

# Cowfold Parish Plan



**2006**

# CONTENTS

What is a Parish Plan?	3
Introduction to Cowfold Parish Plan	4
Map of Parish of Cowfold	6
Cowfold Conservation Area	7
A Brief History of Cowfold	8

## **The Parish Action Plan**

1	Movement and Transport	9
2	Parking	11
3	Cycling and Public Footpaths	13
4	Local Housing	14
5	Facilities and Services for Young People	16
6	Facilities and Services for Older Persons	18
7	Lifelong Learning	19
8	Leisure and Cultural Facilities	20
9	Community Safety	22
10	Protecting our World	23
Acknowledgements		26
Glossary		26
What Next....?		27

## **What is a Parish Plan?**

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 make known how they would like their community to develop in the future. It aims to help rural communities have a greater say in their own affairs. It helps local people set down their vision for the future of their parish. To be really effective it needs to represent the views of as many people as possible.

A Parish Plan can cover everything that is relevant to the people who live and work in the parish, from social housing to places for children to play. It should address the needs of the entire community, including local businesses, and will span a period of five years.

The Plan will be used to inform local government and other decision making bodies of the needs and concerns of the community, and will influence how changes in the community are made. The Plan can also be used to support applications for funding and to canvass support from local and national government. The Parish Council will use the Plan as a focus for their ongoing work.

## **What are the Benefits of a Parish producing a Parish Plan?**

- It can be used as an evidence base for grant applications to show community need for specific projects.
- It helps guide the Parish Council in their work. One of the discretionary requirements of 'Quality Status' is to have produced a Parish Plan. It shows that the Parish Council is listening to its community.
- It helps a community plan for the future, to ensure that community facilities can be maintained and updated to suit community needs.

## **How is a Parish Plan produced?**

A Parish Plan is produced by the local community in partnership with the Parish Council.

The first step is to hold a public meeting. The public meeting is an interactive forum enabling the local community to have their say on a variety of issues from health, community safety, to housing and transport. From this public meeting, a Steering Group of 8 – 12 people is formed with 2 or 3 representatives from the Parish Council on the group.

There are many consultation techniques available to involve the whole community, but the most commonly used one is a household questionnaire. Using the information gathered at the public meeting, and other consultation, the Steering Group create a questionnaire to be distributed to every household.

The results of all the consultation methods are then assembled to produce the draft Parish Plan that is presented to the Parish Council for endorsement. The final document is then distributed to every household, and the hard work of implementing the Plan begins!

## **Introduction to the Cowfold Parish Plan**

In November 2004 the Cowfold Parish Council invited all parish residents, local businesses and parish groups to attend a public meeting in the Cowfold Village Hall. Ruth Goldstone, Information and Action Plans Support Officer from Action in Rural Sussex, explained what a Parish Plan is and how it might benefit the community of Cowfold.

Some 100 members of the Cowfold community attended this meeting to hear about Parish Plans, how they are prepared and why it was important for Cowfold to become engaged in the process. There was then an opportunity for people to ask relevant questions and volunteer to become involved.

On 1<sup>st</sup> December 2004 those who volunteered met and the Cowfold Parish Action Plan Steering Group was formed. The Group then set about the task of producing the Cowfold Parish Plan.

As the Plan is intended to reflect the views and needs of the Parish it was felt that a questionnaire should be created and sent to every home in the Parish, covering the following key areas:

- Local housing
- Movement and transport
- Community safety
- Facilities and services for younger persons
- Facilities and services for older persons
- Leisure and cultural activities
- Good health
- Lifelong learning
- Helping business to succeed
- Protecting our world

These broad headings were felt to cover the areas of concern for the Parish and match up with Council funding. This may assist us in accessing funds, at a later stage.

Questionnaires were distributed to every household in the parish of Cowfold at the beginning of September 2005. A total of 780 questionnaires were delivered and parishioners were given until 25<sup>th</sup> September 2005 to complete and return the questionnaires.

In addition, a number of the questionnaires were returned at the open coffee morning held at the Village Hall on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2005, where pictures drawn by the St Peter's School children were displayed. These pictures depicted the things the children thought would improve Cowfold and the facilities they would like to have. The coffee morning involved the local community and was supported by Cowfold WI who supplied teas and coffees.

