

Notes from Community Planning meeting 10th June 2009 – Session 3

Understanding our community

This represents the notes from the 3rd Session of the Hadlow Down Community Planning process. The emerging themes will be developed further into specific ideas for the new Parish Community Plan. These will in turn be developed into the final draft strategy. To follow updated details of the progress of the plan go the village website www.hadlowdown.com

Economy

Top 7 Themes

1. Planning the village in a sustainable and balanced way based on historical growth
2. Developing local affordable housing
3. Supporting the 'New Inn' as a village asset
4. Supporting local tourism – Wilderness Wood, Tinkers Park
5. Supporting local rural home working
6. Seek opportunities to incorporate a part time village shop
7. Support traditional rural economy – farming, cottage industry, craft workshops

Planning

- Planning improve communication between local people, Parish Council and WDC.
- What information WDC should be aware of re village
- New development should improve the character of the village. More imagination should go into it, WDC should work with local people, engineers etc.
- Seek to integrate communities, i.e. businesses and homes, convert present buildings.
- Move for flexible criteria based planning
- Sale of land – unsuited development, harm to established woodland, loss of amenity
- WDC should listen to local knowledge, communication – do WDC listen (parish magazine?), better feedback from WDC.
- Better communication
- Surface water drainage – needs to be better planning for this
- Promoting and supporting Sustainable developments
- Organic development relevant to Hadlow Down
- WDC – aren't promoting massive change in Hadlow Down
- Think affordable housing would be good for Hadlow Down

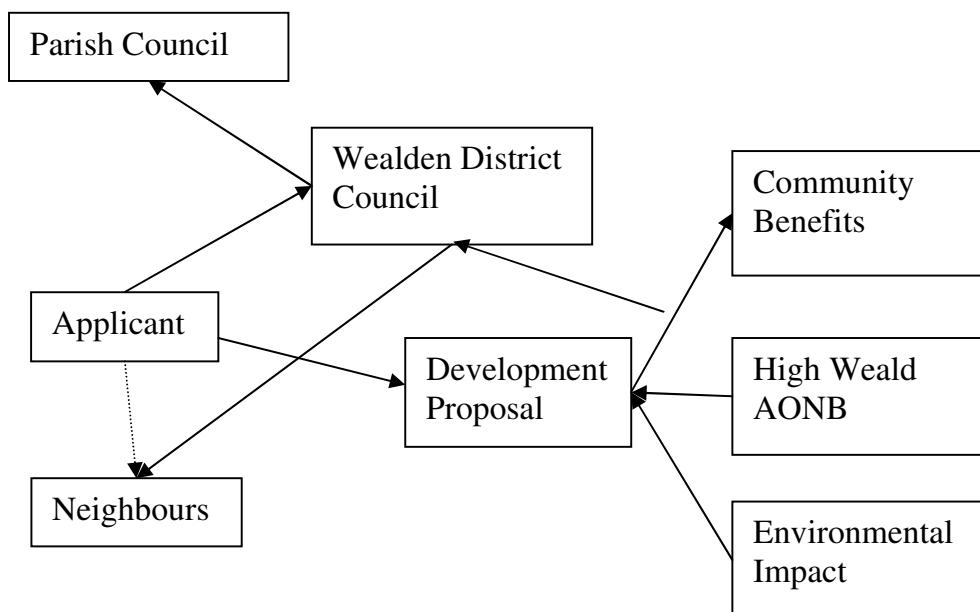
Village Shop / Pub

- The establishment of a Village shop would improve the village, but it was noted that this has been tried before.
- Improvements to the New Inn have been made but need ongoing support from the community. The bollards do not help the situation.
- Doug Moss, Team Leader of Planning Department from Wealden District Council said that the Council always try to protect community buildings, e.g. pub, but often developers seek to run down a village asset to seek profit and gain by saying it's no longer economically viable. The community would need to speak up loudly and present a compelling case for the long term protection of the pub.
- It was noted that the Building is listed and therefore has a degree of protection. It was noted that if people really are concerned about the New Inn, then the best way to protect it...is use it. It's not that bad.

