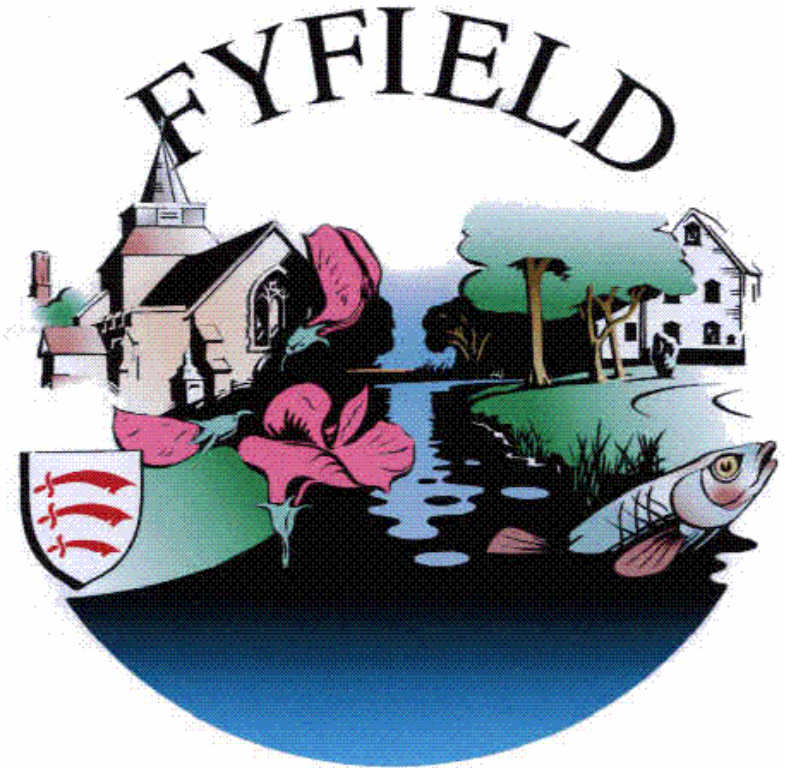


# Fyfield Parish Appraisal & Action Plan



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## **Introduction**

*Dear Resident of Fyfield,*

*This is your personal copy of the first Fyfield Parish Appraisal carried out in the Summer of 2007. Without contradiction, the results of the survey, carried out as part of the Appraisal, identifies a safe, caring and community responsive village.*

*On behalf of the Parish Appraisal Committee, I would like to say a tremendous 'thank you' to you, the residents of our lovely village, for the time and effort you have dedicated to completing the survey. This dedication is further highlighted with pride by Fyfield recently being voted the Calor Best Kept Village award in its class in Essex.*

*As a new member of your community, it has been a privilege to be associated with the team of 'Appraisal' volunteers who have devoted many hours to help achieve such satisfying results, the percentage returns of which closely resemble that of a general election. Absolutely amazing!*

*A personal and sincere thanks to our team and local community participants.*

*Henry Hart  
Chairman  
Fyfield Parish Appraisal Committee  
August 2008*

## **What is a Parish Appraisal?**

The Fyfield Parish Appraisal & Action Plan is a document summarising how the residents feel about their community. The information for the Appraisal was gathered from a survey in the form of a questionnaire delivered to all households in Fyfield. From this information, views and statistics were collected and reported on in this document along with an action plan of priority issues.

## **How the Parish Appraisal was initiated**

In November 2005, a Field Officer from the Rural Community Council for Essex (RCCE) gave a presentation to the Fyfield Parish Council regarding community involvement in village planning issues. As a result, the then Parish Council asked the RCCE to organise a drop in morning for the residents on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2006 with the intention of forming a steering group to undertake a Village Appraisal. This was considered to be very successful by the RCCE as 41 residents plus the Councillors attended. Chris Hobbs, the Field Officer, produced an analysis of the comments received and from this it was concluded that a Parish Appraisal could be a useful tool to ascertain the feelings of residents. Following this drop-in morning 10 residents volunteered to form a steering committee, this eventually reduced to 8 committee members. Two preliminary meetings were held with Chris Hobbs chairing and advising us. The first official meeting was held in September 2006, when officers were appointed and a constitution agreed. In March 2007, Ian Hadley was co-opted onto the committee and was instrumental in producing the questionnaire which was delivered in April 2007 to the residents of Fyfield.

