

East Hagbourne Parish Council

Community Project Strategy, July 2020

This document is intended as an information resource for the evaluation of future community projects within the parish of East Hagbourne.

Some of the topics included are long-standing and have been the subject of on-going efforts over the years. Others are new, reflecting the perspectives and priorities of our changing world.

The word 'community' in the title is important: wherever possible, the document is structured around needs expressed by the community in the various surveys that have been carried out since the East Hagbourne Appraisal of 2000, through the East Hagbourne Parish Plan of 2011-2015 to our Neighbourhood Plan (EHNP), which became part of the planning process in 2019. The aspirations expressed in the formal surveys have been supplemented by ideas raised by Councillors and other individuals.

The comprehensive 'East Hagbourne Village Landscape & Character Assessment', prepared as part of the EHNP, gives us a new and deeper perspective of the historic and landscape value of our parish, a value that is increasingly being recognised with the development of the Didcot Garden Town concept. It is therefore timely that we consider carefully a strategy for the future, working to meet the declared aspirations of our residents, while recognising the role of our parish in the wider community.

This document seeks to include most or all of the needs that have been raised over recent years, including those where some progress has already been made and some which still seem rather intractable. While not all the identified objectives rely on capital expenditure, we expect to receive a substantial sum of money from the Community Infrastructure Levy as a result of the new building development adjacent to Hagbourne Village Hall. It is important that this money is spent wisely, for the benefit of the community.

Our task over the coming months is to identify priorities and strategies for the coming years. The Parish Council will take the lead, while remaining aware of the importance of community support. We are posting this document on the village website and welcome comments on it at any time. We hope that conditions will allow an Annual Parish Meeting to be held in the autumn where more detailed proposals can be presented and discussed by residents.

East Hagbourne Parish Council Community Project Planning, 2020.**12th July 2020**

This table outlines and evaluates the community needs identified in the Neighbourhood Plan and elsewhere.

It builds on the Action Plan developed in the East Hagbourne Parish Plan 2012-2015

It is intended as a planning document to help define EHPC projects and objectives for the future.**Provisional Priority Codes:**

Action	
Evaluate	
Existing situation is optimum	
Do not action	

Potential New Columns: priority, person(s) responsible ==>

Community Need/Issues	Possible Actions	Likely Cost/Effort	Impact/Chance of Success	Status
1. EHNP Strategy C1. Medical Services				
East Hagbourne has no medical facilities within the parish	Explore the feasibility of improving local access to medical services for those living in East Hagbourne.	This remains a long term objective. The trend at present is for consolidation into central locations.	Provision of a surgery in East Hagbourne seems a very remote possibility at present, however developments in health care should be monitored.	NO ACTION
2. EHNP Strategy C2 - Village Shop				
East Hagbourne only has a single shop, including post office, in small premises with limited parking	Investigate the feasibility of growing the village shop whilst maintaining a Post Office service, to better serve the village into the future.	This remains a long-term objective. The Shop Committee currently advises against a change of premises.	Establish a dialogue with the Shop Committee on the future of the shop/post office. Opportunities and needs should be monitored into the future, supporting the needs of the shop committee.	DISCUSS WITH SHOP COMMITTEE
3. EHNP Strategy C3 - Community Activities and Facilities				
Review how community activities are supported by the existing facilities and how these might be improved.				
A. Community Facilities				
Additions by EHPC are noted in red .				
	An overarching action is to be alert to and resist any initiative that could cause damage to or loss of these facilities.	Watching brief	High chance of success	MAINTAIN WATCHING BRIEF
• Hagbourne Village Hall (shared with West Hagbourne)				
	Review HVH strategic plan and identify any areas where we could support			DISCUSS WITH HVH COMMITTEE

