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This Parish Plan follows the 412 responses in the Appraisal Analysis circulated in December 2002 and the comments from the 82 participants in the Parish Workshop last June. We have taken the major items of concern and included them in the proposed action plan.

We have tried to identify who is responsible for each item and the progress achieved in the intervening time period. Some you will notice have already been dealt with and others will take a little longer!

Remember this is your plan; it has been developed by your representatives and requires your continued support to bring it to fruition.

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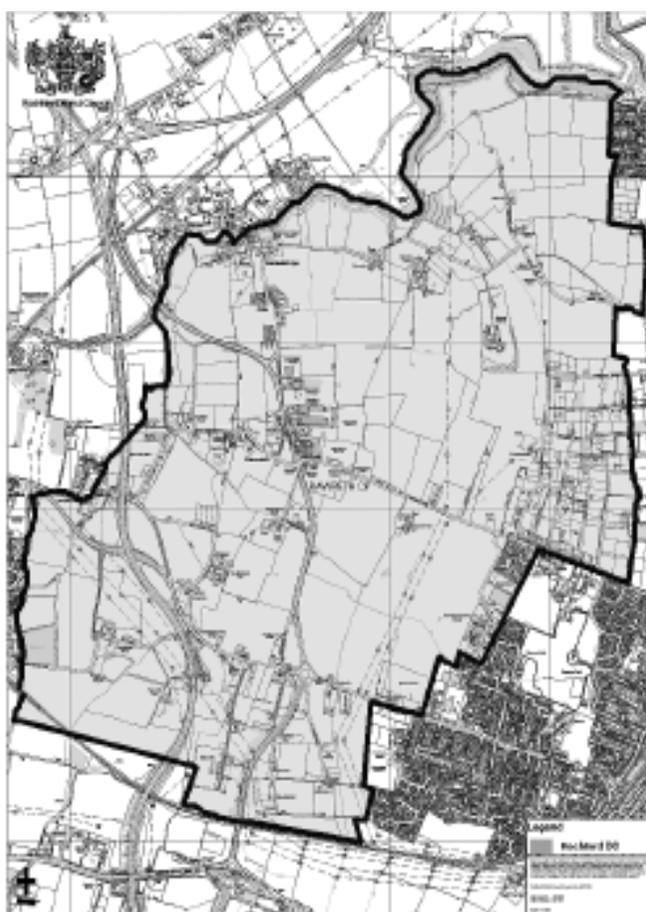
Introduction

Rawreth can best be described as a group of settlements in the District of Rochford in the County of Essex. It is described as:

“a wedge of green on the edge of the District, forming a significant barrier of countryside between Rayleigh and Basildon. The community, although small in number, is great in achievement and spirit, with amenities such as the Village Hall used to the full.” (RDC Guide, p 19).

This 1128-hectare (2788 acre) wedge of green belt land is naturally predominately agricultural and horticultural.

The soil is generally low quality, grade 2a & 2b with much grade 3. The area includes part of a Coastal Protection Belt and a Site of Special Scientific Interest. There are a number of World War II landmarks and one Grade II listed monument. Part of the area is in the River Crouch flood plain.



(by courtesy of Rochford District Council)



The present Parish of Rawreth at the time of Domesday (1086) consisted of lands of Odo, Bishop of Bayeaux, including the Saxon Manor of Bacchenia and Tryn-de-Hayes, the Saxon Manor “held of Suene under the Honor of Rayleye”.

Rawreth is first recorded as a place in 1177 as “Raggerea”, as a manor in 1284 and a village in 1412. The present version of the name appeared as “Rawereheth” in the Westminster Domesday book of 1283-1307.

In 1768 the Parish of Rawreth consisted of the two hamlets Raureth and Trindehay that covered the Manors of Raureth Hall, Chichester Hall, Beke Hall, Beeches and Tryn-de-Hayes.

The Parish Council of Rawreth was disbanded in the 1930s to form Rayleigh Urban District Council and was reformed in 1994 following Local Government reorganisation.

There was one council house development of 20 properties built prior to the Second World War and one of 32 built in the 1950s and six more in the late Sixties. In the more recent past one medium size private development of 90 properties has been constructed. The District Council’s Planning and Policy Guide January 2002 stated both Urban and Inner Green Belt studies have “demonstrated sufficient land within the urban areas to accommodate new housing up to 2011”. Lack of development in the area has not affected the community’s determination to remain great in resolve and achievement.

The “old” centre of the Parish is regarded as the Church, the School and the Parish Hall and all are located within a few yards of one another. Not far away there is a playing field maintained by the District Council. Rayleigh Cricket Club also have their cricket pitch located in the Parish. There is no village shop, no doctor’s surgery and no post office but it can boast a hotel, two pubs, two garages, a number of small industrial sites and one major wholesale store. There are also a number of small “home” businesses. It has 378 properties, a voting population of 790 and a total population estimated at 1000.



