated finds of Neolithic flint tools along our coast. However, it was in the Bronze Age that settlements begin to appear and more finds from this time have been recorded near Herne Bay.

The Roman period saw for the first time a pattern of settlement related to roads. The settlements of the late Iron Age were linked with the Roman forts of Richborough (*Rutupiae*) and Reculver (*Regulbium*).

Herne is a pretty village which takes its name from the Saxon `hyrne', meaning nook or corner. Herne was developed as the first landfall along the coast from Reculver. Herne is really a small town, as Edward VII granted it a weekly market and annual fair in 1351. The mediaeval street pattern is still apparent today. The village grew slowly until the C18 when there was an influx of people. Wealthy families from Canterbury migrated to Herne to lead a healthier life near the sea. Herne became affluent at that time, as the nearby bay was an important outlet for trade to and from Canterbury and its hinterland; Herne village acted as the control for goods passing through from the bay to the city. The village was the principal settlement and the parish of Herne reached all the way to the sea. Herne Bay as a separate town did not yet exist.



The first foundations for the town now known as Herne Bay were laid as a result of this migration to the coast and the population figures for Herne (and later Herne Bay) reflect it. In 1801 Herne's population stood at 1,232. In the 1831 *Topographical Dictionary,* Herne was described as, a parish in the hundred of Bleangate, lathe of St. Augustine, county of Kent, 5¾ miles (N.E. by N.) from Canterbury, containing 1675 inhabitants.

In 1847 the population of the now detached Herne Parish, including the hamlets of Eddington and Broomfield, stood at 1,469. This had risen to 1,716 persons by 1901. It increased massively 60 years later when it reached 4,576. By 2001 the population of the combined settlements of Herne and Broomfield had exploded to over 8000 and is still rising!



The present day appearance of Herne mostly dates from the 18th and 19th Centuries. Smuggler's Cottages at the junction of Herne Street and School Lane (*formerly Pudding Lane*) give a flavour of the 17th Century. The village is centred upon the Parish Church of St Martin, which dates from the C14, "a large handsome structure consisting of three aisles and three chancels with a noble tower".

Strode House was the main residence, set in a landscaped park which stretched southward up the hill to the edge of Herne Common; much of the land towards Broomfield was part of the Strode Park Estate. Other principal buildings are the Windmill, the former Workhouse and Hawe Farm.



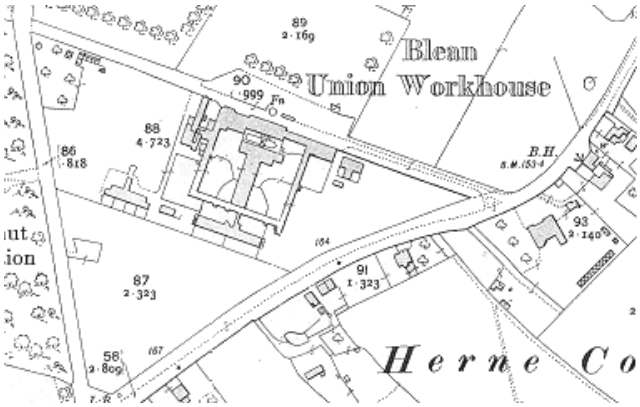
Herne Mill dates from 1789 and the Mill house (*88 Mill Lane*) is of a similar date. The Windmill occupies high ground to the north-east above Herne Village. Modern bungalows now surround the Windmill and much of its setting has been eroded. The immediate surroundings of the Windmill, including the old dairy, are of interest, although Jersey Farm itself has gone.

The Windmill is still a landmark, visible from the east and west and is a recognised seamark shown on nautical maps.

On the edge of Herne Common is the old Herne Hospital, formerly the Workhouse. The Workhouse opened on 14 January 1836, with the first 80 inmates. The intervening wall between the male and female inmates blew down a few days later!! It was built to the standard Kentish plan in yellow stock brickwork with a slate roof. The Blean Poor Law Union was a Workhouse for 16 neighbouring parishes. It was erected on a four acre site, half a mile south from Herne village. The Workhouse was designed by William Edmunds to house 420 inmates and comprised a large formal quadrangle enclosed by two-storey buildings. The courtyard plan workhouse was envisaged as a long row of pauper cottages wrapped around to form a square. In 1879 the Workhouse was extended with the construction of a hospital for "infectious cases". In the 1930's part of the building became a home for 'difficult' women and before it finally closed it became a hospital for the elderly. Recently the building has been converted to residential use, with the addition of more houses.



The workhouse location and layout are shown on the 1906 OS map.



Most of the houses along Canterbury Road, which face the old Hospital, are of architectural interest and a few have been listed.

To the south and east of Canterbury Road is Herne Common. Part of this area formed a continuation of Strode Park and there are some tree belts and specimen trees. Fragments of the Common remain and there are scattered older properties around the edge.

There are also many important trees within this area and also around Herne Grove Farm, on Bullockstone Hill, where the house and barn are listed.



The main Canterbury Road (A291) crosses Herne Common and drops down towards the village, with Strode Park forming a very important and attractive feature to the west with Curtis Wood and Park, a local nature reserve, to the east (still known locally as Goldspots). After passing through a belt of mature trees and some compact Victorian development, including the former Methodist Chapel, the road swings left into Herne Street where it suddenly widens into an area almost resembling a small square with the Church on the left and a row of pleasant cottages on the right, several of which are listed. (*This area is probably where the market was held.*) The road continues through another pinch-point and double bend passing several good houses and then widens as it approaches Strode House which is set behind trees and shrubs on the left.

Strode Park is a mid 19th Century Italianate house set within formal gardens with an attractive lodge and stable block. There was an earlier house on this site, a modest brick built Elizabethan mansion, known as Seas Court, which was demolished in 1860's. Lower Herne Green was marked on the old maps as *'Stroud Common',* by 1891 *Stroud Park House* had changed to Strode Park House. In the 1920's the 'Westcar' motor car and the tram for Herne Bay Pier were assembled here.

Since 1946 Strode Park has been a residential home and a day centre for physically disabled people. An open air theatre, set in the beautiful grounds, is open to the public throughout the summer months and offers an exciting range of events for all the family to enjoy. The theatre is fully accessible for wheelchair users and facilities include licensed bar, hot food stand and the greenroom. The remainder of the park is now used partly as pasture where it retains most of its original character and partly as arable farmland. Most of the wooded areas and tree belts remain but many of the specimen trees have gone. There are several ponds and public footpaths give access to the park. A new fountain, carved by international sculptors, is due to open in late spring of 2004.

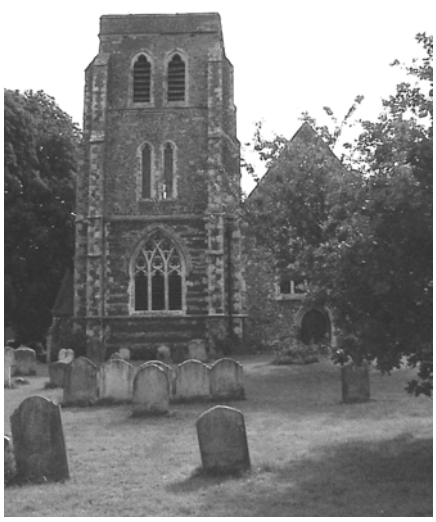
There are several interesting late C19 and early C20 buildings to the north of Strode Park and along Lower Herne Road. This area is also well treed, helping to hide more modern development.

The centre of the village contains a wide variety of buildings dating from the 14th Century to the present day and includes thirty-one which have been listed. In more recent times Herne Village has been allowed to spread to the east and north and from certain viewpoints this modern development somewhat dominates the old village particularly where it has been built on the higher ground around the playing field. More recent development has spread northwards towards Herne Bay and Herne Village is now separated from the town only by the A299, the Old Thanet Way and the cemetery.



There are interesting buildings along parts of School Lane and St Martin's View; including the former Belsey Stores, which is believed to have been built about 1800. Further east lies Hawe Farm with its ancient moat. This was the house of Sir John Fyneux, Chief Justice of the Kings Bench in the reign of Henry VII. Fragmentary remains of his C15 brick built house remain, but the house was largely rebuilt in the C16. The large aisled barn adjoining is C18 or earlier.

The Parish Church of St Martin was built around 1296, on the site of a smaller C7 century Saxon church, of bands of squared flints and ragstone and has a Perpendicular tower and a porch of 1350. The nave is crenellated. A notable incumbent was the martyred priest, Nicholas Ridley, who here began to form the doctrine of Reformation (1538), when parts of the church services were being translated from Latin into English. The Te Deum is reputed to have been first sung in English at St Martin's Church.



The churchyard contains some good C18 headstones with cherub or skull decoration and several fine trees. The Lych Gate gives an impression of age but will only celebrate its 50th anniversary in May 2004.

The site of the old Forge at the junction of Albion Lane and Herne Street is now a builder's office. The former shop and post office was demolished when Albion Lane was widened.

The Upper Red Lion Public House (*formerly The Five Bells)*, alongside the church, is a neo-Georgian building built in 1939 but not opened until after the war. It is built in good local red brick with well thought out details of a traditional style and proportion. Although they still contribute to the character of the conservation area most of the older buildings opposite the Church have been altered with modern replacement windows. The Lower Red Lion was two doors down the road.