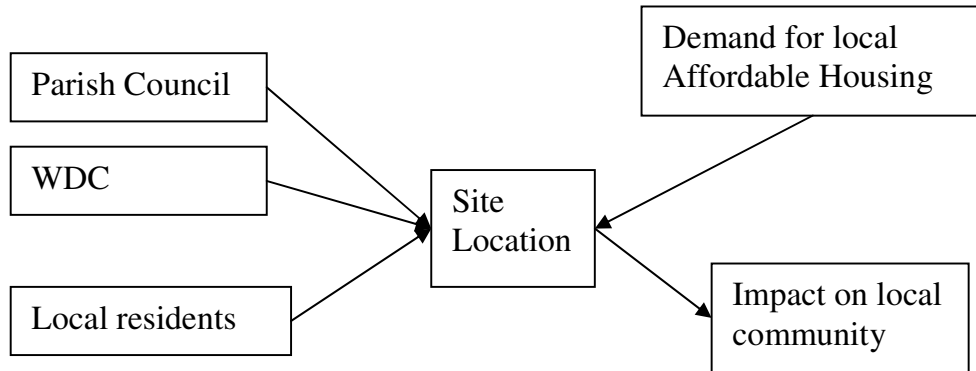
Affordable Housing

- Affordable housing – important – local people, social rented
- Integrate development – business/residential
- To assist in retaining local people within the area

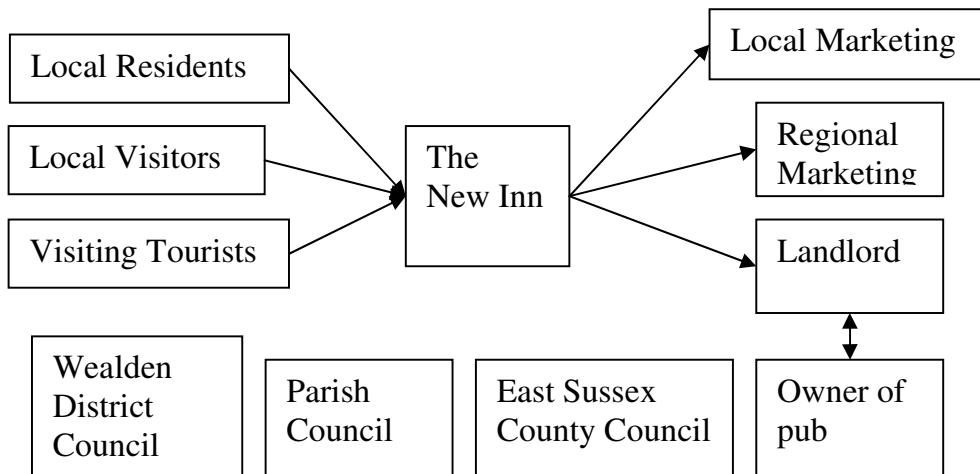
1. Planning the village in a sustainable and balanced way based on historical growth



