



## East Meon

The Parish of East Meon is the largest, geographically, in East Hampshire. In 1999 the parish prepared a Village Design Statement which made recommendations for the built environment. The Parish Council decided in the autumn of 2003 to sponsor a Parish Plan which would address a wider range of issues.



*All Saints Church and Church Cottage*

## Parish Plans

**“The Government wants local communities to take more control of their own lives, to say what they want doing in their own neighbourhoods and to engage with other powers to get it done.”** With these words the Countryside Agency invited Parishes to prepare their own Plans to “provide you with a blueprint for the future survival of your rural community ,,, influence local strategic partnerships .... to form part of the bedrock of the local development frameworks that will be prepared by every local planning authority to replace existing local plans.”

The Parish Plan represents, therefore, an opportunity for the community to support the Parish Council and the East Hampshire District Council by expressing its concerns and hopes for the future of East Meon. EHDC and other authorities will hopefully adopt projects within their project proposals format.

The rate of change in East Meon gets faster every year. We are designated to become part of a South Downs National Park in 2005. The village has broadband and new patterns of working are emerging. There is pressure to build more houses within the parish boundaries. Traffic grows and seems to go faster.

## East Meon Parish Plan

The Steering Group selected these issues on which to report:

1. Traffic, Parking and Signage
2. Village Life
3. The River
4. Flooding
5. East Meon at Work
6. Housing

Funds for the preparation of this Parish Plan have been provided by East Hants District Council, the East Meon Parish Council, the East Meon Good Causes Fund, and by the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – our thanks are due to them.

Thanks are also due to the people co-ordinating the working parties, Jeremy Sweeney, Gillian Williams, Heather Kendall and Sue Williams and to Simon Mortimore who is responsible for the Survey. Four Parish Councillors sat on the Steering Group, each with responsibility for a topic – Alan Redpath for Traffic, Anella Parker Martin for Village Life, Michael Blakstad for East Meon at Work and Sue Barrett for Housing, while Michael Atkinson, Chair of the Parish Council, has been working on issues concerning Flooding. The Parish is lucky to have many residents who possess relevant skills and expertise, including Jim Kendall who constructed the website, [www.eastmeon.net](http://www.eastmeon.net), Robert Porter, a solicitor specialising in building developments who has advised us on Housing and David Prichard, a retired civil engineer, who conducted the survey on Flooding in Frogmore. Others, too numerous to mention, gave active help in conducting surveys and preparing reports.

The photographs have been taken by a number of individuals including Glynn Williams, Michael Blakstad and Jim Kendall; Tricia Blakstad drew the River and the maps. Michael Blakstad edited and wrote the report.

## The process

The Countryside Agency stresses the importance of Consultation, and there have been three formal events to which the community was invited as well as a comprehensive survey of opinions. A small working party of Parish Councillors was established from which a wider Steering Group was to be formed. The first Parish meeting was held in November 2003 as an introduction to the concept and process of a Parish Plan, after which new members were recruited. Five Working Parties were established, and the Chairs of these sat on the Steering Group, along with the Parish Councillors and a small number of other advisers. Some of the Working Parties conducted their own surveys of people and organisations whose activities come under the topics covered in the Parish Plan.

The second event was an Open Day in May 2004; at it, the five Working Parties described the work they had done to date, and their preliminary recommendations. These were debated and expanded, leading to the first draft of the Parish Plan in October 2004 which was made available both on the website and in print form. In August, a Questionnaire was distributed to every home in the Parish and throughout September house visits were made to collect the forms and to help with details. Informal feedback was collected as a side-effect of this process.

The third event, in November, was another Open Day and provided the opportunity for the community to respond to the first draft and make further suggestions. A second draft was written in November and amended by the Steering Group; following this stage, the draft Parish Plan was discussed with East Hants District Council and the East Meon Parish Council. The Parish Plan was finalised in March/April 2005 and a summary distributed to all households; the full Plan was available to any who wanted to read it and it is published on the East Meon website, [www.eastmeon.net](http://www.eastmeon.net).

## SWOT analysis and recommendations

### Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats

The process of consultation and research which lies behind the Parish Plan has identified many **strengths** in the East Meon community and environment. It is a beautiful village surrounded by glorious countryside. Parish life is sustained by a large number of voluntary organizations which give selflessly of their time and energies. The River Meon has not flooded since steps were taken in the 1950s to relieve pressure points. The countryside is maintained by the hard work and dedication of its farmers. East Meon is a pioneer of broadband internet; new patterns of working enable more and more people to avoid commuting to work. The Village Design Statement written in 1999 has ensured careful housing development since that date.

It nonetheless has **weaknesses**. The growing speed of traffic through the village and increasingly congested parking spaces pose the dilemma of choosing between unsightly traffic signs and pinch-points or relatively expensive but unintrusive traffic calming methods. The young of East Meon have few of the entertainment facilities of nearby towns and restricted bus services inhibit their access to these. Successful flood prevention measures have however removed natural river habitats for fish and bird life. The hamlet of Frogmore suffers severe flooding caused by run-off from hillside and fields, and run-off affects some parts of East Meon itself. The move towards more local employment is restricted by lack of office accommodation, and the desire to buy local produce is prevented by the economics of farm distribution.

One person's **opportunities** are sometimes another's threat. The designation of East Meon as part of the National Park later in 2005 does provide opportunities for businesses in the Parish to benefit from the influx of extra visitors. This in turn provides the opportunity for more bed & breakfast accommodation. Many of the recommendations listed below represent opportunities to improve our environment and community life, such as a drop-in health centre, converting the school swimming pool to an indoor facility available to the whole Parish and so on.

Others see the National Park as a **threat** since extra cars will worsen the traffic situation and cause parking problems. Careless visitors and their dogs threaten the livelihood of farmers. Another threat lies in the pressure to increase housing, and particularly any proposal to convert the HMS Mercury buildings at Leydene.

### Traffic, Parking and Signage

The speed of traffic traveling through the village of East Meon was the prime concern of parishioners who were surveyed, and the Traffic Working Party worked closely with Hampshire District Council to identify areas for potential improvement. Its recommendations are:

1. To secure the support of the appropriate authorities to make the Parish roads as safe as possible in a way that is consistent with sustaining local agriculture, social infrastructure, economic interests, the beauty of the village & its surrounds and the environment of the area and in so doing to carry the support of the majority of interested residents and stakeholders
2. Maintain and improve current traffic calming measures
3. Secure appropriate monitoring and enforcement of speed limits consistent with helping to minimise excess vehicle speeds through the Parish which compromise the safety of residents and the amenity of the area

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4. Monitor developments in traffic calming and introduce all appropriate new measures when available
5. Survey traffic speeds and volumes through the Parish from time to time in order to evaluate the impact of the traffic calming and enforcement, as well as to monitor the impact of increased car ownership, population density and the national Park (if implemented)

## Village Life

East Meon is a very active village which reflects many of the problems faced by today's rural communities. This subject was enlightened by a forum of schoolchildren at the local primary school who spelled out their ideas for improving village life. We recommend:

1. That the School conducts an annual review of the childrens' views of the community services available in East Meon.
2. That a feasibility study be conducted of roofing and providing lifeguard facilities at the School swimming pool, making it available to the community outside school hours.
3. That a directory of services be available (see also East Meon Works) for all parishioners and for newcomers to the Parish.
4. Group discussion with young people to establish what they want, involving neighbouring communities. Consultation with the relevant departments of EHDC on leisure facilities for teenagers
5. Extend bus services between East Meon and Petersfield into the evening, enabling young people to travel to and from evening entertainment.
6. That the PC liaise with the Primary Care Trusts to explore the possibility of arranging a drop-in health clinic
7. EHDC and Hampshire Broadband to advise on extending the HPNS network at the school to other locations and for use in community services.
8. That an educational service is provided for people who are not at present able to use the internet.

## River Meon

The source of the River Meon is in the parish; the river runs through the village and through beautiful countryside on both sides. The Working Party commissioned a report from the Wild Trout Association which suggested improvements to natural habitats:

1. Agree with SINC conservation policy for River south of the Village and liaise with Environment Agency on proposed improvements to the ecology of the River.
2. Cut back trees and blast gravel.

3. Create added physical features such as gravel shallows, modest pools and added cover (small boulders) by allotments and below the car park. It is proposed to carry out a pilot scheme in the autumn of 2005, in conjunction with tree pruning in the same area<sup>1</sup>

## Flooding

The River Meon has not flooded since extensive engineering works were conducted in the 1950s. However, there remains a problem with flooding in the adjacent hamlet of Frogmore and spasmodic problems with run-off from nearby hills and fields. This Working Party recommended:

1. Implement a level survey of Frogmore on both sides of the river, Frogmore Lane and the fields to the south of the lane up to the southern bank of the river to include levels of the riverbed.
2. Consult with the Environment Agency and investigate with the HCC Highways Department whether the road in front of Bridge Cottage in Frogmore should be lowered to allow floodwaters to drain into brick lined channel without building up as flood in the hamlet.
3. Investigate a flood relief scheme in the field behind Frogmore Cottage and Bridge Cottage, as a means of significantly reducing the volume of floodwater that currently flows into the hamlet.
4. Construct a low level wall, or other form of protection, from Frogmore to Greenway, to protect the southern bank of Frogmore Lane from scouring.
5. Implement a scheme to alleviate the flooding and the influx of debris from the banks of Frogmore Lane into the hamlet, based upon the above investigations, as matter of urgency in the light of the current risks to people and property.
6. The local authority to implement a vigorous, consistent and timely service to clear the road gullies in Frogmore Lane and Frogmore after every major storm in the winter months, including clearing the drains when blocked.
7. Monitor runoff down the path, which exits near Bottle Ale Cottages, during heavy rainfall to establish whether it is necessary to install a land drain along the southern edge of the field above to restrict runoff from this field from flowing down the path into Frogmore.
8. The Parish Council to continue to monitor the effectiveness of drainage above Coombe Road.
9. Commission a professional independent survey to investigate how the sewage system becomes overloaded during periods of heavy lane and to produce an action plan.

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<sup>1</sup> As the funds available are likely to be small, the work could be carried out by volunteers. However, organization is required to take account of Health and Safety regulations (e.g. for the use of chain saws) The Environment Agency could advise on resources need for blasting the silt.

## **East Meon at Work**

The nature of employment in rural communities is evolving, driven partly by changes in the farming economy and partly by new working practices made possible by the internet and particularly broadband. East Meon is designated to become part of the National Park, and this will have an effect on tourism in the parish. Local authorities can help the farm economy by:

1. Supporting planning applications for diversification
2. By conducting a feasibility study for a local abattoir.

They could help the general economy of East Meon by:

3. Providing funds for the preparation of a directory of local information both for visitors and for new residents of East Meon (see Village Life)
4. Encouraging, on a District level, joint purchasing arrangements by shopkeepers and pub landlords to enable them to compete with the prices in supermarkets
5. Aggregating demand for local business & community broadband services in competition with the BT ADSL service<sup>2</sup>
6. Working with Hampshire Broadband to specify the business benefits of broadband for SMEs in the District.

