

AMPTHILL TOWN PLAN



IMPROVING AMPTHILL FOR YOU

This Plan combines an acknowledgement that we all wish to preserve the true charm and value of our present surroundings, with the acceptance and recognition that no community can ever stand still and that we must all work hard to ensure that the Town will evolve and progress.

This is just the beginning...



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INTRODUCTION TO THE PLAN

This document sets out details of the Ampthill Town Plan and represents the culmination of over 2 years work by both the Steering Group and various subject Focus Groups.

Although the Plan is the result of considerable work by the Steering and Focus Groups, it nevertheless also reflects the views of the community at large, which were gathered from responses to a questionnaire distributed to all residences in Ampthill in early 2004. A public meeting was held on 22nd April 2005 to review and discuss the Interim Report on the Responses to the Questionnaires (Copy at Annex H) and everyone was afforded the opportunity to join one or more Focus Groups to examine issues in more detail. The Plan now reflects the effort and views of all those involved.

While the planning phase is now largely complete, it is of course only the beginning and much work remains to be done to implement the ideas and objectives set out in the pages that follow. The work required is considerable and for it to be a success we will need the help of everyone who is willing and able. In addition the Plan provides a foundation for lobbying various authorities that affect the Town and is the starting point for obtaining grants and submitting applications for funding.

We would like to conclude by thanking everyone for the contribution they have made to the Plan in particular members the Focus Groups who have worked hard to formulate the detailed plans and policies.

The Town Plan Steering Group

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The following people kindly agreed to be interviewed as part of the back ground research for the plan.

Mr Croft, Head, Redborne Upper School and Community College

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The Focus Group for Police, Other Emergency Services and Community Safety would like to acknowledge the expertise provided by Inspector John Seemarks and PC Nick Dadd, Ampthill Police Station; Trevor Willoughby, Fire and Rescue Service; Mark Cook-Abbott, Beds and Herts Ambulance Service; and Mr Dave Rollings, Community Safety Officer, MBDC.

The Focus Group for Environmental Issues acknowledges the tremendous support offered through the Greensand Trust by Richard Woolnough through his advice on the conservation of Ampthill Park and in formulating a green infrastructure strategy and by Nicky Saunders through her "Discovering the Flit Valley Project" funded by the Local Heritage Initiative and by Matthew Briars Conservation Officer Bedfordshire Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough

BUSINESS & RETAIL DEVELOPMENT

Amphill is a very pleasant and attractive small market town but despite improvements over the years, the town centre has declined with businesses regularly failing. This has left the town looking run down with those businesses which have survived finding it difficult to keep their premises looking their best. We believe that a few key changes will help Amphill business move to expansion and regeneration from decline. Business will naturally develop and thrive if the right environment is put in place. Amphill centre will become more attractive if the businesses which own the buildings make sufficient profits to pay for improvement & growth.

Infrastructure is in many ways the key to Amphill's future as an attractive, prosperous town. Above all freely available parking is crucial to allow staff & clients to get to businesses – and to make it convenient for shoppers. An estimated 200 more spaces (additional to Waitrose) are required. There are two particular opportunities - Land is available at Church Street Meadows which can provide additional car parking as well as a site for a heritage/community centre and the markets. Derelict land behind the Kings Arms Yard could provide a much needed amenity area & car parking close to the town centre. Consideration should also be given to a garden where people can sit and socialise and wider footpaths & traffic calming measures.

Amphill badly needs new facilities and this was clearly set out in the survey responses. Successful, quality, retail businesses need to attract more customers than Amphill alone can provide. Provision of an attractive environment and good facilities will address both needs. In particular, the centre needs: a quality look and feel; standard opening hours; wider and safer footpaths; access to shops; a Heritage Centre; a new Community Centre; leisure facilities and further promotion & use of Amphill Park.

There is a case to be made for expansion of the Station Road Business Park. Appropriately sited hotel accommodation would support growth of both tourism and business. Many new businesses struggle with high rents, rates etc in early stages – there may be a case for some form of support scheme, despite many issues.

THE ISSUES

- Reverse town centre deterioration
- More shopping choice
- A better supermarket
- Easier and more central parking
- Insufficient jobs in the town
- A new community centre with cinema/theatre facilities





ACTIONS

- Waitrose – ensure successful development
- Investigate development of the derelict area behind Kings Arms Yard
- Seek additional areas for car parking
- Consistent shop standards and a quality look & feel for the centre
- Business friendly development of The Limes (MBDC) buildings
- Further promotion & use of Ampthill Park
- A public garden in the town centre
- Encourage business park expansion
- Encourage an appropriate hotel style & location
- Encourage young people oriented businesses
- Promote Ampthill, its attractions and facilities

THE VISION FOR THE FUTURE

- A high quality, attractive centre which enhances the conservation area
- A reputation as a centre for specialist shops - the place to find quality clothes, furniture, antiques, jewellery, accessories, food, delicatessen, toys , restaurants etc
- Excellent leisure facilities

POLICY STATEMENTS

- The town supports the regeneration of Ampthill as a thriving shopping centre in keeping with the character of the conservation area – including provision of the necessary infrastructure.
- The town supports the development of non retail businesses and jobs.

A full version of this report is at ANNEX A – Business and Retail Development Focus Group Report



View of Market Square looking into Church Street.

AMPTHILL'S FARMERS' MARKET

In 1999 Ampthill came up with the idea of a Farmers' Market as a way of promoting the local economy. Now the Farmers Market faces the possible loss of a site near to the centre of Ampthill. In the questionnaire, we specifically asked about views on and use of the Charter Market and the Farmers' Market. The overall ratings of the markets were that they were perceived not to be as good as facilities such as Ampthill Park or The Firs but were rated more highly than the Nottingham Rooms or Parkside Hall. Ampthill Farmers' Market is a FARMA Certified market and attracts producers from a 30-mile radius. This gives a direct benefit to the local economy and to the demand for local produce. However, there is also an indirect benefit which is one of the reasons why the Farmers' Market was set up originally, some Ampthill retailers report an increase in trade on Farmers Market days. Unfortunately, the majority of retail businesses report a detrimental effect on their trade. This may be because the Farmers Market is sited on a town centre car park. Farmers Market traders and retail businesses would benefit from relocation to a site served by more adequate space for car parking. The Farmer's market provides a link to surrounding villages and countryside.

THE ISSUES

- Threat to monthly Farmers' Market in the town.
- Lack of town centre site for the Farmers Market.

ACTIONS

- Continue the Farmers' Market on a regular basis.
- Search for a town centre solution for the Farmers' Market.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

- A town that cherishes its individuality with active links to surrounding villages and countryside.
- An active Ampthill Farmers' Market.