## **The Parish Appraisal Committee**

The Parish Appraisal Committee was formed in September 2006 by volunteers from the community. The members of the Parish Appraisal Committee are:

Henry Hart (Chair)  
Jo Balcombe  
Martin Baxter  
Ian Hadley  
Wendy Henshaw  
Annette King  
Kay Podevin

## **The Future of the Parish Appraisal Committee**

Although the production of the Parish Appraisal has ended, the committee will continue to monitor the progress of the actions raised in the Action Plan. This is important as the Action Plan represents the views of the residents of Fyfield and needs to be progressed by the various parties to whom the actions are assigned.

The progress of the Action Plan will be reported in the Fyfield Focus and local websites on a regular basis. Feedback and comments from residents regarding this document are welcomed and should be passed to the Parish Appraisal Committee.

## **A Brief history of Fyfield**

Fyfield is a small historic settlement whose exact beginnings are lost in the mists of time. The name itself comes from the Saxon word Fyfe, which means five, and Hyde which is the amount of land an able-bodied man could reasonably be expected to plough in a day with a good team of oxen. Historically, the first mention of the village is in the Domesday Book of 1086.

The parish has remained almost entirely an agricultural community throughout history to the present day. Intensification of farming and the arrival of the railway in Ongar in the 1900s led to changes in the modern landscape. Small fields with plenty of hedgerows have now given way to large scale farming, leaving only relics of an ancient landscape. Despite its closeness to London, Fyfield retains a distinct rural character.

Ownership of the parish 'tithes', or land, has had a rather chequered history. The most notable of these owners was the Scrope (or Scroop) family from Masham, in the north of England, who took ownership after 1331. Henry le Scrope came under suspicion for treason due to his political links with the French in the reign of Henry V. Following a speedy trial at Southampton he was beheaded for being, in the words of Shakespeare, 'a vile traitor'. His headless body is said to be buried in the Church of St. Nicholas, under the site of the existing organ.

The parish still contains many clues to the past. Both the village and the surrounding countryside provide enough to tempt the amateur historian and those keen on natural history. With its mixture of small woodlands, ancient hedgerows, ponds, streams and the River Roding, there is a wide range of good habitats, home to a diversity of wildlife.

Many of the buildings in the parish are of great historical interest, in particular the church, Lampetts and Fyfield Hall, which is the oldest of three manor houses in Fyfield.



## St Nicholas Church

Fyfield church is listed Grade II\*, one of fifty-two listed buildings in the parish, two others of which are important tombs in the churchyard. It is an unmistakable building with its unusual central tower.

The Normans started to build it in about 1120, using pebble rubble gathered from the nearby river bed and indications are that they placed a large block of sarsen stone, buried deep in the ground, at each corner of the tower to give it stability. The church was dedicated to St Nicholas, a popular saint in mediaeval times on account of his fabled gifts of life and freedom to children.

At that time, the church comprised the tower, a thick-walled nave and, possibly, a small, rounded apse giving shelter to the altar. A spiral stair gave access to the second stage of the tower which was probably flat-roofed for use as a beacon point in times of emergency. The Norman work is completed with the font, a substantial rectangular block of Purbeck marble which originally stood on a polypod base.

The erection of such a substantial church suggests that twelfth-century Fyfield was an important village. Even so, after less than a hundred years the building was found to be too small and first the north, then the south aisles were constructed, in 1195 and about 1275 respectively. The nave lost its original barrel roof at this time, although the re-roofing was short-lived: the massive oak tie beams and crown posts we see today are fifteenth-century; as is the striking niche in the corner of the north aisle. Traces of colour on the arcade and elsewhere throughout the building give clues to the extent of the wall-paintings which covered the interior in mediaeval times, illustrating the stories from the Bible - principally warnings - for the largely illiterate congregation.