## **Housing**

East Meon produced a Village Design Statement in 1999 and does not wish to alter the recommendations made then, apart from reaffirming:

1. That no further building should take place at Leydene
2. That the old Naval buildings be removed and replaced by Downland

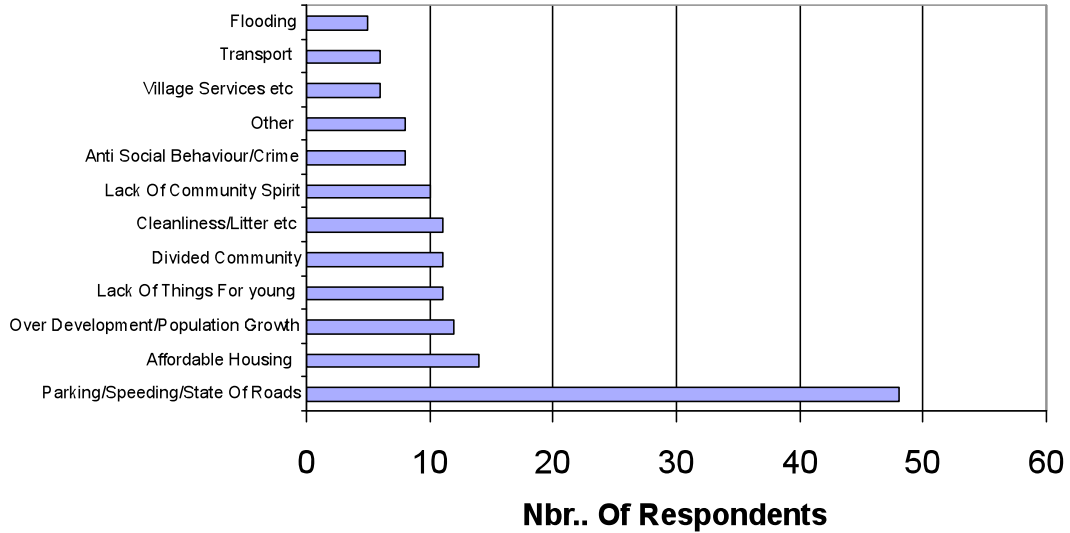
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<sup>2</sup> This was accepted as a strategic aim by the Central Area Committee of the EHDC in January 2004 and by the Economic Partnership of EHDC in September 2003

## Traffic, parking, signage

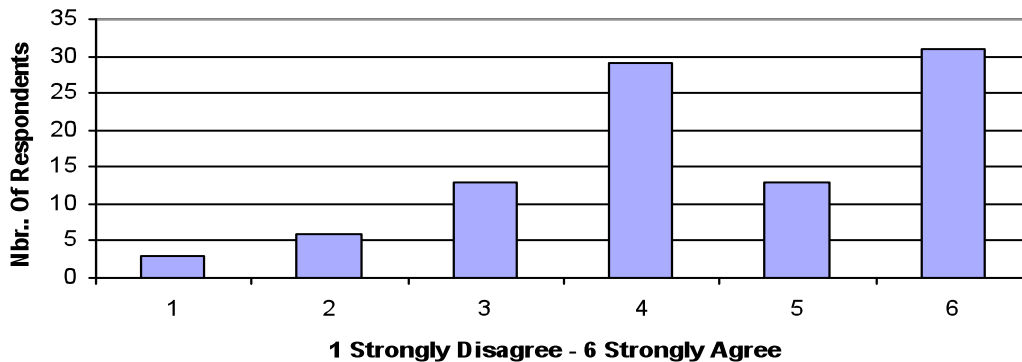
The Survey demonstrated clearly that **Traffic is the subject which concerns parishioners most**. The open question “What are the biggest problems facing the community” yielded the results shown in Chart 1, with over 31% spontaneously expressing concerns about Traffic and Road Safety. No other topic received as much as 10%.

Chart 1 What are the biggest problems facing the community?



When asked specifically to agree or disagree with the statement that Traffic and Road Safety is a problem in the community, the results are again clear.

Chart 2 Traffic and road safety is a problem in the community.

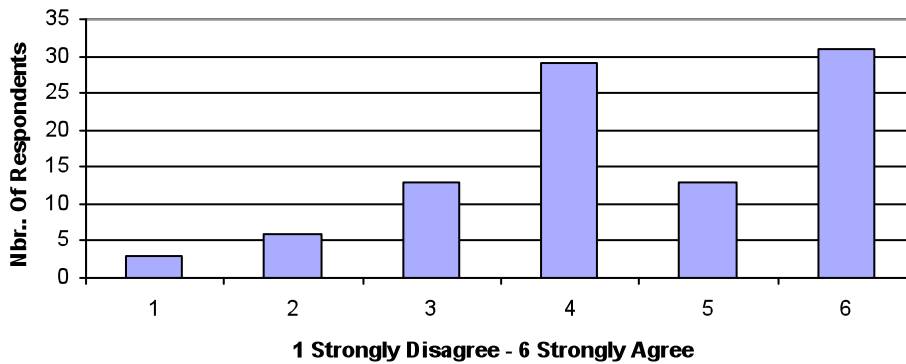


The community believes that the safety of residents is unacceptably compromised by too many vehicles going through the village too fast, and that there are places where cars are parked inappropriately along our streets. Signage appears to be chaotic, creating a visual blight. As the number of resident cars grows, and as more and more people visit East Meon, the situation will get steadily worse.

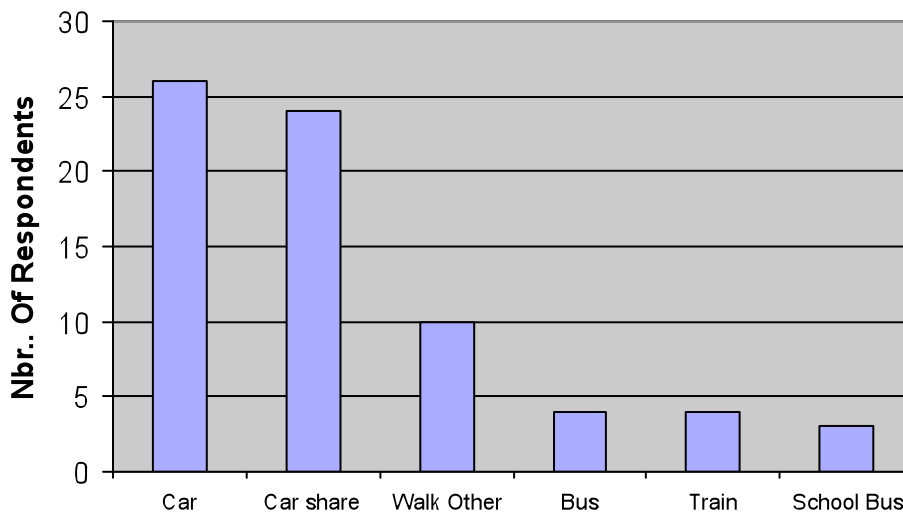
## Speed calming

As in any village in Britain, the car is by far the dominant form of transport.

*Chart 3 Modes of transport for those in full-time employment*



*Chart 4 Modes of Transport for those in full-time education*



As in most villages, again, the centre of East Meon had reached its present layout before the age of the internal combustion engine. Many houses originally built for labourers who would walk to work are now occupied by professional people who own two cars for which there is no parking space. The volume of traffic grows every year. Because of the village's distance from supermarkets, secondary schools, railway stations and most places of work, and because the public transport system is limited, cars are used for most journeys.



Budgets for introducing speed calming measures are out of the hands of the Parish Council or even of East Hants District Council, since Hampshire County Council holds the purse strings for Highways. The Traffic Working Party and the Parish Council have liaised closely with HCC which bases its budget priorities on the number of accidents – and particularly fatalities - which have taken place and, thankfully, there have been no fatalities in East Meon. However, thanks to the close liaison, HCC has conducted a survey of traffic speeds through the principal entry points to the village – Templars Brow, Coombe Road and on the road from Langrish. Without attempting to explain the mathematics<sup>3</sup>, the number of cars speeding, with the exception of the Langrish road, was shown to be technically below the thresholds which spark action by the Council due to existing traffic calming measures. As noted, however, the prevailing view of the community is that accidents are waiting to happen. HCC has indicated that it is keen to help us to improve calming measures wherever possible and appropriate.

Some of the present signage doesn't work. The 30mph sign on the top road (*picture on right*) is situated in open countryside and is therefore ignored while signs at the approaches to the School (*below*) are half-hidden by hedges.



However, the most drastic means of calming traffic, such as pinch points, sleeping policemen or mini-roundabouts, are visually obtrusive, of questionable effectiveness and would damage the beauty of our rural village (most are, as the Group's chairman put it, "more suited to a Birmingham suburb").

There is support for 'gating' (*see example on right*) at the entrance points to the Village; the term refers to a set of wooden posts on either side of a non-existent gate. This has worked in other rural areas - the gateway makes it clear to drivers that they are entering a rural village. This proposition will be put to the Parish Council.



Other devices are being considered for slowing traffic entering from Clanfield across Templar's Brow (*on left*), notably 'virtual pathways' – white lines which give the impression to motorists that they might encounter a car coming towards them without room to pass. They also provide clear areas for pedestrians to use in the road. These are not the wiggly lines which have received attention in the media – although these were designed to have the same effect.

<sup>3</sup> And with the exception of speeds along the road entering the village from Langrish

## All Saints Church



The Church is situated on the 'top road' running from Langrish to West Meon and visitors have to cross this road to enter or leave All Saints. The Parochial Church Council raised concerns about the speed of traffic passing the lych gate (*left*), along with visibility inhibited by the wall. There is no disabled parking space and wheelchair access is difficult particularly in slippery conditions.

## Parking

There is little which can be done by 'the authorities' about parking in East Meon – although we are concerned about the potential growth in the number of parked cars if and when the Parish becomes part of the National Park. The best way for reconciling most parking disputes requires the individuals concerned to address the issue between themselves and arrive at a solution that works and maintains neighbourly relations. Double yellow lines are ugly and require the enforcement of traffic wardens, something that seems neither appropriate for the village nor desirable. Lay-bys are expensive, do little to solve the problem and can adversely affect the character of the village.

## Signage

The East Meon Village Design Statement drew attention to visual blight created by a plethora of signs, both permanent and temporary, which have sprouted in different parts of East Meon.

The Traffic Working Party has consulted with the Highway Agency and the County Council; the Parish Council has no powers to install or remove street signs.



There are tight regulations dictating which signs can be erected, which includes a Developer's right to post signs until the last house on the estate has been sold. The Police, the AA and the RAC are the only bodies with authority to place temporary signs. The Parish Council can however take steps to smarten up the signs which already exist, many of which have become dowdy and faded with age. The Council is already taking a lead by introducing a 'house style' to the signs for which it is itself responsible, by the new Sports Pavilion and at the allotments.

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The AONB<sup>4</sup> favours the black-on-white traditional fingerpost which is also preferred by most parishioners; it has a rolling programme for black-on-white fingerpost signs and the Parish Council might influence it to replace and refurbish signs in the village.

The Parish Council is also considering the introduction of specially designed village name signs at the entrances to East Meon, which would need to be authorised by the Highways Agency/County Council. As it does so, it could seek a review of current signs in the hope that the two authorities might reconsider the location and number which now exist – but there is no statutory power which it can exercise.

## Footnote

The problems of traffic, parking and signage are likely to get worse with increasing prosperity, with the growth of deliveries and with increased numbers of trippers and tourists encouraged by the National Park. It's vital we keep a close eye on the situation, and maintain our close relations with HCC and the Highways Agency.

## Recommendations

1. To secure the support of the appropriate authorities to make the Parish roads as safe as possible and practical in a way that is consistent with sustaining local agriculture, social infrastructure, economic interests, the beauty of the village & its surrounds and the environment of the area; and in so doing carry the support of the majority of interested residents and stakeholders
2. Maintain and improve current traffic calming measures
3. Secure appropriate monitoring and enforcement of speed limits consistent with helping to minimise excess vehicle speeds through the Parish which compromise the safety of residents and the amenity of the area
4. Monitor developments in traffic calming and introduce all appropriate new measures when available
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<sup>4</sup> Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which will make way for the National Parks Authority if East Meon is designated part of the South Downs National Park, as seems likely.

