

VILLAGE APPRAISAL

2006/07

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Contents

The parish council sponsored a survey during 2006 to gather the views of villagers on a wide range of topical issues. The survey comprised an appraisal questionnaire distributed to all households in the village and feedback from the children at St George's CofE Primary School.

The response rate for the questionnaire was 44%, which is about average for appraisals previously undertaken by similar sized parishes in south east England. However, analysis of the responses received indicates that a significant proportion of younger adults did not take part – for example only 25% of households with children at St George's School returned a completed questionnaire.

The quality of the responses received was high and the parish council is confident that the information gained is sufficient to enable it and other village organisations to plan for the future and, with appropriate support, invest in the improvements that villagers believe are needed.

A huge majority of people considered Great Bromley to be a pleasant and convenient place in which to live. However, there were widespread concerns about issues such as road safety, speeding vehicles and the lack of activities for children which need to be addressed.

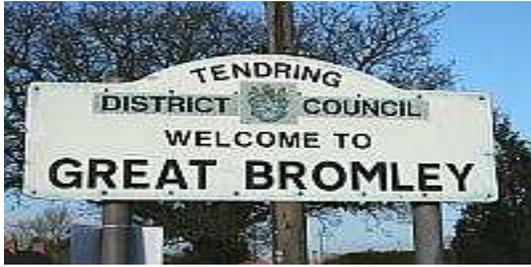
This document summarises the main issues arising from the appraisal and outlines the actions needed to make the necessary improvements.



St George's Church from Brook Street

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Introduction



The Parish of Great Bromley lies within the Tendring Peninsula and is located some 7 miles east of Colchester and 5 miles south of Manningtree. The parish covers an area of 1212 hectares of mainly good quality agricultural land interspaced by small areas of woodland. The north of the parish is rural in nature and relatively sparsely populated, as is the centre of the village in the vicinity of St George's Church and Primary School. The village was effectively divided into two parts with the building of the A120 trunk road in the early 1980s and it is in the more densely populated Hare Green and Balls Green areas to the south of this road that the majority of the 400 households in the village are located.



The Old Post Office

The name 'Bromley' is believed to mean 'broom clearing' and mention of Great Bromley is made in the Domesday Book of 1086. The parish has had several different spellings and pronunciations since that time and it is highly likely that the parishes of Great and Little Bromley were in ancient times part of one larger village of Bromley.

The centre of the village is dominated by the Parish Church of St George the Martyr. This magnificent

building with its double hammerbeam roof and large tower is widely considered to be one of the finest churches in north Essex. Some other notable buildings in the village are: the adjacent Great Bromley Hall, now a Leonard Cheshire Foundation Cheshire Home; Great Bromley Lodge, now renamed Hamilton Lodge and a residential home for the disabled; St George's CofE Primary School, founded in 1863 as a Church Foundation School and Copley Dene, a fine Queen Anne country house and the former rectory situated on the crest of Parsons Hill, adjacent to the village hall and cricket ground.

The close proximity of Great Bromley to Colchester, with its wide range of shops, facilities and good employment opportunities has resulted in the village being little more than a 'dormitory' for residents work and leisure



The Lych gate

activities. This is a very different situation to that of fifty years' ago when the majority of residents had jobs locally, were less mobile and there were a large number of sports and other recreational clubs active within the village.



Great Bromley Village Hall

Great Bromley is fortunate in that it has an excellent primary school, a fine village hall, a successful cricket club and a well equipped recreation field at Hare Green amongst other assets. However, effort is now required to identify the needs of the current population and engage with more of them to enhance the quality of life to the benefit of all.

Why a Village Appraisal?

The government is actively encouraging all parishes to establish a vision for the future of their parish and identify the actions needed to achieve that vision. Commonly known as a parish plan, the resulting document is a local, action-based plan which identifies and addresses a range of problems and opportunities affecting the local community. Although the parish council generally sponsors, co-ordinates and eventually owns the parish plan, community participation is crucial to its success and the wider community should be involved in gathering and assessing the information required, normally through survey, research and consultation.

