



Parish Plan 2007



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Hoath Parish Plan Committee

Veronica Scott (Chair), Colin Alabaster (Vice-Chair and Treasurer), Gill Johnson (Secretary/ Clerk), Malti Patel (Assistant Treasurer), Arthur Campbell-Walter, Linda Attenborough, Richard Elmes, Pam Hardiman, Brian Hopkins, Jenny Hadlow, Elisabeth Rose, Cathy Smith.

Hoath Logo

In March 2006 a competition was held at the Primary School for a village logo. The winner was Ben Lawson, aged 9 years, and his design is not only on the front cover but also features on the village website. Congratulations again Ben!

Hoath Parish Plan

The Hoath Parish Plan is the result of a comprehensive community effort over a period of nearly two years and has been produced to enable the Parish to come together and form a vision of the future of the village. The creation of a Parish Plan is a method of identifying those areas within our physical and social environment which we wish to improve upon, create from scratch, or indeed maintain “as is”. A good Plan recognises that positive change can be influenced by an active community which stands together for the benefit of all who live in it.

The intention is that this plan will be considered an important working document by the Parish Council, who will work to follow its Action Plan, by Canterbury City Council in its considerations of planning issues and financial support for the council and also by Kent County Council. Included are the results of the questionnaire which form the basis of the Action Plan which is necessary to meet the future needs of the Parish.

The Hoath Parish Plan Steering Committee wishes to acknowledge the local participation in all the events which have led up to the publication of this document, to the hundreds of hours of volunteering generously offered by committee members and helpers, and the advice and support of Victoria Lawson, of Action with Communities in Rural Kent, Amanda Sparkes of Canterbury City Council, and Alan Marsh, of Kent County Council, without whose support this effort would not have been possible. We would also like to thank Hoath Primary school for its support in creating a village logo and the superb model village.

Message from the Chair of the Parish Plan Group

I would like to start by thanking all the committee for their unstinting support in this (somewhat lengthy!) process. It has been a pleasure to work with them and all the wonderful helpers too. This has been a genuine team effort, right from the very start, way back in October 2005, when we had our first public meeting and vote for the plan. The enthusiasm has been wonderful and has generated some memorable events, such as the March 2006 Parish Plan Coffee Morning, when Hoath Primary School put on display the model of the village and a display of the finalists in the village logo competition. We all enjoyed a wonderful exhibition of historic photographs courtesy of Robert Nash, the WI and individual village members.

Last year also saw the re-establishment of the Rogation walk which was a resounding success and which Holy Cross Parish Church hopes will be an annual event. The other memorable achievements were the village’s Welcome Pack and the launch of our very own village website. I would like to give official thanks to Pam Hardiman for helping me in bringing this about, and to the web designer Rachel Cornish, of Cornish Webservices, who designed the site, and who is hosting the site. Our village website address is www.hoath.org so please do visit and use it!

You may remember that during last summer, the committee and helpers delivered the questionnaires to each household and, as importantly, collected them again. This personal service meant that Hoath achieved a very impressive return ratio of completed questionnaires of 76%. The analysis of those questionnaires was done professionally by a local firm, Survey Innovation, and we thank them for their professional and timely work. The analysis of that feedback from the villagers makes up the most important part of this Parish Plan, as it gives the Parish Council its Action Plan for the future.

Even though Hoath is not a big village, the task of bringing all this together has been quite daunting for all concerned. The important thing to remember is that it is up to the Parish Council, on whose behalf this Plan was launched, to bring about the Action Plan - and it is up to all of us to help in that process!

Veronica Scott

Foreword by the Chairman of the Parish Council

Since the Government's rural White Paper in November 2000 the Parish Plan became the vehicle through which small communities could influence the local agenda. Without the wide ranging consultation necessary for such a plan, Parish Councils would not have the authority that they need to be able to press for the improvements that are required for the local community.

In September 2005 it was decided to form a Parish Plan Sub Committee and to consult the community through a meeting in the village hall to establish whether there was sufficient support to take the project forward. I have to confess to some pangs of anxiety as the 17th October drew near as to whether anyone would turn up to discuss the issues. It was therefore with some relief on the night when I found the hall was full to the point that people were having to stand two and three deep at the back and even out into the doorway. That fantastic support has continued with an almost unheard of percentage of the community returning their questionnaires duly completed. A very sincere thanks to you all.

Producing a Parish Plan involves enormous amounts of work. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers on the Parish Plan Committee who have worked so hard and with such sustained enthusiasm. I cannot mention them all by name but their example has been magnificent. I would however like to mention Kent County Councillor Alan Marsh who has assisted with his unerring support, not to mention funding for the professional analysis of the survey results. However, special thanks are due to Councillor Veronica Scott who took on the responsibility for producing the plan and has worked tirelessly, bringing her many special qualities to bear.

It therefore merely remains for me to assure the community that the Parish Council will play its part by doing everything possible to ensure that the wishes of the community, as expressed in the Action Plan, are implemented. Please continue to support your Parish Council in this endeavour and continue to be the active participating community that you have been over the last nearly two years. The overriding impression when reading through the questionnaires is one of a caring community, not only in the numbers, but also in the comments - many of which are included as quotes in this plan. I hope you enjoy reading it and I am determined that we shall put it to good use!

Colin Chapman.



Hoath - A Brief History

The settlement of Hoath (meaning "boggy heath") was most likely the final stage in a series of moves away from even boggy areas closer to the Wantsum. Its location next to the Roman road and to Blean wood meant that access to trade, and to timber, made it a viable community. To the east of Hoath lies the ancient parish of Chislet and the Chislet Marshes, and the hamlets of Grays, Marshside, Boyden Gate, Chitty, Upstreet and Grove Ferry. These pick out the shoreline of the old Wantsum Channel. To the west, rising ground leads to the woodland of Blean, which encircles Canterbury to the north and beyond, and also Herne. Northward lies Reculver with strong Roman and Christian links. Southward is Sturry and Canterbury's port, Fordwich, which lies on a finger of water once far broader than the River Stour we see today. This waterway led south-westwards from the Wantsum Channel.



