

SECTIONS OF THE PLAN

Local Government	LG	Transport and Highways	T&H
Countryside & Environment	C&E	Education	Ed
Emergency, Environmental and Other Service	EE&S	Information and Communication	I&C
Retail Services and Other Facilities	R&S	Employment	Emp
Sports, Social and Entertainment	SS&E	Religion	Rel
Housing and Development	H&D		

Action	Priority	Suggested solution Means of implementation	Partners	Resources / Comments
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

LG1 – Funding of projects

Where should funding come from? 34% suggested grants. 10% said from taxes.	3	Form a fund raising group in the Village to act for all Village Groups and build expertise in gaining grants.	Fund Raisers	Funding is the central item in all proposals.
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LG 2 - Parish Council Meetings

48% were not aware of the meetings or had other commitments. The notice boards always display an agenda but 58% hardly ever look at them.	3	Information highlighted in the Meppershall Messenger.	Parish Council	
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COUNTRYSIDE & ENVIRONMENT

C&E 1 - Dog fouling

74% think we have a problem with dog fouling.	2	Public education. More dog bins to be provided at Old Road Meadow.	Mid Beds Dog Warden	Dog Warden, or rather contractor, can clear from pavements.
	2	Public can report offenders to the Dog Warden, but need to be sure of their facts.	Mid Beds Dog Warden	Publish contact details for the Dog Warden.

C&E 2 - Flower Planting Scheme

62% want a planting scheme.	3	Provide tubs and borders.	Parish Council	
	3	Adopt a verge scheme.	Allotment committee to organise.	Alternative is possible Allotment / Gardening Club.

C&E 3 - Old Road Meadow Nature Reserve

36% don't know where Old Road Meadow is.	3	Publicity & school project on wild flower meadow to be started.	Parish Council School	
	3	Village sign to indicate its location.	Parish Council	

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C&E 4 - Dog Fouling in the Nature Reserve

Dog fouling is a major problem.	3	Public Education.	Dog Warden	Dog Warden or contractor, can clear from pavements. However not able to clear from fields & parks (problems of location of fouling and equipment access).
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C&E 5 - Footpaths & Rights of Way

Footpaths are known.	3	Walking Route give away maps.	Parish Council & P3	Include a copy of the footpath map in the village plan.
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C&E 6 - Aircraft Noise

The advent of the Police Helicopter operating out of Henlow.	3	Is it necessary, particularly at night, for the helicopter to fly low over the village in favour of other routes?	Parish Council Environmental Health at County Council Chiltern Air Support	
Comments that are not an issue now, but will be if Luton is expanded.	3	Parish Council to take this on board and, if Luton does undergo expansion, to raise the concerns with the appropriate authorities.	Parish Council	

EMERGENCY, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER SERVICES

EE&S 1 - Cold Calling

94% were unhappy about Cold Calling.	2	No Cold Calling Village.	Parish Council to engage with Trading Standards, Bedford County Council	At the time of this plan, the process is now underway Leaflets and stickers distributed end February 08.
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EE&S 2 – GP Surgery in Meppershall

More than 50% would like a GP's surgery in Meppershall.	2	Provide satellite surgery in Meppershall.	Parish Council to PCT	Initial response from PCT indicates that a Nurse Practitioner may be possible.
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EE&S 3 – Good Neighbour Scheme				
There was a large interest in this idea.	2	This idea would need further development but has potential.	Meppershall Village Forum	There was a previous scheme, "Meppershall Minders" but understand this was disbanded due to lack of a co-ordinator and from lack of use. New scheme would need Co-ordinator(s).
EE&S 4 - Neighbourhood Watch Scheme				
71% were in favour of a scheme.	3	Display board for interested parties to contact each other.	Meppershall Village Forum	
RETAIL SERVICES & OTHER FACILITIES				
R&S 1 – Retail				
59% thought more shops are not required. People are generally happy with those in the Village (66%), which are well used.	3	Fresh fruit and veg was the most requested additional service.	N/A	Village Shop tried Fruit & Veg & had to throw it away. Michael Mann has a mobile fruit & veg shop that spends most of Fridays in the Village.
SPORTS SOCIAL & ENTERTAINMENT				
SS&E 1 - Children's Play Area & MUGA				
Not fully used.	3	No realistic suggestions at this time – the new Meppershall Village Forum will need to develop this with other partners. Lighting on order.	Meppershall Village Forum	More sports facilities requested.
SS&E 2 – Replacement of Village Hall				
Village Hall funding.	2	Replacement should be planned and a steering group sought. Public meeting to comment. It was also thought that 106 monies (monies obtained from developers) should go to the Village Hall.	Meppershall Village Forum Parish Council Village Hall Committee	Open Day strongly supported that the Hall should be replaced.

