



# Foxton Needs You!



A summary of the Village Plan and a list of actions that you can get involved with to make our village a better place.

## Parish Plan - Summary and Action Plan

Parish plans were an idea put forward in the 2000 Government white paper entitled "Our Countryside: The Future". Their main aim was to identify key facilities and services, set out problems and show how they can be tackled, and demonstrate how the distinctive character and features of villages can be preserved. Parish Plans should also provide a framework for planning the future of the village. This element is even more important as the present government's Localism Bill due to become law in 2012 clearly puts the emphasis on Parishes in determining the developments they wish to see in their local community.

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The full Village Plan and its Appendices runs to 100 pages. To minimize costs very few will be printed, instead both documents will be available on the village web site and a loan copy will be available from the parish clerk. These documents were used to produce an Action Plan to achieve the aims that people said were important to them.

The Action Plan is attached and will be distributed to every household. It forms the basis both for asking the Parish Council what progress has been made and for identifying where **you** can contribute to achieve the aims.

The Action Plan is not 'set in stone', some items will be successfully completed, some will be changed and new items will be added. It defines a series of aims to improve the village and the community and gives more weight to our opinions on things being imposed by outside bodies. It gives you an opportunity to see where your time or talents could help, because the more people that get involved the stronger our sense of community.

Village web site: [www.foxtoncambs.info/PCplanning.htm](http://www.foxtoncambs.info/PCplanning.htm)

## 1 Introduction

The Foxton parish plan brings together the views, needs and opinions of the whole community. In one document it assembles the social, economic and environmental issues that are thought significant. The plan sets out and prioritises what is important to us the villagers of Foxton. These can be key facilities, council services or the components of village life that give Foxton its distinctive appeal and character. The parish plan is not, of course, just an end in itself. Its purpose is to provide the Parish Council and other authorities with a basis for action to improve and protect the quality of life in the village. The key areas of the plan include:

- Planning;
- Housing;
- Road traffic and safety;
- Policing, law and order;
- Public transport;
- Local environmental concerns;
- The adequacy of specific village/local services, (eg access to health care);
- Business in the community.

## 2 Summary

Until the middle of the twentieth century, Foxton was a rural Cambridgeshire village with most of its menfolk working locally, many of them on the land. Over the past sixty or so years its population has more than doubled and the focus of work has moved from the land and local employers to commuting to larger communities such as Cambridge, Royston, and London and other areas.

Travel by car or train are the main methods of access for many workers.

Most residents value the mostly rural character of the village as a place to live and wish to see only limited development in the future, although lack of affordable housing is seen as a problem that needs to be overcome.

Regarding public transport, Foxton is much better served than many nearby villages. Nevertheless the cost of rail travel, and the lack of buses outside weekday daytimes mean that opinions are divided as to whether public transport is a plus or minus point for Foxton.

Local education facilities are largely well thought of, as are medical services. The village has a well run shop/post office and public house. Long may they continue!

In response to the Parish Plan questionnaire, the main problem cited was the difficulty and danger inherent in accessing the A10 at the railway level crossing due both to the frequency of trains and the weight of road traffic, especially at peak times. Realistically this is likely to remain a problem for the future although every effort should be made to alleviate it.

Other concerns were of a social nature – vandalism, graffiti, inconsiderate parking and speeding in the village were cited as problems. More detail is contained within the full Plan.

There is nevertheless much to like about life in Foxton – many people mentioned as major plus points the community generally, the pleasant largely unspoilt environment, the availability of public transport, and the shop/post office.

## Foxton Action Plan

### Issues/Problems/Actions identified & plans required

Action No./Chapter	Issue/Problem	Proposed Action	Leader for Parish	Other Partners	Priority
1.1 Planning	Limit Expansion	Work with District Council to ensure residents comments and feelings are taken into consideration	PC Planning Committee	SCDC	High
1.2 Planning	Expand conservation area	Encourage setting up of group to liaise with PC and SCDC in expansion of conservation area. Establish a residents group to pursue expansion of the designated conservation area	PC Planning Committee. Historical Society?	SCDC	High
2.1 Housing	Plan to provide affordable housing	Work with Housing Associations to provide affordable housing development within the parish in line with housing needs survey	PC Planning Committee	SCDC Housing Associations	High
2.2 Housing	Promote energy saving measures	Initiate a meeting with DC energy officer to discuss options		SCDC energy officer, commercial partners	Medium
2.3 Housing	Improve storm drainage on High St	Drainage problems being investigated by County Highways		County Highways	Medium