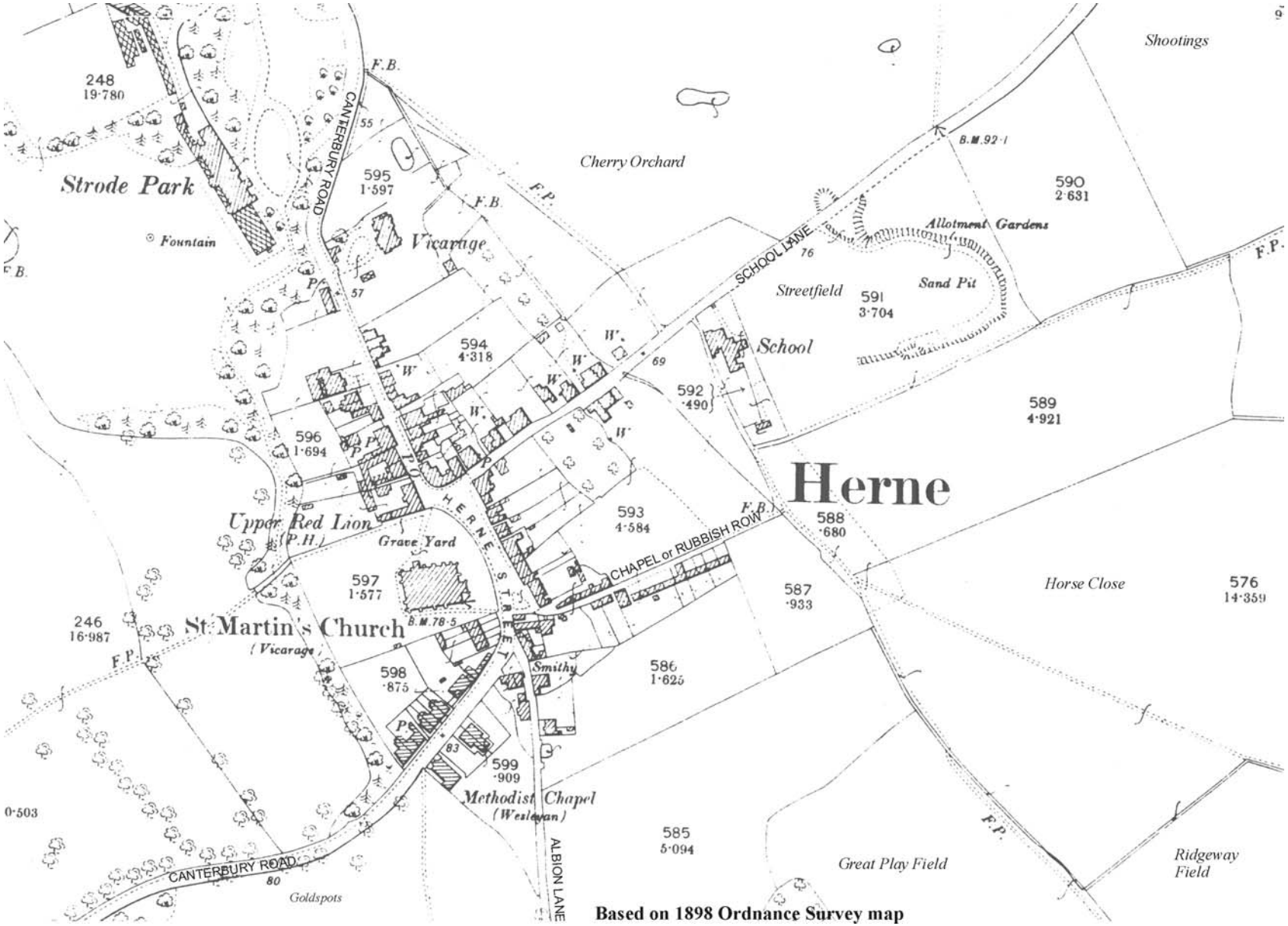


Opposite was The Prince Albert which was romantically re-named the 'Smugglers Inn' in 1959. Smugglers Cottages are well known but are not what they appear. The C15 cottages were originally built as a group and were probably rebuilt in the C16 or C17, perhaps after a fire. By 1960 they were in a poor state and all except the shop on the corner were condemned. In the 1970's they were demolished and rebuilt. Despite much building and road works between Herne and the coast no evidence has been found of any smugglers tunnels.

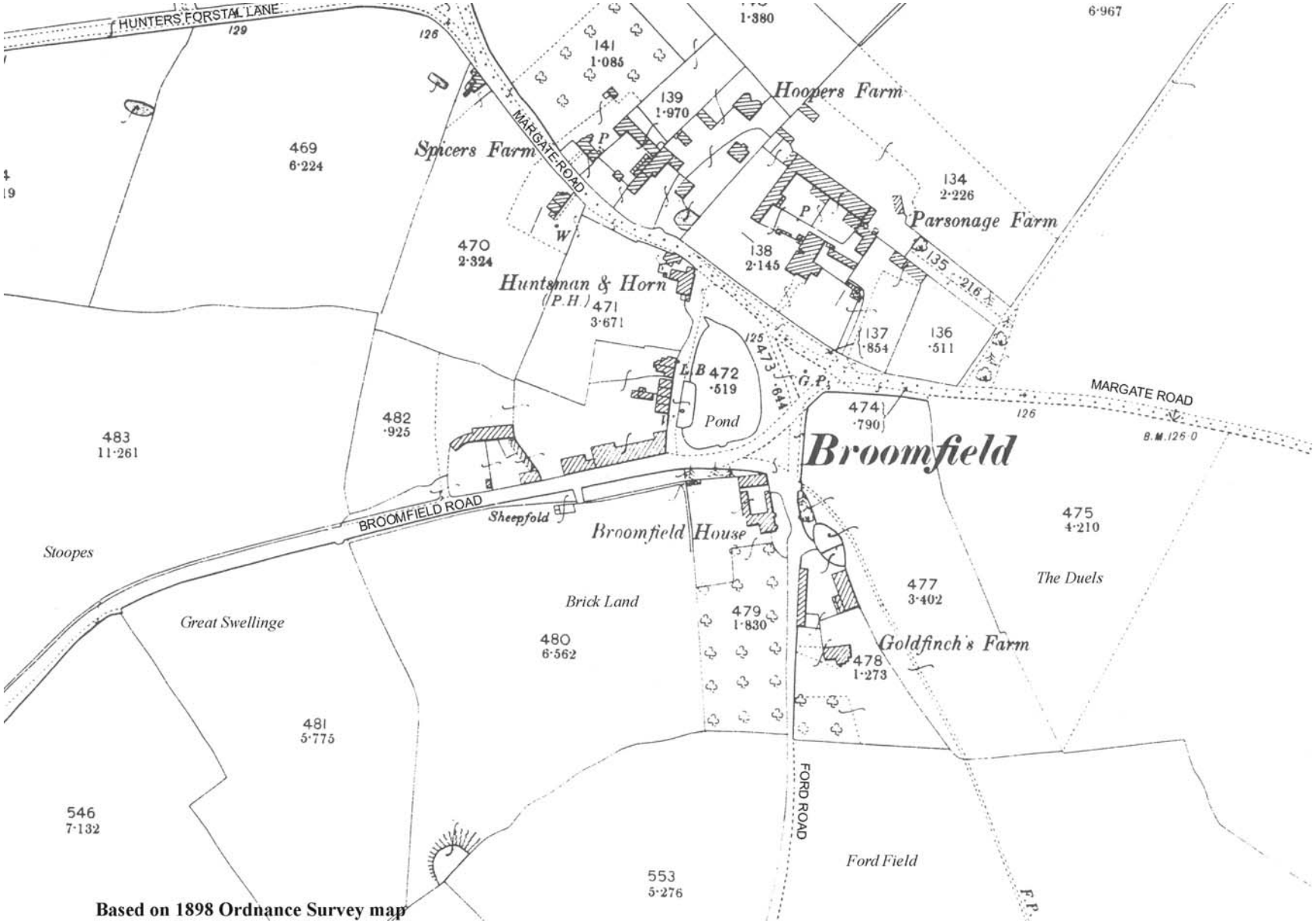
In 1894 along with many other villages Herne became a civil Parish until 1934 when it was absorbed into Herne Bay Urban District Council. The 1974 review bought Herne and Broomfield under the control of Canterbury City Council.

The present Herne & Broomfield Parish Council was inaugurated in 1996.

Sources include Canterbury City Council, local historian Harold Gough and East Kent Heritage Walking Trails.



Based on 1898 Ordnance Survey map



Based on 1898 Ordnance Survey map

The Historical Hamlet of Broomfield

Compiled by Carol Davis

The name Broomfield means ‘open land where broom grows’. The settlement was originally partly within the former Herne Parish and partly within Reculver and was well established by the beginning of the C19. It is now wholly within the Parish of Herne and Broomfield.

Broomfield is a scattered settlement situated some 36 metres above sea level on flat land a mile to the south of Herne Bay. The old core of the hamlet is located to the north and west of the pond, which was used for skating and ice hockey during cold winters early in the last century. The major buildings of architectural or historic interest are here.

Margate Road was the principal highway between Herne Bay and Thanet and just to the east is the Roman road, which connected Canterbury with the coastal fort of Reculver.

The Huntsman and Horn Public House, (f*ormerly the Huntsman and French Horn*) dates from about 1800 while Pond Cottages date from the end of the eighteenth century. There was until recently a small caravan park behind the Huntsman & Horn.



A book of 1905 recalls when Broomfield had its Whit Monday Fair; the man who got most drunk in the Pub was proclaimed ‘Mayor of Broomfield’ and then ceremoniously thrown in the pond! Although the pond dries out from time to time over the years it was well used in the past by farmers watering their cattle and to soak cartwheels. It is now looked after by a group of ‘Friends’.

Opposite the pub the original section of Parsonage Farmhouse was built to serve a prosperous farm in about 1650, in the form of a square block of two storeys. North of the farmhouse is a long aisled barn of about the same age. The meadow east of Parsonage Farmhouse is an important part of the setting of the historic hamlet. In 1916 the War Office selected Broomfield as a suitable site for a landing ground. The field was commandeered and seems to have been used mainly for target practice. A room in the farmhouse was used as an office. After the war the airfield continued to be used and in 1932 was visited by Sir Alan Cobham's legendary "Flying Circus" with flights at five shillings a time. It reverted to agricultural use thereafter apart from the row of bungalows facing Margate Road.



