

Pertenhall & Swineshead Parish Plan 2007



Pertenhall

The History of Pertenhall and Swineshead Parish Plans

Parish plans were first mentioned in the year 2000 in the Government's Rural White Paper. This proposed inclusion and involvement for all those in a parish with regard to a vision for the future. At this stage the scheme was administered by the Countryside Agency.

Pertenhall and Swineshead Parish Council deferred making Parish Plans an agenda item for discussion until 2004. In January 2005 the Parish Council initiated the production of a questionnaire, which a group of volunteers in Pertenhall were keen to undertake, and they drew this up with advice and guidance from Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity. The Parish Council agreed to finance the printing of the questionnaire. During this time Parish Plans became the administrative responsibility of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). When Pertenhall came to apply for a grant to continue their work it became apparent that they could not proceed without Swineshead. Parish Plans are closely linked to the Parish Council applying for the grant, in our case Pertenhall *and* Swineshead – the one village could not apply without the other so the grant had to be for both villages.

In December 2005 a group of volunteers in Swineshead began preparing their questionnaire, based on that of Pertenhall, and in January 2006 the budget application was submitted to DEFRA, for both villages, with a successful outcome. At all stages, great emphasis has been placed on consulting and involving the community in both villages. Volunteers analysed the completed questionnaires (70% return in Pertenhall, 96.5% in Swineshead) Open Days were arranged at which the resulting data and comments were displayed. 50 people attended Pertenhall's first Open Day and over 70 people attended Swineshead's. Suggestions were invited and these were incorporated in the writing of chapters by a different group of volunteers. A photographic competition involved the children whose photographs were used in both the Open Day and the final Plan. Swineshead held a second Open Day to view the draft Parish Plan. Over 20 people attended this.

As neighbouring villages, Pertenhall and Swineshead have had a close relationship for many years. When their own school closed Swineshead children attended Pertenhall's. The villages shared a rector for decades and have had a joint Parish Council for more than 30 years. Although being administered by the same Parish Council, the two villages are different in many ways, hence the separate sections in the Parish Plan.



Alistair Burt

Member of Parliament for North East Bedfordshire
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
London office: Tel: 020 7219 8132 Fax: 020 7219 1740
Bedfordshire office: Tel: 01234 314491 Fax: 01234 314691
Website: www.alistair-burt.co.uk Email: burta@parliament.uk

The Pertenhall and Swineshead Parish Plan

Thank you very much for involving me in your parish plan.

One of the great joys of being the Member of Parliament for this constituency lies in building an appreciation for the distinctive character of the villages which make up north Bedfordshire. This Parish Plan is no exception. The care and attention to detail contained within it displays not only an affection for what the villages have been throughout history, but a keen eye for the needs of today and tomorrow.

Some issues and comments are familiar, such as the worries over the speed of traffic and concern over how to provide activities for a small number of young people so far spread out. Difficult subjects are not ducked. Do we need or want new development and if so, how can we ensure that local, first time buyers have priority?

There are signs of change, and I note the number of those with new businesses run from home, which, with the growth of new technology, are likely to be quite different from the traditional village businesses of the past.

But that the people of Swineshead and Pertenhall love their villages is clear. There are welcome signs of volunteers coming forward to deliver activities and neighbourly services not currently provided. Those from an urban setting may find it difficult to appreciate that, when considering the advantages of, say lighting and pavements, such examples of urban life are not welcome...a comment from both villages being telling:- 'if we had wanted such things we would have lived in a town!'

There are a number of recommendations for action, and I would be keen to assist with any which would involve an MP, and the excellent Parish Council will no doubt keep me in touch. Those who have worked hard to compile this plan deserve great praise, and I hope many good things flow from such commitment to our own small but special patch of England.

Yours sincerely

Alistair Burt MP

'Serving the people of North East Bedfordshire'

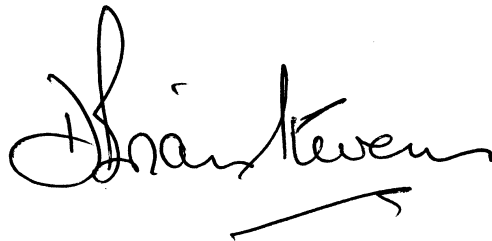
The Pertenhall and Swineshead Parish Plan

It has been a great privilege to be involved with the preparation and publication of the Parish Plan for our two villages.