Priority	Other Partners	Leader for Parish	Proposed Action	Issue/Problem	Action No./Chapter
Ongoing	Foxton school Foxton learning centre, residents	Parents group? Friends of Foxton school?	Set up a group to run a holiday club and similar services for the village. Perhaps use old Methodist Church	Provision of holiday play scheme and after school clubs	3.1 Education/ Children
Medium	Cambridgeshire ACRE – Phillip Peacock	Play area committee	A working party has been set up with the aim of fund raising to facilitate this	Need to update/expand play area	3.2 Education/ Children
High	County major roads program. County Highways Network Rail		Parish Council to work with County Highways and Network Rail on possible options	Improvements to Foxton Crossing, in short and long term	4.1 Transport / Roads
High	Network Rail, FCC, County Highways		Yellow lines on N end of Station Rd. are being extended. Aim to get off road parking for station	Parking and congestion near station	4.2 Transport/ Roads
Medium	Shop, Pub. City Highways PCSOs Sports clubs		Work with shop/pub & others to encourage use of Edis Way parking, especially during sporting events.	Parking in centre of village	4.3 Transport / Roads
High	City Highways PCSOs		Solutions and costs are being looked into, but will be a minimum of £5k per road. The Parish Council would have to provide the funds.	Speeding on entry roads to village	4.4 Transport / Roads
Medium	Stagecoach CCC		Promote bus user group, work with CCC and bus service provider to review options	Bus service improvements	4.5 Transport / Roads
	Network Rail FCC	Rail user group	County Councillor has set up a user group to review services and facilities	Train service improvements	4.6 Transport / Roads

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4.7 Transport / Roads	Condition of roads and pavements	Parish Council to work with Cty Highways to monitor quality of surfaces		Cty Highways	Medium
5.1 Medical / Social	Local medical facilities	Due to new housing developments CCC and NHS partners will need to be aware of and to meet the increases in demands. Find appropriate people to contact in partner group		CCC NHS authorities	Medium
5.2 Medical / Social	Foxtton Social car scheme	Promote greater awareness and use of social car scheme		SCDC Partnership officer, Kathryn Hawkes	Medium
6.1 Law and Order	Improve perception of police presence in village	Parish Council to liaise with local PCSOs to raise their awareness profile in the village	Police Liaison Officer	PCSOs	Medium
6.2 Law and Order	Consider Neighbourhood Watch scheme	Contact neighbourhood watch officer and aim to set up a group (dependent on volunteers)			Low
7.1 Leisure/ Social	Encourage new activities	Very dependent on volunteers to form and run new activities. Establish and promote Leisure Activities coordinator role			Low
8.1 Recreation & Environment	Encourage use and access to country in & around village	Promote access to and use of village footpaths and woodland and recreation ground in its setting.	RGT	FGA	Medium

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8.2 Recreation & Environment	Look for opportunities to enhance village environment	Investigate eg possible community orchard	RGT	SCDC Community Orchard Officer FGA	Medium
8.3 Recreation & Environment	Lighting	Lights required at Vicarage Corner	Parish Council		
8.4 Recreation & Environment	Lighting of Recreation Ground	Phase 2 sports lighting required on rec.	Sports Clubs	RGT	
8.5 Recreation & Environment	Village footpaths	Promote additional footpaths and maintain existing ones. Encourage walkers to set up a group to liaise with PC			
8.6 Recreation & Environment	Litter and Foul waste	Make links with SCDC Environmental health team to deal with graffiti and litter			
9.1 Business Issues	Mobile Phone coverage	Only one network is reliable in Foxton at present. Work with phone companies to resolve.		Phone Companies CCC	

Produced by Brian Hockley and David Allars  
with the invaluable help of many others within the village and without,  
whose assistance is recorded in the Village Plan itself.