

FOREWORD

Waldringfield is a friendly place. We welcome visitors to our lovely village, but are concerned that it may not cope for much longer. So we asked the residents of Waldringfield what they thought about this and 85% of households have considered seriously and constructively the facilities and character of Waldringfield, and they have told us how they would like to see the Village develop in the future. A team of 19 volunteer residents has given up more than 900 hours of spare time to analysing responses and compiling this Parish Plan.

This document is therefore the most authoritative statement that we have of what the residents of Waldringfield want for the future of their village.

Waldringfield is an extremely attractive village situated on the River Deben, at the end of a no-through-road, and with no public car parking facilities. It will become apparent to the reader that there is a very real possibility that, at the current rate of increase in visitors and new residential developments, the village will soon suffocate. There are already the warning signs of this: grid-locked traffic, the proliferation of road signs, parked vehicles impeding residents' cars and emergency services, and so on. The villagers are alarmed by these developments, both for ourselves and for the many visitors we welcome here throughout the year.

It is imperative therefore that all those involved in planning and development decisions take urgent note of the concerns expressed here and allow Waldringfield to develop naturally at an acceptable pace.

This report is welcomed by Waldringfield Parish Council and it will be adopted by the Council as the definitive statement of the wishes of the village residents. The Council also expresses its thanks to all the respondents to the comprehensive questionnaire, but especially its admiration and gratitude to the many volunteers who have helped to compile this professional and helpful report.

Richard A Leigh

Chairman of Waldringfield Parish Council

September 2004

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• Data/computing

WALDRINGFIELD PARISH PLAN — PAGE 2

THE PARISH PLAN

The Waldringfield Parish Plan project was first mooted at a public meeting of the Parish Council in September 2002. Subsequently a group of 19 volunteers, with the encouragement and support of the Parish Council and Suffolk ACRE, formed the Waldringfield Parish Plan Group to be the body responsible for conducting a Village Appraisal. These have four main objectives:

- ⇒ to form the basis of a Parish Plan
- ⇒ to inform local and regional government councils and agencies of the views of local residents and to influence their decisions on issues that affect the local community
- ⇒ to identify any social needs which might be met by voluntary efforts and grants available for community schemes
- ⇒ to provide a 'snapshot in time' of the community, against which any future change can be measured.

Funding was provided by the Countryside Agency and Waldringfield Parish Council. Volunteers contributed their time, amounting to well in excess of 900 hours.

A questionnaire was developed and delivered to 201 of the 225 households on the Suffolk Coastal District Council records. Absentee owners, where no forwarding address was available, account for some of the non-deliveries.

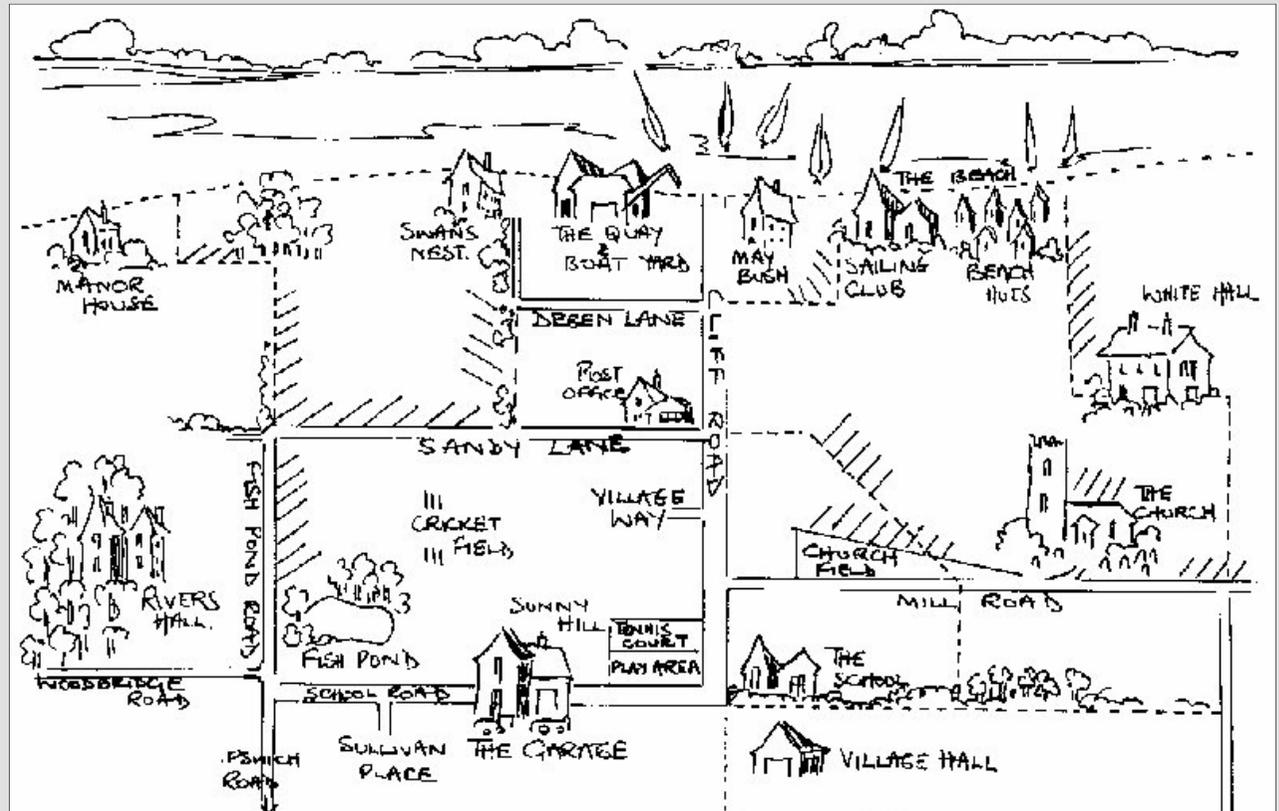
177 questionnaires were returned, 7 of which could not be processed as questions in the compulsory section had not been answered. 170 questionnaires were processed, representing an overall response rate of 85%.

