



A Parish Plan - Dunton 2011



Introduction

A parish plan is based on a survey carried out by and for the local community. It is a means of taking stock of the community and creating a sound foundation of awareness and understanding on which to base future community action by identifying local strengths, needs, opportunities, problems, and threats.

This report has been prepared by a small working party of around 7 residents with input from Dunton Parish Council and Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity. It summarises and analyses the responses made to a

questionnaire which was delivered to each dwelling in the Parish of Dunton (Dunton, Millow & Newton) in early 2010 and makes recommendations for future action.

Given the significant number of people who responded, to whom the working party would like to pass on their thanks, this report can accurately be described as reflecting the views of the community and its vision for how it wants the parish to develop. It then identifies the actions needed to achieve the vision.

Dunton- The Historical Backdrop.

Dunton is a small village within the civil parish of Dunton Village and the hamlets of Millo & Newtonbury located in Bedfordshire. The parish covers nearly 2,750 acres, and is bounded on the south-east by Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire, from which it is separated by the River Rhee.

At the time of the Domesday Survey, Richard Pungiant held in Dunton 8 hides and 1 virgate of the King in Chief. This manor, part of which became later known as Dunton Chamberlain or Newtonbury, had formerly belonged to Archbishop Stigand. In 1200 the King granted the overlordship of this manor to William Brewer, but after his death in 1227, it reverted to the crown, and was henceforth held by the service of one-tenth of a knight's fee.

Over the following 300 years the three Manor houses of Millo, Newtonbury and Dunton (Goyes) passed through various ownerships eventually consolidating around 1600 into the ownership by the Spencer family.

Robert Spencer, grandson of William and second earl of Sunderland, held Dunton Goyes in 1662 and his son Charles, who died in 1722, left the property to a younger son John, who was created Earl Spencer in 1765.

After enclosure by Parliament in 1797 it continued to remain in the direct line of the Spencer family until 1812.

In 1871, the village had two blacksmiths, three thatchers, a needlemaker, and a cobbler as well as boasting five public houses. Of these, only one public house remains in current use with many - like the old Bakehouse - only a memory through street or house names.

With its ridge location, Dunton also became "famous" (as shown in the current village sign) for its 'docks' -a pond on the outskirts of the village, so called because the steam engines would stop there to fill up with water which supported the huge growth in mechanised farming at the turn of the late 1800s and the development of the cable plough which helped maintain the essentially rural feel of the village.

Whilst the bulk of the current housing stock outside of the main village centre is from the second half of the 20th Century the village still remains dominated by the 750 year old St Mary's Church. The first mention that has been found of a church is in 1189, when Richard I confirmed its possession to the priory of Holywell. No remains from this period are in evidence and the present building was mainly constructed during the 14 & 15th centuries, with the tower representing a more modern (1800s) addition.

Whilst some remains are in evidence at Newton of the old manor buildings, the parish, in addition to the church, have a further three Grade II listed buildings all found in Millow: Millow Bury (17th Century), Millow Hill Farmhouse (17th Century) and two cottages, numbers 12-14 (18th Century) on the hamlet edge.

Dunton in the 21st Century

With a population of 722 the parish still retains an essentially rural feel although fewer and fewer people are engaged in traditional rural activities.

Despite the loss of the Post Office in 2006 and the short-term closure of the Pub, local facilities are thriving with active use of the Village Hall (pre-school, clubs & societies), recreation field (football and play area), Dunton VC School, Church groups and the Community Garden.

The groups and societies range from the traditional WI, 3 book groups through to the oil buying group.

Why have a Parish Plan?

A plan for Dunton, based on the views of the residents, can help to make a difference to the village's future. It sets out villagers' priorities and concerns and an action plan for addressing these over the next five years. In particular, it will inform the Parish Council and other bodies about residents' wishes so that decisions can be made democratically, based on reliable information. The Plan will assist them in setting of budgets, choosing projects to support and responding to consultations by outside bodies such as Central Bedfordshire Council and central Government. It is known that grant applications for village improvements will have a far greater chance of success in winning funding when supported by a Parish Plan. Dunton's Parish Plan is, therefore, an action plan for the village.

How was this Plan developed?

A working group comprising volunteers from the village was set up in early 2009. Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity gave this group help, support and advice at all stages. It reviewed plans drawn up by other villages in Bedfordshire. Grants were obtained from the Parish Council to cover expenses such as printing and room hire. A series of consultation exercises were held through 2009 including "Planning for Real". Community groups were asked to identify 'likes' and 'dislikes' and contributions were sought from under 8s through the school and from young people via a visit from the Bedfordshire "RAVE" bus amongst others.

