

# Village Action Plan



# PLUMPTON VILLAGE ACTION PLAN

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## Introduction

The Plumpton Village Action Plan process is a way in which our community can establish what are the key priorities and actions for the future. The Action Plan has evolved by consulting with the entire community to ensure that everyone can have a say and that the actions put forward are those considered important to the majority. Also, the Action Plan acknowledges issues pertinent to smaller groups, such as the users of mobility aids.

The Action Plan highlights many issues that can be taken forward by people within our community, it can be used to influence councils and service providers, and it can be used as evidence of the need for various projects when we apply for funding.

The Plumpton Village Action Plan started in May 2006 when a steering group of volunteers was formed from a cross-section of the community and the Parish Council. We received advice and encouragement from Action in Rural Sussex and initial funding from the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, and Plumpton Parish Council. We researched how other villages had gone about the process, held a number of talks with local groups, held drop-in events and circulated information widely in order to consult with the village community.

As a result of the consultations, in July 2007 a questionnaire was designed and 575 copies were delivered by hand to each household. A total of 469 completed questionnaires were received back, an amazing **82%** response, which ensures the credibility of the final plan. At the same time a separate youth questionnaire was delivered and completed, and also the children at Plumpton Primary School took part by completing a survey within school.

The detailed analysis of such a large amount of data was challenging. The statistical results were presented to the village at the Annual Parish Meeting in April 2008 for comment and suggestions. Priorities and timescales were established for all the action points by taking into account the statistical data and likely achievability. The Parish Council adopted the Action Plan in May 2008 and later that month a further public display and consultation was held setting out how we proposed to achieve our objectives with detailed action points, responsibilities, priorities and timescales. The Village Action Plan was printed and distributed to all households in July 2008.



## A Brief History of Plumpton

In 1086, when the Domesday Book was written, *Pluntune* (or *Plumtona*, and by the 14<sup>th</sup> century *Plompton*) was a thriving farming community, with land for 24 ploughs, 57 tenant farmers, a church, and woodland sufficient to feed 37 pigs. Eight slaves worked on the home farm so it was a sizeable community.

The name Plumpton is widely thought to derive from Saxon times, when plum orchards (Plum Farm) were planted here to supply the church at Bosham, which at that time owned the manor. However, it may derive from the Old English word *plumpt*, meaning 'positioned under' – as in positioned under the South Downs.

Plumpton covers an area of some 2450 acres, and is situated between the villages of Streat and East Chiltington. The original village was situated right under the Downs; the newer, larger part is some two miles further north, stretching north from the station. The village lies on a Roman road, Greensand Way, that runs on Greensand Ridge from Barcombe Mills via Lewes, Streat, Hassocks and Washington and on to Pulborough and Chichester. The road bisects the village today, unmetalled but still providing a useful link between the villages.

Up until the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the village was a flourishing agricultural community. It became an industrial community with the building of a branch-line to the main London to Brighton railway in 1847, and the growth of the brick trade, which used the local clay. At maximum production, ten brickfields were in operation and the social hub of the village moved from the foot of the Downs to the present-day Plumpton Green. Both the Fountain and the Sun Hotel (now the Winning Post) public houses date from this period.

Plumpton has two churches: St Michael's in Plumpton, parts of which date from the 12<sup>th</sup> century and All Saints in Plumpton Green, which was built in 1893 on the small green after which the village is named. There was also a small Congregational chapel, built in 1880 in Chapel Road.

The old manor house is Plumpton Place, built in Elizabethan times.

The first school was founded in 1870, in the small flint and brick schoolroom that still stands at the bottom of the village in Plumpton Lane. In 1877 a new school was built in Station Road. The modern Plumpton Primary School was built in 1974, in Southdowns.

In 1871 farming was the chief local occupation, and the village was largely self-supporting, with two shops, a shoemaker, two mills, and other trades such as basket makers. Only two brickmakers were then in operation and there were several builders, and a carpenter. By the turn of the century a butcher, dairy, another grocer and another shoemaker had set up business. In the 1920s the village even boasted a draper's shop.

There remains one village shop with a post office, four pubs, and a number of thriving local industries, including two organic farms. The Novington Sandpit was reopened in 2006. Buses and trains run regularly from Lewes, Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill. The resident stationmaster departed in 1964, but the signal box (a listed building) is still manned, as is the ticket office in the mornings.

The racecourse, used originally for hare coursing from 1870, but solely for horse racing from 1880, is one of the most successful smaller National Hunt racecourses in the country.

Plumpton College was founded as an agricultural college after the First World War. During the Second World War it was used for training land-girls. Today it farms 1000 acres, and offers a wide range of rural-based adult education courses.

In 1863 the village had 404 residents. In 1973 the population stood at 1165. In 2007, there were 1676 residents in the village.

The new village hall was opened in 1995 and is frequently used in the social life of Plumpton village. It now hosts many of Plumpton's 34 societies, groups and clubs. Originally, the village only had a small reading room near All Saints' Church. The first village hall was built in Station Road in 1919 as the village's war memorial. This memorial still exists in the new hall.