A Youth Questionnaire was compiled by two young people, given to 45 people and returned by 39, a response of 87%.

An interim report of the raw data was distributed to

all households. This document, also to all households, is our final report and Action Plan.

Stan Baston and Barry Jones. Joint Chairmen



KEY
 [Hatched Box] INDICATING RIVER VIEWS
 [Dashed Line Box] FOOT PATHS

VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

Waldringfield is a small village situated on the west bank of the River Deben estuary, four miles from the historic market town of Woodbridge, and eight miles from Ipswich. The village is surrounded by farmland and lies within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). It is administered by the Parish Council, the Suffolk Coastal District Council and Suffolk County Council.

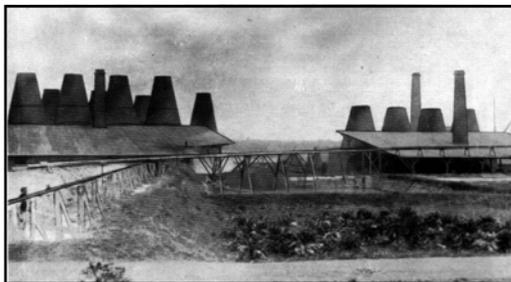
The settlement grew up on a bend in the river, four miles from the Anglo-Saxon ship burial at Sutton Hoo, and one of only a handful of places between Woodbridge and Felixstowe where a shingle beach provides easy access between water and land.

The medieval Parish Church of All Saints, with its Tudor red-brick tower, stands on higher ground to the south of the village. It is said that a church has existed on this site for 700 years and there is some evidence that it was an Anglo-Saxon burial site in pre-Christian times. The Maybush Inn, originally a farmhouse, dates from the middle of the 14th century. The property was probably licensed around 1745.

The present village has grown up along and around the roads leading to the river. The hamlet of Waldringfield Heath lies about half a mile away from the centre of the village and has fewer than a dozen properties and a Baptist Chapel.

From about 1860 to 1895, coprolite was being dug out from pits in the fields, washed and sifted on the beach and shipped by barge to be processed in factories in Ipswich, as part of the early fertiliser industry. Towards the end of the 19th century Mason's cement-making industry

sprang up, using mud from the river mixed with chalk brought in by barge from the Medway. Served by one hundred barges a month and employing twelve 'bottleneck' kilns, the industry survived until 1907. The kilns were demolished in 1912 so the most noticeable reminder of the industry is the row of 'cement' cottages in Cliff Road, so called because they were built to house the cement workers. [See picture, Page 5.]



Twelve 'bottleneck' kilns

WILDLIFE

Waldringfield has an unusually rich wildlife. This is because it includes a stretch of the tidal estuary, with important areas of salt marsh, mudflats and riverside grassland which are attractive to many different species of plants, birds, and mammals (including the endangered water-vole). The river has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and regular surveys reveal that our riverside habitats are nationally and internationally important as feeding grounds for waders and wildfowl, such as Widgeon, Shelduck and Brent Geese, particularly in severe weather.

The river now has a good population of fish and we hope to see otters again in our area soon.

In 1988 the Deben valley, including most of the parish of Waldringfield, was designated an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) in order to encourage the preservation of the traditional farming landscape, with its modest-sized fields

bounded by hedges punctuated with mature oak trees, and to promote the survival of increasingly rare habitats such as heathland and woodland. This designation came too late to save Waldringfield Heath, which was ploughed up after the Second World War, and some of our ancient hedges. Even so, the riverside landscape remains rural, peaceful and wildlife-friendly and is much appreciated by both residents and visitors.

