



LISS - Parish Plan - 2013

Contents Version - 20 November 2013

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Church Street, West Liss – Painting by local artist - Gordon Rushmer

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1. Introduction

What is a Parish Plan?

Parish Plans were announced in the 2000 “Rural White Paper” which set out the Government’s plans for the countryside. The Government wants local communities to take more control of their own lives, to say what they want doing in their own neighbourhoods and to engage with local and regional stakeholder organisations to get things done.

A Parish Plan is a statement of how the local community sees itself developing over the next 20 years. It should :-

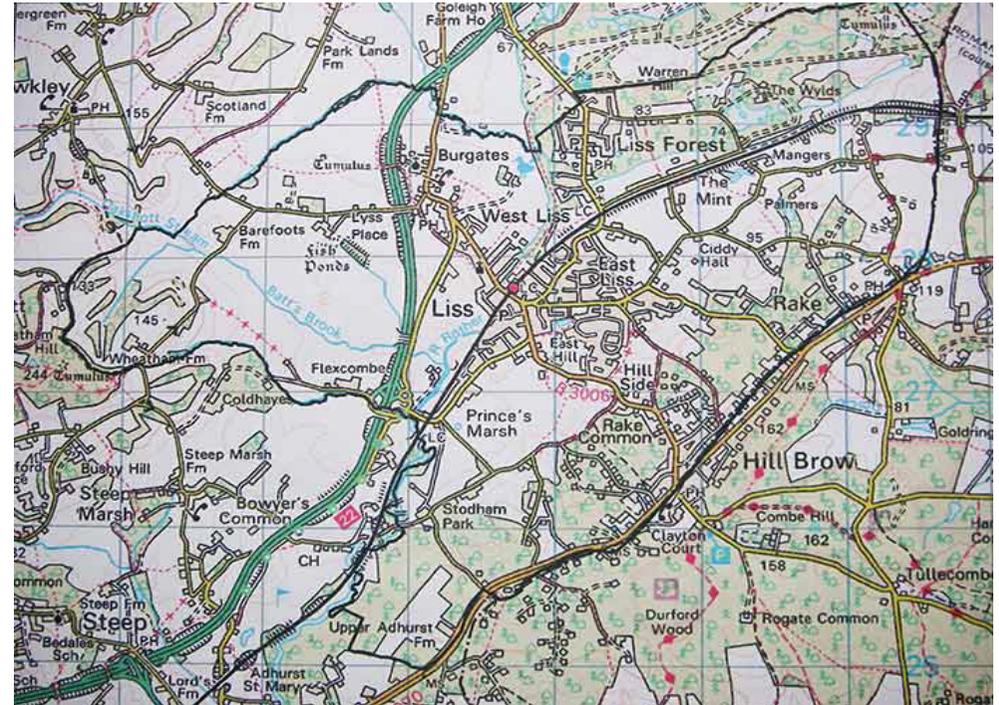
- Reflect the views of all sections of the community
- Identify which features and local characteristics people value
- Identify local problems and opportunities
- Spell out how parishioners want the community to develop over the next twenty years
- Prepare a plan of action to achieve this vision

Why do we need it?

Parish Plans can influence the policies and decisions of other bodies (such as planning policies, housing strategies, transport plans, social services) and they can help obtain grants for projects in the Parish.

Parishes around us have already produced their plans and are getting support for projects and services that their residents wanted. It is very important that Liss has its own Plan and is not left behind.

You will see from this document that a number of actions have been completed during the finalisation and endorsement of this document.



Liss Parish Boundary

Who produced it?

You – the community. From the outset Liss’ Parish Plan was a community initiative – not just from the Parish Council. It is the result of considerable local effort and public participation over many years, driven by the Liss Village Plan and Design Partnership.

An initial public meeting arranged by the Parish Council in April 2004 led by Liss Village Plan and Design Partnership together with new volunteers agreed to take the idea forward. Involvement has included a large range of age groups. The Partnership has met regularly to review progress and agree the next step. It has identified issues which could be implemented immediately by the Parish Council or other village groups and many changes have already been implemented during the life of the plan.

The Parish Council was represented on the group throughout the process.

The group communicated regularly with the parishioners by updating them through the Village Voice and the Parish Council website.

What does it cover?

The Plan covers the main concerns raised in the questionnaires and at the Exhibitions, and also the things that are important to retain, such as the type of buildings the parishioners would like to see built in the village.

The Plan is not about the Parish Council or anyone else's ideas, it's about the parishioners having their say and sharing their ideas, and then coming up with ways to make these ideas actually happen.

There are issues about the community and facilities, health services, about young people, crime, the countryside and development, traffic and transport.

How did we get to this?

From a well attended public meeting held in April 2004, many parishioners showed interest. From this a Partnership was formed that included representatives from all walks of village life and included District Councillors, Parish Councillors, Traders, Village Industrialists and of course village parishioners themselves.

The Partnership held an Exhibition in the Village Hall during February 2005. The main headings used at the Exhibition were Housing, Organisations in the Community, Facilities, Health. Post it notes / flip charts were provided and the parishioners were encouraged to write their comments down.

2020 Vision Questionnaire - summer 2005

It was felt important that all sections of the community were involved and the Partnership core group included young and old, every part of the parish, different socio-economic groups, parishioners and businesses.

The Core group did not rush into the questionnaire. Eighteen months were spent preparing it by undertaking a "Health Check" survey of what we had in the village and what was needed.

Finally the Questionnaire was delivered via the Liss Village Voice newsletter to more than 2500 homes and approximately 10% of the population of Liss returned their comments and wishes via collection points in Jade News, The Triangle Centre, The Parish Rooms and Liss Forest Post Office.

The views and comments from the exhibition and questionnaire in 2005 provided very sound foundations for the actions some of which are proposed in this plan and some of the actions have already come to fruition, such as:

- Re-configuration of the junction at The Plestor, West Liss
- Station improvements
- Block paving in Station Road
- The Crossover Centre
- Cinema held regularly at the Triangle Centre
- Courtesy crossings
- Planting trees and bulbs in the village
- Re-surfacing of some of the worst roads

Many young people also wrote in and gave the Group ideas about what they would like to see in the village. Interestingly they compared very similarly to a lot of ideas the adults wanted.

At the back of the questionnaire there was a page for young people to tell us their ideas and concerns. To widen the consultation the Group subsequently went into the Infant and Junior Schools in February 2008 and asked for their opinions and ideas.

The Liss Parish Landscape Character Assessment was compiled in 2006 and approved by the Parish Council in February 2007. A further Parish Plan Exhibition took place in June 2011. The views and comments from this

exhibition combined with an update of the 2005 Questionnaire formed the basis of the “Your Village... Your Vision ... Your Say” Parish Plan Questionnaire issued in the autumn of 2011.

Your Village... Your Vision... Your Say... – autumn 2011

The questionnaire covered the following topics:- Environment, Housing, Community, Transport, Roads & Pavements, Economy, Commerce, the South Downs National Park, Health, Village Improvements and two ongoing projects the provision of a Skatebowl which had been an outcome from the original VDS survey but as yet has not been built, and the most urgent replacement of the dilapidated sports pavilion and Scout hut on West Liss recreation ground with a purpose built multi user facility at the same location.

Again, the questionnaire asked for comments and ideas and the residents supplied a great number and variety which have taken time to analyse. The questionnaire was delivered via Liss Village Voice to more than 2500 dwellings, and it was designed so that it could be answered in hard copy or on-line on the Liss Parish Council website. This time around we made use of technology to engage with the young people of Liss by placing a shorter questionnaire on the SurveyMonkey website. In order to engage with the business community within the village a separate business questionnaire was posted to 300 local businesses.

The results have been collated and analysed and these findings are shown in the appendices at the end of the document. Pages 28 to 37

The drawing together of all the strands of information from such a multitude of responses has been time consuming and has resulted in the Parish Plan for Liss.

This document will be available as a live document on the Liss Parish Council (LPC) website

Below is a list of the raft of data we have collected from 2005 to 2011 which is available for reference in hard copy in the parish room.

Background Information

- 1 Summary list of successful outcomes during the Parish Plan Process
List of actions identified from the 2005 Questionnaire
- 2 Request to Liss Parish Council for support for the re-launch of the Parish Plan - 2011
- 3 Summary results and comments from the 3 & 4 June 2011 Exhibition
- 4 Summary reports created in 2009:-
Health
Transport
Roads and pavements
Business & commerce plus Nursing Homes
- 5 School Survey 2008
- 6 Community Organisations & Facilities Survey 2006, updated in 2011
- 7 Your Village, Your Future, Your Say Exhibition 19-20 October 2007
Report on villager’s views on environmental constraints on development in Liss
- 8 2020 Vision for Liss - Questionnaire, Results & Analysis 2005

2. Environment & Countryside

Introduction and Overview

The Parish spans the shallow vale that forms the Upper Rother Valley and includes parts of the ridges that form the valley sides Hill Brow to the east and Wheatham Hill to the west. Since its creation in April 2011 Liss has been wholly within the South Downs National Park after an active campaign for inclusion by villagers.

Liss has published a Village Design Statement and Landscape Character Assessment designed to protect the characteristics of the built and natural environments valued by the community.