The village also benefits from the King George V playing field, bought in 1935 by the Parish Council for just £400, and finally opened in July 1938. The playing field boasts football pitches, a cricket square, tennis courts, children's play area, a skateboard park and hosts the playgroup.

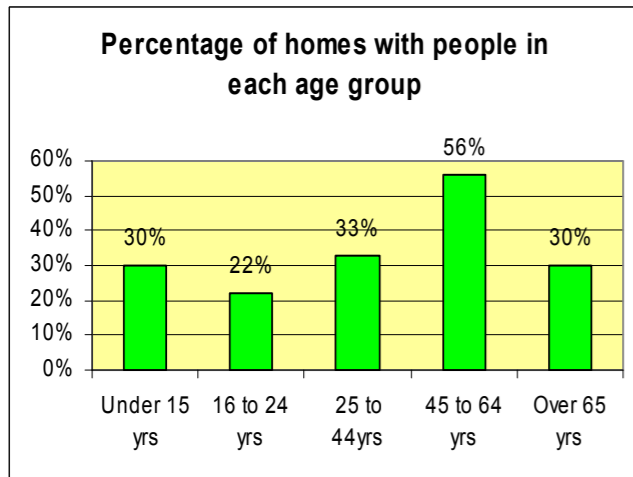
Today Plumpton remains a small but vibrant community, with very clear opinions about its present and its future, as the healthy response to the Village Action Plan questionnaire very clearly shows.

*This short history is based on "About Plumpton", by Barbara Barratt and Frank Bex, published in 1995 to raise funds for the New Village Hall Appeal Fund, and Brenda Watson, who compiled "About Plumpton 2005".*

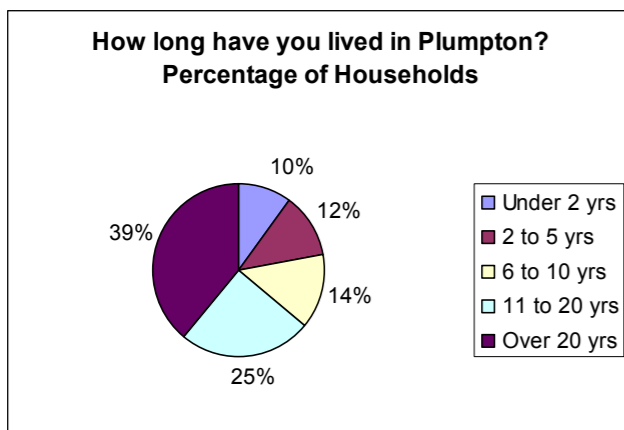


## Analysis of Personal Data

Plumpton has a broad representation of various age-groups, and this helps to maintain its vibrant community. Some 30% of homes have under 15 year-olds and a similar number have over 65 year-olds.

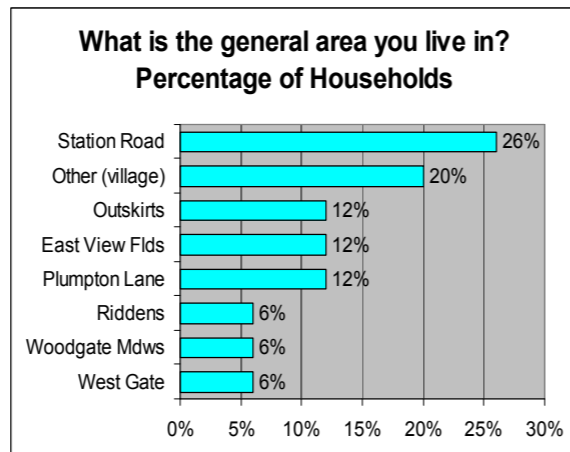


With over 82% of Plumpton households responding to the questionnaire, the personal data is a true reflection of the village make-up. Over three-quarters of the population have lived in Plumpton for more than 5 years, and nearly two-thirds for over 10 years. Clearly when people move here, they want to stay.

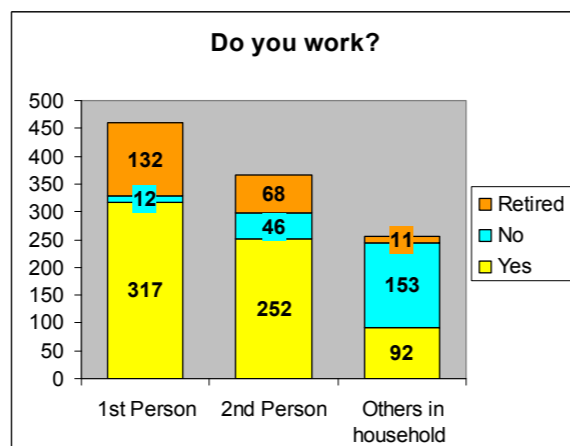


The village has a linear layout, with a housing stock ranging from the Victorian times to the modern day.

Station Road is the main north-south artery through the village, and is home to over one-quarter of the households. East View Fields is the largest of the side roads, towards the south of Plumpton Green, with the estates of Woodgate Meadows towards the north and West Gate in the centre of the village both recent additions of similar size.



