



Worlingworth  
**Parish  
Plan  
2006**



# Worlingworth Parish Plan



A view of St. Mary's Church in the village of Worlingworth



Early exercise for some of the racehorses at Worlingworth Hall

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Opinions expressed in this Parish Plan reflect the views that came out of the consultation process and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Parish Council or the authors of this document who have used stringent methods to avoid personal bias.

# Introduction

## A Rural Community in Suffolk

Worlingworth is a rural parish situated in the north central area of Suffolk within the Mid Suffolk District Council area. The nearest large town is Diss in Norfolk, situated some 9 miles to the north-west, whilst the nearest major town is Ipswich, which is roughly 16 miles south of Worlingworth.

There are a number of other settlements of varying size within a 7-mile radius of the parish, such as Framlingham, Stradbroke, Eye and Debenham. These settlements provide various amenities and leisure facilities that are not available in the parish.

Worlingworth is surrounded by mainly arable farmland, much of which gently undulates between small rivers and streams that eventually feed the River Waveney on the Norfolk-Suffolk border and the smaller Alde and Deben rivers further south.

The parish of Worlingworth comprises a number of small and distinct settlements. On Ordnance Survey maps, the parish is shown to encompass such places as Worlingworth itself, Shop Street, Fingal Street and Stanway Green.

The grouping of these places into the village of Worlingworth and its extended geographical layout are typical of an ancient Suffolk village or manor.



Pleasant woodland close to the junction of New Road and Church Street



Willow Farm Cottage as it looked before the Willow Farm Meadow housing development

Worlingworth has one of the most complete sets of parish and manorial records in England, with records dating back to 1277. Much of its past history is well recorded, some of the records being held in the church repositories at Bury St Edmunds and some in the county archives at Ipswich.

Demographically, Worlingworth is not a typical Suffolk village. 31.7% of the population is aged over 60, compared to the Mid Suffolk average of 23%. Over 30% of the population have arrived in Worlingworth in the last 5 years and over 60% in the last 15 years. A quarter of those surveyed live in the parish because of their love of country life and over 50% think that that the environment is the most important aspect of Worlingworth.

*"I feel that too many small housing estates have been allowed in Worlingworth and, if it does not stop now, the nature of the village will be changed beyond recall."* (Q41)

Worlingworth combines the characteristics of the quiet traditional Suffolk village community with those of the modern day commuter belt settlement. Many of the working population travel considerable distances to their work each day.





The development of significant quantities of new housing within the last 15 years (and more recently) has dismayed many longstanding residents of the parish. The length of Shop Street from the Primary School to the Community Centre has become far too urbanised and the visual aspect of this area has deteriorated markedly.

*“.the infrastructure has failed to be upgraded as housing has expanded in the village. This is particularly the case with sewage facilities and road surfaces.”  
(Q45)*

To many, the character of the village is being lost and, with it, our sense of community.



**Willow Farm Cottage in 2005 - after the completion of the new housing development**

## FOREWORD

### Parish Council Chairman's Comments

This Parish Plan is a unique document and I sincerely hope that all of the visions and aims of the Plan are carefully considered by the authorities. It has been written by the Worlingworth parishioners as a plan for the future of our community.

*Rosemary Ingate*

### Steering Group Chairman's Comments

The concept of the present series of village plans comes from central government with the idea of providing a reference document for district planners and planning committees. Our instructions as a village plan group came with a guarantee that the final document would form a part of any future planning considerations for the parish.

The required information was gained from a questionnaire circulated throughout the parish; these were delivered and collected personally by members of the Parish Plan Steering group. The value of the final document has been enhanced by the very high percentage response from Worlingworth residents.

Apart from the central issues of housing and the extent of future expansion of the village, the questionnaire produced some interesting social and community issues, which are referred to in this final document. Also included is a brief history of Worlingworth, which is, I think, very interesting.

Interpretation of responses to the questionnaire was not easy due to the many slightly different views expressed but I believe the final document represents a true consensus of opinion throughout the village and will, I hope, form a valuable reference for district planners in the future.

*Keith Wilson*

# Background

## *The Parish's steps towards the future*

Parish Plans are a Government-supported initiative (through the Countryside Agency's Vital Villages campaign) aimed at giving those living in villages a way of deciding for themselves how they would like their village to develop in the future.

A Parish Plan should address the needs of the whole community and can cover everything that is relevant to the people who live and work in the parish, from social housing to places for children to play. A village survey is an integral part of the Parish Plan project and this gives the whole of the community an opportunity to give their opinions on, and have a say in, the future of the parish.

The Parish Council is kept busy with day-to-day issues and its statutory responsibilities. It does not always have time to think about the long-term future of the parish.

The Parish Plan project is therefore carried out under the scrutiny of the Parish Council by a team of volunteers known as the Parish Plan Steering Group. The Steering Group co-ordinates the whole project, carries out the village survey and produces the data reports and, eventually, the Parish Plan draft, ready for discussion with the Parish Council.

In 2002, local landowners submitted so-called "land bids" to Mid Suffolk District Council in an attempt to receive permission to develop parcels of land outside



**New housing development is a major issue in Worlingworth**



**Open space between The Cross and Church Road for which a land bid for housing development has been submitted**

the village settlement boundary. A public meeting, called for by the Parish Council, discussed the land bids issue and it was clear that the vast majority of parishioners did not wish to see any further major housing development within the parish.

Controversial housing developments, unconnected with the land bids issue, then went ahead along Shop Street, despite opposition from the Parish Council and many residents. It became apparent that the gradual urbanisation of Shop Street between the Primary School and the Community Centre was proceeding in a very uncontrolled manner and the attractive visual aspect of this part of the parish was being irrevocably lost.

A decision to develop a Parish Plan was taken by Worlingworth Parish Council in late 2003. The housing development issue was, by then, a very serious concern and it was recognised that a Parish Plan project might enable the community to get its message across to the local authorities with more emphasis, whilst also enabling the Parish Council to seek the views of the whole community on a wider range of issues.

The Parish Plan Project started in early 2004 when the inaugural meeting of the Steering Group of 12 volunteers, including 2 parish councillors, took place.

A funding grant was applied for to the Countryside Agency and awarded in May 2004.

The village survey, in the form of a detailed questionnaire, was sent out to parishioners in September 2004 and by early 2005, the results of the survey had been published in a data report, which was delivered to every parish household.

Open days were also held at the Community Centre to inform the parish about the issues involved and the whole process of the Parish Plan project. The summer of 2005 was a period of reflection for the Steering Group; a huge effort had been made to complete the initial village survey and it was felt that batteries had to be recharged.

By September 2005, the Steering Group felt able to begin the task of writing the Parish Plan in preparation for publication in 2006.

The Parish Plan is the result of much work, which has taken place over the last 24 months. It presents policies and actions on a wide range of issues, which the parish council, the community and local authorities can work from.



**Swan Road junction**

These policies and actions are based on the views of the community, expressed through the village survey and the subsequent data report. They also take into account the advice and opinions proffered by a number of local authorities and organisations.



**Fingal Street is narrow with some sharp bends and a speed limit may help to make the road safer**

The Parish Plan should be used as a tool, in a range of ways:

- To guide and assist groups and/or the Parish Council;
- To be adopted (where relevant) as Supplementary Planning Guidance by Mid Suffolk District Council;
- To enable the Parish Council to reflect local concerns;
- As evidence for need for lobbying and funding bids;
- To set out the aspirations of the parish;

It is fervently hoped that this Parish Plan can help to enhance our community spirit and quality of life within the parish, whilst also preserving the rural nature of our existence.



# Brief History

## Of an Ancient Suffolk Parish

The earliest written mention of the English settlement of Wilrincgaworþa occurs in an Anglo-Saxon will of about 1035. How long before that it was founded or whether it was named after being taken over by English settlers, edging out or merging with a surviving Romano-British settlement, is impossible to say. It seems uncontroversial, however, to claim that for at least one millenium and probably much longer, people have lived here and earned their living largely from the land.

Those who have studied the village's earliest form have suggested that its centre was the area between the present school and the Swan. The centre of the manor became Worlingworth Hall, after the village had been given by King Canute to the Abbey of St. Edmundsbury. Evidence exists of medieval strip fields flanking the west side of the stream sloping gently down towards it and thus naturally drained so that crops could be grown on the heavy clay.

From these early days onwards as invasion, rebellion and war punctuated the story of England, Worlingworth nevertheless grew and, even if not all of its people prospered, they survived and increased. This steady progress came to an abrupt halt in 1349 when the Black Death, on its long journey from Constantinople to Oslo passed through Suffolk killing about 40% of Worlingworth's population in six months. With another 15% dying in a second plague 12 years later, the village suffered a blow the magnitude of which is difficult to grasp. According to some estimates, Worlingworth's population did not recover to pre-1349 levels until the boom in bungalow building of the 1960's.

Afterwards, slowly at first but with increasing momentum, Worlingworth's agricultural economy grew. In common with most of the East Anglian clay lands, from the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards, the fields were progressively drained to allow grazing land to become arable. By 1714, Worlingworth was beginning to acquire its present shape with enclosed fields and three commons at Stanway Green, Church Green and Worlingworth Great Green on which the village

mill stood. With the enclosure of Great Green in 1832, the village lands took on an appearance, which, in broad outline, lasted for over a hundred years until the building boom of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century began to erode its rural character.



**The Suffolk Punch horse was a mainstay of agricultural work in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries**

During that period, Worlingworth was a rather isolated and thus self-contained community in which the necessities of life were provided by the activity of its members. Food and fuel came from the locality, water from household "tea" ponds and each had to make their own arrangements for the disposal of waste.

Such education as the young received and such care as was given to the old and sick were supported by the Parish and a few local charities, which had been functioning from about the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century. Those goods and services, which individual households could not provide for themselves, were furnished by a variety of trades folk within the village, such as the blacksmith and harness maker. Connection with the outside world was provided by a weekly carter to Framlingham.

