

# Great Addington Parish Plan 2008

## The Workgroup members:-

Dave Cole - unattached

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**The Great Addington Parish Plan - 2008 was formally adopted by the Parish Council on September 15<sup>th</sup> 2008. It is published at [www.parish-council.com/greataddington](http://www.parish-council.com/greataddington). Copies can be downloaded from the website or obtained on paper (at cost) from the Parish Clerk. A "Five Minute Summary" was distributed to every household with the April 2008 edition of the Parish Magazine "Saints Alive".**

## **Introduction**

A Parish Plan is a statement of the current and future needs of a community. It will also sets out ways in which these needs could be met. It should be regularly monitored.

The production of a Parish Plan should be a community effort supported by the Parish Council. It's an opportunity for local people to say what services they need and to shape the future of their village. Parish Councillors need to know the needs and aspirations of the community. Parish Plans help District and County Councils to understand rural needs. Parish Plans provide evidence of needs that can be used to justify external, financial grant aid.

There is evidence of two earlier Plans and these are reviewed below. At the Annual Parish Meeting held in May 2007 the Parish Council expressed a view that now was an appropriate time to develop a new plan covering the period 2008 - 2013. A team of five volunteers undertook to work on a Plan. Their results form the main body of this report.

## The Village

Great Addington is a village of just over 100 dwellings in the District of East Northamptonshire. It sits above the flood plain of the river Nene, which with its tributaries has shaped the surrounding agricultural land. The village is 6 miles East of Kettering, 8 miles North-East of Wellingborough and 4 miles South-West of the District Council's seat in Thrapston. All routes through the village are subject to a maximum vehicle weight limit of 7.5 tonnes unladen weight. There is easy access to Junction 11 of the A14 trunk road which runs approximately 2 miles North of the village.

The village lies within the Corby Parliamentary Constituency. Great Addington, Little Addington and Woodford together form the Woodford Ward of East Northants District Council. The 2007 Electoral Roll lists 263 electors. The Parish Council consists of 7 members with a part time Clerk. The current Council was elected unopposed in May 2007.

The centre of the village is dominated by the sole place of worship, the Parish Church, dedicated to All Saints. The 14<sup>th</sup> Century tower and 12<sup>th</sup> Century South Porch are notable external features. Nearby, across a narrow street, with poor on street parking facilities are the C of E Primary School and the Village Hall (Built in memory of villagers who gave their lives in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War). In 1980 the Parish Council, together with the Little Addington Parish Council established a Charitable Association to manage and develop a Playing Field situated at the boundary of the two villages.

The Nene valley has been continuously inhabited since neolithic times. Just outside the Parish boundary there are, to the South evidence of a Roman building and to the North 3 pre-historic barrows. Within the Parish there is a Saxon burial ground.

The village is served by "The Hare and Hounds" public house . The landlord also runs a small village shop on the same premises. Great Addington no longer has a Post Office. The nearest are at Woodford and Ringstead, each some 2 miles distant.

Prior to 1900 the common building materials appear to have been the local, soft limestone with occasional inclusion of darker ironstone and local red bricks. Roofs are typically blue slate or red pantiles. There is evidence of both of these replacing original straw thatch. More recently there has been a tendency to utilise a mellow brick with concrete roof tiles. Although there is variety in the choice of brick, all are in sympathy with each other and with the older buildings of the village. Listed Buildings within the Parish are:-

- All Saints Church
- Great Addington House (the Old Rectory)
- Manor House and surrounding wall.
- Carlers Farm
- Ferndale
- The Hare & Hounds
- Manor Farm House.