POLICY STATEMENT

- The town supports the Town Council in the provision of hanging baskets and Christmas lights in the town centre and the carols around the tree.
- The town supports the organisers of the Ampthill Festival and the Ampthill Music Festival, and the Aragon Day.
- The town supports the Town Council in organising the Ampthill Farmers' Market.



HOUSING & THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Survey revealed that there is a need to develop a housing strategy that reduces harmful impacts on the community. One concern was that “Amphill might lose its identity as a Georgian market town if development spoilt the virtues of living here.” Many people also felt that they had no say over what development takes place in the town. These concerns are addressed in part by the designation of the central part of the town as a conservation area by MBDC¹.

However, writing a Town Design Statement may offer further constructive help in solving this dilemma. A design statement would set out clear and simple guidance for the design of all development the town, based on its character. It will not stop change from happening, but it could help effect how any new building fits into the town, so that new development is in harmony with its setting and makes a positive contribution to the immediate environment.

Another view expressed was “What is the Town Council doing to protect the Green Belt?” In response the town plan should include a “Green Infrastructure” plan that identifies a strategically planned and managed network of green spaces, around the town

The Responses to the questionnaire ANNEX B showed that the main types of additional housing required were starter homes and low cost homes (41%), adapted and sheltered housing (13%), other owner occupied (13%), restricted sale to local people (11%), no more housing (10%), private rented housing 2%. The responses show a concern that there is too much pressure to build speculative executive housing and too little pressure to build affordable housing for local people. Such a diversification in the housing stock would strengthen the local economy by providing affordable housing for key workers. This need is part of a similar problem experienced across the Mid Beds District where house price inflation is outstripping increases in earnings. There is no easy solution that can be placed in the Town Plan. However, one suggestion that has been made is that a contingency plan should be drawn up to bid for any chance offer of funds to be spent on housing in the town, for example from legacies or other sources.



The Feoffees Alms Houses

¹ Updated map of the Amphill Conservation Area 27 April 2005 MBDC Planning Division

THE ISSUES

- Town Design Statement.
- Green Infrastructure Plan.
- Shortage of affordable housing.

ACTIONS

- Publish a Town Design Statement.
- Establish a Green Infrastructure Plan for Ampthill and surrounding areas.
- Develop an affordable housing contingency plan.

THE VISION FOR THE FUTURE

- Preserve and expand green areas running in a ribbon around Ampthill accessed from all parts of the town along radial footpaths and bridle ways.
- Ampthill maintains its charm and rural surroundings.
- Increased availability of affordable housing in Ampthill.

POLICY STATEMENTS

- The town supports the writing of a Town Design Statement for Ampthill.
- The town supports the preparation of a Green Infrastructure Plan for Ampthill and surrounding areas.
- The town supports increasing the availability of affordability in Ampthill.



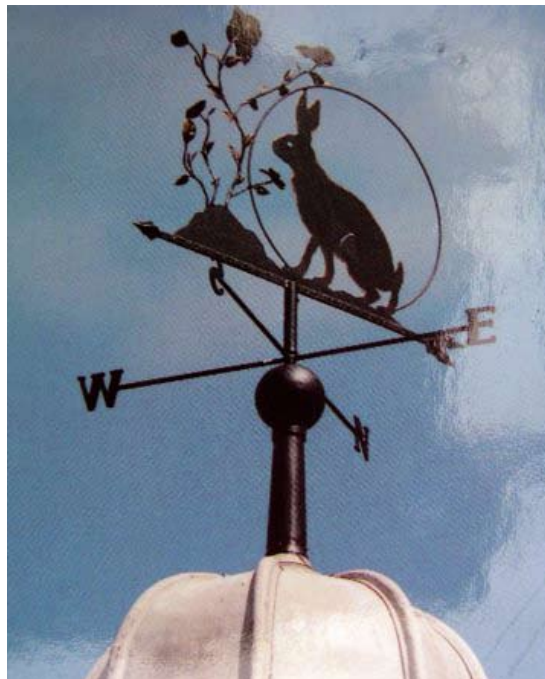
EDUCATION, TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT

A wide view of the topic has been taken and has included in the research process, an analysis of early years provision, formal education and a review of leisure facilities which may provide opportunities for the acquisition of valuable life skills such as working in teams, communication, promoting equality of opportunity and valuing diversity.

The provision of and demand for adult and community learning was considered and some good practice in work-based-learning has been identified, which may provide a model for other employers who may be considering training and developing their own staff 'in house'.

A primary consideration has been the potential impact that the proposed two new major employers, Center Parcs and Waitrose, will make on the education, training and employment infrastructure of the Ampthill area. The probable staff training needs of both these employers has been explored. Early identification of skill needs could inform the delivery of adult and community education as well as contribute to the future plans in Redborne School, for vocational education including work placement schemes.

A key consideration has been to elicit the opinions of the young people of Ampthill themselves and although strong attempts have been made to engage with young people through the student councils in the Ampthill middle and upper schools, the timescales for the research and production of the report have precluded direct engagement at this time.



Library Weather Vane

THE ISSUES

- Contact with young people.
- Early years provision.
- Work-placements.
- Adult and community education.
- School catchments.
- Informal education provision.

ACTIONS

- Initiate a dialogue between members of the Town Council and the young people of the town through school's councils.
- Publicise the provision of early years activities more effectively.
- Explore funding options to support childcare for disadvantaged families.
- The Education, Training and Employment Focus group supports the refurbishment of Parkside Hall to provide suitable and safe premises for group meetings of parents and young children. This is covered in another section of the Town Plan.
- Offer an annual award to local businesses for services to young people.
- Involve local organisations such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club and the Lions Club in the publicity of work-placement schemes and determine ways of helping businesses, to cope with the legal requirements.
- Support efforts to obtain Lottery funding to the Workers Education Association (WEA) for their work including the delivery including family learning programmes.
- Encourage group leaders of leisure and sports clubs in Ampthill to recognise the important role they play in the development of young people.

THE VISION FOR THE FUTURE

- Effective contact between the Town Council and the children and young people of Ampthill.
- Wide publicity of the excellent provision for early years care and education.
- Availability of childcare for all families in Ampthill, irrespective of income.
- Delivery of meaningful work placements for year 10 and 11 pupils by local employers.
- Availability of free venues for the delivery of training by the WEA.
- Effective enhancement and publicity of the provision of adult learning opportunities in Ampthill.
- Wide provision of informal education by out of school hours leisure and sports clubs in Ampthill.