Liss is important for biodiversity as it has 25 SINCs (Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation) and many important unimproved sunken lanes within the parish. Longmoor on the edge of Liss Forest is part of the Wealden Heaths Special Protection Area. The Riverside Railway Walk (RRW) is a local Nature Reserve and is managed by local volunteers.



Liss a hidden village

There is a network of actively used footpaths including the RRW which now forms part of the Shipwrights Way. Many of the paths and cycleways make

use of rural roads without pavements which offer no protection for walkers, cyclists and horse riders from road traffic.

There are now 6 allotment sites within the parish, the latest of these at Princes Bridge provided 20 plots and these were all let within the first year of completion.

South Downs National Park

The South Downs National Park Authority has statutory purposes and responsibilities to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage within the National Park area, to promote opportunities for the public understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Park and to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of communities within the Park.

The inclusion of the parish within the Park demonstrates that it contains natural and cultural assets of national importance. Specific qualities meriting National Park status include the variety and quality of landscape and wildlife, the Parish history, the distinctive character of settlements and buildings and the setting within the surrounding landscape. This is amply evidenced by the number of designated nature conservation areas and sites and the two village conservation areas.

By 2011, Liss had achieved its South Downs National Park (SDNP) status, and this was reflected at the exhibition and in the questionnaire. In both the overwhelming response from residents was that we should actively promote Liss to attract visitors to the National Park 63%, and that the local footpath network should be publicised 72%, but to counter this positive outlook, residents were not convinced that a Heritage Centre should be provided as only 40% were in favour.

Recommendations:

- Publicise Liss facilities on the LPC website for SDNP users

- Publicise local footpath network to SDNP users (10 walks leaflets produced October 2012)

The Countryside

Liss villagers have consistently argued that the preservation of the surrounding countryside and natural environment are essential.

In the survey for the original Village Design Statement back in 1999 31% of the respondents said the countryside and local scenery was one of the aspects that they most valued about living in the Parish.

This was supported by the VDS exhibition in October 2007 when villagers voted the views of hills, the sunken lanes, the birds and wildlife and the trees throughout the parish, as the top 4 characteristics which made Liss special.



Riverside Railway Walk - River Rother

The responses to the 2004 exhibition, 2005 questionnaire and subsequent surveys were all consistent with the findings from the 2011 questionnaire in

that the Riverside Railway Walk is overall the most important facility in the village. The 2011 questionnaire showed the formal open space such as the Newman Collard playing fields and the footpath network as close contenders for second place.

When comparing the 2011 questionnaire results directly with the 2005 responses the importance of the footpath network just nudged ahead. This movement is reinforced by the high level of importance given to ease of access to the countryside (38% responses gave this as their highest priority) and appreciation of the amount of wildlife, plants and trees. Of those who expressed an opinion 50% were in favour of extending the footpath network.

In the 2011 questionnaire more emphasis was placed on providing better access to both footpaths and allotments for the less able and more vulnerable residents, with 72% of those who expressed an opinion agreeing that disabled access to the footpaths should be improved, and 70% supported the idea of providing allotments designed for people with disabilities if it is possible.



Allotments at Rake Road

In both questionnaires the villagers were asked about what improvements they would like to see, and this has resulted in the following recommendations:-

Recommendations:

- Investigate the demand for allotments for people with disabilities
- Investigate practical access to the footpaths by the disabled
- Continue to maintain and improve the Riverside Railway Walk and safeguard and develop the biodiversity of the site
- Improve the safety and appearance of the White Bridge access to the Riverside Walk (completed August 2012)

Footpaths

The heavily used walking network links local footpaths, quiet roads and bridleways. The Riverside Railway Walk links to permissive walks on the MOD heathland at Longmoor and is part of the Shipwrights Way. Other rights of way link the Riverside Railway Walk to the Hangers Way and it is possible to join the Sussex Border Path, although this requires the use of minor roads as well as footpaths.

Recommendations:

- Investigate possibility of additional permissive paths
- Participate in HCC project to resurrect lost paths
- Produce new Riverside Railway Walk leaflet (January 2013)
- Improve sign posting of footpaths



Public Footpath at Palmers Farm, Rake Road



Collection of 10 walks radiating from Liss

3. Community

Introduction

Liss lies wholly within the South Downs National Park and is made up of the following settlements:-

LISS

The Victorian heart of the community is a Conservation Area that includes Rose Cottage, Summersfield Terrace and the Village Hall; it extends to the Community Centre in Mill Road, and it includes Station Road as far as the re-vamped and now residential old Crossing Gate public house (Station House). Liss Railway Station, Lower Mead and the shopping complex (Tesco) lie outside the Conservation Area.

The centre of Liss is now refurbishing itself with new developments behind the shops, the repainted Whistle Stop PH and the redeveloped Crossing Gate PH. Although some businesses remain closed Station Road has benefited from the new blockwork pavements including some widening of the western pavement. There continues to be very few trees, shrubs or flowers in the centre to break down the feel of the centre being urban along its western frontage.



Liss Junior School

WEST LISS

Is the original settlement with its 13th Century church and a variety of Victorian and Edwardian buildings reflecting its history. It now extends to the West Liss recreation ground near St Mary's Church.



The Plestor, West Liss

LISS FOREST

An Edwardian village centred on Forest Road with its shop, pub and one church. The heavily wooded land surrounding the area gives it a very rural feel. Like other comparable villages the shop is under threat and may only be viable if run by the community itself.



Liss Forest, Forest Road and The Temple PH

HILL BROW AND RAKE

These areas are heavily wooded with long views over the Rother valley. Only part of the village of Rake lies within the Parish, the remainder being within West Sussex, across the county boundary.

Social and Leisure

Overview

Although one of the largest villages in East Hampshire, with a population of 6,291 (2011 Census), it retains the spirit and character of a village.

Liss has a notable shortage of open space close to residential areas, but provides play equipment for very young children and basket ball practice areas for young people in Liss Forest and at the Newman Collard grounds. However it lacks play equipment for older children. Tennis courts are available at the Newman Collard and football pitches are located both at Newman Collard and West Liss. The village also has a cricket ground. There are 2 sports pavilions; the one in West Liss is in urgent need of rebuilding. Villagers have access to a wider range of sports or swimming in Petersfield or Alton.



Football at Newman Collard Playing Fields



Children's play area at Liss Forest rec.

The village halls in Liss and Rake and 3 churches provide meeting places for clubs and societies and can be hired for events and social functions, but none of these is suitable for playing badminton. The village also benefits from 5 public houses and the British Legion which also host events and functions

A full range of library services is available in Petersfield, Bordon & Liphook which is backed up by a valued weekly mobile service to Liss and Liss Forest. However, the nearest multiplex cinemas are in Portsmouth, Chichester and Guildford, with a more limited cinema in Alton.

The village facilities for young people are limited at weekends, as the Crossover drop in centre is only open during weekdays. For the elderly there is a very popular weekly luncheon club held in the village hall.



The Triangle Centre, Liss

The Triangle Centre which opened in 1997 using the original village school which was built in 1872 has now become the hub of village life in Liss. It caters for a full range of clubs and societies (currently 50) for all ages and interests. It also provides a coffee bar and weekday lunches and runs a regular cinema facility.

Village Life

Liss has always been a vibrant and caring community with strong social activities and this is supported by evidence from the Village Design Statement consultation where 47% of replies cited the sense of community and/or friendly village atmosphere as that which they most valued. This is backed up by subsequent surveys, exhibitions and the two questionnaires.

It is in fact the high level of volunteering and community involvement within Liss which enables it to provide such a wealth of social and leisure pursuits for residents, for instance there were more than 90 contributions to the Liss Millennium Mosaic.

In the 2005 questionnaire villagers requested the following additional recreational activities and facilities; an indoor swimming pool, bowling green, sports hall for badminton, gym, skatepark, cinema and a meeting place for teenagers.

The overwhelming issues were lack of space for expansion, the need for dedicated space for activities for the young, the dilapidation of the Scout hut and the pavilion on West Liss Recreation ground, and availability of car parking at the various venues.



*The Crossover drop in centre,
Station Road, Liss*

As a result of the 2005 questionnaire, the Crossover drop in centre for young people opened in May 2006 and has continued to supply this facility on weekdays by having a number of adult volunteers.

Responses to the questionnaire reinforced the Parish Council's attempts to develop a skatepark and to plan for re-building the West Liss pavilion.

The 2011 questionnaire highlighted the preference for an outdoor exercise trail and a bowling green, with indoor bowls and badminton being less popular.

When asking specifically about facilities for young people, the responses included requests for improved outdoor play equipment especially at Newman Collard, indoor sporting facilities, more outdoor facilities, courts and pitches and a bike track.

When comparing the results from 2005 & 2006 with the results from the 2011 exhibition and questionnaire, and consolidating the additional 400 separate comments, it is noteworthy that adult respondents made many more suggestions about activities and facilities that were needed for teenagers than for their own age-group.

The responses from the young people's SurveyMonkey on-line questionnaire (see Appendix 2) showed that 77% valued the recreation grounds around the village. The young people also said they would use an outside exercise trail or gym.

Liss Parish Council Projects

The opportunity of the 2011 questionnaire was taken to determine the level of support in the community for two major Liss Council projects.

The two major Liss Parish Council projects are the provision of a skatebowl and the new West Liss Pavilion.