## Village Life (Cradle to grave)



### Introduction

**The East Meon community is a strong foundation on which to build and this report indicates the areas on which we can and should do so.**

The Survey posed an open question asking what amenities, beyond Shop, Post Office and pubs, they would like to see in the Parish. Top of the list were demands for medical services in the form of a Surgery/Pharmacy and possibly Dentistry. Second came an enhanced bus service (there are no buses to and from Petersfield after 6.30 in the evening). Others include a cash machine, takeaway food, public toilets, later opening of the village shop, smaller busses, access to the School Swimming Pool and numerous requests for additional retail outlets such as a greengrocer's, later opening of the East Meon Stores (and more varied stock) hardware and an lottery outlet.

This section of the Parish Plan lists the services which do exist in the Parish, following (roughly) the ages of a human life. These are most of the services which exist, or which people believe should exist, to provide this support.

	Childhood	Youth (14 – 20)	Adulthood	Retirement	Old Age
Parents & Toddlers	X		X		
Pre-school	X				
Playgrounds	X	X			
School	X	X			
Cubs, Beavers, Scouts	X				
Youth Club/leisure & sports facilities		X			
Cricket, soccer and tennis clubs	X	X	X		
Youth workers		X			

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Police & Neighbourhood watch	X	X	X	x	
Village Hall	X	X	X	X	x
All Saints Church	X	X	X	X	x
Care Group				X	x
Drop-in clinic	X	X		X	x
Alms Houses				X	X

It is recommended that a **Directory** be prepared, in print and on the Village website<sup>5</sup>, listing these groups and services and providing contact details. Funding for such a Directory could come from the East Hants District Council Community Projects Fund.

## The Young

### Parent/toddler group

This group gets together at the Village Hall once a week. It is an important asset not only in providing care and entertainment but also in establishing contact and communication for young parents across socio-economic boundaries – though there is still a reluctance for parents in the lower-income group to participate. The group is an important feeder for East Meon Church of England Primary School. It needs more helpers, more members and funds.

### Pre-school

Until recently, a Puddleducks franchise was operated in the Village Hall; Puddleducks offers young people a curriculum leading to early learning goals, the support of a personal key worker and fun and friendship with other children. This service has now stopped and in January 2005 the East Meon Church of England Primary School started its own pre-school service for children aged 2-4 years old. This enables young families to gain from the indoor facilities and to play outside in the secure play area. The pre-school operates from Monday to Friday in a new classroom at East Meon CE Primary School and is staffed by newly appointed qualified teachers.

### Playgrounds

There are two in East Meon, one for children under nine behind the Village Hall and a new one on the Recreation Field by the cricket pitch.

### East Meon School [EMCEPS]



The EMCEPS recently celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the completion of the new classroom and has launched a new stage in serving the community, including further development of the grounds as a learning resource and for recreation.

The recent OFSTED report highlighted the very personal approach that the school provides enabling children of all abilities to achieve well. Results from 2004 placed the school in the top 25% of the country for pupils' progress.

<sup>5</sup> See also the recommendation under East Meon Works

## East Meon Parish Plan

The Head Teacher kindly arranged for a cross-section of pupils aged 9-11 to discuss their vision for the future of East Meon in ten years time. They suggested a woodland exploration trail which could be of interest to the National Park. They also suggested ways in which the school's outdoor heated swimming pool could be made available to the community, including the possibility of it being covered and used throughout the year. This would involve not only considerable cost but also the expense of providing lifeguard services; consultation will be needed with church and local authorities.

### **Holidays and half-terms**

The periods when children are not at school during the day places pressure on working parents; the number of young children in the Parish is also swollen by parents who don't live in the parish placing their children in the care of grandparents who do.

EMCEPS organizes holiday clubs (supported by the Children's Fund) and the Woking Play Bus, supported by Fair Play for Children, has also visited East Meon. It is important that these are maintained and that the School is supported in organising these.

### **Youth club & recreational facilities [EMS]**

Young people in villages lack facilities for entertainment such as cinemas, discos, coffee bars or shopping centres. The young people of East Meon have none of these and public transport is poor with none at all in the evenings when they are at leisure. Boredom is inevitable.

There are relatively few teenagers in the Parish at any one time – insufficient to create a critical mass to make organised activities viable, and few volunteers willing to give their time to help. In recent decades, youth clubs have come and gone in East Meon, always dependent on the voluntary effort of an individual with the talent and energy to muster young people and organise activities. At present there isn't one. Youth Clubs may be an out of date concept, seen as patronising by their intended members; different formats should be considered – a Snap Disco on the lines of the events organised at the Taro Centre was one suggestion by the EMS pupils' group. Snap Discos are funded and organised by the Police Authority and representation could be made to the Authority for support in East Meon<sup>6</sup>

Money was set aside for a cycle track to the west of East Meon village. A public meeting was held by the Parish Council to discuss with the youth representatives the best way to construct this, a digger was made available and the track was constructed from earth provided by the developers; the result has been mixed and use of the resource patchy – neglected in winter, used in summer for a mixture of cycle riding and other, not always salubrious, activities.

So the debate rumbles on – how can a parish of this size and resources keep young people occupied and out of mischief particularly during the school holidays? Can any Parish Council fully understand the needs and tastes of young people and how can it best communicate and consult with them?

One villager has worked with young people before and has offered his services. He has offered to talk to younger adults and enlist their help to bring teenagers together for a conversation and get them to suggest the kind of environment in which they might talk freely. He suggests talking with neighbouring communities to see whether together they might provide the critical mass required for making facilities available. The Youth Service of EHDC's Community Department should be consulted to provide the benefit of their experience of working with this age group.

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<sup>6</sup> The danger is, of course, that other villages would follow suit and drain the resources of the Police Authority

## Public transport

The young, who cannot drive, are frustrated by the lack of public transport to Petersfield in the evenings or to Clanfield at any time of the day, since many of the attractions which would occupy them are available in one or other location. A bus service to Clanfield and an evening service to and from Petersfield would be very beneficial to this age group.

## All ages

### Outdoor leisure facilities



The new multisports court, soccer pitch, and pavilion (*left*), built from the planning gain from the Kews Meadow development, offer excellent recreational facilities for outdoor sport which, when combined with the cricket ground (traditionally known as the Recreation Ground, and governed by a Trust of Parish Councillors) provide East Meon with excellent outdoor leisure facilities.

There are four active sports clubs in the parish, Cricket, Tennis, Netball and Football. However, the East Meon soccer team includes very few people living in the Parish – like Chelsea, it is notable for the high percentage of players from outside; five-a-side soccer is rarely played in the multisports court while the tennis and netball courts are much better used.

## Policing

The Hampshire Police Authority ran into a storm of protest when it decided to reduce and reorganise the deployment of police officers and resources in East Hampshire, giving the local East Meon policeman a much wider territory to patrol but offering more back-up in terms of fast response units responding emergency calls. It has done this for the simple statistical reason that crime in East Hants is not as prevalent as it is in the more urban and deprived parts of Hampshire.

The Petersfield Inspector, Stuart Rose, and local PC Dave Baker came to the Parish Council AGM to describe the changes and the response was very positive. Nonetheless, the deployment has reduced the amount of time which can be spent patrolling the parish, throwing responsibility on the community to help with voluntary activities such as Neighbourhood Watch. It is imperative that the police house in which Dave Baker and his family live should be maintained if he should retire or be moved to other duties. He is widely liked and respected in the Parish.

## Neighbourhood Watch

East Meon has recently established a Neighbourhood Watch with 12 volunteers enlisted to participate in the classic telephone tree' which is the heart of this service.

## Luncheon club

A weekly lunch is held in the Village Hall, open to members over 60 who join by paying a token amount and a contribution to the cost of the meal. Some come from West Meon. The meat is provided by a local butcher (who donates sherry for the Christmas lunch). The vegetables are fresh and cooking done by a team of local volunteers.

## Health Care

East Meon is served by a practice in West Meon and two practices in Petersfield<sup>7</sup>. The community hospital in Petersfield provides emergency care for minor injuries, as well as a range of diagnostic and treatment facilities and in-patient wards. The nearest hospitals are in Winchester and Portsmouth, not easily accessible by public transport. The West Meon surgery delivers prescribed drugs for collection at the East Meon Stores, a service which many would like to see from the Petersfield surgeries as well.

The group at East Meon Church of England Primary School suggested that a Drop-in Clinic be instituted, to be run by a nurse practitioner, to help those who have no access to transport, mainly the elderly and parents of babies and young children. Child and Family workers visit some families in East Meon on the basis that the Village is in area of rural deprivation.

It would be necessary to involve the local primary health care practices in discussing this, and the National Health Service would be asked to fund it. The growth of population suggests that this is a growing need; it would considerably reduce the workload of the Care Group which arranges for patients without their own transport to be ferried to and from surgeries and hospitals.

## Charities and community organisations

### Village hall



The Village Hall (*left*) is run by a committee of volunteers<sup>8</sup> and is hard-stretched to meet its considerable running costs. The Parish Council provides financial support for the Hall making it possible villagers to hire it at lower prices. Many of the community activities described in this Plan depend on the Hall as their venue and help the Hall recover its costs. It is a precious resource and it would be unwise for the Parish Plan to recommend how it could be better used. There is a pressing need for volunteers to run events and clubs so that the Hall can be hired even more frequently.

<sup>7</sup> The West Meon Surgery has 76% of the patients, Swan Street, Petersfield 7% and The Grange Surgery ,Petersfield 15%. There is a predominance of young patients at the Petersfield surgeries perhaps reflecting schooling and other attractions of Petersfield to this age group.

<sup>8</sup> Its membership is supposed to be representative of users, but this is not always the case





A vital part of its fund-raising is an annual May Fair (*picture on right*) which attracts thousands of visitors from the whole of the region and is run by volunteers drawn from every section of the Parish. A further regular source of income comes from hiring the Hall for Wedding Receptions and parties; like any social facility situated close to housing there is occasional noise and revelry, especially on warm summer nights and exacerbated by the strict ban on smoking indoors. The Hall itself is always closed at the licensed hour of 12.15am.

## All Saints Church

The Anglican parish church is a Grade 1 listed building. The nave and tower date from approximately 1150, as does the very fine Tournai baptismal font (*illustrated on the right*). The ten-bell chime is manned by an active group of bell ringers, while campanologists from far and wide come to ring their changes.

The church also receives a considerable number of other visitors. The extensive churchyard is still open for burials, and every attempt is made to preserve its character as a country churchyard, and as a natural habitat.

Some minor adaptations are being made to the building to make it easier for disabled people to access. The long-term financial management of the building is a concern, as the congregation, on whom the responsibility for maintenance currently falls, might not be able alone to fund major repairs to such an important building.

All Saints welcomes Christians of all traditions and sees its role both as a focus of spiritual refreshment and regeneration, and as a partner with all people of goodwill in the building up of a healthy and harmonious village community.

A Church Hall, sympathetic in appearance to the Norman church, was built on the north side of the church in 2000, and provides a meeting space, kitchenette and toilet.

The church provides a welcoming service to newcomers to the village through a personal visit by one of the Church Wardens and a welcome pack<sup>9</sup>. A village tapestry, giving a snapshot of life at the turn of the millennium, is in process of being sewn by a group of local people. It will be housed in the church when complete.