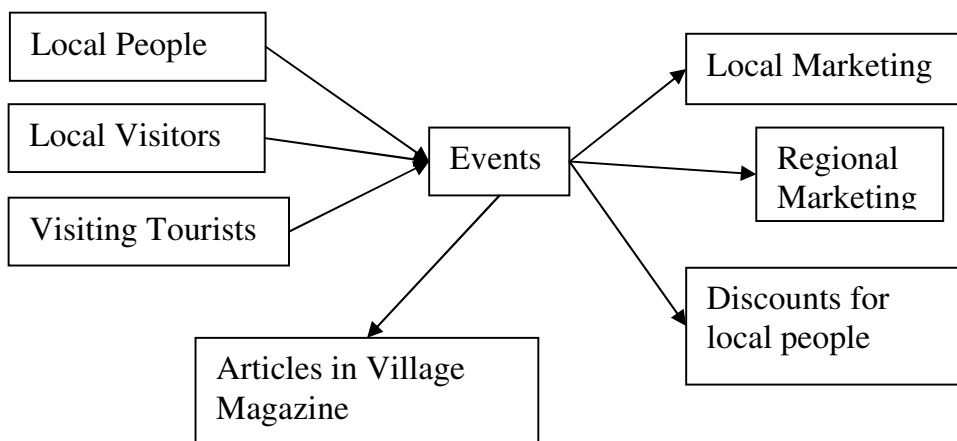
2. Developing local affordable housing



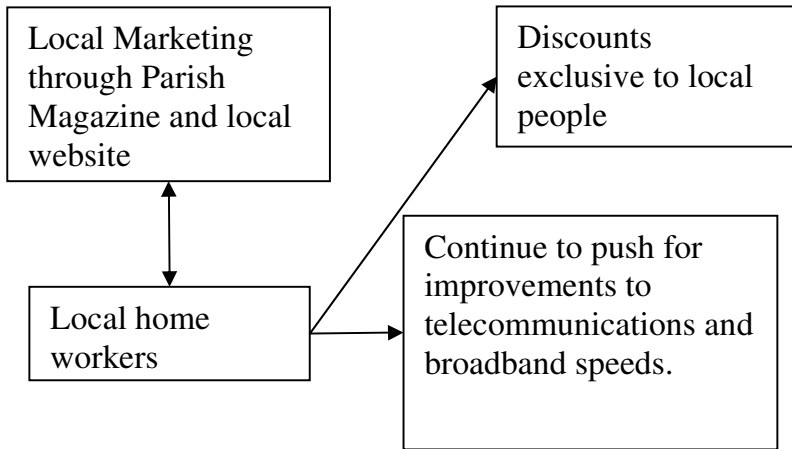
3. Supporting the 'New Inn' as a village asset



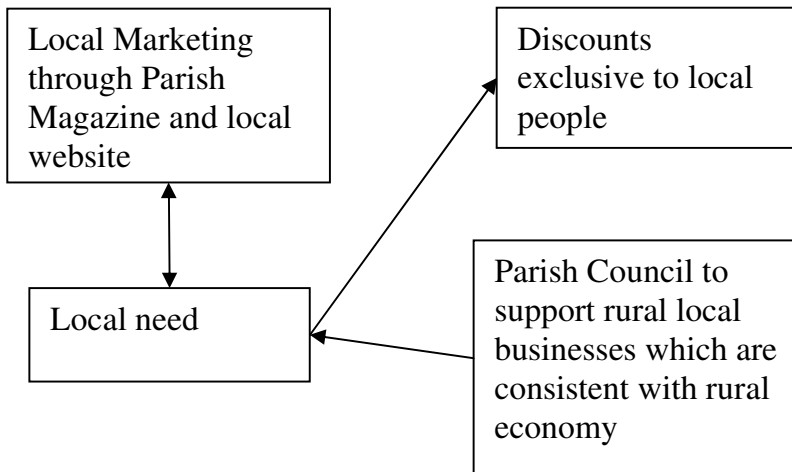
4. Supporting local tourism – Wilderness Wood, Tinkers Park



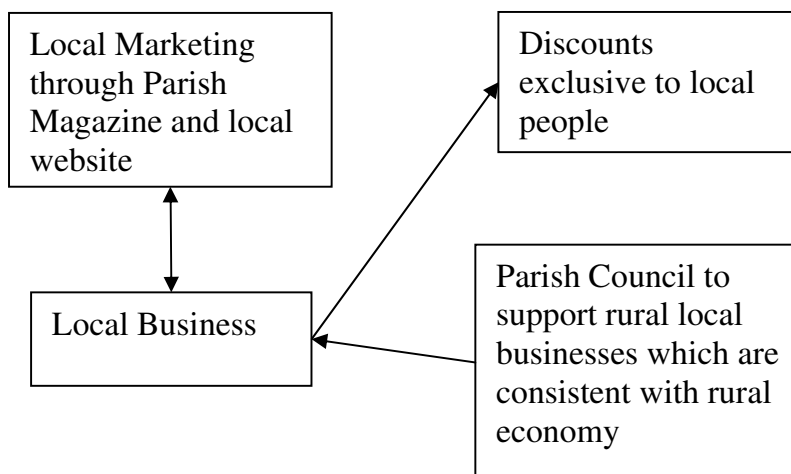
5. Supporting local rural home working



6. Seek opportunities to incorporate a part time village shop



7. Support traditional rural economy – farming, cottage industry, craft workshops



Environment

Top 7 Themes

1. Threat of Excessive Housing Development
2. Waste and Recycling
3. Speeding through the village and local lanes
4. Biodiversity and Landscape protection
5. Maintaining and developing public rights of way including linking up existing paths
6. Protecting night sky from light pollution
7. Dangerous Dogs at Lovetts

