



THE  
BIDDENDEN  
PARISH PLAN

APRIL 2005

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The Biddenden Parish Plan should be read in conjunction with the Biddenden Appraisal (1998) and the Biddenden Design Statement (2003).

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A copy of this document is available on [www.biddenden.gov.uk](http://www.biddenden.gov.uk)

**This project is partly funded by Community Action South Kent (CASK).**

## INTRODUCTION

### PURPOSE

To provide the Parish Council with an action plan for critical issues, as identified by the Steering Group through parish-wide consultation.

### METHODOLOGY

Following the completion of the Parish Appraisal (1998) and the Design Statement (2003), the Parish Council organised an open meeting in November 2003 to draw up a Wish List which would eventually form the basis of the Parish Plan. This Wish List was forwarded to Ashford Borough Council in January 2004 for consideration as part of the Local Development Framework.

The Parish Plan Steering Group was formed in February 2004 with eight members. The Steering Group met regularly to discuss progress and agree on next steps. Meetings were held on:

1<sup>st</sup> April 2004  
6<sup>th</sup> May 2004  
3<sup>rd</sup> June 2004  
5<sup>th</sup> August 2004  
9<sup>th</sup> September 2004  
6<sup>th</sup> January 2005  
10<sup>th</sup> March 2005

### CONSULTATION

Throughout the process the Steering Group gave parishioners and other interested parties a variety of opportunities to express their opinions and comment on the progress and direction of the project.

Six **open meetings** were held in the Village Hall. These served to identify the remit of the Steering Group and to report on its progress. Open meetings were advertised widely in the village and notices were also put in the Parish Magazine. In total, 104 people attended open meetings. They were held on:

- 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2003
- 24<sup>th</sup> January 2004
- 7<sup>th</sup> February 2004
- 24<sup>th</sup> June 2004
- 8<sup>th</sup> November 2004
- 12<sup>th</sup> March 2005

As well as holding a series of open meetings, the Steering Group also arranged two meetings to consult with **business and community leaders** about their views and vision for Biddenden. These were held on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2004 and the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2005. These meetings were attended by 65 people.

The Steering Group invited **John Mayne Primary School** to participate in the Plan through a series of projects on 'The Perfect Village'. Pupils made models, drew plans, compiled a wall chart and produced a workbook. Where appropriate, we have tried to incorporate their proposals in our Action Plan.

## **QUESTIONNAIRE**

A key component of the Steering Group's work was the questionnaire. Based on the preparatory work done to produce the Wish List, the Steering Group drafted a questionnaire which focused on key issues raised during the consultation process. This draft was approved by the Parish Council and a team of volunteers hand-delivered the questionnaire to every household during the first two weeks of July 2004. Completed questionnaires (978 out of 1,500 delivered) were also hand-collected by volunteers.

Volunteers conducted the primary analysis of responses, and these data were then collated to produce a consolidated parish view.

## **BUDGET**

After the Countryside Agency withdrew funding for Parish Plans we reviewed our budget and reduced it to £5,790.

As at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005 we had incurred expenses of just over £1,000, and we do not expect the final cost of the project to be greater than £2,000, most of which will be covered by grants from Action with Communities in Rural Kent and Ashford Borough Council.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Many people in the parish helped the Steering Group with the production of this plan. We are especially grateful to the legion of volunteers – too numerous to mention - who handed out, collected and analysed the questionnaires.

We would also like to record our thanks to the Parish Council, who have individually and collectively given us unstinting support.

Further thanks are due to Action with Communities in Rural Kent and Ashford Borough Council, both of whom offered us invaluable advice as well as vital funding.

Many thanks to Peter Whitestone, who successfully managed compilation of the Parish Appraisal, and who offered us much wisdom and encouragement. Finally, thanks to David Eames and Bob Sammut, both of whom were members of the Steering Group during its early phases.

## **THE BIDDENDEN PARISH PLAN STEERING GROUP**

Richard Greensted (Chairman)  
Hugh Richards (Vice Chairman)  
Colin Hunt (Treasurer)  
Gilly Allison (Secretary)  
Alan Copps  
Don Farris  
Anna Parkinson-Tait  
Robin Selby

April 2005

## BIDDENDEN PARISH PLAN DRAFT ACTION PLAN APRIL 2005

ISSUE	OUTCOME REQUIRED	ACTION REQUIRED	BY WHOM	TIMESCALE	FUNDING
<b>TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT</b>	Consistent enforcement of existing restrictions	Mobile speed monitoring units	PC; ABC; Kent Police; KCC	2005	Grant to PC
	Preventative measures	Flashing speed signs; Extension of 30 mph limit; Introduction of 20mph limit in High Street	PC; ABC; Kent Police; KCC	2005/6	Mill Corner planning gain
<b>RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT</b>	Controlled expansion of housing over the next 10 years (i.e. 21-50 new dwellings), with priority for starter homes and sheltered housing	PC and ABC to give priority to village infill sites for starter/sheltered housing	PC; ABC	2005/2015	N/A
<b>PEDESTRIAN SAFETY</b>	Improved pedestrian protection and facilities	Pedestrian crossings within village and at Woodlands Park	ABC; KCC	By 2008	
		Pavement from Woolpack Corner to village	ABC; KCC	By 2008	
		Renovation of south pavement in High Street	ABC; KCC	2005	Mill Corner planning gain
<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY</b>	Improved perception of personal and property safety	More visible police presence; better response times	Kent Police; PC; ABC; KCC	Ongoing	
		Establishment of Neighbourhood Watch & Good Neighbour schemes	Kent Police; PC; ABC; KCC	2005/6	
<b>POST OFFICE</b>	Continued presence of local PO facilities	Secure funding for a new building	PC; ABC	2005	Precept; DEFRA grants; Mill Corner planning gain

<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>OUTCOME REQUIRED</b>	<b>ACTION REQUIRED</b>	<b>BY WHOM</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>	<b>FUNDING</b>
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>	Better delivery of locally-based services	Local dispensing/ pharmacy service	PC; APCT; ABC	2005/6	
		Expansion of Biddenden surgery services	APCT; Headcorn surgery	TBD	
		Transport to local hospitals	ARCK; BTS	Ongoing	ARCK/ABC grants
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>	Preservation of built and natural environment	Planning policies to protect local character, including built landscape Protection of green spaces, as with Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow	PC; ABC	Ongoing	
	Improvement in quality of life	Reduction in noise pollution Reduction in litter	PC; ABC	Ongoing	
	Expanded local recycling facilities	Blue box system; Facilities for recycling wider range, e.g. plastics, cardboard	PC; ABC	2005/6	CRED
<b>SHOPS</b>	Improve environment in which retail businesses operate	Better signage and use of playing fields car park; Renovation of pavement from playing fields car park to village centre	PC; ABC	2005/6	Future planning gain
		Subsidised business rates for retail businesses	ABC	Ongoing	
		Authorisation of further residential development	PC; ABC	Ongoing	
<b>SPORT &amp; LEISURE</b>	Upgraded facilities to accommodate larger local population	Cycle paths Extension of public footpath network Community centre	PC; ABC; KCC	Ongoing	
<b>COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT</b>	Controlled approval of appropriate developments to support local economy	Small business centre Leisure-related facilities Light industry	PC; ABC	Ongoing	

<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>OUTCOME REQUIRED</b>	<b>ACTION REQUIRED</b>	<b>BY WHOM</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>	<b>FUNDING</b>
<b>PUBLIC TRANSPORT</b>	Improved service	Better frequency of existing services Higher frequency of weekend services New routes (e.g. Cranbrook, Tunbridge Wells, Ashford, Rye)	PC and neighbouring PCs; KCC	Ongoing	
<b>YOUTH FACILITIES</b>	Better facilities for growing youth population	Transport to sports and leisure facilities Local youth centre/club Supervised activities during school holidays	PC; ABC; ACRK	Ongoing	ACRK/ABC grants

Key:

- ABC Ashford Borough Council
- APCT Ashford Primary Care Trust
- ARCK Action with Rural Communities in Kent (formerly KRCC)
- BTS Biddenden Transport Service
- CRED Community Recycling & Economic Development Programme
- KCC Kent County Council
- PC Biddenden Parish Council

## QUESTIONNAIRE

PRIORITY (H, M or L)

### LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT

1. Are you in favour of further **residential development** within the parish? Yes  / No

If 'Yes', what type of housing would you prefer to see? (tick all that apply)

- Starter homes (i.e. flats, 2-bed houses)
- Council housing
- Sheltered accommodation for the elderly
- Mid-sized (3-bed) homes
- Executive housing
- Other (please specify)

2. Where should this development go?

- Infill sites within the village
- Outskirts of the village
- Outskirts of the parish

3. How many new dwellings should the parish support over the next 10 years?

- Fewer than 20
- 21-50
- 51-100
- More than 100

4. Would you be more likely to support further residential development if there was an associated gain for the parish (e.g. new post office, shops, school buildings, surgery)? Yes  / No

5. Are you in favour of further **commercial development** within the parish? Yes  / No

If 'Yes', what type of commercial development would you prefer to see? (tick all that apply)

- Warehouses/distribution centres
- Light industrial
- Heavy industrial
- Leisure-related (e.g. sports centre)
- Small business centre
- Hotel
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_



6. How important to you are the **open spaces** in the centre of Biddenden (playing fields, Millennium Field, Jubilee Meadow)?

**Very important**  / **Quite Important**  / **Not at all important**

7. Would you approve of the parish buying more land to preserve existing open spaces? **Yes**  / **No**

#### **TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**

8. Are you concerned about traffic speeds in the parish? **Yes**  / **No**

If 'Yes', what measures would you like to see to reduce speeding (assuming they could be implemented)? (tick all that apply)

Flashing speed signs

Wooden speed limit gateways

New traffic islands

Extension of 30 mph speed limit

Introduction of 40mph limit

Pedestrian crossings

Parking restrictions

Choke points/road narrowing

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

9. Do you think that traffic problems would be improved with a **bypass** of the village centre? **Yes**  / **No**

10. If 'Yes', would you like to see a bypass? **Yes**  / **No**

#### **RETAIL AND COMMERCIAL BUSINESS**

11. Do you agree that Biddenden will need a post office after the current temporary building closes in 2006? **Yes**  / **No**

12. Do you think that Biddenden needs more shops and businesses? **Yes**  / **No**

If 'Yes', what should be done to encourage more shops and businesses to open in Biddenden? (tick all that apply)

Reduce business rates

Improve parking

Authorise more housing development

Authorise more commercial development

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**PEDESTRIAN SAFETY**

13. Are you happy with the current level of **pedestrian safety** in Biddenden? **Yes**  / **No**

If 'No', what improvements would you like to see? (tick all that apply)

- Renewal of south pavement of High Street
- Central village lighting
- Pavement from Woolpack Corner to village centre
- Pedestrian crossings
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

14. Are you happy with the current **bus services** to and from Biddenden? **Yes**  / **No**

If 'No', what improvements would you like to see? (tick all that apply)

- Better punctuality
- Higher frequency of existing services
- New routes (please specify to which destinations) \_\_\_\_\_
- Better weekend service
- Better night service
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

15. If your improvements were implemented, would you use the bus services more frequently? **Yes**  / **No**

**SPORT & LEISURE**

16. Are you happy with the **sport and leisure facilities** in Biddenden? **Yes**  / **No**

If 'No', what additional facilities would you like to see? (tick all that apply)

- Community centre
- Astroturf facility
- Cycle paths
- Football club
- Rugby club
- Upgrade of public footpaths and bridleways
- Internet café
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

### NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY

17. Do you think that Biddenden is a **safe place** to live? **Yes**  / **No**

If 'No', what improvements would you like to see to neighbourhood security? (tick all that apply)

- Visible police presence
- 'Good neighbour' scheme
- Co-ordination of Neighbourhood Watch schemes
- Advice from Crime Prevention Officers
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

### YOUTH

18. Are you happy with the **facilities for young people** (under 18s) in Biddenden? **Yes**  / **No**

If 'No', what would you like to see? (tick all that apply)

- Youth centre/club
- Youth liaison contact
- Improved transport links to sports centres (e.g. Angleley, Homewood)
- Supervised holiday/evening activities
- Better parish liaison with John Mayne School
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

### ENVIRONMENT

19. What **local environmental issues** most concern you? (tick all that apply)

- Litter
- Noise pollution
- Light pollution
- Dog mess
- Traffic fumes
- Waste recycling
- Energy efficiency
- Loss of green space
- Loss of historic buildings
- Other (please specify)

20. Do you use the local recycling facilities in Biddenden? **Yes**  / **No**

If 'No', would you be more likely to recycle if there was a doorstep collection? **Yes**  / **No**

**HEALTHCARE**

21. Are you satisfied with your current **healthcare arrangements** (i.e. access to surgery, hospitals, etc.)? **Yes**  / **No**

If 'No', what improvements would you like to see?