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SS&E 3 – Entertainment				
Clubs.	3	Display board for interested parties to contact each other.	Meppershall Village Forum	
SS&E 4 - Sugar Loaf Public House				
Many dissatisfied with the Sugar Loaf.	2	Down to Sugar Loaf.	Landlord Greene King	All comments and data have been passed to the Landlord / Landlady and latterly to Greene King.
SS&E 5 - Sports field usage				
Unable to use the sports field due to lack of changing rooms.	2	Parish Council to provide changing rooms.	Parish Council Sports Clubs	There needs to be a full review of sports facilities, as without the basic facilities none of the asked for sports clubs are possible in the Village.
SS&E 6 - Help with Youth Provision				
Help with Youth Groups. 19% said they would help at a Teenage Club but no names presented at the Open Days.	2	This topic needs help from the 'professionals' at District / County.	Meppershall Village Forum	
SS&E 7 – Clubs				
A variety of clubs was requested.	3	The Open Days saw a low take up on people interested in some clubs.	Meppershall Village Forum	See SS&E 5 Bowls, Tennis BMX & Skate Boarding requested.
SS&E 8 – Teenage Club				
Teenage Club – 94% said it was a good idea.	3	The Open Days failed to generate interest from prospective helpers.	Meppershall Village Forum	Obtained "Participate" which is a Mid-Beds guide on youth participation.
		The feedback from the Rave Bus noted that a Youth Action Group Meeting was required.	Meppershall Village Forum	

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HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT

H&D 1 – Types of development most wanted

Demand for Bungalows, Affordable Housing and Starter Homes.	2	Encourage developers to build these types of dwelling.	Parish Council Mid-Beds	
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H&D 2

No large scale developments. Developments to be in keeping with the village. No 3 storey houses.	2	No large town estates.	Parish Council Mid-Beds	
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TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

T&H 1 - Lack of Car Sharing

71% apparently going to the same destinations but not sharing.	3	Database of people willing to share - centrally available.	Local group	
	3	Incentives to encourage sharing.	Local group	
	3	Notice board (possibly at the shop) of those willing to car share.	Local group	
	3	Support car parking tax at work as a means of encouraging car sharing.	Parish Council response to County Hall	

T&H 2 – Speeding

Traffic survey showed significant issues over speeding in certain locations and at particular times. 80% felt speeding was an issue.	1	Reduce speed limit to 20 mph for the central part of the Village.	Parish Council to Traffic	Hoo Rd to the school.
	1	Automatic traffic speed signs.	Parish Council to Traffic	Initial installation completed.
	1	Relocate traffic speed signs.	Parish Council to Traffic	Feedback that Shefford Rd sign not in the agreed place.
	1	Chicanes.	Parish Council to Traffic	Some people do not believe that these work.
	1	Mobile speed traps.	Parish Council to Traffic	Is the PCSO able to do this?
	1	Beat Manager to lead education on this matter - i.e. through the Messenger?	Parish Council to Traffic Beat Manager	Is the PCSO able to do this?
	1	No speed bumps or at least very last option.	Parish Council to Traffic	General feedback is that speed bumps cause more problems than they solve.

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T&H 3 - Parking at the Shop				
Issues concerning short term parking at the Shop.	2	Re-define and raise the kerb at the shop.	Parish Council to Traffic	Was due to be done in Sept 07 but not carried out.
	2	Reduce the speed limit in this area.	Parish Council to Traffic	
	2	Liaise with the Sugar Loaf PH to be able to use the car park at slack times.	Sugar Loaf PH Parish Council	
T&H 4 - Parking at the School				
Issues concerning short term parking at the School.	2	Police to enforce parking law with respect to corners & obstructing the carriage way, with a view to encouraging more people not to use the car.	Parish Council Beat Manager	
	2	Promote awareness of the Walking Bus.	Parish Council School governors	
	2	Prohibition of parking on marked zig zags to be fully enforced.	Parish Council Beat Manager	
T&H 5 - Parking – General				
Long term parking problems in some areas of the Village.	2	Fildyke Road (near Brookmead and Fildyke Close) - Aragon to provide parking outside the bungalows to create space in the existing lay byes for the overflow.	Parish Council to local Traffic Police (or PCSO)	Police to enforce any parking illegalities. Parish and District Councils to put pressure on Aragon to act.
T&H 6 - Pavement to Shefford				
87% believe that a footpath from Meppershall to Shefford is required.	1	Provide footpath to Shefford. An underpass at the bypass roundabout is considered essential.	County Council via Parish Council	Ensure that if a pavement is provided, then this should not lead to other problems such as loss of free school busses and the issue of crossing the busy bypass.
T&H 7 - Pavement on Chapel Road				
37% believe this is required. Being a pedestrian on this road is very hazardous.	3	Pavement on Chapel Road.	County Council via Parish Council	

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T&H 8 - Use of Public Transport

Very low take up on public transport particularly to & from work. 90% felt that a car is needed in order to live in the Village. "It would not be possible to live in the Village unless I had regular use of a car."	3	Buses are available from the Village to Bedford, Shefford & Hitchin.	Bus companies County Council	
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T&H 9 - Highway Maintenance

Chapel Rd liable to flooding.	3	Grips to ditches need to be kept clear, before winter, not during.	Parish Council Bedfordshire Highways	Flooding, or rather bad driving combined with flooding, has lead to cars leaving the road.
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EDUCATION

