

Broomfield

Parish Plan 2005



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Foreword

We are delighted to have been asked to pen some words ahead of this Broomfield Parish Plan. The first thing to do is to record our thanks, not only to those involved in compiling this plan, but also to all of you within the Parish of Broomfield who took time out to fill in the questionnaires, from which this plan was fashioned. We are certainly impressed by the work that has been put into this document and how it conveys the feelings of the residents of the Parish; not only about how things are right now as a snapshot in time, but also what you'd like to see happen within this wonderful part of the Borough of Chelmsford in the future.

Of course, communities such as ours are always changing. This is particularly true at the moment, with pressure from central government for a lot of new housing in Essex, and we will no doubt need to play our part. However, in reading the plan and the research behind it, we were particularly impressed by the residents' ability to pick out what they really want to keep the same, what they would like to change and where change would be acceptable even if not ideal. This is very positive as it is better to engage with this subject right now and make sure our views are known, rather than having to fight a rearguard action at a later date.

One theme that keeps coming back throughout this document is that people enjoy their quality of life within the village, and a "village" is exactly what it is. Current residents want to stay and others want to move here. It is therefore important that we retain this distinct identity. We must make sure that, in years to come, we can still see clearly where Broomfield starts and finishes. This can't always be said for other communities around the Borough.

As Borough Councillors for Broomfield, we are immensely proud of this area. It's comforting to know that so many others living here feel the same too. The future looks bright.

Delmas Ashford

Jason Need

Alan Willsher

Borough Councillors representing Broomfield and the Walthams

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Introduction

What is the Parish Plan?

Broomfield Parish Plan is a document summarizing how Broomfield should develop in the future, based on the views of the people who live here. Since November 2003, at the request of the Parish Council, a group of local volunteers have carried out extensive research to gather these views together. There have been questionnaires for residents, for children and young people and for local businesses; also an Open Day for residents and sessions in local schools. The plan is in two parts - the report and the action points. Both are based on this consultation.



What does all this tell us about Broomfield?

Preparing the plan has shown us that Broomfield is a place where people want to live - 94% of residents would like to stay here. And, although it may seem to passing traffic to be just a long piece of ribbon development, Broomfield has a strong sense of community. This is seen in the answers local people gave in the questionnaires, in the large numbers packing out the Open Day and the strong local clubs and organisations. While close to Chelmsford, people like the sense of identity that comes from living in a smaller community. They value the countryside that still surrounds Broomfield and the historic buildings that lie in its heart.

Although generally positive about Broomfield, people have some concerns and worries. They would like a few more services, such as a post office and doctor's surgery. They are worried about the low-level crime and disorder, about traffic and about the possibility of lots of new housing.

Where will the Plan take us?

The vision that lies behind the plan, based on what local people have told us, is for Broomfield to keep its sense of identity and to have an even stronger sense of community, making it an even better place to live.



This is the vision:

- We want to encourage community spirit by having more community events, a village newsletter and website and a new community centre that can be a focus for all sorts of activities and events for people of all ages.
- We want to encourage a sense of identity by increasing awareness of Broomfield's heritage, lobbying to get more facilities in the village and encouraging people to keep gardens, extensions and new buildings in keeping with their surroundings.
- We believe it is essential to this sense of identity that Broomfield retains its current physical separation from Chelmsford. It is inevitable that the number of dwellings in Broomfield will increase but these should be accommodated within the current settlement areas or locations that are less valued by local people, where they would not lead to Broomfield being merged with other settlements.
- We also want to make Broomfield an even better place to live, by enhancing open spaces in the village and by a package of measures to reduce the traffic passing through the village.

What is in the Plan?

The plan report is divided into chapters, one for each subject. Each chapter contains a paragraph on the current position, feedback from the community, the issues and a summary of the action points. The full action points are listed at the back of the report, giving more detail such as the timescale, who should lead on the action and how it will be funded if necessary. It is 36 pages long and includes lots of charts to illustrate what local people told us. The Parish Council has printed enough copies for each household in the parish to have one. You can also read it in Broomfield Library, at the Parish Council Office in the Community Centre or you can download it from the website:

www.broomfield-essex.co.uk

After some introductory pages, there are the following chapters - with a very brief summary for each:

Shops and Services - trying to get the additional services people want such as a post office and doctor's surgery.

Leisure Activities - this outlines the additional activities people want and proposes a new community centre to support a range of activities

Activities for Children and Young People - consulting them about better activities, for example sports or a 'drop-in' facility.

Emergency Services - measures to deter crime and anti-social behaviour and linking the Police and local community better,

Re-cycling - improving waste paper and other refuse collection.

The Environment inside the Village - a package of measures to improve and enhance the village (including enlarging the conservation area around Church Green) and to increase awareness of Broomfield's heritage.

The Environment outside the Village - maintaining and increasing the use of footpaths and making the most of any redundant agricultural land for leisure activities.

Traffic and Transport (including: alternatives to car use; local road improvements inside the village; parking; improvements to the A130; and a possible relief road to the hospital) - a package of measures to reduce the need for car use; improve junctions, crossings and parking; and lobbying for improvements to the A130 to reduce traffic through the village, including a link to the hospital.

Housing and Development - proposing a way forward to make sure that housing and other developments are as acceptable as possible to the local community.

The Community - encouraging new village events and better communication.

Will it all happen?

The Plan contains lots of actions. Some are already underway, for instance the Police have started a fortnightly 'surgery', the Parish Council has started to plan for a new community centre, a village website has been set up and a response has been sent to the Regional Plan consultation to highlight concerns about housing levels. Other actions should be straightforward, just needing local people to get involved, such as the new village newsletter or a group of people to help maintain footpaths. Others, such as cycle routes or roads, require agreement or funding from outside bodies - these will inevitably be harder and take longer to achieve, but we can lobby to try and make sure that they do happen in time.

What next?

The Plan has been based on a lot of consultation and we would like to thank everyone who has participated by completing the questionnaire, coming to the Open Day or helping to organize them. We recognize that the Plan will not please everyone in every aspect - in a large village like Broomfield, even an action that is supported by 90% of the people could be opposed by as many as 400 people (10%). Nonetheless, we feel that the Plan is the closest that we can get to a consensus on how Broomfield should develop in the future. The fact that the Borough Council is starting to consult on its new Local Development Framework gives us a unique opportunity to influence those aspects of our community life.

If we want to make sure that the Plan happens, it is important that the community continues to remain involved. The Parish Council has the responsibility to carry out, or encourage others to carry out, the actions in the Plan. So please support them. If the Plan is put into effect, we believe that people will still want to live in Broomfield for many years to come.

Broomfield today

The village of Broomfield lies some two and a half miles to the north of the county town of Chelmsford, Essex. The parish covers 747 hectares, the bulk of which is cultivated land, mostly for growing crops but also meadow. This land is crossed by a network of footpaths, providing pleasant walks and views across the countryside. The northern and southern boundaries of the parish are familiar as they are well-signed on Main Road. Less well-known are the eastern and western limits.

To the east, the parish stretches across the River Chelmer and its associated flood plain, beyond Essex Regiment Way towards Beaulieu Park and New Hall. To the north-west, it stretches almost to the Pig and Whistle pub on Chignall Road.

The main settlement areas lie alongside Main Road (the B1008) which runs north/south through the Parish. The settlement covers 55 hectares and is home to over 4,000 people.

The River Chelmer is the lowest point of the parish, with the land rising to about 50 metres in the east and 60 metres in the west. The highest point in the settlement area is occupied by the Parish Church of St Mary with St Leonard, and the conservation area of Church Green.

A brief history of the village

By Ken Searles

Broomfield is more than just a name, it is a community with a history going back far beyond the first record of the name. It was Brumfelda in 1086 but people had been living here long before that. Flint arrowheads, Celtic coins and other artifacts testify to pre-Roman occupation.

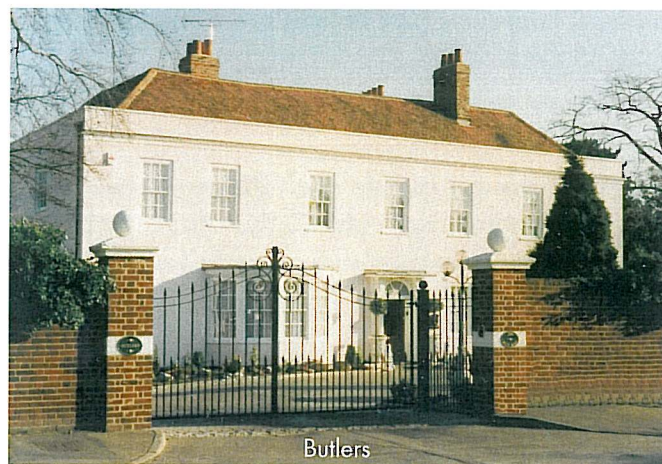
The Romans were here too. A villa of some importance was established here; more than 300 Roman coins have been unearthed, together with brooches and equine artifacts. The walls of the church contain many large Roman bricks and tiles.

Broomfield Hall was a Saxon foundation, which, together with Patching Hall and Belstead Hall, became the foundation of the village of Broomfield. Patching Hall was the largest of the Saxon manors and a 7th century burial on its land indicates that it was the home of a wealthy leader. Some of the grave goods, garnet and gold, blue glassware, bear a resemblance to the famous find at Sutton Hoo and the iron lamp found in the grave is larger than its Sutton Hoo counterpart!



The church of St Mary with St Leonard dates back to the end of the 11th century, its prominent round tower being added a few years later. The nave, tower, and part of the chancel are Norman. The chancel was extended around 1430. A line of Roman tiles clearly shows where the original building ended. It was also in the 15th century that the church acquired its porch and spire. A curious feature of the church is the "pudding stone" in the south wall of the nave: not unique, as there are other bits in the walls but

the reason for its being deliberately placed to protrude so far has yet to be convincingly explained. Inside, the fine 13th century stone font has had a chequered career; thrown out during the Commonwealth period (1653-58), it turned up again in 1843 and was restored to the church.



Reminders of Broomfield's past can be seen in its many old buildings. Broomfield was an agricultural community and so it inevitably had farmhouses, several of which have been rebuilt over the ages to reflect the changes in taste and prosperity. Broomfield Hall has 15th century timbers; Priors is a fine 16th century building; Butlers was rebuilt in the 1780s in the fashionable Georgian style; Stacey's was also rebuilt at around the same time; Scravels, still an old timber-framed building, was given a Victorian exterior.

Of Broomfield's five "Greens", three have the atmosphere of a village green. Parsonage Green has its pond and the Parsonage with its superb tithe barn. Angel Green has the 15th century Angel public house and the backdrop of the grounds of Broomfield Place, while the buildings around the attractive Church Green span some 900 years!



Woollards, on the south side of Church Green, is a reminder that this was once a row of cottages given by a wealthy benefactor for the benefit of the poor of Broomfield forever.

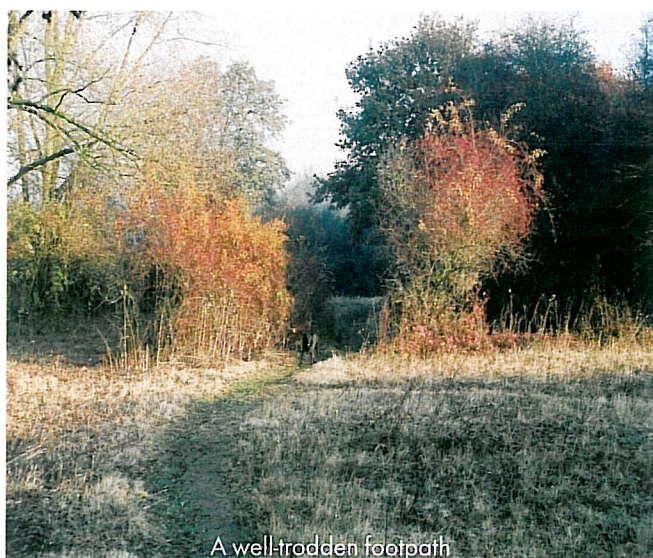
The cottages were eventually sold and the proceeds invested to give an income, which is still put to charitable uses in the parish.

Much of the past can still be seen in Broomfield's countryside, a valuable part of the community today. The river forms an attractive feature of the parish and there was a mill here in 1086. The mill is no more but the miller's house remains beside the river, where the weir still gives the fall of water to drive the long gone wheel.



The Mill House

The countryside is still criss-crossed with footpaths, which once served to join homesteads, the mill, and the church. There is even history here; the footpath that goes across the fields from Goulton Road to the church was granted as a right of way by the Lord of the Manor, Sir Thomas de Mandeville, in 1294.



