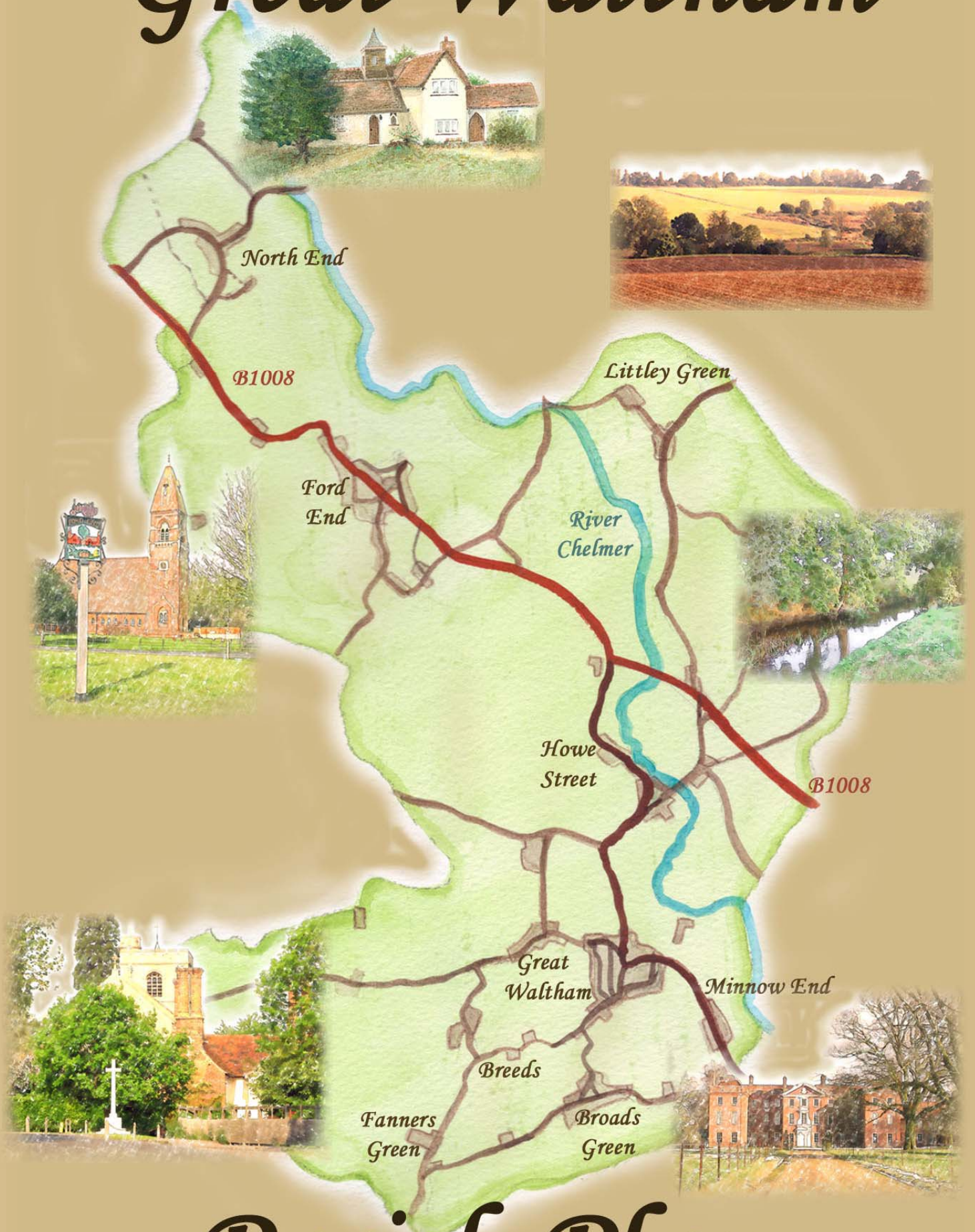


Great Waltham



Parish Plan

Great Waltham Parish Plan

This document provides a description of the character and quality of services available in the Parish as perceived by the residents. It sets out how they want the Parish to develop over the next few years and addresses issues affecting the residents of the hamlets and villages of the Parish.

The content of this document results from a consultation by Questionnaire and exhibitions in the various parts of the Parish to:

- obtain the views of all sections of the community;
- identify which features and local characteristics people value;
- identify local problems and opportunities;
- identify needs, aspirations and priorities;
- outline a plan of action to achieve identified objectives.

The Parish Plan will enable local priorities to be fed into statutory planning processes such as the Community Strategy, as set out in the Government's Rural Strategy of 2004. It is different from, though complementary to, the Great Waltham and North End Village Design Statements, in that it deals largely with social issues and the provision of services and facilities, whereas the Village Design Statements deal largely with planning issues and the care and enhancement of the local area.

The Parish Plan has a limited life and will need constant revision to adjust to changing circumstances over time. That is, the Action List will need to be reviewed regularly and ideally the Parish Plan will need a complete revision at approximately ten yearly intervals.

Great Waltham Parish Council adopted this Parish Plan (with the included Action List) on 19 April 2010 as guidance for its work.

Further copies of this document are available from:

Great Waltham Parish Council
C/o Larkrise
17 Cherry Garden Road
Great Waltham
Essex CM3 1DH

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1. Introduction

Government and Policy Context

Parish Plan projects were initiated by the Government and encouraged through County Councils, as part of the nationwide drive to devolve decision-making to local levels, where appropriate. Great Waltham Parish Council sponsored this Parish Plan; it being fundamental that the local Community should produce the document, using local consultation to identify the ideas and issues of concern to the residents of the Parish. Like most community projects, the preparation of the Parish Plan depended upon local volunteers.

How the Parish Plan was Developed

The Parish Council and the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) jointly initiated the process at a public meeting by explaining the Parish Plan project and asking for volunteers to form a Parish Plan Steering Group. This Steering Group was charged with organising public consultation and preparing this document. The Parish Plan Committee was elected at a well attended Inaugural Public Meeting for this purpose.

The Committee obtained help from the RCCE and guidance from existing Parish Plans. Other useful sources of information were the Great Waltham Village Design Statement (covering the southern part of the Parish) and the North End Village Design Statement.

The emphasis has been to consult with the whole community and this was achieved through a Questionnaire and by holding local exhibitions in each of the villages and hamlets.

The Questionnaire was designed so that every Parish resident had an opportunity to express his or her opinions on relevant issues and to identify their local needs and concerns.

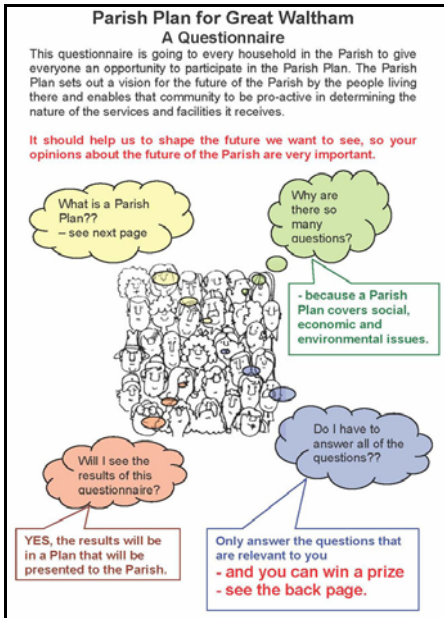
Initially, in order to test its design and suitability, a limited, pilot distribution of the draft Questionnaire was made to a number of residents of each of the villages and hamlets in the Parish. Comments on the clarity of the content and suggestions for improvement were obtained, many of which were incorporated into the final version. The final Questionnaire was hand-delivered to each household in the Parish and each resident in the household was able to respond to the questions anonymously. As an incentive to return the Questionnaires, each copy had a unique tear-off number that could be retained separately and entered into a prize draw if the completed Questionnaire was returned.

The initial findings were displayed at public meetings in both Great Waltham and Ford End Village Halls and further feedback was sought. These meetings, which were publicised by flyers distributed to every household in the Parish, were well attended. Many residents appreciated the presence of local organisations that were invited to publicise their activities

The findings from the Questionnaire identified the residents' needs and concerns across the whole Parish. However, the populations of some villages and hamlets are relatively small compared to that of the whole Parish and, to reinforce these findings, exhibitions of the results specific to them were publicised at local venues and further feedback was obtained.

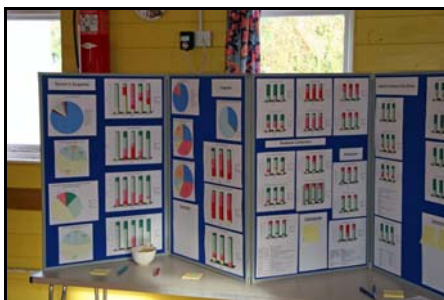
Document Status

The published document, with the included Action List, was adopted by Great Waltham Parish Council on 19th April 2010.



Parish Plan Questionnaire

The Parish Plan Committee:
 Full time members:
 Paul Braisby Chairman
 Alex McDevitt Editor
 Matt Lake Treasurer
 David Moncaster Secretary
 George Hassan
 Alan Adcock
 Members for part of the project:
 Martin Herbert, Kerry Yates and
 Derek Jones (who sadly died)



Public Exhibition at Ford End



Public Exhibition at Broads Green

2. Historical Background of the Parish

Introduction

This section provides some perspective into how our Parish became what it is today. It is of limited scope but for those who may be interested in further reading, the information sources consulted are listed in Appendix 1 on page 38.

Early Settlement

Our part of the Chelmer Valley has been settled for a long time. Stone Age artefacts were found in Howe Street and North End. There is evidence of a late Bronze age settlement in Broads Green and a late Iron Age settlement in the South Eastern corner of the Parish. Roman tiles are set in the walls of the St Mary and St Lawrence church and a few Roman artefacts have been found. Parts of the present B1008 follow the original route of a Roman road through the Parish.

Early Local Government

The Kingdom of Essex dates from the sixth century. When the Saxon Kingdoms were united under one King, Essex became a 'Shire', administered by a king's representative, the 'ealdorman', who was assisted by his officer, the scir-gerefa¹. The Shire was divided into 'Hundreds', each Hundred being the land that would sustain one hundred households². Great Waltham was governed through the Chelmsford Hundred Court.

Following the Norman Conquest, King William gave most of the land, previously held by the Saxon Earls to his followers. One of four records for Great Waltham in the Domesday book of 1085 is:

'Geoffrey (de Mandeville) holds Great Waltham in Lordship, which Asgar held as a manor, for 8 hides before 1066 ...'

Geoffrey de Mandeville subsequently divided the Parish into the manors of Walthambury (the largest and richest), Chatham Hall, Warners or Little Lee Park, Hyde Hall, South House, Marischals (later Langleys), and the Rectory. (The latter was gifted to Walden Abbey.) Langleys became the principal manor and was held by the Mariskill (Marshal) family in the 13th and 14th centuries and then passed to the Everards, who held it until the 18th century.

The Norman Lord of the Manor, assisted by the priest, governed Great Waltham. This was the Manorial Court system.

Origins of the Parish Council

The Parish of Great Waltham is an Ancient Parish³, dating from the mid tenth century. Originally dealing with Church affairs only, it was regulated by a 'Vestry Court' until the Poor Relief Acts (1597 and 1601) gave the Vestry Court secular authority by providing relief for its own poor. It replaced the Manorial Court, which was in decline by this time.

The Vestry Court was elected at an annual meeting which was generally attended by the few citizens who were literate. The meeting elected the Churchwardens, Overseers and an Assistant Overseer, with duties of a Clerk. The franchise of parishioners was very limited as Great Waltham was governed by the Vicar, the Churchwardens, the Squire and some prominent farmers. The Vestry Court set and collected a poor rate to provide relief for the



Great Waltham Village



Howe Street



Ford End



North End



Little Green – Blacksmiths

¹ The scir-gerefa became shire reeve or sheriff, an office which exists to the present day.

² This is a commonly accepted interpretation but there are variations on what a hundred is thought to have been,

³ Ancient parishes are parishes which can be identified as existing from the early Middle Ages. They carried out ecclesiastical functions from pre Norman times until the reformation (1533-1537).

Parishes in the Chelmsford Poor Law Union		
Great Baddow	Little Baddow	Boreham
Broomfield	Buttsbury	Chelmsford
Chignall	Danbury	Good Easter
High Easter	Fryerning	East Hanningfield
South Hanningfield	West Hanningfield	Ingatestone
Great Leighs	Little Leighs	Margaretting
Mashbury	Pleshey	Rettendon
Roxwell	Runwell	Sandon
Springfield	Stock	Great Waltham
Little Waltham	Widford	Woodham Ferrers
Writtle		

poor. This was initially an outdoor relief, paid 'in-kind', in cash or as wage supplements. However, as early as 1718, Great Waltham had set up a Parish Workhouse, which the poor entered in order to receive relief.

The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 banned all outdoor relief and required Parishes to join Poor Law Unions to operate centralised workhouses which only the truly desperate would enter. Great Waltham joined the Chelmsford Poor Law Union, which built the Chelmsford Workhouse in 1837 to house 400 people.

In 1875 Chelmsford Rural District Sanitary Authority, responsible for public health, was made up from the rural members of the Chelmsford Poor Law Union. However, the Poor Law Unions were not abolished until 1929 and the Chelmsford Workhouse eventually became St John's Hospital⁴.

The Local Government Act of 1894 reformed the Chelmsford Rural Sanitary Authority into the Chelmsford Rural District Council⁵ and a number of parish councils, including the Great Waltham Parish Council. These councils had elected councillors and were funded by property rates. Great Waltham Parish Council was divided into two wards, Church End and Ford End; it held an additional annual meeting at Ford End because it was considered too far for Ford End people to walk to Church End.

Except for Church Affairs or Ecclesiastical Charities, the Council took over from the Vestry Court. It administered the Poor Law, appointed the Overseers and an Assistant Overseer. This early Parish Council had some additional new administrative powers including the provision of buildings for public purposes, administration of allotments, dealing with complaints of unhealthy or obstructive⁶ houses, dealing with ponds, ditches or drains likely to be injurious to health and the acquisition or stopping of rights of way.

Initially, the formation of the Great Waltham Parish Council did not improve the franchise of the ordinary parishioners. Although the name had changed, the same people governed. However, there were slow improvements which were accelerated by the Representation of the People Act of 1948. The more democratic 21st century Great Waltham Parish Council, with increased influence and powers of finance and rights, is far removed from the original 19th century Poor Law administrative body.



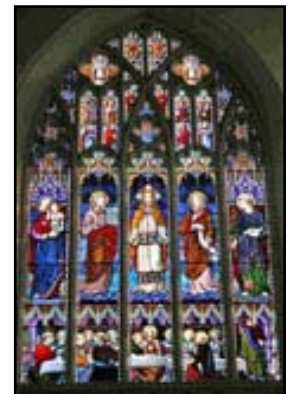
Church of St Mary and St Lawrence

Churches and Almshouses

A descendant of Geoffrey de Mandeville built the Church of St. Mary and St Lawrence at Church End on what is believed to be the site of a 'holy place' between 1135 -1154. The early building has been enlarged and improved several times. The South aisle was built about 1500 and the North aisle and vestry were added in 1875 when the South porch was rebuilt. The interior was thoroughly cleaned in 1847, when some fine paintings with life-size figures were discovered on the walls. The tower was rebuilt in 1891 after a partial collapse.



Church Housen Almshouses



⁴ The site of the former Chelmsford Union Workhouse will become a conservation area when St Johns closes.

⁵ Chelmsford Rural District Council was incorporated into Chelmsford Borough Council in 1974.

⁶ "Obstructive building" means a building (or house) which, by virtue only of its contact with or proximity to other buildings, is dangerous or injurious to health,

In 1896 the Reverend Canon Henry Edward Hulton built the six almshouses called 'Church Housen' in the village of Great Waltham. In 1935 two semi detached bungalows in Lucks Lane, at Howe Street, became the Lewin Gambier Howes Almshouses.



The Everard Tomb in the Church of St Mary and St Lawrence

Services were held in the 'Vestry Barn' at Hill Farm in Ford End until the Church of St John the Evangelist was built In 1870. Unfortunately, this church had structural problems because it had been built on an 'osier (or reed) bed'. This resulted in the demolition of the Chancel in 1985 and the bells were not rung for twenty years until they were declared safe in 2005.



Church of St John the Evangelist

Other churches in Ford End, from 1844-1972, were a Zoar Congregational Chapel, with a resident pastor, and a Baptist Chapel, known as the Ark, sited behind 'Little Owls'; the latter was closed in 1925 and the building was demolished in 1954.

The Good Shepherd Mission Church in Littlely Green was established by Shearly Cripps (Sir Stafford Cripps' nephew) in 1895. It is now a private dwelling.



The Good Shepherd Mission

Blackchapel, in North End, is thought to be of medieval origin. The timber framed building dates from the 14th century. It was enlarged and refurbished in the 18th century. The interior is early Georgian with box pews and a 3-decker pulpit.

The Wiseman family endowed the chapel before 1500 and in 1681. Ann Wiseman made a further endowment in trust to maintain a preacher or help support the local poor. Blackchapel is still managed by the trustees, remaining a 'peculiar' outside the jurisdiction of the Bishop of the Diocese and the local vicar.