These activities helped the group devise a questionnaire for people aged over 8 which was then sent to every household at the end of June 2010. Of the 270 distributed, 156 completed questionnaires were returned. From the analysed results, 328 individual responses were received representing views for 45.4% of the total village population (722- 2001). These responses have informed the proposals set out in the accompanying action plan. The Parish Council was asked to comment on these draft proposals and they were also presented, for comment, to a village open meeting. The final report was presented to the Parish Council in May 2011 and the action plan approved for adoption to inform priorities over the next five years.

What Happens now?

Following distribution of the action plan to all households in the village, the Parish Council, Central Bedfordshire Council and to other agencies, its implementation will be monitored by the successor to the Parish Plan working group - the Parish Plan Action Group- who will produce an annual progress report to the village. Whilst the Parish Council will play a key role in implementing the plan, it is critical that all local groups and clubs also actively support the Parish Plan Action Group's work.

It is anticipated that some projects will be funded by the Parish Council, whilst others will need funding from sources such as local authorities, grant giving bodies and local fund raising. Some projects will need little or no funding.

If you require this document in large print please contact a member of the Parish Plan Action group, details are on the village directory.

The Proposals and Action Plan

Introduction and explanation of the data collected and used.

This Action Plan and the proposals in it reflect the issues of particular concern to our residents. These issues emerged from the consultation exercises which took place in the Parish over 2009-2010 culminating in the distribution of the questionnaire to all habitable households in the parish resulting in the 156 (57.8%) returns.

Calculation of data from Questionnaire.

Following an initial age profile of all household members, all questions sought responses from all individuals (over 8 years old) within the household.

Not all questions were answered by, or were relevant to all households.

For all questions where a household reply was more relevant, 156, the number of returned questionnaires, was taken to be the denominator for the percentage of household responses.

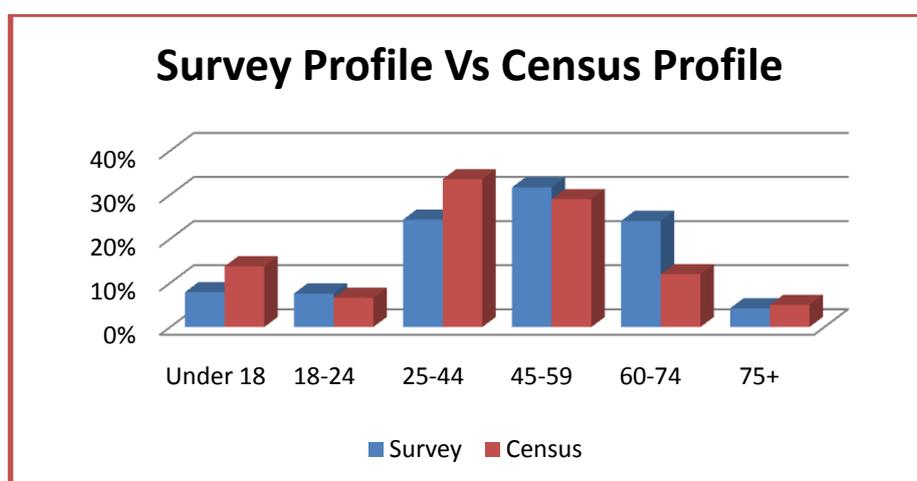
For all questions where an individual reply was more relevant, 328, the number unique individual responses to any question, was taken to be the denominator for the percentage of individual responses.

Respondents' Profile

Based on the last UK census the Parish of Dunton had a resident population of 722* individuals living in one of the 270 habitable dwellings.

Our survey, when collated received replies from 328 (45.4%) individuals from 156 (57.8%) of the households representing a significant proportion of the population and households and therefore provide a valid sample for providing a summarised view of the Parish.

In addition to the overall figures, when comparing against the age % from the Census (without adjustment for the removal of 0-8 year olds from our survey) we can also see we have good representation from all age groups ensuring the widest possible assortment of views.



- Input was also elicited from people outside of the Parish but with strong connections to the life of the village and have been included within the main body of respondents.

Analysis of General Questionnaire - All Issues

The Survey was designed to cover a number of the key factors that impact the lives of those living in a rural Bedfordshire community in the 20th Century.

1. Crime & Safety - Key Actions

- Low police presence through the Parish.. (60% feel more visits by Police needed).
- Little awareness of Neighbourhood Watch Scheme by Villagers. (34% unaware of scheme).

