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## **Andrew Selous MP (South West Bedfordshire)**

I am delighted to welcome and support the Parish Plan put forward by Hockliffe. Hockliffe is I know a parish which has a strong sense of community and I very much appreciate the opportunity to learn more about this from the copies of the Hockliffe Herald which I am always pleased to be able to read.



For people to feel connected to the political process they have to feel that their wishes are genuinely taken into account by those they elect who have responsibility for local services and other community matters. We need to move towards a more bottom up approach to government in which decisions are made locally whenever possible. In particular funding needs to be more aligned with the wishes of local people as do decisions on local planning matters. The residents of Hockliffe will only believe that this Parish Plan has been worthwhile if those who have responsibility take note of the wishes expressed within it. I very much hope that the residents of Hockliffe are not disappointed.

## **County Councillor Rhys Goodwin**



The trend today is for all services to work more together in partnership to meet local as well as national needs. Parish Plans are a key way for villagers to let everyone know what they would like to see happen in the Parish over the next few years.

Much will need to be organised locally, but there is help available with the really big projects from Local Government and the Lottery Fund. Counties, as well as Districts and villages have a national part to play - in Hockliffe one of these is the A5 Trunk Road, which for many of us is often overloaded with traffic it was never designed to carry. The Plan clearly shows the village's need for a by-pass and we will all be working together to help make it happen.

Hockliffe is one of the very few villages of this size without a Community Centre meeting many of the local needs of all age groups. All villagers should be involved in supporting this key and exciting venture and this Project Plan is a very good start.

The Plan gives direction to all who represent you, it identifies key village needs and wants and I am very happy to have this helpful guidance and look forward with some enthusiasm to seeing the main targets achieved.

Well Done and Good Luck!

## **Billy Hill, Hockliffe Parish Council**

It is almost two years since the Parish Council sent a letter to every household announcing a date for the first Public Meeting to be held following its decision to inaugurate the preparation of a Parish Plan. We were hugely encouraged by the number of residents present at that meeting and the enthusiasm expressed. I am proud that it was under my Chairmanship that the Parish Council took that initiative and that the Plan has now reached its denouement.



I know that my fellow Councillors are pleased with its content and it will serve its purpose as, in modern parlance, a road map for Parish planning and policy making over the next five years or so. Hopefully it will also influence in some measure the policies adopted at Regional, County and District Council levels. It is worth noting too that, although a small Parish, we are ahead of many who are just setting out on those early stages and, with the considerable progress which has already been made in the Planning, Recreational Facilities and Environment of our village, will serve as a further stage in achieving Parish Council Quality Status with its many benefits.

Our grateful thanks to Zoe Ashby of Bedfordshire Rural Charities for her invaluable advice on the Parish Plan throughout and to Chairperson Marilyn Young and her Committee for all their hard work and success, and my thanks to them for inviting me to contribute this foreword.

## **Revd Grant Fellows, Vicar of Hockliffe**



I am pleased to commend the Hockliffe Parish Plan for your careful consideration. Our village has a long history and I am pleased that the ancient church dedicated to St Nicholas, which stands on the Green, has provided a Christian focus for past generations and is keen to do the same for today's residents. One of the great advantages of village life is that it is small enough for people to make a difference to the community in which they live. The Parish Plan has been generated by the people of Hockliffe for the mutual benefit of those who live and work here. It contains many good ideas which will boost community spirit and bring a greater sense of cohesion to the many facets of village life which exist here. I hope you will feel able to give it your enthusiastic and wholehearted support.

# Vision statement

We want a better Hockliffe:-

- where everyone matters
- where people help their neighbours
- where there is an even greater sense of community spirit
- where there is less crime
- where there is somewhere for villagers to meet
- with an improved environment
- with better leisure facilities for all ages
- with less traffic noise and less speeding
- AND WITH A BYPASS

## Introduction

Work on the Hockliffe Parish Plan started at the end of 2003 with a village meeting held at Hockliffe Lower School. A Steering Committee was duly elected<sup>1</sup> with, so far as possible, every organisation in the village being represented, and the first meeting was held on 19 November 2003. A constitution was agreed and an application made to the Countryside Agency for a grant to meet expenses.

The basic purpose of a Parish Plan is to consult those people living and working in and around the village as widely as possible in order to achieve some consensus as to what should be done to improve life in the village over the next 5 years or so.

Methods of consultation included a Parish Plan stall at the School fete, letters to businesses, articles in the Hockliffe Herald and feedback from other organisations in the village. The most ambitious method of consultation was a village questionnaire, the content of which was driven by earlier consultations. It was distributed to businesses and residents during the summer of 2004. A copy of the questionnaire is at Appendix A. Well over 200 replies were received and analysed.

The Steering Committee then formed four groups to analyse different aspects of the information received: Traffic & Transport<sup>2</sup>, Crime<sup>3</sup>, Community & Social Interaction (including Youth matters)<sup>4</sup> and Planning, Communication & Environment<sup>5</sup>. These groups made recommendations for the Plan, which were then further refined by another group, approved by the Steering Committee and incorporated into a first draft of the Plan. The draft was then presented to the Village at an open meeting in September 2005, after which further refinements were made. Finally the Plan was adopted by the Parish Council at its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2005.

