



## General Introduction

**Poynings** is a beautiful and tranquil place to live, steeped in history and set in some of Britain's most unspoilt countryside. However, the future of villages like Poynings is uncertain as the pressures of the modern lifestyle inevitably clash with the need to conserve these beautiful environments. The way in which the village develops is of importance to all of its residents and may already be a source of anxiety to some. Should any outside forces seek to change this environment or unexpected circumstances arise, we residents must be prepared and clear about the way we want to see our village evolve.

In 2000 the government issued a **Rural White Paper** setting out their agenda for the countryside and encouraging local communities to take more control of the development of their own parish .A **Parish Plan** is a way for local people to have a greater say and needs to represent the views of as many parishioners as possible. It can be used as an evidence base for funding, can guide the Parish Council and can canvass for support from local and national government. It can also help a parish prepare for the future and ensure community facilities are maintained and where necessary updated. It is essentially a very useful tool.

### Poynings Parish Plan

In 2005 a leaflet was distributed by Poynings Parish Council, asking for volunteers **for a Steering Committee** to work on a plan for Poynings. Ten people stepped forward (see back page) and the group was set up, chaired by a Parish Council member. In order to obtain your views on a number of critical areas such as transport and traffic, housing and development, social life and community, local business and tourism, the natural environment, green issues and village appearance, the steering committee put out a **questionnaire and received a 42 % response**. Many copies of the results were circulated and they were and are still viewable on the Poynings website. A public 'questionnaire results' meeting was arranged in the village hall, with a good attendance. The questionnaire results are currently available from Poynings Parish Council. Whilst converting the results to percentages of respondents, the 'strongly agrees' were added to the 'agrees' etc, to simplify matters and divided by the total number of returned questionnaires. Only the significant outcomes were included in the Action Plan.

The general outcome of the questionnaire is that Poynings is valued as a small downland village set in beautiful countryside, with good community spirit and as a nice and safe place to bring up children. It has good mix of age groups and income brackets and has proximity to Brighton, London and Gatwick. **Most people love it as it is and want it to stay this way**. The questionnaire has helped the steering committee to gain a valuable snapshot of village opinion and we have set out the following **Parish Action Plan**. Not all the points raised during this exercise can necessarily be put into action but we have had a few successes already. To insure that this is a truly democratic process, we initially put out the first **draft plan** for your appraisal, circulating copies and putting it on the Poynings website, with references to it in the newsletter. The **second draft plan** has been widely circulated (including to MSDC and AIRS) and the **final draft** will hopefully be adopted by Poynings Parish Council and approved by MSDC.

The Action Plan will be followed by a Design Statement (DS) which will include planning issues, a map, history etc. The Design Statement can achieve supplementary planning guidance status (a legal document) and therefore can be used to address the planning issues in the Action Plan.



## 1/ Transport and traffic

**Traffic Calming** - The majority of respondents (85%) think more should be done to control traffic speed. The Parish Council, has already voted in favour of accepting the possible speed limits offered by WSCC and is presently awaiting news after speed gauges were put in the village. Some villagers have voiced concerns about increasing the amount of street furniture and question the enforceability of speed limits. The Henfield road (between the roundabout and Shaves Thatch) is regarded as particularly dangerous due to excessive speed.

**Congestion** - A lot of comments voice concerns over getting emergency vehicles to and through The Street and Mill Close particularly on busy weekends (due to pub clientele and football on the playing field).

**Parking** - 72% think there are parking problems : near the pub, playing field and village hall.

**Large lorries** - Many comments voiced concerns about heavy lorries going through village because of noise, speed and erosion. The main offenders have since been diverted from the farm up the lane from the Church to the Saddlescombe road after complaints to the Parish Council.

**Taxi service** - 74% of respondents would use taxis more if there was a cheap deal for locals.

**Bus services** - 20 % of respondents are regular users and 40% occasional (this includes buses from the crossroads).

Issue	Action	Partners	Timescale
<b>Traffic calming</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage village debate.</li> <li>• Support Parish Council re speed limits.</li> <li>• Investigate the amount/positioning of speed limit signs - new rules re rural villages?</li> </ul>	PPC / MSDC WSCC Highways CPRE/police	Medium term
<b>Congestion- concern about getting emergency vehicles to and through the village</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate the possibility of placing traffic cones when and wherever necessary to create temporary 'passing bays'.</li> </ul>	MSDC Royal Oak PPC	Medium term
<b>Parking problems</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate the possibility of another car park at the north end of the playing field.</li> <li>• Investigate possibility of reserving spaces for residents at the top end of The Street.</li> </ul>	MSDC PPC	Medium term
<b>Bus services – maintain</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publicise time tables &amp; support local services</li> </ul>		Long term
<b>Taxi – cheap deal?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact local taxi firms.</li> </ul>		Short term
<b>Large lorries causing disturbance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate where the lorries come from and the number of vehicles. Weight restrictions?</li> </ul>	Highways	Short term