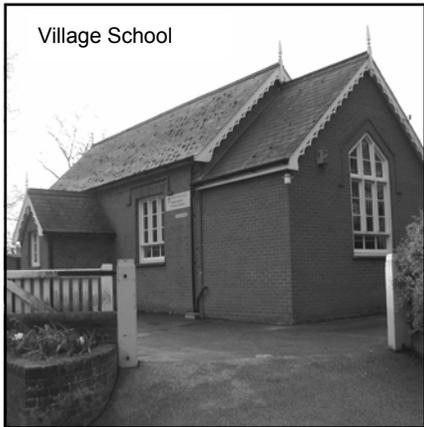


THE PARISH NOW

Today, the river is given over to leisure. Waldringfield Sailing Club, formed in 1921, now has a membership of 650 of whom around 81 live in the village. In addition to providing club dinghy racing, the WSC hosts open meetings, runs training courses and plays a prominent role in the annual Deben Week Regatta. Waldringfield Boatyard provides facilities for yachts, and runs a pleasure launch offering river trips for coach parties and individuals.

In addition to the pub/restaurant and the boatyard, businesses in the parish include a general builder, a garage, a sub post office (open 22 hours a week), three farms, an 18-hole golf-course with clubhouse and various home-based businesses. The general store became unviable and closed in 1998. Its demise was, no doubt, connected with the development of a Tesco supermarket in the neighbouring parish of Martlesham. It was hoped to replace the village store with a shopping club of some kind but this has not proved possible. A demolition company has premises at Waldringfield Heath, and nearby, numerous business starter units have been created from redundant pig-farm outbuildings.

A new village hall was built in 2002, with the aid of a substantial grant from the Millennium Fund. [See picture on front cover.] The parish also has a young children's playground and a 5-acre plot called Church Field, which was recently donated to the parish as a recreational area by the late Dr Tom Waller.



Village School

The village has a successful primary school, founded 130 years ago. It currently has 4.6 full-time equivalent teachers and a student roll of 74, mostly drawn from surrounding areas and arriving by car or school bus. The school has recently been enlarged and now has four classrooms, a hall, library, ICT room, foyer area, staff room and two small offices. It also has a large field with a football pitch, a hockey pitch and a new playground area.

PRESSURES ON THE VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

The riverside, with its beach and walks, the pub, the Sailing Club and the river cruises already draw many visitors to the river end of the village. Most arrive by car (some with trailers), including village residents from more remote parts of the Parish, and some by coach. Weekends, light evenings and school holidays all attract visitors, with numbers peaking in the warmer weather from Spring to Autumn. Present traffic levels already cause problems, to which the Parish Council have responded by having ten road humps and a 20 mph speed limit installed throughout Cliff Road. The effects of this pressure include:-

- ⇒ Congestion of the narrow village roads, particularly Cliff Road and School Road, causing potential access problems for emergency services.
- ⇒ Increasing traffic on the main approach road from the A12, causing residents to feel in danger. (see 'Traffic' section).
- ⇒ Increasing traffic on narrow lanes to Martlesham and Newbourne, which intrudes upon the peaceful nature of the countryside.
- ⇒ Pressure on very limited parking in the village, especially near the beach, which results in overflow parking in Cliff Road (see Parking in 'Tourism and Visitors' section).
- ⇒ Additional usage of footpaths, which are already suffering erosion in places.

Thus, further growth in traffic into the parish is unwelcome.

The Deben Estuary is beautiful, its banks relatively unspoilt by development. Waldringfield is the only riverside settlement of any size between Felixstowe Ferry and Woodbridge. The village is small, well-confined, and reasonably unobtrusive when viewed from the river.

The parish survey results indicate overwhelming desire to protect all aspects of the countryside and for the village not to develop further or to encroach on the surrounding area. Any outward expansion of housing would be built within the AONB and could be seriously detrimental to important vistas, either from the river or of the river from the lanes (e.g. Sandy Lane), paths and other public places throughout the area [See map, Page 2.]

THE ISSUES

BACKGROUND

ACTION

PARTNERS

The location and amount of new housing development in the Parish

Of 319 respondents, nearly 80% want Waldringfield to stay as it is. Few respondents support significant amounts of new housing. Of the 314 answering the question on acceptable types of housing development, nearly a third wanted none.

Preferred types of development are conversion of redundant buildings, single dwellings in controlled locations and groups of 3 or fewer houses. Least favoured options are developments at the edge of the village and larger groups of houses. See table below for more detail.

Around 90% of 335 respondents rated the AONB, woodlands and trees as important or very important. New developments may be detrimental to vistas within the AONB. [See 'Landscape and Wildlife' section.]