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<sup>1</sup> Members of the Steering Committee are Marilyn Young (Chairperson), John Gilbey (Hon Sec), Paul Dickens (Treasurer), Wendy Austin, Jean Broadhead, Val Stanbridge, Helen Buckingham, John and David Coleman, Brian Speller

<sup>2</sup> John Gilbey and Brian Speller

<sup>3</sup> John and David Coleman

<sup>4</sup> Marilyn Young, Val Stanbridge and Helen Buckingham

<sup>5</sup> Jean Broadhead and Paul Dickens

## Hockliffe village – a brief history

Archaeological finds including prehistoric flint scrapers and arrow heads, along with Romano-British pottery and coins, give some indication of settlement in and around Hockliffe. The earliest documentary reference dates to 1015 – Hogancliffe: deriving from Hoga's cliff, on the steep sided spur occupied by the church and medieval village. A Domesday Book entry (1086) itemises a manorial estate here, (north west of the crossroads), with a population of around 100, but few signs of the original settlement still survive.

The only other substantial structure of the time was the Hospital of St. John (now Hockliffe House), in the south-east corner of the parish – a 'poor house' run for about 500 years by a Warden and brethren. Nearby, a little piecemeal development occurred in later medieval times, encouraged by an increase in trade and people along Watling Street. Agriculturally, early emphasis was on arable land, but over the centuries this switched mostly to pasture as part of engrossment and/or enclosure.

There were in fact two medieval and post medieval manorial titles, owned by a succession of prestigious families, but Hockliffe's most famous family was the Gilpins. Robert was rector of St. Nicholas Church from 1616, and his descendents followed him in accumulating property and land, most notably Thomas from the 1730's. His own house became The Grange, which both he and his successor, Richard Thomas (mid 19<sup>th</sup> century), enlarged and reorganised, along with the surrounding landscape. Other non-manorial estates included that pertaining to the Hockliffe House site; the engrossing acquisitions by the Burtons during the 18<sup>th</sup> century; that of the Penfolds at Fourne Hill by the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, and at a similar date that of the Lockington Charity on the medieval village site.

By the 16<sup>th</sup> century Watling Street had become a major thoroughfare for the driving of herds of cattle to London from North Wales and northern England, requiring much grazing ground alongside. However, the road itself retained an apparently national reputation for bad conditions throughout the 17<sup>th</sup> century<sup>6</sup>.

The burden for maintenance lay on the local population until the establishment of turnpike trusts and their tolls (from the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century for about 150 years) brought about great improvements<sup>7</sup>.

To take advantage of the passing custom and to prosper from the (17<sup>th</sup> century onwards) coaching era, numerous inns were established, both in the Hockliffe parish western side of the road and the Chalgrave parish eastern side – The King's Arms; The Swan Inn; The Coach Inn; The Star Inn and The White Hart Inn at the crossroads; The White Horse Inn; The Shoulder of Mutton; The Bull Inn; The George Inn; The Blackbirds; The Falcon; The Unicorn; The Cross Keys Inn and the transition of the 'Hospital' into The Red Lion.