There are now modern buildings on the northern side of Margate Road opposite the Huntsman and Horn, in between the older buildings that include Spicer’s Farmhouse, a grade II listed, early C19 building. Hooper’s Farmhouse, an early C19 building and the adjoining oast, an ornate late C19 building now converted into a dwelling, are both locally listed.

There are other buildings of interest in Margate Road and Bogshole Lane including Rose Cottage built about 1730 with later additions (Grade II listed) and Chapel Cottages, an early C19 terrace which are locally listed.
The former Congregational Mission Chapel, in Bogshole Lane was opened in 1868 and closed, later to become a bakery, after the new Church was built in Margate Road. Off Bogshole Lane was

Penny Royal Lane to the pond of the same name; both have now gone. Willow Farm is now a housing estate.

The Post Office is a modest but not unattractive building and the adjoining pair of cottages that have been modernised, were built at the turn of the C20 century. Prevalent and traditional building materials in the area include red and brown brick, render and some weather boarding with clay roofing tiles and slates.

Broomfield Farm, with its hop and malting oast houses on the corner by the pond that had disappeared by 1933, has now become a housing estate. The major trees are located around the pond and Parsonage Farm although there are some trees and tall hedgerows to the north and west.



Broomfield House on the corner of Ford Road and Broomfield Road dates mainly from early C19 but incorporates part of an earlier building. Goldfinch Farm further south in Ford Road is a two storey brick C18 house. The attics over the rear kitchen extension were originally used for farm hands to sleep in. These buildings are all Grade II listed.

Further along Ford Road, on a sharp corner, is the entrance to the former land-fill site, which before that was a sand pit. In the 1970's it closed to become a Gypsy site housing 12 families. Its use is being changed again and there are plans for it to be turned into a Community Woodland Park.

The Hunters Forstal area around the Plough Public House is fragmented by modern developments. However there are some interesting buildings here. The Plough is locally listed. C19 Steed Cottages are situated along Margate Road towards the Thanet Way. The end cottage with the sloping roof was a shop and at one time a bakery. Before all the modern housing, Hunters Forstal was marked on maps as a distinct area and Broomfield was separate.

Back towards Broomfield, Gothic House and Ivy Cottage also in Margate Road are both Grade II listed. The Pre-Raphaelite artist Dante Gabriel Rossetti once occupied Ivy Cottage. Part of the house he rented is still there. Ivy Cottage consists of a one-bay bake-house with a large chimney and bake oven built into it dating from about 1800.

Broomfield Hall was restored by John Weston Arnold in 1930 but then demolished in 1961. It was situated in Broomfield Road and the property stretched back to Hunters Forstal Road along the whole length of the eastern side of Gorse Lane (*formerly Gass Lane*). A large pond was situated on the corner with Hunters Forstal Road. The pond has gone and a modern house now occupies the corner. This whole area has gone to housing. It is still possible to see the gateway to the field opposite Hunters Chase, which also belonged to the property. This field was called Little Swellinge on the 1840 Tithe Map and still has a view over to Trenchers Wood. Broomfield Lodge can still be seen on the corner with Broomfield Road. The former gardeners lodge is now number 104.

The south of Broomfield includes the open farmland stretching towards East Blean Woods, creating an attractive setting for this part of the Parish.

Information gathered from Canterbury City Council, local historian Harold Gough and residents' memories

Churches and Chapel

The Church of Saint Martin in Herne



There has been a place of worship on the site since before the Norman Conquest. Until the 14th century the church was a Chapel-of-ease of the ancient parish of Reculver. It was made a Parish Church in 1310 about the time the tower was added. Not long after, the early church was demolished and replaced by the nave and north aisle of the present building, with the north arcade developing out of the tower arch. The south aisle was added later. There are thus four arches including the tower on the north but five on the south. Entrance to the church itself is through a wooden screen erected in 1926 to mark the 21st anniversary of the Incumbency of the Rev. A. G. Daubeney.

The font was originally at the west end of the Church. The Victorians, who undertook considerable renovations, moved it into the tower space. In the late eighties, along with other work at the west end of the church the font was returned to its original and present position. The font itself dates from about 1412. The upper storeys of the tower contain the clock (late 18th century) and a ring of six bells.

Nicholas Ridley was presented with the living of Herne by Thomas Cranmer, when he became Archbishop of Canterbury. Whilst he was vicar of Herne, Ridley caused the Te Deum Laudamaus to be sung in English. In 1555 when he was Bishop of London, Ridley was burned at the stake outside Balliol College, Oxford. A statute to this famous cleric is positioned on the South Wall of the south aisle. Also to be found in the south aisle is a wooden cross from the Somme, marking the First World War and a memorial tablet for those who were killed in the Second World War.

The Lady Chapel forms the east end of the north aisle, from which it is separated by an ancient oak screen, in its original position. It is believed the chapel is 14th century and includes a "squint" which allowed a "Chantry Priest" to watch what was happening at the High Altar. Outlined in the parquet flooring is the shape of what is thought to be the first religious building in Herne.

The Chancel has 14th century arcades related to the nave from which it is separated by a screen. The present altar, Reredos, East Window and Chancel Screen were given during the alterations made in 1870. Levelling and tiling was carried out and new choir stalls made in the fashion of the existing ancient misericord stalls.

The Churchyard has an avenue of horse chestnut trees leading from the road to the entrance porch and two Yew Trees believed to be over 350 years old, one of which is decorated and lit at Christmas and is the centre for the annual Christmas Carols Round the Tree Service. There are many memorials, denoting the last resting-place of the famous, infamous and ordinary folk of Herne.

Contributed by Christopher Woodhead

Herne Methodists meet at St Paul's hall next to the car park in School Lane.

The Broomfield Church



The Church is situated at the junction of Margate Road and The Meadows and was built in 1931 when the land behind it was still green fields. The Church was originally a Congregational Church and there are two commemorative/foundation stones in the front northern elevation, laid respectively by Miss B. Robinson of Parsonage House, Broomfield and Mr & Mrs Bayliss Worrell of Croham Hurst, Herne Bay. Inside the church is a memorial plaque to Louisa Hewett, a Sunday school teacher who died in 1934. The piano sports a memorial to the seven young men connected with the church and Sunday school who gave their lives in the 1939-45 War.

The premises consist of a brick built church with a steeply pitched roof, capable of accommodating 100 people seated on modern comfortable chairs (no hard wooden pews!). Access is through double doors in the northern elevation into a small vestibule, which in turn affords access to the main body of the church where worship is conducted. At the southern end of this main meeting area is a dais with a small lectern/pulpit and communion table, there is no altar. Off the main area is a vestry (west side) and a kitchen/store (east side), both giving exit to the rear where there is a small car park and church hall, built about 20 years ago, when The Meadows was being developed.

The clock in the vestry is dedicated to the memory of Annie Durbin 1934 - 1978.

In 1972, by Act of Parliament, the United Reformed Church in England and Wales was formed, uniting the former Congregational Church and the Presbyterian Church. The Broomfield Church fell within the new denomination of the United Reformed Church. They were served by a joint minister until 1994 when the Broomfield Church called its own minister, David Sturt. Being the only church in Broomfield itself it is open to all, irrespective of denomination.

Society of St Pius X



After the Methodists left the St John Fisher and St Thomas More Chapel in Herne, it was purchased by the Society of St Pius X, in 1991. When the age old rite of Mass was abolished in 1971, a new liturgy was made obligatory. Although the Anglicans were allowed to keep their Book of Common Prayer as an alternative, a concerned body of Roman Catholics belonging to the Society kept alive the Old Mass.

The chancel is furnished with items thrown out when the chancels of Catholic Churches were demolished and the high altars replaced with a table facing the people. Priests from London or Redemptorist Fathers from Sheppey hold services on the first, second and fourth Sundays of the month at 11 a.m. The congregation is completely loyal to the Holy See but their preference is for the celebration of the venerable and majestic Latin Rite, known as the Tridentine Rite, compared to the version in the vernacular now used elsewhere.

Farming in Herne and Broomfield

by Kristine Slater



Over 16 farms existed in Herne and Broomfield until after the Second World War. The history of most can be traced back for centuries, mostly through church and poor law records. They were the main providers of employment and without them the local communities would not have survived. During the war the provision of food was of paramount importance and ensured their viability. A great deal of the local landscape changed forever at this time when previous grazing land and some woodland was "put under the plough". However during the first few years of peace, nearly every farm in this area underwent some change and many well known farming families were lost to agriculture and local history. Now the only evidence is some of the farmhouses that remain.

In Broomfield was *Spicer's Farm,* some 80 acres located between the Post Office and the Huntsman and Horn Pub. This was mainly arable but was well known for its working horses. *Willow Farm* was behind the present houses in Margate Road and the last remaining field is now a housing estate. Mr Goodsell farmed this land from the 1930's to 1950's when it was sold to a neighbouring farmer. The white boarded cottage belonging to the farm opposite the Post Office was burnt down in the 1980's. The Spratt family owned *Hooper's Farm* of 120 acres, opposite the Huntsman and Horn. With no remaining heirs the land was sold to other farmers. *Broomfield Farm* has disappeared to housing. The well known *Goldfinch Farm* (formerly Couchey Farm) owned by Mr Port was incorporated with neighbouring land. Now only Parsonage Farm and Hawe Farm remain.

Many Herne farms suffered a similar fate. The land of *Jersey Farm* in Mill Lane, well known for milk deliveries, succumbed to housing. In the Herne Common area, *Braggs Lane Farm,* owned by Mr Ken Birch and *Bleangate Farm* in Braggs Lane, a small farm of 20 acres owned by Mr and Mrs Pitt before the war, are no longer in existence as farms. *Busheyfields Farm* has largely disappeared under housing and Mount Farm, further east is mainly equestrian. The land at *Grove Farm,* Bullockstone Hill, once owned by Major Venner was taken over by a neighbouring farm.

