

A NEW VIEW OF HIGHAM



HIGHAM PARISH PLAN
2007

Higham Parish Plan

In 2006, everyone in Higham had the opportunity to express their concerns and wishes for the future development of the village.

Volunteers organised the distribution of a questionnaire to every household in the village. An Open Day took place in the Village Hall where residents added their views. The information received forms the basis of the plan.

The Parish Plan is not about the Parish Council or anyone else imposing their views, nor does it have all the right answers. It is only a starting point.

It is a reflection of what we think is important and how we would like to see Higham develop in the future.

In each section there are some ideas as to what might be done.

History of Higham



Higham is situated in the Borough of Pendle in East Lancashire, on the South side of Pendle Hill, between the towns of Nelson and Padiham.

In Roman times, Higham occupied a position midway between the Roman camp at Ribchester and the Roman colony at Colne.

The Saxons followed and left some evidence of their passage. The name Higham comes from two Saxon words:

Heg (High) Ham (small place/village)

During Norman times, most of the land now known as Pendle Forest, was uncultivated land and available for hunting

A notable building in Higham is the manor house, Higham Hall, built in 1327, where the Halmote Court was held twice a year, April and October.

Higham Hall was found to be unsuitable for the court around the middle of the 19th Century, so it was transferred to the Four Alls Inn. The Halmote Court, though shorn of its old powers, continued to be held in Higham until the early 20th century.

In the 17th century, farming was the chief occupation but even at this time, the textile industry played a part in the economic life of the village.

The inventions of the late 18th century, and the introduction of power looms meant the golden age of the handloom did not last long, for the new factories could weave faster and cheaper than the handloom weaver.

Some relief was brought to the village by the building of Fir Trees Mill in 1851 and Clover Croft Mill the following year.

Higham had a shuttle works, (later a bobbin making factory) which was a water powered site established in the first half of the 19th Century.

Fir Trees Mill was a small weaving shed built in 1851 . Workers lived in terraced houses built for them on Laneside. It was modernised in the 1950s, closed in 1965 and sold to Wareprod Engineering. It was eventually demolished in the 1980s and the site used for housing.



Clover Croft Mill was built in 1852 .Cheaper foreign imports forced its closure in 1962. The business was taken over and became part of Viyella. In 1969 Cloverbrook Ltd was formed, which manufactured single and double jersey fabrics from 1970 - 1990s.

In 1995 it was sold to Winchester Furniture who ran their business from it until 2004. The building was finally completely demolished in 2006.

There was also some mining in and around Higham.

Higham Colliery had a shaft from Habergham Colliery, which operated from 1912 to 1930. Fir Trees Drift Mine opened in 1953. It had a workforce of 80. The last coal was mined in 1966. West Close Open Cast Mine operated from 1948 to 1959.

In 2006 Higham had a population of approximately 1000. Sixty years ago, there were about 2000 people, but then the boundaries stretched from Padiham to Sabden to Fence (Forest Inn on Cuckstool Lane).

The Four Alls Inn opened in 1792.
The name 'Four Alls' denotes:
The King rules all.
The Priest prays for all.
The Soldier fights for all.
The Common Man pays for all.

In 1950 other businesses included newsagents/village store, Co-op, Post Office, cobblers, café/grocer, sweet shop, three butchers, blacksmith, joiner, undertaker and even a baby clinic.



In 2006, only the Four Alls Inn and the village shop/Post Office remained.

Higham's most famous citizen was Sir Jonas Moore.

Sir Jonas Moore was born at Higher Whitelee on 8th February 1617.

As a mathematician he is best known as the first to use the notation '*cot*' (cotangent). Perhaps his most important contribution was his setting up of the Royal Observatory at Greenwich with John Flamsteed, who became the first Astronomer Royal.

Methodism was very strong in Higham. The impressive Wesleyan Chapel, which stood just off the main street in Higham, was built in 1872 and demolished in 1983.



As early as 1816, there was a Methodist School in Chapel Street, which was replaced by the 'old' school and finally by the New School in Sabden Road in 1859, This closed in 1967 and is now 4 dwellings.

The National School was built by public subscription in 1837, used as a school and also for Church of England services. In 1872 it was decided to build a Church on land adjoining the school. The Church, dedicated to St. John the Evangelist, was completed in 1876.

The Church was originally a daughter church of St. Leonard's, Padiham, until 2002 when it became a parish church in its own right. The church is now a joint benefice with the neighbouring parish of St. Anne's, Fence.

Eventually a new school was built, but the National School (Old School) continued to be used as an infant classroom and dining room, until the late 1970s, when it was purchased to be used as the Village Hall.