A village appraisal is widely recognised as one of the most effective ways of identifying the issues that are important to local people. It generally takes the form of a questionnaire distributed to all households in a village. The resulting responses are analysed and resulting information used to provide the framework for the parish plan.

In 2005, following informal consultation with local community groups and organisations, Great Bromley Parish Council agreed that a parish plan would benefit the local community. There were widespread concerns that some existing facilities, activities, clubs and organisations were poorly supported and under-utilised and it was clear that the majority of villagers were playing little or no part in the community. It was, therefore, considered important for the community to know how it saw itself evolving over the next few years and in particular to:

- identify which features, local characteristics and activities people value
- identify local opportunities and problems
- identify people's needs, aspirations and priorities

The parish council considered that consultation should take the form of a village appraisal for both adults and teenagers within the village. Feedback from younger children would be gained from discussion work within St George's School. A working group, comprising three parish councillors and three representative members of other organisations within the village, was established in early 2006 with the task of designing a suitable questionnaire and analysing the results. The questionnaire was distributed to all households at the end of May 2006, with responses due to be returned to the parish clerk by mid-July. The questionnaire contained 105 questions of specific relevance to the village and the answers were analysed in conjunction with the 2001 National Census results. The full appraisal results document, the appraisal report (this document) and a summary report for the parish magazine were published in March 2007 and copies also uploaded to the village website.



The Village Pond



The A120/A133 Junction at Hare Green

The Neighbourhood and Community

When assessing the community spirit in the village it must be remembered that less than half of all households returned their completed questionnaires. Presumably, many of these households are not interested in playing a role in the community. Of those households who did respond, over 93% were satisfied generally with Great Bromley as a convenient and pleasant village in which to live. Over 45% considered that the existing community spirit was average, whilst 25% considered it to be strong and 13% to be weak. Over 56% of households considered themselves to be involved in the community, with half the remainder not being involved because they didn't have time or no existing activities interested them.



Tree Planting at Hare Green



A Float at the Great Bromley Carnival

However, the majority of households responding wished to be involved in more activities in the village - if these were organised. 36% expressed an interest in getting involved in environmental and nature projects and 20% with general voluntary work. 10% would like to participate actively in parish council initiatives and projects, whilst 26% would like to participate in existing or new clubs and societies.

Over 20% of households would like to have an annual event such as a fete organised within the village. There was also clear support for more entertainment in the village hall and for evening classes/further education to be provided.

Over 60% of households considered that the general environment was the most important characteristic of the village. The convenience of the location was most important to 21%, with the community being of prime importance to only 13%. The overall knowledge of the village amongst some households was poor and several were keen to learn more about it and its people, its facilities and history as well as becoming more involved in village activities.

Proposed Action

The parish council to:

- *Establish the viability and priority of additional voluntary and leisure activities within the village and provide support and encouragement as required.*
- *Improve the availability of general information about the village.*

The Parish Council

Almost all respondents were content with the way that the parish council discharges its responsibilities. However, there were many suggestions for improvement including: closer involvement and better communications between councillors and residents at a personal level; a better understanding of what the parish council responsibilities are and who is serving on it; the involvement of more villagers in parish council initiatives to get things done more quickly and the production of a parish plan with occasional updates on progress.



St George's Church from Mary Lane North



The Parish Council at its February 2007 meeting

The main issues on which villagers thought the parish council should make further progress were: reducing speeding within the village, improving verges and footpaths; providing greater financial support to local organisations; monitoring breaches of planning conditions for local commercial premises; championing affordable housing and reviewing waste and litter collection arrangements.

Over half of respondents did not think that forming a joint parish council of the Bromleys would hold any advantage for Great Bromley. Also, the fact that Great and Little Bromley were in different electoral wards would make some aspects of joint parish management complex.

Less than two thirds of households knew any of their elected council representatives at parish, district and county level, indicating that better communication is required to ensure that councillors can be contacted direct if required and local issues of concern discussed on an informal basis.