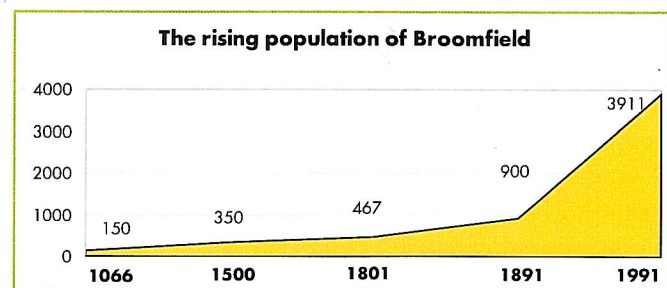
A well-trodden footpath



Broomfield Primary School

Education has a long history in Broomfield. In 1708 it was noted "Ric Gyles have leave to keep Scoole in the Vestry and that he lett none of the schollrs goe into the Church". In 1709 the parish agreed to pay 3d a week for the schooling of Widow Parter's boy. In 1715 the schoolmaster, an outsider, was sent back to his parish lest he became a charge on Broomfield if he became sick. In 1760 the parish register records the burial of a boy, "a boarder at the school at New House" (now Broomfield Place). In 1831 Thomas Christy provided a purpose built school near Parsonage Green, and in the 1850s there was a school in one of the outbuildings of the Parsonage.

Broomfield's population has increased dramatically in recent years. There were 36 tenants on the Broomfield manors in 1066, perhaps giving a total population of around 150 people. By the 16th century the number of entries in the parish register suggests a population of 300-400, and by 1801 it had risen to 467.



The 1891 census put the figure at just under 900 and 100 years later in 1991, it had reached 3,911. With ever greater expansion planned for the hospital, the number will doubtless continue to rise, and our heritage of countryside and village greens will become ever more precious.

About the Parish Plan

What is a Parish Plan?

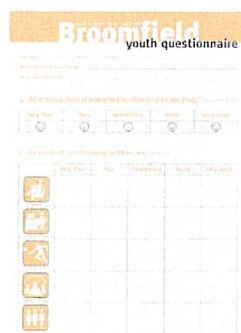
It sets out how a village or community wants to develop in the future. It can include anything that is relevant to the people who live and work there. It should:

- Reflect the views of all sections of the community
- Say which features and local characteristics people value
- Identify local problems and opportunities
- Spell out how residents want the community to develop
- Draw up a plan of action to achieve this.

It is not about stopping change, as that would be impractical, but about managing it in the best way possible.

How did it start?

The Parish Council started the process. In November 2003, the Council held a meeting for the whole village. After some presentations and discussions, a group of people volunteered to form a Steering Group. The first main task was to draft a questionnaire for residents, as well as questionnaires for local businesses and for children and young people.



The questionnaire for children and young people was supported by sessions at Broomfield Primary School and Chelmer Valley High School. There was also a business survey.

The Open Day



On 2nd October 2004, an Open Day was held to report back the findings of the questionnaire to the people of Broomfield and to get further ideas and comments for the Parish Plan. The doors opened at 10am and the Community Centre was soon full of people. This continued almost unabated until the day closed. Over 350 people attended, including a few visitors from abroad who came out of interest. Local clubs and societies were invited to exhibit and give talks about their work and there was a 'question time' to give people the chance to question a panel of local councillors.

And now the Report and Action Plan.....

These form the final stage of the plan. The report sets out the views that local people have given us, mainly through the questionnaire but also through the Open Day, together with a certain amount of background. The action plan shows what we propose should happen to take these views and ideas forward. The main action points are summarized at the end of each section of the plan. The full version of the action plan also sets out who is responsible for each action, when it is expected to happen and where any necessary funding should come from.

The Questionnaires

Questionnaires were distributed to every household in Broomfield (approximately 1,700) during the weekend of 26th June 2004. Residents were invited to respond as a household/family, or as individuals by asking for an additional questionnaire(s). The reply date was 5th July, though responses were accepted up to 14th July. 541 responses were received (equivalent to over 31% of households). The data was processed by Independent Data Analysis Ltd. The full report stretches to 144 pages of tables with a further 95 pages listing answers to open-ended questions and comments.

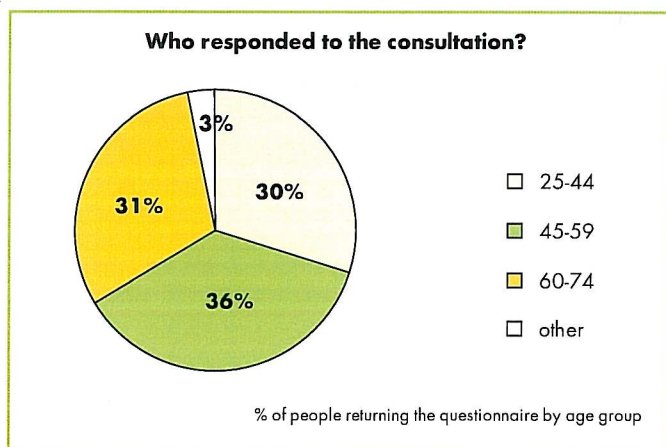
The full report can be seen by contacting the Parish Council Office.



Who responded to the consultation?

Many of the 541 responses were joint (ie from one household)
In total, 395 males and 455 females responded. The highest responding age groups were:

25 – 44: 30%; 45 – 59: 36%; 60-74: 31%.



In terms of areas within in the parish, there was a wide range of percentage responses, varying from 7.45% to 48%. In general, the highest response came from areas near to the centre of the village, around School Lane, Church Green and Glebe Crescent.

44% of responses were from people living in the village more than 20 years, followed by 21% from people who had lived here for 3 – 5 years.

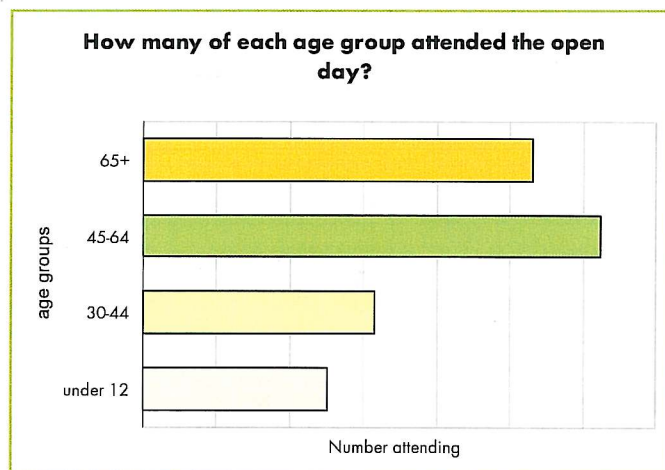
What the local community likes and dislikes about Broomfield

Asked whether they would like to stay in Broomfield if their circumstances permit, the community gave a resounding vote of confidence in the village. 94% those who responded said 'yes', with only 5% saying 'no'.

The most popular things about living in Broomfield were (% of like/like a lot):

Closeness to open countryside 98%; closeness to Chelmsford and its facilities 95%; living in a village 94%; friends and neighbours 90%; old buildings and/or sense of heritage 85%; separate 'feeling' and identity from Chelmsford 84%; community spirit and neighbourliness 84%; closeness to Stansted Airport 72%.

The only significant dislike was the level of traffic, 82% dislike/dislike a lot.

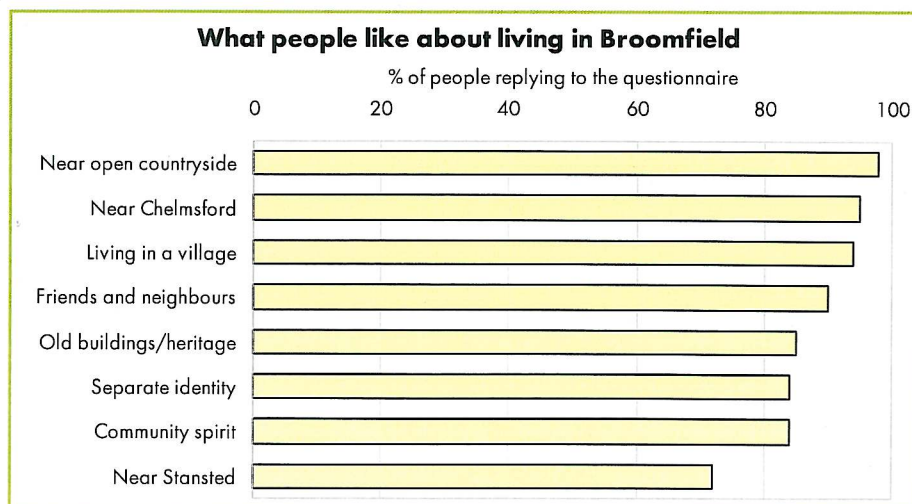


353 people who attended the Open Day, (48% male and 52% female). The best represented age groups were:

under 12: 50; 30-44: 63; 45-64: 125; 65+: 106; others: 9.

There were 101 responses to the children and young people's questionnaire (see page 7).

There was also a business survey. Six local businesses (approximately 30%) returned the survey. They were generally happy with their location, recruitment position and electronic communication facilities. Overall there was support for further development at the hospital, for improved bus services and parking and for more housing. Parking and traffic restrictions and a hospital relief road were greeted less favourably. All six would like to remain in Broomfield



A. Facilities

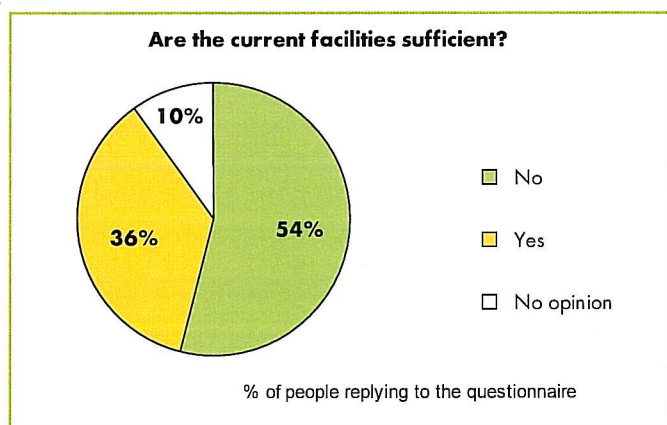
A1. Shops and services

The current position

Broomfield has a range of shops and other facilities. Shops and eating places include: a small supermarket, an off-license/general store, a butcher's shop, a newsagents, a filling station, a car dealership and car/truck service facility, a tyre store, 2 hairdressers, a model shop, an antique shop, an orthodontist, 2 pubs, a fish and chip shop and an Indian take-away. Other facilities include 2 churches (Church of England and Methodist), a primary and a secondary school, 3 pre-schools and a library (part-time). The biggest employer is Mid-Essex Hospitals NHS Trust at Broomfield Hospital, which serves as a general hospital for mid-Essex with specialist services drawing some patients from further afield.

Feedback from the community

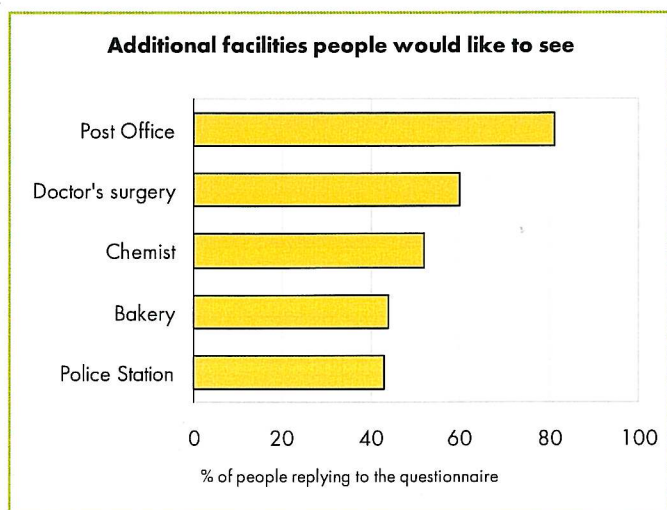
54% of those who responded said that current facilities were not sufficient against 36% who said that they were.



The facilities that people would most like to see were:

Post Office: 81%; doctor's surgery: 60%;
chemist: 52%; bakery: 44%; Police Station 43%

All other suggestions received lower than 30% support.



The Issues

These issues are very live as Broomfield has only recently lost its Post Office (in 2003) and nearest GP surgery (in 2004).

It is difficult for a village even of Broomfield's size to attract all the facilities we would like, particularly in the light of national developments which if anything lead in the opposite direction; for instance Royal Mail's desire to become more cost effective and the desire of Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) to set up GP practices with a minimum of 3 GPs.

However, new technology should help services to become more locally-based in the future, for instance, when health records are accessible to GPs electronically, it should become easier to operate split site or satellite surgeries.

The plans for a new community centre offer an opportunity to locate more services in the village provided that wider constraints can be overcome.

In the short/medium term, the priority should be to help the least mobile residents to access the services they need.

Action points

Summary: to include provision for these services in an expanded community centre building and to improve access to the closest facilities for elderly residents without transport in the meantime.

