

# MUDFORD VILLAGE



# PARISH PLAN

# Mudford Parish Plan

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# **Our Vision**

**To encourage a thriving and vibrant environment that provides appropriate facilities and opportunities for the parish of Mudford**

## **Introduction**

This Village Plan is the result of a three-year programme by Mudford Parish Council and villagers to find out how people in Mudford want their community to develop

It has been put together from an appraisal carried out in 2004. Every home in the village (see map) received a questionnaire and, with the hard work of a group of volunteers, we were able to achieve a return of more than 70%.

The appraisal identified issues and priorities for our village that have been incorporated into this plan, which will be used to develop a thriving community. It will feed into the local community planning process in South Somerset, and then into the local strategic partnership.

Some of the elements in the plan need volunteers if the proposals are to be successful. Sadly, very few people said they were willing to get involved; however, a thriving community needs such people and many events and activities cannot be organised without them. Getting involved does not mean giving up vast amounts of time or taking on great responsibilities – it may even be enjoyable!

We would welcome anyone who would like to be involved; you will find a list of people to contact at the end of this plan, or come to the Village Café on a Thursday morning between 10am and midday at the Village Hall. A chat doesn't commit you, and you may even find it enjoyable.

The plan will be available to read at the Village Café, or for a copy contact the Clerk of the Parish Council.

**Mudford Parish Council  
Spring 2009**



**Map of  
Mudford Parish**

# Our Community

We are a stable community. From the 2004 survey, in 84% of households, no one has moved out in the last 5 years; 45% have lived in the village for more than 15 years (and a quarter for more than 25 years).

We have a higher than average population of over-65s (25% the average in Somerset is 19%), and a fifth of households have school age children.

We are a hard-working community, with a fifth of the workforce running its own business, of which a quarter is agricultural. Most of those employed work in Yeovil, though 12% work from home.

We value the surrounding countryside for its tranquillity and openness; 96% say the quality of the countryside is important to us and 93% it is important to keep countryside between Mudford and Yeovil, while a third would like more footpaths. We believe the river should be a wildlife sanctuary rather than used for leisure activities.

We use cars, not public transport; the car is the main means of transport for 88% of us. A third of us have some transport problems, and parking can be a difficulty.

Nearly a third of the community want a pedestrian crossing in the village.

Strong responses to questions on security suggest it is an issue; we think the police coverage is poor, and want more of a police presence and better consultation. There is strong support for a Neighbourhood Watch. However, in the league table of worries litter is our biggest concern, followed by theft and vandalism, then dog-fouling, fly-tipping and noise/rowdiness. A quarter think there should be more litter and dog waste bins.

We want Mudford to be better lit, tidier and litter free and the roads to be better cleaned. Half of us want more street lights, though a quarter want less.

We want more social facilities for both young and old; we'd like to be more social. Keep fit, skittles, yoga/pilates, squash/tennis, badminton, pool, rambling, a history society, craft groups and dancing were all activities that interested us, but very few of us were prepared to run such groups!

We want to recycle more; there was strong support for a garden waste skip, and cardboard and plastic banks.

These facts were gathered in 2004 and some may have changed as new situations have arisen.

# Actions Plan

## Safety

### Vision

Safety (pedestrian, personal and household) is important. Villagers perceive an improvement in safety within the village within five years.

### Consultation Results

Some safety issues, such as mugging, did not rate highly among responses.

However, road safety measures, such as pedestrian crossing or traffic calming, did.

Theft and vandalism were the top of the agenda for about half of the population, while noise/rowdiness, fly tipping and dog fouling were a concern for a quarter of respondents.

More than half of the respondents thought policing was poor.

Anti-social behaviour by young people was frequently mentioned in the comments section, so has been included in this section.

### Objectives

#### Objective 1

Investigate further traffic-calming measures such as chicanes, installation of pedestrian crossing, extension of 30mph limit to Hinton Cross, 20mph limit in Village and 30mph flashing signs.

<i>Actions</i>	<i>Lead responsibility / partners</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Raise a petition in the village	PC/ Angela Taylor	Summer 2007
Consult Highways	PC/ Area East Community Safety Action Panel	Done Summer 2006
Continued consultation with David Laws	PC	Ongoing

### Update 2009

Pedestrian crossing is due for completion Summer 2009.

Other items are ongoing.