Hoath Today

The village comprises approximately 205 households spread over a triangular shaped area stretching from Tile Lodge through to Ford and then across to the Gate Inn, embracing Shelvingford, Old Tree, Millbank, Maypole, Knaves Ash, Rushbourne and Buckwell. It includes seven farms, two public houses, a parish church, a primary school and a village hall. Part of East Blean Woods, a site of Special Scientific Interest, lies within the Parish.

Hoath is a rural community in the midst of other rural communities. Its rural character has largely been maintained and is vitally important to the community as is clear throughout this report.

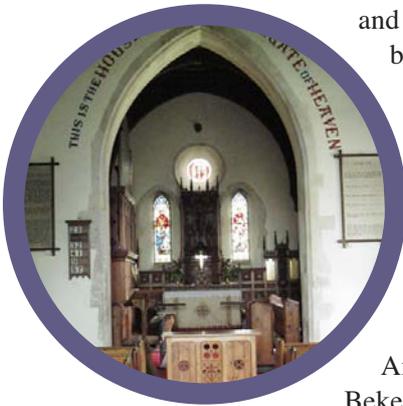


Holy Cross Church

The shingled spire of Holy Cross Church is a prominent landmark of the village. The church was probably built in the reign of Henry III (1216-1272) although there was no parish priest until 1303 when Pope Boniface VIII let Hoath have its own churchyard and font. This meant that parishioners could also bury their dead in the churchyard. Hoath has never been an ecclesiastical parish on its own but has always been linked with others. It was part of

Reculver until 1960, then linked with Chislet, then St. Nicholas, informally with Herne and recently back with Reculver. Robert Hunt was born in Hoath about 1570, and became Vicar at Reculver and Hoath in 1595. In 1607 he sailed to America in a convoy of three ships. Upon arrival to celebrate their first communion, they "did hang an old sail to three or four trees to shadow us from the sun; our walls were rails of wood, our seats unhewed trees, our pulpit a bar of wood. This was our church." From this humble beginning rose the Episcopalian church in the new world. At Ford once lay a Manor House which was a residence of the Archbishops of Canterbury. There were a number of them across Kent. It was the most impressive building in the locality but unfortunately nothing remains of it today. In the time of Elizabeth I, Ford fell out of favour with Archbishop Parker, who preferred another local episcopal property at Bekesbourne. Ford Manor House was by then "old, decayed, wasteful, unwholesome and desolate" but Elizabeth refused to allow its demolition and it survived until the

Commonwealth when Parliament ordered its destruction and the materials were sold.



Holy Cross is part of the benefice of St Mary's Reculver and St Bartholomew Herne Bay. All age services are held every Sunday at 10:15am, with activities and teaching for children. Holy Cross is very involved with the local community and runs an active Youth Group which meets in the village hall. There are also strong links with the school and other groups within the parish. Two parish magazines are available for purchase, the traditional Hoath and Chislet Parish Magazine and the more recent Benefice Link Magazine. Information about how to access both is available on the village website.

'Friendly church services'

'Nice to see the church in good use'

School and Education

Hoath Primary School

Hoath Primary School is central to the life of the village involving not only the pupils and parents but also the wider community through the various fundraising activities of the PTA and the end-of-term assemblies. The school was established in 1860 and met in the building which is now the village hall. The present building was erected in 1928. In recent years the premises have been extended and modernised. It is a recognised small school, with a maximum of 56 children comprising two classes, infants and juniors. The school has no hall but has frequent use of the village hall opposite. The school is sited in spacious grounds with playgrounds, playing field, outdoor stage, outdoor classroom, environmental area, meadow area and gardens.

'Well supported primary school'

'Lovely primary school'

Chislet and District Pre School Playgroup

The Playgroup is run on weekday mornings in the village hall. As part of the "pre-school learning alliance" it offers four sessions per week, for children aged 2-5 years, focusing on a curriculum for the foundation stage of education. The playgroup is Ofsted inspected.

Hoath Parent and Toddler Group

This group was set up about twelve years ago and runs on a weekly basis during term time in the village hall. The atmosphere is happy and relaxed. There is usually an art and craft activity, and a story. The children can enjoy play and a snack while the parents have a much needed cup of tea or coffee while they chat.



Hoath Primary School

Hoath Parish Council

The Parish Council generally meets on the second Wednesday of each month (except August) at 7.30pm in Hoath village hall.

The meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to listen to the proceedings. There is a time slot during the evening for public questions. The Agenda and Minutes of the meetings are posted on the Parish notice boards and the website. The council is responsible for following up the recommended Action Plan as set out in this Parish Plan.

Public Houses in Hoath

We are lucky to have two friendly pubs within walking distance. Both pubs have their own unique charm, and great food too! The Parish Plan is especially grateful to Chris Smith, Innkeeper of the Gate, and Mark the landlord of the Prince of Wales, for their ongoing support in donation of prizes, hosting events, and being genuinely interested in the community.

'Lovely village pubs!!'



The Prince of Wales at Maypole



The Gate Inn at Marshside

Hoath Village Hall

The hall was originally the village school and as can be seen from the stone plaque on the front of the building was built in 1864. When the new school was built Lord Sondes, a local landowner who had borne the costs of the building, gave the hall to the community to be used as a village hall. The village hall is very much the centre of village activities and is extremely well supported. It could be a bit smarter and could certainly be a bit bigger but this does not detract from its popularity as a local venue.

A refurbishment project has been underway for the last two years, the achievements of which so far are the new ladies and disabled lavatories, a new damp course, improved security etc. The running of the hall is organised by a committee formed of representatives from each of the groups who use the hall regularly with three elected officers comprising a chairman, secretary and treasurer plus a caretaker.



Clubs and Societies

Hoath Youth Club

Holy Cross Youth Group began in 1982, initially to provide continuing support, encouragement and pastoral care to the children as they outgrew Sunday Club. Now, with additional support and funding from the City and Parish Councils, Holy Cross runs the Youth Group for all children from the local and surrounding areas aged between 8 and 16 years. They meet in the Village Hall at least twice a month to enjoy various activities, which include games, craft, quizzes, computer games and outdoor sports. Generally, getting together and having fun! The involvement of parents and friends in the community, who have helped through the years, continues to be crucial to the running of this very successful group.