In many important ways, the parishioners of Worlingworth in 1840 lived in much the same way as those of 1340. They lived by their own toil supplemented by horsepower. They worshipped at



the Church founded during the reign of Edward the Confessor, constructed in its present form between 1250 and 1455 and restored at many points thereafter. For socializing there were, perhaps, at least three pubs and several beer houses.

Although for many years Worlingworth was somewhat insulated from events outside its boundaries, it could not remain so in a gradually globalising environment. The introduction of a national postal service in the 1840's made communication easier. This was needed, for more and more of Worlingworth's offspring had been forced, by the depression in farming, to seek work in the towns and even further afield, as Henry Cupper's account of his sojourn in the United States testifies.



**Cross Cottage is built on the site of one of the five medieval white crosses that were located around the parish**

The railway came to Worlingworth in 1908 with the opening of a station of the Mid Suffolk Light Railway at the junction of Fingal Street and Water Lane. Worlingworth had had one or more schools of some sort since 1689 but the present one was built in the wake of the 1872 Education Act.

Since the passing of two world wars in which the village gave up its share of its youth to the national cause, the focus of its inhabitants has more and more turned to places and events outside.

Although the current electoral roll shows many names which can be seen also in the manor rolls of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, there is now a large proportion of its inhabitants who were not born in the village nor even the county. Less than 10% have lived here all their lives. Three times as many people who work do so outside the village, compared to those who work within it.

The rise in car ownership has contributed to the decline in public transport to and from the village. The railway closed in 1952 and no regular commercial bus serves the village now. Residents look to the outside for shopping and there is no longer a shop or post office.

Of those who regularly engage in an act of worship, just as many do so outside Worlingworth as at its own church, St. Mary's. The church nevertheless maintains a link with the village past. Indeed only the church, the school and the one remaining pub are left to do so.



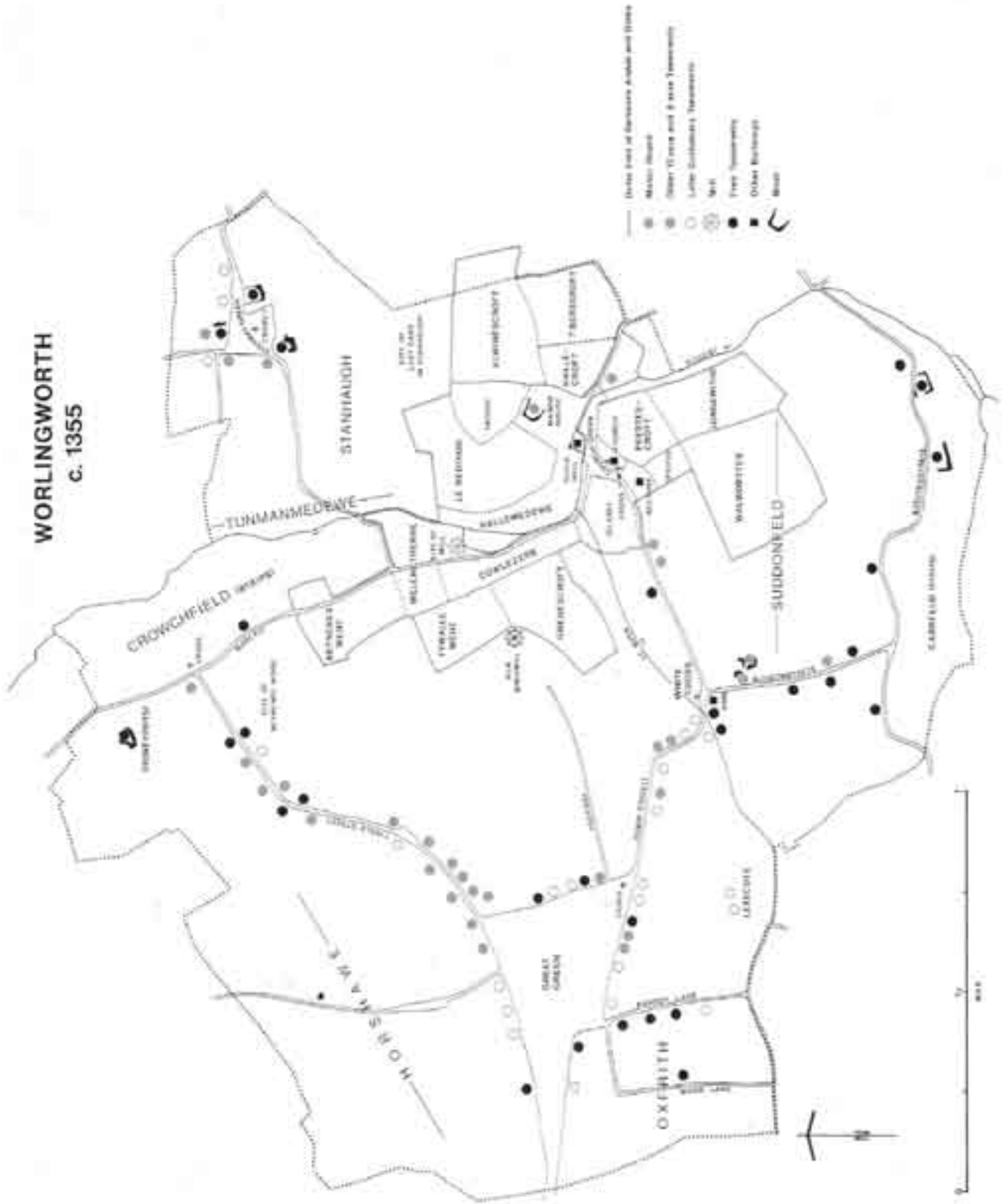
**A view of St. Mary's Church tower from the direction of Oak Farm**

Nobody knows how long a tavern has stood at the junction of Church Street and Swan Road but there was certainly one there in 1300 and the fact that the road itself is named after the pub testifies to the antiquity of the inn.

The present Swan was probably largely reconstructed in the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century and has served since then as a major factor in binding the community together. It has been the site of many social occasions, some planned, some arising from happy chance and its pleasant bowling green has been important in accommodating large numbers in summer weather.

In addition, it has played a role in the planning of major initiatives carried out by parishioners. It was the venue for the raising of a Worlingworth Company of the Suffolk Volunteers on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 1798, in response to a perceived Napoleonic threat. And it has been, in 2004 – 2006, the venue for the discussions leading to this Parish Plan.

**WORLINGWORTH**  
c. 1355



# Community Amenities

## The Parish's Current Resources

### BACKGROUND

In order to understand the situation regarding resources and amenities within the parish, we need to briefly look back on how the parish has developed since the 1980s.

In 1981, the Worlingworth Parish Council carried out a village survey and wrote a development plan for the village based on those survey findings. The development plan was seen as a tool for stimulating growth in the village infrastructure. Essentially, the plan expressed a desire for the population of Worlingworth to steadily grow. This would mean that some extra housing would have to be built within the village.

The Plan sought to restrict the new housing to some in-fill of preferably single dwellings, some council housing and some inexpensive or *affordable homes* for young people. Housing in the form of an "estate" was considered undesirable, as was any housing that might be proposed outside of the village settlement boundary which was known then as the "village envelope".

### 1980s WORLINGWORTH

In 1988, there were just over 175 dwellings within the parish and, of these, at least 71 were built before 1900. These 175 households were served by a village general store, a post office, a petrol station and garage repair shop and a number of tradesmen based in smallholdings or premises along Shop Street or Church Street.

At the time the village inn, The Swan, was just a dimly lit bar that served ale and spirits; a drinking man's pub in an historic building. The community centre in its present form was still a dream for the future but there was still a very basic village hall along with the playing field.

The primary school was not developing and was short of pupils. There was still an irregular bus service through the village that might take you to Ipswich on Tuesday or Stowmarket on Thursday.

Relatively speaking, there were not very many people but ample amenities. In the intervening years to the present day, that situation has completely changed around.

### WORLINGWORTH IN 2005

The parish of Worlingworth in the year 2005 now accommodates over 300 dwellings, a 70% increase in housing numbers since 1988. In recent years, we have seen the village shop and the post office close down. The petrol station and garage repair shop were closed and demolished to make way for more new housing.

The Swan Inn tried to re-invent itself into a more family-based establishment with meals on offer but fails to attract as many local residents as one would expect.

*"I feel Worlingworth has been completely spoilt. We used to have so much; 2 shops, the post office, 2 pubs, harness makers, Mr Gobbitt's, the garage, etc for fewer people. Now we have nothing for three times as many people." (Q95)*

Regular bus services through the village were stopped some years ago because the routes were unprofitable. (A solitary bus service visits the village once a week now.) However, the High Suffolk Community Bus is a welcome and adequate resource used by a small number of residents.

A new modern community centre was built next to the original structure in the early 1990s and this venue hosts family nights, football and cricket matches, quiz nights, jumble sales, etc as well as being the base for a number of small groups within the parish such as the Women's Institute.

The Primary School has benefited from the increased population and has built an extension to cope with the increased pupil numbers. And yet the impression one gets is that the school is a resource not fully

utilised by the community and the community centre is underused and also regarded without much affection by the majority of the parish residents.

The survey results reveal the true extent of these problems and also demonstrate that there are opportunities for enthusiastic residents to develop new activities or clubs within the community.

*“I do feel it is always the same people who organise and support the Community Centre.” (Q12)*

## WHAT YOU SAID

We asked a number of questions relating to activities at the Community Centre, the Swan, the Primary School and in the parish generally.

## USAGE OF FACILITIES

Firstly, we asked about current usage of communal facilities.

How often do you use the following facilities?		
<b>The Community Centre</b>		
Daily	0	
Weekly	46	(10.2%)
Monthly/Occasionally	186	(41.4%)
Never	197	(43.9%)
<b>The Swan Inn</b>		
Daily	6	(1.3%)
Weekly	71	(15.8%)
Monthly/Occasionally	180	(40.1%)
Never	190	(42.3%)
<b>Total no. of respondents :449</b>		

So on a weekly basis, just over 10% of the parish residents use the Community Centre and 17% use the Swan. A subsequent question asked if residents were aware of the activities and entertainment provided by the Community Centre. 57.4% said they were aware whilst 33.3% said they were not.