Little is known about *Firwood Farm* but it is thought to have been land associated with Firwood Court. Only five farms remain in Herne, *Strode Farm, Home Farm, Bullockstone Farm* (*formerly Henfoote Farm possibly a corruption of Herne Ford*), *Mount Farm* and *Ridgeway Farm*. The history of these farms is well documented and the previous owners can be traced back to the 1400's, due mainly to the churches' involvement with the land.

The local landscape underwent massive changes due to the building of the new Thanet Way (A299) and inevitably some farms have been seriously affected. Very few of these farms have survived intact.



The land belonging to *Hawe Farm, Parsonage Farm* and *Goldfinch Farm* has been amalgamated over the years to form a large arable unit, as has *Strode Farm* and *Grove Farm*. Only *Ridgeway Farm* and *Home Farm* still maintain livestock whilst Bullockstone Farm is mainly equestrian.

Herne Windmill

by Friends of Herne Mill



Herne Mill, probably the district's most notable feature, stands on the hill overlooking the village and surrounding areas. It is not only a striking landmark, even visible miles out to sea, but is also a place of great historical and archaeological interest. It is the latest and possibly the last windmill to occupy roughly the same site since before 1400 and is preserved and maintained by a dedicated band of volunteers. Now owned by the Kent County Council and administered by the Friends of Herne Mill it was built in 1789, raised 17 feet in 1856, and was active as a working wind-powered mill until 1952. Electric machinery allowed it to labour on until 1980 when the last miller, Clive Wootton, retired. It was bought by the KCC and repaired and restored and opened to the public in 1986. It opens on Sunday afternoons and Bank Holidays from Easter until the end of September, plus mid-week openings from Mid-July until the end of August. The programme of opening times is publicised annually at the start of the season. Trained guides are always on hand and visitors come from all over the world. Much of the ancient machinery is in working order and the highly skilled engineering staff carries out a constant battle to keep it in shape. To support this worthwhile project, call at the Mill any Friday mornings plus Sundays during the season. To associate yourself with Herne's historical past and help preserve this marvellous building join the Friends, you will be warmly welcomed.

Childhood Memories

"Our water was bought in from halfway, through the orchard. We had a well, we had to get it from there and it had to be carried. We had to fill an earthen well thing in the scullery. We had to be very careful we couldn't use it 'willy nilly'. They had to bring it with yokes and two buckets. It wasn't easy. A man had to do it. " (J. Chaney)



"The first cottage, which later became Myrtle Cottage, was a little sweet shop run by "Aunt Kate" who sold aniseed balls for a farthing each." (P. Zergaeng)

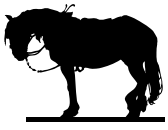


"When harvesting was in progress we often stole a ride behind the wagons, perched like monkeys on the huge twisted coils of rope, which dangled on the back when the carts were empty." (M. Perrin)



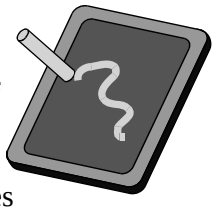
"As children we used to peer into the (shop) window in the evenings to see if the mice were eating the unwrapped chocolate again." (D. Ray)

" I had whooping cough and I was very anaemic and she (our neighbour) said 'I'll get her right' . She would make all her own butter. I used to help her churn the cream. She used to make me pies - half cream 'Get that down you', she'd say." (D. Weston)



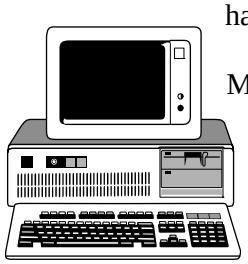
"In Albion Lane was the old forge. I remember taking the horses there many times to be shod." (R. Goodsell)

Herne School – from chalk boards to computers



When the Rev James Robert Buchanan was installed at the parish of St Martin of Tours, Herne in 1866, the area was described as "A wild and lonely country situated to the north of Sturry". The parish contained some 1,644 people, but no satisfactory arrangements had been made for the education of local children. James Buchanan made his bid for assistance to the "National Society for the Education of the Poor" on 14th March **1866**. The school was to accommodate 195 boys and girls and £931 was raised of the £1,080 estimated cost of the school and teacher's residence. Permission was received and work went ahead on a school which consisted of one large room, 73' x 18' divided by a partition plus a small room 18' x 14' along with a teacher's residence comprising of a parlour, kitchen, scullery and three bedrooms. The latter was demolished some 40 years ago. Like many modern buildings schemes it was grossly over budget costing £1,344.12s.4d.

In March **1867** the school was ready to open but apart from desks and forms, there was no equipment nor was there money to pay for books, chalks, slates etc., nor indeed the running costs. With help from the parishioners of Herne and levy of a 2d per child per week, the school was able to open and to function. The school fought hard for its existence during its early years, living from hand to mouth and relying on the charity of the parish.



Mr R. F. Bevis, head teacher from 1993 said "when a child leaves us they take only what they have retained in their minds. These skills, understandings, values and knowledge, which defy measurement, are the foundations of our society and fostering them is our occupation and our delight"

Some interesting dates in the history of Herne School.

1920. School closed for Harvest Holidays for six weeks.
Re-opened but only 109 children present as hop picking not yet finished.
1921 Remembrance Day - Two minutes silence in Head Master's garden, which is looked after by the children as part of their gardening lessons. The pupils keep all the produce except the potatoes.
1924 School closed for 1 week to be fumigated owing to Scarlet Fever outbreak.
1929 School flooded due to burst pipe.
1935 Empire Day - school paraded in playground and saluted the flag.
1940 24 evacuees admitted.
1942 All respirators checked.
1943 Total time below ground because of air raids was 19 hours 28 minutes.
1955 New extension opened by the Bishop of Dover.
1963 School toilets still frozen, new premises now urgent.
1965 Work commenced on the erection of prefabricated buildings.
1966 Schoolhouse was condemned and children forbidden to use it.
1968 Phase 1 of the new school almost complete. Schoolhouse demolished.
1969 School meals now cooked on premises.
1970 Swimming pool now in use.
1992 Work on new Infant School started.
1993 Infant School opened in September
1998 New extension to Junior School opened

Natural Assets

by Dennis Whittaker

The southern part of the Parish is mainly rural, comprising farmland and woodland, much of which is designated as a Special Landscape Area on the District Local Plan.

This farmland forms an important "buffer zone" between existing development and Nature Conservation sites, in particular, the land between Ford Hill in the east and the Canterbury Road, then to the west alongside West Blean Wood.

Within the Parish there are several Nature Reserves and sites of wildlife interest, of varying degrees of importance, as follows:-



East Blean Wood - SSSI, NNR
Car Park in Hicks Forstal Road (grid ref TR 193643)
Over 300 acres, owned and managed by the Kent Wildlife Trust, it now has National Nature Reserve status. It is the most important site in the UK for the Heath Fritillary Butterfly, as well as having good bird populations and botanical interest.
Childs Forstal - A 6.07 hectare (15 acre) piece of similar woodland at the western end of East Blean separated from the main wood by 300 yards, also owned by the KWT. (This may, in time, become joined to the main wood).

West Blean Wood – SSSI
Access off A291 (grid ref TR 174641) or Thornden Wood Road.
A part of this piece of "The Blean" falls within the Parish boundary. The whole of the West Blean/Thornden Woods complex has recently been purchased by the Kent Wildlife Trust as a Nature Reserve.

Curtis Wood – Local Nature Reserve &
Curtis Wood Park *known locally as Goldspots - Access off A291 (grid ref TR 182657)*
The whole area is owned and managed by Canterbury City Council and is situated beside the main road into Herne from Canterbury (A291) it consists of 11 acres of open space mainly grassland and scrub, a pond and a small wood. The woodland is remarkable for the variety of woodland flowers.

Broomfield Pond *between Margate Rd & Broomfield Rd (grid ref TR 199666)*
This area is the only registered Common Land in the Parish and is situated between Margate Road and Broomfield Road. The pond and green have been restored and looked after by volunteers over the past 10 years and are already attracting various forms of aquatic wildlife, dragonflies and birds, although the wildlife potential is limited being a duck pond.

Broomfield Woodland Park– *Former gipsy site and landfill tip (grid ref TR199663)*
Potentially of interest when planted up as community woodland park. A 50 year lease is about to be signed and a 10 year Management Plan is currently being drawn up. Over 100 species of Flora and Fauna have already been identified, including protected species.



Footpaths
An excellent network of Public Footpaths gives access to all these areas. Footpaths are signposted and should, of course, be adhered to. Straying from footpaths onto farmland causes irritation to farmers and crop damage and is quite unnecessary. Parish Footpaths Maps showing Rights of Way are situated at Curtis Wood Park Road in Herne and Margate Road near Broomfield Pond.

PART 2: PARISH PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE

Summary of Results

Households:
The total number of households who responded to the questionnaires was 847 - 26% of the questionnaires distributed, a very high number as the national average for response to surveys is only 5%.

The majority of households consist of 2 people with most in the 25-59 age range and the next highest group being in the retired 65-84 age range. The actual number of youngsters under 16 who responded was 301, under 24's was 104, under 65's was the highest figure at 987 and over 65's 398.

The majority of people live in houses closely followed by bungalows and flats. 95% of these are owner-occupiers.

Schools:
The Primary School in the Parish serves 31% of the respondees with 9% attending primary school outside the Parish, 16% attending preschool, 10% attending Herne Bay High - 13% attend secondary or grammar schools outside the Parish and a small minority attend special needs schools or public school.