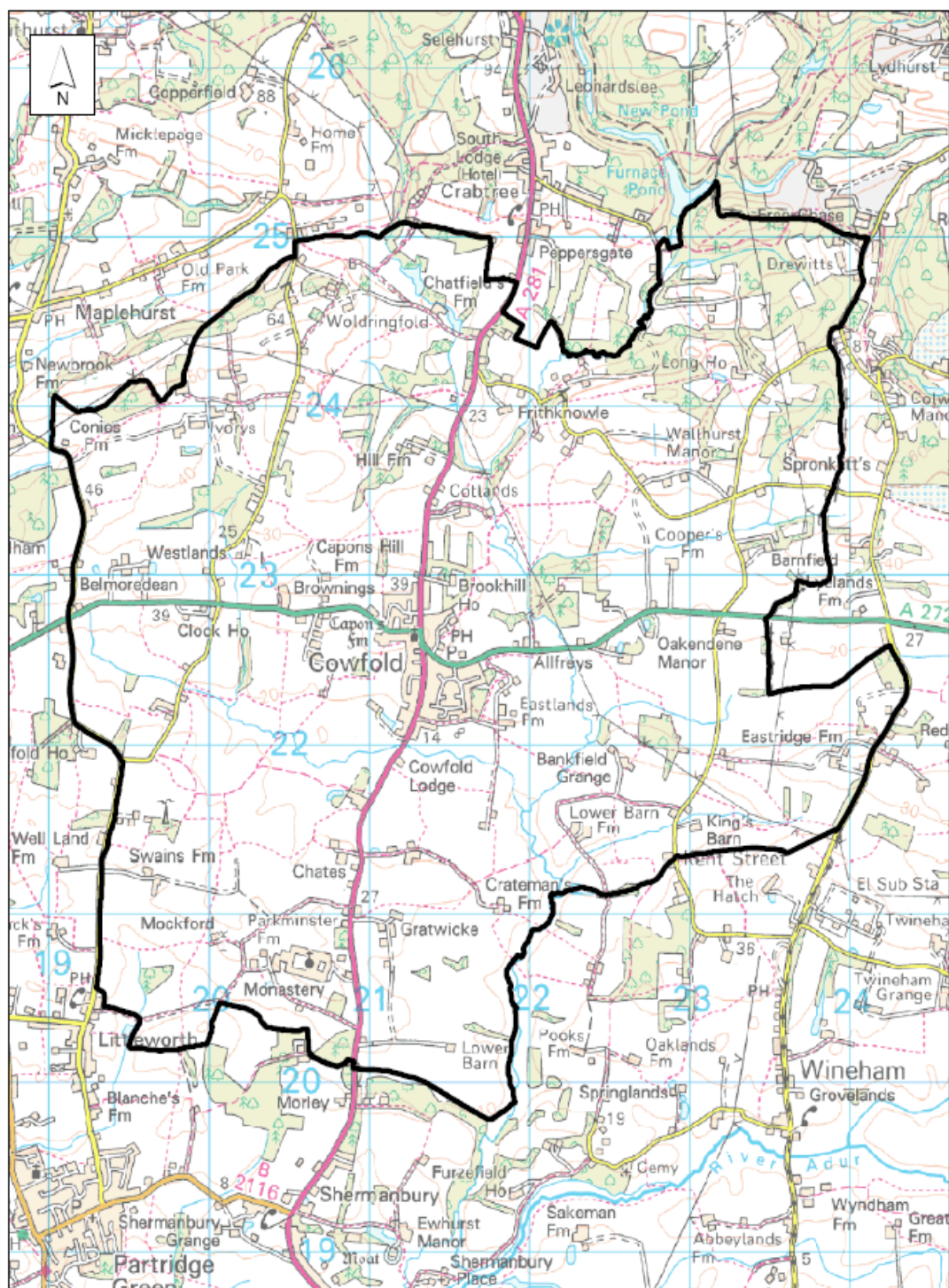
181 questionnaires were returned giving a response rate of 23.2%. All the data from these questionnaires was summarised by an independent body, Orchid Data Services, the cost of which was met by the District Council. A number of people included their contact details in their completed questionnaires and were invited to become further involved. Good publicity for the Cowfold Parish Plan was achieved through the parish website, parish magazine and local press.

The Steering Group kick-started the process after receiving the questionnaire results by inviting all those respondents who said they would like to be more involved to attend the next Steering Group meeting. The enlarged Steering Group worked on the action plans, resulting in this document. This Parish Plan was endorsed by Cowfold Parish Council on 10 April 2006.