Education

The Church provided the first rudimentary education for the local children in Sunday Schools. There is a mid 19th century record of a Mrs Fowler being paid three pounds a year to teach thirty children to read (but not to write) in Blackchapel. Church teaching was later supplemented by privately run 'Dame Schools', which taught the three R's for a few pence each week. In Great Waltham, a Mr Robert Dannatt ran a school from 'The Lawrels' (Laurels). In Ford End a Miss Young taught at Kings Farm and a Mrs Anna M Joyce taught in the former Spread Eagle Pub; this school moved to a building near the brook, traditionally known as the 'Old School House'. In North End a Miss Auger taught in one of the cottages.



Blackchapel

The first special purpose church school, with a master's house, was built in 1847 in Great Waltham. A new church school was built in Ford End in 1869 on the opposite side of the road from the church. Most pupils remained in these schools until they left school to go to work. After the 1944 Education Act, these schools became primary schools and when pupils were eleven, they transferred to secondary schools outside the Parish.

Economy, Industry and Agriculture

The principal industry of this area has always been agriculture. The woollen trade of the 14th to 16th centuries brought wealth to this part of Essex. This trade declined in the 17th century and the fortunes of agriculture in the Parish followed the National pattern



The Old School House



Harvest with Early Tractor



Mechanisation of Hay-stacking



Modern Combine Harvester



World War II Pillbox



Ford End war memorial

through the 18th to 20th centuries with periods of agricultural boom followed by depression. Some farms in the Parish, which were casualties of depression, were taken on by Scottish immigrants.

During the Napoleonic wars from 1793-1815, the closure of Continental ports and the increased population made Britain more dependent on its own farm produce and, facilitated by the General Enclosures Act of 1801, extra land was brought into use in the Parish. This was a wealthy time for the landowners, but not everybody profited. For example, in November 1812, millwrights Alfred and Mathew Mecklenburgh of Chelmsford advertised in the County Chronicle the sale of a 'newly erected Post Mill' sited between Main Road and the Eagle and Child Public House in Ford End. Six months later the mill was up for auction as bankrupt stock.

The Industrial Revolution (1750 to 1900) resulted in farm mechanisation and improved communication. In 1895 the owners of Hill Farm in Ford End purchased their first traction engine. Tractors became available from 1889 following the invention of the internal combustion engine. By the early 20th century the main road in Great Waltham was tarred (1907), there were railway stations in Chelmsford, Felsted and Braintree and the Great Eastern Railway Company ran a bus service between Chelmsford and Great Waltham. However, mains water and a public electricity supply were not available throughout the Parish until the 1940's. The public sewer reached Ford End, its current extent, by 1973.

Apart from those remaining in Great Waltham and Howe Street, most of the local trades and facilities, such as blacksmiths, saddlers, wheelwrights, village shops, Post Offices, bakeries and garages, disappeared from the villages and hamlets during the 20th century. Some public houses have disappeared, including four of the Public Houses in the 'Alehouse Recognizances', first published in 1769: happily, six are still functioning.

Two World Wars

At the outset of the first world war male Parishioners volunteered for active service, often at their employers' behest. During the war, the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Regiment were housed in brick buildings, now demolished, in Barrack Road (now Barrack Lane). These buildings were originally built to accommodate troops and their horses stationed there during the Napoleonic wars. After the war, two War Memorials, on which were inscribed the names of 56 parishioners who did not return, were erected, one in Banbury Square, Great Waltham and the other in the churchyard at Ford End.



Great Waltham war memorial

During the second world war, Great Waltham was on a line of defence, the GHQ Line, erected against an anticipated invasion. Many of the 'pill boxes' from this era have survived and are dotted from North to South through the Parish. Although the Parish was not bombed significantly, a V1 exploded on land at Humphreys Farm and, in North End, Blackchapel and several houses in Mill Road, half a mile away, were damaged in bombing incidents. After this war, another 12 names were added to the two War Memorials.

Population and Place Names

It is difficult to ascertain the number of people who were living in



Essex Volunteers (subject to ERO permission)



A wedding group in North End in 1918

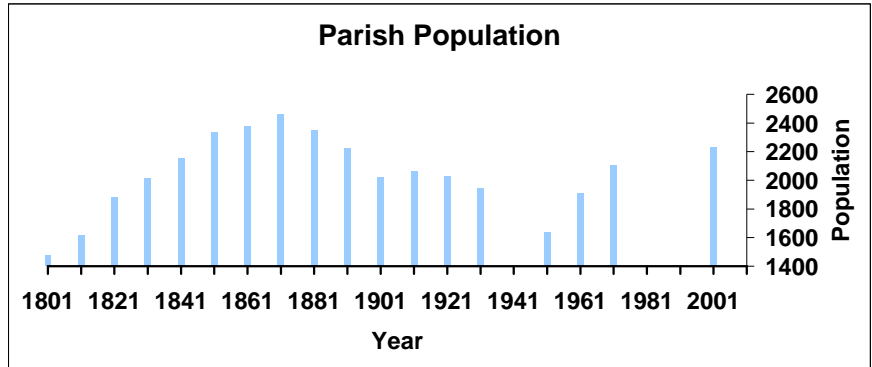


Strawberry Pickers in North End



Landscape near Howe Street

the Parish before the census of 1801 but by the early 1800s there were about 1500 parishioners. Within 70 years, whilst local agriculture was booming, the population peaked to nearly 2500 and thereafter, it fell for the next 70 years until, by the 1950s, it was almost down to that of the early 1800's. Since then, it has been rising again and currently exceeds 2250. The changes during the 20th century may have resulted from the combination of two World Wars, the Great Depression, improved farming techniques and mechanisation, mass car ownership, the building of the housing estates and, latterly, people retiring to a rural environment.⁷



The number of households in 1830 was less than 400 which is less than half the 930 households of today, for a similar population.

Two of the original hamlets, Rophy Green and Chatham End are now outside the Parish and known as Rolphy Green and Chatham Green. The name South End has fallen into disuse and the location of the Hamlet is now uncertain. The name Church End is used less now in favour of reference to Great Waltham. The place names of some of the existing hamlets have changed over time. How Street has become Howe Street, Little Lees Green has become Little Green and Fourth End has changed to Ford End. The current name of Ford End may be derived from the ford over the brook (now covered), which once crossed the road at the base of Sandon Hill. The confusion caused by the different names was eventually resolved, in favour of Ford End, by the postal authorities.

3. The Modern Parish

The Parish of Great Waltham is predominantly rural with a low population density and is one of the largest parishes in Essex. It has two villages and several hamlets which are diverse in size and character and separated by significant distances. There are also several individual farms. The village of Great Waltham is in the southern end of the Parish which is the most built-up part.

The River Chelmer flows southward through the Parish along the Chelmer valley, which is recognised as an important and special landscape⁸. Walthamby Brook, a tributary to the River Chelmer, flows eastward across the southern part of the Parish.

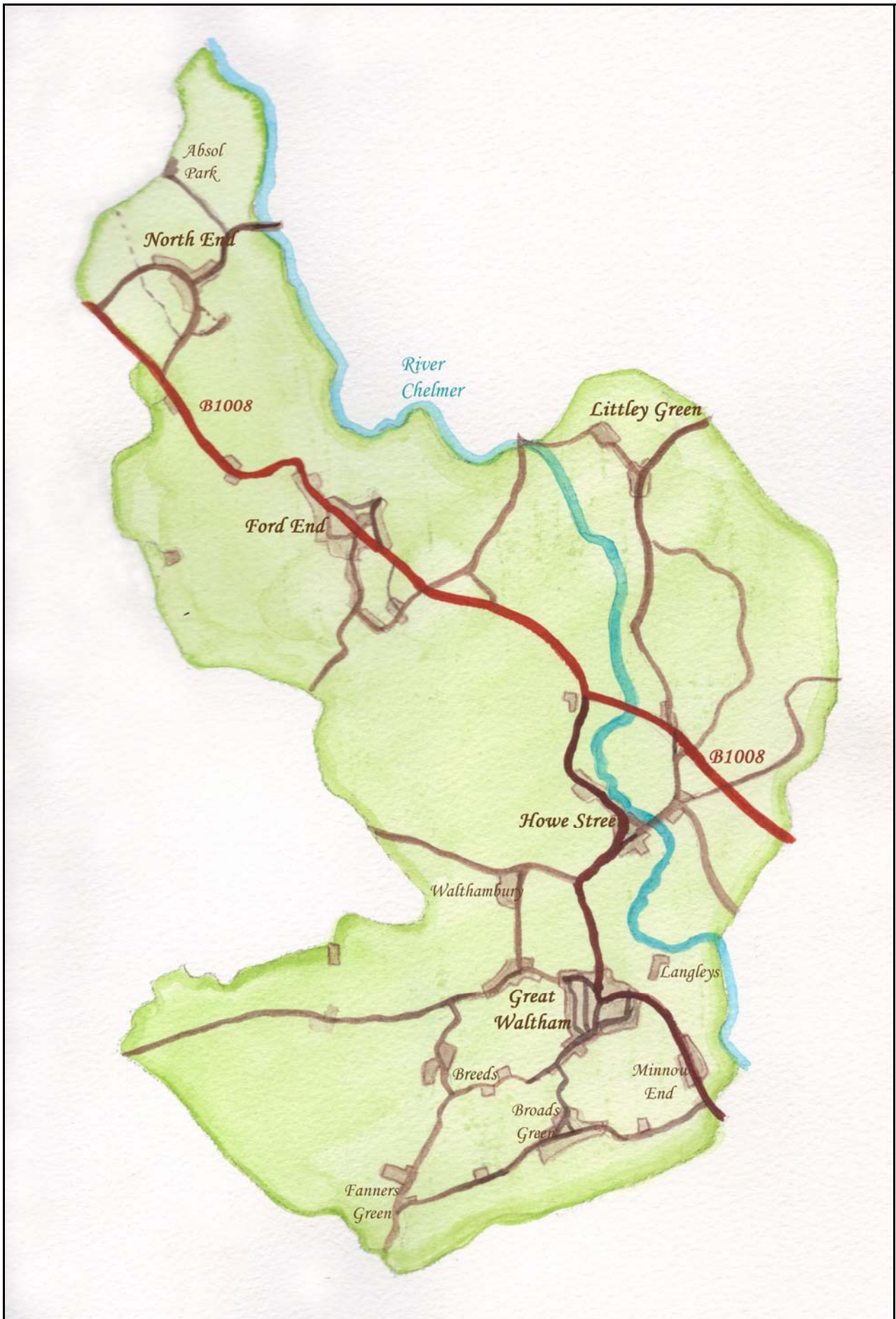
The predominant landscape consists of an undulating countryside with mostly arable fields, bounded by hedgerows and intersected by narrow lanes. There are many footpaths, some linking the villages and farms and some connecting destinations further afield.

The Parish is rich with wildlife, including deer, badgers and herons.

⁷During the 1940's and in 1961 there were some small changes to the parish boundaries with Little Waltham, Chignal and Pleshey which may affect the population totals for 1951 and 1961 but not the general trend.

⁸As designated by the current Landscape Character Assessment for the Chelmsford Borough Local Development Framework (The Chelmer Valley was designated as a Special Landscape Area in the April 1997 Chelmsford Borough Local Plan).

Map of the Parish



Great Waltham Primary School



Painted by Lydia Barritt aged 9, a pupil of Great Waltham Primary School

The Village of Great Waltham

The village of Great Waltham is five miles North of Chelmsford and approximately eight miles from Great Dunmow to the North West and Braintree to the North East. It is the largest settlement in the Parish and has a diversity of architectural styles from several different periods. Most of the buildings are of modest scale and are constructed with traditional materials. There are 30 Listed Buildings, including the church and Langleys. The central area of the village, Church End, together with Langleys and its park are protected from inappropriate development by Conservation Area status. Five of the properties that back onto the churchyard had their frontages reversed, probably when the main road was re-routed to circumnavigate Langley's deer park in the 18th century. More recent road-widening schemes have resulted in some buildings fronting the main road to abut the pavement or to have very small front gardens.



Langleys



South Lodge, Langleys

In the central area, there is a core of historic buildings clustered around the Norman Church of St Mary and St Lawrence which has a large churchyard with many trees and a 'Lime Walk' public right of way. The church is Grade I Listed with imposing flint elevations under a slate roof and a castellated clock tower which incorporates a peal of eight bells, some of which date from the 14th century. Adjacent to the churchyard and overlooking the war memorial is Badynghams; a house with distinctive Tudor-style chimneys that provides a striking backdrop to the eastern approach to the village centre.

The Georgian mansion of Langleys is an imposing Listed Building of architectural and historic interest. It has been in the same family ownership for over 200 years and their extensive landholding in the Parish and beyond has had a profound effect upon the history and development of the village. Other interesting buildings include the

former vicarage which is Georgian with Victorian additions, a terrace of Victorian almshouses and some of the village houses, such as the only remaining thatched property, converted from a workshop in 1951, and Wisemans which was originally two cottages.



Parish Church of St Mary and St Lawrence and Badyngams

During the 20th century, several housing estates were built in the village. Council houses, most of which are now privately owned, were built after the second world war as the Mashbury Road, the Cherry Garden Road and Duffries Close developments. They are characterised by houses set well back from the road, bordered by mature hedges



Great Waltham Main Road



The Beehive Great Waltham

and pleasant greensward areas. The Model Village dates from the late 1960s and is characterised by white painted houses of unconventional style with mono-pitched roofs, grouped around public open spaces and mature trees. The Dickymoors and Uppermoors estate was built adjacent to the Model Village in the mid 1970s but to a more conventional design and a higher density but with some shared open space well planted with trees.



River Chelmer in Langleys Park

The remaining housing stock is made up from a few modern infill properties, individual modern properties set in wide plots of mature gardens in South Street, some barn conversions and many older houses and cottages of varying ages and styles.

Over a period of time Great Waltham has lost local services including grocery shops, a butcher, the fire station, a bakery and a garage. However, the Beehive Public House, a general store with a Post Office, a hairdressing salon and an antique pine furniture shop remain.



Children's play area in the recreational ground

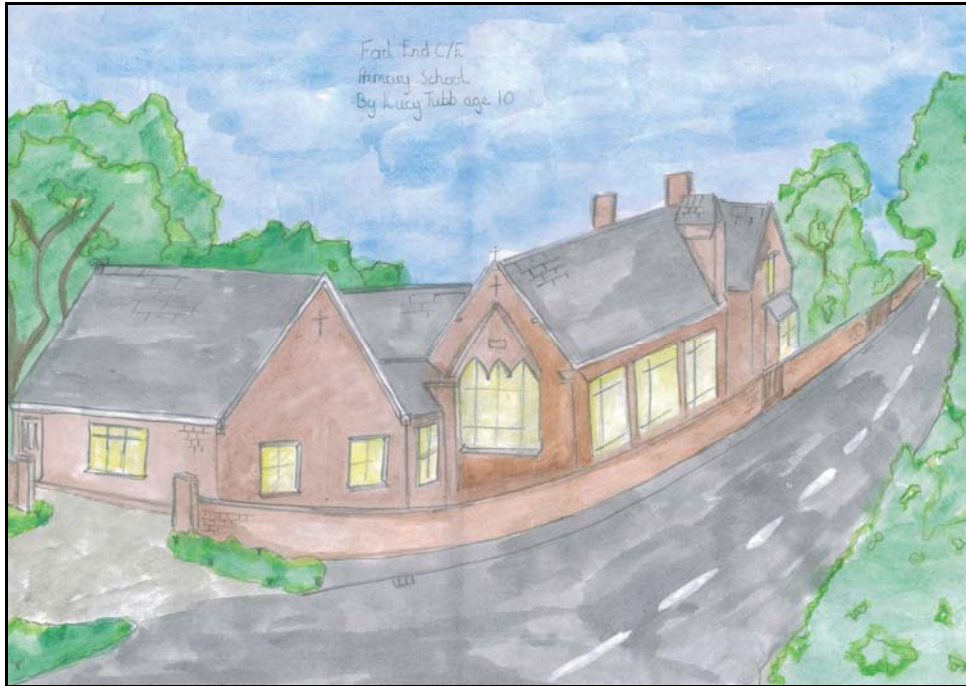
The larger of the two Primary Schools in the Parish is in Great Waltham, as is a warden-assisted block of retirement apartments. The illustration of the school on page 8 was painted by one of the pupils, Lydia Barritt aged 9.

Recreational facilities within the village are provided by the recreation ground incorporating a children's play area, the Royal British Legion Hall, a Scout Hut, a cricket field and the Village Hall. The Village Hall is used by the Parish Council for council meetings and by the pre-school group 'Up Up and Away'. Other organisations and clubs use the hall on a regular basis for social events.

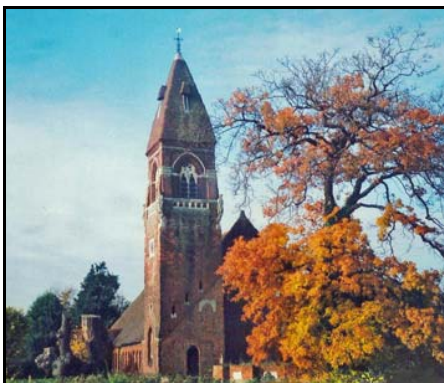
The park surrounding Langleys extends to the boundary of the churchyard in the village centre providing, via the public footpaths, easy access to open space and the countryside beyond. The Essex Way, which is a long-distance public footpath, passes through the centre of the village and Langleys' park.

The re-routed B1008 (Essex Regiment Way) is a bypass that has resolved the late 20th century problem of heavy through traffic, restoring the village to relative tranquillity.

