

Kensworth Parish Plan 2006

Kensworth Parish Council aims to work towards achieving changes that are beneficial to the village while at the same time maintaining its character.

This Parish Plan was commissioned by the Council to gather the thoughts of the villagers who live here on their major concerns and suggestions they may have for resolving them. From the answers, a number of actions have been identified and are included in this Parish Plan. These actions will form part of the Council's objectives for the next few years.

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1 About Kensworth

Kensworth is a South Bedfordshire village situated about 3 miles south - east of Dunstable. It currently has around 600 houses and about 1500 residents.

Kensworth does not have a central “village green” like many villages but is more of a “ribbon development”. It does however have a wealth of attractive houses, not always easily seen from the main road, and is located in an area designated as “Green Belt” and “An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty”. Although in a rural setting Kensworth is close to major road, rail and air links.

We also have two of Bedfordshire’s best tourist attractions on our doorstep, Dunstable Downs and Whipsnade Wild Animal Park.

The area around Kensworth has been inhabited for many years. Further information about Kensworth’s history can be found on the village website, www.kensworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

The local issues of Kensworth are managed by the Parish Council consisting of 9 Parish Councillors (see village noticeboards or the website above for details) . In addition it is represented at higher levels by 2 South Beds District Councillors (currently Cllrs Mrs Marion Mustoe and one vacancy), one County Councillor (Cllr Richard Stay) and our Member of Parliament Mr Andrew Selous MP.

2 General Comments

From the survey responses, a number of actions are suggested.

Some of these suggestions relate to making changes quite quickly. Others will require more detailed investigations before deciding what changes, if any, can be achieved. A good example of this relates to the possible future use of the Clayhall Road field site. Clearly, considerably more information and consultation on the possible alternatives is required before any decision can be made.

For several reasons not all the changes/actions can be made in the short term:

- The Parish Council itself does not have the resources itself to carry out all the work required in a short period.
- There will be budgetary issues for some changes that may result in a work plan spread over several years.
- The Parish Council does not have the authority to carry out some of the changes directly and must negotiate with other bodies that will have other commitments and ideas about how their money should be spent.

Parish Councils operate on a 4 year election cycle. The next election will be in April 2007 and the Council elected at that time will serve until April 2011. The recommendation is therefore that the work contained in the Parish Plan, plus subsequent additions, be considered a “5 Year Plan”, the aim being to complete the work by April 30th 2011.

As with any plan, this one is flexible and can be added to, or actions removed, in the light of developments.

It is recommended that the Parish Council keep villagers updated on progress, and any changes to the plan, at regular intervals, perhaps for example by publishing a “Council Newsletter” at regular intervals.

3 Obtaining Your Views

The Parish Plan Group was set up by the Parish Council to produce a Parish Plan.

To do this the Group had to find out what people living in Kensworth thought about a range of potential issues in the village. For the comments to be worthwhile and representative we needed a good response from the villagers.

After a lot of discussion about ways of achieving this, for example, door-to-door canvassing, public meetings, survey forms, the Group decided that a written survey was likely to produce the best result.

There were several reasons for this:

- Every house could be covered in a short space of time
- Hand delivery and collection of a survey would probably result in a better response
- With our small number of helpers this was more effective in terms of the time available against work involved.
- Everyone would see exactly the same questions and it would be easier to analyse the answers afterwards

There could still be the opportunity for public meetings to discuss possible changes or contentious issues later on.

In the event, around 1200 survey forms were delivered around the Parish, about half of them were completed and returned. A higher response rate would have been better, but we had more than enough for the results to be seen as valid and form a basis for subsequent action.

4 Clayhall Road Field

4.1 Background

The Clayhall Road field is an 8 acre field situated behind the allotments and bordered by Clayhall Road. The land slopes to the south (this may preclude certain uses, unless major earthworks were undertaken). It is owned by the Parish Council and is currently unused rough pasture. The Parish Council has decided to seek suggestions for uses beneficial to the village. This makes this subject a little different to the others in that we are seeking suggestions/comment on a potential choice rather than on something that already exists. A consequence of this is that no decision on what to do with the field can be made directly from the survey. Before that decision can be made there will need to be investigations into the feasibility/practicality of the most popular suggestions arising from the survey. Once those investigations are sufficiently advanced further information will be put to villagers before any choice is made.

4.2 Survey Results

The questionnaire suggested 7 possible uses and asked for any other ideas. Respondents could choose more than one option.

1. **Move football from recreation ground – 78 responses (16.7%)**

Pros: The recreation ground would be released for other activities. It is probable that grants would be obtained from organisations like “Sport England” to help with this.

Cons: The field is on a slope which may not be suitable for a football pitch. There is no car park or changing rooms or equipment storage space which would probably have to be provided.

2. **Include cricket pitch – 178 responses (38.2%)**

Pros: Kensworth cricket team has no home ground at present. It may encourage more participation in the sport either as players or spectators. It is probable that grants would be obtained from organisations like “Sport England” to help with this.

Cons: The field is on a slope which may not be suitable for a cricket pitch. There is no car park or changing rooms or equipment storage space which would probably have to be provided. It is expensive to establish and maintain although many cricket teams look after their own square.

3. **Skateboard park – 101 responses (21.7%)**

Pros: It would provide facilities for children/teenagers in the village. The police community liaison officer is in favour of skateparks because they have been shown to reduce the incidence of juvenile crime. There are many grants available for the construction of them and, once they are built, they are virtually vandal-proof, low maintenance and do not require supervision. Special noise reduction surfaces are available if noise is considered to be a problem. It could be placed in just one part of the field – it would not take up all the space.

Cons: Noise could be an issue for nearby residents. Allotment owners may fear that damage would be caused to their allotments by park users. It is a bit “out of the way” in terms of any supervision (casual or formal)

4. Community woodland – 191 responses (41.1%)
Wild flower meadow – 199 responses (42.7%)

(These have been combined as they are similar and could exist together. There were 18 other individual suggestions relating to similar uses.)

Pros: Environmentally sound. Encourages wildlife. Pleasant place to walk with children/families for picnics, etc. It could be just part of the field – it wouldn't have to take up all the space.

Cons: There is already lots of woodland/flower meadows in the area surrounding the village. It would probably require a team of volunteers to maintain it – volunteers are notoriously difficult to find – or incur cost if maintenance has to be paid for.

5. Wind farm – 46 responses (9.9%)

Pros: Possibility for local (free?) power. Environmentally sound. It could exist alongside other uses. It is understood that local planners are likely to look favourably on such schemes.

Cons: Some people object to the look of them and the noise they make, although the latter appears to be more a perceived problem than an actual one.

6. Low cost homes - 70 responses (15.1%)

Pros: Low cost housing needed to provide young people in the village with housing they can afford if they want to stay in the village. Revenue from the sale of the land could fund other projects. It may be possible to buy alternative land with the proceeds and still have money left over to fund a project.

Cons: Lose green space. Probably impossible to restrict subsequent sales to village residents.

7. “Something else” – 87 responses (18.7%)

There were 42 other suggestions, of which 20 related to the 7 stated possible uses. Other suggestions most often cited were:

Tennis courts – 10
Social club – 10
Bowls green – 7
Young people's facility – 10

These answers suggest that a sports complex including cricket, football, bowls and tennis could well be a popular and successful development. This would be a major development with considerable implications but this should not preclude some initial investigation into such a development.

8. Additional point - Possibility of selling land – 3 responses
Housing – 5 responses

If it were possible to buy another piece of land more suitably located with easier access, it could be advantageous to sell the Clayhall Road field and use the money to buy alternative land and hopefully have some capital left over to fund projects.

4.2 Clayhall Road field – Action plan

Move football from recreation ground

- As a first step ask football club:
 - What would be the advantages/disadvantages to them of moving the pitch.
 - To look at the feasibility of putting one or two football pitches (one junior) and supporting facilities into that area.
 - Talk with cricket club – consider possibility of joint use of facilities.
- Parish Council to consider advantages/implications to the village of moving the football pitch.
- Subsequent actions will depend on the responses to the above.