## Objective 2

Widen and extend pavements on west side of Main Street.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead responsibility / partners</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Consult with Highways as to feasibility	PC/ Area East Community Safety Action Panel	Summer 2007

## Update 2009

The road is not wide enough to allow the footpath to be made wider

## Objective 3

Revitalise Neighbourhood Watch

Almost half of the respondents said they would like to join the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. However, it is short of volunteer co-ordinators and unless more volunteers come forward it will not be possible for the scheme to blossom.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead responsibility / partners</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Advertise scheme in Three Villages' News and ask for volunteers	PC, David Elson(NHW Administrator), Clare Bartlett	Autumn 2007

## Update 2009

Ongoing

## Objective 4

Encourage better Community Policing in the village as a high profile activity.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead responsibility / partners</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Maintain communications with the PCOS	PC	Ongoing
Maintain high visibility through Three Villages' News	Clare Bartlett	Ongoing

## Update 2009

PCOS now visit coffee mornings in village hall and attend and report to parish council meetings.

## Objective 5

Establish schemes for the entertainment and education of young people.

Young people were perceived as a “nuisance”, whether through noise, rowdiness, threatening behaviour or vandalism. There was a strong feeling that “someone ought to do something” (two-thirds of respondents wanted more activities for young people), but there was a deafening silence when it came to volunteers willing to get involved. With volunteers, the only option is to employ paid youth workers, which obviously costs money.

Since the questionnaire, a weekly table tennis club has started and a mother and toddler group are meeting.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead responsibility / partners</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Consult young people on preferred activities in the village	PC	Autumn 2007
Consult on increase in precept to pay for youth workers	PC	Spring 2008
Advertise for volunteers to work with young people	PC	Summer 2008
Establish a weekly drop in centre	Youth workers when identified and employed	Summer 2008

## Update 2009

The table tennis club is very successful and has a new table paid for by PC & SSDC.

The mother and toddler group has closed due to lack of numbers.

The response from young people in the village for other activities has been poor due to the small number of youngsters in the village at present. This will be ongoing as and when needs arise.

## Objective 6

Maintain and if possible improve public transport.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead responsibility / partners</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Publicise bus routes and timetables in Three Villages' News	Clare Bartlett	Ongoing
Request bus stop in Hales Meadow at peak times	PC	Autumn 2007

## Update 2009

Timetables are available in the Village Store and are displayed at village bus stops.

Better display of timetables at bus stops to be requested from Bus Company.

The bus stop in Hales Meadow is not feasible.

# Community Venues

## Vision

Venues are appropriate for an improved range of leisure and learning activities. Villagers perceive improved leisure and learning facilities within 5 years.

## Consultation Results

58% of respondents did not think Mudford required a new village hall, compared to 42% who did. Twice as many people consider the village hall adequate as not adequate.

The Village Hall which is also Mudford's War Memorial is owned by a charitable trust whose beneficiaries' are those living in Mudford, Chilton Cantelo and Ashington, and run by the Village Hall Management Committee.

Since the Questionnaire, and with these results in mind, the Village Hall Management Committee has put together a plan to enlarge and upgrade the hall, and has applied for money from the Big Lottery. The Village Hall Management Committee would be delighted to hear from anyone willing to get involved in fund raising. Contact any of the committee if you can help.

The Recreation Ground is owned by South Somerset District Council and managed by the Parish Council. Respondents to questions about the Rec came primarily from those living near it, implying that other people do not feel it is relevant to their lives. The Parish Council considers the Rec a valuable and important space in the village, and would like to encourage its greater use. Since the questionnaire was conducted, a skate park and children's play area have been installed.

There was considerable interest in the provision of a wide range of clubs, sports and activities, but sadly very few volunteers to organise them. Young people in particular are very poorly served in the village, with two thirds of the respondents wanting more facilities for children. Again without volunteers such facilities cost money.

## Objectives

### Objective 1

Redevelop the Village Hall as an attractive venue for village events, accessible to all.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead responsibility / partners</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Plan identified and costed	VHMC	Done Spring 2007
Fund raising programme initiated	VHMC	Ongoing
Hall redevelopment and refurbishment	VHMC	Summer 2009

### Update 2009

The Big Lottery was not successful, other grants and fund raising are ongoing.

Redevelopment to start Spring 2009



## Objective 2

Increase the range of recreational facilities in the village.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead responsibility / partners</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Identify and contact appropriate organisations to run events	Dawn Woodward	Summer 2007
Advertise for volunteers to run events in Three Villages' News	Clare Bartlett	Autumn 2007
Consult neighbouring villages that have carried out village appraisals on feasibility of "borrowing" people to create viable groups	Bill and Helen Watkins	Autumn 2007
Review sporting facilities and make proposals for future development	VHMC, SSDC Sports and Leisure Head of Service	Autumn 2008
Initiate events in which the whole village is involved	VHMC, Milton House, Church	Ongoing

## Update 2009

Village café started and run every Thursday in Village Hall.