Hoath and District Gardening Society

The society was formed in 1969 to promote an interest in gardening within the village and surrounding rural area, through a variety of speakers at our monthly meetings, and occasional outings to various gardens throughout the South East.

The monthly meetings of about 50 friendly and enthusiastic members are held in the village hall. There are 3 flower and vegetable shows throughout the year. April is an evening show of spring flowers, the Summer Show is held in July and the Autumn show in September. New members are always welcome!

Hoath Men's Social Club

Dating back to the 1920s the Men's Club was originally based in the old forge, and in 1928 moved to the village hall. In those days the men of the village would meet to play cards, dominoes, darts and shove ha' penny etc. New members are always welcome to join the Club and take part in its activities. The Club meets on a Tuesday evening for billiards, darts, table tennis and card games.

Hoath with District W.I.

In 2005 Hoath with District WI celebrated its 80th birthday. It has 41 members who come from Hoath, Herne Bay, Beltinge, Broad Oak, Upstreet, Broomfield and Birchington. The institute meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7.15pm in the village hall. Every month there is a speaker and a competition, the theme of which is usually linked to the Speaker's topic. There is also a craft competition each month when members can show their skill at such things as making cards, painting, flower arranging, cake decoration, knitting and making biscuits and chutney. Occasional outings are also arranged for members.



Our Community



Parish Plan Steering Committee



Senior's Tea Party



Coffee Morning May '06

'Everyone knows everyone'



Rogation walk '06

'People are polite and helpful'

'Good neighbours'



Local Press Coverage of Parish Plan March '06



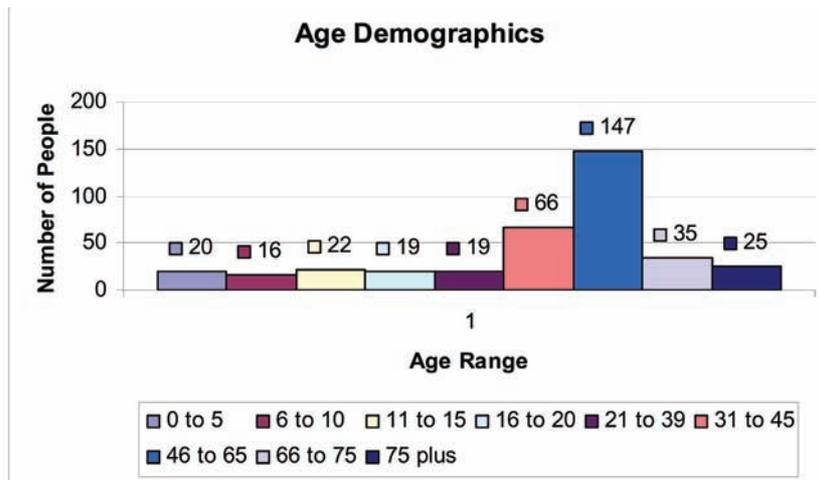
Picnic in the Paddock '06

'Strong feeling of village life'



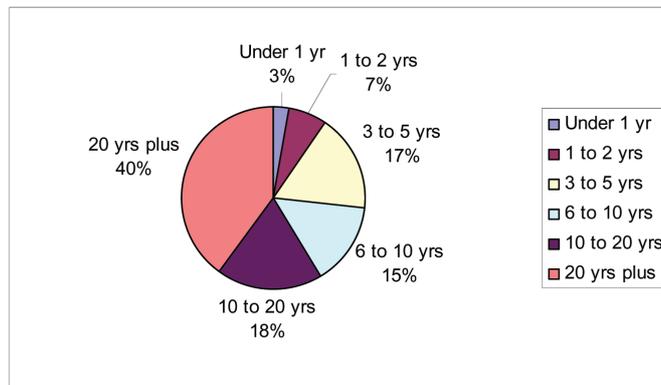
Trafalgar Dinner '05

Questionnaire Feedback - Our Parish

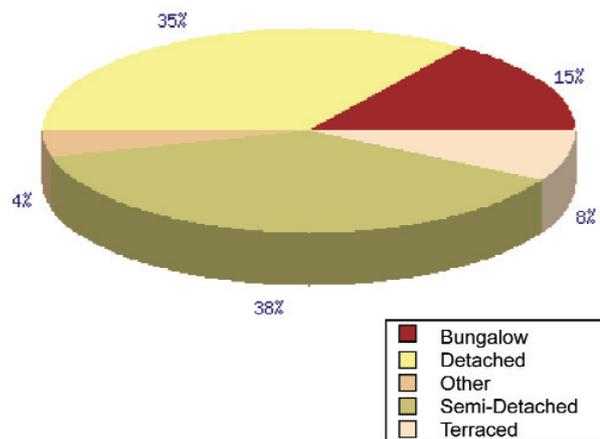


The total number of individuals recorded by the survey was 369. A high proportion of the households who responded to the survey contain people within the 46-65 age group. On the basis of the responses those under 21 form 21% of the population, and those over 65, 16%. The number of males in the count was 184, the number of females 185.

Years Lived in Hoath



The Housing Mix Within the Village



What The Village Had To Say

In this survey the statistics represent the response of a consensus of opinion within households as only 1 questionnaire was issued to each household.

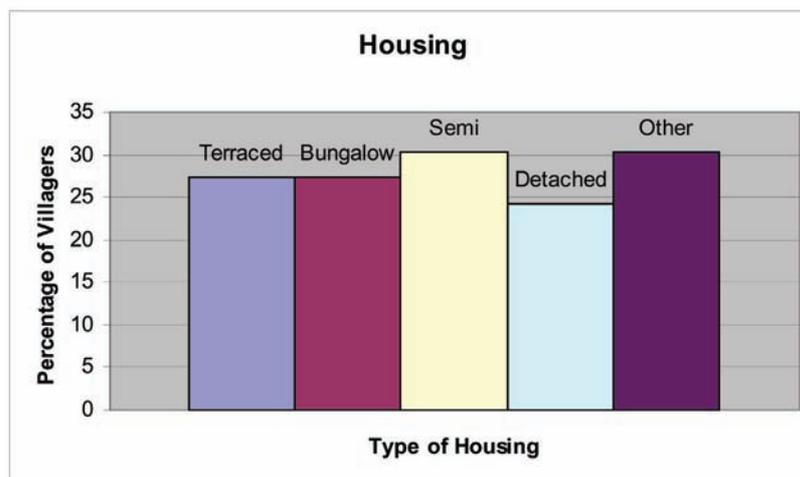
Is More Housing Needed in Hoath?