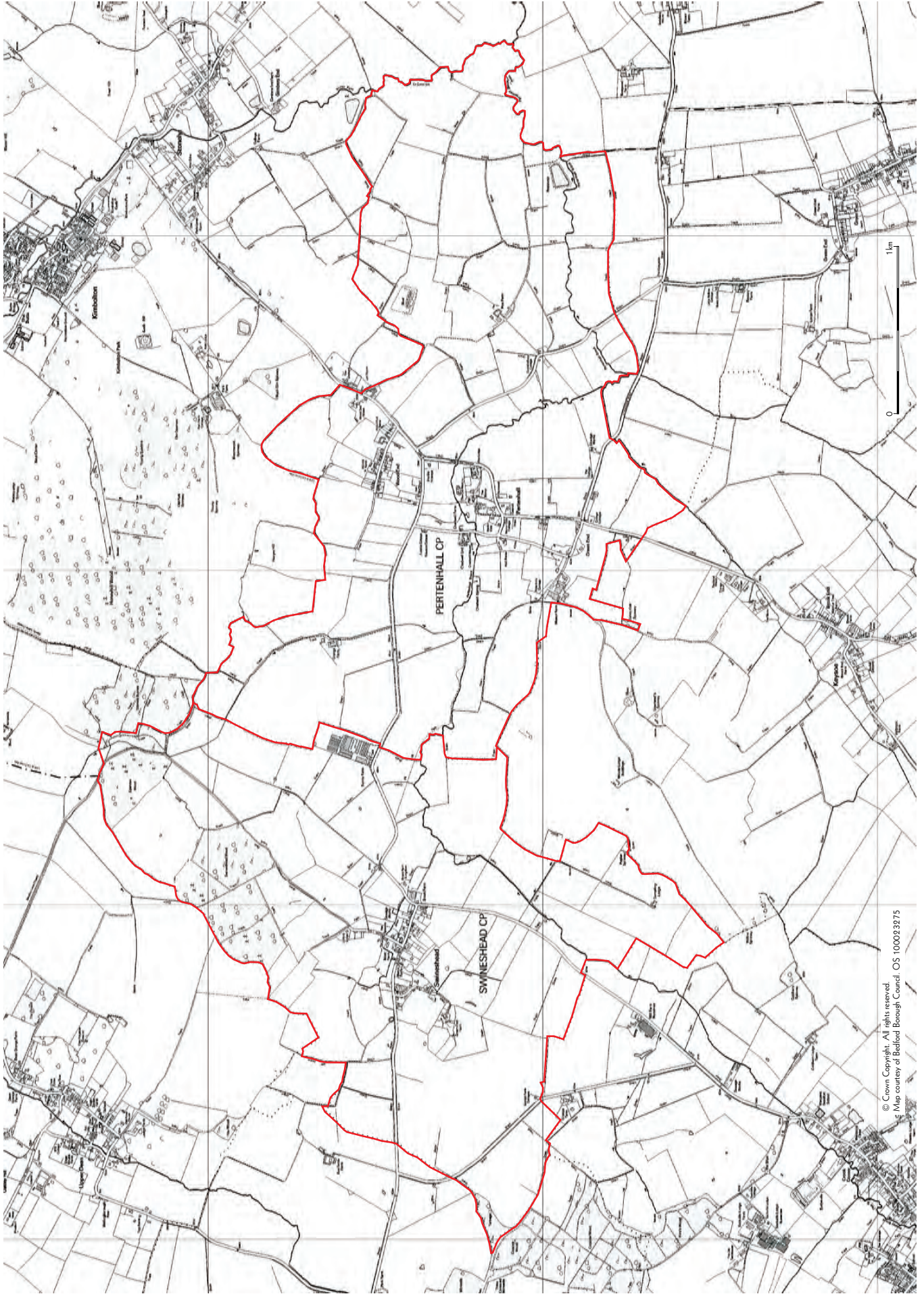
There are at least two features which, I believe, are particularly important. In the first instance, every effort has been made to involve the entire communities of our villages, in seeking information from questionnaires circulated to every person, in holding very well attended Open Meetings to publicise the findings, and in the number of volunteers who have come forward to process that information, to undertake research and actually write sections of the Plan.

In the second place, the Parish Council has, for the first time, an invaluable series of signposts to guide its future deliberations. In the past, decisions taken in good faith at Council meetings could not necessarily represent the considered views of the majority of residents, hard though councillors might have tried to reflect those views. Now, on many important issues there exist clear guidelines, carefully researched and followed through, to inform the Council in its decision making functions.

There can be few small villages in our countryside where so many of the residents have been involved in the preparation of such a carefully considered Parish Plan, and to each and every one who has played a part I offer the gratitude and congratulations of their community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "D. Brian Stevens". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end that curves upwards and to the right.