Threat of Excessive Housing Development

- Doug Moss, Planning Dept- Wealden District Council suggested that Hadlow Down was unlikely to be required to take a large amount new homes. But the Government has asked Wealden District to absorb 11,000 new homes by 2026.
- New housing should reflect opportunity to improve character of village with large plots – sustainable materials

Waste and Recycling

- Problem with distance to travel for recycling.
- Jo Carpenter, from Wealden District Council Waste and Recycling section advised that the Council are hoping to expand kerbside collecting within the next 12 months to every household. This would include Hadlow Down Parish. Waste goes to a depot and is then sold on as a resource. It isn't incinerated. Would take cardboard, green waste etc. People wouldn't have to use all of the bins. Glass will not be collected as it needs to be separated into different colours rather than all mixed in together. Hoping to open permanent Recycling and waste disposal Centre in Maresfield in September.
- Will it be used? – Yes – a lot of misinformation but have own depot, information and promotion will be provided.
- People will be encouraged to compost their grass cuttings, and green waste at some sites.
- Wilderness Wood Site – will stay active, other locations needed. Wilderness Wood does not get any compensation for having recycling bins on their property. It is not a dump for other rubbish.
- More information needed re – compostable or non compostable waste for recycling in our area
- WDC mentioned a subsidised Green Joanna compost bin. Information on Wealden website.

Speeding Motorcycles and vehicles

- Problem of cars and motorbikes speeding and keeping within the speed limit.
- Difficult in the side roads to control speed, possibility of having special signs or making footpaths. Sometimes the locals are speeding.
- Various speed limits
- Was it worth reducing to 30 as easier for people to overtake as don't need to build up so much speed to get by.
- Whether people can see the signs due to overhanging foliage – confirmed that this is being looked into.
- Possible radar speedwatch group in the future
- Put information in the parish magazine regarding what people should and shouldn't do.
- Motorbikes – Sunday Moto Cross a number of people can hear it. Owners have been approached previously.
- Speeding traffic – Main Road is noticeable but side roads still fast and irresponsible drivers. Walkers, riders and deer along these lanes.
- Problem of walking through the village due to the speeding
- Long-term environmental issues – high quality of life would be affected by development, change of use, if speed humps are put in we would need street lighting which would spoil the night sky.
- Approach Schools – education
- Police, ESCC
- Radar Group Ringmer. Will take place 2 years after new speed limit, awaiting training. Highways will take up
- Operation crackdown
- Funding for new pavements, verges, routes off Main Road, circular ride around the village
- Flashing speed signs – need to make locals aware, volunteers
- Large lorries – Sat. Navs.

Biodiversity and Landscape protection

- Sale of ancient woodland, who's buying it and shooting on the land. Concern re woodland – what's happening with it?
- Importance of Biodiversity and natural environment.
- Quality of environment
- Rare species, newts and hedgehogs
- Night pollution – oppose speed humps
- Degradation of local woods
- Land sold in plots for bikes/shooting, other, rubbish, purchasers need guidance or restrictions. No planning permission needed.
- Shooting – noise pollution – council first

Rights of way

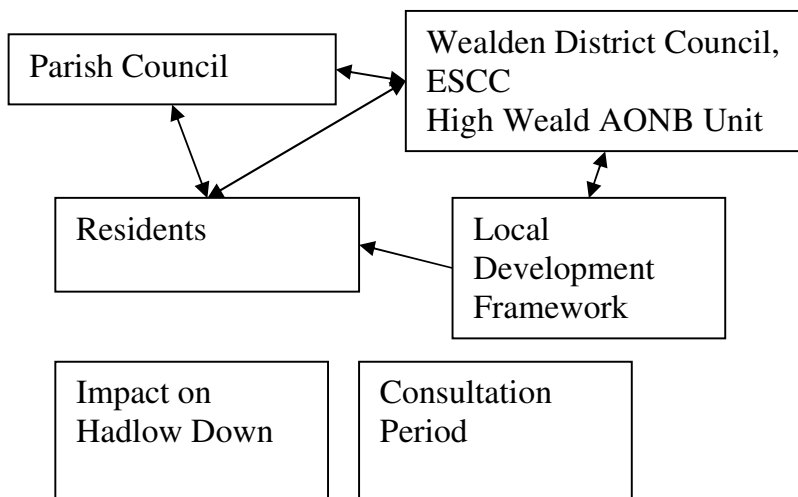
- Publish in parish magazine the public rights of way – guides on what people can and can't do in the country.
- Rights of Way officer – people not aware
- Network of footpath and cycle ways to connect different routes.
- No alternative networks for people to walk so that it would be safer
- Paths not clearly marked