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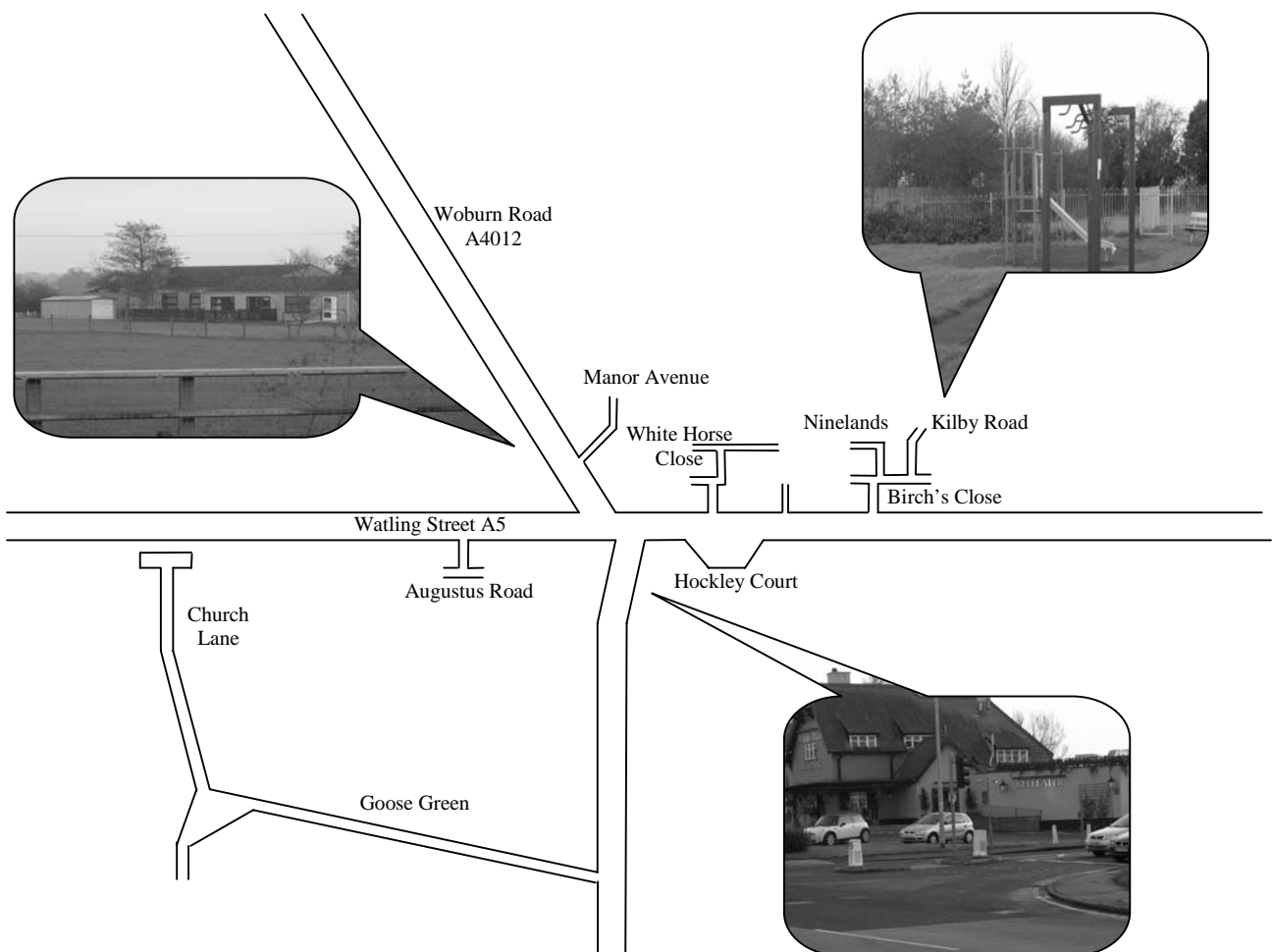
<sup>6</sup> William Camden (1607) – '*Hockley in the Hole, so named of the miry way in winter time, very troublesome to travellers.*'; Celia Fiennes (1697) – '*We came over a sad road called Hockley in the Hole as full of deep snows in winter it must be impassable.*'

<sup>7</sup> Daniel Defoe (1724) – '*We now see the most dismal Piece of Ground for Travelling that ever was in England handsomely repaired.*'; Lysons (1806) – '*Hockliffe's situation is low, it was noted for its miry road, which of late years has been much improved.*'

Population thus increased gradually to a (Hockliffe parish) peak of 460 by 1831, including a few dispersed farmhouses and cottages. In 1844 a purpose-built school was established after the National Society was given a plot of land by the Gilpins.

Over the last century Hockliffe's agriculture has increasingly switched back to arable with larger fields, rather than pasture – such that the necessary ploughing has destroyed much ridge and furrow and flattened the earthwork features with their clues to the way of life in the village of yesteryear. In fact, Hockliffe's population declined during the later 19<sup>th</sup> century, but a hundred years later started to increase again as housing infilling and development on no longer viable garage, shop and inn sites have offered new residential opportunities. The 'main' village now straddles the major A5 (Watling Street) thoroughfare, still very busy despite the nearly parallel M1 route since the 1950's. Like many English villages it continues to be reassessed and will evolve to meet the challenges of the future.

## Map of the centre of the village



## Hockliffe's existing organisations

Organisation	Contact name	Telephone
Hockliffe Lower School	Mrs S. Walden	01525 210330
Hockliffe Community Centre	Mr M Shadbolt	01525 210036
St Nicholas Church	Mr B. Speller	01525 210565
Hockliffe Parish Council	Mr P. Dickens	01525 210210
Residents Association	Mrs K. Dore	07976 263592
Youth Club	Mrs H. Buckingham	01525 210298
Football Club	Mr M. Shadbolt	01525 210036
Adult Education	c/o Hockliffe School	01525 210330
Evergreens	Mrs. C. Briars	01525 210377
Homewatch	Mr. D. Coleman	01525 211112

## Results of the questionnaire

### Demographic

Of those responding to the questionnaire, about 46% were male and 54% female. They fell into the following age groups:

13-15	11	(5.4%)
16-17	5	(2.5%)
18-29	21	(10.3%)
30-44	60	(29.6%)
45-59	59	(29.1%)
60-74	40	(19.7%)
75+	7	(3.4%)

and the length of time they had lived in the village was as follows:

0-6 months	11	(5.3%)
7-12 months	3	(1.5%)
1-2 years	21	(10.2%)
3-5 years	14	(6.8%)
6-10 years	35	(17.0%)
11-20 years	56	(27.2%)
21 years or more	66	(32.0%)

### Adult Education

Roughly half expressed an interest in adult education classes, with computer courses and art/craft classes being the most popular.