Discuss with SCDC adoption of the following criteria as part of their planning guidelines:

- ⇒ Retain the present village envelope.
- ⇒ Restrict development to single houses, conversion of redundant buildings, and possibly groups of 2 or 3 houses.
- ⇒ No new housing should be permitted which interferes with vistas from public places such as roads, paths and green areas to the river, or from the river to the land [See map, Page 2.]
- ⇒ All new development proposals to be considered for preservation of existing trees and hedgerows and, where deemed necessary, to require planting of new trees and/or hedges to provide screening.

WPC

SCDC

Ad hoc groups formed within Parish to vet, and if appropriate, to oppose developments which breach these guidelines

What types of housing development would be acceptable? 314 respondents.

126	Conversion of redundant buildings
111	Affordable housing
109	Single dwellings in controlled locations
102	No Housing development.
45	Small groups of 3 or fewer houses
39	Sheltered housing
22	Expansion at the edge of the village
19	Carefully designed larger group(s)



Row of 'Cement' Cottages

THE ISSUES

There is some need for affordable housing to allow local people to live in the Parish

BACKGROUND

Over a third of respondents support development of affordable housing, however nearly a third want no housing development, and 80% want Waldringfield to stay as it is.

The Suffolk ACRE Housing Needs Survey was returned by 65% of 201 households. One household is already registered with a housing association; ten people said that they would like affordable homes in Waldringfield. Experience in SCDC suggests that the number moving into affordable homes would be much lower.

Houses are allocated to suitable tenants who have “community connections”, (which must be work or close family). If this fails to fill the available houses, the criteria can be widened.

Affordable housing may be either rental, or shared equity with reduced rental, managed by registered social landlords and could be built in Waldringfield as:-



- ⇒ Developments consisting only of affordable homes; these can be built outside existing village envelopes.
 - ⇒ One third of the houses in developments of three or more houses under SCDC’s proposed rules, which may be approved in 2005.
- Affordable houses can also be small houses built by private developers within the price range of local people and sold on the open market. Such developments are unlikely here because of the high cost of land.

Four Recently Built Houses

ACTION

Ensure that the present, and any new, affordable housing stock is used for the benefit of village families as effectively as possible.

Avoid any large-scale development of affordable housing in this Parish.

PARTNERS

WPC
 SCDC
 Housing Associations



Articulated Container Lorry lost at the river end of Cliff Road

THE ISSUES	BACKGROUND	ACTION	PARTNERS
<p>Traffic volumes cause road safety concerns</p>	<p>Over 30% of 246 respondents feel in danger from traffic in School Road and Cliff Road.</p> <p>The traffic peaks at pub meal and drinking times, and Sailing Club activity times.</p>	<p>Survey traffic volume and times to gather information to be used to encourage improvements to road layout and pedestrian safety in the village.</p>	<p>WPC SCC SCDC Individuals or organisations to assist.</p>
<p>Safety is a major concern around School Corner</p>	<p>36% of 270 respondents support 'no parking' around School Corner, and the same number of residents support provision of more pavements in the village.</p> <p>At school times, cars dropping off and collecting children park on verges and roads around School Corner. These car movements, together with passing traffic and children crossing the road, create a very hazardous environment, compounded by the lack of pedestrian footways.</p> <p>Unlike the rest of Cliff Road and School Road the land around School Corner next to the Playing Field is not in private ownership.</p>	<p>Investigate possibility of providing footways around the corner by the playing field.</p> <p>Prohibit parking on the verge and around the corner.</p> <p>Encourage parking on the school side of the road.</p>	<p>WPC SCC (Education & Traffic) SCC and SCDC Councillor Village Hall Committee Waldringfield School</p>
<p>Dangerous village approach road</p>	<p>The village approach road from Ipswich (Heath Crossroads to Low Farm Corner) is narrow and winding with poor visibility due to hedges and trees and no proper passing places. Traffic, other than cars or small vans, has to pull up on the bank or reverse to pass. There are frequent scrapes and collisions.</p> <p>This hazard has been discussed between WPC and SCC-Highways but not resolved. 85% of 246 respondents feel in danger when using this road. 80% of 318 respondents support applying a 30 mph speed limit.</p>	<p>Set up a meeting of interested parties to determine timetabled action plan for improvements to the approach road.</p>	<p>WPC SCDC Councillor SCC Councillor SCC Highways</p>