Proposed Action

The parish council to:

- *Review its organisation and management to ensure that maximum benefit is gained from volunteers and others within the village when undertaking projects and initiatives.*
- *Publicise details of its responsibilities and the names of the councillors who are serving on it.*
- *Develop a parish plan as a basis for future management and resource prioritisation.*

Community Safety and Crime Prevention

Over 50% of households were dissatisfied with the current level of policing in Great Bromley and several were unclear about the recent reorganisation of policing in the district. About one third wished to see a more overt police presence in the village, particularly as part of a concerted effort to reduce the number of speeding motorists. Several respondents complained about the poor service they had received from the police when incidents had occurred. In general terms, many residents did not consider there to be a satisfactory relationship with the police at all. This, in an era of low crime, may not be critical but the current situation does not bode well should local crime rates rise in the future.

Considerable interest was shown in developing neighbourhood watch schemes in the village. Over two thirds of households wanted effective schemes throughout the village and 13% were prepared to help run them, with a further 25% of respondents wanting to know more about them before committing themselves. Almost all households would like to have a regular summary of reported local crime and crime-related advice in the Bromley Messenger and on the village website.



Most households were worried about the large and growing number of motorists speeding through the village and wanted the police to take more effective action to dissuade them. 45% considered that the parish council should invest in visual warning signs in an attempt to get drivers to slow down. 31% supported the introduction of traffic calming measures in some locations. Most also considered there to be dangerous junctions or other hazards in the village which could be improved, greatest concern being expressed about the: Selectacars crossroads; A120/Harwich Road junction; Cross Inn junction; illegal parking at Selectacars; visibility at the Mary Lane South/



Typical village traffic scenes

Harwich Road junction and lack of a safe footway between Hare Green and the Old Courthouse Inn. Many other good suggestions were received, particularly from those who cycle in the local area, which deserve serious consideration.

A significant majority of respondents considered the current levels of street lighting to be about right, although several residents suggested that additional lighting in Hare Green might be appropriate. Many households observed that several roadside hedges and verges were overgrown.

Proposed Action

The parish council to:

- *Develop further the relationship between police and residents.*
- *Hold a public meeting on neighbourhood watch with a view to launching schemes throughout the village.*
- *Request the police to provide a monthly summary of local crime and crime prevention advice for publication.*
- *Review all hazardous roads, road junctions and pavements with a view to initiating improvements by the authorities.*
- *Establish a formal speed reduction initiative within the village.*
- *Inspect the condition of hedges and verges in the village to identify those which are a hazard and need attention.*
- *Review street lighting in Hare Green.*

The Natural and Developed Environment

Only 2 households supported the provision of large-scale industrial land and associated housing in Great Bromley. 47% were against any employment-generating development at all, although 45% supported small scale development including farm diversification.



The Book Service Warehouse viewed from Hare Green

The majority considered that additional housing should be built in the village, but limited to 12 'affordable houses' (42%); that infill should be allowed within existing settlement boundaries (36%) and small scale developments of up to 10 houses allowed (22%).



Housing Development in Frating Road

There was very significant support for improvements to the village environment. 70% of households considered that the village pond should be restored and 80% considered that the general environment would be improved if Great Bromley entered the Best Kept Village Competition. Nearly half of all respondents offered to assist actively with preparing the village for the competition.

The majority of households were in favour of one or more changes to Church Meadow. 51% were in favour of discreet, low level lighting; 38% were in favour of hard surfacing a greater proportion of the grassed area; 39% supported the provision of a small play area for young children and 31% wanted to ban overnight parking.



St George's Church viewed from Church Meadow

Over 80% were content with the current location of the recycling centre, although several would like to see it screened from view to some extent. There was very strong support from the pupils of St George's School, on safety grounds, for a separate entrance and exit to be provided for vehicles using Church Meadow.

52% of households claimed to use at least one footpath regularly and almost all were keen to see village footpaths properly maintained. 16% of households offered to help maintain these in good condition. Adverse comment was received on the condition of most footpaths in the village, particularly Back Lane West to Mary Lane



North, Back Lane East to the B1029 and the footway between Chase Road East and the Harwich Road. Illegal use of footpaths by horse riders, poor signage and overgrown paths were cited as reasons why footpaths were not used more often by residents.