- Full-time surgery in Biddenden
- Bus services to local hospitals
- Local chemist in the village
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

## SUMMARY QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

### KEY FINDINGS

- **Traffic speeds** and **pedestrian safety** are critical concerns.
- **Maintenance of Post Office** is very important across all age groups.
- **Youth facilities** must be a top priority – no age group is satisfied with current provision.
- Strong support for **further limited residential development**, especially where the parish receives **planning gain**.
- Lower level of support for further **commercial development**.
- Parish policy of **protecting open spaces** overwhelmingly supported.
- **Environmental issues** are a high priority for two-thirds of respondents.
- There is dissatisfaction with **healthcare facilities**, with the lack of a **local chemist** seen as the major issue.
- **Bus services** are not considered satisfactory.
- Biddenden is thought to be **a safe place to live**, though security of property is questioned.

### METHODOLOGY

During the period 28<sup>th</sup> June – 16<sup>th</sup> July, c.1,500 questionnaires were distributed to each household in the parish (2001 Census – 1,008 households), and were also hand-collected. 978 responses were received (65% response rate).

Questions were asked on the following topics:

Residential development	Public transport
Commercial development	Sport and leisure
Open spaces	Neighbourhood security
Traffic management	Youth
Post Office	Environment
Shops and businesses	Healthcare
Pedestrian safety	

Respondents were asked whether they were satisfied with current arrangements, and were given a list of options for improvement. For most topics, they were also asked to rank the priority – high, medium or low. Measured by largest percentage of high priority responses, the most important issues are Post Office (81%), Open spaces (79%), Traffic Speeds (74%) and Environment (67%).

Questions attracting the most responses were:

				TOTAL
Are you concerned about traffic speeds in the parish?	YES 838	NO 103		941
How important are the open spaces in the centre of Biddenden?	VERY 728	QUITE 156	NOT 36	920
Are you in favour of further residential development within the parish?	YES 592	NO 320		912
Are you happy with the current level of pedestrian safety in Biddenden?	YES 282	NO 624		906
Is Biddenden a safe place to live?	YES 656	NO 245		901

The question attracting the largest majority of responses was:

Do you agree that Biddenden will need a post office after the temporary building closes in 2006?	YES 848 (96%)	NO 39 (4%)	TOTAL 887
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Breakdown of responses as follows:

AGE GROUP	NO. OF RESPONSES	PERCENTAGE
Under 11	9	1
11-18	56	6
19-25	36	4
26-40	170	17
41-60	358	36
Over 60	319	33
Not disclosed	30	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>978</b>	

According to the 2001 Census, the age ranges of the population of Biddenden are as follows:

AGE GROUP	PERCENTAGE	NUMBER
U16	19.6	476
16-19	3.0	73
20-29	6.9	168
30-59	43.1	1,048
60-74	18.2	443
Over 75	9.3	226
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2,434</b>
Average age		42.8

## SUMMARY RESULTS

<b>TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT</b>		
Total votes cast	941	
High Priority	74%	
Total concerned	838 (89%)	
Improvements (top 3 only)	Flashing speed signs	576
	Pedestrian crossings	352
	Extension of 30mph limit	319

<b>OPEN SPACES</b>		
Total votes cast	920	
High Priority	79%	
In favour of more parish council land	713 (84%)	

<b>RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT</b>		
Total votes cast	912	
High Priority	47%	
Total in favour	592 (65%)	
Type of development (top 3 only)	Starter	397
	Sheltered	292
	Mid-sized	246
Location	Village infill	389
	Outskirts of village	281
	Outskirts of parish	70
Volume	21-50	311
	<20	153
	51-100	146
More likely to support if parish gains	655 (75%)	

<b>PEDESTRIAN SAFETY</b>		
Total votes cast	906	
High Priority	57%	
Total concerned	624 (69%)	
Improvements (top 3 only)	Pedestrian crossings	430
	Pavement from Woolpack Corner	354
	Renewal of south pavement in High Street	247

<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY</b>		
Total votes cast	901	
High Priority	55%	
Total concerned	245 (27%)	
Improvements (top 3 only)	Police presence	255
	Neighbourhood Watch	125
	Good Neighbour scheme	122

<b>POST OFFICE</b>		
Total votes cast	887	
High Priority	81%	
Total in favour of retention	848 (96%)	

<b>HEALTHCARE</b>		
Total votes cast	852	
High Priority	49%	
Total concerned	485 (57%)	
Improvements (top 3 only)	Village chemist	415
	Biddenden surgery	388
	Buses to local hospitals	233

<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>		
Total votes cast	825	
High Priority	67%	
Concerns (top 3 only)	Litter	539
	Loss of green spaces	397
	Noise pollution	354
Currently recycling	62%	
More likely to recycle with doorstep collection	93%	

<b>SHOPS</b>		
Total votes cast	809	
High Priority	44%	
Total wanting more shops	673 (76%)	
Improvements (top 3 only)	Better parking	445
	Lower rates	436
	Authorise more housing	190



<b>SPORT &amp; LEISURE</b>		
Total votes cast	805	
High Priority	25%	
Total concerned	348 (43%)	
Improvements (top 3 only)	Cycle paths	199
	Upgrade of footpaths	172
	Community centre	146

<b>COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT</b>		
Total votes cast	750	
High Priority	36%	
Total in favour	441 (59%)	
Type of development (top 3 only)	Small business centre	237
	Leisure-related	234
	Light industry	185

<b>PUBLIC TRANSPORT</b>		
Total votes cast	677	
High Priority	34%	
Total concerned	403 (60%)	
Improvements (top 3 only)	Frequency	259
	Weekend services	220
	New routes	179

<b>YOUTH FACILITIES</b>		
Total votes cast	673	
High Priority	42%	
Total concerned	468 (70%)	
Improvements (top 3 only)	Transport to sports centres	322
	Youth centre/club	314
	Supervised activities	239

## DETAILED QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

		<11	11-18	19-25	26-40	41-60	>60	N/D	TOTAL	%age
<b>RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT</b>										
<b>Priority</b>	High		10	9	54	102	91	2	268	47
	Medium	1	13	8	41	71	64	5	203	36
	Low		12	3	22	32	31		100	17
									<b>571</b>	
<b>In favour of further development?</b>	Yes	2	35	26	106	200	207	16	592	65
	No	2	22	12	77	113	93	1	320	35
									<b>912</b>	
<b>Type</b>	Starter	1	21	23	65	142	133	12	397	
	Sheltered	1	10	10	31	94	138	8	292	
	Mid-sized	1	16	12	61	87	65	4	246	
	Council	1	2	9	35	50	53	8	158	
	Executive		8	1	18	29	19	1	76	
	Other				5	7	2	1	15	
<b>Location</b>	Infill	2	19	14	67	130	149	8	389	
	Outskirts of village	1	16	13	63	100	82	6	281	
	Outskirts of parish		6	4	23	24	11	2	70	
<b>Number</b>	21-50	2	17	15	60	101	110	6	311	
	<20	2	18	2	28	51	50	2	153	
	51-100		7	6	27	54	48	4	146	
	>100		1	3	7	15	8	2	36	
<b>Support if parish gains?</b>	Yes	4	50	30	133	221	205	12	655	75
	No	2	7	4	49	92	60	4	218	25
									<b>873</b>	
<b>COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT</b>										
<b>Priority</b>	High		12	2	33	66	41	3	157	36
	Medium		12	8	39	56	48	3	166	38
	Low		6	8	23	47	31	2	117	24
									<b>440</b>	
<b>In favour of further development?</b>	Yes	2	37	25	97	143	125	12	441	59
	No	2	13	14	55	125	97	3	309	41
									<b>750</b>	

**COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT (cont.)**

<b>Type</b>	Small business centre	1	9	8	47	83	82	7	237	
	Leisure-related	3	33	12	64	67	48	7	234	
	Light industry		6	7	32	64	71	5	185	
	Hotel	1	13	4	32	39	50	3	142	
	Warehouses		2	4	3	12	11	1	33	
	Other	1	3		10	5	10	2	31	
	Heavy industry			1	2	1	3		7	
<b>IMPORTANCE OF OPEN SPACES</b>	Very	5	37	25	149	259	239	14	728	79
	Quite	3	17	9	27	51	47	2	156	17
	Not		4	5	6	8	13		36	4
									<b>920</b>	
<b>IN FAVOUR OF MORE PARISH LAND?</b>	Yes	6	53	31	149	250	211	13	713	84
	No		7	7	19	48	55	1	137	16
									<b>850</b>	
<b>TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT</b>										
<b>Priority</b>	High	4	9	9	85	147	160	6	420	74
	Medium		12	8	28	34	14	1	97	17
	Low		12	2	9	20	5		48	9
									<b>565</b>	
<b>Concerned about speeds?</b>	Yes	9	47	31	158	288	290	15	838	89
	No	1	16	8	24	29	21	4	103	11
									<b>941</b>	
<b>Improvements</b>	Flashing speed signs	7	34	28	118	195	185	9	576	
	Pedestrian crossings	6	18	16	70	109	131	2	352	
	Extension of 30mph limit	4	20	5	54	107	122	7	319	
	Choke points/road narrowing	1	2	2	35	60	48	1	149	
	40 mph limit	1	5	3	17	62	57	1	146	
	Wooden gateways	3	5	2	36	47	46	4	143	
	Parking restrictions	2	9	3	15	38	35		102	
	Other		6	3	25	42	18	2	96	
	Traffic islands	4	5	5	17	30	24		85	

**BY-PASS**

<b>Priority</b>	High		9	2	23	56	58	3	151	37
	Medium		6	6	22	29	26		89	22
	Low	1	15	4	34	62	46	2	164	41
									<b>404</b>	

<b>Problems improved with by-pass?</b>	Yes		17	14	57	130	122	5	345	43
	No	6	37	22	95	164	125	11	460	57
									<b>805</b>	

<b>If yes, do you support one?</b>	Yes		11	10	36	87	95	4	243	65
	No		15	3	30	54	29		131	35
									<b>374</b>	

**POST OFFICE**

<b>Priority</b>	High	1	22	11	88	151	164	8	445	81
	Medium		9	4	20	36	13		82	15
	Low		3	3	9		6		21	4
									<b>548</b>	

<b>In favour after 2006?</b>	Yes	5	55	37	160	294	280	17	848	96
	No		5	1	14	14	5		39	4
									<b>887</b>	

**SHOPS**

<b>Priority</b>	High	1	13	5	35	66	77	5	202	44
	Medium		13	11	35	69	44	1	173	38
	Low		7	3	24	34	12	2	82	18
									<b>457</b>	

<b>More shops and businesses?</b>	Yes	3	46	29	119	220	240	16	673	76
	No	2	16	9	50	80	59	1	217	24
									<b>890</b>	

<b>If yes, how do we encourage them?</b>	Improve parking	2	27	22	80	154	153	7	445	
	Reduce rates	2	18	12	80	154	158	12	436	
	Authorise more housing		7	7	39	71	61	5	190	
	More commercial development			17	7	34	41	35	5	139
	Other			1	3	11	4		19	

**PEDESTRIAN SAFETY**

<b>Priority</b>	High	4	9	11	44	97	109	3	277	57
	Medium		15	6	30	53	37	3	144	30
	Low	1	7	4	16	27	11		66	13

**487**

<b>Happy?</b>	Yes	1	33	13	57	100	77	1	282	31
	No	10	38	25	121	204	211	15	624	69

**906**

<b>Improvements</b>	Pedestrian crossings	6	25	15	91	135	150	8	430	
	Pavement from Woolpack	2	13	13	69	115	134	8	354	
	Renewal of South pavement	1	8	11	46	70	104	7	247	
	Central village lighting		15	9	49	68	68	5	214	
	Other	1	2	3	12	22	20	1	61	

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

<b>Priority</b>	High		27	5	12	35	41	3	123	34
	Medium	1	9	6	28	49	48	1	142	39
	Low		3	7	25	40	19	1	95	27

**360**

<b>Happy with current bus services?</b>	Yes	3	11	12	54	98	89	7	274	40
	No	2	44	25	64	135	127	6	403	60

**677**

<b>Improvements</b>	Frequency		28	21	36	87	85	2	259	
	Weekend services		40	18	34	71	55	2	220	
	New routes	1	43	11	14	48	58	4	179	
	Night services		19	19	38	53	34	2	165	
	Punctuality	1	12	11	24	32	33	1	114	
	Other		4		6	15	10		35	

<b>If implemented, would you use more?</b>	Yes		34	17	34	78	79	2	244	84
	No		2	2	5	19	16	1	45	16

**289**

**SPORT & LEISURE**

<b>Priority</b>	High	4	17	2	24	28	21		96	25
	Medium		12	4	32	50	44	2	144	38
	Low	1	4	9	28	58	37		137	37