• East Hagbourne Pavilion and Recreation Ground (owned by EHPC)				
Suggestions for picnic tables and further play/fitness equipment for the Recreation Ground	Consider suggestions and prepare a more detailed proposal.	The Recreation Ground and Pavilion are managed by the East Hagbourne Sport & Recreation Committee. Normal expenditure is funded out of revenue. A PC grant would only be needed in the event of an agreed large project.	Available space is likely to be the primary constraint, although the cost of play equipment can be considerable.	EVALUATE
• The Community Shop/Post Office				
	See section 2.			
• The Fleur-de-Lys Public House				
	Maintain liaison. Be alert to any threats to the facility.			MAINTAIN WATCHING BRIEF
• The Allotments and Butts Piece (owned by Hagbourne Charities, leased by EHPC, wild area managed by HEG)				
Suggestion for picnic tables at Butts Piece	Consider proposal			EVALUATE
Suggestion to open up the wild area for use by the School for outdoor lessons	Discuss level of interest with School and Pre-School & effort needed with HEG.	Effort needed to clear the site and then maintain. Could consider paid mowing. Initial work could be by volunteers; contractors possible, but more costly.	Will not be successful without substantial input from volunteers. Policing probably necessary to keep site clean.	EVALUATE NEED & FEASIBILITY
Allotment improvements	Consider a small wildlife area, and maybe a pond, to attract bees etc. And maybe some rabbit-proofing to the perimeter fence.		Depends on involvement/commitment of the Allotment holders and committee. Note that this is not a publicly accessible space, so any PC contribution should be considered in that light.	EVALUATE
• Hagbourne Church of England Primary School				
	Consider keeping closer liaison with the School, if they are interested.			DISCUSS WITH SCHOOL
• St Andrew's Church				
	Maintain liaison			DISCUSS
• The (new) Cemetery (managed by EHPC and WHPC)				
	Consider proposal from HEG to manage the cedars by keeping some as dead wood for wildlife habitat.	Details need discussion between HEG and Cemetery Committee.		CEMETERY COMMITTEE TO ADVISE
• Hagbourne Bowls Club				

	Maintain liaison			
B. New Activities/Proposals				
• Community/homeworkers Hub				
The concept of a village or homeworkers' hub was mention by a few people in the NP community survey.	Evaluate the need in more detail	The concept and need is not well-defined, but fits with the idea of a café as a meeting place.	Focus on the need: this could be an activity rather than a place. If a new physical facility is considered, then thought needs to be given to how many people would actually use it, what exactly would be its purpose and how would it be staffed, if needed.	RELATED ITEMS: NEEDS CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF NEED - A TOPIC FOR THE APM?
• Community café				
71 of 125 responses in the NP community survey were in favour of provision of refreshments.	Consider practical options.		The Fleur-de-Lys provides food and coffee and the Church has lunches or teas available on several Saturdays and Sundays throughout the year.	
• Archives				
The village archives are stored in HVH. The archive group is dormant and the storage space is limited. The future of the archives needs to be considered.	(a) Discuss interest in the village to maintain the archives more actively amd reform the Archive Group.		Progress depends on finding interested volunteers.	SOLICIT INTEREST FROM THE COMMUNITY
	(b) Consider future storage needs and how they might be met.	Physical storage is in short supply. The material we have is not well-indexed.		
4. EHNP Strategy C4 - Volunteers				
Preserve and enhance the volunteer ethos that animates our vibrant village	EHPC to reinforce the value of volunteers in our community.	An ongoing need. Finding new volunteers requires personal contact.	There are encouraging signs that a pool of community-minded people exists in all age groups.	ENCOURAGE VOLUNTEERS AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY
5. EHNP Strategy C5 - Bus services				
Investigate ways of maintaining and improving bus services and their use by local residents	(a) Support continuation of the 94 bus service.	Support our LTR as needed. Encourage use of S106 monies to support the service.	Increasing emphasis on climate change should encourage more support for public transport.	SUPPORT PUBLIC TRANSPORT