Skatebowl

This project has been in existence for more than 12 years and has proved to be controversial. The requirement is to provide a skatebowl facility on a suitable site and Liss Parish Council has yet to make a formal decision as to whether or not to progress the project further, which is dependent upon the site meeting all the outstanding criteria.

More land for public open space may become available as a result of future development in the village. Although this is still uncertain.

The youth support the project as did the 36 responses from adults and 10 responses from the young people in the 2005 questionnaire, but when the question was asked in the 2011 questionnaire the adult responses were:-

19 responses had no view and of those expressing a view 36% were in favour but 59% were not supportive of the project.

When asked if they would use the facility if provided 23 expressed no view only 5% would use it and 89% responded that they would not.

However, the summarised results from the young peoples SurveyMonkey on-line questionnaire where 82 expressed a view on the provision of a skatebowl shown below give a different perspective:-

When asked specifically whether they would use a Skatebowl 64 said yes which equates to 65% of all respondents. 38 replies volunteered the skatebowl as their preferred improvement to the village and 46 replies volunteered the skatebowl as one of the top 3 improvements to Liss.

West Liss Pavilion



*Logo designed by
Jools Woodhouse*

This project is to replace the existing West Liss Pavilion and 1st Liss Scout Hut which are both in a very poor state, with a single new purpose built multi use facility in the same location. In the 2011 questionnaire 91% of those who expressed a view were in favour of the project and 61% of those who expressed a view agreed with the increase in precept for 2 years to provide funding.

As a result of the active support shown by the community the project for a new pavilion is now being actively pursued with planning permission granted and fund raising ongoing. It takes into account the wishes of the villagers and the user groups, and a number of activities new to the village are being considered such as indoor bowls and informal badminton. The main and small halls are planned to attract both social and commercial private hire.

Recommendations:

- Liss Parish Council should endeavour to find a conclusion to the issue of providing a skatebowl facility
- Liss Parish Council should conduct a review of all the playground equipment within the parish with the aim to provide more equipment for use by older children (9yrs plus). (Project underway January 2013)
- Liss Parish Council should investigate the feasibility of providing a bike track
- Investigations should be made of the feasibility of providing an outdoor exercise trail

Other Community Outcomes

Other outcomes relating to Community from the 2005 questionnaire are backed up by the evidence from the 2011 questionnaire giving rise to the following:-

- more and a higher profile of policing / traffic wardens in all its forms in the village to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour
- reduce litter in village centre / cleanliness of pavement outside of Tesco
- more trees and flowers in the village centre
- more benches and bins
- enforcement / clearing up of dog mess / more bins
- public toilets available during daylight hours
- cutting back of hedges that impinge upon signage, road junction sight lines and pavements

One issue that has arisen from the 2011 questionnaire is the need for better communication and publicity of events and facilities around the village possibly by way of websites and the interlinking thereof.

Recommendations:

- Enforce dog fouling infringements. (Liss Parish Council has these powers 2012)
- Encourage residents to cut back their hedges that impinge upon signage, road junction sight lines and pavements
- Lobby Network Rail to provide a bench within their curtilage next to the telephone box so that the elderly can sit whilst the level crossing is down for long periods of time
- Encourage Liss organisations with websites to interlink them so that the widest range of residents can access information about Liss facilities and events. This should extend to include various agencies eg SDNP, EHDC

- Liss Parish Council should remind retailers of their responsibility to keep their frontages clean
- Encourage community groups to adopt and maintain trees and flowers in the village centre
- Ensure existing toilets available for use by the public are well signed. (Completed 2012)

Health Facilities

Overview

According to the NHS website (18-2-2013) 81.6% consider themselves to be in good or very good health whilst 5.5% consider themselves to be in bad or very bad health, and the 2009 ONS Health Data gave the life expectancy of villagers as 77.6 years.

The population change in age group from 2001 to 2011 shows that there has been an increase in the number of villagers aged from 60 yrs to 90 yrs and above. The greatest increase in number occurs in those aged 60 yrs to 64 yrs and 65 yrs to 74 yrs (320 to 480 and 500 to 740 respectively).

The level of healthcare provision in Liss includes 2 doctor's surgeries, a pharmacy and one private dental practice which opened following the closure of the NHS dental facility in 2006. The nearest NHS dentists are in Petersfield and Bordon, the latter only being realistically accessed by car due to the woeful lack of public transport between Liss and Bordon (only 1 bus on a Wednesday morning).

There are no hospitals in Liss, but Community hospitals in Petersfield and Bordon have limited facilities (maternity unit at Petersfield). The local specialist facilities in Petersfield face continual threats in the current financial circumstances as shown by the closure of the Dementia Unit in Petersfield and its move to Gosport.

Liss residents needing full hospital services have to travel as far as Portsmouth, Guildford, Winchester or Basingstoke which present significant problems if using public transport.

In analysing the 2011 questionnaire results the greatest issue for patients and visitors was the inability to use public transport to reach the hospitals, particularly those further afield in Portsmouth and Guildford (87% were unable to use public transport thereby having to use their cars).

Villagers still wish for an NHS dentist in the village as the nearest NHS dentists are located in Petersfield and Bordon.

Recommendations:

- Campaign for the retention of local health facilities in the light of inadequate public transport links.

4. Housing

Introduction and Overview

According to the 2011 census figures, there are 2516 households in Liss with 688 being one person households, and of these 15% are pensioners and 13% classed as other. Regarding the tenure of dwellings in Liss 74.6% are privately owned with 12% being rented from the Council or Housing Association and the remaining 13.4% being rented or other tenure eg shared ownership. The parish also has a large number of care home places by way of 12 establishments for the elderly (362 places) and also provides sheltered / supported accommodation at The Grange, Rakelands, Winchester Apartments, and Whitegates for those with learning disabilities.

The East Hampshire District Local Plan – Joint Core Strategy (yet to be adopted) in its summary of the strategy and future role of Liss states that no new greenfield housing allocations are proposed for open market housing, but affordable housing provision is proposed through the allocation of sites to meet an identified local affordable housing need (25 dwellings).

There is a Reserve Site “Inwood Road” in the EHDC Local Plan Second Review which suggested 25 dwellings and the EHDC Development Brief for the site supports this number. This site has a planning application.

The requirement for affordable housing is supported by the Hampshire Home Choice register run by EHDC, Winchester, Havant and Test Valley in partnership, and there is a need in Liss for affordable housing. Applicants wanting to live in Liss have to show a strong local connection.

At the beginning of February 2013 the housing needs in Liss (Hampshire Home Choice register) showed those registered for Liss with a local connection being:-

1 bed 68
2 bed 35

3 bed 12

4 bed 7

Giving a total requirement of 122.

Any new housing development would have to meet the requirements of the South Downs National Park.

Further requirements would be imposed for a large site close to the Wealden Heaths Special protected Area.

Housing - Villagers Views

There has been consultation with the community over a number of years about housing in Liss.

In 2000 there was a single application for 150 dwellings on a greenfield site beyond the settlement boundary. This led to the community producing a formal statement of its wishes through the Liss Village Design Statement (VDS) after wide spread consultation. Further consultation was undertaken before the Second Review of the EHDC Local Plan.

Key preferences were that:-

- New developments should be ideally of no more than 30 houses, and should be spread around the settlements
- Residents favoured housing located close to the schools to reduce the need to use the car
- Low cost and affordable housing should be properly integrated with other housing and not grouped together. They should be built to the same design standards as other housing on the same site
- That housing design and location within the environment should follow the communities view as expressed through the Village Design Statement

This approach has been recently confirmed through the consultation on the revised VDS which has just been completed. The principles outlined in the VDS have been successfully followed in recent developments such as the Crossing Gate resulting in attractive developments sympathetic to their setting.

There has however been no recent formal comprehensive assessment of housing need in Liss although an attempt has been made to gauge views through the questionnaires and exhibitions.

The 2005 questionnaire showed that the greatest preference for any new housing is for 2 bedroom properties as there is concern about a lack of property available for current children to remain in the village rather than having to go elsewhere – namely cheaper areas to live.

This is reflected in a desire for housing that people can afford as either that provided by Housing Associations (affordable housing) or through private rented or cheaper market housing.

The 2011 exhibition sought specifically to address the issue of whether there is a shortage of housing in Liss. Although not many villagers addressed the issue, some 80% believed there was no housing shortage despite the evidence from Hampshire Home Choice register.

Comments at the exhibition and responses to the 2011 questionnaire also backed up the evidence from the 2005 questionnaire in highlighting the fact that whilst Liss has a great number and range of care/nursing/residential homes for the elderly it has a shortage of sheltered or supported accommodation such as Rother House.

In analysing the 2011 questionnaire it became apparent that there has been no overall change to the responses received in the 2005 questionnaire and that the main shortage of properties is for 2 bedrooms. This was supported at the June 2011 Exhibition although the response rate was low.

We recognise that provision of housing is subject to HM Government strategy and the Local Planning Authorities and is outside our control.

Recommendations:

- The wishes of villagers for the design of any new housing development as expressed in the VDS should be followed by developers
- A comprehensive housing needs survey for Liss should be carried out to establish the future needs of the community for both private and social housing

5. Traffic, Transport & Access

Introduction and Overview

Liss is considered a small local service centre in the settlement hierarchy of the yet to be adopted East Hampshire District Local Plan – Joint Core Strategy (chapter 4). With regard to transport, Liss is close to the A3(T) with access points at Ham Barn roundabout, Flexcombe to the south and near Greatham to the north. There is therefore a significant traffic flow accessing the A3(T) through Liss and this includes heavy lorries.