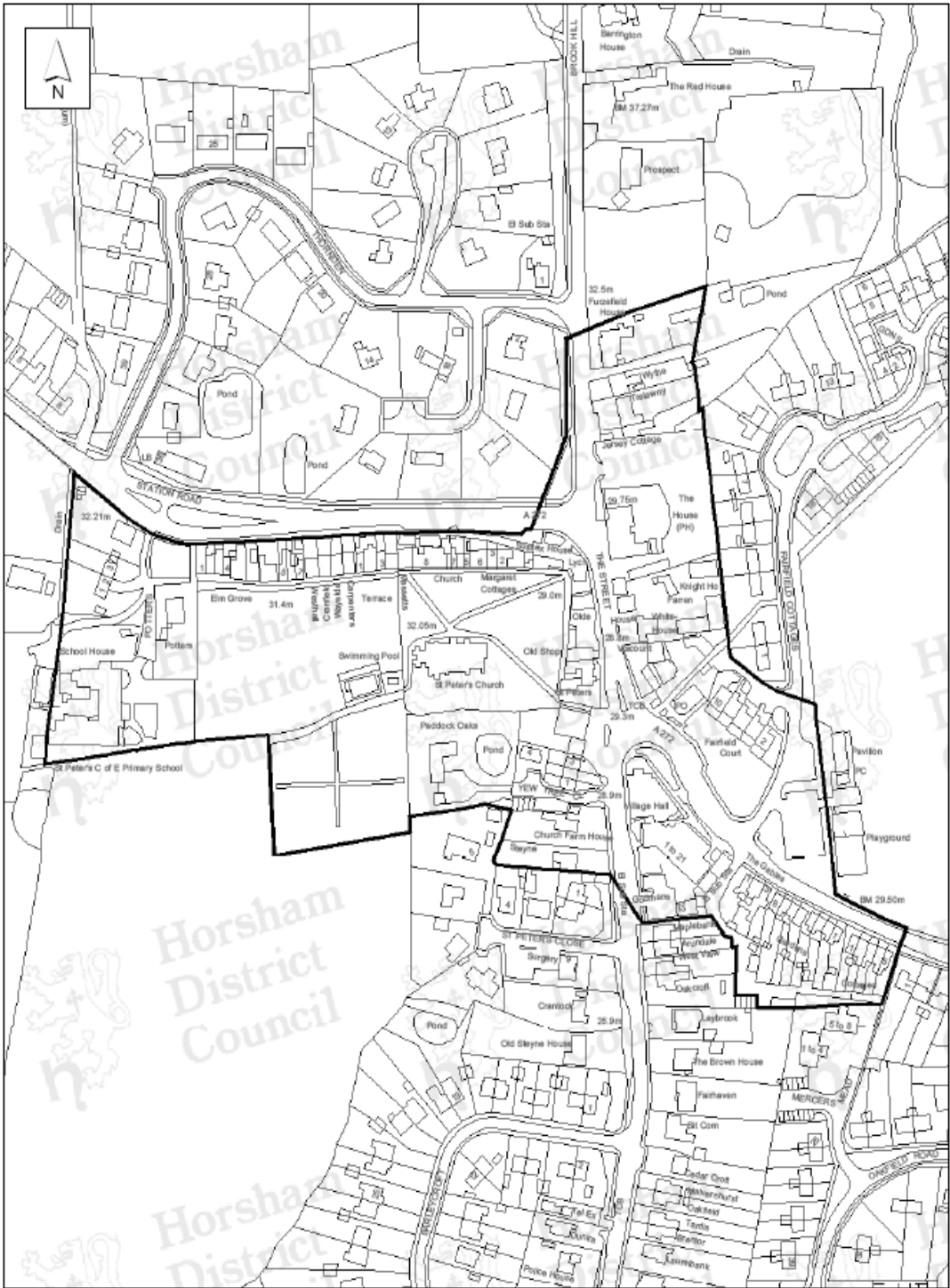
Cover of the Cowfold Parish Questionnaire  
Acknowledgement: Mary Wilson

## Map of the Parish of Cowfold



Cowfold Parish		<b>Horsham District Council</b> Park North, North Street, Horsham West Sussex, RH12 1RL. Head of Development, Ray Wright, Directorate of Planning	
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Cowfold Conservation Area



Cowfold Conservation Area		<b>Horsham District Council</b> Park North, North Street, Horsham West Sussex, RH12 1RL. Head of Development, Ray Wright, Directorate of Planning	
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## A Brief History of the Parish of Cowfold

There is no documentary evidence of Cowfold prior to the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. The oldest building is St Peter's Church, built in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century, at the centre of the parish. The parish was made up of a number of farmsteads. An early map dated 4<sup>th</sup> June 1725 shows Brownings, Capons, Eastlands, Wallhurst, Homelands and Oakendene. All of which are still here today.