Table Tennis club up and run every week, with members now competing in the local league.

### Objective 3

Improve the Recreation Ground to become a better “focus” for the village, and increase its use by adults, thus lessening the possibility of vandalism or anti-social behaviour by young people.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead responsibility / partners</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Install a path for use in wet weather	PC	Autumn 2008
Investigate provision of lighting	PC	Autumn 2009
Investigate the setting up of a Playing Field Committee	PC, VHMC, Milton House representatives	Autumn 2008
Investigate new planting and landscaping to enhance Recreation Ground	PC, SSDC, MGC ,Playing Field Committee if formed	Autumn 2009

### Update 2009

The installation of a path is still ongoing.

Provision of lights was considered not essential and could lead to anti-social behaviour, it would be very expensive.

The Parish Council is responsible for the running of the Recreation Ground.

Landscaping of the Recreation ground is ongoing.



# **Business and Economy**

## **Vision**

Community support for local business ventures and business personnel is strengthened.

## **Consultation**

Almost half of the respondents are employed, and of those half work in Yeovil. The village has a high proportion of self-employed (20%), with 24% involved in agriculture/horticulture and 18% in construction.

Nearly a third of Mudford's population is retired.

Respondents were generally not in favour of increasing employment through tourism or small-scale workshops, although more supported small business development than not.

There was clear support for the village shop/Post Office.

## **Objectives**

### **Objective 1**

Develop a contingency plan to ensure the long-term future of a village store/PO in Mudford.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead responsibility / partners</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Ensure revamped Village Hall has potential to run a shop	VHMC	Done Spring 2007

### **Objective 2**

Support locally based businesses.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead responsibility / partners</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Develop a register to be published in the Three Villages' News	Helen Watkins	Autumn 2007
Offer advertising and/or editorial space to local businesses in Three Villages' News/Website	Clare Bartlett	Ongoing
Investigate local business contacts	PC, VHMC	Autumn 2008

## **Update 2009**

Mudford Post Office was closed in the summer 2008 as part of the Government's Post Office Review.

The other developments are ongoing.

# Services

## Vision

Community services are maintained and improved.

## Consultation

Generally, community services such as refuse collection, water, electricity and fire and emergency services were considered good. However, visual pollution (such as light), road sweeping and drain clearance was rated poor by more than 40%.

## Objectives

### Objective 1

Extend recycling facilities to include plastics, cardboard and garden waste.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead responsibility / partners</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Lobby to improve recycling facilities available in car park	PC, SSDC, SCC.	Ongoing

### Update 2009

Kerb side recycling has been introduced to the village for glass, tins and paper. The bulk bins have been removed from the car park by SSDC.

Trials are ongoing in other areas of Somerset with recycling of plastic and cardboard and if successful will be rolled out to the rest of Somerset.

### Objective 2

Maintain and if possible improve surface drainage system.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead responsibility / partners</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Check and maintain road drains	PC report to Highways	Ongoing
Ensure community are aware of contacts for drainage emergencies	PC, SSDC, Three Villages' News	Ongoing

### Update 2009

The Parish Council are in constant contact with both SSDC and Highways at SCC to improve both drainage and flood relief.

### Objective 3

Replace street lighting with environment-sensitive lighting appropriate to pedestrian needs.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead responsibility / partners</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Monitor light pollution	SSDC	Ongoing
Contact SSDC environmental health	PC	Ongoing

### Update 2009

This is ongoing but will probably not be economical to proceed with.

### Objective 4

Develop a register of existing and potential Voluntary Community Services in Mudford.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead responsibility / partners</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Contact voluntary services at Petters Way Yeovil. Collate existing information	Yvonne Rowlands, Helen Watkins	Summer 2008
Advertise the register in Three Villages' News	Yvonne Rowlands, Clare Bartlett	Autumn 2008



# Communication

## Vision

Community awareness of facilities and events is improved.

## Consultation

Word of mouth, the shop and parish magazine were the main sources of information about events in Mudford.

## Objectives

### Objective 1

Improve communication between villagers and Parish Council and SSDC.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead responsibility / partners</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Parish magazine to be re-launched	Clare Bartlett	Done Autumn 2006
Mudford website to be set up	PC	Done Spring 2008
Advertise contacts for council services in Three Villages' News and website	PC, SSDC.	Done Autumn 2006
Maintain and improve parish notice board	PC	Done Summer 2008

### Update 2009

The Parish Magazine was re-launched as Three Villages' News in 2006. The Mudford Parish Council website was up and running spring 2008.