As the volume of traffic increased, the serious problem of the the busy Barrowford Road running through the village was solved by the construction of a bypass (A 6068), and later the M65.



Over the last forty years modern housing has been built on the outskirts of the village, many of the terraced properties have been renovated and modernised internally. Most of the old farm buildings have been renovated sympathetically and converted into homes.

Higham is situated in the midst of the Pendle countryside, and although it has undergone many changes throughout its history, it still retains much of its charm.



The Questionnaire - what you said

The response rate to the survey, was a return of over 52% of the questionnaires sent out to all households. This exceeded what we had been led to expect. Hopefully this means that we can be confident that the opinions given are likely to be representative of the views of the villagers.

1. Traffic & Parking

A. Speeding Traffic. One of the main complaints about traffic within the village was speeding on Higham Hall Road and Sabden Road. The main idea to combat this problem was the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit within the village.

'Slow traffic down through the village, especially on the top part of Higham Hall Road and Sabden Road'.

Action1:- Liaise with Lancashire County Council, the Police and Higham Parish Council to discuss the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit within the village.

Action 2:- Take the matter to the Pendle Safety Partnership to try to get them to adopt this matter as a campaign.

B. Parking within Higham Village. Many people requested the provision of more parking facilities within the village, in particular the problem caused by parents parking outside the school on Higham Hall Road at school opening and closing times.

'The village needs more car parking areas NOW'

'Restrict parking on one side of Higham Hall Road from Village Hall to junction with bypass at Nelson end'.

'At School opening and closing times, parents could be more considerate for other road users when dropping off and collecting children'.

'Parking is chaotic outside school. Car doors fly open without drivers looking for passing cars. Buses can't get through'.

The problem of parking within the village is likely to get worse when new dwellings are built on the old mill site. In order to provide more car parking facilities the necessary sites/land has to be found.

It is suggested that the access to, and the surface of, the car park off Sabden Road should be improved. The area below this car park is common land, which is used by a small number of residents to park their cars. It is believed that this cannot be improved and it is up to the people that use it to do so with consideration for other users so that as many as possible can use it.

The access to both these car parks is via the rough land at the bottom of Slack Lane, adjacent to the gable ends of Hambledon View and Pendle View. This land has not been adopted by Lancashire County Council, so as it stands at present, all the users of this piece of land would have to get together and finance any improvements themselves.

Action 1:- Liaise with the Parish Council, Pendle Borough Council and other interested parties to try to identify land that could be used to provide off road parking.

Action 2:- Organise the residents to form a committee to work with Higham Parish Council in lobbying Lancashire County Council in an effort to get them to adopt the land at the bottom of Slack Lane, so that it is made into a proper road surface, particularly as the refuse vehicles use this to get to the back of both terraces.

Action 3:- The Parish Council, Lancashire County Council Education Department and Lancashire County Council Highways to renew their efforts together to find a solution to the parking problem at St. John's School. In particular to further explore the provision of a car park on land adjacent to the present entrance of the school car park. Reposition the 50 mph speed limit sign from near the school entrance to the junction with the A6068 Barrowford Road so as to allow proper entrance and egress points onto Higham Hall Road.

Action 4:- Higham Parish Council and Lancashire County Council Highways Department to review the provision of 'No Parking' areas on Higham Hall Road and Sabden Road at points that are considered to be made more dangerous due to the parking of vehicles.

2. Information

A large proportion of the people that answered the questionnaire would like to see firstly, a village newsletter and secondly, a village website. The village newsletter would pose the problems of funding and personnel. The last time the village had a newsletter, (apart from a very good circular produced on behalf of St. John's Church), it was funded by the Parish Council and was primarily a vehicle to convey what the Parish Council was doing. It is interesting to see that 77% of those replying to the questionnaire wanted more information about the Parish Council's activities. So it would seem a good idea to re-introduce a newsletter, supported by the Parish Council to provide the required information and points of interest to the villagers in general. It is understood that the formation of a village website is underway, supported by the Parish Council.

Both the above, could of course be produced by a professional person / agency, but the cost would then have to be taken into account.

Action 1:- The Parish Council to be approached with a view to them funding and running a village newsletter as well as the village website. The question of volunteers or agency to run the two schemes to be addressed by asking for volunteers within the community and making enquiries about support from Pendle Borough Council.

3. Local Services

In general, the provision of services within the village was regarded as good or reasonable. The areas of some concern were regarding water supply, street lighting and litter bins. There was also concern shown about the provision of starter homes for those taking their first steps onto the housing ladder. Footpaths are also an area of concern, particularly the provision of dropped kerbs.