**377**

**SPORT & LEISURE (cont.)**

<b>Happy with current facilities?</b>	Yes	2	6	18	80	170	175	6	457	57
	No	11	55	30	78	103	63	8	348	43
<b>805</b>										
<b>Improvements</b>	Cycle paths	7	29	12	51	67	31	2	199	
	Upgrade of footpaths	2	16	11	36	66	39	2	172	
	Community centre	3	17	9	33	47	34	3	146	
	Football club	5	27	9	28	28	15	3	115	
	Astroturf	5	33	6	32	22	10	1	109	
	Rugby club	3	21	6	19	17	9	1	76	
	Internet cafe		19	5	7	11	12	1	55	
	Other	3	5	2	9	11	5	4	39	
<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY</b>										
<b>Priority</b>	High	2	6	6	44	79	71		208	55
	Medium		8	4	30	38	38	2	120	32
	Low		10	3	14	18	4	1	50	13
<b>378</b>										
<b>Is Biddenden a safe place?</b>	Yes	7	50	33	146	233	176	11	656	73
	No	1	9	5	43	82	101	4	245	27
<b>901</b>										
<b>Improvements to security</b>	Police presence		9	6	34	83	120	3	255	
	Neighbourhood Watch		5	4	13	44	59		125	
	Good Neighbour scheme		7	5	18	38	53	1	122	
	Advice from CPOs		6	3	7	18	37	1	72	
	Other	1		2	3	13	8		27	
<b>YOUTH</b>										
<b>Priority</b>	High	1	16	4	39	48	44	2	154	42
	Medium	3	10	4	30	52	39	2	140	38
	Low	1	4	8	15	29	15		72	20
<b>366</b>										
<b>Happy?</b>	Yes	1	14	13	38	78	59	2	205	30
	No	8	46	20	95	154	135	10	468	70
<b>673</b>										
<b>Improvements</b>	Transport to sports centres	3	28	15	64	107	97	8	322	
	Youth centre/club	3	25	16	66	106	91	7	314	
	Supervised activities	2	17	12	62	84	58	4	239	
	Youth liaison contact	1	6	3	20	39	39	1	109	

<b>YOUTH (cont.)</b>	Liaison with John Mayne	1	4	6	21	23	37	3	95	
	Other		5		8	4	5	1	23	
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>										
<b>Priority</b>	High		16	12	63	115	99	1	306	67
	Medium	1	10	2	28	45	36	2	124	27
	Low		5	2	6	7	7		27	6
									<b>457</b>	
<b>Concerns</b>	Litter	4	33	27	107	174	188	6	539	
	Loss of green spaces	1	27	18	94	137	112	8	397	
	Noise	2	12	11	68	139	120	2	354	
	Recycling	1	23	8	66	125	127	3	353	
	Dog mess	4	25	16	71	114	113	4	347	
	Loss of historic buildings	4	16	13	74	91	79	8	285	
	Traffic fumes	2	16	8	37	71	62	1	197	
	Light pollution		6	3	19	57	26	1	112	
	Energy efficiency		9	5	20	41	33	1	109	
	Other		1		4	4	8		17	
<b>RECYCLING</b>	Yes	5	26	20	100	178	175	5	509	62
	No		31	16	70	104	89	6	316	38
									<b>825</b>	
<b>Doorstep Collection: More likely to recycle?</b>	Yes		31	14	72	121	108	6	352	93
	No		5	4	4	8	4		25	7
									<b>377</b>	
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>										
<b>Priority</b>	High		13	8	35	68	69	2	195	49
	Medium		13	6	32	50	38	1	140	35
	Low		6	4	23	22	8		63	16
									<b>398</b>	
<b>Happy?</b>	Yes	2	22	12	89	127	111	4	367	43
	No	3	36	24	88	164	160	10	485	57
									<b>852</b>	
<b>Improvements</b>	Village chemist	3	41	20	80	124	139	8	415	
	Surgery in Biddenden	2	51	21	60	125	123	6	388	
	Buses to local hospitals	1	17	11	30	65	101	8	233	
	Other		1		2	5	8	1	17	

## COMMENTS FROM QUESTIONNAIRE

GENERAL	It would be good if we had a youth club for children and fun stuff. It's not right for children to get away with wreckage throughout the estates. It would be nice if families could go into the only public house in Biddenden. The landlord does not welcome families as they should be welcomed. There are a lot of young families that want to participate in the local public house.	11-18
GENERAL	Amount of noise level of cars going 60mph and that wakes me at 5 in the morning. We should not have to pay extortionate council tax. I don't think it is appropriate for police cars to do 70+mph past the Castleton's Oak crossroads. It would be nice if families were allowed to use the only public house in Biddenden but unfortunately the landlord does not welcome families in his public house!!	11-18
GENERAL	I've lived in Biddenden my whole life so far. It's a great village with unique facilities (Millennium Field/sports clubs, etc.) and a village that is (luckily) still a village. Compared to Headcorn, Biddenden is an idyllic village, its countryside and buildings are in fantastic condition – but why ruin a perfectly good village landscape with new houses, more cars, less village character and more pressure on local services? Surely development should be focused within larger settlements like Headcorn/Tenterden/Cranbrook. Development in Biddenden won't really achieve much – services will probably remain at the same levels they are today, and most importantly development of greenfield sites will destroy the main reason why people want to move here – untouched Wealden countryside. However, inevitably Biddenden will face development, but the main attraction of the village is its setting – this should not be sacrificed.	11-18
GENERAL	Any new housing development should be in an inkeeping local style of tile hung or weatherboard, so as not to stand out like a sore thumb. The last 15 years has seen the facilities in our village centre die in favour of a handful of sports facilities. No longer do we see several coach parties each week come to shop and visit Biddenden. Our services and community need an injection. Our post office is vital. For the short time I moved away I would travel 12 miles to use our excellent post office team. We cannot afford to lose them. As a local business they save us time and money and they are key to the community. We need local housing for young people. At 22 I can't afford to live in the area which four generations of my family have lived. So a fifth generation will be raised somewhere else! We are in an excellent location to attract local investment from business close to the A20/M20/A21. Let's get some money spent in Biddenden once more. Biddenden has plenty of people passing through. Let's make it busy to our advantage and make the money work in our community once more.	19-25
GENERAL	Don't let Biddenden become like Headcorn or Staplehurst.	19-25
GENERAL	PO in village shop. Cash point situated in village.	19-25
GENERAL	There needs to be some more young people on the parish council as they don't have a say at present.	19-25
GENERAL	Childcare for young babies would be a great idea as not many places provide this, and as a young mum myself and a qualified nursery nurse	19-25
GENERAL	Have lived in Biddenden for 29 years, and in that time I have seen the demise of the High St and almost all of its facilities, 2 pubs, 1/5 of bus services and school swimming pool. On the other hand I have seen approximately 143 new residential properties, a golf course, tennis courts, squash club, bowling green, two parks, equestrian centre, garden centre, Chinese and Indian restaurants. I love Biddenden and wouldn't want to live anywhere else. It will grow and it will forever change. I'm in no doubt that my young children will write the same sort of thing as this if questioned in 30 years. Things will have gone, things will have come! Long live Biddenden!!	26-40
GENERAL	Following would be beneficial for the village: permanent site for Post Office; box scheme for recycling; wheelie bins; zebra crossing at school.	26-40
GENERAL	Have just moved back and it's nice to see someone wants to make some changes before we lose the village.	26-40
GENERAL	Would like to see a summer fair/fete on the field in the future which would rival the Biddenden Blaze in popularity.	26-40
GENERAL	Local housing for the 'new generation' of Biddenden a priority and the setting up of a permanent post office essential for all the community. Other areas are acceptable when locals can take more responsibility (cleanliness, noise, speed and parking for example). We are very lucky to live in such a beautiful village.	26-40
GENERAL	If the squash club was opened up as a social club it would probably create more community spirit, as the village lacks it at the moment. There is nowhere apart from the Millennium Field for families and friends to meet up and take the children or really to meet with other villages and sometimes it's not appropriate to take the children to the pub.	26-40



GENERAL	Biddenden is a beautiful village and we have enjoyed living here for nearly 15 years. Unfortunately it has one major problem that might influence us to move: TRAFFIC. As we live along North St. we don't see anything to be done about this at all. As the problem gets gradually worse we hope that some measures will be taken before lives are lost.	26-40
GENERAL	We have to protect the community feel to the village. We should therefore try to protect all green areas surrounding the village to contain the spread. The children of the village need more activities to relieve boredom and associated activities.	26-40
GENERAL	We chose to live in a village with a community feel. Let's keep it that way and prevent it becoming too built up.	26-40
GENERAL	Love living in Biddenden and I do think it is a wonderful village and the firework nights are terrific fun!	26-40
GENERAL	Biddenden should progress with the times and not just stand still just to be a peaceful retreat for the newcomers who move here from the city!!	26-40
GENERAL	Questionnaire seems more suited to what council would want to do. No really personal views of parishioners. Remember this is a village not an up-and-coming town. Planning permissions get turned down for silly reasons and for not having the right name! An example of this caravan site on traffic safety issues KCC had no objection – but it was still used as excuse. Council should be more open and accessible.	26-40
GENERAL	Would be unrealistic to expect Biddenden to get the same amount of employers/facilities/shops etc. as, say, Headcorn. However, in order for the village to survive, it needs more housing and industrial development.	26-40
GENERAL	Would be good if cable TV companies invested in area. Would be an improvement if our High St could be a bit busier/similar to Headcorn with shops as would benefit overall re other facilities.	26-40
GENERAL	Biddenden has in the last 20 years become worse to live in. Shops, pubs and businesses have all closed due to lack of support. The housing supplied by associations is too expensive and of poor quality. The village needs a big improvement to keep moving in the right direction, money made available for the youngsters and the elderly to keep them all interested in the community.	26-40
GENERAL	We love living in Biddenden and are very happy here as a family. Although we need more shops, etc. I would not like too many as not to lose the 'quaint' village feel. The open spaces are invaluable and the combined hard work in maintaining the Millennium Field etc., is fantastic. When I am not so busy with a young family and work I will help with projects in the future.	26-40
GENERAL	Sell village halls, from profit build a purpose-built community centre at the playing fields. This has better parking and will be closer to the other village resources.	26-40
GENERAL	When I first moved here we had three pubs, florists, bakers, newsagents and numerous coaches stopped off throughout the year. There is nothing here now for villagers, let alone tourists.	26-40
GENERAL	I have lived in this village for more than 30 years and have seen housing treble and shops and businesses halve. If the parish plan is to work it has got to be done through loyalty to the village and its residents and not by people using it for their own financial gain.	26-40
GENERAL	The parish council seem to have adopted a policy of supporting all planning applications outside the curtilage (sic) of the village and overdeveloping sites (e.g. bungalow next to playing field). In doing so they are not representative of the village as a whole.	41-60
GENERAL	When a new development is built in close proximity to an older one (i.e. 40yds) there should be proper and satisfactory provision made for the new residents to 'put out their rubbish' at a spot close to their home, if not their driveway. The residents of 'The Musings' regularly mess up a corner of a 'long-term' resident's garden in Spinners Close. It is quite disgusting!	41-60
GENERAL	I salute all those who work so hard to keep Biddenden the thriving community it is.	41-60
GENERAL	I hope that local and central government take notice of local views and do not simply pay lip service to it.	41-60
GENERAL	If the villages do not grow they will die. Affordable housing for the young is vital.	41-60
GENERAL	Biddenden should maintain the 'village feel'. This includes taking due notice of the Appraisal, which includes mention of 'sign pollution'. Within days of the Appraisal launch, unnecessarily large signs appeared, e.g. at Brown's Corner, helping to obliterate the 'open country' feel that should be retained as much as possible!	41-60
GENERAL	Allotments would be useful.	41-60
GENERAL	A village newsletter – separate from church info – should be continued; cohesive village life isn't just about buildings.	41-60
GENERAL	Keep Biddenden a village with enough facilities, but not a town.	41-60