A new parish notice board has been installed at the village shop.

### Objective 2

Develop and maintain the Mudford Village website.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead responsibility / partners</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Appoint a suitable person to maintain the website	PC	Done Autumn 2007
Establish an "information package" for new residents, to be available on the website	PC	Autumn 2008

### Update 2009

The parish council still have to set up the information package on the website.

# **Environment**

## **Vision**

The environment around Mudford is maintained and improved.

## **Consultation**

The countryside surrounding Mudford is enormously important to those living in the village; questions relating to the countryside received some of the highest number of responses.

Nearly 95% of us consider it important that a “green gap” is maintained between the village and Yeovil, and 97% said the quality of the countryside was important or very important. It is valued as a place of tranquillity and openness, with walking and dog-walking being two of the most important activities.

Although the Parish Council will make the strongest possible representations to local government on this issue, it should be remembered that our powers are limited.

Litter was considered by over half of the population as a main concern, while fly-tipping and dog fouling were concern to about a quarter of respondents.

## **Objectives**

### **Objective 1**

Develop a plan for environmental conservation in Mudford

<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead responsibility / partners</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Work on the spinney (by West Mudford Road) is recorded and published	Stephen Bartlett, PC, Three Villages' News.	Ongoing
Footpaths are maintained and signposted	PC (Stephen Bartlett)	Ongoing
Survey of local wildlife carried out by relevant groups (e.g. Otter Society, Somerset Wildlife) and communicated to the community via talks etc	PC, VHMC	Spring 2008
Litter picking days are organised	PC	Ongoing
Ensure publicity for contacts for fly-tipping and other environmental issues	PC, Three Villages' News	Done Summer 2008

### **Update 2009**

A wildlife survey has been carried out on the Spinney.

We would like to establish a regular footpath maintenance group, but lack volunteers. If anyone would be willing to get involved, please contact Stephen Bartlett.

The Parish Council has appointed a Parish Environmental Warden who is responsible for reporting all environmental issues to SSDC.

## Objective 2

Produce a local footpath map.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead responsibility / partners</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Produce information sheet/flyer showing footpaths in Mudford	Stephen Bartlett, PC	Autumn 2007
Produce all-weather map of footpaths/items of interest for notice boards	Stephen Bartlett, PC	Spring 2008
Create information map of plant and animal species in spinney	Godfrey Argent, Stephen Bartlett	Autumn 2007

## Update 2009

This is all part of the spinney survey and results are still to be published.

## Objective 3

Maintain the “green gap” between Mudford and Yeovil.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead responsibility / partners</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Parish Council minutes to record aim of maintaining Green Gap	PC	Done 2006
Ensure planners are fully aware of Mudford residents' wishes	PC, SSDC	Ongoing



# Housing

## Vision

That Mudford should remain a village with a range of housing suitable for all types of people and family groups

## Consultation

There are two major groups in the village with contrasting housing needs. Almost a third (30%) of respondents felt there is no need for new housing, of any kind, in the village. But more than two-thirds (71%) want more homes for young people/small family homes, with preference for single houses or small groups of houses. There was a smaller but significant need for larger houses, homes for single people and for the disabled.

Since the questionnaire, the SSDC Local Plan has been published, which prevents further development in the village.



# Contacts

## Parish Council

Website                    [www.mudfordparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.mudfordparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Clerk	Dinah Cheek	01935 425259
Chairman	Yvonne Rowlands	01935 850615
	SALC Representative and Village Hall Committee Representative	
Vice Chairman	Stephen Bartlett	01935 850161
	Tree warden, Bridleways, Footpaths and Planning	
Councillors	Brian Langmead	01935 476481
	SALC Representative, Road Maintenance and Planning	
	Graham Hardes	01935 851305
	Financial scrutiny, Parish Environmental Warden	
	Geoff Brown	01935 851543
	Maggie Barlow	01935 851411
	John Considine	01935 851297

## Police

PC Dave Pepper Neighbourhood Beat Manager Wincanton Police Station 07824 600330  
PCSO 8242 Janet Sparkes 07717 815177

## Village Hall Management Committee

Chairman	Philip Muscutt	01935 850070
Secretary	Helen Watkins	01935 850859
Treasurer and		
Booking Secretary	Clare Bartlett	01935 850161
Committee	Bill Watkins	01935 850859
	Dawn Woodward	01935 850744
	Yvonne Rowlands	01935 850615

## Three Villages' News

Clare Bartlett 01935 850161