*The 12<sup>th</sup> Century Tournai Font at All Saints Church,*

*Detail of Font*



<sup>9</sup> Discussions as to how this service could be enhanced by the introduction of a Parish Directory would form part of the plan to implement this recommendation

## East Meon Parish Plan

As part of the Anglican Diocese of Portsmouth (since 1927), All Saints' Church is involved in the ongoing diocesan *Kairos* programme, which is an audit of resources and organisation at all levels to equip the church to serve the community in a more realistic and challenging way. As part of the *Kairos* programme, the Parochial Church Council recently set out some priorities for the next few years. These include

- Recruiting and training worship planners and leaders
- The development of the South Transept and other interior spaces
- Building on our good contacts with families with young children

## Forbes Almshouses



Perhaps the longest-established institution in East Meon for administering help to the poor and elderly, and a very rare facility in any village, the Forbes Almshouses (*left*) are administered and funded by a Charitable Trust, whose aim is to provide basic housing for those of very limited means. Each house consists of sitting room, bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, garden and outside store.



Five houses are two storey and two single storey. Residents pay a weekly contribution towards the upkeep of the properties. The Trustees are the Vicar and Churchwardens, the owner of Bereleigh, and one other nominated Trustee. Residents must be over 65 and have lived in the parish of East Meon or Langrish for two years or more

## Care Group

This hard-working group arranges transportation to surgeries and hospitals for people who are unable to get there by themselves. Should its load be reduced by the introduction of a Drop-in Health clinic the remit of this group could be extended to help with other activities such as walking dogs for people who are unable to do so, sit for Alzheimers patients so that their partners can get relief, keep an eye out for signs of distress in neighbours and offer elderly people the opportunity to volunteer for such activities.

## Good Causes Fund

The Good Causes Fund is a registered charity and was set up in 1986 with the aim of providing financial support to village activities deemed to be a worthy cause and in need of funding. The Fund's sole source of income, £29,000 to date, is the Gardens Open Days run by the Garden Club and is administered by a committee elected by members at an annual AGM.

Requests for funding are considered by the committee who have to ensure that they are within the guide lines laid down by The Charities Commission. Numerous causes have benefited from the £29,000 donated since the Fund's inception including the Village Hall, youth organisations, the Luncheon Club, East Meon School, Meon Matters, junior sports activities and the Queen's Golden Jubilee and Millennium celebrations. Thought has also been given to the village appearance with the planting of daffodils in road-side verges as well as additional trees and replacing some of the footpath stiles with 'kissing gates' more user-friendly to the less able.

## Parish Council

In any village, the position of the Parish Council is largely misunderstood. Few appreciate how circumscribed are its powers; on most of the topics covered in this Parish Plan the role of the Parish Council is mainly advisory – it needs to persuade other authorities to carry out the relevant action, to contribute the necessary monies. The Parish precept – its income – is a fraction of an equivalent village in, say France.

People who stand for election to the Council are usually motivated by their interest in the community, often articulate and experienced in their different walks of life, willing to dedicate a lot of their time. (For instance, East Meon has at present two farmers among its Councillors who voluntarily contribute to the physical upkeep of the village and help conserve the precept.). There are some in any community who view any Councillors with suspicion and there is room for misunderstanding. It is important that the activities and debates of the Parish Council are well understood by the rest of the community.

## Communications

### Meon Matters



This is the parish newsletter, published six times a year and distributed to all houses in East Meon. A page is dedicated to the activities of All Saints Church but it is not an organ of the church – it has an editorial board of volunteers who represent the community at large and articles are submitted by members of the parish. It is distributed free of charge, but depends on donations both by the Parish Council and by volunteers. It regularly features a report on the work of the Parish Council. It sells advertising and is an invaluable source of information about events and services in East Meon.

## The Internet

The Hampshire Public Service Network will deliver a broadband service<sup>10</sup> to East Meon School at the end of 2005. It is public policy that this facility should be made available both to community groups and to other users outside school hours, and both Hampshire Broadband and East Hants District Council have stated their intention of delivering public services over the internet, including Tourist information for visitors.

ODPM<sup>11</sup> Minister Mike O'Brien recently spelled out an ambition for Village Halls to offer 'internet café' facilities. There are considerable benefits to be gained by making broadband services available, not only at the school but other public places, including pubs and shops.

There are many issues relating to community and other public services being made available over broadband, especially where a variety of users have access to the same terminal. Not least among these is security (both physical, from vandalism, and privacy when dealing with sensitive information). There is a further challenge in overcoming both technophobia, among a very few, and unfamiliarity with online facilities, and both EHDC and Hampshire Broadband have a part to play in this form of education.

## Directory

It is recommended that a Directory be prepared, both in print and on the Village website<sup>12</sup>, listing these groups and services and provide contact details. Funding for such a Directory could come from the East Hants District Council Community Projects Fund<sup>13</sup>.

## Parish Council

Concern that the Parish Council should Improve communications has been expressed during consultation on Village Life; this discussion will continue, as it no doubt does in every community – how to persuade people to fight their natural tendencies to feel disengaged and disinterested and to become involved, offering them something from which they can get positive experience and conclude that they have made a difference.

The rapidly growing East Meon website ([www.eastmeon.net](http://www.eastmeon.net)) offers communication to 65% of the population, which could be improved with the introduction of community terminals at the school and possibly pubs. The service is being expanded and now features regular reports of Parish Council meetings.

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<sup>10</sup> 2 Megabits per second

<sup>11</sup> Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

<sup>12</sup> See also the recommendation under East Meon Works

<sup>13</sup> We are told that a contribution to its costs would very probably be made available by EHDC

## **Recommendations on Village Life**

1. That the School conducts an annual review of the childrens' views of the community services available in East Meon
2. That a feasibility study be conducted of roofing and providing lifeguard facilities at the School swimming pool, making it available to the community outside school hours.
3. That bus services be introduced to and from Clanfield and, in the evening, to and from Petersfield.
4. That a directory of services be available (see also East Meon Works) for all parishioners and for newcomers to the Parish.
5. Group discussion with young people to establish what they want, involving neighbouring communities. Consultation with the Youth Service of EHDC on leisure facilities for teenagers.
6. Extend bus services between East Meon and Petersfield into the evening, enabling young people to travel to and from evening entertainment.
7. That the PC liaise with the Primary Care Trusts to explore the possibility of arranging a drop-in health clinic.
8. EHDC and Hampshire Broadband to advise on extension of HPNS network at the school to other locations and for use in community communication and services.
9. An educational service be provided for people who are not at present able to use the internet, to enable them to access new services offered under 8.above.

## The River Meon

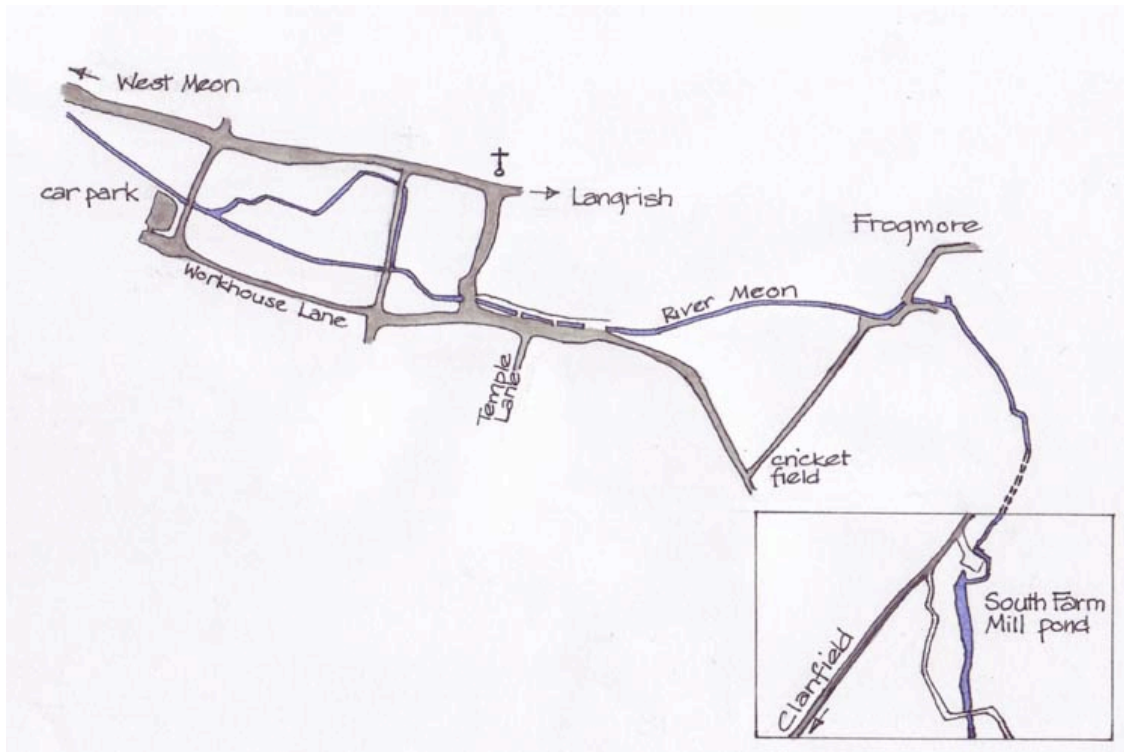


**Rivers can be emotive issues, and the River Meon represents a classic tension as it runs through East Meon.**

Dramatic flooding led to engineering works in the 1950s. Lovers of wildlife worry that there are now fewer natural habitats for fish and birds, because the flood prevention works were constructed in concrete and masonry through the High Street, but suggest that small modifications would deliver great benefits to the environment. Householders whose homes are vulnerable to flooding often prefer not to tamper, or forego measures to protect their property for fear of conflicting with the interests of others in the community.

The village of East Meon and the hamlet of Frogmore both straddle the river and lie at a level of little over 100m above sea level. In the valley of East Meon, the chalk is overlain with mixed soils including a clay stratum which lies under both the village and Frogmore.

### From the source to the village



The River Meon is a typical chalk stream, with well-sustained flow from springs along the valley side. The main spring and the source of the river is located near South Farm at 120m above sea level. There is a lesser spring at Oxenbourne which feeds a tributary joining the river in the water meadows of Lower Farm, where another smaller tributary feeds in from the downs on the southern side of the parish. From its main source the river runs in a northerly direction to Frogmore and then west through the village of East Meon before flowing in a north-westerly direction until it leaves the parish at Westbury.. Its length within the parish is about 9.5 km with an overall fall of approximately 28 metres to give a gradient of 1 in 340. This has proved sufficient to drain surface water away without flooding occurring, although its flow locally is influenced by the river path (meanders, riffles and runs), the density of plants growing within the river and friction from the bed and banks.

## East Meon Parish Plan

Runoff from rainfall adds to the river volume, and after long periods of consistent rainfall aquifers in the upper and middle strata of the chalk of the surrounding Downs become overloaded and precipitate springs which greatly add to the volume of water flowing into the river. This can cause local flooding, especially in Frogmore, as reviewed under the Flooding section.

The River Meon is classified throughout its course from its source to the sea as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). The designation does not carry statutory force, but it informs planners of important sites for nature conservation. Landowners are invited to recognise the value of the site to the environment and to enter into a programme of continuous site management to preserve and improve the quality of the site.



The Parish is fortunate to have a stretch of the river, from its source to Frogmore, which is particularly rich in flora and fauna (especially in bird species) and to have landowners dedicated to maintaining and improving this wonderful heritage.

From the source the river flows through the restored millpond to the old South Farm Mill (above), which has created a delightful haven for riverbank (riparian) birds. 101 species have been observed in a bird watch conducted throughout the Parish during 2004. Four of these species breed there - mallards prolifically.

The river then passes through Lower Farm before proceeding in a shallow meander through ancient water meadows that now sustain a wide array of flora.