Only a small proportion of those who responded to the questionnaire attended the Breakfast Club or After School Club at Herne Juniors, the same applied to the holiday and sports clubs. The main reasons for this were expense (36%), distance/no transport (37%) with 12 % stating there was no provision for special needs or special interests. Having recently checked with Herne Juniors, 120 children are registered to attend both Breakfast and After School Club (these figures also include the infants who attend).

"Schools are a big problem, with such a lot of children from this area, not being accepted for Herne Bay High. Herne Infant School is a wonderful school but we have the same problem with the quantity of children."

Vehicles:
The number of motor vehicles in regular use was as follows:
2% had none, 30% had one, 26% had two and 5% three or more.

The vast majority made 13-25 single journeys per week.

Personal:
48% of respondents were male and 52% were female.

These were split into the following age groups:
11-17 7%
18-59 61% (18-24 5%, 25-44 28%, 45-59 28%)
60+ 32%

Out of these:
32% were in full time employment, 29% were retired, 12% worked part time, 8% were in full time education, 7% were homemakers, 6% were self employed, 3% were permanently sick or disabled, 1% were unemployed and 1% were in part time education.

Travel to work by the majority was by own vehicle (53%) while the remainder used public transport (6%), car share (4%), school bus (1%) or cycle/walk (6%).

The response to the question of whether lower fares and a better service would encourage more use of public transport was fairly evenly split, with 51% saying they would make more use of public transport and 49% saying they wouldn't.

"Encourage parents to walk their kids to school locally."

The question of where they parked their vehicles was answered as follows:
70% on their own property, 8% in the road, 1% had nowhere to park while the remaining 12 % said parking was not applicable. 84% did not have difficulty parking near their home.

A surprising 44% said they did not use School Lane Car Park while 48% used it occasionally and only 8% used it often.

Traffic calming:
The responses showed the highest demand for traffic calming was in Herne Village (77%) and School Lane (72%). Broomfield Road had a 50-50 split while the rest of the roads listed were all under 50% for traffic calming. With regard to whether the volume of traffic was too high in the roads listed, again the largest proportion was considered to be Herne Village and School Lane.

"One of the few ways the Parish could be improved is by having better public transport links (including more direct means of accessing Herne Bay Railway Stn) and by educating those who use private cars to show less haste on local roads, not to tailgate in their impatience (a not infrequent occurrence) and be more safety conscious on residential roads."

The question of whether a school or community bus would be used had a mixed response; 33% said they would never use it, 30% that they would use it every day, 28% would use it occasionally and 10 % would use it at weekends.

There did not seem to be too much of a problem with public transport. The major difficulty was getting to the hospitals (39% often had difficulty) and Thanet (29% often had difficulty). 58% of people responded that they did not use public transport.

The response on flashing speed indicators was positive with 78% in favour and 59% in favour of speed cameras. Unfortunately only half the respondents had answered this question.

The question of a by-pass for Herne showed a mixed reaction - 27% favoured a by-pass west of the village, 10% close to Herne, 5% east of Broomfield, 7% thought it was not necessary and 51% wanted the A291 downgraded to a B road.

Facilities & Services:
The facilities and services in the Parish are well used with 90% of people saying they used the Post Offices followed by 78% using the general stores in Hawe Farm Way. This was followed by pubs, takeaways and the pharmacy in Broomfield. Only 6% supported and used the mobile library.

"Broomfield post office is a first class village store which offers many facilities and is the heart of our village."

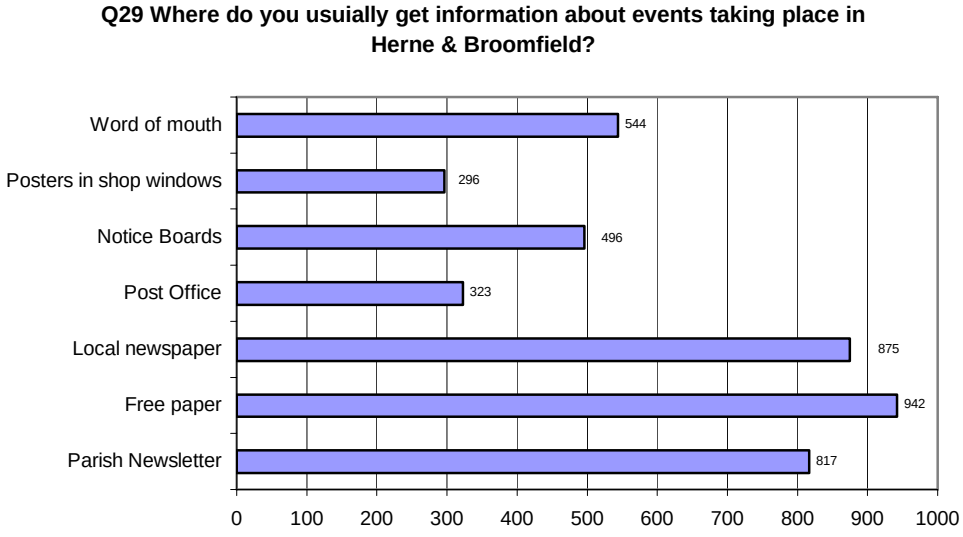
Of those using the post offices 23% did so for postal services, 22% for newspapers and magazines and 17% for food. Other uses included pensions, bill paying, lottery (16%) and Girobank.

"I find it hard to make use of the local facilities, as I work in Gravesend. I leave early and return at about 6pm, most facilities are closed or too expensive."

Additional facilities requested were a bakery, a new secondary school, garage/petrol station, cash point, Indian takeaway and improved facilities such as community centre, sports field, youth club and skateboard area. 58 people thought the facilities adequate.

The answers to the question of the standards of public services were as follows:
The Fire Service was only used by 33% of respondents but of those 66% said the service was good.
The Ambulance Service was used by 43% and again 63% of those said the service was good.
Hospital transport is only used by 22% of the respondents and 23% of those rated it as good.
The results regarding the police were interesting. Police Emergency was used by 38% of respondents with only 21% of them saying the service was good while police contact in general had been used by 53% but only 4% of those said the service was good.
Street cleaning and public footpath clearance was also quite low down in the satisfaction stakes.
Doctors, District Nurses and Health Visitors were all said to give a good service, as were dentists, home help, maternity care and chiropody. The only services to receive under a 50% good vote were counselling and physiotherapy.

Information:
The graph shows in detail how local residents obtain information.



11% of people thought the Parish Council advertised its activities well with 54% considering it reasonable, 33% had no opinion and 13% thought it publicised badly.

Crime & Security:
58% of respondents had not experienced crime, 16% had experienced vandalism, 11% theft or burglary, 10% drunkenness, 3% bullying, 1% drugs and 0.5% mugging.

Although crime is low in the Parish this is not a reason to be complacent and we should endeavour to reduce the current levels. The Parish Council in partnership with Canterbury City Council has employed wardens who patrol the Parish for up to 20 hours per week. It is hoped that they will be able to build a good relationship with many young people in the area and this in turn should help to reduce vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

People said they felt unsafe mainly in unlit areas in the evenings, particularly the areas in Hawe Farm Way, Broomfield Post Office, outside the pubs at closing time and Cherry Orchard. Other unsafe areas were registered as trying to cross the road in Herne Village and speeding traffic, pavements or lack of and the Mill Lane subway. One resident would like lighting on the bridge over the Thanet Way.

The Parish wardens have targeted the subway and the situation there with youngsters seems to have quietened down. The situation with the bridge lighting is that street lighting cannot be installed on bridges as it distracts drivers. It may be possible to fit ankle height lighting - this could be looked into.

Suggested actions that could be taken were:

- community policing - this has been taken care of in the main by the Parish wardens, who are part of the community safety unit
- CCTV
- provide a Youth Club - this issue has been addressed by the Parish Council in partnership with CCC and the mobile Rural Streetrunner will be visiting the Parish twice a month.
- play areas should be improved and increased
- provide a youth shelter - the Parish Council now has Planning Permission to install a Multi Use Games Area and youth shelter in Cherry Orchard - this will provide recreational and structure sport for youngsters in the area.
- a footway in Mill Lane
- pavements need more regular cleaning
- traffic calming was recommended as traffic speed was also an issue.

The question on whether respondents would be prepared to pay higher taxes to pay for better provision had a 69% No and 31% Yes response.