2. Traffic & Transport - Key Actions

- Frequency of HGV's passing through the Parish (45% see this as an issue).
- Presence of Off- Road Scooters/Quad Bikes (15% see this as an issue) in the Parish.
- Road condition & repair on Biggleswade Road & Chapel Street (60% regard potholes as an issue).
 - NB - Re-surfacing has occurred since survey.
- Weeds and overgrown bushes on roadways & pavements (33% see this as an issue from across the Parish).
- Poor drainage at Kings Pond Close & Recreation Ground. (23% see this as an issue).
- Improved accessibility for wheelchair and buggy users (11% would like to see improvements).
- More Eco-friendly approach to street lighting (Timing of on/off times - 15% raised this).
- Poor/not enough lighting in Parish (8% would like to see more - but especially in Millow (20%)).
- Perceived excessive speed of traffic through the Parish. (62% consider speed an issue).
 - This Question generated the most (52) free text responses.
- Off-Road parking is an issue in many areas of the Parish
 - 46% of residents think parking a problem by the School.
 - Villagers believe parked cars at top of Boot Lane (23%) & Cambridge Road (33%) are a hazard.
 - More parking at specific venues in Dunton. (11%- Church, 8%-pub, 7%- Memorial Hall, 4%- Rec).
- The current bus service does not meet all the demands of the Parish.(27% would like service to Cambridge).
- There are no designated road crossing points in Dunton.(16% feel the need for official points).
- Alternative transport solutions suggested to surrounding towns and villages(54% would like a path to Biggleswade)

3. Leisure - Key Actions

- Lack of provision of leisure facilities for young people in the village

4. Community Facilities – Key Actions

- Ensure continued existence of Village Pub.
- Provision of additional shopping facilities for village.
- Promote additional multi-use services through pub.
- Support increased use of Village hall and Recreation building by provision of new facilities.
- Knowledge of existing/new social groups needs wider disseminating.
- Desire in parish for more extended/regular information on community events (74% showing interest)
- Low stated use of Mobile Library facilities.
- Since closure of Post Office ability to post items over standard letter size requires visit to Biggleswade. (57% responded positively)

5. Health – Key Actions

- Some villagers have problems accessing Surgeries, Hospitals and Prescriptions services. (45 people expressed problems)

6.Environment – Key Actions

- Improve accessibility and maintenance of Rights of Way across parish.
- Wider and extended use of Community Garden wanted
- Expressed opinion of excessive Dog Fouling in parish.
- Poor management of Trees ,Hedges & Ditches across parish...
- 35 households see benefit in having a local allotment.

7. Housing & Development

- Evidence of demand for supported housing by villagers.
- Evidence of concern over future parish development, especially with regards road use.
- Evidence of concern over future housing development.

1. Crime & Safety

1. The main areas impacted (15 houses in total) by anti social behaviour is found at the Cambridge end of the village in the streets both sides of the road to the west of the Church.
 The 9 households where a burglary has occurred are located mainly along the High Street.
 Car crime in a similar (but different) number of 9 households occurs mainly between the Church and Kings Pond on the north side of Cambridge Road.
 Also mentioned was fly tipping (5 Households), Vandalism (4 households) and graffiti (2 households).

The majority of these events only impacted a single house. Only 4 houses had experienced 2 events and 3, 3 events.

2. 199 (60% of residents) feel that improved communications with the Police mainly via increased visits are needed.
 7 (2% of residents) feel that CCTV is needed and suggest that this should be as you enter Dunton, in Millow, by Recreation ground, and if the recently proposed Travellers site is agreed.

Issue	Action	Priority	Timescale	Agency(s)
Low police presence through the Parish	Investigate improved communications with Police	High	End 2011	Bedfordshire Police Dunton Parish Council

3. 113 (34% of residents) are not aware of Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.
 167 (51% of residents) do know of it.

Issue	Action	Priority	Timescale	Agency(s)
Lack of awareness of Neighbourhood Watch Scheme	Re launch Neighbourhood Watch Scheme	Medium	2012	Bedfordshire Police Dunton Parish Council

2. Traffic and Transport

1. 149 (45% of residents) feel HGVs are an issue,
83 (25%) feel that many of the roads in the parish are used as a rat run.
51 (15%) say that off road bikes / mini scooters cause a problem around the Parish.