Ed 1 - Extended School Hours

Schools to offer extended hours	3	The responses show that there would be a significant take up if this was available at Meppershall but not at the other schools.	School governors Parent groups	
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Ed 2 - Out of Hours School Activities

Unable to utilize after hours school activities due to lack of transport - public or school.	3	Utilize car share database. (See TH1).	Local group	
	3	More buses to be made available. (See T&H 8)	Local group	

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS

I&C 1 – Website

High internet access in Village but little use of the Village website.	3	Remind people of the website.	Meppershall Village Forum	
	Closed	Put Messenger on the website.	Messenger Team Website Team	Messenger already on the Meppershall website. www.meppershall.org/messenger_index.html
	3	Make the website more interesting.	Contributors	
	3	Make areas editable by different groups to increase use.	Contributors	This is possible if any group wants to take control of an area of the website

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I&C 2 - Official Notice Boards				
People unaware of the notice boards or found that they were not conveniently situated.	3	More notice boards and review their locations.	Parish Council	
Notices out of date and not clear as to content.	3	Notices to be updated.	Users of the notice boards	Noted that old notices are removed.

EMPLOYMENT

Emp 1 - Vacancies Board

There was a big majority for this 319 to 80.	3	Put vacancies notices on the official Notice Boards and website.	Parish Council Local prospective employers	
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Emp 2 - Light Industrial Units

243 in favour, 200 against and 167 undecided. This together with a high demand for more local employment (257 wanting more jobs, 121 against and 226 undecided) shows that there is a good demand for possible local jobs.	3	High demand for local employment could be met by relaxation of planning applications for converting existing buildings to business use. Proposals to build new businesses.	Parish Council	
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RELIGION

Rel 1

Questions 100 to 106 give an overview of the beliefs, views on worship and the general thoughts concerning the religious buildings.	Closed	This information to be passed, in as full a manner as possible, to Rev John Harper & Rev P Snelson.	N/A	Information given as noted
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These items were also considered but the data shows that No Further Action (NFA) is required at this time

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COUNTRYSIDE & ENVIRONMENT

C&E 7 – Recycling

None.	NFA	N/A	N/A	
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C&E 8 - Grass Verges

None.	NFA	N/A	N/A	
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C&E 9 - Street Cleaning

No Problem.	NFA	NFA	N/A	
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EMERGENCY, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER SERVICES

EE&S 5 – Policing

43% thought that the Police Service was poor.	NFA	PCSO employed.	Beds Police	
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EE&S 6 – Post

None.	NFA	N/A	N/A	
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SPORTS SOCIAL & ENTERTAINMENT

SS&E 9 - Social Club

The majority do not use the club.	NFA	No action required.	N/A	
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SS&E 10 - Funding of Village Hall

Village Hall day to day funding.	NFA	The Parish Council funds the Village Hall by £3000 per annum basic plus a further £3000 maximum against matched funds raised by the Village Hall.	Parish Council Village Hall Committee	
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EDUCATION

Ed 3 - Adult Education

No interest.	NFA	NFA	N/A	
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SUMMARY OF VILLAGE INVOLVEMENT

This has been noted in the Data Gathering section above, but is summarized here.

From the beginning the aim was to ensure inclusion of all sections of the Village. Meppershall is classified as a large village, with a population of approximately 1500 people occupying some 700 dwellings. The questionnaire shows that whilst 18 percent work in the village, either directly employed or working from home, most of those that work commute from the village.

The Steering Group members undertook to visit and consult with as many groups as possible. Their findings were translated into the questionnaire.

Date	Location	Activity	Attendance
June to Sept 06	At the various group meeting places.	Direct consultation by the Steering Group with:- Meppershall School Governors Meppershall School Association, Pre-school Group Meppershall Players Evergreens Village Hall Committee Brownies Mid Beds Conservative Association Church (PCC) (informally) Women's Institute Social Club Baby and Toddlers Businesses - Thermodata, ACO, Village Stores, Bakery, Inspace	All committees / organizing groups.
22/23 Sep 06	Methodist Chapel.	Planning for Real.	Over 186 people.
Sep 06	Shefford Council Chambers.	Meeting with Shefford Town Council to discuss common issues.	Mayor & some Shefford Town Councillors.
Sep 06	E mail.	Informed other parishes of our progress – Shillington & Campton.	E mail via Parish Clerks.
21 Sep 06	Village Hall Car Park.	Rave Bus.	Approx 14 teenagers.
7 Jan 07 22 Apr 07 29 Jul 07 14 Oct 07 17 Feb 08	Footpaths around the village and Old Meadow Nature Reserve.	Green Walks.	15 people 8 people 6 people 6 people 20 people
22/23 Jan 08	Methodist Chapel.	Open Days (to review the results) and to look for volunteers.	168 people.

The questionnaire, which went to each of the households in the village and had provision for each member of the household over eight years old to complete, was done on an anonymous basis. An excellent return for an anonymous survey was achieved, with 43.85% of households and 44.87% of the population represented in the results.