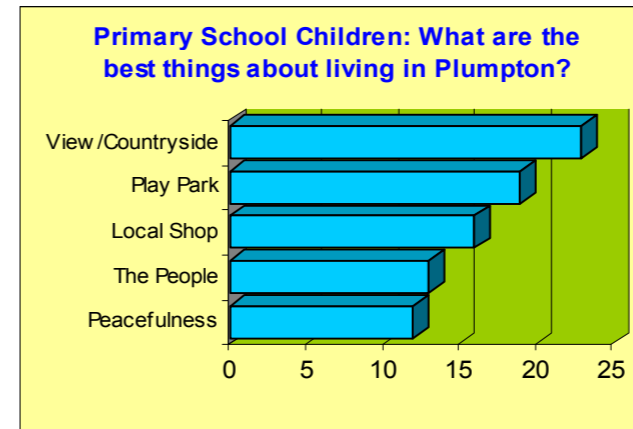
Plumpton is fortunate in having an active working population, and a very lively retired sector, that particularly enjoy the rural landscape and numerous footpaths around the immediate vicinity. Many villagers work locally or in the surrounding towns and villages, and a small number of commuters take advantage of the train services to London.



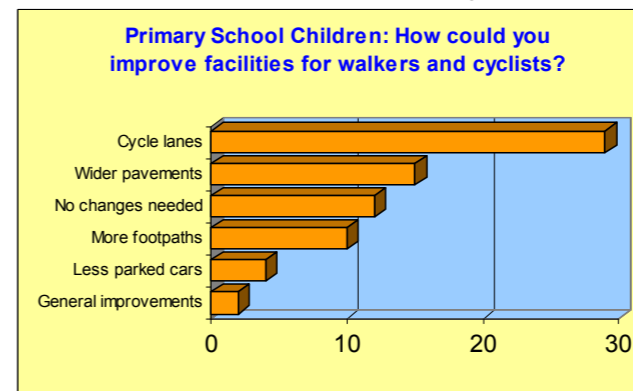
## Children and Youth

To get as many opinions from as many people and groups as possible, a Youth questionnaire was sent out, with 81 respondents from the 11-16 age group, and a survey was carried out in the local Primary School, where 109 children took part.

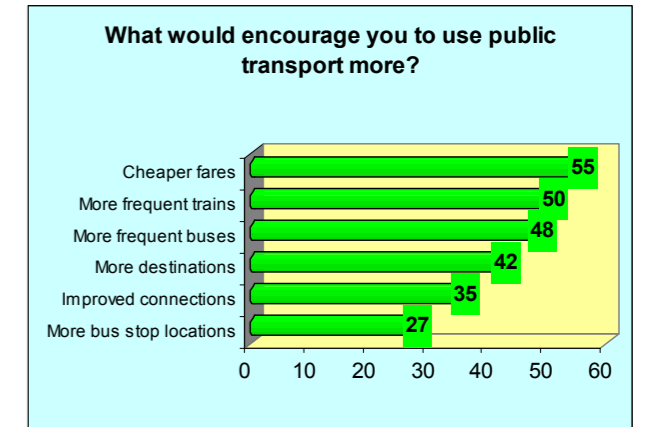
There were common themes regarding the environment, speeding, traffic and transport across all three audiences – however, the Youth and Children's surveys identified what is specifically important to them.



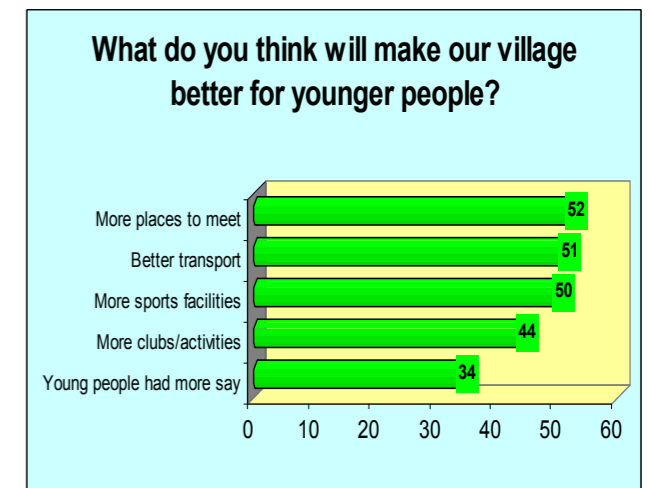
A need for better facilities for cyclists, and a need for safer areas to walk in were clearly identified. Other questions picked up on the good facilities there are in the village, such as the play park, the sporting facilities and clubs – however in common with the householder survey these need to be well maintained and improved.



The Youth survey identified the difficulties of getting around without having to rely on parents. In a specific question about what would encourage youths to use public transport more, feelings were strong on the cost, frequency and routes – and particularly about the less frequent weekend services.



A significant number in the Youth survey felt that they should have more say in how to improve the village for younger people, and indeed 58% said that there should be a Youth Council in the village. In fact 25 people said that they would like to be involved in the Youth Council if one were formed. Other things that would improve the village for the younger generation are more meeting places, more things to do and better transport.