Issue	Action	Priority	Timescale	Agency(s)
Frequency of HGV's passing through the Parish	Talk to CBC about feasibility of introducing a weight restriction	High	End 2011	Highways Agency Central Bedfordshire Council.
Presence of Off- Road Scooters/Quad Bikes in the Parish.	Liaise with land owners and install barriers at problem areas.	Medium	2012	Dunton Parish council. Bedfordshire Police Land Owners

NB: This section created over 36 free text comments, they raised the issue that the main roads through Dunton are not designed for HGV use in particular the corner of the High Street and Biggleswade Road. Many raised speed and parking as an issue which were covered in other questions.

2. 197 (60% of residents) feel potholes and road conditions are a problem across the Parish, many of these have been rectified with the re surfacing in 2010.
108 (33%) have issues with overgrown hedges: Millow(5), to Newton, Boot Lane, Footpaths (3), Horseshoe Close (3). 82 (25%) feel the pavements need attention, in particular the weeds need to be dealt with more frequently.
76 (23%) feel drainage is a problem, again some of this would have been dealt with when the re surfacing was carried out but Kings Pond Close and entrance to the Rec were still raised as problem areas.
37 (11%) feel that more dropped kerbs are required for wheelchair and buggy users. 24 (7%) have other issues and there were 58 free text response showing the strength of feeling raised by the question.

Issue	Action	Priority	Timescale	Agency(s)
Road condition in Biggleswade Road	Dunton Parish Council to liaise with CBC to look into possible surface and drainage improvements and ensure residents aware of how to report problems as and when they occur.	Medium	2012	Dunton Parish Council
Road repair in Chapel St	Dunton Parish Council to liaise with CBC/Anglian Water to look into possible surface and drainage improvements	Medium	2012	Anglian Water Central Beds Council
Weeds and overgrown bushes on pavements and pathways	More frequent maintenance	High	End 2011	Parish Council Central Beds Council
Poor drainage at Kings Pond Close & by recreation ground.	Check drains are clear and sufficient for area	Low	2012	Parish Council Central Beds Council
Improve accessibility for wheelchair and buggy users	Install more dropped kerbs, in particular Biggleswade Rd near Village Hall	Low	2012	Parish Council Central Beds Council

NB: Additional Free text Comments included,: Upgrading the road classification to a B road, signage at Boot Lane saying where Horseshoe Close is, ploughing over footpaths. Generally the state of the pathways are felt to be poor (weeds and overgrown bushes) & dog fouling.

3. 163 (49% of residents) think all is well with the street lighting,
 51 (15%) think we should look at timer controlled lighting, some suggest turning off street lights between 12 midnight and 6am, or the use of light sensitive controls and to use renewable energy where possible.
 40 (12%) think it is poorly maintained: i.e. checked during day time. Timers get affected with power cuts, lights on all day not at night areas specifically mentioned were: Boot Lane, High St, Horseshoe & Lees Close.
 26 (8%) think there is not enough, Millow is particularly highlighted as an issue by 3 residents.

Issue	Action	Priority	Timescale	Agency(s)
Use more eco-friendly approach to street lighting: Lights on at wrong times	Residents to advise appropriate authority to re-set street lights when problems occur. Look at turning off lighting through the night and or change to renewable energy.	Medium	2012	Parish Council Central Beds Council
Poor lighting in Millow	Undertake more research to determine if additional lighting is required.	Medium	2012	Parish Council Central Beds Council

4. 38 (11% of residents) do not feel speed is an issue, however the vast majority do feel that something needs to be done about speeding in the Parish.
 104 (32% of residents) would support flashing signs that show your actual speed,
 70 (21%) think that a 20MPH speed limit should be imposed throughout,
 53 (16%) think more speed restriction signs should be put up,
 50 (16%) think that a 20 MPH speed limit should be imposed during school drop off/ collection time.

Other suggested solutions are that flat top or round top humps, road narrows with priorities, road chicanes, rumble strips, a mirror or roundabout on the junction of Boot Lane and High Street, introduce fixed or average speed cameras, speed check on Cambridge Rd.

Issue	Action	Priority	Timescale	Agency(s)
Perceived excessive speed of traffic through the parish.	Look at various solutions and discuss possibilities with Highways.	High	End 2011	Parish Council Central Beds Council Beds Police

NB: In total there were 52 free text responses.

5. 151 (46% of residents) think parking is problem by the School in particular at drop off and pick up times.
 106 (32%) think parking is problem by Cambridge Rd,
 76 (23%) say parking is problem by Boot Lane,
 36 (11%) say by the Church, (8%) say by the pub, (7%) say by the Village Hall, (4%) say by the Recreation Ground.