Ford End Primary School



Painted by Lucy Tubb aged 10, a pupil of Ford End Primary School



*Church of St John the Evangelist
Ford End*



*The brook culvert at the base of
Sandon Hill*

Ford End

Ford End is situated 3.5 miles North West of Great Waltham and 1.5 miles South East of North End. It is the second largest centre of population in the Parish comprising over 150 houses, built in a variety of styles and sizes, including a few thatched cottages, on both sides of the B1008 road. There are some light industrial units set in farmland. The centre of the village has a church, school, village hall, recreation ground and the old cricket pitch, all in close proximity.

The church of St John the Evangelist was paid for by subscription and is a Grade II listed Victorian building with a peal of six bells. The foundation stone of the Church, laid in 1870 refers to the older name, Fourth End, instead of Ford End.

Another Victorian building houses the Ford End Church of England Primary School, built in 1869 by Mr J J Tufnell (of Langleys) and enlarged in 1873. The latest building work on the school took place in 2008. The illustration above was painted by one of the pupils, Lucy Tubb, aged 10.



The village hall was originally a first world war mixed nursing ward at the Chelmsford Workhouse infirmary, which later became St Johns Hospital. It was re-erected on its present site in 1922. Currently it is used on a regular basis by the Ford End Pre-School and the Parish Council and, by other clubs and organisations for social events and private parties.



Former cricket pitch Ford End



The Butchers Arms North End



Centre of North End



Mill Road North End



View across Chelmer Valley from Absol Park Farm

The old cricket pitch opposite the church is in private ownership but currently leased to the Parish Council for use as a local amenity. The Trustees for the Village Hall also have a long lease on part of the ground for use as a car park. The recreation ground derives from land largely donated by the late Mr V C Britton (of Poulterers Farm). It contains a full size football pitch, a smaller junior pitch and a 'kick-about' area, as well as a variety of newly installed children's play equipment and a recently constructed car park.

There are some thatched cottages that are believed to date from the late 15th to the early 16th century, 'Little Owls' in Church Lane, 'Redes' in Main Road and two more cottages in Back Lane. A previous owner of Redes recounted that the cottage was once used as a 'house of retreat' for monks from the Priory at Great Leighs.

The oldest farm house is at Wall Farm where there are indications that the main part of the house once contained a medieval hall, which can be dated to between 1480 and 1550.

In recent years, the village has lost its Post Office, both shops and two public houses, making it necessary to travel out of the village to access any of these services.

North End

North End is approximately 5 miles from Great Waltham village, on the western side of the Chelmer valley and is on the Chelmsford Borough boundary with Uttlesford. The hamlet is set in open agricultural land and the most distinctive feature is the extensive views from most parts of North End across the Chelmer Valley towards Causeway End and Felsted. It does not have a shop, although there is evidence that there were three shops, a blacksmiths and a small public house that no longer exist. There are no street lights or a public sewer. Great Dunmow, 3.5 miles to the northwest, and Felsted, 1.5 miles to the northeast, are the closest places for many of the local social, health and shopping amenities.

Blackchapel and the Butchers Arms are situated on either side of the B1008. Blackchapel is a small chapel of ease (with an attached priest's house) that is independent of the Great Waltham Parish churches. It is a Grade I listed building of outstanding National historical interest. The Butchers Arms was originally owned by the trustees of Blackchapel and is Grade II listed. There is a small group of old cottages and more modern houses close to the Butchers Arms.

The centre of the hamlet is about half a mile to the North East of the Butchers Arms and consists of about 40 houses of various sizes, styles and ages clustered around a small triangular green.

North End Place is an area approached along a gravel lane close to the centre. There are several old buildings which vary greatly in size and style, including the Georgian North End Place farmhouse, some barns converted into residences and a number of cottages.

Absol Park is an arable farm with a 17th century farmhouse and barns about a mile to the North East of the Butchers Arms. The barns are being converted to residential use. Originally it was a deer park, known as Abchilde, owned by Humphrey de Bohun who in 1347 created the moat and island,



Humphrey de Bohun Coat of Arms

which still exist. The island may be the site of the original house and is now an ancient monument.

Of the 63 properties in North End, some 23 are listed as being of architectural or historical interest. This is a high proportion of the total number of buildings in North End which contribute much to the character of the settlement.

Howe Street

Howe Street lies beside the river Chelmer, about one mile north of Great Waltham village. It has been transformed since the second world war by the building of new houses alongside the main road, in the triangle formed by the main road, Lucks Lane and Parsonage Lane and at Bridge Croft. Howe Street has retained its historic shape as the new houses are mostly infill.

Many historic buildings survive, ranging from Waltham House (formerly the Rectory) to small cottages. A product of the Industrial Revolution and still in continual use is the iron Parsonage bridge.

Whilst farming is the most visible industry, there is local commercial enterprise with car sales and servicing at the old garage, an upholstery business and some small businesses operating from farm premises.

The local facilities are the Green Man public house and a recreation ground. The local shop and Post Office were closed recently.

Broads Green

Broads Green is a hamlet of 40 houses and the Walnut Tree Public House situated at the southern end of the parish, just North of the boundary with Broomfield Parish and one mile South of St Mary and St Lawrence church. The lanes linking Broads Green to Great Waltham (Hoe Lane) and Minnow End (Larks Lane) are examples of sunken medieval lanes. Larks Lane leads to Fanner's Green to the West and footpaths connect to Breeds to the North.

Only one 18th century pair of cottages is listed although there are three buildings (containing six cottages) that go back to the 15th century or earlier. The remainder are 19th and 20th century buildings, except one, which was the 18th century Toll Cottage at Asintree Corner, which is the junction between the Chelmsford Road from Great Waltham and the B1008, until it was moved to the Green on a cart at the beginning of the 20th century. The Walnut Tree was built in 1888 and is a three-bar Victorian pub which still serves its real ales direct from barrels in the half-cellar.

The gravel pits, which were active for over a century from 1890, are now restored to agriculture with two private fishing lakes and act as a wildlife reserve for many local birds and animals including geese, ducks and herons.

Littley Green

Littley Green is about three miles by road from both the north of Howe Street and the east of Ford End. It is a small peaceful hamlet, distant from the main road through the Parish (B1008) and any significant conurbations. The hamlet centre consists of the Compasses Public House and 13 houses and about 30 more in the surrounding countryside. It does not have a shop, street lights, public transport or a public sewer although there used to be a blacksmiths which no longer exists. There is a triangular green in the hamlet that is used for local social events and is the only area in the Parish formally designated as a "right to roam" area.



Thatches Howe Street



The bridge at Howe Street



The Green Man Howe Street



Walnut Tree Broads Green

Minnow End

Minnow End is a small hamlet on the Chelmsford Road about half a mile South East of the St Mary and St Lawrence church. It consists of a public house, The Rose and Crown, and 18 houses, which are well spaced and vary in age and style. The Windmill, which was a public house, hotel and restaurant, is now a private dwelling.



The Compasses Little Green

Additional Settlements

In addition to the principal villages and hamlets there are several smaller groups of houses and isolated houses, some being of considerable age and associated with past or present farms. The additional settlements include:

Breeds

Breeds is less than three quarters of a mile South West of St Mary and St Lawrence church. The name derives from “Breds Gate” part of the medieval Estate of Pleshey Castle. It has 11 houses of various ages, dating from the 15th century to the present day.

Fanners Green

Fanners Green is located about half a mile beyond Breeds, on Breeds Road. It has 10 houses of mixed ages, sizes and styles, most of which are in a cul de sac ending at Fanners Farm.

Ringtail Green

Ringtail Green is a small group of 8 houses half a mile South of Ford End, just off the Pleshey Road.

Old Shaws

Old Shaws is a small group of 4 houses a quarter of a mile South East of Little Green.

Walthambury

Walthambury, situated 1 mile North West of Church End was the largest and richest manor in the Parish in the 12th century. It now consists of Walthambury Farm with several bungalows and houses in the vicinity.



*The Rose and Crown
Minnow End*

4. Public Consultation Results and Findings

General

The results of the consultation are given with a textual analysis illustrated by charts. The opinions of ‘residents’ or ‘parishioners’ quoted come from the returned Questionnaires and the local exhibitions held in the villages and hamlets, without further analysis or validation but see Appendix 2 on page 38. About 18.5% of the Parish population, from 24% of the households, responded to the Questionnaire. This proportion is typical of results from other Parish Plans.

The opinions expressed are shown for the whole Parish except where the issues or opinions differed in specific localities. In these instances, the views of residents of the villages and hamlets are shown separately. Summaries of findings are set out in the left hand column for ease of reference within each subject heading.

Residents and Households

The Parish population is disproportionately shared between the villages of Great Waltham, Ford End and the smaller hamlets This was reflected in the returned Questionnaires and the number of responses from the smaller hamlets may be insufficient to be representative on local issues without further supportive evidence.

Summary of Findings

18.5% of the residents responded to the Questionnaire.

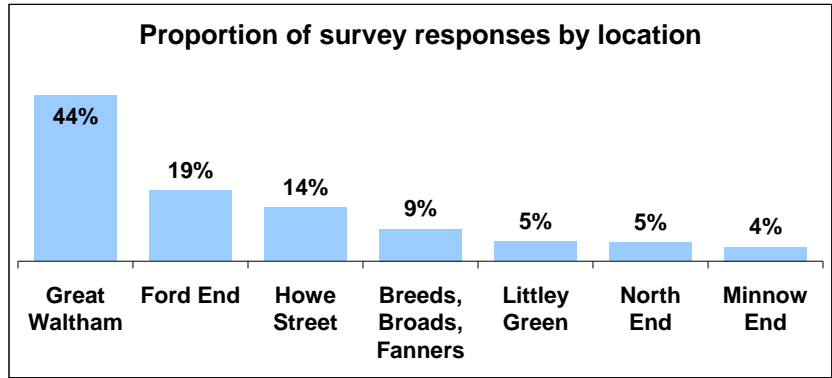
The numbers of returned Questionnaires from the smaller hamlets represent a very small percentage of the Parish population.

Summary of Findings

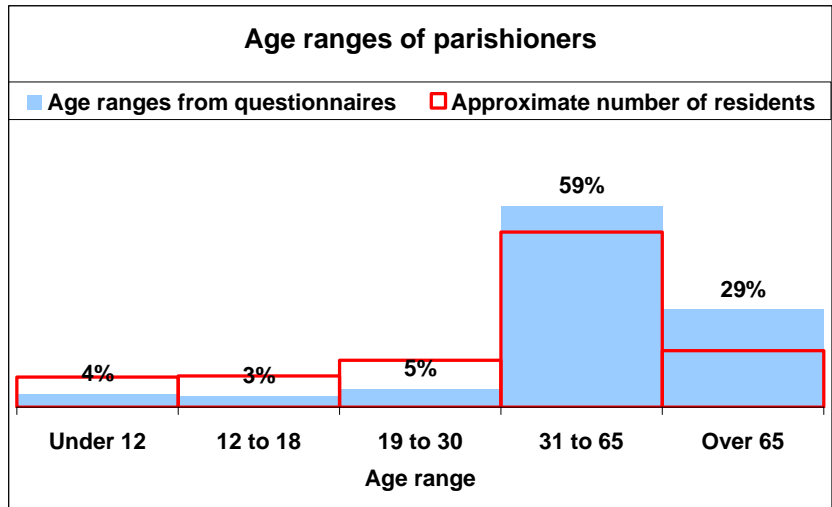
Decisions on issues local to the smaller hamlets may require more supportive evidence than that from the Questionnaire.

More residents in older age groups than in the younger age groups responded to the Questionnaire.

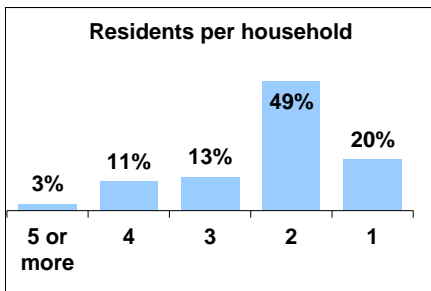
Conclusions drawn from the opinions of residents in the older age ranges can be considered reasonably representative; those for residents in lower age ranges may be less representative.



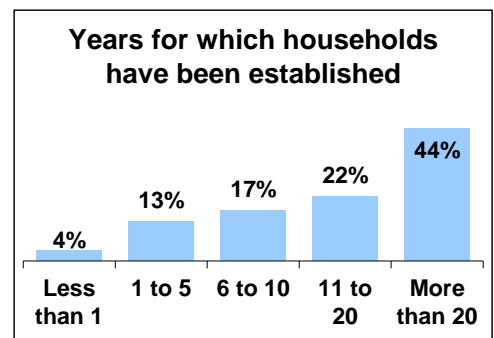
The distribution of age ranges obtained from the Questionnaire shows that the residents responding were predominantly in the older age groups. The population profile for the Parish in the 2001 census was consulted but the age ranges chosen for the Questionnaire were sufficiently different from those used in the census to prevent an accurate comparison from being made.



However, an approximation was made of the proportion of residents in the different age ranges. This supported the observation that more residents in the older age groups than the younger age groups replied to the Questionnaire. So conclusions are likely to be more representative of older people's views than those of people in the younger age-ranges.



The Parish has a low population density with about 930 households, most of which are occupied by two or fewer people. The majority of householders have lived in the Parish for more than ten years and of those hoping to move house, half wanted to stay in the Parish.



Household Services

Gas

Although there is a high pressure gas main crossing the Parish, mains gas is not available to householders. Investigations in the past, when oil was a more economical source of fuel, determined that connecting households was not cost effective. However, more than half of the householders said that they would like to be connected to a public mains gas supply.

Summary of Findings

Gas is not available in the Parish and a significant proportion of residents indicate that they want connection to a mains gas supply.

Connection to a public sewer is not available throughout the Parish and whether it is wanted or even possible for the more outlying parts of the Parish should be investigated for each community independently.

Freeview reception may be an issue in some parts of the Parish. Residents should be assisted by publicising the method of checking coverage available to individual householders.

Reception of DAB (Digital Audio Broadcast) radio may be an issue in some parts of the Parish. Residents should be assisted by publicising the method of checking coverage available to individual householders.



Chelmer Valley in the North of the Parish



Deer at Minnow End

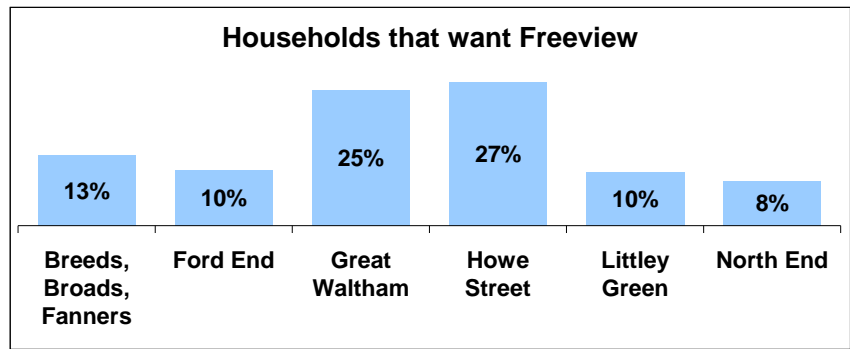
Some of the residents of Howe Street, Ford End and North End supported the proposal that the feasibility and cost of connection for the individual communities in the Parish should be investigated to assess whether such a proposal would be cost effective and practical for all, or part of, the community.

Sewerage

The public sewer connection only reaches as far as Howe Street and Ford End. A number of households in the more rural parts of the Parish remain unconnected and some of these householders favoured connection. However, the number of them who expressed this view was too small to establish whether a majority desired connection. Some residents of Howe Street and North End supported a proposal to investigate further to assess whether mains sewerage is wanted or even possible for the rural dwellings in the Parish.

Freeview Television

Significant numbers of householders, particularly in Great Waltham and Howe Street, have indicated that they wish to receive Freeview television.

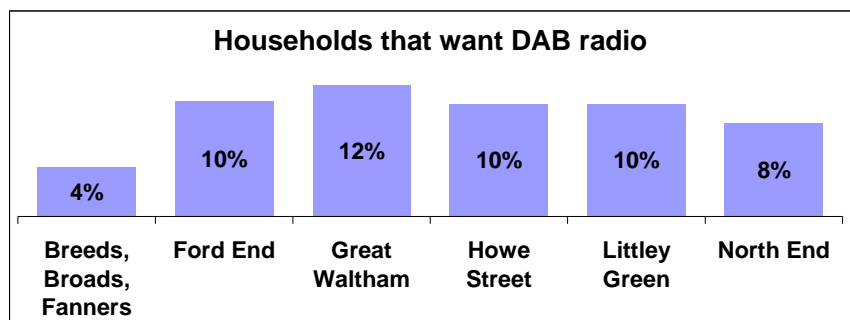


Freeview television may be receivable with a high gain aerial. It is not known at this stage whether there are local terrestrial digital television coverage issues in the Parish that will not be resolved by the digital switch over in 2011/12. Currently some stations may be received in the Parish from the London (Crystal Palace) transmitter and it is less likely that residents can receive stations from the Anglia (Sudbury) transmitter. However, it is likely that in 2011 coverage of the Sudbury transmitter will improve and in 2012 the number of stations that can be received from Crystal Palace will be reduced.

Individuals can check the reception they can expect for their post code from the Freeview website.