## Action Plan - Parking

What needs to be done?	Why is it an issue?	How will it be tackled?	Who by?	Priority and when by?
Consider parking policy in the vicinity of the shop	The shop is important to the village. However, 40% of all households felt that parking near the shop is a problem, due to inadequate parking space and visibility problems to road users on Station Road	Set up a VAP Road Safety Team to liaise with key stakeholders	VAP Road Safety Champion, Shop owner, Parish Council, Police, ESCC Highways	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> MEDIUM TIMESCALE (within 3 years)
Consider parking policy in the vicinity of the station  <i>A need for a review into parking around the station area was also identified in the Children's survey</i>	Parking at/near the station is clearly important to those people who use the train service to get to work. However, a significant number were concerned about the station area	Set up a VAP Road Safety Team to liaise with key stakeholders	VAP Road Safety Champion, Parish Council, Transport operator, ESCC Highways, Police, Users of car parks and recreational facilities	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> MEDIUM TIMESCALE (within 3 years)



## Action Plan – Public Transport

What needs to be done?	Why is it an issue?	How will it be tackled?	Who by?	Priority and when by?
Review with ESCC and transport operators whether more frequent/ additional services could be made available  <i>A need was identified in the Youth survey to explore whether expansion of the services is feasible, especially at weekends</i>	170 respondents wanted more frequent buses; 159 wanted more frequent trains; 110 wanted more links to other villages; and extra weekend services was a theme of the Youth survey	Set up a VAP Public Transport Team to liaise with key stakeholders and to explore other transport schemes that may be available, such as a community bus	VAP Public Transport Champion, Transport operators, ESCC	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> LONG/ ONGOING TIMESCALE (within 5 years/ continuous)
Review whether better links to hospitals and doctors can be introduced	A significant number of respondents (including a high proportion of those aged 65 or over) had concerns about transport to hospitals and doctors' surgeries	Set up a VAP Public Transport Team to liaise with key stakeholders and to investigate all possibilities including the introduction of a community bus	VAP Public Transport Champion, Hospitals, Doctors	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> QUICK TIMESCALE (within 6 months)
<i>A recommendation from the Youth survey was to speak to Chailey School with a view to improving the punctuality of the school coach</i>	A number of respondents to the Youth survey found the punctuality of the service to be average or below	Set up a VAP Public Transport Team to liaise with the key stakeholders	VAP Public Transport Champion, Coach operator, Chailey School, ESCC	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> QUICK TIMESCALE (within 6 months)



## Action Plan – Traffic and Speeding

What needs to be done?	Why is it an issue?	How will it be tackled?	Who by?	Priority and when by?
Review with ESCC Highways to seek a reduction of the speed limit on the outskirts of the village	355 (76%) of all respondents felt speeding was a problem, of which 240 suggested speed reductions on the village outskirts	Set up a VAP Road Safety Team to liaise with Police & ESCC Highways	VAP Road Safety Champion, Parish Council, ESCC Highways, Police	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> SHORT TIMESCALE (within 18 months)
Review with ESCC Highways to seek a reduction in the speed limit throughout the village and/or identify improved signage/measures to control speeding  A need was identified in the Children's survey to reduce speeding through the village	224 respondents were concerned with speeding between the Fountain Pub and the shop, and a further 190 had concerns about the stretch of road from the shop to the station. A number of measures to reduce speeding were suggested	Set up a VAP Road Safety Team to review 'best practice' in other rural villages and liaise with Police & ESCC Highways	VAP Road Safety Champion, Parish Council, ESCC Highways, Police, Primary School	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> SHORT TIMESCALE (within 18 months)
Review with ESCC Highways measures that could be taken to improve road safety in identified areas	Residents had identified certain areas in the village as hazardous, including the Half Moon T-Junction, Plough T-Junction and the White Bridge area	Set up a VAP Road Safety Team to review 'best practice' in other rural villages and liaise with Police & ESCC Highways	VAP Road Safety Champion, Parish Council, ESCC Highways, Police, Local residents	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> SHORT TIMESCALE (within 18 months)
Work with the owners of transport vehicles that pass through the village to encourage their drivers to respect the speed limits throughout the village and to avoid damaging the verges	A significant number of households were concerned about large vehicles passing through the centre of the village and causing damage to verges	Set up a VAP Road Safety Team to liaise with local transport operators	VAP Road Safety Champion, Transport operators, ESCC Highways, Police	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> SHORT TIMESCALE (within 18 months)
Work with the owners of HGV businesses to encourage their drivers to avoid passing through the centre of the village unless delivering to premises in the village	79% of respondents felt that HGV drivers should be discouraged from driving through the village if possible	Set up a VAP Road Safety Team to liaise with HGV businesses	VAP Road Safety Champion, HGV transport operators, including the Sandpit operator (through the Sandpit Residents' Committee)	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> SHORT/ ONGOING TIMESCALE (within 18 months/ continuous)