There were 33 other comments including not enough parking spaces in Lees Close, Church Lane nr Church Farm, Boot Lane, Horseshoe Close. Other comments highlight that the parking area behind the Village Hall is not always used as well as it could be, parking on Cambridge Road acts to slow traffic down, Church events cause problems for parking, the Recreation Ground should have marked bays and or parking on the field.

6. 108 (33% of residents) would support more parking areas,
 71 (22%) agree to extend the School no parking zone,
 59 (18%) think that more parking regulations or road markings would help.

There was little support for bollards (12 people) or raised kerbs (4 people). Some evidence was shown for bays designated for disabled use however this needs to be shown to be supported by a number of people and petitioned to the Parish council or Central Beds Council. Other suggestions include the walk to School initiative through out the Parish, and more parking spaces to be installed in Church Lane.

Issue	Action	Priority	Timescale	Agency(s)
Off-Road parking is an issue in many areas of the Parish: - School - Top of Boot Lane and Cambridge Road - More parking required at specific venues.	Look at options around extending the School zone. Examine feasibility of introducing additional parking regulations /road markings. Examine feasibility of creating extra parking places around the Parish: Church Lane, Recreation Ground, Village Hall.	Medium	2012	Parish Council Central Beds Council Police Dunton Recreation Association Village Hall Committee

7. 171 (52% of residents) never use the bus,
 37 (11%) use the bus at least on a monthly basis with only 83 (25%) using the bus occasionally

8. 90 (27% of residents) think there should be a service to Cambridge,
 84 (26%) think that timetables need to be better publicised, (22%) think the buses should be more frequent, (21%) think the times need to be more convenient,
 50 (15%) think the time table should match train/ other bus departures, (11%) feel tickets need to be cheaper, (8%) think that shelters should be at each bus stop,
 21 (6%) think that the destinations need to be more visible, (2%) would use the bus if boarding was easier, (23%) would not use the bus.

There were 10 other suggestions: later services (3), more reliable(3), service to Baldock, large gap (10.50-1.30) at lunchtime, other destinations, more bus stops, used more regularly when the phone booking scheme was in place.

Issue	Action	Priority	Timescale	Agency(s)
The current bus service does not meet demands of the Parish.	Look at providing a bus service to Cambridge	Medium	2012	Parish Council Central Beds Council Beds Dart
	Look at linking bus times with other services Make the timetables more widely available	Low	2012	Parish Council Central Beds Council Beds Dart Newsletter

9. 53 (16% of residents) feel more warning signs are needed at the school,
 52 (16%) feel more crossing points are needed: Pub / Chapel St, School / Community Garden, High Street, Cambridgeshire Road (2), Biggleswade Road (2),
 33 (10%) feel a walking bus to school is needed

Issue	Action	Priority	Timescale	Agency(s)
There are no designated crossing points in Dunton	Look at options for where suitable areas for crossing(s) could be installed and discuss with Highways	Medium	2012	Parish Council Central Beds Council

10. 176 (54% of residents) feel a path is needed to Biggleswade,
 78 (24%) feel a path is needed to Pottton,
 74 (23%) feel a path is needed to Wrestlingworth .
 10 other suggestions Ashwell (4), Eyeworth (3), Sutton, Langford and Edworth.

Issue	Action	Priority	Timescale	Agency(s)
Alternative transport solutions suggested to surrounding towns & villages.	Study the feasibility of providing pavement access to Biggleswade Consider the possibilities of providing pavement access Pottton & Wrestlingworth.	Medium	2012	Parish Council Central Beds Council

3. Leisure

This section was only completed by young people and Parents/Carers so was based on a lower overall percentage (approx 53%) of responders than the other sections of the Questionnaire.

The figures in this section therefore represent the views of this group.

1. How do you rate existing facilities for young people
56% thought facilities poor.
No one considered it excellent

2. For under 18's do you think there is a demand for the following:*
Most Popular were:
Multi Use Game Area (31)
Youth Activities (31)
Youth Club (28)
Adventure Playground (23)

3. Which facilities would you use in a Youth Club:
Most Popular were:
Refreshments (31)
Outdoor Activities (28)
Games (28)
Music (27)

Issue	Action	Priority	Timescale	Agency(s)
Lack of provision of leisure facilities for young people in the parish.	Increased provision of facilities for young people in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Club • Multi Use Games Area(MUGA) • Tennis courts • Outdoor Fitness Trail. 	High	2011	Dunton Recreation Association. Dunton Parish Council

*The need for these facilities was supported by the young people attending the Rave Bus when it visited Dunton.