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GENERAL	Two main priorities: affordable housing and jobs.	41-60
GENERAL	I enjoy living in Biddenden. I have lived here for 5½ years. I enjoy the 'village feel' and would be sorry to see any development to the village. The appeal to visitors is the olde worlde appearance and I think low crime rate, and respect people have for village is because it is small and consequently intimate.	41-60
GENERAL	My main concerns are with traffic along Benenden Rd, the state of the road edges along the same road and the preservation of open spaces, not only in the village but in the outskirts of the parish.	41-60
GENERAL	Generally it would be good if the village could remain 'a village' and if we could reduce the amount of huge lorries that drive through it.	41-60
GENERAL	As a village in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century we cannot stand still and there needs to be good provision for the young of the village (children and families alike) for the obvious social reasons. However, large and ill considered development could damage the village for good – as it has so many villages around us. This is one real threat we need to avoid and we should strongly protect the existing open spaces and fields surrounding the wider village area. The other major threat to the village and villages is the failure to control the traffic using both main roads. We must seek ways to calm the traffic passing through our village <u>before</u> someone is harmed or killed. In my opinion a bypass is unlikely and is not always as significant a benefit as it may first appear. Efforts should not be diverted from the immediate need to deal with traffic using the existing road network.	41-60
GENERAL	Questionnaires are so hard to prepare to provide the answers you want. I don't believe this one is sufficiently detailed to give a true picture of people's desires.	41-60
GENERAL	Having lived in the village for 35 years there has been a lack of community spirit over the last 10 years. There is nowhere to take my family to socialise with other families from the village. A village social club would help bring back a community spirit. If we do have to have more development, the developers could fund the building of a social club.	41-60
GENERAL	Some of the elements will be especially relevant if the village grows and begins to 'regenerate'. It is important to be realistic – Biddenden will definitely have to take new housing and it is better to be in control than say no to everything and then be forced to take something unacceptable because of the negative approach.	41-60
GENERAL	Lived here for over 45 years and have watched farming and village life change, we must all change with it but fight to keep the life and character of Biddenden alive, keeping our young here by providing homes and work, not driving them away because they can't afford to stay. Otherwise we will have a village of commuters, pensioners and affluent people with holiday homes here. We are proud of our councillors. We know them all and they know us. 'Keep it up' but remember the young are our future.	41-60
GENERAL	In the 20 months I have lived in Biddenden the antiques shop has closed and the Post Office is in danger of being lost. It is urgent that we keep our PO or we are definitely on the slippery slope of decline in whatever shops/pubs we have left. Our sport amenities seem good but we need all our green spaces preserved.	41-60
GENERAL	This is all a waste of time.	41-60
GENERAL	Desperately need street lighting in The Weavers. Desperate need for more parking in The Weavers – why not change some of the grass verges into parking – so bad we have no choice but to park on pavements and grass verges – which will get worse very soon as there are so many 16yr-olds who will very soon be driving! Please sort this!	41-60
GENERAL	My family has been in the village over 130 years, I am very worried about the amount of young local people (my own children included) who cannot afford to stay in their home village near their families.	41-60
GENERAL	More contact with village community with surveys like this provided that suggestions are acted upon.	41-60
GENERAL	Can't resist all change, but important not to lose 'village' character and scale by 'suburbanisation' – i.e. street lighting, car parking, etc. Biddenden doesn't need to be 'just like everywhere else'. Development of a 'green belt' of parish owned land is to be applauded and will be crucial in controlling development in the future – be bold in purchasing key sites on the village outskirts. We are also very lucky to have minimal light pollution. This is a rare free luxury, and should be protected vigorously.	41-60
GENERAL	Parking by churchgoers (weddings, funerals etc.) in Glebelands chokes up the whole area for residents, causing extreme difficulty in passing, damage to trees and verges.	41-60
GENERAL	Biddenden is a sleepy village and should remain so. We live (and choose to live) in Biddenden because of that. There are plenty of surrounding towns to 'entertain' but what Biddenden has is special and needs to be preserved.	41-60

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GENERAL	Not able to comment on many issues, having only lived here for one week. For example, an important part of the beauty and quality of life here is in its being a distinct village and not part of an 'urban sprawl' but it is also vital to ensure that there is housing available for local young families.	41-60
GENERAL	Biddenden is a lovely place to live in and we should do all we can to keep it that way. A post office is vital if this community is to carry on thriving.	41-60
GENERAL	If only the village/roads were the same as when we moved here 16 years ago. It is becoming more and more like Headcorn. Losing its ID.	41-60
GENERAL	This questionnaire does not address the issues of people who live away from the centre of the village. It appears to be focused entirely on residents within the village proper.	41-60
GENERAL	Unkempt state of many road hedges in the parish, on main road, lanes and junctions. These cause a hazard to motorists, cyclists and pedestrians, when you cannot walk along the roadside verge for an overhanging hedge. The council should ask the respective owners to keep roadside hedges neat, and if the need arise, get a contractor to cut them and charge the owner.	41-60
GENERAL	Don't know what can be done about it or how it can be altered, but there is a dearth of public minded middle aged and young who are prepared to take on parish, club, association and society responsibilities and office and who lack the initiative, energy and creativity to get involved. Is it the result of too much nanny state or peopled becoming more self-centred?	>60
GENERAL	As a resident of Woodlands Park is the parish council aware that over 200 people now reside on the park and a large percentage are over 60. May I suggest an effort is made by you to meet the residents and discuss their problems, the most important being no <u>manager</u> should a problem arise during the weekend. There is no one you can contact until the site office is opened on a Monday morning.	>60
GENERAL	Woodlands Park got approximately 124 homes with approx. 300 people, 5/6 children, 85% over 60. No information from Biddenden council to residents. My main concern is the speed on the road past Woodlands Park. There is no speed limit. God forbid nobody gets killed trying to drive out of the park. Coming out of the park there are two blind bends. The speed the vehicles are doing there are going to be accidents.	>60
GENERAL	I get the impression that Biddenden parish council are only concerned about the village and that the rest of the parish outside the village is an irrelevance: when did a parish councillor last visit Woodlands Park? We do pay parish rates after all.	>60
GENERAL	The useless stage set-up. Where are the artists' changing rooms, male and female? Where is the rest of the stage? Is it any good? Could under-stage fixed storage have been designed into hall?	>60
GENERAL	Please keep Biddenden as it is, we can never bring it back to what it was, unfortunately. Maybe you could buy a property in the High St, to share as a Post Office and chemist. And get rid of all that dreadful traffic, lorries etc.	>60
GENERAL	One important thing left out is education. Improvements to village school should be made to encourage more children to go and to bring it up to at least a one-form entry. It is a lovely friendly school and has the possibilities of being more of a focal point within the village, for both education and leisure, e.g. additional buildings, major repairs, more facilities. They even had to rely on public money to get their computer suite.	>60
GENERAL	Any people set to gain from anything on the village plan should not be on the committee.	>60
GENERAL	The school is one of the most important aspects of the village. Why has it been so sadly omitted from the questionnaire?	>60
GENERAL	The centre of Biddenden is very pleasant and well cared for, especially the village green, and reflects credit on those responsible. One should however be pleased if the Bethersden marble pavements could be repaired more quickly when damaged by traffic and the interstices between the stones better plugged with concrete, as they are rather hazardous for the elderly and for ladies.	>60
GENERAL	If I had wanted to live in a town I would have moved to Ashford or Maidstone.	>60
GENERAL	Stop the suburbanisation/proliferation of road signs, etc.	>60
GENERAL	Having lived all over the world, I am most happy and satisfied to have come across the villages of Biddenden and Tenterden. I have very few complaints and feel most reluctant to criticise anything.	>60
GENERAL	I love Biddenden and would not want to live elsewhere.	>60
GENERAL	This is a badly constructed questionnaire. For example, you can be satisfied with facilities and still wish to list improvements.	>60
GENERAL	Have lived in village for nearly 40 years and love it to bits as it is. But it will slowly die, particularly for the young, if there are not houses and suitable jobs to keep them.	>60
GENERAL	Difficult for elderly people to live in the village. Not sufficient shops. Poor transport (some elderly people cannot get on a bus). Poor access to medical facilities (i.e. doctors' surgery, chemist)	>60

GENERAL	To save Biddenden from dying, we need quality building (houses and commercial) but highly controlled. Sports and facilities (quality) for the younger generation.	>60
GENERAL	Elderly people of the village need arranged outings from time to time. Not everyone owns a car.	>60
GENERAL	The northern approach to the village along the A274 southwards from Bounds Cross is becoming very unsightly because of a proliferation of signboards. Would parishioners support a move to have reduced the size of this material?	>60
GENERAL	This is the countryside. Keep it that way. The bigger the place the more trouble it has proved in other places.	>60
GENERAL	A very good and caring village	N/D
GENERAL	Since I moved to Biddenden nearly 20 years ago the village has all but died.. I would like to see the regeneration of Biddenden as a village, with essential businesses and shops in the High Street again. If you are old and infirm in Biddenden there is no surgery, little transport and you are unable to do basic shopping without paying a premium. Not to mention you take your life in your hands just crossing the road!	N/D

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Road humps.	11-18
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	An actual speed camera with film in!	19-25
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Traffic lights through church yard corner, slows traffic and reduces accidents on church corner from school entrance to path entrance to church.	19-25
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Enforcement of current parking restrictions required for improved traffic safety, particularly at junction with A274. After all the fuss with junction improvement situation worse as parking restrictions not enforced.	26-40
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Speed humps work.	26-40
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Particularly concerned about speeding through the village – speed limits are rarely adhered to, which is extremely unnerving when walking around the village (walking side by side on the pavement is frightening!)	26-40
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Strongly oppose speed cameras, cause road rage, tax for the council and the beginning of urban sprawl. The village does not need such measures.	26-40
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Traffic speeds especially on North St and lack of sufficient parking space in the village discourage visitors to restaurants, pubs etc. The village green traffic system is a disaster for vehicles and pedestrians – the problem should be tackled with some urgency. KINGSLANDS is a major cause of traffic and noise pollution day and night, apart from the danger of large articulated trucks completely blocking North St whilst manoeuvring into totally inadequate space.	26-40
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	20mph speed limit past church, school and into High St	26-40
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Would like to see speed limit on the Benenden Rd from Woolpack Corner. Too dangerous to walk along at the moment.	26-40
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Sleeping policemen along main road from entrance of village through to Cot Lane.	26-40
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	I always understood that Hareplain Rd was the village centre by-pass.	26-40
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Radar gun in High St.	26-40
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	No point in limits or flashing signs as are ignored.	26-40
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Parking adjacent school crossing needs to be stopped to allow clear vision for a proper crossing.	26-40
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Better road markings.	26-40
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Left turn only at Turner's stores junction to prevent constant overtaking other junction.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	The worst move made in the village to help actually speed up the traffic was the rather urban three lane road in the centre of the village. Nothing has to slow down now when traffic ahead wants to turn right. Traffic now moves much faster – bad move!	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	The most 'life-threatening' problem which actually has a mortality rate as evidence, is the speed of 4-wheeled, and especially 2-wheeled, traffic along the stretch of the A262 between Fosten Lane turning and Three Chimneys. There have been a number of motorcycle fatalities and a speed camera along that stretch would be an excellent idea. Another significant aspect of motorist speeding is the distressing loss of wildlife along the lanes.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Motor cycles at weekends are a real menace – police patrol required.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Better control of existing speed limits.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	A sign on Sissinghurst Rd – 'Please drive carefully through our village' – there is one on the Tenterden Rd.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Look again at T-junction in centre of village – to slow traffic and improve facilities by having a green over twice the size of present one for use of village for fetes, etc.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Speed bumps.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	The greatest threat to people remaining in the village centre is the noise of traffic through the village. The Sat/Sun influx of motor-bikes, but traffic in general is bad. This is a lovely village, potentially ruined by vehicular movement through it. I would be out of here at the first chance, because of this!	41-60

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	'Double' exit/entry junction Sissinghurst Rd/Headcorn/Tenterden an accident waiting to happen! Observations of traffic from Sissinghurst up High St indicate 'amazement' on drivers' faces as they wonder which exit to take for Tenterden and some go left exit and then turn right to clash with traffic taking right to Tenterden (and vice versa – Headcorn traffic from Sissinghurst taking 'right' exit and then left to clash with Tenterden traffic). All this chaos compounded by massive 'speeding' from Headcorn and Tenterden bound traffic. Double yellow lines are also ignored creating blockages and tailbacks at peak traffic times. A shambles! Finally, a perfectly acceptable scheme drawn up by Ashford Highway Engineering Dept was proposed and approved by the parish council in 2000. Majority voted for scheme and nothing happened. Can this be reinstated?	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Roundabout junction of A264/262 (triangle)	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Dealing with traffic speed remains an urgent issue – it affects everyone's lives, including children, elderly, viability of shops. The village car park is an eyesore and needs reorganising – demolish loos and rebuild with PO, change point of exit for safety.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Some very large vehicles using narrow roads in the area and village centre. Some so big that they cannot stay in their own carriageway. Could there be a weight restriction?	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	NO speed cameras	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Lorry bypass by Three Chimneys to Bounds Cross or even the Green Lane bridle path.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Double line enforcement near Turner's – blocks view to main road.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Could a bus service be introduced for school children instead of 'one car, one child', therefore reducing traffic build-up at drop-off and pick-up times? I know the village extends out many miles and homes are far apart, but maybe some thought could be given to the traffic in and out of a small village street.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Reduction of speed rates just outside the village especially in residential areas where young children live. To reduce traffic, which is ever increasing, a by-pass from Headcorn to High Halden.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Humps should be introduced at Castleton's Oak crossroads. This and Woolpack Corner and Dashmonden are three black spots within a one mile radius. The only problem is that nothing will be done until someone dies. Then it becomes a priority.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	The cutting of hedges at Woolpack Corner and Dashmonden as the traffic has no visibility and they are accident blackspots. Also the reconstruction of the crossroads at Castleton's Oak. This is a major junction and has seen at least 30 accidents since we have been here and there will be a fatal one very soon.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Stop sign at Turner's, not just Give Way.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Parking on the corner by Turner's restricts viewing of coming traffic from Headcorn direction, when leaving the village. Despite yellow lines, parking still goes on. A police patrol in this area would be very useful at peak times. At present it is a very dangerous area. More housing and businesses will only increase traffic, particularly heavy vehicles which the village cannot cope with. A bypass wouldn't be the answer and can only spoil the landscape.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Speed limit on Benenden Rd to Castleton's Oak crossroads.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Restricting large vehicles, keeping verges cut at Woolpack Corner for traffic turning right.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Restrictions on the size of commercial traffic using country roads (unclassified). I counted over 30 lorry movements per day passing Castleton's Oak to Chapman's scrapyards (huge articulated trucks) creating a danger to other road users and breaking down the edges of the roads.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Slow down traffic on A262 and improve roadside verges, with kerbstones, sight lines (long grass), footpaths.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Some form of road improvement is necessary to help with the right turn from Headcorn to Sissinghurst and the double bends by the church but not a by-pass to leave the village an empty shell.	41-40
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Remove yellow lines to cause obstructive parking.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Limited traffic through High St, use of block paving to allow use of High St as pedestrian/parking area for access to shops and village attractions. Pedestrianise High St, build by-pass.	41-60