1. Improve voluntary private transport support for elderly or ailing residents who find it difficult to get to facilities located outside the parish.
2. Increase the numbers of residents willing to assist with the Care Group by increasing publicity.
3. Investigate possibilities of a part-time post office being set up in the village.
4. In developing proposals for a new community centre, explore possible links with a doctor's surgery, chemist and post-office; continue discussion/lobbying relevant authorities to participate.

See page (i) for full details

A2. Leisure activities

Current position

There is a wide range of clubs and leisure activities including:

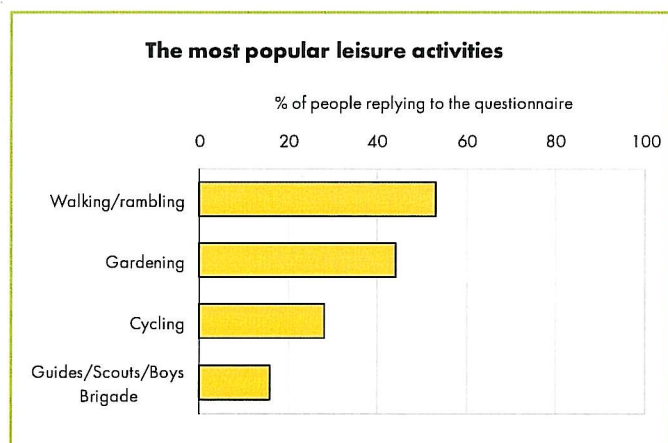
- the Royal British Legion
- the WI and Darby and Joan
- the Footpaths Society
- the Football Club and the Cricket Club
- Scouts and Guides and Boys Brigade
- Weight Watchers and Slimming World
- Carpet Bowls.

The Community Centre is available for hire for clubs and activities but essentially offers just one hall (with kitchen and changing rooms) and therefore is of limited value. Around the Community Centre are pitches for various sports.

Feedback from the community

The most popular activities (outside people's own home) were:

walking/ rambling 53%; gardening 44%; cycling 28%; Guides/Scouts/Boys Brigade 16%.



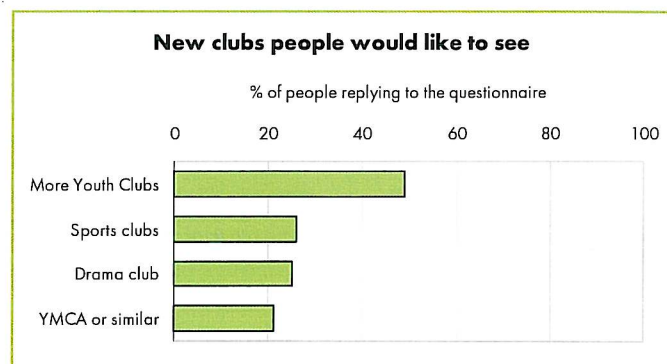
For most of the activities listed, there were 20 - 30 people who would be interested though not currently involved.

Only 7% (40 responses) named clubs that would benefit from better accommodation. Suggestions were: the Scouts, a potential drama club, Royal British Legion and the Football Club.



New clubs people would like to see were:

More youth clubs/facilities for teenagers 49%; other sports clubs, such as tennis 26%; drama club 25%; YMCA or similar 21%.



Other suggestions included:

Dance, bowls, yoga and more clubs for senior citizens. At least 30 responses mentioned the need for a new or improved community centre.

Issues

It would be worthwhile for existing organizations to use the proposed new newsletter and website to attract new members. The questionnaire indicated that people would be interested in joining them.

There was a high level of support from all residents for more facilities for teenagers (see below).

The community centre needs to be able to offer accommodation for a much wider range of activities, for instance, small meeting rooms and a larger hall with a higher ceiling.

Action Point

To build a new community centre that enables a greater range of activities, services and social facilities to be offered to the whole community.

See page (ii) for full details.

A3. Activities for children and young people

Current position

The children and young people's survey revealed the following clubs currently running in Broomfield: Broomfield Cricket Club, Broomfield Football Club, Broomfield Scouts, 1st Broomfield Brownies, 1st Chelmsford Guides, Broomfield Rainbow and Futuristic Baton Twirlers.



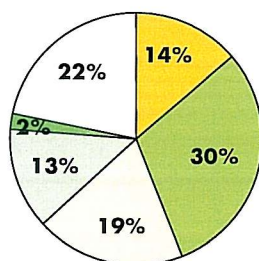
Feedback from children and young people

There was a separate questionnaire for children and young people. In addition, sessions were held at Broomfield Primary School and Chelmer Valley High School for children and young people living in the village to give their views.

The survey found that young people of Broomfield felt the facilities were:

Very poor 14%; poor 30%; satisfactory 19%; good 13%; very good 2%.

What do you think of Broomfield facilities for your age group?



☐ Very poor
☐ Poor
☐ Satisfactory
☐ Good
☐ Very Good
☐ No opinion

% of young people replying to the youth questionnaire

In addition to a Youth Club, an improvement in activities for girls, longer opening times in the library and personal safety were identified.

Action points

Summary: to provide a specific meeting point within the village and an opportunity for a wider range of facilities.

1. Consult with young people in developing plans for a new community centre and facilitate their requirements where possible.
2. In particular investigate opportunities for a youth 'drop in' centre within the community centre and improved sports facilities.
3. Collate details of all current youth clubs and activities and provide greater publicity via the website and village noticeboards.

See page (ii) for details

A4. Emergency services

Current position

Broomfield is served by the fire station in Chelmsford. Ambulances are based at Chelmsford Ambulance Station. There is no Police Station, but Broomfield's community officer is based in Melbourne. There used to be Neighbourhood Watch schemes but they are now in abeyance.

Feedback from the community

Fire and ambulance services received a generally positive verdict with significantly more saying they were excellent or good compared with those rating them poor or very poor.

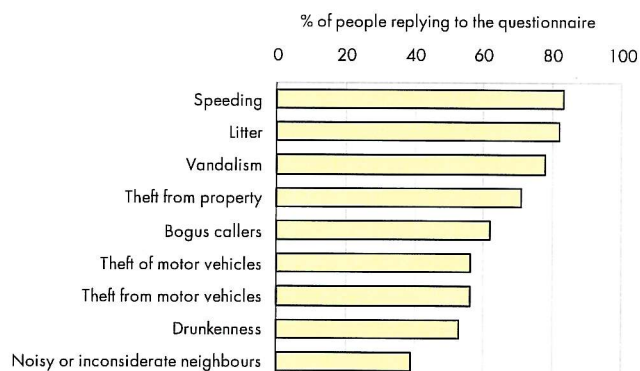
For the police however, the picture was different with 22% saying they were excellent or good, compared with 31% saying poor or very poor.

A number of forms of crime and anti-social behaviour concerned people:

speeding 83%; litter 82%; vandalism 78%; theft from property 71%; bogus callers 62%; theft of motor vehicles 56%; theft from motor vehicles 56%; drunkenness 53%.

Noisy or inconsiderate neighbours only worried 39% of respondents.

Forms of crime and anti-social behaviour that concern people



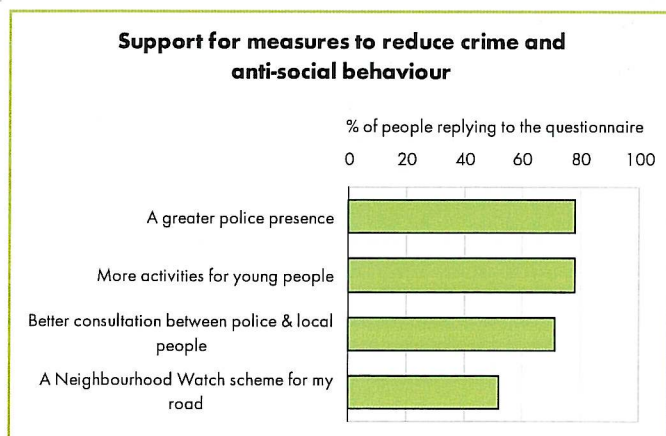
Other comments included youths congregating in certain areas and motorbike riding on pavements and fields.

Most people felt safe in Broomfield, though 19% felt unsafe in one or more areas.



There was strong support for a number of measures to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour: (% saying needed/much needed):

a greater police presence 78%; more activities for young people 78%; better consultation between police and local people 71%; a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for my road 52%.



Issues

Although serious crimes are thankfully few in Broomfield, there is clearly a high level of concern about some, mostly low level crimes/anti-social behaviours and a strong feeling that more could be done to combat them.

Since the questionnaire was circulated, the Government has started to consider a range of measures to combat these problems, for instance giving parish councils power to fine, and improving communication between police and their communities by giving police and community support officers mobile phones and publicizing phone numbers in the community.

Action points

Summary: to establish better links with the police and to develop other preventative measures.

1. Re-establish Neighbourhood Watch schemes.
2. Establish regular meetings with Broomfield's Community Police Officer and consider how better liaison can be established between the Police and the local community.
3. Explore the possibility of employing a Community Support Officer at key times.
4. As more details become available about the national scheme, explore the possibility of Broomfield Parish Council using new powers to make on-the-spot fines.
5. Develop more activities and a meeting place for young people.
see page (iii) for full details.

A5. Re-cycling

Current position

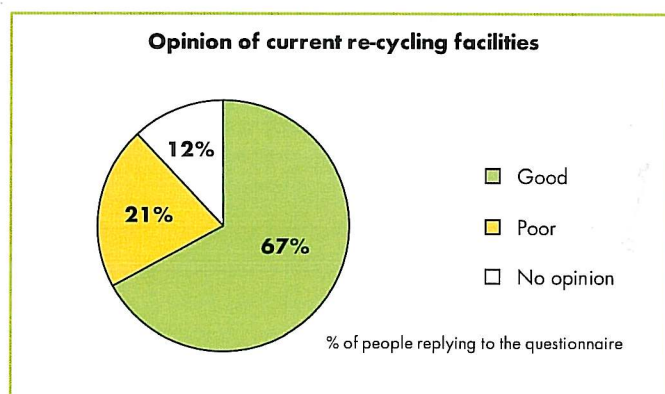
As well as normal rubbish collection, 'brown bins' for garden waste are collected during the spring and summer months. 'Green bins' for glass, tins and clothing are emptied fortnightly and the Scouts collect paper and cardboard fortnightly. This is used to boost funds for these organizations. A paper/cardboard skip is available at the Scouts hut. Since the parish plan process began, a 'junk swap' has taken place in the Community Centre. In addition, there is the civic amenity site at the Boreham interchange.

Feedback from the community

67% of those who responded said the current facilities are good or excellent; only 21% said poor or very poor.

Suggestions for improvement included:

Recycling plastics, more re-cycling points (in addition to green boxes) and greater frequency for paper collection.



Issues

Facilities have improved dramatically in recent years, leaving plastics as the only everyday waste that is not collected for re-cycling.

Collecting paper more frequently would be helpful (and would be beneficial to Scouts/Guides funds) but this is dependent on volunteer labour.

Action points

Summary: to improve re-cycling facilities, especially for paper and plastics.

1. Discuss with the Scouts ways of improving the waste paper collection and/or increasing the frequency of collection.
2. Liaise with Chelmsford Borough Council about plans for re-cycling plastics and lobby for this if necessary.
3. Continue with new initiatives such as the village junk swap.
See page (iii) for full details.

B. The environment - within the village

Current position

Broomfield is fortunate to have a number of historic buildings and other places of historical and archaeological interest (see page 4-5), as well as attractive village greens.

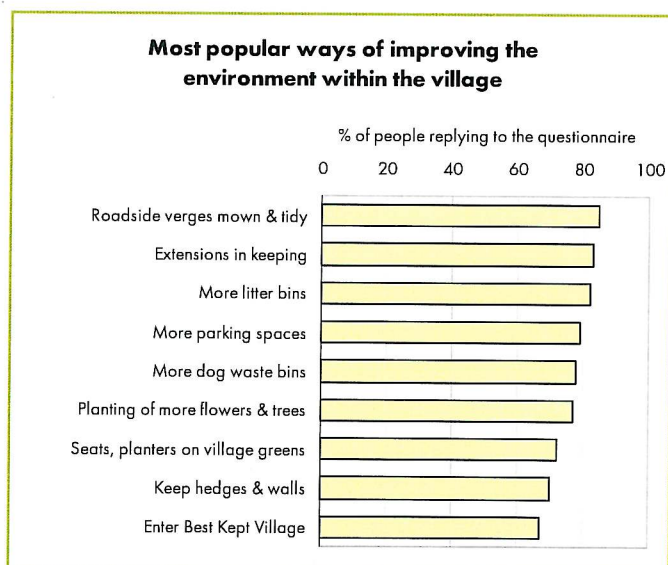
Most housing was built in the twentieth century. There is a lack of architectural coherence to it and much now looks dated and unattractive. Many frontages have changed to accommodate parking space, resulting in a rather fragmented look in many roads.