### Natural gas

There was considerable interest in having gas in the village, but preliminary enquiries have revealed that the cost per household would be prohibitive (far more than the £500 posed in the questionnaire). Apologies to those whose hopes may have been raised. Further enquiries are being made, but the prospects do not look good.

### Planning

The responses to the questions on further development are in line with the Parish Council's policy of protecting the Green Belt and preferring 3 to 4 bedroom

houses, as opposed to small units. There was support for the presence of new businesses.

### Nuisances

A considerable number of residents were concerned about traffic noise, car parking problems, dogs (both noise and mess) and the behaviour of children (particularly bad language, abuse, vandalism and noise). Fifty-four people were upset or frightened by gangs of youth during the evenings.

### Social problems

A clear need was demonstrated for more social service support for many people.

### Community involvement

The questions relating to involvement in local activities gave rise to some interesting and somewhat surprising answers. About one third of those responding (in fact about 60 people) expressed a desire to become more involved in community activities. These were:

Residents/tenants' Association	18
Hockliffe proposed Community Centre	24
Evergreens	6
School Governing Body/PTA	7
Youth activities/club	11
Place of worship	4
Sports/social club	32
Other/any new clubs you would like to see	14

Suggestions for new clubs included an after school/breakfast club, bingo, brownies/cubs, a crafts club, dancing, good neighbours, martial arts, a pet owner's club, snooker, table tennis, tennis, a toddler group/nursery and a women's club.

Sixty-eight people expressed an interest in an exercise club and 37 in a walking group. Somewhat surprisingly, a message in the *Hockliffe Herald* inviting people to contact Jean Gilbey in order to form a walking group, met with very little response.

Almost one hundred people said that "lack of time" prevented them from being more involved in community activities. This could be because people do not realise that many community activities only involve a commitment of a few hours a month. More significantly, however, many people said that they did not know what was going on!

### Likes and dislikes

The most significant outcome of this question was that many people felt that Hockliffe lacked a "community spirit", because there was no central place to meet. There was considerable support for a community centre and some support for a new public house. As expected, many people were not happy with noisy and speeding traffic through the village.

On the positive side, many people liked living in the countryside and thought that there were lots of nice, friendly people in the village.

### Environment

Many people were dissatisfied with the appearance of the village. In particular, people were concerned with:

- boarded up houses (64.7%)

- poorly maintained properties (66.5%)
- untidy gardens/yards (41.6%)
- poorly maintained verges (34.7%)
- poorly maintained paths/pavements (45.5%)
- dumped cars (19.9%).

A staggering 85% of people thought the recreation ground needed considerable improvement (remember that the survey was undertaken in the summer of 2004 before the recent improvements). There were many good suggestions for improving the play and leisure opportunities available for children.

The most popular suggestions for improving the environment were the provision of a bypass and speed cameras..

A significant number of people were concerned about air quality, litter/rubbish dumping and dog fouling.

A small but significant number of people had trouble with flooding.

An amazing seventy-five people expressed a wish to be involved in environmental improvement schemes and nearly 100 people said that they were prepared to take part in a village clean-up once a year or so.

### Traffic

Many areas were identified as road traffic danger spots, but the three most common sites were by the school, the Tebworth turn and the A5 generally but, in particular, at the traffic lights.

One hundred and fifty-seven people would like to see measures to reduce the speed of traffic passing through the area around the school.

The results of a short speeding survey carried out using Bedfordshire County Council's SID device are shown in Appendix B at the end of this Plan.

### Crime

The vast majority of people said that they saw very little of the Police in Hockliffe and would like to see a greater Police presence. There was a lot of interest expressed in the Home Watch scheme.

### Services

Many people wanted to see a greater range of products available at the village shop, but further analysis showed that the vast majority of this demand was for a cash point and a lottery outlet.

About half of all respondents thought that the Church advertised its activities sufficiently well, but the other half didn't.

There was, in general, a reasonable level of satisfaction with all aspects of the bus service, but there was a significant demand for another bus stop at the north-west end of the village. A few people commented on the unsatisfactory positioning of the stop on the Leighton Road.

### Comments made

A number of interesting comments were made in answer to various questions on the survey. Here is a selection:

- General:        *"Really secure and safe for old people & children" (male 45-54)*  
                       *"Quiet rural outlook" (male 45-54)*  
                       *"I like living in a small village away from the town. (female 25-34)*

*"I like living in a community where I know people as opposed to a town" (female 45-54)*  
*"Like the convenience, dislike traffic noise" (female 35-44)*  
*"I like its size not too big a population. Could do with more pubs, maybe, some shops (e.g. bakers, grocers, chippie, curry house" (female 25-34)*  
*"Privacy and, where I live at least, an absence of children! I am a teacher so it's good to get away from the \*\*\*\*\*)" (male 35-44)*  
*"Not enough buses evenings weekends Sundays" (female 45-54)*  
*"Everyone says hello when one goes along the road to village shop, a nice change" (female 35-44)*  
*"It's in the middle of nowhere (good)" (male 20-24)*