Old postcard showing Liss crossing circa mid 1920's

The main Waterloo to Portsmouth railway line runs through Liss and is crossed by a level crossing at Liss station. This crossing causes significant problems for traffic flows because of the length of time the crossing is closed per hour.

Villagers need to access facilities outside Liss. Most shopping, banking, leisure facilities and the District Council offices are available in Petersfield, along with secondary education which is also provided in Alton and Liphook.

Villagers are required to travel to Alton and Havant for college, to Cosham for full hospital services, to Alton for the Magistrate's Court and Havant for full benefit services.

The Hampshire Local Transport Plan 2011 - 2031 sees Liss as having an essential role as a service centre for its rural hinterland.

The basic car ownership information from respondents to the 2005 questionnaire showed 10% having no car or van, 10% having one vehicle and 80% having two or more vehicles. So the level of vehicles ownership is high and according to the 2011 Census the trend has been for the number of householders with cars to rise by 1% across Hampshire. This is reflected in the inadequate availability of public transport in the area, particularly across county boundaries.

Results from the Health Checks in 2000, the exhibition in February 2005 and the 2005 2020 Vision Questionnaire and those of the subsequent June 2011 exhibition and Your Village... Your Vision ... Your Say 2011 questionnaire all produced a large volume of opinions and comments. A number of key issues were raised:-

- Public Transport
- Courtesy Crossings
- Car Parking
- Speeding
- Traffic Calming
- Roads & Pavements
- Ham Barn roundabout

In 2011 as part of the young people's SurveyMonkey on-line questionnaire we wanted to find out how they travelled to school, for shopping, sports and leisure activities. Ninety eight young people responded and of these 28% were aged 10 to 14 yrs and 67% were aged 15 to 19 yrs. The analysis reveals:-

47% use the bus to get to school / college closely followed by 22% using a bicycle and 17% being taken by car. For accessing other pursuits 42% used the train, whilst 26% used a bicycle and 28% were taken by car. However, some of the journeys by car could well have been by young people able to drive either a vehicle of their own or that of a parent or guardian.

Public Transport

Liss lies on the main Waterloo to Portsmouth line but only has one stopping train per hour in each direction outside of the morning and evening rush hours and the railway station has restricted opening hours. There is a very limited bus service to the larger towns and villages, with one bus an hour to and from Petersfield and only 5 daily services running to and from Alton.

There is no evening, Sunday or Public Holiday bus service which limits those wishing to use Liss as a hub for exploring the South Downs National Park. The 73 bus service to Bordon or Petersfield only runs on a Wednesday morning.

There is also a well used “Call and Go” service available on Wednesday mornings to take passengers into Petersfield, which is run by Community Transport East Hampshire using mini buses.

The problem remains that to use public transport to get to any of the major hospitals (QA in Portsmouth, Royal Surrey in Guildford or the County hospital in Winchester) requires one or more changes, takes a very long time and is expensive. This was borne out in 2011 questionnaire where 87% said they were unable to use public transport to access a hospital and the 13% that could, were attending the local hospital in Petersfield.

There is no direct service to Aldershot which potentially will house the only Magistrate’s court for the area in the future.

The evidence from both the 2005 and 2011 exhibitions and questionnaires showed that public transport is used by a low number of respondents on a regular basis, and the main comments and issues raised were:-

- Wanted a greater frequency of services ie reinstatement of 2 trains per hour

- Why have both the trains and buses departing Liss at approximately the same time ie train at 6 mins past hour to Petersfield and the bus leaving at 15 mins past the hour
- Lack of bus services in evenings and at weekends
- Railway station to be open longer for ticket purchase
- Ticket machine to be relocated so as not affected by direct sunlight
- Lack of use of 73 bus to Bordon on a Wednesday will result in this service being lost
- 37% of respondents in 2011 questionnaire would consider using a community bus

Since the 2005 questionnaire the 72 bus service to Alton has been combined with the 38 service to provide a through service from Alton via Liss and Petersfield to Havant.

Clearly the restricted services limit the options of those without cars particularly the young and the elderly.

Recommendations:

- Improve bus service at weekends/evenings
Actions: Approach SDNPA re improving access to Park for visitors
Build on need for Bordon Eco Town to have good bus links to Petersfield via Liss – EHDC and HCC
- Improve usage of 73 bus to Bordon
Actions: Change timing of 73 to Bordon to allow greater stopping time in Bordon
- Publicise information about useful connections (bus & train) to access hospitals via the Liss Surgeries
- Investigate possibility of a Community bus in Liss
- Promote the existing “Call and Go” Wednesday morning service to Petersfield
- Install shade over the station ticket machine to enable easier use
Actions: Approach Network Rail

Courtesy Crossings

The villagers would prefer Zebra crossings but as Liss didn't meet the required pedestrian numbers criteria to allow for zebra, pelican or penguin crossings the two courtesy crossings were installed following the 2005 exhibition and questionnaire.

The issue of crossing Station road and Hill Brow road in the village centre is still a major concern and this was raised in the 2011 exhibition and questionnaire with particular regard to the children alighting from the school buses and wanting to get to the shops across the road.

The crossing by Andlers Ash Road is satisfactory, but this issue in the centre of the village needs looking at again now the improvement works have been completed at the lay-by outside Tesco relating to the bus stop.

Recommendations:

- Investigate the possibility of a crossing opposite Lower Mead after assessing the impact of the new Tesco bus bay engineering
- Improve visibility of courtesy crossings by repainting with longer lasting paint
- Investigate installing signage for courtesy crossings

Car Parking

The parking in the short stay approved bays in Station Road causes a serious hazard of traffic tailing back over the level crossing when drivers enter the hatched area between the level crossing gates without ensuring a clear exit.

Car parking remains high on the list of concerns and has done so since the 2005 exhibition and questionnaire. However since then 5 short term parking spaces have been provided between the mini roundabout and level crossing at the request of the traders, and surveys of car park usage indicate

that the free car parks in Liss centre are being increasingly used, as is the private car park in Lower Mead behind Tesco. In the 2005 questionnaire 75% said they had no problem in parking in the village and the figure from the 2011 questionnaire was 81% indicating that Liss has sufficient parking provision at the moment, but problems occur in the following locations due to unauthorised parking:-

- Station Road congestion when the level crossing gates are closed (up to 24 minutes on the hour)
- Hill Brow Road outside and close to the schools at school times
- St Mary's Road and Station Road on Sundays
- Bus stop lay-by outside Tesco.
- Outside Whistle Stop PH adjacent to mini roundabout



Traffic congestion at Station Road level crossing

The evidence of the 2011 exhibition and questionnaire shows inconsiderate car parking as being a double edged sword. As parked cars on the highway act as a traffic calming measure forcing the speed of vehicles to be reduced, but in the bus lay-by outside of Tesco parked cars were causing real danger to other road uses and pedestrians.

At both the exhibition in 2011 and in the questionnaire significant concern was expressed about the problems caused to parents with buggies and to wheelchair users by parking on pavements.

Since April 2012 East Hampshire District Council has been responsible for Decriminalised Parking resulting in Civil Enforcement Officers patrolling our streets on a regular basis enforcing the parking regulations. This should result in a marked improvement in the overall unauthorised parking situation.

In 2012 the Tesco lay-by was realigned providing 3 short term parking spaces with the bus stop being moved towards the Linden Drive junction. It is hoped that this will regularise the situation. It is understood that yellow lining in the village centre is to be repainted.

Discussions are in hand with LPC and HCC Highways dept regarding how to improve the car parking situation outside the schools in Hill Brow Road, and some action has already been taken.

Recommendations:

- Increase enforcement of parking regulations throughout the village
- Enforce prevention of illegal parking outside the schools as a high priority
- Prevent parking on pavements

Speeding

The issue of speeding particularly on the main access roads to the village has been the subject of much discussion with aspects raised from all the public consultation exercises.

- The 30mph limit is not enforced
- Traffic accelerates to get across the railway crossing before the barriers come down – Station road

- Lack of signage regarding the schools on Hill Brow Road. As this is a hill there are often excessive speeds when travelling down the hill towards the village centre
- Suggestion for a 20mph limit in the village centre and outside the schools (29 respondents 2011)
- Extend 30mph limit beyond the built up area as lanes used by walkers eg Reeds Lane expected to be part of The Shipwrights Way - a new long-distance route linking Alice Holt Forest to the sea at Portsmouth when complete

Since the 2011 questionnaire the Parish Council has invested in a mobile TSR (Temporary Speed Reminder) sign that is activated by vehicles approaching at more than 33mph. This sign is relocated around the village every 2 weeks and the data collected since December 2011 has been very revealing and worrying.

The evidence will be used by LPC in conjunction with the Police Traffic Section and Hampshire County Council Highways to find solutions to some of our traffic problems.

The first instance of such action is the range of ideas discussed regarding the speeding situation outside the schools. The expected outcomes are:-

- Provision of new Children/School signs on the approaches to the school.
- New SLOW markings in the road on the approaches to the school.
- Possible removal of centre/warning white lining and provision of edge of carriageway markings to provide a visually narrower road.