Include cricket pitch

- Ask cricket club:
 - if they think it is feasible to put a pitch and supporting facilities either in that location or on the existing recreation ground.
 - Investigate cost of set up and maintenance and funding sources.
 - Talk to football club – consider joint use of facilities.
- Parish Council to consider advantages/implications to the village of providing a cricket pitch
- Subsequent actions depend on responses to the above.

Skateboard park

- Parish Council to investigate:
 - Best location
 - Potential cost of set up and maintenance
 - Funding sources
 - Noise reduction surfaces
 - Safety/security implications
 - Carry out survey among young people of the village, to see if they really want one.
- (A petition was put out in summer 2004 asking for signatures of people who supported the idea of having a skatepark in the village – it is still available if required)

Community woodland – 191 responses (41.1%)

Wild flower meadow – 199 responses (42.7%)

- Carry out some initial investigations into cost and potential funding sources.

Wind farm

- Parish Council to investigate:
 - Suitability of site to support a turbine
 - Approximate size of turbine required to supply parish with electricity
 - Planning regulations and likelihood of permission being granted.
 - Noise levels of recommended size turbine
 - Approximate costs and potential sources of funding.

Low cost homes

- Parish Council to carry out preliminary enquires into:
 - Likelihood of receiving planning permission to build houses in this area
 - The value of the land should planning permission be available
- If these enquiries suggest this is a possibility many other issues will arise:
 - How it might be possible to control who lives there
 - Should the PC retain ownership of the land/houses
 - How would the work be funded
 - Should the land be sold
 - What are the implications for the village

Possibility of selling land – 3 responses Housing – 5 responses

One option is just to sell the land and use the money for another project which may be one raised in this plan or something as yet unidentified. For example, could the sale of this land enable the Council to buy a more suitable piece of land for a sports field to include both cricket, football and other sports?

- Parish Council to:
 - Investigate value of land with or without planning permission
 - Identify what projects might benefit from any money raised in this way

5 Traffic

5.1 Background

The major road through Kensworth is the B4540 which in recent years has been carrying a heavier burden of traffic. This road joins the A5 trunk road at the South Western edge of the Parish approximately 4.5 miles west of Junction 9 of the M1 motorway.

Traffic leaving the A5 can travel through Kensworth and then by a roundabout route through other villages re-join the A5 or take the A505 towards Leighton Buzzard. The route is used in reverse of course.

This route is seen by many drivers as preferable to trying to negotiate the problems of driving through Dunstable. As some of our residents have said, Kensworth has become the Dunstable by pass by default.

The situation is made worse by the increase in the number, size and gross vehicle weight of Heavy Goods Vehicles using the road through the village. It is not seen as appropriate for huge vehicles of this type to use a B road through a small village as a through route.

A traffic survey for Beds CC in February 2004 revealed that at peak times (8am – 9am and 4pm – 6pm) an average of over 9 vehicles per minute were passing through Kensworth.

Through Kensworth village the B 4540 is a straight road and speeding is a major problem. There is only one speed camera in the village. This slows traffic in its vicinity but much of the village is unprotected in this way. Coupled with the volume of traffic it makes crossing the road difficult at most times, but especially when children are travelling to and from school.

Many of the minor roads in the Parish have no speed limit other than the national 60mph limit and there is little effective traffic calming in Kensworth, although some has been attempted.

5.2 Survey Results

Traffic Volume

- Over half our respondents thought that traffic volume was a serious problem in Kensworth.
- Additionally, there were numerous “freeform” comments relating to traffic issues like speeding, traffic calming and so on.

Heavy Goods Vehicles

- 21% (58 out of 279) of those who offered suggestions for improving Kensworth’s environment indicated that there should be a weight limit on vehicles passing through Kensworth.

Traffic Calming.

- To the question “Is speeding traffic a problem in Kensworth?”

- 392 out of the 540 who answered said “Yes” (72.6%).
- 369 respondents said they would like to see measures to further reduce the speed of traffic passing through Kensworth (69.9%)
- Speeding traffic in the lanes around the village was also considered a problem as they are mostly subject only to the national speed limit.

Danger Spots

- When asked about potential danger spots in the village a diversity of locations were mentioned. Those area cropping up most often were:
 - Near the school and the shops due to parked cars/speeding traffic (169 references)
 - Road junctions at:
 - A5/B4540, often related to lack of verge cutting. (21)
 - Ridgeway/B4540 (12)
 - Spratts Lane/ClayhallRd/B4540 crossroads (11)
 - B4540/Upper Common Road junction (35)
 - Bakers Lane. Not many people use this but it is a regular problem for them due to parked vehicles near shop.
 - The Lanes around the village, Hollicks, Isle of Wight, Dovehouse, Spratts, Clayhall Rd. Apart from the general speeding issue lack of verge maintenance and subsequent poor visibility is mentioned.

5.3 Action Points

- The Parish Council has no direct decision making powers on issues involving control of traffic. Items such as re-locating speed limit signs, introducing new limits, traffic calming measures, HGV weight limits and so on can only be decided at County Council level.
- To deal with the concerns in the survey expressed by residents, the Parish Council will:
 - Identify a co-ordinated package of measures to put before County covering:
 - Moving current 30mph signs further away from the entrances to the village
 - Introduction of speed limits lower than 60mph on the approaches to the 30mph zone. For example 50 mph limits on Lynch Hill, from the Whipsnade roundabout and in Clayhall Road..
 - Introduction of 30mph limits in Hollicks Lane, Through Kensworth Lynch, in Spratts Lane and in Dovehouse Lane.
 - Making these lanes “quiet lanes”.
 - Weight limits on HGVs using the village as a through route.
 - Continue to press for closure of Isle of Wight Lane preventing “rat running”.
 - Removal of the “pipes” at the entrances of the village as they block the view of traffic in some instances.
 - At each end of the village introduce “right of way” chicanes that give priority to traffic leaving the village thus slowing traffic coming in.
 - Re-design the Ridgeway mini roundabout, making it taller and generally larger so traffic must slow and go round it the correct way. At present it is often ignored.

- Consider re-designing the Clayhall Road/Spratts Lane crossroads to improve visibility at potential danger spot.
 - Schedule the traffic lights so they automatically turn red every few minutes (10??) during rush hour times.
 - Re-design the junction of the B4540 and upper Common Road to avoid a danger spot and slow traffic entering the village
- Arrange on the spot meetings with the appropriate authorities as necessary to ensure that local problems are understood “on the ground”
- Agree what measures can be put in place and the cost. It may be that improvements will have to be spread over several years, but it is important that some quick/cheap changes be made quickly to demonstrate progress is being made.
- Monitor the work promised to ensure it is carried out.
- Continue to support and press for the proposed Dunstable By Pass, the only real solution to volume and HGV issues.
- There are some steps the Parish Council might be able to carry out within its own powers.
 - Provision of wheelie bin stickers for all the houses along Common Road that encourage people to stick to the 30 mph limit. This acts as a regular reminder to drivers on wheelie bin days.
 - Consider purchase of one or more speed monitoring devices of the type that indicate to a driver when he is exceeding the speed limit. Ideal positions for these would be the entrances to the village and upper Common Road
- Parked vehicles, either on roads, pavements or private property, were the subject of many adverse comments.
 - Parked vehicles on the main road, especially around the shops, are seen as a danger and a good number of people suggested some form of parking control, eg double yellow lines, build a lay by (especially near Bakers Lane).
 - There are other factors at work here though.
 - The parked vehicles play a major part on slowing traffic down. If they were removed altogether, traffic would travel most probably faster through the village than it already does. For this reason alone it is not recommended that attempts be made to remove parking from Common Road.
 - People with physical disabilities may need to park close to the shops.
 - The shopkeepers may find their trade adversely affected by any form of parking ban thus endangering valuable amenities in the village.
 - Parking on pavements can prevent pedestrians, especially with prams/pushchairs/wheelchairs getting past and the vehicles can cause damage the pavements. It is anti-social and usually illegal, however, the Parish Council has no powers to enforce the law in this respect. It can however by means of the Link or other devices continue to remind residents that vehicles should not be parked on pavements. If vehicles are causing an obstruction they should be reported to the police.

- Parking on private property, eg on front gardens, is sometimes unsightly. We have to recognize though that owners are entitled to use their property in this way.

