

## Introduction

Welcome to the Horndean Parish Plan. This plan aims to:

- Provide information on issues of importance to the community,
- Help people become involved in what goes on around them,
- Give local authorities vital information about the local needs and views,
- Help individuals and organisations prepare for changes that affect them,
- Provide useful information when applying for funding for projects,
- Provide a vision of the community in the future, and how it will be achieved.

Compiled by the current members of the Horndean Parish Community Plan Group, during the period May 2011 – April 2012, it represents the work of many people who have been in the team during 2005 – 2012 without whom this would not be completed, and who are acknowledged at the end of this document.

This plan has six sections, each with its own proposals, which form the main chapters:

- **Social & Community,**
- **Transport & Accessibility,**
- **Business & Economy,**
- **Urban Environment,**
- **Natural Environment ,**
- **Education .**

The Parish is too large to follow a Parish Plan format, so a customised 'Market Town' Health check approach was adopted to create this plan. The illustration (right) outlines the cycle of actions required with two critical stages. One is the gathering of information and the other is consultation with the community.

Information gathering involved responding to a set of detailed questions, collected and collated in worksheets. Each worksheet covers one of the six main topics in this plan.



## A Vision For The Parish Of Horndean

This document contains a number of actions and proposals which, when undertaken, will shape the future of the Parish and one vision is assembled. Collectively, the proposals comprise "The Vision".

We offer here a set of criteria which, taken collectively, offer an overall vision. They have been derived from the work undertaken to prepare the detailed worksheets, the 2008 survey and the other consultations around the Parish over the last 5 years.

For this vision to come to fruition, the community must now come together to tackle the projects.

On behalf of the whole community, we would like to thank those involved for their time, dedication and hard work in helping to complete this document. This includes all past and present volunteers, the three local councils and their officers, local community organisations, all residents and businesses who completed the questionnaires and those who came to the public events.



*Susan Langham* January 2013



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	Hazleton & Blendworth	Kings	Catherington & Lovedean	Murray	Downs	Summary
Population 2001 (ONS Census 2001)	2,326	3,029	2,332	2,420	2,532	12,639 (total)
Population 2009 (ONS mid-year estimates 2009)	2,349	3,075	2,225	2,387	2,489	12,526 (total)
Population change (2001 – 2009 estimates)	0.99%	1.52%	-4.59%	-1.36%	-1.70%	-0.89% (av.)
Change per year (2001-2009 estimates)	0.12%	0.19%	-0.57%	-0.17%	-0.21%	-0.11% (av.)
Average Income (ONS 2010 Family Spending)	£42,112	£39,564	£41,637	£35,338	£40,790	£39,845 (av.)
Economically Active (People aged 16-74, Census 2001)	67%	75%	74%	70%	73%	72% (av.)
Life Expectancy (2009 ONS Health Data) - years	78.0	82.3	81.6	81.1	83.2	81.2 (av.)
Housing Stock (LLPG Estimates, Nov. 2010)	1,092	1,304	1,026	1,021	1,059	5,502 (total)
Commercial Premises (LLPG Estimates, Nov. 2010)	116	11	73	15	3	218 (total)
Jobseekers' Claimants (NOMIS Claimants Oct. 2011)	20	20	12	23	26	101 (total)

Horndean Key Data based on the 5 wards.

## Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>A Vision for the Parish of Horndean</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Horndean Map and Statistics</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Contents</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1 - Social and Community</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2 - Transport and Accessibility</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>3 - Business and Economy</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>4 - Urban Environment</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>5 - Natural Environment</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>6 - Education</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Contributors</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>60</b>

## 1 - Social And Community

There are three aspirational themes that hopefully will pervade this Community Plan. They are summarised here because they are about and concern the people in the Parish - they are 'social'.

**Community spirit:** The Parish is a collection of settlements, each with its own sense of community to a greater or lesser extent. No such shared experience exists across the Parish which was defined in 1929 when the largest conurbation was Horndean village and today's populated areas were largely farmed or wooded land. It is part of the aspiration of this plan that a greater community spirit and pride might be engendered across the whole parish.

**Stewardship:** Today's residents have a responsibility to plan and manage existing local resources (in the widest sense) for future residents. Although many will believe that this is why they pay council taxes, this is not a passive responsibility (i.e. do nothing and all will be well). It requires the community to engage proactively in sustaining and improving what exists today. We must not be complacent, but should enhance the local natural environment and ensure the built environment is developed and maintained to best standards.

**Sustainable community:** HIND has taken a fundamental view of what a sustainable community might look like. Rather than focusing on sustainable development, important as that is, a view is proposed in which the Parish aspires to be as independent (self-contained) as possible, economically, socially and environmentally. Figuratively, if Horndean were a 'parish state', what would it export and what would it import and what would its balance of payments look like? It is a basic principle of this community plan that the area should contribute to, build upon and exceed the expectations of regional and national growth strategies rather than be reliant upon, regional and national growth strategies. In short, the area must strive to become economically more sustainable than ever before, i.e. be competitive. Implicit in this view of a sustainable community are other aims like: Economic growth, sustainable retailing and more local employment.

### Public consultation

In the 2008 public consultation<sup>(1)</sup> the following community facilities feedback was obtained.

*Which facilities do you think would give the most benefit for meeting recreation and sporting needs of the community?*

A park in which you can sit and relax 65%	All weather outdoor play surfaces 41%
Swimming pool 56%	Additional allotments 40%
Sports club promoting a range of sporting activities 54%	Additional open-air sports pitches 32%
Wide range of indoor sports facilities 50%	Gymnasium 31%
Wider range of available sports 48%	Bowling green 28%

*Which facilities do you think would give the most benefit to young people?*

A dedicated youth centre 70%	More children's play/recreational areas 54%
Youth clubs open for more evenings 70%	Multi-use games area / skate park 50%
More after school clubs and activities 64%	Café open in evening 43%
Late night buses 57%	Additional pre-school places 31%

*Which facilities do you think would give the most benefit for those with social needs?*

A dedicated day centre for the elderly 65%
Community centre addressing a wide range of social needs 50%
Additional social or affordable housing 43%

*Which facilities do you think would give the most benefit for health needs?*

	Yes	No
Have you been able to register with a doctor's surgery that is conveniently located for you?	92%	8%
Are you satisfied with the range of services provided by your GP?	90%	10%
Are you able to see your GP of your choice without undue delay?	75%	25%
Do your GP's opening hours meet your requirements?	82%	18%
Would you prefer to be able to access these services in Horndean?	64%	36%



**Policing & crime:** In the 2008 public consultation, no questions were specifically asked but there were suggestions for a need

- a) For better or more visual police presence (17 respondents), and
- b) To tackle anti-social behaviour (10 respondents).

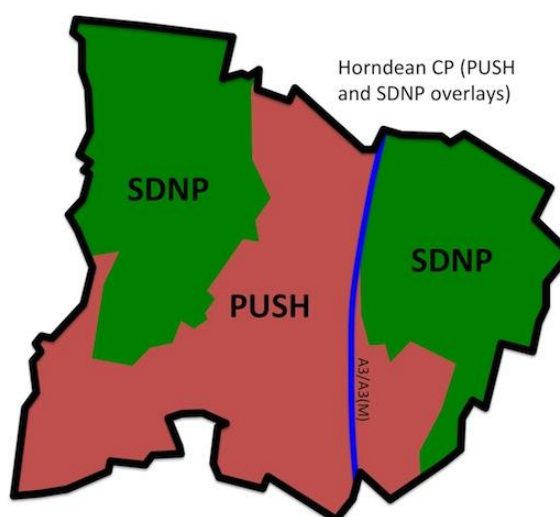
## Population

The total population of the Parish in 2011 has been estimated by HCC as 12,311<sup>(2)</sup>. It is the 17th largest civil parish in Hampshire. The total population and number of dwellings for the Parish is forecast for 2012-2018 as follows

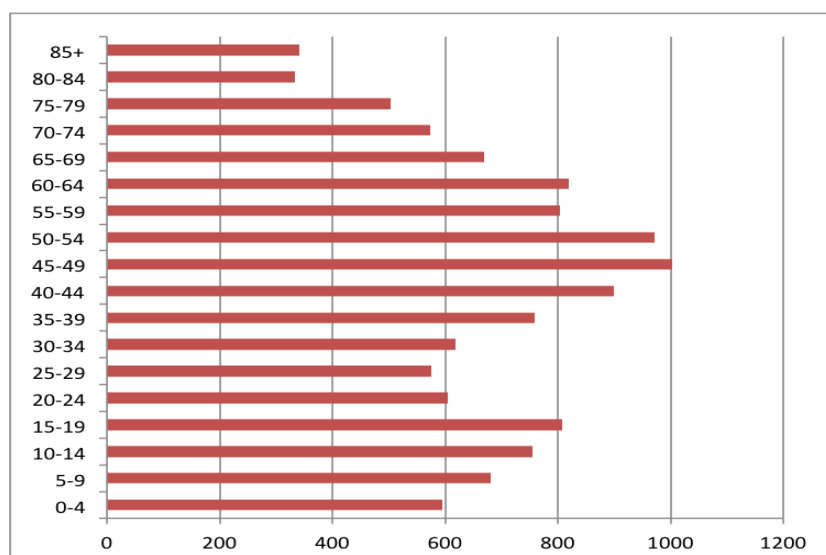
Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Dwellings	5,309	5,335	5,361	5,436	5,569	5,676	5,736	5,795
Population	12,311	12,294	12,292	12,407	12,647	12,832	12,879	12,946

These numbers will be adjusted when the local 2011 Census data is released in mid 2013 and will also be influenced by the delivery of the housing programme that EHDC has identified for the Parish (see Housing sub-section).

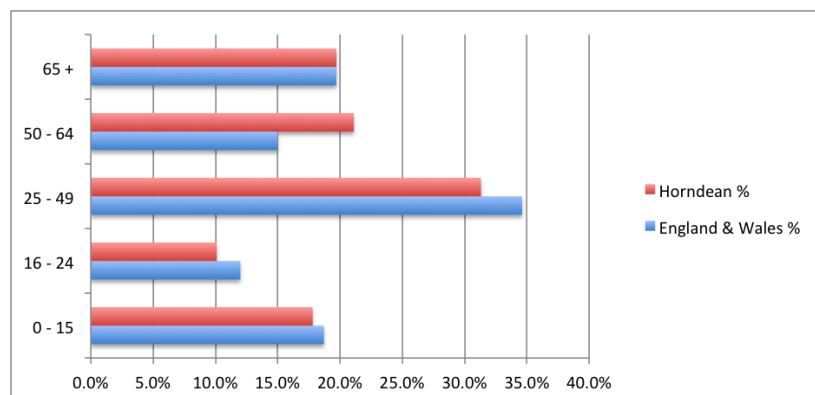
Approximately 90% of the population of the Civil Parish of Horndean lives in the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) area of the Parish and 10% lives in the South Downs National Park (SDNP) area. See map.



**The 2011 population age profile has been estimated by HCC as:**



This 2011 population age profile compared to the whole of England and Wales is:



It can be seen that the biggest difference is in the 50 – 64 age range (approaching retirement): 21.1% Horndean vs. 15.0% England and Wales.

**Retired population:** The estimated number of Horndean residents over the age of 65 (2011) is 2,421 (19.7%). This is identical to the England and Wales percentage.

**Younger population:** The estimated number of Horndean residents under the age of 16 (2011) is 2,190 (17.8%), compared to an England and Wales estimate of 18.7%.

**Employed population:** People resident in the Parish (2001 Census) of working age (18 – 64) was 6,473. In 2011 this number was estimated to have risen by 12% to 7,363.

## Housing

**New housing in the Parish:** 1,100 homes are planned to be built in the southern parishes in the period 2012 – 2028 and the Parish of Horndean is expected to provide 700 of these. In the 2008 consultation a need for additional social/affordable housing was identified. Large scale developments are identified as the Gales Brewery site, Havant Road and Lovedean Lane

The EHDC/SDNP Joint Core Strategy<sup>(3)</sup> numbers for housing land in the Parish, submitted May 2012 to the Government Inspector for approval, are:

New homes in the Parish 2012 - 2028		Notes
Total allocation 2006 - 2028	836	Derived from South East Plan
Completions 2006 - 2011	161	
<b>Total allocation 2012 - 2028</b>	<b>675</b>	
<b>From large sites (10+ houses)</b>		
Havant Road site	60	Outline planning permission July 2012
North of James Copse Road site	85	Existing development brief
Keydell site, Havant Road	160	Existing development brief
Gales Brewery site	73	Construction commenced July 2012
161-163, Portsmouth Road	11	Planning permission resought June 2012
Large site commitments	389	
<b>From small sites (&lt;10 houses)</b>		
Sites in progress	35	All with planning permission at June 2012)
Windfall sites (see note)	51	No planning permission sought yet
Small site commitments	86	
Total commitments	475	
<b>Sites still to be allocated</b>	<b>200</b>	Allocation process takes place 2012 – 2015
<b>Note:</b> Windfall sites have not been identified as available yet. They comprise previously-developed sites that unexpectedly become available, e.g. large sites resulting from (say) a factory closure or small sites such as a residential conversion or garden developments.		

The EHDC Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) map for the Parish<sup>(4)</sup>, published May 2012, shows potential development land. EHDC will undertake an allocation process in the 2012-2015 timeframe, including a period of public consultation, to determine which of these SHLAA sites

are best suited to fulfil this outstanding requirement for 200 homes. Active community participation in the consultation is vital.

**Backland or garden development:** These terms are used to describe land where house owners have sold part of their garden for development. Until the introduction of the Localism Bill gardens were considered brownfield sites. Now they are not but if all other planning considerations are met garden land can be used for house building. These sites are usually small and are considered to be "windfall" sites.

**Creating a balanced community:** As discussed in other sections of this plan, the Parish should strive to become a sustainable community in the widest sense, to become as economically, socially and environmentally independent as possible. This requires the complementary creation of improved services and infrastructure, leisure opportunities, jobs and education to offer a more balanced, self-contained community.

**Social / affordable housing:** A report, undertaken by the then District Councillor Michael Aston in 2009<sup>(5)</sup>, reviewed the state of social housing in the Parish and identified an acute shortage, concluding that:

- 1) The need had significantly increased during the economic downturn following 2008, and
- 2) The waiting list for social housing in the Parish was extending at a rate of about 16 people per annum.

In particular, there was a need for 200 – 300 extra social dwellings, in addition to what was to be provided by development before 2028, and the high cost of private housing, relative to incomes, exacerbates the need for affordable housing. Based on figures<sup>(6)</sup> generated in December 2011, there is an identified need for affordable housing in the Parish:

1. There was a shortage of up to 300 one and two-bedroom (affordable) dwellings.
2. Any significant housing development in the Parish should include the maximum permitted affordable housing. At least 40% of all new housing should be "affordable", including those sites with fewer than 15 dwellings.

**Housing for retired people:** There is a good proportion of bungalows in the Parish, but very few apartments and a shortage of 1 and 2 bedroom properties in both the private and the affordable housing sectors. (EHDC Housing Needs Survey 2002) There are no retirement complexes for independent living.

**Sheltered housing:** The Parish currently has two retirement complexes with on-site managers [Causeway Farm (70) and Rosecott (43)] and four large residential/nursing homes [Whitehaven Rest Home (15 units), Wisteria Lodge (19 units), Acacia House Nursing Home (27 units) and Fieldgate Nursing Home (39 units)]. In 2010 Acacia House Nursing Home was given planning approval to extend to 106 bed nursing home plus 12 sheltered accommodation flats<sup>(7)</sup>. Radian Housing provide 12 flats for 16 – 25 year olds at Knighton Corner. Radian Housing also owns a number of bungalows and flats, a few of which have been modified to suit those with physical disabilities. No new sheltered housing units have been built for about 10 years.

### Housing actions

Ref.	Action	Stakeholders	Time-frame
S1	Seek maximum local engagement in the EHDC 2012/13 SHLAA allocation process	EHDC HPC HBC	S
S2	Research value of requesting HPC to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan	HIND HPC	M
S3	Request EHDC to develop a policy for backland development.	HIND EHDC HBC	S
S4	Ensure suitable infrastructure and amenities are included in developments	HIND EHDC HPC HBC	O
S5	Ensure developments are in keeping with the character of the Parish and in keeping with the semi-rural area.	HIND EHDC HPC HBC	O
S6	Work to ensure an appropriate balance of affordable housing and open	HIND EHDC	M

	market housing in all developments.	HPC HBC	
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### Meeting community needs

There are many community and voluntary organisations being run in and around the Parish. According to research by the HIND group, there are perhaps as many as 100, serving the community by providing services and social activities to all age ranges. Many are described in the 2008 booklet 'Discover Horndean and Rowlands Castle: A guide to local activities'. We propose this is updated, republished and also an online listing provided on the HIND website.

These organisations, some of them quite small and distributed across the Parish, generally work independently of each other. As such, some opportunities, especially funding, may be missed. We propose to encourage stronger community partnerships across these organisations to create and further develop services to improve well-being within the whole community.

**Early Years:** The Branches Children Centre (mentioned in the *Health* section) provides families with young children (0-5 years) with a variety of services and support, e.g. health (baby clinics), Jobcentre Plus, play and parenting skills.

**Teenage Years:** 1st Horndean Scout Group<sup>(8)</sup>, the Horndean Division of Girlguiding UK and B Company (Horndean Area) Hants and IoW Army Cadet Force are all popular formally-organised activities in the Parish. All are constrained by a shortage of adult leaders and instructors. There is also a range of informal activities such as volunteering with HPC Countryside Team or playing football at the park.

In recent years, during August there has been a popular temporary skate park constructed at Five Heads Recreation Ground. HPC has plans to provide a permanent installation (See *Skate Park* section below).

30 years of consultation with young people and support agencies have highlighted the need for a safe social meeting place for young people. Whilst each consultation highlights a different theme for content, the overriding message was for a meeting place or places. Utilising existing venues would increase the viability of such a provision. Currently (2012) there is no such facility.

**Older population:** There are programmes of activities for older people in a number of venues within the Parish offering lunches, short mat bowls, interest clubs and dancing.

The nearest day care facilities are at the Borrow Centre in Cowplain (certain week-days only) or Bulmer House Petersfield. Well being provision would be welcomed by older people. This could be provided in other venues throughout the Parish.

The Horndean Older People's Enabling (HOPE) forum was set up in 2012 aiming to address the needs and aspirations of the older person at regular meetings.

The aims of HOPE forum are:

- 1) Identify local social and community needs
- 2) Communicate information
- 3) Promote or provide missing services and facilities
- 4) Represent views to other agencies

### Meeting community needs actions

Ref.	Action	Stakeholders	Time-frame
S7	Update and republish the 2008 booklet 'Discover Horndean and Rowlands Castle: A guide to local activities'. Also provide an online listing on the HIND website.	HIND EHDC HBC HPC HCA	S
S8	Promote stronger community partnerships across community and voluntary organisations to create and further develop services to improve well-being within the whole community.	HPC HCA IPs	M
S9	Support the continuation of the Job Centre Advisor to the Branches Children Centre.	HCA HIND BCC JCB	O
S10	Request one or other of the local councils to establish a safe social meeting place for young people. Alternatively, endeavour to mobilise the	EHDC HPC HCC ILVs	M



	local community to do this.	IPs HBC	
S11	Support HCA investigations into additional development of its activities and services to support wellbeing provision at Merchistoun Hall.	HCA HIND	S
S12	Undertake a robust Options Appraisal to ascertain the availability and suitability of current venues and to arrange ongoing and sustainable meeting places for the elderly.	HIND HCA ILVs	M

## Health & public safety

### Health

Average life expectancy within the Parish is 81.2 years, compared with the average for England & Wales (80.2 years). More information is available in the *Key parish information* section of this Plan

**Health centre:** The importance of Horndean village as a community centre for the Parish is highlighted in the *Urban Environment* section of this Plan. A number of public services are critical for this to apply. Arguably, foremost among these is the presence of a health centre offering a range of modern health services and adequate parking. A surgery in the centre of Horndean village supporting a patient list of 6,000 – 7,000 and with an assured long-term future is integral to the sustainability of the Parish of Horndean.

According to the NHS choices website<sup>(9)</sup>, there are four GP practices within 2 miles of the approximate geographic centre of the Parish: Horndean Surgery, to the north, Clanfield Surgery and to the south, Cowplain Surgery and Cowplain Family Practice. These can be seen on a map here: <http://bit.ly/MtsKxi>

Only Horndean Surgery<sup>(10)</sup> is inside the Parish boundary. It has 4,600 on its patient list, served by 4 GPs and 4 clinicians in a small premises in Blendworth Lane with the capacity to serve 1,500. In spite of this constraint, in mid-2012, the practice continues to keep the list open to new patients to maintain funding levels and offer a reasonable range of medical services to residents. However, with such a strain on the premises this is constantly under review. Without new premises, the open list status may change.

