

Duns Tew Village Plan

2010 UPDATE



Why do we need to update our Village Plan?

Our first Village Plan was produced in 2005. It was a very thorough document based on an Appraisal held in 2001. Much of it is still relevant. The Village Plan is important because it is a formal reflection of local opinion and as such carries some weight in local government matters. For example, ours has been used successfully to defend the village interest against a variety of public and private planning initiatives. It has also helped guide the Parish Council to focus on those issues that are of concern to the community. If our Village Plan is to continue to be of use, the Local Government Authority recommends that it be updated every 5 years.

We do not intend to reissue the Village Plan in its entirety, but instead to issue this stand-alone supplement showing where the views of the village have changed since 2005. Despite the generally high level of satisfaction expressed, there are still many things that can be done to further improve our local environment and community.

Many of the headings below have been given a star rating to a maximum of 4 stars indicating assessed performance in that area. The letter 'A' after each grading indicates where we believe further improvements can be made.

The 2009 Appraisal

The purpose of the 2009 Village Appraisal was to see if the 2005 Village Plan still reflects the general views of the Village. In order to speed up the process we invited responses by households rather than by individuals. In June last year, we circulated a questionnaire to 198 households and received 110 completed forms. This represents a return of 57% of households as compared to an 83% return by individuals in 2001. In doing so we may have marginalised our youth because in the event we received only 9 completed youth sections. In order to compare like with like, we used the 2001 Appraisal questionnaire but with some additional demographic questions covering such things as age, gender, car ownership and place of work. The findings have been collated and analysed by members of the Parish Council and the findings validated by a representative sub-committee of six village residents.

Have we changed?

As in 2001, we continue to have a high level of satisfaction with many of our village activities, facilities and services. Almost everyone still reads the newsletter, our views on development in the village have not changed, we still regard traffic and parking as a nuisance only more so, and we still appreciate the surrounding countryside.

But in a number of ways we have changed. There are a few more of us, but not many, and since over half of us have lived here for more than 15 years, we are probably older as a community. Half of us are over 50 years old; a quarter of us are retired. There are more women than men by a small margin. Half of us are in full or part time employment and a fifth of us are in full time education. We work further from home and we have more cars. For the most part we work in Banbury or Oxford, but a small minority work in London or at home. The vast majority of us commute to work by car, with two thirds of households having two cars or more. A small number of us commute by bus and train and some cycle to work. For nearly all of us our main residence is in Duns Tew.

We continue to like Duns Tew. It is friendly and peaceful and has a good community spirit. We still mourn the absence of a village shop but by no means as strongly as we did in 2001. We don't participate in community activities to the extent that we did (there are fewer groups and societies with fewer members), possibly because we are busier, but also because we are more mobile and able to enjoy activities elsewhere.

Living in Duns Tew

Community Support ★★ ★A

We feel fairly secure in our village but three quarters of us still feel the need for an effective Neighbourhood Watch Scheme although we don't feel that it is sufficiently well publicised. We are reasonably self sufficient and only just under half of the village would value a Good Neighbour Scheme if one where to be set up. Those who do are largely the elderly and retired. Our five oldest residents understandably have some difficulty getting to the Doctor or other medical services and they all have difficulty in collecting subscriptions and are likely to benefit the most from such a scheme. A majority think that a Welcome Pack for newcomers to the Village is a good idea and that it should be part of any Good Neighbour Scheme. Our views remain almost precisely as they were in 2001.

Action

- *Publicise the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to make it more effective.*
- *Further test the need for a Good Neighbour Scheme.*
- *Implement a Welcome Pack for newcomers to the village.*

Our Social Life ★★ ★ ★A

We enjoy a much diversified range of activities with support spread evenly across the Drama Group, Music Society, Book Club, Bridge Club, the Women's Institute, the Village Fete and many others. That said, there are fewer Groups and Societies than there were in 2001, and less in involvement. The Village Fete is one of the few occasions when we come together as a village and there is less demand for additional clubs, societies or events. This possibly reflects greater mobility allowing access to activities further afield and the fact that we tend to have longer working hours. Despite the existence of a Book Club only a very small minority use the Mobile Library Service. The Reviewing Sub-Committee thought that it might see more business if it were to stop at more than one place in the village. Over half of respondents grow their own vegetables but when asked if they would use an allotment if one was available a significant majority said no.