6 Kensworth's Environment

6.1 Background

Kensworth is situated in the "Green Belt" and is also within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Many people travel through Kensworth each year:

- to visit Whipsnade Zoo and Dunstable Downs visitor attractions
- on foot using some of the 16 miles of footpaths within the Parish
- passing through by car or other means of transport

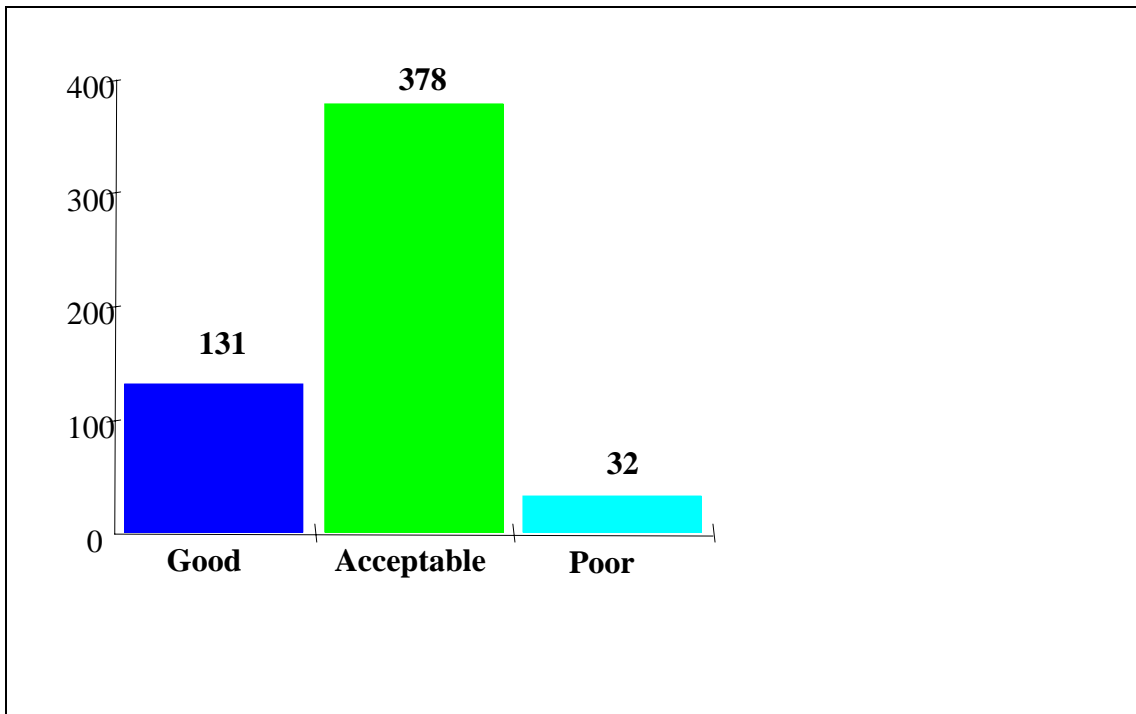
It is a mainly rural environment with some business premises in various locations around the Parish. A good number of people run businesses from their own homes. There is a desire to maintain the beauty and character of the area and present the village as a clean and tidy place where people like to live.

The increasing volume of road traffic is having a detrimental effect on the village, as is air traffic into Luton Airport when the wind is in "the wrong direction".

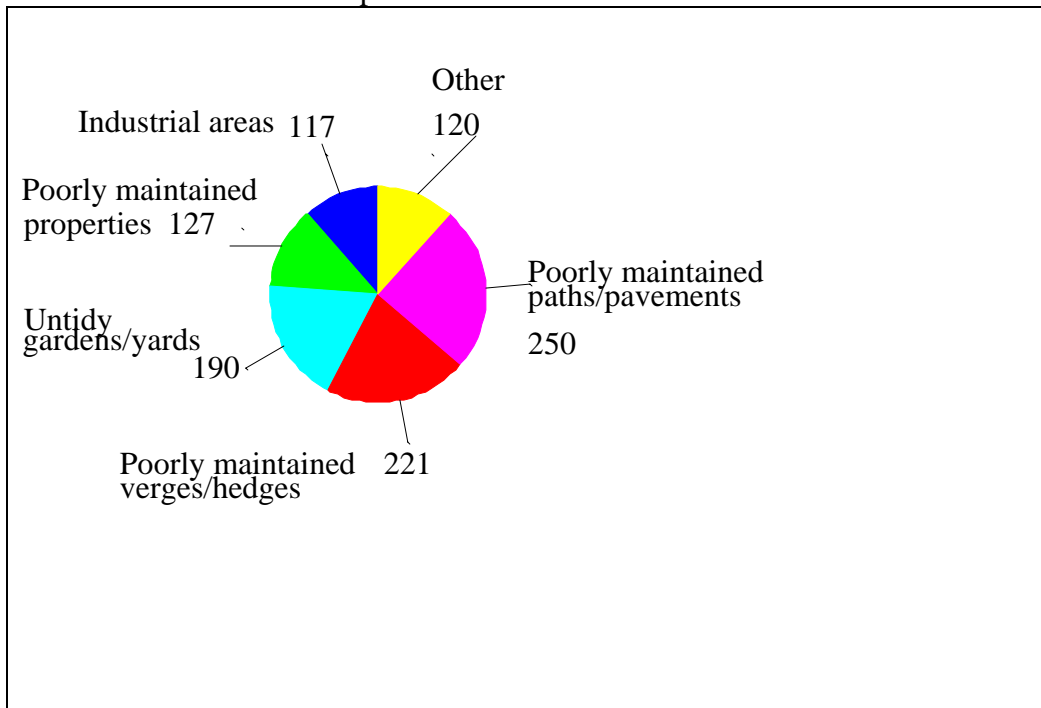
6.2 Survey Results

Respondents were given a number of specific issues relating to the environment on which they could comment. In addition they were given the opportunity to comment on anything else they considered relevant to the general environment of Kensworth and any suggestions they had for improving it.

- When asked about the general appearance of Kensworth only 7 people failed to respond. These are the answers for the remainder.



- We asked whether certain specific issues spoiled the appearance of Kensworth. The “Yes” response was as follows:



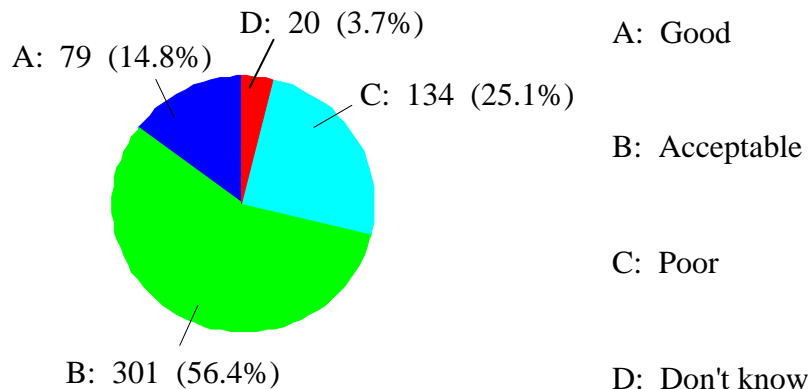
- We asked those who answered “other” to be more specific. The main comments were:
 - Scruffy/unattractive buildings 20
 - Vandalism/Graffiti 13
 - Parked Vehicles 40
 - Litter/fly tipping/abandoned vehicles 30
 - Poorly kept verges/hedgerows/paths 11
 - There were numerous issues mentioned just a few times, eg dog fouling, HGVs/traffic, Private signs(on lampposts etc), Industrial estate and so on.
- Having asked what was wrong, we then asked for suggestions on how our general environment might be improved. This produced a large number of responses and suggestions. To help make these more manageable, similar suggestions have been grouped under generic headings. The more common areas for comment were:
 - Control litter/fly tipping/install refuse bins 38 responses
 - More flowers/enter Britain in Bloom or similar 15
 - Keep village prettier/tidier 19
 - HGV ban/weight limit 58
 - Reduce traffic/general traffic calming 117
 - Reduce dog problems 19
 - Reduce aircraft noise 44
 - Do something about parked vehicles 59
- Some other issues although mentioned by few people may be worth support none the less, eg re-cycling facilities, planting more trees, supporting the building of the Dunstable By Pass.