	(b) Encourage greater use of the bus service	The public seem very resistant to using the bus. The Covid emergency may deter some users		TRANSPORT PROVISION THROUGH OCC AND DVTG
	(c) Continue support to DVTG for the Wallingford market bus	Financial support currently £350 per year. Monitor use and publicise service.	Existing service highly valued by a small number of users.	
6. EHNP Strategy C6 – Transport & Road Safety				
This topic covers a very wide range of issues and potential actions.				
There is extensive experience from the EHPP Action Plan which provides a valuable resource.				
1. Pavements & Road condition				
The condition of pavements throughout the village needs improvement.	(a) The Parish Council is working with OCC to maintain and improve pavements within the village, concentrating on those most in need of attention.	It is possible that CIL money could be applied if OCC are not able to resource necessary work.	High chance of success if EHPC are willing to commit resources. Lack of response from OCC is a barrier.	EVALUATE AND PRIORITISE
	(b) A new pavement from Manor Farm Lane to the railway bridge has been proposed.	See item 7 EHPP Road Safety Plan: 2012 figures - OCC say a good working figure is £100/msq. Pavement should be ideally 1.5-2.0m wide (1.0m acceptable over a short distance). Additional cost if drains or other work involved. Indicative distance 200m x 1.5m x £100 = £30k	Exact route needs to be considered (see APM 2012 comments), also the available width to the hedge. If cost is prohibitive, consider shorter route to the cemetery.	EVALUATE AND PRIORITISE
	(c) EHPC publicise our expectations to keep pavements clear and follow up with individual householders.		Will require ongoing effort.	PUBLICITY THROUGH WEB SITE AND NEWSLETTER
Suggestion for a pedestrian controlled crossing of New Road to facilitate access to Great Mead and the Rec	(d) Consider New Road pedestrian crossing.	See item 3 EHPP Road Safety Plan: 2012 information - would need to be positioned towards Didcot to give safe vision/departure points (around 106 New Road). Cost for Zebra Crossing £20k ; Pelican Crossing £60k ; pavement costs £5.7k.	Zebra crossing allowed if 85%ile speed is less than 35mph, otherwise Pelican Crossing. Survey needed. Need has to be justified: how many people cross each hour?	EVALUATE AND PRIORITISE
Road surface and markings require ongoing maintenance	(e) Continue liaison with OCC to repair potholes and refresh road markings where needed,			CONTINUE TO REPORT PROBLEMS
2. Vehicle Speed				

Residents are concerned about vehicle speeds throughout the village.	(a) The Parish Council is working with OCC to provide a 20mph speed limit through the centre of the village.	Speed surveys have been completed. Likely to be some cost to EHPC. Awaiting OCC response.	In the EHNP, 67% of respondents said that they were concerned about the visual impact of traffic calming measures on the historic and rural nature of the village. Speed humps were not favoured by residents.	PROGRESS 20mph SPEED LIMIT FOR MAIN ROAD
	(b) Speed signs. The VAS on New Road seems to be a success. Consider similar signs at other village entrances.	Indicative £6k + installation/power supply - needs verification		EVALUATE AND PRIORITISE
	(c) Village entry gates. The Parish Council is close to installing village entry "gates" to act as a visual reminder for motorists to limit speed.	Cost identified. Needs an effort to drive through to completion.		PROGRESS AGREED INSTALLATION
	(d) Speed monitoring. The Parish Council has engaged in the Speedwatch campaign and some speed check sessions have already been held	Mostly volunteer effort.	Requires on-going effort, but should be beneficial in heightening motorists' awareness of speed, so worthwhile	CONTINUE IF THERE IS VOLUNTEER SUPPORT
3. Large Vehicles				
Residents are concerned about road safety, damage to the historic village from vehicles, particularly along Main Road	(a) Discourage large freight vehicles from unnecessarily using Main Road. Consider clearly signed weight restrictions on the approaches to the village in co-operation with Oxfordshire County Council.			DISCUSS WITH OCC
Agricultural vehicles are recognised as a necessary part of our country environment, but there are concerns about vehicle size, speed and falling straw.	(b) Open and maintain a dialogue with local farmers on vehicle routes and driver behaviour	Personal effort only	The increasing size of farm vehicles probably cannot be reversed, however considerate driving can be encouraged. The local NFU provide a good avenue for dialogue.	DISCUSS WITH NFU REPRESENTATIVE
	(c) Take action to cut back overhanging trees where these interact with vehicle loads.	Clarity needed on who is responsible (OCC, property owners) then discuss how to get action.	EHPC should first of all clearly publicise their position and expectations. Progress probably depends on the level of support from OCC.	DISCUSS WITH OCC FIRST