Feedback from the community

Old buildings were thought to be important/very important by 89% of responders, against 5% who said they were not important.

Of ways of improving the environment inside the village, the most popular were (% would help/would help a lot):

keep roadside verges mown and tidy 85%; ensure extensions/alterations are in keeping 83%; provide more litter bins 82%; provide more parking spaces to reduce on road/pavement parking 79%; provide more dog waste bins 78%; plant more flowers and trees 77%; improve village greens with more seats, planters, etc 72%; encourage hedges and walls on front property boundaries to be kept or reinstated 70%; work towards the Best Kept Village or similar competition 67%.



Of those expressing a view, most chose Church Green as the focal point of the village. 68% supported the idea of extending it to include the adjoining field known as Night Pasture which is between Broomfield Hall and the Primary School.

80% of those who responded supported the idea of a heritage trail of Broomfield (similar to the one in Writtle) to increase awareness of Broomfield's heritage.

Issues

More can be done to increase awareness of Broomfield's history and to enhance the attractive areas of the village. Some amenities such as the Centenary Wood seem little known about, so more publicity would help the community to make more of what it has. Because of the variety of building styles, it is difficult to promote a common style in Broomfield compared to other villages such as Pleshey, though more attractive styles can be promoted through publicity, competitions and a continuing watching brief on extensions, loft conversions, etc.

Action points - general

Summary: to enhance and create new focal points and to maintain the environment within the village.

1. Keep a watching brief on all planning applications and comment as necessary.
2. Using the proposed newsletter, encourage residents to maintain gardens and frontages in sympathy with the existing street scene.
3. Hold a most attractive frontage/front garden competition.
4. Enhance village greens with more seating, planting of bulbs, flowers, trees etc.
5. Consider the re-modelling of Angel Green to enlarge it and make it safer from traffic (see also action sheet 12).
6. Lobby Chelmsford Borough Council to increase the conservation area around Broomfield Hall to incorporate Night Pasture (including new seating/picnic area around pond).
7. Establish village gateway treatment at key entry points.
8. Carry out an audit of amenities (both shops and recreational/cultural) and publish this in the proposed village newsletter.

See page (iv) for full details

Action points - heritage

Summary: to produce heritage trails around the village.

1. Produce a number of leaflets with historical trails and related commentary.
2. Erect notice boards at start of each trail and in other suitable places.
3. Investigate setting up a permanent exhibition about the Broomfield Anglo-Saxon grave and Roman villa.

See page (v) for full details

C. The environment - around the village

Current position

We are fortunate that the main settlement area of Broomfield is virtually surrounded by open countryside. This contains arable fields, meadows, hedges, woods, river and lake. It also forms a barrier between Broomfield and other settlements and helps to define the community geographically.

Feedback from the community

98% of those who responded said that it is important or very important that Broomfield is surrounded by countryside.

The following aspects were rated very important/important:

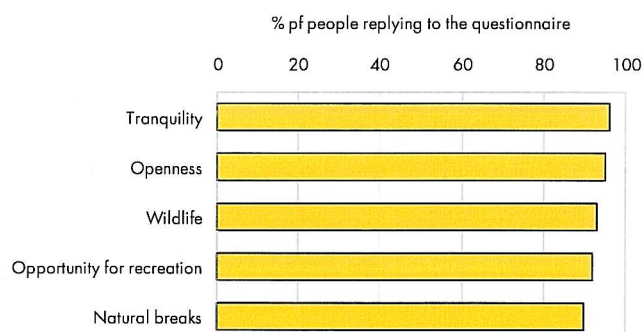
Tranquility 96%; openness 95%; wildlife 93%; opportunity for recreation, for example walking or jogging 92%; natural break between Broomfield and other settlements 90%.

Footpaths are used often by 41% of responders and sometimes by 37%.



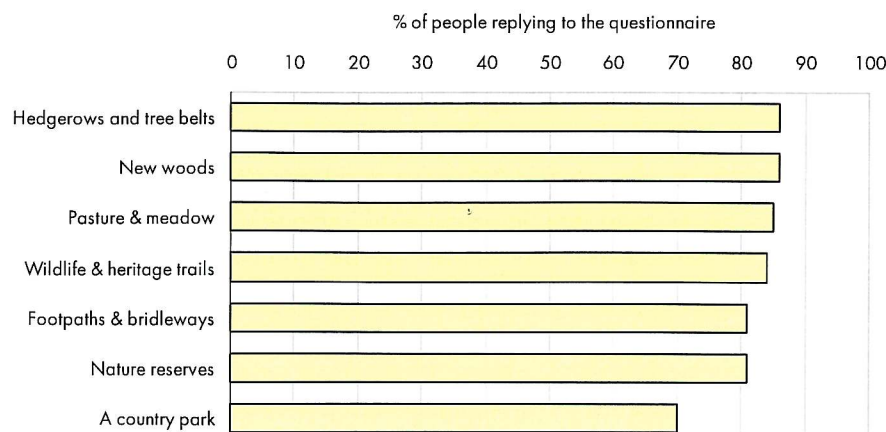
Broomfield's rural surroundings

Aspects of the environment rated as important



If less land is required for agriculture in future years, the following features showed over 50% strongly support/support:

What should replace land no longer needed for agriculture?



more hedgerows and tree belts 86%; new woods 86%; more pasture and meadow 85%; more footpaths and bridleways 81%; wildlife and heritage trails 84%; more nature reserves 81%; a country park 70%.

And the following showed over 50% object/strongly object: more housing 82%; an industrial estate 92%.

Additional suggestions included enhancing the riverside with a footpath/cycle path and possibly some water sports use.

Issues

The surrounding countryside is clearly a vital aspect of what makes Broomfield attractive to its community.

Regarding the likelihood that less land will be required for agriculture in the future as EU policies change, the impact is difficult to assess at the moment, but there is clear support for other uses that will preserve and enhance the rural character of the Parish.

Please also see the chapter on housing and development (page 19).



Action Points - footpaths

Summary: to set up volunteer network for countryside/footpath improvement, identify which need work and provide tools and other support for the network.

1. Recruit co-ordinator and members of the network.
2. Discuss whether Broomfield Parish Council should seek responsibility for footpaths from Essex County Council when it becomes responsible in April 2005.
3. Identify which footpaths and areas of countryside would benefit from improvement.
4. Provide tools, materials and instruction for volunteer network.
5. Maintain an up-to-date map of footpaths and the 'Country Style' booklet.

Please see page (v) for full details.

Action Points - changes in agriculture

Summary: to investigate likely changes in agriculture and how residents' suggestions for alternative uses can be taken forward.

1. To lobby for any appropriate planning permissions to include provision for land use supported by residents in the questionnaire (q. 27).
2. To set up a group to consider long-term effects of changes in agriculture and how these could be used to enhance the environment.
3. To hold discussions to this effect with the Essex Wildlife Trust, the Essex Agricultural Society and similar organizations and with relevant landowners.

Please see page (v) for full details.

D. Traffic and transport

Current position

The level of traffic is the most unpopular aspect of village life, with 82% of those who responded saying they disliked it or disliked it a lot.

58% thought that the level of traffic going through Broomfield is too heavy most of the time and a further 36% thought it was too heavy at peak times, though satisfactory most of the time.

Looking to the future, 91% were concerned or very concerned that the expansion of Broomfield Hospital and other developments in the area may increase traffic levels.

This section of the report looks at 4 aspects of this problem and what might be done to improve it:

- alternatives to car use
- smaller-scale measures that could be taken to improve the position inside the settlement area
- parking improvements
- improvements to the A130 and a possible new road to the hospital

As it is such a community concern, the plan proposes a package of measures, ranging at one end from monitoring the condition of pavements to pressing for a relief road to the hospital at the other.



D1. Alternatives to car use

Current position

Broomfield is well-served by buses, mainly routes 42 (every 15 mins during the day), 47 and 352. However, the fare for an adult without concession is about £2 - more expensive than parking for a short/medium time in Chelmsford.

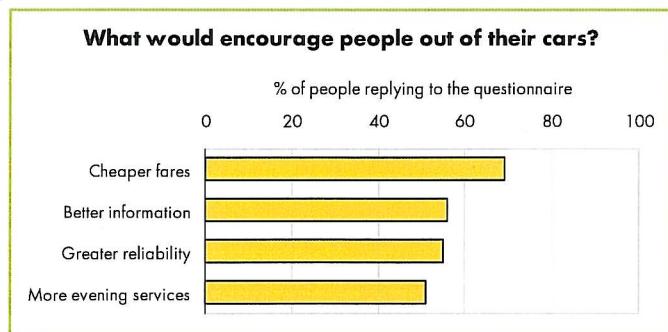
Responses to the questionnaire showed us that the most common methods of transport around Broomfield were walking 82% and car 78%. The most common methods of transport to surrounding villages and Chelmsford were car 87% and bus 42%.

Feedback from the community

Asked in the questionnaire what would encourage people to use alternatives to the car, the responses were as follows:

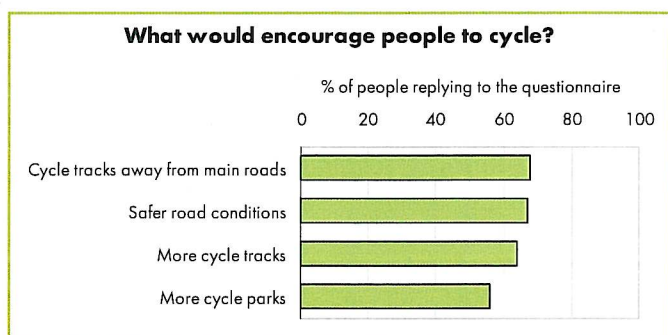
For buses, the ideas that would encourage people the most were (% would help/would help a lot):

cheaper fares 69%; better information about times and routes 56%; greater reliability of service 55%; more evening services 51%;



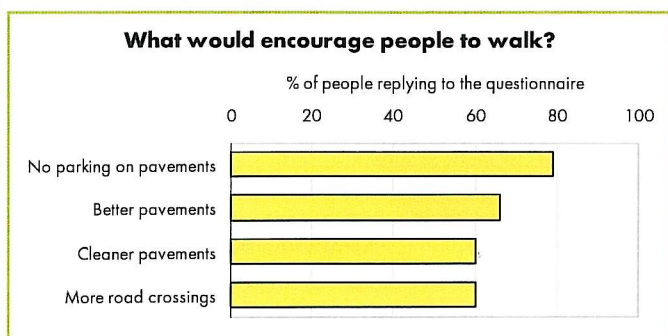
For cycling, the ideas that would encourage people the most were:

more cycle tracks away from main roads 68%; safer road conditions 67%; more cycle tracks 64%; more cycle parks near popular destinations 56%.



For walking, the ideas that would encourage people the most were:

no parking on pavements 79%; better pavements 66%; cleaner pavements 60%; more road crossings 60%.



Issues

The issues, for instance how cycle paths might be funded, are outlined in the full action sheet.

Action points

Summary: to encourage walking, cycling and buses as alternatives to car use.

1. Create a cycle path from Goulton Road to Chelmer Valley High School and the hospital, with necessary access points.
2. Extend this path southwards to connect with the existing path that runs from Valley Bridge to Chelmsford, with necessary access points.
3. Extend the existing cycle path from Valley Bridge northwards to Mill Lane, with necessary access points.
4. Create new cycle paths to link Mill Lane with the hospital and with Little Waltham, with necessary access points.
5. Put forward the above cycle/footpath routes in our submission to the forthcoming Local Development Framework.
6. Form a group to monitor the condition of pavements, consider where widening is required and lobby for improvements/upgrading where required.
7. Extend the frequency and use of the 'walking bus' to Broomfield Primary School.
8. Provide information for patients about bus services to Broomfield Hospital.
9. Form a group to monitor the use of buses and take forward ideas suggested in the questionnaire through discussion with the bus company and other relevant bodies.

Please see page (vii) for full details.

D2. Local road improvements within the village

Current position

Traffic through the village is usually heavy during the rush hour and it can be difficult for residents to get out of minor roads onto Main Road.

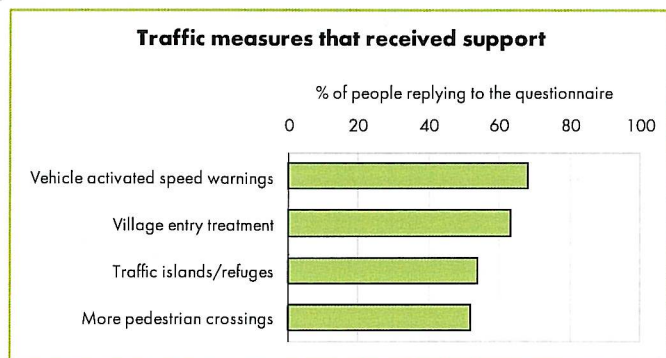
The lack of roundabouts on the B1008 through Broomfield compared to Essex Regiment Way is probably an attraction for through traffic to go through Broomfield.