- People were also asked if they considered some specific issues to be a problem in their area. These, and the number of respondents considering them a problem, were:
 - Heavy Traffic 292
 - Aircraft Noise 281
 - Litter/rubbish dumping 202
 - Uneven pavements 154
 - Traffic Noise 135
 - Nowhere to park/illegal parking 127
 - Lack of safe places to cross the road 122
 - Dog dirt/fouling 112
 - Motor Bike riding 68
- When asked what they thought of the state of footpaths in Kensworth the responses were:
 - Good 48
 - Acceptable 268
 - Poor 207

6.3 Action Points

- Many people consider traffic issues (other than some parking considerations) have a major impact on Kensworth’s environment. Traffic is covered in section 5 which will include action points designed to tackle this area.
- **Aircraft noise** is another large issue for many people and is something over which the Parish Council has no direct control. Luton Airport has, however, ambitious expansion plans and it is essential that the Council:
 - carefully monitors developments, their potential effects on the Parish, and keeps residents up to date with what is happening.
 - ensures that the interests of Kensworth residents are well represented to the appropriate authorities.
 - Supports relevant local pressure groups and has representatives at appropriate meetings.
- **Rubbish dumping** of all kinds, and the general untidiness of the village, were commented on by many people. Actions to tackle this would be:
 - Parish Council to encourage all residents to report fly tipping to South Beds District Council
 - Provide rubbish bins at strategic locations around the village, but especially near bus stops. Encourage residents to use them.
- To tackle the **general appearance** of the village:
 - Planting more flowers in grass verges.
 - Try to encourage more pride in the village by entering an event like “Britain in Bloom”, Beds Village of the Year” or similar.
 - Council to consider a local “best front garden” competition
 - Improve the maintenance and cutting of grass verges in the village so they are done more regularly and look tidier.
 - Improve the entrances to the village
 - plant flowers around the “Kensworth” signs
 - cut and maintain the areas immediately around the signs, and restore the area near the top triangle to a tidier state.

- There were 147 references to **poorly maintained or scruffy buildings** spoiling the appearance of Kensworth, additionally some people mentioned the broken notice board near the village hall, and graffiti on the village hall and kicking wall.
 - The Parish Council has little or no control over how well people maintain their own property.
 - It can however, set an example by ensuring that any property over which it can exercise some control is well maintained and presented.
- 120 people considered that the **Industrial Estate** spoils the appearance of Kensworth. Some relevant points are:
 - It is sensible to encourage business to set up in Kensworth and provide local job opportunities and to help local economy.
 - This estate is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
 - It is something of an eyesore, a mish mash of odd unattractive and sometimes ramshackle buildings and muddy access roads.
 - Planning permissions are granted by South Beds District Council and are something over which the Parish Council has no direct control.
 - The Parish Council to continue to press for more sympathetic development on the site and enforcement of planning conditions.
 - Parish Council to investigate opportunities to redevelop the site to provide more attractive buildings with modern facilities more in keeping with an AONB than car scrap yards and heavy haulage depots.
- The condition of the **pavements and road side paths** in Kensworth varies by location, but the overall standard is not considered to be good.
 - The Parish Council has no power to maintain pavements, they are the responsibility of South Beds District Council.
 - Parish Council to identify the areas that are poor, prepare a list of priorities and negotiate a repair plan with the appropriate authorities. The aim being to restore the pavements to a good overall situation. Budgetary constraints may mean this takes several years.
- The response to a question about **street lighting** was as follows:



- Most people therefore feel the lighting is acceptable or better but the main areas singled out for adverse comment were in general:
 - Near the recreation ground (14)
 - From the junction of Upper Common Rd and the B4540 up to Isle of Wight Lane (27)
 - Service Road (13)
 - Russell Close (10)
 - Along the main part of Common Rd excluding area near recreation ground. (29)
 - Lynch Hill (9)
- Many other locations were commented on by smaller numbers of people suggesting that in the main people thought those areas acceptable at least.
- In a rural location like Kensworth not everyone wants to see high levels of light during the hours of darkness. Too much light (“light pollution”) is considered by some to be undesirable so requirements have to be balanced.
- The recommended action is for the Parish Council to review those locations mentioned above to:
 - determine what additional lighting might be required.
 - Negotiate with the relevant authorities what extra lighting can be made available and agree a plan of improvement. Budgetary constraints will almost certainly mean this will take place over several years.

7 Village Facilities

7.1 Background

Within Kensworth Parish we have

- three shops
 - one general store including a Post Office
 - one predominantly a newsagents with a lottery terminal but also selling some food and drink.
 - Florist
- 3 public houses,
- a filling station,
- 2 churches
- a village hall
- a recreation ground for general use and used as a home round for the village junior and senior football teams
- a hard sports surface
- a play area for young children
- a village school
- a mobile fish & chip shop once per week
- A mobile library every other week stopping in two places in the village
- A mobile chiropodist once a month for those referred by the Doctor.
- A hairdressers is open two days a week in one of the village houses.

As with most rural villages the majority of people have a car and generally shop out of town at large supermarkets, eg Asda and Sainsbury's in Dunstable. The bus service is not very frequent or convenient for those who need to use it as their main, or only, form of Transport.

There are no medical facilities, eg doctor, dentist, pharmacy in the village. For these services people have to travel to Markyate (nearer but no direct bus service) or Dunstable (further to go but direct bus service). In Dunstable newcomers to Kensworth can have trouble getting onto the list.

The Kensworth Community Scheme provides help for people especially those needing transport to medical appointments, hospital and so on. This is partly funded by the Parish Council with significant additional voluntary donations from the Over 60s Club.

There are few facilities for young people, which, coupled with the poor transport facilities is sometimes perceived to be the cause of occasional outbreaks of petty vandalism.

7.2 Survey Results

- 542 people who completed the survey responded to the questions about their use of the Post office. Of these:
 - 127 (23%) used it once a week

- 69 (13%) used it more than once a week
 - 146 (27%) very rarely used the post office.
- In answer to the question about where they usually do their food shopping;
 - 342 (67%) use out of town supermarkets. A further
 - 134 (26%) use Dunstable Town centre and only
 - 13 (2.5%) use the village shops.
- When asked about their main transport used for shopping:
 - 493(92.5%) use a car
 - 31(6%) use public transport. Transport was covered more fully in another section of the survey.
- The suggestions for further facilities were many and varied, the most popular being
 - 113 (47%) requiring a chemist/pharmacy
 - 75 (31%) suggesting a Doctors surgery.
 - Other suggestions include
 - a fish & chip shop or takeaway - 19(8%)responses,
 - a greengrocer - 9(4%)
 - social club 9 (4%).
- 53 respondents (23%) referred to shops of one form or another, eg bakers, butchers, greengrocers, farm shop and generally were looking for “better cheaper shops” selling fresher food.
- The need for a better bus service/bus shelters etc was raised. These items are dealt with more fully under Section 12 Transport
- 15 people made specific reference to better facilities for young people.

7.3 Action Points

- **Pharmacy.** The nearest is in Markyatate with several available in Dunstable, neither of these being convenient for Kensworth residents. It is unlikely that we could encourage a pharmacy to set up in Kensworth but there are some possible actions that might help.
 - Identify local pharmacies that will deliver prescriptions
 - Encourage a local volunteer group to help with this. The Kensworth Community Scheme does offer this service but might be over stretched if demand increased.
- **Doctor/Dentist.** Lack of these facilities is a problem but as with a pharmacy it is unlikely that Kensworth would be able to attract a doctor or dentist to set up here full time. As an action investigations should be made into the possibility of regular visits from doctors/dentists to the village, or whether such an option is even available.
- **Young People.** There are virtually no facilities for the 13+ age group in the village. Some actions to tackle this are:
 - Where possible engage young people in village affairs and find out what they feel are their problems.
 - Investigate the requirements for setting up a “youth council” or similar forum to give them a voice.