The fourteenth century saw completion of the building more or less as we see it today. The distinctive chancel with its elegant gothic features was constructed at this time and it remains largely unspoiled to this day. The sedilia - seating for the clergy during the long services - places this part of the church firmly in the early part of the century, before the Black Death swept the land in 1348, decimating the population and suspending most building work throughout the country for the best part of a generation. Among the carved heads here can be found the Abbot of Bermondsey, patron of the living and St Nicholas. More carvings decorate the moulding over the east window and no two of these are alike. The faces of men and women, probably acquaintances of the mason who carved them, are to be found down the south side while animals ranging from a

rabbit to a falcon can be seen on the other side, complete with a huntsman with his horn. Porches to the north and south doors were also built at this time, although only the north one survives.

The church has a peal of six bells, five of which were recast in the seventeenth and, again, in the nineteenth-centuries, indicating that the metal in them is very ancient. There is a small but particularly fine organ by Eustace Ingram, installed at the expense of the rector a century ago.

Notable among the people buried at Fyfield is Henry, Lord Scrope, whose treachery to Henry V cost him his head just before Agincourt in 1415 and earned him a scathing mention by Shakespeare. Later, his body was returned to Fyfield, where it is buried under a fifteenth-century ledger stone, but his head was last recorded on a spike above Micklegate Bar in York. Today children still thrill to the story of the headless body beneath the organ.



**Amenities in the Village**

Churches	St. Nicholas Church
Community Care	Ongar & Villages Community Care Scheme
Doctors/Dentists	There are no Doctors or Dentists surgeries in Fyfield the nearest being in Ongar
Milkmen	Dairy Crest
Play Areas	Child and Teenage recreation areas
Police	Mobile Police van
Pre School	Fyfield Pre-school
Public Houses	The Black Bull and the Queen's Head
Schools	Dr. Walkers C of E Primary School
Stores	The Village Store Post Office Ernest Doe – Trade, Retail, Country Shop, DIY Hardware & Clothing, Agricultural & Horticultural
Transport	Bus No. 46 runs to Chelmsford/Ongar runs regularly except Sunday
Village Hall	Hall & Sports Ground

**Clubs and Societies**

- Art Group
- Book Clubs
- Bridge Club
- Carpet Bowls Club
- Cricket Club
- Fishing
- Girl Guiding UK
- Golf Society
- Hand Bell Ringers
- Mums and Toddlers
- Over 60's Luncheon Club
- Scouts Association
- Shooting
- Sports & Social Club
- Tower Bell Ringers
- Women's Institute

**Results from the Parish Appraisal Questionnaire**

Of 320 questionnaires distributed, 195 were returned which is approximately 61%. This is considered to be a good level of response for such an exercise.

Please note that not all percentages add up to 100%. This is due to not all questions being answered.

Of the households responding there were a total of 492 occupants making an average of 2.5 people per household with the average resident living in the village for 18 years. The average age of a Fyfield resident is 60. The breakdown of the population is detailed below:

Age	Male	Female	Total
0-4	2%	2%	4%
5-10	3%	3%	6%
11-15	2%	3%	5%
16-17	1%	1%	2%
18-24	4%	3%	7%
25-44	10%	11%	21%
45-59	9%	12%	21%
60-64	5%	5%	10%
65-74	8%	9%	17%
75+	3%	4%	7%

**Housing**

The average age of a Fyfield property is 84 years. Owner occupied housing accounts for 85% of all households followed by 8% local

Authority rented, 4% privately rented and 2% Housing Association rented. The number of bedrooms per household is as follows:

One bedroom	= 5%
Two bedroom	= 12%
Three bedroom	= 46%
Four bedroom	= 26%
Five bedroom	= 10%
Six+ bedroom	= 1%



Sports Field & Church

**Development of Housing within Fyfield**

53% of residents thought that there was no need for more housing developments in the village. Those who did think that more housing was needed considered that starter homes for young people were the top priority followed by housing for local people and low cost housing.



**Employment**

The unemployment rate for those residents of working age is very low with the highest percentage of all groups being those employed full time closely followed by retired residents.

When it comes to travelling to work, of those answering the question, 60% travel beyond a 10 mile radius of the village, 26% within a 10 mile radius and 15% work within the village.

When asked Do you feel that there should be more employment and training opportunities within the village? The majority view (over 2 to 1) was that there was no need for either which indicates that the residents would like the village to stay as it is now.

