

## Important Infrastructure and Community Facilities

### 1. Evidence of Issues

Responses to the questionnaire (May 2016) demonstrated significant recognition and appreciation of the existing social infrastructure. In terms of educational provision support ranged from 99% for the primary school, with only slightly less for the nursery, playgroup, after school clubs and holiday play schemes, to 62% for childminder services.

Support for the other facilities and amenities that contribute to a sense of community, character and ethos of a parish was demonstrated by 100% appreciation of the post office, and by minimally decreasing percentages for the shop, village hall and associated facilities, church, surgery, green spaces, water courses, historical and archaeological connections and the Fontmell Pub which received 89%.

The Parish Council may wish to consider nominating buildings and facilities as “assets of community value” and invoking the right to make a first bid in the event of any sale.

It was evident that there was strong dissatisfaction with the existing mobile phone network and fibre broadband service. Most respondents agreed that these services have increasing importance for infrastructure, business and leisure, and that currently few people living in the parish can rely on good quality provision.

The results of the questionnaire highlighted that parishioners wanted improved use of the Surgery building through increased surgery hours and by the provision of a wider range of medical services including chiropody.

It was put forward that an enlarged village hall and additional use of the school premises could contribute to building on existing educational, training, sport and leisure activities. Suggestions were made for clubs and groups included the guiding and scouting movements, bridge, table tennis, cycling clubs, teaching of IT and other skills, all of which should aim to offer choices to the whole age range of residents and locals.

The Village Hall was highly valued by the community (92% support) but there were suggestions that it could be improved by the installation of further sports facilities such as a badminton court and improved football pitch, by development of the children’s play area, by the installation of a loop system in the hall (as well as in other public buildings) and for Wi Fi to be installed.

Additional proposals to broaden facilities included promoting the arrangements for a community energy saving project, hairdressing/beauty salon and a craft skills centre. The role that a community website could play in drawing attention to local facilities, amenities and events and perhaps business opportunities featured in informal responses.

## 2. Summary from further consultation:

*Not available yet.*

\*From Draft Plan: Summary from Further consultation

JW: As part of the research into the impact that development might have on the adequacy of existing infrastructure, the main finding related to waste water treatment, as Wessex Water confirmed (letter dated 12 December off West View) may not be adequate to support future development without works being carried out.

### 3. Essential and valued community infrastructure and facilities

The box here shows the elements of infrastructure that parishioners regarded as valuable or important to the community.

<b>Fontmell Magna Parish Infrastructure</b>
St Andrews School
St Andrews Church
Village Stores and Post Office
Village Café
The Fontmell Pub
Village Hall
St Andrews School Hall
Springhead Trust
Fontmell Magna Under 5's Preschool
Fontmell Magna Toddler Group
Fontmell Surgery and Clinic
Mobile Phone Network
Fibre Broadband service

The box below shows further amenities and facilities in the parish that contribute to the character and appeal of the village and parish.

<b>Fontmell Magna Community Facilities and Amenities</b>
Clubs and Societies including after school clubs and holiday clubs
Springhead Gardens and Events
Village Tennis Court
Village Playground and Cycle Path
Village Hall Parking Area
The War Memorial
Parish Council Website
Parish Council Noticeboards
The War Memorial
The Telephone Boxes at Bedchester and Fontmell
The Bus Stop
Parish Footpaths
Church Street Raised Pathway
Waterwheel Church Street
Brooklands Wood
Fontmell Brook
Collyer's Brook
The Mill Pond, brook, bridge and wildlife area
Sheep Dip, Mill Street
Bat Roost, Mill Street
Fontmell Down Nature Reserve

#### 4. Specific Objectives for the Development of Infrastructure and Amenities in the Parish:

1. To protect, maintain and extend where appropriate, existing infrastructure, social amenities and facilities
2. To adapt and modernize amenities and facilities in the spirit of this plan, if necessary
3. To encourage further social, health and wellbeing, and commercial opportunities for all
4. To enhance a community ethos and activity with a light environmental footprint

#### 5. Map:

The map shows that infrastructure and amenities are heavily concentrated in the village of Fontmell Magna, providing a strong focal point for community activities but which are of less convenience for parish residents in Bedchester, Twyford, Hartgrove, Margaret Marsh, Kit Hill and Fontmell Hill.

#### 6. Strategic Objectives Relevant to Social Infrastructure are:

- 1.1 Encouraging the use of renewable energy technology, energy efficient design and technologies and efficient water resources
- 2.2 Ensuring development contributes to the quality and interest of the local character of the different areas within the parish
- 3.2 Ensuring that the nature conservation sites and rare and protected species are safeguarded
- 3.3 Enhancing the status of Collyer's Brook/Fontmell Brook watercourses and other important sites as wildlife corridors and habitats
- 4.2 Supporting the development of the facilities and amenities offered by the Village school to ensure its long-term viability
- 4.3 Enabling the growth of business and employment opportunities to meet local needs
- 4.4 Continuing to offer a wide range of social, sport and leisure activities
- 4.5 Encouraging the provision of transport links to [and from] local towns
- 4.6 Encouraging the adequate provision of health, education and retail facilities

## 7. Policy:

Local infrastructure, facilities and amenities can help engender a sense of community and neighbourly interaction. They can play a part in environmental sustainability, in promoting local enterprise and they provide opportunities for local people.

Significantly high levels of support (questionnaire, May 2016) for the existing community infrastructure suggests that it should be retained in this plan.

The loss or reduction of this infrastructure will be supported only if it is clear, that the viability of any aspect has been compromised beyond significant effort to preserve or purposefully adapt and that to do otherwise would be unreasonable.

Alternative and additional provision will have community backing and be permitted where schemes demonstrate maintenance and/or enhancement.

In addition to the above, local facilities and amenities which contribute to the character and ethos of the parish will be protected and preserved.

## 8. Projects

Projects that would address some of the expressed needs and aspirations and which pursue the objectives for social infrastructure include (but are not exclusive to):

- Mobile network access point in Fontmell Magna village centre
- Community energy saving project
- Wi Fi in the village hall
- Hearing loop in the village hall
- A parish website for information, promotion, events and amenities
- Car sharing scheme
- Community mini bus or share in a scheme
- Increased awareness of the network of local footpaths and requirement that local landowners comply with access regulations
- Community venture and premises to act as a show case for country crafts

The Parish Council will oversee chosen developments but many will need the support and participation of volunteers from the parish community.

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