THE ISSUES	BACKGROUND	ACTION	PARTNERS
<p>Does School Road need a traffic calming scheme?</p>	<p>The 20mph traffic calming scheme in Cliff Road has been successful in improving safety and has twice as many supporters (45% of 318 respondents) as opponents (23%).</p> <p>Since the scheme was introduced, traffic speeds along School Road appear to its residents to have increased.</p> <p>33% of 246 respondents feel in danger in School Road as pedestrians or vehicle users. 39% of 318 respondents support the introduction of traffic calming within School Road and 28% are against. Objections are often voiced against speed bumps rather than traffic calming; other speed reduction methods may also be useful.</p>	<p>Consider a traffic calming scheme from School Road corner to Sullivan Place.</p>	<p>WPC SCC- Highways SCC & SCDC- Councillors</p>
<p>Cliff Road sometimes blocked by articulated lorries</p>	<p>Drivers, unsure of where they are going, take their large vehicles down Cliff Road towards the River and then need to reverse, causing blockage and danger. They have no way of knowing that there is no turning space lower down than Sandy Lane, nor that there is no parking at all unless they are going to the boatyard by arrangement. [See picture, Page 6.] The existing warning signs are inadequate.</p>	<p>Request signage from SCC Signage, preferably placed near to Village Way, to warn of "No Turning, No Through Road."</p>	<p>WPC SCC- Highways SCC- Councillor</p>
<p>Emergency vehicle access</p>	<p>The narrow roads in the village make access difficult for emergency vehicles and deliveries. Particular problems areas are caused by:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Parking in Village Way. ⇒ Boats and cars using the slipway at the Quay. ⇒ Lack of turning space in Deben Lane. <p>Residents can ask for small delivery vehicles to be used; on rare occasions this may not be possible.</p>	<p>No unattended parking on 'The Quay'.</p> <p>Widen road or provide off-road parking in Village Way.</p> <p>Investigate provision of signage in Deben Lane.</p>	<p>Deben Lane residents SCC- Highways SCC- Councillor Heritage Housing Association</p>

TRANSPORT

THE ISSUES	BACKGROUND	ACTION	PARTNERS
<p>Some people in the village need help with transport</p>	<p>A small number of respondents (37) needed help fetching medicines or shopping, or help with getting out and about. A larger number (80) had some problems getting to places outside Waldringfield.</p> <p>Our Youth Survey shows scope for car sharing for shopping, cinema, football training and other activities, in Felixstowe, Woodbridge, Ipswich and Kesgrave. This is also the case for daily journeys to secondary schools and to the primary school.</p> <p>A number of respondents (about 60) were prepared to help with a car sharing scheme, either often or occasionally. The help was offered mainly for shopping, social/leisure or medical visits, with a few interested in journeys to school. We have a list of volunteers for car sharing.</p>	<p>Discuss at a parish meeting and elect some of the volunteers to organise car sharing schemes.</p>	<p>The volunteers on the list</p> <p>Parents and young people</p> <p>Minicab Firms</p> <p>SCDC</p>
<p>Public transport is poor</p>	<p>Over 90 respondents want improvements in routes and timetables. In addition our Youth Survey shows transport problems for our young people.</p> <p>10 pupils go to school in Woodbridge, yet the first bus goes at 0953 and a bus comes back at 1612, 30 minutes too soon for end of school.</p> <p>10 pupils are discouraged from doing after school activities by the lack of transport home. Days out at weekends are restricted with last direct buses back at 1515 from Ipswich, 1222 from Felixstowe and 1835 from Woodbridge.</p>	<p>Form group of concerned users at a parish meeting.</p> <p>Talk to the Bus Company about improving the timetables to meet some of these needs.</p>	<p>Parents and potential users</p> <p>SCC</p> <p>Bus Company (Country Travel)</p>

TOURISM & VISITORS

THE ISSUES	BACKGROUND	ACTION	PARTNERS
<p>Increasing number of visitors causing problems</p>	<p>Recent years have seen a marked increase in the number of visitors, Most come by car; some by coach. The major attractions are:- ⇒ The river and beach ⇒ The riverside Maybush Inn, now developed for larger numbers ⇒ Sailing Club racing, training and special events ⇒ Boat trips on the pleasure launch, “Jahan” ⇒ Walking on our footpaths and country lanes</p> <p>The continuing growth in tourism overloads the village infrastructure, roads and facilities.</p> <p>Almost three-quarters of 332 respondents do not want any development which would encourage more overnight tourism. Only 5% of 319 respondents want Waldringfield to develop as a tourist venue. 80% want Waldringfield to stay as it is.</p>	<p>Oppose any proposed development which would significantly increase the number of visitors.</p>	<p>WPC SCDC Suffolk Coast & Heaths Project</p>
<p>Lack of public car park</p>	<p>The old public car park has recently reverted to become part of the Maybush car park. The loss of the public car park already causes problems, which are likely to escalate. On the recent Spring Bank Holiday 2004, 11 cars parked on the roadside in the lower half of Cliff Road, causing obstruction to traffic, potential obstruction to emergency vehicles and potential danger to pedestrians.</p> <p>50% of 333 respondents think Waldringfield needs a public car park and that it should be situated where it used to be; 38% say we do not need a public car park.</p>	<p>Resolve the status of the old car park.</p> <p>Provide a public car park, where it used to be, or nearby.</p>	<p>WPC SCDC Suffolk Coast & Heaths Project</p>
<p>Potential loss of public toilet</p>	<p>A public toilet stands in the old public car park; its future is uncertain. On fine summer days, at weekends and in school holidays, there are many people on the beach, indicating a clear need for a public toilet. Nearly 75% of 329 respondents think Waldringfield needs a public toilet and that it should be situated either where it is or near the beach.</p>	<p>Ensure the continued provision and signposting of a public toilet, either where it is or nearby.</p>	<p>WPC SCDC</p>