## Action Plan – Environment

What needs to be done?	Why is it an issue?	How will it be tackled?	Who by?	Priority and when by?
<b>Recycling</b>  Ensure kerbside collection service is maintained or even improved or extended  The same need was identified in the Children's survey	Residents in Plumpton are clearly very keen on recycling - 83% of households use the kerbside recycling facility; however 61% still have to take certain recyclables outside the village	Set up a VAP Environment Team to research, monitor and liaise with Lewes District Council (LDC)	VAP Environment Champion, Parish Council, Lewes District Council	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> MEDIUM/ ONGOING TIMESCALE (within 3 years/ continuous)
Research collection of cardboard, plastics, tetra-packs and large items	There is clear demand for extending the range of recyclable waste that can be collected in the village	Set up a VAP Environment Team to research, monitor and liaise with LDC	VAP Environment Champion, Parish Council, Lewes District Council	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> QUICK TIMESCALE (within 6 months)
Explore the possibility of a garden compost collection facility	59% of households would make use of a garden waste collection facility, and 42% said they would purchase garden compost from the District Council if it was delivered	Set up a VAP Environment Team to research, monitor and liaise with LDC	VAP Environment Champion, Parish Council, Lewes District Council	<b>LOW PRIORITY</b> SHORT TIMESCALE (within 18 months)
Launch 'Plumpton Goes Green' campaign	466 households completed the recycling section – clearly environmental issues are important to villagers	1000 jute bio-degradable bags have been purchased from 'Ecobags' and are being sold through the village shop. Reduce the use of plastic bags  Set up a VAP Environment Team to explore other ways that Plumpton can demonstrate its awareness of environmental issues	VAP Environment Champion, Village shop owner  VAP Environment Champion, Other partners will be dependent on the range and scale of initiatives proposed	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> QUICK/ ONGOING TIMESCALE (within 6 months/ continuous)  <b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> MEDIUM/ ONGOING TIMESCALE (within 3 years/ continuous)

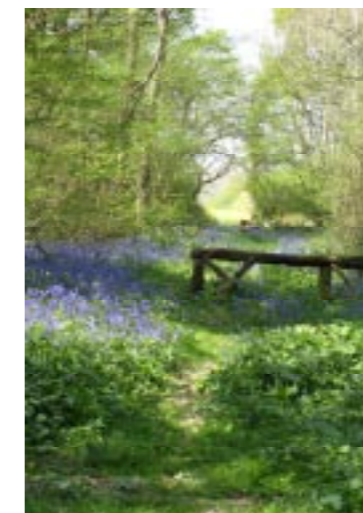
**Action Plan – Environment (continued)**

What needs to be done?	Why is it an issue?	How will it be tackled?	Who by?	Priority and when by?
<p><b>Litter</b></p> <p>Ensure the tidiness of the village is maintained with particular emphasis on the bus stops, the recreation ground, and the Village Green area</p> <p>A need was identified in the Children's survey to reduce litter especially in the skate park and playing fields</p>	<p>About one-third of respondents said the village looked untidy, and a number of areas of concern were identified</p>	<p>Set up a VAP Environment Team to look at solutions such as encouraging users of such facilities to 'take their litter home'</p>	<p>VAP Environment Champion, Parish Council</p>	<p><b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> SHORT/ ONGOING TIMESCALE (within 3 years/ continuous)</p>
<p><b>Pavements</b></p> <p>Research whether it is feasible to widen the pavement from the shop to the Village Green</p>	<p>This was the most popular pavement area identified to be widened</p>	<p>Set up a VAP Road Safety Team to research viability and funding consequences</p>	<p>VAP Road Safety Champion, Parish Council, ESCC Highways</p>	<p><b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> LONG TIMESCALE (within 5 years)</p>



**Action Plan – Environment (continued)**

What needs to be done?	Why is it an issue?	How will it be tackled?	Who by?	Priority and when by?
<p><b>Public Footpaths</b></p> <p>Ensure footpaths are maintained and/or improved, and not allowed to become overgrown</p>	<p>Clearly footpaths are very important to the village as 80% of respondents use them. However, 38% expressed some concerns about their maintenance</p>	<p>Set up a VAP Footpaths Team to ensure the footpaths and bridleways are maintained and improved through liaison with ESCC &amp; SDJC (South Downs Joint Committee) and active participation with ESCC in management of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan</p>	<p>VAP Footpaths Champion, Parish Council, ESCC, SDJC (which has the remit to maintain footpaths in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty)</p>	<p><b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> SHORT/ ONGOING TIMESCALE (within 18 months/ continuous)</p>
<p>Explore if it is possible to put a path from the village to the Plough</p>	<p>252 respondents (over half) suggested that they would like a gravel path from the village to the Plough</p>	<p>Set up a VAP Footpaths Team to research viability and funding consequences</p>	<p>VAP Footpaths Champion, Parish Council, ESCC Highways</p>	<p><b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> LONG TIMESCALE (within 5 years)</p>
<p><b>General</b></p> <p>Establish a new Society for environmental and wildlife interests</p>	<p>274 respondents expressed an interest in such a Society</p>	<p>Set up a VAP Environment Team to encourage the establishment of such a Society</p>	<p>VAP Environment Champion</p>	<p><b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> QUICK TIMESCALE (within 6 months)</p>