Digital Audio Broadcast (DAB) Radio

DAB radio coverage should be receivable with an external aerial in

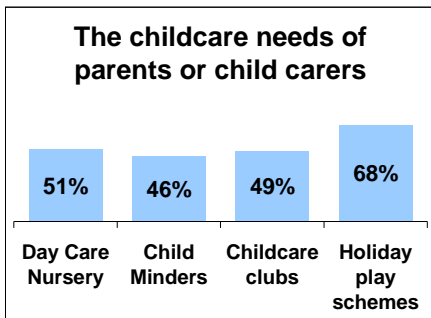


most of the Parish. Some of the householders from Great Waltham, Howe Street, Ford End and Littley Green have indicated that they would like to receive DAB radio but do not. As there may be local coverage issues in some parts of the Parish, individual

Summary of Findings

Broadband appears to be either unavailable or is too slow in some parts of the Parish. Residents should be assisted by publicising the method of checking the broadband service available to individual householders.

There is only a limited desire for cable television



The majority of pre-school and primary school pupils are educated within the Parish.

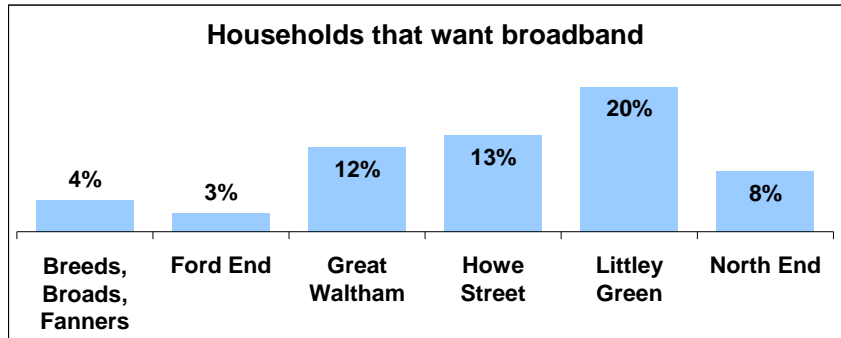


Great Waltham C of E Primary School

householders should check for the reception they can expect for their post code from the BBC website. Alternatively they could contact the BBC directly.

Broadband

Broadband, as an Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL), is available in the Parish. However, a significant number of householders from some parts of the Parish, such as Littley Green, Howe Street and Great Waltham, said that they would like to have access to broadband but do not.



Because the availability of broadband depends on the distance (in telephone wire) that the premises are from the local telephone exchange, individual householders would need to check, using their postcode, whether they can be connected for broadband by contacting British Telecom directly or by using a web based DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) checker.

Cable Television

Cable television is not generally available in the Parish but only a minority of householders, one in six, said that they would like cable television.

Other Services

Street lighting is sparse in the Parish but some individual householders in Howe Street, Hartford End and Mashbury Road would like street lighting.

Education and Learning

Educational Facilities

Educational facilities within the Parish include pre-school and primary education. Pre-school establishments are the 'Up Up and Away' and Ford End Pre School (FEPS). The Local Education Authority (LEA) schools are the Great Waltham and Ford End Church of England Primary Schools. There are no secondary schools within the Parish; the closest LEA secondary schools are Chelmer Valley High School to the South and Helena Romanes School to the North.

Childcare

About half of parents and carers supported provision of day care nurseries, holiday play schemes, after school childcare clubs and registered child minders.

Places of Education Attended

Only a minority of the Parish population, between a tenth and a fifth, are under eighteen and attend a place of education. Two thirds of the children attending pre-school and more than three quarters of the primary school pupils are educated within the Parish.

About half of the secondary school pupils attend Chelmer Valley High School. The remaining secondary pupils attend schools in

Summary of Findings

Main reasons for choice of school

Pre-school	Primary school	Secondary school	Private school
Most frequently stated (18% to 20%)			
Close to Home	Close to Home	Style of Education	
Friendly	Friendly		
Good Ofsted	Size of School		
Frequently stated (10% to 18%)			
Size of School	Cost	Close to Home	Style of Education
Style of Education		Friends at school	Size of School Private preferred
Least frequently stated (below 10%)			
Cost	Style of Education	Good Ofsted	Sports facilities
	Good Ofsted	Good SATs result	Good Ofsted
		Spaces available	Spaces available
		Friendly	Friendly

Two thirds of children are driven to schools, mainly outside the Parish.

The provision and cost to parents of more school bus services should be investigated

The majority of pupils attending their local pre-school or primary school walk or cycle to school.

Organisation of walking buses for younger children should be pursued.

Half of secondary school pupils attend the schools closest to the Parish.



Ford End C of E Primary School

Chelmsford or schools further away, such as the Anglo-European School in Ingatestone. Although the closest secondary school for pupils from the northern part of the Parish is Helena Romanes School, the returned Questionnaires did not provide information on any pupils currently attending this school.

In addition, about one in ten pupils of primary or secondary school age attend a private school. There are also a few students who attend a college of further education.

Reasons for Choice of School

The most prevalent reason given by parents or carers for choosing a pre-school or primary school was ‘closeness to home’ and the most frequent reason for choosing a secondary or private school was ‘educational style’. A good Ofsted report or good SATs result were less common reasons.

School Strengths

The strengths most frequently identified by parents and carers for pupils attending both Great Waltham Primary School and Chelmer Valley High School were quality of teaching and the teaching of musical instruments. School meals at Great Waltham Primary School were also highly rated as were sports at Chelmer Valley High School.

The strength most frequently identified by parents and carers, for pupils attending private schools was quality of teaching. Sports, the teaching of musical instruments and school meals were also frequently mentioned.

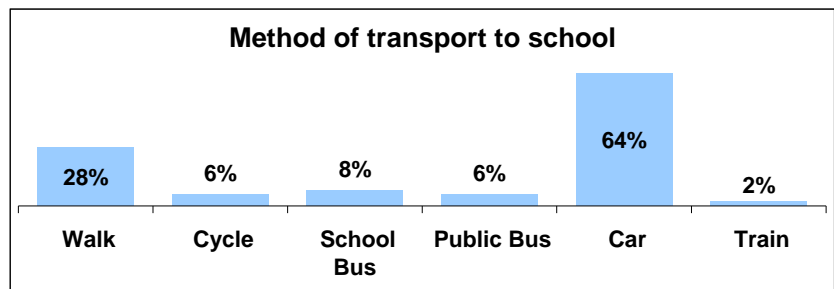
Insufficient data were obtained to rank the strengths of any other schools.

Extra-curricular Activities

The two primary schools and Chelmer Valley High School appear to have a number of extra-curricular sport and recreational activities available for their pupils. The schools situated further from the Parish do not appear to offer as many facilities but this may be misleading because children who travel further may have less time available to participate.

Transport to School

Most of the pupils in the Parish are transported by private cars to their place of education. These journeys are predominately to schools outside the Parish.



Various reasons were given by parents or carers for driving pupils to school. The most frequent being safety, distance to travel and time saving. A quarter of parents and carers said that if a school bus became available, they would use it and be prepared to pay for it.

Two thirds of children who attend the pre-schools within the Parish, walk to school and half of those who attend the primary schools within the Parish walk or cycle to school.

About half of the parents or carers with children attending these

Summary of Findings

More than half of the secondary school pupils go by school bus, public bus or train.

In general, there is not a perceived need for more housing in the Parish.

Most of the minority of residents who saw a need for housing also saw a need for affordable housing.

Most of the minority of residents who saw a need for housing also saw a need for housing for young people.

New houses should be built where there are more services, facilities and public transport.

Extensions should reflect the character and style of the original building.

Extensions should be limited in size and proportion to reflect the scale of the original building.

Traditional designs and materials are preferred by residents.



The Model Village - a 1960's development in Great Waltham

primary schools said that they would give permission for their children to participate in a walking bus.

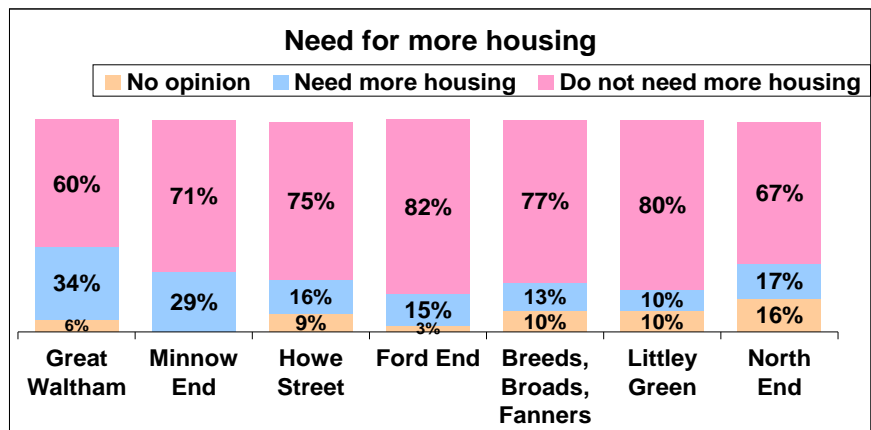
More than half of the pupils at secondary school go by school bus, public bus or train. Some pupils use more than one form of transport for a single journey or different forms of transport for the same journey on different days.

Housing and Development

The comprehensive views of residents on housing and development are expressed in the Great Waltham and North End Village Design Statements (VDS). The Great Waltham VDS only covers part of the Parish, i.e. the village of Great Waltham and hamlets in the southern end of the parish. In order to complement the VDS information, the Parish Plan includes the opinions on housing and development issues of residents from areas not covered by the VDS.

Need for More Housing

The proportion of people who saw a need for more housing depended on where they live. However, over the whole Parish, more than two thirds of the residents did not think that there is a need for more housing and of these; more than half were strongly opposed.



Most of those who saw a need for more housing, about a fifth of all parishioners, also thought that more affordable housing is needed. Fewer of them thought that there was a need for private housing, sheltered housing or a nursing home. The same group said that housing was needed mainly for young people, with some need for families, elderly people and single parent families.

The majority of residents, almost two thirds, supported building new houses where there are more services, facilities and public transport. Opinion was divided on whether infill development should be encouraged.

Extensions⁹

Buildings are commonly extended and the majority of residents considered that, compared to the original building, the design of extensions should:

- Retain the same character and style
- Be limited in size or proportion to reflect the size and scale of the original
- Not be of a more contemporary style

Typical comments in support of people's views included 'the

⁹ Planning regulations for house extensions were relaxed by new legislation in October 2008 so that many extensions of up to four metres on the side or rear of a house may no longer need planning permission.

Summary of Findings

Extensions should not fill the entire width of the plot.

Installation of satellite dishes on road frontages should be discouraged.

Solar panels on house roofs should be encouraged.

The sighting of wind turbines will need to be sympathetic to the sensitivities of neighbours and the general public.

Mobile phone masts should not be sited near schools or houses.

Just over half of parishioners supported increasing the number of Conservation Areas.

Two thirds of residents are working, full or part time.

More than one third of residents who are in the over 65 age group work.

The majority of residents commute to work outside the Parish.

There was qualified support for more employment opportunities.

There was support for more opportunities for working at home.



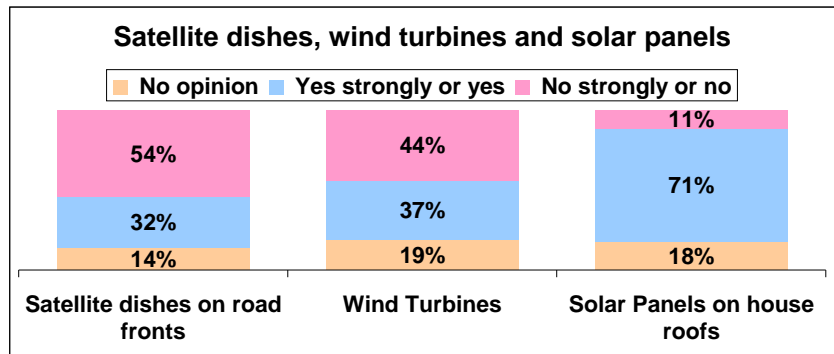
A solar panel installation

existing style should be preserved’, ‘an extension should not dramatically change the overall building’, ‘it is necessary to both maintain the look of the area and allow some change’ and ‘it is necessary to ensure that the building does not become too big for the plot or look out of place in the neighbouring community’.

Satellite Dishes, Wind Turbines and Mobile Phone Masts

Just over half of the residents said that the installation of satellite dishes on road frontages is not acceptable.

Whereas most people supported the installation of solar panels on house roofs, fewer supported the installation of wind turbines.



Installation of mobile phone masts near houses or schools was unpopular with four fifths of residents, many of whom considered them to be unsightly and were concerned about unknown risks.

Conservation Areas

Local authorities have the power to designate any area of special architectural or historic interest whose character or appearance is worth protecting or enhancing as a Conservation Area. This gives broader protection than listing individual buildings: all the features, be they listed or otherwise, within the area, are recognised as part of its character.

The only Conservation Area in the Parish encompasses the centre of the village of Great Waltham and Langleys with its parkland. Just over half of parishioners supported increasing the number of conservation areas whereas a quarter of residents were opposed.

A number of suggestions were made for further Conservation Areas, the most common being Ford End and Howe Street.

Economy and Employment

Work in the Parish

The returned Questionnaires and the last National Census corresponded almost exactly in showing that two thirds of all parishioners were in full or part time employment or were self employed. However, the returned Questionnaires also showed that more than a third of this working population is over 65. Only a minority of the working population works in the Parish as four fifths commute to their place of work.

Depending on where the work would be, there was qualified support for more employment opportunities in the Parish. Most residents indicated a preference for more opportunities for people to work from home provided it did not involve customers visiting. Just under half of the residents were in favour of more opportunities for working from home with customers visiting, for work in retail shops or for work in light industrial or office premises. There was very little support for work in larger business sites.

Summary of Findings

There was limited support for more opportunities to work in shops, light industrial or office premises in the Parish.

Larger business sites are not wanted in the Parish.

There was support for converting agricultural buildings for business use.

New businesses should be located where there are more facilities, services and access to public transport.

Most Parish residents attend the Little Waltham surgery.

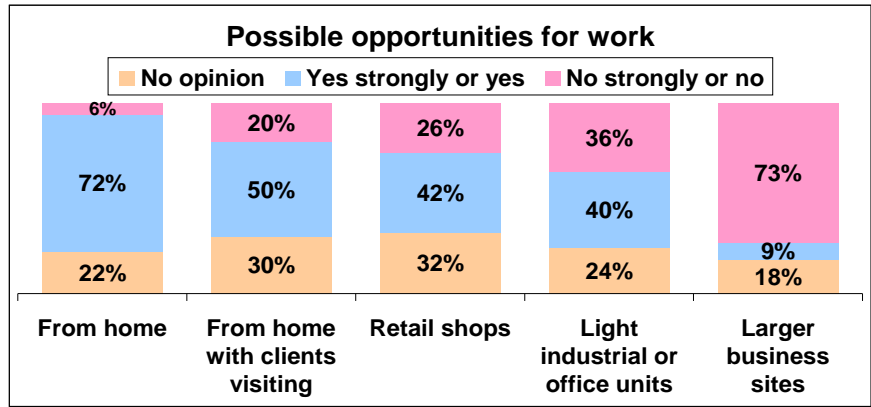
The doctor's surgery in Great Dunmow draws patients from Ford End and North End.

The Felsted doctor's surgery also draws patients from Ford End and North End.

Some people travel a long way to attend a surgery, e.g. Hatfield Peverel or Danbury.

Residents who use the Little Waltham surgery are content with most of the services provided but were least satisfied with the out-of-hours service and car parking.

Some patients who depend on public transport have difficulty accessing their doctor's surgery.



Business Development in the Parish

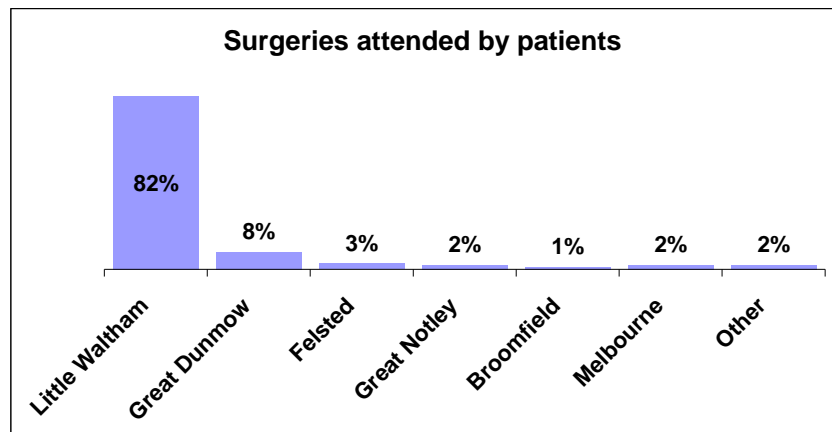
Two thirds of parishioners were in favour of converting redundant agricultural buildings for business use whilst one fifth, supported using converted residential buildings, new light industrial or new office buildings.

More than three quarters of residents considered that new businesses should be located where there are more facilities and services and in areas with better access to public transport.

Health and Well Being

Doctors' Surgeries

The principal surgeries serving the Parish are at Little Waltham, Great Dunmow and Felsted. The Great Notley surgery is in the same practice as the Little Waltham surgery and patients can visit



either. There are other surgeries close to the Parish in Broomfield and Melbourne. The range of locations of other surgeries, remote from the Parish and used by small numbers of patients from the Parish, suggests that some people moving into the Parish continue to attend the surgery in their old location, at least temporarily. The majority of the Parish residents attend the Little Waltham surgery. Most North End and some Ford End residents use either the Felsted or Great Dunmow surgeries.