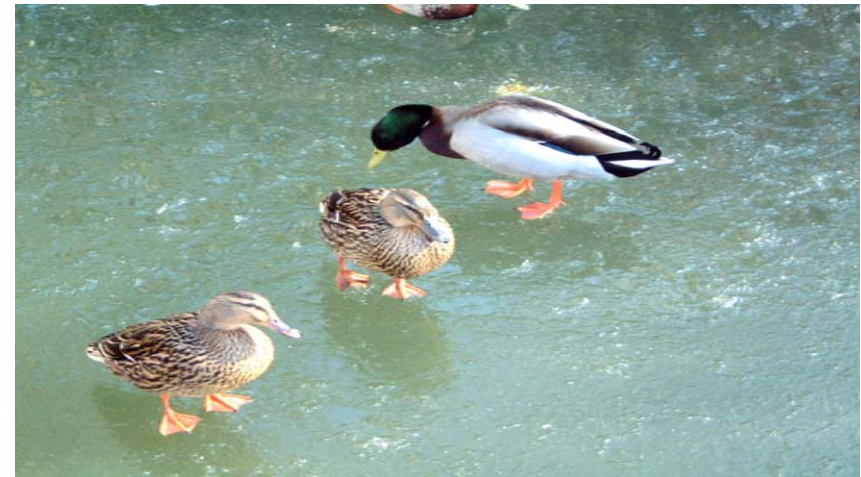
**Access to healthcare**

Employed fulltime	27%
Retired	25%
In full time education	13%
Employed part time	10%
Self employed	10%
Unwaged housewife/husband	4%
Permanently sick or disabled	1%
Unemployed	1%

The great majority of residents appear to have no problem in accessing healthcare. Those who do indicate problems with local transport and not being able to drive or having their own transport. The view of disabled residents was that the facilities are good although more 'blue badge' parking spaces in Ongar would be welcome. 6% of the respondents have had their home modified in some way to assist with a disability. The local Ongar & Villages Community Care Scheme is not well known with only 7% of respondents having any knowledge of it.

*Action:*

*The local community care scheme to be advertised more effectively in the area so that more residents are aware of its existence.*



Ducks on a frozen Roding

**Local facilities**

The use of local facilities and services is itemised below:

Post Office and Village Stores	91%
Village Hall	57%
Queens Head	55%
Black Bull	55%
Church	32%
Children's Play Equipment	28%
Teenage Arena on Sports Field	13%
Mobile Library	6%
Footpaths	5%
Sports Field	1%
Scout Hut	1%
Shooting	1%

When asked how the services could be improved, the highest number of comments (25) related to the Village Hall and Sports Club. They cover improved cleanliness, better decoration, friendlier atmosphere, being better equipped, holding more events, better communication.

Over 75% of respondents knew who to contact re the Village Hall and its activities. When asked if they would like to assist in the running of the Village Hall, only 7% responded positively.

*Action:*

*The Village Hall to produce an action plan including a re-launch of the Village Hall and its activities. This will address the comments regarding cleanliness and decoration plus provide a programme of events and activities for 2008.*



Fyfield Post Office & Village Store

A number of comments relate to the Village Store and Post Office, especially about increasing the number of services provided by the Post Office. However, for the Post Office and Store to provide more services it is necessary for the residents of Fyfield to support them both.

*Action:*

*The Fyfield Parish Council and, residents of Fyfield and surrounding areas to continue to support the Post Office and Store.*

A number of people requested that consideration be given to the provision of suitable play equipment for 7 to 10 year olds. St. Nicholas Church received a number of comments which included the provision of a 'Welcome Pack' for new residents and requests for 'child friendly' modernised services and a Sunday school.

*Action:*

*St. Nicholas Church to look at ways of meeting the needs of the residents suggested in the Appraisal.*

In addition to the activities in the village, residents suggested further activities and services that would be attractive; they include:

- A Youth Club – This is seen to be very important as there is a lack of activities for this age group in the village.
- A 'Walking Bus' scheme for children attending Dr. Walkers school.
- The viability of more frequent bus services in the village.
- The provision of cycle paths to Ongar.
- More seats around the sports field.
- A pool of drivers to ferry residents to hospital and doctors appointments.
- Advertise the available allotment spaces in Fyfield more effectively.
- The provision of tennis courts.

*Action:*

*All of the above points will be passed on to the relevant areas for action.*

## Sports, Social & Entertainment

Around 70% of the residents of Fyfield take part in organised activities. The figures in the chart below represent the occupants of the households responding.