- Footpaths generally
- Put in parish magazine and on web what you can and can't do & show rights of way. Definitive map is record – council web, parish clerk
- Asset for community

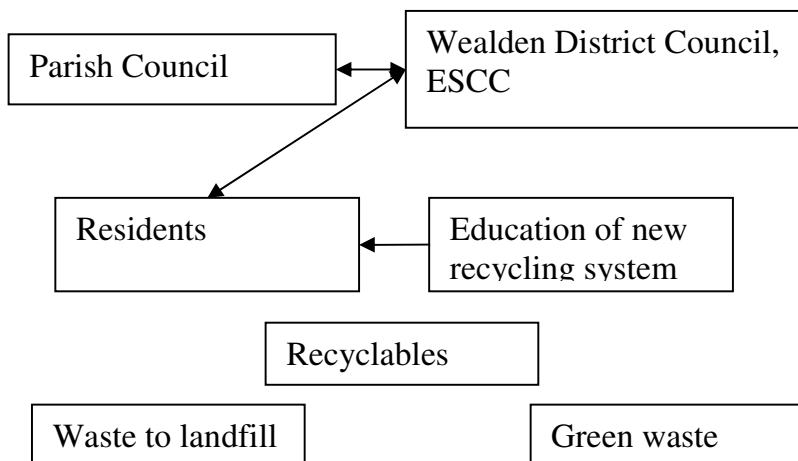
Dogs at Lovetts

- Noise of dogs – and threatening behaviour of dogs to passers by. Owners have been approached, but the problem continues.

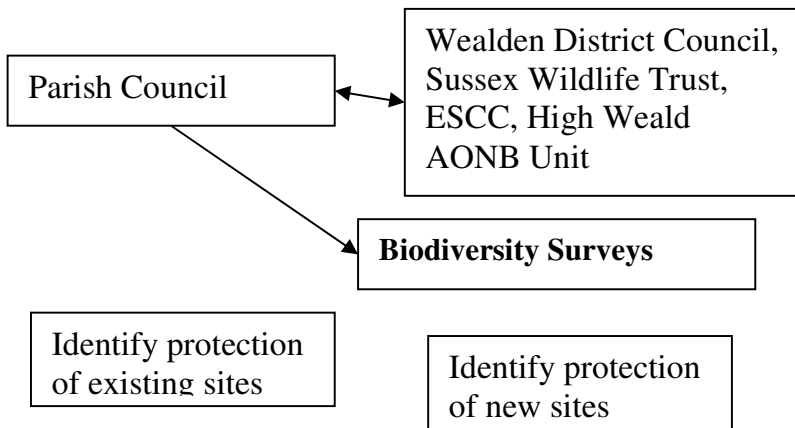
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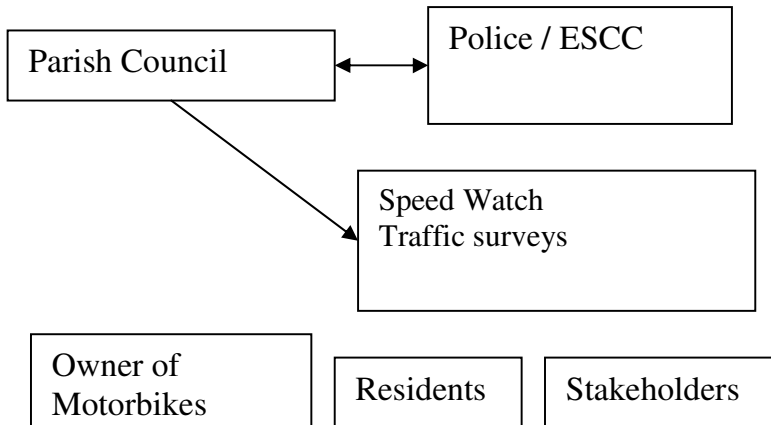
2. Waste and Recycling