## The Parish Plan 2008

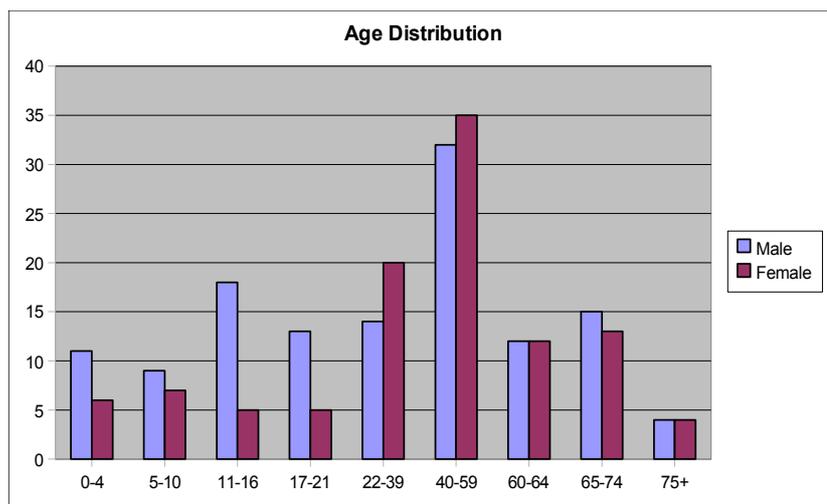
The Workgroup reviewed the earlier Great Addington Plans ( see below) and researched Plans from other villages of similar size. The majority of these were found on websites and others were provided as examples by Northamptonshire ACRE. Minutes of Great Addington Parish Council meetings and the 2007 Annual Parish Meeting were also used as references. From these sources the Workgroup compiled a list of questions they thought to be relevant to Great Addington. The list was submitted to the Parish Council for approval. Their reaction was that the list was too long and it was returned for editing. The final version consisted of sixty main questions in ten Sections.

To minimise the volume of paper required it was agreed to provide one questionnaire per household. Instructions for completing the forms required each adult in the household to answer all questions. The final list of questions was delivered by hand to every house in the parish during the first week of February 2008. Completed forms were collected before the end of that month. Where forms were not ready for collection at the first visit up to two return visits were made. The Workgroup received 83 returns representing 179 residents (68% of electors), (80+% of households). Compared with other villages conducting similar surveys that is an above average rate of returns.

The collated results are listed in full below. The Workgroup has selected what in their view constitutes the major issues from the survey and present them here together with recommendations for addressing them. Not all respondents answered every question. Unless stated otherwise the results listed here are given as a proportion of the total answers for the relevant questions.

### Section 1. The Parish

The age distribution of households responding is shown above. Approximately 140 residents are of working age (17 - 65 inc): 36 are over 65 years old: 56 are less than 17 years old. Seventy eight percent of households have been occupied by the current residents for more than six years and forty eight percent for more than fifteen years.



The rural setting of the village is it's best liked feature and is also the major factor for residents to select it as a place to live (see also Section 4). The most disliked aspect of life in Great Addington is the volume and speed of traffic. This issue has been mentioned in previous village surveys. From discussions with residents it appears that the majority of the excess traffic arises from :-

- the use of Ringstead Road/Cranford Road as an access route to and from the A14(J.11) by residents of towns and villages to the east and south-east of Great Addington.
- vehicles transporting children to and from Great Addington Primary School.

In both cases the traffic is concentrated at particular times of the day. The restructuring of the Main Street/Cranford Road junction that took place in 2005/6 has some effect in slowing the growth of through traffic. The Parish Plan Workgroup suggests that the Parish Council revisits the issue of traffic within the life of the current Council.

## **Section 2. Education**

Approximately  $\frac{1}{3}$  of respondents have children of school age or below. A total of 21 children are reported as attending Great Addington Pre-school or Primary School and 9 attend elsewhere. All secondary and higher education is provided outwith the village. There is a unanimous opinion that provision of pre-school facilities is adequate. There is a potential for more organised activity for children of all ages out of school hours.

Respondents are split approximately 50/50 on the issue of using the Primary School for Community activities, but there is no clear support for any single type of usage.

There is a majority in favour of more adult education / leisure activities in both evening and daytime periods. Keep Fit ( in various forms) and Languages would be the most popular topics with Art and IT also gaining some support.

The majority of respondents are aware of the feasibility study into the possible relocation of Great Addington Primary School to the Addingtons' Playing Field. Seventy three percent of respondents would support such a move. This represents 59% of the adult village population. However it has recently been announced that the School Governors have stopped work on the study due to lack of potential funding for the move. Various reasons for and against the scheme are given in the "Parish Plan Final Responses document" and they may provide a useful reference should the scheme be revived in the future.