There was a bowling green west of the Church in 1635 (now the Bowling Green Garden near the school). Cowfold Cricket Team played at Oakendene from 1721 until 1815. The Cricket Club, Stool Ball Club (founded 1890), and Football Club were all active during the 1900's. There was also a Rifle Club with the range behind what is now the scout hut. This was moved in the 1940's.

The Railway line opened in 1861 with the nearest station at West Grinstead. During the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century there was a horse drawn omnibus service from Cowfold to the station operated by a Mr Hale based at Potters Green near the school. The line closed in 1966.

St Hugh's Charterhouse was founded in 1873 and built between 1876 and 1883. It is the only Carthusian monastery in post reformation England.

In more recent times development of Cowfold took advantage of the main drainage sewer works which were built in the mid 1890's. Until 1930's all water was drawn from wells. Mains water came to Cowfold in 1936, electricity coming at about the same time winning the race with the gas suppliers! Up until then oil lamps and candles were used.



Prior to 1867 the village had a small public reading room in Church Path. The Village Hall was built in 1896 commissioned by Mr F D Godman, the naturalist from South Lodge, Lower Beeding. The first function was a tea in July 1897 to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

In the 1930's there were two general stores, one of which was William Sprinks on the site of the Co-Op, two butchers, two bakers, two pubs, two petrol stations/garages. The Post Office was in Station Road at the site, which is now the hairdresser. There were also two sweet shops, a haberdasher, a shoe repairer, a saddler, two doctors and a blacksmith.

*Information supplied by Mr Bob Farren and taken from notes which belonged to the late Tom Mills, reproduced by kind permission of Horsham Museum.*



# The Cowfold Action Plan

## 1 Movement and Transport

### Volume of Traffic through Village

There were 24 comments about the heavy vehicles and high traffic volume through the village in the Cowfold Parish Questionnaire. 13 people said that the village needs a bypass.

A bypass is not likely in the future because:

- Cost of the scheme.
- Infill housing accompanying any bypass would not be popular with local residents, would add to the pressure on the already overloaded infrastructure as discussed in action 4.0 of this Parish Plan.



Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform local residents of results of Cowfold Parish Questionnaire and explain why the likelihood of a bypass is minimal in the Parish Magazine, Parish website and Parish Plan.</li> </ul>	Short Term	Cowfold Parish Council

### Speed of Traffic

52 respondents of the Cowfold Parish Questionnaire wanted to see the speed of traffic controlled and speed limits enforced.

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch the Speed Commitment Campaign to canvass local people to stay within the speed limit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Poster competition for school children to design road safety posters for displaying around the village.</li> <li>◦ Investigate SID (Speed Indicating Device) for village.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ask Sussex Police to enforce speed limits.</li> <li>• Install 'Please drive safely through our village' and 'Thank you' signs on village entrances.</li> <li>• Investigate methods of traffic calming.</li> </ul>	Short Term	Cowfold Parish Council



## Pedestrian Safety

70 comments on safety of pedestrians in Cowfold and crossing busy through roads.

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the installation of pedestrian crossings at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The playing field on A272 Bolney Road</li> <li>Henfield Road by the twitten to Acorn Avenue.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Short Term	Cowfold Parish Council WSCC

## Pavements

69 comments on pavements, either the need to extend them or widen them.

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out a walking streets audit to identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gaps in provision of pavements, especially to Lower Beeding, Picts Lane and the Farm Shop.</li> <li>Pavements that are too narrow.</li> <li>Pavements that are narrowed by overgrown vegetation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Ongoing	Cowfold Parish Council WSCC

## Access to Shop

Cars park overhanging the pavement outside the Co-op shop obstructing access for pedestrians, wheelchair users and children's buggies.



Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate access outside Co-op shop.</li> </ul>	Short Term	Cowfold Parish Council WSCC Co-op

## Improved Public Transport

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact bus companies and ask for rationale for services.</li> <li>Investigate the possibility of services to Gatwick, Crawley and later buses.</li> </ul>	Medium Term	Cowfold Parish Council WSCC Bus operators

## 2 Parking

### Danger and annoyance caused by on street parking.

Specific locations:

- Oakfield Road exit onto A272
- Acorn Avenue
- Barley Croft exit onto A281
- Fairfield Cottages

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review safety of location of current parking and investigate the need for controls at danger points.</li> </ul>	Short Term	Cowfold Parish Council Horsham District Council Residents
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enlist help from Police Community Support Officer to advise drivers of dangerously parked vehicles on appropriate parking, before requesting enforcement action for dangerously parked vehicles.</li> </ul>	Short Term	Cowfold Parish Council Sussex Police Residents
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey current parking availability and investigate alternatives to tarmac for new parking, e.g. grass crete.</li> </ul>	Medium Term	Cowfold Parish Council Horsham District Council
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approach Housing Associations to increase off-street parking for their residents or to provide financial incentives for their residents to provide off-street parking.</li> </ul>	Medium Term	Cowfold Parish Council Horsham District Council Housing Associations Residents

### Fairfield Cottages Car Park Overflow

Congestion in Fairfield Cottages, especially when sports field is used, as Fairfield Cottages is used as an overflow from the car park.

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate expansion of village car park in Fairfield Cottages.</li> </ul>	Medium Term	Cowfold Parish Council Horsham District Council

## HDC Fairfield Cottages Car Park 'Pay and Display' Proposal

81% of respondents were not in favour of making the Fairfield Cottages car park 'Pay and Display'.

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It has now been confirmed that the Cowfold car park off Fairfield Cottages will not be made a 'Pay and Display' car park in the foreseeable future as this is considered by Horsham District Council not to be financially viable.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Cowfold Parish Council Horsham District Council

## Co-op Car Park Overflow

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase parking bay availability by identifying possible additional locations.</li> </ul>	Medium Term	Cowfold Parish Council Horsham District Council WSCC Co-op

## St Peters Close Surgery Car Park Overflow

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey current surgery car park to ensure optimum use of space.</li> </ul>	Medium Term	Cowfold Parish Council PCT

## School Drop off/Pick up in Station Road and Thornden Traffic Congestion

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage the production of a School Travel Plan.</li> </ul>	Short Term	Cowfold Parish Council WSCC / School
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage walking to school policy to alleviate parking problems around the school.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Cowfold Parish Council WSCC / School
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advisory one way route for parent's cars.</li> </ul>	Short Term	Cowfold Parish Council WSCC School

### 3 Cycling and Public Footpaths

#### Cycle Paths

Requirement for cycle paths in and from the village to protect people from speeding traffic on A281/A272. This will encourage greater use of cycles and reduce use of cars.

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
3.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the feasibility of upgrading the existing public footpaths to bridleways to enable:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cycle path to Henfield leaving the parish via A281 at Shermanbury.</li> <li>Cycle path to Horsham leaving the parish via A281 at Lower Beeding.</li> <li>Cycle path to Downs Link to enable safe passage to Henfield, Partridge Green, Southwater and access to Horsham via Pedlars Way.</li> <li>Cycle path east to Wineham Lane.</li> <li>Cycle path west to West Grinstead giving option of joining Downs Link at this point.</li> <li>Cycle path to Picts Lane A281.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Medium Term	Cowfold Parish Council WSCC Sustrans Landowners

#### Maintenance of Public Rights of Way

46 comments were made that public rights of way are not well maintained, are too narrow or are obstructed by overhanging vegetation.

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accompany the Access Ranger on their annual walk of the parish rights of way.</li> <li>Continue to report defects to WSCC Rights of Way.</li> </ul>	Short Term	Cowfold Parish Council WSCC
		Ongoing	Cowfold Parish Council WSCC

#### Parish Walks

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publicise the Parish circular walks:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On parish website.</li> <li>In Parish Magazine.</li> <li>As leaflet available at village shops, village hall and pub.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Short Term	Cowfold Parish Council

## 4 Local Housing



Residents of the Parish wish to keep any increase in Cowfold's housing stock to a minimum. Some felt that a by-pass would lead to infill development, as seen in other villages such as Ashington and Billingshurst. This is on the grounds that the Parish's infrastructure is already overloaded, including the mains water supply, sewerage processing, availability of

school places at the village school, excessive traffic load through the village, access on to the A272 and A281 from any new development, village parking provisions and destruction of the parish's character.

77% of respondents to the Cowfold Parish Questionnaire were against more housing development in the parish. When asked what facilities would be needed to support housing development:

- 38 people said larger/more schools
- 31 more shops
- 18 more public transport
- 8 better sewers
- 15 more off road parking
- 12 better water supply
- 11 another doctor

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
4.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respond to all consultations on housing numbers and proposed development including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South East Plan</li> <li>Local Development Framework</li> </ul> </li> <li>Provide detailed analysis on overloaded infrastructure using data collected from Cowfold Parish Questionnaire September 2005.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Cowfold Parish Council Horsham District Council Local residents

The Housing Needs Survey identified a local housing need in Cowfold.