Although routine road and verge cleaning is undertaken by Tendring District Council contractors, 45% of respondents considered that there was a problem with litter in the village. Nearly 70% thought that residents should be encouraged to litter pick in the vicinity of their

The Natural and Developed Environment (cont)

property. There was good support for regular litter picking to be organised throughout the village and about 20% would be prepared to help. Over 60% of households supported the idea of an annual 'spring clean' day during which residents litter pick, clean road signs and generally tidy up the village.



About 70% of households were in favour of further tree and hedge planting in the village. Popular off-road locations were: the vicinity of the village pond; the vicinity of the village hall/cricket ground; Church Meadow and Hare Green Recreation Field. Many roadside locations were mentioned which will be surveyed for suitability. Over 70% of respondents thought that trees and hedges should be planted in conjunction with landowners on private land adjacent to public

rights of way. 10% of households offered to assist the tree warden with future tree and hedge planting work in the village.

Some respondents suggested that more trees in the village should be given preservation orders. These included several trees in the vicinity of the village hall/cricket pitch, the large oak in Mary Lane North and the horse chestnut trees on Parsons Hill.

Two thirds of respondents were in favour of the parish council buying land within the village for leisure and recreational use. Nearly 80% of these would like to see a community woodland or nature/walking area created; 30% would like a dog walking area and 27% a further sports pitch. If land was bought in the vicinity of the village hall, 23% of people would like the village recycling facility to be moved to that location.



Ponies grazing alongside Mary Lane North

The children at St George's School were keen for the village to adopt the overgrown area between Brook Street and Springhill Close. They would like to be involved with making a nature area and small village green.

Proposed Action

The parish council to:

- *Re-launch the affordable homes initiative and investigate whether one-bedroom homes for the elderly could be provided in the village under similar arrangements.*
- *Launch a formal village pond restoration project.*
- *If feasible, launch a community environment project in conjunction with St George's School on land fronting Springhill Close.*
- *Undertake the Church Meadow project in 2007/08.*
- *Launch a village footpaths project to include clearance, signage and production of a master map.*
- *Sponsor and organise an annual village 'spring clean' day and co-ordinate voluntary litter picking throughout the year.*
- *Form a Best Kept Village Competition Committee with a view to entering the competition in the future.*
- *Investigate the purchase of amenity land within the village.*

The tree warden to:

- *Continue with the village tree planting programme and request additional tree preservation orders.*

Education, Employment and Transport

Just over 200 adults responding to the appraisal were in employment, with 110 being retired. 75% of those in employment worked within 10 miles of home, with 15% employed within the village. Only 20 adults were not in employment.



St George's C of E Primary School

There is a wide range of after school clubs already active at St George's School. The majority of respondents considered that breakfast clubs and after school care were not required. However, 83% of respondents would like occasional activities within a holiday play scheme to be organised within the village.

There was significant interest in further education/evening classes being provided within the village, with 83 adults willing to attend if the subjects were appropriate. However, some appreciated the difficulty of getting sufficient support and funding to enable classes to go ahead, particularly with recent government cutbacks in this area.

The provision of public transport for Great Bromley was generally considered poor, although the minimum service levels laid down by Essex County Council were being met. Over 70% of adults in the village do not use local bus services at all and, of the remainder, use is split almost evenly between travelling to work and leisure. Over half of all respondents considered that bus services were inadequate for their needs, mainly for the following reasons: more frequent services are required, particularly in the evenings; there is poor timetabling, particularly at peak times and; there is no service to

Manningtree. Teenagers in particular were frustrated by the lack of bus services in the evenings, which curtailed their opportunity to participate in leisure activities.



The local bus service to Colchester/Walton

22% of households would use a voluntary transport service if one was available in the village for those in genuine need. 38% of households would be prepared to take part in a voluntary transport service and provide lifts to others on occasions convenient to them. 43% of households would like access to a village community bus.