D. Brian Stevens
Chairman 2007-2008
Pertenhall and Swineshead Parish Council



© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved.
Map courtesy of Bedford Borough Council. OS 100023275

A DESCRIPTION OF THE VILLAGE OF PERTENHALL

Pertenhall, situated on the northern edge of Bedfordshire, adjoining the neighbouring county of Cambridgeshire, lies on the main B660 Kimbolton to Bedford road. The village is primarily a farming community with four main outlying farms. There is no physical centre to the village and all activities revolve around the Village Hall and the Church.

The Village Hall, which has recently been refurbished, was originally the village school. This opened in 1870 and was closed in 1946. A number of Pertenhall residents attended the school and have fond memories of it.

Many local organisations use the Village Hall for their activities.

The church, which dates back to the twelfth century, is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul and has a host of historical connections including the youngest daughter of Sir Oliver Cromwell of Hinchbrooke House, Huntingdon and Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

The Manor House, which is a fine Elizabethan building situated near to the church was built on the site of a former moated mansion belonging to the Knights Templar.

The population is now less than 250, many of whom commute to local towns and cities for their work. The village has no major employer but more people are now running their own businesses from their homes.

There are no shops in the village although a mobile shop does visit on a regular basis. The Mobile Library visits once a fortnight.

There are no recreational facilities for children in the village and they have to be transported by car to neighbouring Kimbolton, Riseley or Bedford. The Doctor, Pharmacy and shops are all in the neighbouring Cambridgeshire villages of Kimbolton or Great Staughton, neither of which is accessible by public transport. This can cause severe problems for residents without their own transport.

The children in the village attend a diverse range of schools in Riseley, Kimbolton, Keysoe and Bedford. They travel to school either by School Bus or by private car.

Format of the Plan.

The Parish Plan is presented in sections reflecting the format of the questionnaire. The data retrieved has provided the basis for each section, resulting in a list of actions. The responsibility, cost and timescale for each of these can be found in the action grid at the end of the printed plan.

It is the responsibility of the Parish Council to review the plan at the end of years 1,3 and 5. Villagers will be kept informed of the progress of the actions through the Newsletter every six months.

Section1 The Environment

Overview.

The village environs consist mainly of arable agricultural land together with a relatively small number of cattle, sheep and horses. The area is well wooded with native English species, which encourages a great variety of birds to nest locally.

There is no specific centre to the village and the houses are generally spread out along rural roads. The only area of relatively concentrated housing is along Wood End Lane.



Questionnaire Results.

This section of the questionnaire covered why people choose to live in the village, the appearance of the village, pollution, footpaths and bridleways. Most people who live in Pertenhall feel it is a very pleasant village with a good environment and this together with being a catchment area for good schools greatly influenced their choice of where to live . The Church and the Village Hall are thought to enhance the” English Country Village” atmosphere, both being greatly appreciated.

Although the majority of residents feel that the appearance of the village is good there is concern over the condition of some hedges and verges. There is a general consensus of opinion that the verges are not cut often enough and that hedges need trimming more regularly, particularly those protruding into the road. The exterior and interior condition of the Village Hall is generally praised and is thought to be a credit to the village.

The main pollution concern is over traffic noise, which may be helped by the 40 mph speed limits now in force. However a number of respondents commented on the spate of flies which seem to appear with the hot weather and many equated this to the proximity of the Bird Bros egg farm and the spreading of pig manure on some of the fields, particularly at the end of Wood End Lane.

There is some concern that because Pertenhall is a rural village, dog owners are not taking steps to remove their dog's litter and there were a number of requests for dog litter bins to be sited in the village.

The Litter Picks organised each year, help to reduce the roadside litter but this is still a concern to local residents. The problem is that most of this litter is deposited by passing motorists and not residents.

There is a concern that on some of the footpaths it is difficult to get a large dog past some of the stiles, the only way being to lift the dog over. There is also concern that the Bridleway at the end of Wood End Lane is frequently overgrown and almost impassable.

There was almost universal rejection of pavements and street lighting. As one resident put it " If I had wanted pavements and street lighting I would have gone to live in a town".

Comments from the questionnaires.

- *Currently Pertenhall is a delightful place to live. Further development and "improvement" could jeopardise this*
- *We need a "green centre" to the village.*
- *It would be useful to have some dog litter bins on the Public Footpaths.*

Actions

- Discuss with Parish Council the verge and hedge cutting programme.
- Discuss with Parish Clerk increasing the Litter Picks.
- Ensure Parish Council is aware of the need to keep Pertenhall a pleasant village.
- If the "fly" problem persists contact Bedford Borough Council Environmental Health Dept.
- Investigate the provision of dog litterbins.
- Look at the footpaths, stiles and bridleways problems.