POLICY STATEMENTS

- The town acknowledges the work of the MBDC youth initiatives and supports the participation of young people in the planning process through liaison with school councils.
- The town supports publicising the existing education and training opportunities in the town.
- The town supports initiatives to promote work-placement schemes for students attending school.

Detailed Report in ANNEX B – Education, Training and Employment - Focus Group Report..



SPORTS, SOCIAL, LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT, YOUTH & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Many of the clubs, societies, charities, voluntary and community groups in Amphill are listed on the website². A more comprehensive directory is being compiled and all groups are invited to contribute. The numerous societies and clubs support a wide range of interests and generally people appear to be content with the facilities on offer; however a modern, versatile and attractive community hall is needed for functions such as weddings, parties, plays, musical events, films, meetings, exhibitions and fairs. Parkside Hall and the Nottingham Rooms are in serious need of replacement. Parking facilities in that area are very good, which is a great asset.

Facilities are particularly required for young people and a Town Youth Club is badly needed. While local churches cater for some age groups this provision is limited. A skate park is planned and is proving a very popular idea.

There are many sporting activities available in Amphill with good opportunities for children and young people. Members of the public did not always realise that there are free tennis courts available at the Park and that the general public can by arrangement use the tennis courts at Redborne Upper School. Better publicity is essential.

The Alameda Sports Hall is well used for a number of sports, but availability is limited by the needs of Alameda School during school hours. This is not a very satisfactory situation as the Hall needs money spending on it to carry out certain repairs and could be incorporated into a new development. Other activities are well catered for at Flitwick Leisure Centre and it would be unrealistic to duplicate certain facilities in Amphill such as a swimming pool.



Aragon Day Tudor Costumes

² Amphill, Past Present & Future www.amphill.org.uk.

THE ISSUES

- Publicity of activities.
- Community Hall.
- Youth Club.
- Skate Board Park.

ACTIONS

- Expand directory of local organisations on the website.
- Produce a booklet on local organisations, clubs and social groups.
- Investigate provision of refurbishing or replacing the Parkside Hall and Nottingham Rooms.
- Investigate the options available for establishing a Youth Club.

THE VISION FOR THE FUTURE

- An active community with modern recreational and sporting facilities.

POLICY STATEMENT

- The town supports the refurbishing or replacement of the Parkside Hall and Nottingham Rooms.

Detailed Report in ANNEX C – Sports, Social, Leisure and Entertainment Youth and Community Facilities - Focus Group Report



TOURISM

There is a great need for a Tourist Information Centre and a Heritage Centre in Ampthill. Currently government capping has resulted in MBDC withdrawing funding for a tourist information centre. This is disappointing as Ampthill is particularly rich in local history and making better use of our heritage would result in many advantages to the town. Pride and affection for the town was expressed in the questionnaire and it was felt that a great opportunity is being missed by a lack of information in this area.



Ossory Thatched Cottages, Rhododendrons - Kings Arms Path Gardens and Avenue House with Pony

THE ISSUES

- Lack of a Tourist Information Centre
- Lack of a Heritage Centre.

ACTIONS

- Establish outlet for local information offering leaflets, maps, shopping information.
- Explore the possibilities of establishing a Heritage Centre.

THE VISION FOR THE FUTURE

- A thriving Heritage Centre offering information on Ampthill's past and present.

POLICY STATEMENT

- The town supports the provision of a Heritage Centre offering information on Ampthill's past and present which would also be used by Ampthill residents.

TOWN CENTRE ACCESS.

Amphill is a historic town at the heart of which is an inheritance of narrow streets virtually monopolised by motorised transport that is mainly passing through. This pattern conflicts with the needs of Amphill's residents living within easy reach of the town centre who might choose to visit by foot or bicycle but are put off by uncomfortably close, fast moving and intimidating traffic. Amphill's residents deserve a better deal. The question is: how to achieve this in the shorter term?

ACCESS BY PEDESTRIANS.

Pedestrian access to the town centre is mainly along roadside footpaths or via King's Arms Yard path. These are mainly in rough repair with irregular surfaces in need of refurbishment. They are not suitable for shared use with cyclists.

ACCESS BY CYCLISTS

For cyclists the only reasonable routes are along town centre roads, but at present many would be intimidated or threatened when sharing road use with motor vehicles. "Cyclists Priority Lanes" are proposed as an innovative concept to deal with the problem. They would be continuous lanes some 1.5 metres (5 ft) wide marked out on each side of the carriageway. They would be available for use by motor vehicles except when overtaking a cyclist, an action which would require them to move fully out of the lane and to allow adequate fore and aft clearance when performing the manoeuvre. This arrangement would reinforce the existing good practice of most motorists while giving cyclists the confidence that space for them is available and respected. The lanes would avoid the sterilisation of road space inherent in the use of mandatory cycle lanes.

EXTENDING AND ENFORCING THE 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT.

The current 20 mph speed limit through the town centre is appreciated by many residents but is not always observed by drivers. Illuminated 20 mph signs at entrances to the limit zone together with repeater road markings and speed sensitive illuminated signs would enhance driver awareness. A short extension of the zone on all town centre roads would allow more time for drivers to adjust from a 30 mph to a 20 mph regime. Additionally a 20 mph speed limit should be applied to all residential streets, as is now being done by popular demand in many towns.

ACCESS BY PEDESTRIANS AND CYCLISTS TO NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS.

Access by pedestrians and cyclists to new housing developments should conform to the MBDC guidelines³.

³ Cycling and Walking Strategy for Mid Beds





PEDESTRIAN CROSSING POINTS.

Near continuous traffic in Dunstable Street often makes it very difficult to cross the road. An additional light controlled crossing sited near the Albion/Cottage Bakery bus stops would give pedestrians more confidence in dealing with the increasing traffic density. Existing school crossing patrols should be maintained with an additional patrol is desirable in Woburn Street to give a safe route into the Alameda for children from the northern part of Ampt Hill. The stretch of Flitwick Road from Station Road to Redborne School contains three “traffic islands” that serve little purpose as refuges for crossing and are renowned for creating hazardous “pinch points” to traffic. They should be removed and replaced by Zebra or Pelican crossings.

BUS SERVICES.

The 2004 questionnaire to Ampt Hill residents disclosed a low bus usage but a very strong demand for improvements that would give better opportunities for recreational, domestic and school travel. The existing bus service was criticised for the use of mainly old, uncomfortable and often dirty buses giving an unreliable service. Accessible timetable information is sadly lacking. Strong community action for improvements would not come amiss.

REOPENING AMPTHILL RAILWAY STATION.