Lack of public transport was problematic for 13% of respondents needing to travel to Great Bentley, Ardleigh or Colchester for medical appointments but who did not have their own car.

Proposed Action

The parish council to:

- *Investigate the provision of a limited holiday play scheme within the village.*
- *Review the provision of bus services with the local authorities to ascertain whether a service could be provided to Manningtree and whether additional services could be provided to Colchester.*
- *Consider launching a voluntary transport service within the village.*
- *Investigate the viability of a community bus for Great Bromley.*

Leisure and Recreation

There are few organised activities for children in the village and 88% of households considered that more effort should be made to provide them. From the households which responded to the appraisal questionnaire, the following numbers of children of mixed ages would like to participate in the most popular activities listed below:

Holiday Activity Club	21	-
Music/Dance Club	18	(4)
Youth Club	15	(3)
Rounders/Baseball Club	14	(1)
Computing/Technology Club	13	(1)
Hobbies Club	11	(2)
Football Club	10	(1)

The number of adults volunteering to help organise each activity is shown in brackets. There is clearly potential for at least some of these activities to take place in the future.



Young Childrens' Play Equipment at Hare Green

Nearly 60% of households considered that leisure facilities within the village for adults were inadequate. The number of respondents shown below would support the following more popular activities, if organised:

Evening Classes/Further Education	83
Dancing/Entertainment	47
Film Evenings	43
Games Evenings	19
Bingo	8

There was little support for other activities suggested.

63% of households considered that physical recreational facilities in the village were adequate. The remainder would like more to be provided, the most popular being a hard-surfaced area for ball games including tennis and basketball. There was also support for improvements to the existing facilities on the Hare Green Recreation Field, which were regularly used by 20% of households. 12% of households regularly used the vicinity of the cricket ground, primarily for dog walking.



The Village Cricket Ground

The village hall was well regarded by almost all respondents and nearly 80% would hire it for a function if the need arose. Over 60% had used the village hall in the last year, primarily attending charity and fundraising events. Several suggestions for improvements were made, the most popular of which was improving the car park. These have been passed to the village hall management committee for consideration.

Proposed Action

The parish council to:

- *Investigate the provision of additional adult leisure activities.*
- *Investigate the provision of a hard surfaced area with a basketball hoop and assess the viability of a tennis court.*

The Hare Green Recreation Field committee to:

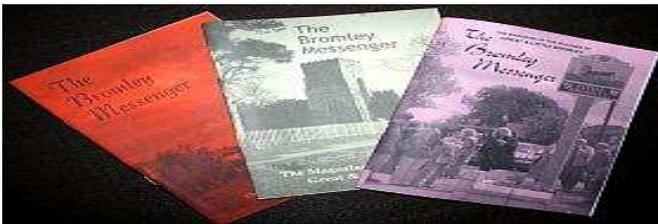
- *Review the list of improvements suggested.*

The village hall management committee to:

- *Review the list of improvements suggested.*

Promoting Good Communications

The Bromley Messenger, the village magazine, was read cover to cover by 85% of households each month. Only one respondent claimed not to look at it at all. 97% of households considered the content to be about right, but there was support for the following additional features: more detail of planning applications; local crime reports; more local history; more local news; more detail on parish council affairs and inclusion of the month of issue on the front cover.



Parish Council News, Forthcoming Events and 'From the Past' were the most popular features, with St George's School/PTA, Kitchen Corner and Church News being the least read. There were a large number of suggestions as to how the magazine could be enhanced significantly in scope and size, e.g. by including provision of local information, bus timetables, for sale/wanted ads, monthly competitions and job vacancies. However, many suggestions were related to reference information which might be more suited to periodic issue or noticeboard display. All suggestions have been passed to the Bromley Messenger Management Committee which will consider the proposals in due course. 87% of households considered the level of advertising in the magazine to be about right and 10% expressed an interest in sponsoring a month, or part month, of the magazine.