Section 2 Housing

Overview

Housing in the village varies from small two bedroom thatched cottages to large detached five bedroom houses. These appear to exist very amicably within the village. There are a number of rented properties standing alongside privately owned properties. The village contains almost all types of housing including detached houses, semi-detached houses, chalet bungalows, bungalows and country cottages. The vast majority of people take a great pride in the appearance of their homes. The village also boasts an Elizabethan Manor House and a large Georgian style Old Rectory.



Questionnaire Results

In this section of the questionnaire an attempt was made to find out the general feeling within the village about new housing and the need for it – if there is one.

It would appear that the lack of affordable housing has not caused significant movement away from the village in the past few years. It is interesting to note that according to the questionnaire there will be 18 local people looking for housing in the village during the next five to ten years.

The idea of new housing was split fairly evenly with 56 people not wanting it and 49 people wanting some form of new housing. It was interesting to note that the slight difference shown above was in the 40 – 60 year olds.

The one type of housing not favoured was “privately rented”.

There was an even split on homes for first time buyers – with many people not sure how these homes could be kept for local first time buyers.

Comments from the questionnaires.

- *Housing or land should be made available at fundable cost for local people. This would sustain a village community.*
- *Locals need to have first choice on low cost housing*
- *It would be useful to have property for first time buyers, which could not then obtain planning permission for extensions. This would keep it for first time buyers.*
- *Pertenhall increasing in size would spoil the village atmosphere.*
- *Who decides if there is a proven need for housing.*
- *Pertenhall is too small for development – not enough resources*

Actions

- Ensure the Parish Council is aware that some new housing may be required in the future.
- The Parish Council must be made to realise that privately rented houses are not wanted in the village.

Section 3 Traffic Transport and Roads

Overview

The village is on the main B660 Bedford to Kimbolton road and it is along this road that the main traffic travels. However a significant amount of heavy traffic uses the Swineshead road, sometimes as a cut-through to avoid the sharp corners in Kimbolton. Most of the side roads are single track and can be difficult for large vehicles. Only very small sections of the roads are kerbed and these are near the awkward bridges on the Great Staughton and Little Staughton roads



Questionnaire Results

In this section villagers had the opportunity to comment on how traffic through Pertenhall affects them and to make suggestions on how any problems might be solved. They were also able to comment on salting policy, the Dart bus, pavements and their own use of transport.

Speed along the B660 and the Swineshead Road is still a major problem although the speed restrictions have helped. A significant number felt that a 30 mph limit would have been better. Most people think that the Vehicle Activated Sign on the B660 has helped to reduce speed. Although some of the crossroads can be dangerous very few residents want mirrors at these points.

Most people are happy with the state of the roads although the policy of “patching” is not popular. There is almost universal praise for the salting policy during the winter months. Public transport is a problem, and because of this, about 80% of people never use public transport. Although most people are aware of the DART bus service very few have actually used it. There is a feeling that the process for using it is too complicated.

Comments from the questionnaires.

- *Speed and noise of motor bikes at weekends is still a problem*
- *Patching roads is a joke. Complaint cards should be available to send to Highways Authority*
- *Dart bus service is unreliable and needs to run at suitable evening hours. The call centre needs to improve. Problems are only encountered with regular usage.*
- *There are too many signs in the village.*
- *Travel to Kimbolton and St. Neots seems to be difficult (without a car).*
- *Large vehicles including Horse Boxes are damaging the verges.*
- *Parking at the Church Post Box is difficult and dangerous.*

Actions

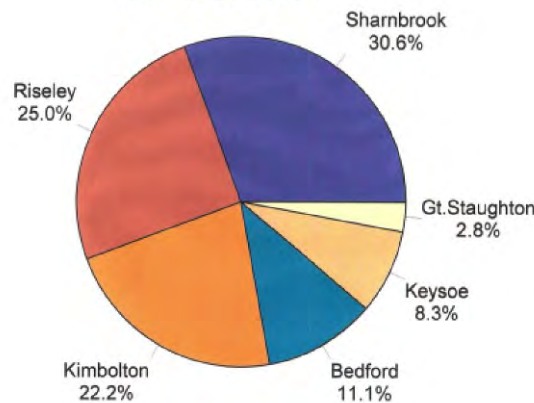
- Discuss with the Parish Council to see if the DART service can be simplified.
- Ensure the police are aware that speeding is still a problem.
- Discuss the possibility of a weight restriction through the village.
- Discuss with Post Office to see if Church Post Box could be re-sited.
- Investigate the provision of road condition Complaint Cards with Highways Agency

Section 4 Education

Overview

From 1870 until 1946 Pertenhall had it's own school in what is now the Village Hall. Since that time all children in the village have had to travel to surrounding villages or towns for their education. At the time of the questionnaire there are 36 children of school age in the village and most attend local village schools with only 4 travelling to Bedford. The rest attend schools in Gt. Staughton, Keysoe, Kimbolton, Riseley and Sharnbrook.