## COMMUNITY CENTRE

There are a number of differing views to be drawn from the survey data with regard to the Community Centre. The first is that close to half of the parish residents never go to the Community Centre. The

negativity of this statement is offset by the fact that many parish residents live quite a distance away from the Community Centre. Since Worlingworth is spread thinly along a number of small roads rather than being gathered about a well-defined centre, it is more difficult to foster social cohesion than it is in the stereotypical village.

The second view is that everybody who uses the Community Centre at all (52%+) is aware of what social activities are provided there (57.4%). This suggests there is good communication between the Community Centre and its core support.

The data could also be interpreted in a slightly different way. Disregarding the “occasional users”, only 46 residents use the Community Centre at any time during a week (out of an adult population of over 500) even though 260 residents were aware of the activities on offer.

Overall, this suggests:

1. The Community Centre is underused and therefore undervalued as an amenity.
2. The same residents use the Community Centre on a regular basis.
3. The Community Centre Committee is able to communicate notice of its events and activities to its core support, but perhaps does not reach out to, or appeal to, the bulk of the residents in the parish.
4. A much broader range of activities and events needs to be offered to the parish residents and these events need to be well publicised in the parish.
5. There has to be more help offered by the newer residents in the parish, in the organisation of the Community Centre and its events.

**VISION**

**A welcoming Community Centre that can establish itself as the focal point within our community**

**A community who are prepared to voluntarily assist and support this aim**



## THE SWAN PUBLIC HOUSE

Similar conclusions can be drawn with regards to the Swan public house. The situation regarding the Swan is far more precarious, since it is open every day of the week whilst the Community Centre is, generally speaking, only opened for specific groups, clubs or events at certain times. It is also a known fact (outside of the survey results) that a large proportion of the Swan's trade comes from outside the parish.



**The Swan public house**

The situation with the Swan is essentially one of diminishing popularity as people's lifestyles have gradually changed over the last 5-10 years. This threatens the Swan's continued existence. The Swan has traditionally been regarded as a "drinking man's pub", which may be part of the problem. In a challenging business environment and in the midst of an ever-changing clientele, country public houses must cater for all of their local community and offer a full range of modern, clean facilities, similar to those offered by the public house/restaurant combos that have developed in more built-up areas.

This will not happen at the Swan unless a significant business investment is made. The more likely scenario is that, without investment and some modernisation, the village pub may close within the next few years.

### VISION

**The Swan public house caters for a wide range of clientele, with modern facilities, smoking and non-smoking areas and a fine restaurant**

**In return, the parish gives greater support to one of our few remaining amenities**

## NEW CLUBS/ACTIVITIES

The village survey asked residents about new sports clubs or activities that they would attend, if the

activities were provided or better publicised within the parish. There was overwhelming support for Keep Fit classes, with 134 respondents interested. Badminton was also a popular choice, with 70 respondents interested.

The subsequent question asked whether people were prepared to help in organising each of these activities and, as examples, 7 people offered to help run the Keep Fit classes and 4 people offered to help organise a Badminton Club. The question you could ask, as a response to these results, is "Are 4 people enough to run a Badminton Club?"

A supplement to the original question about clubs/activities asked respondents for suggestions themselves and over 25 alternatives were put forward, ranging from Spanish language lessons and Bridge to Pilates and Tap Dancing.

Subsequent questions on clubs and activities concentrated on the possibility of such activities being held at the Community Centre. Residents were asked about activities/clubs they would attend, if they were provided at the Community Centre. Only a limited range of activities was offered in the question and the village responded.

123 residents were interested in using a Multi-Gym facility. 69 residents expressed an interest in a Local History Club. 63 residents were keen on the idea of a Gardening Club. There was also interest shown in the other activity groups such as an Art Club, a Classical Music Club and a Senior Citizens Group.

*"It is apparent to me that currently the Community Centre is somewhat an unused resource and that many more activities could be incorporated. For example, some kind of gym facility would provide a much needed way for people to exercise, there is clearly the space available" (Q119)*

These interest groups were suggested by a total of 256 respondents. Crucially, when asked if they were prepared to help organise the groups, only 53 residents responded and the highest response of help came for the multi-gym facility (13) followed closely by the gardening fraternity (12).

The alternative view here, of course, is that 12 or 13 offers of help in running a club or activity is very good and may be more than enough.

## VISION

**More interest groups are established within the parish and the facilities at the school and Community Centre are better utilised**

It should be pointed out here that the Primary School may equally be a suitable venue for many of the activities proposed in the survey.

### PRIMARY SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

Residents were asked if Worlingworth needed any of the following:

Nursery	53	(20.7%)
Playgroup	59	(23%)
After School Clubs	130	(50.8%)
Adult Education Evening Classes	147	(57.4%)
Other	16	(6.3%)

Worlingworth Primary School has its own nursery which is shared with Wilby Primary School. This is held at Wilby on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings and then at Worlingworth on Thursday and Friday mornings. There is also a playgroup "Worlingworth Under 5s", held every Monday morning during term time at the Community Centre.

The response in favour of clubs and educational classes after school hours is very positive. Schools nearby hold a number of adult education evening courses and enthusiasm for evening classes within our parish should be encouraged, especially those that would make use of existing facilities within the school i.e. computers. This is supported by the Government's strategy for all schools over time to become extended schools. The DfES has defined an extended school as "one that provides a range of services and activities, often beyond the school day, to help meet the needs of its pupils, their families and the wider community" and this is certainly being considered at the present time.

Many possible activities have been suggested by respondents to our questionnaire, with what should provide a sufficient degree of interest to make them realistic propositions. Of these, the most popular are mainly physical activities such as keep-fit and badminton. There are certainly other activities and educational classes which should be more feasible at the Primary School.

When it comes to leading these activities, we again have several residents who say that they will assist with their organisation. We must therefore seek to bring these interested parties together and attempt to ensure that the facilities required are indeed available. Any improved communications systems within the parish will help to ensure that the residents know just what is available and when. All that would then remain is for the people of Worlingworth to make sure that the activities are not allowed to lapse through a lack of interested participants.

## VISION

**Adult evening classes are established at the Primary school for a number of educational activities**

### INFORMATION SOURCES

Question 65 in the survey asked where people found information about the events taking place in the Community Centre. The results were as follows:

#### Where do you usually get information about events in the Community Centre?

Village Newsletter	304
Parish Newsletter	258
Notice Board	182
Other	64
Local paper	51
Post office	30

Total no. of respondents: 419

The newsletters are seen as an important means of communication within the parish. An enthusiastic and committed parishioner publishes the village newsletter on a quarterly basis. The newsletter itself is somewhat insubstantial (two pages) though this is not the fault of the editor, rather the fault of contributors who do not always contribute.

A village newsletter has always been an important means of communication within a parish. The present newsletter could be developed into a more informative publication.

The parish (or church) newsletter is printed monthly, primarily to inform the community about parochial events. As such, the distinction between church affairs and village entertainment and leisure should possibly remain.

It is remarkable how many residents read the notice board outside the Community Centre driveway. This is another important form of communication within the parish and it is recommended that one or two further notice boards should be placed within the remoter settlement clusters, where appropriate.

Broadband internet came to the parish in May 2005 and is available through ISPs via BT lines or can be accessed through “wireless broadband”. An independent village website would broaden the means of communication within and around the local community and would undoubtedly benefit local small businesses and organisations.

In respect of a monthly village newsletter and a village website, the most important aspects of keeping such services running are the willingness of the individuals in the community to contribute on a regular basis and the dedication of enough enthusiastic volunteers to give these projects firm foundations to take into the future.

## VISION

**A self-funded monthly village news magazine is established**

**A village website is created**

**Further noticeboards are located around the parish**

## COMMUNITY SHOP FEASIBILITY

In a perfect world, we would all like to pop down to our village shop and buy local fresh farm produce, jams, honey and locally baked bread and cakes. And whilst doing so, catch up on the village news over a nice warm cup of tea.

Since the mid 1990s, Worlingworth has been without a village shop. At one time, Worlingworth had two shops for half the population but, since the advent of large supermarkets and with the hectic lifestyles that we lead, people nowadays prefer to meet their grocery requirements with one car boot full of shopping per week.

The trend away from using a local grocery store continues to shut down small businesses across the country. Suffolk is no different from any other area. Each village shop closure has a profound effect on the way that rural folk within a small community can interact with one another. Residents can become



**Just how sustainable would two village shops, within a mile of each other, be?**

more isolated from each other and that indefinable community spirit can be seriously weakened.

In the village survey, residents were asked where they buy a wide variety of goods. Out of 427 respondents, 116 (27.2%) said they bought fresh fruit and vegetables in our own community (even though there is no shop). 64 residents bought their basic groceries in the next village (Bedfield, Horham, Stradbroke), whilst over 45% of the residents bought their meat and fish in the nearest town.

When asked how often they would use a community shop, 205 residents (53%) said they would use it weekly, 72 residents (18.6%) said they would use it daily and 136 (35.2%) were undecided. Residents were also asked what level of help they could offer in running the community shop.

On a weekly basis, 21 residents were prepared to help filling shelves, whilst 16 residents would make deliveries and 13 residents would be able to do counter work. 4 residents were prepared to make deliveries on a daily basis and only one person offered to do shelf filling daily.

Opinion seems to be very much divided on the feasibility of a community shop within the parish of Worlingworth. It is difficult to see how another private business in the area could be established and also flourish, when we have perfectly good village shops in Bedfield and Horham. A comment in the survey made the point that “one shop open is better than two shops closed”.

In addition, a community funded and volunteer driven facility, whilst being a positive benefit for the senior members of the community on a day to day

basis, would, it seems, prove difficult to run, based on the results of the survey detailed above.

*“It should have a post office and petrol pump.”*  
*“Also, why not a coffee shop for old and young people.”*  
*“We have a good facility at Bedfield.”*  
*“This could be very worthwhile for the village if the right person/groups got it off the ground.”*

The parish is favoured with a number of small independent outlets for the sale of excellent homegrown vegetables and fruit. These outlets should be encouraged to continue their valuable service to the community.