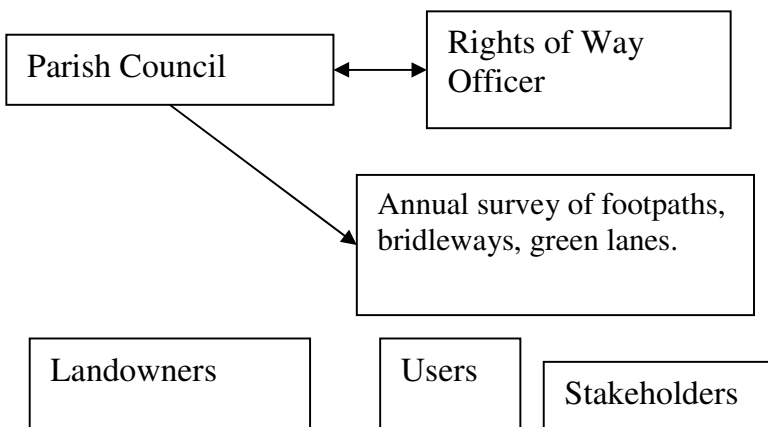
3. Biodiversity and Landscape



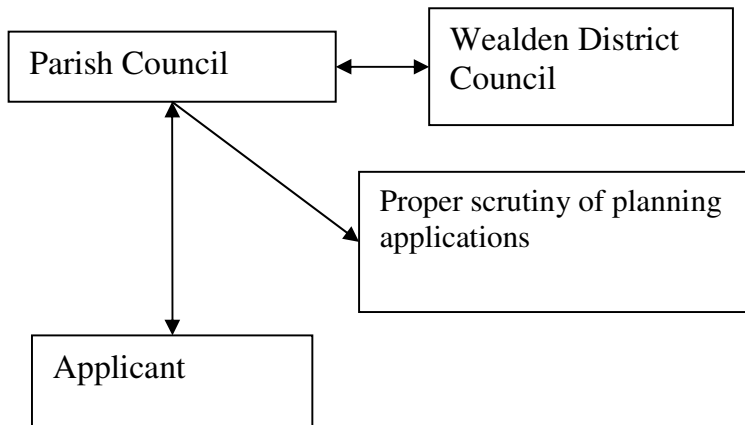
4. Speeding through the village and local lanes leading from the village



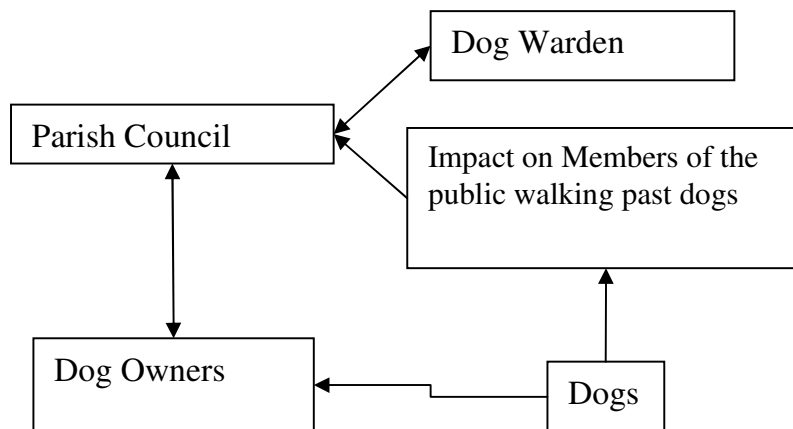
5. Maintaining and developing public rights of way including linking up existing paths



6. Protecting night sky from light pollution



7. Dangerous Dogs at Luvetts



Society

Top 7 Themes

1. Developing a new village hall
2. Supporting village events
3. Supporting village groups
4. Supporting St. Marks Church
5. Supporting St Marks School
6. Crime and anti social behaviour (vandalism, littering)
7. Improving rural public transport

New Village Hall

- Lots of talk no action. Old Village hall cannot continue forever.
- Location still a concern but few options available
- Need a new chairman, committee needs re-establishing, and some action to pursue available funds to design and build a modern and sustainable Village Hall based on the growing needs of the Parish.

