



## A Parish Plan

### - Dunton 2011



MS 1648  
Final concord between Roger, Margery and Milo de Bray,  
and the Augustinian Priory of Haliwell  
Middlesex, ca. 1181-1188. Romanesque documentary script

One of the earliest existing documents involving Dunton.  
The Final concord between Roger, Margery and Milo De Bray,  
and the Augustinian Priory of Haliwell & Magdalena the Prioress,  
giving half a Virgate of land at Dunton (1181-1188).

# 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.

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## 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 & 15<sup>th</sup> 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 (17<sup>th</sup> Century), Millow Hill Farmhouse (17<sup>th</sup> Century) and two cottages, numbers 12-14 (18<sup>th</sup> Century) on the hamlet edge.

## **Dunton in the 21<sup>st</sup> 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, a more detailed version is available on the village web site and in the March Hare, Village Hall, Church, DRA pavilion and Community Garden. 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.

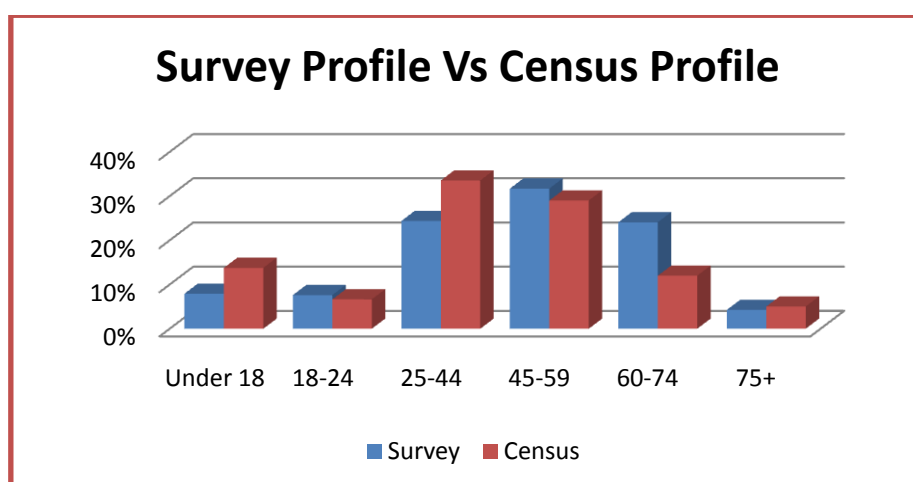
For all questions where an individual reply was more relevant, 328, the number unique individual responses to any question, was taken to be the denominator for the percentage of individual responses.

### **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.



## Traffic and Transport

Issue	Action	Priority
Frequency of HGV's passing through the Parish	Talk to CBC about feasibility of introducing a weight restriction	High
Presence of Off- Road Scooters/Quad Bikes in the Parish.	Liaise with land owners and install barriers at problem areas	Medium
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
Road repair in Chapel St	Dunton Parish Council to liaise with CBC/Anglian Water to look into possible surface and drainage improvements	Medium
Weeds and overgrown bushes on pavements and pathways	More frequent maintenance	High
Poor drainage at Kings Pond Close & by recreation ground.	Check drains are clear and sufficient for area	Low
Improve accessibility for wheelchair and buggy users	Install more dropped kerbs, in particular Biggleswade Rd near Village Hall	Low
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
Poor lighting in Millow	Undertake more research to determine if additional lighting is required	Medium
Excessive speed of traffic through the parish.	Look at various solutions and discuss possibilities with Highways.	High
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
The current bus service does not meet demands of the Parish.	Look at providing a bus service to Cambridge	Medium
	Look at linking bus times with other services Make the timetables more widely available	Low
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
Alternative transport solutions suggested to surrounding towns & villages.	Study the feasibility of providing pavement access to Biggleswade Consider the possibilities of providing pavement access Potton & Wrestlingworth.	Medium



## Crime & Safety

Issue	Action	Priority
Low police presence through the Parish	Investigate improved communications with Police	High
Lack of awareness of Neighbourhood Watch Scheme	Re launch Neighbourhood Watch Scheme	Medium



## Leisure

Issue	Action	Priority
Lack of provision of leisure facilities for young people in the parish.	Increased provision of facilities for young people in particular: Youth Club Multi Use Games Area( MUGA) Tennis courts Outdoor Fitness Trail.	High



## Community Facilities

Issue	Action	Priority
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
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
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
Desire in parish for more extended/regular information on community events	Look at possibility of extending current Church magazine into wider village update.	Medium
Low stated use of Mobile Library facilities	Look at wider publication of visit times and facilities	Medium
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



## Health

Issue	Action	Priority
Villagers have problems accessing Surgeries, Hospitals and Prescriptions.	Look into creating a "Good Neighbour" Scheme.	High