About 30% of households had accessed the village website at www.greatbromley.org.uk. Whilst finding it useful, several suggestions for improvements were made, e.g. by expanding the parish council section; including archive material and more photographs and completing those sections that had not yet been built. These and other points have been passed to the webmaster for action. 88% of respondents thought that a limited commercial presence/advertising should be allowed on the website to offset the costs of providing it.



Welcome to the Website of the Parish of Great Bromley, Essex.

About 90% of households considered the five noticeboards throughout the village to be accessible and adequate for purpose. Suggestions for improvement have been passed to the parish council for consideration. 64% of households claimed to look at the noticeboards regularly. Over 90% of respondents supported the proposal for an information centre in Church Meadow which, if provided, would make the existing noticeboard outside the school redundant. There was a clear consensus that information to be displayed should include: local tourist information; a detailed map of the village including road names and footpath routes; parish council notices; general events notices; local jobs vacant and wanted; details of church services; details of clubs and organisations in the village and items for sale/wanted.

Proposed Action

The Bromley Messenger Management Committee to:

- *Review the content of the magazine.*

The webmaster to:

- *Develop and enhance the village website, particularly relating to parish council business and inclusion of limited, appropriate advertising.*

The parish council to:

- *Arrange for a village information centre to be provided in Church Meadow.*

Public Facilities in the Village

Over 70% of households considered it important or very important to have a post office in the village. 33% used the Cross Inn Post Office regularly, with a further 40% using it occasionally. Several respondents indicated it would be more frequently used if: it was relocated to Brook Street; it was open for longer hours, particularly in the late afternoon or it was expanded into a shop selling a wider range of goods.

Based on their likely use of a village shop, 51% of households believed that investment in such a facility could still be justified, despite the fact that the post office and shop that recently closed in Brook Street had been struggling for several years. There was particular support for a shop in Brook Street from children at St George's School.



The Snooty Fox Public House in Frating Road

23% of respondents were prepared to participate in the staffing and management of a community-run shop.

The recycling facilities on Church Meadow generate income for the parish and two thirds of households recycle their waste there. The remainder take waste to other sites as this was more convenient. Only one household claimed not to recycle waste. Two thirds of households considered the current site suitable, with one third preferring a move to the area of the village hall if space could be made available. A small percentage of households would recycle more waste within the village if facilities were provided in the

Hare Green/Balls Green and Cross Inn/Burnt Heath areas.



The Recycling Facility on Church Meadow

Only 15% of households used a village pub at least one a week, although 57% considered them to be important or very important as venues to meet other residents and enhance community spirit. 20 respondents regularly used pubs outside the village which they believed had better food or a friendlier atmosphere, or to experience something different. The following changes would tempt members of 37 households to use a pub in Great Bromley more frequently: a smoking ban (49%); better food (46%); friendlier staff (27%); more family-friendly environment (21%); more atmosphere/ activities (19%).

Proposed Action

The parish council to:

- Note the potential to relocate the recycling centre should additional land become available in the vicinity of the village hall.

The post office proprietor to:

- Consider the suggestions made regarding late opening and expansion of the range of goods sold.

Pub landlords to:

- Note the comments made by residents about the village pubs.

Religious Worship

59 households, of whom 24 worshipped at St George's, considered themselves to be active members of a church. Irrespective of religious belief or zeal, over 75% of respondents considered the upkeep and conservation of St George's Church as a historic building to be important or very important to the village.



St George's Church Tower

83% of households considered a thriving St George's Church community to be important to the village. However, 26 respondents who were members of the Church of England did not worship in the parish church because: their spiritual needs were not met by the current services (69%); the timings of the services were inconvenient (23%) or there were inadequate facilities for children (8%).