The Little Waltham surgery patients were mostly content with the ease of telephoning, getting to the surgery, quality of reception and the prescription service. About half of the patients were content that appointments could be made at a convenient time, that there are enough parking spaces and that the out-of-hours service is satisfactory. Individual comments received included a high proportion expressing satisfaction with the service from Little Waltham. However, a recurring comment was that the surgery is difficult to get to if you do not have a car.

The numbers of patients attending the other surgeries were too small to be representative. However, as far as could be assessed,

Summary of Findings

Patients of other surgeries were more dissatisfied than Little Waltham patients with the out-of-hours service and car parking.

In general, the inclusion of additional services such as osteopathy and chiropody would be useful at the surgery.

NHS Hospitals Visited by Residents	
Broomfield	Chelmsford
St Johns	Chelmsford
William	
Courtauld	Braintree
St Michaels	Braintree
St Peters	Maldon
Herts & Essex	Bishops Stortford
Princess Alexandra	Harlow
Colchester & Essex	Colchester
Addenbrookes	Cambridge
Private Hospitals	
Springfield	
Hospital	Chelmsford

Most Parish residents are routinely referred to Broomfield or St Johns Hospital.

The Primary Care Trust should be encouraged to enable patients attending the Angel Lane surgery in Great Dunmow to use Broomfield Hospital facilities.

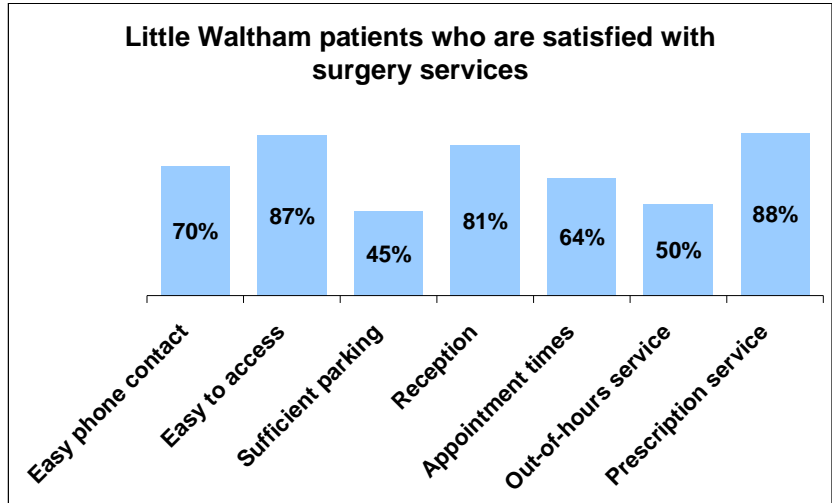
Broomfield Hospital is the most frequently visited hospital.

Only a small number of residents attended private hospitals.

Most people attending hospital were visiting patients or were outpatients.

All of the hospitals were easy to access.

they had very similar opinions to those of the Little Waltham patients, except that they more dissatisfied with the out-of-hours service.



Irrespective of the surgery attended, about half of patients thought that further services, such as osteopathy and chiropody, in addition to existing health checks and blood tests, would be desirable. The possibility of making appointments by e-mail was only supported by about one third of patients.

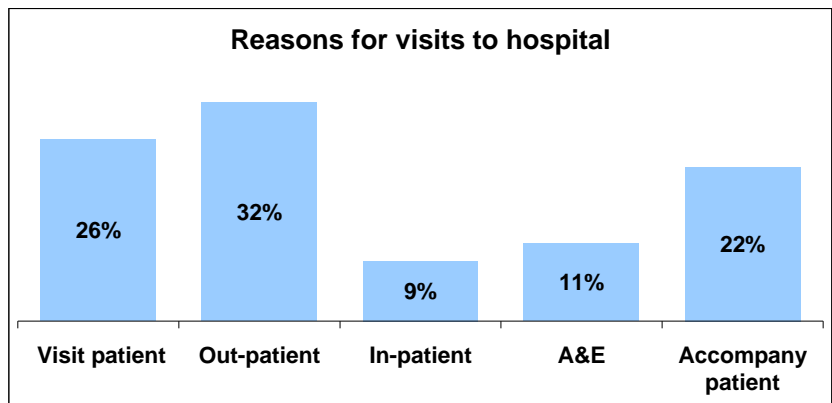
Hospitals

The NHS hospital to which patients are referred usually depends upon which surgery they attend. The nearest NHS Primary Care Trust is the Mid Essex PCT which includes the Chelmsford and Braintree hospitals listed in the table on the left.

Nine tenths of hospital visits in the previous year were to Broomfield or St Johns, the principal hospitals serving the Parish. However, St Johns is scheduled to close at the end of the decade.

Patients attending the Great Dunmow Angel Lane surgery may be referred to the Bishops Stortford or Harlow hospitals. Comments received from some of these patients were that their NHS PCT should be encouraged to enable the Great Dunmow surgery patients to use Broomfield Hospital.

Most of the people attending a hospital in the previous twelve months were visitors or outpatients. The views of patients and



hospital visitors were similar for all of the hospitals in that they were mostly content with the ease of getting there and about half thought that the adequacy of maps and signage, quality of reception and convenience of visiting times were satisfactory. However, the matters of availability of car parking spaces, parking charges and enforcement were clearly subjects of a great deal of discontent and dissatisfaction.

Summary of Findings

Maps and signage, quality of reception and convenience of visiting times are acceptable.

Car parking charges and their enforcement are a major source of concern to patients and visitors to all NHS hospitals.

Residents who receive home support are content with the service.

There are two bus services in the parish, the number 33 operated by First Group and the number 52 operated by Regal Busways.

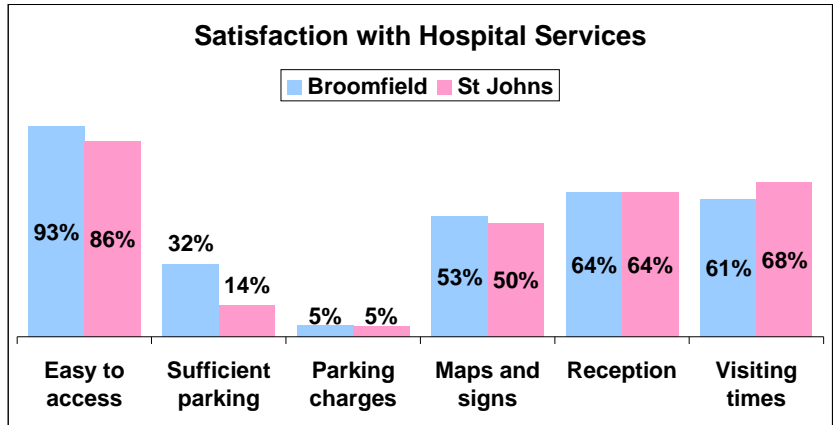
Bus operators should be encouraged to provide low-floor buses on all their services as soon as possible.

Transport to local services is difficult for a significant minority of parishioners.

The Great Waltham Parish Care Group can offer Great Waltham residents lifts to the Little Waltham surgery or Broomfield Hospital.



Typical rural bus stop and shelter on the B1008



Home Support

Of the 10 residents who received support, all of them considered that it was provided at convenient times and that they were treated with respect.

Transport and Access

Public Transport:

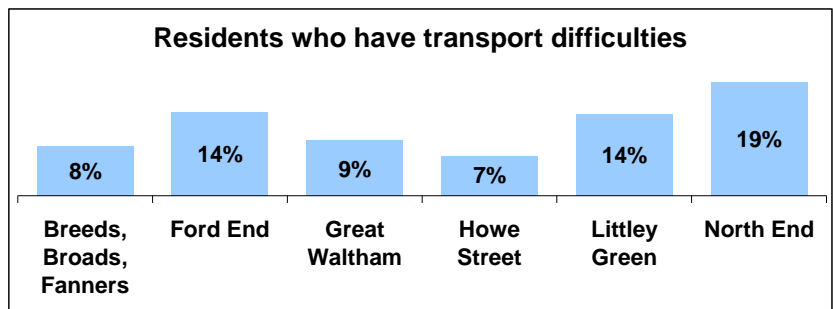
The transport and access issues are different for car owners, compared to the problems for residents who are wholly reliant on public transport. The latest census information for the Parish is that around one in ten households do not have a car or van.

Transport by bus is the only regular public transport in the Parish, there being two services, one operated by First Group and the other by Regal Busways.

First Group operates an hourly service, number 33, from Great Waltham to Chelmsford via Broomfield Hospital and to Stansted in the opposite direction; it follows the main road through Howe Street, Ford End and North End. Low-floor buses are only run intermittently on this service but 80% of this fleet is expected to be so equipped by 2012.

Regal Busways operates a six times a day weekday service, number 52, between Pleshey and West Hanningfield via Great Waltham, Little Waltham, Broomfield Hospital and Chelmsford. This service normally uses low-floor buses.

One in ten parishioners said that they have difficulty accessing local services and depend on public transport. Parishioners may be able to use one of three community transport schemes as an



alternative for essential journeys. There is a local scheme operated by the Great Waltham Parish Care Group who offer local people lifts to the Little Waltham surgery or Broomfield Hospital. They will also provide occasional help for such things as the collection of prescriptions and some shopping for the housebound. No charge is made, but they are entirely dependent on volunteers and donations to operate. Although they are based in the village of Great Waltham at present, volunteers from other parts of the Parish would enable them to increase their scope.

Summary of Findings

The Chelmsford community bus service is available to parishioners for essential travel within the Chelmsford Borough Council area.

The Uttlesford Community Transport scheme may provide a cross-boundary transport service for Great Waltham Parish residents who live near their boundary.

There is a need for a bus service to Little Waltham surgery for most of the Parish.

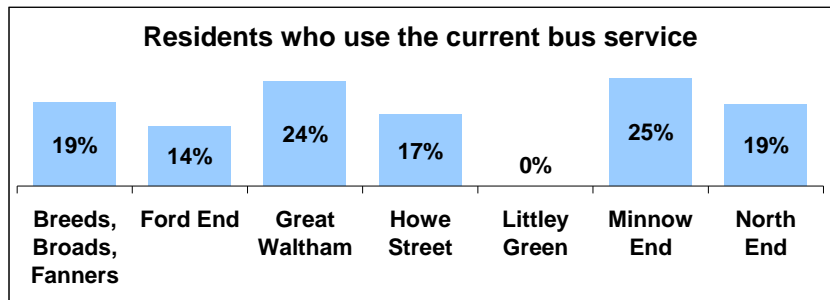
The services from Chelmsford Bus Station and from Bishops Stortford or Stansted are too infrequent and the first bus is too late and the last is too early.

Only a minority of local residents would use a bus service routed through Breeds, Little Green or North End.

There are two other organisations operating with volunteer drivers, one based in Chelmsford and the other in Uttlesford. They both require passengers to pay an annual membership fee and make a charge per journey. The Chelmsford Community Transport scheme may be used for journeys wholly within the Chelmsford Borough boundaries. Unfortunately, this may not be available to residents in the vicinity of Ford End and North End who need to travel to Great Dunmow or Felsted. However, there is an Uttlesford Community Transport scheme which, although intended for Uttlesford ratepayers, may provide a cross-boundary service for Great Waltham Parish residents who live on or close to their boundary.

Over the whole Parish about one in five people said that they used public transport. Recurring comments on the quality of the service were complaints about:

- The absence of a bus service to their doctor’s surgery. (Residents of the village of Great Waltham and Minnow End can use the number 52 bus service.)
- The service being infrequent and expensive.
- The access facilities for disabled or infirm residents are inadequate.
- The last bus is too early; the weekday times are 18:25 from Chelmsford Bus Station and 19:47 from Bishops Stortford/ 20:06 from Stansted.



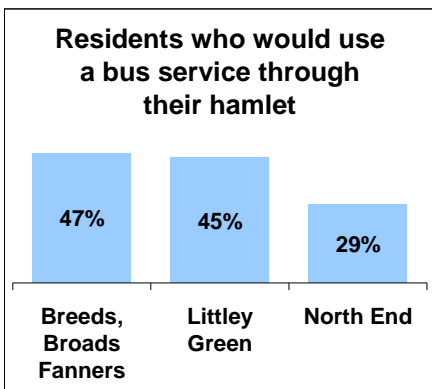
Less than half of the Breeds and Little Green residents and less than a third of the North End residents expressed an intention to use a bus service, should it become available to them in their hamlet. The centre of North End is about half a mile from the number 33 bus route on the B1008 and some residents want the bus to detour through the village centre whilst others did not want buses using the village lanes. This lack of consensus is consistent with results from a previous survey for the North End Village Design Statement.

Howe Street residents raised the issue of relocating the bus shelter closer to the bus stop. Whereas some justified relocation to obtain a clear view of approaching buses from the shelter others stated that the current position has been acceptable for 25 years and it would be inappropriate to re-site it in front of a Grade II listed house.

Traffic

Less than half of the residents over the whole Parish perceived traffic as an issue whereas, more locally, a majority of residents were concerned about traffic volume and speed in their hamlet or village. The principal concerns were for volume and speed of traffic through North End, Ford End, Howe Street, Minnow End and Breeds.

The residents of North End had two distinct areas of concern. One was the volume and speed of traffic on the B1008 and the other



Summary of Findings

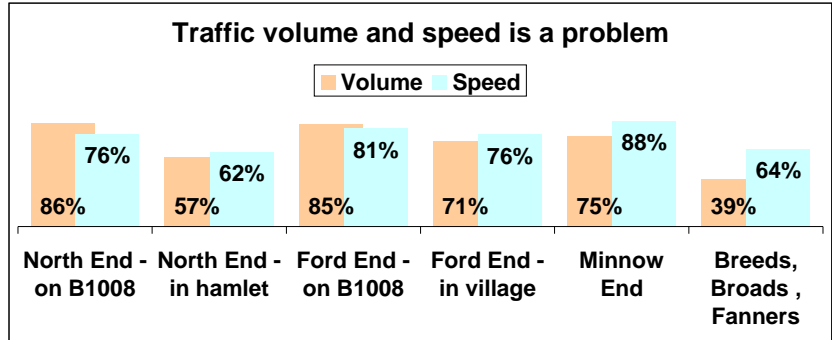
A majority of North End, Ford End and Howe Street residents were concerned about traffic volume and speed on the B1008 through their hamlet or village.

A majority of residents were concerned about traffic volume and speed on minor roads in North End, Ford End, Minnow End and Breeds.

There was almost unanimous support for a vehicle weight limit of 7.5 tonnes on the B1008.

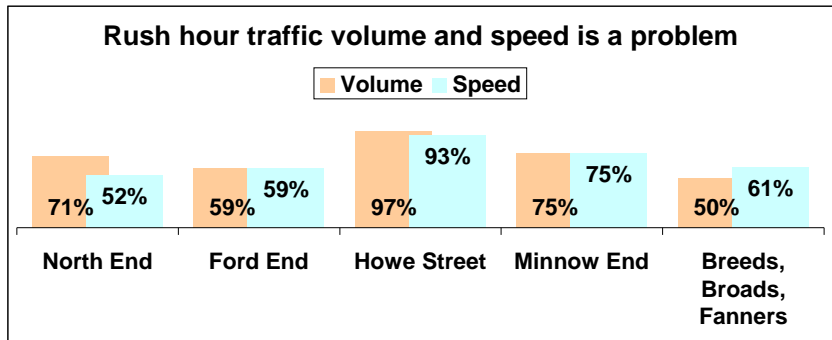
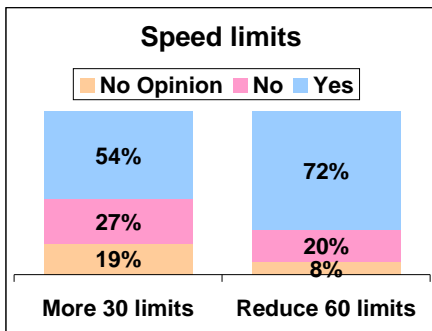
was the volume and speed of through traffic from the B1008 to Felsted or Little Dunmow via Bennets Lane and Mill Road. The severity of the latter depended on the rush hour and the school run.

The Ford End residents were mainly concerned with the traffic volume and speed on the B1008, which passes through the centre of the village. Traffic using a shortcut through Ringtail Green to Felsted, especially at 'school run' time, was raised as an additional issue.



Howe Street residents were concerned about the rush hour volume and speed of through-traffic from the B1008 using the main road through Howe Street as a shortcut to Chelmsford. They were also concerned that the 30mph speed limit is frequently exceeded and that the extent of the limited zone is inadequate.

The residents of Minnow End expressed concern about the volume and speed of traffic affecting the Chelmsford Road, especially during rush hour.



There was support for a more widespread use of 30mph limits, especially in the hamlets, in place of the National Speed limit of 60mph.

Breeds residents considered the traffic on the Breeds Road passing through the hamlet to be a problem.

There was almost unanimous support throughout the Parish for imposing a vehicle weight limit of 7.5 tonnes (except for access) on the B1008. There were many complaints made at the public consultation exhibitions, about excessive numbers of heavy lorries passing through the Parish using both the back lanes and the B1008. As the downgrading of the A130 to the B1008 occurred before the public consultation exhibitions, this downgrading had not relieved the residents' concerns about heavy goods vehicles.



Heavy traffic outside Ford End primary school

Speed Limits and Traffic Calming

The first speed limit in the Parish, in 1979, was a 30mph limit on the main road in Great Waltham. Limits of 40mph were later imposed at Ford End and Howe Street. This was subsequently reduced to 30mph in Ford End and the Howe Street speed limit was made into a dual limit, 40 mph reducing to 30mph, when travelling from the North. New 30mph limits were imposed in North End, at Bennets Lane and Mill Road, and in Broads Green.