HCC are also trialling the 20mph signs through the Street Sense initiative and it may be possible to apply for such signage in areas of the village if it would have a beneficial impact on the “Quality of Life” of the residents. This would be applicable outside the schools, and may be used elsewhere. It is expected that LPC will be pursuing this.

Recommendations:

- Enforce speed limits
- Keep under review the possibility of introducing a 20mph limit on some Liss roads
- Investigate the possibility of extending 30mph limit beyond the built up areas where roads are used by walkers

Traffic Calming

Traffic calming measures are being considered outside the schools on Hill Brow Road, and their effectiveness should be assessed.

On street car parking acts as low key traffic calming but more intrinsic measures are requested by those using the routes and not wanted by the residents along the routes. This was evidenced in the results from the exhibition and questionnaire of 2011:-

- 50% of all respondents wanted traffic calming measures
- 39% of all respondents didn't want such measures

The roads where traffic calming was most requested in 2011 were prioritised as Hill Brow Road (including schools), Station Road, Rake Road, Andlers Ash Road and Forest Road. Ideas submitted included chicanes as in Greatham, speed humps and the imposition of 20mph speed limit.

Recommendations:

- Review the effectiveness of the measures implemented outside the schools before considering the desirability of further traffic calming measures

Roads and Pavements

There is continuing evidence from residents that the pavement surfaces around the village are in a deteriorating state, many being uneven and disintegrating (eg Rushfield Road, Greenfields).

In the 2011 exhibition improving road surfaces and improving pavement surfaces came 2nd and 4th in the priorities for improving highways in Liss, showing that these issues were still of significant concern although less of a concern than speeding.

In 2005 the questionnaire asked residents about the state of repair of the pavements and roads, and which needed improvement. The results showed that 63% of respondents were not satisfied with the current state of the pavements and roads in the parish whilst 37% were satisfied.

In 2011 this specific question wasn't asked, but a large number of comments were received – those with greatest support being:-

- Improve the pavement area outside of Tesco – this is a privately owned frontage, but as it slopes it becomes very hazardous in icy weather.
- Improve pavement surfaces generally in the village
- Extend pavements outside the settlement policy boundary
- Cut back hedges alongside pavements as overgrown hedges cause problems for parents with buggies and wheelchair users

It should be noted that since the 2005 questionnaire HCC have widened the pavement on the western side of Station Road within the village centre and provided a new block pavement surface from the level crossing to the mini roundabout and beyond to The Mead junction.

This improvement within the Liss Conservation area has benefited the residents, and also had a positive effect by way of enhancing the whole village centre.

Within 2012 HCC has now provided an extended pavement along Forest Road to the MoD car park and the Riverside Railway Walk.

The top section of Hill Brow Road has been fully resurfaced, and resurfacing work is also scheduled for Forest Road from Temple Road to Forest Corner in 2013 and in subsequent years the resurfacing of Mill Road.

Recommendations:

- Improve pavement in front of Tesco
Action: Parish clerk to write to private owner
- Pavement from Liss Forest to Longmoor MoD car park (Completed summer 2012)
- New pavement on Station Road from St Mary's Road junction to West Liss Recreation ground car park
- Set up and implement a project to monitor and improve the pavement surfaces in the village

Ham Barn Roundabout

The Hindhead Tunnel was opened in July 2011 and there are concerns that increased traffic is impacting on the roundabout which is the only one between Portsmouth and London. Development of the Bordon Eco Town will inevitably also increase the volume of traffic using the A3(T) and the local road network.

The problems raised by villagers were:

- Increased waiting times from the B3006 to access or cross the roundabout at peak times
- Potential danger in accessing the roundabout from B3006 due to increased traffic volumes
- If the roundabout is removed, there will be increased traffic flows heavily impacting the local road network especially Andlers Ash Road, Forest Road and Greatham

Following a meeting with the Highways Agency in March 2011 they confirmed that NO works would be undertaken until 2015 at the earliest. The Highways Agency also said that the views of local residents would be canvassed and taken into account.

Recommendations:

- Monitor the problems experienced by villagers using the Ham Barn roundabout
- Ensure the Highways Agency; HCC and EHDC are made aware of the villagers views on any planned options to change the roundabout

Cycle Routes

The existing cycle routes through Liss require the use of busy, narrow roads. When asked in the questionnaire whether Liss should develop a network of cycle tracks 65% said yes as against 25% who said no.

Comments in the exhibition called for more off road cycle tracks and in particular for cycle tracks linking the village to the school.

Recommendations:

- Investigate developing and improving cycle network

Other Issues

The other main topics raised by residents included:

- The need for the hedges and trees at road junctions to be adequately pruned to maintain sight lines at the junctions.
- Need to increase the number of drop down kerb crossing points for wheelchairs and mobility scooters
- The level of HGV traffic through the village particularly along Andlers Ash Road
- Improved lighting on footpaths

6. Commerce

Introduction and Overview

Most villagers are employed outside Liss with a significant proportion travelling more than 30 miles to work. For those working within the parish, there are approximately 300 businesses falling into 3 categories: Retail, Other businesses with premises, Businesses operating from home plus 12 care homes for the elderly and 4 for people with learning difficulties. The number of care homes is a much higher proportion than would be expected for a community of this size. In addition sheltered living accommodation is provided at 3 establishments.

There is a limited range of employment sites – 3 sites within the parish (Liss Business Centre - 22 units, Mainline Business Centre - 11 units & Brows Farm - 10 office units) and 2 sites on the periphery at Adhurst and Rake.

Business units at the Mainline Business Centre alongside Liss Railway Station



The digital infrastructure supporting businesses and the general public is limited and broadband speed and availability varies significantly around Liss.

Although the village shops are well supported, like most communities of its size Liss has a declining mixture of essential shops. It no longer supports a

specialist butcher or greengrocer and there is no bank or building society, although there is a cash point facility. Data from an independent retail survey in 2012 showed 38 units (3 vacant), and of those:-

- 23 were A1 eg hairdressers and shops
- 3 were A3 use (cafe & restaurants)
- 3 were A5 use (take-aways)



Period shops within Conservation Area, Station Road, Liss

When looking at the hospitality offered within Liss this is well catered for by the 5 public houses, the British Legion and a wide range of restaurants and take-a-ways offering a variety of cuisine including Indian, Italian, Chinese and Fish & Chips, all of which appear to be doing moderately well.

The exhibitions and the 2011 Business questionnaire that was sent to all the local businesses provided the following evidence and recommendations.

See Appendix 3 2011 Questionnaire and the summary findings Page 34/35

The Retail Sector

This sector has decreased in size over the last few years. In the 1980's and 90's there were groups of shops in Liss Forest, West Liss and both sides of

the level crossing that runs through the main village areas. Now, other than the odd retail premises all the rest are in the main village centre. The average retail business time occupancy has dropped from 16.2 years in 2005 to only 8 years in 2011.

The recent re-development of the Crossing Gate PH site to residential coupled with the new block paving in Station Road and the repainting of many of the businesses has enhanced the village centre, but more could be done to improve the ambience especially at the Lower Mead development.



Lower Mead, Liss village Centre

(Please see the Community Section for recommendations to improve the ambience of Liss village centre page 11).

Other Businesses Occupying Premises

The businesses in 2011 have been in existence for an average of 13 years and utilise an average floor area of 286 Sq m. It is disconcerting that 28% of respondents cited difficulty in finding suitable premises as a constraint, as

43% also anticipated requiring more space and may be forced to move from the area.

The range of businesses include:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Software House | Manufacturer of Rubber Mouldings |
| Electronics | Property Management |
| Retail and Interior Design | Travel Management/Consultancy |
| Tax Accountant | Communications Consultant |
| Chartered Accountant | Transport Provider |
| Lettings and Serviced Offices | Garden Machinery |
| Webcasting/Video Production | Training Consultant |
| Day Nursery/After School Club | Corporate Communications |
| Oak Frame Buildings | Office Refurbishment |
| Garage | Business Centre |
| Old Peoples Home | |

These companies returned the Business Survey Questionnaire – so there are many more business examples.

Businesses Operated From Home

This sector is a mix of services (plumbing, heating, decorating, window cleaning, taxi services, bed and breakfast, professional consultants, computer software, accountants etc). The 2011 questionnaire showed that a third of businesses working from home would be looking for premises within the next 3 years, but the concerns were cost, location and the availability of short leases. The majority are content to continue operating from home.

Nursing Homes

A survey was undertaken in December 2009 providing the following results:- Ten care homes responded catering for 285 residents and providing 24 hour nursing care. These homes employed 171 daytime staff and 31 night time staff. The method of travel to work (131 by car, 38 walk, 17 by train

and 30 use bus, car share or bike) indicates that most of the staff are not local Liss residents. On looking at the whole district of East Hampshire there are 1071 beds in 32 homes, with 403 beds and 16 homes being based in Liss. Thus 37% of the beds and 50% of the care homes are located in the Parish.

This would indicate that the care home provision in the East Hampshire District area is over concentrated in Liss and this in turn places a strain on the local medical, dental and specialist infrastructure.

Outcomes

In general from the 2011 questionnaire 82% of businesses employed staff with the average level of employees being 9. A majority of respondents, 82% gave a positive reaction to the South Downs National Park, feeling that it would attract a higher footfall.