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the provision of affordable housing for local people in housing need.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Horsham District Council Cowfold Parish Council Housing Associations

## Important Scenes in the Village



**St Peter's Church.**

The oldest part of the present church is the chancel, which is mostly C13<sup>th</sup> and has been dated to the time of Edward I (1272 – 1307).

Margaret Cottages on Church Path, circa 17<sup>th</sup> century.



St Peter's Cottage, circa 16<sup>th</sup> century was once one property, but has been divided into three properties now, one housing a restaurant.

The new Post Office





## 5 Facilities and Services for Young People

### Pre-School

There were many comments about the Pre-School, 9 respondents said it is excellent and many others voiced concerns that the Pre-School needs help to continue.

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
5.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arrange a meeting with the Pre-School to discuss issues raised by Cowfold Parish Questionnaire to determine key plan of action to ensure future survival of this much needed village asset.</li> </ul>	Short Term	Cowfold Parish Council WSCC Pre-School School

### School Admissions Policy

There have been instances where village children have been unsuccessful in applying for a place at the village school, and have been educated outside the village. This has led to increased traffic in the village and children not making friends within their own community.

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtain a copy of the School's Admission Policy.</li> <li>Discuss implications of policy with school and WSCC.</li> <li>Link School Admission Policy to response to housing development consultation response as detailed in action 4.0.</li> </ul>	Short Term  Medium Term  Ongoing	Cowfold Parish Council  Cowfold Parish Council School School Governors Cowfold Parish Council HDC

### Provision of Activities/Facilities for 13 – 18 year olds

39 respondents to the Cowfold Parish Questionnaire commented on the need for clubs and activities.

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keeping young people well informed:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a young persons page on the parish website listing events, activities, clubs.</li> <li>Provide timetable of events, activities, clubs on parish notice boards aimed at young people.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Short Term  Short Term	Cowfold Parish Council  Cowfold Parish Council

## Formal Provision of Activities/Facilities for Young People

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
5.3	• Arrange for the Snack Wagon to visit Cowfold.	Short Term	Cowfold Parish Council Horsham District Council
	• Explore access to Henfield Youth Club and provision of transport for those in need.	Short Term	Cowfold Parish Council Henfield Parish Council
	• Discuss with Camelia Botnar Foundation links between the village and young people at the Foundation.	Short Term	Cowfold Parish Council Camelia Botnar Foundation

## Informal Provision for Young People

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
5.4	• Provision of hard area by kicking wall behind Sports Pavilion.	Long Term	Cowfold Parish Council
	• Provision of goal post on kicking field.	Short Term	Cowfold Parish Council
	• Explore best location and provide vandal proof benches and litter bins on sports field.	Medium Term	Cowfold Parish Council
	• Explore demand/viability of village skate park.	Long Term	Cowfold Parish Council Horsham District Council
	• Maintain and update as necessary all village play equipment.	Ongoing	Cowfold Parish Council



## 6 Facilities and Services for Older Persons

### Improved Transport Needed:

- Community Bus
- Transport for hospital/medical/dental
- Dial-a-ride
- Disabled transport

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
6.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate community transport schemes.</li> <li>• Investigate extension of Dial-a-Ride to Cowfold.</li> <li>• Promote hospital car service.</li> </ul>	Long Term	Cowfold Parish Council Horsham District Council WSCC PCT Dial-a-Ride
		Short Term	
		Short Term	

### Social

- Village hall events
- Other meeting places
- Organised outings

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Welcome Club to organise outings.</li> <li>• Support Cowfold Village Hall to organise events.</li> </ul>	Short Term	Cowfold Parish Council Horsham District Age Concern Welcome club W.I Parish church/Community church
		Short Term	

### Volunteers Needed For:

- Shopping
- Day to day living
- Home maintenance

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate local voluntary groups and associations, and the formation of a Good Neighbour Scheme.</li> <li>• Promote the Handy Van service.</li> </ul>	Medium Term	Cowfold Parish Council Horsham District Age Concern Welcome club W.I Parish church/Community church
		Short Term	

## 7 Lifelong Learning

### Adult Education

Adult Education classes in the Village Hall.