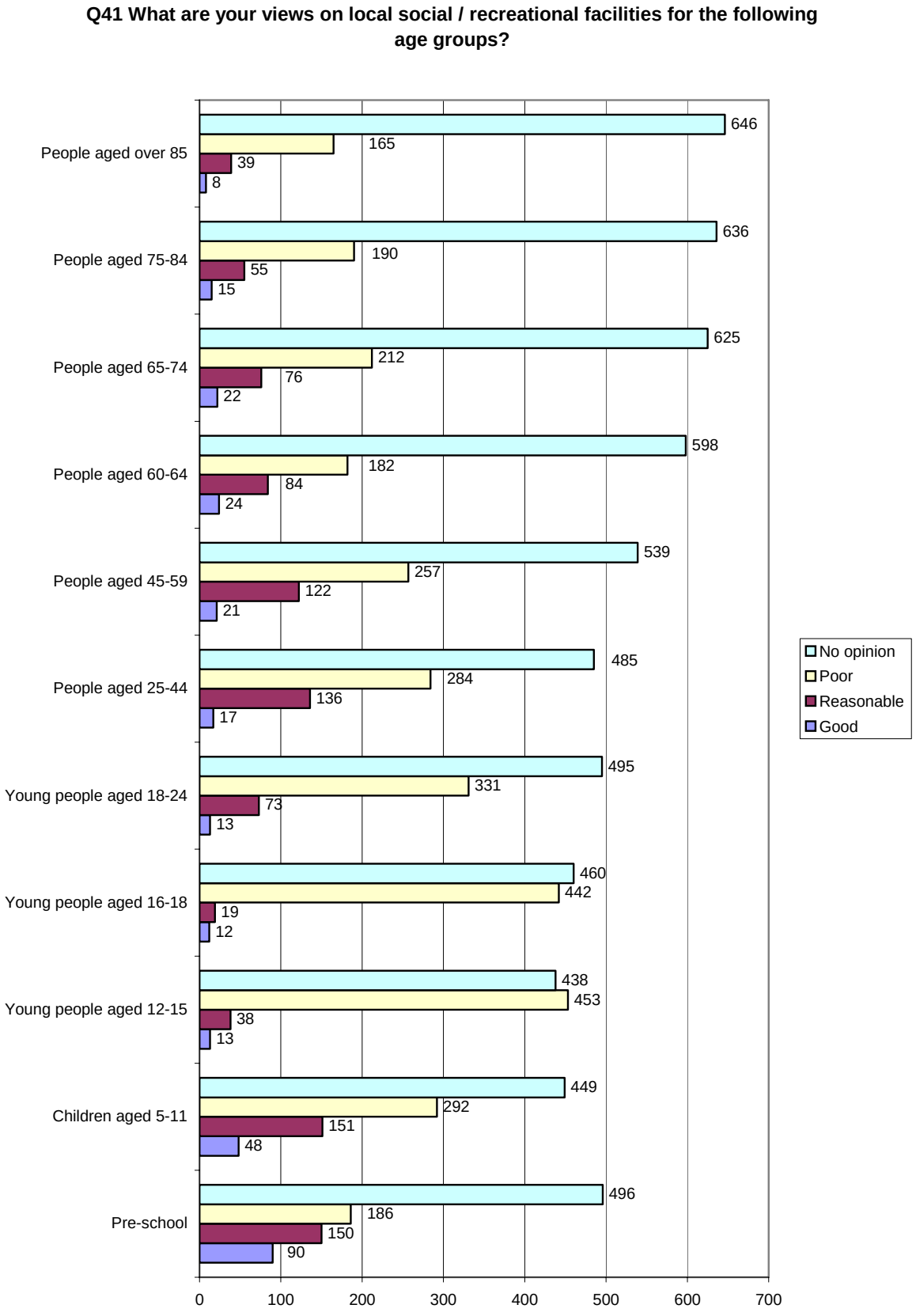
Sports facilities in the Parish were considered poor. 88 people said they would be willing to give some time to help coach.

"Broomfield and Herne have a lovely living environment, very pretty! Unfortunately there has been immense development, with an increase of families with young teenage children, there are NO facilities for them."

The most requested things that showed from the questionnaire were a Community Centre (77% supported) and this request will be passed on to the Parish Council, who could carry out further consultation, and a youth club (24% supported), better sports facilities (31% supported the Parish Council in their plans to install a Multi Use Games Area) and more art & craft classes. One thing that was requested was a Local History Group which has now been formed.

"We desperately need police to combat crime. Our kids have nothing to do at night except hang around shops and park. Community centre would be a great."

The views on local social and recreational facilities were varied (see chart).



People would like to see the Parish Council improve road repairs and markings and provide:

- more car parking
- traffic calming
- a footway in Mill Lane
- more seats and salt bins
- a pedestrian crossing in the village - this has been addressed
- more schools
- more green spaces
- better play facilities, improved play areas
- a tennis court
- a coffee shop
- more litter/dog bins

and also to improve the dog mess situation and finally, to open the toilets. (The toilets have recently been refurbished and re-opened).

Education:

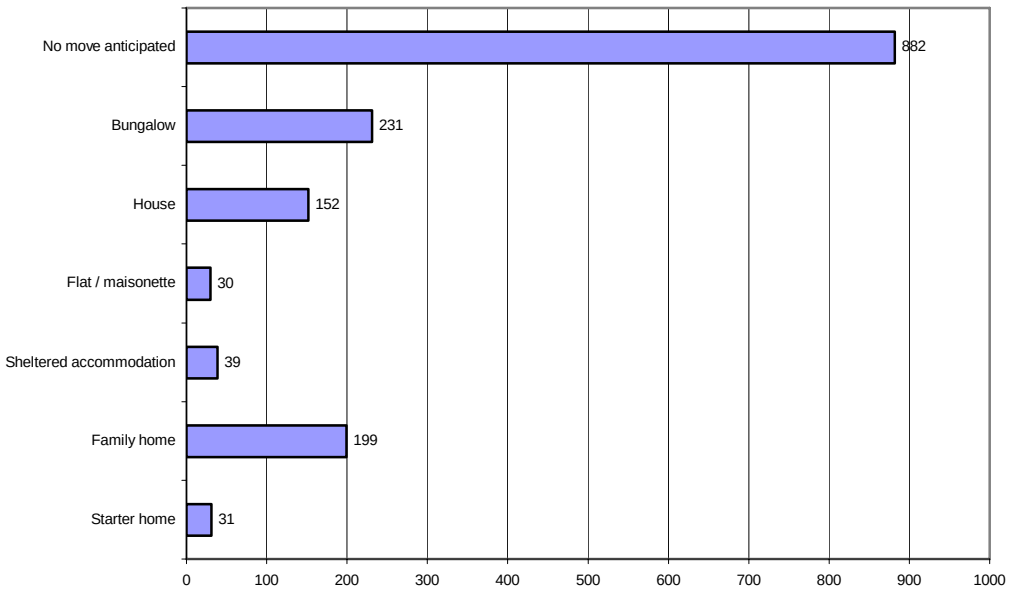
The majority of people considered that local children should be able to attend the local schools if their parents wished them to; and a large proportion of answers showed that a need was considered for nursery, primary and secondary schools with a smaller number supporting a grammar school.

Housing:

Those not intending to move amounted to 882, while those that were intending to move within the Parish put their preferences as the chart. 93% wanted a garden and 90% were owner occupiers. Bungalows and family homes were the most sought after.

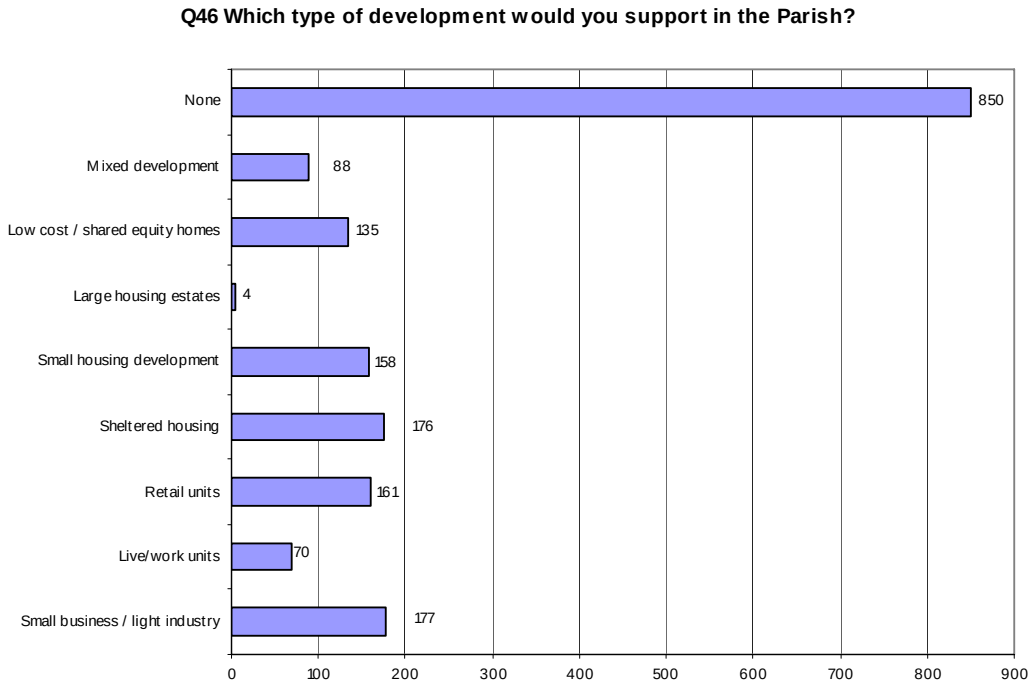
"We love the area – a mix of retired and young people, but would love to see more affordable homes for local young people."

Q45 If you move home within the Parish in the next 10 years, to what type of property would you like to move? Section A



146 people said they did not intend to stay in the Parish, 58 gave no reason, 88 gave reasons varying from moving abroad, job change, move because of schooling, too overdeveloped already in the Parish, retirement and traffic noise.

Development in the Parish:
It was very evident from the results that most people did not want to see any more development, and of those who did it was low cost small developments that would be acceptable (see graph).



Respondents felt that where new development is allowed it should be on brownfield sites, alongside the Thanet Way, School Lane (this is now developed), the Links Service Station (this now has planning consent).

A child's comment: "Too many houses are going up and they are scaring the nature away. The more houses we get built the more children will come here and we'll have to build a new school. I have already written and asked the government to build a pavement because Broomfield and Herne's roads are really unsafe."

"If development is needed, so is improving the infrastructure to cope with it."

"We have always loved this area. There is no town noise, there are loads of walks and wildlife. The children love that. It is peaceful and relaxing and where ever we walk everyone is always friendly."

PART 3: PLANNING FOR REAL ®

"Planning For Real" Consultation **September 2002 – July 2003**

Facilitated and compiled by Helen Abel (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers)
on behalf of Herne & Broomfield Parish Plan Group

Introduction to Planning For Real®

"Planning for Real"® is a methodical and complete style of community consultation that is a registered trademark of the Neighbourhood Initiatives Foundation. It is designed for communities to train in, and deliver easy to understand and wholly inclusive consultation events. "Planning for Real"® events can only be run by those who have been given training by the foundation and have permission to use their techniques. BTCV have a number of staff permitted to use their consultation materials and techniques.