**Dentists:** According to the NHS choices website, there are no dentists within the Parish. The nearest private dentist is in Cowplain and the nearest dentist accepting NHS patients is in the Cowplain Health Centre. It is hoped that a Dental practice will become part of a wider offering at a new health centre.

**Hospitals:** Hospitals serving the Parish include: the Queen Alexandra Hospital including Accident and Emergency (5.6 miles), St Mary's (8.5 miles), Havant (4.5 miles), Petersfield (6.5 miles) with maternity support offered further by the Grange Maternity Centre in Petersfield (6.5 miles). The nearest hospitals with a walk-in centre is St Mary's in Portsmouth. There is a minor injuries unit at Petersfield Community Hospital.

**Midwifery:** Located at Horndean Technology College, Branches Children's Centre<sup>(11)</sup> (part of Action for Children) would be a suitable location for outreach midwifery support. The Centre has identified that more midwifery support is required and the professionals are available, but funding is the challenge.

**Pharmacies:** There are two pharmacies, one at the Spar convenience store in Horndean village, the second at Morrisons.

### Public safety

**Crime levels:** Crime levels in the area are very low compared with national levels. Murray Ward is higher than the EHDC average but is still low by national standards.

**Anti-social behaviour:** As with any community there are occasional problems. The most visual signs are a little local graffiti on some pedestrian routes away from pubs, and there are periodic problems with damaged walls and fences.

There is a significant problem of fly tipping in local lanes. Residents can report this anti-social behaviour at [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com) and EHDC are notified almost immediately.

**Local police team:** The local police are based in Waterloooville, which in most respects seems to work well as they are usually quickly on site and, historically, have had good local liaison. Unfortunately, the public desk at Waterloooville Police Station has now closed and the nearest walk-in police station is in

Havant. However, they have strong online presence with two websites<sup>(12,13)</sup>, each containing slightly different information.

The local team are also easily contacted by calling 101. Beat surgeries are held at the Morrison store in Horndean, generally on the last Saturday afternoon of the month. (Details on both websites via the references above.) For users of the social media tool Twitter, Waterloo Police can be followed at [twitter.com/@wlvcentrepolice](https://twitter.com/wlvcentrepolice).

**Voluntary Schemes:** There are clusters of Neighbourhood Watch groups in the Parish. Schemes such as Countrywatch and Speedwatch also support the Police.

**Online information about local crime:** There are two map-based websites that show the local incidence of crime (both require a postcode): [www.crimereports.co.uk](http://www.crimereports.co.uk) and [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk). These are helpful to identify trends, and should continue to be used to support the effective local multi-agency task force in reducing anti-social crime.

**Parking:** Parking is now managed by a shared EHDC/Havant Borough Council civil enforcement team. In certain situations, the Police still have a role. This is discussed in the *Transport & Accessibility* section of this Plan.

### Health & public safety actions

Ref.	Action	Stakeholders	Time-frame
S13	Support the long-term future of a modern medical centre (with adequate parking) in the centre of Horndean Village.	EHDC DS NHS HCC HBC	S
S14	Support the provision of an NHS Dentist within the Parish.	HIND NHS HCC EHDC	M
S15	Help to source funding for a midwife to be stationed at Branches Children Centre.	HIND BCC NHS EHDC HCC	M
S16	Continue to support and promote the local multi-agency task force in identifying and reducing trouble hot spots	Police EHDC HBC IPs	O

**The need for greater information:** It is not easy for residents to establish quickly which authority is responsible for which service. For example, the national Highways Authority has responsibility for the trunk road network, including the A3(M) and A3 north of the motorway. HCC has responsibility for all other roads (including the old A3), but will sometimes sub-contract their responsibilities for road schemes in the Parish to EHDC or even Havant Borough Council. We propose to publish an extensive listing on the HIND website (or horndean.net) of which authority provides what service.

As mentioned in the *Key Parish information* section of this Plan, there are two other organisations whose peripheral territories include the EHDC Southern Parishes: the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH)<sup>(14)</sup> and the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA)<sup>(15)</sup>. Since 2010, all local councils have faced major resource challenges. This has created two issues locally:

### Local government actions

Ref.	Action	Stakeholders	Time-frame
S17	Promote greater collaboration between council and community	HPC EHDC HCC HCA IPs HBC	M
S18	Publish a listing on the HIND website of which authority provides what service	HIND	S

### Open space, sport and recreation

**District studies and reports:** In 2008, EHDC commissioned and approved an Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study<sup>(16)</sup> to inform local planning policy. An extract from this extensive report, specific to the Parish of Horndean, can be seen at <http://bit.ly/MSDKyo>. In June 2012, EHDC approved a subsequent report: EHDC Leisure Built Facilities Strategy 2012 – 2026<sup>(17)</sup>. At time of writing (July 2012) this was not yet online.

The strategic priorities for the Parish from the 2008 report should continue to be addressed:

- Provide additional open space within the area. There is an undersupply of open space within the Horndean area although there is a sufficient supply of natural green space.
- Ensure new open space is sustainable. The quality of open space across the area is generally good. The focus on provision within the area should therefore be on meeting the shortfall in quantity.
- Provide additional facilities for young people. There is a need to provide additional facilities for young people in the Horndean area, where there is a lack of quantity and access to youth facilities.

### Open space

The community has 58 hectares (ha) of Parish Council managed open space<sup>(18)</sup>. 45 ha (approx. 80%) of this is natural green space, which, HIND suggest, must be preserved as such. 3.8 ha (approx. 7%) is managed playing fields. This is a significant proportion of the Parish precept. The details are:

Allotments (10 plots at Napier Road)	0.1
Children's play space	0.8
Churchyard & cemetery	0.9
Informal open space	7.5
Natural green space	45.1
Sports & recreation grounds (Five Heads Rec. 2.4 ha + Jubilee Field 1.4 ha)	3.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>58.2</b>

Additionally:

- Horndean Technology College has 7.8 ha of outdoor sports facilities (two-thirds of the playing field space in the Parish). The community has controlled access to these facilities.
- Merchistoun Hall has approx. 2 ha of open-access woodland and play areas, including a long disused tennis court. The trustees are seeking to renovate the latter as a multi-use play / sports area and overflow car parking facility.
- Some organised clubs, e.g. Horndean FC or the Horndean-based Forest of Bere Bowmen have leased land for their own use.

### Sports

In terms of outdoor sport and play, the current benchmark standard<sup>(19)</sup> recommends 1.2 ha per 1,000 of population for playing pitches, and 1.6 ha per 1,000 of population for all outdoor sport. For the Parish (pop. 12,300) this equates to 14.8 ha for playing pitches and 19.7 ha for all outdoor sport. Our current total is short (3.8 + 7.8 = 11.6 ha) by 41%. Therefore there is a shortage of playing fields (especially level) for organised sports and realistic plans should be put in place to improve local provision.

**Horndean Technology College:** Notwithstanding this identified shortfall, there is still a wide range of sporting facilities available at Horndean Technology College for community use. These can be viewed and booked at their community website: [www.htc-communitydimension.com](http://www.htc-communitydimension.com). In summary, these include a floodlit astro-turf pitch (available as either two 5-a-side pitches, or one larger single pitch), grass football pitches, a multi-sports hall, badminton courts, a cricket pitch and outdoor tennis and netball courts.

**Football:** There are two well-established successful football clubs in the Parish. Horndean FC was established in 1887 and its first team currently (2012) plays in the Wessex League Premier Division. They have their own home ground and club facilities at Five Heads Park and regularly use one of the Parish pitches at the recreation ground.

Horndean Hawks FC was established in 1998 and, although running an adult team, their focus is on running teams for younger members. Home games are played at Horndean Technology College, Five

Heads Recreation Ground and Jubilee Park. They have no permanent club facilities, and sometimes have to train outside of the parish.

The popularity of these two clubs, and the growing number of teams, has resulted in over-use of the current parish facilities of two pitches at the Five Heads Recreation Ground and one junior pitch at Jubilee field.

## Recreation

**Parish recreation grounds:** At Five Heads Recreation Ground, in addition to two football pitches, there is a children's play area and a netball / basketball shooting area. At Jubilee Field, in addition to the junior football pitch, there is an outdoor gym, netball / basketball facilities and a play area. The pitch requires investment to upgrade and to level the playing surface. It has been improved by HPC during this year – an ongoing process. As public facilities, these are also shared with other people, including those exercising their dogs. Unfortunately, some fail to clean up after their pets.

**Play facilities:** The Parish Council manages seven play areas fitted with children's play equipment: Jubilee Field, The Recreation Ground, Merchistoun Park, Deep Dell, Lychgate Drive, Downs Park, and off Rowlands Castle Road.

Some informal open spaces are used as play areas. An outdoor gym which can be used for ages twelve years to adult has been created at Jubilee Field. There is a commercial indoor children's play and party centre at Wessex Gate Industrial Estate.

Lovedean is currently without a play area which should be sought on any suitably sized development that comes forward.

**Allotments:** Horndean currently has 10 small allotments in Napier Road, each about 100m<sup>2</sup> on a 0.12 ha site. These are fully used and there is a waiting list. The EHDC 2008 Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study states that the Parish should have 2.47 ha of allotments.

The Parish Council has made strenuous but unsuccessful efforts to identify land for further allotment provision. Any sites offered or identified would be considered by the Parish Council. New developments within the Parish may provide opportunities and allotments should be part of the consideration for S106 agreements (developer contributions). Potential users could then form an Allotment Association and seek help and advice from the National Allotment Association.

**Built facilities:** The Parish is served by a number of community venues, notably: Merchistoun Hall, Jubilee Hall, Napier Hall, Lovedean Village Hall, Catherington Village Hall, Knighton Corner, the Masonic Hall and Blendworth Church Hall. This is complemented further by facilities provided at our five local schools (HTC offering its 'Community Dimensions' programme and Barton Hall) and older persons facilities such as at Causeway Farm. These venues complement the sports provision with a programme of recreational activities such as Indoor Bowls, Keep Fit (various forms), dancing (various forms) and Fencing. For more details refer to the Learning in the Parish section of this Plan.

**Skate park:** In recent years, during the summer holidays, HPC has provided a popular temporary skate park at the Five Heads Recreation Ground. A permanent facility is under consideration by the Parish Council in conjunction with local Young People.

**Swimming pool:** Although Horndean is the only large community in East Hampshire not to have a swimming pool, Sport England determined, as reported through the EHDC Built Facilities consultation of 2011, that the swimming pools at Waterlooville and Havant, the Mountbatten Centre and the Taro Centre and open pool in Petersfield offer adequate provision for the Parish.

None of the schools in the Parish has a pool. There is a private learner swimming pool in Blendworth Lane and Clanfield Junior School has a small pool which might offer potential as a learner pool for the wider community. Otherwise, for local children to learn to swim, parents must take them to one of the pools further afield. Poor public transport services inhibit young people from using these swimming pools independently.

Over the last thirty years there has been a long term aspiration to have a public swimming pool in Horndean. Whilst it might be possible to obtain, through grants, the capital budget to build such a facility (though this is by no means certain) there remains the difficulty of future maintenance and running costs which no local organisation or Council is currently willing or indeed able to take on. Nevertheless the interest remained high in the 2008 public consultation with a net positive score of 56%.

## Open space sport and recreation actions

Ref.	Action	Stake-holders	Time-frame
S19	Ensure that the strategic priorities for the Parish from the 2008 Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study continue to be addressed.	EHDC HPC HBC	S
S20	Prepare an options appraisal (with recommendations) of existing external sports facilities to determine how, collectively, all might be managed most efficiently for the greater good of the community.	HIND	M
S21	Support the enhancement of the current football pitch at Jubilee Field.	HIND HPC	O
S22	Campaign to highlight the hazards, especially to children, of uncontrolled dogs on public open space	EHDC HPC	
S23	Seek a play area in Lovedean particularly on any suitable sized new housing development.	EHDC Local Schools, Police	
S24	Seek to identify further allotment sites possibly through S106 agreements on future developments to meet local demand.	HIND EHDC HPC Local Organisations	M
S25	Support any campaign for a permanent skate park	HIND HPC IPs	M / L

## Culture & heritage

### Culture

There are a number of cultural activities within the Parish. Two excellent brass bands (Horndean Band and Blendworth Brass Band) are sustained in the parish. Horndean Music Society arranges monthly recitals. Horndean Amateur Theatrical Society performs several times a year at Merchistoun Hall. There are numerous opportunities in the Parish to learn to play a musical instrument, to paint or to work artistically with fabrics.

There are few local cultural events that draw the whole community together. The Horndean Woodland Fair, organised by HPC was a popular event for several years but has not been held since 2010. Perhaps the largest gathering of local people is at the annual carol concert held in Horndean Square.

Activities such as art festivals, food festivals, art trails and flower festivals help to promote a local tourism based economy. Currently this does not exist in the Parish. Could the Parish of Horndean hold an annual or biennial show in celebration of local culture? HIND suggest a carefully researched, 'test' event in the next 2-4 years to see if the interest exists in a potentially sustainable format.

There is no shortage of community venues in which cultural activities could be held. These are listed in the *Built Facilities* section above. The Hampshire Guitar Orchestra practises at Lovedean Village Hall proving that some even attract groups that draw on members from much further afield. However, the Parish does not have a natural space (with adequate parking and a coffee shop) which could be used for, say, a travelling Arts Council exhibition or a display of locally-produced textile arts. Would multi-purpose cultural facilities like the Ashcroft Arts Centre in Fareham or the Spring Arts and Heritage Centre in Havant be sustainable in Horndean? One option might be to discuss with HCC if Horndean Library might be used for other purposes or to ask HPC to incorporate this in their considerations regarding the future of Nash Hall (on the Gales site) in the longer-term.

### Heritage

Historians will tell us that to learn something of the future we need to appreciate the past. No one reading Barry Stapleton's book "Horndean 2000" will be in any doubt that the area has a fascinating history. They will also become aware that the area has been shaped by its association with:

- (a) the land (timber from the Forest of Bere and farming on the South Downs),
- (b) the London to Portsmouth Road (first routed through Horndean in 1711 by a turnpike trust),
- (c) the Royal Navy at Portsmouth and
- (d) 150 years of brewing at the Gales Brewery.

We do not need to be historians to wonder what the future of Horndean will be. Much land has been subsumed by housing since 1945 and this will continue (see *Housing* section). The London to Portsmouth Road is now the A3(M) and no one stops for refreshments. Portsmouth, although still an important dockyard, is now the home of the Royal Navy in name only. The brewery closed in 2006.



These unfolding events of recent times, we suggest, argue strongly that some effort must be made to record and preserve as much local history as we can. Two recent events reflect the dangers of indifference. When the Gales Brewery was closed in 2006, donated artefacts ended up on display at the Milestones Museum in Basingstoke, 40 miles away. Even more recently, planning permission was granted for nine homes on the site of the Anchor Inn on the London Road. The Anchor first served refreshments to thirsty soldiers and sailors in the 17th Century. However, no obligation was placed on the developer to conduct an archaeological survey of the site. Who knows what social history ended up in the skip.

Notwithstanding these situations, encouraging support has been offered and records made available to the HIND Group by the Museums Service and the Archaeology Team at HCC. However, it is apparent that if the local community wishes to have a consolidated record of the heritage of the area then they need to take the lead in exploiting such valuable resources. Therefore we propose a more proactive approach to retaining and promoting the area's cultural associations and heritage.

There are several buildings in the Parish (some of which boast Grade II listed status) that offer signs of an interesting heritage: Blendworth Church, Kingscourt School, The old Horndean School for Boys (current library), The Granary, The Old Blendworth School for Girls, Catherington Church, Merchistoun Hall, Cadlington House and the Gales Tower.

### Culture and heritage actions

Ref.	Action	Stakeholders	Time-frame
S26	Research the viability of recommencing the annual Horndean Woodland Fair	HIND HPC HCA	S
S27	Research if the Parish could successfully hold a 'test' cultural event in the next 2-4 years to see if the interest exists in a potentially sustainable format.	HCA	S
S28	Discuss with HCC if Horndean Library might be used for other (cultural) purposes	HIND HCC	S
S29	Ask HPC to incorporate the need for multi-purpose cultural facilities in their considerations regarding the future of Nash Hall	EHDC HBC	S
S30	Prepare a register of local humanities-centred community groups	HIND EHDC HPC IPs ILVs	M
S31	Encourage/lead the setting up of a local history group to research, record and preserve as much local history. Identify a permanent location for display of any artefacts or records.	HIND HCA	O

### Media

Public communications in the Parish are poor. In our research in preparation for this Plan, there was much anecdotal evidence that local people feel their knowledge of local events and decisions is at best patchy, not only as a result of the poor supply of information but also an apparent lack of interest. It is a vision of this Plan that these issues are addressed through a local newspaper and/or community website containing information "for the community by the community".

**Conventional media:** The daily Portsmouth News has a Waterlooville edition (covering the Parish) but only reports parish events of likely interest to a wider audience. The weekly Petersfield Post covers local news in its South of Butser section. Neither provides an information service for the area. None of the 'freebie' newspapers, the Journal and the Meon Valley News, cover the full set of parish postcodes. The very similar StayLocal and Directory publications focus on advertising, and not news.

**HPC Newsletter:** Because it is delivered to every household and focuses on parish events, the quarterly newsletter from HPC is possibly the most important parish-centric communication, however, it cannot report recent news because of the two-month lead-time to produce the publication.

**Access to the Internet:** Currently, the take-up and speed of broadband access for the 5,300 homes in the Parish is not known. Further investigation is needed.

Apart from the 3 public computers at Horndean Library, there are no other known public Internet access points in the Parish. There are 15 public computers at Waterlooville Library and 22 at Petersfield Library.

There is one UK Online Centre (<http://bit.ly/KwpU3T>) in the Parish, at Women's Wisdom in Blendworth (<http://bit.ly/J1eFTS>), and one just outside the Parish at the Acorn Centre (<http://bit.ly/IYaOWf>) in Wecock. These offer courses for beginners.

**Community website:** There are existing websites that offer local community news. These principally are the News ([www.portsmouth.co.uk](http://www.portsmouth.co.uk)), HPC ([www.horndeanpc-hants.gov.uk](http://www.horndeanpc-hants.gov.uk)), [www.horndean.net](http://www.horndean.net) and EHDC's community website ([www.easthampshire.org](http://www.easthampshire.org)). The HIND website, mainly set up to communicate this Plan ([www.horndeancommunityplan.org.uk](http://www.horndeancommunityplan.org.uk)), had some success with local engagement in 2012.

**Social media:** Social media are growing in popularity, and not just with younger age groups. An increasing number of community groups, including all the local councils, some councillors, HIND, and Horndean Community Association use Facebook and/or Twitter to get their message across. These tools will become increasingly useful as a means of getting relevant information disseminated. To address the bewildering amount of 'stuff' flying around, online technology is now available to harvest and filter this (Google alerts, #hashtags and aggregator websites). The fast-moving nature of social media means that all groups need to be alert and ready to change or embrace these in order to reach as many residents as possible.

### Media actions

Ref.	Action	Stake-holders	Time-frame
S32	Seek to increase awareness of online promotion of community opportunities within the Parish	HIND HPC	O
S33	Encourage existing parish-centric web sites to include more links to local businesses or services.	EHDC HCC HPC IPs	S
S34	Investigate the take-up and speed of broadband access in the Parish.	HIND	M
S35	Investigate the viability of providing an information and communication 'hub' website. The upgrading of <a href="http://www.horndean.net">www.horndean.net</a> should be considered a first option.	HIND Horndean.net	S
S36	Promote the use of social media in the Parish	HIND	O

### Horndean Library

Horndean Library contains 11,720 items (books, DVDs, video games, and audio books) and has 3 public computers with free internet, colour printing and a scanner.

HCC's Department for Culture, Communities and Business Services operates all libraries in Hampshire. These are classified as either Key (including Waterlooville and Petersfield), or Large or Medium (including Havant), or Small or Neighbourhood (including Horndean, despite a similar population to Petersfield).

HCC proposes to refurbish most neighbourhood libraries, including Horndean's, to offer a (more) welcoming building<sup>(20)</sup>. This is also reflected in the draft East Hampshire Joint Core Strategy<sup>(21)</sup>.