	%
Agree	22.3
Disagree	64.9
Don't Know	12.8

When asked if more affordable housing is needed, 64.9% of respondents said “no”. There was an overwhelming desire to keep Hoath a rural community and avoid urbanisation and overdevelopment.

	% Agree	% Disagree
We need to prevent inappropriate housing development	95.4	4.6
Hoath must avoid creeping urbanisation	96.3	3.7

The 22.3% of households who did express an interest in more housing were evenly spread on the kind of housing they would consider, as shown in the table below.



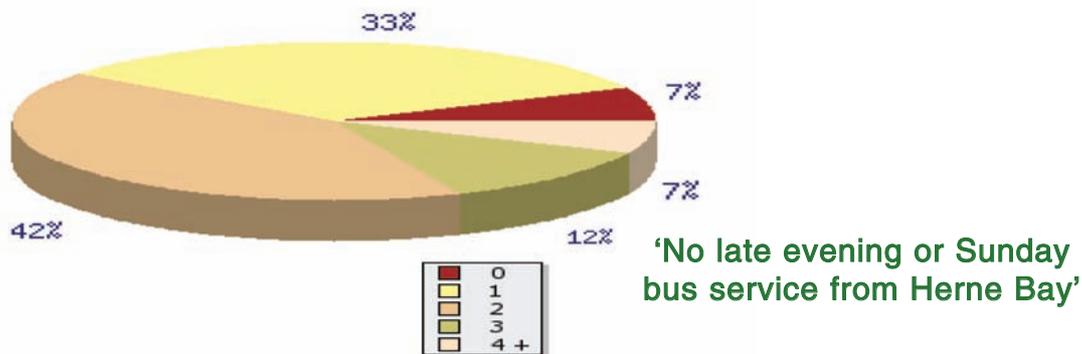
Spatially, Hoath is an unusual community, in that it is made up of a distinct village centre, surrounded by various small hamlets, with open spaces between these and the centre. There is a strong wish to preserve this.

Action Points

Parish Council to investigate creating a Design Statement which would incorporate the above results/ opinions. The aim of such a statement would be to influence any major planning considerations which may arise at KCC/ CCC. A Design Statement would also focus on amenities in the village.

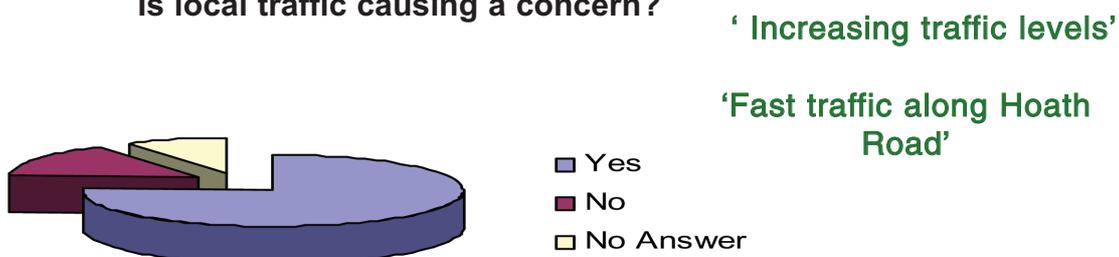
Traffic/ Transport

Most of us own a car. The chart below shows the number of cars per household.

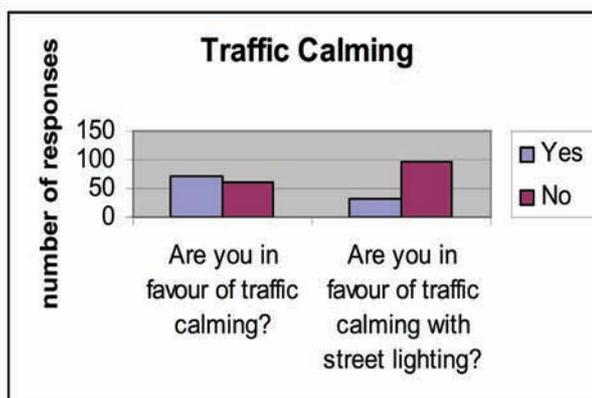
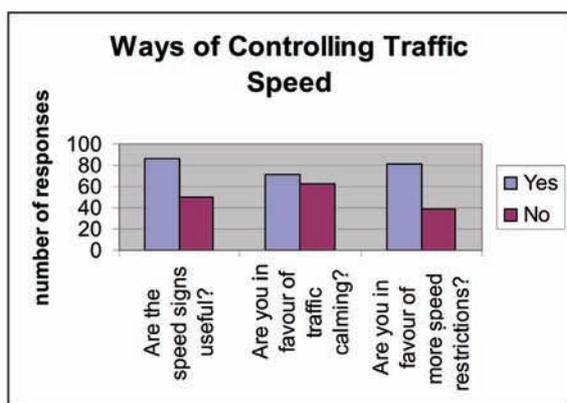


75.7% of households said they used the bus service rarely or never. Of those who said they did use it, 38.8% said they were happy with it, and 44.9% said that they were not.

Is local traffic causing a concern?