Friends of St Nicholas Church	13%
Sports & Social	12%
W.I.	5%
Over 60's Luncheon Club	4%
Mother and Toddler Group	4%
Electoral role of St Nicholas Church	4%
Bowls Club (carpet)	4%
Guiding Association	4%
Cricket Club	3%
Scouting Association	3%
Playschool	3%
Book Groups	2%
Golf Society	2%
P.T.A.	2%
Hand Bell Ringers	1%
Bell Ringers	1%
Football Clubs	1%
Probus	1%

When asked what other clubs and activities you would like to see, residents responded with:

- Art classes
- Language classes
- Dance classes
- Bridge Club
- Youth club
- Gardening club
- Fitness club
- Over 60s club

As a part of the action for the Village Hall, more activities as requested will be investigated and, providing the demand is there, activities organised.

Generally, residents feel that all age groups are catered for in the village with the bias towards the older residents. This merely reflects the average age of Fyfield residents. Some residents felt that there is not enough to keep teenagers occupied and to keep them interested within the village.

## Education

Infant and junior children in Fyfield are well catered for with Dr. Walkers School centrally located in the village. Older children have to travel outside the area with the two most popular schools being Brentwood County High and Hylands School in Chelmsford. 70% of respondees considered the transport systems used by their children to take them to school were adequate.

The use of Dr. Walkers School facilities for after school hours activities was considered to be a good idea by 29% with 9% disagreeing and the remainder not replying to the question.

The residents' desire for evening or day classes to be held in the village was also questioned and resulted in 52% saying they would attend if a suitable class was established. 22% said they were not interested with the remainder not responding either way.

Of those who responded the following list of classes was identified.

- Languages
- Computer studies
- Keep Fit
- Art
- Bridge
- Craft
- Local history



The Black Bull Public House, Fyfield

**The Environment & Environmental Services**

Over 76% of Fyfield residents are aware of the local footpaths and bridleways. There were many comments regarding problems, the main ones noted here:

- Bridleways being churned up in the winter by motor cycles and off-road leisure vehicles.
- Dog mess on footpaths not being cleared up by dog owners.
- Signage needs to be improved.

*Action:*

*A list of problems to be passed to the Parish Council for action where possible.*

When asked what areas of the village should be conserved the responses were reasonably focussed with the following areas highlighted:

Queen St/Village centre	8%
Local Walks & fields, River Roding	7%
Bridge and path to Church	4%
As many as possible	3%
Churchyard	3%
Water Mill	3%
Playing fields in school grounds	2%
Gypsy Mead site	2%

*Action:*

*A list of areas for conservation to be considered to be passed to the Parish Council for investigation and action.*

54% of residents considered that Fyfield has a litter problem with 55% of people willing to help in a 'clean the village day' twice a year.

When it comes to rating the utilities service in the village the responses ranged from landline telephone being the best to mobile telephone being the worst.

	Good	Satisfactory	Poor
Telephone (landline)	50%	36%	4%
Mains Water supply	49%	39%	5%
Electricity	46%	41%	7%
Mains Sewage	43%	30%	8%
Recycling (doorstep)	41%	40%	12%
Refuse collection (wheelie bin)	34%	35%	22%
Broadband	30%	23%	9%
Main gas supply	25%	14%	9%
Availability of recycling bags	17%	32%	41%
Litter bin provision	14%	15%	22%
Recycling (Village Hall)	14%	26%	5%
Telephone (mobile)	10%	15%	60%

Recycling facilities are a hot topic with a return to weekly collection being a major request. The local availability of recycling bags is also a major item as currently, recycling bags have to be collected from Ongar.



*Action:*  
 Parish Council to investigate Mobile Phone service, availability of recycling bags and refuse collection issues.

**Transport & Traffic**

**Public Transport**

The local bus service runs between Ongar and Chelmsford on a regular basis however, only 25% of the households make use of it. 2% use it daily, 8% weekly and 11% monthly. The main use is for shopping followed by recreation with school and work to a lesser degree. When asked how it could be improved 25% considered frequency could be improved and 7% thought the cost was too high.