However the same constraints to business were evidenced in 2011:-

- Rents
- Business rates
- Size of premises
- Competition (presence of supermarket discourages specialist food outlets)
- Bank charges
- Availability of short leases

The other major concerns highlighted by all types of business and residents included:-

- Need to shorten the length of time the level crossing is closed to traffic in Station Road
- Broadband is inadequate and vital according to 95% of businesses, with faster speeds being critical
- Inadequate mobile phone reception / signal strength

Local Economy

Similar questions were asked in the questionnaires regarding the local economy and the results showed a high level of commitment to the businesses within the village.

But for those in employment the range of distances travelled to work remained remarkably similar with the most noticeable trend being an increase from 15% to 26% in those having to travel more than 30 miles.

When it comes to spending money in the village the results in 2011 showed that 60% of respondents spent up to £20 and 27% spent between £21 and £50 per week in the village shops although only 5% of respondents said they undertook their main food shop in Liss.

As a society we are increasingly using the internet and the questionnaire results emphasises this with the percentage buying groceries off the internet rose from 11% to 17%.

A very encouraging result in 2011 is that support for the pubs, restaurants and take-aways in the village is high, at 72%.

We now have a bakers and a greengrocer facility is provided every Thursday morning at the Triangle Centre.

Overall the range of shops has increased including clothes hire, a betting shop, funeral directors, dance shop, wool shop and an estate agent. The number of restaurants and take-aways has also increased. A number of these and other outlets have fulfilled the request from villagers for a “café culture” in Liss.

Local businesses actively participate in supporting community events such as the Liss Christmas Fair, and this is highly valued by villagers. Local businesses also help the Triangle Centre by sponsoring their website, newsletter and film nights. The Crossover centre is also aided by involvement by local businesses.

Recommendations:

- Need to offer flexible modern accommodation for start ups and business expansions serviced by high level digital infrastructure
- Encourage the business community to form a “Chamber of Trade” to facilitate the retention and expansion of businesses
- Retailers Association or Forum to discuss their respective concerns

Digital Infrastructure

It is essential for the working community in Liss to have access to high speed broadband and full coverage for mobile phones. There is some cable network in the Parish but it is not universally available.

The 2011 questionnaire shows that 33% of villagers had problems with mobile reception and broadband. It is of concern that a lack of effective broadband may also increasingly prove a disadvantage to young people in education. It is therefore a priority to obtain faster broadband. There is a need for a campaign to encourage schools, households and businesses to sign up on the Hampshire CC website (as mentioned in issue 33 of Village Voice dated October 2012).

Recommendations:

- Carry out a campaign to encourage households and businesses to register need for faster broadband on HCC website by issuing a simple factual flyer to these groups
- Develop village website to ensure visitors to the SDNP are aware of the businesses and facilities in Liss
- Improve mobile reception in Liss by lobbying providers

Other Issues

Litter dropping in the village and Riverside Walk is a problem due to the villagers in the main and not visitors. LPC should ask the retailers to sweep up outside their premises and keep shop fronts clean and tidy.

Recommendations:

- LPC should remind Tesco and other retailers of their responsibility to keep the area outside their premises clean

7. Action Plan

Our vision for the future of Liss village is that it should be a vibrant, mixed aged, sustainable, rural community which :

- Offers a pleasant, friendly, attractive and safe environment in which to live
- Supports its vulnerable residents
- Provides a good range of shops, restaurants and pubs in the community reducing the need to travel
- Supports a wide range of local social and sporting facilities for all ages
- Values and maintains its wild places so that the community can enjoy recreational access to the countryside and wildlife
- Recognises the need for development which meets local requirements and is sympathetic to the position in the landscape and within the SDNP
- Offers an environment for the development and growth of small local businesses and employment for residents
- Ensures good public and community transport to the services which are not provided in the village

and will be achieved through implementation of the following grouped recommendations by specified groups and or organisations within a definite time frame.

A Expand well publicised facilities and events and organisations to villages and visitors alike.

Action: Liss Parish Council, Triangle Centre, to produce a plan by December 2013

- Publicise Liss facilities on the LPC website for SDNP users
- Develop village website to ensure visitors to the SDNP are aware of the businesses and facilities in Liss

- Encourage Liss organisations with websites to interlink them so that the widest range of residents can access information about Liss facilities and events. This should extend to include various agencies eg SDNP, EHDC .

B Improve the facilities for older children and young people to exercise within the village.

Action: Liss Parish Council to facilitate this by end of 2013

- Liss Parish Council should endeavour to find a conclusion to the issue of providing a skatebowl facility
- Liss Parish Council should conduct a review of all the playground equipment within the parish with the aim to provide more equipment for use by older children (9yrs plus)
- Liss Parish Council should investigate the feasibility of providing a bike track
- Investigations should be made of the feasibility of providing an outdoor exercise trail

C Emphasise the outstanding countryside within the SDNP, and how to explore it further.

Action: Produce series of leaflets for walks centred on Liss. Endeavour to expand the range of permissive paths by working with HCC and SDNP. (Walks leaflets completed during 2012)

- Continue to maintain and improve the Riverside Railway Walk and safeguard and develop the biodiversity of the site
- Investigate possibility of additional permissive paths
- Participate in HCC project to resurrect lost paths
- Publicise local footpath network to SDNP users (10 walks leaflets produced October 2012)
- Produce new Riverside Railway Walk leaflet (January 2013)
- Improve sign posting of footpaths
- Investigate developing and improving cycle network

- Improve the safety and appearance of the White Bridge access to the Riverside Walk (completed August 2012)

D Improve the quality of life for our more elderly and vulnerable villagers by providing more facilities.

Action: Liss Parish Council to work with those who can provide such improvements.

- Investigate the demand for allotments for people with disabilities
- Investigate practical access to the footpaths by the disabled
- Lobby Network Rail to provide a bench within their curtilage next to the telephone box so that the elderly can sit whilst the level crossing is down for long periods of time

E Improve traffic management which enables residents to move around more confidently and safely than they can do today.

Action: Liss Parish Council in conjunction with HCC Highways, EHDC and Highways Agency

- Investigate the possibility of a crossing opposite Lower Mead after assessing the impact of the new Tesco bus bay engineering
- Improve visibility of courtesy crossings by repainting with longer lasting paint
- Increase enforcement of parking regulations throughout the village
- Enforce prevention of illegal parking outside the schools as a high priority
- Prevent parking on pavements
- Enforce speed limits
- Keep under review the possibility of introducing a 20mph limit on some Liss roads
- Investigate the possibility of extending 30mph limit beyond the built up areas where roads are used by walkers

- Improve pavement in front of Tesco
- Pavement from Liss Forest to Longmoor MoD car park (completed 2012)
- New pavement on Station road from St Mary's road junction to West Liss Recreation ground car park
- Set up and implement a project to monitor and improve the pavement surfaces in the village
- Review the effectiveness of the measures implemented outside the schools before considering the desirability of further traffic calming measures
- Monitor the problems experienced by villagers using the Ham Barn roundabout
- Ensure the Highways Agency; HCC and EHDC are made aware of the villagers views on any planned options to change the roundabout
- Investigate installing signage for courtesy crossings

F Ensure that the provision of public transport is maintained or even enhanced.

Action: LPC to work with the the providers. Approach SDNPA re improving access to South Downs National Park for visitors. Approach EHDC and HCC to build on need for Bordon Eco Town to have good bus links to Petersfield via Liss. Change timing of 73 bus to Bordon to allow greater stopping time in Bordon. Approach Network Rail regarding ticket facilities.

- Improve bus service at weekends/evenings
- Improve usage of 73 bus to Bordon
- Publicise information about useful connections (bus & train) to access hospitals via the Liss Surgeries
- Investigate possibility of a Community bus in Liss
- Promote the existing "Call and Go" Wednesday morning service to Petersfield
- Install shade over the station ticket machine to enable easier use

G High speed broadband services available throughout the area and In our public buildings.

Action: Liss PC to work with HCC and providers in achieving this by December 2014

- Carry out a campaign to encourage households and businesses to register need for faster broadband on HCC website by issuing a simple factual flyer to these groups
- Improve mobile reception in Liss by lobbying providers

H Encourage business development within the area.

- Encourage the business community to form a “Chamber of Trade” to facilitate the retention and expansion of businesses
- Retailers Association or Forum to discuss their respective concerns
- Need to offer flexible modern accommodation for start ups and business expansions serviced by high level digital infrastructure

J Foster businesses, residents and organisations to take greater responsibility for their actions within the parish to benefit the community.

Action: Liss Parish Council - ongoing

- LPC should remind Tesco and other retailers of their responsibility to keep the area outside their premises clean
- Enforce dog fouling infringements - (LPC has these powers)
- Encourage residents to cut back their hedges that impinge upon signage, road junction sight lines and pavements
- Encourage community groups to adopt and maintain trees and flowers in the village centre
- Ensure existing toilets available for use by the public are well signed. (Completed 2012)

K Assess the future need for housing provision for local people.

- The wishes of villagers for the design of any new housing development as expressed in the VDS should be followed by developers
- A comprehensive housing needs survey for Liss should be carried out to establish the future needs of the community for both private and social housing

Appendix 1

Analysis of 381 responses (combined hard copy and on-line) questionnaire

For all questions except 7, 10 and 11 the percentages are calculated as a proportion of the total number of responses to questionnaires, all 381. Those undecided or not offering any view are therefore represented in the total.