Where do Pertenhall children go to school ?



Questionnaire Results

The questionnaire attempted to find out what educational facilities villagers would like for both their children and themselves. It was also felt important to discover how children travelled to the various schools. All children travel to school by "school bus" or private car, with the majority using private car. Unfortunately being a very rural area there is no public transport suitable for taking children to the various schools. Many parents appear to think the present system is working reasonably well but the majority of them still use their own car to ferry children to and from school. Schools in the area are concerned about the possibility of the school system in Bedfordshire being changed from a three tier system to a two tier system.

Letters received from the local schools show that as well as the two tier / three tier problems they are also very concerned with the fall in the number of children of school age in the villages.

A small number of people would like a "Holiday Club" and possibly a Youth Club in the village. There are a small number of parents who would like a small area of land where a swing and a slide could be sited for very young children.

Approximately 20% of residents would support either computer or leisure courses whilst there was some significant support for regular (monthly?) lectures in the Village Hall on such topics as Local History, Archeology, Country Pursuits etc.

Comments from the questionnaires.

- *A mother and toddler group would be useful.*
- *Regular lectures in the Village Hall to provide a social meeting place/focus*
- *The success of running courses will depend on the quality of courses, resource availability and cost.*
- *Playground or playing field would be good if there is sufficient demand.*

Action

- Discuss with local schools to see if we can forge closer ties between the village and the schools
- Attempt to find people to run a local youth club
- Attempt to find someone who would organise leisure courses in the village hall.
- Attempt to find someone who would organise regular lectures in the Village Hall.
- Explore the purchase/rental of a small patch of land where young children could have a swing and slide.

Section 5 The Church

Overview

The church of Saint Peter is situated in the centre of this sprawling village. It is built in the Transition, Early English and Later styles.

The church has three main claims to fame. It has a magnificent decorated Rood Screen; the organ, which is dated 1783 is one of only two of its type surviving today and there is a small tablet on the south wall of the nave to various members of the Rolt family including Mary, the youngest daughter of Sir Oliver Cromwell who lived at Hinchingbrooke House in Huntingdon.



Questionnaire Results

Most people think that the Church is important in Pertenhall as an historic building and as a village focal point. Together with the Village Hall it is the only fixed facility in the village. The majority of people do not want more services but unfortunately only 14 people regularly attend them whilst 69 claim to attend sometimes.

There is good support in the village for the Summer Fete, the Carol Service and the Harvest Festival.

There are 27 residents who would like to be buried in the churchyard when they die and 20 who would like their ashes interred in it.

Comments from the questionnaires.

- *Access is difficult in a wheelchair.*
- *Access is difficult at night*
- *Need more people to attend to keep it going*
- *Restore the bells*
- *Need more family services*
- *It is a shame that the church is not a more focal part of village life. We would like to see this as part of a regenerated village.*
- *A splendidly inspiring building which is and should continue to be a focal point of the community of Pertenhall.*

Actions

- Ensure the Rector, PCC and JPCC are aware of the above.

Section 6 Employment and Business Development

Overview

Apart from agriculture and the Egg Production unit at Bird Bros. the only other businesses in the village are people who carry on their work from home. Working from home does not provide employment for other members of the village. The village has really become a “dormitory village” for families who work in other areas as far away as London. This obviously does not help to foster a community spirit as many residents do not return to the village until late in the evening.

Questionnaire Results

In this section an attempt was made to discover people’s feelings about new business being attracted to the village. It was interesting to find out just how few people actually work in the village.

In Pertenhall there are 26 retired people, 17 self employed and 58 in other work.

11 run businesses from home, 12 work from home for other companies and just 5 work in the village.

About 50% of respondents would welcome further “appropriate” business development but there is a concern that attracting further businesses would result in a loss of the village atmosphere.

Most villagers would welcome a directory of local business and trades such as builders, plumbers, decorators, electricians etc.

Comments from the questionnaires.

- *Would like small local businesses – jobs for local people.*
- *Would like shops, post office – not Industrial Estates.*
- *As a largely residential country village, business/commercial development would be inappropriate.*
- *Preference for rural businesses.*
- *Welcome development but not if it ruins nature of the village*
- *It is important to have a sustainable new economy*

Action

- Pass the above information on to the Parish Council
- Parish Council to produce a Directory of local trades and businesses.