A. Water Supply. The village, over the years, has been beset by problems concerning the provision of good, clean drinking water. In order to combat the problems, the pipework and pumping stations have been improved over the last few years leading to less frequent problems with the supply. However, water pressure, or lack of it, seems to be a problem in some areas of the village but not in others.

Action 1:- Contact the Water Authorities regarding the reliability of the water supply to Higham and discover what steps are being taken, or have been taken recently, to maintain or improve the water supply.

Depending on the outcome of this enquiry, contact local councillors to ensure their support for any work that needs doing.

B. Street lighting. Street lighting, in particular on Higham Hall Road, is very poor at times. This is mainly when the trees are in leaf and because the trees have grown considerably, they obscure the street lamps and cause dark areas. This is a potential hazard and needs to be addressed.

Action 2:- Approach the Parish Council and Lancashire County Council to point out the areas where the street lighting is obscured so that the necessary work can be carried out.

C. Refuse bins. In the recent past, the provision 'dog bins' has improved the environment within the village, but at times, the bins become overfilled and are in need of more frequent emptying. We also seem to 'lose' some of our general waste bins, through damage or theft. Prompt replacement of these bins would help in keeping the village a tidy and clean place to live.

Action 3:- Identify areas where more dog and general refuse bins are needed and pass the information on to the Parish Council and Pendle Borough Council. Liaise with Pendle BC to discuss the provision of more frequent emptying of bins and replacement of damaged or stolen bins.

D. Starter Homes. The questionnaire revealed a concern about the lack of homes available within the parish for people trying to get on the housing ladder. Although there does not appear to be anywhere left for the building of homes within the parish, it would be prudent to contact the planning Department of Pendle Borough Council and request that any future development contains provision for the inclusion of 'starter homes'.

Action 4:- Liaise with Pendle Borough Council Planning Department in an effort to ensure that any future development within the parish includes some starter homes for first time buyers.

E. Footpaths. Footpaths within the village were a subject of concern. The building of houses on the site of the old mill will alleviate one problem, as the plans include the provision of a new footpath across from the existing cottages on Higham Hall Road. This footpath will extend to the wall of The Four Alls car park, where pedestrians will be able to cross the road to the footpath opposite. A suggestion was made to the effect that if the front wall enclosing the car park was removed, then pedestrians would have a safe footpath into the centre of the village without crossing the road.

The subject of 'dropped kerbs' was also brought up. There would seem to be several areas where the kerbs have not been dropped, therefore making passage difficult for parents pushing prams, disabled people in wheelchairs and for people with walking difficulties.

Action 5:- Liaise with Higham Parish Council, Pendle Borough Council, Lancashire County Council Highways Department and the owners of The Four Alls Public House to see if it is feasible for the front wall of the car park of the Four Alls to be removed and a footpath provided.

Action 6:- Liaise with the Parish Council, Pendle Borough Council and Lancashire County Council to identify sites where dropped kerbs are needed. To discuss the provision of a footpath at the side of the Village Hall so as to better facilitate disabled access.

4. Policing

There were three main areas highlighted concerning crime or anti-social behaviour. These were theft (including theft of, or from cars), vandalism and youth problems. It is worth noting that 20% of those replying did not have any concerns about the state of crime within the village.

A. Theft (of and from motor vehicles). With regards to theft, cars seem to be a predominant target. It would be enlightening to see if these offences occurred whilst vehicles were parked on the road or on off street car parks / private drives. We want more cars to be parked on car parks, but if they are being targeted there, can we expect residents to put their property at more risk? If this is the case, security of any new parking areas must be high on the agenda.

Action1:- Liaise with the Police with regards to the identified causes of concern and identify areas where offences take place. Address the concerns about the lack of police presence and how to improve communications between the public and the police.

B. Vandalism and Youth Problems. Vandalism was high on villagers' concerns. If we can identify where most of this type of crime is being committed then we could look at what action needs to be taken to combat it.

The other area for concern was one of youth problems. This is a wide ranging area to tackle. It is accepted that there is not enough to entertain the various age groups of younger people within the Parish, and that facilities in rural areas are inferior to those in urban areas. However, a plea was made by two local youths for the introduction of a Youth Club. If properly run, such a club would provide a focal point for the young people of the parish and would possibly give them a sense of belonging which would engender a feeling of responsibility.

It was significantly felt that the police coverage of the parish was poor, and that a greater police presence was needed. A better means of consultation with the police was called for. A new neighbourhood watch scheme was seen as a possible vehicle for improving villagers' awareness and a means of communicating with police officers.

