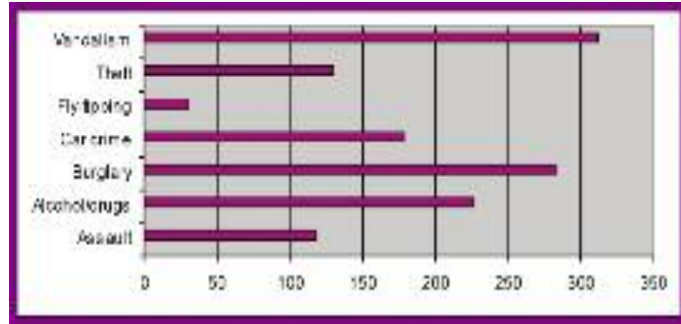


What should the Parish Plan achieve?



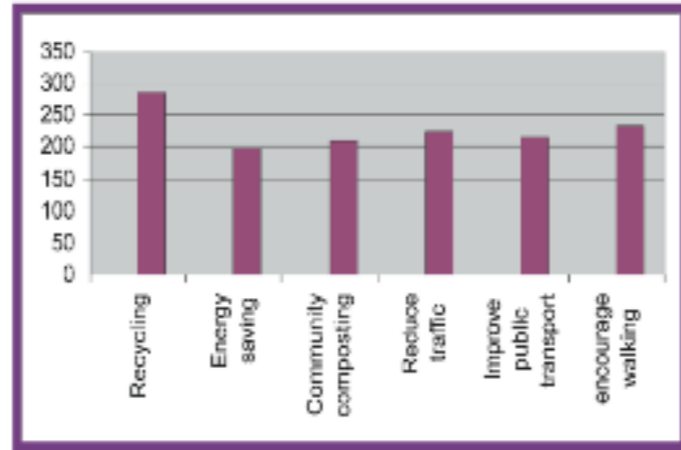
Reducing crime



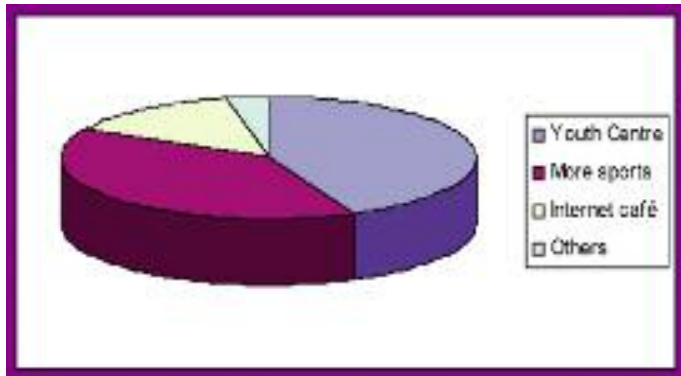
Making Meopham roads safer



Improving quality of life



Maintaining a better environment



Caring for our young people



Offering more amenities



Looking to the future



Designed with and for the people of Meopham Parish
by the Parish Plan Steering Group

<http://www.meopham.org/>

Meopham Parish Council, The Windmill, Wrotham Road, Meopham



Parish Plan Summary – Public consultation and the outcome

Meopham Parish Council commissioned an independent Steering Group to prepare a Parish Plan in January 2008, having initially conducted a comprehensive survey in the previous Autumn. The aim of the Parish Plan was to look at wider issues and to find out what the local community wanted for the future. It offered the opportunity to exercise more local control and to work out how to deliver improvements in their neighbourhoods with a major contribution from the residents themselves.

The Meopham Parish Plan Steering Group (MPPSG) members were tasked to produce a Parish Plan for the Parish Council with their findings. MPPSG has taken further soundings and based its assessment on responses to a range of issues that have an impact on local residents. The Group considered what solutions are possible from views expressed from questionnaires, surveys, web-site replies, meetings and more recently at an open forum.

The main areas of enquiry for the Parish Plan were identified: these ranged from the effect of having a major highway passing through the Parish, with traffic disruption and speeding; how people regard crime and anti-social behaviour with the response from the law enforcement officers; protection for the environment and the Green Belt; the need for youth and young people of the Parish to develop and be suitably occupied; and to ensure the level of services and amenities meet residents' expectations.

MPPSG has been assisted and part funded by Action with Communities in Rural Kent, with guidance from their own adviser on how to conduct the consultation process, to make recommendations and prepare an action plan. Funds, to support the preparation of the Plan, were provided also by the Parish Council.

The MPPSG members wanted to give the rest of the community their final say before turning their recommendations into firm proposals. An open forum was held in Meopham Village Hall on 20th September 2008 to make sure that all shades of opinion voiced by residents, who would be affected by changes, were not overlooked. MPPSG have put their findings into their report and presented these to the Parish Council to seek their implementation.

When the final recommendations were agreed and converted into the Action Plan, this can provide the framework for the planning of Meopham, over the next 4 years. It will be based on a mandate from the parishioners and it can be referred to by the Parish Council members, in their discussions on the future of Meopham, with other tiers of local authorities and service providers to bring about improvements.

The Action Plan proposals require approval and a summarised copy is attached for your information and future reference. If you would like to see the full version of the Parish Plan, it is lodged in the Meopham Library or at the Parish office and more information is available on the Parish website, www.meopham.org.

The Meopham Parish Plan Steering Group

The proposals recommended by the Group for implementation between 2009 and 2012.

Action Plan

North Kent Police to show more presence on the streets and mount night patrols to combat crime and target vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

Continue to develop PACT scheme and support Neighbourhood Watch Schemes*.

Kent County Council to downgrade A227 and apply restrictions to heavy lorries*.

Install traffic calming and/or roundabouts on the A227*.

Remove potential accident blackspots and improve access to the Culverstone Valley Area*.

Provide cycle paths and continuous pavements along the length of the A227*.

Review road safety measures constantly in the vicinity of all local schools.

Encourage parents to take children to/ from school other than by private transport.

Organise more frequent and punctual bus services within the Parish*.

Co-ordinate train and bus services at Meopham Railway Station*.

Enhance the Library to make this a centre of excellence.

Encourage development of young people and promote youth involvement.

Maintain a high level of education and to encourage local children to attend the local schools.

Keep up contact with schools/nurseries on their development and standards.

Gravesham Borough Council to instruct traffic wardens that "no parking" restrictions are observed on double yellow lines throughout Meopham and Culverstone.

Preserve the Green Belt areas in Meopham by resisting more development.

Retain weekly household waste collections and include green and glass collection with monthly community skips and more recycling facilities.
Organise parties for collecting/clearing litter and enforce action against litter offenders*.

Provide better play equipment at Camer Park and Culverstone Recreation Ground.

Meopham Parish Council to give more publicity to its activities and decisions.

Install amenity lighting only to make vulnerable areas safer.

Seek funding for all amenities and organise more community events.

Provide a purpose built Youth Centre and make greater use of the existing facilities. Obtain sponsorship for sport for young people in the Parish and provide suitable pitches. Improve play areas for younger children at Judson's Recreation Ground. Support existing shopping outlets to improve services to residents and monitor car parking*.

Primary Care Trust to encourage local health facilities to offer more benefits to local residents*.
Arrange to assist patients in need of transport to attend hospital for treatment*.

Post Office Counters Ltd to give local Post Offices more scope to improve their range of services.

*In conjunction with other agencies, organisations and the members of the Community.