THE ISSUES	BACKGROUND	ACTION	PARTNERS
<p>Congestion at the slipway</p>	<p>Boats are launched and recovered using the slipway next to the Quay. About a third of respondents are concerned about congestion and blockage of the slipway by cars parked by the slipway and queues of boats blocking the road. Nearby residents have occasional access difficulties.</p>	<p>Village and WSC to monitor situation and consider ways in which slipway users can minimise their time on slipway and road.</p> <p>Consider a “No Parking” sign for unattended vehicles in the vicinity of the slipway.</p>	<p>WSC Volunteer Group WPC</p>
<p>Vehicles driving on the beach</p>	<p>A third of 282 respondents are concerned about vehicles driving onto the beach despite the Crown Commissioner’s sign prohibiting this. Most instances appear to be to launch or recover boats at low tide. One car can do significant damage to the beach, causing deep ruts and churning up mud. [See picture, page 14.]</p> <p>There is no easy solution to this problem. The beach cannot be blocked off because many dinghies on trolleys launch over the beach when the tide is low and must have access to do so.</p>	<p>Village to monitor situation and consider action only if the problem worsens.</p>	<p>Volunteer Group Fairway Committee</p>
<p>Uncontrolled development of beach huts could spoil the beach area</p>	<p>Two thirds of 282 respondents say that the location and appearance of the beach huts should be controlled.</p> <p>The beach huts are subject to planning permission and this generally relates to changes to existing huts, or their demolition and replacement with a new hut. It is unclear if there is any land available where new huts might be proposed.</p>	<p>Ensure that planning applications are fully vetted and make objections to inappropriate proposals.</p>	<p>WPC Residents</p>

THE ISSUES	BACKGROUND	ACTION	PARTNERS
<p>Inconsiderate behaviour of river users</p>	<p>Boat owners (37) complain of unreported damage to moored boats. WSC now provides incident forms outside the front of its clubhouse for observed incidents to be reported. Deben Watch also provides report forms via its web site (www.debenwatch.co.uk) and various notice boards.</p> <p>Of 282 respondents, 46%, say they would like to see a water bailiff to control speeding, which disturbs other users, spectators, wildlife and the salt marsh.</p> <p>The Deben Joint Fairways Committee had arranged patrols using Sailing Club boats manned by a police officer. This is suspended due to police health & safety concerns.</p> <p>The beach footpath is sometimes blocked by dinghies and/or trolleys.</p>	<p>Anyone observing collisions with moored boats should record the incident on the WSC or Deben Watch forms.</p> <p>Publicise Deben Watch scheme.</p> <p>Support efforts to provide a water bailiff.</p> <p>Review outcome of speed controls and collisions.</p> <p>Ask WSC to ask visiting dinghy sailors to park tidily.</p>	<p>Any observers of collisions</p> <p>Deben Watch</p> <p>Deben Fairway Committees.</p> <p>Sailing Clubs on the river.</p> <p>Suffolk Police.</p> <p>SCDC</p> <p>WSC</p>
<p>Some residents wish to keep boats near to the river launching places</p>	<p>Out of 282 respondents over a third want boat parking for residents near to the river. Empty land for boat storage and near to the launching places simply does not exist.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ The Sailing Club provides dinghy parking facilities for ‘class-boat’ members. ⇒ Dinghies up to 11 feet can be left on the beach (controlled by WFC). ⇒ Space can be rented in the boatyard compound. 	<p>Those wanting boat storage are advised to investigate these options.</p>	<p>WSC</p> <p>Waldringfield Fairway Committee</p> <p>Boatyard</p>
<p>The desire to limit the number of moorings on the river</p>	<p>Out of 282 respondents, 102 want fewer moorings and only 20 people want more. The Fairway Committee recently reduced the maximum boat length for new mooring holders to 36 feet. There were 221 moorings in 1971; the number is the same today. The Committee have resolved not to increase the number of moorings, despite a long waiting list.</p>	<p>The Fairway Committee has this matter under control.</p>	<p>Fairway Committee</p>

THE ISSUES

Improving the relationship between WSC and the village

BACKGROUND

The Sailing Club has been established since 1921 and attains national status for coaching and producing top racers, including class world champions. It is an important part of village life and 80 respondents say that they are members.