Section 7 Local Government

Overview

Pertenhall is in the Riseley ward of Bedford Borough and is represented by a Borough Councillor. Bedfordshire, in its entirety, is overseen by Bedfordshire County Council on which Pertenhall is represented by a County Councillor. The Borough Council works out of the Town Hall and the County Council out of County Hall both in the County Town of Bedford. In addition to the above, Pertenhall, along with Swineshead have a Parish Council which meets alternately in the two villages.



Questionnaire Results

There is obviously a lot of confusion concerning “who does what” between the County Council, The Borough Council and the Parish Council. However most people think that all three bodies are doing a good job.

The village usually has a high turnout for all elections, be they County, Borough or Parish.

Most people know a Parish Councillor and 31 have attended Parish Council meetings.

Most residents think that Honeycomb and the Parish Council Newsletter are the best forms of information but very few want information by e-mail.

About 50% say they would read information on a website.

If someone has a problem they would most likely talk to a Parish Councillor.

Comments from the questionnaires.

- *Confused by the roles of Borough and County Councils.*
- *Do not know who does what exactly.*
- *Who is responsible for rubbish dumped on the verges*
- *No real power devolves down and we are too ready to follow centralised policies.*

Action

- Get the Parish Council to improve and update the website.
- Get the Borough and County Councillors to circulate just what their remit covers.

Section 8 Facilities and Leisure

Overview

Being a small village of less than 200 people Pertenhall is unable to provide many social facilities and so residents have to travel to other villages or towns. The only building available for leisure activities is the Village Hall, which is almost universally praised for its appearance and maintenance.



Questionnaire Results

When not using supermarkets in Bedford, St. Neots or Rushden most people shop in either Kimbolton or Little Staughton.

Most people are aware of photocopying, paper deliveries, milk deliveries and mobile library service.

Most people (about 90%) have internet access at home and are not, therefore, interested in community access.

Being the main leisure facility in the village the Village Hall is at the centre of most comments. In general it is felt that a wider range of activities could be offered and there would appear to be sufficient people in the village interested in helping organise some different events. It is generally accepted that all events would not interest all people but the feeling is that more could be done to include people who, at present, do not use the

hall. One comment from a newcomer to the village was “The Village Hall feels exclusive not inclusive”.

There was good support for music nights, talks on local history etc, and pub nights at the village hall but there was low support for extra facilities for the young or the old.

Support for the Plant Sale was good followed closely by that for the Quiz Nights and Race Nights.

Local people were interested in Swimming, Tennis, Cricket and Badminton, which they played locally. Younger people would like an area where they could play safely.

Comments from the questionnaires.

- *Need a Social Club with outings, speakers, card game mornings.*
- *Would be good to have a youth club, cubs, karate, judo.*
- *Is there enough demand for these activities.*
- *Need old- fashioned youth club. Anything that helps kids get out and enjoy themselves.*
- *Being part of a village community, people care and help others around them. Activities happen sometimes without being pre-organised*
- *I use byways for motoring and motorcycling. I do not want the CSA so-called “quiet roads” preventing my using them.*
- *A monthly / bimonthly market for local produce*

Action

- Talk to Village Hall committee about events to organise.
- Suggest Flyer to be sent to all homes asking for volunteers to organise events. (Village Hall Committee)
- Make people aware of services already available.
- Explore what other mobile services could be invited into Pertenhall.
- Explore the possibility of buying / renting a small piece of land for slide and swing.

Section 9 Local and Public Services

Overview

Because we are a very small rural community our local and public services are very limited.



Questionnaire Results

This section sought to find out how much villagers knew about local and public services and how they rated them. If any were rated poorly it would give ammunition to try to get things improved.

Many people said that one of the reasons they chose to live in Pertenhall was that it was a typical village and there were not expected to be many local services. A typical comment was “ If we had wanted lots of services we would not have chosen to live in Pertenhall”.

Very few people were in favour of pavements or street lighting.

Many people would welcome delivery of free Newspapers.

Drain cleaning and verge cutting were criticized for not being carried out frequently enough.

In general the Postal Service was felt to be good, especially as the postman gets to know all the villagers and misdelivered mail is at an absolute minimum. In fact the Postman is almost looked on as an honorary villager.

Comments from the questionnaires.