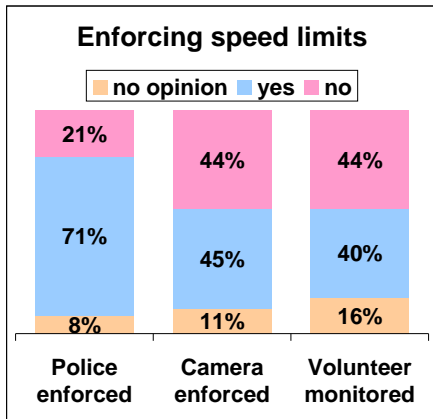
A majority of parishioners supported a more widespread use of

Summary of Findings

Some North End residents considered that the 60mph limit on the B1008 should be reduced to 40mph.

There was support for reducing the current 60mph speed limit on rural roads within the Parish.

There was strong support for a reduction of speed limits to 20mph outside the two schools during school hours.



There was strong support for the police enforcing speed limits but less support for monitoring speed using cameras or trained volunteers.

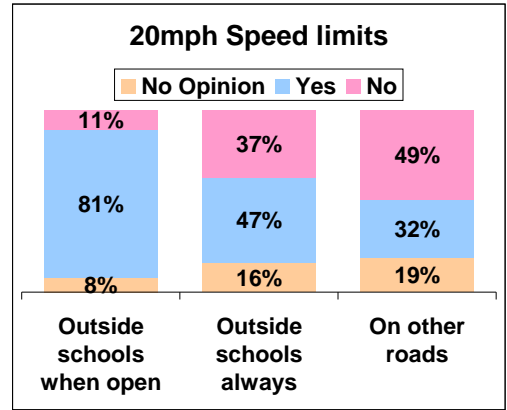
The only special highway modification for traffic calming with support from a majority of local residents was installation of road narrowing in Ford End and Minnow End.



Smiley SID

30mph limits, especially in the hamlets where the National Speed limit of 60mph applies. They also expressed strong support for lowering the current 60mph speed limit on rural roads within the Parish. The residents of both Ford End and North End expressed concerns about the speed of traffic on the B1008. The speed limit at Ford End is 30mph and the residents considered that stronger enforcement of this limit is necessary whereas the speed limit at North End is 60mph and residents considered that this should be reduced to 40mph.

Most residents would support reducing the speed limits outside the two schools to 20mph but only if they were applied during school hours. There was minimal support for a more general application of 20mph limits. The idea of installing controlled road crossings outside the schools was well supported, particularly for Ford End school which is located on the main road.

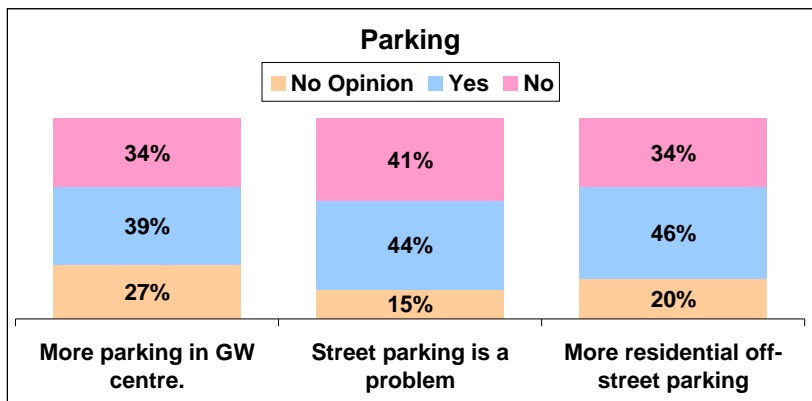


A majority of Parish residents strongly supported police enforcement of speed limits. Less than half of the residents favoured enforcement by either using cameras or trained volunteers to monitor speed.

Although the majority of Ford End and Minnow End residents supported road narrowing, there was little support across the Parish for special highway traffic calming modifications not in keeping with the rural environment. Some parishioners suggested alternatives such as flashing 30mph signs. The Parish Council has recently acquired a portable Vehicle Activated Speed Indicator Device, otherwise known as Smiley SID. Currently, this device can be set up on mounting posts in Great Waltham village, Ford End, Howe Street and Broads Green. Information obtained on traffic volumes and speeds (but not specific vehicle identities) is reported weekly to Essex County Council Highways and Essex Police and monthly to the Parish Council meetings.

Car Parking

The only public car park is at the Great Waltham village hall and parking is limited to between 8:30am and 6:00pm. In addition,



some limited parking may be available in the Ford End Village Hall car park. There was little demand for more public car parking except for a minority of residents who would appreciate more parking facilities in the centre of Great Waltham village. Parking in

Summary of Findings

There is no need to provide additional public car parking, except for in the centre of the village of Great Waltham.

Almost half of the residents see parking in the street as a problem and would like to see more residential off-street parking.

The maintenance and signage of footpaths and bridleways is satisfactory.



Roadside pavements on both sides of the B1008 in Ford End



Footpath alongside Breeds Road



Essex Way footpath near Langleys

the street was perceived as an issue by almost half of the residents and a similar number wanted more off-street residential parking. Proposals for more parking restrictions were firmly rejected by all residents.

Public Rights of Way

The Parish has a large number of public rights of way in the form of footpaths, bridleways and byways, which are valued by many parishioners for the amenity that they provide. Technically, all footpaths, bridleways and byways are classed as highways that are protected by legislation and can only be diverted or closed by legal order.

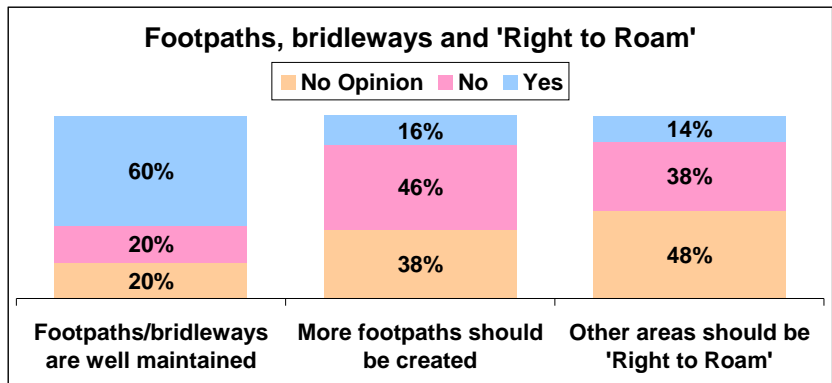
There is a Definitive Map, maintained by Essex County Council, which records the position and status of Public Rights of Way. The current Definitive Map dates from 1st July 2002 and a copy is held by the Parish Council.

Footpaths, Pavements and Bridleways

There are only limited stretches of roadside pavements except for in Great Waltham village which is more built up and in Ford End along the B1008. Where there are pavements elsewhere they are typically restricted to short stretches on one side of the road where they are necessary for safety reasons, such as those in North End, on the B1008, to provide access to the bus stops.

Roadside pavements are part of the highway and may not constitute a public right of way. Cyclists are not permitted to use them, unless they are a designated cycle route, but use by disability scooters is legal. An issue raised by a Howe Street resident was that the width of the pavements can cause problems for mobility scooter users

The Parish has many footpaths, which are tracks over which the public has a right of way, usually on private property. They are neither surfaced nor illuminated at night and are for pedestrian use only.



Bridleways also serve as footpaths, but additionally users are permitted to ride or lead a horse, and ride bicycles.

The condition and maintenance of public rights of way affects their amenity value to many residents and the majority of residents consider that the public footpaths and bridleways in the Parish are well maintained and they do not perceive a need to create more.

The triangular green at Littleley Green is the only designated place in the Parish where the general public have a 'Right to Roam'. However, there was little support for increasing the number of 'Right to Roam' areas.

Byways, Quiet Lanes and Cycle Tracks

Wheeled vehicles, in addition to horses and pedestrians, are permitted on a byway. Generally, byways have a soft surface that

Summary of Findings

There was little support for creating more footpaths and new areas with 'Right to Roam'.

The possibility of closing byways to motorised traffic, either by using a permanent seasonal Traffic Regulation Order or by a gating order, should be investigated.

- List of Lanes suggested for Quiet Lane status.**
 Blackchapel Lane/Brook Hill
 Bennetts Lane
 Mashbury Road
 Larks Lane.
 Hoe Lane
 Humphreys Farm Lane
 Chatham Hall Lane
 Hyde Hall Lane

The majority of residents support the possible designation of some rural lanes as 'quiet lanes'.

Only a minority was in favour of providing more cycle tracks.



The lane to Old Shaws



Cut Throat Lane Bridge

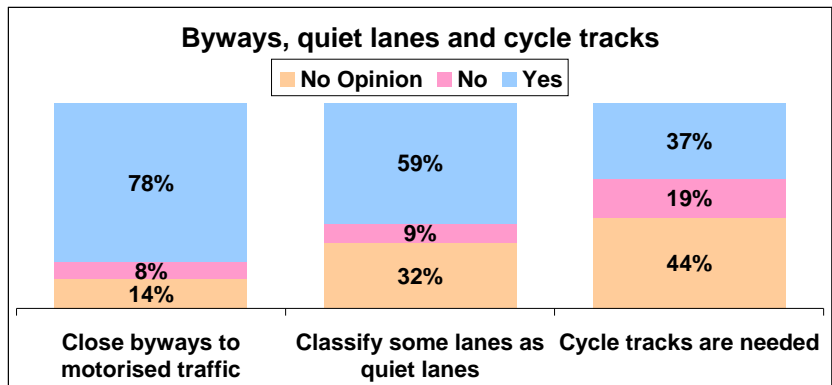
vehicles such as off-road vehicles and motorcycles can quickly ruin. There are a number of byways in the Parish and some, including Dunmow Lane, between Stumps Cross near Ford End and the Pleshey Road near Walthambury Farm, and Cut Throat Lane, between Howe Street and Littlely Green, have suffered sufficient damage for them to be closed for repair under a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). Most of the Parish residents favoured banning all motorised traffic from the Parish byways.



Damage to Cut Throat Lane

Quiet Lanes are minor rural roads that form a network linking them and public rights of way with places where people live and visit. They have a rural character with low traffic flows and speeds and are suitable for walkers, cyclists and horse riders to share with motorised vehicles.

A majority of the parishioners favoured classification of some lanes as 'Quiet Lanes'. Many proposed Dunmow Lane and Cut Throat Lane which are byways. However, byways already have the beneficial characteristics of 'Quiet Lanes'.

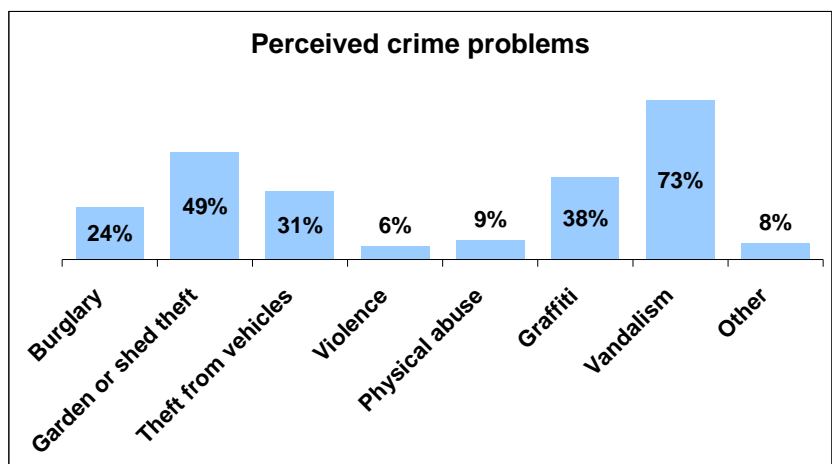


Cycle tracks may be beside the road and shared with pedestrians or away from the road and may or may not be shared with pedestrians. Although only a minority wanted more cycle tracks, this was almost twice the number of those who did not.

Crime and Safety

Crime

The Parish was perceived by most residents as having a low crime rate. This perception was stronger in the less populated



Summary of Findings

The Parish has a low crime rate.

The Parish has few problems due to anti-social behaviour.

Police reaction to reported incidents should be faster.

There should be a more visible police presence

Residents would appreciate the presence of a resident police officer.

Concerns about vandalism, theft from gardens and outbuildings and graffiti could be addressed through Neighbourhood Watch.

Enforcement of current legislation could discourage the depositing of litter.

More youth group activities are wanted.

Only a few young people gave an opinion on crime and anti-social behaviour.

The views of younger people on crime and anti-social behaviour are similar to those of older people.

parts of the Parish. Great Waltham village and Minnow End had the largest proportion of residents who considered criminal activity to be a problem in their locality, whereas none of the residents from North End or Littley Green considered criminal activity to be a problem in their hamlet.

Parishioners who thought that crime is a problem in their locality, mentioned the following activities:

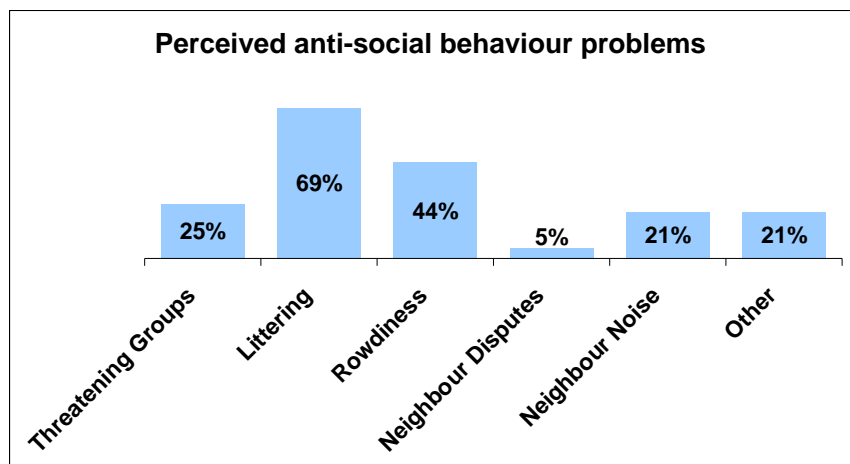
- Theft, be it from gardens, outbuildings, vehicles or burglary
- Vandalism and graffiti.

Far fewer people saw crimes of violence as being a problem.

Anti-social Behaviour

The Parish is perceived by residents as having a low level of anti-social behaviour although it is seen as more of a problem than that of crime by Minnow End, Broads Green, Fanners Green and Breeds residents. Those who thought that anti-social behaviour is a problem in their locality mentioned the following types of behaviour:

- Littering, rowdiness and threatening groups in public places.
- Noise from neighbours and disputes between neighbours.



Other types of anti-social behaviour which cause residents problems are motor cyclists riding on footpaths and in fields and woods, speeding and fly-tipping.

Remedies to Reduce Crime and Anti-social Behaviour

More than three quarters of the parishioners who proposed remedial actions proposed more visible policing, a resident police officer and a faster reaction by the police to reported incidents. Almost as many thought that more youth group activities would also help to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour

Vandalism, theft from gardens and outbuildings and graffiti could be addressed through Neighbourhood Watch and enforcement of existing laws could discourage the depositing of litter.

Young Peoples' Opinions

Younger people are often blamed for crime and anti-social behaviour. Only a few residents in the 12 to 18 age-range responded to the Questionnaire but their views were very similar to those for the overall age range. The majority felt that crime or anti-social behaviour do not present serious problems but graffiti, physical abuse and vandalism were identified as issues to address. This age group also favoured a more visible police presence, a resident police officer, a faster reaction by the police to reported incidents and more youth group activities.

Summary of Findings

There is general satisfaction with all three recreational areas, although they could be improved.

Support for improvements to recreational areas:	Great Waltham	Ford End	Howe Street
More play equipment	13	2	4
Facilities for older children	6	-	2
Public toilets	3	-	-
Youth centre	3	1	-
Hard play area	4	1	-
Fence play facilities	-	1	-
Storage and changing room	-	1	-
Multi-sport facility	1	-	-
Floodlights	1	-	-
Path to play equipment	1	-	-
Sheltered area	1	-	-
Off road parking	1	-	-
Parking in Parsonage Lane	-	-	1

There is a strong desire for provision of tennis courts and swimming facilities in the Parish.



Great Waltham youth shelter



Walthambury Stores and Post Office

Leisure and Recreation

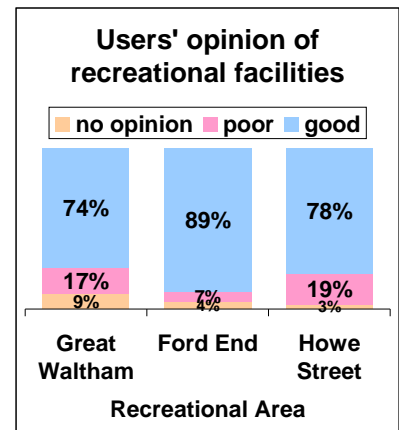
Recreational Areas

There are public recreational areas with sports and play facilities in Great Waltham, Ford End and Howe Street. Only about half of the residents expressed interest in these recreational and play areas.

Most of these residents use the recreational area local to them and thought that they have good facilities. More than half of those who commented on the Great Waltham facilities and more than a third of those who commented on the Ford End and Howe Street facilities also considered that they could be improved. However, since the consultation, play equipment throughout the Parish has been improved and a youth shelter has been constructed at the Great Waltham recreation ground.