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
7.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Investigate the provision of Adult Education classes in the Village Hall covering topics such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Languages</li><li>Computers</li><li>Keep fit</li><li>Yoga</li><li>Art/painting</li><li>Craft workshops</li><li>Local History</li></ul></li></ul>	Medium Term	Cowfold Village Hall Learning and Skills Council WSCC



Pictures of St Peter's CE (Aided) Primary School  
and Country Mice Pre-School.

## 8 Leisure and Cultural Facilities

### Use of the Village Hall

56% of respondents had not visited the Village Hall in the last three months. 75% of respondents would be interested in a village cinema or adult education classes in the Village Hall.



Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
8.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact other communities to find out how their village cinema operates.</li> <li>Adult education, see Lifelong Learning action 7.0.</li> <li>'Use it or lose it' – Promote use of Village Hall on parish website, notice boards and Parish Magazine.</li> </ul>	Short Term	Cowfold Parish Council Cowfold Village Hall
		Ongoing	Cowfold Parish Council Cowfold Village Hall

### Improvement to Village Hall

Improvements to Village Hall to ensure it meets the future needs of the parish.

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
8.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, in particular, disabled toilet facility.</li> </ul>	Medium Term	Cowfold Village Hall

### Village Festival

86% of respondents to the Cowfold Parish Questionnaire would attend a Village Festival and 23% were prepared to help organise it.

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
8.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support current Village Fete Committee.</li> <li>Investigate linking with other village organisations to test feasibility.</li> <li>Find out how other parishes run their festivals.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Village Fete Committee All village clubs/societies.

## Sports Pavilion



71% of respondents support a campaign to renovate the Sports Pavilion.

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
8.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up a Campaign Committee as a sub-group of the Village Hall Committee to investigate the options to maintain/improve the sports pavilion.</li> </ul>	Medium Term	Cowfold Parish Council Cowfold Village Hall All village clubs/societies.

## Scout Hut

New Scout Hut which replaced the previous hut destroyed by fire. New hut funded from donations and much community effort. Action 1.2 identifies the need for a pedestrian crossing over the A272 Bolney Road to reach the Scout Hut.



## Toilet Facilities

The public toilets are an essential asset in the village used by the local community and those travelling through on the main A roads.

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
8.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update the current facilities at the Sports Pavilion and provide disabled toilet facilities.</li> </ul>	Medium Term	Horsham District Council WSCC Cowfold Parish Council Cowfold Village Hall

## 9 Community Safety

### Policing

- Needs to be more visible.
- Better communications between group members.

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
9.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain contact with Police Community Support Officer.</li> <li>• Distribute PCSO voice mail number to Parish Council and other village groups.</li> <li>• Ask PCSO to come to Parish Council meetings and other well attended Village events.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Cowfold Parish Council Neighbourhood Watch Sussex Police Horsham Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership

### Neighbourhood Watch

Cowfold Neighbourhood Watch needs to be more active.

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
9.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrange meeting with Neighbourhood Watch Area Co-ordinator, existing street co-ordinators and new volunteers.</li> <li>• Find a new Cowfold Area Co-ordinator.</li> </ul>	Short Term	Neighbourhood Watch Sussex Police Horsham Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership

### Community Safety Education

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
9.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sussex Police, Horsham Crime &amp; Disorder Reduction Partnership and Cowfold Neighbourhood Watch to liase with:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ School</li> <li>◦ Scout organisations</li> <li>◦ Guide organisations</li> <li>◦ Football Club</li> <li>◦ Bowls Club</li> <li>◦ Pubs</li> <li>◦ Camilia Botnar Foundation</li> <li>◦ Church Groups</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Short Term	Neighbourhood Watch Sussex Police Horsham Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership



## 10 Protecting our World



### Enhancing Public Outdoor Places within the Parish

Most respondents felt that the sports field, Acorn Avenue recreational area and church yard/ school areas were their favourite places in the village, and that they were generally well maintained.

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
10.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure that public open spaces continue to be well maintained. To seek advice on ways in which existing open spaces might be enhanced i.e. further seating in public areas, publicised walks and cycling routes within the parish boundary.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Cowfold Parish Council

### Recycling of Waste

Most respondents felt that the village had adequate facilities with respect to recycling, given that many items for recycling were collected alongside their general refuse.

Some however would like to see the facility at the car park expanded. There were comments on the need to empty the collection containers more frequently to avoid spillage onto the adjacent area, and also provision for disposing of the receptacles used to carry the items to the recycling point.