There are local peaks at school drop-off and pick-up times around the Primary and Secondary Schools for limited periods each day during term time.

Feedback from the community

The following measures received support (% strongly support/support):

vehicle activated speed warning 68%; village entry treatment (gateway and road markings to indicate entry to village) 63%; traffic islands/pedestrian refuges 54%; more pedestrian lights/crossings 52%. 61% supported 20mph speed limits in small or residential roads.



In the questionnaire, School Lane was suggested as an area for speed reduction and other roads were suggested at the Open Day. A mini-roundabout was suggested for the junction of Main Road and School Lane.

There was more opposition than support for speed cameras, road humps, chicanes and speed cushions.

Issues

Improvements need to make it easier for local people to get in and out of minor roads onto Main Road. At the same time, they need to avoid easing traffic flow too much, or they could draw more traffic into the village and/or increase its speed.

D3. Parking

Current position

Apart from the hospital and Essex Ambulance Service HQ, the only car park in Broomfield is at the Community Centre and it is well-used for football club and community centre events.

Parking for local shops and other services is on-road, mostly on Main Road B1008. This creates problems for shoppers, shops and neighbouring properties, although it probably helps to slow traffic down.

There have been particular problems around Broomfield Hospital and Essex Ambulance Service HQ which have led to illegal or inconvenient parking in roads around the hospital, although new multi-level/multi-storey parking approved as part of the expansion programme will increase parking capacity to 2,659.

Action Points

Summary: to make a number of local road improvements inside the village settlement area

1. Improve the junction at School Lane/ Main Road either with a roundabout/ revised junction or alternatively to close School Lane to traffic at Parsonage Green.
2. Provide a mini-roundabout at the junction of Erick Avenue/ Main Road.
3. Review the position of bus stops, particularly in the village centre around the Angel (in conjunction with point 1 above).
4. Close Court Road at its junction with Hospital Approach.
5. Provide vehicle activated speed warnings in Main Road at both ends of the village.
6. Establish 20mph speed limits in School Lane, Hospital Approach, Court Road and Erick Avenue with road calming.
7. Establish more and better controlled pedestrian crossings in certain locations such as:

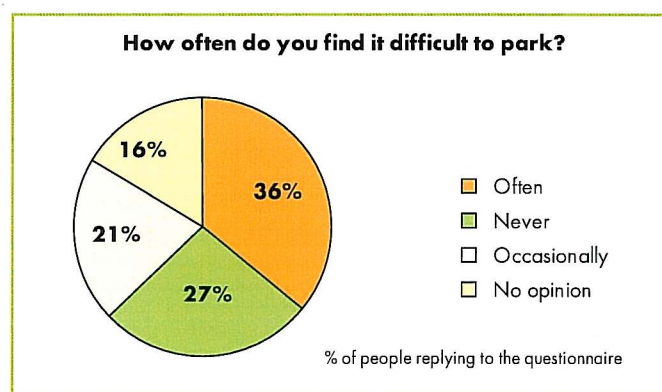
Main Road at the Angel (pelican to replace zebra crossing); Main Road at Days Garage (pelican to replace zebra crossing); Main Road between Butlers Close and Court Road (new crossing).

Please see page (viii) for full details.

Feedback from the community

When asked how often they find it difficult to park when using any facilities in Broomfield, the response was:

often 24%; sometimes 33%; occasionally 14%; never 18%.



Examples given of parking problems were: School Lane, Church Green, the hospital and outside the shops in Main Road.



When asked if any areas of Broomfield should have stricter parking restrictions, the response was:
yes 40%; no 23%; no opinion 37%.



Issues

The issues, for instance how parking areas might be funded, are outlined in the full action sheet.

Local parking issues are clearly different from hospital-related problems - these are being addressed through the expansion programme.

Action Points - hospital/ Essex Ambulance related parking

Summary: to ensure that hospital related traffic parking takes place within the site rather than in adjoining roads.

1. Collect data to predict parking needed for all staff, patients and visitors at both the hospital and Essex Ambulance Service headquarters.
2. Provide temporary parking during construction stage.
3. Extend parking restrictions in roads adjacent to the hospital.

Please see page (ix) for full details.

Action Points - general parking

Summary: to create parking lay-bys and small parking areas as indicated and better use of existing car parks.

1. Provide a car park in waste area adjacent to the churchyard for church services and events, visitors to the churchyard and ramblers.
2. Encourage primary school parents/ carers to park in Community Centre car park and walk rather than parking in School Lane/New Road.
3. Create parking lay-bys in front of or as close as possible to village shops, with waiting restrictions.

Please see page (ix) for full details.

D4. Improvements to the A130 and a possible hospital relief road

Current position

Broomfield Hospital is beginning an expansion programme which will see an increasing centralization of services that are currently located in Chelmsford, Braintree and Maldon.

The hospital serves the mid-Essex area, mainly located to the south, south-east, east and north of Broomfield.

Currently, staff and patient-related traffic from the south and east has to reach the hospital through Broomfield Road or Valley Bridge, then through Broomfield village or, if from the north, through Blasford Hill; in all cases, traffic approaches along Hospital Approach in to the hospital site.

There is a good, frequent bus service from Chelmsford to Broomfield Hospital and beyond, but there is a lack of cycle tracks (see section D1 on encouraging alternatives to the car).



Feedback from the community

There is support for more on-site parking (which has since been granted permission) and support for staff and visitors to be encouraged to use the proposed Park and Ride on the A130.

There was strong support for a relief road from Essex Regiment Way, some support for a road from the north, though not from the south-west (see below).

Most people (73%) thought that a road should be funded by local or central government rather than the hospital or through housing development.

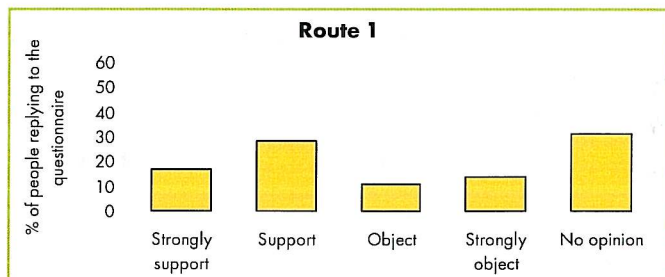
Please note that the routes shown are approximate and are designed to show the broad direction of a route, not the precise alignment of a road which (if it were built) would be a matter for the County Council as the highways authority.



Route 1

from the hospital, north to join the B1008 at Ash Tree Corner near Little Waltham:

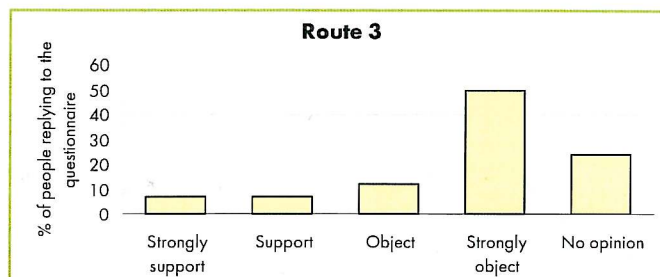
strongly support 17%; support 28%; object 11%; strongly object 14%; no opinion 31%



Route 3

from the hospital, south-east to join Main Road opposite Roselawn Farm:

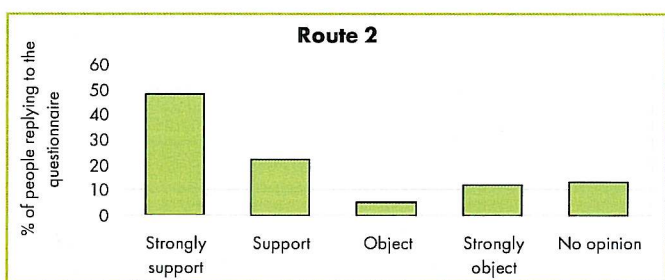
strongly support 7%; support 7%; object 12%; strongly object 50%; no opinion 24%



Route 2

from the hospital, eastwards to join the A130 Essex Regiment Way:

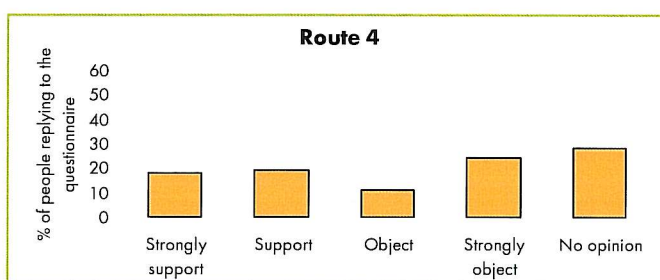
strongly support 48%; support 22%; object 5%; strongly object 12%; no opinion 13%



Route 4

from west of the hospital site, south-westerly to join the A1060 near Writtle College:

strongly support 18%; support 19%; object 11%; strongly object 24%; no opinion 28%

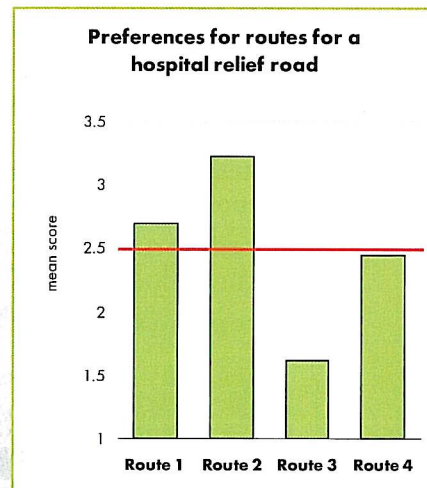
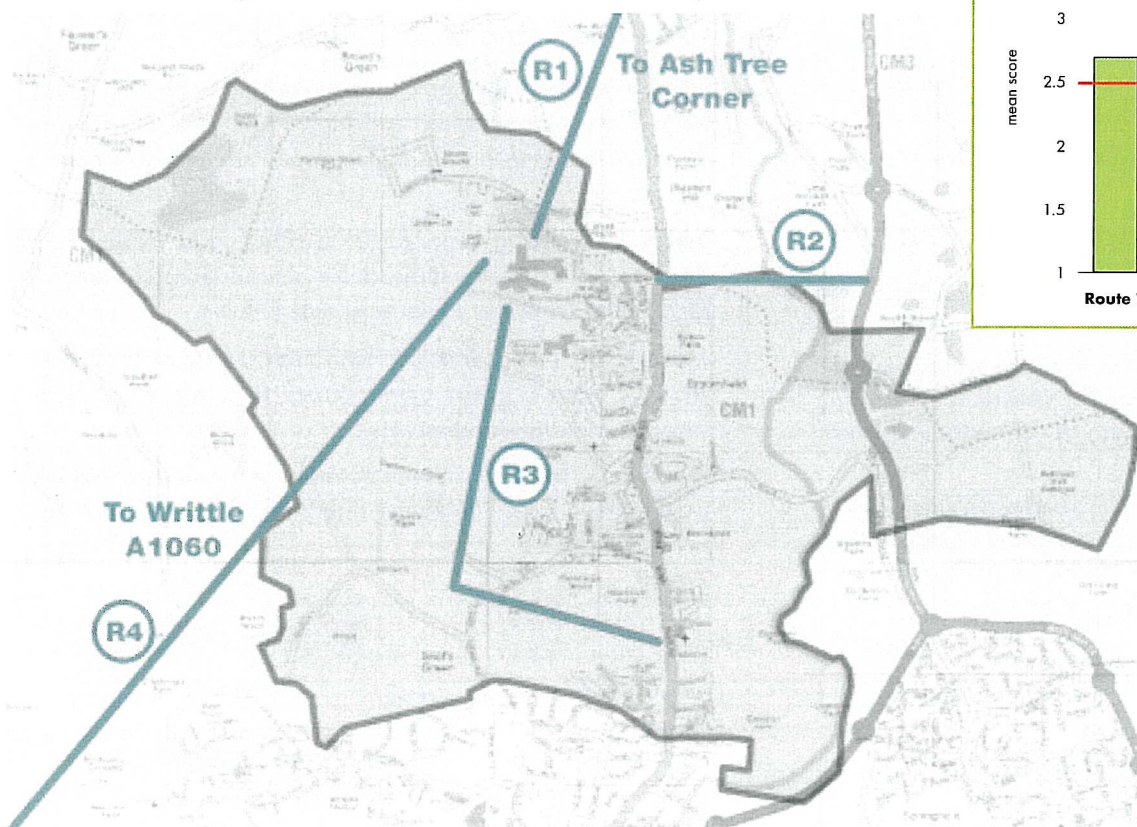


The mean scores, where strongly support = 4, support = 3,

object = 2, strongly object = 1, were:

Route 1, 2.69; Route 2, 3.22; Route 3, 1.61; Route 4, 2.44

2.5 is the dividing line between opposition and support.



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The Issues

Support for a relief road is not unconditional. The particular route is crucial as to whether the community will find it acceptable - the collective responses varied from object/strongly object (Route 3) to support/strongly support (Route 2). The location and extent of any associated housing would also be a consideration.