Given the distance to the larger libraries at Waterlooville (3 miles), Petersfield (8 miles) and Havant (6 miles), it is crucial to ensure that Horndean Library remains both viable and vital. Following consultations in 2011<sup>(22)</sup>, HCC decided to retain Horndean Library's professionally-manned opening hours as 17 per week<sup>(23)</sup>. However, it maintains that neighbourhood libraries, including Horndean's, need to be open for at least 20 hours per week and proposes to seek volunteers to work alongside staff to enable increased opening hours<sup>(24)</sup>.

The feasibility of greater community involvement in Horndean Library should be evaluated, and working with the Library Services, utilisation of the Horndean library and its ongoing viability should be monitored.

**Mobile library:** A public mobile library service operates every fourth Thursday afternoon from The School at Catherington (40 mins) and from Lith View Car Park, Clanfield (105 mins). Refer to the HCC timetables for *Mobile 3*<sup>(25)</sup> for exact times.

### Library actions

Ref.	Action	Stake-holders	Time-frame
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S37	Evaluate the feasibility of greater community involvement in Horndean Library.	Library Services Local Schools IPs	S
S38	Working with Hampshire Library Services, monitor the utilisation of the Horndean library and its ongoing viability.	HPC HCC	M

### Spiritual life

Horndean village has no Anglican parish church. All Saints Church is the parish church for Catherington and Holy Trinity is the parish church for Blendworth. Both churches have excellent halls attached and offer secular activities, within a framework of Christian Fellowship.

The other major Christian Churches within the civil parish boundary are St Edmund's Roman Catholic Church, Horndean Baptist Church and Horndean Methodist Church.

The Horndean Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses has its own place of worship on the London Road. There is a Bethesda Mission Church in Lovedean Lane. Calvary Chapel meets at Horndean Technology College, the Lovedean United Reform Church meets at Lovedean Village Hall

The Plymouth Brethren (a conservative, Evangelical Christian movement, whose history can be traced to Dublin, Ireland, in the late 1820s) are have a large base and following in Horndean.

## **2 - Transport And Accessibility**

In the context of this Plan, 'transport' refers, in general, to how people travel to and from the Parish, using bus services, by driving, cycling and making connections to rail services. 'Accessibility' refers to the ease with which people get around the Parish, using community transport, by driving, cycling and walking. Associated issues like safety and parking are also considered.

The findings, proposals and actions in this section have been derived or developed systematically from several sources:

1. An on-the-ground analysis of existing transport and access conditions in the Parish was conducted in 2007 following the adopted parish plan methodology. This resulted in the completion of a detailed worksheet template<sup>(26)</sup>.
2. A parish-wide household survey was conducted in 2008. The transport and accessibility questions were developed specifically to test the outcomes generated in the preparation of the worksheet [(1) above]<sup>(27)</sup>.
3. Various consultations conducted since 2008, notably the September 2011 consultation held at Merchistoun Hall<sup>(28)</sup>.

### **Local Transport Plan 3: Joint Strategy for South Hampshire**

We should ensure that developments in the Parish in general, and road development in particular, fully exploit the policies of the Local Transport Plan 3: Joint Strategy for South Hampshire (LTP3)<sup>(29)</sup>. When developing the proposals in this section, reference should be made to the fourteen policies in the LTP3 as much as possible.

### **The Key Issues**

From these investigations, there appears to be agreement on the need for action to improve transport and accessibility within the Parish considerably. The headline issues that emerged were:

#### **Public transport**

- More, faster, more punctual services
- Circular service through estates to Morrison's, one day / week
- Better connections to trains and other buses

#### **Cycling**

- Continuous and safe cycle routes from the Parish
- Maps showing available cycle routes
- Secure cycle parking

#### **Walking**

- Crossings on busy roads
- Removal of obstructions, e.g. lack of dropped kerbs, parked vehicles
- Make it easier to walk and cycle into Horndean village centre

#### **Footpaths and Public Rights Of Way**

- New footpath from Hazleton Common to Havant Thicket
- Improve footpaths and bridleways
- Online map to promote SDNP Gateway

#### **Road safety**

- More crossings on busy roads
- Additional traffic calming measures
- Introduce 20 mph zones in residential areas

#### **Car parking**

- More village centre parking
- Place short limits on existing village centre car parks
- Place vehicle weight limit on overnight parking on residential roads

## **Public transport**

### **Bus services**

At time of writing (January 2013), the following bus services operate through the Parish:

#### **From First Hampshire & Dorset Ltd:**

- 8: Clanfield - Portsmouth, via Waterlooville and Cowplain - Cosham - North End - City Centre

(Mon to Fri, 57/day; Sat, 40/day; Sun, 33/day)

**X40:** Horndean - Wecock Farm - Waterlooville - A3(M) - Southsea, via Stakes - Portsmouth City Centre - Clarence Pier (Mon to Fri, 2/day)

**X41:** Clanfield - Horndean - A3(M) - Portsmouth City Centre, via Stakes (Mon to Fri, 1/day)

#### From Stagecoach UK Bus:

**37:** Havant - Waterlooville - Cowplain - Horndean -Clanfield – Petersfield (Mon to Fri, 15/day; Sat, 14/day).

This route offers a guaranteed connection with the **38 Petersfield/Alton service** and, for London commuters, a reasonably quick journey (less than 30 mins) to/from Petersfield railway station, although this service is not synchronised with train times.

#### There are still a number of issues with bus services in the Parish.

For the last 25 years, services to Portsmouth have been time-consuming and unreliable. The A3 Bus Corridor (Zip Route), completed in 2008, was designed to improve that and also to provide a north-south cycle route through the Parish. While improving the accuracy of bus times, there have been several adverse consequences:

The journey time to Portsmouth has not reduced.

Operators are encouraged to take services down the Zip Route. Therefore the likelihood of more express bus services from the Parish along the A3(M) is reduced.

Queueing times for other vehicles at the Causeway Intersection traffic lights are longer than for the pre-2008 roundabout. The situation is exacerbated by the arrival of the Number 8 service that switches the traffic light sequence in favour of the bus. Unfortunately, after the bus passes through the lights, the control sequence does not recommence at the point where it was interrupted, leaving the majority of stationary vehicles with an even longer delay. We propose to ask HCC to address this sequencing issue.

South-bound buses waiting at the Causeway Intersection traffic lights and stopping at the Hazleton Way stop just beyond, obstruct other road users as a result of the poor design of the traffic island and road layout.

Although designed as a dual bus/cycle lane, there are several 'pinch points' along the Zip Route, both in the Parish and further south owing to numerous central refuges, where cyclists impede the flow of other traffic because there is insufficient room for both to pass at the same time.

The sole daytime bus service from Horndean to Portsmouth (the Number 8) only operates along the A3 Bus Corridor. Notwithstanding that it runs at 15-minute intervals during peak times, this only covers a small part of the Parish. For residents of Catherington, Lovedean and Blendworth, the service is impractical to use, owing to the inconvenient walking distances to the A3 and the lack of any feeder services.

These are all issues to be resolved, and possible solutions for some include:

One way to provide a service to these areas could be to reroute a bus from the current Number 8 service schedule to go along Catherington Lane and on to Clanfield. This service could be once an hour.

As the main bus providers are servicing the areas with the greatest footfall, another option is to support the introduction of new services from a lower cost operator such as Emsworth and District who may be able to make routes like this financially viable. Any new service would require guaranteed revenue so more community consultation is needed, but this could be a long term project.

There are other transport providers in the community such as Dial-a-Ride, but only 1% of those who were questioned in the consultation used the service. Services such as these, which offer a far greater level of flexibility need to be promoted and supported.

HIND are currently working in partnership with CPRE and EHDC to prepare a local transport information sheet which, as well as identifying the bus services in the community, will advertise these lesser publicised services.



## Rail services

The nearest railway stations are at Rowlands Castle (3.5 miles), Petersfield (8 miles) and Havant (7 miles). Petersfield, on the Portsmouth Direct Line with direct fast and stopping services to London Waterloo and Portsmouth, is considered the primary station for London commuters from Horndean. Rowlands Castle, also on the Portsmouth Direct Line, is served by hourly stopping services and the occasional semi-fast service during peak times. Havant is a junction station with an interchange between the West Coastway line and the Portsmouth Direct Line. It has direct services to Portsmouth, London Waterloo, London Victoria (via Gatwick Airport), Brighton, Southampton and less frequent long-distance services to Wales and the West.

A bus service linking Waterlooville and Horndean village with Petersfield station operated on a trial basis from 2007 to 2009. Further investigations need to be conducted to determine if a similar service can be re-established on a commercial or community basis.

## Public Transport Actions

Ref.	Action	Stakeholders	Time-Frame
T1	Ask HCC to address the sequencing issue at the Causeway Farm traffic lights after the 8 bus has passed through.	HCC, HPC, HIND	S
T2	Ask HCC to review to layout or position of the south-bound Hazleton Way bus stop.	HCC, HPC, HIND	S
T3	Explore possibility of a circular service through residential areas to link to the 8 service.	HCC, EHDC, HIND	M
T4	Discuss with First Group to see if a '8A' service covering Hazleton, Lovedean and Catherington could be viable.	HIND, HPC, EHDC	S / M
T5	Enter dialogue with current and alternative service providers such as Emsworth and District and Brijan Tours to better connect the Parish with public transport, outlying villages and local towns	HIND	S / M
T6	Use local publications and leaflets to increase profile. Make sure these include bus services, and also promote them on the HPC, HIND and other community websites.	EHDC, HCC, HPC	S
T7	Increase frequency of weekend and evening services, perhaps with a community bus scheme or a link with the leisure centres in Havant and Waterlooville. Again a long term project due to cost.	HIND	S / M
T8	Publish local public transport information sheet.	EHDC, CPRE, HIND	S
T9	Investigate if a bus service linking Waterlooville and Horndean village with Petersfield station can be re-established on a commercial or community basis.	HIND	S / M

## The A3(M)

The Parish of Horndean is served by two junctions of the A3(M). J1 provides access to the north-bound carriageway and from the south-bound carriageway. J2 provides access both to and from the north-bound carriageway and to and from the south-bound carriageway.

These junctions, combined with the 2011 opening of the Hindhead Tunnel, put the Parish in a particularly strong location for longer-distance commuting. Given the largely residential nature of the Parish and the growing Travel to Work Area (TTWA) described in the Learning in the Parish section, this must be seen as an advantage to local residents or prospective residents of working age.

Inevitably perhaps, the proximity of these junctions, and the opening of the tunnel, has generated a growing amount of through traffic from other parishes like Clanfield, Denmead, Hambledon and Droxford. Anecdotally, this has been noted in Lovedean Lane, Catherington Lane and Southdown Road. Using the two Speed Indicator Devices (SID's) mentioned later in this section, and working with the Police and HCC Roads, the traffic on these feeder roads should be monitored for growing volumes and excessive speed.

The lack of full slip road access at J1 drives additional traffic onto the London Road and Havant Road (from J2), causing the centre of Horndean village to experience heavy volumes of commuter traffic passing through, during peak periods. We propose that this be included in the analysis when the regeneration of Horndean village centre is up for consideration, as is proposed in the East Hampshire District Council Joint Core Strategy<sup>(30)</sup>.

Another issue regarding the A3(M) that is receiving considerable attention currently (2011/12) by East Hampshire District Council, District Councillors and the local MPs is the increasing levels of traffic and the associated noise from the motorway, presumably as a result of the new tunnel. This can easily be heard 24 hours a day from 1.5 km away, given certain atmospheric conditions. We propose to monitor the ongoing activities in the District and add our voice when appropriate.

### A3M Actions

Ref.	Action	Stake-holders	Time-Frame
T10	Using the two SID's operating in the Parish, and working with the Police and HCC Roads, monitor the traffic on Lovedean Lane, Catherington Lane, Southdown Road for growing volumes and excessive speed.	HPC, HIND, EHDC, SID Team	O
T11	Ensure that the lack of full slip road access at J1 of the A3(M) be included in the analysis when the regeneration of Horndean village centre is up for consideration	HCC, HIND, EHDC, HPC	M / L
T12	Monitor the ongoing activities in the District regarding increasing levels of traffic noise from A3(M) and add our voice when appropriate.	EHDC, HPC	S / M

## Cycling

A smart community plan should identify everything reasonable to enable and promote safe local cycling. Cycling improves general health and fitness, saves money, is good for the environment and results in fewer cars on the roads<sup>(31)</sup>.

Residents of this parish are fortunate to have very beautiful and important countryside 'on their doorstep'.

### The major issues

The analysis undertaken for this plan identified several issues to be addressed to enable and promote safer cycling in the Parish:

1. Continuous and safe cycle routes around and out of the Parish, especially into Waterlooville, Havant and Portsmouth
2. Local off-road cycle routes on which to gain confidence
3. Maps showing cycle routes
4. Secure cycle parking

### East Hampshire Cycle Plan

The current EHDC cycle plan<sup>(32)</sup> has a substantial section covering the Parish. This requires significant updating to reflect work undertaken since publication in 2004 and to incorporate new opportunities. It is important to have up-to-date proposals in the EHDC cycle plan that can be readily referenced when housing developments in the Parish arise. We should contribute to the updating of the document by proactively preparing a new section covering the Southern Parishes.

Some road construction undertaken since 2004, in particular the construction of the A3 Bus Corridor, has only partially addressed the needs of cyclists and should be reviewed with HCC and cycling

organisations.

Of the outstanding proposals in the 2004 cycle plan, there are several that should be prioritised, notably those that enable more and safer cycling to Horndean Technology College and through the centre of Horndean village (East Hampshire Cycle Plan projects ref. CH1.c and CH1.d).

### Other cycling initiatives

It is prudent to monitor regularly other initiatives, both nationally and in Hampshire. These offer useful comparisons to ensure the Parish does not lag in terms of progress and development.

There are national policies, standards and best practices for cycling and we should seek to ensure that these are applied in the Parish. National organisations like the CTC<sup>(33)</sup> and Sustrans<sup>(34)</sup> are often the custodians of these. Two national standards offer substantial guidance on the design of cycle-friendly roads:

- 1) The Manual for Streets<sup>(35)</sup>, which has been adapted locally by HCC<sup>(36)</sup>, and
- 2) Local Transport Note 2/08: Cycle Infrastructure Design<sup>(37)</sup>.

The adopted Basingstoke Town Access Plan<sup>(38)</sup> offers one potential benchmark for the encouragement of cycling (and walking) in urban areas. Resources promoting cycling are also evident on the websites for Havant Borough Council<sup>(39)</sup> and Eastleigh Borough Council<sup>(40)</sup>. If communities across Hampshire, or indeed across the UK, appear to be more cycle-friendly and have high rates of cycle usage, their ideas should also be considered for the Parish.

### Continuous and safe cycle routes

**Cycle routes to the schools:** If the general decline in cycling is to be reversed then the focus should be on the next generation. For this reason the most important cycle routes within the Parish are those that encourage and enable young people to cycle safely and efficiently to and from Horndean Technology College. We propose to lobby, as a priority for the cycle routes in the EHDC Cycle Plan that do that, namely CH1(c) Clanfield to Horndean Technology College, CH1(f) Horndean Technology College to Havant, CH3 Horndean Technology College to Lovedean and Denmead and CH4 Horndean Village Square to Rowlands Castle.

**Cycle route to Waterlooville and Portsmouth:** As mentioned previously, sections of cycleway were introduced during the construction of the A3 Bus Corridor. However, the overall south-bound route, as it passes through the Parish, is far from ideal. Particular areas for future focus should include:

- 1) The feasibility of adding a section of south-bound cycleway on the A3 as it crosses over the A3(M) and
- 2) An upgraded provision for cyclists at the Causeway Intersection, e.g. priority road markings and Trixi mirrors at the traffic lights.

**Cycle route to Petersfield:** For north-bound recreational and utility cyclists, there is good provision along the old London Road, north of the junction with Downhouse Road, via Snell's Corner, to Queen Elizabeth Country Park (QECF) Visitor Centre. Recreational cyclists wishing to travel further north can do so through QECF along the Shipwrights' Way to Buriton, Petersfield and beyond. However, for rail commuting, shopping, and cycling to work, this is not realistic. Initial proposals to introduce a cycleway parallel to the A3 were first rejected by the Highways Agency in 2004. However, there continues to be a strong interest from outside the Parish in providing an easy south-bound cycle route from Petersfield to QECF Visitor Centre. We, in the Parish, should offer our proactive support to this campaign because if successful this would create a viable utility route from the Parish to Petersfield.

**Cycle routes to SDNP:** Unfortunately, the countryside on either side of the A3 corridor is not as accessible for cyclists as it could be, mainly owing to the challenges (for many occasional cyclists) of negotiating the A3 through the Parish to get to the main entry points to the SDNP. Consideration should be given to making west-east and east-west cycle journeys safer, e.g. from Lovedean and Catherington to/from Hazleton and Blendworth. We propose to lobby HCC to initiate an analysis of the road safety issues for cyclists on the other arterial roads and junctions in the Parish (Catherington Lane, Lovedean Lane, Havant Road, Downwood Road).

**Off-road cycle routes:** The Parish only has five bridleways that permit off-road cycling. Upgrading these bridleways is important for the longer-term development of the cycle network around and through the Parish, as identified in the EHDC Cycle Plan. These should have a reasonably even, all-

weather surface. This requires upgrading to a surface comparable to Bridleway Havant 123 (Park Lane)<sup>(41)</sup>.

**Quiet Lanes Regulations:** In their current state, none of these bridleways is realistically suitable for cyclists hoping to gain confidence or just to get somewhere comfortably, e.g. school or shops. The Parish has the two 'sub-networks' of minor rural roads that might offer an alternative, were it not for the fact that growing rural traffic has turned several of these into "rat runs". For this reason, we propose to investigate, for some minor roads, the viability of imposing a use order under the 2006 "Quiet Lanes Regulations"<sup>(42)</sup>.

### Cycle stands

For residents to take short utility journeys within the Parish, adequate security for their bicycle is needed at their destination. Therefore, more local businesses should be encouraged to provide secure cycle racks for customers and employees and the Parish and District Councils should be encouraged to look at incorporating more stands at their parking and recreation areas. While there are some cycle stands in the Parish (8 at Morrisons, 5 at Merchistoun Hall, 4 at Jubilee Hall, 2 at Horndean Precinct), there are none near any of the local convenience stores, the post office, any of the other halls nor the A3 bus stops. It would be particularly useful to provide lockable storage for several bikes near to a couple of the A3 bus stops. These would enable those living more than 500m from the A3 to cycle to a stop in order to get a bus to Portsmouth.

### Promoting cycling in the area

Although there is an established, CTC-affiliated, cycle group in Havant organising weekly group rides for confident recreational cyclists, there is no support for the less experienced cyclist in the local area. HIND will arrange and publicize events and provide information to promote cycling locally. HIND believe that it would be more effective if, wherever possible, HIND collaborate with adjacent communities, including those in the Borough of Havant. HIND will consider, inter alia: the production of a local cycle route map, the provision of regular cycle training and Dr Bike (maintenance) events.

Cycle route map: There is one published cycle ride map<sup>(43)</sup>, covering 3 attractive circular routes of varying lengths (4.0 – 8.5 miles) taking in Horndean village, Blendworth, Rowlands Castle and Finchdean, although they all involve some low gear riding. More of such maps should be encouraged. We also propose a more conventional map covering all the cycle routes in the area in the style of the one produced in 2011 by Fareham Borough Council<sup>(44)</sup>. This should be displayed on notice boards, as leaflets available in the Parish Council office, or for downloading.

Cycle training: On an annual basis, Horndean Junior School offers Bikeability<sup>(45)</sup> Level 2 training to all their Year 6 pupils. For the 3-year period 2012/15 HCC has additional government funding to offer also the national Bikeability scheme (Level 3) in Hampshire schools, normally offered to pupils in Years 8 and 9. HIND will engage with Horndean Technology College to understand and encourage take-up of this opportunity. HIND will also promote adult training to encourage family cycling.

Doctor Bike Events: Bicycles in need of a little maintenance are often ignored at home when only basic repairs are required to make them useable again. To encourage cyclists to start using their bikes again, the Doctor Bike programme offers an answer. These are partnership events, often involving local businesses, volunteers and the Police (who can offer bike security coding). On published dates and in a public venue, a trained bicycle mechanic, assisted by volunteers, offers free repairs, maintenance and advice to bike owners (of all ages) across the area. For young people, it is a learning and development opportunity because they can be taught how to maintain their bikes and to carry out basic repairs themselves. For this reason, the sessions, usually lasting 2-4 hours, are best held during holiday periods. HIND will try 1-2 Dr Bike events initially to evaluate interest.