4. Community Facilities.

1. A large number responded to the need for additional services at the pub:
 Shop (129)
 Post Office (117)
 Food (96)
 Café (79)

Issue	Action	Priority	Timescale	Agency(s)
Ensure continued existence of Village Pub by encouraging multi-use of the venue.	Landlord to look to provide supporting activity requested by villagers. Promote use of Pub facilities by existing groups in parish.*	High	2011	Landlord
Provision of additional shopping facilities for village	Church and/or other group to work with landlord to pilot the provision of basic shopping facilities in the village.	Medium	2012	Landlord Church/Community group

*Jan 2011 - The book groups in Dunton have already begun to meet in the Pub.

2. The response to the Hall questions was mixed. Ease of booking was overwhelmingly good or very positive; kitchen facilities were good to reasonable; heating however was only reasonable to poor and size/layout was good to reasonable.

Issue	Action	Priority	Timescale	Agency(s)
Support increased use of Village hall and Recreation building by provision of new facilities..	1 Support the improvement of facilities for village hall (accessible toilets) 2 Investigate the possibility of a purpose built village Hall to support pre-school facilities.	Medium	2012 2016	Dunton Recreation Assoc. Village hall committee Local Government Agencies

3. There is a great deal of support from the community for social events to be supported and many people asked for information on different groups in the village.

Issue	Action	Priority	Timescale	Agency(s)
Knowledge of existing/new social groups needs wider disseminating.	Pass findings to different groups. Produce a village directory to be available to every household.	High	End 2011	Social groups

4. In the previous section views regarding the merging of the Village Hall Committee and Dunton Recreation Association and the provision of a new purpose built village hall indicated that 64% were in favour and 36% against. The present village hall is struggling to provide accessible toilets and sanitary conditions for the under 4s who use it.
5. People's main source of information about events in the village was the Church newsletter (54%-174 people) and Word of Mouth (48% -154) with (16.5%-54) stated they had no idea of what was happening in the parish.
6. With 30% of all respondents saying its very important and a further 44% saying its of moderate interest 74% showed some interest in a regular expanded newsletter.

Issue	Action	Priority	Timescale	Agency(s)
Desire in parish for more extended/regular information on community events	Look at possibility of extending current Church magazine into wider village update.	Medium	2012	Church Group Dunton Parish Council Village

7. Only 30% see a benefit in having an additional notice board in the Parish.
8. The Pub was marked as the location most difficult for people with disabilities to access. (6 Individuals).
9. Current low usage of the mobile library seemed to be less linked to where it stops (28% said stops ok) than to knowledge about its visits (38% don't know times).

Issue	Action	Priority	Timescale	Agency(s)
Low stated use of Mobile Library facilities.	Look at wider publication of vist times and facilities.	Medium	2012	Dunton Parish Council Bedfordshire Library Service.

10. 186 - 57% would like a post box which could accommodate larger items.

Issue	Action	Priority	Timescale	Agency(s)
Since closure of the village Post Office the ability to post items over standard letter size requires a visit to Biggleswade.	Determine options for posting larger items.	High	2011	Post Office Dunton Parish Council

5. Health

Issue	Action	Priority	Timescale	Agency(s)
Villagers have problems accessing Surgeries, Hospitals and Prescriptions.	Look into creating a "Good Neighbour" Scheme.	High	2011	Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity Dunton Parish Council.

6. Environment

1. Do you use any of the following in the parish? Footpaths/bridleways/community garden

256 people (78% of total respondents) used footpaths and bridleways.

182 people (56%) used bridleways

118 people (36%) visited the Community Garden

Issues mainly to do with overgrown footpaths & bridleways and poor surfaces on most footpaths.

2. Would you like to see any of the following improvements to Public Rights of Way?

143 (44%) wanted new paths to make circular walks.

107 (33%) wanted more information on what routes are available.

**98 (30%) were concerned about overgrown footpaths not being cleared.

65 (20%) wanted improved signage.

There were 40 free text comments

Issue	Action	Priority	Timescale	Agency(s)
Improve accessibility and maintenance of Rights of Way across parish. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand for more circular Walks. • Request for more information available on village walking routes. • Concern over levels of overgrown vegetation and branches on existing pathways. 	Form Working Group to investigate and provide solutions.	High	End 2012	Dunton Parish Council Central Beds Council Landowners (Establish) P3

3. How do you use the Community Garden?

- 84 (26%) attend events
- 60 (18%) use it for leisure
- 27 (8%) use it for gardening/green gym/exercise/fresh air
- 9 (3%) use it for picnics

4. What additional activities would you like to see in the Community Garden?

Comments included: more activities, more workshops, more youth/children's activities, more fun days, and how to find it/ access. Several comments were about never going to it.