## **Section 3. Environment and Conservation**

Respondents feel that the most important features to promote the village's environmental image are 1.) tidy grass verges and hedgerows and 2.) pleasant appearance to gardens and property. Grass verges are the responsibility of Northamptonshire County Council Highways. The other elements are largely the responsibility of householders themselves. It will also be noted that many villagers use footpaths and bridleways and complain of poorly maintained stiles/gates, poor signage and dog faeces. These issues are again the responsibility of NCC and ENC . The Parish Council might consider asking one Councillor to take responsibility for liaison with NCC and ENC on public footpath and dog fouling issues. A garden open day or tidy garden competition might help promote the pleasant

appearance of gardens and property. The Addingtons' Horticultural Society might be willing to organise something of this nature. Should such an event be successful then the Parish Council may wish to consider entry into a County or Country wide Tidy Village competition. There is considerable support for a range of renewable energy initiative. The most popular being installation of private solar panels and wind turbines. There is less support for additional commercial wind turbine farms and bio-fuel plants.

## **Section 4: Housing**

There appears to be little support for major expansion of the village. Forty nine residents believe that any expansion would significantly alter the character of the village whilst a further 65 would accept up to 10% expansion. There is a strong view that any future development should be limited to infill within the existing village boundary (Inset 23, Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan submission document – East Northants Council). This development should favour affordable family homes that blend with the existing village character. As noted in Section 1. the general view is that Great Addington is a pleasant rural community with an infrastructure able to support its present population. It is considered that any enlargement of the village would require improvement in many areas of the infrastructure – see the “Parish Plan Final Responses document”.

## **Section 5: Information & Communication**

Very few respondents use the NCC Mobile Library Service. The most widely used method of communication within the village is the Parish Church Newsletter “Saints Alive”, followed by word of mouth. Removal of the telephone quiosk would not cause problems for the majority of respondents.

## **Section 6: Role of the Parish Council**

Whilst approximately 40% of respondents did not know how the Parish Council spent the annual precept, the majority of those who did are either satisfied or fairly satisfied with the way the precept was spent. There is strong support for the Parish Council to provide the necessary services, rather than minimising the impact on Council taxes. It appears that many respondents were unaware of that Parish Council meetings are open to the public and that there is an open forum section at each meeting. Approximately 70% of respondents have not attended an Annual Parish Meeting in the last three years. Some suggestions to attract more attendees are listed in the “Parish Plan Final Responses document”

## **Section 7: Public Transport & Highways**

Issues involving traffic in and around the village are high priorities for many residents. Primary responsibility for highways rests with Northants County Council Highways Dept. The answers given to the questionnaire and comments made at the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2008 suggest that the Parish Council should use its influence, wherever possible, to alleviate the volume and speed of through traffic and to minimise the problems caused by on street parking. Maintenance of pavements is considered to be poor and safety of pedestrians, cyclists and horses is considered to be at risk. There is support among respondents for a range of traffic calming measures. The best supported is the use of vehicle activated speed warning signs. There is majority support for a group of volunteers to be trained in the use of hand held speed cameras.

## **Section 8: Retail & Other Services**

Water supply and refuse collection services score highly. All other services listed below appear to have room for improvement. The services with the lowest scores are, verge maintenance, street cleaning, road gritting and provision of litter bins.

## **Section 9: Security**

The majority of respondents do not know the location or contact number for the local Police office. Almost 50% regard Police coverage to be poor. The Neighbourhood Watch scheme appears to be in poor health, but there is minority support for further involvement in this or any other crime prevention activity. Thirty residents reported having been victims of crime in the village during the preceding six months.

## **Section 10: Sport, Social & Entertainment**

Leisure and sports facilities in the village are seen as generally poor. More residents would make greater use of the Addingtons' Playing Field if facilities were improved. If respondents are a representative sample of the village then many of the leisure groups meeting in the village cater for people living elsewhere.