### Cycling Actions

Ref.	Action	Stakeholders	Time-Frame
T13	Contribute to the updating of the 2004 EHDC cycle plan by proactively preparing a new section covering the Southern Parishes.	HIND	S
T14	Review the principal Horndean roads, especially the A3 Bus Corridor, with HCC and cycling organisations to identify how the needs of cyclists can be better met.	HCC HIND	S / M

Ref.	Action	Stake-holders	Time-Frame
T15	Highlight and promote the outstanding proposals in the 2004 EHDC Cycle Plan that enable more and safer cycling to Horndean Technology College and through the centre of Horndean village (projects ref. CH1.c and CH1.d)	EHDC, HTC	S / M
T16	Review 'best-practice' cycle-friendly policies and implementations in other communities and develop proposals for similar initiatives in the Parish.	HIND	S / M
T17	Lobby for cycle routes to Horndean Technology College.	EHDC, HTC, HCC, HPC	S / M
T18	Lobby for improved cycle routes to Portsmouth. See also T14.	HIND, HPC	M / L
T19	Proactively support calls for a direct, cost-effective, safe utility route from the Parish to Petersfield.	HIND, HPC	M / L
T20	Lobby for improved cycle routes to the SDNP.	HIND, HPC	M / L
T21	Identify which Horndean bridleways require upgrading to provide a reasonably even, all-weather surface and lobby HCC for the work.	HIND, HPC, HCC	S / M
T22	Investigate the viability of imposing a use order under the 2006 "Quiet Lanes Regulations for some minor roads in the Parish.	HIND, HPC, HCC	S / M
T23	Provide secure cycle stands within the villages.	EHDC, HPC, HIND	S / M
T24	Prepare a map showing cycle routes in the Parish. See also T21.	HPC, HIND	S
T25	Engage with Horndean Technology College to encourage take-up of HCC funded Bikeability scheme (Level 3) opportunity 2012-2015.	HIND	S
T26	Promote adult cycle training to encourage family cycling.	HIND	S
T27	Work with local cycle organisations to hold Dr. Bike sessions around the Parish to provide maintenance advice and other cycling information to residents.	HIND	O

## Walking

"Walking is a free natural exercise that can help us stay healthy and live longer, control our weight, keep happy, enjoy time with friends and family, learn more about our local area and look after the environment."<sup>(46)</sup>

In this section HIND will address both the utility and the recreational aspects of walking. Utility walking has a specific destination, e.g. shopping, getting to school or work, accessing services. This kind of walking gets attention in the Transport for South Hampshire (TfSH) strategy because it reduces "... our need for transport, and the private car in particular ..."<sup>(47)</sup> Recreational walking (or running/jogging) is for pleasure, for exercise. This kind of walking is promoted in the South Downs National Park as "the perfect way to ... appreciate nature and just take time out."<sup>(48)</sup>

The conundrum in the Parish is its mix of the urban and the rural. On one hand, we want our utility walking journeys to be as short as possible, and on the other hand, our recreational journeys to be remote from built-up areas. While other, more urban communities may have greater and closer facilities and services, they may not have the rural feel of this parish. This is why many people chose to live in the area. Indeed, the number of rural footpaths in the Parish is extensive (60+), and a significant benefit to the community, as discussed later. On the other hand, walking distances for everyday shopping, and to public transport and community services in the Parish are rarely more than 1.5 km.



## Utility walking

The analysis undertaken for this plan in the 2007 transport worksheets<sup>(49)</sup> identified several issues to be addressed in order to encourage more walking for short journeys within the Parish:

1. The removal of obstructions (a lack of dropped kerbs, vehicles parked on pavements and discontinuous pavement). Net positive score 66%.
2. Crossings on busy roads. Net positive score 61%.
3. Improved pavement surfaces. Net positive score 59%.

Note: The net positive scores refer to the level of support given by respondents in the 2008 public consultation. The values represent the total percentage of respondents who scored 4 or 5 on a scale of 1 to 5.

It is possible to interpret the feedback from the 2008 consultation as less about the impediments to walking as a commentary about:

1. The quality of the urban environment generally (See Urban Environment),
2. The lack of consideration of some drivers with regard to pavement and verge parking (See later section on Road Safety), and
3. The volume and speed of traffic along some 'hotspot' roads like London Road north of Horndean Village centre, Lovedean Lane, Catherington Lane and Hazleton Way (See also Road Safety).

This leads to the following two projects:

1. HIND should take its cue from the travel plans of the schools in the Parish. "Effective school travel plans (comprise) a package of measures to improve safety and reduce car use. They are based on consultation with teachers, parents, pupils and governors, and the wider community."<sup>(50)</sup> If a local school's travel plan is agreed by all stakeholders and this calls for issues such as those above to be addressed, we should add our voice to those campaigns.
2. When the opportunity arises, HIND should lobby for improvements to be incorporated into new housing developments.

## Recreational walking

In parish planning terms there are two broad sets of initiatives to consider in respect of recreational walking. One is to encourage walking by publicising what local walks and organised walking is available. If necessary, HIND will take the lead in setting up local groups of national initiatives. The other is to ensure that existing public rights of way are maintained to the appropriate standard by the relevant authority.

## Walking initiatives

The Ramblers are active in South East Hampshire<sup>(51)</sup> and typically will hold several organised walks a week across the region. There might be one in the Parish and several others in the adjacent parishes every three months.

For retired residents, Horndean U3A has an active walking group<sup>(52)</sup> which holds organised 4-5 mile walks every 2 weeks.

As yet (May 2012), there is no local Walking for Health (WfH)<sup>(53)</sup> group established in Horndean, in spite of active groups in other parts of East Hampshire<sup>(54)</sup>. WfH walks offer regular short walks over easy terrain with trained walk leaders. They are free and aimed at people who would like to take more exercise.

One initiative we will promote is the establishment of a Walk4Life Mile<sup>(55)</sup> in Horndean. A Walk4Life Mile is easy to follow and will be generally free of barriers such as gates or stiles. Most Walk4Life Miles will be waymarked with distinctive yellow waymarkers showing where they start and end.

We propose to update Horndean's walking map and provide map boards at strategic locations; many other parishes have done this utilising HCC's Small Grants Initiative and basing their map on the HCC Definitive Maps for the Parish.

## Walking Actions

Ref.	Action	Stakeholders	Time-Frame

Ref.	Action	Stake-holders	Time-Frame
T28	Understand school travel plans, encourage them to be updated and proactively support school's endeavours to see proposals implemented.	SCHOOLS, EHDC, HPC	S / M
T29	Ensure that the design of all new housing developments include dropped kerbs, prevent pavement parking and offer improved, durable pavement surfaces.	EHDC, HPC	O
T30	Encourage and promote the setting up of a local Walking for Health group.	EHDC, HPC, HCA	S / M
T31	Seek to implement one or two waymarked Walk4Life Miles.	HCC, HPC, HIND	S / M
T32	Update Horndean's walking map and provide map boards at strategic locations.	HPC, EHDC, HIND	S / M

## Public rights of way

Horndean has an extensive public rights of way network, albeit mainly footpaths. These are recorded on The Definitive Map of Hampshire, maintained by HCC<sup>(56)</sup>.

Overall this network is in good condition. A detailed analysis of the 61 paths in the Parish in 2008<sup>(57)</sup>, identified only four rights of way requiring minor works, e.g. signage. These could be resolved mainly through normal HCC channels.

**Footpaths** can be and often are muddy. We propose upgrading only particularly well-used access footpaths, for example, those to the local schools. Footpath Horndean 21, north from Highcroft Lane is an example. We have proposed elsewhere in this section that this be upgraded to permit use by cyclists.

**CAP:** The Countryside Access Plan for the Forest of Bere 2008-2013<sup>(58)</sup> (including the Parish) was the result of significant analysis, undertaken in 2005-2008, to produce Rights of Way Improvement Plans. With the plan period now in its penultimate year (2012), we propose to review with HCC the latest Horndean-related maps and associated notes to identify the unaddressed issues and draw up another action plan. The CAP stated that "... multi-use routes are in worse condition in the Forest of Bere than in the rest of the county overall". Certainly heavy equestrian use and inconsiderate vehicular use has resulted in some bridleways and byways (e.g. Bridleway 30 and 46, both near Eastland Gate) being impassable by the average walker or cyclist or horse-rider at certain times of the year. Also the Plan identified gaps in the bridleway / byway network, for example to Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Havant Thicket and Rowlands Castle, restricting off-road cycling and horse riding. These proposals are outstanding.

**Bridleway** Havant 1 / Denmead 41: Although just outside the Parish, Bridleway Havant 1 / Denmead 41 is another example where improvements to small areas of poor drainage and the surface would offer a safe cycle route to HTC for pupils in Denmead, at least in the summer term. The 2012 – 2015 housing development at Woodcroft Farm<sup>(59)</sup> may offer an opportunity for improvements on the Bridleway to Havant.

**Bridleways Open to All Traffic (BOATs):** Some improvements to BOAT 13 (Ham Lane), BOAT 48 (Tagdell Lane) and BOAT 47 (Crouch Lane) would facilitate all year off-road pedestrian and cycle access to Catherington Down and enable an initiative, not possible today, to encourage walking to that site. Thoughtfully undertaken, it would also be possible to improve these routes as wild life corridors. We are not proposing surface improvements to BOATs if this encourages vehicular traffic. To avoid this, it may be that we consider seeking Traffic Regulation Orders for certain BOATs<sup>(60)</sup>.

**Rights of Way (ROWs) in SDNP:** Twelve Horndean ROWs lie within the South Downs National Park (SDNP). At time of writing, HCC has not delegated responsibility for footpath maintenance to the Authority. Nevertheless, four of these paths could benefit from some improvement work, which might be (part) funded by SDNP. The projects are:

1. Stile improvement or replacement to Horndean 9 (across Lovedean Lane and NW to Hinton Manor) and Horndean 23 (North from Blendworth to New Barn Farm).

2. One more kissing gate to replace the stile in the farmyard on Horndean 20 (Blendworth Farm).
3. A possible TRO<sup>(61)</sup> (Temporary Restraining Order) on Horndean BOAT 51 (NE of Blendworth).

**Volunteering:** If and when suitable work-packages emerge, and working with Horndean Parish Council, we will seek to mobilise volunteers from the community. Ramblers already carry out formal surveys and waymarking activities for HCC. The basic concern regarding volunteering is to utilise HCC's authority and capabilities regarding legal aspects, for example access-permission for footpath clearance. Small volunteer groups (including some Ramblers?) could then operate but formal training may be required, depending on the tools needed.

**Improved access:** HIND propose to draw up a list of paths, where improved access, e.g. replacing stiles with kissing gates, would be realistic and useful, and that might offer people with limited mobility the chance to "get off the beaten track". Footpath 20 from London Road to Blendworth Church (for church-goers) and on footpath 21 from Highcroft Lane to Lith Avenue could be candidates for such consideration. Also there are very few seats on walking routes which reduces some people's walking range. HIND propose to ask HPC to consider running an initiative for people to fund seats on walking routes in Horndean.

### Rights Of Way Actions

Ref.	Action	Stake-holders	Time-Frame
T33	Review with HCC the latest Horndean-related maps and associated notes in the CAP to identify the unaddressed issues and draw up another action plan.	HPC, HIND	S / M
T34	Improve drainage in several areas along Bridleway Denmead 41 from Lovedean to Denmead.	HCC	M
T35	Seek to get funding for improvements to footpaths generally, for example Footpath Havant 1 through the Woodcroft Farm through developers contributions etc.	HCC, HBC	M / L
T36	Analyse, with all interest groups, BOAT 13 (Ham Lane), BOAT 48 (Tagdell Lane) and BOAT 47 (Crouch Lane) to establish viability of all year pedestrian and cycle access to Catherington Down.	EHDC, HCC, HPC	M / L
T37	Seek funding from SDNP for four Horndean rights of way inside the Park.	EHDC, HPC	M / L
T38	When suitable work-packages emerge, and working with Horndean Parish Council, we will seek to mobilise volunteers from the community.	HPC, HCA	O
T39	Draw up a list of paths, where improved access, e.g. replacing stiles with kissing gates, would be realistic and useful, and that might access for people with limited mobility.	HPC, HIND, Ramblers Assoc	S / M
T40	Ask HPC to consider running an initiative for people to fund seats on walking routes in Horndean.	HIND, HPC	S / M

### Road Safety

There were three road safety issues identified in the 2007 analysis and the 2008 consultation: speeding, traffic congestion around the schools and getting across the A3.

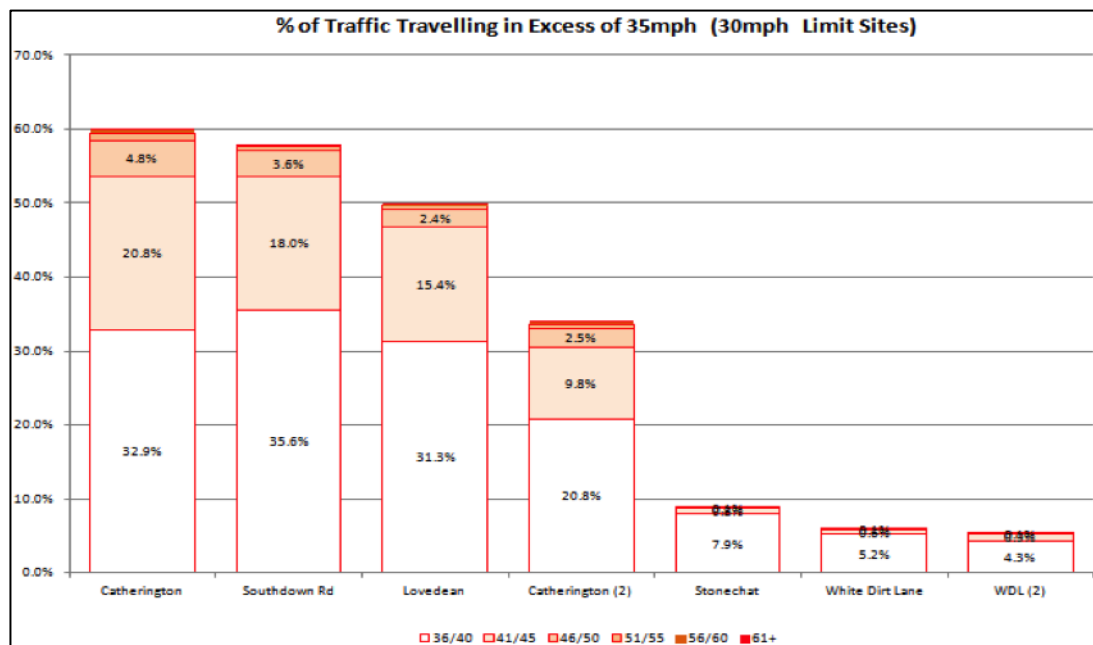
#### Speeding

Speeding is a common complaint in communities that have a trunk road infrastructure passing through them. However, in this parish, it is not so much the speed of traffic on the trunk road itself that is the dominant issue, but rather the speed of vehicles using the feeder network of B and unclassified roads to get to the A3 and A3(M) junctions and beyond.

## Community Speedwatch

The Speedwatch programme, run by Hampshire Police, was introduced in the Parish in 2011 to address this. Working in partnership with Horndean Parish Council and Catherington Village Residents' Association (CVRA), several volunteers undertook the required training to operate two speed indicator devices (SIDs): one owned by Horndean Parish Council, and one on loan from local MP, George Hollingbery.

The devices were initially installed for three-week periods in Stonechat Road, Lovedean Lane, Catherington Lane, Southdown Road, White Dirt Lane, Havant Road and Downhouse Road (roads known locally for speeding issues) to collect data. With the exception of White Dirt lane, these are commuter routes to the A3(M) to varying degrees. A summary of some initial results is shown on the chart below. This data will be accumulated and used as evidence to HCC in a case for road safety improvements.



Notwithstanding these results, by national standards, road safety statistics for the Parish are excellent<sup>(62)</sup>, and historically, HCC has only undertaken speed reduction measures in locations with a history of injury accidents. However, 2011/12 has seen a move away from these historic casualty-led criteria towards a new approach, aimed at improving the quality of life for local communities by introducing lower speed limits to reduce the impact of traffic in residential areas. In part this has been triggered by a change in policy by the Department for Transport (DfT), giving more flexibility and responsibility to local councils<sup>(63)</sup>. As a result, currently (May 2012) HCC is proceeding with the introduction of five 20 mph pilot schemes to evaluate their effectiveness.

Two proposed courses of action arise from this potential change in policy:

1. With the data accumulated from the SID equipment, a case should be presented to HCC for remedial measures on the worst-affected roads.
2. Given the strength of opinion in the 2008 consultation (the introduction of 20mph zones had a net positive score of 57%<sup>(64)</sup> in the 2008 consultation), we propose a plan of action to identify residential streets in the Parish that should be considered in future implementation programmes for 20mph limits, should the pilot schemes be successful.

Speed along the B2149 Havant Road (speed limit 40mph) has long been of concern to local residents and Horndean Parish Council has sought a reduction of the limit to 30mph. A housing development next to the Keydell site, currently going through the planning process (decision due: June 2012) will hopefully see the introduction of a 30 mph limit and the provision for a cycle lane to facilitate access to Rowlands Castle Road and the South Downs National Park. This will require ongoing monitoring.

## Traffic congestion around schools

Merchistoun Road Schools

All pupils at Horndean Junior School (500) and the adjacent Horndean Infant School (270) must arrive

and depart via Merchistoun Road.

It is estimated by the Junior School that 80% of their pupils are driven to and from school by parents. A comparable or higher proportion can be expected at the Infant School. Consequently, the major road safety issue at the start and end of the school day is the congestion caused by parents parking, double-parking and pavement parking when dropping-off or collecting their children in or near to Merchistoun Road. With the pavements obstructed, pupils safety is compromised at these peak periods. Needless to say, Merchistoun Road becomes grid-locked.

Although the Junior School has conducted many campaigns to address the issue, including notices to parents, staff monitors outside the school gates, the introduction of a Walking Bus scheme and an annual Walk to School week, none has had any permanent effect. The situation would be even worse had the School not had agreements with local businesses, RKDia and the Colonial Bar that enable parents to use those car parks temporarily at peak times.

In terms of pupil safety, we propose to work with these schools, the local authorities and the Police to identify a programme of measures that enable children to come to school more safely than is possible today. These might include:

- (1) The removal of the parking bays outside the schools and a comparable widening of the pavement.
- (2) The introduction of safety railings outside the schools to prevent vehicles mounting the pavement.
- (3) The introduction of yellow road markings (zig-zag, double or single) prohibiting the setting-down and picking-up of children.
- (4) The provision of cycle lanes in both directions for the entire length of Merchistoun Road from Catherington Lane to Five Heads Road. This would also benefit pupils cycling to Horndean Technology College.
- (5) We should also seek a professional evaluation of the merits of some more radical options, e.g. the implementation of yellow lines, as at Horndean Technology College (see below), or a one-way gyratory system past the schools.

#### Horndean Technology College

Today, as the photograph below shows, there is considerable private car congestion in Barton Cross at the end of the school day. There is so much on pavement parking that pupils are often obliged to walk in the carriageway.

In order to resolve this dangerous situation, and to enable safer cycling into and from school, over the summer holidays of 2012, a radical solution will be implemented. After consultation with HTC and local residents, the entire length of Barton Cross will be subject to a No-Parking yellow-line Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). The southern verge will be converted to a tarmacadam surface and the widened footpath will be for shared use by pedestrians and cyclists (when conditions permit). Concurrently, the existing speed humps in Victory Avenue will be modified to enable safer cycling. This scheme will require ongoing monitoring.

#### Getting across the A3

East-west movements to and from the schools, the Morrison store, the shops in Horndean centre and the two parts of South Downs National Park in the Parish are all considerably limited by the A3.

The issues are:

- Although there are pedestrian phases to the Causeway Intersection traffic lights, the provision for cyclists is confusing and all but the most confident cyclist will regard this as a 'no-go-zone'. This requires a detailed professional analysis, but the aspiration is that recommended cycle routes can be made simpler and more direct.
- Although there are seven central refuges between the Causeway Intersection and the roundabout in Horndean, there are no pedestrian/cycle priority crossings (Pelican/Toucan) and, as with any constriction, the central refuges are potential hazards for cyclists.
- The Horndean Village intersection between Portsmouth Road, London Road and Havant Road continues to be a difficult crossing area and we propose continuing to lobby for one or more pedestrian crossings.

#### Other road safety issues

Generally higher vehicle speeds increase the risks for pedestrians and cyclists crossing Junction 2 of the A3(M) – the Hazleton Intersection. These can be ameliorated by, for example, a shared use pavement.



