

# East and West Hanney Neighbourhood Plans

## Hanney History Group Feedback

### 1. Format

At a Hanney History Group talk some of the steering committee asked members of the History Group to answer three questions. These were sent back over the following few weeks. .

### 2. Question 1- What do you like about East and West Hanney?

- The stream and surrounds- red brick cottages - reasonably quiet.
- Both villages have an attractive rural character and are still fairly small; they have grown up over centuries with a diversity of building styles and with plenty of green spaces between buildings (gardens, pasture, old orchards, etc.) and with the Letcombe Brook running through EH.
- The community woodland is a huge asset and I walk round the village most days and see a variety of interesting birds for example, a kingfisher along the brook and bullfinches in the woodland, occasionally a barn owl in early evening. I appreciate the feeling of wide open space as one walks between the villages and looks northwards. I would never have come to West Hanney 3.5 years ago had I known what would be proposed in the way of building developments.
- That it is a rural village with a wonderful community spirit.
- Local community spirit and village life style values.
- Surrounded by open countryside.
- Both are small separate villages - a mix of large and small dwellings, ranging in age from recent to several hundred years old; have traditional Manors, churches, pubs, mills, a stream, open fields, orchards, mixed farming, sports field, school, halls, active community with many clubs. Even has a community shop.
- Extensive footpath network,.
- few street lights,.
- some employment opportunities.
- Community Woodland.
- You could live and die within the village without having to leave it.  
We love the village environment in East Hanney and the ease of access to the countryside. We have made a lot of friends in both villages and have new friends coming into the village from elsewhere. The two pubs and the village shop are great assets and we use all three from time to time. We live close to the footpath from Main Street to the school and often

chat to people taking their children to and from school as well as other villagers that we have got to know over the years.

- There is a real village community and we feel involved in some of the community projects. When we go to village meetings and events, we always see people we know and this gives a great feeling/well being to our community life.
- Friendliness of village neighbourhood.
- Mix of housing, many with medium to large gardens, giving a real village feel not like an estate.
- The network of footpaths leading through and round the village and giving easy access to the countryside.
- The Brook running through the village.
- The community woodland.
- Lots of local wildlife.
- Village Hall offering a range of activities.
- Community spirit in running clubs and societies and taking on responsibilities on behalf of the whole community including Flood Group, Village Shop, Community Wood, Village events (eg Michaelmas Fayre), Community pub etc.
- Availability of 2 pubs, 2 restaurants and the village shop.
- Bus routes to Oxford and Wantage.
- The village school attracting younger families to the village.
- The church and the large manor houses/gardens which give a historic feel and additionally provide venues for events.
- Short distance to Wantage and Abingdon for shopping and medical facilities.
- Little street lighting.
- Rural setting, mixed aged community, mixed age properties, lovely walks and footpaths, Community Woodland, Community Shop, Village Hall, Village School, Playing Fields and Children's Play area, village church, number of village organisations, 2 village pubs, regular bus route to Oxford and Wantage (E, Hanney)
- No street lighting.
- The community feel; the number of clubs running, indicative of a healthy and active community, that can be accessed; the rural nature of the village; that it is a low crime area; the lack of traffic (apart from peak times)
- Being part of a community small enough to know people – particularly helpful as you get older! Neighbours who care.
- Peaceful. Dark at night. The general environment.
- Low crime area.
- The stream and surrounds- red brick cottages - reasonably quiet.
- Sense of community.
- (Some) people prepared to volunteer for self-help eg for Flood Group, litter pick etc. but it is usually the same core of people.
- Good selection of clubs and societies
- Good for dog walking
- The present socio-economic profile.
- Generally low crime.
- The Community Woodland
- Wildlife still pretty good despite the best efforts of some local farmers

- Closeness to Oxford for continuing education and culture opportunities and, of course, the JR. Closeness to the Ridgeway for cycling and walking.
- Housing development
- Antisocial behaviour- litter, vandalism, dog poo, petty theft.
- Volume and speed of **traffic** and the number of drivers clutching mobile phones to their ears as they negotiate corners one-handed. Sat-Nav bandits in their giant trucks.
- Helicopters, particularly at night