## Action Plan – Communications in the village

What needs to be done?	Why is it an issue?	How will it be tackled?	Who by?	Priority and when by?
Maintain & make further improvements to providing timely communications, through use of the Parish Magazine, local papers, Parish notice boards and websites	The Parish Magazine was identified as the most vital line of communication and the most helpful source of information in the village - so standards must be maintained and improved further. Other channels should be improved and made more accessible	Set up a VAP Communications Team to establish how communications can be improved, both for existing and new residents, and to liaise with the Parish Magazine editorial team, the Webmasters and the Parish Council	VAP Communications Champion, All village clubs & societies, Parish Magazine editor, Parish Council website Webmaster, Plumpton website Webmaster	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> SHORT/ ONGOING TIMESCALE (within 18 months/ continuous)
Consider further promotion and improvement of the Parish Council website to encourage more households to use the site	Whilst nearly two-thirds of respondents are aware of the Parish Council website, less than one-third have looked at it	Set up a VAP Communications Team to establish how communications can be improved, both for existing and new residents, and to liaise with the Parish Council Webmaster and the Parish Council	VAP Communications Champion, Parish Council, Parish Council website Webmaster	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> QUICK TIMESCALE (within 6 months)
Seek to further improve communication to households through greater use of automated e-mails	Whilst 72% of households have an e-mail address, 69% were not aware that they could register for Parish Council automated updates	Set up a VAP Communications Team to work with the village Webmasters publicising the service regularly, and ensuring new residents are informed	VAP Communications Champion, Parish Council, Village Webmasters	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> QUICK/ ONGOING TIMESCALE (within 6 months/ continuous)
Continue work to improve the general public awareness of Parish Councillors and their work on behalf of the village	72% of households believe Parish Councillors are approachable, and 43% think they are aware of local concerns	Set up a VAP Communications Team to consider how best to improve communication and awareness of the work of the Parish Council	VAP Communications Champion, Parish Council	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> SHORT/ ONGOING TIMESCALE (within 18 months/ continuous)
A need was identified from the Youth survey to set up a Youth Council	A significant number of those who completed the Youth survey were interested in a Youth Council, and many said they would like to be involved with it	Appoint a VAP Youth Champion to encourage the Youth in the village to set up their own Plumpton Youth Council with elected officers. The Chair of which will be invited to make representations to the Parish Council, when necessary	VAP Youth Champion, Parish Council, ESCC Young People's Co-ordinator	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> QUICK TIMESCALE (within 6 months)

## Action Plan – Policing and Community Safety

What needs to be done?	Why is it an issue?	How will it be tackled?	Who by?	Priority and when by?
Research ways in which policing in and around the village can be improved, especially addressing concerns/ perceptions of burglary, vandalism, disturbance and drunkenness	Whilst 99% of respondents felt safe during the day (and 86% at night), there were concerns about vandalism, burglary, excessive noise/disturbance and drunkenness	Set up a VAP Community Safety Team to work with organisers of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme to seek ways in which the scheme can be promoted further, taking into account existing and new residents. In addition, work with the Police to improve perception of community safety issues in the village	VAP Community Safety Champion, Neighbourhood Watch organisers, Parish Council, Police	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> SHORT/ ONGOING TIMESCALE (within 18 months/ continuous)
Whilst taking into account that the majority of residents do not want street lighting, consider lighting solutions (such as low-level lighting) in a small number of targeted areas, where concerns have been raised	70% of respondents said they did not want street lighting in the village, though some areas of concern were mentioned, where there may be a need for targeted low-level lighting solutions to be considered	Set up a VAP Community Safety Team to investigate results further and review potential methods of implementation	VAP Community Safety Champion, Parish Council	<b>LOW PRIORITY</b> MEDIUM TIMESCALE (within 3 years)



## Action Plan – Policing and Community Safety (continued)

What needs to be done?	Why is it an issue?	How will it be tackled?	Who by?	Priority and when by?
Seek ways of improving community safety by looking at increasing police presence and providing first aid training, a defibrillator, and a lifebelt by the river	55% of households wanted a greater police presence, similarly 52% first aid training, 51% defibrillator, and 33% lifebelt near the river	Set up a VAP Community Safety Team to investigate the needs and practicalities of such proposals	VAP Community Safety Champion, Police & Community Safety Officer, Primary Care Trust	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> SHORT TIMESCALE (within 18 months)
Investigate concerns regarding Hospital Transport and Doctors, and find out if there are ways of improving these services	Whilst all the Emergency Services were highly rated by residents, it was clear that households have concerns about the services provided by doctors and are concerned about transport to hospitals	The VAP Public Transport Team (see page 7) will address transport issues, a VAP Community Safety Team will be set up to investigate medical schemes & other ways of addressing the Doctors' service issue e.g. Doctors' surgery in Plumpton again	VAP Community Safety Champion, Surgeries, Primary Care Trust	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> QUICK TIMESCALE (within 6 months)
Explore ways of promoting the Neighbourhood Watch scheme to attract further membership	15% of households are members of Neighbourhood Watch; a further 10% said that they would like to become members	Set up a VAP Community Safety Team to work with organisers of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme to seek ways in which the scheme can be promoted further	VAP Community Safety Champion, Neighbourhood Watch organisers, Parish Council, Police	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> QUICK TIMESCALE (within 6 months)