There is a strong demand for reopening Ampt Hill station (80% of the 1100 responding to the 2004 questionnaire). Obstacles abound including the short start-stop distance between a reopened Ampt Hill station and the existing Flitwick station, cost and Thameslink’s involvement in providing a station to serve the Elstow/Wixams development. A stronger case can be made for developing a combined Flitwick/Ampt Hill Parkway station sited near the railway bridge over Froghall Lane. It would be within walking distance of major residential areas in both Flitwick and Ampt Hill with good links via the Ampt Hill bypass to neighbouring villages such as Ridgmont, Maulden and Clophill. It would also serve as a collecting point for visitors choosing to travel by rail when visiting Woburn Abbey and Safari Park and possibly Center Parcs and the National Institute for Research in to aquatic Habitats (NIRAH) in the future.



Entry to Ampt Hill Looking towards Bedford Street

THE ISSUES

- User-friendly access to the town centre access for all pedestrians and cyclists.
- Extending and reinforcing the 20 mph speed limit.
- Improved bus services.
- Improvements for rail users by building a Flitwick – Ampthill railway station.

ACTIONS

- Establish an Ampthill Traffic and Transport Action Group.
- Identify and encourage alternative routes for Ampthill's through traffic
- Revive the campaign for a north/south bypass for Ampthill.
- Educate residents and businesses on considerate driving in the side roads.

THE VISION FOR THE FUTURE

- A pleasant environment for Ampthill, not dominated by motorised traffic.
- Safe and easy travel to, from and around Ampthill for residents and visitors.

POLICY STATEMENTS

- The town supports the establishment an Ampthill Traffic and Transport User Group.

Full Report in ANNEX D – Highways and Public Transport - Focus Group Report.



HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Amphill has a good level of health care in the town. For example, there are three GP practices, a pharmacy, and a dentist in the town, with in addition Steppingley hospital virtually on its boundary. These organisations, along with the Social Service Department of the Bedfordshire County Council and the many health and social service voluntary groups, make a tremendous contribution to the community.

Amphill is now the only town in the County without a Good Neighbour Scheme or Village Care scheme. These schemes aim to provide easy access to help and support for every resident should they need it. Essentially they act as a safety net for everyone in the town by offering a friendly local service that responds to calls for help from any resident. The existence of a Good Neighbour Scheme can help to extend the length of time that some people are able to remain living independently in their own homes. They can also help to reduce feelings of isolation and exclusion experienced by some individuals if families and friends move away. The kind of help that may be offered ranges from:

- Domestic support: such as shopping, cooking, dog walking, or befriending.
- Transport: lifts to appointments at the doctor or hospital or to facilities such as the day centre if normal transport is not accessible.
- Household assistance: form filling, letter writing.
- Collection of: pensions and prescriptions.
- Practical assistance with minor household chores: such as changing a light bulb, or in taking rubbish to the tidy tip.

In our questionnaire over 700 of you saw the need for a Good Neighbour Scheme that has been set up, and the response from volunteers has been very good.



Houghton Close Surgery

THE ISSUES

- Good Neighbour Scheme.
- Provision of a room that Health and Social Service voluntary groups could book for the purposes of speaking to clients.
- Resist any reduction of Health and Social services currently provided to residents of Ampthill.

ACTIONS

- Establish a Good Neighbour Scheme for the town.
- Establish extensions to the Good Neighbour Scheme such as the Link Up scheme that helps elderly and vulnerable residents by fitting door chains, door viewers and other home security devices.

THE VISION FOR THE FUTURE

- Active Good Neighbour Scheme across the town.
- A Good Neighbour Committee to manage the Good Neighbour scheme.
- To ensure that Ampthill continues to be a caring community.

POLICY STATEMENTS

- The town supports the establishment of a Good Neighbour Scheme across the town and seeks to provide any additional Link up services.
- The town supports the work currently done in Ampthill, by the three GP practices, the Pharmacy, the Dentist, Steppingley Hospital, the Social Service department of the Bedfordshire County Council and of the many local Health and Social Service voluntary groups.



POLICE, OTHER EMERGENCY SERVICES & COMMUNITY SAFETY

Amphill is the only town in the area without a forum dedicated to the types of community safety issues, which could be managed at a local level by businesses and residents. The remit should cover all community safety matters and include support to the implementation of the Community Fire Safety Policy.

Seventeen areas of Amphill are covered by active HOMEWATCH schemes and there is significant potential to enhance coverage. Warnings relayed about 'suspicious' vehicles/persons and 'bogus' callers/fraudsters operating in the area are very useful to the community and can help allay the fear of crime. Membership may also reduce insurance premiums. After an incident, COCOON WATCH supports residents with improving their crime prevention measures and they are encouraged to set up HOMEWATCH schemes as part of that process.

The residents of Amphill sought more visible policing and efforts are being made to use the mobile police station more effectively. This also offers the potential to become a multi-agency facility.

The performance of the Beds Fire and Rescue Service and the Beds and Herts Ambulance Service in particular received much praise from the town's residents, however from the emergency services perspective, they are hindered by inconsiderate and illegal parking both in the centre and in the older parts of the town. This must be addressed to prevent loss of life and property.



Fire Station

THE ISSUES

- Community safety.
- HOMEWATCH.
- Visible policing.
- Road Safety - access for emergency services' vehicles.

ACTIONS

- Establish a Community Safety Group.
- Establish HOMEWATCH Schemes across the town.
- Support the police in use of the mobile police station.
- Educate residents and businesses on considerate parking and address the strategy for tackling illegal parking.

THE VISION FOR THE FUTURE

- A forum to manage community safety issues locally.
- Active HOMEWATCH Schemes across the town.
- An identifiable and easily contactable Police presence, engaging with and offering reassurance to the community.
- A safe environment in which the Emergency Services can respond quickly and efficiently to community needs.

POLICY STATEMENTS

- The town supports the establishment of a Community Safety Group.
- The town supports the established HOMEWATCH Schemes and seeks to prove wider coverage.
- The town supports the work of the Police on COCOON WATCH.

Full Report in ANNEX E – Police, Other Emergency Services and Community Safety - Focus Group Report.



ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The aim of the Environmental Plan is to improve and develop the environment in Ampthill. Ampthill Park and Coopers Hill (the Firs) are already managed for the Town Council, and the green corridor that links both areas should be subject to a similar conservation schemes; similarly, remnants of fields and woodland along the by-pass between Woburn Street and Station Road should be assessed for conservation, with the objective of where possible buffering or increasing the size of Coopers Hill.