## 2/Housing and development

**Greater priority for locals over available Housing Trust houses.** - 79% of respondents agree.

**Affordable housing for locals (rent or buy)** - 46% think there is a need, 24% do not.

**Development of larger houses** - 70% of against.

**Any housing development to be in keeping** with the character of the natural and built environment, to be sustainable and to have adequate off road parking (see also sections on ‘village appearance’ and ‘transport and traffic’).

**Preserve green and amenity spaces** - playing field, children’s play area, cricket pitch, allotments, churchyard and land around The Causeway (see also sections on ‘social and community’ and ‘the natural environment’).

**Maintain views of the Downs from all aspects of the village**, in particular The Street, to maintain the character of a downland village - 92% agree (also protect views from the Downs of the village).

**Produce a Design Statement for Poynings** - 63% in favour.

Issue	Action	Partners	Timescale
<b>Housing Trust availability</b> - greater priority for local people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lobby MSDC and Housing Trust.</li> </ul>	MSDC	Long term
Possibility of <b>affordable housing</b> for local people - rent/buy (The need is debatable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate need - get housing needs survey (AIRS/MSDC).</li> <li>Go to affordable housing seminar (MSDC) –achieved.</li> <li>Approach local landowners - achieved</li> <li>Investigate schemes available–achieved</li> </ul>	MSDC AIRS PPC	Medium term
No more <b>larger houses to be built</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate in Design Statement.</li> <li>Keep people informed of planning proposals.</li> </ul>	MSDC PPC SDCB	Long term
<b>Any housing development</b> to be <b>in keeping</b> with the character of the village ,both natural and built, to be <b>sustainable</b> and to have adequate off road parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate in Design Statement</li> <li>Keep people informed of planning proposals.</li> </ul>	MSDC SDCB PPC	Long term
Preserve <b>green and amenity</b> spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate in Design Statement</li> </ul>	MSDC/SDCB	Long term
Maintain <b>views</b> of the Downs from the village and vice versa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate in Design Statement</li> </ul>	MSDC SDCB	Long term
Produce <b>Design Statement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage volunteers</li> </ul>	PPC	Long term



### 3/ Social and community

**Parish Council** - encourage more people to attend meetings.

**Mobile Post Office and Shop** - 53% and 40% of respondents respectively would use on a regular basis.

**Website** - 77% would find useful - we now have one.

**Newsletter** - 92% find the present one useful and entertaining.

**Village Hall** - used by 74% of respondents. There were many comments advocating structural improvement.

**More Social events** - 75% would like to see more social functions in the village.

**Childrens' Play Area /Playing Field** - used by 31% of respondents often and 26% sometimes.

**Parish Church** - used by 11% of respondents often and 63% sometimes.

Issue	Action	Partners	Timescale
<b>Parish Council</b> - increase numbers of villagers attending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publicise dates in newsletter and on website - agenda/minutes.</li> </ul>		Long term
<b>Mobile services</b> - address interest in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate further how many would actually use services and when.</li> <li>Encourage mobile enterprises - local vegetable vendor agreed - pub car park.</li> </ul>	Royal Oak	Long term
<b>Website</b> - promote use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In newsletter, leaflets, email</li> </ul>	PPC	Long term
<b>Village hall</b> - preserve this essential amenity for the use of local people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the various structural improvement ideas suggested in the questionnaire comments.</li> <li>Organise more events there, e.g. regular coffee mornings.</li> </ul>	Village Hall Trustees	Ongoing
Desire for more <b>social events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appeal for organisers and ideas in newsletter and website.</li> </ul>		Medium term
<b>Church</b> - support and maintain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage more fund-raising.</li> </ul>	PCC	Ongoing
<b>Children's play area/ playing Field</b> - preserve and maintain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include in Design Statement.</li> </ul>	MSDC	Long term
<b>Young people's needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put out young persons' questionnaire.</li> </ul>		Medium term





## 4/Local Business and Tourism

**Need to retain the present local business premises** - 68% in favour - they can provide local employment, services to the village and prevent it from becoming a 'dormitory'.