## Action Plan – Housing and Development

What needs to be done?	Why is it an issue?	How will it be tackled?	Who by?	Priority and when by?
Consider in greater detail the housing data (from the questionnaire results), taking into account current and future demographic trends	The results from the survey made it clear that 85% of households do not want to see an expansion of the village planning boundary (building on green field sites). However, if there is to be development of housing within the village planning boundary, residents expressed strong desire for starter homes (283), small family homes (204), houses for the elderly and houses for local people (369)	Set up a VAP Housing Data Analysis Team to critically review the statistical data, with a view to determining future housing needs to maintain Plumpton as a balanced community, taking into account the specific concerns expressed in the survey such as the desire to avoid expansion of the village planning boundary onto green field sites. Findings will then be presented to the Parish Council to agree the way forward	VAP Housing Data Analysis Champion, Parish Council Planning Committee, Lewes District Council Planning Department	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> SHORT TIMESCALE (within 18 months)



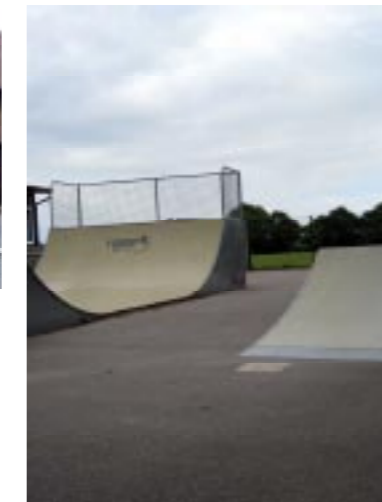
## Action Plan – Village Facilities

What needs to be done?	Why is it an issue?	How will it be tackled?	Who by?	Priority and when by?
<p>The community should work together to ensure that the high standards of the facilities in the village are maintained through regular maintenance and upgrading of equipment</p> <p>A strategic approach to current &amp; future facilities needs to be taken on a through-life basis</p>	<p>All of the village's facilities are held in high regard (415 felt the Village Hall was excellent/good, 323 said the same about the playing fields). However, there were some consistent comments made about the need to update some of the facilities</p>	<p>Set up a VAP Community Facility Team to establish properly costed and funded regular maintenance programmes for facilities, taking into account Health &amp; Safety implications</p>	<p>VAP Community Facility Champion, Parish Council, Facility owners</p>	<p><b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> MEDIUM/ ONGOING TIMESCALE (within 3 years/ continuous)</p> <p><b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> SHORT TIMESCALE (within 18 months)</p>
<p>Opportunities should be sought for further expansion of the sporting facilities in the village</p> <p>A need was identified from the Children's survey to improve the equipment in the Play Park</p>	<p>96 households thought that there was a need for additional leisure facilities, and a number of children made suggestions for new sports' clubs</p>	<p>Set up a VAP Community Facility Team to research new ventures and the financial viability of any proposals</p>	<p>VAP Community Facility Champion, Parish Council, Facility owners</p>	<p><b>LOW PRIORITY</b> QUICK TIMESCALE (within 6 months)</p>



## Action Plan – Village Facilities (continued)

What needs to be done?	Why is it an issue?	How will it be tackled?	Who by?	Priority and when by?
<p>Invite Plumpton College to advertise it's leisure facilities available for hire to local residents</p>	<p>59% of households were unaware of the facilities available at Plumpton College</p>	<p>Set up a VAP Community Facility Team to discuss opportunities with Plumpton College</p>	<p>VAP Community Facility Champion, Plumpton College</p>	<p><b>LOW PRIORITY</b> QUICK TIMESCALE (within 6 months)</p>
<p>Opportunities should be sought for providing youth activities, provided champions can be found to lead the initiatives</p> <p>A need was identified in the Youth survey to encourage young people to join the existing clubs and societies in the village</p>	<p>The Youth and Children's surveys asked for more activities and clubs</p>	<p>Appoint a VAP Youth Champion to consult with the Youth Council to publicise existing clubs and societies and to consider new opportunities</p>	<p>VAP Youth Champion, VAP Community Facility Champion, Youth Council</p>	<p><b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> SHORT TIMESCALE (within 18 months)</p>
<p>Existing societies should be encouraged to market their activities to residents to increase their memberships</p>	<p>245 (52%) households said that nobody from their house belonged to a village club or society</p>	<p>Set up a VAP Community Facility Team to encourage societies to increase awareness of their activities</p>	<p>VAP Community Facility Champion, All clubs &amp; societies</p>	<p><b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> QUICK TIMESCALE (within 6 months)</p>



