Action Plan Update 2008

Transport

Action:	**Why:**	**Update May 2008**
Explore the possibility of Green Lanes (ie 20mph & priority for walkers/cyclists/riders) Present findings to the Action group to discuss feasibility	Our lanes are becoming increasingly busy; the safety of other road users is at risk. 54% of survey respondents (392 people) supported the idea of Green Lanes around Westfield	The recognised name for these lanes is Quiet Lanes. There are several examples around the country where areas have introduced them. East Sussex County Council has shown some interest but this is a long term action which will need more commitment by the County Council. There has been no further progress on this Action.
Gather information about Public Transport and the long term strategy for the Parish Present findings to the Action Group to consider if further work is needed	24% of respondents (172 people) experienced problems with using public transport	The proposed community bus to take people to Rye or Battle was not supported so was not followed up. No further Actions have been considered at present.
Find a solution to the village parking problems 	53% (389 people) identified car parking as a problem in the village. The most commonly identified sites were The Surgery, village halls and the roads around the school, especially at school drop-off and pick-up times	Various solutions have been considered but nothing viable has been found yet. This continues to be a problem but no further action has been considered.
Make pathways more accessible to allow people to walk into the village 	Comments were received about overgrown hedges and obstructed footways causing difficulties to pedestrians	There has been progress over the year on this action. The county footpath team have made some significant improvements to the path from New Cut to the Valley. A team of Volunteers are now in place to work on footpaths under the guidance of the County Team. The volunteers will have their own tool kit and will be out and about soon.

Transport (continued)

Consider routes for cyclists:- a)Beggars Corner to The Plough- through Fish Ponds lane to Cricket ground, down drive to A28 (possible new roundabout), Mill Lane to Cottage Lane and along to Sedlescombe b) Link with Marsh Cycle routes via Doleham Halt (good train service). Make Doleham Lane, and Lower Lidham Hill Green Lanes	322 respondents declared that dangerous roads or lack of cycle paths prevent them cycling more	A group of interested volunteers has now been formed. They will be working on this action over the coming year.
Revisit a "Wheelies" type car service as BACT looks set to close down	To match identified travel needs of residents with those willing to help provide transport	This project has ceased following the lack of support for a new scheme.

Housing

Action:	**Why:**	**Update May 2008**
Ensure all new housing in the parish has a certain percentage available for Westfield families, such as the Westfield Down proposal – see under Recreation	Most comments received were about already over-stretched infra structures and not wanting any further housing. If houses must be built, consideration should be given to current residents' needs (previous developments have resulted in an influx of people from outside the immediate area putting additional strain on services)	This year a housing survey will be completed by Action in Rural Sussex. If a need for specific housing is identified the Parish Council may consider a small development for Westfield residents which will always be kept for Westfield families.

Community Safety

Action:	Why:	Update May 2008
Establish wider coverage of Neighbourhood Watch	51% of respondents already belong to a neighbourhood watch scheme. Of those who do not, many expressed an interest in knowing more	The email address for neighbourhood watch was circulated widely and continues to be in the Community Newsletter on a regular basis. The police are beginning to look at the possibility of establishing traditional neighbourhood watch schemes with a pilot in Rye.

Environment

This is a really important issue for most people. There is a need to keep our environment clean and pleasant and this will be an area where the parishioners can work together.

Action:	Why:	Update May 2008
Organise a "Spring Clean" once or twice a year Set up a system whereby people regularly do their own "patch"	There was a high level of support for all suggested remedies for tidying Westfield. 264 people favoured an annual or bi-annual community clean-up	This continues to be a well supported project with a Spring Clean and Autumn Tidy up each year. A large number of volunteers also continue to clear up their patch on a regular basis.
Tackle the Litter problem in the parish 	The litter problem was the most frequently indicated local environment issue	As Above
Make sure the grass edges are not cut where it is safe to do so, to preserve orchids and wildlife	To preserve endangered flowers	A detailed plan of the rare wild flowers has been completed. The contractors will continue to be made aware of the protected sites.
Investigate more frequent bottle bank emptying or permanent bank		Kerbside collections are now a regular feature. The Parish Council is considering the need to have a plastic recycle unit in Churchfields. The bottle bank continues to be well used. Some residents have asked for it to be re-sited where it is less visible.