No.	Question	Number without a view	Number saying Yes	Percentage saying Yes	Number saying No	Percentage saying No
2	Environment					
2(a)	Extend footpath network	104	222	58%	54	14%
2(b)	Improve disabled access to footpaths	149	166	44%	66	17%
2(c)	Set up disabled allotments	190	133	35%	58	15%
3	Housing					
	Sufficient housing for next move	61	244	64%	76	20%
4	New facilities					
	Outdoor exercise trail	204	175	46%	N/A	N/A
	Bowling green	219	160	42%	N/A	N/A
	Indoor Bowls	281	98	26%	N/A	N/A
	Badminton	295	83	22%	N/A	N/A
5	Transport					
5(a)	Do you use 73 Bus	9	66	17%	306	80%
5(c)	Do you use 38 Bus to Alton	29	53	14%	299	78%
5(e)	Would you use community bus	43	140	37%	198	52%
5(g)	Do you use bicycle	20	173	45%	188	49%
5(h)	Liss develop cycle track network	41	246	65%	94	25%
6	Parking/Traffic calming					
6(b)	Is there difficulty in parking	45	28	7%	308	81%
6(d)	Want more traffic calming	43	190	50%	148	39%
8	Commerce					
8(c)	Use Liss pubs / restaurants / take aways	6	274	72%	101	27%
8(e)	Use internet for groceries	10	66	17%	305	80%

Appendix 1 Analysis of 381 responses (combined hard copy and on-line) questionnaire

No.	Question	Number without a view	Number saying Yes	Percentage saying Yes	Number saying No	Percentage saying No
9	South Downs National Park					
9(a)	Liss promoted as centre	25	239	63%	117	31%
9(b)	Publicise footpath network	23	276	72%	82	22%
9(c)	Set up heritage centre	43	151	40%	187	49%
12	Village improvements					
12(a)	Support the Colonnade project	30	153	40%	198	52%
	Parish Questions					
	Skatebowl					
13(a)	In favour of skatebowl facility	19	137	36%	225	59%
13(b)	Would you use it	24	19	5%	338	89%
	West Liss Pavilion					
14(a)	Agree to replace WL Pavilion	14	348	91%	19	5%
14(b)	Agree to increase precept	23	233	61%	125	33%

Questions 7, 10 and 11 were only answerable by a subset of households and did not offer an undecided option. These percentages are calculated as a proportion of only those answering the question.

No.	Question	Number without a view	Number saying Yes	Percentage saying Yes	Number saying No	Percentage saying No
7	Economy					
7(b)	Public transport usable for work/education etc	189	53	28%	139	72%
10	Health					
10(a)	Attended hospital as a visitor or patient	3	85	23%	293	77%
10(c)	Public transport practical for travel to hospital	92	39	13%	250	87%
11	Digital Services					
11(a)	Problem with internet speed	49	111	33%	221	67%
11(b)	Adequate mobile signal	29	231	66%	121	34%

PARISH PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE **Questionnaire Number:**
YOUR VILLAGE, YOUR VISION, YOUR SAY
THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO TELL US WHAT YOU WANT TO SEE IN LISS
and have the opportunity to win a cash prize at the same time!

This questionnaire seeks your views on issues which are important for the development of Liss. Your participation is vital. The more people who respond, the more influence villagers can have in shaping the future of the Parish. We therefore hope that you and the people living in your house will take a few minutes to complete this questionnaire. Please return the questionnaire by hand to Jade News, The Triangle Centre, Liss Forest Post Office, The Spread Eagle Pub, The Drovers or post it to: Parish Plan Questionnaire, Liss Parish Rooms, Hill Brow Road, Liss, GU33 7LA or complete on line at www.lissparishcouncil.gov.uk by 21 October 2011 quoting your unique Questionnaire Number.

We would urge all young people in your household to complete the separate **Liss Young People's on-line Questionnaire** which can be found by following <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CZCT293> on the Parish Council website www.lissparishcouncil.gov.uk This is the opportunity for the young people of Liss to have their say. If you need help completing the questionnaire, require it in larger print, or want it collected please call Margaret Effenberg on 01730 893179.

If you wish to be included in the prize draw for a £100 cash prize please include your telephone number in the space provided when returning the completed questionnaire.

Data Protection: In supplying information on this form you consent to its processing by the Liss Village Plan and Design Partnership and Liss Parish Council to help produce a vision of Liss's future needs, in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. All personal information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence and will only be used by the Liss Village Plan and Design Partnership and Liss Parish Council or disclosed to others for a purpose permitted by law.

Telephone Number

Households

Please enter your POST CODE [G][U][3][3][][][]
 Please enter the number of people in your household in each age group:-
 0 to 4 yrs () 5 to 9 yrs () 10 to 14 yrs () 15 to 19 yrs () 20 to 29 yrs () 30 to 59 yrs ()
 60 to 74 yrs () 75 to 89 yrs () 90 yrs and over ()

The Environment

- 1 Which of the following are most important to you in Liss?
(please number 1 to 6 in order of importance 1 being the most important)
- a) Ease of access to the Countryside _____
 - b) The amount of wildlife, plants and trees _____
 - c) Footpath network _____
 - d) Recreational Open Space (like Newman Collard) _____
 - e) Informal Open Space (like Riverside Walk) _____
 - f) Availability of allotments _____

- 2 Which of these improvements are needed? **(please circle Yes or No or leave blank)**
- a) Extension to the footpath network Yes / No
 - b) Improved disabled access to footpaths Yes / No
 - c) Allotments designed for disabled (if possible) Yes / No

Housing

- 3 Is there sufficient housing in Liss to meet your family's next move? (please circle) Yes / No
 Which type of housing do you expect to need? **(select only one by circling)**
- a) Flat b) Bungalow c) Small House (up to 2 bedrooms) d) Family House (3/4 bedrooms)
 - e) Large House (5 bedrooms & above) f) Specialist housing (eg sheltered housing)
- Other **(please state)** _____
- g) Will you wish to rent or buy in the future? **(please circle one)** Rent Buy
 - h) Will you need social housing or private housing? **(please circle one)** social private

Community (please also see questions 12, 13 & 14)

- 4 a) Should Liss develop the following new facilities? **(please circle those which you support)**
 Outdoor exercise Trail, Bowling Green, Artificial Cricket Pitch, Badminton, Indoor Bowls
- b) Are there any other new facilities which Liss should develop?
 Other **(please state)** _____
- c) Are there any other new facilities which young people should have? _____

Transport

- 5 a) Do you use the number 73 Bus? **(please circle)** Yes / No
 b) Do you use the bus to go to Petersfield or Bordon?
(please circle your destination) PETERSFIELD BORDON
- c) Do you go to Alton on the number 38 bus? **(please circle)** Yes / No
 d) If yes, do you use it for education, work, shopping or leisure?
(if yes, please circle those that apply) shopping work education leisure
- e) Would you use a community bus? **(please circle)** Yes / No
- f) What would you want to use the community bus for?
(please circle those that apply) shopping work education leisure
- g) Do you use a bicycle? **(please circle)** Yes / No
- h) Should Liss develop an improved Cycle Track Network? **(please circle)** Yes / No

Roads and Pavements

- 6 a) Which car parks do you use in the Village?
(please circle those you use) Hill Brow Road Village Centre Station Road
- b) Do you find difficulty parking in the Parish? **(please circle)** Yes / No
- c) If yes, or sometimes, **(please specify where you have experienced difficulty)**

- d) Would you like to see more traffic calming measures in the Parish? **(please circle)** Yes / No
(if yes, please specify where)

Economy

- 7 a) If you are in employment how far do you travel to your place of work?
(please circle one) Work at home / 0-5 miles / 6-10 miles / 11-30 miles / more than 30 miles
- b) Is it practical for you to use public transport to travel to work or for education?
(please circle) Yes / No
- c) If you travel by train from which station do you travel? _____

Commerce

- 8 a) Where do you do your main food shop? **(please circle one)** Liss Petersfield Bordon Liphook
- b) What is your weekly spend in the village shops? **(please circle your weekly £ spend)**
- i) £0 ii) £1 to £20 iii) £21 to £50 iv) £50 to 100 v) £100 to £150 vi) more than £150
- c) Do you use the pubs, restaurants and takeaways in Liss? **(please circle)** Yes / No
- d) What improvements would persuade you to shop more frequently in Liss? **(please specify)**

- e) Do you buy groceries on the Internet? **(please circle)** Yes / No

South Downs National Park

- 9 a) Should Liss be actively promoted to attract visitors to the National Park? **(circle)** Yes / No
- b) Should we publicise and signpost the footpath network to attract National Park visitors?
(please circle) Yes / No
- c) Should we have a Heritage Centre? **(please circle)** Yes / No

Health

- 10 a) Have you attended a hospital in the last 12 months either as a visitor or patient?
(please circle) Yes / No
- b) Which hospital did you attend? _____
- c) Was it practical for you to reach hospital by public transport? **(please circle)** Yes / No

Digital Services

- 11 a) If you use the internet does the speed of your connection cause you problems?
(please circle) Yes / No
(if yes, please specify the problems) _____
- b) Do you have an adequate mobile phone signal? **(please circle)** Yes / No

Village Improvements

- 12 a) Would you support a Colonnade being erected to enhance the parade of shops (outside Tesco's)? **(please circle)** Yes / No
- b) Have you any other ideas for enhancing this area? _____

Ongoing Projects Please refer to the articles in Village Voice on these two projects

- 13 Skatebowl
- a) Are you in favour of Liss Parish Council providing a skatebowl facility? **(please circle)** Yes/No
- b) Would you use a skatebowl facility if we could provide one? **(please circle)** Yes / No
- 14 West Liss Pavilion
- a) Are you in agreement with the proposal to replace the existing West Liss Pavilion and 1st Liss Scout Hut with a new multi-purpose facility (pavilion)? **(please circle)** Yes / No
- b) Would you support the Parish in raising funds for this urgent and long overdue project by increasing the Council Tax for a limited number of years? For example an increase of £15 per annum which is equivalent to 29p per week for a band D house for 2 years would raise £78,000. The money raised would be ring fenced for this project.
(please circle) Yes / No
- c) Do you have any suggestions how funds could be raised to meet any shortfall? **(specify)**

Are there any other issues that the Parish Plan should address?