Several points in Catherington Lane have also been identified as not adequate for children walking to and from school. We will take our cue for addressing these from the local school travel plans.

The public consultations in 2008 drew attention to the difficulties and dangers of walking along some local lanes that have no pavement. For example, the pavement in Five Heads Road stops 50m north of the football field. A further 100m of new pavement would not only enable pedestrian access to the frontage of existing and new housing, but also complete a safe pedestrian connection between Footpath 16 and Bridleway 34.

### Road Safety Actions

Ref.	Action	Stakeholders	Time-Frame
T41	Working with the local Speedwatch team, help prepare a case to be presented to HCC for remedial measures to limit speeding on the worst-affected roads.	HCC, HPC	O
T42	Prepare a plan of action to identify residential streets in the Parish that should be considered in future implementation programmes for 20mph limits.	HCC, HPC	S / M
T43	Closely monitor new road design in Havant Road for 30mph speed limit and cycleway.	HCC, HPC	S
T44	Work with the Infant and Junior Schools, the local authorities and the Police to identify a programme of safety measures that enable children to come to school more safely than is possible today, including, for example, removal of the parking bays outside the schools, more safety railings, yellow road markings and more.	EHDC, HCC, HPC, Schools	S / M
T45	Monitor the new road layout in Barton Cross.	EHDC, HCC, HPC, Schools	S
T46	Seek a detailed professional analysis of the Causeway Intersection to identify recommended cycle routes that can be simpler and more direct than today.	HCC, HIND	M
T47	Seek a detailed professional analysis of the section of A3 between the Causeway Intersection and the roundabout in Horndean with a view to obtaining at least one pedestrian/cycle priority crossings and the removal of any introduced potential hazards for cyclists.	HCC, EHDC, HPC, HIND	M
T48	Continue to lobby for one or more pedestrian crossings at the Horndean Village intersection between Portsmouth Road, London Road and Havant Road.	HCC, EHDC, HPC, HIND	M
T49	Seek a detailed professional analysis of the intersection between the A3(M) and the B2149 to identify improved road safety for pedestrians and cyclists using the latter.	HCC, EHDC, HPC, HIND	S / M
T50	Proactively support the local schools and their travel plans, to implement improved road safety for children walking to and from school in Catherington Lane.	HCC, EHDC, HPC, HIND, Schools	S / M
T51	Identify busy local roads without any pavement and prepare a list of proposals to resolve road safety issues for pedestrians at these locations, specifically the provision of an additional 100m of pavement in Five Heads Road from 50m north of the football field.	EHDC, HPC, HCC, HIND	S / M

### Parking

There were two broad parking themes identified in the 2007 analysis: the need to make it difficult to park on pavements and verges and the need for more village centre car parking. The former scored

highly (net positive score: 71%) in the 2008 public consultation.

### Pavement and verge parking

The challenge is that in some parts of the Parish, on the older, mainly 1950s and 60s council-built estates, there is limited or no provision for off-road parking. Even more recent areas of housing also can have roadside, verge or pavement parking problems.

Parking on pavements and grass verges can:

- A. Obstruct pedestrians and vulnerable road users who use the verge or pavement;
- B. Obstruct road users entering and leaving properties;
- C. Reduce visibility at junctions;
- D. Cause environmental damage; and
- E. Appear unsightly.

For any resident who is experiencing continuing, inconsiderate parking, or an isolated, but major incident of the same, there are three authorities to approach according to the situation:

1. During times of operation (shown on nearby time plates), where the road has double- or single-yellow lines, and regardless of whether the offending vehicle is parked at the roadside, on the verge or on the pavement, a resident can call the Civil Enforcement Team on 0300 550705. Their mobile units, based in Havant, visit the Parish daily and also respond to incidents on request.
2. Where there are no parking restrictions, the Civil Enforcement Team has no powers. In this case, if a vehicle is causing an obstruction that puts other road users, including pedestrians, at risk (A, B and C above), a resident should report the incident to the Police on the non-emergency number 101. The Police will prioritise and respond accordingly.
3. Where there are no parking restrictions, but the offending vehicle is parked inconsiderately, e.g. on the grass verge or on council-owned land (D and E above), a resident can report the situation to Hampshire County Council (0845 603 5638, email: [info@hants.gov.uk](mailto:info@hants.gov.uk)). HCC policy and procedure for dealing with anti-social parking is explained on their website: <http://bit.ly/LvCGj5>.

Inconsiderate parking in other situations, e.g.

1. Parking around schools, or
2. Vehicles for sale on a public highway, or
3. Overnight parking on residential roads by commercial vehicles.

These may require application to HCC for a time-restricted Traffic Regulation Order. HCC policy for this is described on their website here: <http://bit.ly/KzgJTj>.

Note: It is not an offence in law to park a motor vehicle, other than an HGV (>7.5 tonnes), on a grass verge of the public highway unless it causes an obstruction or a Traffic Regulation Order or a byelaw is in force prohibiting it.

### Village centre parking

There are 45 free car parking bays within 200m of Horndean Post Office<sup>(65)</sup>, most of which are time-limited. In the last decade, there have been no known reports of centre parking being fully occupied, except for the Annual Carol Concert each December.

### Parking Actions

Ref.	Action	Stakeholders	Time-Frame
T52	Publicise more widely the means of redress for residents who are experiencing inconsiderate parking.	Police, EHDC, HPC	S
T53	Prepare a case for those areas of the Parish where inconsiderate parking can only be resolved by a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), e.g. parking around schools, vehicles for sale on a public highway, overnight parking on residential roads by commercial vehicles.	Police, HCC, EHDC, HPC, HIND	S / M
T54	Ensure that when a sustainable renewal plan (a local spatial strategy with vision) is undertaken for Horndean village centre that the lack of parking in the area is resolved.	EHDC, HPC	S / M

### **3 - Business And Economy**

The vitality of local business impacts upon everyday life for residents of the Parish. Nothing is more dispiriting for a community than to see boarded-up shops and empty business units and the more that can be done to address the issues, the better for all. This section examines these employment, retail, commerce & industry and tourism issues and offers some proposals for the way forward.

#### **Public consultation**

In the 2008 public consultation the following local economy feedback was obtained.

#### **(1) What priority do you give additional services and improvements for visiting Horndean village?**

Wider range of retail outlets	66%
Community Centre including arts, crafts, museum, library	48%
Community / Convenience store	47%
Additional hotel accommodation	46%
Additional health related services	42%
Additional health related services	42%
Café's / Restaurants	42%
Evening Opening	35%
Additional professional services and Finance	15%

#### **(2) Do you use shops or businesses in Horndean village centre?**

Daily: 10%; Weekly: 27%; Monthly: 11%; Occasionally: 43%; Never: 8%.

#### **(3) Do you agree that there needs to be more local employment opportunities?**

Yes: 90%; No: 10%

#### **Business surveys**

Two business surveys were conducted, one in 2007<sup>(66)</sup> and one during the economic downturn in 2011<sup>(67)</sup>, to capture the business confidence in the community, the outlook for the future, and how the business environment can be improved to encourage new and expanding business.

#### **Existing situation**

It has been recognised that the current level of economic growth in South Hampshire<sup>(68)</sup> is low and, locally, there are pockets of marginally higher unemployment. Nevertheless, the Parish is located in a relatively prosperous area. It has good road communications, improved further by the 2011 opening of the Hindhead tunnel. This is discussed further in the Transport & Accessibility section of this plan.

The Parish has a mixture of retail outlets, commercial properties and industrial estates that provide employment. These range from a large retailer (Morrison) to one-person businesses. These businesses engage in a range of activities from simple manufacturing to highly technical engineering services, supporting local, regional, national and international clients.

The map below shows the distribution of the 6 industrial estates around the Parish (Hazleton Interchange, Wessex Gate, Westfield Road, Enterprise Road, Crookley Park, Lucky-Lite Farm).



## Employment

### Census of Population

Most economic facts and figures for the Parish are collated and presented by HCC<sup>(69)</sup>. As referenced in the section Key parish information, it produces the Small Area Population Forecasts (SAPF), an estimate of population and dwellings by parish across the County for 2011 – 2018<sup>(70)</sup>. The April 2012 analysis for the Parish of Horndean estimates that the total 18 – 64 age workforce in 2012 is approximately 7,600 [1,238 (16 – 24 yrs) + 6,381 (25 – 64 yrs) = 7,619]

The table below<sup>(71)</sup> shows the April 2012 data for claimants of Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA)

Unemployed Claimants and Residential Unemployment Rate:					April 2012	
East Hampshire						
Census Area Statistic Ward	Males		Females		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Horndean Catherington and Lovedean	18	2.4	5	0.7	23	1.5
Horndean Downs	16	2.0	8	1.0	24	1.5
Horndean Hazleton and Blendworth	12	1.8	5	0.8	17	1.3
Horndean Kings	19	2.0	4	0.4	23	1.2
Horndean Murray	19	2.6	11	1.4	30	2.0
East Hampshire*	710	2.0	361	1.0	1,071	1.5

Sources:

JSA Claimant Count Unemployment Data (including CAS ward rates): Office for National Statistics

Mid-year population estimates: Office for National Statistics

Note: The residential unemployment rate is defined here as the proportion of the working age population (16-64 for males and females).

\* Figures taken from Hampshire Labour Market Bulletin.

Murray Ward has the 9th worst Index of Multiple Deprivation<sup>(72)</sup> and the 8th highest unemployment rate<sup>(73)</sup> in East Hampshire. This area, in particular, would benefit from targeted support to improve employment. Nevertheless, Murray Ward is still significantly lower than other regions (nationally: 4%;



Havant: 3.8%, Portsmouth: 3.7%, Hampshire: 2.5%) – data from April 2012. Unemployment rates in the Parish overall are not a cause for undue concern.

According to HCC's Social & Economic Research Team, accurate counting of the unemployed aged 16 – 24 years is not possible. An estimate can only be made by combining data gathered by the Youth Analysis Service of HCC Children's Services with data published monthly by the Office for National Statistics. Using this method, in May 2012, there were approximately 43 unemployed persons, aged 16 – 24 years, in the Parish. Although below the levels of areas of lower deprivation in surrounding wards (outside the Parish), these figures are serious enough to warrant targeting these young people and offering additional support through the Job Centre.

One proposal to help increase employment opportunities, especially for the 16 – 24 yrs age group, is to support local employers by providing facilities for organised events, such as recruitment open days and skills fairs, to bring together potential employers and job seekers. With support from Job Centre Plus, this Parish initiative could be held on a regular basis. Holding such events with Horndean Technology College in particular, makes sense and recruitment fairs must firmly address youth challenges and opportunities.

The 2011 HIND business survey did show that employers did not experience a problem hiring people with general skills. Employers who required staff with very demanding skills preferred to train them themselves, and had not found a shortage of suitable candidates.

### Reducing commuting distances

In the East Hampshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2026, EHDC set out a priority to "reduce the number of people commuting to work outside the district ..." <sup>(74)</sup>. This community plan considers that it would be of great benefit to the community if the empty business units were to be filled as this would improve the amount of local employment. Filling these empty units would also improve the business economy, create a more sustainable business environment and reduce vandalism of empty premises.

### Employment threats and opportunities

There has been little new industrial building development in the Parish during the period 2005 – 2012. The only new employment site was the Fuller's distribution depot in Dell Piece East, but this has not resulted in any change in employment levels following the closure of Gales Brewery in 2005.

In 2012 Keydell Nurseries proposed to move location from the Parish to Rowlands Castle (3 miles). Hopefully this short extra travel distance will not result in any loss of employment for Parish residents.

In April 2012, Formaplex announced the opening of a new 15,000ft<sup>2</sup> factory at Hazleton Interchange, a move that has allowed them to expand their manufacturing business <sup>(75)</sup>. This created the potential for 30 extra jobs.

The overall outlook for employment is positive. In the 2011 business survey, 97.5% of responses indicated an intention to stay in the Parish (closures through retirement accounted for the remaining 2.5%). The overwhelming majority of businesses responding indicated that they were not looking to reduce staff numbers, but variously either to maintain or even recruit over the next year.

In summary:

Unemployment is not a significant local issue except, perhaps for the risk of higher unemployment rates among young people (also a national challenge).

There are no apparent trends indicating local long-term unemployment issues.

There is little danger of over-reliance on a particular industry sector. What employment is available in the Parish ranges from retail through services to manufacturing.

### Employment actions

Ref.	Action	Stake-holders	Time-Frame
B1	Offer targeted support to improve employment prospects of unemployed through 1-to-1 support, comparable to that offered by Wecock Community Association.	HCA	O
B2	Work with HCC Children's Service to target the unemployed in the 16 - 24 yrs	HCC HCA	O



	age range. Run regular formal support programmes.		
B3	Provide facilities for organised events, such as recruitment open days and skills fairs, to link local and regional businesses with local unemployed residents.	HCA HBN	O
B4	Holding regular job/recruitment fairs/open days with Horndean Technology College to address the challenges of and opportunities for young people.	HTC HBN	O
B5	Run a campaign to promote maximum occupancy of Parish business units.	EHDC HBN	S
B6	Develop a strategy to promote greater local employment in the Parish.	HCC EHDC HBN HCA	M

## Business Support

The level of industry in the Parish does not justify a permanent presence from organisations like Business Link, or a Chamber of Commerce. These two and comparable business support organisations can be found in the local regional centres like Portsmouth or Winchester. That said, should these organisations undertake road-shows or offer ad hoc events, the community could gauge the level of local interest and consider inviting them to the Parish.

In 2011, a group of local business owners formed Horndean Business Network (HBN) in order to promote enterprise in the area. This is an encouraging development worthy of support.

Another proposal is to prepare a listing of local businesses and promote this on Parish-related websites, publications such as Stay Local, or the Parish Council newsletter, in order to encourage business-to-business trade among local community businesses. A specific example of this would be to promote Merchistoun Hall as a wedding and function venue. This would not only support local businesses, but also generate funds for this valued community facility.

HBN believe that it would be useful to provide support to businesses by arranging, from time-to-time, assistance to local start-up, e.g. courses in employment law and other legislation, health & safety, accountancy, etc.

### Business support actions

Ref.	Action	Stakeholders	Time-Frame
B7	Should any business support organisation undertake road-shows or offer ad hoc events in the area then we should gauge the level of local interest and consider inviting them to the Parish and try to ensure that local businesses are aware of similar events taking place in East and South Hampshire.	HCC EHDC HBN HCA HIND	O
B8	Groups such as HBN should be promoted amongst local business in the Parish and encouraged to make use of ideas in this Business & Economy section of the Plan.	HBN	O
B9	Prepare a listing of local businesses and promote this on Parish-related websites, publications such as Stay Local, or the Parish Council newsletter, in order to encourage business-to-business trade among local community businesses.	HCC EHDC HPC HBN HCA	S
B10	Promote Merchistoun Hall as a wedding and function venue to support the local businesses involved.	HCC EHDC HPC HBN HCA	S
B11	Provide, on an adhoc basis, support to businesses by arranging, from time-to-time, assistance to local start-up, e.g. courses in employment law and other legislation, health & safety, accountancy, etc.	HCC EHDC HPC HBN HCA	O

## Retail provision

Although the population approaches that of Petersfield, the range of provision of retail is much more limited. This is, in part, because the Parish has grown from four separate villages, each with separate identities and as a result there is no large centre offering a focal point for trade.

This remains a disappointing aspect of the Parish's economy and should be an area of focus in the proposals, discussed in the Urban Environment section of this plan, to rejuvenate the centre of Horndean.

The challenge is to introduce new retail premises that offer a local alternative to the more established shopping areas in Cowplain, Waterloooville, Petersfield and Havant, without making large changes by building superstores or retail parks, to the detriment of the village. There is no reason why the retail provision in the Parish cannot grow and trade successfully. Indeed, for the less mobile, it is important to retain a good network of local convenience stores.

### Existing shops and services

The Parish has a variety of retailers. Outside the centre, the dominant 'weekly shop' retailer is the Morrison store at Hazleton Interchange.

In terms of local convenience (top up) shopping:

The residents of North Horndean are probably the best served by the comprehensive range of shops in the Drift Road parade on the border with Clanfield.

In Lovedean, there are three convenience stores, two hair and beauty salons, a post office and a pharmacy with another convenience store nearby at Kings Mede (near the Causeway traffic lights).

In Horndean, there are two convenience stores (one with an in-store pharmacy), a post office, a bakery, three hair and beauty salons, two pubs and a newsagent. There are no local shops in Blendworth, although most residents are within walking distance of Horndean centre.

While there are no shops in Catherington, residents on the Hazleton Estate have access to a few shops in the parade on Hazleton Way.

There are also a few specialist shops and services to attract shoppers from outside the Parish (travel agent, car parts supplier).

### New shops and services

In the 2008 consultation, there was a 66% net positive score for a wider range of retail outlets in the Parish.

The focus should be on raising the profile of Horndean village as the centre of the Parish, to encourage new retail outlets and increase footfall. As one local businessman stated in the consultations, "Retail outlets survive by foot traffic going past their entrances and being drawn in".

Horndean Business Network, local retailers and the community need to work closely with East Hampshire District Council in any initiatives to improve retail offerings. Local council support for local businesses could assist in particular in three areas:

1. Some properties on London Road in the centre of Horndean village have no private parking and cars used to be parked on Gales land which will no longer be possible. This could become a problem necessitating parking enforcement (if feasible) on the new retail parking area and should therefore be carefully monitored
2. A better mix of retail and services in the centre of Horndean could increase footfalls, and thereby improve the centre's vibrancy. If ways can be found to encourage this they should be explored, although it must be recognized that the economic viability of such retailers has, and will continue to be, the key factor. Ideas worth looking at include partnering the existing shops with new ones, e.g. greengrocer or butcher, introducing missing services like a cashpoint (if not a bank), or a coffee shop. Horndean still does not have a dentist.
3. If the owner of the Precinct in the centre of Horndean could be persuaded to make improvements it would make the place a more attractive location to complement a regenerated village centre.

### Retail actions

Ref.	Action	Stakeholders	Time-Frame
B12	Work with East Hampshire District Council, Horndean Parish Council, Horndean Business Network and the community, to seek to increase local retail offerings in Horndean centre to satisfy local needs and opportunities.	HCC EHDC HPC HBN HCA	M

B13	Monitor parking issues in respect of residents of London Road in Horndean centre who have no off-road parking.	HCC EHDC HPC HBN HCA	L
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## Commercial and industrial property needs

Vacancy levels of commercial properties have changed little in the last 3 years. In 2011, there was a surplus 55,000 sq ft of industrial and warehouse space<sup>(76)</sup> (approximately 40 empty units). A project to work with letting agents to promote these business units and the benefits of the Parish through open days or printed literature, cataloguing all of the available space in the Parish could help to address this issue.

## Rates

According to the 2011 business survey, firms are struggling with the prevailing level of business rates. This is seen as an obstacle to new businesses starting up. A business rate relief holiday for new firms moving into the area, combined with some existing 'no rent for a year' offers already in place with letting agents, could provide an attractive start for new or relocating firms.

## Commercial actions

Ref.	Action	Stake-holders	Time-Frame
B14	Develop a business rate relief holiday 'product' for new firms moving into the area, combined with some existing 'no rent for a year' offers already in place.	HCC EHDC HPC HBN HCA local estate agents	L
B15	Should a second phase of the Hampshire County Council Smarter Working Centres programme be initiated then Horndean could investigate the viability of engaging.	HCC EHDC HBN HPC	S

## Tourism and visitor services

Horndean began as a little Saxon village in Forest of Bere which ran from East Hampshire to Winchester. It existed as a staging post on the journey between Portsmouth and London. It became best known as the home of Gales Brewery which opened in 1850, and then closed in April 2005 after the acquisition by Fuller, Smith and Turner. It has been twinned with the French town of Aubergenville since 1998.

Currently, tourism forms a low proportion of the local economy, and while the Parish does not have major sites, it does have several areas of key local interest, for example, Catherington Church which has a history dating back to the late twelfth century<sup>(77)</sup>.

A search for "Horndean" on the ubiquitous tripadvisor.com website<sup>(78)</sup> returned the following hits (June 2012): Premier Inn, 29 reviews; Bird in Hand, 28 reviews; the Ship & Bell, 17 reviews; Queen Elizabeth Country Park, 10 reviews; Farmer Inn, 3 reviews; Play Planet, 2 reviews. There are two B&B's in the Parish (according to a Google search).