### 3. What do you dislike about East and West Hanney?

- Increase in **traffic**, fast through **traffic** (rat running) through village, increase in housing density,, village losing its “soul” through too much development. Insufficient “affordable” housing for those wishing to downsize, difficulty in parking on the road due to increase in fast through **traffic**.
- That we are threatened with being turned into a large housing estate. We have already had more than our share of new houses. This is mainly being achieved by windfall and absentee landowners who do not care about the village.
- Unfortunately, over the last few years, we have seen a change in the community and more **traffic** as the new houses in Wantage, Grove and Hanney drive past and through our village. I have seen many people speeding through the village and not taking care as they drive through. We have voted against the mass housing developments, although understand that there needs to be additional housing in the Hanneys. However, the villagers feel “put upon” by the commercial developers. This feeling has got to such a point as that we are now leaving the village and have put our house up for sale - along with a number of other like minded people. We did not move to Hanney more than 20 years ago to be part of Wantage and Grove. This is a real shame, but it is only a matter of time before Hanney is linked by housing with Grove and Wantage and the village environment that Hanney has enjoyed for years, will be lost.
- There has been too much in filling of large house's gardens, excessive new building on farm land, expansion of village boundaries.
- Through **traffic** (rat run), large vehicles destroying verges and damaging road surfaces, poor bus service, no transport links to rail network.
- Already too many estates built or have planning approval - not at all village like, too high, too dense, not compatible with existing village houses.
- Overhanging vegetation on pavements and footpaths.
- Litter louts.
- Dog owners.
- Parking on pavements.
- No bus service to Didcot station.
- Potential to be swamped by large housing estate style developments.
- Expansion of village boundaries.
- Increase in on-road parking.

- Significant increase in heavy **traffic** using the village roads and ruining the verges and pushing in the ditches.
- Potential of flooding to our property.
- Vehicles driving too fast through the village.
- The proposals to add several very large-scale developments (as well as all the small, or smaller, ones already going in) which are completely inappropriate to the scale and character of the existing villages. The villages could end up coalescing and could be transformed into one characterless, unattractive urban settlement (as has happened at Grove) without having an actual historic town centre or the amenities of a town. There would be many adverse consequences. I particularly dislike the way a developer can resort to appeal even when the local council and community have had their say and rejected a development for very good reasons (as with the 200 houses proposed south of EH). There is nothing democratic about this. The planning system is flawed and needs to be revised to protect rural communities from the sort of free-for-all we are experiencing in the Vale currently as people seek to cash-in and sell land (any piece of their holdings which takes their fancy), having acquired planning permission, just to make money.
- Fake cotswold stone new builds .
- litter spread from recycling trucks, muddy and wet roads.
- Increasing **traffic** levels during morning rush hour.
- Some footpaths around village un-walkable due to mud making walking child to school impossible  
Dislikes – apart from speeding vehicles we couldn't think of anything else.
- Probable reduction of local community spirit and 'village' life style values due to gross over development of new housing.

#### 4. What could be improved?

- Provision of footpath for residents of Summertown
- Road narrowing to single lane on stretch between East and West Hanney to slow and deter through **traffic**. (particularly when passing the school)
- Provision of foot path for residents of Winter Lane
- Reinstatement of regular bus service to Milton Park and Didcot Parkway for train links etc (to encourage more people to use public transport).
- Parking improvements for parents dropping off children at school
- Clear need for vast improvement in drainage and sewage system for the existing villages, and, further capacity expansion before any further building is permitted. Why? It is overloaded now.
- Enforce clear drainage ditches and waterways throughout the village - main routes (responsibility of farmers / land owners), village water courses (responsibility of adjacent home owners). Why? to reduce flooding risk, clear routes for surface water to drain away from the village.

- Issues with Thames Water supply, pressure, etc. need to be resolved.  
Improvements in bus services - east-west as well as serving local areas better for schools and employment areas - including West Hanney. Why? There are no buses to Milton Park, Didcot Parkway, Faringdon, Newbury, Stanford-in-the-vale, etc. without having to first go into Wantage or Abingdon.
- Support the re-establishment of the Grove railway station initiative.
- Safe cycling route needed to Grove / Wantage; Abingdon.
- Enforce restrictions of large vehicles on village roads - verges, road surfaces all badly damaged, bridge by B Legion frequently damaged.
- Repairs needed to village footpaths e.g. HWMH via iron bridge to Main Street, The Causeway, Main Street to Dews Meadow Farm Shop.
- Make Summertown the preferred east - west through route to A338 instead of racing along Main Street.
- If there must be new building let it be low density, preferably bungalows, other sheltered accommodation (for elderly folk wishing to remain in the village).  
Prohibit live music, discos, etc.; after 23:00.

We have great respect for East and West Parish Councils and have supported them over the years. They are doing a fantastic job looking after our villages. The Flood Group is a huge asset and has done sterling work over the years. Thanks to the leaders and volunteers for their time and efforts. They are hugely appreciated and have stopped our village from flooding. Our concerns are about:

- the sewage system which is already at peak demand and needs huge infrastructure changes to enable it to cope with the increased housing demand.
- the amount of **traffic** on the A338 and being able to access it safely from the Hanneys. It is getting increasingly dangerous turning out in peak **traffic** and we are fearful that there will be serious road accidents if **traffic** flow is not controlled at the two East Hanney junctions.
- Increased **traffic** in East Hanney as a result of people using the village as a cut through and rat run. Considerations of **traffic** calming should be considered. The speed awareness group are doing a good job, but this does not prevent speeding motorists all the time.
- the additional housing - already mentioned above. This has an impact on:
  - the parking in Wantage which is already at breaking point. It should bring improved shopping - a definite plus - but where are people going to park in order to shop, use the restaurants etc.?
  - schooling - Hanney school is already full - where are primary and secondary schools children going to be educated and how do they get to school? This will also generate more **traffic!**
  - young people - what is being done to provide for our young people. There are no suitable facilities in Hanney, but with the additional housing, then facilities must be provided to enable young people to meet. Better use of the community hall to provide a coffee shop/games room for young people to meet, perhaps?
    - the environment/ecology - flooding is a major concern with the additional housing and rain run off. Where will all the rain water go? We know Thames Water have

pumping schemes, but are these really viable for a village that is more than doubling in size?