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	In the last decade we have seen a massive increase in vehicular traffic through the High St. Lorries, motor-cycles, speeding cars etc. This has detracted from the village serenity so that it is no longer a 'heart' to sit, talk, visit shops, pub, restaurants, etc. A by-pass with a pedestrianised village centre with increased parking facilities would put Biddenden back as a well cared and presented village for both locals and tourists. No one likes to see large lorries thundering through the village.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Widening pavements in North Street between Cloth Hall Gardens and Mansion House Close – helping pedestrians and narrowing roads to decrease speed.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Traffic lights	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Road from Woodlands to the village is too fast. Make it 40mph and enforce it.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Road humps on High St.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Motorcycle clubs use country roads, particularly on Sundays, as their own personal race tracks. They know that they can exceed the speed limit without any chance of being caught, which they cannot do on the M25/M20/M2 due to speed cameras. Speeds of 80/100mph are normal for these motorcyclists on approach roads to Biddenden.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Rumble strips before lower speed limits	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Less heavy traffic using Hare Plain Rd and speed limit. It is used as a racetrack.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Speed limit along Hare Plain Rd (from Bounds Cross to Three Chimneys) and along Biddenden to Sissinghurst Rd. Very fast, dangerous bends, many accidents.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	As a horse rider there are not many safe places to ride around Biddenden. It would be a great advantage to have a bridlepath link from Sissinghurst Castle to Hemstead forest. There are a lot of horse riders along Hare Plain Rd and it would be beneficial to have a horse rider sign erected to warn drivers who drive extremely fast along this road.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Outlying roads are used as 'cut-through' rat-run type roads, particularly in summer by motorcyclists and fast cars. Some form of monitoring would be helpful as they speed at dangerous points and are an accident waiting to happen.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Ban lorries greater than 7 tons in High St and Sissinghurst Rd	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	There are double yellow lines at Turner's but nobody seems to take any notice and it's dangerous!	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Enforce the Turner's junction in village centre – no right turn and yellow lines enforced. Also the HGV park in Smarden Rd – NO!!	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Why is it legal to be permitted to drive at 60mph on the A262, and yet parts of the M25 are restricted to 50mph?	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	A262 50mph limit between Biddenden and Sissinghurst.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Attention must be paid to the A262, Biddenden to Sissinghurst Rd. It is literally a death trap and drivers pay no heed to the fact that it is full of bends – they overtake anyway, hence dreadful accidents happening frequently. Two weeks ago a pile-up on that road had two ambulances, the air ambulance (had to make a double trip), two fire engines and many police cars – what would that cost the taxpayer in resources? On Sundays it is used as a racetrack by motorcyclists. Our children cannot safely cycle on that road and <u>none</u> of us can safely walk along the road so if we need to post a letter even, we have to go by car – this is a terrible way to live.	41-60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Parking restrictions enforced by a Traffic Warden. Proceeds from fines would soon pay for a new Post Office!! Illegal parking in this area is so so dangerous.	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	In the last 14 years that I have lived in Biddenden, I have seen the traffic problems – i.e. speed, heavy lorries, rat runs – escalate to the point that we cannot allow our children (or ourselves for that matter) to cycle or even walk on some stretches. To enter the highway from our drive is akin to Russian Roulette. There are no visible controls as such, with a distinct lack of police activity. Too many floral memorials to accident victims adorn our road sides. Some sort of 'order' is required on Biddenden roads and on Kent roads generally. Biddenden is a jewel that will soon be overlooked.	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Left-turn only at end of High St slip road near Turner's	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Speed restriction on Hareplain Rd. Less heavy vehicles.	>60

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	20 mph on all rural lanes, or exclude powered traffic. 20 mph within 200 yds of schools/ shops. We are surrounded by beautiful countryside criss-crossed by country lanes with 60 mph speed limits. Let us use these for recreational purposes. If we can't exclude traffic or police 20 mph speed limits on all roads then let us designate some routes as traffic-free for walkers/horseriders/push-bikers and ensure adherence to the rules.	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Top of street and towards bus shelter (North St) should be kept free of parked cars. Could the hedge between Green Hedges and Blackfriars be reduced in height to give a better sight line on traffic from Sissinghurst as crossing the road from lay-by is becoming increasingly hazardous?	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Speed restrictions on entering Three Chimneys/Sissinghurst Road. The hedge on the Three Chimneys/Sissinghurst Road corner is far too high – one day there will be a serious accident there. The owner (name supplied) should be made to cut this back by half.	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Speed restriction on this busy stretch of road (Woodlands Park).	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	One-way system at village green, i.e. in from Tenterden, out at Turner's. Or take three corners off the green and make into a roundabout.	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Road junction in the village centre is unnecessarily dangerous. Entrance to the car park makes the problem worse. Drivers from the Continent add to the danger as they have never encountered anything like it.	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Road junction in village centre needs changing. Move current island to link with footpath by car park. This will allow better visibility for drivers – later install traffic lights with pedestrian crossing included from car park to Turner's to southbound bus stop.	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Hedges need cutting back on Three Chimneys corner on Sissinghurst Road. There have been bad accidents with traffic coming from Biddenden meeting traffic coming from Hareplain Road.	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	The noise and speed of motorbikes using the Three Chimneys/Sissinghurst Road at the weekends is horrendous. Also when driving out of Hareplain Road and turning right the view of traffic coming round the corner is obliterated by the hedge. We have this problem every year. One day there will be a fatal accident.	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	High Street/North Street lay-out is thoroughly unsatisfactory. People who approach North St from Sissinghurst should not be allowed to turn right if they use the one-way section outside the convenience store. They should be allowed to turn <u>left</u> only. When you get to the actual junction outside the convenience store, visibility northwards up North St is very poor, due to the vehicles that are parked there. Parking on that section of North St for a length of 30-50 metres should be prohibited.	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Enforce parking restrictions; enforce speed limits	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	On the bend by school it is extremely dangerous. Lorries go too fast round the bend. I suggest tarmac speed ramps as people go too fast. I was nearly hit by a large lorry one day. They are too big. I go round there four times daily as I am a caretaker at Staplehurst primary school. I travel from Woodlands Park to Maidstone to collect my son weekly. From Headcorn to Biddenden there is a severe tarmac rut where it has been dug up. It is sinking and for small vehicles it tosses the car from side to side. The council do a little bit and leave a little bit. This makes driving hazardous and dangerous. I have a little Daewoo (new) and I am like a ping pong ball.	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Mini-roundabout at Castleton's Oak crossroads or rumble strips	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	What concerns me most is traffic along Cranbrook Rd. It is an unclassified road but it is used more and more by heavy lorries and vehicles. It is used by women on the school run who drive fast and more often than not over the white line. It is the Biddenden bypass and something needs to be done to control the speed on this road. It is mentioned in the Biddenden Appraisal and nothing has been done about it.	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	When will the main village road junction be improved? It is highly dangerous.	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	When is the village green road junction going to be improved?	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Limit times in car park to discourage train commuters who take bus to Headcorn	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	How many accidents have there been in the village in the past five years?	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Make village green one way. Radar signs between Three Chimneys and Fosten Green Lane and regular weekend enforcement.	>60



TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Alteration to the High St junction with the A274 as recommended by the highways Dept should be implemented to reduce the speed of traffic in the High St.	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	We are pleased to know that something is being done with regard to Castleton's Oak crossroads, speed reduction is essential on all roads there.	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	50mph speed limit on Hareplain Rd	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Possible 20mph limit in areas of shops and on Tenterden/Headcorn stretch within village	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Speed limits and parking restrictions are useless unless enforced.	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Traffic is building up on the High Halden Rd travelling at breakneck speed causing danger to walkers, children, horses and animals. The road is in poor condition causing safety hazards to drivers as well. The junction to the A272 on a sharp corner at Dashmonden has seen serious accidents. A speed limit would be advisable and a ban on vehicles over a certain tonnage.	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Alteration of village green to roundabout or traffic lights and T-junction	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Speeds on North Street need much stricter control. Village green one-way systems must be reviewed – it is dangerous and inefficient especially for large commercial vehicles.	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	More 30mph roundels on approach roads to the village.	>60
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Castleton's Oak crossroad is a nightmare! The speed limit signs have had no effect whatsoever. I have seen so many accidents and near misses on this crossroads. I find it hard to believe it is not a priority! I refused to let my children wait for their school coach on this crossroads. What about traffic lights?	N/D
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Police traps occasionally – especially Bank Holiday Mondays!	N/D
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Roads in very bad condition, many holes, hedges obscuring vision on turnings and bends – DANGEROUS.	N/D
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Abolish all parking restrictions except adjacent to green. 50 mph on A/B roads; 40 mph on all others	N/D

ENVIRONMENT	Development effects on biodiversity.	11-18
ENVIRONMENT	Graffiti	11-18
ENVIRONMENT	We should be putting more pressure on council to provide recycling facilities for all waste from home.	19-25
ENVIRONMENT	Noise pollution – only the teenagers that sit in the bus shelters kicking bins, setting off fireworks on top during November – don't mind if they're just bored and chatting but vandalism isn't acceptable.	19-25
ENVIRONMENT	Will start to recycle when I find out where it is!	19-25
ENVIRONMENT	Cars speeding along rural roads, e.g. Smarden Rd/Pook Lane	26-40
ENVIRONMENT	Need a cardboard collection and clothes. Dog mess – I counted 53 from the churchyard to Cheeselands. Need I say any more!	26-40
ENVIRONMENT	Sewage waste – smells in park at Cheeselands and regularly floods in Glebelands – needs fixing properly.	26-40
ENVIRONMENT	Still would like blue box recycling scheme as done by ABC. Apparently Parish Council objected?	26-40
ENVIRONMENT	Not able to use green wheelie bins when all surrounding villages are issued them free of charge.	26-40
ENVIRONMENT	Congestion within the village, especially in the morning with parked cars/lorries etc. along the High St and at bus stops.	26-40
ENVIRONMENT	Maintenance of children's park/recreation ground: Would like to see the graffiti dealt with as it makes taking young children to the park and explaining what is written very difficult.	26-40
ENVIRONMENT	We live near the water treatment plant and the smell still takes over our garden in summer.	26-40
ENVIRONMENT	Cardboard and steel can recycling.	41-60
ENVIRONMENT	Noise and traffic nuisance from Kingsland should not be tolerated in a village environment out of normal working hours. This constitutes a public nuisance and if I lived close by I would obtain a court injunction.	41-60
ENVIRONMENT	Unnecessary road signs destroying rural environment under the remit of health and safety and Brussels directives.	41-60
ENVIRONMENT	Future for farming, particularly underused farmland in or near village centre.	41-60
ENVIRONMENT	Where are the recycling facilities? I didn't know we had any! I take mine to Headcorn.	41-60
ENVIRONMENT	Verges on main/minor roads need to be cut more frequently.	41-60
ENVIRONMENT	Road surfaces do not conform to EC standards and are LOUD.	41-60
ENVIRONMENT	Increase in 'temporary' mobile homes/caravans in rural sites; gradual erosion of green areas.	41-60
ENVIRONMENT	Proliferation of road signs etc. turning a rural area into an urban one. Consideration of the rural beauty of this area should be taken into account before implementing every H&S diktat.	41-60
ENVIRONMENT	More tree preservation orders. Hedge protection.	41-60
ENVIRONMENT	Loss of hedgerow in favour of closeboard fencing.	41-60
ENVIRONMENT	'Skipscheme' in Biddenden, similar to the schemes at Headcorn and Hawkhurst, for non-commercial rubbish of course. This could help stop fly-tipping of mattresses etc.	41-60
ENVIRONMENT	Recycling seems to have a very low priority in Biddenden. Most villages now have simple 'blue box' or alternate week collections of recyclable waste. There will surely be problems implementing the upcoming gov't targets in Ashford without positive steps to encourage recycling. Wheelie bins also help reduce waste. 30mph limit should go past Woolpack Corner as should the pavement. Reduced speeds would help the environment.	41-60
ENVIRONMENT	Would like to see recycling facilities for plastics (bottles) and cardboard – there would be no need then for expensive house to house collection of recycled items. Please could something be done to reduce the noise coming from sewage works. Intermittent and constant motor noise is heard in Mansion House Close. Maybe soundproofing can be placed round motors!	41-60
ENVIRONMENT	Bonfires during the day/early evening.	41-60
ENVIRONMENT	The green spaces are great for the village but they seem to be used as a public loo for dog walkers which causes problems when taking the kids for walks around the rookery and the playing fields.	41-60
ENVIRONMENT	Mobile phone masts.	41-60