4. Lower Cross				
This topic was extensively evaluated in the EHPP - refer to the EHPP Action Plan for details				
There is long-standing concern about road safety at Lower Cross, particularly the lack of vision for southbound traffic turning from New Road into Main Road				
	(a) Some actions have already been undertaken			
	(i) New pavement installed from Lower Cross to Great Mead to improve pedestrian safety			DONE
	(ii) Give Way signing improved for traffic approaching New/Blewbury roads from Main Road			DONE
	(iii) Hedge cut back on corner of New/Blewbury Roads to improve traffic vision			DONE
	(b) Explore whether mirrors could contribute to increased safety.	OCC are in favour of improving sight lines where possible - discussion with them is needed on mirrors or other	OCC did not support mirrors in the EHPP discussion - needs on-going effort.	EVALUATE, DISCUSS WITH OCC
5. Parking on Roads and Pavements				
There is concern about vehicles parking on-road in some parts of the village				
	(a) Discuss traffic management with the School and Pre-School.	Initially, only discussion time.	There is a large peak of vehicles at school starting/finishing times.	DISCUSS WITH SCHOOL
	(b) Identify other roads in the village where on-road parking is a problem.		Some older properties do not have off-road parking, so some parking in the road is unavoidable. This can in some cases act as traffic calming, but can also obstruct free movement.	GATHER INFORMATION AND PRIORITISE LOCATIONS
There is concern about vehicles parking on pavements, blocking safe passage for pedestrians, pushchairs and mobility vehicles.				
	(b) Increase efforts to prevent parking on pavements	Mainly personal effort/publicity.	Many people understand our message, others do not and those outside the village often have no understanding - publicity and enforcement are the issues.	MAKE A CLEAR STATEMENT OF OUR EXPECTATIONS AND PUBLICISE
6. Encourage Cycling				
We have some valuable safe cycle routes including the Sustrans route, but many roads within the parish are less suitable for cycling, because of the hazards posed by traffic, parked vehicles and potholes.				
	(a) Encourage more cycling through improvements to roads and cycleways where possible and to increasing publicity for safe routes.	Major changes to road systems are being considered at County/District level and will be costly. We should engage with these efforts.	More effective repair of potholes would be a relatively easy step to take if OCC are able. More extensive changes are probably outside our Parish capability. We should ensure that any changes to encourage cycling do not harm pedestrian safety.	ENGAGE WITH WIDER EFFORTS TO FACILITATE CYCLING
7. EHNP Strategy C7 - Increase the number of parking spaces around the village hall and school				