River Roding at the bridge on Willingale Road

**Private Transport**

The number of cars per household in Fyfield is 1.76 followed by bicycles at 0.94 per household, commercial vehicles at 0.17 and

motorbikes at 0.07 per household. The breakdown of usage is as follows:

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly
Work	50%	7%	0
Shopping	40%	47%	3%
Recreation	36%	34%	4%
School run	13%	1%	0
Family visits	1%	1%	0

Car parking problems in the village centre on Houchin Drive, Walker Avenue and Queen Street mainly due to school traffic. Queen Street also suffers from patrons of the Queen’s Head parking on the road and pavement and shoppers at the village store parking on the corner with Ongar Road.

*Action:*  
 Parking restrictions considered for Houchin Drive, Walker Avenue and Queen Street

Traffic danger spots include:

- outside the village store where the corner into Ongar Road is often obscured,
- the Ongar Road where it passes through the village despite the new 30mph limit,
- the narrowness of the footpath between Moreton Road and the Village store
- speeding motorcycles and cars generally.

The facilities for pedestrians, cyclists, pushchair users, wheelchairs, horse riders and the partially sighted are considered problematic. Narrow footpaths and speeding traffic causes the greatest concern with more than a few people requesting that there are pedestrian crossings located on the B184 at the Village Store and at the Houchin Drive junction with the B184. This concern translates into 71% of households being prepared to support any action to improve road safety.



*Action:*

*The whole issue of speed limits in the Village should be revisited with consideration to exceptional cases such as Walker Avenue rather than blanket decision covering the whole Village.*

*The provision of footpaths and repair of existing pavements to be progressed.*

**Local Government**

Communication between the Parish Council and the residents regarding decisions made by the council are considered to be adequate by 68% of respondents with 23% disagreeing. If suggestions raised by the parish appraisal required money for implementation, 45% would be prepared to pay for a small increase in the community charge i.e. the Parish Precept. 37% would not be happy to pay for any increase.

Publicity for local planning applications is considered to be adequate by 54% of households and inadequate by 35%.

Of the few who did respond to the way that the planning process works in the Parish, 24% were satisfied and 18% were not.

On a more positive note, 77% knew who the Parish councillors were although 20% did not. In general, residents were happy with the way the Parish Council operates although some people thought that more candidates should stand for election giving residents a better choice of councillors.



Willingale Road and Queen Street

Public interest in attending meetings about local issues was high with 70% stating that they would be prepared to attend any such meeting.

**Crime and Policing**

In the last two years 4% of households have had a burglary, 3% had their car stolen and 0.5% had their car broken into. Reflecting the low amount of crime in the village, only 10% of households have ever used the mobile police unit that visits the village weekly. Despite this, 78% feel that there is not an adequate visible police presence in the village although only 46% are prepared to be involved with a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

Speeding motorists passing through Fyfield has always been an important issue and despite recent changes in the 30mph limits,

72% of residents still consider that the police should be making more speed checks.

*Action:*  
*The Police should consider making random speed checks in the village.*

### **Local Information**

The main source of information in Fyfield is the Parish magazine, the Fyfield Focus, which is published monthly. With over 96% saying that they read the Focus and the remainder saying nothing we can safely say that the coverage is as good as it gets. Again, 75% read notices posted on the Parish Notice Board and 78% look at the posters in the store for information about events in the village

However, the Fyfield Village Website ([www.fyfield-village.org](http://www.fyfield-village.org)) is another matter as only 14% claimed to visit the website.

*Action:*  
*The Parish Council to consider ways of improving marketing of the Website and providing up to date relevant information.*

### **Development of Fyfield**

The majority of households in Fyfield are not in favour of any development at all, preferring the village to stay much the same as it is today. The one exception is the current state of the Gypsy Mead site and the desire for it to re-open as a restaurant in preference to anything else.

*Action:*  
*The Parish Council should request the owners of the Gypsy Mead site to make an effort to keep the site in a tidy condition and support any plan to return the site to a restaurant.*



Autumn Willows in Fyfield

**Summary of Action Items resulting from the Parish Appraisal**

The following actions have been identified from the results of the Fyfield Parish Appraisal. As many suggestions were repeated under the headings of more than one question, the actions summarise these comments.