Community: [What's wrong with Hockliffe is] *"People like me, I suppose, who treat Hockliffe purely as a dormitory. I hope I am in the minority!!" (male 35-44)*  
*"Nice people, not enough community spirit" (female 25-34)*  
*"I like Hockliffe" (male 55-64)*  
*"Traffic prevents chatting to neighbours" (male 25-34)*  
*"Isolation, lack of employment, no 'focal point' of the village" (female 25-34)*  
*"Doesn't seem to have that village feel that other villages do - maybe impersonal" (female 20-24)*  
*"Road restricts a good social structure" (male 25-34)*  
*"Villagers not interested anymore in keeping village alive" (female 25-34)*  
*"Lack of local pub ie we did have darts dominoes pool snooker and petanque and also used to take in the village games" (male 25-34)*  
*"Get hall built NOW! Since village hall closed we have lost all our village togetherness. I think also a lot of pride in looking after buildings and park" (female 35-44)*  
*"Parents should know where their children are & have more control over them" (male 45-54)*  
*"More communal areas (commercial or otherwise) for residents to meet and relax in" (male 25-34)*  
*"Provide bypass to create one Hockliffe - not divided by crossroads" (male 45-54)*  
*"More events to include whole village" (female 18-19)*

Youth: *"Riding bikes on path, language (swearing), 7 yrs + & 12 yrs +, throwing objects at you when you complain to them, you have to walk in the road (A5) to get past. I don't use the park any more" (female 35-44)*  
*"Ninlands (age 5 - 16) mainly 14 - 16 yrs. Noise, kicking ball in garages, breaking glass bottles on the floor. Bad language. Have asked council for a ball sign in garages near Ninlands - nothing yet (been 2 years)" (female 25-34)*  
*"White Horse Close, teens, swearing & threatening/rude behaviour (male 35-44)"*  
*"We have never had such an awful lot of children/youths as there are at present" (male 45-54)*

Suggestions: *“Speed cameras and road humps near school” (female 25-34)*  
*“Parents controlling their unruly children and getting rid of A5” (female 25-34)*  
*“A bypass would be a major improvement” (male 45-54)*  
*“Speed restricted to 30 mph, bridge to Hockliffe School” (male 25-34)*  
*“Vigorous control of speeding i.e. speed humps, speed cameras or better still a bypass” (female 35-44)*  
*“Stop people's dogs barking - train cats to use litter trays not people's gardens” (male 25-34)*  
*“The empty and badly maintained properties being renovated would make a big difference” (female 25-34)*  
*“Footpath along Leighton Road” (female 45-54)*  
*“More litter picking & more garden care” (female 35-44)*  
*“Place where children or people can meet and play things like snooker or darts” (male 16-17)*  
*“We need an indoor space with things to do”. (female 18-19)*  
*“The involvement of ALL parents not just the dedicated few.” (female 35-44)*  
*“Play area and community centre, tennis courts” (female 25-34)*  
*“Organised sport activities on playing field, Indoor sports activities on a community hall” (female 45-54)*  
*“Playgroup to open up for babies/toddlers. Better quality playground equipment & flooring. More bus trips out for teenagers. Give them all a talk on how to behave and respect people's property & gardens” (female 25-34)*  
*“More social events - being open to all villagers rather than a selected few” (male 35-44)*  
*“A few more shops would be nice - eg greengrocer” (female 25-34)*

## Recommendations

Our detailed recommendations are set out on the following pages. Some of them suggest the formation of a new “Action Group”. Where these overlap with Residents’ Association groups, we suggest approaching those groups to discuss the best way forward. We recommend that each “Action Group” should have a Parish Councillor as a member to facilitate feedback. Given the number of people who, according to the questionnaire, are prepared to help with community activities, it is hoped that people will come forward and volunteer to join these groups. Villagers can belong to one or more groups, depending on their interests and the time they have available. The involvement of many more people in community activities than has previously been the case should, with luck, help to build a greater sense of community in the village

“Short term” means within the next year, “Medium term” means within the next 3 years and “Long term” means more than 3 years. The “Who” column is meant to indicate the person or organisation primarily responsible for carrying out the recommendation, although in many cases other organisations will be involved.

The Steering Committee will stay in existence for the next 5 years, meeting every 2 months or so, in order to monitor progress of the action plan and to review it after 5 years.