Action:	**Why:**	Update May 2008
Reduce local disturbance	8 potential causes of disturbance were listed in the survey. Of these, vandalism (61%), abandoned cars (33%) and traffic noise (25%) caused the most discomfort	The main issue last year was noise disturbance from youngsters with motor bikes, mostly riding illegally. The CSO's have been helpful in tackling this issue. RDC's excellent service in removing abandoned vehicles has been very successful in keeping this nuisance at bay. There have been less incidents reported to the Parish Council during 07/08.
Explore changes needed to the way we deal with Dog Fouling 	60% of respondents expressed concern about dog fouling and 49% would like more dog waste bins	A new contract has been established this year and extra dog bins have been placed around the village. The bins are emptied regularly and there have been no reported concerns. Some inconsiderate people continue to fail to pick up after their dogs.
Tackle the vandalism and Graffiti problems in the Parish  New Moorsite	61% of respondents to the adult survey expressed concern about vandalism. 53% of primary school children identified this as the problem most in need of solutions	The Graffiti kit has been well used by Barbara Balkham. If parishioners identify any new areas of concern please let her know.

Young People and Children

Action:	**Why:**	**Update May 2008**
Develop the play facilities in the Parish (Could include cycle track, basket ball and half sized football pitch for youngsters to play on and new play equipment for all ages)	63% of respondents (460 people) want improved play facilities. 76 of our primary school children put this as their highest priority	The Parish Council have identified funding for improving the facilities at the recreation area (opposite the church). The Action Plan Group have suggested suitable equipment and further funding is being sort.

Develop a Youth Club	75% of adult respondents (550 people) support the development of a youth club. 18% of the young people, in the 11 to 16 age group, wanted a youth club	There has been no response from volunteers willing to run a youth clubs so the Action Plan Group has decided to hold 3 youth events this year – the first – a Street Art Graf workshop – was held on 12th April, which was very successful. Two further events are at the planning stage.

Communication

Action:	**Why:**	**Update May 2008**
Set up a Parish Website to compliment the Parish newsletter	62% of respondents have access to the internet and 52% supported the idea of setting up a Parish website	The parish Web site is established and is being regularly kept up to date.

Recreation

The Westfield Down proposal is a major initiative in our parish. It combines the requirement for us to have more housing, the need for the football club to have a new pitch and pavilion so that they can remain in the second division (and possibly move up), a new pavilion for the cricket club, a new base for scouts, cubs and beavers, and an area for developing a children's playground.

Action:	**Why:**	**Update May 2008**
Support the development of the Westfield Down proposal Form a partnership with the Steering group	80% (586 people) Support the development of new sports facilities at Westfield down	Progress has been disappointingly slow on this project. The sale of the land has now been agreed verbally so outline planning permission will be sought next.
Explore the possibility of a Drop In Centre 	56% (408 people) Would like to see a Drop-in centre for the community	This project is on hold due to ill health of the leader.

Consider what is available in the Parish for the elderly and if further groups etc are needed Identify a lead to take this forward	To utilise volunteers who have an interest in provision for the elderly and to plan for a growing older population	This action is being explored alongside the "drop In" idea.

General Issues

Action:	**Why:**	**Update May 2008**
Maintain a database for all volunteers from the survey and future volunteers	To promote a self-help community and make best use of volunteered manpower.	A data base has been set up
Contact all who volunteered on the "Getting Active Sheet" with either a specific invitation or to say they will be contacted as needed	See above	A large number of the volunteers have now been contacted as the various projects have got under way.