A habitat survey conducted in the summer of 2004 identified 10 varieties of trees overhanging the river and 118 other species of fauna, including over 24 different plants growing in the river, 27 types of grasses, sedges and rushes, as well as many herbs and wildflowers. Of particular note were patches of fen meadow. This rich diversity produces seeds and berries and habitats for insects, which, in turn provide sustenance for over 50 species of birds identified in this area in surveys carried out by the RSPB and by local observers in a weekly bird watch throughout 2004. In the management of this special habitat, advice is sought from the Countryside Stewardship Scheme and the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group. Just before reaching the hamlet of Frogmore, the river passes near the site of Frogmore Mill, where the site of the old millpond can still be seen.



## Through the village of East Meon and to the parish western boundary



*The new culvert west of The Cross*



*The river west of the George and Corner Cottage*



*One of the six bridges which span the river during its course through East Meon*



*Running past the allotments, with overhanging trees*

The original, natural, course of the river alongside the Cross and through the garden of Cross Keys was preserved; it provides a habitat for fish including trout and encourages herons to fish. Elsewhere the relief scheme does not provide a diverse habitat and expert advice was sought to establish how this could be remedied without compromising the essential need to convey high water flows through the village without flooding.

In November 2004 a survey of the river was conducted by Dr Nick Giles of the Wild Trout Trust which is reproduced as Appendix 2. His report concludes that much could be done to improve habitats for wildlife, including trout, especially as it passes through the heart of the village. Subject to planning permission since this is a Conservation Area, he recommends cutting back overhanging trees, allowing shallows and pools to develop and water-jetting gravel to allow spawning.

## **West of the village**

West of the village, the river passes through farmland, collecting further tributaries, and then flows past the site of the third mill in the parish. The low lying fields that abut the river between Drayton and Riplington used to provide an ideal habitat for flocks of winter migrants, including fieldfares, lapwings and redwings, with little egrets appearing to supervise the scene as bird wardens. Sadly wild mink have had a devastating impact on breeding riparian birds, as moorhen and coots, as well as deterring the winter migrants that provided such interest to bird watchers on a sunny, winter's day. Action was taken earlier in 2004 to eliminate this predatory pest with beneficial results, and some riparian birds have seen breeding again in the Drayton area. However, continuous vigilance will need to be maintained to prevent mink causing havoc again.

## **Recommendations**

1. Agree with SINC conservation policy for River south of the Village and liaise with Environment Agency on proposed improvements to the ecology of the River.
2. Cut back trees and blast gravel, subject to Planning permission for trees in a Conservation Area.
3. Create added physical features such as gravel shallows, modest pools and added cover (small boulders) by allotments and below the car park (with permission of landowner). As the first step, it is proposed to carry out a pilot scheme in the autumn of 2005, in conjunction with a tree pruning exercise in the same area<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> East Hants District Council has pointed out that the Environment Agency can provide information about the most appropriate works to be undertaken on watercourses to maximise their biodiversity, including tree works.

## Flooding



*The High Street flooded in 1953*



*All Saints and Chapel Street*

**Following serious flooding of the village in 1951 and 1953, a flood protection scheme was constructed in 1955. Since this time there has been no flooding in East Meon caused by the River Meon.**

As described in the River Meon section, the works involved the creation of a new river channel from The Cross to the western end of Workhouse Lane, which by-passed and shortened the original meandering route along the side of The Cross and through the garden of Cross Keys. It thus prevented heavy flow in very wet periods hitting a wall as the river turned 90 degrees to the right, which had previously caused the river to back up through the middle of the village resulting in flooding.

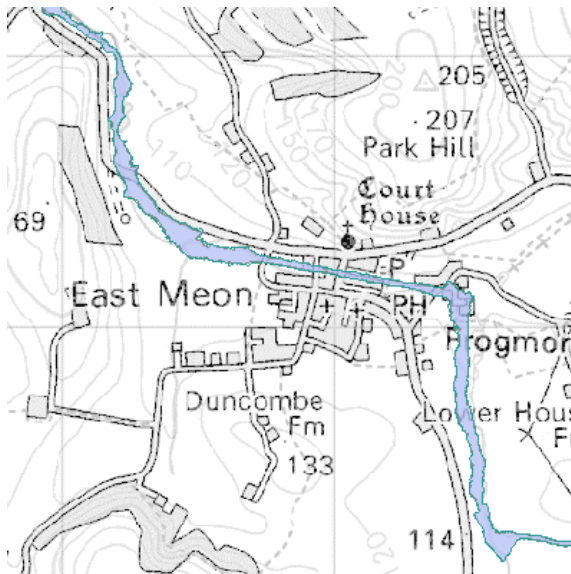
Shortening the river course by 22% through the village section increased the gradient by 28%. The bridges were widened to allow more water to pass beneath, and the river was deepened, widened, lined with masonry and its bed concreted in the stretch through the High Street: all of which allows water to run freely through the village.

Similar improvements were carried out in the stretch through Frogmore, although the wall defences were left breached by the preservation of an ancient ford to a farm that now no longer exists.



## East Meon Parish Plan

The River Meon information sheet, published by the Environment Agency in 2001, records the long previous history of flooding in the Meon valley and describes the river as being the "flashiest" of the Hampshire Chalk streams and rivers. The steep catchment and Middle Chalk causes a higher runoff following rainfall than is usually experienced on chalk streams. These characteristics of the catchment result in heavy rain having a dramatic effect, particularly when preceded by a period of rainfall.



In October 2004 the Environment Agency produced a map showing the potential flood risks facing East Meon (<http://www.maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/gazetteer>).

The Agency categorises the Parish as an area with only a low risk 'from flooding by rivers or sea'.

However, the hamlet of Frogmore, to the east of the Village, is described as a high-risk zone.

It is appropriate to set these broad statements into the context of recent years in which April 2000 - March 2001 was the wettest year for 83 years of available records<sup>15</sup>.

## 2000 - 2004

As recorded at the Soberton Pumping Station, the rainfall in the "water year" April 2000 – March 2001 was 1500mm (59"). This exceeded the previous highest of 1200 mm (47") by 25% for the 83 years of available records and has been estimated as having a frequency of occurrence of 1 in 100 years. The rainfall of 1250mm (49") over the winter period, October 2000 – March 2001, was also estimated to be a 1 in 100 years event and was accompanied by incidents of flooding throughout the Meon valley at Frogmore, West Meon, Exton, Meonstoke, etc. In East Meon, records kept at South Farm and in the Village reveal that the rainfall from April 2000 to March 2001 was 2000mm (79").

The Environment Agency commissioned Halcrow, civil engineering consultants, to carry out a flood investigation of 120 locations in Hampshire that were reported to have been affected by flooding, which included an investigation into incidents in East Meon and Frogmore.

<sup>15</sup> The water year is measured from April to March.

A major incident occurred in East Meon on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2000 in which the 1955 flood relief works within the village were tested to the limit. At around 8pm that day the level of the river in the High Street started to rise to reach a peak at about 9.30pm, when the river depth was some 1400mm (4'-6"), but it then receded as the rain ceased at about this time. This photograph shows the state of flow on November 6<sup>th</sup>; the strength of the flow is shown by the 'arrowhead' formation of the water in the centre of the stream.



## Frogmore

There was no flooding in East Meon on that occasion but in Frogmore flooding did occur from surface water running off from Park Hill and Greenway, as well as spring flow from aquifers, as is examined in more detail later in Appendix 2. In reviewing this incident, Halcrow established that the groundwater levels in the preceding summer were the highest on record. The groundwater continued to build up (as measured at a borehole near Meon Hut), and by the afternoon of 5 November the fields to the south of Mill House, in Frogmore, were glistening like a lake. This high groundwater table in the valley also increased the base flow of the river, which was to be seen to be running at a depth of about 600mm (24") through the High Street by the afternoon. At about 2pm heavy rain began to fall and continued unabated for nearly 8 hours to give a total rainfall over the 24hour period for this day of 56mm (2.2"), which is estimated to have an occurrence of 1 in 20 years.

In Frogmore surface water runoff combined with spring flow from overloaded chalk aquifers caused flooding both in the river to the north of the river (*right*) and in the lane to Mill House where water was surging along like "white water"

During a similar event, witnessed on 31 January 2004, the surging water from Mill Lane was seen to divide; some poured into the river to the east of the bridge, whilst the energy of the flow propelled water to overflow the road ramp on the south side of the bridge to enter the river via the old ford.



In taking account of the high water table prior to November 5<sup>th</sup> 2000 and the events of this day, Halcrow estimated a probability of occurrence that was less frequent than 1 in 200 years; a situation in which the flood relief works for the village section of the river had triumphed.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>16</sup> It is reported that the river also ran at a level in the High Street<sup>16</sup> of about 1200mm (48") on 6th November 1990.

## East Meon Parish Plan

In 2001 – 2004 there were far more intense periods of rainfall, but the river flow in the High Street has not been recorded as exceeding 300mm (12 “). In April 2002 – March 2003, the annual rainfall was 1420mm (56”), with a probability of nearly 1 in 100years. This included a three month period of rainfall from November 2002 –January 2003 of 705mm (28”) which was 14% greater than the previous three months leading up to the incident on 5 November 2000.

The type of rainfall also contributes to the accumulation of groundwater. Long steady rainfall raises ground water levels both in the valley and especially where the rainfall is retained in chalk aquifers. Water soaking into the outer chalk layer needs to drain into the next layer before allowing more water to be absorbed into the outer layer, and so on down through the mass of chalk. The process is relatively slow; an intense storm lasting a few hours will not fill an aquifer to the same degree as the same amount of rain over 24 hours.

In the village of East Meon, increases in rainfall have not increased the risk of the river flooding. Whilst this is reassuring to those who live by the river in the village itself, the flooding situation in the hamlet of Frogmore has worsened in recent years, and in 2004 two severe incidents of flooding occurred.

### Frogmore



*Frogmore Cottage & Bridge in the 1920s - both are scenes of today's flooding*

As noted in the introduction to this section, the hamlet of Frogmore to the East of the village is designated by the Environment Agency as a zone at high risk of flooding. The Parish Council has liaised with both the Environment Agency and the Highways Authority and engaged a hydrologist to conduct a report on the situation and propose solutions. David Prichard, a retired Civil Engineer who spent much of his career working in this field, has written a report on flooding in Frogmore and recommendations for alleviating it which are set out in Appendix 3.

## Other Flooding Issues

Houses can suffer in a variety of ways but the problems raised here are not caused by the river. Those with basements which are not adequately lined suffer ingress of groundwater through the walls; the same is true of some with low-standing terraces which collect run-off from gardens and areas of tarmac. These problems are the responsibility neither of the local nor of the environmental authorities.

### **Coombe Road**

Runoff from the field south of Coombe Road still causes problems to some houses – there are sandbags permanently in place at one dwelling; this is despite remedial work carried out two years ago. One householder in Coombe Road has installed a simple low-level brick barrier to his property. This runoff is aggravated by considerable hard standing around the farm buildings at the top of the hill. As a condition of receiving planning permission for the retention of polytunnels for lambing, the farmer has undertaken to construct a drainage system north of the polytunnels, along with tree planting which should alleviate the problem. The Parish Council will be monitoring this problem closely.

### **Sewage Spillage**

In two locations in the village, Corner Cottage by the George Inn and Cross Keys in the Cross, there is a chronic problem in heavy rains with sewers overflowing and discharging raw effluent up through the manhole covers. Sewage then flows into the River Meon and into buildings, gardens and orchards causing a health hazard. Due to the complexity of the various drainage systems which conduct sewage and surface water in and around the village, successive efforts by the Parish Council and residents have been unsuccessful; despite continuous correspondence over more than a decade no effective remedy appears to be in sight. The Chairman of the Parish Council is currently in discussion with the Chief Executive of Southern Water regarding this problem.