- Consider provision of any of the following facilities all of which are generally considered to help reduce vandalism and other forms of anti social behaviour.
 - Youth club or drop in, perhaps with Internet Café.
 - Play equipment for 13+
 - Skate Board Park (see also Section 4 Clayhall Road Field)
 - Tennis Court
 - Youth Shelter
- **Bus Service.** Improve bus service (covered in detail in Section 12, Transport) and provide bus shelters.
- **Shops.** The number and variety of comments about shopping suggest that what many villagers feel is needed is a rather more modern, brighter, supermarket/general store than we have at present. One that is capable of selling fresh fruit/vegetables, meat, bread and general goods. This might be a suitable location for a smaller store such as Tesco Metro or Sainsbury's Local selling these items at competitive prices.
 - Begin an investigation into the feasibility of encouraging such a development.
- **Takeaway Food.** There seems to be a demand for this, although when this was offered by "Chillies" it didn't seem to attract much business. Both the Red Lion and The Farmer's Boy have in the past offered a limited take away facility. There are difficulties associated with these facilities, eg litter, cooking smells, traffic and so on which might make such an establishment a contentious issue in the village. As a first action:
 - Contact Red Lion and Farmer's Boy to see if they would be prepared to offer any form of takeaway food service.

8 Law and Order

8.1 Background

- Until some years ago Kensworth had a resident policeman based in the old police house next to the village hall.
- The nearest police station now is in Dunstable but that is not open 24 hours. Reported crimes are now logged at a central call centre.
- Kensworth is in the area of responsibility of the local “Beat Officer” who in theory is supported by a Community Support Officer although following a resignation we have been without the latter for some time now. A replacement is said to be imminent.
- Crime is certainly not rife in Kensworth although as with most areas we have our share, as we also have our share of generally minor acts of vandalism.
- The survey aimed to discover people’s thoughts about the level of service provided by the police for Kensworth and their general feelings about crime, or their concerns about potential crime, in the village.

8.2 Survey Results

- The recent Parish Plan Questionnaire has raised issues on law and order that affect residents in Kensworth. These include not only the crimes actually committed but the fears that residents have of the possibility of crime (85.2% said they worry about their home being broken into.)
- Of those residents who had called 999 in the past three years, over 50% rated the speed of the police response as poor.
- The fears of having your home broken into and the theft or damage to your car were two issues most often raised under Anti Social Behaviour. Also nuisance behaviour and vandalism cause much concern, not to mention the cost of repairing or replacing the damage caused.
- Despite these concerns the survey shows that the vast majority of residents never see, or rarely see the police in Kensworth.
- When asked ‘ Do you know who your Community Police Officer is’ the majority of respondents said No. Some did say “Yes”, which is a bit surprising as at the time of the survey Kensworth had not had Community Police Officer for some time.
- Another problem seems to be noise and nuisance from drunks, mainly noted in areas with a higher proportion of older people who may feel particularly vulnerable when the pubs close at night. The longer opening hours now

coming might make this situation worse but time will tell.

As a percentage the major issues were as follows:

- 58% of responses think that burglary is a problem in Kensworth
- 59% felt that “nuisance behaviour” “ was unacceptable
- 85.2% worried that their home may be broken into
- 53.9% were concerned that their car may be stolen or damaged
- 53% stated that they felt the service offered by the police was poor
- 53.4% said they hardly ever saw a the police in Kensworth
- 50.4% of people calling 999 for the police rated the response poor
- 76.4 people did not know the name of their Community Police Officer

8.3 Action Points

- Many of the issues regarding law and order can be probably be dealt with by a Community Police Officer and to an extent by Neighbourhood Watch. Through the Parish Council lobby the Police for
 - a better police presence in the village, eg a Community Police officer aware of the need to be accessible, visible and dependable.
 - guidance on encouraging more neighbourhood watch schemes.
- It is unacceptable that the majority of people making 999 calls rated the police response to their 999 calls as poor, and that the vast majority hardly ever or never see a police officer in Kensworth, It would be a great morale boost to residents to feel they are not forgotten.
- As far as vandalism is concerned, especially to the children’s play area and around the Village hall, CCTV may be a good deterrent in conjunction with a regular visit in the evenings by the Police.
- The local police recently held a workshop at Queensbury School with the public. Topics similar to those raised in Kensworth were discussed i.e. closer links with communities and the police, better quality service and the police reassuring the public on the matter of neighbourhood policing and developing a better relationship around local issues. Parish Council to approach the Police to investigate setting up a similar forum for the residents of Kensworth to discuss possible actions.
- The survey contains a good deal of criticism about the police. Apart from

feeding back these findings, it would be constructive to try and find a way of building a closer relationship with the police. A way to achieve that might be to set up a small liaison group with police and village representatives to meet from time to time and cover issues of current concern in the village. Parish Council to investigate feasibility of such an arrangement.

9 The School

9.1 Background

The Village School celebrated its 150th Anniversary in 2003 and has introduced generations of Kensworth children to the educational system. It is a voluntarily controlled school that currently caters for the first years of a child's education up to the age of 9, when pupils move on to a middle school.

In addition to the original brick building the school has some more modern classrooms at the year and a safe, enclosed, grass play area as well as a normal hard surfaced. playground.

The school is seen as a major asset to the village:

- Pupils do not have to travel far from home for their first school.
- In many cases they can walk to school and not have to use a car.
- They will meet more children from their own village.
- Mothers can meet at the school gates – a good form of socializing.
- Helps with community spirit.

9.2 Survey Results

This section of the survey was primarily aimed at establishing what facilities are required for younger, particularly pre-school children to help the School Governors and Head Teacher decide on any additional services they might be able to provide. The following points emerged.

- The number of families in the village with young children is small, therefore the number of responses relating to pre-school activities or lower school education is correspondingly low.
- In the survey, 483 people (88%) indicated that they thought the School “Important” or “Very Important” to the village.
- In the houses covered by the responses there was a total of 79 children aged up to and including 9 years old.
- Pre-school childcare is seen as lacking in Kensworth. Of those requiring pre-school childcare who responded, 59% quoted Lack of Nursery places as a problem, 30% identified lack of child minders.
- Respondents(64) indicated the following facilities would be welcome:
 - Full day nursery 25 (39% of respondents)
 - Wraparound care 25 (39%)
 - Out of School Club 38 (59%)
 - Childminders 17 (27%)
 - Holiday Schemes 39 (61%)
- Comments in response to the question “*What different childcare arrangements would you like to see*” suggest that some families use schools outside the village as Kensworth does not provide what they are looking for, eg
 - “Pre-school for 3-4. I will be using Studham as not offered in Kensworth”
 - “3+ at local school.”A number of respondents indicated that they would access either education for 3 year olds in Kensworth (38 respondents)

or a nursery/pre school session following the state funded session for 4 year olds (78).

- At the Open Day it emerged that there is a move to introduce a “walking bus” to encourage more children to walk to school. The major difficulty with this is the narrowness and closeness of the pavement to the road where it runs past the recreation ground. A footpath along the bottom of the recreation ground would provide a much safer environment for anyone walking along that stretch of road.

9.3 Action Points

- The survey sought information on the demand for other facilities at the school, eg nursery education, before and after school clubs, that may encourage early registration of younger children.
- Unfortunately the results were not sufficiently conclusive to form a reliable basis on which to make changes. Additionally, the future structure of the education system is uncertain at present. The school will therefore be seeking further information before making decisions about new facilities
- Investigate cost and practicalities of providing a footpath inside the recreation ground parallel to the road.

10 Village Hall

10.1 Background

The Village Hall is situated on the edge of the recreation ground and is built of brick with a tiled roof. It is “owned” by the Parish Council, but managed on a day to day basis by the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) that includes representatives from the various organisations that use the hall.

It contains a main hall with a stage area, store room for tables/chairs etc, kitchen, toilets and small committee room. The kitchen was recently refurbished. There is also a surfaced car park . One end of the building is the changing room for sports teams. The Hall is available for hire by various clubs or for private parties. It is used by a number of local village organisations, eg over 60,s club, Brownies, Yoga/Pilates clubs, drop in coffee morning and so on. Occasional special functions are organized, either by the VHMC or by local organisations.

Funding for cleaning, general maintenance/wear and tear and heating is provided by the fees paid to hire the hall and by special events organized by the VHMC. The ever increasing cost of these items, especially heating, makes it increasingly difficult to cover running costs from hire/fundraising income. For that reason the VHMC was keen to establish if there is any support for the proposal that some at least of these costs should be met by the Parish Council from the Parish Precept.