None of the residents from the more outlying hamlets of North End and Little Green commented on the Great Waltham, Ford End or Howe Street recreational areas.

In addition to the three principal recreational areas, the Hoppit Garden, which is open at the discretion of the current tenant, and the green at Little Green were commented upon by a few residents who were satisfied with the amenity value of these areas. Several residents also said that they use recreational grounds outside the Parish, in Little Waltham and Pleshey.



Sports Facilities

The most popular suggestions for sports facilities that should be made publicly available were for tennis courts and a swimming pool; this was from more than half of the respondents. Less popular proposals were for a mountain bike track and a skate park. Only a few additional suggestions were made for sports facilities including:

- A new sports club house with indoor sports such as badminton
- Up-rating school facilities and making them available to the community
- Provision of a bowling green
- Provision of a multi-use hard court area suitable for all weather conditions.

Services and Facilities

Important Services

Almost all of the parishioners, irrespective of the part of the Parish in which they live, said that the village shop, Post Office and post box are services that are important to them. However, the only village or hamlet in the Parish with a general store and Post Office is Great Waltham. Bus routes and bus shelters were considered important to almost all of the parishioners except for North End and Little Green where they were important to only two thirds of the residents. A mobile library was important to most residents but it was seen as more important to people in the village of Great Waltham than to the residents of North End and Little Green. Provision of a phone box was seen as essential to about half of the residents as mobile phone reception is patchy.

Summary of Findings

The village shop, Post Office, post box, bus routes, bus shelters and the mobile library are important services.

Additional services suggested by individual parishioners.

- Public toilets
- Extra shops
- A café or tea shop
- Cash point
- GP/Health Centre
- Better street lighting
- A public house in Ford End

The church, the village hall, a public house/restaurant, notice boards and the Parish magazine are important facilities.

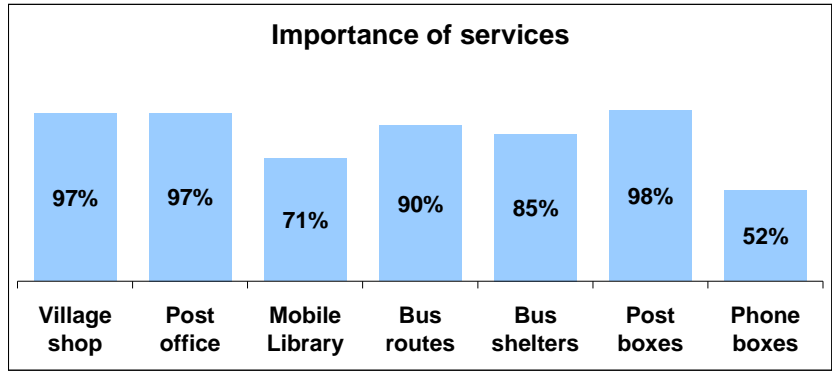
Great Waltham Village Hall and the Church of St Mary and St Lawrence are popular venues with residents from all parts of the parish



Village services and facilities

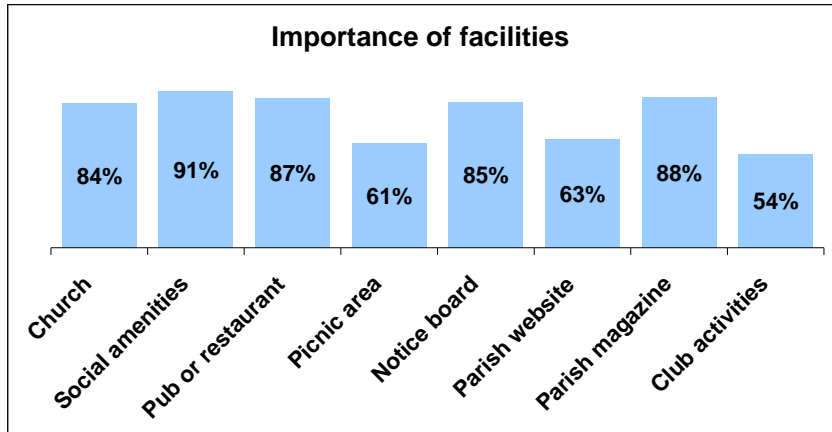


Royal British Legion Hall



Important Facilities

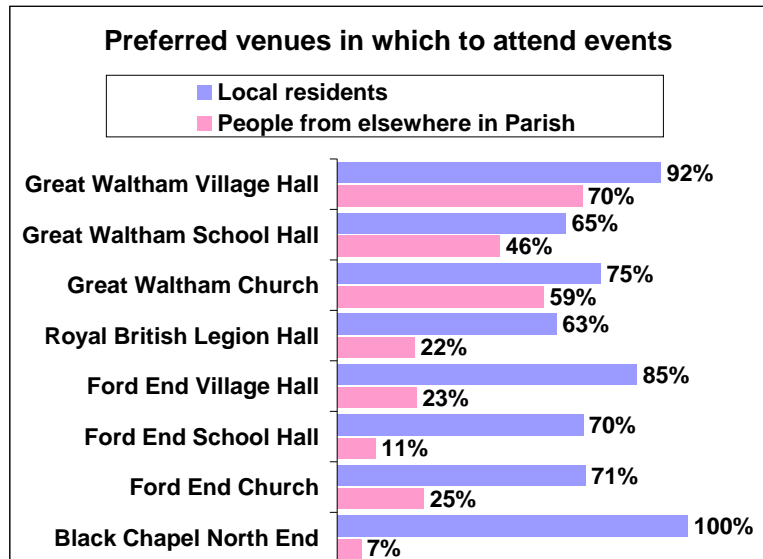
A large majority of parishioners, irrespective of the part of the Parish in which they live, said that the church and facilities such as the village hall, public house, notice boards and the Parish magazine are important to them. More than half of them also rated



the Parish website, a picnic area and club activities as important facilities. The most popular club activities are the British Legion, Beaver or Scouting activities and youth clubs.

Social Venues and Events

Most of the residents of Great Waltham, Ford End or North End prefer to attend social events at the venues in their village but Great Waltham Village Hall and the Church of St Mary and St Lawrence are also popular with people who live in other parts of the Parish. There is no strong desire for more Parish events to be organised as only a minority, just over a quarter, of parishioners would support an increase in organised events.



Summary of Findings

- Club activities in descending order of popularity**
- British Legion
 - Beavers/cubs/scouts
 - Youth club
 - Cricket
 - Women's Institute
 - Social/friendship
 - Bowls
 - Dinner Club for elderly
 - Horticultural
 - Badminton
 - Netball
 - Keep fit
 - Sports club
 - Singers
 - Twinning
 - Drama Group
 - Play group
 - Social club

The most needed improvements to the Great Waltham Village Hall are to the main hall, toilet facilities and the kitchen.

The most needed renovations to the Ford End Village Hall are to the main hall and the kitchen.

Ford End Village Hall could also benefit from a changing room, a bar and improved heating.



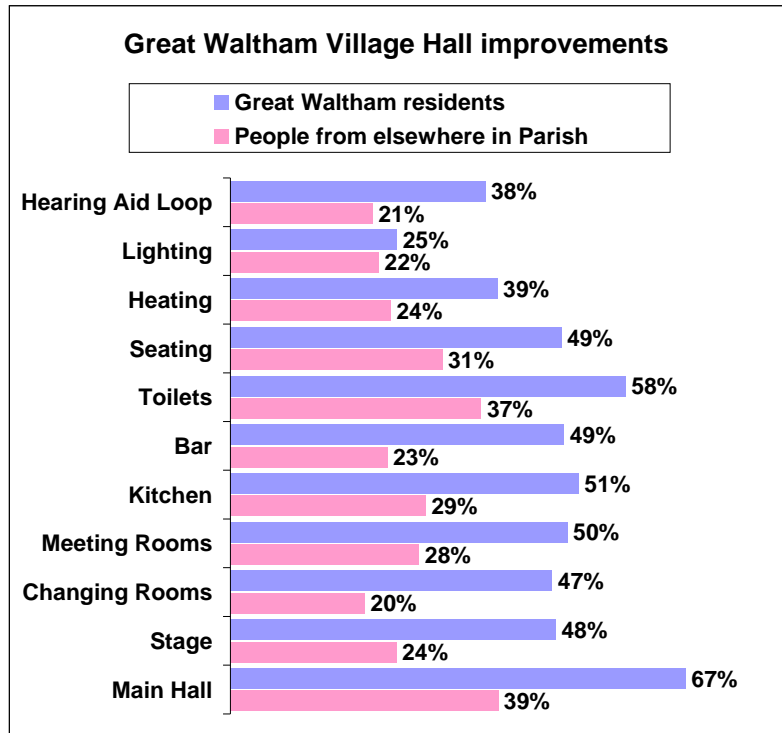
Great Waltham Village Hall



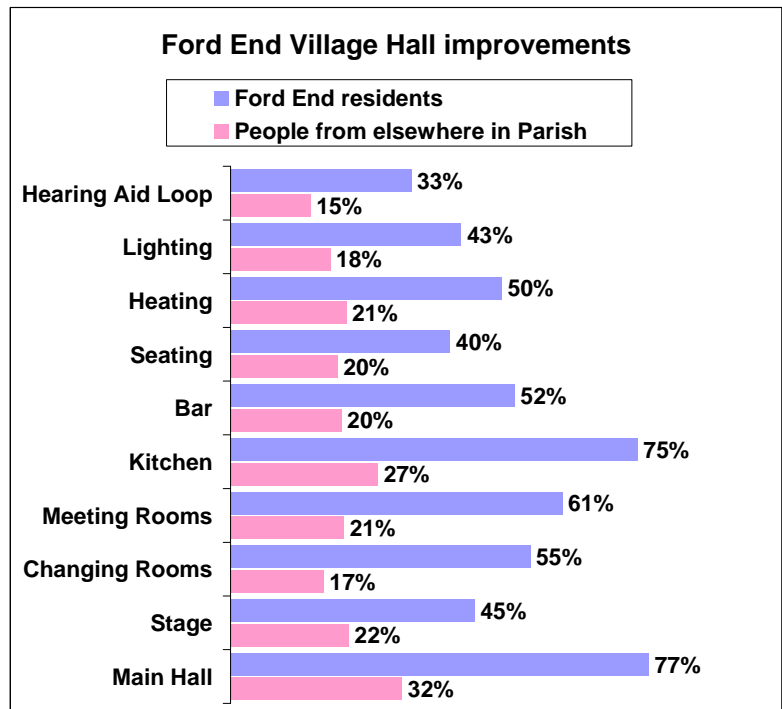
Ford End Village Hall

Both of the village halls are ageing and residents were consulted on what refurbishments they thought were necessary.

The majority of residents in the village of Great Waltham thought that their village hall main hall, toilet facilities and kitchen needed improving. Almost half of them felt that improvements to the seating, bar, meeting/changing rooms and stage facilities were also needed.



The toilets at Ford End Village Hall were recently renovated and the majority of Ford End residents thought that the most needed further improvements would be to the main hall and kitchen. They would also like a meeting room, a changing room, a bar and improved heating.



Residents were also asked for their opinions on the best way to replace either or both of the existing village halls if the opportunity should arise in future. Most residents felt that they should be rebuilt

Summary of Findings

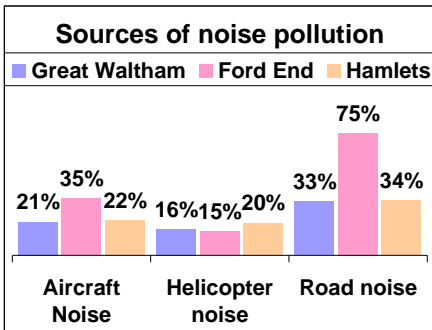
Should either of the two village halls be replaced in future, they should be rebuilt on their existing sites.

There is minority support for extending Essex Protected Lanes.

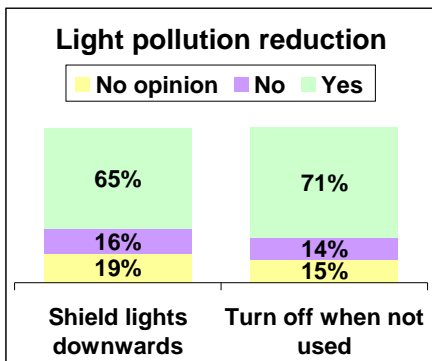
Hedgerows should be protected and that protection should be extended to field boundaries and woodlands.

Vehicle noise and exhaust pollution are issues on the B1008 in Ford End and North End.

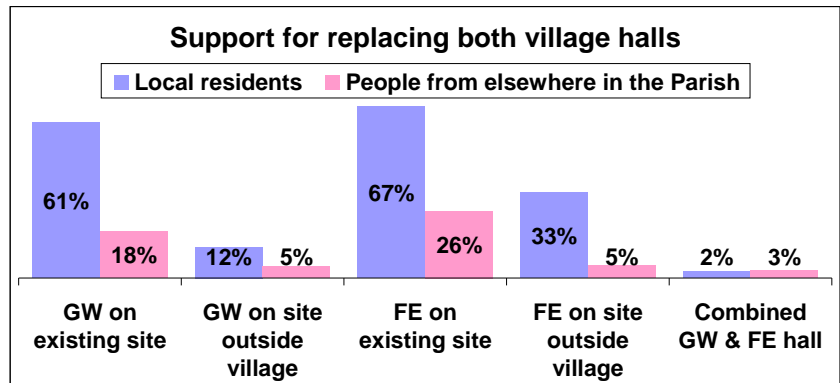
Aircraft noise is a potential pollution issue in the north of the Parish.



The majority of residents want steps to be taken to prevent light pollution becoming a problem.



on their existing sites. They firmly rejected any suggestion that either hall should be replaced by a hall on a new site outside the village or that both halls should be replaced with a single combined hall for the whole parish.



Conservation and Environment

Lanes and Hedges

Support for the protection of hedgerows, including hedgerows on lanes, field boundaries and woodlands was almost unanimous whereas only four out of ten parishioners supported classifying more lanes as Essex Protected Lanes, the most popular being Hoe Lane, Larks Lane and those around Broads Green.

Pollution

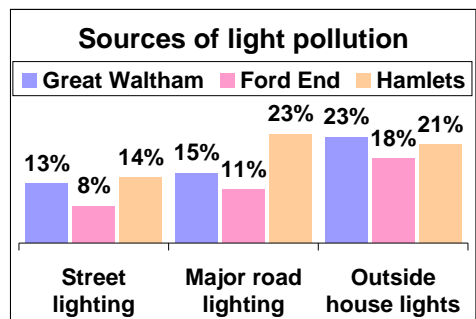
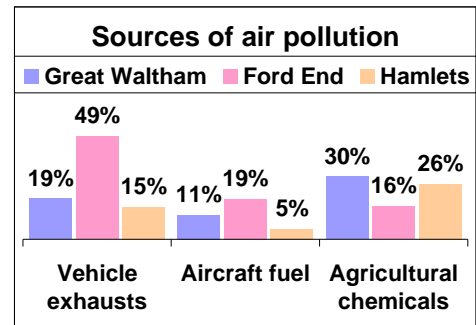
Road noise and vehicle fumes were perceived as a small to moderate nuisance for most of the Parish. However, three quarters of residents who live adjacent to the B1008, most of whom are Ford End and North End residents, complained of road noise and a half of air pollution.

The rural location and the proximity of the Parish to Stansted airport appears to affect the north of the Parish, as indicated by the number of residents of Ford End, more than a third, of whom reported aircraft noise as a pollution issue.

Other pollution issues raised by some residents included bonfires, agricultural dust at harvest and noise from motorbikes in fields.

A minority of parishioners thought that there is a problem with light pollution from street or domestic lights. However, the car park at Broomfield Hospital and the floodlights for the golf driving range on Regiment Way were mentioned specifically as sources of light pollution and nuisance.

In addition, when the new racecourse at the old Essex Showground was opened, the floodlighting from it was clearly visible from all parts of the Parish. This problem was resolved by the recent closure of the racecourse but any future reactivation of these floodlights will cause significant light pollution. Although light pollution was not an issue for the majority of parishioners, most of them wanted actions to be taken to reduce it.



Summary of Findings

Most people support the current kerbside collections of recyclable refuse.

More materials should be recycled, especially more types of plastic items.

More categories of recyclable material	No. of residents
Wider range of plastics	52
Cartons and food packaging	8
Clothes and textiles	4
Electrical appliances	4
Furniture	3
More types of paper	2
Food waste	2
Metal, rubber and wood	2
Batteries	1
Printer cartridges	1

There is strong opposition to reducing the current weekly non-recyclable refuse collection to a fortnightly collection.

Most residents supported the periodic provision of skips at strategic locations to dispose of larger items of non-recyclable refuse.

Most parishioners are satisfied with the arrangements for collecting garden refuse.

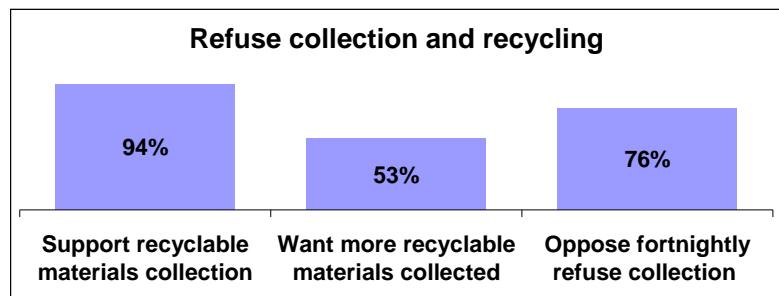
There is a need to reduce roadside litter throughout the parish.