**Actions resulting from the Question – “Do you belong to the Community care scheme?”**

From the comments it has become clear that the Ongar & Villages Community Care scheme is not well known by many residents. The action here is to improve communications about the scheme so that those who could benefit are aware of its existence.

Action	Priority	By who	By when	Monitor
The local community care scheme to be advertised more effectively	High	Parish Council	Ongoing	Appraisal Group to monitor progress

**Actions resulting from the Question – “How could services in the village be improved?”**

The highest number of comments (25) relate to the Village Hall and Sports Club. They cover improved cleanliness, better decoration, friendlier atmosphere, better equipped, more events, better communication etc.

Action	Priority	By who	By when	Monitor
The Village Hall to produce an action plan including a re-launch of the Village Hall and its activities.	High	Village Hall Committee	Completed	Appraisal Group to monitor progress

A number of comments relate to the Village Store and Post Office, especially about increasing the number of services provided by the Post Office. However, for the Post Office and Store to provide more services it is necessary for the residents of Fyfield to support them both.

Action	Priority	By whom	By when	Monitor
The residents of Fyfield and surrounding areas to continue to support the Post Office and Store	High	Residents	Ongoing	Appraisal Group to monitor progress

Action	Priority	By whom	By when	Monitor
The Parish Council to continue to support the Post Office in the light of impending closures	High	Parish Council	As needed	Appraisal Group to monitor progress

More provision of play equipment for 7 to 10 year olds in the play area was also raised.

Action	Priority	By whom	By when	Monitor
Consideration given to providing suitable play equipment for 7 to 10 year olds	Medium	Parish Council	2008	Appraisal Group to monitor progress

Comments related to a Church 'Welcome Pack' for new residents plus requests for modernised services which are child friendly and a Sunday school.

Action	Priority	By who	By when	Monitor
St. Nicholas Church to look at ways of meeting the needs of the residents suggested in the Appraisal	Medium	Church PCC	2008	Appraisal Group to monitor progress

There were a number of requests for a Youth Club to be formed in the Village. This is seen to be very important as there is a lack of activities for this age group in the Village.

Action	Priority	By who	By when	Monitor
A youth club leader to be sourced and recruited with the aim of starting a youth club	High	Village Hall Committee	ASAP	Appraisal Group to monitor progress

**Actions relating to the Question – “What other services would you like to see established?”**

There were 73 comments raised against this question, the most common ones are actioned below:

Action	Priority	By who	By when	Monitor
A 'Walking Bus' scheme for children to be investigated	High	School	2008	Appraisal Group to monitor progress

Action	Priority	By who	By when	Monitor
The viability of more frequent transport services in the Village to be investigated	Medium	EFDC via the Parish Council	2008	Parish Council

Action	Priority	By who	By when	Monitor
The provision of cycle paths to Ongar should be investigated	Medium	EEC via the Parish Council	2008	Parish Council

Action	Priority	By who	By when	Monitor
Investigate the provision of a Zebra crossing outside of the Village Store and opposite Houchin Drive both to cross Ongar Road	High	EEC via Parish Council	ASAP	Parish Council



Action	Priority	By who	By when	Monitor
Investigate the provision of more seats around the Sports field and the trees around the edge kept trimmed	Medium	Parish Council and Sports & Social Club	2008	Appraisal Group to monitor progress

Action	Priority	By who	By when	Monitor
The establishment of a pool of volunteer drivers to take residents to doctors and hospital appointments	Medium	Community Care	2008	Appraisal Group to monitor progress

Action	Priority	By who	By when	Monitor
Advertise the existing availability of allotment space more effectively	Medium	Church PCC	2008	Appraisal Group to monitor progress

Action	Priority	By who	By when	Monitor
A survey to ascertain how many residents would be interested in using a tennis court on a regular basis	Low	Sports and Social Club	2008	Appraisal Group to monitor progress

Action	Priority	By who	By when	Monitor
The provision of a regular mini bus service to and from Ongar	Medium	EFDC via Parish Council	2008	Parish Council

**Comments resulting from the Question – Footpaths & Bridleways – Do you know of any problems.**

The main problems are: Countryside abused by dog fouling not being cleared up by dog owners, motor cycles and off-road vehicles churning up bridleways, poor country walk signage and overgrown bridleways.

