



Our Parish Plan

2007- 2012



Radwinter

Introduction to **Our** Parish Plan

Business

Twenty-three Business Questionnaires were returned, with four of these in exclusively business premises, with nearly all employees from within Radwinter itself. The largest number of businesses, as you might expect, were involved with agriculture, with 4 service and 4 professional businesses, and a further 3 each in retail and construction. Most of these business say that are about the same size as last year, and most have premises that they feel are about the right size for their business. There seemed to be no real complaints or requirements, except a few small mentions for better road signage and street names—which we now have in most areas!

What are the Issues?	What can we do about it?	When?	Who could be responsible?

Our Parish Our Vision

The Environment

The results of the Village Appraisal indicated that the natural environment to be found in and around Radwinter is very important to its residents. Residents were also very aware of the wider environmental issues affecting all of our lives.

What are the Issues?	What can we do about it?	When?	Who could be responsible?
Many people proposed that more trees should be planted in Radwinter. Others wanted some trees cut down.	Carry out a tree survey.	Within 12 months	Environment volunteers.
	Co-ordinate landowners in a tree maintenance programme.	Within 12 months	Landowners.
Many people said they would like better access to the countryside for walkers, and riders. Some called for better maintenance of footpaths and bridleways.	Provide a noticeboard in car park and Post Office showing local paths.	Within 2 years	Volunteers and Parish Council in liaison with Parish Paths Partnership.
	Annual audit of local paths.	Within 2 years	Volunteers.
	Annual Parish walk - e.g. Parish boundary.	Within 12 months	Liaise with local Ramblers.
A number of people expressed interest in general environmental concerns: energy saving, litter clearing, and "reduce, reuse, recycle."	Co-ordinate litter clearing within the village.	Within 12 months	Working party.
	Improve opportunities to reduce consumption, and increase reuse, in addition to recycling.	Within 2 years	?
Many people wanted to improve the appearance and amenity value of the village crossroads	Reinstate the village pond and improve ugly modern signage.	Within 5 years	?

What are the Issues?	What can we do about it?	When?	Who could be responsible?
We should consider the benefit of some additional facilities on the Recreation ground for young people, so that it becomes a more useful meeting place.	Consider additional seating and possibly a hard-play area near the play area. The existing seating has been lost over the years.	12 months	Parish Council
	Consider how the toilet facilities could be made available to Recreation Ground users, particularly at weekends and in the summer months.	12 months	
Support for a tennis court was quite high, with 2/3 of young people naming it as a favourite (almost double the number that suggested a skateboard ramp) and 1/2 of them were keen on the idea of a tennis club	Assess interest of local adults in establishing a tennis club for young and adult.	12 months	Local group
	Progress towards the re-establishment of a tennis court on the Recreation Ground	2 years	The new Tennis Club (!)

Youth

Some 48 young people between the ages of 11 and 17 responded to the Youth Questionnaire, and about half stated that they socialise with friends either in Radwinter or Cambridge or both. In Radwinter, locations for meeting friends included the recreation ground and, overwhelmingly, at friends' houses.

There was no strong suggestion that special structures were wanted, but better toilet facilities and a tennis court attracted strong support, with quite strong support for more seating and a hard games area. Our Youth Club was very successful and well-attended with a small but dedicated team of leaders and financial support from the Parish Council, but eventually folded due to lack of active parental support, which should be shaming.

Liked most about Radwinter, although this was weakly felt, were factors such as the Recreation ground, peace and quiet, the freedom to walk and cycle, and nice countryside.

Least liked was "nothing to do", and "no shop", but even these complaints were put forward by only about 1 in 6 of our young people.

Radwinter **Community**

The level of participation in the Village Appraisal - and the return of so many questionnaires - suggest a healthy community spirit, or desire for one. Community involvement, as well as infrastructure, needs to be a part of the focus of the Parish Plan.