For larger items of expenditure, eg kitchen refurbishment or building work, funds are obtained from other sources, eg grants from various bodies and contributions from the Parish Council.

Apart from fund raising, difficulties have arisen with damage caused by vandalism and the occasional attempt to break into the hall, although nothing of value is kept on the premises.

10. 2 Survey Results

- 222 people (42% of respondents) indicated that they use the hall 4 or more times a year with 58% using the hall only rarely or never.
- 320 (86.5 %) think the Hall Reasonable or Good in appearance, 50 think it poor
- 322 (91%) rate the facilities in the Hall as Good or Acceptable, 33 rate them poor
- When asked why they felt the facilities were poor, the biggest area of criticism was the toilets (18). The other main area related to décor/modernization. There were some other “one off” suggestions relating to provision of food and drink and other sundry issues.
- Therefore the great majority of respondents were happy with the way the hall looked and the facilities it provides. The number thinking these poor (83) was reasonably significant.
- When asked about the smoking policy in the hall:
 - 32 respondents voted to continue smoking at all times
 - 202 voted to ban smoking at all times
 - 123 voted for a partial ban
 - 191 did not respond
- When asked about their future use of the hall if smoking were banned:
 - 68 respondents said they would use the hall more

- 19 said they would use it less
 - 261 said it would not change their use of the hall
 - 200 did not respond
- When asked if the hall should be part funded by the Council Tax
 - 243 said yes
 - 111 said no
 - 194 did not respond
- When asked if they were prepared to pay a small increase in Council tax to provide the required funding
 - 178 said yes
 - 99 said no
 - 271 did not respond
- The question “What kind of functions would you like to see in the village hall” produced a wide range of suggestions. The most popular were
 - Quizzes (60 suggestions)
 - Bingo (32)
 - Discos (32)
 - There was a similarity among some of the other suggestions, eg
 - “Physical” activities, Pilates/Yoga/Keep Fit/Exercise classes
 - Dance/Music related, Barn Dances, Dance instruction, Dancing, Musical events, Old Thyme Musical Hall.
- There were several comments relating to lack of facilities for young people at the Hall (although some concern over potential vandalism was expressed).
- The various other activities are too numerous to deal with separately, but should be reviewed to pick out those that could offer some variety of functions,
- Occasional comments suggest that more publicity for the activities already taking place at the hall would be welcome.

10.3 Action Points

- The toilets to be refurbished as a matter of some urgency.
- In view of the comments relating to Smoking, the VHMC to review their existing policy on this.
- Responses suggest that there is support for the idea that some funding for the Village Hall should come from Council Tax. The VHMC should open negotiations on this with the Parish Council to estimate what scale of support is required and what increase in council tax is required to provide it.
- VHMC to consider better publicity for the hall, both for regular and special events, and try to “sell” currently unused sessions.
- VHMC to review the list of suggested activities to pick out any that offer something a little different that might be popular.

Section 11 Play Area & Recreation Ground

11.1 Background

The recreation ground which borders the main road includes:

- A play area for younger children although up to now there has been no specific age limit placed on the use of the equipment. The area is enclosed by a low fence with two gates. The equipment includes:
 - Swings for both toddlers and older children
 - Two slides for different age groups
 - Sprung “see saw”
- A hard surfaced area with
 - Basket ball hoop at one end
 - A kicking wall at the other end
 - Basketball court marking laid out
- Metal tables used as a gathering place for young people
- Two football pitches, one for seniors, one for juniors.
- Some benches
- The village hall is located at one corner of the ground and includes changing rooms for football teams.

The Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of the play area and it is regularly inspected by RoSPA.

Vandalism and anti social behaviour has been a problem. Fencing and play equipment has been damaged several times and older youths have tended to gather in the play area which can be intimidating and off putting. Beyond the kicking wall and basketball hoop there are no specific play facilities for those aged 13+.

11.2 Survey Results

- The majority completing the survey did not answer the section on the Children’s play area i.e. 407 of the 548 surveys completed.
- This was not unexpected as only those with younger children or grandchildren will be making use of the area.
- The Parish Council considers that the equipment is suitable for those up to age 13, although until now there has been no age limit imposed.
- The responses completed show a split of opinion as to whether the children’s play area is well maintained:
 - 33.3 % answering yes
 - 42.6% answering no.
 - 24 % answered do not know.
- When asked whether safety was an issue:
 - 67 (nearly 49%) said yes
 - 27% no
 - 25% don’t know.

- When asked about what specifically gave cause for concern 91 people responded (sometimes giving more than one reason):
 - 64 (70%) said they were worried about the people who hang around. “Youths”, “teenagers”, “older village youths” were mentioned in response to the question. There were comments about anti-social behaviour such as vandalism, bad language, intimidation (one lady admitted to taking her children home as a result of intimidation), spitting on equipment, and bullying.
 - 23 (25%) said lighting was poor
 - 22 (24%) were concerned about lack of supervision.
 - 16 % are concerned about dangerous equipment. This is probably due to the junior slide having been vandalised at the time of the survey.
 - There is also an issue regarding the swings continuously being wrapped around the bar rendering the swing unusable.
- Those responding to the “Other Safety Factors” option were asked to expand on their answer, to which 65 people commented:
 - 12 (27%) cited vandalism.
 - 27 were concerned about litter and broken glass being left in the play area. Many mentioned older village youths and teenagers drinking, smashing bottles, leaving empty cans and vandalising the equipment.
 - 4 respondents mentioned dog fouling although the play area has a “no dogs” sign on the gate.
- A factor arising from the Open Day is the lack of any seating within the fenced off play area. This would be useful for people supervising young children as the nearest bench is some way outside the area. There is a tendency for adults to sit on the swings which are intended for young people only.

11.3 Actions

- To tackle concerns about general maintenance the play area should be swept and litter tidied up daily and the weeds around the edges of the play area dealt with on a more regular basis.
- The equipment is looked at on a regular and “ad hoc” basis but no record of inspections or damage is noted. It is suggested that the Parish Council put in place a formal written process for equipment to be examined on a regular basis. Inspections should be logged, any damage noted, reported to a central source (Parish Clerk??) and repaired as soon as is practicable. This record would be important in the event of a claim being made against the Council and would demonstrate good management of the facility by the Council.
- The concerns raised about anti social behaviour and those who “hang around” the play area and are more difficult to deal. The following measures might be considered:
 - Anti-wrap chains for the swings
 - Better signs banning dogs from the play area (some comments also related to the field itself)

- Make the recreation ground and “alcohol free” area (this has in fact just been done)
- Investigate installing CCTV to cover the play area (maybe in conjunction with the village hall that suffers similar problems). Could provide evidence for the police.
- Parish Council to provide better facilities for young people, eg Youth Shelter, play equipment. Some of these have been shown to reduce the incidence of vandalism.
- Wherever possible Parish Council to provide police with evidence of anti social behaviour for them to take action, and encourage residents to do likewise.
- Investigate feasibility of safety lighting for play area.
- Introduce an upper age limit for the play area.
- Parish Council to consider provision of seating within the play area.