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ENVIRONMENT	Noise pollution – aircraft buzzing overhead from Headcorn – really irritating! Tell them to stop performing low level acrobatics over a residential area!	41-60
ENVIRONMENT	Re litter and dog mess, this is not just confined to the village centre, but on surrounding public footpaths, walks, fields and streams. It is appalling how people have a total disregard for the countryside and choose to throw their empty beer cans in the streams, etc.	41-60
ENVIRONMENT	Extend recycling to include all paper & plastic bottles. Wheelie bin for refuse would be preferable.	41-60
ENVIRONMENT	Noise pollution, especially traffic speeding through North Street and early morning activity at fruit & veg. distributors in North Street (Kingsland)	>60
ENVIRONMENT	The parachute plane operating out of Headcorn has been making an unacceptable level of noise, mainly at weekends. Irresponsible dog owners should be taken to task.	>60
ENVIRONMENT	The recycling area is not even signposted. Be democratic – give people the 'home collection' option!	>60
ENVIRONMENT	We need a roadsweeper in Cheeslands and Chulkhurst. Also the brook is full up with rubbish which is never cleared, plus the lane by the brook is overgrown with weed and grass.	>60
ENVIRONMENT	Motor cycles through the village and on A262.	>60
ENVIRONMENT	Traveller invasion.	>60
ENVIRONMENT	Dumping of refrigerators, etc.	>60
ENVIRONMENT	A facility to place polythene & plastic items in a suitable bin with existing facilities already in place. Would prefer to see house-to-house collection in line with neighbouring parishes.	>60
ENVIRONMENT	Cardboard recycling	>60
ENVIRONMENT	No more noisy, polluting commercial firms (i.e. Kingsland) allowed in the village. This particular company has ruined a complete area of the village for residents, both by night and day. Care should be taken not to ruin other areas in a similar fashion. Over-expansion of companies such as these should be checked before it is too late.	>60
ENVIRONMENT	Destruction of the countryside and loss of wildlife habitat	>60
ENVIRONMENT	Reduce commercial advertising (x2).	>60
ENVIRONMENT	Plastic waste recycling.	>60
ENVIRONMENT	Fly-tipping, particularly along Vineyard Rd.	>60
ENVIRONMENT	I would really like to see our village obtain wheelie bins. These are very convenient and save a lot of backbreaking lugging back and forth.	N/D
ENVIRONMENT	Collection of garden waste	N/D
ENVIRONMENT	Recycling here is pointless. We need to be able to recycle paper and cardboard, milk polys, foil, plastics, tins and glass.	N/D

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	Pavement from Three Chimneys to village.	19-25
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	Something should be done so that you can cross the road on the corner where the Maids Post is in the High St, directly to the corner shop instead of having to walk on the road or step over the railings to go across the green.	26-40
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	Lighting and continuous pavement from North St or ped. Crossing. Taking children and pushchair into village centre is lethal!	26-40
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	Zebra crossing outside school.	26-40
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	Restrict parking in North St outside shop – bus stop only. Lower ragstone pavement in High St to widen the road, back to what it was apparently pre-1950. Then allow parking both sides.	41-60
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	Pedestrian walkways on main roads into village.	41-60
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	Better to have footpaths in fields, away from v. busy roads	41-60
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	Improve pavements – some in Glebelands (near beginning) dangerous.	41-60
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	Footpath from Woodlands could bring the visitors into the village.	41-60
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	School/church bend a worry – no pavement. Sometimes a requirement to use the gate on the bend! Pushchairs!	41-60
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	Pedestrian crossing of main road by Turner's, light controlled	41-60
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	Path inside church yard hedge on A262 as current path too narrow for wheelchairs and prams to pass.	41-60
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	Pavements and cycle tracks along all but the quietest roads. Speed limits on roads into village.	41-60
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	As a disabled OAP it would be a help if there were low kerbs and a flat path on the south side of the village High St. I ride a disabled scooter to get to the Post Office. I have to go near the bus stop for a low kerb on the main road, go to nearest low kerb on the other side of the road, then cross again at Biddenden Place to Post Office and then the same back. It is very nerve-racking and every time I do it I feel sick and get home and feel I don't want to do it again. But I need to use the Post Office and get to the doctor's. A flat path on the north side would help all disabled and OAPs as we can cross at school low kerb.	>60
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	Maintain a safe, flat path in Kentish stone. Slow traffic turning into the village centre from Tenterden.	>60
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	As a resident of Woodlands Park, we are not all so old that a pavement from the park to the village would not be of great benefit. The walk would be very beneficial to us. We are a good-sized community and pay rates the same as everyone else and would use the village a lot more if this facility were there for us.	>60
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	Crossing from Woodlands Park to catch buses to Maidstone and returning from Tenterden is an obstacle course for elderly and disabled. Several accidents have occurred in this area – one, I believe, fatal. My wife is severely disabled and petrified trying to cross this road. Please try and help. Thank you.	>60
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	Headcorn has a pedestrian crossing. 90% of traffic through Headcorn also passes through Biddenden. We should be entitled to a crossing too!	>60
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	Does the village have a bad pedestrian safety record? Nevertheless, a renewal of the south pavement would improve pedestrian comfort.	>60
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	A pavement from Three Chimneys to the Garden Centre – I find it quite scary walking in the road and stepping on to the grass verge when traffic approaches.	>60
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	Regular cutting back of overhanging grass and shrubs on existing pavements	>60
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	Pavement to Woodlands Park	>60

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	Did you know that in the early 1970s there was a path along the A274 from Woodlands Park to the A28? This was 'removed' when the A274 was widened – a new path was promised but this never materialised because of 'cost'. Hardly anyone now walks along the A274 from Woodlands now because of the amount of traffic (especially in peak hours). It means walking on the road. <u>However</u> , children from Woodlands who go to the primary school in St Michael's are not entitled to use the school bus which passes by Woodlands because they live within walking distance of the school! Even I, a mature adult, would not consider walking along the A274 at the times to and from school. So instead of pushing for a path from Woolpack corner to the village – please push to get our footpath back.	>60
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	Would like to see the pavements kept in better order. Uncut hedges and overhanging branches are a pest to dodge around or duck under. The encroachment of turf on to the path reduces the width considerably. It is dangerous to push a pram, quite often it's single file only. This is most of the road from Dashmonden through to Cot Lane. Considering the speed at which the lorries are driven, one needs the whole width of the pavement to avoid being knocked over by the slipstream.	>60
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	Regularly clear existing footpaths of encroaching vegetation and overhanging hedges and trees.	>60
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	Better sides of roads to areas on outskirts of Biddenden, for people without cars and who have to walk to catch public transport.	>60
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	Extend street lighting to cover 30mph speed limit.	>60
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	Crossing between Millennium Field and Chulkhurst (school bus stops here)	>60
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	Would like to see some lighting on the estates. Not only would it give more security, but I know of some people who have missed the kerbside and have fallen down and hurt themselves.	>60
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	Footpath from Dashmonden to North Street should be cut back – at places impossible to walk two abreast, or mother with pram in safety from traffic.	>60
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	Speed restriction and pavement from Castleton's Oak crossroad to village	>60
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	Safer crossings for Sissinghurst Road, especially for children returning from Homewood	N/D

SPORT & LEISURE	Cricket club/athletic club/dancing club/swimming pool	U11
SPORT & LEISURE	Café for teenagers not run by old people.	11-18
SPORT & LEISURE	Skate park or half pipe – the Millennium Field is an ideal area.	11-18
SPORT & LEISURE	I'm not a skater myself but know many. There is nowhere for them to meet, chat and skate without being looked at as being up to no good. An enclosed half-pipe or skate park would be ideal. It would reduce graffiti (an act of boredom I can only guess at) at children's playground and give them somewhere to just hang out without getting into trouble.	11-18
SPORT & LEISURE	Netball facilities for girls.	11-18
SPORT & LEISURE	Archery	11-18
SPORT & LEISURE	Need more publicity – i.e. tennis courts/clubs. More info – adverts!	19-25
SPORT & LEISURE	Small public pool.	19-25
SPORT & LEISURE	Current facilities more accessible to <u>all</u>	26-40
SPORT & LEISURE	Better park for the children, more swings etc. Improvement to tennis court facilities? Cricket ground/general pavilion.	26-40
SPORT & LEISURE	Free access to facilities required or hire at reasonable rates, not exclusive clubs, i.e. squash club.	26-40
SPORT & LEISURE	My husband used to run football on Saturdays. He found it expensive as the parish council fees and village hall fees (changing rooms) were high.	26-40
SPORT & LEISURE	Gym, swimming pool.	26-40
SPORT & LEISURE	Improved playground for children.	26-40
SPORT & LEISURE	Anything! Cafes, restaurants, takeaways, badminton club, gym, more clubs and social events, and more than one pub.	26-40
SPORT & LEISURE	Skate park (supervised to avoid situation that has happened in St Michaels.	41-60
SPORT & LEISURE	Something for the youth that won't cost the earth.	41-60
SPORT & LEISURE	Facilities are underused. They need to market themselves to all village members – not just the middle class!	41-60
SPORT & LEISURE	Gym/fitness centre	41-60
SPORT & LEISURE	Allotments – new houses have gardens too small for growing fruit and veg.	41-60
SPORT & LEISURE	A new village hall, built on a site near the sports ground/school/Millennium Field, could incorporate a café, open all day – good for the elderly and young parents during the day and youth/sporting organisation members after school/work. It could incorporate an internet access facility and would become a central community building. Existing site of village hall could support flats for elderly, central to village.	41-60
SPORT & LEISURE	Evening keep fit/Pilates: gardening club	41-60
SPORT & LEISURE	Restore annual Biddenden fun run.	41-60
SPORT & LEISURE	Why was there not more encouragement of Tenterden Tigers football club proposal?	41-60
SPORT & LEISURE	Network of tracks for offroad pedal cycling, e.g. old railway line.	41-60
SPORT & LEISURE	Biddenden is very lucky with its sports and leisure facilities. It would be good if more <u>village</u> people took advantage of them.	41-60
SPORT & LEISURE	A family friendly pub and landlord! A cinema club in the village hall. A summer fair.	41-60
SPORT & LEISURE	Open air swimming pool.	41-60
SPORT & LEISURE	Communal café for all ages and reading room use, mags, newspapers, general meeting place to drop in on.	41-60
SPORT & LEISURE	Promote and make use of existing facilities which are sadly underused.	>60
SPORT & LEISURE	Evening class for life drawing. Swimming pool.	>60
SPORT & LEISURE	Gardening club. Coach pick-ups.	>60
SPORT & LEISURE	All the local sports to be under one umbrella thereby helping to understand each other's problems.	>60
SPORT & LEISURE	Skate boarding is becoming very popular but apart from street surfaces and car parks, there are no facilities – nearest is Tenterden.	>60
SPORT & LEISURE	Village hall situated next to sports ground and development of proper central parish leisure facilities; swimming pool	N/D
SPORT & LEISURE	Skateboard/cycle track	N/D