- *Newspaper delivery costs are too high. We have stopped them.*
- *Didn't know there was a Mobile Library.*
- *Recycling must be improved by the Borough Council.*
- *If we had pavements we would all walk more.*
- *Local Newspapers are useful for keeping in touch.*
- *If we get Beds on Sunday delivered free why not Times and Citizen.*
- *Street lighting and pavements would destroy the character of the village*
- *If we had wanted lots of services we would not have moved here.*

Action

- Try to get free delivery of Times and Citizen.
- Discuss drain cleaning and verge cutting with Parish Council
- Produce a list of local services and circulate it to all houses in the village

Section 10 Security

Overview

As a small rural community Pertenhall is fortunate in not experiencing much crime. There is a local Police Office at Riseley, 4 miles away, which is manned on a part-time basis. The main Police Station for this area is on Greyfriars in Bedford and is manned continuously. Occasionally, we are visited by the Mobile Police Office, which parks on the Village Hall car park. This enables villagers to maintain a contact with the local police. The local Beat Manager, Rob Smith and Crime Reduction Officer, Lara Curtayne occasionally attend the parish council meetings.

There is a village Neighbourhood Watch scheme as part of the Bedford and District scheme and this consists of a co-ordinator, a deputy and 9 Street Co-ordinators. Pertenhall is a fairly close-knit community and villagers tend to look out for their neighbours.



Questionnaire Results

In this section an attempt was made to find out if people feel safe in the village and to canvass their opinions on security issues.

From the answers it would appear that with only two exceptions people feel very safe in Pertenhall.

Most are aware of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme but do not necessarily know their street coordinator. Cold calling is not a problem and has not been for about three years. The main crime concerns are burglary, litter and fly tipping. Fly tipping would appear to be the number one concern within the village. There is no concern about drugs, car crime, vandalism, graffiti and antisocial behaviour.

The one thing, which does worry people, is the slow response time of the police to reported crime. In the comments section there was not one comment praising the police either for speed of response or crime detection rates.

Most residents are aware of the mobile police office and most support it although that does not necessarily mean they have attended it.

Comments from the questionnaires.

- *I was concerned about and unwelcome caller on Manorgate shared drive – left a message on Police answerphone and have never had a reply.*
- *Only time we see the Police is when Council Tax demand arrives*
- *It would help if Control Centre knew where Pertenhall is and would not argue that it is in Cambridgeshire*
- *Knowing the Police will respond if you have a problem is important.*
- *Local Police presence is essential.*

Action

- Inform ALL residents about Neighbourhood Watch and who their co-ordinator is.
- Discuss response times with police at Riseley as a first step.
- Give more notice of the mobile police office attendance in Pertenhall.

Section 11 Health and Social Care

Overview

Pertenhall is situated on the boundary between Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire. It is served by two General Practices, both of which are situated in Cambridgeshire, one in Kimbolton and one in Great Staughton.

Although most hospital referrals are made to Hinchingsbrooke Hospital in Huntingdon it has been known for Bedford General Hospital to be used. This is especially so if an ambulance is called for an emergency.

The nearest Fire Station is the “retained” service in Kimbolton

Questionnaire Results

This part of the questionnaire tried to find out people’s attitudes to the local Health, Fire Police and Ambulance services.

When residents have called the police to report a crime it has been difficult to convince the operator that Pertenhall is in Bedfordshire and not Cambridgeshire. This could be partly to blame for the poor police response time reported by 23 people.

Although few people are in favour of the Doctor out of hours system most have had good results although some people are not happy at having to drive through a rather rough part of Huntingdon late at night.

The Kimbolton Fire Service has been praised for its rapid response and the fact that it is fully au fait with the area and the local addresses.

In general the ambulance service has been efficient although one resident is concerned about whether she would be taken to Bedford or Huntingdon.

Comments from the questionnaires.

- *Fire Service first class – difficult to praise Kimbolton Service enough.*
- *Kimbolton Fire Service excellent because of local knowledge.*
- *I do not approve of 5 days only doctor service. There should be a 7 days a week service even if one has to pay for it.*
- *Huntsdoc system is awful*

- *Kimbolton Surgery is very helpful.*
- *Pertenhall might benefit from a Village Care Scheme.*
- *It worries me that should I call an ambulance it might take me to Bedford not Hinchignbrooke.*

Action

- Discuss the county boundary problem with the police.
- Discuss the out of hours situation with the Huntingdon PCT
- Investigate setting up a Village Care Scheme

Summary of Actions from all sections.
Actions which are common to both villages are marked *