12 Transport

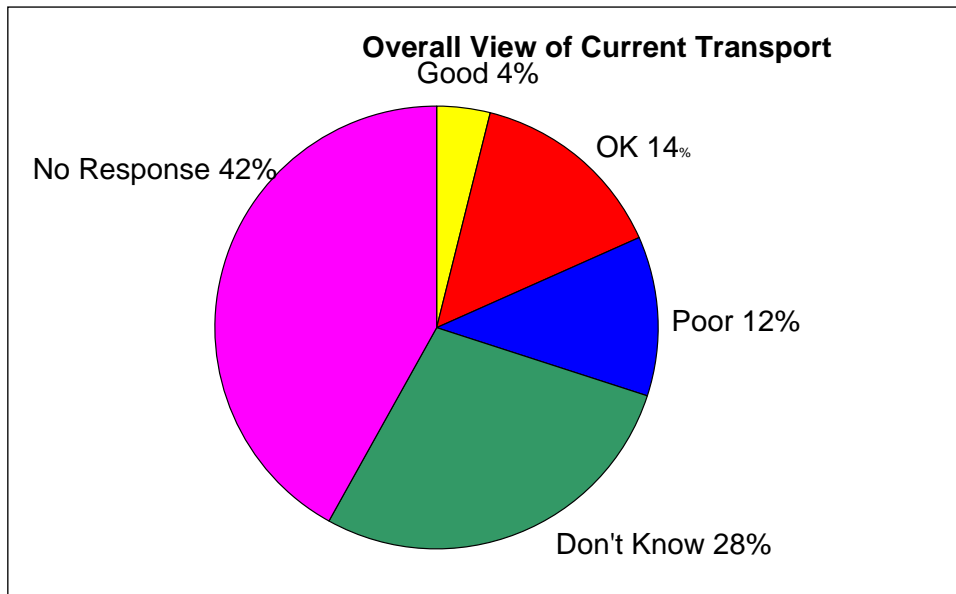
12.1 Background

- Kensworth has had a bus service for many years. As in many rural communities this service has deteriorated over time in terms of frequency and the destinations served direct. This is no doubt a result of the increase in car users resulting in fewer residents using the bus.
- This service is partly subsidized by the County Council paying for some journeys that would otherwise not run on a purely commercial basis.
- The Monday to Saturday service is provided by CentreBus, routes 43 & X31 as follows:
 - **Monday – Friday Kensworth to Dunstable**
 - 4 buses in the morning with one going through to Luton
 - 8 buses afternoon/evening with 2 going through to Luton
 - where there is no through service to Luton passengers have to change at Dunstable.
 - **Monday – Friday Dunstable to Kensworth**
 - 5 buses in the morning with three going through to Hemel Hempstead
 - 7 buses afternoon/evening with 3 going through to Hemel Hempstead
 - Services not running to Hemel Hempstead terminate at Studham where there is no onward service to Hemel Hempstead
 - **Saturday** is a slightly lower level of service
- The frequency of the service is not very convenient for those making a round trip. For example the 8:56 bus to Dunstable arrives at Sainsbury's at 9:15. There is however no return bus from Sainsbury's until 11:20 which means a good wait with shopping before being able to return home.
- There is a weekday commuter service (nos 771 and 772) operated by Marshalls. The pick-up point for Kensworth residents is near the Packhorse at the bottom of Lynch Hill. This service does not come into the village.
- The Sunday service is Route 60 operated by Arriva. There are only 7 buses all day, but for anyone wanting to make a round trip this is effectively only 6.
- While the number of residents affected by problems with the service is small, the effect of those problems on the individuals can be great. For example, those depending on a bus to get to work are seriously affected by an unreliable service.
- It is those at opposite ends of the age spectrum, ie teenagers and older people who are most likely to be affected by a poor bus service almost to the point of social exclusion.
- Many services now take fairly tortuous routes through villages so what was originally quite a short journey can now take a considerable time. This is not suitable for those, usually elderly, people who cannot for various reasons stay on a bus for a long period of time.

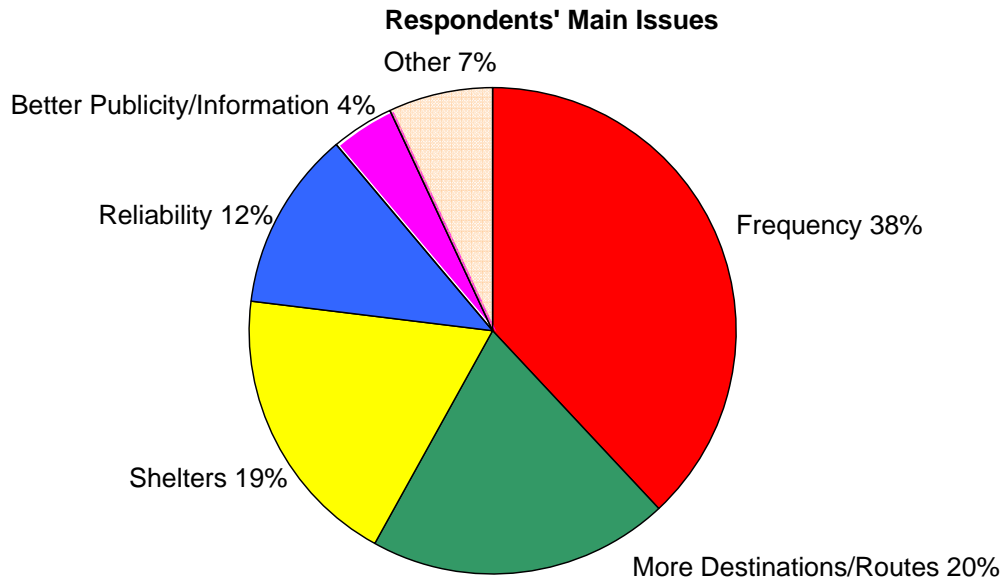
12.2 Survey Results

The focus in this section is public transport, not the road network and facilities available to car drivers.

- Responses showed that:
 - although people would like to see better bus services, the majority of residents (93%) had a car or access to one.
 - the current transport system is reasonably well viewed.
 - Not surprisingly the majority of residents had no views on the bus service, the vast majority using a car. Of those expressing an opinion most thought the service either “good” or “OK”



- Of the respondents who expressed the need for improvements the following were the main areas where they would like improvement:
 - , the greatest requirement was for better frequency
 - more destinations/routes
 - better reliability being the other main concerns.
 - All other areas had single figure responses.
- The statistics were strongly backed up by individual comments made by residents. The total results are as follows:



12.3 Action Points

- The main areas which show gaps in the services are in the evenings, both to and from Luton and Hemel Hempstead. Kensworth has a number of young people who are unable to drive and both Luton and Hemel Hempstead are good places for entertainment. To tackle this, contact both Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire County Councils to campaign for evening services, although this will probably be better attempted after the “youth” survey has been completed so that interest can be accurately gauged.
- A number of residents requested a service to St. Albans. There is currently no such service. **Suggested Actions:**
 - The operators should be able to provide statistics regarding current usage for all routes to and from Kensworth. If those statistics show that residents are trying to use the services but are struggling, the operators may be willing to extend and increase the services to boost frequency and to run directly into Luton without the need to change service.
 - Both Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire County Councils could be contacted to see if it is viable to include Kensworth in existing St. Albans services.
- 19% of respondents asked for bus shelters. Currently there are no shelters in the village, users have to stand out in the cold and the wet while waiting for a bus. This seems particularly unfair on those groups that have to use the bus in a society that is now virtually designed for people with cars, especially the elderly who do not, or perhaps for medical reasons cannot, drive.
 - **Suggested Actions:**
 - Some shelter should be provided. The types and costs of bus shelters could be investigated to identify those that would best blend with the environment but which would be difficult to vandalise.

- Reliability of the services was another concern. In the event of poor reliability the traveler often contacts the bus company. In fact, they would be better off contacting the County Council if the bus does not arrive or does not arrive on time. This is because some of the journeys are subsidized by the County and they will penalize bus companies for poor performance. This is more effective than complaining to the bus company. Modern buses are fitted with ticketing equipment which shows not only the fare itself, but also the time and place the fare was taken. This information is frequently used as part of the billing data provided to the County Council by the operators.
 - **Suggested Actions:**
 - Parish Council to publicise the telephone number for reporting problems to the County Council.
 - Parish Council to obtain regular performance data so that performance can be checked.

- Better Publication/Information. It is ridiculously difficult to find out when and where the buses run. Timetables are provided at some bus stops, but these are very difficult to read and out of date. It is not easy to find information from the internet.
 - **Suggested Actions:**
 - Encourage both the village shops and the pubs to display the timetables.
 - Include information and links to bus company timetable sites on the village website.
 - It may be possible to include them periodically in the Parish Link.