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT	Development in the village is inevitable. Therefore, any development should (maybe) be limited in number, and be focused on brownfield/infill sites, Green spaces shouldn't be lost. Any planning gain would be good, but would increasing pop. size necessarily bring 'gain'? Won't people just keep going to Tenterden/Cranbrook/Headcorn (with a larger selection of services than Biddenden could ever support)?	11-18
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT	Housing that is only available for local people	19-25
OPEN SPACES	Very fortunate to have the Millennium Field in the centre of the village and believe this is an undervalued asset to the locals.	26-40
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT	No more housing behind Cheeselands.	26-40
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT	I am against allowing mobile homes and executive style houses on odd pieces of farmland.	41-60
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT	Shared ownership to help younger people on to housing ladder.	41-60
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT	Shared ownership.	41-60
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT	Not all residential development should be on 'estates'. More individual plots required, e.g. Nightingales is a good example.	41-60
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT	10-12 council bungalows just for elderly, not being bothered by children at night, so as to free up 2/3 bedroom houses for young families.	41-60
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT	A home for the elderly in the centre of the village so that locals who have lived in the village can be visited by all ages, easily. The elderly need to be a primary concern when considering any aspect of village life in order to give them the respect they deserve.	41-60
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT	If there is to be further residential development, small starter homes would be of more value than large affluent establishments because we have many commuters who are part-time in the village and living in large houses. Young people, or even people unable to afford big homes even though not young, feel they are in the village but not as part of it.	>60
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT	Further housing is required but not for the financial benefit of certain individuals who want extra funds in their own pockets without regard to the attractiveness of this beautiful village.	>60
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT	Only for people with direct connections to the village, not 'imports' from other areas with no connections.	>60
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT	ABC will impose further housing. It is better the parish council select the areas for development that best serve the community rather than allow local 'entrepreneurs' to line their pockets.	>60
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT	No more mobile homes and caravans or bungalows.	>60
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT	Affordable homes for people on low incomes, for single young people	>60
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT	Concerned by the pressure put upon the rural nature of the parish by the purchase of agricultural land (often at what seems to be inflated prices) and the placing of caravans, mobile homes thereon and the subsequent attempts to regularise the situation by the submission of retrospective planning applications and with possible future applications for permanent buildings.	>60
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT	Happy to see parish buy further land to preserve open spaces but not with further borrowed money.	>60
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT	Gypsy site for 10 pitches	>60

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT	There seems to be a trend for pockets of rural agricultural land to be bought up and caravans to be placed before planning permission is granted. Keep the rural areas for agricultural purposes, not housing.	>60
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT	Just leave the village and its environs alone.	>60
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT	Millennium Field needs a chippings/gravel footpath around this perimeter to make this field accessible to more people to enjoy. Try pushing a pushchair on the field. Also, the clay soil becomes slippery when wet. A lot of older people prefer a smooth surface to walk on.	>60
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT	Planning gains should not be linked as a carrot for landowners to get green land sold off for housing. Present shops/restaurants should be kept for that purpose, not offices or totally residential dwelling. The parish should not buy more land just to 'line the pockets' of landowners.	>60



NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY	School talks on safety, drugs etc.	11-18
NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY	CCTV	11-18
NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY	Action taken against anti-social youngsters, vandalism on residents' cars, swearing. Very disappointed with police in village, and increasing hooligan yobbish element, knocking on doors, shouting abuse, littering, vandalising cars when parked <u>and getting away with it!!</u>	19-25
NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY	Need to get rid of drugs quickly	19-25
NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY	Property isn't safe, but people are.	19-25
NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY	Better response time from police.	26-40
NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY	Burglars still persist in this area. Police seem helpless to deal with the problem. Biddenden is generally a safe place but the problem of burglars operating in this area is a constant concern and worry. A police presence in the village would be a good idea.	26-40
NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY	Control the amount of families moving into the village from towns.	26-40
NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY	More careful selection of tenants/things for young to do	26-40
NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY	Would one policeman be any good against a vanload of pikies?	26-40
NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY	Action against anti-social behaviour. Ashford Borough Council should 'police' their tenants regarding the condition of gardens and Environmental Health should act on noise nuisance. Ditto police should act on drug offences.	41-60
NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY	Community wardens	41-60
NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY	Frankly almost any police presence	41-60
NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY	Parent/school responsibility for children's behaviour.	41-60
NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY	More street lighting.	41-60
NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY	CCTV	41-60
NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY	The total amount of money paid by Biddenden residents is more than sufficient to fund a constant police presence. We want <u>value for money</u> .	41-60
NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY	Police must deal firmly and promptly with nuisance caused by travellers and not treat their homes as 'no go' areas. Also planning permission must be seen as fair so that mobile homes do not become permanent residences without going through all the procedures that law-abiding citizens have to adhere to.	41-60
NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY	More action by police after any incidents.	41-60
NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY	Police station in Biddenden.	41-60

The Biddenden Parish Plan  
 April 2005

NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY	The police are extremely helpful after a break-in is reported, but the sight of a police car (or motor-bike) is now a rarity.	>60
NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY	Faster reaction times to reported crimes. Effective deterrents.	>60
NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY	CCTV at strategic points.	>60
NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY	Support Wealden Security Centre – living in Biddenden based in Tenterden.	>60
NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY	There should be a visible police presence in the evenings, especially in the winter time as there is so much vandalism.	>60
NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY	Although Biddenden is a safe place by current standards, a visible police presence and co-ordination of Neighbourhood Watch schemes may reduce vandalism.	>60
NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY	The police must be more concerned about people.	>60

RETAIL & COMMERCIAL BUSINESS	More good shops that sell non-boring things!	11-18
RETAIL & COMMERCIAL BUSINESS	Don't allow shops in High St to be used for residential use	19-25
RETAIL & COMMERCIAL BUSINESS	Don't turn Biddenden into another Headcorn!	26-40
RETAIL & COMMERCIAL BUSINESS	Encourage people within the village to support the local trade.	26-40
RETAIL & COMMERCIAL BUSINESS	A chemist would be far more important to the village than a post office, everyone would benefit not just the postmistress.	26-40
RETAIL & COMMERCIAL BUSINESS	If new shops then those to serve day to day needs, i.e. organic bakery/deli – not another estate agent or takeaway.	41-60
RETAIL & COMMERCIAL BUSINESS	Restrict parking time on High Street. Stop businesses using High St. and use car park.	41-60
RETAIL & COMMERCIAL BUSINESS	Keep Biddenden's character and people will want to shop and work here.	41-60
RETAIL & COMMERCIAL BUSINESS	Biddenden is a beautiful place but a bit lacklustre. It needs to encourage small shops and restaurants to open but ensuring they are affordable and good quality.	41-60
RETAIL & COMMERCIAL BUSINESS	Encourage people who want to live in a village to use local businesses and shops	41-60
RETAIL & COMMERCIAL BUSINESS	If we lose the Post Office the village will die. How can the Parish Council justify building more houses in this village with no post office and two shops? The reason the shops went is there are no parking spaces so people drive away from the village.	41-60
RETAIL & COMMERCIAL BUSINESS	Biddenden needs a bank or at least a cashpoint machine.	41-60
RETAIL & COMMERCIAL BUSINESS	Restrict to consumer businesses – i.e. no more estate agents/antiques/restaurants	41-60
RETAIL & COMMERCIAL BUSINESS	Don't allow change of use from shops to residential but the damage is already done.	41-60
RETAIL & COMMERCIAL BUSINESS	Don't allow permission to convert existing shops to residential!	41-60
RETAIL & COMMERCIAL BUSINESS	Adequate parking must be provided if there is to be any hope of a village revival. At present visitors are positively discouraged and what businesses there are will continue to suffer (Headcorn was in decline until adequate parking was provided).	>60
RETAIL & COMMERCIAL BUSINESS	Further shops are desirable but they have to be used. Shops in the village have gradually closed due to lack of custom. Families have so often two or more cars and emphasis is put on visiting large stores. New business creates new traffic, including large lorries.	>60
RETAIL & COMMERCIAL BUSINESS	More shops won't make any difference unless they be craft or antiques shops for the tourists.	>60
RETAIL & COMMERCIAL BUSINESS	Shut the developed Tenterden supermarkets.	>60
RETAIL & COMMERCIAL BUSINESS	Is it realistic to think that Biddenden could support a full-time surgery or local chemist? What villages have bucked the current trend of losing most of their shops?	>60
RETAIL & COMMERCIAL BUSINESS	Promotion of the village. More dynamic management by parish council.	>60

PUBLIC TRANSPORT	Have more buses going to places like Cranbrook, Tunbridge Wells, Maidstone, Headcorn and Tenterden, for example. This will let people like me take the bus instead of having my parents driving me there, which would increase the amount of pollution.	11-18
PUBLIC TRANSPORT	Reduce high prices.	11-18
PUBLIC TRANSPORT	Cheaper fares.	26-40
PUBLIC TRANSPORT	Reduction in excessive fares, timed more appropriately with trains.	26-40
PUBLIC TRANSPORT	Cranbrook, Sissinghurst, Smarden, Pluckley, Ashford, Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge	41-60
PUBLIC TRANSPORT	Buses that actually make connection with trains at Headcorn.	41-60
PUBLIC TRANSPORT	'Atrocious' fares need reducing to £1 standards as in other areas.	41-60
PUBLIC TRANSPORT	Public transport through Biddenden should be improved. The bus to Headcorn/Maidstone/Tenterden is expensive and infrequent. A subsidised 'Biddenden Bus' should be considered. This could be operated locally and could be a scheme operated by the village. A small levy to each household could enable the scheme to get up and running. This would be particularly valuable for older people. What about Lottery funding to buy the bus? The service could then be dedicated to serving Biddenden residents and the schedules tailored to local requirements. The bus could be booked for specific needs such as taking older residents shopping or attending medical appointments.	41-60
PUBLIC TRANSPORT	Realistic fares.	41-60
PUBLIC TRANSPORT	Free public transport for OAPs – some local authorities do this.	>60
PUBLIC TRANSPORT	Canterbury. London. Rye. Hastings. Eastbourne.	>60
PUBLIC TRANSPORT	Lower prices. Pre-paid tickets (e.g. 10 trips for £10) might encourage more use.	>60
PUBLIC TRANSPORT	Easy access buses for disabled and elderly (as park & ride, Maidstone)	>60
PUBLIC TRANSPORT	Residing at Woodlands Park, some type of bus shelter would be welcomed for passengers travelling to Maidstone, Headcorn, etc.	>60
PUBLIC TRANSPORT	Non-drivers are cut off from the main village because of lack of public transport	>60
PUBLIC TRANSPORT	Not all the people at Three Chimneys drive so I would like to see a bus route from the village to Cranbrook at least once a week.	>60
PUBLIC TRANSPORT	Biddenden to Tenterden via Benenden Rd and Castleton's Oak Rd	>60
PUBLIC TRANSPORT	Castleton's Oak to village	>60

YOUTH	There is a shortage of jobs for the youth of the village, i.e. age 14+. I have been looking for a job in Biddenden for months and there aren't any. There should be more youth liaison areas in the village all day, and more clubs in the village for everyone, and some more liaisons for everybody to meet each other, e.g. café.	11-18
YOUTH	Permanent clubhouse to be used all the time.	11-18
YOUTH	There is nothing for the older children in the village. We need to cater for teenagers more. Maybe then they wouldn't hang around the streets causing trouble. The skate ramp they have in St Michael's is always used by the younger groups of children as well as the older ones. Even a youth club or some outlet is needed, and soon.	26-40
YOUTH	Clubs encouraged to use village hall, e.g. karate, judo, dance, gymnastics, drama.	26-40
YOUTH	The majority of 'youth' live on the estates, can't facilities be provided there? In Cheeselands there are no facilities available to them now as the park says only for use by under-12s (although they do use it). The Meadows could also use this space which is much safer to get to than the rec. There are unfortunately always going to be the <u>minority</u> that spoil it, but they are a very small minority which perhaps with better policing could be solved. Biddenden is by far a better place than many surrounding towns and villages, who have major problems with 'youth'.	26-40
YOUTH	Curfew for teenagers (7pm).	26-40
YOUTH	Astroturf for 5-aside and basketball with brick built drop-in centre.	26-40
YOUTH	Skateboard/roller blade/cycle path, etc. More free stuff.	41-60
YOUTH	In view of the lack of support for village cricket and football teams (e.g. players) is it possible to ascertain what the youth want?	41-60
YOUTH	Disabled children should be able to attend John Mayne School.	41-60
YOUTH	You have put all these questions about the young, what you would do for them. What about the older people, there are plenty of them, who have no cars and cannot get about very much, they are just as much a part of this world as the young.	>60
YOUTH	They have quite enough. I have lived here all my life and when I was a child we didn't have anything, whatever they have nowadays it's still not enough it seems.	>60
YOUTH	Challenging facilities – obstacle course, large climbing frame	>60
YOUTH	Organise a 'Biddenden Youth' weekend incorporating a supervise Q&A session.	>60
YOUTH	A skateboarding, mountain bike facility should be provided in one of the recreation grounds. An exciting and energy-consuming sport for youngsters, most of whom would enjoy it to the full.	>60
YOUTH	At present the young have to travel great distances on bad or infrequent buses to go to the cinema. Often the buses don't run late enough for them to return home. What about reinstating the cinema in Tenterden, or a special cinema bus to take them to Maidstone, T. Wells or Ashford?	N/D
YOUTH	Better parents and more understanding older residents!	N/D
YOUTH	Develop own sports centre	N/D
YOUTH	Should be made less expensive to use the facilities so that Biddenden can have a youth football team like Smarden and Wittersham	N/D