The Churchyard looking East



Proposed Action

The parochial church council to:

- *Note the comments made.*

Supporting Young People

A total of 33 'teenagers aged 11-17 years completed the youth section of the appraisal questionnaire. 76% of them enjoyed living in Great Bromley, citing quietness; cleanliness; personal safety/low crime levels; friendly neighbours; easy access to towns; proximity to nature/countryside; convenience; good schools; cricket club and the Hare Green Recreation Field as reasons to be positive about the village. However, they generally disliked the following aspects of village life: lack of things to do; speeding vehicles/road safety; dog fouling; poor public transport; lack of facilities; lack of community spirit; no broadband in some parts; vandalism and overgrown footpaths.



Play Equipment on Hare Green Recreation Field

17 teenagers regularly used the play equipment and recreation field at Hare Green and the same number considered that there was no need for additional facilities or equipment at this site. However, several others wanted enhancements, including: more play equipment; a basketball hoop; nets on both football goals; bike jumps; more seats and litter bins; more facilities on the skate park and for the football pitch to be permanently marked out.

70% of teenagers did not consider there to be a problem with juvenile crime in the village, although they believed that current crime levels would reduce if there were more leisure activities available. A similar percentage wanted more activities to be organised, particularly a football club, a youth club and a badminton club. 22% wanted to be involved with environmental projects within the village such as tree planting and pond maintenance. Over half wanted more nature and walking areas to be provided.

Almost all teenagers participated in at least one sporting or leisure activity which took place outside Great Bromley. However, the majority would have sufficient spare time to participate in additional activities in the village if these were organised. 30% of teenagers played for the village cricket club, or practised with it. Several suggested that they would like to play football, basketball and netball within the village instead of having to travel elsewhere, as at present, to play.

25% of teenagers had full or part time employment, but only one third worked in the village. A further 6 teenagers were currently looking for work, preferably within the village.

Pupils at St George's School considered several issues to be of importance, including: provision of a village shop in Brook Street; additional play facilities at the village hall and on Church Meadow; provision of improved vehicular access to Church Meadow; improved footpath maintenance; creation of a nature area and small village green on land fronting Springhill Close and formation of a village youth football club.



Proposed Action

The parish council to:

- *Review the adequacy of current play facilities in the village.*
- *Investigate the availability of broadband.*
- *Review in detail the demand for youth sports clubs, in particular football.*



The Post Box at Balls Green

What Next?

People are generally content with life in Great Bromley. They value the general environment in the village as well as its convenient location. However, the appraisal showed that there are a number of areas of village life where improvements are sought.

Summary of Residents' Major Concerns and Suggestions

SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Speeding Traffic
- Lack of Policing
- Hazardous Roads

ENVIRONMENT

- 'Oasis' Development
- Affordable Housing
- Footpath Maintenance
- Village Pond Restoration
- Church Meadow Improvements
- Reduce Litter
- Buy Community Land

TRANSPORT

- Improve Bus Services
- Community Bus
- Voluntary Transport Service

LEISURE

- Lack of Organised Activities
- Hard Surfaced Recreation Area
- Village Hall Improvements

COMMUNICATIONS

- Additions to Magazine
- Enhancement of Website
- Information Centre

FACILITIES

- Village Shop

CHILDREN

- Lack of:
 - Organised Clubs and Sport
 - Holiday Activities
 - Play Facilities

This report has summarised the main results of the village appraisal carried out in summer 2006. Of the many points and suggestions raised, the main ones are listed in the adjacent table. These and the other action points raised in the report will be discussed in detail by the parish council at its March 2007 meeting and will form the basis of a new parish plan to be launched formally after the May parish council elections. A briefing on the appraisal will be given at the Annual Parish Assembly in May 2007, at which villagers will have the opportunity to raise any points they wish regarding the appraisal and the parish plan. A draft copy of the latter will be available at that forum.

The appraisal results and parish plan will be sent to Tendring District Council, Essex County Council, The Rural Community Council for Essex, Essex Police and other relevant organisations for information. It will then be up to the parish council to take the initiatives forward. The large amount of work to be done is clearly outside the capability of parish councillors alone and it will be essential to work with village organisations and residents. Without the active support of these groups, it will not be possible to plan and resource the many initiatives identified by villagers as necessary to improve further the quality of life in Great Bromley.



Sheep Grazing at Badley Hall Farm