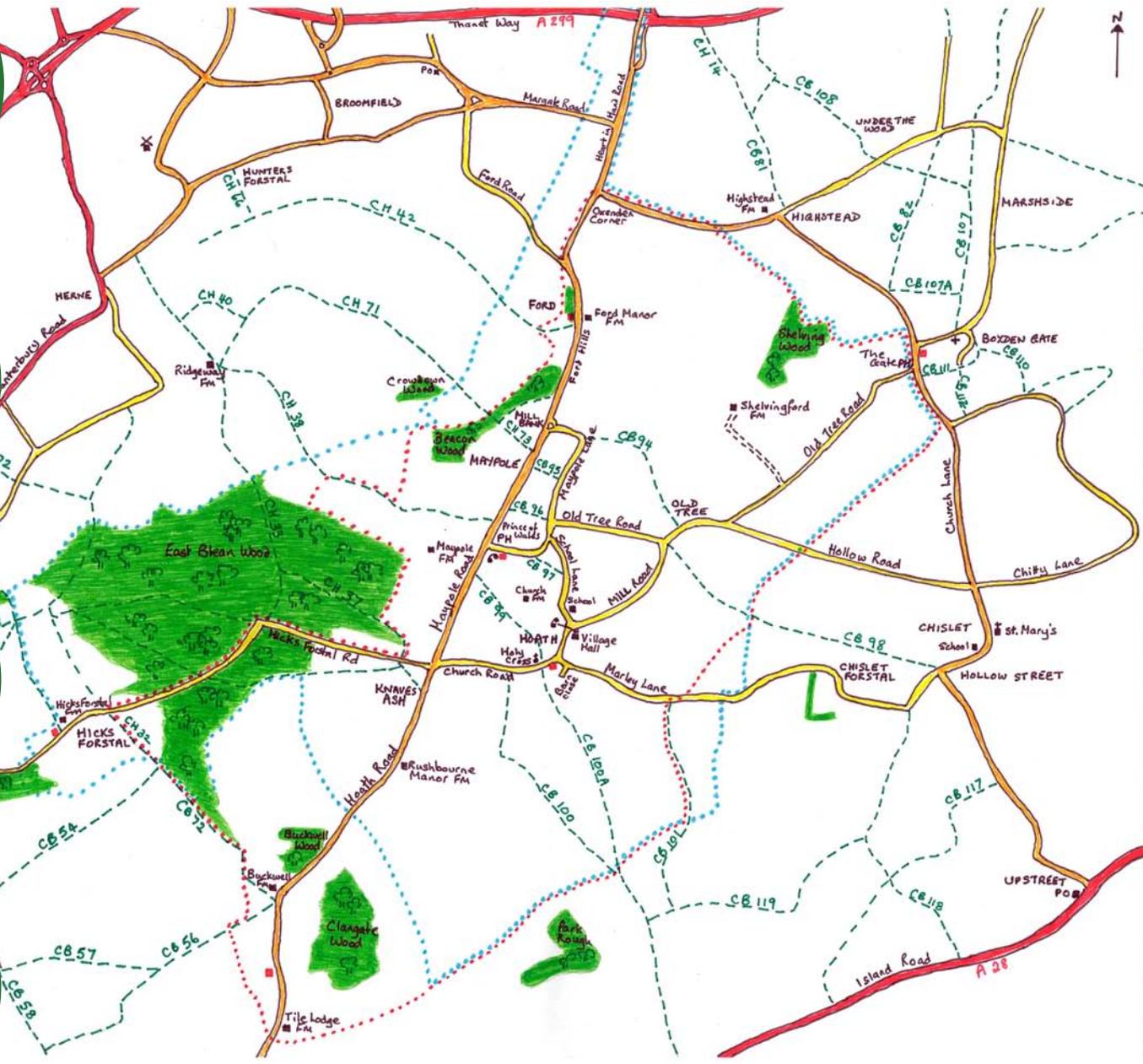


A high number of respondents considered that the speed of traffic is a problem. Most people are of the opinion that the speed restrictions are useful, and would be in favour of more speed restrictions. Traffic calming however is only favoured if it comes without street lighting, to maintain the rural nature of the village.



Action Points

Parish Council will be asked to investigate further means of controlling speed of traffic without having street lighting.



The village of
HOATH
and its surrounds

Legend

- Main Road
- Road generally more than 4m wide
- Road less than 4m wide
- Other road or track
- Public footpath
- Civil parish boundary
- Ecclesiastical parish boundary
- Church with tower
- Church with spire
- Chapel
- PO Post Office
- Post Box
- Telephone
- PH Public House
- Windmill
- Woodland

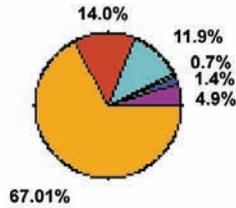
CS SMITH 2007



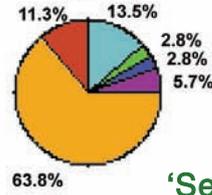
Services and Facilities

The purpose of this section of the questionnaire was to find out how much households valued the various facilities and services.

Clubs run in Village Hall

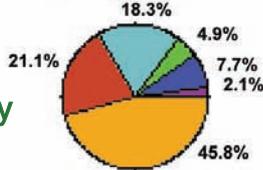


Church



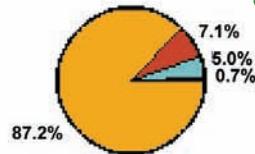
'Sense of community around school and village hall activities as well as the church'

Public House

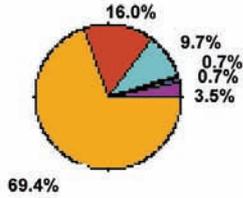


'The children are very well behaved'

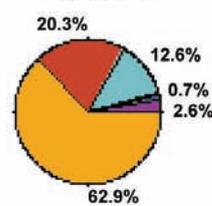
School



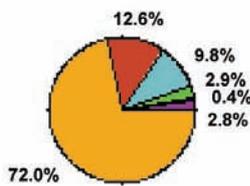
Youth activities



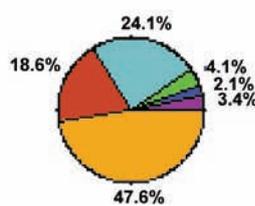
Play park



Public footpaths and Bridleways

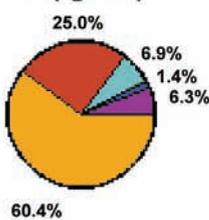


Mobile Library

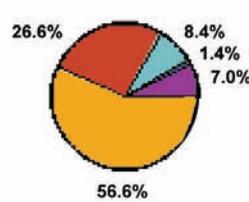


'Good community activities'

Playgroup



Mother and Toddler



'The village hall is being well used'

'Hoath is a community that values the young folk'

All of the village institutions, facilities and groups were highly rated and valued.