# ACTION PLAN

	Subject	Action	Cost	Who	When
1	New Groups	Set up three new village groups as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic &amp; Road Safety Action Group</li> <li>• Environment Action Group</li> <li>• Social Action Group</li> </ul>	None	Parish Plan	Short term
<b>TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY ACTION GROUP</b>					
	Subject	Action	Cost	Who	When
2	Bypass	Urgent need – not to be regarded as hopeless case – should not be “tight” to the village boundary	Very little, probably	“Traffic & Road Safety Action Group” reporting to Parish Council	Long term
3	Road safety	Consider what to do in relation to the great concern expressed about speeding traffic, traffic danger spots (especially near the school, McDonalds and the Tebworth turn) and the interest shown in new footpaths and cycleways	None at present	“Traffic & Road Safety Action Group” reporting to Parish Council	Short term

# ACTION PLAN

<b>ENVIRONMENT ACTION GROUP</b>					
	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>
4	Encourage more businesses	Particularly office/retail, rather than heavy industrial	Very little, probably	“Environment Action Group”, reporting to Parish Council	Long term
5	Improvement of public areas	Many people have volunteered to help with improvement schemes (such as planting) and village clean-ups; this enthusiasm should be tapped	Very little, probably	“Environment Action Group”, reporting to Parish Council	Medium term
6	Competition	“Best kept garden” awards	Minimal	“Environment Action Group” to organise details, reporting to the Parish Council	Long term
7	Poorly-maintained houses	Letters from the Parish Council to relevant owners, but only in cases where the Council has power to do so. New “Environment Action Group” to consider co-ordinating assistance to those people unable to afford or to carry out repairs for themselves	Minimal	Parish Council, “Environment Action Group”, SBDC	Long term
8	Litter	Discourage litter-dropping so far as possible - new legislation giving power to Parish Councillors to impose “on the spot” fines will help	None	New “Environment Action Group”, reporting to Parish Council, McDonalds	Short term

# ACTION PLAN

<b>SOCIAL ACTION GROUP</b>					
	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>
9	Walking	New Walking Group; publicise local footpaths in free leaflet available from local shop (subject to their agreement). New article in Hockliffe Herald.	Very little	“Social Action Group” to investigate	Short term
10	Shops etc	Clear demand for more shops, Fish ‘n Chips, Fruit ‘n Veg and other services	None	“Social Action Group” to investigate	Short term
11	“Social” services	Consider setting up befriending service, prescription collection service and the like	Very little	“Social Action Group” to investigate	Short term
12	Social Club	New “Social Action Group” to consider further. Pass on evidence from questionnaire of considerable interest in this to Community Centre.	None	“Social Action Group”, Parish Plan	Medium Term
13	Childcare/nursery	New “Social Action Group” to consider further. Pass on evidence of interest in this to the Community Centre and School.	None	“Social Action Group”, Parish Plan	Unknown

# ACTION PLAN

<b>GENERAL</b>					
	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>
14	More noticeboards	Recommend 5 more, in the following places: by the school, the 2 bus-stops, White Hart and by church (or on the green); weather protected, except maybe those in the bus-stops; try not locked to see what happens.	About £1,250	Parish Council, subject to its agreement	Short term, already started
15	Sign to church	Provide a road sign to the Church on the Leighton Road.	£200, but hopefully funding will be available	Parish Council, subject to its agreement	Short term
16	Website	Make more use of it to publicise events, if at all possible. Consider publishing Hockliffe Herald on-line.	Very little, probably	Mark Buckledee, subject to his agreement, with help from others if he wants it	Short term
17	More family houses in the village	Encourage more (but not lots more) family houses, especially on the Woburn side of the village	None	Parish Council	Long term
18	Community centre	Offer every possible form of assistance to the Community Centre group to enable them to complete the project as soon as possible	Very little, probably	Parish Council. Parish Plan committee to pass on any relevant details from the survey.	Medium term

# ACTION PLAN

19	Leighton Road footpath	Push as hard as possible for this and investigate possible alternatives	Minimal	Parish Council	Medium term
20	Library	Investigate position over “local library” service to encourage its continuing or starting again.	None	Parish Plan	COMPLETED Local library now visiting once a fortnight
21	Cemetery/churchyard	More care needed when maintaining these areas. Consult as widely as possible	Not known	Parish Council	COMPLETED Parish Council informed and action taken
22	Dog noise	Encourage people to report serious dog noise to Environmental Services and ensure people know how this service works. Encourage people to talk to the relevant owners of the dogs first or, if they don’t want to, to ask a Parish Councillor to take up the complaint informally before involving Environmental Services.	Very little, probably	Parish Council together with Hockliffe Herald committee	Short term
23	Dog mess	More steps to be taken to prevent this – new legislation giving power to Parish Councillors to impose “on the spot” fines will help	Unknown	Parish Council	Short term
24	Flooding	Identify those with problems (article in Hockliffe Herald) and ask appropriate authorities what can be done	Unknown	Parish Council. Hockliffe Herald committee	Short term
25	Exercise	New Slimming & Exercise group	To individual participants	Hockliffe Lower School	Short term
26	Second Youth Club	Consider 12 to 16 group. Encourage people to come forward to help Helen Buckingham with existing club for 8 – 11 yr olds	Unknown	Helen Buckingham	Medium term
27	No medical facilities	Pass on evidence of interest in this to Parish Council with request to contact local NHS trust.	None	Parish Plan	Long term