Village Community groups

- Communities growing i.e. through the village hall, some declining i.e. church. Try and involve smaller groups in with larger groups – need to bury very old hatchets, negative history
- All of smaller groups linked to bigger groups.
- Assets – church, school, New Inn, Tinkers Park, Kit Wilson Trust, Village Hall, Horticultural Society, Summer Fayre, Variety Club, Parish Council. Everyone should come together.
- Struggling groups need to overcome negative perceptions of them via better communication.
- Better Communication vital. Groups often have the same goals. People don't do things as they've never done it i.e. enter pub/church. Promote events i.e. at Murder Mystery. on website, parish magazine etc.
- Some villages find it is successful to have events with groups having stalls selling things etc. – 11th July – Hadlow Down Village Hall Open Day.
- Existing sub Communities within the Community:
 - Church
 - School
 - Wilderness Wood
 - New Inn
 - Summer Fayre and Winterfest
 - Variety Club
 - Horticultural Society
 - Tinkers Park
 - Bowls Club
 - Playing Field
 - Parish Council
 - Saxon Court
 - Marlowe House
 - Kit Wilson Trust
 - Village Hall

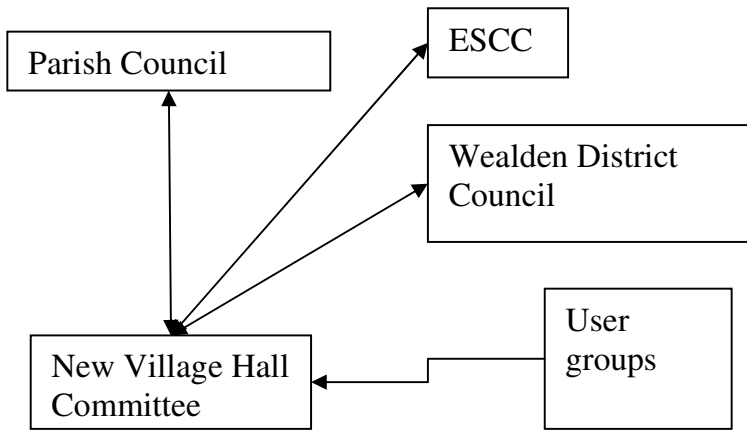
St Marks Church

- Church producing a questionnaire, what people think of services, if the times of the services could be improved.

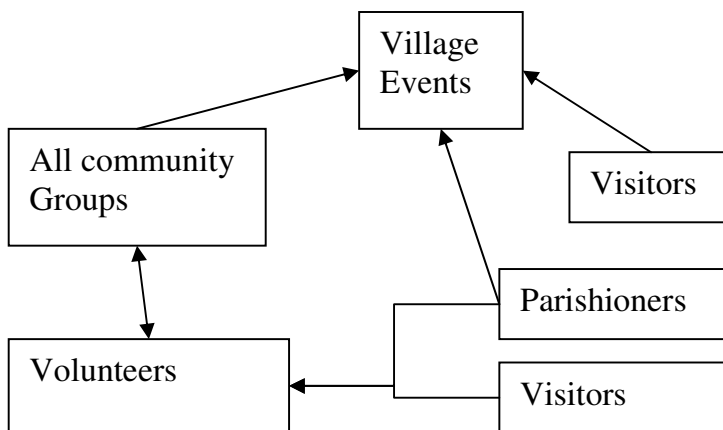
Parish Council

- Good if people attended, one person found it an uncomfortable experience whereas someone else enjoyed it and was made very welcome. What would it take to make it more comfortable – if wasn't the only member of the public there.