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

Appendix 2 Questions and Results from YOUNG PEOPLES QUESTIONNAIRE ON LINE

Question No.

1 Asked for their post code

Total number of responses 98 Responses Percentage

2 Enter your age range

5-9 years **5 5.20%**
 10-14 years **27 28.10%**
 15-19 years **64 66.70%**
 skipped question **2**

No view View Yes Number Yes Percentage

Questions 3, 4 and 5 referred to environment asking for their views about the countryside, our recreation grounds and open space in and around Liss

3 Living where there's lots of wildlife, plants & trees (1 being very important)

14 84
 1 **13 15.50%**
 2 **16 19%**
 3 **16 19%**
 4 **21 25%**
 5 **18 21.40%**

4 Recreation grounds, like Newman Collard, West Liss & Liss Forest (1 being very important)

13 85
 1 **18 21%**
 2 **22 26%**
 3 **20 24%**
 4 **16 18.80%**
 5 **9 11%**

5 Open areas which are not recreation grounds, like Riverside Walk (1 being very important)

15 83
 1 **11 13.30%**
 2 **18 21.70%**
 3 **22 26.50%**
 4 **18 21.70%**
 5 **14 16.90%**

Question No.		No view	View	Yes Number	Yes Percentage
6	Do you have ideas about any improvements which can be made	49	49	49	
1)	<i>skateboard suggested by</i>		38		
2)	<i>CCTV</i>		1		
3)	<i>More entertainment for Young People</i>		2		
4)	<i>A mixed variety of answers</i>		8		
7	Would you use any of the following facilities	16	82		
	Outdoor exercise trail			19	19%
	Outdoor Gym			21	21%
	Artificial cricket pitch			9	9%
	Badminton			17	17%
	Skatebowl			64	65%
8	Questions 8 & 9 referred to the type of transport they use. How do you usually go to school or college?	15	83		
	Car			14	16.90%
	Walk			7	8.40%
	Bike			19	22.90%
	Bus			39	47%
	Train			4	5%
9	When you travel out of Liss for shopping, sports or other activities what do you usually use?	15	83		
	Car			23	27.70%
	Bike			22	26.50%
	Bus			3	4%
	Train			35	42%
10	Question 10 - Projects for the future which would improve our village Your Ideas up to 3 ideas each - top 3 ideas	35	63		
	Skatepark			46	
	better shops			7	
	gym			6	
Summary of skatebowl issues					
<i>When asked specifically whether they would use a skatebowl</i>			64 answered yes		65% of all respondents
<i>Volunteered skatebowl as their preferred improvement to village</i>			38		
<i>Volunteered skatebowl as one of top 3 improvements to Liss</i>			46		

APPENDIX 3 - Results of Liss Business Survey Oct/Nov 2011

Returned questionnaires (approx 300 questionnaires sent out)

- A. 12 Retail
- B. 23 Other Business occupying premises
- C. 6 Business operating from home
- D. 0 Agricultural / Equestrian

Total returned = 41 Plus 5 from those who had retired from Business

What type of business would you like to see in the village?

- 4 Butcher
- 4 Greengrocer
- 2 Bank
- 2 Petrol Station
- 1 Sports Shop, Clothing, Independent Travel Agent, More local Independents
- 2 No more fast food outlets

A. Retail

6 of 12 Retailers anticipating expanding in next 3 years.

Major Constraints on Business	1	Rates
	2	Rent
	3	Competition

Other constraints mentioned parking and supermarket suppresses other competition

Of those that declared, average time occupied premises is 8 years

B. Business occupying premises

28% had difficulty finding suitable premises

72% had no difficulty

Average length premises occupied in Liss	13.4 years	(Min 1 Max 50)
Average space occupied	286 Sq m	(Min 10 Max 1500)
Anticipate requiring more space	43%	
Not anticipating requiring more space	57%	

Major Constraints

- Rent
- Rates
- Bank Charges
- Size of premises
- Lease
- Competition

Other constraints mentioned:- state of economy, broadband.

C. Business operating from home

Anticipating requiring premises in the next 3 years 33.33 %

Most important aspects:-

- Cost
- Location
- Short Lease

APPENDIX 3 - Results of Liss Business Survey Oct/Nov 2011

D. Business – Agricultural or Equestrian

No returns received

E. All Business

- 1) 82 % of business employs staff
Average number employed 9 (min 1 max 40)
- 2) Distance of travel less than 5 miles 45%
Between 5 and 10 miles 22%
Over 10 miles 33%
- 3) Do you find difficulty getting qualified staff No replies
- 4) Is broadband important 95% yes
- 5) Faster speed in critical 54%
Or speed would be useful 46%
- 6) Do you expect the formation of the South Downs National
Park to affect your Business
- | | |
|-----|-----|
| No | 83% |
| Yes | 17% |

If yes how will it affect your business:

- Higher Footfall
- Increase Attraction of Area
- Improved road structure
- More venue specific events/ more opportunities
- Planning problems
- Attract more businesses

7) Other comments

- Sort out level crossing
- Too many takeaways
- Parking on yellow lines
- Unstable power
- Unreliable broadband
- Poor mobile phone reception
- Planning problems
- More parking in village centre
- Business incentives needed
- Triangle centre used as business / Networking for local people
- Like more smaller run businesses rather than Tesco dominant market

8) Registered for broadband 28 of 41

Of the 41 respondents 19 wanted a copy of the results.

APPENDIX 3 - Liss Business Survey Oct/Nov 2011

Which category of business best describes your business?

- A. Retail
- B. Other Business occupying premises
- C. Business operating from home
- D. Agricultural / Equestrian

What type of business (e.g. business adviser, dentist, electrician etc) ?

.....

A. If your business is retail

(1) Do you anticipate expanding your business in the next 3 years?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

(2) What other type of retail outlet would you like to see in the village?

.....

(3) What are the major constraints on your business?

Please rank 1 to 8 (1 most important – 8 least important)

- (a) Rates
- (b) Rents
- (c) Competition
- (d) Bank finance or charges
- (e) Size of premises
- (f) Length of lease
- (g) Location
- (h) Other – please specify

B. If your business occupies premises

(1) Did you find difficulty in finding suitable business premises?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

(2) How long have you occupied premises in Liss?

..... years

(3) Space currently occupied

..... sq metres

(4) Do you anticipate requiring extra space in the next 3 years?

- (a) No, I don't anticipate requiring more space
- (b) Yes, I anticipate requiring more space
- (c) How much extra space..... sq metres

(5) What are the major constraints on your business?

Please rate 1 to 8 (1 most important – 8 least important)

- Rate
- Rent
- Competition
- Bank of finance and charges
- Size of premises
- Length of lease
- Location
- Other – Please specify

APPENDIX 3 - Liss Business Survey Oct/Nov 2011

C. If your business operates from home

- (1) Do you anticipate requiring premises in the next 3 years?
 - (a) Yes
 - (b) No

- (2) If you are anticipating requiring premise, what do you consider are the most important aspects?
 - (a) Location
 - (b) Short lease (weekly/ monthly)
 - (c) Cost
 - (d) Fully Serviced office space
 - (e) Other- please specify

D. Agricultural / Equestrian

As no responses received the questions asked have not been included.

E. All Businesses

- (1) Do you employ Staff?
 - (a) No
 - (b) Yes
 - (c) How many

- (2) If you employ staff
 - (a) Do they live in Liss ? Yes / No
 - (b) If not how far do they travel?

Number of staff	Within 5 miles	5 - 10 Miles	10 miles+
.....

- (3) Do you find difficulty getting qualified staff?
 - (a) Yes
 - (b) No

- (4) Communication – Is Broadband important to your business?
 - (a) Yes
 - (b) No

- (5) If Broadband is important – does your business require faster speed?
 - (a) Yes – faster speed is critical
 - (b) Yes – faster speed would be useful

- (6) Has the formation of the South Downs National Park affected your business in any way?
 - No
 - Yes

If yes, in what way has it affected your business:

.....

(7) Are there any other comments you would like to make?

.....

.....

(8) If you would like us to register you for faster broadband enter you email address

.....

If you would like to receive a copy of the analysed results of this questionnaire please fill in your name and address below

Name:

Address:

.....