Action

- *Explore the possibility of creating new events that will involve the village as a whole.*
- *Find out if it is possible for the Mobile Library Service to stop at more than one place in the village.*

The Village Hall ★★★★★

Many of our activities continue to centre on the Village Hall and the majority of us have used it at some time or other and some on a regular (monthly) basis. This reflects almost precisely usage in 2001. Most of the suggestions for improvement made in 2001 have been made and this accounts for the very high level of satisfaction with Village Hall facilities. The Hall continues to be a highly valued village asset

Pride in our Village ★★★★★A

By and large the majority of villagers believe that Duns Tew is tidy village although a small number remain dissatisfied with the standard of street cleaning, but rather fewer than in 2001. A significant minority think that it is worth having a twice yearly tidy up or at least an annual Spring Clean if necessary and a few would like the Village to enter a best kept Village competition, if one were available (the Oxfordshire competition was discontinued in 2006).

Action

- *Increase regularity of street cleaning either by OCC or self help.*
- *Be prepared to initiate a village clean up as and when required.*
- *Enter the Oxfordshire Best Kept Village competition if it is re-instated or any similar competition.*

Our Local Pub - The White Horse Inn ★★★★★A

In general there is little change from 2001. Most of us use the Village pub occasionally, although there are a small number of regulars. 60% of those who go there do so primarily to eat, and not surprisingly, the cost of food and drink is the major factor. Because the pub belongs to a national brewery chain Hook Norton bitter is not available, but in the view of respondents the pub has a good ambiance. Some would like to see the pub introduce a range of additional activities from quiz nights to supper clubs, a children's' play area and Sky sports television, but by and large we seem happy with our pub, but perhaps do not support it as much as we might.

Action

- *Support our local pub!*
- *Work with the pub management to help it meet the needs of the village.*

Do we want a Village Shop?

Interestingly, only a small minority would now support a village shop, whereas in 2001 a majority were in favour. There is generally insufficient support currently to make one a viable commercial proposition and this no doubt reflects the higher mobility of the Village as a whole and changes in shopping patterns. The idea that the Village pub might hold a small range of staple groceries to sell, albeit at a slight premium, met with little support.

Provision of Services ★★★★★A

We are broadly satisfied with the provision of water and electricity although a significant minority of households are unsatisfied with the mains water pressure. Half of households would like mains gas if it were available and most households are satisfied with the standard of refuse collection. Only half of respondents felt mobile phone coverage was adequate in the village and approximately 10% of the Village do not own a mobile phone.

Action

- *Find out what can be done to improve mains water pressure.*
- *Find out what can be done to improve mobile phone coverage.*

Play Area ★★A

Over half of respondents use the play area with their children or grandchildren and are satisfied or very satisfied with the standard of facilities. There is a general view that there is a need for larger swings for older children and this would increase the use of the area. There is still support for additional facilities but far less than in 2001 and this probably reflects the absence a youth contribution to the Appraisal. The Play Area remains a valued part of village life.

Action

- *Provide larger swings for older children when funds allow.*
- *Explore the options for providing additional play area facilities.*

Getting Out and About

An overwhelming majority believe that the quality of the countryside around Duns Tew is an important aspect of Village life and this echoes precisely the view in 2001. There are still concerns that some of the footpaths around Duns Tew are poorly signposted, in poor condition or inaccessible. A majority of respondents would like to see maps of the local footpaths and a rather smaller number would be willing to pay for a leaflet describing local walks, Only a quarter of respondents say they would be happy to help maintain footpaths and bridleways.

Action

- *Work with ORCC to improve the signposting of footpaths.*
- *Work with ORCC to improve the condition and accessibility of footpaths.*
- *Find out how much it will cost to produce a footpath leaflet or map.*

Bus Services ★A

Local bus services seem to be well known to the comparatively small number of users. Of those, only a little more than half said that the service met their particular needs. In this respect there is no change from the 2001 appraisal. In particular there was strong demand for later services from Oxford and Banbury in the evening, which may suggest that some might consider commuting by bus and although it is not clear that a better bus service would necessarily reduce car usage in the village by a significant amount. A small number of people would like to see a local bus service to and from Deddington during the day and in the evenings. However, it is unlikely that such a service would be viable.

Action

- *Find out what can be done to improve local bus services.*

Cars in the Village ★A

Although our views about the traffic problems in Duns Tew have changed little since 2001, it is clear that we have far more cars and that traffic has increased significantly. There remains a widespread view that weight of traffic and lack of parking are the two main factors which affect the village. A clear majority see speeding as an issue with both the

approach from North Aston and the bend at Hill Farm Lane as the key danger spots. Approximately half of respondents believed that further traffic control measures were necessary ranging from a reduction of the speed limit through the village to 20mph, 'Children at Play' signs and gates to signal the entrance to the village. Over half were satisfied with the level of gritting in winter (poll taken before Christmas 2009) and support for street lighting has reduced sharply to the point where the overwhelming majority would not support it.