Action	Priority	By who	By when	Monitor
A list of problems to be passed to the Parish Council for action where possible	Medium	Parish Council	2008	Appraisal Group to monitor progress

**Comments resulting from the Question – “Do you feel that any areas within the Village should be conserved?”**

Action	Priority	By who	By when	Monitor
A list of areas for conservation to be considered to be passed to the Parish Council for investigation and action	Medium	Parish Council	2008	Appraisal Group to monitor progress



**Comments relating to the Question – “How do you rate the utilities within the Village?”**

The top 3 Utilities needing attention are:

1. Mobile Phone Signal – 60.51% = Poor
2. Availability of recycling bags – 41.03% = Poor
3. Litter Bin provision – 22.05% = Poor

Action	Priority	By who	By when	Monitor
The options and provision of an adequate mobile phone reception to be investigated	High	Parish Council	ASAP	Appraisal Group to monitor progress

Action	Priority	By who	By when	Monitor
The better availability of recycling bags to be implemented	High	EFDC via Parish Council	ASAP	Appraisal Group to monitor progress

Action	Priority	By who	By when	Monitor
The provision of more litter bins in the Village to be investigated	High	Parish Council	ASAP	Appraisal Group to monitor progress

**Comments relating to the Question – “Do you feel there are any problems with parking in the Village?”**

Three areas stand out from the comments made. These are Houchin Drive, Walker Avenue and Queen Street especially near the Village Store.

Action	Priority	By who	By when	Monitor
Parking restrictions considered for Houchin Drive, Walker Avenue and Queen Street	High	EFDC via Parish Council	ASAP	Appraisal Group to monitor progress

**Comments relating to the Question – “Do you feel there are any traffic danger spots within the Village?”**

Most of the comments relate to Houchin Drive/Walker Avenue and the current speed limit being too high, the speed of traffic passing through the Village, the lack of footpaths and the state of pavements.

Action	Priority	By who	By when	Monitor
The whole issue of speed limits in the Village should be revisited with consideration to exceptional cases such as Walker Avenue rather than blanket decision covering the whole Village.	High	ECC via Parish Council	ASAP	Appraisal Group to monitor progress

**Comments relating to the Question – “Do you feel that there is an adequate visible Police presence in the Village?”**

77.95% feel that there is not adequate police presence in the Village.

Action	Priority	By who	By when	Monitor
The local Police should consider ways of improving the perception that Police presence is inadequate	Medium	Police via Appraisal Group	2008	Parish Council

**Comments relating to the Question – “Would you be interested in setting up or being involved with a Neighbourhood Watch scheme?”**

46.15% of responses indicated that they would be interested in being involved in a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

Action	Priority	By who	By when	Monitor
The Village Hall Appraisal Day should open a register of residents volunteering to be part of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme	High	Appraisal Committee to send to Police	27 November 2007	Appraisal Group to monitor progress

**Comments relating to the Question – “Should the Police be making more speed checks in Fyfield?”**

72.31% of residents thought that the Police should make more speed checks in the Village.

Action	Priority	By who	By when	Monitor
The Police should consider making random speed checks in the Village.	High	Police	ASAP	Parish Council

**Comments relating to the Question – “Do you use the Fyfield Village Web Site?”**

80.51% of residents do not use the Fyfield Village Website.

Action	Priority	By who	By when	Monitor
The Parish Council to consider ways of improving marketing of the Website and the provision of up to date relevant information and news	Medium	Parish Council	First quarter 2008	Appraisal Group to monitor progress

**Comments relating to the Questions**

- **“Do you support the growth of Fyfield?”  
and**
- **“What kind of Village do you want Fyfield to be?”**

Basically, residents would like the Village to stay much the same as it is now. A common theme is the Gypsy Mead site, its state of repair and future usage.

Action	Priority	By who	By when	Monitor
The Parish Council to request that the owners of the Gypsy Mead site make an effort to keep the site tidy	Medium	Parish Council	2008	Appraisal Group to monitor progress

Action	Priority	By who	By when	Monitor
The Parish Council to support any request to return the site to a restaurant	Medium	Parish Council	When applicable	Appraisal Group to monitor progress



River Roding

## Acknowledgements

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And finally, the residents of Fyfield without whom there would be no appraisal.



Queen's Head Public House, Fyfield

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