The Town Council is working to conserve the trees and the monuments in the Alameda and the Sweet Briar. However, trees that have been felled from an avenue must be replaced to maintain the line.

Sterling work has been done by volunteers on the Kings Arm Footpath Gardens that provides a true oasis in the centre of the Town.

Other areas that would benefit from conservation are: “the Green” to the north of Verne Drive, and the pond on the Ampthill side of Ailesbury Road and Cut-Throat Meadow, the field at the junction of Ailesbury Road and Church Street.

We also support the Greensand Trust in its proposal to create a new area of parkland (provisionally known as the Flit Valley Country Park) to the west of the Maulden, Flitwick Road on either side of the A507, part in Ampthill and part in Flitwick.



View over Greensand Ridge

THE ISSUES

- To improve and develop the environment in the town.
- Buffering or increasing the size of Coopers Hill.
- Maintenance of footpaths within the town.
- Creation of a new area of Country Parkland to the south of Ampthill.

ACTIONS

- To implement the list of actions arising from the Town Plan Environmental Group. See full list in the Action Plan (pages 38 – 40).
- Establish a Parish Path Partnership (P3 Scheme) across the town.
- Establish a forum to study creation of a Flit Valley Country Park to the south of Ampthill.

THE VISION FOR THE FUTURE

- A well maintain environment accessible to the public.
- Enlarged and robust heathland at Coopers Hill.
- An active P3 group of volunteers to maintain and improve public rights of way within the town.
- A Flit Valley Country Park to the south of Ampthill.

POLICY STATEMENTS

- The town supports the improvement and accessibility of the green areas within the town.
- The town supports the enlargement of Coopers Hill.
- The town supports the establishment of a P3 Group.
- The town supports the creation of the Flit Valley Country Park to the south of Ampthill.

Full Report in ANNEX F – Environmental Issues - Focus Group Report.





BUSINESS & RETAIL DEVELOPMENT

AMPTHILL TOWN ACTION PLAN

| ISSUE | VISION | ACTION | PARTNERS | PRIORITY | TIMESCALE |
|--|---|--|---|----------|-------------|
| Waitrose development | An “anchor” store which will seed the re-generation of Ampthill Town Centre | Work closely with the Town Council and the developers to ensure that any problems are swiftly dealt with and progress maintained | Town Council MBDC Developers Waitrose | High | 9 months |
| Development of the derelict area behind Kings Arms Yard | The various parcels of land are consolidated and developed to provide the town with amenities and to open up the yards to high quality retail development. See also “A Public Garden” & “Car Parking” | Work with the land owners, potential developers, the various councils and those directly affected to create a viable scheme with funding and approval. Oversee implementation. | Land owners Town Council MBDC Developers | High | 2 - 5 years |

BUSINESS & RETAIL DEVELOPMENT

| ISSUE | VISION | ACTION | PARTNERS | PRIORITY | TIMESCALE |
|---|--|---|---|----------|-----------|
| Car Parking | Provision of up to 200 additional spaces, both long and short term, close to the town centre in a sympathetic way. Include provision for Charter and Farmers Markets. Consider inclusion of a Heritage Centre. | Church Meadows and / or rear of Kings Arms Yard offer potential sites (together with greater use of the Parkside Hall car park). Work with those involved | Land owners Town Council MBDC Developers Parkside Hall Trustees | High | 2 years |
| Consistent shop standards and a quality look & feel for the centre | Consistent standards for the presentation of business premises in Amphihill together with standard signage and opening hours | Work with the Chamber of Trade and the local councils to agree standards, investment and how to achieve conformity. Oversee implementation. | Chamber of Trade Town Council MBDC | Medium | 2 years |
| Business friendly development of the Limes (MBDC) buildings | A business friendly development of the Limes incorporating offices and parking | Work with MBDC to ensure the best outcome for the town. Aim to retain office space for jobs in Amphihill and to at least retain, preferably extend public parking | MBDC Town Council Developers | High | 1-2 years |





BUSINESS & RETAIL DEVELOPMENT

AMPTHILL TOWN ACTION PLAN

| ISSUE | VISION | ACTION | PARTNERS | PRIORITY | TIMESCALE |
|---|--|--|----------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| Further promotion & use of Ampthill Park | Ampthill Park regularly promoted and holding events so that both residents and visitors make greater use of improved park facilities and visit the adjacent town centre more often. | Whilst absolutely retaining its unique character find ways to add for example, specialist areas for natural history, better children's facilities, coffee / café / toilets in the park, and generally improve the environment. There is the opportunity to run regular events in the park. Oversee implementation. | Town Council Local Businesses | Low | 5 years |
| A Heritage Centre | Ampthill has a proud history and much to offer visitors. A new Heritage Centre with facilities for residents and tourists could be located in one of the new car parks – Church Meadows for example. In that way parking can be available for multi purposes. It could also include facilities for the Town Council. | Work with landowners / developers and funding agencies to establish a viable plan and an appropriate management regime. Oversee approval and implementation. | Town Council Developers | Medium | 3 years |

BUSINESS & RETAIL DEVELOPMENT

| ISSUE | VISION | ACTION | PARTNERS | PRIORITY | TIMESCALE |
|---|--|---|--|----------|-----------|
| Encourage business park expansion | Too many Ampthill people have to travel to find suitable jobs. Expansion of the Business Park can offer increased local employment | Explore the barriers to economic expansion and how to attract businesses. Work with authorities to adjust planning guidelines appropriately | MBDC Town Council Chamber of Trade | Low | 5 years |
| Encourage the development of a suitable hotel for Ampthill | Provision of additional hotel accommodation in Ampthill would support both business and tourism. Style, size and location must be chosen carefully to enhance the Town | Explore the barriers to hotel development and how to attract such investment. Work with authorities to adjust planning guidelines appropriately. Test the water with appropriate developers and landowners. | MBDC Town Council Chamber of Trade Potential developers | Medium | 3 years |
| Encourage young people oriented businesses and facilities | More needs to be done to attract businesses which will cater for young people – perhaps a non alcoholic bar, a bowling alley or similar, Disco / club / cinema facilities, making full use of the proposed new community facility and the sports clubs | Establish a plan – explore barriers and sources of funding. Take action to encourage such businesses and investment. Implement plan | Beds CC MBDC Town Council Chamber of Trade | Medium | 3 years |