| Action | Facilitator | Timescale | Cost |
|---|---|------------------|----------------|
| 1.1 Keep Pertenhall a pleasant village. | Parish Council | Ongoing | Nil |
| 1.2 Keep careful watch on the fly problem. * | Parish Council | Summer 2007 | Nil |
| 1.3 Investigate provision of dog litter bins. | Parish Council Borough Council | Oct. 2007 | Nil to village |
| 1.4 Increase the number of "litter picks" | Pride in Beds. | Ongoing | Nil |
| 1.5 Investigate and remedy footpath and bridleway problems.* | Parish Council County Council Rights of Way Dept | Oct. 2007 | ? |
| 1.6 Increase hedge and verge cutting programme. | Parish Council | Nov. 2007 | Approx £200 pa |
| | | | |
| 2.1 Ensure the authorities are aware that some new housing will be needed in the future. | Parish Council | Ongoing | Nil |
| 2.2 Ensure the authorities are aware that villagers do not want new houses for private rent in the village. | Parish Council | Ongoing | Nil |
| | | | |
| 3.1 See if DART service and booking can be simplified. | County Council | Oct. 2007 | Nil |
| 3.2 Ensure Police know that speeding is still a problem. | Parish Council | Oct. 2007 | Nil |
| 3.3 Try to obtain a "weight restriction" through the village. * | Parish Council | 2008 | Nil |
| 3.4 Discuss with Postal Services to see if the Church Drive post box could be re-sited to a safer place. | Parish Council | Nov. 2007 | Nil |
| 3.5 Investigate provision of "road condition Complaint Cards". | Parish Council Highways Agency | Oct 2007 | Nil |

Summary of Actions from all sections

| Action | Facilitator | Timescale | Cost |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| 4.1 Forge closer ties with local schools. * | Parish Council | Dec. 2007 | Nil |
| 4.2 Find people to run a youth club. * | Village Hall Committee | Dec.2007 | Nil |
| 4.3 Organise leisure courses in Village Hall. (day/evening) * | Village Hall Committee | Dec. 2007 | Nil |
| 4.4 Organise regular lectures in Village Hall. (day/evening) | Village Hall Committee | Dec. 2007 | Nil |
| 4.5 Explore purchase/rental of small piece of land for slide and swing. * | Parish Council | Dec.2007 | ? |
| 4.6 Investigate setting up mother and toddler group. | Village Hall Committee/Parish Council | Dec2007 | ? |
| | | | |
| 5.1 Ensure the Rector, PCC and JPCC are aware of comments in section 5. | Parish Plan Steering Group | Sept. 2007 | Nil |
| | | | |
| 6.1 Consider the impact of future Planning Applications. * | Parish Council | Ongoing | Nil |
| 6.2 Produce a directory of local trades and industries. * | Parish Council | Dec. 2007 | Funded by adverts? |
| | | | |
| 7.1 Get Parish Council to update and improve their website. | Parish Council | Dec. 2007 | ? |
| 7.2 Get County and Borough Councillors to circulate what their remit covers. | Parish Council | Sept. 2007 | Nil |

Summary of Actions from all sections

| Action | Facilitator | Timescale | Cost |
|---|---|------------|-------|
| 8.1 Talk to Village Hall Committee about events to organise. | Parish Plan Steering Group | Oct.2007 | Nil |
| 8.2 Flyer to be sent to all homes seeking volunteers to organise events. | Village Hall Committee | Dec. 2007 | Small |
| 8.3 Make villagers aware of what services are already available. | Parish Council | Oct. 2007 | Small |
| 8.4 Explore what other mobile services could be invited into the village. * | Parish Council | Nov. 2007 | Nil |
| | | | |
| 9.1 Try to get free delivery of Times and Citizen into village. | Parish Council | Sept.2007 | Nil |
| 9.2 Review drain cleaning and hedge cutting schedules. * | Parish Council | Dec. 2007 | ? |
| | | | |
| 10.1 Produce list of all Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators and circulate it. * | Neighbourhood Watch Village Coordinator | Sept. 2007 | Nil |
| 10.2 Inform local Police about response times and obtain a reply. | Parish Council | Oct. 2007 | Nil |
| 10.3 Try to get Mobile Police Station visits re-organised and publicise dates in advance. | Neighbourhood Watch Village Coordinator | Oct. 2007 | Nil |
| 10.4 Ensure that Police and Ambulance Call Centres know that Pertenhall is in Bedfordshire. | Parish Council | Oct. 2007 | Nil |
| | | | |
| 11.1 Discuss County Boundary problems with local police. * | Parish Council | Oct. 2007 | Nil |
| 11.2 Discuss the out of hours doctor situation with Hunts PCT. | Parish Council | Nov. 2007 | Nil |
| 11.3 Investigate setting up a Village Care Scheme. | Parish Council | March 2008 | Nil |
| 11.4 Ensure Kimbolton Surgery is aware that the villagers hold them in high regard. | Parish Council | Sept. 2007 | Nil |

Actions which are common to both villages are marked *

We would like to acknowledge help, financial and in kind from :-

DEFRA

Bedford and Luton Community Foundation

Pertenhall and Swineshead Parish Council

Bird Bros.

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity

The Parish Plan Steering Groups

**All villagers who have contributed to the publication of this
document**

Pride in Bedford