Some 40% of the Parish is inside the South Downs National Park (SDNP) (see map in the Key Parish Information section). Straddling the park boundary, the Parish is a potential gateway to SDNP. Combining this with the historical aspects of the Parish and its excellent countryside and walks, offers the Parish the opportunity to promote the area jointly with the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). A joint approach with Clanfield and Rowlands Castle to marketing the area's tourism potential could be beneficial.

A new publication promoting local walks, cycle routes, historic sites, overnight accommodation, shops, eateries, events and other attractions should be created, perhaps sponsored by the businesses that will benefit. This should be made available online, and in well-visited premises such as the post offices. Any new publications might be prepared in conjunction with the Visit Hampshire website<sup>(79)</sup>, and the Hampshire South Downs website<sup>(80)</sup> to ensure a high quality publication.

To improve the walks in the Parish, a programme of stile repair or renewal, as well as additional benches, should be planned. This is discussed in the Transport & Accessibility section of this plan. Actions are recorded there.

Although Gales Brewery closed in 2005, a heritage of beer-making in the Parish remains. One final suggestion is that the creation of a new micro-brewery in the parish could make the best use of the heritage of the Village as a combined small business and tourist attraction.

In summary:

1. The local economy is not vulnerable to seasonal variations in tourism, although a proportion of local residents are inevitably going to be involved in the tourism trade on the South Coast.
2. Road links to the tourist attractions of the South Downs National Park and the South Coast are good and enhanced by the proximity of the A3(M) and A27.
3. Tourism spending and tourism-related employment is limited to businesses such as the Premier Inn hotel, the Ship & Bell pub, the Bird in Hand pub and a couple of B&Bs.
4. Public transport links out of the Parish are poor.
5. The tourist information sources in the area are the leaflet displays in the lobbies at the Ship & Bell and Premier Inn and at the Parish Office.

### Tourism actions

Ref.	Action	Stake-holders	Time-Frame
B16	Put current tourist information in key local outlets such as the post offices, newsagents and Morrisons. Also put them online and accessible through HPC, HBN, EHDC, HCA and other community websites.	HCC EHDC HPC HBN HCA	S
B17	Create a new publication which draws together where to stay, eat, and locations to visit.	HCC EHDC HBN	M
B18	Investigate the possibility of developing a strategy jointly with Clanfield and Rowlands Castle to promote the area jointly with the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA).	HCC EHDC HPC HBN HCA CPC RCPC SDNPA	M

## 4 - Urban Environment

### Introduction

The 'Urban Area' is the developed area shown on the East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) Local Plan map as being within the 'Settlement policy boundary'. Addressed here is an overview of environmental issues identified, that primarily occur within that area, together with ways in which they might be alleviated.

### History

Archaeological records<sup>(81)</sup> for Horndean list finds from the Mesolithic (10,000BC-4,001BC) and Neolithic (4,000BC-2201BC) periods and sites with evidence of habitation from the Bronze Age (2,200 BC-801BC) onwards.

Blendworth and Catherington Villages date from around the 12<sup>th</sup> Century. Horndean Village expanded quickly in the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century with the growth of Portsmouth Dockyard and the opening of the turnpike road. For Horndean Village the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century was a period of hardship with the Enclosures Acts and then the Swing Riots in 1830-31<sup>(82)</sup>. The Light Railway opened in 1903 enabling the development of the present settlement to commence.

There are 31 grade 2 listings including 25 buildings 2 milestones, a gateway with wall and 3 tombs.<sup>(83,84;85.)</sup> There are also 3 conservation areas in Horndean Parish<sup>(86,87;88;89.)</sup>. The documentation of the history of Horndean and the surrounding area is sparse and dispersed. Consequently it's not easy to obtain a good appreciation of the local history.

### Setting and appearance

Horndean is a large community of almost 13,000 people located on the northern edge of the Waterlooville built up area. The majority of the urban area is surrounded by open countryside and part of the parish is in the South Downs National Park.

Most development in Horndean Parish is located in valleys. With the exception of the North Horndean Estate, little is visible from the South Downs, Portsdown or from the A3/A3(M). The concealed location allows views of the landscape to predominate. Portsmouth Road, Manor Lodge Road and Lovedean Lane from the north all provide attractive routes into Horndean. South Horndean, including the village area, has many mature trees including Oaks from ancient woodlands and specimen trees from old estates. These provide an attractive backdrop to the urban area. In the north of the parish chalk downland is more dominant.<sup>(90)</sup>

### History plus settings and appearance actions

Ref.	Action	Stakeholders	Time-Scale
U1	Improve awareness and understanding of the significance of our local heritage by providing a summary of local history with links to local history data sources on the parish web site.	HPC, HCC, EHDC Local societies.	O
U2	Improve awareness and understanding of the significance of our local heritage by encouraging a local library to hold a set of local history documents.	HPC, HCC, EHDC Local societies.	S / M
U3	Improve awareness and understanding of the significance of our local heritage by encouraging the establishment of a local history group.	HPC, HCC, EHDC Local societies.	S / M
U4	Retain the best of the Parish's setting and appearance by retaining the attractive routes into Horndean.	EHDC, Local residents. Hampshire Highways,	O
U5	Retain the best of the Parish's setting and appearance by retaining, improving and expanding the tree canopy in Bulls Copse.	EHDC; Local	S / M



		residents; Hampshire Highways.	
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## The Estates

Most residents of Horndean Parish live in South Horndean, in estates built since about 1950. The infrastructure of some of these areas no longer meets modern needs and expectations in respect of access, appearance or biodiversity<sup>(91)</sup> including:

- There is an inadequate range of easily accessible shops, services and employment, which necessitates increased car use<sup>(92;93)</sup>;
- Walking and cycling are more difficult and less pleasant than they should be. Problems include pavement obstruction, insufficient dropped kerbs and road crossing points and inadequate cycle provision including a lack of secure cycle parking<sup>(94;95;96;97;98;99)</sup>;
- There are few direct walking and cycling routes to the largest retailer<sup>(100)</sup>;
- Vehicle speeds on the estates are high and restrict resident's use of the streets and the freedom of children to go out on their own. 20mph speed restrictions across estates would reduce this problem<sup>(101;102;103;104)</sup>;
- A predominance of stiles on rights of ways out of the estates makes access into the countryside difficult for people with limited mobility and there are few quiet areas in which residents can sit and relax<sup>(105)</sup>;
- Contamination of children's play areas and playing fields with dog excreta is an ongoing hazard<sup>(106;107)</sup>;
- The occurrence of localized flooding<sup>(108)</sup>.

### Murray, Merchistoun and Highcroft Estates<sup>(109)</sup>

The area between Portsmouth Road, Catherington Lane and the A3(M) contains 3 schools and much of the parish's recreation and community facilities. There is also a private school on the edge of the area and planning permission for a large care home close to the Junior and Infants Schools. Facilities have been built over the years without coordinated planning and although they provide extremely valuable services are not effectively integrated into their surroundings.

Concerns include:

- Frequent traffic congestion in Catherington Lane, Merchistoun Road and Five Heads Road close to Portsmouth Road;
- Excessive parking and pavement obstruction including around the Junior and Infants Schools at several times of the day<sup>(110)</sup>, in Napier Road throughout the day; in and around Five Heads Road at week ends and evenings and in Queens Crescent overnight;
- The function and appearance of both entrances to Horndean TC is not good. Pavements are narrow and there are no cycle accesses<sup>(111)</sup>;
- Several open spaces are not managed in a way to make the area attractive or useful to residents<sup>(112;113)</sup>. Some, too small for active recreation, have close cut grass with insufficient trees and few flowers.

### Actions to address the environment in the Estates

Ref.	Action	Stake-holders	Time-Scale
U6	Remove obstructions from pavements, introduce double yellow lines alongside pavements that are frequently blocked with parked vehicles and provide pedestrian crossing points on several roads.	Hampshire Highways; EHDC.	O
U7	Reduce speed limit on estates to 20mph.	EHDC; Hampshire Highways.	S / M
U8	Provide quiet parks, in which people can sit, relax and walk close to where they live. Merchistoun Hall, Dell Piece West, Yoells Copse and Hazleton Common could be considered as possible sites. Provide more seats in open spaces and along footpaths in the urban area to enable resident to sit and relax in pleasant surroundings.	HPC; HCA; EHDC.	O
U9	Prohibit dogs from children's play areas and playing fields so that children and young people can enjoy these facilities without unnecessary health risks.	HPC.	S / M
U10	Continue to help Horndean Infants School to encourage parents and children to walk to school by providing improved access, including:	HPC; EHDC;	S / M

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A drop off point for children in Napier Road;</li> <li>Parking restrictions in Five Heads Road between Portsmouth Road and Tarbery Crescent and in entrance to Benbow Close;</li> <li>Encouraging Kings Court School to produce a travel plan.</li> </ul>	HCC; Horndean Schools.	
U11	Improve the function and appearance of both entrances to Horndean Technology College by installing cycle accesses to both entrances to and improving maintenance of the grassed area in Barton Cross. Also convert the Catherington Lane pavement from Barton Cross to Portsmouth Road to dual use for pedestrians and cyclists.	HCC & EHDC	S / M
U12	To reduce obstruction from parking by introducing controlled parking in parts of Napier Road and the adjacent part of Merchistoun Road and issue residents parking permits.	EHDC; Hampshire Highways.	M
U13	Improve the use and maintenance of open spaces and verges including Nelson Crescent, Napier Road and the Recreation Ground and consider planting trees, hedges, and wild flowers on selected sites.	HCC	M

## Horndean Village Centre

Horndean Village Centre provides 'Town Centre' services for the parish. The centre has an attractive setting in a conservation area<sup>(114)</sup> with a backdrop of trees and is located on the boundary of the South Downs National Park. It is positioned around a road junction with continuous traffic without a full set of pedestrian crossings<sup>(115)</sup> and there are concerns about air quality. Most shops open onto the pavement and there is no secure cycle parking. All this limits the centre's attraction to pedestrians and cyclists.

The larger retailers<sup>(116)</sup> are located individually a little way outside the 'Town Centre' reducing the 'Pull' of the centre. Compared with other local centres too few people live within easy walking distance (1km) to provide an adequate core of users.

The present range and number of shops and services is too small to effectively serve a community of 13,000 people increasing the needs of residents to travel out of the community. Options for the future of the centre include:

- Locate much of Horndean's planned housing development within easy walking distance of the centre and improve the access for pedestrians and cyclists;
- Take no positive action to retain the centre which would result in residents spending more time travelling to services elsewhere;
- Find an alternative site for the centre.

## Actions to address the village centre environment

Ref.	Action	Stake-holders	Time-Frame
U14	Maintain the attractive setting of the Village Centre by retaining the tree setting, listed buildings and conservation area.	Hampshire Highways; EHDC; Property owners.	
U15	Increase use of Centre by pedestrians and cyclists by providing pedestrian and cycle friendly routes on all 4 accesses into Horndean Village centre with pedestrian crossing points on all 4 access roads.	EHDC; HCC.	
U16	Provide secure cycle parking in Horndean Village Centre.	EHDC; HCC.	
U17	Make the centre more user friendly to shoppers, pedestrians and cyclists and reducing the need for additional parking by having time limits on all car parks and enforcing parking regulations.	EHDC; HPC.	

## Development

With the exception of Lovedean and a small part of Hazleton / Blendworth, the developed area is surrounded by 'Local Gap' or 'National Park', giving protection from development. Rural parts of Catherington, Lovedean and Blendworth are elevated and development here would be visible from several points in South East Hampshire<sup>(117;118)</sup>.

Around 800 new houses are planned for Horndean by 2026. Consideration is needed on the location of sites for new dwellings<sup>(119)</sup>. In addition to meeting local housing needs and being well designed it would be helpful to the community if any development could have positive effects on the area and avoid excessive damage to the local environment by:

- Being well screened to avoid damage to the landscape;
  - Retaining the existing woodland and enhancing this where possible to reduce the effects of climate change<sup>(120;121;122)</sup>,
  - Being within walking distance of primary services and employment to minimise the increase in car use<sup>(123)</sup>,
  - Having good pedestrian and cycle access and therefore improving the local network of routes.<sup>(124)</sup>
- Business and industrial development should meet the same criteria and be located close to A3/A3(M) junctions to minimise the numbers of large vehicles in residential areas.

### Actions to help manage development

Ref.	Action	Stake-holders	Time-Frame
U18	Retain the present 'Settlement policy boundary' and the local gaps between South Horndean, Clanfield, Catherington Village and Blendworth to minimise the spread of development and degradation of local environment from new development.	EHDC; HPC; Residents.	
U19	Retain the visual perspective of Horndean's attractive landscape, by avoiding building on ridges.	EHDC; South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA); Residents.	
U20	Build new housing developments allocated to Horndean within easy walking distance (1km) of shops, services and buses to improve the sustainability of Horndean Parish.	EHDC; HPC; Residents.	
U21	Increase the amount of local employment in proportion to the increase in housing to improve the sustainability of Horndean Parish.	EHDC; HPC.	
U22	Limit business development to areas with easy access onto the A3/A3(M) to minimise heavy vehicles, noise and pollution in the estates.	EHDC; HPC.	
U23	Retain trees in and around developments and provide additional planting to make the sites more resilient to climate change and to improve appearance and sustainability.	EHDC; HPC; Developers; Residents; Horndean Biodiversity Group.	

## Pollution

### Air

Since the start of 2000 the national recommended level for Nitrogen Dioxide in London Road was exceeded in 2000 and in 2006 and 2008 was close to the limit.<sup>(125;126)</sup>

### Noise

The Defra Noise map for the Portsmouth Conurbation indicates that noise levels in parts of Horndean Village and the North Horndean Estate from the A3/A3(M) exceed the World Health Organisation guidance. (See <http://services.defra.gov.uk/wps/portal/noise>). To date little action has been taken to rectify this<sup>(127;128)</sup>.

### Radon Gas

There is a minor Radon risk in Blendworth, high enough to consider when building conservatories or extensions.<sup>(129)</sup>

## Land contamination

EHDC has identified potential land contamination in Horndean as part of their duty under legislation. EHDC advise that if any of these sites are proposed for development investigations are conducted.

## Light

The Hampshire Astronomical Group Observatory in Horndean has difficulties with light pollution. Flood lighting and high power security lights are part of the cause<sup>130</sup>.

## Flooding<sup>(131)</sup>

A few small areas in Horndean Parish are subject to flooding. These are mainly flash floods caused by run off such as in London Road next to the A3(M) bridge. There is also very occasional longer term flooding of small areas from the two lavants in the parish. This problem could be reduced if development over the lavants was discouraged and the wetland vegetation improved to act as a soak.

## Actions to reduce pollution

Ref.	Action	Stake-holders	Time-Frame
U24	Provide low noise surfacing, noise deflectors and absorbent screens alongside the A3/A3(M) to reduce noise pollution in the estates.	Highways Agency; Hampshire Highways.	
U25	Discourage the use of high power detector lights and improve management of flood lighting to reduce light pollution.	Residents; HPC; EHDC; Hampshire Astronomical Group.	
U26	Discourage development over lavants and improve the associated wetland vegetation. The objective is to minimise flooding from lavants between Green Lane & Pyle Farm and between Old Clanfield and Lovedean and to improve wetland biodiversity	EHDC; Environment Agency; HPC.	

## Horndean's Green Infrastructure<sup>(132;133;134)</sup>

The 'Green Infrastructure' is the network of multi-functional open spaces and their linking corridors. For the green infrastructure to function several features are required. These include:

- The core sites, which are nature reserves and open countryside, which include rare or important habitats;
- "Stepping stone sites" in the urban area such as nature reserves, sports facilities, parks, play areas, gardens and copses;
- The wildlife corridors that run through the urban area from the core sites. These are mainly based on hedges, copses, verges or bridleways;

For people to appreciate the working of these features they need to be able to have access to the sites.

## Nature reserves, Open spaces and gardens

In Horndean parish most people have access to gardens and open spaces. The open spaces include play areas, playing fields, informal recreation areas, copses, allotments and nature reserves. There is a shortfall on the recommended provision of open spaces with only one third of the recommended playing field area, a small fraction of the allotments and too few play areas being provided<sup>(135;136;137)</sup>. This under provision limits recreation and puts pressure on existing sites resulting in overuse, damage and high maintenance costs.

Except for the nature reserves, most of Horndean's urban open spaces are covered in closely mown grass in which other plants don't survive and which is of little value to wildlife. Some of the open spaces have a few trees and hedges but wild flowers are almost completely absent.

Both recreation and biodiversity in the urban area would be improved by:

- Increasing the area of playing fields, children's play areas and allotments<sup>(138;139)</sup>;
- Revising maintenance procedures in order to enhance biodiversity and increase the use of sites to the community<sup>(140;141)</sup>.
- An increase in wildlife gardening, which would not only increase food sources and habitat for wildlife but also help pollination<sup>(142;143)</sup>;
- An increase in the number of people keeping bees, which would help improve pollination;

- The development of a comprehensive set of wildlife corridors in and around the urban area. <sup>(144)</sup>

### Trees <sup>(145;146;147;148;149)</sup>

The large number of mature trees is a primary feature that makes Horndean Parish attractive. Many of these trees are remnants from ancient woodland such as the Forest of Bere with some large specimens from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century estates. Oak, Beech and Ash are predominant but there is a wide range of specimens including several rare species. One local feature is the large number of copses within and on the edge of the urban area. These copses give the area much of its character, provide cover and food for wildlife and help to moderate the extremes of temperature.

Trees can be lost in several ways:

- Owners often fell trees prior to submitting a planning application for development. At this stage few trees have protection as preservation orders are only issued when the risk can be demonstrated;
- Trees are vulnerable to imported/alien diseases,
- The local predominance of chalk puts trees under threat in long periods of drought.

As a consequence of these pressures the tree density in urban parts of Horndean Parish is reducing.

### Actions to enhance the Green Infrastructure

Ref.	Action	Stake-holders	Time-Frame
U27	Provide additional playing fields, play areas and allotments to reduce the present shortage and reduce pressure on designated areas.	EHDC; HPC; HCC; Local organisations.	
U28	Repair the surface of Horndean Bridleways 24, 24a and 24b and Havant Bridleway 22 and encourage use to reduce wear and damage to Hazleton Common Local Nature Reserve in winter.	HCC; EHDC; HPC; Havant Borough Council.	
U29	Increase participation in wild life gardening to help pollination and increase species numbers;	Horndean Biodiversity Group HPC; EHDC.	
U30	Encourage residents to take up bee keeping as a hobby to improve the biodiversity in the urban area and increase pollination levels.	Horndean Biodiversity Group; HPC; EHDC.	
U31	Record and display on a web site details of each ancient and high value tree in the parish and publicise their value to increase people's awareness reduce the risk to these trees.	Horndean Biodiversity Group; HPC; EHDC.	
U32	Maintain a copy of EHDC's list of tree preservation orders for the parish to increase people's awareness of high quality trees and reduce the risk to these trees.	Horndean Biodiversity Group; HPC; EHDC; Hampshire Highways.	
U33	Investigate if any of the groups of trees in the urban area could be designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation to retain the best sites and enhance appearance.	Horndean Biodiversity Group; HPC; EHDC; Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre.	
U34	Establish a policy for tree replacement and provision of additional trees for screening, shade, noise attenuation and improvement of wildlife corridors to increase tree density in the urban area and to reduce risks from climate change.	Horndean Biodiversity Group; HPC; EHDC. HCC.	



## Climate Change <sup>(150;151)</sup>

*“The climate is changing. This means we are likely to experience more flooding, faster coastal erosion, more heat-waves, droughts and extreme weather events. We need to take action now to prepare for these changes.”*

As this will affect how we live, work and travel it's appropriate to consider how the urban area could be improved to retain pleasant living conditions. The primary local effects of climate change are likely to be flooding, high summer temperatures, droughts and wind. It is likely that some species of plants and trees such as Beech might be stressed by higher temperatures. It may be appropriate to plant other locally established species that can adapt to slightly warmer climates.

Climate is also an important influence on wildlife. Changes in the behaviour, abundance and distributions of species are already being observed and linked to climate change.

### Adaptation to minimise changes <sup>(152)</sup>

Locally trees are a primary means of reducing the effects of climate change. In addition to acting as a carbon sink, trees can moderate the temperature by evaporation and by shading buildings in summer and sheltering them in winter. Even a modest increase in the tree canopy in South Horndean would reduce the urban heat effect and as a by-product air quality should improve.

Other means of locally moderating the effects of climate change include:

- Improved building design;
- Improved street drainage;
- Water collection for reuse;
- Sustainable drainage to avoid run off into the street;
- Selection of drought resistant plants for gardens;
- Improved wetland vegetation around water courses;
- Walking or cycling on short journeys to reduce car use.