"Planning for Real" was first used in 1977 in Glasgow at a time when public meetings suffered from the "us versus them" conflicts, often causing heated arguments. Having officials taking centre stage can often be off-putting to residents and make it difficult for them to get a word in edgeways. The outcome is that officials go away with only a glimmer of what matters to everybody and often what the person who speaks loudest has to say! "Planning for Real" was devised as an answer to this problem. This modern process breaks down barriers between local residents living in the area (referred to as inside experts) and professionals in the position to make final decisions about the area (referred to as outside experts).

It also overcomes other common situations such as when the loudest person is assumed to be speaking up for everyone, where those who are quiet, shy or speak poor English are not listened to, and the fact that often whole sectors of the community such as young people or ethnic minorities are not even represented at such meetings. "Planning for Real" is a complete process of community involvement and development that is wholly inclusive, participatory and progresses logically to a thorough and manageable action plan through a 'hands on' approach.

This "Planning for Real" consultation has highlighted important issues and raised problems as well as offering solutions for the local area. This was carried out in a fun and simple way making it easy for everyone to take part and have their say. This information has then been given a priority in terms of need and relative importance to the community in the context of the whole picture. This brought together both the inside experts (local residents) and the outside experts (planners, housing officers, other council departments, police etc.), allowing residents to express their opinions whilst having support and advice at hand and bridging the gap between the two.

In a non-confrontational and uncomplicated way, everyone's opinions were noted and used to plan the future of the Parish.

The Stages of Consultation:

- The Herne and Broomfield Parish Plan Group were introduced to the processes and events that compile a full "Planning for Real" consultation. Locations for "Planning for Real" exercises were decided upon and ways to involve as many people as possible were considered, within the given time and economic constraints.

- The Parish Plan Group met to search through the suggestion cards. The majority of cards that were provided were deemed relevant to this area, but a few were removed where they were seen to be irrelevant. Cards were not removed just because the group considered them a bad idea as this would bias the results. A few new cards were also designed where the group felt an issue was not covered by the current cards e.g. tree stump removal was added to the cards.

- Herne Primary School was invited to create two 3-dimensional models of the Parish: one including the whole Parish and surrounding area and a second focussing on the Parish centre. The model enabled pupils and residents to visualise the local neighbourhood and included different housing styles, roads and paths, shops, pubs, churches and open spaces. It was made big enough to be an eye-catcher, but dissected into sections for moving around.

- The whole of Year 6 took part in the artwork and in the afternoon became the first people to take part in the "Planning for Real" process.

- The model was placed out for public consultation at the School Christmas Fair and was highly publicised. Using the large models of the area, people chose from over 200 suggestion cards to express their views of the area. These covered problems such as dog's mess, solutions such as a community centre or more street lighting, as well as expressing a feeling like "I don't feel safe here!" Everyone's ideas were logged onto recording sheets by volunteers. The cards were colour coded into the following categories:

Community facilities	**Crime and safety**
Health	**Housing**
Leisure	**Local environment**
Traffic & transport	**Work, training & local economy**

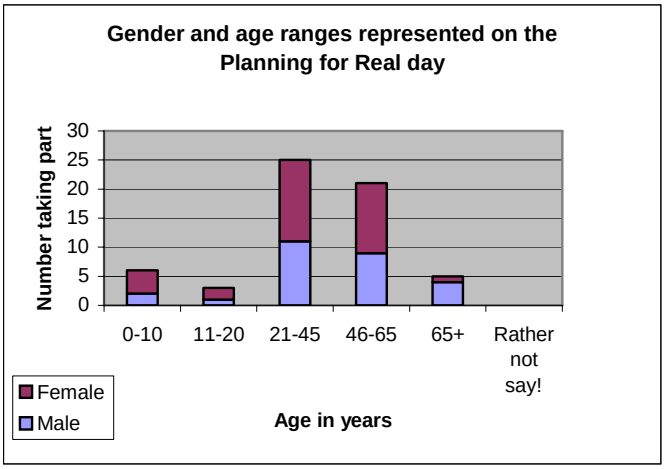
- At an evening meeting, these ideas were prioritised with the assistance of outside experts. Residents decided how important each idea was and whether it should be tackled:
  NOW **SOON** or **LATER.**

- At the last stage, these decisions were formed into the skeleton of an action plan. This was then compiled by Helen Abel from BTCV to show what had come out of the consultation and when and how it will be put into place.

- This report can therefore be used as a powerful tool with funders, businesses, local and county councils, detailing what was asked for by the individuals as well as proving the thoroughness of the consultation and a well considered plan of action. It will also serve as an easy to follow guide for the group when considering what to do next.

Findings:

User Group Data:
When local people entered the room to contribute their ideas and opinions, they were also asked to answer questions on their age, gender and ethnicity. These were carried out by asking people to put a sticker into the boxes that most applied to them. This way the information remained anonymous and didn't lead to people feeling uncomfortable. For the same reason, Age was broken down into the following groups: **0-10, 11-20, 21-45, 46-65, 65+, Rather not say!**
This basically meant we could monitor the following sectors of the community:
Children **Young people** **Working age** **Retired**



It is important to note that this information wasn't gathered because the group were looking for information from a specific user group or that any group of people were more important. The objective was simply to try to ensure as many people were included as possible and that there were no groups who were underrepresented in the consultation.

Age and Gender (see chart):
Residents taking part were generally divided equally between male and female. Although there were far more people taking part in the working age brackets, these are the largest age groups and thus should be expected. Another reason for this may be because a lot of parents turned up for the school fair. Young people were underrepresented, perhaps because they were disinterested or were unlikely to turn up to the venue (Primary school Christmas fair).

There were surprisingly few children taking part. However, we had already carried out the event with Year 6 and many had to be reminded on the day that it would be unfair to put their ideas down again. If we include Year 6 pupils, (approximately 120), that will make children by far the best represented. It is often a good idea to use the model with specific groups if you fear they will be under-represented.

Although the table lists only 60 individuals taking part that day, it is thought that a number of people joined in the consultation, but didn't want to hand over this information. This may have been due to overcrowding in this area, lack of time or that individuals did not feel it relevant information.

When making comparisons with the Parish census, 25% of the population is under 20. These were not represented in the main event, but the school visit more than compensated for this. Over 65s were also under represented by approximately 5% of the population.

Ethnicity:
The table shows a general reflection of the population of the area. Herne and Broomfield is not a very ethnically diverse Parish. All residents taking part classed themselves as white British (96%) except for a Black/Black British person (making up 2%) and an Asian/Asian British person (also making up 2 %). It is likely that people from other ethnic groups are living in the Parish but were not represented at the event. If similar statistics were taken of the Year 6 pupils who took part, the number of ethnic minorities would have increased, but the proportion would remain low.

In the Parish census, 98.5% of the population were white, so ethnic minorities were over represented in comparison to the number of people taking part. This would have evened out had more people been involved. Even fewer people took part in this question than the previous one as people possibly didn't realise the significance in doing so.

Where do you live?
Residents were asked to put a sticker on a map of the Parish to show where they live. This was not detailed enough to pick out individual houses, simply street names. Again the purpose was to make sure the people taking part were representative of the whole community. The stickers were

scattered across the whole Parish map which was a good sign, with a small group around the school. As this is where the consultation was held it is not surprising. It is also a focal point for the Parish.

Would you like a Community Warden?
This pin board method of consultation is very effective in getting a response to simple yes/no questions or choosing a category question. Therefore it can be used equally well to poll local residents on a specific issue. The Parish Plan Group chose this method as an opportunity to find out whether or not a community warden was wanted in the Parish. Many people required an explanation of what a community warden was and what their responsibilities would be before they were able to answer the question.

Results however, were overwhelmingly in favour of having such a role in the parish with 93% of people (50 people) voting Yes and only 7% (4 people) voting No.

Raw Data:

The "Planning for Real" event ran smoothly and was very successful. It brought out a lot of ideas and raised a lot of issues as people took part in the planning or chatted with enthusiasm and energy! Unfortunately, it was often hard to get people to put their spoken opinions on the map. On these occasions facilitators placed down appropriate cards while the person spoke of what was important to them. That way their opinions could be considered and prioritised at later stages alongside everyone else's.

It was also good to see a variety of "outside experts" from the police, Canterbury City and Parish Councils who were taking an interest in what issues were being raised, as well as being on hand to answer questions. Outside experts were not allowed to take part in the Planning day unless they were resident in the Parish, because the focus was on finding out what local people wanted regardless of current procedures and plans being proposed by councils. This reduces the common problem of council departments making assumptions about what the community wants and needs.

- Categories that attracted the most attention were:
  Traffic, Environment and Community Facilities.
- Other popular categories were Leisure and Crime.
- Categories that attracted least attention were Housing, Health and Work & Training.

Within these categories we also found there to be highly emotive subjects. For example, although there were comparatively few housing cards chosen, many residents had concerns regarding large scale developments and the "no more housing!" card was one of the most popular. The top issues of concern and solution were:

- Ban on further housing
- Speeding and rat runs
- HGVs travelling through village and possibility of a bypass
- Provision of, or improvement of, footpaths and cycle lanes
- A community centre providing a range of facilities, catering for a variety of user groups
- Dogs mess
- Litter
- Preserving green spaces for wildlife
- Cleaning up and maintaining areas better
- Providing more sports facilities

The Year 6 planning decisions were far more focused on items that directly concerned their age group, such as:

- Improvements to the school and activities there
- Clubs and societies
- Sports facilities and play areas

Many children did however, show concern for wider issues that affect themselves and others.
Priorities were:

- Dogs mess
- Cleaning up areas
- Cycle lanes
- Security and safety
- Traffic and exhaust fumes
- Litter



Interestingly many children were concerned about being in contact with cigarette smoke. This was shown through "No smoking" cards placed in public areas and children's own homes.