## Responsibilities and advice

In 2004 the Parish Council retained the services of a professional hydrologist, who indicated the authorities responsible for different elements in the flooding equation:

- The River Meon is designated as a 'main river' and is therefore in the jurisdiction of the Environment Agency.
- Flooding on highways and bridges is the responsibility of the County Council.
- Tracks and footpaths also appear to be the responsibility of the County Council.
- Land drainage is the responsibility of landowners. In particular, a landowner may not pass on surface water generated by his own actions to landowners across his boundaries or onto the highway.

## Recommendations

The following measures are proposed to overcome the problems in the Village of East Meon:

1. The Parish Council to continue to monitor the effectiveness of drainage above Coombe Road.
2. Commission a professional and independent survey to investigate how the sewage system becomes overloaded during periods of heavy rain and to produce an action plan to address this issue.



*Ye Olde George Inn*



*The Izaak Walton*

## East Meon at work

### Introduction

**The Parish is witnessing unprecedented pressures for change.** Traditional employers such as farmers and landowners have been forced to reduce their labour forces and pool resources. The likely designation of this area as a National Park will affect the number and nature of people visiting East Meon. The village pubs and shop would like to source more produce locally but regulatory forces are having the opposite effect. The socio-economic balance of the Parish has changed, reflecting national shifts: East Meon now includes many professionals, executives and entrepreneurs; there are also many families in which both parents work. The internet, especially broadband, is enabling many to work from home.

Nearly 95% of those living in the Parish of East Meon live within a small well-defined area of the village itself. The parish is the largest in the East Hampshire District and is dominated by open down and farm land (approximately 98% of the area of the whole parish).

In some ways, rural economies are reverting to the pattern of life before the Industrial Revolution, where people did not look far outside the parish for their employment or day-to-day needs. With more people working from home, there is an increased demand for local services such as child-care, cleaning, and gardening. Equally, the demand for services offered by the shop/post office, pubs, restaurants and hotel/bed-and-breakfast facilities is likely to increase.

Many small businesses wish to move to rural areas, which provide a relaxed and beautiful yet productive working environment. Working locally or from home reduces CO2 emissions, fuel consumption and time wasted in commuting. It also supports local services. However, there is a shortage of serviced office space in which people can conduct business in East Meon.

External pressures by the European Union and Central Government are altering the financial balance for farming, causing landowners to turn farm buildings over to business use. The potential impact on the environment of an increase in the number of small businesses located in the countryside will need to be carefully considered by planners, particularly with respect to increased traffic, public transport requirements and noise pollution.





*Fields on the South Downs above East Meon*

## **The farm economy**

The Parish of East Meon is fortunate in containing some of the most beautiful farmland in Hampshire, including part of the South Downs on one side and Park Hill on the north. Farmers are the custodians of the landscape and it is vital that their economy is sustained.

There are seven larger farms within the parish of East Meon and several small-holdings; five of the farmers were interviewed. Their holdings ranged from 2,500 acres to 150 acres. Farmers today share resources such as machinery and manpower for cultivation, and generally help each other out. The trend has been for farms to grow larger but to reduce the number of livestock and employees. Even the largest farm had only five employees of which two were part-time or casual.

All have diversified from the traditional farm income stream, and for some these diversifications provide a major proportion of their income. These include: conversion of redundant farm buildings for dwellings, offices and storage, letting of shooting rights, bed & breakfast, cream teas, farm shop, selling produce at farmers markets (meat, eggs, game etc).

All have further potential for the conversion of farm buildings (one has just made a planning application for three holiday lets and two small offices), and would be interested in exploring further possibilities depending on market demand. Some other possibilities currently being considered are a farm restaurant, residential nature lodges on the banks of the Meon, camping sites, and letting land for mobile phone masts. The arrival of BT ADSL in East Meon means that farm buildings can now connect to broadband.

EHDC has a strategy to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by turning to renewable energy. On the South Downs above East Meon is a publicly funded Sustainability Centre whose purpose is to encourage a sustainable environment both through education and community involvement. It burns 80 tonnes of wood chip a year. There is a quantity of woodland within the parish but only one farmer could see a future in growing biomass crops (a different form of cultivation from the conventional woodland). The Sustainability Centre obtains its fuel from West Sussex

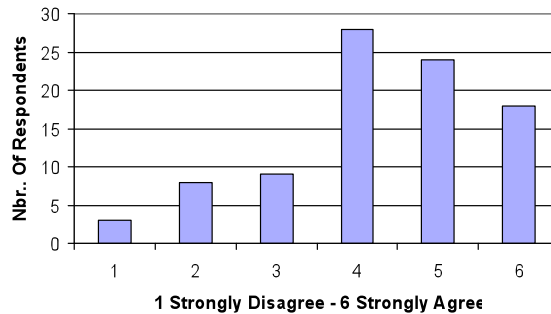
## The countryside



Most farmers are happy to provide access to the public on a managed basis (and indeed encourage it) for recreational pursuits such as walking, hang gliding, aero models, educational visits and countryside events – such as horse trials and country fairs – but are unhappy about the Right to Roam being thrust upon them through the CRoW Act. They are concerned about dogs let loose among livestock, gates being left open, damaged fences, litter etc.

When the area becomes a National Park, as is probable, most of those participating in the Survey believe it could provide further economic opportunities (*right*), but have considerable reservations about the same problems being multiplied by large numbers of visitors triggering the additional need for toilets, extra policing, extra traffic and car parking.

*Chart 5 Overall, the National Park will be beneficial to the economy.*



## Local produce



It has not been economically viable for farmers to favour local markets with their meat since the Petersfield abattoir was closed down as a result of the increased cost of meeting EC regulations. Livestock now has to be driven to Wiltshire or Buckinghamshire to be slaughtered and only a few farmers, for instance those who sell produce at Farmers' Markets, are prepared to pay extra to have their produce branded as local and returned for sale in the county. Small local dairies have been absorbed by larger, more remote ones. Local initiatives such as South Downs Lamb are striving to provide local butchers with the combination of price and quality they demand for their customers.

The East Meon pubs and shop say they would like to source produce locally, as does Waitrose in Petersfield, but the economics of distribution militate against it. The local authorities should consider initiating a feasibility study to see whether a local abattoir would now be economically feasible, thus saving the transportation of animals for long distances and reversing the economic equation which prevents produce being available locally.

## Tourism and leisure

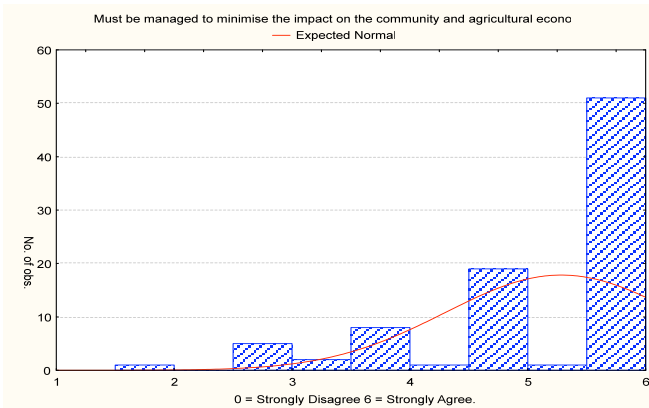


East Meon draws many visitors, its main attractions being the architecture of the village and the glorious downland landscape. In the village, All Saints Church (far left) and the Court House (left) and are architecturally and historically important while there are other significant houses dating as far back as the eleventh century.

In 1984 East Meon was designated the 'Domesday Village' and was the subject of a display and model at the Great Hall in Winchester which was then moved to the Tapestry Museum at Bayeux.

The Parish is intersected by the South Downs Way, it contains the source of the river Meon near South Farm and there are rare breeds of cattle, sheep and poultry at Hyden Farm,

Assuming the area is designated a National Park, there is likely to be a considerable increase in visitors. It will be important to manage the negative aspects of this such as parking, extra traffic, litter, the need for toilets &c. in order to maintain the quality of life for village residents.



A clear majority expressed the belief that these by-products of the introduction of the National Park must be carefully monitored and managed.

*Chart 7: The National Park must be managed to minimise the impact on the community and agricultural economy.*

As noted, extra visitors could provide business opportunities for the shop, pubs, sale of local produce and tourist accommodation. However, the amount of available accommodation has contracted in recent years, with several people retiring from the B&B business and few setting up in their place. This appears to be a characteristic of the whole area. The Sustainability Centre has recently converted a building to provide 25 beds in 15 rooms as basic B&B accommodation particularly for walkers along the South Downs Way or for visiting educational groups, which could be trebled with the conversion of further buildings as funds become available. There is a need for more upmarket and quality-assured accommodation.

## Patterns of work

Whilst farming occupies both a symbolic place in parish life and a very important role in maintaining the beauty of the countryside, today it employs relatively few people.

We conducted an audit of firms in East Meon, interviewing a cross-section of enterprises. It included retailers such as the East Meon Stores/Post Office and the two pubs, and a number of businesses occupying office space and employing staff. The East Meon Forge is the oldest established business in the Village. The Sustainability centre at Leydene now includes a youth hostel, Convex Marketing, a consultancy which specialises in marketing environmentally friendly products and services, the Natural burial site and Permanent Publications.

A number of homeworkers were also interviewed including artists, a cattery, an interior designer, a painter/decorator, an holistic therapist, a taxi driver, a reflexologist, a beekeeper, a consultant in public and business affairs, a photographer, a jazz musician/band organiser, a patent agent and the host of a B&B.

The interviews were designed to establish the scale and scope of local enterprise and to determine the future trends. The audit also asked whether the demands of the business community were being met by the Parish, particularly in terms of staff, supplies and broadband access. The businesses could be divided into three categories, retail, home workers and businesses renting office space in the Parish.

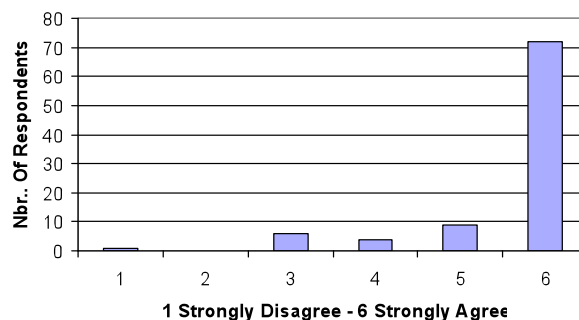
### Retail

The Parish greatly values its Shop, which is combined with a Post Office.

It not only provides access to food, newspapers and postal services but is an important community resource, where people meet casually, where prescriptions from the Surgery in West Meon are left for collection and where notices can be posted in the shop window. In the Survey, an overwhelming majority agreed that it is a very important amenity for the Community (*Chart on right*). That does not, however, prevent people doing the bulk of their shopping in the supermarkets in nearby Petersfield and shopkeepers have traditionally had a hard time turning a profit in East Meon.



*Chart 8: The Village Shop is a very important amenity for our Community*



The retail outlets, namely the two pubs, shop and Post Office rely heavily on the local community for trade and staff but feel their businesses would benefit from selling local produce. The main obstacle at the moment is one of reliable supply and price. It has been suggested that a local commercial co-operative, set up with other villages in the area, would provide greater purchasing power with access to a greater range of suppliers.

## **Accommodation**

### **Businesses in dedicated accommodation**

Very few businesses currently operate from commercial premises because there is very little available in the Parish. The Sustainability Centre is the main provider of commercial office space in the Parish, and as a result of recent development is potentially a reasonably large employer and buyer of locally produced food and craft. There are three businesses located in the Centre and all of them are involved with sustainable services.