## **Review of previously gathered data.**

### *Village Plan Questionnaire 2002.*

In 2002 a questionnaire was distributed by the Parish Council to every household in the village. The covering letter explained that each person on the electoral roll was entitled to contribute, either as an individual or jointly, provided it was stated how many voters were to be counted. Reference was also made to a Local Plan covering the period 1996 to 2006. No evidence of that document has been found in the Parish Council's records. At about the same time a "Needs Day" was held in the Memorial Hall to collect and define peoples views on significant issues. It was the Parish Council's intention that the material collected from both sources should form the Parish Plan for the period 2006 to 2016. The results were collated contemporaneously. They have been used as a reference by the Parish Council when necessary, but have not, until now, been published in any form. The questions asked, with responses and the issues raised are set out in Appendix I.

### *Great Addington Past and Present (Parish 2000).*

During the period 1989 to 1991 a committee researched and compiled a 184 page document "Great Addington Past and Present" that records an appraisal of the Parish. The committee represented a wide range of interests within the community and was formed at the instigation of The Womens' Institute who were encouraged by Northamptonshire Rural Community Council. The final document was published by the Parish Council. "Great Addington Past and Present" contains reports of the status quo of all village organisations and a number of reports by committee members on historical research topics of their own choosing. As part of the village appraisal every household in the village was asked to complete a questionnaire. The results are published as part of the main document under the heading "Parish 2000" and are repeated here in Appendix II.

**Great Addington Parish Plan – 2008**  
**Appendices**

## Appendix I

### *Notes from 2002 “Needs Day”*

<i>Major Issue</i>	<i>Possible Actions</i>
Speeding Traffic	Traffic calming Gate/hazard at:- Ringstead Road Lower Street Cranford Road Woodford Road Pink tinted Tarmac in village area 40mph/30mph speed limit between LA and GA “Quiet Lane” status for surrounding roads Cycle tracks Improved signage
The future of the school:- School parking School playing field School expansion	Relocate school to new site at Addingtons' Playing Field Playing field on Glebe land Staggered school start times Community use of school facilities
Improvement of village amenities	Drainage in Main/Lower street Identifying amenity spaces Burying overhead cables Identifying areas of character Maintain present playing field Maintaining the public house, evening entertainment Encouraging mobile shops/internet shopping Mobile library visits Maintaining the village hall, encouraging clubs and societies Improving street furniture Facilities for young people Reducing noise pollution, including aircraft noise Reducing light pollution Possible village shop Cable TV/data Mains gas supply Childrens' playground Pocket park
Security and Safety	The Police Service Neighbourhood Watch Security by Design Clearing pavements and paths Winter gritting More street lights Litter clearance Vandalism
Housing and development in the village and the adjacent Nene valley	Development plan/design statement/village boundaries Affordable housing Longhurst housing policy for the village Working from home Commercial and Industrial development Tourism – Guest houses, B&B Leisure – expansion of fishing lakes, field paths, open access areas Tree preservation orders

<i>Major Issue</i>	<i>Possible Actions</i>
	Encouraging indigenous species of trees Farming diversification
Public transport	Improved bus service Integrated to public transport – connections to early trains at Wellingborough Voluntary transport
Environmental issues	Village recycling point Dedicated refuse collections for reclaimable materials

## ***2002 Questionnaire Questions and Responses***

	<i>Question</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Don't Care</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Nil return</i>
1	The village boundary should be drawn to further restrict building and development in and around the village.	141	1	32	6
2	Only development in keeping with the existing character of the village should be allowed.	167	3	10	0
3	Measures should be taken to reduce the risk of road accidents.	165	0	8	7
4	The facilities for village children should be improved; inside and outside of school. (Pocket park, playing fields nearer to village, school relocation to existing playing fields)	152	2	18	8
5	It is important that low cost housing is available.	70	29	66	15
6	There should be more gritting of the roads in winter.	161	6	13	0
7	A Public House is desirable in the village and should be supported.	158	12	10	0
8	Facilities for recycling, refuse collection and litter clearing should be improved.	132	15	29	4
9	The Village Hall provides a valuable service to the community and should be maintained.	173	4	3	0
10	I believe that the village should have more influence over its future and its development.	169	5	2	4
11	Certain utilities can be approached with a view to obtaining services – would you support an approach.	109	30	15	26
	<p>Respondents were asked to highlight any particular concerns they might have. The issues raised, together with the number of respondents raising them were:-</p> <p style="text-align: right;"> Traffic calming 29  On street parking 20  Low-cost housing 14  Relocation of school 13  Playing field closer to village 8  Recycling 7  Street lighting 6  Public transport 5  Footpaths 4  Noise disturbance from Hare &amp; Hounds 3  Additional uses for village hall 2  Dog fouling 1 </p>				