Action

- *Explore with OCC Highways Department ways of reducing traffic speed in the village and of alleviating pressure on parking.*

On foot in the Village ★★A

As in 2001, a significant minority still find walking through the village difficult due primarily to narrow footpaths and inconsiderate parking. The areas of difficulty continue to be by the telephone box, by the White Horse Inn and on the Middle Barton Road. A majority would like to see a pedestrian footpath between Dashwood Rise and the bus stop on the A4620 but only a small minority said that they would use it on a regular basis.

Action

- *Continue to remind residents not to park on pavements and to park with consideration for others.*
- *Discuss with the relevant landowners and OCC Highways Department the possibility of creating a pedestrian footpath between Dashwood Rise and the A4620.*

The Church ★★★A

Some 65% of respondents continue to regard the Church as important to them, primarily for worship but also baptisms and weddings, fewer than in 2001. A similar percentage regard the church as a focal point for the community and primary source of 'good neighbour' help. Churchgoers seem generally content with the current service timings and a large proportion would like to see the church used as a setting for concerts or meetings that could not be accommodated in the village hall. Nearly half of respondents could envisage the church being used for exhibitions and other village activities.

Action

- *Discuss with the Parochial Church Council (PCC) the desirability of extending the use of the Church for village activities such as concerts and exhibitions.*

The Parish Council ★★★A

An overwhelming majority of respondents continue to believe that the Village needs a Parish Council although only a small minority have ever considered becoming a councillor. Over half of respondents have attended a Parish Council Meeting, but a majority believe that the Parish Council understands local concerns and feelings and would seem happy that it represents the interests of the Village properly. There remains a feeling that although the Parish Council publicises its decisions and activities reasonably well, there is still room for improvement.

Action

- *Publicise the decisions and activities of the Parish Council more effectively.*
- *Find ways of encouraging greater participation in the Parish Council.*

Building Development

Views on development within the Village remain wholly consistent with the 2001 Appraisal. A large majority of Villagers would like to see development in Duns Tew limited to infill houses, barn conversions and extensions and in small groups of less than 10 houses. There is no support for larger groups of houses however carefully designed, and there is little support for expansion at the edge of Duns Tew. There is a small majority in support of starter homes for young people and low cost housing for those who live locally. A significant minority of respondents believe that no further housing is needed and this tallies with the general view that most Villagers would like the Village to remain as it is.

Communications

Village Newsletter ★★☆☆A

As in 2001, a large majority believe there is a good or reasonable amount of information available about village events. The primary source of this is the excellent Village Newsletter, which is read on a regular basis by virtually all respondents. Almost all thought the Newsletter could contain more on local events and local issues and a significant proportion thought that it should include letters and buy and sell items. It could also usefully include telephone numbers of local services and key tradesmen such as plumbers, electricians decorators etc.

Action

- *Discuss with the editors of the Newsletter how it might be expanded to include the additional features identified above.*

Village Website ★A

90 % of us own a home computer of whom approximately half are dissatisfied with the level of broadband provision. About a third of users have visited the Village Website, which at the time of the appraisal was in its infancy. When asked what it should contain respondents gave the following in order of priority; local events, essential contacts, voluntary services, information on groups clubs and societies and Parish Council information. The percentage of potential users has barely increased from 2001, but since the website has yet to be fully implemented we would expect this number to increase significantly.