### **Homeworking**

By far the largest number of businesses in the Parish operate from home. These range from painters and decorators to alternative health therapists, I.T. and management consultants. About 50% of these businesses rely on the Parish for custom; very few employ staff although some expect this to change through future expansion.

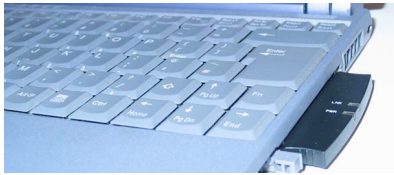
The increasing trend towards homeworking and of newcomers bringing businesses to the village creates a demand for serviced offices in which to carry out their work. Young children and pressure of space in the home mean that many would prefer to work outside the home but still in the parish.

There is little available space within the close boundaries of the village itself and such problems as parking, disturbance to neighbours and gaining planning permission are difficult to overcome. On the other hand, redundant farm buildings afford an opportunity to the owners to supplement their incomes.

At least three landowners have undertaken change of use by turning their buildings into quality residences and simple workshops for light industrial activities. Small office accommodation and quality light industrial units have not yet been developed although one planning application is being sought at the present time. Further redundant buildings could become available in the not too distant future, although the cost of bringing such buildings to the standards required for office accommodation is considerable and such investment is not always realised.

To date, farm buildings outside the village have been excluded from having broadband internet (see next page) by the limited range of East Meon's wireless network. The arrival of BT's ADSL brings these buildings within range with it a much wider range of enterprises who would be interested in renting office space.

## Broadband



Broadband was first introduced in cities and large towns where BT could count on a critical density of clients within reach of each exchange enabled for ADSL. For some years, rural areas such as East Meon were not thought likely to receive broadband and there was much talk of a 'digital divide' with city economies favoured over rural areas and the countryside drained of 'knowledge businesses'.

East Meon took the initiative in 2003 to establish its own satellite/wireless broadband network. It did this because over twenty villagers felt that they could not wait for BT to introduce its ADSL service.

BT has accelerated its programme of introducing broadband to rural areas and reached East Meon in late 2004. Its ADSL service has a range of 4.5 kilometres from the exchange so this will reach all the outlying enterprises within the parish boundaries. During 2005, the Hampshire Public Service Network will provide broadband to the East Meon Church of England School, and this service could be made available to homes and businesses.

One couple in the village have transferred their respective offices from London to East Meon thanks to broadband. Others who travel widely on business now spend their UK work days at home, communicating with head office over the internet rather than commuting. Others spend long weekends at home, concentrating their commuting into fewer days.

At present, neither East Meon Broadband nor BT can afford the bandwidth or the applications which can provide the true benefits of broadband, such as collaborative working, video-on-demand and high quality video conferencing. Were more business communities in East Hants to pool their broadband purchasing through the leadership of EHDC, then all could keep pace with the development of true broadband and businesses based in rural communities need not suffer from lack of essential tools.

## Implications

If the number of companies operating in converted premises increases, and some of the home-based businesses grow to become larger enterprises, the ensuing increase in traffic and parking problems could damage the quality of village life.

However, the Parish would benefit from more direct employment as well as the introduction of further enterprises to offer these companies such services as catering/sandwiches, courier services, cleaning, gardening, security, IT maintenance, office supply and more besides. As noted in the introduction, the shape of village life could revert to that of previous centuries when most people earned their incomes within the parish boundaries.

The kind of jobs which are made available through improved telecommunications draw on different skillsets from traditional rural industries. The education system is producing more people with the relevant qualifications, but many older people need access, through adult education, to courses in IT.

## Recommendations

Local authorities can help the farm economy by:

1. Supporting planning applications for diversification
2. By conducting a feasibility study for a local abattoir.

They could help the general economy of East Meon by:

3. Providing funds for the preparation of a directory of local information both for visitors and for new residents of East Meon (see Village Life)
4. Aggregating demand for local business & community broadband services in competition with the BT ADSL service<sup>17</sup>
5. Working with Hampshire Broadband to specify true business benefits for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in the District.
6. Encouraging, on a District level, joint purchasing arrangements by shopkeepers and pub landlords to enable them to compete with the prices in supermarkets

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<sup>17</sup> This was accepted as a strategic aim by the Central Area Committee of the EHDC in January 2004 and by the Economic Partnership of EHDC in September 2003

## Housing

The Parish Plan does not at this stage wish to add to the recommendations of the East Meon Village Design Statement (right) which was adopted by the Parish Council and East Hampshire District Council in 1999.



Since it was written, 20 'market' houses have been built on Kews Meadow and six more Housing Association houses are currently under construction, all of which have been designed with the VDS recommendations in mind with the result that materials and design have been of high quality.

The VDS had a section on the southern-most residential area in the Parish, where executive housing (right) had been constructed on part of the old MoD site at Leydene, by the South Downs Way. It noted the intention of the MoD to sell of the remaining 15 acres on which 'largely unattractive' naval buildings still stand.



The land has been sold, and the Parish views with concern any attempt to increase the size of the estate at Leydene. We commend the policy of the EHDC, which is to return the site to the Downland state which prevailed before the MoD placed compulsory purchase orders on the land.

We also note the severe water shortages already prevailing in the Parish, due to the increase in the number of buildings being serviced from the source of the Meon, and possible damage to the environment if more were to be extracted. The road between East Meon and Clanfield is narrow and winding and cannot safely sustain more traffic.

The remains of HMS Mercury are a visual blot on the South Downs Way. The present buildings should be razed to the ground and the beauty of this glorious countryside restored.

## Recommendations

1. That no further building take place at Leydene
1. That the old Naval buildings be removed and replaced by Downland.



## Appendix 1. The Survey

### Design

A questionnaire was designed and distributed to all households in East Meon in August 2004. The driving philosophy behind the design, distribution and collection of the survey was the need to ensure that all sections of the community should be consulted. It was also important that the survey should identify opinions independent of the “perceived” views of the team actively involved in the Parish Plan.

The survey was in three sections; basic demographic data, open questions, and opinions on key issues such as the proposed national park. It was distributed as an insert into the Parish magazine ‘Meon Matters’. Most houses in the Parish were visited during September; help was offered to those who needed it to complete their questionnaires. Informal views were also given. The majority of households were visited twice, many three times. House calls not only maximized the response rate, it also allowed people to express their opinions in more detail “on the doorstep”. The survey was also promoted at local events including bingo at the village school, the mothers and toddlers club and the lunch club held for senior citizens.

### Response.

100 completed questionnaires were returned, representing 27% of households, which is high for a questionnaire of this nature; there was excellent representation of different socio-economic views.

The following headlines emerged:

1. Roughly 70% of households had only 1 or 2 members,
2. Internet penetration is around 65% of households, compared with a UK mean of around 60%. This is even more noteworthy given that BT broadband was not available at the time of the survey (see ‘East Meon at Work’).
3. Around 60% of households have 1 or more members in full time employment. Around 33% of households have 1 person in part time employment.
4. The car was by far the most significant form of transport for all parishioners.

The Parish Plan team had been concerned that responses would reflect a perceived social divide in the community. In the event, the survey showed that the community shares a real consensus concerning the majority of issues facing the East Meon.

This was demonstrated in the area of traffic management, in particular the issue of speeding with some 31% of respondents identifying this as an issue in response to an open question about their concerns. Another issue that might have elicited varied responses is the proposed national park. There was in fact general consensus that it would be beneficial for the community, though it will require strong management.

Members of the community were practical in their desires for new services; pharmacy, doctor etc, but realised that these would have to be on a part time basis, akin to a mobile library. The village shop was recognised as an important amenity for the community. Surprisingly, improved transport services were not seen by many as an important issue, presumably because the car is seen as the “transport of choice”. Housing development did elicit varying views, particularly affordable housing. However opinions on this issue were spread rather than polarised.

## **Doorstep comments**

Very few people were negative about the process, and most welcomed the chance to participate. Many said that the survey had stimulated discussion in their household about the issues raised. A small number commented that they did not have a voice, and they would not complete the survey as their comments would be ignored; this was not confined to any one social group. In summary the community was positive to the approach being taken and there was no hostility to the process.

## **Footnote**

Although this was not covered in answers to the Questionnaire, it is interesting to note that East Meon is out of step with national demographic trends – the number of elderly is declining and there is a rise in the number of babies and small children.

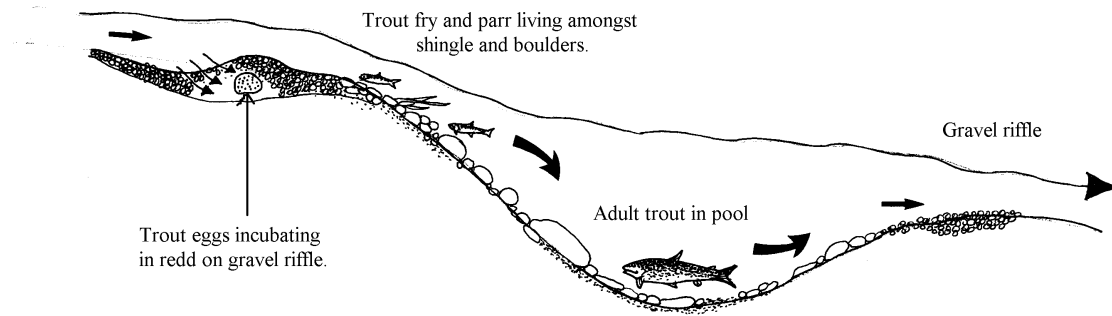
## Appendix 2. Extracts from report by Dr Giles of the Wild Trout Trust

Dr Giles noted that downstream of the village (Drayton/Riplington) “the fields are used for sheep pasture, the general physical habitat quality of the river is good, with natural sequences of gravel shallows (riffles), pools and glides. More immediately, below the village beyond the car park, where arable cultivation takes place, the river has been dredged and straightened and would benefit from added physical features such as gravel shallows, modest pools and added cover (small boulders) for wild brown trout. The removal of overhanging trees will allow in more light to enable weed to grow within the river. The same is true where the river retains a natural bed through the allotment area between the sections of the river through Frogmore and East Meon where the river bed has been concreted and the sides have been lined with brickwork, both measures being introduced in the 1950’s to enhance the flow characteristics. Timber obtained whilst cutting-back over-hanging trees could be used to create better in-stream habitats (eg physical cover and current-deflectors). This in-stream work, which requires prior Environment Agency consent, must be very carefully designed so as to pose no increased risk of flooding. This means that the work needs to be carefully managed so as not to impede or impound flows and to enlarge, rather than decrease the channel volume. In carrying out such work in the allotment area, the pruning of the trees would reduce the risk of either branches, or even whole trees, breaking away and causing blockages against the bridges in the High Street. Moreover with the cross-sectional area of the allotment stretch of the river being greater than that through the bridges, which are the pinch-points in the system, minor changes to the river should not create a critical situation in times of high river flow.”

Dr Giles comments on the river as it passes through the middle of the Village. “Where the stream has been concreted and walled through the village, as part of a former flood defence scheme, the habitat quality for trout and other wildlife is abysmally poor. In the event one day of any re-building of this artificial channel, there would be great scope for habitat improvement so as to create a series of gravel shallows and small pools, marginal stands of aquatic vegetation and submerged weed beds. All of this could be done sympathetically whilst retaining the essential flood capacity of a re-built channel. However, work just to deliver this is unlikely to be economically feasible.”

“The wild trout stock is being adversely affected by a riverbed, which is silty and compacted, providing a poor environment for incubating fish eggs. This can be helped by a thorough water-jetting of suitable areas of gravel early each autumn, before the trout spawn in early winter. These cleaned areas will also be of value to bullheads and lampreys, which spawn in the spring. Fly life will also be boosted by the opening-up of the formerly clogged riverbed, which will be re-colonised by a wide range of aquatic invertebrates. Larger flints uncovered during the water-jetting will be used by bullheads for breeding and cover and by trout fry for cover. Sediments disturbed during the jetting process will re-deposit downstream in areas such as inner bends where they will produce habitats for various burrowing invertebrates (eg *Ephemera* mayfly nymphs) and for lamprey larvae.”