The prospect of a north-east Chelmsford by-pass from Boreham to Great Leighs, put forward by the County Council since the questionnaire was conducted, would support the preferred route by relieving pressure on Essex Regiment Way and might provide an opportunity for providing a link to the hospital.

Until a north-east Chelmsford by-pass is constructed, congestion is likely to continue on the existing A130 at peak times, making it difficult to predict traffic movements. This underlines the need to make Main Road unattractive to through traffic as well as improving traffic flow on the A130.

The main advantage of Route 1 (see above) is that it would relieve pressure on Hospital Approach, also enabling traffic flows into the hospital and hospice to be better controlled. Route 2 could also include these advantages if it were extended westwards across the B1008 into the hospital site slightly to the north of Hospital Approach (see map). The Parish Plan therefore supports this route i.e. from the A130 Essex Regiment Way westwards, crossing the B1008 and entering the hospital site in the north-east corner. It is felt that this would meet the aspirations of the 70% of responses supporting Route 2 and some if not most of the 45% supporting Route 1. The exact alignment of this road would of course be a matter for the County Council as the highways authority.



E. Housing and Development

Current position

Most of Broomfield's housing dates from the twentieth century. During this time, the parish has contracted as the urban area of Chelmsford has advanced northwards.

Along Broomfield Road/Main Road, only a field interrupts the apparent 'urban sprawl' from Chelmsford into Broomfield. Although this gap is barely apparent to the passing motorist, the physical separation is far more noticeable to residents, as they are more likely to use other roads such as School Lane, Mill Lane, Patching Hall Lane or Main Road/Blasford Hill, where the settlement areas are

Action Points

Summary: to press for a relief road from Essex Regiment Way to Broomfield Hospital, including a second access to the hospital site on its eastern edge; to monitor any potential problems associated with the construction of the expanded hospital.

1. Lobby members and/or officers at Essex County Council and Chelmsford Borough Council and hospital managers to take forward residents' desire (as shown in the questionnaire) for a relief road to the hospital from Essex Regiment Way.
 2. Lobby members and/or officers at Essex County Council and Chelmsford Borough Council for a second access road from the B1008 to the north-eastern edge of the hospital site, to relieve pressure on Hospital Approach.
 3. Make a submission to the forthcoming Local Development Framework consultation process to this effect.
 4. Lobby members and/or officers to reduce through-village traffic by: taking all available measures to improve traffic flow on the Chelmer Valley Road and Essex Regiment Way; signing all hospital traffic approaching from the south/south east along Essex Regiment Way; constructing a park and ride facility on the A130/A131 to the north or east of Broomfield.
 5. Seek and take account of advice from highways officers and hospital managers and any relevant traffic surveys, including Essex County Council traffic modelling, in progressing points 1, 2, 3 and 4 above.
 6. Respond to future consultations from relevant authorities to advance residents' views as shown in the questionnaire.
 7. Monitor potential traffic problems connected with the expansion of Broomfield Hospital and if necessary take up with the relevant authorities.
- Please see page (x) for full details.

more clearly separate and their integrity more apparent.

In the last 15 years, there has been some small/medium development on the edge of the settlement areas, for instance the extension to Vellacotts, Roselawn Fields and more recently the extension to Berwick Avenue. There has also been some intensification within the settlement, for instance, Little Orchards and the Square. However, despite the possibility of a large greenfield estate north of Newlands Spring in the early 1990s, the gap between Broomfield and Chelmsford has largely remained intact.

Broomfield Hospital is going through a major expansion programme, though this is all contained within the current site. A new Farleigh Hospice is being built on an adjacent site.

The current vision for the sustainable development of the parish was published by the Parish Council in May 2000, entitled 'Broomfield into the 21st Century: a future vision for survival'. This contained a number of proposals regarding cycle tracks, road improvements and suggestions for small housing developments. Although more wide-ranging, the current Parish Plan has come to broadly similar conclusions in all the areas where the two documents overlap. This is a great tribute to the foresight of the Parish Council and, in preparing the Parish Plan, the Steering Group would like to acknowledge the valuable foundations laid by 'Broomfield into the 21st Century'.



Feedback from the community

'Closeness to open countryside' was the most popular thing about living in Broomfield, with 98% of those who responded saying they liked/liked a lot this aspect of Broomfield.

'Living in a village' was also extremely popular, with 94% saying they liked/liked a lot this aspect of Broomfield.

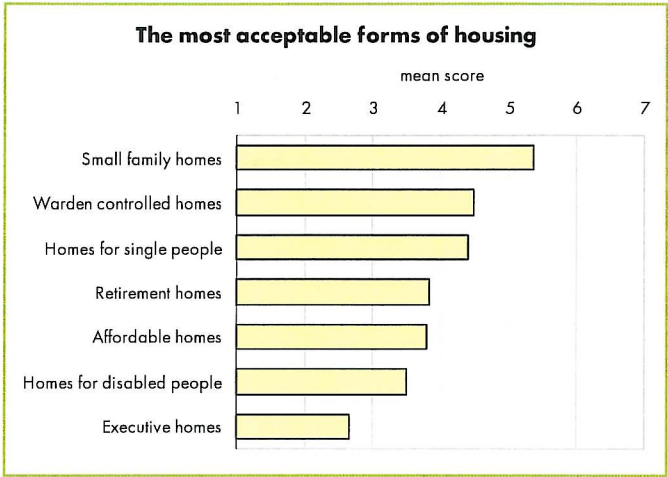
'Separate feeling and identity from Chelmsford' was also very popular, with 84% of responses saying they liked/liked a lot this aspect of Broomfield.

98% of those who responded thought it was important or very important that Broomfield is surrounded by countryside and 90% valued the countryside because it provided a natural break between Broomfield and other settlements.

There is some support for the view that Broomfield needs more housing, regardless of outside pressures, but only for certain types. There was support for warden controlled homes for elderly people, while homes for people with disabilities and small family homes attracted about as much support as opposition. The remaining types of housing, particularly executive homes, attracted more opposition than support.

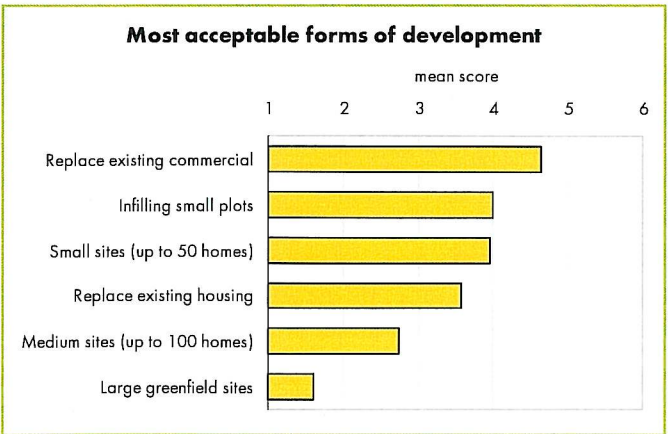
When presented with a growth in housing as inevitable (because of the need to meet borough/regional targets), the most acceptable forms of housing were as follows, in order of preference (mean score, where 7 = the most acceptable and 1 = the least acceptable):

Small family homes 5.37; warden controlled homes for elderly people 4.48; smaller homes for single people 4.39; retirement/nursing homes 3.84; affordable (i.e. rented/equity sharing) homes 3.79; homes for people with disabilities 3.49; executive (large family) homes 2.65.



Again, when asked about types of development and presented with a growth in housing as inevitable (because of the need to meet borough/regional targets), the most acceptable forms of development were as follows, in order of preference (mean score, where 6 = the most acceptable and 1 = the least acceptable):

convert/replace some existing commercial/industrial accommodation 4.63; infilling of small plots/large gardens within the current settlement 3.99; small sites (up to 50 dwellings) on the edge of the current settlement 3.95; replace some existing housing with better-designed higher-density housing 3.57; medium-sized sites (up to 100 dwellings) on the edge of the current settlement 2.74; large greenfield sites in the countryside 1.6.



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When asked what new facilities for the village should be achieved as a condition of planning permission if there is new development, suggestions achieving 10 or more mentions were (with number of mentions).

Medical: a doctor's surgery 66; a chemist 24.

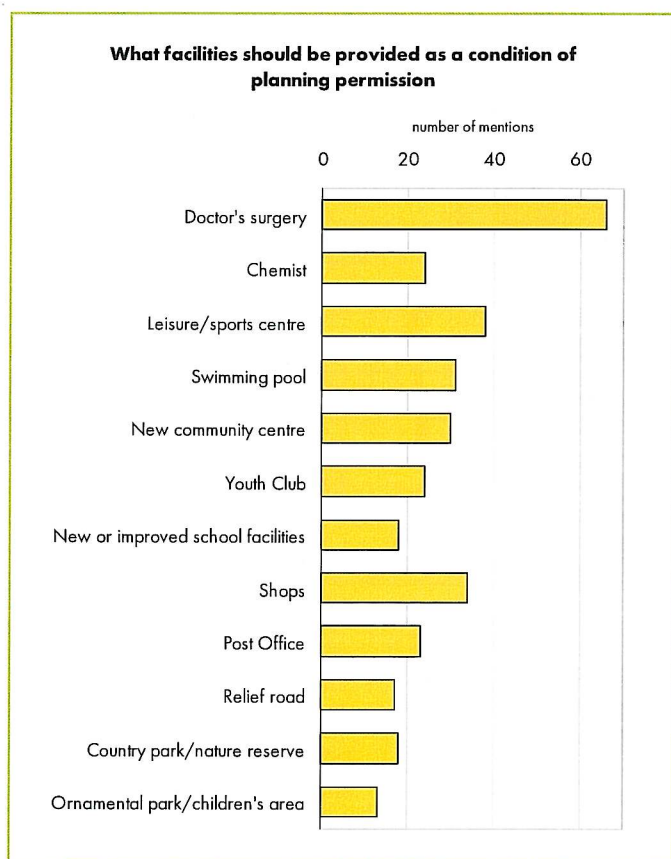
Leisure: leisure/sports centre 38; swimming pool 31; a new improved community centre 30; a youth club 24.

Education: new or improved school facilities (particularly primary) 18.

Retail (particularly in the north of the village): shops 34; Post Office 23.

Traffic: relief road 17.

Open space: country park/nature reserve 18; ornamental park/children's area 13.



On the question of how many houses people would accept in order to achieve a relief road to the hospital, the largest single group (48%) said none; 46% would accept up to 250 (including smaller percentages who would accept more than 250).

The Issues

Chelmsford has been allocated 14,000 new dwellings in the East of England Regional Assembly Plan that is currently under consultation.

Chelmsford Borough Council has just started to consult on its Local Development Framework for 2001 to 2021, which will replace the current Borough Plan. The Council's 'Core Strategy Pre-Submission Stakeholder and Consultee Consultation' indicates that 8,800 of the allocation of 14,000

can be accommodated within existing urban areas, are already built, or are already accounted for in existing permissions and plans. This leaves 5,200 dwellings to be provided for, either in villages or through greenfield release.

The 'Core Strategy Pre-Submission Stakeholder and Consultee Consultation' suggests that sites to the north and east of Chelmsford and the north of South Woodham Ferrers are the most likely areas for the remaining 5,200 dwellings to be built. It also suggests that 'major community facilities' such as Broomfield Hospital could be used as a focus for development. It is therefore clear that there will be great pressure on land in the parish for housing, other development and linked roads.

Some building is already planned or underway in Broomfield (since 2001). This includes infilling and the replacement of existing housing with higher density, for instance the Little Orchards development for over 55s and The Square. 350 small dwelling units for hospital staff and other key workers have already been granted permission within the Hospital site, as part of the expansion programme. They could be regarded as in-filling, although they do fall within an area which the community would like to protect from development.

Principles

1. The response from our consultation for a measured increase only in housing needs to be stated clearly to the Borough Council and the Government (via the Regional Assembly). However it is also important that the plan also includes an indication of the local community's view on all options or the parish could end up with the least acceptable option.

2. A distinct sense of identity and community for Broomfield can and should be strengthened in a number of ways, for instance better community facilities, more community events and better communication. Spatial planning (e.g. where houses and roads are built) can also play a key part by ensuring that the main settlement areas of Broomfield remain distinct from other settlements, particularly the urban area of Chelmsford where the greatest danger of coalescence lies. In other words, it is important that Broomfield is not swallowed up into 'Greater Chelmsford'. Any housing proposals should match the community's preferences in terms of location, type of housing and type of development.

3. Any development proposals should wherever possible include the types of 'planning gain' supported by the local community in Broomfield. Where developments are too small to contribute to planning gain by themselves, contributions could be 'pooled' to achieve a more significant gain.