## Appendix II

### *Extract from Great Addington Past and Present*

Chapter 1  
Parish 2000  
Report of Survey

This report is the way in which the findings are reported locally although action has already been taken by the Parish Council and other bodies about items raised and the findings will be used by the Council in responding to enquiries from the District Council about planning, development and other general matters.

There are some 109 dwellings in the village and questionnaires were delivered to 103. 80 replies were received from these households - a very good response. The findings in the rest of this report are based on those 80 replies.

Great Addington has a high proportion of under 20's with relatively few people over 65 - this is different from many other villages.

For residents of the village employment is mainly in manufacturing and commerce, with a small group in health and education; this means that most people work in Kettering and Wellingborough but the spread of travel extends to London, Cambridge, Birmingham and Oakham. Great Addington offers about 15 jobs while 80 residents travel outside.

The survey revealed strong feelings about industrial development. A clear message of dislike of the idea was given. A few people would accept it with strict control and conditions but many are strongly against it on the grounds that it would not be in keeping with the village and would spoil the village way of life.

With no peak hour public transport we have only 3 households without the use of a car and a total of 143 driving licence holders. Cars are the main form of travel for work, shopping and leisure. Other forms of transport are poorly used.

In education and child care there is ongoing demand for pre-school facilities while the village school will have a steady flow of new entrants. The level of use of part-time education for adults is good with interest in local facilities and local topics, unfortunately travel is necessary to attend these courses.

Leisure. In the village the Memorial Hall is extensively used and is generally considered adequate although suggestions were put forward for further improvements. These have been passed on to the Hall Committee - they will cost money!

Not many people use the Playing Field but there are suggestions for more organised activities and remember that it is now used by the two parishes. Walking in the gravel pits area and by the river is popular but the field paths are not so well used - buy your map at the Post Office.

Leisure outside the village splits, with strong support for Kettering and Northampton, with Wellingborough and Peterborough also well used.

Use of village amenities. We do use the Post Office well (but is it enough?) while the Church, the

pub and the village hall are all well represented.

For shopping purposes Kettering beats Wellingborough and other places are used to a lesser degree.

While a large minority go to the Woodford doctors surgery there is still a spread to Kettering, Thrapston, Irthlingborough etc. For dentists we look mostly to Kettering but old ties are strong and the rest travel far and wide for their dental care. With all the cars available most people are sure they would have no difficulty in getting to hospital if needed.

Most people are happy with the street lighting but suggestions for further improvements have been noted but for some residents the parking of their cars and of other peoples cars is a difficulty.

Residence. Of all our adult respondents only 7 have lived in the village all their lives - well done - with the longest exceeding 70 years. For the rest about 1/3 have been here for less than 5 years with a further 1/3 between 5 and 10 years.

The new arrivals have come to the village from all points of the compass, but the local bias is quite strong. For the rest the South and South East are matched by Yorkshire and Lancashire together - whatever that tells us! Work place changes brought most people to the area while love of village life and the countryside features very strongly. Most people anticipate staying for a long time with half the respondents stating an assumption of staying more than 10 years.

Nobody is looking to ENDC for help to stay in the village as some 90% of the property is privately owned. Few people support any additional housing, but those who felt that some would come anyway thought that 2 bedroom/starter units and retirement homes were preferable while the preferred form of development was biased to single units or small infill of up to 5 houses.

For the young people - there is not much to keep them here! although 2/3 of those who answered would like to stay. The lack of amenities and housing are seen as critical while the need for education and employment take them away.

PARISH 2000 is a survey of village life, environment and opinion. It will help record the Parish for future reference and guide decisions that may effect us all. Thank you for your help.

The Committee acknowledges the assistance given by the distributors and the responders to the survey which was completed in April and May 1990.

Compiled and processed by Mrs. Betty Darbyshire and Mr Ted Bailey.