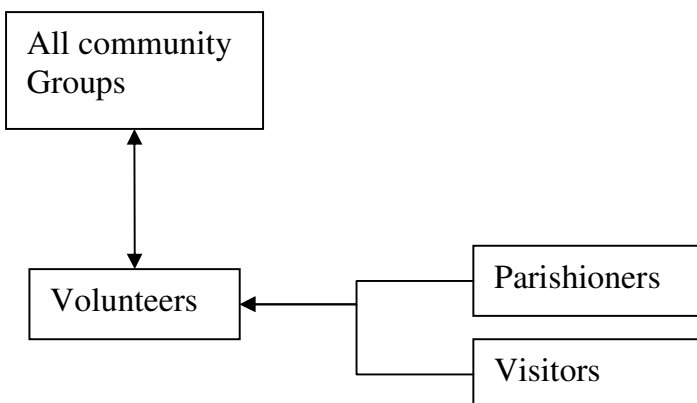
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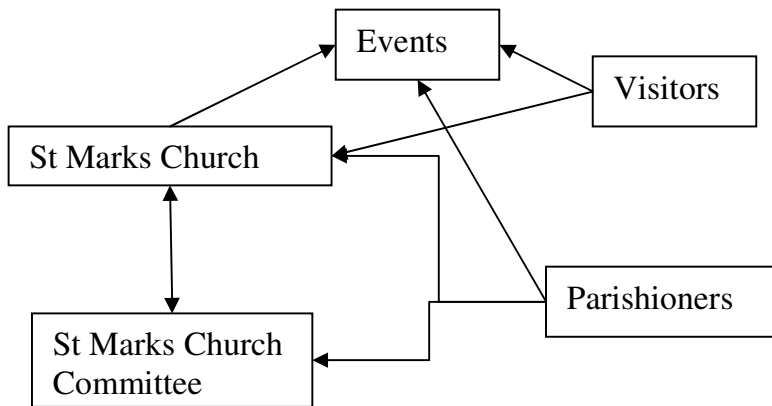
2. Supporting village events



3. Supporting village groups



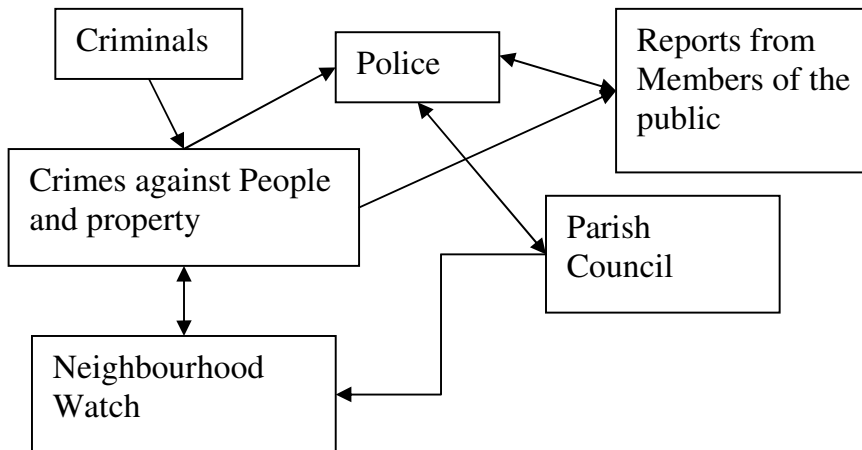
4. Supporting St. Marks Church



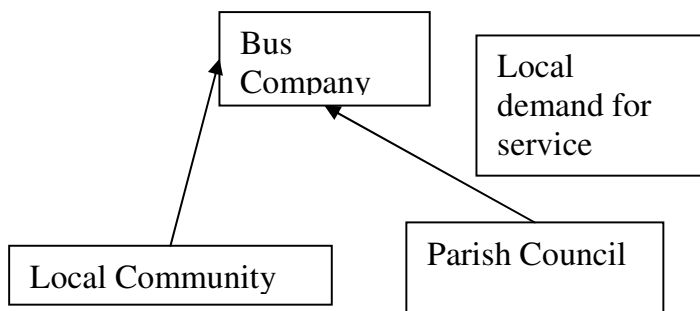
5. Supporting St Marks School

To be developed with representatives of the school

6. Crime and anti social behaviour (vandalism, littering)



7. Improving rural public transport



Wellbeing

Top 7 Themes – Note : Only 3 themes could be identified

1. Village Apathy
2. Conserving and enhancing village atmosphere

3. Improving dialogue and communications between different groups / stakeholders
4. Supporting our local youth with place to meet / hang out
5. ??????????
6. ??????????
7. ??????????

Village Apathy

- Apathy – need to break it down – help if small groups who are struggling work in with big more successful groups
- Apathy – Wilderness Wood, New Inn, School, Church, Village Hall.
- Problem - perception
- People have not got time – too busy
- Promoting more ‘communities’
- Bury hatchets

Improve Communication

- Communication!
 - Parish Magazine
 - Village website
 - Communication among Village groups
 - Communication among different stakeholders
- Conserving village atmosphere

Supporting our local youth with place to meet / hang out

- Need to re-establish youth club within village.