13 Summary of Actions

Section 4 Clayhall Road Field

Suggested Use and Action to be taken.	Who Leading?	Who Else Involved?	How Funded?	When?
Parish Council to request Football Club to investigate suitability of Clayhall Rd field for football pitch and identify related issues, eg requirements for changing rooms/parking facilities etc.	Football Club	Parish Council	Grants	Q2 2006
Parish Council to request Cricket Club to identify best location for cricket pitch on Clayhall Rd site or recreation ground and assess associated requirements, eg pavilion, and ongoing maintenance costs	Cricket Club	Parish Council	Grants	Q2 2006
Investigate costs/grants to convert field to Community Woodland and Flower Meadow area.	Parish Council	Village Volunteers Specialist groups, eg Woodland Trust, North Chilterns Trust	Parish Council. Grants	Q2 2006
Investigate feasibility of wind turbine to provide electricity for the village.	Parish Council	District Council. Energy providers	Power provider. Grants	Q2 2006
Identify suitable location for a skate board park and whether there is genuine demand for the facility, funding sources and developers.	Parish Council		Grants	Q2 2006

Section 5 Traffic

Identify areas for possible relocation of speed limit signs and reduced speed limits both within the village and on its approaches.	Parish Council	None	None	Q2 2006
Consider whether a “quiet lanes” initiative is	Parish	County Council/Highways	None	Q 2 2006

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suitable for Spratts Lane, Hollicks Lane and Dovehouse Lane.	Council			
Continue to press for closure of Isle of Wight Lane as per petition.	Parish Council	County Council/Highways	County Council	Ongoing
Press for weight limit on HGVs travelling through the village.	Parish Council	County Council/Highways	County Council	Ongoing
Identify danger spots and potential remedial action, eg Spratts Lane/Clayhall Rd crossroads, Ridgeway roundabout, junction of Upper Common Rd with B4540.	Parish Council	None	None	Q 2 2006
Consider what other traffic calming measures could be used to reduce speed of traffic through the village, eg “chicanes” at entrances to village.	Parish Council	None	None	Q 2 2006
Meet with County Council/Highways staff to discuss initiatives arising from the above investigations. Agree with them and publish schedule of changes to tackle the problems.	Parish Council	County Council/Highways	County Council	Q 2 2006
Investigate value of installing monitoring devices to remind motorists of the speed limit and provide traffic related statistics.	Parish Council	None	Parish Council	Q 2 2006
Consider other methods available to the Parish Council to help control traffic speed, eg use of speed monitoring devices and wheelie bin stickers.	Parish Council	None	Parish Council	Q2 2006
Identify areas for possible relocation of speed limit signs and reduced speed limits both within the village and on its approaches.	Parish Council	None	None	Q 2 2006

Section 6 Environment

What Action?	Who Leading?	Who Else Involved?	How Funded?	When?
Aircraft noise – monitor Luton Airport development plans and be actively involved in meetings/groups relating to them. Keep residents informed of developments.	Parish Council	Airport Management. Other local PCs. Local pressure groups.	N/A	Ongoing
Provide rubbish bins at appropriate locations, for example bus stops. Encourage tidiness in the village.	Parish Council	South Beds District Council	Parish Council	Q2 2006
Plant more flowers. Eg small flowers in verges, shrubs (such as roses) in the larger grassy areas near some road junctions, eg Common Rd/Poplar Road, Common Rd/Ridgeway.	Parish Council	Volunteers from village. North Chilterns Trust?? Beds Rural Communities Charity	Parish Council	Q2 2006
Enter an event such as Britain in Bloom or Beds Village of the Year.	Parish Council	Village Volunteers	Parish Council	TBA
Introduce a local competition, eg best front garden.	Parish Council	Village Volunteers	Parish Council	Q2 2006
Improve programme of verge maintenance including the entrances to the village.	Parish Council	SBDC. Village Volunteers	SBDC	Q2 2006
Repair or replace noticeboard near village hall.	Parish Council	N/A	Parish Council	Q1 2006
Regularly remove graffiti. Consider a special “graffiti wall”.	Parish Council	Village Hall Management Committee	Parish Council	Q3 2006
Investigate possibilities for better development of the industrial estate.	Parish Council	SBDC		Q4 2006
Identify worst pavement problems, negotiate a long-term plan of repair with Beds CC	Parish Council	Beds CC	Beds CC	Q4 2006

Kensworth Parish Plan 2005

a)Review street lighting and agree the areas where improvement is desirable. b) Negotiate timetable with SBDC for carrying out improvements.	Parish Council	SBDC	SBDC	a)Q3 2006 b) Q4 2006
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Section 7 Village Facilities

What Action?	Who Leading?	Who Else Involved?	How Funded?	When?
With local prescription chemists investigate the possibilities of a better collection/delivery service.	Parish Council	Local Chemists	N/A	ASAP
Investigate possibility of visiting doctor facility, eg one day a week surgery.	Parish Council	Local Doctors	N/A	Q2 2006 initial investigation
Investigate possibility of visiting dentist.	Parish Council	Local Dentists	N/A	Q2 2006 initial investigation
Approach larger supermarket chains to find out a)if they would be interested in principle in having a “Tesco Metro” type premises in Kensworth and b) what the implications may be for other village businesses.	Parish Council	Local Supermarkets	N/A	Q3 2006 initial investigation
Approach the village pubs to see if they could offer any form of takeaway food service.	Parish Council	Red Lion. Farmer’s Boy Packhorse	N/A	Q2 2006
Provide improved facilities for young people, eg consider youth club for older age groups, youth drop- in, play equipment, skate board park, tennis court.	Parish Council	SBDC	Grants	Q2 2006 Initial investigation

Section 8 Law & Order

Arrange feedback of information to the police and initial police response.	Parish Council	Police	N/A	Q2 2006
Investigate village/police liaison group.	Parish Council	Police	N/A	Q2 2006
Investigate setting up more neighbourhood watch groups	Parish Council	Police	N/A	Q2 2006

Section 9 The School

What Action?	Who Leading?	Who Else Involved?	How Funded?	When?
Further more detailed investigation required into the demand in the village for wraparound care.	School	Parish Council	TBA	Q3 2006
Seek out funding for early years provision.	School		TBA	Q3 2006
Investigate provision of a footpath inside the recreation ground near existing pavement	Parish Council	SBDC	TBA	Q2 2006

Section 10 Village Hall

What Action?	Who Leading?	Who Else Involved?	How Funded?	When?
Improve toilet facilities.	VHMC	Parish Council District Council Other funding bodies	Parish Council Grant. District Council Grant. Other grants. funding bodies	Q2 2006
Review policy on smoking in the hall and publish decision.	VHMC	None	Not required	End 2005

Kensworth Parish Plan 2005

Identify means to give better publicity to the VH and its activities.	VHMC	None	VHMC	Q1 2006
Negotiate with the Parish Council the feasibility of providing some financial support for the general maintenance of the Hall via the annual village precept.	VHMC	Parish Council	N/A	Q1 2006

Section 11 Play Area & Recreation Ground

What Action?	Who Leading?	Who Else Involved?	How Funded?	When?
Children's play area swept on a daily basis, broken glass and rubbish removed. Weeds kept in check more regularly.	Parish Council		Parish Council	asap
Institute a formal weekly equipment check and damage repair procedure. Display telephone number for damage reporting.	Parish Council		Parish Council	asap
Erect sign banning dogs from the area.	Parish Council		Parish Council	asap
Investigate introducing CCTV, possibly combined with village hall, and/or security lighting to combat vandalism.	Parish Council	Police. Security Experts	Parish Council fund initial investigation	Q3 2006 initial investigation
Introduce an age limit for use of junior play area equipment.	Parish Council		Parish Council	Q1 2006
Investigate installing play equipment for 13+ youngsters to help combat vandalism.	Parish Council	Suppliers	Parish Council. District Council. Lottery funding. Other grants.	Q3 2006
Consider provision of seating within the play area.	Parish Council		Parish Council	Q2 2006

Section 12 Transport

What Action?	Who Leading?	Who Else Involved?	How Funded?	When?
Investigate provision of service to St Albans.	Parish Council	Beds CC. Herts CC. Bus Companies	TBA	Q3 2006
Provide some bus shelters for protection in poor weather.	Parish Council	Beds CC. SBDC. Centrebus	TBA	Q3 2006
Publicise reporting process for poor service.	Parish Council	N/A	N/A	Q1 2006
Monitor service levels and take up poor performance with County Council (who pay for some services) in support of users.	Parish Council	Beds CC	N/A	Q2 2006
Include timetable information in parish website.	Parish Council	N/A	Parish Council	Q1 2006
Seek other ways of publishing timetables in the village.	Parish Council	Centrebus Arriva	N/A	Q2 2006