'Biggest problem in the village at the moment is vandalism of Children's Play Area and Recreation Ground by teenagers'.

Action 2:- Liaise with the Police regarding the causes of concern. Address the concerns about the lack of Police presence and how to improve communications between the public and the police.

Action3:- Liaise with Police and other agencies to re-introduce a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme within the parish.

Action 4:- Bring together parents, youth services, church representatives, village hall committee and any other interested parties to urgently review the possibility of providing a Youth Club.

5. Environment

Concern was shown about the state of the grass verges and footpaths on Barrowford Road. It is felt that too much of the verges is left uncut, and that cutting does not take place often enough. The footpaths provided are overgrown by grass and bushes to the extent that they are a danger to pedestrians.

Residents were also concerned about the amount of litter and the possible ways in which we could clean up the village. The suggestion of a 'clean up day' was popular.

In order that younger people within the village are catered for, the provision of a multi-purpose games area was called for.

'We enjoy walking from Higham to Fence, but the pathway along the by-pass is in desperate need of widening and clearing away all the mud'.

'Proper upkeep of the minor country roads, including maintaining drainage systems, clearing ditches etc. This used to be done yearly'.

Action 1:- Liaise with Lancashire County Council Highways Department about the extent and frequency of maintenance work on the verges, footpaths and boundary bushes on Barrowford Road with emphasis on the safety of pedestrians a priority.

Action 2:- Arrange a meeting with residents to discuss the provision of a regular 'spring clean' day and liaise with the Parish Council to provide a skip or other suitable means of disposing of the rubbish collected.

Action 3:- Liaise with Pendle Borough Council, Higham Parish Council, Youth Services, LCC and any other identified parties to discuss the provision of and financing a multi spots area to be sited on the Recreation Ground.

Action 4:- Liaise with the Parish Council about the development of the Methodist Churchyard to provide gardens and a seating area.

6. Sport & Leisure

The main criticism of Higham, as well as most other villages, is the lack of facilities for young people. The lack of these facilities is partly the cause of 'youth problems' detailed under the Policing section.

'For many years my son & husband were involved in Higham Boys Football Team. Is there sufficient interest in starting one up again, I wonder?'

'I would be happy to spend time encouraging teenagers in the village to be part of any development of play facilities (MUGA), keeping them involved and actively part of any plans will in the long term encourage them to look after any new equipment.'

Action 1:- Bring together parents, youth services, church representatives, village hall committee and any other interested parties to urgently review the possibility of providing a Youth Club.

AGENCIES INVOLVED IN PROPOSED ACTIONS

LCC Highways -
Police - Parish Council

Action 1

SPEEDING

Action 2

Pendle Safety Partnership

Parish Council -
Pendle Boro Council

Action

INFORMATION

Parish Council -
Pendle Boro Council

Action 1

Action 2

Parish Council -
LCC Highways

PARKING

Parish Council -
LCC Education -
LCC Highways

Action 3

Action 4

Parish Council -
LCC Highways

Action

Parish Council -
LCC Highways

STREET LIGHTING

United Utilities

Action

WATER

Action

REFUSE BINS

Parish Council -
Pendle Boro Council

Parish Council -
Pendle Boro Council -
LCC Highways -
Four Alls Inn

Action 1

LOCAL SERVICES

FOOTPATHS

Action 2

Parish Council -
Village Hall -
LCC Highways -
Pendle

Police

Action

Vandalism & Youth

Action 1

Police

Theft of & from motor vehicles

Action 2

Police -
Pendle Boro Council -
Residents -
Parents

POLICING

Action

Parents -
Youth Services -
Parish Council -
St Johns Church -
Village Hall -
Pendle Boro Council -
LCC

SPORT AND LEISURE

LCC Highways -
Police

Action 1

ENVIRONMENT

Action 2

Parish Council -
Residents

Action 3

Pendle Boro Council -
Parish Council -
Youth Services -
LCC

So what happens next?.....

All the responses and quotes in this document have come from you, the people of Higham.

'The village is already very good. The residents should appreciate what they have.'

'We really enjoy living in Higham and feel that the efforts made by volunteers are admirable. We try to use local services and usually see a welcoming face. I feel that we were made welcome when we moved to the village - coffee & chat etc. Thank you.'

Not everyone is going to agree on every single detail, but it's a starting point for discussion. Unless people are prepared to get involved, suggestions made in this Plan will not become actions. In this plan there are some ideas on how problems and issues might be addressed - you might have better ones!

..... it's up to you!

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The Way We Were