Issue	Action	Priority	Timescale	Agency(s)
Wider and extended use of Community Garden wanted.	Develop a strategy to create greater engagement across the whole village.	High	End 2011	Dunton Community Garden Dunton Parish Council Other Village Groups.

The Dunton Community Garden Group (DCGG) ran a visitor survey in summer 2010, and also held planning days for members in the autumn 2010. The outcomes from these events were similarly endorsed by the Parish Plan findings. They are working on developing the ornamental areas of the garden including improving the seating, planting more hedging, encouraging groups and individuals to use the Garden. They are also increasing the number of activities which will run as funding becomes available

5. Do you consider any of the following to be a problem for the parish?

- 147 (45%) consider dog waste a problem.
- 70 (21%) are concerned by litter
- 30 (9%) mentioned vermin (rats/rabbits)
- 26 (8%) considered rubbish collecting/recycling to be a problem
- 20 (6%) considered flytipping an issue.

Of the 36 free comments for this question, 16 specifically mention dog waste and a further 8 imply a reference to dog waste. Litter being thrown from cars was an issue. A weekly rubbish collection was also mentioned.

6. Would you like to see any of the following in the Parish?

111 (34%) more dog waste bins*

Better maintenance of vegetation: bushes (30%) hedges (22%), ditches(20%) & trees (14%).

Issue	Action	Priority	Timescale	Agency(s)
Expressed opinion of excessive Dog Fouling in parish.	Form a group composed of Dog Owners to provide recommendations.	High	End 2011	Dunton Parish Council Village Dog Owners.
Poor management of Trees ,Hedges & Ditches across parish..	Set up a reporting mechanism to escalate problems /issues from villagers to appropriate executive bodies.	High	June 2011	(Establish) P3 Dunton Parish Council Central Beds Council

*There was some feeling that more dog bins are not the answer (they need emptying, the offending dog owners may still not use them, they are not beautiful).

7. Would you like to see any of the following new facilities in the Parish?

109 (33%) More public seating*

104 (32%) wildflower meadow

95 (29%) pond

88 (27%) picnic area

Issue	Action	Priority	Timescale	Agency(s)
New Parish facilities	The Community Garden is currently actively seeking funding for improved seating at Great Close Field A wildflower area has been sown. DCGG wishes to encourage people to use Great Close as a picnic area.	High	End 2011	Dunton Community Gardens

Comments (9) included the statement that the playing field and Community Garden provide/can be used for some of these.

8. Would you use an allotment if available?

35 households said they would use one.

Issue	Action	Priority	Timescale	Agency(s)
Allotments are required.	Dunton Parish Council to look into possible provision of allotments and derive a solution.	Medium	Start 2012	Dunton Parish Council Landowners. (Set-Up) Allotment Working Party.

7. Housing and Development

1. Do you think you/any members of your family will have the need for the following:

Affordable homes for local people (56 people - 17%)

Sheltered Accommodation (18 people - 5%)

Starter Homes (42 people - 13%)

Issue	Action	Priority	Timescale	Agency(s)
Evidence of demand for supported housing in parish by villagers.	Dunton Parish Council to look into possible provision of affordable housing for local people and derive a solution.	Medium	Start 2012	Dunton Parish Council Landowners. Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity

2. If development was to go ahead in the parish in the future, respondents highlighted their concern over the following impacts.

Increased Traffic (51% - 181)

Increased on-road parking (44% - 161)

Impact on Parish Character (40% - 130)

Issue	Action	Priority	Timescale	Agency(s)
Evidence of concern over future parish development, especially with regards road use.	Formalise and advise of opportunities for village input into planning development.	Medium	Start 2012	Dunton Parish Council Central Beds Council

3. If further housing development was permitted in the future, which type of development would you prefer to see.

Affordable homes (31% - 101)

Starter homes (1-2 bedrooms) (26% - 84)

Smaller family home (<3 bedrooms) (25% - 83)

Issue	Action	Priority	Timescale	Agency(s)
Evidence of concern over future housing development.	Formalise and advise of opportunities for village input into planning development.	Medium	Start 2012	Dunton Parish Council Central Beds Council