BUSINESS & RETAIL DEVELOPMENT

AMPTHILL TOWN ACTION PLAN

| ISSUE | VISION | ACTION | PARTNERS | PRIORITY | TIMESCALE |
|---|---|---|--|----------|-----------|
| Promotion of Ampthill, it's facilities & attractions | If Ampthill's businesses and shops are to thrive, more people need to visit Ampthill. This requires active promotion of what is available (including Waitrose, improved parking, Ampthill Park etc). Ampthill already has very good websites, but a particular emphasis is needed on this aspect. | Establish a communications Plan and the means to deliver it over the long term. Establish partners and funding. Communications to start once Waitrose and additional parking are in place. | Chamber of Trade Town Council | Medium | 2 years |
| A public garden area to socialise | A garden where people can sit and socialise - Incorporating the Kings Arms Garden and perhaps extending into the (currently) derelict area behind Kings Arms Yard – as part of the wider development. | Explore the possibility of making the Kings Arms Garden available to the public on a daily basis – or if not that – another garden – as part of the land redevelopment in that area. Find sources of funding. Oversee implementation. | Friends of Kings Arms Garden Town Council Developers | Medium | 2-5 years |

BUSINESS & RETAIL DEVELOPMENT

| ISSUE | VISION | ACTION | PARTNERS | PRIORITY | TIMESCALE |
|---|--|---|--|-----------|-----------|
| A new Community Centre | A new Community Centre to replace the ageing Parkside Hall / Nottingham Rooms. This should be based on a multi function format supporting private & public events, cinema, shows etc and needs to be located with multi use parking. | Explore opportunities for funding and/or arrangements with developers. Consult other local towns on their success. Work with landowners / developers and funding agencies to establish a viable plan and an appropriate management regime. Oversee approval and implementation. | Parkside Hall Trustees Town Council Developers Landowners Lottery Fund | Medium | 3 years |
| Improvements for access to shops | An easily accessible shopping centre that does not discriminate against either the young or the old or the infirm. | Encourage businesses to make improvements for access. | Mid Beds District Council; local businesses Chamber of Trade. | Long Term | 5 years |





AMPTHILL'S FARMERS MARKET

AMPTHILL TOWN ACTION PLAN

| ISSUE | VISION | ACTION | PARTNERS | PRIORITY | TIMESCALE |
|---|--|---|--|----------|---|
| Threat to monthly Farmers Market in the town. | A town that cherishes its individuality and with active links to surrounding villages and countryside. | Ask Ampthill Town Council to continue to the Farmers Market on a regular basis. | Bedfordshire County Council Town Council Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity; The stall holders The residents – YOU. | Medium | Short term to the calling of a meeting to the interested parties. |
| Lack of town centre site for the Farmers Market. | An active Ampthill Farmers Market | Search for a Town centre solution for the Farmers Market. | Town Council; Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity The residents - YOU. | Medium | Short term to the compiling a list of possible sites. |

HOUSING & THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

| ISSUE | VISION | ACTION | PARTNERS | PRIORITY | TIMESCALE |
|--|---|---|--|----------|---|
| Town Design Statement | Ampthill maintains its charm and rural surroundings. | Produce and agree a Town Design Statement. | Town Council; MBDC; and YOU. | Medium | Short term to the calling of a meeting to establish interest and membership of working group. |
| Green Infrastructure Plan | Green areas running in a ribbon around Ampthill accessed from all parts of the town along radial footpaths and bridle ways. | Establish a Green Infrastructure Plan for Ampthill and surrounding areas. | Town Council; MBDC; Greensand Trust; and YOU. | Medium | Short term to the calling of a meeting to establish interest and membership of working group. |
| Shortage of affordable housing. | Increased availability of affordable housing. | Develop an affordable housing contingency plan | MBDC, Aragon Housing Association, Hanover Housing Association, Raglan Housing Association, Pilgrim Housing Association, Trustees of the Feoffees Alms Houses, Church Army. | | |





EDUCATION TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT

AMPTHILL TOWN ACTION PLAN

| ISSUE | VISION | ACTION | PARTNERS | PRIORITY | TIMESCALE |
|----------------------------------|--|---|--|----------------------|--|
| Contact with young people | Effective contact between the Town Council and the children and young people of Ampthill. | Ask the Town Council to meet the Student Councils in the Ampthill middle and upper schools on a regular basis. | The Head-teachers of the Schools in Ampthill; Town Council members; and the Children's Councils. | High | Ongoing |
| Early Years Provision | Wide publicity of the excellent provision for early years care and education. Availability of childcare for all families in Ampthill, irrespective of income. | Publicise the provision more effectively, for example through local publications *. Explore funding options to support childcare for disadvantaged families in Ampthill. | Heads of Playgroups and Nurseries; Bedfordshire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership; and Ampthill Town Council. European Social Fund. | Medium Medium | Immediate and ongoing Immediate and ongoing |

* Around the Pump produced by Ampthill Town Council; Horizon produced by MBDC; Bedfordshire Magazine - produced by the Bedfordshire County Council; and The Fuddler.

EDUCATION TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT

| ISSUE | VISION | ACTION | PARTNERS | PRIORITY | TIMESCALE |
|------------------------|---|--|---|----------|-----------------------|
| Work-placements | Delivery of meaningful work placements for year 10 and 11 pupils by local employers | <p>Seek full support of Ampthill employers to Redborne School and Bedfordshire and Luton Education Business Partnership for meaningful work placements for year 10 and 11 pupils.</p> <p>Ask the Town Council to provide an annual award to local businesses for Services to Young People. Such as provision of work placements; work-based training e.g. apprenticeships, and mentoring young people in school.</p> | <p>Chamber of Commerce; Rotary Club; Lions Club; local employers; parents; and Ampthill Town Council. Bedford and Luton Education and Business Partnership Ampthill Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club and Lions Club</p> | High | Immediate and ongoing |