Traffic and Transport

The appraisal has shown that this category is high on the list of concerns. The main concerns are:-

Traffic too fast and showing no respect for the village. Some drivers ignore the chicanes in Church Road while others suggest that Church Road is cut off at one end.

Another area of concern which was highlighted at the Parish Plan Workshop was the area in and around Beeches Road. The following possible solutions suggested:

- Chicanes to be used to slow traffic in Beeches Road.

- The mouth of Beeches Road from Chelmsford Road be reduced to slow traffic down approaching Beeches Road.

- The speed limit for Beeches Road/Chelmsford Road be reduced to 30mph.

- Due to the weak bridge the weight limit in Beeches Road should be enforced to stop vehicles over 3 tons using it.

Another area which caused concern and comment was the Rawreth Lane area. Most returns showed that concerns were raised over the amount of heavy traffic using this route, which will only get worse as the new developments in this area continue. There were lots of other comments regarding traffic and transport which have been noted by the Parish Council.

Footpaths

Over-hanging weeds (bramble, nettles, etc) on Church Road footpath and the same comments were received for Old London Road footpath which is now not used. Residents prefer to walk in the road.

It is also considered that it is too dangerous to walk or cycle down Beeches Road and that residents should not use grass verges for parking anywhere in the parish.

Under the heading of public transport it was suggested that a local bus service for Battlesbridge, Rawreth and Rayleigh be investigated with the bus company.





Community and Facilities

A large proportion of the returns show that the community still has a village atmosphere with close links between the village and the church. The drawbacks are that Rawreth is dispersed and lacks many amenities including village centre, local shop or post office and can be isolating. It was suggested that some of the many garden centres in the area could sell bread, milk, etc.

Although Rawreth has a Brownie pack, wine group, alpine flower group, art group and a Ladies' Club, there is a desire for more clubs for children, adults and teenagers. The village hall and church have excellent facilities where more clubs and meetings could be held. There is a mobile library. Access to good shopping centres is easy for those with cars but can be difficult if you have to rely on public transport.

The church is also used for community benefit. However at present it is under-utilised.





The School

At the moment the school provides a focus for the village and draws people together. Many people felt that their children benefited greatly from being able to attend the school with its friendly, caring atmosphere and strong links to the church.

However, the school is to be relocated to the old Park School site in Rawreth Lane and a considerable number of residents felt that the school should stay.

There may be an opportunity to turn the existing school into a Nursery School.

The school will be missed, both as a focal point for the village and as an institution which has more than exceeded its role through a caring and friendly atmosphere.



Economy and Business

From the village appraisal we have clear evidence that the overwhelming majority of the working age population in the village commute to work outside the village.

The majority of mothers with children of school age have access to private transportation and have been using shops in Rayleigh or Wickford or out of town supermarkets. The village has a large bulk purchase warehouse within its boundaries. The issue for many older residents is that there are no small shops within the Village coverage.



Built Environment

The village has in the past 10 years seen substantial housing development of executive homes which has led to the village population expanding by circa 30%.

With the government's proposals for the Thames Gateway and the plans to further develop housing along the northern banks of the Thames down to Southend-on-Sea, villagers are concerned that the village identity will be lost and that it will soon be seen as a suburb of Rayleigh.

Much of the land is low lying with concerns being raised that any future development would result in a potential enhanced flooding risk.

The concern is that any new building would be unsympathetic to the current environment and that there would not be necessary additional enhancement to services/amenities to deal with the increases. Over 70% of respondents did not want further development in Rawreth.





Fly tipping and Posters

There has been an on-going problem of fly tipping in Old London Rd together with constant problem of fly posters on the main road routes through the village. This has been raised with both Rochford DC and Essex CC.

Rubbish and Hedgerows

Villagers are concerned by the amount of rubbish that collects in hedgerows which is exacerbated by the council's inability to keep them adequately maintained. The lack of maintenance causes the verges to grow over footpaths, which in turn means that pedestrians find them difficult to use without becoming very close to traffic.

Flooding

There is concern that the River Crouch and its feeder brooks are being maintained on an ad hoc basis rather than a proactive one. In the past brooks have only been cleared of debris after incidence of flooding.

When flooding occurs it causes major inconvenience to villagers in low-lying areas around Old London Road and Church Road.

Recycling

There is a recycling point in the playing fields in Rawreth Lane which is heavily used. However Rochford does not as yet have a domestic recycling scheme in place for the Village of Rawreth.

Village Hall

In the early 1990s the village hall was redeveloped due to the old pre-war hall being beyond repair. This has created an up-to-date facility that is well used by villagers and friends of the village alike, which has created a vibrant focal point for village activities.

Quiz clubs, alpine flower society, wine club and dancing clubs all use the hall and it is in much demand for private functions.