What are the Issues?	What can we do about it?	When?	Who could be responsible?
How can we welcome new residents to Radwinter, introduce them to the village, and encourage them to feel part of the local community?	Produce a "Welcome to Radwinter" leaflet and information pack.	Within 12 months	Parish Council and Village activity groups.
How can we continue to make Radwinter a "vital village"?	Stage more village social events - e.g. annual Summer picnic in the Church meadow.	Within 12 months	
	Establish the viability of Radwinter as a venue for a Farmers' Market.	Within 12 months	
	Organise transport share to Wimbish Farmers market.	Within 12 months	
	Encourage people to use the Radwinter Post Office.	Within 12 months	
What infrastructure do we need to help us improve the community?	Feasibility of opening a village shop staffed by volunteers, or expansion of Post Office. These were very popular ideas.	Within 2 years	Dedicated steering group.
	Provide our youth with a shelter on the recreation ground.	Within 2 years	

Housing & Development

The majority of people who replied to the questionnaire are in favour of some small development and the conversion of redundant buildings to provide rental and low cost/part ownership accommodation for single people of all ages and young families, in locations that would not adversely affect the character of the village.

What are the Issues?	What can we do about it?	When?	Who could be responsible?
Need to identify parties interested in local accommodation and keep list updated so that our Parish Council is aware of our local housing needs.	Arrange informal meetings to discuss needs with those requiring accommodation.	12 months	Parish Council
Local footpaths are popular and could be even more so if their use and upkeep was encouraged.	Production of local footpath and bridleway maps by groups of local walking and riding enthusiasts	12 months	
	Set up small teams of villagers to assist the Parish Council footpath representative in the maintenance of local paths		Parish Council Footpaths Representative

What are the Issues?	What can we do about it?	When?	Who could be responsible?
	Promote wider use of existing buildings for community use (Village Hall, School, Bowls Club)	Within 2 years	Parish Council, School Governors and Headmaster, Bowls Club Committee
Community infrastructure and amenities needed in the longer term.	Replace existing Pavilion with a purpose-built structure which meets the needs of the community in the 21st Century	Within 5 years	Parish Council, Pavilion Committee, and Recreation Ground Committee.
	Look at the possibility of providing an all-weather playing surface on the Rec.	Within 5 years	Parish Council and Recreation Ground Committee

Traffic & Transport

What are the Issues?	What can we do about it?	When?	Who could be responsible?
Despite many efforts over the years, public service bus frequency has declined - are there any realistic alternatives?	Investigate other existing schemes in Essex including the Voluntary Car Scheme, CareWatch, and Car Sharing for Shopping, Commuting, Radwinter School run, 6th Form School run.	Within 12 months	
	Encourage local drivers to participate as part of the responsibility of living in a rural community.	Within 12 months	
Half of us want to reduce traffic volumes and speed - what could we do?	Investigate and take advantage of National and Essex schemes for residents to participate in traffic speed and volume measurement.	Within 2 years	
	Commission a study on the effectiveness or otherwise of existing traffic calming.	Within 2 years	
	Investigation of traffic volume and speed reduction in Water Lane and Maple Lane	Within 2 years	

What are the Issues?	What can we do about it?	When?	Who could be responsible?
We have some accident black spots such as Stocking Green Corner, where accident recording and liaison with Essex Highways have helped to introduce new measures. Where else needs attention?	Water Lane junction at the Village centre cross-roads has very poor visibility of Eastbound traffic. Explore possibilities of improving sight lines on exit from this junction.	Within 2 years	
	Improve observance and enforcement of the no waiting zone outside the school	Within 2 years	
Many walkers complain that some roads within the Village, e.g. Maple Lane, and Mill End/Ashdon Road are extremely dangerous for them because of traffic speed and volume. What could be done here?	I have no idea.		
Stansted airport expansion exerts some people more than others—should we consider local membership of the <i>Stop Stansted Expansion</i> group? People seem to tolerate the status quo but are fearful of further degradation of quality of life and noise pollution.	Form a local group to stimulate awareness and interest in how the future growth of Stansted airport as a bucket shop departure point could affect our village.	Within 2 years	