34% of households felt that there are enough activities and sports/ leisure facilities in or within 3 miles of the village whilst 34% disagreed. 31.9% had no opinion.

The Village Hall

This was generally rated to be a highly important asset to the village. 67% rated this facility to be very important, a further 26% were positive. Only 1.4% felt it to be unimportant and 4.9% had no opinion.

Church

Again, this was deemed a vital part of village life, with 91.4% rating it as important, only 2.8% thinking it unimportant and 5.7% with no opinion.

School

Just 1 respondent expressed no opinion on this subject with all others being positive and 87.2% being very positive.

Public Houses

The majority of households indicated that these are an important facility within the village.

Youth activities

Another overwhelmingly positive response with only 1 household considering this to be unimportant and five having no opinion.

Playgroup

Only 2 households felt this to be unimportant and 9 expressed no opinion. All other respondents felt it to be important.

Mother and Toddler

An almost identical response to the Playgroup question but with 10 households having no opinion.

Play Park

4 households had no opinion; 1 thought it unimportant with the balance feeling this was an important facility.

Public footpaths and bridleways

Important according to all households apart from 1 respondent, who felt them unimportant and 3 expressing no opinion.

Mobile Library

Another facility considered important by all households apart from 3 who felt it unimportant and 5 with no opinion.

Welcome pack

14 households advised not having received their copy. These are available from every member of the Parish Plan Committee.

Youth related questions

Out of 28 responses from young people it would appear that while only 7 actually belong to the Youth Club, 17 would consider starting/ joining a sports club, 15 would be interested in joining a theatre group and 12 would participate in other activities. When asked what other youth activities would be desirable, a number of suggestions were provided embracing cricket, computer games, brownies/guides/rangers, netball, an art club, a holiday club and a young farmers club.

Looking To The Future

At the public consultation in October 2005, suggestions were put forward regarding improvements for the village. These were incorporated into the questionnaire and were responded to as follows:

Hoath needs a village shop

77.1% felt this would be a good thing whilst 22.9% disagreed.

Hoath needs a village green

59.1% felt this was needed whereas 40.9% did not. Many of the additional activities which villagers indicated they would like to participate in were outdoor which would need an area such as a green.

Hoath needs more facilities for teens

A majority of 75.5% were in favour whilst 24.5% were not.

Hoath needs a local doctor

55.2% did not feel this was necessary and 44.8% did.

Hoath needs more activities to involve the village

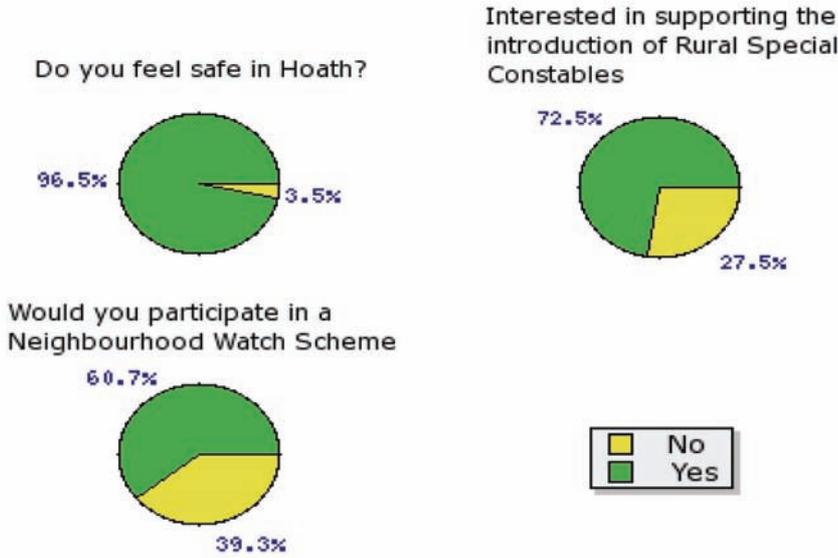
77.3% felt this to be the case whilst 25.2% did not. Amongst the activities suggested were short mat bowls, gym or keep fit classes, cricket and football, tennis, swings for the playground, brownies/cubs, tai chi, 'knit & natter' badminton, dance evenings, craft classes, more quiz nights, a senior citizen club, computer/internet facility in the hall, performing music group, horse events, barbecues, a baby sitting club, a bonfire night and occasional coffee mornings.

Action Points

- Advertise in the Parish Magazine and on the Website the times when the parish hall is available for new groups to start up.
- Offer a contact name and telephone number on the Website and in the Parish Magazine for anyone wishing to obtain a Welcome Pack.
- Parish Council and District Councils to be appraised of the responses to questions on village shop, village green, teen facilities and doctors surgery, and assess feasibility of further action. This should be reported at a future, designated meeting of the Parish Council.



Security and Safety



	Yes	No	Don't Know
Is street lighting needed in Hoath?	25.2%	59.2%	15.6%

People do generally feel safe & secure in our Parish, but would be willing to help with further security measures.

3 in 4 households favour the introduction of Rural Special Constables and 60% would participate in a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Action Points

The Parish Council needs to assess the viability of a Special Constable and Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Communications

	Yes	No
Do you read the Parish council Notice Boards?	61.1%	38.9%
Do you receive and read the Parish Magazine?	68.3%	31.7%
Would you access a village website?	69.2%	30.8%
Are you happy with the postal service?	95.3%	4.7%
Do you have internet access in your home?	75.0%	25%
Do you use Broadband?	45.6%	54.4%
Have you received your Welcome Pack?	89.7%	10.3%

Approximately 2 in 3 households read the Parish Council notice boards and the Parish Magazine and would access a village website. 3 in 4 have internet access, but only 1 in 2 have Broadband. The vast majority feel that the postal service is good and have received the Welcome Pack.

How Households Would Use The Village Website

	Yes	No
To find out about village events	91.7%	8.3%
To read Parish Council Minutes	85.1%	14.9%
To find out about the history of the village	89.7%	10.3%
To find out about clubs/activities in the village	85.7%	14.3%
To advertise my local business	35.5%	64.5%
To find out about local services/businesses/links	77.5%	22.5%

The perceived benefit of a Hoath website is felt to be the dissemination of Hoath Village related information, including that of local services and business. This would address the need to improve awareness of village events identified at the 17th October Public Meeting. However, the majority of local businesses do not feel the need to advertise on the website in order to bring in more business.