Action

- *Fully implement the village website and agree its content.*

DUNS TEW VILLAGE PLAN 2010 UPDATE

ACTIONS

| Title | Year | Action | Status |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|--|---|
| Best Kept Village Competition | 2005 | • The PC to continue to enter the Best Kept Village competition. | Done |
| Best Kept Village Competition | 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enter the Best Kept Village competition if it is re-instated or any similar competition. | |
| Bus Services | 2005 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PC to continue to lobby for the retention of and improvements to the 259 bus service. • The PC to persuade the bus company to publish regular and simple timetables in the village Newsletter. • The PC to lobby the Oxfordshire County Council that subsidises the bus services to arrange for the X59 to pass at the same place, and wait for the 259 bus; the meeting place could be either Deddington or Steeple Aston, so that the Connections bus can liaise with both buses at the same time. | Done 2005-2010 Rejected 2009 |
| Bus Services | 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find out what can be done to improve local bus services. | Rejected 2009 |
| Cars in the Village | 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore with OCC Highways Department ways of reducing traffic speed in the village and of alleviating pressure on parking. | Done 2010 |
| Church | 2005 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCC to obtain consensus in favour of church improvements. • The PCC to approve final plans and obtain any necessary planning approvals. • The PCC to raise Funds (to be co-ordinated with Village Hall fundraising). • The PCC to carry out works (probably staged, based on progress of fundraising). <p>The Village Hall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Village Hall Committee (VHC) to produce a development and fundraising plan and provisional timing. • Once the funding is in place the VHC to implement plans to ensure successful completion of work as soon as feasibly possible. | Complete |
| Church | 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss with the PCC the desirability of extending the use of the Church for village activities such as concerts and exhibitions. | |
| Communications | 2005 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Communications SIG to continue to operate. • The Communication SIG and VHC to assist members in starting new clubs as appropriate. • The Communications SIG to investigate the practicality of creating an historical archive for Duns Tew of locally available records. • The Communications SIG to take further action as appropriate to improve communications. | |
| Communications | 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the possibility of creating new events that will involve the village as a whole. Find out if it is possible for the Mobile Library Service to stop at more than one place in the village. | |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|--|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss with the editors of the Newsletter how it might be expanded to include the additional features identified. | Started 2010 |
| Footpaths | 2005 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PC to maintain contact with the Highways Agency stressing the danger for pedestrians and drivers alike along the stretch of road to the A4260 and thus the case for an appropriate footpath. • The PC to formally appoint a Councillor responsible for Footpaths whose task is to remedy the things that are wrong and start a programme of improvement to public footpath access in Duns Tew Parish as well as maintaining safe and effective pavements within the village. | <p>Done</p> <p>Done 2010</p> |
| Footpaths | 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with ORCC to improve the signposting of footpaths. • Work with ORCC to improve the condition and accessibility of footpaths. • Find out how much it will cost to produce a footpath leaflet or map. • Continue to remind residents not to park on pavements and to park with consideration for others. • Discuss with the relevant landowners and OCC Highways Department the possibility of creating a pedestrian footpath between Dashwood Rise and the A4620. | <p>Started 2009</p> <p>Rejected 2010</p> |
| Fire Service | 2005 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parish Council to lobby against fire control centralization. | Achieved |
| Good Neighbour Scheme | 2005 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parish Council to set up Good Neighbour Action Group. • The Good Neighbour Action Group to devise a formal scheme, identify volunteers and publicise the scheme. | |
| Good Neighbour Scheme | 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further test the need for a Good Neighbour Scheme. | Started 2010 |
| Health Service | 2005 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the Health Centre's agreement, the Parish Council to establish a location in the village where repeat prescriptions can be delivered for collection by the patients. | Rejected |
| Neighbourhood Watch Scheme | 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicise the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to make it more effective. | |
| Parish Council | 2005 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PC to monitor the implementation of the Action Plan. • The PC to continue to seek more ways of communicating what they do including a regular column in the Newsletter and a list of the planning applications processed last month. | |
| Parish Council | 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicise the decisions and activities of the Parish Council more effectively. • Find ways of encouraging greater participation in the Parish Council. | |
| Play Area | 2005 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PC to review the situation with the owners on an annual basis, prompted by an item on a Parish Council agenda. • The PC to continue to seek the opinions and help of the parents in providing the sort of facilities that toddlers want to use. • The PC to discuss adjusting the precept to finance the proposed additional equipment and a | <p>Done 2010</p> <p>Done</p> |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|---|---------------------|
| | | programme of replacement. | 2009 |
| Play Area | 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide larger swings for older children when funds allow. • Explore the options for providing additional play area facilities. | In hand 2010 |
| Pride in the Village | 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase regularity of street cleaning either by OCC or self help. • Be prepared to initiate a village clean up as and when required. | |
| Provision of Services | 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find out what can be done to improve mains water pressure. • Find out what can be done to improve mobile phone coverage. | |
| Pub | 2005 | • The Parish Council enter into further discussions with the landlord to investigate more fully the suggestions for practical initiatives to extend the role of the Village Pub in future village life. | |
| Pub | 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support our local pub! • Work with the pub management to help it meet the needs of the village. | Started 2010 |
| Streetlights | 2005 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PC to continue to resist street lights in Duns Tew Traffic issues. • The PC to continue to seek ways to keep Duns Tew pedestrians and residents safe from speeding traffic hazards. | On-going |
| Website | 2005 | •The PC to review the demand for a web-site on an annual basis. Each year, there should be a discussion upon whether there was sufficient support for a village web-site and if so, whether there is the will to invest money from the precept. | |
| Website | 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully implement the village website and agree its content. | Done 2010 |
| Welcome Pack | 2005 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Communications SIG to set-up a Welcome Pack Action Group •The Welcome Pack Group to identify format and contents, produce the pack and maintain pack information up to date in liaison with Newsletter Editor | |
| Welcome Pack | 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a Welcome Pack for newcomers to the village. | |
| Youth Club | 2005 | •The PC to search for members of a Youth Issues Group. | On-going |