## VISION

**Our community should continue to support the local stores at Bedfield and Horham, along with the excellent local produce outlets around the parish**

## POLICING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME

Although the parish is in an area of very low crime rates, there is a perception that the police service represents poor value for money. Over half the population (52.4%) answered that they considered the police coverage of Worlingworth to be poor. 21% thought that coverage was reasonable. Only 15 of 463 respondents considered the coverage to be good.

The community must appreciate that modern methods of policing are no longer solely dependent on the “bobby on the beat” and wrongly or rightly depend on active feedback and participation from the local community. The community therefore has to become involved in assisting with these modern policing methods by participating in schemes such as Neighbourhood Watch and Police Direct.

The introduction of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in 2003 was not met with enthusiasm throughout the village. From the whole of the parish, less than twenty households responded to an invitation to learn more about introducing Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. Although over half the population think policing

is inadequate, Neighbourhood Watch Schemes presently cover a very small area of the parish. Extending Neighbourhood Watch throughout the rest of the parish over the next 12 months is seen as vital in ensuring the continued low crime rates in this area.

## VISION

**Through the willingness of the community to become involved, the neighbourhood watch scheme is extended to cover the whole parish**

## ST. MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

As befits our secular society today, question 73 in the village survey brought predictable responses.

### Are you an active member of?

St Mary's Parish Church	53 (12.4%)
Horham Baptist Chapel	39 (9.1%)
Other denominations	15 (3.5%)
None of these	117 (27.4%)
I don't go to church	203 (47.5%)

Total no. of respondents: 427

Similarly, over 60% of respondents thought St. Mary's Parish Church was primarily important as an historic building rather than as a place of worship (24%). All but 4% who answered these questions thought the parish church was important for a variety of reasons.

For the people interested in the history of the building, it is worth remembering that the church is open in daylight hours and everyone is welcome to go in and wander around. There are church histories available and church members are always happy to answer any questions.

There was some encouragement from the response of the community (nearly 55%) to a suggestion of music concerts being held in the church. A musical event usually takes place about once a year. It should be borne in mind that events such as these should respect the fact that the building is a church.

It is, unfortunately, difficult to envisage lunch clubs or other events taking place at the Parish Church, due to the lack of basic facilities such as a kitchen



and other essentials. This is a severe handicap to the parochial church council in their efforts to broaden the appeal of the church to the local community. However, St. Mary's Parish Church is for everyone and it should be enjoyed by as many people as possible.

## ST MARY'S GUILD

St. Mary's Guild was formed for Christian ladies to support the Parish church. The Guild forms the backbone of the general fund raising for the maintenance of the Parish church and in particular for the restoration of the roof. The expense of maintaining a medieval building is quite staggering and so the Guild is very active, holding many events such as jumble sales, coffee mornings, tea parties, quizzes, concerts, the annual Flower Festival, Open Gardens and Christmas Bazaar. The Guild is also responsible for all the flowers in the church and all of the decorations for special events.

St. Mary's Guild aims to form friendships through their activities and all its members bring their own talents to fulfil this. The new altar kneeler the Guild has worked on has brought lots of people together to produce a magnificent piece of artwork.



The new altar kneeler

Apart from their own fund raising, the Guild also supports and donates to many other charities and good causes. These have included, in 2005, the Matthew Rusike Children's Home in Zimbabwe and the Children's Society. The Guild also goes on a number of outings during the year, the forthcoming highlight in 2006 being a trip to The Prince Of Wales Garden at Highgrove House.

St. Mary's Guild meets informally in their members homes on the second Tuesday of each month. The date and venue is in each month's parish newsletter and new members would be most welcome.

## WORLINGWORTH & TANNINGTON W.I.

The Worlingworth & Tannington W.I. was established in 1921 and therefore has been in

existence, without a break, for 85 years. During those 85 years, there were times when the W.I. struggled, its numbers were small and it had no funds to speak of. Today the W.I. is firmly established with a membership of 34 and it is financially solvent.

One of the needs the W.I. meets in Worlingworth is to help the integration of newcomers to the village, particularly middle-aged and retired women. The reason most of the members give for joining the W.I. is to get to meet people in the village.

Over the past year the W.I. has continued to play its part in village activity. The refreshments, which are provided at the May Day village fête, bear testimony to the continuing traditional skill of cake making. Several members also provide cakes and scones every year for the W.I. stall at the Suffolk Show. As individuals, members also take part in the Worlingworth Flower and Produce Show and in the various church roof fundraising activities. The W.I. is represented as an organisation on the Community Centre Committee and members are also to be found on the less glamorous activities such as the twice-yearly village litter picks.

One of the main aims of the W.I. is to foster education in the broadest sense of its members and this is pursued in a number of different ways. The monthly meeting programme includes visiting speakers who give talks on a wide range of topics including jazz, handicrafts and travels to other countries. As numbers have grown, the W.I. has successfully established a number of special interest groups. In addition to the monthly meetings there is also a walking group, a reading group, a gardening group and a needlework group all of which also meet monthly. Since all of these activities are open to non-members, it would be hoped that in the coming months new residents may wish to join in with the activity groups or with the W.I.

## VILLAGE RECORD

The Village Record was started in 1977 and is sponsored by the Parish Council. It includes the very early history of the village, village events held annually since 1977, numerous photographs of houses and people and a record of village milestones such as the Millennium village sign and seat.

# Housing

## Recent History

In August 1981, when the Parish Council drafted its development plan for Worlingworth, it was understood that, in support of the village infrastructure and amenities, some new homes (and new residents) were needed within the parish.

Key recommendations regarding low cost housing and smaller homes for retired residents (affordable homes) were explained, in preference to any encouragement for expensive executive style homes and groupings of new houses in “estates”. Whilst catering for an expected influx of new residents, the preferences above were also meant to help local residents, particularly young families, to have the chance to get on to the property ladder within Worlingworth and to be able to continue to live in the parish.

The following extracts from the 1981 Development Plan are reproduced as follows:

*“Worlingworth has never been a tidy little nucleal village grouped around a green. It has, as an entity and community, scattered itself over a number of nuclei around the Parish. This makes the people of Worlingworth what they are and to try and change this pattern of development is to try and change the people.”*

*“It regards any attempt to create a notional nucleal village within the parish as damaging to the nature of the Parish and the spirit of the community and therefore opposes any such policy.”*

*“Ongoing development should be scattered across the Parish where possible to avoid excessive impact at one time and place and thus also facilitate assimilation.”*

*“In view of the tendency for the “executive style homes” to attract outsiders into the Parish, these should not be grouped and estates are certainly opposed. They should be dispersed throughout the Parish in order to avoid creating commuter enclaves and to facilitate more rapid assimilation.”*

*“The Parish has need of cheap homes for first time buyers and retiring residents and it is to fulfil this that groups*

*of dwellings of less than estate proportions are a highly desirable means to an end. Council housing will be welcome providing it is not in estate form.”*

Few developments built within the last 25 years have met the criteria for affordable homes or accommodation for either young or elderly people. We have, instead, an ongoing trend of consistently high priced executive homes being built, in very urban architectural styles. More recently, these properties have been squeezed onto small development sites at the expense of providing either reasonably sized gardens or attractive and spacious landscaping of the development site.

One notable exception is the development at the junction of Church Road and Swan Road, known as Cross Cottages, which would meet the criteria for affordable homes and is a development that is in harmony with the surrounding settlement area.



**The Cross cottages**

Compare the picture above with the picture of the new Willow Farm Meadow property on page 4 and ask yourself the question – which style of home is more appropriate in our rural setting?

# Housing

## What The Issues Are

### INTRODUCTION

Much of the housing development within the parish in the last 25 years, whether single infill or a housing “estate” such as Piper’s Meadow, has been ill suited to the needs of the parish, as outlined in the 1981 Worlingworth Development Plan.



**Piper’s Meadow development – spacious with clean cut lines**

Whilst many people would see the Piper’s Meadow development as being too big for a small village such as Worlingworth, some might say that the development site itself is well planned and spaciouly laid out, particularly in comparison to Smith’s Close and Willow Farm Meadow.

The developments at Laburnum Close and Maisie’s Meadow, built during the 1990s “boom”, are both reasonably well laid out and unobtrusive to the eye. This is helped by the fact that the developments are set well back from the main road.

The more recent developments at Smith’s Close and Willow Farm Meadow suffer from “cramming” – too many dwellings on a small site area. It also does not take an expert planner to see that the site density and the juxtaposing of each dwelling just does not integrate with the surrounding buildings or, for that matter, in the context of the whole road frontage.

It can be seen that, in rural locations, the placement of small developments, set well back from the main



**Laburnum Close – an unobtrusive four house cul-de-sac**

road through a small village rather than being on the main road, can offset any criticisms over housing densities and architectural styles.

There is a significant piece of government planning policy documentation to blame for the current trend of “cramming” more houses on a development site than was previously the norm.

The Government’s Planning Policy Guidance Note No 3 (PPG3), published in 2002, sets out policies on different aspects of planning for housing development. In respect of the relevance of the PPG3 document to Worlingworth, there are two important issues. These are:

1. Housing density
2. Affordable housing

### HOUSING DENSITY

Housing density visually affects a rural housing development far more than an urban development. PPG3 Paragraph 57 comments on “Making the best use of land” and states that more than half of all new housing (in England) has been built at a housing density of less than 20 dwellings per hectare. It further states that this represents a level of land take which is historically very high and unsustainable in the present day.

The document continues: “Local planning authorities are therefore asked to examine critically the standards that they apply to new development, particularly with regard to roads, layouts and car parking, to avoid the profligate use of land.”

PPG3 Paragraph 58 then states the guidelines that local planning authorities should follow:

“Local planning authorities should therefore:

- avoid developments which make ineffective use of land (those of less than 30 dwellings per hectare net)
- encourage housing development which makes efficient use of land (between 30 to 50 dwellings per hectare net) and
- seek greater intensity of development at places with good public transport accessibility such as city, town, district and local centres or around major nodes along good quality public transport corridors.”