# ACTION PLAN

28	Nuisance youth	Ask advice from Police and other sources; investigate possible return of the “Youth Bus”; consider extra lighting in some areas	None	Parish Council, Police, SBDC	Short term
29	Second play area	Consider providing a second play area in the north end of the village	Unknown	Parish Council, SBDC	Medium term
30	Leighton Road bus stop	Report concern at traffic build-up at this location to Parish Council	None	Parish Council	Short term
31	Bus service	Ask Arriva about possibility of increasing service to MK & LB, especially at weekends and in the evenings	None	Parish Council to write to Arriva	Short term
32	New bus stop north of traffic lights	Report considerable support for this to Arriva	None	Parish Council to write to Arriva	Short term
33	Parking	Ask Parish Council and SBDC to consider parking problems in the village; consideration to be given to legitimising pavement parking in appropriate areas and to appropriate “No Parking” signs and/or lines on the road.	None	Parish Council, SBDC	Short term
34	Crime	Set up more Home Watch schemes to follow up on interest expressed in questionnaire	None	Parish Council (David Coleman), Police	Short term
35	Crime	Consider purchase with other villages of mobile CCTV device for villages to borrow when subjected to criminal or nuisance behaviour	Unknown	Parish Council	Short term
36	Natural gas	Make further enquiries of Transco and contact McCann’s	None	Parish Council	Short term
37	Adult education	Pass on results of questionnaire to Hockliffe Lower School	None	School	Short term
38	Monitor	Monitor action plan regularly	None	Parish Plan	Short term
39	Review	Review action plan after 5 years	None	Parish Plan	Long term

## Appendix A

### Hockliffe Parish Plan

#### Village Questionnaire – Summer 2004

1. What is your gender?
2. Which age group are you in?
3. How long have you lived in Hockliffe?
4. Would you be interested in attending adult education classes(including computer courses) if held in the village?
5. If so, what subject(s) are you interested in?
6. Would you be interested in using natural gas for heating/cooking if it were available in Hockliffe?
7. If so, would you be prepared to make a one-off payment of (say) £500, in order to get a gas supply?
8. What do you think about the size of Hockliffe as a village?
9. What type(s) of development would be acceptable in Hockliffe?
10. Are you concerned about any of the following?
  - Too much traffic noise in neighbourhood
  - Car parking near your home
  - Noisy dogs in the neighbourhood
  - Dog mess in your neighbourhood
  - Behaviour of children in neighbourhood
11. If you are concerned about the behaviour of children in your neighbourhood, please say where in the village the bad behaviour occurs, the approximate ages of the children concerned and the type of disruption (e.g. verbal, vandalism, noise etc).
12. Do you ever feel lonely or isolated living here?
13. Do you think you would benefit from having someone available locally to ask for help or information on:
  - Benefits
  - Health issues
  - Collection of prescriptions
  - Collection of pre-pay electric cards
  - Befriending service
  - Other (please specify below).
14. 'Other' for previous question.
15. Would you like to be more involved in community activities?
16. If so, which ones?
  - Residents/tenants' Association
  - Hockliffe proposed Community Centre
  - Evergreens
  - School Governing Body/PTA
  - Youth activities/club
  - Place of worship
  - Sports/social club
  - Other/any new clubs you would like to see.
17. 'Other' for previous question.

18. Do any of the following prevent you being more involved in community activities in Hockliffe?
  - Lack of time
  - Lack of child care
  - Caring for an elderly/sick person
  - Do not know what is going on
  - Not interested in community activities
  - Other (please specify below).
19. 'Other' for previous question.
20. What, in your view, are the main social problems in Hockliffe?
21. What do you think could be done to improve social and community relations in Hockliffe?
22. How would you describe the appearance of Hockliffe?
23. What do you like/dislike about living in Hockliffe?
24. Are you concerned about any of the following in and around Hockliffe?
  - Poor air quality
  - Poor water quality
  - Litter/rubbish dumping
  - Stray dogs
  - Dog dirt/fouling.
25. Do you feel that any of the following spoil the appearance of Hockliffe?
  - Boarded up houses
  - Poorly maintained properties
  - Untidy gardens/yards
  - Poorly maintained verges
  - Poorly maintained paths/pavements
  - Dumped cars.
26. Would you say that any of the following is a serious problem in your area?
  - Heavy traffic
  - Lack of safe places to cross road
  - Traffic noise
  - Nowhere to park/illegal parking
  - Traffic travelling too fast
  - Motorbike riding
  - Joy-riding
  - Lack of cycle paths
  - Poor street lighting
  - Uneven pavements/poor road maintenance.
27. What do you think could be done to improve the environment in this neighbourhood?
28. Would you be prepared to become involved as a volunteer with environmental improvement schemes, such as tree planting, for example?
29. Would you be prepared to take part in a clean up of the area once or twice a year?
30. Do you think there are any major 'danger spots' on the roads in this area?
31. What are the major 'danger spots' on the roads in this area?
32. Do you think that speeding traffic is a serious problem in the area near the school?
33. Would you like to see measures to reduce the speed of traffic passing through the area around the school?
34. Do you think the play areas in Hockliffe are well maintained?
35. Do you have flooding problems with any of the following?