The Village Car Park, situated behind Hagbourne Village Hall and owned by the Parish Council is used extensively by HVH users, School and Pre-school staff, and by parents at start/finish times, when it becomes severely overloaded.	(a) Extend the car park capacity by 20 places (from 54 to 74)	This extension in capacity is already agreed and the cost will be met by the builders of the new homes adjacent to the site.	The increase in car park spaces is welcome, but will not avoid the overcrowding that occurs at school times.	WORK WITH M&M TO DELIVER THE INCREASED SPACES.
	(b) discuss alternative parking/mitigation measures with School and Pre-School			DISCUSS
8. EHNP Strategy C8 - ensure high speed broadband is available to all areas of the village.				
Access to high speed internet connection is becoming increasingly important for both business and home users. Some areas of the village suffer poor connections and expectations/needs are increasing over time.	(a) Study broadband performance across the village and identify areas that experience poor connections	Users in the Manor Farm Lane area have recently secured an improved service. they were able to secure grants to cover the cost.	This is a rapidly changing area. there will undoubtedly be competition for services in the future, so having a good knowledge of our needs and aspirations will be valuable.	CONTINUE TO GATHER KNOWLEDGE AND QUANTIFY NEED
	(b) Consider and work towards effective solutions	Future solutions are as yet unclear.		
9. Environmental and wildlife				
Policy E2 of the EHNP aims to protect and enhance biodiversity and the natural environment. Hagbourne Environment Group has been instrumental in managing the village natural environment for many years.	(a) Endeavour to reinvigorate Hagbourne Environment Group as a volunteer base to care for our natural places.	The group has become less active and needs new, younger, volunteers to sustain its efforts. Publicity, in consultation with the leader, Cynthia Napper, is the first step to reinvigorate the group.	Specific actions should be guided by HEG, however EHPC can give support and perhaps funding including defining our environmental objectives.	WORK WITH HEG TO REINVIGORATE
Many village residents as well as SODC have expressed a desire for more focus on climate change.	(b) Plant trees as a contribution to carbon capture in accordance with the principles of The Woodland Trust Charter for Trees, adopted by the PC in Feb 2019.	Depending on how this is done, the cost will vary. HEG currently have ca £1000 in funds. Crowd-funding/sponsorship could be considered.	Trees enhance our public amenity and help wildlife as well as making a contribution to carbon capture. Choice of trees should be sympathetic, and the locations sensitive to the historic landscape of the village as outlined in the EHNP character Assessment.	ENCOURAGE HEG TO EVALUATE AND PRIORITISE, MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS
	(c) Maintain existing hedges in our control and make new plantings to enhance wildlife and biodiversity	The hedge along Great Mead is in need of some management. HEG have been involved in maintaining Didcot Millennium Wood.	Success depends on sufficient volunteers for HEG.	

	(d) Establish a closer relationship with local farmers to get their perspective on community matters including wildlife, footpaths.			
	<i>Specific ideas suggested include: Spring bulbs planting, planting along Moor Lane, elm replacement, orchard planting, owl boxes, planting in Millennium Wood, working with farmers for planting trees and hedges</i>			
Charging points for electric vehicles	Could be considered for the Village Car Park.	Cost likely to be substantial, but there may be support from other bodies.	Trend to electrification means that facilities might be needed in future	EXPLORE WHAT IS INVOLVED
10. Village Improvements (Village Sparkle)				
Our village needs some loving care to look its best.	Some of the actions elsewhere in this plan contribute to this objective.			
	(a) Continue smartening benches around the village	Cost awaited for second phase.		PROGRESS
	(b) Consider proposal for a village map board as a guide for visitors.	Needs costing. Suitable location needs to be found.		EVALUATE
	(c) Improve footpath surface at Bowls Club and HVH.	Needs costing depending on whether volunteer labour is available.		CONSIDER WHAT IS NEEDED
East Hagbourne is physically constrained and would benefit from more land for community use.	(d) Consider whether suitable land in the village could be purchased to expand community facilities.	Considerable. Would require use of CIL money.		EVALUATE
	(e) Consider what such land could be used for.		Use would need to meet the criteria of a community mandate and demonstrated need - for more than just a few people	
Move overhead cables underground in the heart of the Conservation Area.	The SODC Character Study of 2000 mentioned that some cables had been buried in the area near the Church and recommended that this be extended to other areas of Main Road.	Cost is likely to be substantial, although we may get help from other bodies. Needs exploring		EVALUATE
Consider whether extensions to HVH or EHP are needed	Linked to Issue 3.	Cost could exceed our resources and need grant support. HVH structure/space may limit options.	Feasible, provided we have a defined need.	EVALUATE