We must now ask the question: Does the above, with respect to housing densities, apply to rural development in, say, Worlingworth as well as urban development in, say, Stowmarket?

And therefore do the housing densities recommended apply to rural communities such as ours? Surely not?

Subsequent paragraphs of the PPG3 document then relate to guidelines to be used in the planning of rural housing (although no further mention of housing densities is made).

For example, PPG3 Paragraph 65 opens with the following: “Not all developments can take place



Maisie's Meadow development

within urban areas.” This implies that the preceding pages of guidelines relate exclusively to urban development.



Smith's Close – crammed in, no gardens, inadequate parking and too close to the road

Whilst considering the issue of housing density, but also relating to the whole issue of housing development and its suitability to a community such as Worlingworth, PPG3 Paragraph 70 (under the heading “Rural Housing – Village expansion and infill”) states that:

“Villages will only be suitable locations for accommodating significant additional housing where:

- it can be demonstrated that additional housing will support local services, such as schools or shops, which could become unviable without some modest growth. This may particularly be the case where the village has been identified as a local service centre in the development plan;
- additional houses are needed to meet local needs, such as affordable housing, which will help secure a mixed and balanced community; and
- the development can be designed sympathetically and laid out in keeping with the character of the village using such techniques as village design statements.”

One can suggest legitimately that the last statement cannot be adhered to, if one adopts a housing density of 30-50 dwellings per hectare, a figure much more appropriate to an urban setting.



Since the introduction of the PPG3 guidelines to local government, these housing density guidelines have been imposed on developments within Worlingworth and, as already mentioned with respect to Smith's Close and Willow Farm Meadow, the imposition of this government guideline has led to so-called "cramming" on the recent developments. This has resulted in the new properties looking totally out of character with the village setting, regardless of actual design and materials used. To make matters worse, developers have aimed for maximum profit within the confines of the site by building upwards.

*Worlingworth has got as many houses as it needs but they are mostly the wrong type; we do need some more small bungalows to rent for local young couples and some elderly residents who are living alone in bigger homes. (Q91)*

The effect of cramming also has a bearing on the amount of space available for garaging and total car parking space within the development, which can lead to the residents having to park elsewhere such as on the main road.

Housing density guidelines, as contained in the PPG3 guidelines, are an example of urban design being imposed in a rural setting against the wishes of the local community, the parish council and the district council, the latter having the "rules" imposed on them by central government.

### WHAT IS A "CS3" VILLAGE?

At this point, it is worthwhile mentioning the term "CS3 village". Under the County Structure Plan, a "CS3 village" is one that has been identified as having potential for housing development. However, those settlements identified for new housing under Policy CS3 of the County Structure Plan must have all of the following:

- (i) primary school;
- (ii) a good journey-to-work transport service to a town;
- (iii) convenience goods shop;
- (iv) community, leisure and social facilities;
- (v) a variety of employment opportunities which have potential for further development;

The village of Worlingworth is not designated a CS3 village, whereas Stradbroke is. Worlingworth does not have the range of facilities that a CS3 village should be able to offer. As such, land bids submitted for a CS3 village will merit greater consideration for housing development than land bids submitted for a village that does not have CS3 status.

### LAND BIDS

In response to the Mid Suffolk District Council Local Plan Issues Report of 2002, there were a total of seven (7) land bids for Worlingworth parish, submitted to MSDC in June and July of 2002. As a reminder, these land bids were proposals by landowners and developers to have land in the parish allocated for development or included within settlement boundaries.

The 7 land bids were named as follows:

**1h. Land off Church Road:** proposal is to revise the settlement boundary to incorporate the land for development (Site presently used for allotment gardens).

**1sb. Red House Farm:** former maltings site and adjacent land off Shop Street - proposal is to revise the settlement boundary to incorporate the land for development.

**2h. Land off Old Stores Close:** proposal is to revise the settlement boundary to incorporate the land for development.

**3h/3e. Old Smokehouses site:** mixed housing and light industrial development – site is brownfield and vacant after buildings were destroyed by fire.

**4h. Extension to Piper's Meadow:** proposal is to revise the settlement boundary to incorporate the land for development.

**5h. Land north of and adjacent to Shop Street (from Willow Green to Church Road):** proposal to revise the settlement boundary to incorporate the land for residential development.

**6h. Land at Mill Farm, opposite VIOS (Visually Important Open Space) on Shop Street:** proposal to revise the settlement boundary to incorporate the land for residential development.

## LAND BIDS RESPONSE

In response to the land bids, the Parish Council called a public meeting at the Community Centre on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2003. Over 100 parishioners attended the meeting and unanimously voiced their objections to all of the land bids. There was not one single voice raised in favour of the land bids.

The Parish Council then wrote to Mid Suffolk District Council informing the council of its objection to all of the land bids.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2003, the District Council made the general decision not to support housing land bids in those villages without the basic range of local services, as specified in the Suffolk County Structure Plan (Policy CS3).

However, the Local Plan review process has had to be put on hold. This process has now been delayed whilst the Government introduced the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and then issued guidance on its new system of **Local Development Frameworks (LDFs)**, which are going to replace **Local Plans** and **County Structure Plans**.

Under the new arrangements, consideration of land bids will have to take place towards the end of the process in 2006 and 2007.

However, the Parish Plan village survey has gone some way to emphasising the parish residents' firm opposition towards housing developments within Worlingworth, whether by land bid or by conventional planning means.

## WHAT YOU SAID

In the village survey, a range of questions was asked on the subject of housing. Each question allowed respondents to give multiple answers if they wished. Some respondents felt that there were too many questions on the subject of housing but the Parish Plan Steering Group thought that there was ample justification, considering the parish's recent development history and the future issues.

The first question asked about recent development history. There would be a number of households who gave no opinion, since they had only recently arrived in the parish.

### What do you think about the number of houses built in Worlingworth in the last 10 years?

Too much new housing	255	(55.6%)
Too expensive	167	(36.4%)
Too big	93	(20.3%)
About right	84	(18.3%)
No opinion	65	
Too little housing	16	
Too small	9	

Total no. of respondents: 459

319 respondents (69.7%) said Worlingworth could not accommodate any more new housing. 332 respondents (74.1%) thought more new housing would spoil the environment rather than improve or bring no change to the environment.

### What kind(s) of new accommodation do you think Worlingworth needs?

No further homes are needed	210	(50.2%)
Homes for young people	175	(41.9%)
Small family homes	102	(24.4%)
Homes for single people	56	
Homes for disabled people	30	
Large family homes	20	

Total no. of respondents: 418

The next question asked about the types of new homes needed in Worlingworth and, although semi-detached houses were the most popular of the different types (91 votes), a majority of the residents (202 / over 50%) preferred to answer that there was no need for any of them at all.

Further questions were asked about different types of accommodation and development:

### Is there a need for more accommodation of the following types in Worlingworth?

No need for any of them	163	(41.8%)
Restricted sale to local people	105	(26.9%)
Local authority/housing association	79	(20.3%)
Sheltered housing	57	(14.6%)
Owner occupied	49	(12.6%)

Total no. of respondents: 390

Similarly:

**What types of housing development would be acceptable in Worlingworth?**

None	207	(51.5%)
Small groups of less than 10	104	(25.9%)
Single dwellings	91	(22.6%)
Expansion of the edge of W'worth	67	(16.7%)
Carefully designed larger groups	20	(5.0%)

Total no. of respondents: 402

In virtually every case, over half the respondents in the village survey considered there had been too much new housing in Worlingworth and that no more was needed, whatever the type.

If a preference had to be given, then homes for young people and restricted sales to local people were evidently the most popular or desirable forms of housing accommodation.



**The Willow Green development (photos above and below) was originally planned for fewer houses and now appears crowded with limited parking**



## WHAT WE PROPOSE

Given the evidence outlined in the previous pages, the conclusions to be drawn from this section of the survey are as follows:

### SUMMARY

**No major housing development**

**Land bids rejected**

**Single in-fill is acceptable**

**Housing needs survey required**

**Affordable homes preferred option**

We can sum up the reasons for these conclusions:

1. A consistent majority of the residents do not want to see any further developments.
2. Huge housing expansion (over 70% increase in the number of dwellings) over 25 years with dwindling amenities and services.
3. There is an increased burden on the mains sewerage system with regular blockages.
4. PPG3 housing density guidelines are imposing a soulless urban character on our village, thus destroying its essential rural nature and pleasant visual aspect.
5. Any further housing developments within the parish are unsustainable, given the loss of amenities and the deterioration of services in recent years.
6. Recent private housing development within the village has proven to be difficult for the agents to sell. This may be due to pricing, the design and layout of the housing or the lack of facilities and amenities available in the village for the prospective purchasers.



**Yew Tree Farm**

# Traffic

## Creating A Safer Road Network

### BACKGROUND

Worlingworth parish has a typical country road network. The 2-mile stretch that encompasses Southolt Road, Shop Street and Church Street is relatively straight, apart from the sharp and narrow bends at St. Mary's Church and from the Primary School to the Swan Inn. The arterial network, adjoining the main thoroughfare described above, can be narrow in places with a number of blind bends, particularly along Fingal Street and New Road.

With the large increase in population over recent years, there is an increased risk of accidents on the road network for both motorists and pedestrians. As a community, we all have a responsibility to our fellow residents to drive within the letter of the law to ensure their safety.

There is nowadays also a larger contribution to road usage from agricultural vehicles and lorries, which we cannot change.



Leaving Worlingworth through the Church Street double bend



Approaching the Church Street double bend from Tannington

### WHAT YOU SAID

The Parish Plan survey revealed that many residents were concerned about traffic hazards within the parish.

The household section of the survey asked each household how many vehicles they kept. There are a total of 432 vehicles (cars and vans) kept by the 252 households that took part in the survey.

71.5% of respondents thought there were major danger spots within Worlingworth and 62% felt that speeding traffic was an ongoing problem.

Residents were primarily concerned about two specific danger spots within the village as well as speeding on many roads within the parish.