- Surface (rain) water
  - Storm (surge) water
  - Sewage.
36. Do you think the appearance of any of the following needs improvement
- Village Green
  - Playing fields
  - Children's play area
  - Churchyard/cemetery.
37. Which of the following is a serious problem in your area?
- Burglary
  - Vandalism to property/cars
  - Drug abuse/drug dealing
  - Theft of and from cars/vehicles
  - Street robbery (mugging)
  - Sexual harassment
  - Racial attacks and abuse
  - Gangs of youths hanging around
  - Noise and nuisance from drunks.
38. Do groups or gangs of youths hanging about around the streets after dark upset or frighten you?
39. On average how often do you see the police in Hockliffe?
40. Would you like to see the police more/the same/less in this area?
41. Would you be interested in joining a Home Watch Scheme?
42. Would you be interested in a support group in Hockliffe for any of the following?
- Stopping smoking
  - Reducing alcohol consumption
  - More exercise/slimming
  - Walking groups
  - Other (please specify).
43. 'Other' for previous question.
44. Do you find it difficult to get to any of the following due to a lack of available transport?
- Hospital appointments/visits
  - Doctor's appointments
  - Leisure facilities
  - Supermarkets
  - Market
  - Bank/Building Society
  - Other (please specify).
45. 'Other' for previous question.
46. Are there any new products/services you would like to have available at the local shop
47. If so, what are they?
48. How often do you use the counter service in the local Post Office?
49. Would you use a cash machine (small transaction charge) if there were one in Hockliffe?
50. Does the village Church publicise its activities sufficiently?
51. Do you find the following aspects of the bus service satisfactory?
- Timetable
  - Reliability

- Cost  
Waiting environment.
52. Would you like to see any changes in the location of the bus stops or any extra stops?
  53. If so, what changes
  54. With regard to childcare, are any of the following a problem for you?
    - Too few nursery places
    - Too few child minders
    - Childcare is poor quality
    - Childcare is too expensive
    - Nursery times are not convenient
    - Nurseries are not conveniently located.
  55. What activities or facilities do you think are needed to improve the play and leisure opportunities available to children and young people in Hockliffe?
  56. Do you have any other comments you wish to make about any of the issues covered in this survey?

## Appendix B

### Hockliffe Traffic Speed Survey

Traffic conditions – average (neither heavy nor light); weather – fine.

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2005  
 Time: 14:40 to 15:00  
 Location: A5, North end of village (about 50 metres south of first 40 mph sign)  
 Direction: Traffic travelling South towards Dunstable  
 Special: None

< 30 mph	31-35 mph	36-40 mph	41-45 mph	>46 mph	Total
35	25	17	15	5	97
36%	26%	18%	15%	5%	100%
80%			<b>20%</b>		

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2005  
 Time: 15:00 to 15:10  
 Location: A5, North end of village (about 50 metres south of first 40 mph sign)  
 Direction: Traffic travelling South towards Dunstable  
 Special: Only measured when main lights green

< 30 mph	31-35 mph	36-40 mph	41-45 mph	>46 mph	Total
9	7	8	8	7	39
23%	18%	20.5%	20.5%	18%	100%
61.5%			<b>38.5%</b>		

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2005  
 Time: 15:11 to 15:25  
 Location: A5, North end of village (about 50 metres south of first 40 mph sign)  
 Direction: Traffic travelling North towards Milton Keynes  
 Special: None

< 30 mph	31-35 mph	36-40 mph	41-45 mph	>46 mph	Total
8	16	20	11	1	56
14%	28%	36%	20%	2%	100%
78%			<b>22%</b>		

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2005  
 Time: 15:40 to 16:00  
 Location: Woburn Rd, (opp. school, about 20 metres south of first 40 mph sign)  
 Direction: Traffic travelling from Woburn into the village  
 Special: None, but lights were red for most of the time.

< 30 mph	31-35 mph	36-40 mph	41-45 mph	>46 mph	Total
10	17	25	27	19	98
10%	17%	26%	28%	19%	100%
53%			<b>47%</b>		

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2005  
 Time: 11:45 to 12:10  
 Location: A5, South end of the village (next to the traffic-calming brick walls)  
 Direction: Traffic travelling South towards Dunstable  
 Special: None

< 30 mph	31-35 mph	36-40 mph	41-45 mph	>46 mph	Total
7	20	65	93	29	214
3%	9%	30%	44%	14%	100%
42%			<b>58%</b>		

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2005  
 Time: 12:15 to 12:35  
 Location: A5, South end of the village (opposite O2 mast)  
 Direction: Traffic travelling North towards Milton Keynes  
 Special: None

< 30 mph	31-35 mph	36-40 mph	41-45 mph	>46 mph	Total
8	26	44	14	1	93
9%	28%	47%	15%	1%	100%
84%			<b>16%</b>		