The Club is anxious to improve its relationship with the village and specifically requested us to ask what the village and WSC could do to improve their relationship. There was a diversity of views and some constructive suggestions:

- ⇒ *“Do not make changes or propose them without consulting the village”*
- ⇒ *“Share car park space when not busy”*
- ⇒ *“Village-only courses or taster days”*

Many comments asked clearly for better communication, ably summed up by this comment:

- ⇒ *“Talk to each other more, seek to understand each other’s views”*

ACTION

Send the list of comments to the WSC Committee for its consideration.

Consider, and set up, ways of ensuring better communication between WSC and the village.

PARTNERS

WPC
WSC
Other village representatives

Opinion on the relationship between WSC & Village

	Satisfactory	Not satisfactory	No opinion
WSC members	33	19	18
Non members	19	92	128



WSC Lark Class Preparing to Race

THE ISSUES

BACKGROUND

ACTION

PARTNERS

Protection of the AONB landscape

Waldringfield Parish lies within the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). 89% of 335 respondents rated the AONB ‘Very important’ or ‘Important’.

Viewed from the river and across from its eastern banks, Waldringfield village is a well-confined settlement which is surprisingly unobtrusive. Within the parish there are many beautiful vistas which should be protected. [See map, Page 2.]

In recent years the River Deben Association has been successful in appealing against obtrusive new developments.

Monitor local planning applications to identify those which would affect the landscape.

Oppose any planning applications which would damage the landscape.

WPC
 SCDC
 Suffolk Coast & Heaths Unit
 River Deben Association
 Local residents

Provision and maintenance of public footpaths & bridleways

Over 90% of 322 respondents use the public footpaths and bridleways and 83 residents would like additional footpaths.

The most-used paths are on top of the river embankments and are heavily eroded. Old breaches have not been repaired, making it impossible to walk by the river as far as Hemley or Martlesham Creek.

The riverside embankment footpath between Swan’s Nest and Manor House, giving panoramic views of the river valley as far as Woodbridge, is under threat from the proposed Flood Defence Scheme.

The footpath from the church to the beach has been closed off in recent years.

Ask the Environment Agency to maintain and repair the river embankments.

Ask the SCC Highways Authority to maintain the footpaths on top of the embankments.

Support the Parish Council in its efforts to reinstate the footpath from church to beach.

Investigate the possibility of creating new footpaths to link some existing footpaths.

The Environment Agency
 SCC Highways Authority
 Local residents
 WPC
 Local Landowners
 SCDC Rights of Way Team



Vehicle driven onto beach to recover boat

THE ISSUES	BACKGROUND	ACTION	PARTNERS
<p>Effect of the proposed Flood Defence scheme</p>	<p>In November 2003 the Environment Agency published “<i>Waldringfield Flood Defence Study</i>”. If approved and funded, construction works could commence in 2006. The scheme includes:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ A concrete barrier between ‘The Quay’ and the boatyard, plus flood-gates at the slipway. ⇒ Installing steel sheet pile flood defences on the embankment immediately north of the boatyard. ⇒ Constructing a new earth embankment inland of the existing one, north of Swan’s Nest. ⇒ Proposed flooding of the grazing marsh between the new and existing seawalls. The existing seawall would not be maintained. <p>Of 261 respondents, the percentage dissatisfied with the indicated ‘preferred option’ proposals was:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 57% Possible breach of the existing seawall and footpath. 43% Risk of more mud being deposited on Waldringfield beach. 25% Building a flood barrier on the very narrow ‘The Quay’. 	<p>Inform the Environment Agency of the residents’ concerns about the scheme.</p> <p>Use the Parish Newsletter to promote residents’ awareness of the scheme.</p> <p>Encourage residents to be proactive in the consultation process.</p>	<p>Environment Agency WPC Local residents</p>
<p>Protection and encouragement of wildlife</p>	<p>Nearly all respondents value our countryside and wildlife and want them protected.</p> <p>The river, salt marsh and mudflats are protected as part of a Ramsar (wetland of international importance) and SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest).</p> <p>Biodiversity on farmland has declined in recent decades.</p> <p>The flood defence proposals threaten the grazing marsh between the proposed and existing seawalls. This area is home to the endangered water-vole and many other plants and animals.</p>	<p>Hold a parish meeting with the intention of forming a local group of volunteers for nature conservation.</p>	<p>WPC Local residents Suffolk Wildlife Trust Landowners Farmers</p>