Southolt Road looking towards White Hall Plants

104 households (41%) said the Primary School/ Smith's Close road bend was a danger spot whilst 70 households (27.8%) nominated the double bend at St. Mary's Church. Both danger spots presently have 30mph speed restrictions imposed, which still seems excessive.

*"I am very concerned about the speed in which vehicles, including HGVs, continue to do coming through the village. I have never seen any speed traps to deter anybody from speeding. I know 30mph signs are in place, but these are not adhered to." (Q67)*

Questioned about speeding in the village, 117 households (46.4%) made specific comments, of which 42 households named Shop Street as the main problem area and 37 households said speeding was a problem on all roads throughout the village.

Whilst most of the village is covered by a 30mph speed limit, it should be pointed out that two roads, also mentioned with regard to speeding, Fingal Street and New Road, do not possess speed restrictions. Both roads contain dangerous bends or, in the case of Fingal Street, are particularly narrow.

Another question in the survey asked the residents for their levels of support for different speed control measures, as follows:

The hazards and danger spots described in the previous pages need to be addressed to make the road network safer for our community.

#### INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT FOR SPEED CONTROL MEASURES

Traffic calming	180
Children at play signs	172
More road warning signs	166
Introduce a speed limit	92
Extension of the speed limit	86

*"The children that play outside Smith's Close are a constant worry as they are far too near the road – perhaps a 20mph speed limit required?" (Q227)*

However, we must also ensure that we do not adopt a "road sign" mentality. Whilst road safety is an issue within the parish, any measures taken to improve the road network must also be unobtrusive.



Southolt Road looking ahead towards Mill Road.



**Fingal Street is a narrow road with a number of blind bends – there is no speed restriction**



**Through traffic can reach dangerous speeds on the straighter sections of Fingal Street**

## WHAT WE PROPOSE

There are two major danger spots within the parish and some form of traffic calming must be put in place to alleviate the hazard and the potential for accidents to occur. Consultation with residents and interested parties is essential to reach a broad consensus on what measures are required before proposals are discussed with the County Council and Police.

Rather than erect countless road warning signs in environmentally sensitive areas, we believe the use of a flashing electronic warning sign (as used in the villages of Fressingfield, Stradbroke and Earl Soham) would be the most appropriate measure to take. This would be combined with the imposition of a 20mph speed restriction at both danger spots.

Speeding restrictions in a remote parish are largely the responsibility of the road users to uphold, rather than the authorities to strictly impose. It is impractical in manpower terms to expect the Suffolk Police Traffic Dept. to frequently monitor speeds on many of the roads within the parish, when the volume of traffic on those roads cannot justify such a commitment. However, there is no plausible reason for their not doing so at all.

There is some justification for rationalising the speed restrictions network within the parish, without resorting to extensive speed monitoring. Speed limit proposals for Fingal Street and Southolt Road are logical extensions to the existing network and will help in making our roads safer for all.

## SUMMARY

**Traffic calming at Church Street bends including electronic flashing speed warning signs and a 20mph speed limit**

**Traffic calming measures at the Primary School similar to above**

**30mph speed limit for Fingal Street**

**Extension of the 30mph speed limit along Southolt Road to the parish boundary**

**Occasional monitoring of traffic speeds by the Police**

# The Environment

## The Fabric Of Our Rural Community

### BACKGROUND

Conservation and enhancement of the countryside of our parish is very important – it makes our parish what it is today. The beauty of Worlingworth is in its close proximity to nature, its enduring tranquillity and the interesting range of footpath walks that intersect the whole of the parish.

Ponds and streams bring a wider diversity of animal and bird life within our reach. The relatively flat nature of the land enables many residents and visitors to cycle with ease around the parish and surrounding countryside.

The community's need to care for its environment can never be overstated. One of the purposes of this part of the Parish Plan is to heighten the awareness of the residents for the various activities they can actually take part in, to help to conserve and enhance the environment locally.

For more recent arrivals in the parish, it should be pointed out that there are a number of very worthwhile activities, which are already undertaken throughout the year by a few dedicated volunteers. These are:

- **The Worlingworth Footpaths Scheme**
- **Worlingworth Hedgerow Survey**
- **Tree Warden Scheme**
- **Spring Clean Days/Litter Walks**

Anyone interested in these schemes and activities can find contact details from any parish councillor. These activities are discussed in the following pages.

It is extremely important that activities such as these are supported fully by, not only the Parish Council and local landowners, but also by the parish residents at large. It is also possible and highly desirable for the Parish Council to further engage with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust in promoting nature conservation work within our community.

### WHAT YOU SAID

The survey results gave a very clear message from residents that the appearance of the parish is of the utmost importance to them. Residents also voiced concerns over a number of environmental issues that will be discussed in the following pages. Over 41% of respondents felt that the countryside around Worlingworth had changed for the worse in recent years.



The rural feel of the countryside is very important to the people of Worlingworth. Almost 75% said it is very important to them. Tranquillity and openness are two very valuable elements. Over half the residents said that, for living in Worlingworth, the village environment was the most important factor for them.

*"I chose to live in this village because it is small, quiet, unspoilt and still enjoys a rural feel. I like the fact we are surrounded by working farms, visitors get lost trying to find their way here and, on a clear night, you can still see all the stars." (Q100)*

The majority of new villagers said that they came to Worlingworth for the love of the country life. 41% of the respondents said they felt that much of our open space had been lost and that we needed to preserve the open spaces that we have remaining.



The majority of parishioners said they enjoy living in our rural environment and are concerned that it should remain rural.

## LITTER

Residents were evenly split over their opinions on litter. Over 38% of residents said litter was a problem in the parish. 33% felt the opposite: that litter was not a problem and 28% had no opinion on the subject.

Many residents were positive about tackling the litter problem through regular litter picking walks. 166 residents (37%) said having a Spring Clean Day twice a year would help to keep the parish clean and tidy and the Parish Council has already instigated these measures in 2005. 100 residents (22.5%) were of the opinion that putting up notices would also be of help.

### VISION

**The Parish council continues its policy of litter cleaning days twice a year and should consider whether notices would be of benefit**

## DOG FOULING

Regardless of the fact that we live in the country, dog-owning residents still have an environmental responsibility with regard to dog fouling.

It is not the purpose of this section to rail against those owners who fail to carry out the most basic duty of cleaning up after their dog. We would rather point out that the Parish Council has had to spend taxpayer's money on installing dog waste bins in appropriate locations, to encourage dog owners to use them. This expenditure has had little effect on the overall situation.

The irresponsibility of a minority of dog owners in the built-up areas of the parish poses a significant health risk to all of the young children in the parish. The authorities are considering whether to adopt a more draconian approach to the problem, based on advice from Mid Suffolk District Council's Environmental section. This could include naming and shaming those persistent offenders.

## FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

In relation to the local footpaths and bridleways, a majority of residents (57%) said that they were aware of where the local paths were. However just over 30% of residents said they were not and 62% of residents were in favour of maps of local footpaths being made available to the public. Leaflets of walks available to buy would also be useful, according to 199 residents (46%).

There are some very good examples of leaflets available in Mid Suffolk that provide details of a parish's footpath walks. One particularly good example is available for the village of Ashfield-cum-Thorpe.

There was an encouraging response to the question relating to maintenance of footpaths and bridleways, with 72 individuals (16%) affirming their willingness to help with this aspect of the scheme.

## WORLINGWORTH FOOTPATH SCHEME

The Worlingworth Footpath Improvement Scheme was started in October 1992 when the Parish Council invited all those with a public footpath on their property to attend a meeting. The outcome was a massive improvement scheme creating two circular paths around the parish.



The scheme also involves proposals to move footpaths out of people's gardens and away from livestock and farmyards and to straighten out those footpaths that meander through fields to around the field edges. In order for the scheme to progress, the landowners had to have the Parish Council's support, which they have had since 1992. When the scheme was first started, the target for completion was the Millennium under Suffolk County Council's plan "Access 2000"



in which their aim was to have all public footpaths open, accessible and signposted.

For the scheme, the village has been divided into four sections/packages. Two footpaths and a bridleway from the first package were officially diverted from July 6th 2000. Some of the footpaths in the second package were officially diverted in March 2002 and package 3 is still being resolved.

Worlingworth & Tannington Women's Institute have made our scheme their environmental project to celebrate the Millennium but we need the support of all the residents of Worlingworth. And so guided walks take place each year to show people the footpath routes.

Leaflets will be published at the end of the scheme to show the improved routes throughout the parish.

## VISION

**To complete the footpaths scheme to achieve our aim of circular walks throughout the village which can be enjoyed by the community**

## STREET LIGHTS AND PAVEMENTS

Over 56% of residents thought the standard of street lighting in the parish was poor. It was pointed out that the pavement from the community centre towards Piper's Meadow was poorly lit and quite dangerous during the winter months. Of all the supplementary comments made, however, there was little support for more street lighting unless it was of an environmentally sensitive type and some residents pointed out that living in the country meant that light pollution should be limited as much as possible.

56% of residents felt that facilities for pedestrians were poor and 62% would like to see more pavements in the village. 54% were also in favour of more footpaths, perhaps indicating a preference for country-style footpaths rather than town-style pavements made from concrete slabs. Individuals commented on the lack of any pavement from Maisie's Meadow to the Primary School, making the twice-daily walk for parents and children potentially hazardous.

As has already been pointed out elsewhere in this document, Worlingworth does not conform to the

stereotypical village layout with buildings gathered around a well-defined centre. For our inhabitants to meet each other, they must travel along the roads to places where they gather, like the public house, the community centre and the school.

It is preferable for the health of the children if they walk to school rather than being driven there by their parents. For obvious reasons, it is far better for drinkers to walk rather than drive to the pub. Concerns about the safety of pedestrians, especially after dark, have implications which go right to the heart of life in Worlingworth.

All who have studied such problems agree that the best way to ensure pedestrian safety is to separate them from vehicles. The construction of an adequate length of pavements in the village is a requirement for normal life.