- The threat of the community being forced to grow disproportionately larger. Some housing is necessary, but the prospect of the village doubling or more in size in the next few years will change the feel of the community I was drawn to live in. The school being over capacity and not being able to accommodate Hanney families currently, let alone after more houses are built.
- Bus service to Didcot station to access railway via Steventon to reduce road traffic. General improvement in bus service to include West Hanney and potentially direct to Stanford in the Vale and Faringdon also to reduce road traffic.
- Designated parking area in Ashfields Lane for people using the X30 bus service. Increase in footpath network to link back into village eg north of East Hanney, east of East Hanney in the Steventon direction.
- Improve surface of Cow Lane to Grove but do not tarmac it or allow it to become motorized. Make it easier to walk in all weathers and could also be used by cyclists to access Grove and Wantage more safely.
- New developments should be sympathetic in design and small scale so as to keep the mix of housing styles and not swamp the village with urban developments and drastically change its character.
- Consider building of more bungalows so elderly residents can remain in the village.
- Possibility of sheltered accommodation too.
- Ensure East and West Hanney remain as separate villages with green space in between so their established entities remain even though united as a community and potentially could have a single Parish Council.
- Stop developments that would allow the villages to spread towards Grove to minimize urbanisation of the villages.
- Road surfaces and verges need to be better maintained, including clearing surface water drains so water does not collect at times of heavy rainfall. Enforce clearance activities. Similarly for maintenance of roadside ditches.
- Pavement surfaces should be repaired in some places and kept clear of overhanging vegetation to reduce hazards to pedestrians.
- General improvements to surface water drainage and sewage. Flood group has worked hard to address many of the flooding issues but clear responsibility needs to be maintained and enforced.
- Dustmen to collect light bulbs for recycling to reduce unnecessary travel to local waste recycling centres.
- Restrict large vehicles using the village to minimize damage to road corners, verges and the bridge at the British Legion and enforce restrictions.

- Improve network of footpaths between Hanneys. Better outside environment at school. Less executive style new builds - more small red brick cottages if new builds
  - There is scope for improving flood protection in the Thames Valley and its tributaries in imaginative ways, e.g. the re-wilding schemes to slow down flow at Long Wittenham. Flood plains need to retain their effectiveness as reservoirs at times of heavy rain and should not be built upon. It is always desirable too to enhance the ecology and biodiversity: the creation of the community woodland was a good example. Local children should be able to attend primary school in their local village as has been the case here up to now.
- Improve network of footpaths between Hanneys. Better outside environment at school. Less executive style new builds - more small red brick cottages if new builds
- Educational facilities (nursery and primary) to match needs of **current** local population.
  - Effective **traffic** calming - Specifically Main Street where speeds are 'excessive' at all times.
  - Most of these things apply to whether or not we are going to be turned into a suburban sprawl in which case the need for them all will become entirely different. One of the most pressing concerns is the amount of **traffic** on school road as it is now, never mind what it will become with all these new houses. Now, due to cars parked there is no room for two lanes of passing cars.
  - Improve public transport, there will soon be no bus service at all to West Hanney stranding some residents.
  - Restrictions to prevent HGVs rat-running through the village
  - Any new 'developments' should include provision for older people to downsize within the community eg 2-bedroom bungalows.
  - Shorter waiting time for Doctors appointments.
  - The Cow Lane path to Grove could be made into a cycle track to provide a sustainable transport route to Wantage and Grove and beyond. The Memorial Hall could be updated and enlarged to be suitable for a larger village. An additional tennis court and larger, more permanent tennis club building. A 20 mph speed limit through Main Street East Hanney, along the Green, East Hanney and on the main road through West Hanney. Resurfacing of the footpath from opposite the Chapel on Main Street going to the Memorial Hall (tree roots are causing cracks along this footpath, making it difficult for wheelchairs, pushchairs and mobility scooters).
- Speed restrictions – the roads can be quite dangerous at certain times
- Gutters cleaned more regularly
  - Need to keep ditch water flowing –(thank you Flood Group)
  - Local transport for the elderly and those who can't or who can no longer drive
  - Extension of village hall to meet the needs of the increasing population
  - Off-road parking – a pipe dream, but cars left on the narrow streets are becoming a real hazard
  - Housing – if we have to have more houses can they be of designs more suited to a village and not an urban estate?
  - Also there should probably less huge houses and more that ordinary folk might be able to afford.