### Climate Change Actions

The following actions, which are detailed above should assist to reduce the local effects of climate change: U5; U13; U14; U15; U16; U20; U21; U23; U26; U31; U32; U33; U34.

## Public consultation

In the 2008 public consultation <sup>(153)</sup> the following feedback was obtained on Urban Environment items.

- Make it difficult to park on pavements and verges 71%;
- Introduce drop off and collection point near Horndean Infants School 68%;
- Removal of obstructions such as a lack of dropped kerbs, vehicles parking on pavements and filling in missing sections of pavements so you don't have to walk on the road 66%;
- A park in which you can sit and relax 65%;
- Make it easier to walk and cycle into the village 64%;
- Place weight limits on vehicles parking overnight 62%;
- Provide crossings on busy roads 61%;
- Introduce 20mph zones on estates 59%;
- Provide secure cycle parking 59%;
- Improve pavement surfaces 59%;
- Establish a register of ancient and other high value trees to reduce the risk of them being removed 58%.
- Working with the Highway Agency to find ways of reducing the noise from the A3(M) 58%.
- Introduce 20 mph zones on estates 57%;
- Promote wild life-friendly gardening 56%;
- More children's play/recreation areas 54%;
- Improve footpath 26 to Morrisons 54%;
- Redesign area between Five Heads Rd, A3(M) & Portsmouth Rd to reduce litter & improve use for the community 51%;
- Enforce parking regulations in Horndean 43%;
- Improve the appearance of London Road in area close to underpass below A3(M) 41%;
- Place short limits on all car parks in Horndean Village 37%;
- Improve the appearance of the entrances to Horndean Technology College in Barton Cross and Bowes Lyon Court 32%.

## **5 - Natural Environment**

Addressed here are the aspects of Horndean Parish's natural environment that occur mainly outside the urban area.

The natural environment "covers living things in all their diversity: wildlife, rivers and streams, lakes and seas, urban green space and open countryside, forests and farmed land. It includes the fundamentals of human survival: our food, fuel, air and water, together with the natural systems that cycle our water, clean out pollutants, produce healthy soil, protect us from floods and regulate our climate. It embraces our landscapes and our natural heritage, the many types of contact we have with nature in both town and country. In England our natural environment is the result of thousands of years of interaction between people and nature. It continues to be shaped through the care and attention invested by the individuals and organisations who actively manage it."<sup>(154)</sup>

### **Geology**

The underlying geological structures have influenced how the parish and its environment have developed. There are 3 principle zones. The Reading Beds, in the south is mainly urban and made up of sands and clays. The chalk in the north of the parish is mainly agricultural as are the clay and flint caps in Lovedean, Catherington and Hinton. (See the Geological Survey of Great Britain 'Fareham Sheet')<sup>(155)</sup>

### **Landscape**

The East Hampshire District Landscape Character Assessment shows Horndean as being mainly 'Downland Mosaic' with a band of 'Wooded Clayland' in the south. The parish has a mixture of large open arable fields on well drained calcareous soil and smaller fields of mixed arable pasture plus woodland both on heavier soils. There is a band of clay to the south with a more wooded landscape around Lovedean. This mix includes high value unimproved grassland sites like Catherington Down, ancient woodland sites, which include Yoells Copse and remnants left over from the Forest of Bere.

There are a number of ancient lanes through the area such as Coldhill and Tagdell Lanes. The development of roads fragments the landscape into a series of smaller blocks. Excellent views of the coast and Isle of Wight can be enjoyed from Windmill Down and from behind Catherington Church.<sup>(156,157)</sup>

### **Habitats**

#### **Grassland**

For native flora the most valuable locally is calcareous grassland, the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) at Catherington Down being the best example. There are several other unimproved grassland sites including the Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC's) at Netherley Down, Pyle Farm and Stubbins Down. There are also several notable areas of neutral to acidic grassland. Small unimproved sites act as reservoirs, but their fragmented distribution often limits the movement of species. Chalk grasslands may take many years to lose the chemical residues from fertilisers and management inputs may not favour biodiversity objectives.<sup>(158,159,160,161,162)</sup>

#### **Woodland**

High quality deciduous woodland is a feature of the local appearance and environment. 14 sites including Yoells Copse, Catherington Lith, Blendworth Lith, James Copse and Outliers, Wick Hanger and Ludmore Hanger are designated as SINCS. Over the last 60 years the quality of semi-natural woodland has declined through neglect, lack of management such as coppicing, pressure from deer and planting of non-native species.<sup>(163,164,165)</sup>

#### **Lowland Heathland**

Horndean's only heathland is on Hazleton Common, a designated SINC. Much of the site is on Reading Bed clay which supports damper vegetation and 3 small ponds. Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) survey report 15/05/2010-23/06/2010 suggests that judging from the invertebrate activity on Hazelton Common it would benefit from more ponds being created.<sup>(166,167,168,169)</sup>

## Aquatic

Dells, sinkholes, swallow holes, pools and ponds support a wide range of wildlife species in the parish. In quickly drying chalk areas water sources are especially important to wildlife. Some privately owned ponds are not in good condition for wildlife. <sup>(170,171)</sup>

## Lichens, mosses, liverworts and ferns

The churchyards, boundary walls and trees in Horndean have been identified as hosts to over 70 species. <sup>(172,173,174)</sup>

## Actions to improve natural habitat

Ref.	Action	Stake-holders	Time-Frame
N1	Extend priority habitat around Catherington Down to maximise the extent and structural diversity of the grassland.	Horndean Parish Council. (HPC) Hampshire County Council (HCC) Hampshire Wildlife Trust	O
N2	Improve designated sites (SSSI's and SINC's) to enable them to function as core areas in the local green infrastructure network.	HPC Landowners Hampshire Wildlife Trust	O
N3	Improve seasonal management of nature reserves to reduce damage to sites by overuse or disruption to grazing and hence avoid prejudicing the biodiversity status and value of designated sites. This could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short periods of closure of selected areas to users or restriction of access to dogs;</li> <li>• Encouragement of better control of dogs;</li> <li>• Encouragement of owners to pick up dogs droppings and strengthen enforcement;</li> <li>• Enable dog owners to use other routes.</li> </ul>	HPC East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) HCC	O
N4	Complete the Horndean Pond survey and encourage residents and landowners to manage existing ponds to improve the value of water sources for wildlife and wetland habitat.	HPC; Residents and landowners.	O
N5	Investigate ways of protected existing trees and copses and providing additional tree planting to improve the tree coverage in the parish within the style of the Forest of Bere.	Horndean Biodiversity Group; HPC; EHDC; Land owners; Forestry Commission; South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA).	O

## Farmed Areas

Over 50% of the land in Horndean is farmed and is mainly in the northwest, west and northeast of the parish. The majority of farming is arable with some grazing. Most farmed land in Horndean is grade 3 land. This is moderate to good quality agricultural land, capable of growing a range of arable crops with relatively few restrictions.

There is a small amount of set aside of field margins but insufficient to compensate for the large areas of single crop culture. Environmental Stewardship schemes for improvement are available but the uptake by local landowners is low and mainly at the entry level.

There is evidence of excessive hedge cutting reducing the value of hedges to wildlife and examples of land next to the urban area being converted to horse grazing, being overgrazed and then offered for

housing development. Coinciding with these changes there is evidence of local loss of species  
(175,176,177,178)

### Equestrian Issues

Equestrian activities employ many people in Horndean, use a significant amount of land and several old farm buildings. Activities are limited by gaps in the bridleway network and minor roads with significant amounts of fast moving traffic at several times of the day. Some members of the equestrian community try to improve practices but there are concerns about overgrazing, damage to hedges and trees by horses and the consequential reduced opportunities for wildlife. (179,180)

### Farming, landowning and equestrian actions

Ref.	Action	Stake-holders	Time-Frame
N6	Work with SDNPA and Forestry Commission staff to encourage more local landowners to participate in environmental stewardship schemes in particular at the higher level and also schemes under the English Woodland Grant Scheme. This is to conserve, enhance and promote the countryside by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Looking after wildlife, species and their many habitats;</li> <li>➤ Ensuring land is well managed and retains its traditional character;</li> <li>➤ Protecting historic features and natural resources;</li> <li>➤ Ensuring traditional livestock and crops are conserved;</li> <li>➤ Providing opportunities for people to visit and learn about the countryside.</li> </ul>	Horndean Biodiversity Group HPC Land owners/farmers; Forestry Commission; SDNPA.	S / M
N7	Encourage farmers to minimise hedge cutting and, where possible, only cut every 2 years or longer to provide habitat for wildlife, improve pollination and improve wild life corridors.	Horndean Biodiversity Group Farmers and landowners. SDNPA	S
N8	Encourage horse owners to improve grazing practices to reduce loss of wild life habitat and hence improve the habitat and pollination around areas with horse grazing.	Horndean Biodiversity Group British Horse Society; Hampshire and West Sussex Borders Bridleway Group	S

### Rural open spaces

Horndean Parish Council manages and maintains several Nature Reserves and other open spaces in attractive and quiet locations. They are open to the public for recreation and to raise awareness of the needs of the countryside. These nature reserves contain important habitats. A network of wildlife corridors could enable them to become core areas of high nature conservation value.  
(181,182,183,184,185,186)

The problems include:

- A shortage of playing fields and informal recreation sites results in the Nature Reserves being more heavily used; (187)
- In wet weather some public rights of way to these sites are very muddy, partly due to a lack of maintenance. Consequently people drive to the site instead of walking. This leads to overuse and damage of the site;
- Poor control of dogs is making it difficult to graze sites to maintain the standard of habitat. Hampshire County Council (HCC) has proposed actions but not all proposals are viable on all sites;
- In a few locations failure to pick up dog droppings could downgrade calcareous grassland. (188;189;190;191;192)

### Wildlife corridors

Horndean Parish has an extensive network of verges, hedgerows and green lanes but close to the urban area many of these links are in a poor state and many of the designated sites are comparatively small and isolated. (193)

Proposals for some additional wildlife corridors have been made by Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (194) but to be effective a more extensive network is needed (195). The cost of providing the

corridors should not be high but agreement of land owners will be required and a reappraisal of how to approach this might help.

There are concerns regarding:

- The isolation of wildlife in Yoells Copse, Catherington Down, Hazleton Common, Dell Piece West and South Horndean from the surrounding areas;
- The detrimental effect on the productivity of the countryside resulting from the decrease in pollinating insects; <sup>(196,197,198,199.)</sup>
- The number of species in some areas appears to be low;
- The low uptake of Environmental Stewardship Schemes and England Woodland Grant Schemes.

### Rural open spaces and Wildlife corridor actions

Ref.	Action	Stake-holders	Time-Frame
N9	Encourage residents to walk, cycle or use public transport into the countryside instead of travelling by car. Pedestrian access to Catherington Down should increase if Ham Lane, Crouch Lane and Tagdell Lane were improved. The objective is to reduce the damage to rural open spaces and surrounding areas by seasonal overuse and parking on verges.	HCC; EHDC; HPC.	S / M
N10	Increase the network of wild life corridors to effectively connect designated sites and link them to the urban area. The objective is to improve biodiversity and pollination.	HPC; EHDC; Land owners and farmers; Horndean Biodiversity Group.	M / L
N11	Plant strips of wild flowers, trees and hedges along the boundaries of open spaces to help improve the local biodiversity and improve appearance.	HCC; EHDC; HPC.	M / L
N12	Investigate the possible multiple use of sites such as playing fields, play areas, industrial sites, bridleways, and roadside verges as wildlife corridors to improve Horndean's network of wild life corridors.	Horndean Biodiversity Group; HCC; EHDC; HPC; Land owners.	M / L

### Access to the countryside

Horndean has a good set of public rights of way<sup>(200)</sup> (See local Ordnance Survey maps for details <sup>(201)</sup>). There are however limitations to access and use:

- Almost all footpaths start and finish with stiles as opposed to kissing gates restricting access for people with limited mobility;
- Misuse and limited maintenance has resulted in most bridleways and byways being very muddy in wet weather and some have long term obstructions. In the Forest of Bere Countryside Access Plan 2008-2013 HCC state that the Forest of Bere area multi access routes are in worse condition than the rest of the county. <sup>(202,203,204.)</sup>
- There are gaps in the bridleway/byway network: to QE Park, Havant Thicket, Rowlands Castle and across the parish, limiting cycling and horse riding <sup>(205,206,207).</sup>
- Several lanes that are useful links in the walking, cycling and horse riding networks are subject to "Rat running". This reduces leisure use. A Quiet Lanes initiative with reduced speed limits as outlined in the recent (July 2012) Department for Transport consultative document would improve access for these groups <sup>(208;209;210).</sup>
- There are very few seats on walking routes which limit their use.

### Access Land

Catherington Down, Hazleton Common, Netherley Down and a small area in Hinton are designated as access land under the 'Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000'. There are no public rights of way to the last 2 sites. <sup>(211)</sup>

### Access to the countryside actions

Ref.	Action	Stake-holders	Time-Frame
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N13	Work with HCC and HPC to replace stiles with kissing gates on off road walking routes close to Horndean's estates. The objective is to improve access to the countryside for people with limited mobility.	HCC; HPC; EHDC;	S / M
N14	Work with HCC to improve the condition of Bridleways and Byways so that they can be used throughout the year. The poor state of Ham Lane (13), Tagdell Lane (48), Crouch Lane (47) and the byways and bridleways around Woodcroft Farm including Bridleway 41 restricts their use. Bridleway 24 including 'A' and 'B' are in a poor state for cycling although they attract many cyclists. The objective is to enable and encourage more people to walk and cycle, especially to Local Nature Reserves, instead of using cars.	HCC; HPC; Horndean Biodiversity Group.	O
N15	Work with EHDC, HCC and the SDNPA to extend the bridleway network across Horndean and from Horndean to: QE Park, Rowlands Castle and Havant Thicket. The objective is to improve the network of off road routes to local venues for cyclists and horse riders.	HCC; SDNPA; EHDC.	O
N16	Consult with HCC and the community to establish a volunteer group to help maintain rights of way in Horndean Parish to help the rights of way to serve the needs of the parish.	HCC; HPC; Local residents.	S / M
N17	Encourage HPC to establish an initiative for people to fund seats on walking routes in Horndean Parish to extend peoples walking range.	HPC.	S / M
N18	Work with HCC and the SDNPA to obtain reductions in speed limits on minor rural roads to enable more people to walk, cycle and ride horses in the parish.	HCC; SDNPA. HPC	S / M

## South Downs National Park (SDNP)

The SDNP includes approximately 40% of Horndean Parish and could significantly influence Horndean's future. Development within the park will be limited but this increases pressures for development close to the park.

The SDNP provides opportunities to: improve the local biodiversity, increase recreational facilities and with more visitor accommodation, help local business. <sup>(212)</sup>

As the use of the SDNP increases, the need for additional local parking is likely to increase. To minimise parking on verges and to enable local businesses to benefit parking would be best close to the commercial centre which borders the park boundary and has public transport links into the park.

### South Downs National Park actions

Ref.	Action	Stake-holders	Time-Frame
N19	Any additional parking for the SDNP should be close to Horndean's commercial centre. Parking at sensitive locations away from the centre should be discouraged. The objective is to protect the areas just within and just outside the SDNP from additional unsightly car parks and excessive verge parking and to enable local businesses to benefit from the national park.	EHDC; HCC; SDNPA; HPC.	

## Public consultation

In the 2008 public consultation <sup>(213,214)</sup> the following feedback was obtained on natural environment issues.

### 4.1.1 What priority would you give to the following proposals?

- Introduce more seats on walking routes. (62%);
- Establish a register of high value trees (58%);
- New footpath from Hazleton Common to Havant Thicket and proposed new reservoir (57%);
- Improve Bridleway 41 from Lovedean to Denmead to allow use by cyclists, walkers and riders. (55%);
- Investigate improved safety of rights of way across Hazleton A3(M) junction 50%
- Replace stiles with Kissing Gates on Footpaths 20 from London Road to Blendworth Church and on footpath 21 from Highcroft Lane to Lith Avenue. 43%;
- Improve surface of Ham Lane 33%.

## 6 - Education

Within the updated community planning model<sup>(215)</sup>, originally adopted in the Parish in 2005, the Business & Economy section has a sub-section on local education, learning and skills development. This invites community planners to address questions like:

1. Are there any issues with local schools?
2. Are there significant non-vocational training gaps?
3. Do people have access to the Internet?
4. Are the skills needed by the growth sectors of the local Travel-To-Work-Area (TTWA) being met by the workforce from the Parish?
5. What is the mix of generic and sector-specific skills that local (TTWA) employers most value and most need to help their business?
6. Can the local workforce access vocational training to raise general skills levels in the community to work to the benefit the local economy?
7. Where are decisions made about the provision of training opportunities within the Parish? By whom are these decisions made?

In 2011, these were considered of such importance that the community planning team 'promoted' the topic of *Learning in the Parish* to be a primary section in the Community Plan in its own right.

In addition to addressing the questions raised above, the purpose of this section is:

1. to identify what existing education and community learning is offered locally,
2. to examine the issue of promoting local workforce skills,
3. to generate proposals for further development that encourage individual development and local economic performance

The proposals contained herein may appear somewhat unrealistic and over-optimistic to some. They are purposefully aspirational and challenging. We also make no apology for examining the common assumption that all strategy and policy for, and provision of education and training should be left to others (local authorities, local education office, further education colleges and other teaching institutions).

### Public consultation

None of the questions above was asked in the 2008 public consultation<sup>(216)</sup>. Yet this has not limited the conclusions and recommendations of this section. Because the issues raised have wide importance, information at district, county and national levels has been accessed. Where cited, references are noted. Also, there was valuable feedback on the major education proposals at a public consultation held at Merchistoun Hall on 11 September 2011<sup>(217)</sup>. This was generally considered in the writing of this section.

Nevertheless, it would be invaluable, as part of the ongoing delivery of the proposals outlined below, to be able to inform local citizens more effectively and to engage more with those most to gain from them, perhaps through focus groups, if not parish-wide surveys.