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
10.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate extending facilities at the existing site and whether an additional site is feasible.</li> </ul>	Medium Term	Cowfold Parish Council Horsham District Council
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look at the frequency of collections from the recycling location.</li> </ul>	Short Term	Cowfold Parish Council Horsham District Council
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request more frequent emptying of litter bins in the area of the recycling containers.</li> </ul>	Short Term	Cowfold Parish Council Horsham District Council

## Reducing Litter

Litter was a concern for a few respondents, some felt that it was not a problem, others felt that any litter was not acceptable. Some felt that litter thrown from cars was an annoyance.

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
10.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate extending facilities supplied by Litter Warden.</li> </ul>	Short Term	Cowfold Parish Council
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide more litter bins and request more frequent emptying of litter bins.</li> </ul>	Short Term	Horsham District Council
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage greater use of litter bins through anti-litter notices. As dropping/throwing litter attracts a hefty fine, publicise this.</li> </ul>	Short Term	Horsham District Council Cowfold Parish Council
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate clearing verges on A272.</li> </ul>	Short Term	Horsham District Council WSCC

## Traffic Noise

Some respondents complained about noise through the village caused by heavy traffic during the week and motorbikes, particularly on a Sunday.

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
10.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Campaign for quieter road surfaces and maintenance of manhole covers in roads.</li> </ul>	Long Term	Cowfold Parish Council WSCC

## Dog Fouling

Dog fouling was of concern to some respondents, especially around the sports field area.

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
10.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check the provisions made with respect to emptying of bins and look at siting additional bin/s in areas where they would encourage use and could be collected more easily.</li> </ul>	Short Term	Cowfold Parish Council Horsham District Council

## Road and Pavement Cleaning

Some respondents complained about the poor level of road and pavement cleaning in the outer limits of the village, some paths are left in a poor condition so as to be dangerous to walk on, with debris from trees and hedgerow not cleared frequently enough.

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
10.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To establish the frequency of cleaning of roads and pavements within the village and to determine which areas are in HDC's schedule for cleaning.</li> <li>Remind homeowners about their responsibility with respect to maintaining the hedgerow where their property borders the public pavement by placing articles in the Parish Magazine.</li> </ul>	Short Term	Cowfold Parish Council Horsham District Council
		Ongoing	Cowfold Parish Council

## Trees and Ponds

As part of enhancing outdoor places for villagers and visitors to enjoy, monitor the maintenance of trees and ponds within recreational areas.

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
10.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To undertake a tree survey, with a view to developing a maintenance/ planting program in recreational and conservation areas.</li> <li>Recruit a Pond Warden.</li> </ul>	Medium Term	Cowfold Parish Council Horsham District Council WSCC
		Short Term	Cowfold Parish Council WSCC

## Information Boards

Information boards already exist in the village, at the village hall, and Co-op, but additional boards could be used for anti-litter campaigns and further publicising events within the village.

Action No.	Action	Timescale	Key Partners
10.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To look into the type and cost of additional information boards and possible site locations within the village.</li> <li>Discourage fly posting.</li> </ul>	Short Term	Cowfold Parish Council
		Ongoing	Cowfold Parish Council

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## Glossary

AirS	Action in rural Sussex
HDC	Horsham District Council
PCT	Primary Care Trust
SID	Speed Indicating Device
WI	Women's Institute
WSCC	West Sussex County Council

## What Next...?

Our small and dedicated team have worked very hard since December 2004 with the help of Beverley from Horsham District Council to bring our Parish Plan into being. We have all learned a great deal over that time and made some good friends along the way. We are very proud of the end result and hope that people in the village will appreciate our efforts. We could be entitled to sit back and congratulate ourselves on a job well done but that would defeat the purpose of the whole process.

We have produced an ACTION PLAN for the village. This means that each of the actions identified in the plan must be looked at, worked on and hopefully achieved. WE WILL NEED THE HELP OF THE VILLAGE TO DO THIS.

We are not going to tackle the whole plan at once. Even though we're dedicated we haven't yet become superheroes! We intend to focus on one part of the plan at a time. We hope to set up small groups of people interested in each issue as it comes up. SO WE NEED YOU TO VOLUNTEER. More than ever now we need people who care about the village and what happens in it to get in touch and to offer their services. You can do as much or as little as you are able to and you will have the satisfaction of knowing you have improved the community you live in.

The Parish Action Group will publicise each focus as it comes up in all the usual places. Look for updates on the Parish website [www.cowfold-pc.gov.uk](http://www.cowfold-pc.gov.uk), on parish notice boards and in local press. You can also get in touch with us now and tell us which issue you would like to work on when the time comes, or, even better get in touch now or come along to our next meeting and help us work on them all.

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