## TREES AND HEDGES

Over 70% of respondents in the survey said, to improve the environment of Worlingworth, it was worthwhile or important to maintain the ditches, plant more trees and look after the remaining woodlands. A similar percentage thought that it was better to keep hedges short and tidy rather than let them grow naturally.

## WORLINGWORTH HEDGEROW SURVEY

As part of a countywide survey of hedgerows, the Worlingworth survey has been in progress since 2004. In the spring of that year, a group of local volunteers received free training and now go out on a weekly basis during the summer months to log the woody species growing in each of the hedgerows in the parish.

About half of Worlingworth's 500 or so hedges have so far been surveyed and recorded. The overall intention is that when complete, the survey will supply a profile of the plants growing in the hedges at this time, which will allow people in the future to assess changes more accurately than has been the case in the past.

Some of the findings so far, have been no surprise; for instance, the most common woody plant in our hedges is the hawthorn. Others have been less obvious; for instance, the elm, though still defunct as a tree, is flourishing as a hedgerow shrub throughout the parish. The most surprising discovery so far has been a grape vine growing happily in a hedge near Fingal Street.



## TREE WARDEN SCHEME

The Tree Warden Scheme is a national initiative to enable people to play an active role in conserving and enhancing their local trees and woods. The scheme was founded by the Tree Council and is co-ordinated by the Council in partnership with National Grid Transco, which has a well-established policy of community involvement and environmental care.

Tree Wardens are volunteers, appointed by parish councils or other community organisations, who gather information about their local trees, get involved in local tree matters and encourage local practical projects to do with trees and woods.

Worlingworth has its own tree warden but this should not be a deterrent to anyone who wishes to assist in any way. Those residents who would like to become involved with the work of the local tree warden should contact a parish councillor in the first instance.

## OPEN SPACES

The structure of Worlingworth village ensures that there are still many "open spaces". Developers often see open spaces as prime building land between two established settlement areas. Losing some of the open spaces in Worlingworth to any more development would fundamentally damage the age-old character of the village. It is this character which defines our village.



Over 82% of our survey respondents stressed the importance of open spaces in the parish and 76% felt that these open spaces should be protected features.

## PONDS, DITCHES AND STREAMS

Particularly in an area like East Anglia, water habitats are both characteristic of and essential to the environment. The parish has but one true river, which is a small tributary of the Dove and Waveney. However, the large network of drainage ditches essential to keeping the land fit for arable cropping provides additional streams.



The fact that until the 1960's domestic water supplies relied on ponds and moats, means that the

parish is well supplied with these also. Adequate maintenance of all of these is essential to prevent flooding and maintain the area's natural wildlife profile. Some ponds have a distinct education and amenity potential and cry out for development. The pond opposite the school is an obvious example. A riverside walk would provide a pleasant amenity if concessionary footpaths could be negotiated. This may be possible given the way Countryside Stewardship Schemes are developing.

## WILDLIFE HABITATS

The parish's waterways provide habitat for a great number of fauna and flora. Endangered species such as the water vole can be observed in certain places within the parish.



There is undoubtedly a groundswell of opinion that favours measures to be taken to protect our local wildlife. For example, whilst two-thirds of respondents thought reducing pollution and campaigning against litter in the countryside would help to protect wildlife, there was also solid support for creating new ponds and local nature reserves within the parish.

Further encouragement towards this idea of local habitat management can be gained from the numbers who said they would be prepared to help in some way. 105 residents would be prepared to help protect wildlife habitats; 83 residents would help clearing ponds and 60 residents were prepared to help maintain footpaths.

## WIND FARMS

On the question of renewable energy, 42% of the respondents would be opposed to any proposal to place wind turbines in the local area, as compared

to 34% who said they would be in favour. It is also worth pointing out that 24% of respondents had no opinion on the subject.

The greatest concern was expressed for the effect of increased construction traffic in the locality. Approximately half of those surveyed were concerned for the environmental impact on wildlife and habitat, along with the visual impact and noise pollution.

In summary, although most of those who have a view are opposed to wind farms in the area, a majority of respondents are either in favour or neutral on the subject. Given the variety of reasons for opposing such a development, the particular characteristics of any proposed scheme might be crucial to its acceptability. In particular, how the development paid off to the benefit of the parish rather than just the general benefit might be a factor. Given the climate and topography of the area, wind is the only carbon-free source of energy available. Perhaps the ongoing development of small, less obtrusive turbines might provide acceptable options.

## MOBILE PHONE MASTS

On this subject, 136 residents (31.3%) said they would not want a mobile phone mast within the parish and an additional 15% of those canvassed suggested that current coverage was acceptable and therefore no new mast was needed.

144 residents (33.1%) would support the proposal away from housing whilst 15.4% would be supportive of such a proposal if the mast were not visible to the naked eye. Less than 5% would be happy with a mobile phone mast being placed in any location.





# Communication

## Informing the Community

### BACKGROUND

It will not go unnoticed that this subject has been touched on in the “Community Amenities” section of this Parish Plan.

Communication within the parish is simply the most important means of awakening the community spirit in people and making families open their doors to see what’s out there.

It is fundamental to the success of many parts of this document that everyone who lives in the parish recognises the importance of communication with one’s neighbours and fellow parishioners.

The existing means of communication given here and the proposals outlined will strengthen the local information framework that presently exists.

### VILLAGE AND PARISH NEWSLETTERS

Over 300 respondents (70%+) read every issue of the village and parish newsletters. 229 respondents (50%) thought that the village newsletter should be published monthly, compared to less than 20% who did not, whilst 26% held no opinion on the matter.

40 residents said that they would be prepared to help in the publication of a monthly newsletter. A number of residents, who attended the “Data Report Open Day” in 2005, put forward their names to help in this potential project.

Cyber-Press, a printing business located in the parish, already publish monthly magazines for Stoke Ash & Thwaite and for Wetheringsett. In a similar manner to those publications, funding could be provided by small businesses advertising on a month-by-month basis. An editorial team could agree upon the general content.

It would be hoped that the parish newsletter would continue or perhaps join with the village newsletter project to form what would be a very interesting and informative publication.

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

318 residents (70%) answered that they had never attended a Parish Council meeting. Virtually all of those residents who have attended meetings thought that the issues discussed reflected local concerns. Over half of the respondents do not know how parish council funds, raised through the council tax, are spent. This is, again, a consequence of a lack of communication with and between the parish residents, which would be improved by a monthly newsletter.

### SEVEN PARISHES DIRECTORY

The Seven Parishes Directory provides information about businesses, interest groups and welfare organisations within the district of seven parishes including Worlingworth. It is essential reading for those who are new to the parish and is revised and re-published every few years.

### VILLAGE WEBSITE

Although the Suffolk Online project met with mixed responses in this parish (compared to the success in Brundish), there is potential in, and positive benefits to be gained from, developing an independent village website for Worlingworth. However, the most vital aspect of such a project would be the management of the website and whether there are sufficient enthusiastic and skilled people in the parish, willing to devote large amounts of time and effort to its upkeep.

### BROADBAND IN THE PARISH

Broadband became available in Worlingworth in May 2005. The inception of a broadband capacity in the village’s telecommunication system is important not only in its provision as a valuable leisure amenity but also in creating employment opportunities in IT-using trades. Opportunities also exist for home-based working, which might be attractive to parents of school age children and others who have a reduced capacity to travel to work.



# Leisure

## Enhancing our Quality of Life

### WHAT YOU SAID

More than 40% of respondents indicated that they never attend functions at either of the village's main venues with leisure potential: the pub and the community centre. Roughly half said they would be interested in sports/clubs/activities innovations. Over 10% expressed a willingness to lead such activities.

### LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Interest was expressed in participating in a number of sports, the most popular being badminton and keep fit. Large numbers of people supported the formation of local history and gardening clubs. There was a good deal of support for the provision of a multi gym facility.

For existing leisure activities and sports clubs, there is a reasonable choice within the locality. There are good exercise facilities within 5 miles of the parish, such as Stradbroke Swimming Pool and the Debenham Sports Centre. Worlingworth has well-supported and popular football and cricket clubs, with friendly members and good standards of coaching available for children and juniors in a safe environment. Recent developments within the cricket club have seen the acquisition of a professional coach on a seasonal basis and his involvement with coaching in local schools.



Football on the Community Centre field

The Worlingworth Equestrian Centre provides a pleasant environment and excellent facilities for equine enthusiasts.



Worlingworth Equestrian Centre

### EXPANDING THE USE OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE FACILITY

There is already an active calendar of events in the village. Most of these are held at the community centre (see below) though many of the events cater for a limited section of the community. As already mentioned, a wider range of activities is needed to make full use of the facilities, provide events and activities for all age groups and increase revenue for the centre itself.

This sounds achievable in theory but requires a much greater involvement by residents in helping to organise such events and activities. In addition, advance communication of such activities to the whole parish needs to be guaranteed. A number of residents have raised the point that they do not receive newsletters.

Finally, when these ideas come to fruition, it requires the whole of the community to support the events. Only in this way will the community centre become what it is meant to be – the focal point of communal activities within the parish.

## COMMUNITY CENTRE ACTIVITIES

Monday a.m. (term time) – Worlingworth Under 5s

Tuesday evening (1st in every month) – Parish Council meetings

Wednesday evening (1st in every month) – Women’s Institute meetings

Wednesday evening (2nd in every month) – Community Centre meetings

Thursday a.m. – Keep Fit

Friday evening – Social Club

Sunday a.m. – Football Club (seasonal)

Sunday p.m. – Cricket Club (seasonal)

Other events that regularly take place:

Quiz nights

Jumble sales

Race nights

Memorabilia evenings

Annual May Bank Holiday Fête

Fashion shows

Family evenings (from May to October)

Private functions

Fundraising events

## RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR 11–18 YEAR OLDS

Such facilities are most conspicuous by their absence. The village might consider itself lucky that its young people behave as responsibly as they do given the little, which it provides for them. Changing this must be seen as a priority for immediate development. In order for such a policy to be successful, the involvement of members of the age group in decisions is essential from the outset.