EDUCATION TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT

AMPTHILL TOWN ACTION PLAN

| ISSUE | VISION | ACTION | PARTNERS | PRIORITY | TIMESCALE |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|----------|-----------------------|
| Adult and Community Education | Availability of free venues for the delivery of training by the WEA. Effective enhancement and publicity of the provision of adult learning opportunities in Ampthill. | Ask the Ampthill schools to provide free venues for the WEA. Ask the Town Council and the schools to support the WEA in their efforts to obtain Lottery funding for family learning programmes. | All schools; Ampthill Town Council; Redborne School Adult Education coordinator; Bedfordshire Learning Partnership Bedfordshire County Council Adult and Community Learning Unit; and Bedfordshire Rural Community Charity WEA (Bedford Branch). | High | Immediate and ongoing |
| Informal Education Provision | Wide provision of informal education by out of school hours leisure and sporting clubs in Ampthill | Encourage group leaders of leisure and sports clubs in Ampthill to recognise the important role they play in the development of young people through informal education. | Group leaders; parents; Town Council; and Ampthill residents. | Medium | Ongoing |

| ISSUE | VISION | ACTION | PARTNERS | PRIORITY | TIMESCALE |
|---|---|--|---|----------|---|
| Publicity of Activities and Facilities | An active community with modern recreational and sporting facilities. | Expand directory of local organisations on the website. Produce a booklet on local organisations, clubs and social groups to supplement existing lists. | Beds County Council; MBDC; Council for Voluntary Service, Ampthill Web sites; local media, shops; You. | Medium | On going and due to nature of project needs constant updating. |
| Community Hall | Provision of suitable and safe premises for: Group meetings of parents and young children, weddings, parties, plays, musical events, films, meetings, exhibitions and fairs. | Reactivate organising committee to raise funds for the replacement or refurbishment of the Parkside Hall and Nottingham Rooms, and publish plans | Architects, and planners, MBDC Ampthill Town Council, Alameda Middle School and Bedfordshire County Council, Ampthill and District Rotary, The Council for Voluntary Service, Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity. | Medium | Short term to calling a public meeting to establish interest and formation of organising committee. |





SPORTS, SOCIAL, LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

AMPTHILL TOWN ACTION PLAN

| ISSUE | VISION | ACTION | PARTNERS | PRIORITY | TIMESCALE |
|-------------------------|--|---|---|----------|---|
| Youth Club | An active youth club with modern recreational and snack bar facilities | Investigate the options available for establishing a Youth Club. | Architects, MBDC Ampthill Town Council, Schools Beds CC Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity. | Medium | Short term to calling a public meeting to establish interest and recruit members of organising committee. |
| Skate Board Park | A skateboard park in Ampthill Park | Support the Town Council in opening a skateboard Park in Ampthill Park. | Ampthill Town Council | High | Short Term |

AMPTHILL TOWN ACTION PLAN

| ISSUE | VISION | ACTION | PARTNERS | PRIORITY | TIMESCALE |
|---|---|---|--|----------|---|
| Heritage Centre | A thriving Heritage Centre offering information on Ampthill past and present. | Identify possible locations and establish an organising committee to raise funds. | MBDC; Ampthill Town Council; Ampthill History Forum; Ampthill and District Archaeological and Local History Society, Ampthill and District Preservation Society; The Council for Voluntary Service, Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity. | Medium | Short term to calling a public meeting to establish interest and recruit members of organising committee. |
| Lack of a Tourist Information Centre | A tourist information center for use by the public, together with updated information boards. | Identify possible locations and arrangements for staffing a tourism information centre. | MBDC, Ampthill Town Council, The Council for Voluntary Service, Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity. | High | Short Term |



AMPTHILL TOWN ACTION PLAN

HIGHWAYS & PUBLIC TRANSPORT

| ISSUE | VISION | ACTION | PARTNERS | PRIORITY | TIMESCALE |
|---|---|---|---|---|--------------------|
| Safe access in and to town centre for: | User-friendly access to town centre from residential area. Improvements to town centre environment and character. | Encourage the formation of an "Amphill Traffic and Transport Action Group". | Town Council, MBDC, Bedfordshire County Council, and all residents. | High in view of the impending Waitrose development. | Shortest possible. |
| • Pedestrians: | Well-surfaced and well-lit footpaths. | Extensive refurbishment of town centre footpaths | | | |
| • Cyclists | Improved space and confidence for cyclists sharing road use with motorists. | Set up designated "Cyclists' Priority Lanes". | | | |
| • Motorists: | Motorists displaying improved driving practices and skills. | Extend present 20mph limit by 200m in each direction. Articles in Around the Pump and other publications. | | | |
| Safer residential streets | Improved street environment especially for children and older residents. | 20 mph speed limit in residential areas. | As above. | High | Shortest possible. |

HIGHWAYS & PUBLIC TRANSPORT

| ISSUE | VISION | ACTION | PARTNERS | PRIORITY | TIMESCALE |
|---|---|---|---|----------|--------------------|
| Improved bus services. | Enhanced travel facilities for work and leisure activity. | New Buses. Improved frequency and reliability of services. Better timetable information. | Bus Companies. Town Council. MBDC. Bedfordshire CC. Amphill Traffic and Transport Action Group together with all residents. | High | Shortest possible. |
| Improved access to rail services. | Environmentally friendly travel for longer journeys. | Working group with local communities to consider joint Amphill/Flitwick station. | Amphill Traffic and Transport Action Group Rail Companies. Town Council. MBDC. Bedfordshire CC. and Representatives from neighbouring communities. | Medium | Medium |
| Better Information to residents on public transport and traffic matters. | Encouragement to environmentally friendly travel. | Timetables at all bus stops and at Flitwick station. Articles and announcements in “Around the Pump” and other publications. | | | |





HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

AMPTHILL TOWN ACTION PLAN

| ISSUE | VISION | ACTION | PARTNERS | PRIORITY | TIMESCALE |
|--|--|--|---|----------|---|
| Good Neighbour Scheme | An active Good Neighbour Scheme in the four quadrants of the town. | Establish a Good Neighbour Scheme and set up a Good Neighbour Committee to manage the scheme. | Bedfordshire County Council; Ampthill Town Council; Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity The Council for Voluntary Service; and YOU. | High | Ongoing. Management Committee established volunteers recruited; service advertised in Around the Pump Ampthill web sites and local media. |
| Extensions to the Good Neighbour Scheme | Extensions to the Good Neighbour Scheme, such as the Link Up scheme. | Establish extensions to the Good Neighbour Scheme to help elderly and vulnerable residents by fitting door chains, door viewers and other home security devices. | Bedfordshire County Council; Ampthill Town Council; Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity; The Council for Voluntary Service; and YOU. | High | Medium term dependent on the success of the Good Neighbour Scheme. |

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

| ISSUE | VISION | ACTION | PARTNERS | PRIORITY | TIMESCALE |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|--|----------|---|
| Aid to Health and Social Service voluntary groups | Provision of a room that Health and Social Service voluntary groups could book for the purposes of speaking to clients. | Find suitable premises in Ampthill. | Bedfordshire County Council; MBDC; Town Council; Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity; The Council for Voluntary Service; and YOU. | High | Short term to the finding suitable premises for a meeting room. |