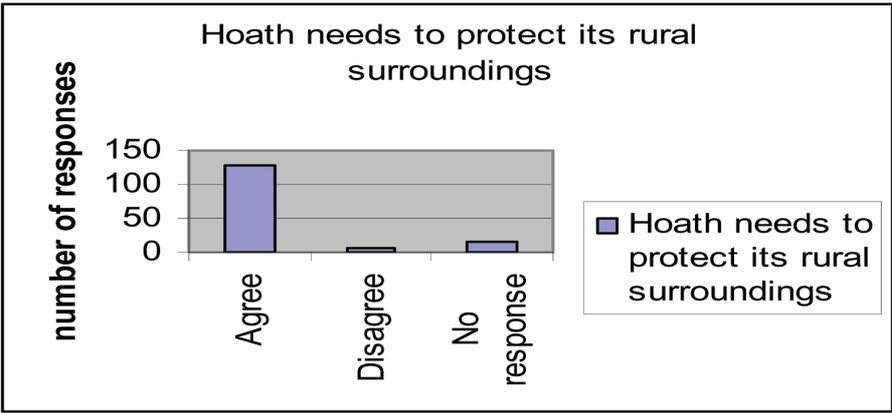
Questions addressed directly at businesses produced the following responses:

	Yes	No
Do you advertise your business?	41.7%	58.3%
Would you like to be listed in our Local business Directory?	52.8%	47.2%
Would you advertise on the Hoath Village Website?	44.4%	55.6%

Action Points

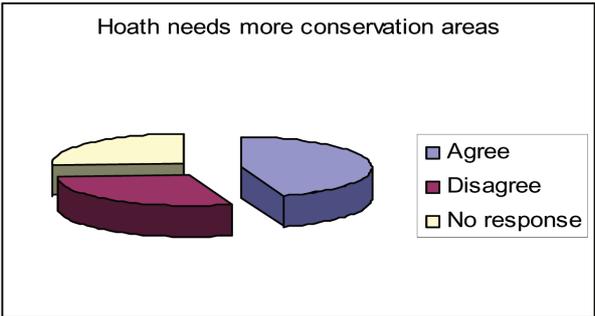
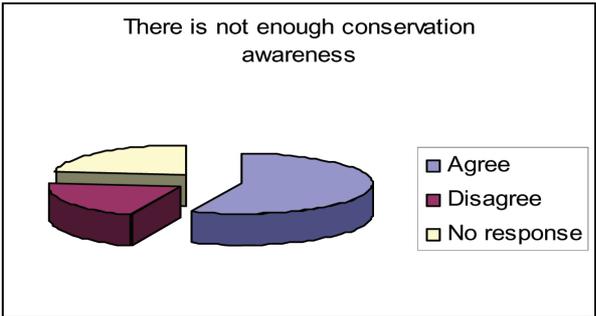
- To maintain the village website.
- To engage with local business to support the local community including the website which is seen as an important part of communication.

Environment and Conservation



There is a very strong feeling that the rural environment in which we live needs to be protected, with 129 households of the 150 who returned questionnaires stating that this was important.

Conservation Areas are seen as one means of doing this, with 60% of our respondents saying that more should be designated.



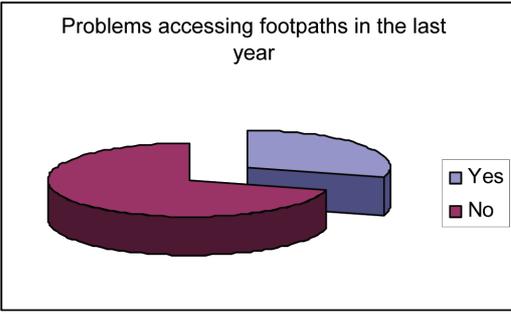
How Important Are Our Footpaths?

	Responses	Percentage
1 - Very important	103	72
2	18	12.6
3	14	9.8
4	4	2.8
5 - Unimportant	1	0.7
No opinion	3	2.1
(No response made to this question - 7)		

Public footpaths and bridleways were deemed a very important aspect to our rural life.

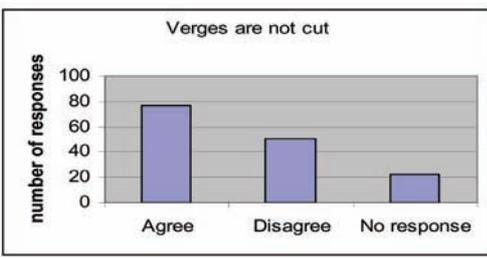
67.3% of respondents stated they used the public rights of way at least once a month, and 23.1% use them daily.

Environment and Conservation Continued



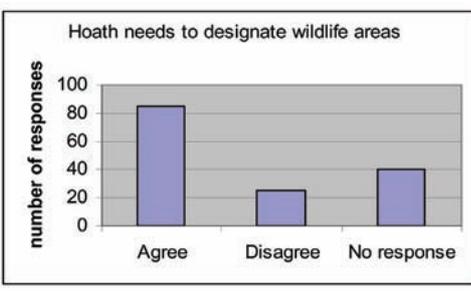
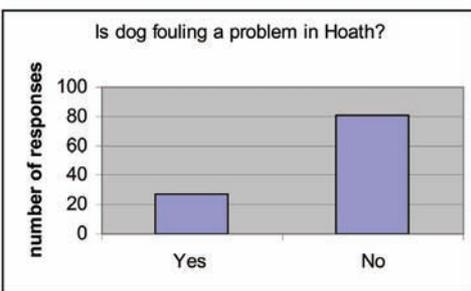
While most people did not have problem accessing footpaths, 29.3% of respondents, a significant number, reported problems.

Improving the Environment



Many households were concerned with the condition of the verges, with 60% of respondents replying that they should be cut back more often.

Most households did not perceive lack of road cleaning to be a problem here.