Unfortunately, the Youth Club formerly held at the Community Centre ceased operating due to the lack of volunteers in providing adult supervision. Some children of this age group now congregate at the Community Centre car park where the provision of a shelter gives them a covered area to sit.

A new younger children’s play area has now been completed at the back of the Community Centre and funding is being raised for the provision of an

area of wooden climbing structures on the sports field, which is targeted at children aged 8-16.

Many of the older youths now play for Worlingworth Football Club on Sunday mornings and some also play indoor football at either Stradbroke School or Debenham Sports Centre. A second Worlingworth youth football team for over 11 year olds is hoping to be established for 2006-2007 when games will be played on Saturday mornings at the Community Centre sports field.

Cricket coaching is also available to all in the spring and summer. Indoor coaching sessions take place on weekends at Thomas Mills School from February to April after which the coaching switches to outdoors (midweek evenings) at the new Bedfield cricket ground. Qualified coaches from within Worlingworth Cricket Club supervise the coaching sessions and emphasis is placed on providing a safe environment for children to learn in.

In summary, it becomes evident that, whilst there are some activities ongoing, these few are mainly dominated by sports-minded male youths and offer nothing to the rest of our young people, particularly female youths, within the parish, unless they attend various activities offered elsewhere.

## YOUTH QUESTIONNAIRE PROJECT

In the early stages of this project, consideration was given to running a youth questionnaire in parallel with the main village survey. The Steering Group initially consisted of 12 volunteers, which had been unavoidably reduced to 9 within the first 3 months. Discussions eventually resulted in a decision not to proceed with a youth questionnaire at the same time as the main project, simply on the grounds of the amount of extra work involved.

There were comments made in the village questionnaire by one disappointed resident, who felt that the youth of the village were not “getting their say” and that an opportunity had been missed.

We, the Steering Group, and the Parish Council share the common view of how important our young people are to the community and how, too often, their needs are not met. With the aim of successfully carrying out a youth survey in the parish, we would be delighted to see interested individuals come forward to form a project group and carry out the youth survey, in a similar manner to the Parish Plan survey.

# Business

## Encouraging Local Employment

### EMPLOYMENT IN WORLINGWORTH

In times past, most of the working population of the parish will have been employed locally and primarily in the agricultural sector. Over time, the mechanisation of farming has reduced jobs and local businesses may no longer be able to offer many employment opportunities to residents.

Like many other parishes limited in terms of employment opportunities, many residents now work outside of the parish. Those who have arrived in the parish within the last 10 years, if not retired, already have employment in the Mid Suffolk region and further afield.

Of the 294 village survey respondents, who are in waged employment, 218 (66%) work outside the parish in many different categories of business.

There are a significant number of residents who are self-employed – 47 residents are self-employed and not employing anyone else, whilst 31 residents are self-employed and employ other people. Nearly 30% of our residents are employed in local government, public sector or retail work. Of 478 respondents, only 3 declared themselves unemployed at the time of the survey.

The main problem with so many people now working outside the parish is that many are less likely to have the time or the energy to be involved fully with village activities, particularly with regard to helping to organise these activities.

These statistics demonstrate how the original working community is gradually being replaced and making the transition to a dormitory community of the 21st century. This is undoubtedly a sad state of affairs but only reflects the trend throughout much of the English countryside and it is difficult to envisage a change away from this trend.

One of the many aims of a parish plan should be to encourage more businesses in the parish. This in turn will generate some limited employment and will also boost the local economy.



The offices of Tuckwells on Shop Street

### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Tuckwells Ltd and Igrox Ltd have provided the main employment in the parish for a number of years. In our survey, we asked what types of business development should be encouraged in and around Worlingworth.

Over half of our residents are in favour of encouraging small business development, with a substantial percentage also in favour of country craft workshops or small industrial units. Only 14% of residents were in favour of encouraging tourism and 44% had reservations about tourism in the area.

There remain small areas of land within the parish, where limited business development, such as workshops and small industrial units could be established. Whatever can be done, in this regard, it is to be hoped that the people involved will be local people and will be prepared to play a full part in the life of the village.

# Parish Action Plan

ISSUE	VISION	ACTION	PARTNERS
<b>AMENITIES</b>			
<b>Community Centre</b>	The Community Centre re-establishes itself as the focal point of our community.	The Committee offers a wider range of events to suit all age groups. Residents put forward their opinions on suitable types of events. More residents come forward to offer voluntary support in the organisation of the social club and social events e.g. a Youth Club the 7 Villages Competition a weekly Senior Citizens Companions Club	Worlingworth Community Centre Committee and the parish residents in partnership.
<b>Swan Public House</b>	The Swan Public House caters for a wider range of clientele with modern facilities (for smokers and non smokers) and a good restaurant.	Wider support from the community for the business and a realistic commitment by the management to improve the facilities.	The pub management and the whole parish.
<b>Interest Groups</b>	More Interest Groups are established within the parish and parish facilities such as the Primary School and the Community Centre are better utilised for these interest groups.	Contact known interested parties for the establishment of Local History group and a Gardening Club to set the ball rolling.	Previously identified interested individuals.
<b>Primary School Adult Evening Classes</b>	Adult Evening Classes are established at the Primary School for a number of educational activities.	The Primary School to initially consider starting an evening class in basic computer study to get the ball rolling. This could be promoted in the Village Newsletter.	Worlingworth Primary school and interested parishioners.
<b>Community Shop</b>	Our community continues to support the local stores at Bedfield and Horham and the excellent local produce outlets around the parish.	General community involvement.	Everyone.
<b>Neighbourhood Watch Scheme</b>	The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is extended to all parts of the parish.	More Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators required.	Suffolk Police, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators and the residents.
<b>HOUSING</b>			
<b>Overall Policy</b>	No further major housing developments within the Parish in the next 10 years. Single dwelling in-fill is acceptable. Land bids submitted to M.S.D.C. in 2002 are rejected and the village settlement boundary remains unchanged for the next 10 years. Facilitate the building of a small number of affordable, energy-efficient homes in the next 10 years.	Worlingworth P.C. and M.S.D.C. Planning Department work together to ensure that any future planning applications for housing development within the parish broadly meet the criteria set out in this document, based on the residents responses from the Village Survey.	M.S.D.C., S.C.C., W.P.C., Housing Associations, Landowners.
<b>Housing Needs Survey</b>	A Housing Needs Survey is undertaken within the parish.	Worlingworth P.C. and M.S.D.C. to determine the extent of housing needs within the parish.	M.S.D.C., W.P.C., the residents.
<b>TRAFFIC</b>			
<b>Extension of speed limits</b>	Extension of the 30 mph speed limit on Southolt Road to the parish boundary.	Parish Council to pursue with the relevant local authorities.	M.S.D.C., S.C.C., W.P.C.



ISSUE	VISION	ACTION	PARTNERS
<b>Speed limit for Fingal Street</b>	Explore the possibility of a 30 mph speed limit on Fingal St from Newtown junction to New Road.	Parish Council to pursue with the relevant local authorities.	M.S.D.C., S.C.C., W.P.C.
<b>Traffic calming measures</b>	Existing traffic calming measures at the Primary School bend to be enhanced with a possible 20 mph speed limit and flashing electronic warning signs.	Worlingworth P.C., the Primary School and Suffolk County Council Highways Dept. to co-ordinate efforts to improve the safety of residents, pedestrians, school children, parents and road users on this hazardous bend.	M.S.D.C.; S.C.C. W.P.C.
	Explore the possibility of traffic calming measures being implemented at the Church Street double bends.	Worlingworth P.C. to initially approach the relevant authorities and to canvass local residents on their views.	M.S.D.C., S.C.C., W.P.C., Local residents.
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>			
<b>Litter</b>	The Parish Council continues its policy of litter cleaning days twice a year and should consider whether notices would be of any benefit.  Consideration should be given to implementing an "Adopt-A-Road" scheme where residents can assume a measure of responsibility for their own stretch of road, with regard to litter.	Litter walks usually occur in March and September and occur on Saturday mornings. Safety equipment, bin bags and protective gloves are always provided. Details of an impending litter walk can usually be found in either of the local newsletters.	Worlingworth P.C., M.S.D.C., Residents
<b>FOOTPATHS</b>			
<b>Footpaths Improvement Scheme</b>	To achieve the aims of the Footpaths Improvement Scheme to create circular routes throughout the parish.	Package 3 of the Scheme is going to a Public Enquiry in autumn 2006.  Package 4 to complete.	15 participating landowners, Worlingworth P.C., M.S.D.C., S.C.C., Rights Of Way
<b>Shop Street footpath</b>	Extension of the footpath on Shop Street from the Primary School to Maisies Meadow and beyond.	Lobby S.C.C. Highways Dept. to achieve resolution of the vision.	Worlingworth P.C., M.S.D.C., S.C.C.
<b>COMMUNICATION</b>			
<b>Village Newsletter</b>	A self-funded village news magazine is established.	The present village newsletter is short on material and is only published on a quarterly basis. There is scope for interested residents to aid the editorial team to design and publish a monthly magazine which provides a more up to date stream of current information about Worlingworth.  With an appropriate amount of sponsorship and advertising, the project could become self-funding within a year.	Worlingworth P.C., Cyber-Press (publishing) and the current editor of "What's On In Worlingworth".  Individuals interested in contributing or who registered interest previously at a Parish Plan Open Day.
<b>Village Website</b>	An independent village website is designed and launched on the Internet.	This requires enthusiastic and committed individuals to act independently in setting up and managing a project.  Funding grants are likely to be available.	Willing parishioners...
<b>Notice boards</b>	Further noticeboards are considered for the outlying settlements of the parish.	To identify locations that would benefit from a notice board.	W.P.C.

M.S.D.C. = Mid Suffolk District Council    S.C.C. = Suffolk County Council    W.P.C. = Worlingworth Parish Council

# Acknowledgements

## Steering Group

Keith Wilson	Chairman
Geoffrey Robinson	Secretary
Mike Howard	Treasurer

Jean Clarkson  
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We could not have done this without you.

Thank you all.



ATHELINGTON CP

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