## Environment

Issue	Action	Priority
Improve accessibility and maintenance of Rights of Way across parish. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demand for more circular Walks.</li> <li>• Request for more information available on village walking routes.</li> <li>• Concern over levels of overgrown vegetation and branches on existing pathways.</li> </ul>	Form Working Group to investigate and provide solutions.	High
Wider and extended use of Community Garden wanted.	Develop a strategy to create greater engagement across the whole village.	High
Expressed opinion of excessive Dog Fouling in parish.	Form a group composed of Dog Owners to provide recommendations.	High
Poor management of Trees ,Hedges & Ditches across parish..	Set up a reporting mechanism to escalate problems /issues from villagers to appropriate executive bodies.	High
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
Allotments are required.	Dunton Parish Council to look into possible provision of allotments and derive a solution.	Medium



## Housing and Development

Issue	Action	Priority
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
Evidence of concern over future housing development.	Formalise and advise of opportunities for village input into planning development.	Medium



## 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	<a href="mailto:celia@walpole7.orangehome.co.uk">celia@walpole7.orangehome.co.uk</a>	
Book club: Dunton Delters	Anthea Lawson	07810 851 252	<a href="mailto:duntondelters@duntonvillage.org">duntondelters@duntonvillage.org</a>	
Book club: Dunton worms	Sheila Bugg	01767 601161	<a href="mailto:sheilabugguk@yahoo.co.uk">sheilabugguk@yahoo.co.uk</a>	
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	<a href="mailto:LindsayDew@aol.com">LindsayDew@aol.com</a> <a href="mailto:susan.myler@capita.co.uk">susan.myler@capita.co.uk</a>	
Church social activities	David Tant	01767 316 948		
Community Garden	Jenny Pates	01767 313 898	<a href="mailto:duntongarden@btinternet.com">duntongarden@btinternet.com</a>	<a href="http://Duntoncommunitygarden.org">Duntoncommunitygarden.org</a>
Diving group HASSAC	Mark Burton	01767 316 010	<a href="mailto:mark@burton-dunton.freeserve.co.uk">mark@burton-dunton.freeserve.co.uk</a> ,	
Dunton Football club	Barry Morris	07879 615 852	<a href="mailto:Barry.morris@duntonfc.co.uk">Barry.morris@duntonfc.co.uk</a>	<a href="http://Duntonfc.co.uk">Duntonfc.co.uk</a>
Dunton Recreation Association	Eileen Bone	01767 315 530 07748 594 431	<a href="mailto:dra@duntonvillage.org">dra@duntonvillage.org</a>	
Dunton Wanderers	Celia Walpole	01767 315 903	<a href="mailto:celia@walpole7.orangehome.co.uk">celia@walpole7.orangehome.co.uk</a>	
Good Neighbour Scheme	Doug Neish	01767 315 451		
Lower School	Mrs Robertson- Cowley	01767 312 154	<a href="mailto:dunton@deal.bedfordshire.gov.uk">dunton@deal.bedfordshire.gov.uk</a>	<a href="http://duntonvclowerschool.com">duntonvclowerschool.com</a>
Milkman	Dairy Crest	01234 327 702		<a href="http://www.milkandmore.co.uk">www.milkandmore.co.uk</a>
Newspaper delivery	M&G Swinden	01767 631 231		
Oil buying group	Derek Davies	01767 315 487	<a href="mailto:duntonoilgroup@btinternet.com">duntonoilgroup@btinternet.com</a>	
Over sixties club	Audrey Bright	01767 317 707		
Parish Council	Linda Trevena	01767 221 930	<a href="mailto:duntonpc@ntlworld.com">duntonpc@ntlworld.com</a>	<a href="http://www.eastinvolve.net/dunton-parish-council">www.eastinvolve.net/dunton-parish-council</a>
Parish Plan action group	Alan Dansey	01767 310 163	<a href="mailto:parishplan@duntonvillage.org">parishplan@duntonvillage.org</a>	
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	<a href="mailto:preschool@duntonvillage.org">preschool@duntonvillage.org</a>	<a href="http://duntonvillagepreschool.co.uk">duntonvillagepreschool.co.uk</a>
Vegetable box scheme	Joy Osborne	01767 317 253		
Organic Vegetable box		01803 762059		<a href="http://www.riverford.co.uk">www.riverford.co.uk</a>
Village Hall	Karen Burton	01767 316 010	<a href="mailto:Villagehallbookings@duntonvillage.org">Villagehallbookings@duntonvillage.org</a>	
Village web site	Alan Dansey	01767 310 163		<a href="http://Duntonvillage.org.uk">Duntonvillage.org.uk</a>
Window Cleaner	Jamie Snelling	01767 224 338 07512 709 397		
Women's Institute	Mary Wynn Lawrence	0790 507 5010	<a href="mailto:WI@duntonvillage.org">WI@duntonvillage.org</a>	

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.

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

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



## Village Views



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.

Outdoor gym & Improve areas for circular walks