Most respondents did not perceive a problem with dog fouling in the village. The vote with regard to having a dog bin was fairly even with 58 saying yes and 47 saying no. The vote on further litter bins was very similar, with 67 saying yes and 50 saying no.

The majority of households would like to designate a wildlife area.

Action Points

- The footpaths where problems have been reported will be listed and passed to the Parish Council and Kent County Council for further monitoring.
- Parish Council to investigate with the City and District Councils whether we could have the verges cut more often.
- The community needs more communication about conservation areas, and what they mean.
- The Parish Council to investigate the possibility of creating designated wildlife areas.

Things we like!

Households were asked to make up to four comments about what they liked about the village. Many used this opportunity to reiterate what they had already said before in other parts of the questionnaire. There were 423 responses, variously worded, of which 80.5% are analysed in the following categories:

Category	No of responses
Quiet and peaceful	65
Rural/ nice countryside	104
Nice village/ nice people	88
Location - easy access to motorway network, the sea and to Canterbury	24
School	17
Village Hall	17
Church	11
Security/ Safety	8
No Street Lighting	8

It is clear from the above figures that what the people of Hoath value most highly is their environment. 104 responses refer to liking the rural area and enjoying the countryside and 65 to appreciating the peaceful/ quiet nature of the area.

The second most valued asset is the village and its people. 88 comments were about the pleasant atmosphere and the nice people who make up our community.

The proximity of the village to both the coast and Canterbury and ease of access to the Thanet Way generated 24 positive comments. Other assets seen as valuable to the community are the school, village hall and church which together receive 45 positive responses. Other issues which are also valued are security and safety in the village and the lack of street lighting.

It is interesting to note that there were nearly twice as many positive comments made as negative - 423 responses to question 24 and 285 to question 25.

'Wonderful walks and amazing skies'

'It is away from the hustle and bustle of the city'

'Outstanding countryside'

'Ideally located between sea and city'

Things we don't like!

The survey asked that households make up to four comments about what they disliked about the village. 285 comments were submitted, 70% of which are included in the following analysis. The remaining 30% refer to specific individual issues which are impossible to group together in general summary. Again, this section was used to re-emphasise some issues of concern which were covered elsewhere in the questionnaire.

Category	No of responses
Speeding traffic	42
Volume of traffic and size of vehicles	16
Poor condition of roads/ pavements/ verges/ hedges	22
Lack of shop/ central public house/ village green	46
Planning/ enforcement issues	24
Parking problems	18
Poor bus service	16
Maypole airstrip	12
Millbank off-road centre	4

The issues which generated the highest number of responses centre around traffic and the roads. Speeding traffic especially along Ford Hill, Maypole Road and Hoath Road causes much concern although there are comments about other areas around the village as well. This, together with concern about the volume of traffic and the size of vehicles now regularly using the village roads, generated 58 of the responses. The lack of maintenance of the road surfaces, pavements, verges and hedges and removal of litter and debris added another 22, meaning that a total of 80 of all detrimental comments were about the roads and traffic.

The second issue considered to be most relevant by residents is the lack of a cohesive village centre with no shop, central public house, or village green space. 46 comments surrounding these issues were submitted.

The third most pressing issue for villagers is planning and enforcement within a rural area and the conservation areas. 24 of the responses mention that planning restrictions are considered to be too lax and that enforcement does not take place when all too frequent breaches of planning regulations take place.

18 responses raised the issue of lack of off-road parking and the consequent problems caused by parking on roads/ verges. The main areas seen to be causing a problem are around the Prince of Wales public house, the main street of the village and the school, at certain times of the day.

16 comments were made about the poor quality of the bus service, with services finishing far too early and the inappropriateness of the type of bus being used - double deckers are thought to be too large for the area and the buses do not allow easy access for the disabled/ elderly.

Concern about undue noise from Maypole Airstrip and the off-road centre at Millbank generated 16 of the comments.

Action Plan

Issue	Ideas	Timeframe	Who	Funded by?
Housing	Residents want to have a say in the future of the village. The next step would be a village Design Statement expanding on the conclusions reached in this Plan.	Short/ medium term	Parish Council/ CCC/ KCC	KCC, CCC, ACRK
Traffic	Further traffic calming is needed, but avoid danger of “urbanising” road system.	Short term	Parish Council, Highways, KCC, CCC	KCC
Clubs/ Activities	Communication of activities through website, newsletters, very important. New clubs need to know when hall available.	Ongoing	Website, Parish Magazine, Parish Hall Committee	
Amenities	Lack of village shop/ village green/ teen facility/ surgery. Feasibility study needed on all of these.	Medium term	Parish Council, Parish Hall Committee, Community	KCC, Grants
Conservation and Environment	Hoath needs to protect rural surroundings. Conservation Area is not guaranteed to stay, so village needs to be aware of possible threats to conservation area. Look into possible Wildlife Area. Any problems with footpaths should be reported to Parish Council and dealt with urgently.	Short/ medium term	Parish Council, Community	CCC, KCC, Grants
Communication	Website, newsletter, Welcome Pack, important for village. Need central contact point on website, and Parish Magazine to get Welcome Pack.	Ongoing	Parish Council, Parish Hall Committee, Website Manager	
Security and Safety	Hoath residents are interested in having a Rural Constable, and Neighbourhood Watch scheme.	Short/ medium term	Parish Council Community Initiative	

Acknowledgements

The Hoath Parish Plan Steering committee would like to thank all the volunteers for their support and in particular:

Mr Richard Attenborough

Ms Sam Andrews

Mrs Sharon Bateman

Mr Hedley Basford

Mrs Jean Hopkins

Mrs Linda Gibson

Mr and Mrs Rowland

Mrs Val Alabaster

Mrs R Williams

Mr and Mrs R Nash

Ms Victoria Lawson of Action with Communities in Rural Kent

Ms Amanda Sparkes, CCC

Cllr Alan Marsh, KCC

Mr Roger Gale MP

Mrs Suzy Gale

Cllr Colin Chapman, Chairman, Hoath Parish Council

Cllr Michael Nugent, Hoath Parish Council

Cllr John Williams, Hoath Parish Council



**Original drawing of Hoath
Parish Church by
Rene Hummerstone 1977**