### Introduction – actions

Ref.	Action	Stake-holders	Time-Frame
L1	Inform local citizens more effectively as part of the ongoing delivery of the proposals outlined in this plan.	HPC, HBN,	O
L2	Engage more with those with most to gain from the proposals in this plan, perhaps through focus groups, if not parish-wide surveys.	HIND HPC	O

## Existing local education

The following facilities and schools are available in or close to the Parish:

Pre-school	Website	Ofsted	Performance
Catherington Nursery	<a href="http://bit.ly/lwvMNA">http://bit.ly/lwvMNA</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/ltkdrO">http://bit.ly/ltkdrO</a>	
Dimensions Childcare at HTC	<a href="http://bit.ly/IC3TIN">http://bit.ly/IC3TIN</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/lIgnZA">http://bit.ly/lIgnZA</a>	
Horndean Hoppers Pre-School	<a href="http://bit.ly/JEETf4">http://bit.ly/JEETf4</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/IY6gzb">http://bit.ly/IY6gzb</a>	
Horndean Pre-School	<a href="http://bit.ly/lTjMh1">http://bit.ly/lTjMh1</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/lTks5Z">http://bit.ly/lTks5Z</a>	
Kingscourt School	<a href="http://bit.ly/Kwj5il">http://bit.ly/Kwj5il</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/lo6P3b">http://bit.ly/lo6P3b</a>	
Merchistoun Minnows	<a href="http://bit.ly/lFW2XE">http://bit.ly/lFW2XE</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/J12qqx">http://bit.ly/J12qqx</a>	
Woodcroft Pre-School	<a href="http://bit.ly/lFWnts">http://bit.ly/lFWnts</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/KUdlUy">http://bit.ly/KUdlUy</a>	
<b>Primary</b>			
Horndean Infant School	<a href="http://bit.ly/KscDZo">http://bit.ly/KscDZo</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/lXl3bJ">http://bit.ly/lXl3bJ</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/lFUyUf">http://bit.ly/lFUyUf</a>
Horndean CEC Junior School	<a href="http://bit.ly/lTlfUL">http://bit.ly/lTlfUL</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/lLzRt7">http://bit.ly/lLzRt7</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/KsdJVc">http://bit.ly/KsdJVc</a>
Kingscourt School	<a href="http://bit.ly/Kwj5il">http://bit.ly/Kwj5il</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/lo6P3b">http://bit.ly/lo6P3b</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/JpNBcT">http://bit.ly/JpNBcT</a>
Catherington CEC Infant School	<a href="http://bit.ly/lHwk48">http://bit.ly/lHwk48</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/lop7m7">http://bit.ly/lop7m7</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/lCc5SW">http://bit.ly/lCc5SW</a>
Petersgate Infant School (Clanfield)	<a href="http://bit.ly/lY6O8c">http://bit.ly/lY6O8c</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/KdQcgl">http://bit.ly/KdQcgl</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/lY7A4Y">http://bit.ly/lY7A4Y</a>
Woodcroft Primary	<a href="http://bit.ly/lJsvMd5">http://bit.ly/lJsvMd5</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/lJKZFr">http://bit.ly/lJKZFr</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/KsdUzJ">http://bit.ly/KsdUzJ</a>
Clanfield Junior School	<a href="http://bit.ly/lJsvSkJ">http://bit.ly/lJsvSkJ</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/lo8KEO">http://bit.ly/lo8KEO</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/lY7Dhp">http://bit.ly/lY7Dhp</a>
Rowlands Castle St John's CEC Primary School	<a href="http://bit.ly/KUgpiq">http://bit.ly/KUgpiq</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/lIhLLX">http://bit.ly/lIhLLX</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/JgfMN9">http://bit.ly/JgfMN9</a>
<b>Secondary</b>			
Horndean Technology College	<a href="http://bit.ly/K3BnKP">http://bit.ly/K3BnKP</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/JggmKX">http://bit.ly/JggmKX</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/lCcXqC">http://bit.ly/lCcXqC</a>
Rachel Madocks School	<a href="http://bit.ly/lwypyW">http://bit.ly/lwypyW</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/lJPpQNg">http://bit.ly/lJPpQNg</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/lJVu2yM">http://bit.ly/lJVu2yM</a>
Cowplain Community School	<a href="http://bit.ly/lCeIUW">http://bit.ly/lCeIUW</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/lY9eU9">http://bit.ly/lY9eU9</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/K3DjTt">http://bit.ly/K3DjTt</a>
<b>16 – 19</b>			
Rachel Madocks School	<a href="http://bit.ly/lwypyW">http://bit.ly/lwypyW</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/lJPpQNg">http://bit.ly/lJPpQNg</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/lJVu2yM">http://bit.ly/lJVu2yM</a>

Oaklands Catholic School	<a href="http://bit.ly/J17uLz">http://bit.ly/J17uLz</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/IClkmc">http://bit.ly/IClkmc</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/KUkYdF">http://bit.ly/KUkYdF</a>
South Downs College	<a href="http://bit.ly/Kwmtdp">http://bit.ly/Kwmtdp</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/JPq9aG">http://bit.ly/JPq9aG</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/IY7OZY">http://bit.ly/IY7OZY</a>
Havant Sixth Form College	<a href="http://bit.ly/ICfRMe">http://bit.ly/ICfRMe</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/K01EbT">http://bit.ly/K01EbT</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/lopRrc">http://bit.ly/lopRrc</a>
Highbury College	<a href="http://bit.ly/JEI06S">http://bit.ly/JEI06S</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/IGbL9g">http://bit.ly/IGbL9g</a>	<a href="http://bit.ly/ICdOYt">http://bit.ly/ICdOYt</a>

## Extended services

The Extended Services Programme was set up in 2005. This set the challenge for all Hampshire schools to provide access to a full core offer of extended services for children, young people, families and the local community by September 2010. The programme was funded by the government as part of its *Change for Children* and the *Every Child Matters* agenda. The core offer was developed to ensure that all children and parents would have access to minimum levels of services and activities that would promote pupil motivation, achievement and behaviour.

Funding for the Programme ceasing in July 2011, however, the Association Manager at Horndean Community Association and the Community Manager at Horndean Technology College (original coordinators for the Horndean cluster of schools) have continued the meetings of the steering group (heads of the schools in the original cluster and other stakeholders) and to signpost opportunities and news of interest for local schools, including the work and actions of the Local Children's Partnership (LCP) for Horndean and Cowplain, itself part of a larger LCP covering the whole of Havant.

The menu of activities provided by the programme include:

- After-school, study support and holiday activities
- Parenting support and family learning
- Affordable childcare on a school site or through local providers
- Swifter and easier access to specialist services
- Community access to school facilities and adult learning, some of which incur a charge

This worthwhile endeavour should be acknowledged, encouraged and supported.

## Extended services actions

Ref.	Action	Stake-holders	Time-Frame
L3	Acknowledge, encourage and support the Extended Services Programme.	HTC, CCS, HCC	S / M

## Capacity - school places plan

Hampshire County Council (HCC) has a statutory duty to plan the provision of school places in the Parish and to secure an appropriate balance locally between supply and demand. In December 2011, HCC published for consultation a draft School Places Plan 2011-15<sup>(218)</sup>. The report shows surplus school places at Horndean Technology College, a situation reflected across most areas of Hampshire.

The table (Right) has been derived from the appendix to that report and shows the number of spare / unfilled primary and secondary places in the Parish, as at January 2011.

The report itself acknowledged that "... (EHDC) is reviewing allocations for residential development." In December 2011, EHDC announced that the southern parishes of Horndean, Clanfield & Finchdean, and Rowlands Castle (pop. 19,600 approx.), we have an expectation that 1,115 homes will be delivered by 2028<sup>(219)</sup> of which 840 might reasonably be expected in Horndean. We should ensure that the School Places Plan factors in these numbers.

HCC is consulted by East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) with regard to any housing development. Where there is a need to extend any of the schools in the area discussions would be held with the developer to try and agree a contribution to allow the additional places to be provided.

It should be emphasised that these numbers are forecasts and, in the event, the detail is likely to be different. For example, at time of writing (May 2012), the expected intake for Year 7 at Horndean Technology College is 232, leaving 68 projected spare places – although this does change weekly.

PAN = Published Admission Number  YR = Reception Year		School			
		Horndean Infant School	Catherington Church Of England Infant School	Horndean CE (Controlled) Junior School	Horndean Technology College
PAN →		90	30	128	300
Spare Places	YR	2	0		
	Y1	-1	0		
	Y2	0	1		
	Y3			4	
	Y4			16	
	Y5			-2	
	Y6			7	
	Y7				83
	Y8				68
	Y9				59
	Y10				67
	Y11				83

### School places plan actions

Ref.	Action	Stake-holders	Time-Frame
L4	Ensure that the School Places Plan factors in the additional housing numbers for the Southern Parishes.	HCC	S / M

## Local community learning

Community Learning, sometimes called lifelong learning, covers a wide range of programmes including: family learning, neighbourhood learning in deprived communities, personal and community development learning, skills for independent living, first steps learning, leisure learning and adult skills.

Hampshire Learning, part of Hampshire County Council, provides a primary support service for community learning for Hampshire. Funding, mainly from the Skills Funding Agency, is directed where they see most need, usually in areas of deprivation, low educational attainment or social exclusion. In this respect, the relative affluence of the Parish, compared to other more urban parts of SE Hampshire, will not attract significant funding without a strong case. However, they do also provide free teaching resources to enable community providers to offer NCFE-accredited courses on a wide range of subjects. Currently the accredited courses on offer locally are:

- Horndean Technology College: Floristry Level 1, Floristry Level 2, Beginning IT Level 1.
- Cowplain Community School: IT Level 2

The Parish has centres around the community which provide informal, non-vocational learning opportunities. The following were offered for Spring Term 2012:

### Horndean Technology College

- Floristry (accredited), Basic Hairdressing (unaccredited)
- Basic and Improvers IT skills, Photoshop
- Dancing (Ballroom and Latin Dancing)
- Local History, Cake Decoration, Pottery
- Exercise & Sport



### Merchistoun Hall

- Dancing (Swing, Balboa, Line Dancing, Egyptian Dance, Tea Dance, Children's Irish Dancing)
- Pets
- Keep Fit options (Tai Chi, Yoga, Children's Judo, Fencing, Zumba, Pilates)
- Adult Learning (Classical Guitar, Beginners Drawing & Painting, China Painting)
- U3A (Walking, Photography, Painting, German, Science, Quilting)
- Theatre (HATS)

### Napier Hall

- Exercise & Sport (Diet & fitness classes, Pilates, Karate)
- Dancing
- Adult Learning (Lace Making)
- Pet care

### Lovedean Village Hall

- Exercise and Sport (Tai Chi, Badminton, Yoga)
- Adult Learning (Art Classes, Upholstery Classes, Writing Group, Hampshire Guitar Orchestra)
- Dancing (Line Dancing, classes)
- Theatre (Stage School)

### Jubilee Hall

- Exercise and Sport (Diet & fitness classes, Aerobics, Yoga)

### Cowplain Community School

- Exercise and Sport (athletics, netball)
- Drama and dance
- Cookery
- Introductory ICT (using the Internet, emails, Microsoft Office and digital cameras)

### Other facilities

Catherington Village Hall, All Saints Church Hall and Catherington and Blendworth Church Centre may also conduct community learning classes from time to time.

The Local Education Office in Havant has advised that "Havant College, Highbury College, Horndean Technology College and Cowplain Community School are all delivering lifelong learning provision with a total value of over £98,000 (in 2011/12)"<sup>(220)</sup>. They further advise that "... it is important for these providers to make sure their funding is used. If it is not expended, then contracts will have to be reduced in future years and these opportunities will be lost to the area. Therefore engaging local people who can benefit from these opportunities will be crucial in the coming year."

We propose to work with Hampshire Learning, the learning partnerships in Havant Borough and East Hampshire District and the WEA (Workers Educational Association) to develop an integrated community learning plan for the Parish, based on the needs of the community.

Another option to consider is to set up a local branch of the WEA (<http://www.wea.org.uk/>) and to run courses, using local WEA tutors. These could bring subjects such Art, Languages, Creative Writing and History to the Parish.

### Local community learning actions

Ref.	Action	Stake-holders	Time-Frame
L5	Work with Hampshire Learning, the learning partnerships in Havant Borough and East Hampshire District and the WEA to develop an integrated community learning plan for the Parish, based on the needs of the community.	HL, EHCLF, HLP	M
L6	Set up a local branch of the WEA and to run courses, using local WEA tutors.	HCA, WEA	M

## Local workforce skills

### Promoting a sustainable community

We argue below that to promote the development of more skills in the local workforce is fundamental to promoting a more sustainable community. But what is a sustainable community? Conventionally, sustainable communities are those that embrace the principles of sustainable development<sup>(221)</sup> and legislation<sup>(222)</sup> has been passed to cover that.

It is a fundamental principle of this community plan that the area should contribute to, rather than be reliant upon, regional and national growth strategies. In short, the area must strive to become economically more sustainable than ever before, i.e. be competitive.

Having few significant employment opportunities locally (see Business & Economy section), the 'exportability' of the workforce is the Parish's key driver of economic sustainability. It follows that the higher the skills of the workforce are, the better the economic sustainability of the Parish is likely to be.

### The importance of growing local workforce skills

A more highly skilled workforce is essential to a sustainable economy by raising productivity, outputs and wages through increased knowledge, potential and contribution. The arguments in favour of promoting the growth of local workforce skills are:

1. In the drive to reduce costs, the trend in business for the last 20 years, has been for the workplace to become increasingly process and technology-driven, resulting in the replacement of skilled roles by those of lower skill levels and therefore lower wages. To sustain income and avoid redundancy, fresh skills need to be acquired by established employees that create new added-value propositions to offer their employers.
2. The decline of the primary and secondary employment sectors and the relative growth of the tertiary sector<sup>(223)</sup>, means that someone made redundant from manufacturing, may not get re-employed unless they have prepared for working in, for example, a service industry.
3. The local workforce is required to undertake more and longer distance commuting, in common with the national trend. The increasing cost of this travel requires proportionally higher incomes. These can only be commanded by those with skills to match.
4. Employees living locally, and having skills for which they see a commercial demand, may wish, at some time during their careers, to consider becoming self-employed and starting their own business locally. By signposting, or even offering training for such people helps to reduce the chances of failure by introducing them to basic skills, not previously acquired, that are needed for business success, e.g. marketing, employment law, project management, payroll, business planning.
5. A local workforce with high skill levels attract employers and entrepreneurs to set up locally.

In skilled employment, further skills are developed and maintained 'on the job' or through in-house training. But how do the unemployed in general, and job-starters in particular, or the unskilled, acquire and maintain the necessary skills to be competitive? In the interests of developing an appropriate sustainable local economy, it is critical that all, and in particular the unemployed, have access to training and skills development opportunities.

In the Parish we have a particular challenge in this respect. HCC has stated that "although an acknowledged pathway back to work, the provision of vocational adult education in larger residential parishes, such as Horndean, usually is neither as broad nor as deep as in towns of comparable or even lower population."<sup>(224)</sup> HCC sees potential in the Parish to broaden the adult education curriculum and to integrate it more closely with other learning opportunities. We too recognise this and should collaborate in the development of an ongoing programme of training.

### East Hampshire Sustainable Community Strategy

East Hampshire Community Partnership developed a Sustainable Community Strategy<sup>(225)</sup> in 2008 that established, among others, a set of priority outcomes relating to education and lifelong learning in the district.

Two priority outcomes are important here:

1. *"Increase opportunities for adults to learn by providing more high quality learning provision in their local communities."*

2. *“Increase availability and take-up of apprenticeships and work placements for school leavers and those returning to work.”*

The East Hampshire Sustainable Community Strategy also established a set of priority outcomes relating to the local economy that reinforce and complement the initiatives proposed here.

It is disappointing to note that in Spring 2012 there are only three courses on offer in the Parish offering accreditation (at Horndean Technology College). As part of the lifelong learning ethos we would wish to promote more courses offering accreditation.

We should ensure that this strategy is implemented, particularly in this parish for the five reasons cited above. These priority outcomes offer an opportunity for the Parish to collaborate with East Hampshire Community Partnership to identify and establish accredited courses that could be taken up by residents.

### East Hampshire Employment and Skills Audit and Action Plan

The East Hampshire Employment and Skills Audit and Action Plan<sup>(226)</sup>, produced in 2010, should have been absolutely fundamental to successful workforce skills development in the Parish. In the event, this promising consultant-produced report fell short of being useful at a parish level. Commissioned by EHDC, the focus was Whitehill & Bordon with only two data references to Horndean (and none to Rowlands Castle and Clanfield & Finchdean). Nevertheless, the existence of this report provides a valuable starting point for Horndean and the other south-of-Butser parishes and, with a little additional work, could be used much further afield than Whitehill & Bordon.

It is proposed that Horndean (and other East Hampshire communities) should have access to and use of the systematic approach (method) used by the consultants. This method would need to be both re-usable and (within reason) scalable. Local volunteers, working as a team, would then conduct the research by following the method. Compliance with the relevant legislation (e.g. data protection) and ensuring consistency and sustainability would be key issues to be managed.

This would then enable a community-led employment and skills audit and action plan for the Parish. In this context it is important to keep up to date with other local initiatives to avoid duplication.

At this stage, informed by the data gathered in action 10, it would also be our intention to define and develop a project to introduce sustainable, local-community-led services to:

1. Equip job starters with the best chance of first-time employment, keeping the number of ‘NEETS’ as low as possible.
2. Help the local unemployed workforce to be competitive in the job market, keeping local unemployment as low as possible. To facilitate this, we propose to exploit the current national momentum behind the creation of apprenticeships by investigating opportunities on offer from the National Apprenticeship Service (<http://bit.ly/KUAVQZ>) and local apprenticeship training agencies like Apprenticeships for Business (<http://bit.ly/JsExDM>).
3. Support and sustain the local workforce to become ‘market-leaders’ in their chosen fields to drive economic competitiveness locally, regionally and nationally and to become the area’s principle and most successful ‘export’.
4. Encourage successful business start-ups through the provision of basic business skills training.

Regarding these two reports, we, in the Parish, propose to develop a flexible, proactive working relationship with East Hampshire Community Partnership and EHDC to ensure that the benefits of the priority outcomes and proposals presented therein are both delivered and realised in the Parish (and wider afield).

### Local workforce skills actions

Ref.	Action	Stake-holders	Time-Frame
L7	Collaborate with HCC in the development of an ongoing programme of training to broaden the adult education curriculum in the Parish and to integrate it more closely with other learning opportunities.	HL, HTC, CCS,	M / L
L8	Collaborate with the East Hampshire Community Partnership to identify and establish accredited courses that could be taken up by residents.	EHCP, HCC	M / L

Ref.	Action	Stake-holders	Time-Frame
L9	It is proposed that Horndean (and other East Hampshire communities) should have access to and use of the systematic approach (method) used by the consultants in developing the East Hampshire Employment and Skills Audit and Action Plan.	EHDC	M
L10	Prepare a community-led employment and skills audit and action plan for the Parish. Keep up-to-date with other local initiatives to avoid duplication.	Local community groups	S / M
L11	Exploit the current national momentum behind the creation of apprenticeships by investigating opportunities on offer from the National Apprenticeship Service and local apprenticeship training agencies like Apprenticeships for Business to help the local unemployed workforce to be competitive in the job market.	EHDC HCC LEA	O
L12	Encourage successful business start-ups through the provision of basic business skills training.	HCA, HTC EHDC	S / M / L
L13	Develop a flexible, proactive working relationship with East Hampshire Community Partnership and EHDC to ensure that the benefits of the priority outcomes and proposals presented in the East Hampshire Sustainable Community Strategy are delivered and realised in the Parish.	EHCP, EHDC	S / M
L14	Develop a flexible, proactive working relationship with East Hampshire Community Partnership and EHDC to ensure that the benefits of the priority outcomes and proposals presented in the East Hampshire Employment and Skills Audit and Action Plan are delivered and realised in the Parish.	EHDC	S / M

## Local access to public information

### Library

See Section 1 "Social and Community"

### Public Internet

Apart from the 3 public computers at Horndean Library, there are no other known public Internet access points in the Parish. There are 15 public computers at Waterloo Library and 22 at Petersfield Library.

There is one UK Online Centre (<http://bit.ly/KwpU3T>) in the Parish, at Women's Wisdom in Blendworth (<http://bit.ly/J1eFTS>), and one just outside the Parish at the Acorn Centre (<http://bit.ly/IYaOWf>) in Wecock. These offer courses for beginners to get online. Consideration should be given to undertaking a needs analysis for more residents in the Parish getting online.

Currently, the take-up and speed of broadband access is for the 5,500 homes in the Parish is not known. Further investigation needed.

### Community website

The Parish is poorly served by the media. The daily Portsmouth News has an East Hampshire section but rarely covers everyday events in Horndean. The weekly Petersfield Post covers local news in its

South of Butser section. Neither newspaper provides an information service for the area. There have been attempts in the past to set up a local paper but these have not survived.

We consider the best option is to investigate the viability of providing an information and communication 'hub' website like <http://www.hayling.co.uk> (which includes active community forums). The upgrading of <http://www.horndean.net> should be considered a first option, because although the quality and currency of the information on the site varies enormously, the basic infrastructure is there.

#### Public information actions

Ref.	Action	Stake-holders	Time-Frame
L15	Evaluate the feasibility of greater community involvement in Horndean Library.	Library Services	S
L16	Working with Hampshire Library Services, monitor the utilisation of the Horndean library and its ongoing viability.	Library Services	S
L17	Undertake a needs analysis for getting more Parish residents online.	HIND EHDC	M
L18	Investigate the take-up and speed of broadband access in the Parish.	HIND	M
L19	Investigate the viability of providing an information and communication 'hub' website. The upgrading of <a href="http://www.horndean.net">www.horndean.net</a> should be considered a first option.	EHDC, HBN	S



## Contributors

Many residents of Horndean have contributed to the development of this plan over the period 2005 – 2012. The following have played their part:

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## Key

BCC:	Branches Children Centre
CVRA:	Catherington Village Residents' Association
CCG:	Clinical Commissioning Group
DS:	Dr Surgery
EHDC:	East Hampshire District Council
NHS:	National Health Service
ILVs:	Identified local Venues
IPs:	Identified Partners
JCP:	Job Centre Plus
HBC:	Havant Borough Council
HBN:	Horndean Business Network
HCA:	Horndean Community Association
HCC:	Hampshire County Council
HPC:	Horndean Parish Council
HTC:	Horndean Technology College
NEET:	Not In Employment, Education or Training
TRP:	Traffic Regulation Order
WEA:	Workers Educational Association

## Project Notes

1. A stakeholder is a person, group or organisation who affects the action or can be affected by its outcome. All residents, businesses and groups in the Parish are included.
2. Timeframes: S = 1-2 yrs; M = 3-7 yrs; L >7 yrs. O = ongoing monitoring.

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or 5 on a scale of 1 to 5.  
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bays immediately adjacent to NE side of Precinct; and 12 bays immediately N of Horndean Fire  
Station  
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