4. The expansion of Broomfield Hospital will inevitably have an increasing impact on the parish, for instance traffic and the demand for housing. It could have some benefits for the local community, for instance, small shops within the site that local people could use. However it is important that as far as possible the development of services should be contained within the hospital site. There is no evidence of local support for the hospital to become a focus for other activities and facilities, such as industry.

Sites

As far as possible, new housing should be achieved within the current settlement areas by converting/replacing existing commercial/industrial accommodation, infilling of small plots/large gardens and replacing some existing poor-quality housing with better-designed, higher-density housing.

If this is insufficient to meet the demand for housing sites in the borough, small sites in areas I, C, E and possibly D should be considered next (in the order of preference as shown in the questionnaire), on the edge of the current settlement (where applicable). Such sites should not exceed 50 dwellings or 25 in the case of area D.

If this is still insufficient to meet the demand for housing sites in the borough, medium-sized sites in areas I, C and E should be considered next (in the order of preference as shown in the questionnaire). Such sites should not exceed 100 dwellings.

Any development in area I should secure or contribute to a second access road from the B1008 to the north-eastern corner of the hospital site in order to relieve congestion on Hospital Approach. If necessary, sufficient space should also be set aside within this area for any development (housing or other) required by or linked to the hospital, which cannot be accommodated within the current hospital site.

The scale of any development in area E should not be so large that it necessitates a north-western bypass (e.g. routes 3 or 4 on the map on page 18) as this would be likely over time to lead to an infilling of the whole area between Newlands Spring and Broomfield Hospital.

There is very little support for a large greenfield development in Broomfield. If the Borough Council's Local Development Framework allocated a greenfield site within the parish, the 'least undesirable' location would be area C because of its proximity to the current A130 and possibly a new A130 if the proposal for a north east Chelmsford bypass goes ahead. Such a large development should make a substantial financial contribution towards reducing traffic in Broomfield, for instance by securing a relief road from the A130 to the hospital.

This would also be the 'least undesirable' location for any hospital related development (housing or other) which cannot be accommodated within the hospital site or area I. In this case, a link road from the A130 to the hospital would be even more pressing. However, it is important to note that such a 'planning gain' would not in itself justify a large greenfield development.

Other areas of the parish should be protected from development, particularly those most valued by the local community and where they prevent the coalescence of Broomfield with other settlements.

Types of housing

Developments should contain a balance of housing types, making sure in particular that there are sufficient small family homes, homes for elderly people and smaller homes for single people.

Action Points

Summary: to feed in to the forthcoming Local Development Frameworks and other consultations to ensure that residents' views are expressed to the appropriate authorities and that, as far as possible, development affecting Broomfield is in line with residents' preferences.

1. Respond to the East of England Integrated Regional Strategy Consultation, putting forward any relevant points from the questionnaire and open day.
2. Make a comprehensive submission to the Local Development Framework process based on the points outlined above (drawn from the results of the questionnaire) concerning any future housing development in Broomfield.
3. Participate in ongoing consultation as part of the Local Development Framework process, to promote the points outlined above.

Please see page (xi) for full details.



F. The community

Current position

The community is represented formally by the Parish Council, as well as 3 Borough Councillors, 1 County Councillor, an MP (currently West Chelmsford) and 8 MEPs for the Eastern Region.

The Parish Council was established 110 years ago. Today it has responsibilities for the village greens - Parsonage, Angel and Church Green. It also maintains the Angel Meadow, David Smith Memorial Field, Centenary Wood, the play areas at the Community Centre and Church Avenue, as well as managing the allotments in Main Road. Recently it has employed a 'Litter Picker' to keep the village tidy.

The Parish Council has the responsibility to set the rates per household, with the monies being used to benefit the village. Currently it is engaged in raising funds to build a new Community Centre for the 21st century (see chapter on Leisure Activities above).

The Parish Council is also trustee for the Woollards Trust which was set up in the mid 1800's to offer financial support for the 'poor' of the village. Today this work is still going on and application is open to anyone who falls on hard times and lives in Broomfield.



The Parish Council meets every third Wednesday of the month, except in August, and Broomfield residents are invited to come to ask questions or to just listen to the proceedings.

In the 1980s, there used to be an annual publication with articles of local interest but this ceased, although there are more specific newsletters such as those for St Mary's Church and the Methodist Church.

There is a Church Summer Fayre in June and various events at Broomfield Primary School, including their Summer Fayre, Fireworks Extravaganza and Christmas Bazaar.

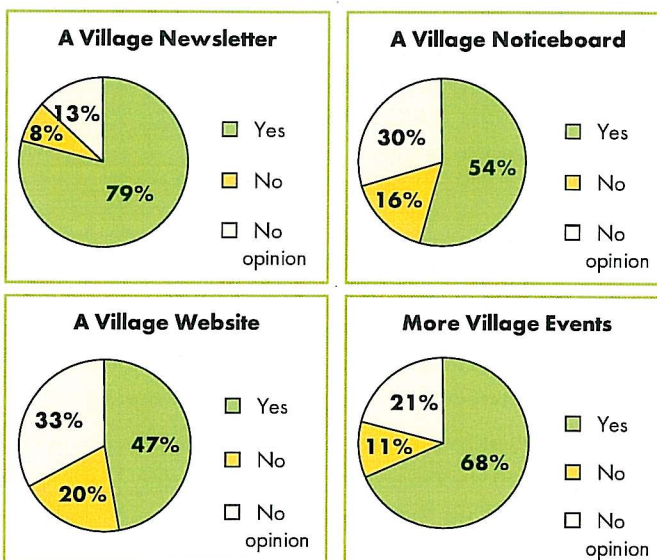
Feedback from the community

Local people have a generally positive view of their community. Most responses to the questionnaire agreed or strongly agreed that there is a good sense of community compared to other towns and villages. Friends and neighbours were cited as a feature that people liked by 90% of those who responded. 84% cited 'community spirit and neighbourliness' and 'a separate feeling and identity from Chelmsford' as aspects of Broomfield that they liked.

A number of general comments mentioned the need to keep Broomfield 'as a village' and preserve its sense of identity from Chelmsford.

In terms of developing and enhancing the sense of community, the following suggestions found support:

a village newsletter	yes 79%	no 8%
a village noticeboard	yes 54%	no 16%
a village website	yes 47%	no 20%
more village events	yes 68%	no 11%



Issues

There is clearly a desire to develop Broomfield's sense of community. Hopefully the Parish Plan and the activities it has included will provide a springboard for doing so.

Action points

Summary: to improve communication within the village and consider the scope for new events.

1. Create and maintain a village website.
2. Publish a newsletter, possibly linked to current Church magazine.
3. Consider the use of current Broomfield Parish Council noticeboards and where any new boards could usefully be sited.
4. Consider how new village events could be planned and maintained.

Please see page (xi) for full details.



Tables of responsibilities and targets

Abbreviations used in the action point section

BPC	Broomfield Parish Council
PPSG	Parish Plan Steering Group
CBC	Chelmsford Borough Council
NEAT	Neighbourhood Environmental Action Team
ECC	Essex County Council
MEHT	Mid Essex Hospitals NHS Trust
EAS	Essex Ambulance Service NHS Trust
EERA	East of England Regional Assembly

Relevant question number refers to the question number in the residents' questionnaire

No 1	Action Point: Need for a post office, doctor's surgery and chemist	Relevant question no: 6			
Summary of action: to include provision for these services in an expanded community centre building and to improve access to the closest facilities for elderly residents without transport in the meantime.					
Purpose: to increase access to these essential services, particularly for elderly residents and those without transport.					
Actions		Main responsibility?	Who else involved?	Timescale?	How funded?
1. Improve voluntary private transport support for elderly or ailing residents who find it difficult to get to facilities located outside the parish		Broomfield Community Care Group		By end of 2005 then ongoing	
2. Increase the numbers of residents willing to assist with the Care Group by increasing publicity		BPC/PPSG using the new village newsletter and website		By end of 2005	n/a
3. Investigate possibilities of a part-time post office being set up in the village		PPSG	BPC, possibly ECC Library Service or local shops	July 2005	Royal Mail
4. In developing proposals for a new community centre, explore possible links with a doctor's surgery, chemist and post-office; continue discussion/lobbying relevant authorities to participate		BPC	Chelmsford Primary Care Trust (PCT) Royal Mail	Contact relevant organizations by January 2005. Community centre project is long-term (2010-2015)	Through budget for new community centre (see action point 2)

No 2	Action Point: New Community Centre				Relevant Question Nos: 6, 10, 11	
Summary of action: to expand, upgrade or replace the existing Community Centre.						
Purpose: to enable a greater range of activities and services, thereby increasing quality of life in Broomfield and its sense of community.						
Action		Main responsibility?	Who else involved?	Timescale?	How funded?	
To build a new community centre that enables a greater range of activities, services and social facilities to be offered to the whole community		BPC		2010 - 2015	Various funding sources (e.g. lottery funding)	

No 3	Action Point: Improve youth facilities in Broomfield	Relevant Question Nos: 11, 16 and Children's/Young People's Questionnaire			
Summary of action: to provide a specific meeting point within the village and an opportunity for a wider range of facilities.					
Purpose: to provide/extend opportunities and facilities for young people.					
Actions					
		Main responsibility?	Who else involved?	Timescale?	How funded?
1. Consult with young people in developing plans for a new community centre and facilitate their requirements where possible	PPSG/BPC		Young people, schools	By end of 2005	n/a
2. In particular investigate opportunities for a youth 'drop in' centre within the community centre and improved sports facilities	BPC/PPSG		Young people, schools	By end of 2005	n/a
3. Collate details of all current youth clubs and activities and provide greater publicity via the website and village noticeboards	BPC/PPSG			By end of 2005	n/a

No 4	Action Point: Crime and anti-social behaviour, including the need to engage with the police and re-establish Neighbourhood Watch.	Relevant Question nos:12, 13, 14, 15, 16		
Summary of action: to establish better links with the police and to develop other preventative measures.				
Purpose: to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and associated fears.				
Actions				
1. Re-establish Neighbourhood Watch schemes	PPSG/BPC	Who else involved?	Timescale?	How funded?
		Police/Chelmsford Group of Neighbourhood Watches	July 2006	n/a
2. Establish regular meetings with Broomfield's Community Police Officer and consider how better liaison can be established between the Police and the local community	PPSG/BPC	Police	July 2005	n/a
3. Explore the possibility of employing a Community Support officer at key times	BPC	Police	April 2006	n/a (if an officer were employed, funding would need to come through the parish rate)
4. As more details become available about the national scheme, explore the possibility of BPC using new powers to make on-the-spot fines	BPC	Police	End of 2006	Assume this would be self-funding
5. Develop more activities and a meeting place for young people (see action point 3)				

No 5	Action Point: Re-cycling	Relevant Question No: 17			
Summary of action: to improve re-cycling facilities, especially for paper and plastics.					
Purpose: to make it easier for residents to re-cycle and thereby increase the amount of re-cycled material.					
Actions		Main responsibility?	Who else involved?	Timescale?	How funded?
1. Discuss with the Scouts ways of improving the waste paper collection and/or increasing the frequency of collection		PPSG and the Scouts	BPC	December 2005	n/a
2. Liaise with CBC re: plans for re-cycling plastics and lobby for this if necessary		PPSG and CBC	BPC	December 2005	n/a
3. Continue with new initiatives such as the village junk swap		BPC	CBC	Ongoing	n/a

No 6	Action Point: Environment inside the village	Relevant Question Nos: 18, 19, 20, 22			
Summary of action: to enhance and create new focal points and to maintain the environment within the village.					
Purpose: to improve awareness of and the quality of amenities and to promote a sense of community through the built environment.					
Actions	Main responsibility?	Who else involved?	Timescale?	How funded?	
1. Keep a watching brief on all planning applications and comment as necessary	BPC	CBC	Ongoing	n/a	
2. Using proposed newsletter, encourage residents to maintain gardens and frontages in sympathy with existing street scene	BPC via newsletter	CBC (via existing literature and guidance)	By end of 2006, then periodically	n/a	
3. Hold a most attractive frontage/front garden competition	PPSG/BPC using newsletter/website	Broomfield Cottage Gardeners Society	By end of 2006, then periodically	n/a	
4. Enhance village greens with more seating, planting of bulbs, flowers, trees etc	PPSG/BPC	NEAT	Dependent on funding	Fund through NEAT project	
5. Consider re-modeling of Angel Green to enlarge and make safer from traffic (also see Action Sheet 12)	PPSG/BPC	CBC	Summer 2005	n/a (re-modelling if agreed would be dependent on Borough Council funding)	
6. Lobby CBC to increase conservation area around Broomfield Hall to incorporate Night Pasture (including new seating/picnic area around pond)	PPSG/BPC	CBC/Landowner	Summer 2010	Dependent on securing CBC agreement	
7. Establish village gateway treatment at key entry points	PPSG/BPC	NEAT	Dependent on funding	Fund through NEAT project	
8. Carry out an audit of amenities (both shops and recreational/cultural) and publish this in the proposed village newsletter	PPSG/BPC		End of 2005, then updating periodically	n/a	