Dunton Village Directory

Group	Contact Person	Telephone	E-mail	Web site
Baby & Toddlers	Sue Gill	01767 312 302		
Book club 3	Celia Walpole	01767 315 903	celia@walpole7.orangehome.co.uk	
Book club: Dunton Delvers	Anthea Lawson	07810 851 252	duntondelvers@duntonvillage.org	
Book club: Dunton worms	Sheila Bugg	01767 601161	sheilabugguk@yahoo.co.uk	
Church Afternoon Tea	David Tant	01767 316 948		
Church services	Rev Lindsay Drew Su Myler David Tant	01462 743 617 01767 600 373 01767 316 948	LindsayDew@aol.com susan.myler@capita.co.uk	
Church social activities	David Tant	01767 316 948		
Community Garden	Jenny Pates	01767 313 898	duntongarden@btinternet.com	Duntoncommunitygarden.org
Diving group HASSAC	Mark Burton	01767 316 010	mark@burton-dunton.freeseve.co.uk ,	
Dunton Football club	Barry Morris	07879 615 852	Barry.morris@duntonfc.co.uk	Duntonfc.co.uk
Dunton Recreation Association	Eileen Bone	01767 315 530 07748 594 431	dra@duntonvillage.org	
Dunton Wanderers	Celia Walpole	01767 315 903	celia@walpole7.orangehome.co.uk	
Good Neighbour Scheme	Doug Neish	01767 315 451		
Lower School	Mrs Robertson-Cowley	01767 312 154	dunton@deal.bedfordshire.gov.uk	duntonvclowerschool.com
Milkman	Dairy Crest	01234 327 702		www.milkandmore.co.uk
Newspaper delivery	M&G Swinden	01767 631 231		
Oil buying group	Derek Davies	01767 315 487	duntonoilgroup@btinternet.com	
Over sixties club	Audrey Bright	01767 317 707		
Parish Council	Linda Trevena	01767 221 930	duntonpc@ntlworld.com	www.eastinvolve.net/dunton-parish-council
Parish Plan action group	Alan Dansey	01767 310 163	parishplan@duntonvillage.org	
Street lighting repairs		0300 300 8049	Give street lamp number as shown on the lamp post and the location	
Toddlers / Pre-school	Karen Burton Su Tunnard	07941 169 841 07773 599 463	preschool@duntonvillage.org	duntonvillagepreschool.co.uk
Vegetable box scheme	Joy Osborne	01767 317 253		
Organic Vegetable box		01803 762059		www.riverford.co.uk
Village Hall	Karen Burton	01767 316 010	Villagehallbookings@duntonvillage.org	
Village web site	Alan Dansey	01767 310 163		Duntonvillage.org.uk
Window Cleaner	Jamie Snelling	01767 224 338 07512 709 397		
Women's Institute	Mary Wynn Lawerence	0790 507 5010	WI@duntonvillage.org	

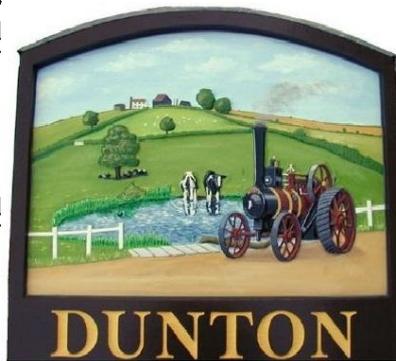
This is correct as of May 2011, this is available in the March Hare, Church, Village Hall and on the village notice board it is also available via the village web site. If you wish to add a group, or amend details then please contact a member of the Parish Plan steering group on the details shown above.

Speed checking is always done near the village hall
Vehicles speed in and out of the village at Eyeworth end.

If the bus service ran later in the evening we could use it to connect to trains to and from London.

At the top of Boot Lane people park in such awkward places and it is often like an obstacle course driving out of the lane.

Parking outside the school is an accident waiting to happen..



Street lights left on all day and night after being notified many times. Total waste of money.

We get a poor deal for the amount of Council Tax The whole of Dunton seems unkempt and untidy. The grass verges on the Millow Road are disgraceful. If you are walking you have to walk in the Road sometimes. The village looks uncared for if you compare it with other villages. The weeds in Horseshoe Close are dreadful. Even the roundabout is not mowed all the way to the middle. The gates are now mown around but the rest is left. People entering the village must think how untidy it looks.

Village Views



The Recreation Association provide an excellent area on a voluntary basis for the benefit of the village. One of the few good things still in the village

The hall is tired looking but serviceable. efforts need to be put in to the external image - car park surface, maintenance weeds etc Removing

Daytime activities would be possible e.g. art group, lunch club etc. if pre school had their own facilities

Outdoor gym Improve areas for circular walks

I would not like to see the village get much bigger as it would change the character of the village. In the past good houses have been pulled down which could have been used e.g. the Bake House in Cambridge Road