Enforcement of current legislation could discourage the dumping of roadside litter, fly-tipping and dog-fouling.

The provision of more bins for the disposal of dog waste should be considered and dog owners should be encouraged to use them.

Recycling

Chelmsford Borough Council has a refuse recycling policy which includes a fortnightly kerbside collection of recyclable items using special bins and containers. This policy, which is operated alongside a weekly general refuse collection, is still evolving. Possible future changes might include increasing the scope of recyclable materials and increasing the time between the general refuse collections. Whilst almost all of the parishioners supported the kerbside collection of recyclable items, almost as many opposed limiting the current weekly general refuse collection to a fortnightly collection. The residents' opinions were divided on including more categories of recyclable material in the kerbside collection. Some of them suggested additional items and materials which they thought should be included for recycling through the kerbside collection, predominantly a wider range of plastic items. However, since the consultation, Chelmsford Borough Council has increased the range plastics that can be recycled. Furniture and electrical appliances were also mentioned and discontent was expressed that larger items can only be collected subject to payment of a collection fee. At the time of the consultation parishioners could dispose of more bulky items without paying a collection fee or transporting them to the local refuse disposal centre, Chelmsford Borough Council provided skips at regular intervals at strategic locations in the Parish and about half of the residents found this arrangement adequate and about a third considered it inadequate. However, this service was discontinued from 1st April 2010.



As part of the recycling scheme, Chelmsford Borough Council collects garden waste fortnightly for a municipal composting process in up to two special brown bins per household. As the Parish is rural, many of the gardens are large and some parishioners have traditionally produced their own compost. Just under half of residents preferred to compost their own garden refuse and just over half did not. However, seven out of ten parishioners said that the existing supply of brown bins is sufficient for their needs and one in five would prefer more bins to be made available.

Litter and Dog-fouling

Throughout the Parish about half of the residents considered roadside litter a problem. In the relatively built up environs of Great Waltham, fly-tipping was seen as a problem of similar magnitude as that of roadside litter. However, In the open countryside areas of Ford End and the other hamlets, it was seen as a greater problem, by most of these residents.

About a third of all residents found dog-fouling to be a problem and about a third of the residents of the villages of Great Waltham and Ford End, compared to one fifth of the residents of the smaller hamlets, would like more dog waste disposal bins to be provided. When residents were asked to suggest locations where additional

Summary of Findings

Most residents from rural areas do not support limiting the mowing of roadside verges.

Property owners should be encouraged to plant native species of trees, bushes and hedges

Designation of suitable roadside verges as wildlife reserves, such as those on Regiment Way, should be considered.

Owners of suitable ponds or disused gravel pits should be encouraged to designate them as wildlife reserves.



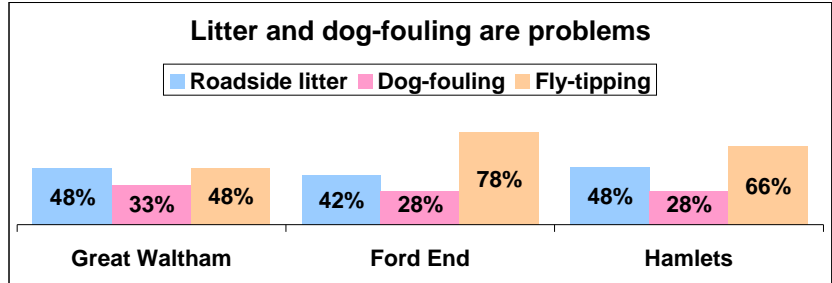
Roadside Nature Reserve on Littley Green Road



A case of fly-tipping

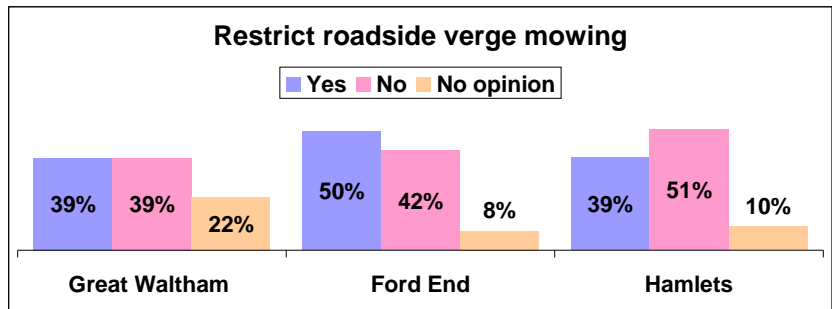
bins for dog waste might be beneficial, thirty two responses broadly indicated that bins should be provided at regular intervals in all of the streets and footpaths where dogs might be regularly walked. As the responses also included many impassioned complaints about others not using the existing bins, it is evident that dog-fouling is an emotive nuisance to those most affected.

Enforcement of existing laws could discourage the dumping of roadside litter, fly-tipping and dog-fouling.

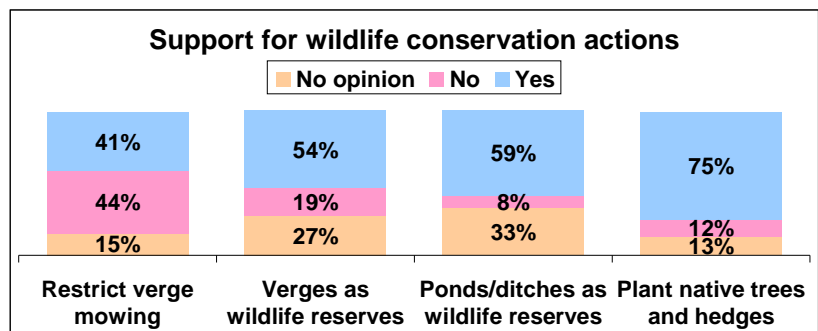


Native Flora and Fauna

There is a general decline in our native wildlife. Roadside verges, hedgerows, ponds and ditches can provide some refuge for wildlife. However, overgrown verges can be a hazard to road users and the majority of parishioners did not support the restriction of mowing of roadside verges to conserve wildlife. In the more rural parts of the parish, the majority of residents opposed it.



Although more parishioners supported designating roadside verges or ponds and ditches as local wildlife reserves than did not, a high proportion, in the region of one in three, did not have an opinion either way. However, there was strong support throughout the Parish for encouraging property owners to plant native species of trees, bushes and hedges.



Many suggestions were made for designating roadside verges for wildlife conservation, a common one being on Essex Regiment Way. Similarly a number of ponds and ditches were suggested as being suitable for wildlife conservation, a common suggestion being to use disused gravel pits in the Parish.

5. Conclusions and Action List

Overall Conclusions

The public consultation for the Parish Plan revealed that most residents live here by choice and value the rural ambience of their village or hamlet. The possibility that gives them most concern is that this characteristic of the Parish might be harmed by creeping urbanisation. Any development should be limited to small scale housing or business developments that are in keeping with the rural environment.

The communities in the Parish are distinct and separate. Some problems and needs are specific to individual localities and need to be addressed on a local basis rather than by Parish-wide solutions. People in some parts of the Parish may not be aware of what is happening elsewhere in the Parish and improved communication is needed, such as may be achieved through a Parish Newsletter delivered to every household.

The extended north/south axis of the Parish influences the use of services and facilities. For example, services and facilities in the villages of Great Waltham and Little Waltham are local for residents in the south of the Parish whereas those of Dunmow and Felsted are nearer for residents in the north.

Residents who rely on public transport have problems accessing services and facilities. There is a need for improved public transport, including early morning and late evening services. Improved awareness of the existing community bus services would also assist.

Although crime and anti-social behaviour are not major issues in the Parish, a more visible police presence and a faster response to incidents are needed.

Littering and dog-fouling are irritants that need better control through enforcement of existing legislation.

Parishioners favour more rigorous police enforcement of existing speed limits, a reduction of some limits, such as 30 to 20mph in the vicinity of the schools and the introduction of new limits in specific parts of the Parish. Heavy through traffic on the B1008 should be limited by a 7.5 tonne weight limit.

In general, health provision is satisfactory but the surgery out-of-hours service and car parking facilities need improving. Hospital car parking charges should be moderated and more sensitively enforced. Broomfield is the local hospital for the Parish and should be made more widely available to some residents. Residents whose NHS Primary Care Trust would routinely refer them to hospitals other than Broomfield Hospital, should have the opportunity to be referred to Broomfield.

Both village halls are in need of improvement but proposals to re-site them, either independently or as a combined facility, are not supported by residents.

The following list of actions results from the residents' consultation process.

Action List

1. Actions for the Parish Council:

- 1.1. Consult with residents in outlying areas of the Parish, such as North End and Littlely Green, as to the level of demand for sewerage and, if sufficient, contact the sewage disposal company and encourage them to provide the cost and feasibility information for providing a household mains sewer connection. (p15)
- 1.2. Contact the gas supply company and encourage them to provide the cost and feasibility information for providing a household mains gas supply to the Parish. (p15)
- 1.3. Consider how the existing legislation to discourage dog-fouling, littering and fly-tipping might be applied effectively and by whom. (p28 and 33)
- 1.4. Improve the provision of information throughout the Parish, possibly by means of a Parish Newsletter, including subjects such as:
 - 1.4.1. Security of property and possessions. (p28)
 - 1.4.2. Neighbourhood Watch participation. (p28)
 - 1.4.3. Local understanding of Conservation areas. (p19)
 - 1.4.4. Fly-tipping 'hot line' telephone number. (p33)
 - 1.4.5. Energy conservation issues and Government/Local authority initiatives. (p19)
 - 1.4.6. Importance of Village Design Statements in the planning process. (p18)
 - 1.4.7. Whenever possible, discourage people from parking in the street. (p26)



South Street
Great Waltham

- 1.4.8. Availability of community services including community buses and Parish Care and Support Groups. (p22 and 23)
- 1.4.9. How to check the availability of services such as:
 - Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) (p15)
 - Freeview (p15)
 - Broadband (p16)

2. Actions that the Parish Council is undertaking or has planned:

- 2.1. Continue to lobby Essex County Council for the following traffic regulation improvements.
 - 2.1.1. A 40mph limit through Minnow End¹⁰. (p24)
 - 2.1.2. A 40mph limit on the B1008 through North End¹⁰. (p25)
 - 2.1.3. A 7.5 tonnes weight limit for the whole of the B1008. (p24)
- 2.2. Jointly with both of the schools, continue to consider requesting 20mph speed limits and controlled crossings, outside each school when open. (p25)
- 2.3. Jointly with Neighbourhood Watch, lobby the Police to enforce existing speed limits throughout the Parish. (p24 and 25)
- 2.4. Consider further improvements to the Recreation Areas in the Parish. (p29)
- 2.5. Continue to arrange open days for local clubs, societies and organisations to present their activities. (p1)
- 2.6. Jointly with the Great Waltham Village Hall Committee, continue promoting the proposal for development of the Village Hall into a Community Focus Point, including the refurbishment of existing facilities. (p31)
- 2.7. Continue to liaise with the relevant highway authority, local landowners and farmers to undertake hedgerow maintenance in a manner that will preserve flora and fauna. (p32)
- 2.8. Continue to lobby Essex County Council and liaise with landowners to designate appropriate areas as nature reserves. (p34)
- 2.9. Jointly with Neighbourhood Watch, continue to lobby the Police to increase their presence in the Parish and improve their response times. (p28)

3. Actions for which the Parish Council should lobby other authorities

- 3.1. Raise with Chelmsford Borough Council, the possibility of extending existing Conservation areas and/or creating new ones. (p19)
- 3.2. Lobby the bus operators for the following improvements to their services:
 - 3.2.1. More frequent bus services, especially early morning and late evening. (p23)
 - 3.2.2. A better service to Little Waltham Surgery. (p23)
 - 3.2.3. Increased use of low-floor vehicles on existing bus routes. (p22)
- 3.3. Make representations to the hospital managers regarding the dissatisfaction with car parking charges and their enforcement. (p22)
- 3.4. Approach both Primary Care Trusts to request that patients using the Great Dunmow Surgeries may be optionally referred to Broomfield Hospital, instead of Bishops Stortford Hospital. (p21)
- 3.5. Make local surgeries aware of the following:
 - 3.5.1. The comments made by patients on their out-of-hours service and car parking.(p20 and 21)
 - 3.5.2. Their patients' desire for some additional services. (p21)
- 3.6. When considering planning applications, make representation to ensure that light pollution is minimised. (p32)
- 3.7. Encourage Chelmsford Borough Council to recycle a greater range of materials. (p33)
- 3.8. Lobby the Highways Agency to complete the re-signing of the A120 for the B1008. (p24)
- 3.9. Consider which lanes are suitable for designation as 'quiet lanes' and lobby Essex County Council Highways accordingly. (p27)

¹⁰ Note: Essex County Council is undertaking a review of speed limits on Class A and B roads which is due to be completed in 2011

- 3.10. Lobby Essex County Council Highways to apply permanent seasonal Traffic Regulation Orders and/or Gating Orders to protect endangered Byways. (p27)
- 3.11. Consider where additional 30mph or 40mph speed limits would be appropriate and lobby for them accordingly. (p24 and 25)
- 3.12. Encourage the use of converted agricultural buildings by small businesses. (p20)
4. **Actions where the Parish Council should encourage volunteers/residents:**
 - 4.1. Support the Ford End Village Hall Committee in improving its facilities. (p31)
 - 4.2. Encourage property owners to plant native species of trees and bushes. (p34)
 - 4.3. If requested, support the schools in lobbying Essex County Council to extend the provision of school bus services, in accordance with parents' needs. (p17)
 - 4.4. If requested by the Schools, support them in organising 'walking buses'. (p17)
 - 4.5. Encourage and support volunteers in the preparation of Village Design Statements for those parts of the Parish so far not covered. (p18)
 - 4.6. Encourage suitably qualified volunteers to organise appropriate young peoples' activities. (p28)
 - 4.7. Support, as appropriate, organisations in the provision of additional sports facilities for the general public. (p29)

6. Acknowledgements

We would like to record our thanks to the following for their help with the project:

- Great Waltham Parish Council and the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) for initiating and co-sponsoring this project;
- Great Waltham Parish Council the Essex Rural Partnership and the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (defra) for providing grants to fund this project;
- The RCCE for arranging the grants from the Essex Rural Partnership and defra.
- The Rural Community Council of Essex for practical help and advice throughout;
- The School Councils of Great Waltham and Ford End Schools for help with the content of the Questionnaire;
- Mr and Mrs Esplen for advice on the content of the Questionnaire;
- The participants of the Questionnaire pilot exercise for their time and feedback;
- The pub restaurants who offered prizes for the Questionnaire prize draw;
- Great Waltham and Ford End schools for agreeing to hold painting contests and the pupils who took part in them;
- Malcolm Ward and his daughter for judging the painting contest;
- Martin Herbert and Alan Maddock for help with the history and character of the parish;
- The organisations, clubs and societies who contributed to making the Open Day a success;
- The trustees of Blackchapel and the proprietors of The Compasses, The Green Man and The Walnut Tree for hosting the exhibitions;
- John Bell, Keith Derry, Joan Herring, Mr and Mrs Mayes, David Sanders and Mr and Mrs Wilson for providing photographs of the parish;
- Mr and Mrs Gillies and Don and Heather Morcombe for providing historic photographs of the parish.
- Essex Record Office for their permission to use photographs of the Blacksmiths and Chapel in Littlely Green.
- Ann McDevitt for producing the artwork for the cover and map.

Appendix 1

Sources of information

Poor Laws on pages 2 and 3

- 'Incentives, Information, and Welfare: England's New Poor Law and the Workhouse Test', by Timothy Besley London School of Economics, Stephen Coate Cornell University and Timothy W. Guinnane Yale University
- www.victorianweb.org - Marjie Bloy, Senior Research Fellow, National University of Singapore.
- www.visionofbritain.org.uk
- Essex Record Office (SEAX)

Workhouses on page 3:

- www.workhouses.org.uk - Hitchcock T.V. (1985).
- www.chelmsford.gov.uk - Chelmsford - St John's Hospital Conservation Area.

Parish Council on page 3:

- 'A History of Great Waltham Parish Council', by past Chairman, William Dannatt (available on Great Waltham Parish Council Website).

Great Eastern Railway bus service on page 5

- 'The Earliest Known Bus Timetable through Stock', by Charles Phillips; (available on the Stock Parish website).

Population statistics on page 6

- www.histpop.org
- www.visionofbritain.org.uk
- Chelmsford Borough Council – Great Waltham Parish Profile

Place names on page 6:

- 'History of Essex', by Reverend Phillip Morant.
- 'Ford End: The Story of an Essex Village', by Winifred Eastment.

Appendix 2

Presentation of Data in Charts

The charts illustrate the source data for the findings described in the text. All reported percentages are based upon a comparison with the total number of responses to the relevant question or issue, unless otherwise stated.

There are four categories of charts:

- Facts – these show distributions of numbers, locations or current practice.
- Aspirations – these show levels of demand.
- Problems – these show levels of perception.
- Opinions – these show the range of opinions on the issues reported, including 'No Opinion'.

Appendix 3

Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE)

The Rural Community Council of Essex was established in 1929 as a registered charity which aims to improve and enhance the quality of life for those who live and work in the rural areas of Essex. It encourages self-help community projects and helps make representations to the relevant authorities on issues that matter to people living in rural Essex. It also administers the awards of a number of grants that help to make such projects possible.