No 7	Action Point: Heritage Trails	Relevant Question No: 21			
Summary of Action: to produce heritage trails around the village.					
Purpose: to increase awareness of Broomfield's history, thereby increasing a sense of community and place.					
Actions					
1. Produce a number of leaflets with trails and related commentary		Main responsibility?	Who else involved?	Timescale?	How funded?
		Ken Searles	BPC	End of 2006	Self-funding – cost to be covered by sales
2. Erect notice boards at start of each trail and in other suitable places		BPC	Ken Searles	End of 2007	Private subscription
3. Investigate setting up a permanent exhibition about the Broomfield Anglo-Saxon grave and Roman villa		PPSG/BPC	Ken Searles Broomfield Library (ECC) Schools	End of 2008	n/a (investigation would need to include identification of funding)

No 8	Action Point: Footpaths	Relevant Question No: 25			
Summary of action: set up volunteer network for countryside/footpath improvement, identify which need work and provide tools and other support for the network.					
Purpose: to improve the state of Broomfield's footpaths to encourage greater use and to improve certain areas of countryside.					
Actions		Main responsibility?	Who else involved?	Timescale?	How funded?
1. Recruit co-ordinator and members of the network		PPSG using village newsletter, and/or leaflet drop	BPC	July 2005	Through newsletter funding (see action point 15)
2. Discuss whether BPC should seek responsibility for footpaths from ECC when ECC becomes responsible in April 2005		BPC	ECC	July 2005	n/a
3. Identify which footpaths and areas of countryside would benefit from improvement		BPC	Landowners/ Footpaths Society	July 2005 then ongoing	n/a
4. Provide tools, materials and instruction for volunteer network		BPC		September 2005	BPS funds
5. Maintain an up-to-date map of footpaths and the 'Country Style' booklet		BPC	Footpaths Society	End of 2005, then ongoing	Sales of maps and booklet

No 9	Action Point: Changes in agriculture	Relevant Question No: 27			
Summary of action: investigate likely changes in agriculture and how residents' suggestions for alternative uses can be taken forward.					
Purpose: to maintain and enhance the environment in rural areas of the Parish.					
Actions	Main responsibility?	Who else involved?	Timescale?	How funded?	
1. To lobby for any appropriate planning permissions to include provision for land use supported by residents in the questionnaire (q. 27)	BPC	CBC	Ongoing	By developers	
2. To set up a group to consider long-term effects of changes in agriculture and how these could be used to enhance the environment	BPC/PPSG		By end of 2006	n/a	
3. To hold discussions to this effect with the Essex Wildlife Trust, the Essex Agricultural Society and similar organizations and with relevant landowners.	BPC/PPSG	Essex Wildlife Trust, Essex Agricultural Society etc	By end of 2006 then ongoing as needed	n/a	

No: 10	Action Point: Encouraging alternatives to the car		Relevant Question Nos: 29, 30		
Summary of action: to create new foot and cycle paths to the East and West of the village.					
Purpose: to make healthier, safer ways for people to reach the schools and hospital and other parts of the village on foot, bicycle or with a buggy; to create more pleasant routes to the country footpaths for people to reach the countryside without taking their cars.					
Actions	Main responsibility?	Who else involved?	Timescale?	How funded?	
1. Create a cycle path from Goulton Road to Chelmer Valley High School and the Hospital, with necessary access points	PPSG/BPC	Landowners/CBC/ECC/ Sustrans/Broomfield Footpath Society/ MEHT	2010-2015	'Links to School' Programme/ Fund raising and voluntary contributions/ grants from local government	
2. Extend this path southwards to connect with the existing path that runs from Valley Bridge to Chelmsford, with necessary access points	PPSG/BPC	Landowners/CBC/ECC/ Sustrans/Broomfield Footpath Society/ MEHT	2010-2015	'Links to School' Programme/ Fund raising and voluntary contributions/ grants from local government	
3. Extend the existing cycle path from Valley Bridge northwards to Mill Lane, with necessary access points	PPSG/BPC	Landowners/CBC/ECC/ Sustrans/Broomfield Footpath Society/ MEHT	2010-2015	'Links to School' Programme/ Fund raising and voluntary contributions/ grants from local government	
4. Create new cycle paths to link Mill Lane with the hospital and with Little Waltham, with necessary access points	PPSG/BPC	Landowners/CBC/ECC/ Sustrans/Broomfield Footpath Society/ MEHT	2010-2015	'Links to School' Programme/ Fund raising and voluntary contributions/ grants from local government	
5. Put forward the above cycle/footpath routes in our submission to the forthcoming LDF	PPSG/BPC	ECC/CBC/MEHT	May 2005	'Links to School' Programme/ Fund raising and voluntary contributions/ grants from local government	
6. Form a group to monitor the condition of pavements, consider where widening is required and lobby for improvements/ upgrading where required	PPSG/BPC	CBC	Summer 2005 then ongoing	n/a (improvements/upgrades themselves would have to be funded through the normal CBC budgets)	
7. Extend the frequency and use of the 'walking bus' to Broomfield Primary School	Broomfield Primary School MEHT	ECC, parents and volunteers n/a	Summer 2005 then ongoing	n/a	
8. Provide information for patients about bus services to Broomfield Hospital			Summer 2005	MEHT	
9. Form a group to monitor the use of buses and take forward ideas suggested in the questionnaire through discussion with the bus company and other relevant bodies	PPSG/BPC	Bus company	Summer 2005 then ongoing	n/a	

No 11	Action Point: Traffic improvements within the village	Relevant Question Nos: 5, 34, 35, 36, 37			
Summary of action: to make a number of local road improvements inside the village settlement area.					
Purpose: to improve traffic flow and reduce speeding/improve safety in and around the village.					
Actions	Main responsibility?	Who else involved?	Timescale?	How funded?	
1. Improve the junction at School Lane/Main Road either with a roundabout/ revised junction or alternatively to close School Lane to traffic at Parsonage Green	ECC	BPC CBC	As soon as funding allows	ECC	
2. Provide a mini-roundabout at the junction of Erick Avenue/Main Road	ECC	BPC CBC	As soon as funding allows	ECC	
3. Close Court Road at its junction with Hospital Approach	ECC	BPC CBC	As soon as funding allows	ECC	
4. Review the position of bus stops, particularly in the village centre around the Angel (in conjunction with point 1 above)	ECC	BPC CBC	As soon as funding allows	ECC	
5. Provide vehicle activated speed warnings in Main Road at both ends of the village	ECC	BPC CBC	As soon as funding allows	ECC	
6. Establish 20mph speed limits in School Lane, Hospital Approach, Court Road and Erick Avenue with road calming	ECC	BPC, CBC Police	As soon as funding allows	ECC	
7. Establish more and better controlled pedestrian crossings in certain locations such as: Main Road at the Angel (pelican to replace zebra crossing) Main Road at Days Garage (pelican to replace zebra crossing) Main Road between Butlers Close and Court Road (new crossing)	ECC	BPC CBC	As soon as funding allows	ECC	

No 12a	Action Point: Parking (hospital)	Relevant Question Nos: 32, 33			
Summary of action: to ensure that Hospital related traffic parking takes place within the site rather than in adjoining roads.					
Purpose: to encourage responsible awareness of the scale of parking needed and ensure that parking within the hospital site is sufficient, thereby reducing hospital-related parking within the village.					
Actions	Main responsibility?	Who else involved?	Timescale?	How funded?	
1. Collect data and explore all possible ways to reduce hospital and ambulance related parking in residential roads	MEHT/EAS PPSG/BPC	n/a	By end of 2005	n/a	
2. Provide temporary parking during construction stage	MEHT	n/a	Ongoing during construction	MEHT funding for hospital expansion	
3. Extend parking restrictions in roads adjacent to the hospital	CBC	BPC	By end of 2005	ECC budget	

No 12b	Action Point: Parking (general)			Relevant Question Nos: 32,33	
Summary of action: create parking lay-bys and small parking areas as indicated and better use of existing car parks.					
Purpose: to improve access to services, reduce inappropriate parking and related annoyance and improve road safety.					
Actions	Main responsibility?	Who else involved?	Timescale?	How funded?	
1. Provide a car park in waste area adjacent to the churchyard for church services and events, visitors to the churchyard and ramblers	BPC/PCC	Landowner	By end of 2005	BPC through parish rate	
2. Encourage primary school parents/carers to park in Community Centre car park and walk rather than parking in School Lane/New Road	Broomfield Primary School	BPC	By end of 2005 then ongoing	n/a	
3. Create parking lay-bys in front of or as close as possible to village shops, with waiting restrictions.	CBC/ECC highways	BPC and shop owners	By end of 2006 if possible or as soon as budgets allow	Budget for minor highways improvements, with possible contributions from shops	

No 13	Action Point: Hospital expansion and the need for a relief road from Broomfield Hospital to Essex Regiment Way	Relevant Question Nos: 5, 28, 36, 38, 39		
Summary of action: to press for a relief road from Essex Regiment Way to Broomfield Hospital, including a second access to the hospital site on its eastern edge; to monitor any potential problems associated with the construction of the expanded hospital.				
Purpose: to alleviate traffic and parking problems associated with the flow of hospital traffic through Main Road and Hospital Approach				
Actions	Main responsibility?	Who else involved?	Timescale?	How funded?
1. Lobby members and/or officers at ECC and CBC and MEHT managers to take forward residents' desire (as shown in the questionnaire) for a relief road to the hospital from Essex Regiment Way	PPSG/BPC	ECC/CBC/MEHT	May 2005, then ongoing	n/a
2. Lobby members and/or officers at ECC and CBC for a second access road from the B1008 to the north-eastern edge of the hospital site, to relieve pressure on Hospital Approach	PPSG/BPC	ECC/CBC/MEHT	May 2005, then ongoing	n/a
3. Make a submission to the forthcoming LDF consultation process to this effect	PPSG/BPC	ECC/CBC/MEHT	May 2005	n/a
4. Lobby members and/or officers to reduce through-village traffic by: - taking all available measures to improve traffic flow on the Chelmer Valley Road and Essex Regiment Way - signing all hospital traffic approaching from the South/South East along Essex Regiment Way - constructing a park and ride facility on the A130/131 to the north or east of Broomfield	PPSG/BPC	ECC/CBC	By end of 2005, then ongoing	n/a
5. Seek and take account of advice from highways officers and MEHT managers and any relevant traffic surveys including ECC traffic modelling in progressing points 1, 2, 3 and 4 above	PPSG/BPC	ECC/MEHT	Ongoing	n/a
6. Respond to future consultations from relevant authorities to advance residents' views as shown in the questionnaire	BPC	ECC/CBC/MEHT/central government	Ongoing	n/a
7. Monitor potential traffic problems connected with the expansion of Broomfield Hospital and if necessary take up with the relevant authorities	BPC	ECC/CBC/MEHT	Ongoing	n/a

No 14	Action Point: Housing	Relevant Question Nos: 5, 27, 28, 30, 39, 42, 43, 44, 45			
Summary of Action: to feed in to the forthcoming LDDs and other consultations to ensure that residents' views are expressed to the appropriate authorities and that, as far as possible, development affecting Broomfield is in line with residents' preferences.					
Purpose: to ensure that new housing anticipated as part of the Borough LDDs is as acceptable as possible to residents, based on their views expressed in the Parish Plan questionnaire and Open Day.					
Actions		Main responsibility?	Who else involved?	Timescale?	How funded?
1. Respond to the East of England Integrated Regional Strategy Consultation, putting forward any relevant points from the questionnaire and open day		PPSG/BPC	EERA	By 16 th March 2005	n/a
2. Make a comprehensive submission to the LDF process based on the principles outlined in the Plan re: any future housing development in Broomfield		PPSG/BPC	CBC	May 2005	n/a
3. Participate in ongoing consultation as part of the LDF process, to promote the points outlined in the Plan		BPC	CBC	2005 - 2007	n/a

No 15	Action Point: New village events and communications	Relevant Question Nos: 46, 47		
Summary of action: to improve communication within the village and consider the scope for new events.				
Purpose: To enhance the existing sense of community				
Actions	Main responsibility?	Who else involved?	Timescale?	How funded?
1. Create and maintain a village website	PPSG/BPC	n/a	Summer 2005	BPC funds (for small cost of license)
2. Publish a newsletter (possibly linked to current church magazines)	PPSG/BPC	The churches	End of 2005	Through advertising and sale
3. Consider the use of current BPC noticeboards and where any new boards could usefully be sited	BPC	PPSG	End of 2005	n/a
4. Consider how new village events could be planned and maintained	PPSG	BPC	End of 2005	n/a

Members of the steering committee

Peter Ball
Bernard Ballard
John Blake (Chairman)
Heather Bray
Helen Brazier
Sue Browning (Vice-Chairman)
Geof Garwood
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Some of the members of the steering committee at work

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