## Action Plan – Village Facilities (continued)

What needs to be done?	Why is it an issue?	How will it be tackled?	Who by?	Priority and when by?
<p>Explore the desire expressed for new clubs and activities with particular emphasis on a home-growers' produce market; aerobic/gym classes and craft and art-clubs and/or fairs</p> <p>Needs were identified in the Children's and Youth surveys for more sports' clubs and societies</p>	149 respondents suggested a home-growers' produce market; over 100 each for aerobics/gym classes and craft and art fairs and/or clubs	Set up a VAP Community Facility Team to explore new initiatives	VAP Community Facility Champion, Youth Council	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> SHORT TIMESCALE (within 18 months)
Provide the Church with data from the survey for a decision to be made as to the viability of providing a Sunday School or similar facility	26 households expressed an interest in a Sunday School	VAP Committee Chair to advise the Church of the statistical findings	VAP Committee Chair, Church representatives	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> QUICK TIMESCALE (within 6 months)
Engage with users of mobility aids and the visually impaired to seek a better understanding of access difficulties within the village	13 wheelchair users identified areas of concern regarding access and moving around the village	Set up a VAP Community Facility Team to engage with users of mobility aids (ie wheelchairs, mobility scooters, walking sticks etc) and the visually impaired, to seek a better understanding of the access difficulties experienced	VAP Community Facility Champion, VAP Footpaths Champion, Users of mobility aids and the visually impaired	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b> SHORT TIMESCALE (within 18 months)

## Action Plan – Local Shop, Businesses and Employment

What needs to be done?	Why is it an issue?	How will it be tackled?	Who by?	Priority and when by?
Work with the shop/Post Office owner to maintain high standards and promote services available, to ensure that whenever threatened, both parts of the business remain open in the short term, but also into the future, so that all options and benefits for the shop and community can be explored	The shop/Post Office is a vital hub in the village and it is clear that the community has appreciated recent improvements. 75% of households use the shop twice or more per week, and nearly 50% make use of the Post Office facility at least once per month. Some 152 households use the Post Office at least twice a week	Set up a VAP Business Team to closely monitor any proposed threats to the shop/Post Office and work with the owner and community to ensure that the risks of such threats are mitigated	VAP Business Champion, Parish Council, Shop owner	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> LONG/ ONGOING TIMESCALE (within 5 years/ continuous)
Encourage continued local support for all local businesses and work to ensure local trades remain available	Convenience; personal service; ease of parking; and social contact were key reasons as why local businesses are used	Set up a VAP Business Team to encourage businesses to advertise in the Parish Magazine and encourage residents to use local businesses	VAP Business Champion, Parish Council, Parish Magazine, Business owners	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b> QUICK/ ONGOING TIMESCALE (within 6 months/ continuous)



## What Happens Next?

A new Village Action Plan Steering Committee will be formed, with appointed officers and a Constitution.

The Steering Committee will establish Action Plan Teams to take forward the actions arising from the Plan. Terms of Reference will be established for the Teams by the Steering Committee.

We hope that these Teams will be represented by people across a broad spectrum of the Plumpton community, and, therefore, we are now seeking volunteers. Please let us know if you would like to become involved. Only the people in the village can make the Action Plan become reality.

As the teams research and investigate the best way forward in each subject area, the financial implications will become known and applications for funding and fundraising activities will take place. It is unlikely that the Parish Council will have sufficient funding, other than possible initial start-up funding, to cover the activities that are likely to emerge.

The Steering Committee will monitor progress and report to the Parish Council on a monthly basis.

For further information on the above process and regular updates look at the Parish Council website [www.plumptonpc.co.uk](http://www.plumptonpc.co.uk). Also, regular updates and progress reports will appear in the Parish Magazine.

The first formal progress report will be made to the Annual Parish Meeting in April 2009, with annual updates over the next few years.



## And Finally.....

The Plumpton Village Action Plan has been led by the following volunteer Village Action Plan Committee:

Tom Hawthorne (Chair)  
Harriet Allan  
Peter Baker  
Jean Eagle  
Mac Gardiner  
Denise Hall  
Sue Mitchell  
Carole Nicholson  
Hannah Simpson-Banks  
Kelvin Speirs  
Alison Taylor  
Katie Wride

An 82% response to the Action Plan questionnaire was a great result, probably one of the highest in the country let alone the county, so thank you to each and everyone who responded. It demonstrates very clearly the sense of community that exists in Plumpton.

We could not have achieved such a fantastic response without the help and support of a dedicated team of people who delivered and most importantly collected the completed questionnaires. The questionnaire results were then coded and analysed, thank you to those who helped with this painstaking task.

Thank you to the children and staff at Plumpton Primary School for engaging with the Action Plan process and carrying out a survey within school providing us with really important information on the children's views. Thank you, also, to all the Youth in Plumpton who also participated by completing the questionnaires. These results have been separately analysed.

In particular we would like to thank:

Plumpton Parish Council  
Action in Rural Sussex (Ruth Goldstone, Mark McTaggart and Faustina Bayo)  
Stuart Green ([www.plumptonpc.co.uk](http://www.plumptonpc.co.uk) Webmaster)  
Janice Makonnen (data entry)  
Kay Edwards (coding of data)  
Catherine Jackson (research on the history of Plumpton)  
Bim Patel, Plumpton Green Post Office/Village Stores (who helped us launch the "*Plumpton Goes Green*" project)  
Millennium Fund (donation to the "*Plumpton Goes Green*" project)

Contacts

If you would like to get involved with any of the Action Plan teams, would like any more information or have any comments, please contact:

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Carole Nicholson    tel: 01273 891725      email: [carole.nicholson3@virgin.net](mailto:carole.nicholson3@virgin.net)

# PLUMPTON VILLAGE ACTION PLAN