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“The lack of light reaching the river and stream bed along much of the stretch walked has a number of important knock-on effects:

- Bank side grasses are shaded-out, producing erosion of banks, which are no longer bound by grass roots.
- Silt washed in from the banks is added to by large amounts of dead leaves falling from the trees each autumn – this can lead to silting of the channel.
- Aquatic plants including marginal rushes and reeds, in-stream weed beds and algae coating stone surfaces are all strongly suppressed.
- This lack of underwater plant growth leads directly to little food for aquatic invertebrates and diminished insect and other invertebrate populations.
- Few invertebrates mean that there is little food for wild brown trout and other fish (bullheads, stone loach).”

### Tree work

Dr Giles concludes: “What is required to reverse the various adverse situations is a strategic tree-pruning plan, implemented as funds permit. First, the tree boughs keeping light out of key areas of river channel must be identified and marked clearly. Then they should be cut back, ideally after the sap has dropped in autumn. By taking out over-shading boughs each year, gradually, the stream will become better lit and productivity will increase. An additional benefit is that top-heavy trees will be much less likely to be bowled over by winter gales, ripping-out sections of bank with their roots in the process.”

“All of the above tree works can be carried-out without any official permissions, provided that there are no Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) currently in operation, the Local Council can advise.” The permission of landowners would, of course, be needed, including the Parish Council which owns the allotments.

## Report on Flooding in Frogmore by David Prichard



After heavy rain, surface water flows down the lane from Park Hill Farm, then flows along the road to Langrish before flowing into the field to the south via a crude gully about 80 yards before the northern end of “Gravel Lane” a sunken byway running downhill from north to south. The water then seeps underground across this field to emerge as a developing stream into Gravel Lane (*in the centre of the picture on the left*).

Spring flow, which happens when the chalk aquifers become saturated, adds considerably to these floodwaters and Frogmore Lane then effectively acts as a river, with high banks and an impervious bed on a downward gradient, conducting the combined floodwaters into Frogmore.

The water then floods from Gravel Lane into Frogmore Lane; the tarmac road from Oxenbourne also conducts water from Greenway and the combined floodwaters then surge into Frogmore as a river (*right*).

To this accumulated flow surging into Frogmore is added runoff flowing down the path from the field to the north of Frogmore that exits adjacent to Bottle Ale Cottages (*below*).



## East Meon Parish Plan



To cater for this vast accumulated flow from Park Hill to the north and from Greenway and beyond to the east, conventional road gullies and aquakerbs have been installed.

Aquakerbs (*below, left and right – in partial flood by Frogmore Cottage*) depend on public-spirited local people wading through floodwater to lift the flaps (*Seen on right*).

For public safety these flaps cannot be left raised over night, in case people fall down them, so their function is impeded during storms at night.



Because it isn't adequately dispersed, floodwater can build up in times of intense rainfall to a depth of about 600mm (24") in the heart of Frogmore.

On 5<sup>th</sup> November 2000, the flood was 700mm (28") in depth and entered Frogmore cottage. At their peak the floodwaters pour as a torrent into the brick relief channel near Bridge Cottage; the yard area of this cottage is also flooded (*below*) in times of high floodwater.



*(Below, Frogmore Cottage front step inundated in February 2004)*



Such flooding happened twice in 2004. The volume of flow during a similar flood in January 2003 was estimated at one stage to be in the order of 100 gallons/second, flowing at a speed of 3 feet/second. At this speed a young child falling into 24" of floodwater outside Frogmore Cottage could be swept away into the river in about 30 seconds - a matter of extreme concern to its occupants who have two young children.

There is a ramp leading up to the crown of the bridge over the River Meon in the centre of Frogmore which prevents floodwater draining. Tinkering with road gullies is not an adequate solution to the problem especially as they are quickly blocked by debris scoured from the banks of the lane. Debris also blocks the road gullies; after one heavy storm during the night of 20/21 October 2004 all the gullies in Frogmore Lane were blocked with debris.

Such situations increase flow via the lane surface into Frogmore, nullifying the drain that serves the gullies in the lane. Further, silt and stones and even small rocks are flushed in. The District Council is often reluctant to clear up this mess so the debris has to be cleared by the residents, who deposit it into the river. The debris is then borne by the river and deposited on the river bed along the High Street section, where islands are forming as a result.

*(Right, clearing the drains in partial flood spate)*



## **Flood Relief Proposals**

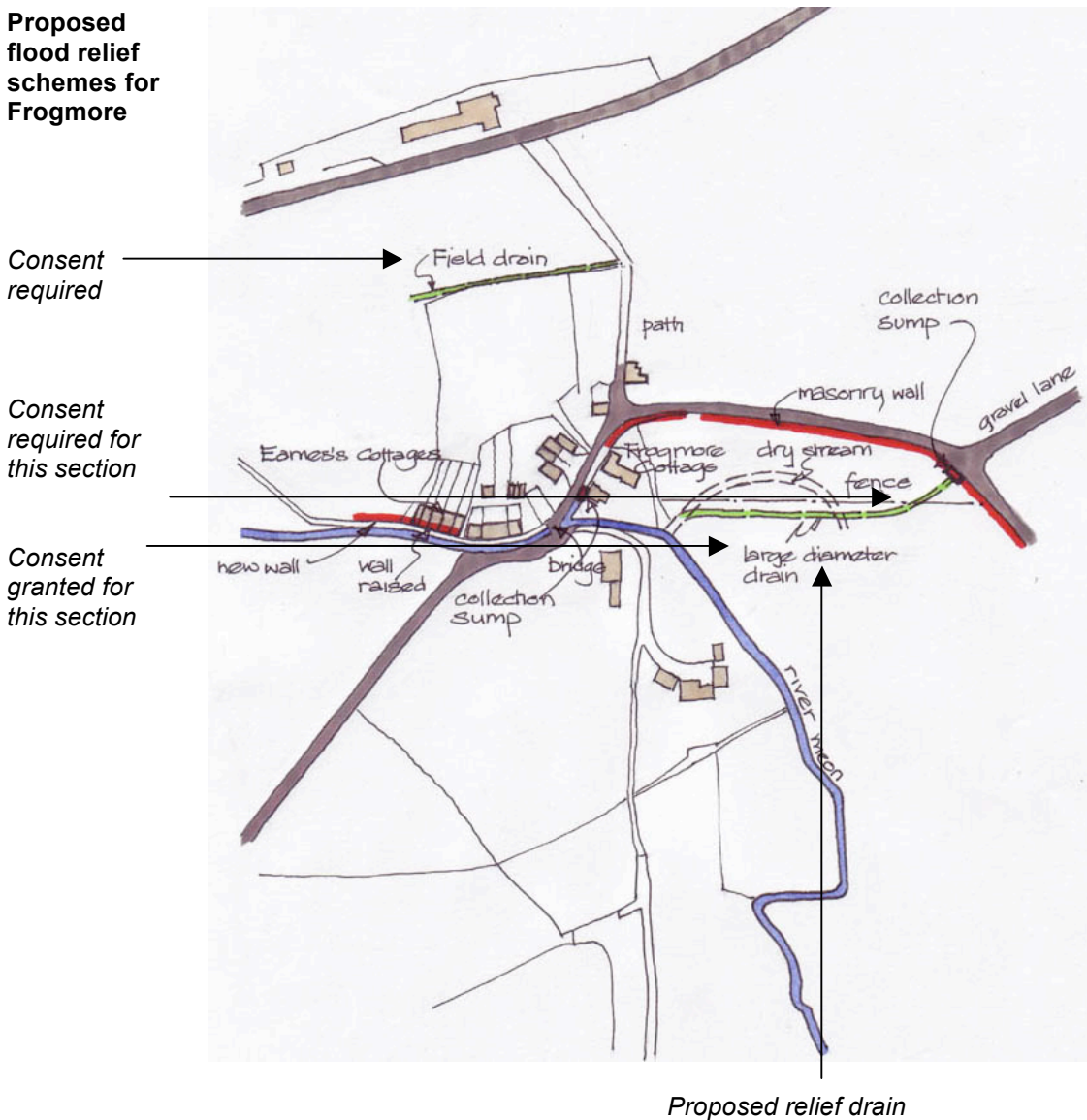
The fast flowing floodwaters pose a serious risk to young children and elderly people and it is urgent that the volume of floodwater flowing into the hamlet be reduced, either by lowering the road so that there is a constant gradient from the entry point of Frogmore Lane to the relief channel by the bridge, or by a flood relief scheme, as proposed in the map on the next page. The diameter of the pipe is both a function of the flow and of the gradient, but the latter cannot be determined until a level survey has been carried out.

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Further problems were reported on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2000 at Eames's Cottages, a terrace of brick-built houses by the river. The threshold of the front doors of Numbers 1 & 2 is 4" below the top of the wall which flanks the river but just west of the cottage the brickwork is reduced in height by 15" and further west the brick wall is totally breached by a ford. It appears that water flowed along the path from these breaches and entered No 1 Eames's Cottages at which point the water level in the river would have been only just 4" below the top of the wall.

To reduce the risk of such flooding, the wall could be extended westwards to seal the breaches as the farm that this ford served no longer exists. It would be prudent to add two additional courses of brickwork to the whole length of the wall to provide a greater margin of protection.

**Proposed flood relief schemes for Frogmore**



In the early part of the last century a ditch outside Frogmore Cottage drained floodwaters. Another option, therefore, would be to replicate this approach by constructing a lined channel from the ramp access into the field on the southern side of Frogmore Lane to the signpost by the stile in the hamlet. This could then connect to the drain that runs under the pavement in front of Frogmore Cottage. The channel would need to be supplied with a suitable metal grill over. A channel 900cm (36") wide by 600 cm (24") deep should cater for the flow of 100gallons/second.



It is also important to prevent the scouring of the banks of Frogmore Lane resulting in debris being swept into Frogmore and impeding the drainage system there, as well as blocking all the gullies in this lane. This can be achieved either by the construction of a masonry wall or by a proprietary protective system. This protection should be carried out on the southern side of Frogmore Lane to the junction with Greenway, along which length the scouring is significant.

## **Recommendations for tackling flooding in Frogmore**

1. Implement a level survey of Frogmore on both sides of the river, Frogmore Lane and the fields to the south of the lane up to the southern bank of the river to include levels of the riverbed.
3. Investigate with the HCC Highways Department whether the road in front of Bridge Cottage can be lowered to allow floodwaters to drain into brick lined channel without building up as flood in the hamlet.
4. Consult with the Environment Agency and investigate a flood relief scheme in the field behind Frogmore Cottage and Bridge Cottage, as a means of significantly reducing the volume of floodwater that currently flows into the hamlet.
5. Construct a low level wall, or other form of protection, from Frogmore to Greenway to protect the southern bank of Frogmore Lane from scouring.
6. Implement a scheme to alleviate the flooding and the influx of debris from the banks of Frogmore Lane into the hamlet, based upon the above investigations, as matter of urgency in the light of the current risks to people and property.
7. The local authority to implement a vigorous, consistent and timely service to clear the road gullies in Frogmore Lane and Frogmore after every major storm in the winter months, including clearing the drains when blocked.
8. Monitor runoff down the path, which exits near Bottle Ale cottages, during heavy rainfall to establish whether it is necessary to install a land drain along the southern edge of the field above to restrict runoff from this field from flowing down the path into Frogmore.