HEALTHCARE	Call-out services	11-18
HEALTHCARE	A&E at Benenden/Westview	11-18
HEALTHCARE	Dentist – we should be self-sufficient and not have to travel to other villages.	26-40
HEALTHCARE	The doctors in the village hall are excellent, but especially for older population more buses to hospitals important.	26-40
HEALTHCARE	ASAP transport for elderly to and from home to surgery	41-60
HEALTHCARE	I am deaf, wear hearing aid. If broken down, need battery or wire, the only way is to go to William Harvey hospital in Ashford. When I get there, if there is no battery or wire, it has been a wasted day. And no hospital in Biddenden (sad).	>60
HEALTHCARE	Too many people use Tenterden – with a consequence of a two-minute ‘interview’ with the doctors. A cattle system.	>60
HEALTHCARE	Voluntary car service to hospitals.	>60
HEALTHCARE	A surgery every morning for 2 hours (with maybe just a nurse practitioner)	>60
HEALTHCARE	Better treatment by surgery and hospitals	>60
HEALTHCARE	Chiropodist	N/D

POST OFFICE	Parish Council should <u>not</u> put funds into Post Office. It is a commercial business.	26-40
POST OFFICE	Commercially it is impossible for a village to have a viable post office that stands alone in its own right. All villages around us have post offices that are part of a general store – Benenden, Sissinghurst, Tenterden. Our post office should be incorporated into an existing store, such as Turner's, if it is to survive long term. We should not consider subsidising a post office, unless we are prepared to subsidise other desirable but <u>struggling shops such as butcher, corner store, etc.</u>	41-60
POST OFFICE	Why are we giving £10,000 to the Post Office? Have the villagers have agreed to this, why can it not use one of the existing shops that are empty in the village, a new building in the car park will take even more parking spaces from the village. It is an unnecessary building. A small bank, and a chemist are needed, somewhere for people to get their money out, e.g. cash machine, and somewhere to charge electric keys. If a new post office is built <u>who is funding it? How will we know the outcome of these questions?</u>	41-60
POST OFFICE	We <u>need</u> our Post Office, it is top priority, people on pensions, etc. need to get money from Post Office in order to have money for bus fares to go outside village, also money to be able to shop locally. If people have to go outside village to get their pensions etc. then local shops will be neglected. It's all right for the 'I'm all right, Jacks' who drive and don't use PO and shops to abstain from voting, and selfishly only think of themselves, and not of the parishioners and the elderly and young families who do not drive. One day they may not be able to drive, then they will need the PO etc.	>60

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT	Public house.	26-40
COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT	Industrial development may keep young people working locally.	41-60
COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT	Organic/small-scale farming	>60
COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT	'Heritage units' on spare/new farm premises	>60



**SPECIAL SUBMISSION  
RESPONDENT AGED OVER 60**

<p>THROUGH ROADS – HEADCORN → TENTERDEN → SISSINGHURST</p>	<p>Although ABC has no plans for the next five years (approx.), alterations to straighten Curteis Corner, Woolpack Corner, 3 Chimneys must be inevitable within 5-10 yrs, and a route to bypass the dogleg by the church. The state of the road outside Cloth Hall, and on many other well-used roads, shows the underlying foundations cannot support the weight of modern lorries. Road alterations covering the bends as above are likely to create pockets of land, possibly definable as 'brownfield', which building developers will be after.</p> <p>When thinking of moving to Biddenden 10 years ago I thought it likely that a brand new through road from Ashford to Tunbridge Wells passing just north of Biddenden was a strong possibility, with a junction off to Tenterden and Headcorn. The housing etc. expansion of Ashford towards the western side makes such new roads more likely. Such new roads would also attract developers.</p>
<p>RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>The parish should focus on sustaining and encouraging long-term residents – to develop a 'sustainable community'. Thus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Starter homes/flats for younger people</li> <li>• Mid-sized, 3-4 bed, for growing families</li> <li>• Sheltered accommodation for the elderly</li> </ul> <p>A circuit of first home to last home, in general terms.</p> <p>'Sheltered accommodation' as commercially available is relatively expensive. Compact, cheap and simple versions would also be needed which do not attract the 'stigma' of 'old people's homes' which have become synonymous with degradation, despair and death.</p> <p>Such arrangements would be consistent with the long-term history of villages such as Biddenden. The feasibility of Biddenden homes for Biddenden people may be suspect.</p> <p>Short-term residents (2-5 yrs say) are unlikely to take much interest in the facilities or amenities within Biddenden. Enclaves of 'executive housing' may also not take an interest. The stock of Grade 2 and similar represents executive housing. Some new ones however might be appropriate in the first home to last home theme.</p> <p>An 'artificial new village' approach of 200 new houses equals one new 'shop', say, is wishful thinking. Such a 'shop', if it existed, would not be readily useable by existing residents (if within large new estates), and vice versa if somewhere in the current centre. I do not subscribe to the notion that prosperity requires an ever-expanding population (in a village, town, city, country – the whole world).</p>
<p>COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>To be encouraged with an eye on potential jobs for residents, e.g. light industry/business centres.</p> <p>If Kingsland were enabled to transfer to a new site towards Smarden Rd or Woolpack Corner where lorry manoeuvres could be allowed for, then the existing building might provide a shell for shop(s) or a business centre and the remaining site space for customer parking that might, of itself, generate more trade. Obviously it would provide a Post Office possibility. Existing businesses in and outside the village centre might appreciate a few panels where they could advertise themselves. There are a number which do not appear in the Parish mag. There are also a number of B&amp;Bs around.</p> <p>Ownership and administration of such a site would be the first problem. Security against break-in may also be uncertain.</p> <p>Village shops are always likely to have problems in expanding trade so that the income of owners/managers can keep up with the rising incomes of those in other employments. Increasing the surrounding population by 5% p.a., year on year, won't do it, and that equates to 60% increase in population in 10 years.</p>

<p>TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT</p>	<p>Extensions of 30mph limit: 200/300 yds/metres towards Headcorn (away from bend) 100/200 yds/metres towards Tenterden (away from bend) 100/200 yds/metres towards Sissinghurst. Present location has distractions of <u>junctions and bends</u>. Larger signs on taller poles. Sign on left coming from Headcorn is behind A229 diversions signs. Lights on signs? 40mph limit On the straight before Dashmonden (Tenterden side)</p> <p>Choke points can induce violent manoeuvres. Again, look at the road outside Cloth Hall which from my observation has been damaged by lorries swinging left after <u>passing parked vehicles and throwing weight on to left-hand wheels</u>.</p>
<p>RETAIL &amp; COMMERCIAL BUSINESS</p>	<p>Since the Post Office is acquiring more functions as bank 'agents' its viability is rising. I suspect I do not know all the functions it can handle.</p>
<p>SPORT &amp; LEISURE</p>	<p>What is the difference between a Community Centre and a Village Hall? <u>Cycle paths</u> – where? – not a few paint markings on any existing roads in Biddenden. Circuits appropriate to accompanied under-10 yrs, say, around Jubilee/Millennium Fields to include one or two rest stops/picnic areas, and with a road sense training area (road markings and signs). Accessible to the school. Available for 10 yrs to 100 yrs, <u>not necessarily accompanied by an under-10</u>. Problem – control of possible 'yob' use.</p>
<p>GENERAL NOTE RE NEW SHOPS, SURGERY, AVAILABILITY OF BUSES ETC.</p>	<p>Anyone living on the fringes of the parish will routinely use a car to get about. Once in the car it will make little difference whether a shop is two miles away in Biddenden or three miles away in Headcorn or Tenterden. Buses are probably irrelevant. People may come into Biddenden for village 'events' but are generally unlikely to be tempted by a shop etc., or buses which <u>also</u> go to Headcorn etc. I do not know what proportion of our population would fall in this group, anybody outside about ½ to ¾ mile from the centre perhaps. There need to be other reasons for people to come into Biddenden centre from more than one mile away than a shop(s).</p>
<p>HEALTHCARE</p>	<p>Anybody/everybody is liable to have problems as East Kent services are centralised into Ashford, Canterbury, Margate. Last year I was referred to Ashford to investigate a long-standing but intermittent and rare problem. I had to go to Folkestone for a procedure centralised there about two years ago. That might be seen as reasonable. What was not was being sent to Dover, about an 80-mile round trip, to be told the tests were negative.</p> <p>The Kent Messenger reported that midwifery without complications is being centralised to Canterbury. If complications are expected then Ashford or Margate will be used. Presumably if complications are diagnosed on reaching Canterbury the 'customer' will be sent back to Ashford or Margate. Likewise new infants born at Canterbury and requiring special care will be transferred to Ashford – and so on.</p> <p>Good luck to OSECUR. A volunteer service based in Pembury will (or did) operate to Tunbridge Wells but this hospital may no longer be available to East Kent patients.</p>

**Letter to Ashford Borough Council, February 11<sup>th</sup> 2004**

I am pleased to enclose The Biddenden Parish Wish List which was approved by the Parish Council yesterday.

The Wish List articulates the most important issues facing Biddenden and how we plan to address them. The residents of Biddenden want to see the parish evolve and grow in harmony with its history and environment, respecting its character whilst making social and economic progress as resources permit and justice and security dictate. In short, we want our parish to remain as "one of the star attractions of the Weald", as Boyle and Berbiers described it. The parish does not wish to see any major residential development in or around the village.

In drafting this list, we have consulted widely within the parish, holding open meetings to ensure that we accurately represent the views and concerns of all constituencies within the community. This effort also supports our wish to gain Quality Parish Council status.

We have built on the work of the Biddenden Appraisal (1998) and the Design Statement (2003). We have also taken into account the relevant central and local government plans, including the Ashford Borough Local Plan, to ensure compliance and consistency. As we begin the process of developing our Parish Plan, we will continue with a rolling process of consultation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Eileen Cansdale  
Chair  
Biddenden Parish Council

### BIDDENDEN PARISH WISH LIST

February 2004

TOPIC	WISH	TIMESCALE
RESIDENTIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ New housing to be of mixed sizes; starter homes and sheltered/old people's accommodation to be the priority; off-road parking needed for all future developments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Medium/Long</li> </ul>
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ A co-ordinated approach to traffic calming and pedestrian safety, to include: flashing speed signs, wooden speed limit gateways, new traffic islands at Dashmonden Corner and Gordon Jones Playing Fields, extension of 30 mph speed limit along Sissinghurst Road and 40mph limit to Woolpack Corner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Short/Medium</li> </ul>
RETAIL AND COMMERCIAL BUSINESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Determine long-term future of Post Office</li> <li>◆ Develop a Parish skills database</li> <li>◆ Support and encourage existing retail and commercial businesses</li> <li>◆ Encourage appropriate new retail and commercial businesses</li> <li>◆ Enforce strict compliance with change of use regulations, i.e. business-to-private is to be resisted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Short</li> <li>◆ Short</li> <li>◆ Ongoing</li> <li>◆ Ongoing</li> <li>◆ Ongoing</li> </ul>
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ South pavement of High Street to be reconstructed in line with north side, for safety and disabled access</li> <li>◆ Pavement required from Woolpack Corner to village centre</li> <li>◆ Review and upgrade of village lighting to ensure appropriate and sympathetic lighting without an increase in light pollution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Short</li> <li>◆ Medium</li> <li>◆ Medium/Long</li> </ul>

PUBLIC TRANSPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Improve access to public transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Short/Medium</li> </ul>
SPORT & LEISURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Establishment of a Youth Group</li> <li>◆ Development of a community centre, incorporating computer facilities</li> <li>◆ Maintenance and development of the public footpath and bridleways network</li> <li>◆ Introduction of cycle paths</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Short</li> <li>◆ Medium</li> <li>◆ Medium</li> <li>◆ Medium</li> </ul>
NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Establishment of a visible police presence</li> <li>◆ Development of a 'good neighbour' scheme</li> <li>◆ Co-ordination of Neighbourhood Watch schemes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Short</li> <li>◆ Short</li> <li>◆ Short</li> </ul>
YOUTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Establishment of a Youth Liaison function to assess requirements, undertake consultation, win youth involvement in Parish development, and determine long-term strategy</li> <li>◆ Expand and strengthen community liaison with John Mayne School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Ongoing</li> <li>◆ Ongoing</li> </ul>
ENVIRONMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Confirm commitment to environmentally friendly policies, including recycling and energy efficiency</li> <li>◆ Preserve and maintain the Parish's environmental, historic and physical heritage</li> <li>◆ Maintain and enhance village green</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Ongoing</li> <li>◆ Ongoing</li> <li>◆ Ongoing</li> </ul>
COMMUNICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Encourage co-operation between Parish societies</li> <li>◆ Promote communication through newsletter and web site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Ongoing</li> <li>◆ Ongoing</li> </ul>