Some cards such as "Demolition" were used by pupils without much thought and consideration for their choice and this had to be carefully monitored and taken into account at the prioritisation stage.

Prioritisation:

All the raw data noting which cards were chosen, where they were placed and the number of different people making the choice, were placed onto small priority cards.
At the priority meeting, the group made judgments based on the popularity of ideas which would help to decide the importance of an issue to the Parish. From this they were able to decide whether a suggestion should be tackled:

NOW SOON LATER

When looking at the raw data, this is more difficult than it at first seems due to there generally being only 1 or 2 people wanting the same suggestion in the same place. To over come this problem and to save time, cards were amalgamated so that where appropriate an issue was tackled for the many places in the Parish it was considered necessary. On occasion, similar suggestions were also amalgamated if looking at solving the problem in a specific area. For example, different solutions to traffic in one street were dealt with together.

Based on the ease with which it could be tackled, the group then went on to further prioritise as to whether the item was:

SHORT TERM MEDIUM TERM LONG TERM

Decisions had to be made for various reasons such as:

- Many departments would need to come together to make it work.
- The planning process would take a long time.
- The issue required further consultation.
- The issue required a large source of funding.
- The actual creation was a large job.

Final Stage:

The first pages of this report show a plan of action to be followed that should represent the views of the Parish and define how they should be tackled in terms of relevant importance to the Parish.

The report explains when issues should be tackled and what preferred suggestions are for addressing each issue. It explains in relative terms how long each project will take to complete and lastly it will suggest how to go about getting it done. This was done in the final report meeting, whereby the issues were further divided into the following categories.

- We can do it on our own.
- We can do it in partnership with another organisation
- We can do it with money and expert advice.
- We can't do it, but we know who will be able to.
- We can do it without money
- Who can help us to achieve this goal?

Extra information has been added to the suggestion to name other organisations who will be involved in that goal.

Much of the suggestions have been placed under "We know someone who can do it" due to the nature of the suggestions, policies, laws and other requirements. In some cases it is someone else's job that needs attention drawn to it for it to be achieved.

Smaller tasks such as running simple activities or improving wildlife value of a site were considered more manageable tasks, but in many cases require expert advice, partnership or most often money!

Items placed under "Who can help?" were either because no one knew which department or organisation could assist or provide information. Quite often though, it was due to a decision being made at the final stage that a suggestion was not agreed upon and required further consultation.

Although a useful tool in many ways, it must be remembered that this report has been devised from a wish list of local people's needs and aspirations. The recommendations in this report carry substantial weight due to the extensive consultation that took place to achieve them, however, they are not set in stone and there may be other practicalities that disenable them being realised. Lastly it must also be remembered that much of these suggestions require substantial financing or fundraising which has yet to be done. This may hinder projects going ahead, or alter the time they begin and the amount of time they take to put in place.

PART 4: ACTION PLAN

Recommendations

Traffic:
Concerns were raised regarding the amount of traffic travelling through the village, particularly large vehicles which caused the most congestion. The general feeling was that a by-pass was needed; however this would need to be developer funded and the majority of people taking part in the consultation were quite specific that there should not be any more development in the Parish.

Traffic calming measures were suggested and since the consultation took place a pedestrian crossing has been installed in School Lane. In partnership with the Parish Council, Canterbury City Council and Kent Highways and following further consultation, some traffic calming measures have already been implemented; including a mini-roundabout at the Herne Street junction with School Lane and a pedestrian crossing has been installed near the post office in Herne. Another mini-roundabout may be installed at the junction of Canterbury Road and Lower Herne Road at a later date.

Albion Lane has a problem with congestion and the Parish Council is consulting with Kent Highways regarding the extension of double yellow lines.

Transport:
The general opinion is that public transport is well provided in the village. It has also been suggested that Herne Schools should operate a walking bus scheme.

Schools:
There were major concerns raised regarding the availability of school places for local children in both Junior and Senior schools. The Parish Council will attempt to organise a meeting between the Local Education Authority and the local schools to see if the situation can be alleviated and improved.

Development:
A large number of responses showed that residents did not wish to see any more development in the Parish, for many reasons, e.g. the current infrastructure is not good enough.
"Broomfield and Herne have a lovely living environment, very pretty. Unfortunately there has been immense development with an increase of families with teenage children, there are NO facilities for them"
This was the sentiment of many residents.
"the village is overdeveloped", "too many houses going up"
"now a collection of housing estates, losing sense of community"
"Herne is a lovely place to live. Further development of the area would ruin its semi- rural feel and destroy the good nature of neighbours and village life"
"'Herne deserves to stay small and unique - as it has done for hundreds of years"

Play facilities:
Lack of play facilities was highlighted, both for small children and the older ones.
"nothing for older ones to do"
"Our kids have nothing to do at night except hang around shops and park"
"We all complain about kids having to loiter around the streets, what's wrong with providing a basketball court or sports park. It will get used."
"It would be nice to have a decent play area in Cherry Orchard"

Facilities for young people:

There were also many comments on the lack of facilities for older youngsters (11-16). This issue has been addressed in partnership with the Parish Council and Canterbury City Council Community Development. A Rural Youth Streetrunner will visit the Parish on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month providing a variety of opportunities for the over 11's. The Streetrunner will be at St Paul's Hall, School Lane.

The Parish Council is installing a Multi Use Games Area which will have open access and will be floodlit until 9 pm. There will be organised activities and coaching sessions for Mini Soccer, basketball, Quick Cricket and netball. It is also hoped that the court will be used to host the mobile skateboard facility.

The Parish Council is also hoping to install a BMX track for older children to use at the proposed Woodland site in Broomfield.

Due to the lack of facilities for play in the Broomfield area, the Parish Council is discussing suitable pieces of land with the City Council on which more play areas could be provided.

Community Centre:

There were requests for a community centre as all the existing halls are booked on a regular basis and it is difficult to find an alternative when putting on an event. This applies more in Broomfield than Herne. One suggestion was that a Community Centre could be sited near the doctors surgery in Broomfield Road. This matter would obviously need much more consultation with local residents and has been passed on to the Parish Council

Parish Wardens:

There were several requests accompanying the questionnaire regarding employing parish wardens for the benefit of local residents. The Parish Council in partnership with Canterbury City Council has now employed 2 wardens to work in the Parish. The wardens are shared with Chestfield and have proved popular in and around the Parish.

Health:

There did not appear to be any major health concerns in the parish although there were suggestions for additional facilities, such as: speech therapy, addiction advice, unplanned pregnancy and the Blood Donor vehicle all to be based at Broomfield surgery. Alternative therapies, an optician and a NHS dentist were also requested, as was a youth counselling service. These details will be passed on to the surgery at Broomfield and Community Services at Canterbury City Council.

Some alternative therapies such as acupuncture and massage are already available at the surgery.

Leisure:

Many of the facilities requested were sports based. There were also requests for additional Art & Craft Clubs - although some exist already they are full and new clubs need to be set up particularly for Art classes. The group will try to source volunteers to set up new clubs in the Parish.

The visiting Streetrunner will provide some of the things requested such as: playstations, cyber café, trips, sports events, etc.

Crime & Safety:
Crime and safety did not come high on the list of priorities. Noisy neighbours were the biggest complaint and these can now be dealt with through the parish wardens.

Better lighting for Herne Car Park in School Lane was also requested. This has been passed on to the Parish Council, who will liaise with Canterbury City Council on improvements.

Local Environment:
The main items highlighted in this category were rubbish and dog's mess. Also highlighted was the need to improve footways and to install one in Mill Lane, to continue to look after the two ponds in the Parish and to plant more trees and shrubs.
Many people commented that:
"people are friendly"
"the Parish should be preserved and suggestions that encroached on the village be opposed"

One 21 year old commented, *"Herne and Broomfield is a fantastic place. I have never felt the need to move out of the area … in most respects it is a quaint and cosy village with enough life to keep a 21 year old happy, but it has changed over the years due to more people moving into the area … I think that if the community stays close and is aware of each others feelings, it will be fine. We do need more respect for our elderly and more openness and care between ourselves."*
In general people were:
"very happy here, it has a good community spirit'".

There were many complaints from both adults and children regarding dog mess during the consultation. It is hoped that dog owners will act responsibly and clean up after their dogs. The Parish Council in partnership with Canterbury City Council has recently had four additional dog bins installed, replaced some old and broken ones and had additional litter bins provided around the Parish.

The Parish Council has also sought sponsors for poop scoop bags which are being distributed to dog owners free of charge. It is important that dog owners are confronted when not cleaning up after their dogs - after all it is an offence which carries a maximum penalty fine of £1,000.

The parish pond wardens hold regular pond clearance days and are always happy to see local residents volunteering to help.

The Parish Council would like residents to contact them if there are problems with footways. These complaints can then be passed on to Kent Highways.

A footway in Mill Lane will be installed when Mid Kent Water have completed the installation of new pipework associated with the new reservoir in Broomfield.

Community Facilities:
Many people were proud of Herne Windmill as a *"unique feature of Herne"*.

The windmill is an obvious tourist attraction. Volunteers open the mill to visitors on Sunday afternoons during the summer and some of the volunteers are also responsible for any day to day

maintenance. The Mill is owned by Kent County Council and any major work needed is carried out by their millwrights.

The Post Offices and general stores were also applauded for their service to the community.

Once again the question of a community centre was raised, along with the installation of bicycle racks in the car park, the re-opening of the toilets in Cherry Orchard (which have now been refurbished and re-opened), better links between the schools and the community including the use of the school facilities, the setting up of a youth centre, After School Clubs (Herne Junior School already hosts some after school clubs) and local evening classes to be run from Herne Junior School

The question of more school places for local children was raised again.

A request for a cash point machine in the parish was received. Enquiries will be made into the viability of this suggestion.