**New businesses** - 50% do not want any more to be set up with 24% in favour.

**Concerns were frequently voiced re traffic problems associated with local businesses** – noisy, heavy lorries causing erosion of the verges. Also congestion, local parking problems and potential road crashes.

**Tourists** - 64% of respondents didn't want any more tourists.

Issue	Action	Partners	Timescale
<b>Concern about heavy lorries from farm business park, traffic congestion near pub and school, possible road crashes near garden centre entrance (Henfield road) and parking for residents near pub</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>see traffic section</li> </ul>	PPC Highways	Long term
Very few in favour of <b>new businesses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate in Design Statement in terms of specific limitations on new businesses to avoid traffic concerns.</li> </ul>		





## 5/ Natural environment, green issues and village appearance

**Village Sign** - 74% would like to see one - local blacksmith to make one and position chosen by Parish Council and approved by Highways. Grant applied for and received. Sign now in place.

**Reduce unnecessary street furniture**, in particular at roundabout. **Trees** - 64% would like to see more planted.

**Village in Bloom Competition** - 48% for - encourage gardeners to compete. Improve roundabout planting.

**Bottle bank or a bottle collection service** - 74% in favour. MSDC is providing the latter in August 2007.

**Green information** - 66% would like more information. Meeting on 'climate change', 'energy saving' and 'green energy' held in June 06- successful; another in April 07 took place including a talk on biodiversity.

**Water Company can take too much water from pumping station and pond** - 86% concerned about this.

**Mobile phone masts** - 75% against..

**Street lights** - 61% against.

**More should be done to preserve the natural environment** - 90% think so.

**Support central composting scheme** - 59% in favour. MSDC have green waste collection service now.

Issue	Action	Partners	Timescale
Provide a <b>village sign</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ask PPC for one plus funding.</li> <li>Ask for ideas for design and position (s) in newsletter.</li> </ul>	PPC	Achieved
Reduce unnecessary <b>street furniture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact Highways and liaise with Parish Council.</li> </ul>	Highways PPC	Medium term
Plant more <b>trees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Find out where &amp; what types to plant.</li> </ul>	SDCB/SWT	Long term
Provide <b>bottle bank</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue pub offer of car park and contact MSDC. Now irrelevant.</li> </ul>	Royal Oak MSDC	Terminated
Provide <b>green information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold Climate Change Meeting(s).</li> <li>Put info in newsletter and on website.</li> </ul>	Energy Saving Trust / WSCC	Ongoing
Maintain water level in <b>pond (s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep in contact with South Downs Conservation Board.</li> </ul>	SDCB English Nature	Ongoing
No to <b>mobile phone masts and street lamps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put in Design Statement.</li> <li>Investigate other light pollution.</li> </ul>		Ongoing
More should be done to preserve the <b>natural environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtain a Biodiversity Report for the parish –achieved.</li> <li>Find a local Tree Warden</li> <li>Preserve green amenity spaces.</li> </ul>	SDCB SWT English Nature MSDC	Short term Ongoing Medium term
<b>Accessibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey footpaths and bridleways.</li> </ul>	SDCB	Medium term

## **Appendix 1**

### **Timescale of Action Plan - 5 years**

**Flexibility of plan** - sections can be added, added to, or modified; small additional questionnaires can go out with the newsletter if necessary.

Temporarily, any important issues arising from additional questionnaires can be put on this page.

Possible questionnaires – ‘Housing Needs Survey’, ‘Young Persons Questionnaire’, ‘Attitudes Towards Proposed Health Care Initiatives’. ‘Footpaths and Bridleways – Accessibility’.

## **Appendix 2**

### **KEY**

PPC - Poynings Parish Council  
MSDC - Mid Sussex District Council  
WSCC - West Sussex County Council  
SDCB - South Downs Conservation Board  
CPRE - Council For The Preservation Of Rural England  
SWT - Sussex Wildlife Trust  
NT - National Trust  
AIRS - Action In Rural Sussex.  
EN - English Nature  
PCC - Parochial Church Council  
DS - Design Statement

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