POLICE, OTHER EMERGENCY SERVICES & COMMUNITY SAFETY

AMPTHILL TOWN ACTION PLAN

| ISSUE | VISION | ACTION | PARTNERS | PRIORITY | TIMESCALE |
|--|--|---|---|----------|--|
| Community Safety Group | An active Community Safety Group. | Establish a Community Safety Group for Ampthill | Town Council; Emergency Services; Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership; HOMEWATCH representatives; local businesses; the residents - YOU. | Medium | Short term to the calling of a meeting to establish interest and membership. |
| HOMEWATCH | An active HOMEWATCH Scheme in each street where required. | Establish a HOMEWATCH Scheme where required. | Town Council and Constabulary to call a meeting. Then it is up to the residents – YOU. | Medium | Short term to the calling of a meeting to establish interest and membership. |
| Visible Policing | An identifiable and easily contactable Police presence, engaging with and offering reassurance to the community. | Support the Police in use of the Mobile Police Station. | Town Council; Constabulary and YOU, the residents. | Medium | Ongoing |
| Road Safety - Access for Emergency Services | Considerate parking throughout the town to ensure prompt access for Emergency Services' vehicles. | Carry out a campaign to educate residents and businesses. | Town Council; Emergency Services and YOU, the residents. | High | Short term to the promulgation of advertisement in Around the Pump. |

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

| ISSUE | ACTION | PARTNERS | PRIORITY | TIMESCALE |
|--|--|--|----------|-----------|
| Worried about the use of vehicles in Ampthill Park. | Work with the Town Council and other interested parties on the management of the park. | Ampthill Town Council and other parties. | | |
| Concerned over the amount of scrub being removed from Ampthill Park. | Work with the Town Council and other interested parties on the management of the park. | Ampthill Town Council and other parties. | | |
| The banks on the Rezzy in Ampthill Park are getting damaged by year round fishing. | Work with the Angling Club to ensure that damage does not occur. Investigate the possibility of a closed season. | Ampthill and District Angling Club, Ampthill Town Council and other parties. | | |
| Lack of resting points in many of the open spaces e.g. Alameda, which restricts enjoyment by many members of the community. | Identify sites that might need more benches and work with the landowners to have them installed once agreed. | | | |
| Not enough cover for nesting birds in Coopers Hill [The Firs]. | Work with the Wildlife Trust who manage the reserve and investigate the potential for erecting bird boxes. | Ampthill Town Council and other parties. And Wild Life Trust and Local schools. | | |





ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

AMPTHILL TOWN ACTION PLAN

| ISSUE | ACTION | PARTNERS | PRJORITY | TIMESCALE |
|---|--|---|----------|-----------|
| Some views within the town could be improved: land behind the White Hart Hotel and the brook along Sweet Briar Footpath. Ensure that the good views are not lost. | Work with the owners and local volunteers to improve these parts of the town. Investigate the possibility of having a “Town Spring Clean” event. | Ampthill Town Council Land owners Volunteers Local schools.. | | |
| Some important areas might be lost unless they get statutory protection e.g. roadside verge along the A507 | Work with County Council and other bodies to designate sites such as the roadside verge. Survey the Town for other potential sites requiring conservation or protection e.g. the Green to the north of Verne Drive, the pond along on the Ampthill side of Ailesbury Road and Cut-throat Meadow, | BedsCC Ampthill Town Council and other conservation bodies. | | |
| Concerns over a general decline in wildlife throughout the town. | Survey the wildlife to see if there is a decline and investigate the reasons if a decline exists. Find out what records already exist on the towns wildlife. | Biological Records and Monitoring Centre, Bedfordshire Natural History Society. | | |
| Lack of public knowledge of important historic sites e.g. Monitoring Post on Coopers Hill [The Firs]. | Work with the owners to erect some information about the bunker on-site. | Wildlife Trust Owners of the bunker monitoring post. Ampthill Town Council Ampthill History Forum. | | |

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

| ISSUE | ACTION | PARTNERS | PRIORITY | TIMESCALE |
|---|--|--|----------|--|
| Worried about new developments, especially when they are placed next to important sites. | Ensure developments are placed in suitable areas. Produce a map showing the ideal placing of any new development. | MBDC Ampthill Town Council. | | |
| The rights of way network is not usable in some areas. | Survey the entire network to see if there are any problems. Form a P3 [Parish Paths Partnership] group to undertake tasks arising from survey. | BedsCC Land owners Greensand Trust Local volunteers. | | |
| Maintenance of footpaths within the town. | Establish an active P3 group of volunteers to maintain and improve public rights of way within the town. | Beds County Council; Town Council; Greensand Trust; and - YOU. | High | Short term to the calling of a meeting to establish interest and membership. |





ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

AMPTHILL TOWN ACTION PLAN

| ISSUE | ACTION | PARTNERS | PRIORITY | TIMESCALE |
|---|---|---|-----------|---|
| Worried about the use of vehicles in the Alameda | Work with the Town Council and other interested parties interested in the Alameda, to prevent damage to the foot path. | Ampthill Town Council and other parties. | | |
| Creation of a new area of Country Parkland to the south of Ampthill. | A Flit Valley Country Park to the south of Ampthill. Establish a forum to study creation of a new area of Country Park to the south of Ampthill. | Town Council; MBDC; Beds County Council, Greensand Trust, and Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity. | Long Term | Short term to publishing an article in Around the Pump. |
| Buffering/increasing the size of Coopers Hill. | Establish a study group to seek enlargement of Coopers Hill | MBDC Ampthill Town Council., Wildlife Trust, BRCC | | |

USEFUL CONTACTS

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LIST OF ANNEXES & REFERENCES

List of Documents Prepared by the Steering Group that support the Town Action Plan – not included in this booklet but are available separately.

ANNEX A – Business and Retail Development Focus Group Report

ANNEX B – Education, Training and Employment - Focus Group Report.

ANNEX C – Sports, Social, Leisure and Entertainment Youth and Community Facilities - Focus Group Report.

ANNEX D – Highways and Public Transport - Focus Group Report.

ANNEX E – Police, Other Emergency Services and Community Safety - Focus Group Report.

ANNEX F – Environmental Issues - Focus Group Report.

ANNEX G – Diary of Events

ANNEX H – Interim Report on the responses to the questionnaires sent to the residents & businesses of Ampthill

ANNEX I – Ampthill Today – A summary of Free Hand Comments Made in response to the survey. October 2003

ANNEX J – Ampthill Town Plan - Audit of Facilities By Steering Group

ANNEX K – A Short History of Ampthill.

REFERENCE 1 – Ampthill Conservation Area - 27 April 2005, MBDC Planning Division.

REFERENCE 2 - Ampthill, Past Present & Future www.amphill.org.uk

REFERENCE 3 - Cycling and Walking Strategy for Mid Beds - MBDC

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