THE ISSUES	BACKGROUND	ACTION	PARTNERS
Need for a Good Neighbour scheme	Although the need for help was identified by only 37 people, data shows that 50% of 273 respondents would help others occasionally, and 83 (30%) said they would help more frequently. With an organised scheme, more people may take up the offer of help.	Several volunteers have been identified. One person to be selected to co-ordinate the scheme at a parish meeting.	Parish Council Suffolk ACRE Scheme co-ordinator
Need for chiropody services	Of the 93 residents who responded, 44 (47%) said they would use a chiropody clinic if available. This is a service needed in the main by older people and the figure represents about a third of the residents over 60.	Investigate providing a visiting chiropodist on a regular basis.	NHS Podiatry Service Private chiropodist Age Concern Social Services
Lack of knowledge of Neighbourhood Watch scheme	A little over half (56%) of 316 respondents had no opinion on whether this scheme, which is already in place, was working well. Better information from the organisers would raise the profile of this service.	Publicise names of co-ordinators. Reports in quarterly parish newsletter.	Parish Council Local police Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators
Should Waldringfield have a Residents' Association?	There were equal numbers saying “yes” and those having no opinion. Comments suggest that it may overlap the work of the Parish Council or, alternatively, may be able to progress some of the straightforward actions from this report, thus allowing the Parish Council more time for those actions where their expertise is essential.	Find residents who are willing to organise a parish meeting to take the issue forward.	Parish Council

THE ISSUES	BACKGROUND	ACTION	PARTNERS
<p>Need for recycling services</p>	<p>A high proportion of residents would use recycling facilities if they were available in the village. Bottles can be recycled at the Maybush car park. There is a fortnightly collection of paper by Suffolk Coastal District Council, which takes a wide variety of paper types.</p>	<p>Identify an area suitable for recycling bins (cans, clothing). Encourage SCDC to plan for provision and maintenance.</p>	<p>Parish Council SCDC</p>
<p>Concerns regarding a variety of disturbances including smells, flies, light pollution, etc.</p>	<p>243 residents responded, of which almost half cited dog fouling as the greatest nuisance. 40% found flies a particular disturbance. 63 (25%) were worried by bad smells; there were comments on silage and muck-spreading, and 6 people specifically commented about the cooking smells from The Maybush.</p>	<p>Increase number of Fido Bins. Encourage residents to report smells and nuisances to the council. Ask The Maybush to make changes to reduce, or eliminate, their cooking smells.</p>	<p>Parish Council SCDC Environmental Health Department The Maybush Local farmers</p>
<p>Young people perceive a lack of shopping facilities</p>	<p>The Youth questionnaire revealed that young people want better shopping facilities. A small range of sweets, crisps, ice creams and drinks can be bought from the Post Office, The Maybush and the boatyard. The range of goods is limited and opening times do not always coincide with after-school needs.</p>	<p>Ensure young people know what is available and where they can purchase the items. Shopkeepers may wish to review their stocks and provide a wider range where possible.</p>	<p>Post Office Waldringfield Boatyard The Maybush Parish directory or newsletter</p>

RECREATION AND LEISURE

THE ISSUES

BACKGROUND

ACTION

PARTNERS

Need to increase social, educational and sporting activities in the Village Hall

There is already an active calendar of events in the village but more use can be made of the facilities at the Village Hall. More use of the hall increases revenue and leisure opportunities for village residents. Social activities requested included a gardening club, a computer club, wine tasting and craft classes. On the sports side, interest was shown in snooker and martial arts.

Investigate which new activities might be possible.

Village Hall committee

Improve recreational facilities for 11-18s in the village

Indoor sports, sailing, golf, tennis and a 7-a-side football pitch are already available. However, there is no large outdoor sports area. The use of Church Field was not included in the Parish Plan questionnaire because a survey had recently been held. The results of the Parish Plan survey and the Youth Questionnaire indicate that there is a significant demand for better sporting facilities in the village.

Investigate the feasibility of providing some sporting facilities (e.g. basketball area, football posts) on the Church Field recreational area.

Church Field trustees

Some parish residents are not aware of some services available in the village

The majority of respondents (83%) were aware of what was on offer at the Village Hall and other venues. The quarterly Parish Newsletter is an obvious place for organizers to advertise their events. The WI Directory, given to newcomers, would probably be of interest to all households. Topics could include:-

- ⇒ Where young people can buy sweets and other items
- ⇒ All regular leisure and sports activities
- ⇒ Times of doctors' visits
- ⇒ Bus times
- ⇒ Reports from Neighbourhood Watch.

Encourage event organizers to send event details to the Parish Clerk.

Discuss wider circulation of the WI Directory with the WI and with the WPC.

Parish Council
Waldringfield Women's Institute