The hall's popularity has created problems of lack of space that are being addressed by the addition of a large conservatory.

Sports and Leisure

The village is lucky to have a large playing field in Rawreth Lane (Bedloes Corner), which is run by Rochford Council. This has proved a valuable resource and now the village has a junior football team within its boundaries, "Hambro Colts", which is FA Charter marked.

There is also a riding school, golf driving range and facilities for football and cricket in the village.

Young People

The village demographics have changed due to the Laburnum Grove development, which has meant that many young children are now part of the village.

We are lucky that football and cricket are available but further research needs to be made to anticipate children's future needs.

Action Plan

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT PAGE 3					
ITEM	WHAT ACTION	WHO LEADING?	WHO ELSE INVOLVED?	HOW FUNDED	WHEN?
A1	Reduce speed limit in Rawreth Lane	Parish Council	E.C.C.	E.C.C.	Partially completed 40 to 30 effective
	Chelmsford Road	Parish Council	E.C.C.	E.C.C.	E.C.C. agreed reduced 50 to 40
	Beeches Road	Parish Council	E.C.C.	E.C.C.	Ongoing
	London Road	Parish Council	E.C.C.	E.C.C.	Reduced to 40 from 60
A2	Chicanes in Church Road	Parish Council	E.C.C.	E.C.C.	Ongoing maintenance, removal resisted until school relocated
A3	Concerns in Beeches Road Chicanes	Parish Council	E.C.C.	E.C.C.	Ongoing
	Re-align junction with Chelmsford Road	E.C.C.	Parish Council Rochford DC	E.C.C.	Estimated Summer 2005
	Weight Limit Enforcement	E.C.C.	Essex Police	E.C.C.	No Budget
A4	Lack of Street Lighting at Junction Old London Road and A129	Parish Council	E.C.C.	E.C.C.	Ongoing
A5	Maintenance of Footpaths	Parish Council	E.C.C.	E.C.C.	All Verges maintained in 2004 (Planned Parish Visit)
A6	Additional bus service for Battlesbridge Rawreth and Rayleigh	Parish Council	Rochford DC E.C.C.	Potential for Grant	Ongoing
COMMUNITY FACILITIES PAGE 4					
ITEM	WHAT ACTION	WHO LEADING?	WHO ELSE INVOLVED?	HOW FUNDED	WHEN?
B1	Lack of facilities	Parish Council	R.D.C. E.C.C.	To be determined	Depending on future of existing school building
B2	Group and Clubs	Community	Village Hall Committee St Nicholas PCC	Subscription and grant	Ongoing Art Group formed. Scope for Gardening Club, Rambling Club, Music Club, Senior Citizens Club
B3	School to be relocated	E.C.C.	Board of Governors St Nicholas Church Chelmsford Diocese	E.C.C.	Estimated relocation September 2006
B4	Future use of existing school premises	Parish Council	Community	To be determined	2005/2006
B5	Garden centres encouraged to sell milk/bread etc.	Parish Council	Local Businesses	N/A	Ongoing

ECONOMY AND BUSINESS PAGE 6

ITEM	WHAT ACTION	WHO LEADING?	WHO ELSE INVOLVED?	HOW FUNDED	WHEN?
C1	Lack of Shops	Parish Council	To be determined	To be determined	See B1

BUILT ENVIRONMENT PAGE 6

ITEM	WHAT ACTION	WHO LEADING?	WHO ELSE INVOLVED?	HOW FUNDED	WHEN?
D1	Further Housing Development	Parish Council	R.D.C. E.C.C.	N/A	Majority of survey showed that no further action required except for low cost housing for local residents

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PAGE 7

ITEM	WHAT ACTION	WHO LEADING?	WHO ELSE INVOLVED?	HOW FUNDED	WHEN?
E1	Fly tipping	R.D.C.	Parish Council Community	R.D.C.	Ongoing concern but good co-operation with local authority
E2	Rubbish and Hedgerows	R.D.C.	Parish Council Community	R.D.C.	Action Complete. Including in Rochford Maintenance Plan
E3	Flood Risk	Parish Council	E.C.C. Environment Agency	E.A.	North Benfleet Brook bank raised 2004. Rawreth Brook desilting ongoing, Trender Avenue/ Laburnum Way ongoing

The Future

We had over a 50% response to the village questionnaire and it showed how much the friends and residents of Rawreth care about the Parish. Clearly we were not able to cover every aspect of village life but judging on the returns at the Parish Workshop we covered the important ones.

The Parish is small and sometimes we feel that we have been forgotten. It is your Parish Council's aim to protect the general interests of all Rawreth Residents and to deal with the concerns of all parishioners in an open and honest way. The purpose of Parish Plan Steering Committee was to act on behalf of the Parish Council in identifying the areas requiring attention and the priorities for future action.

During this process we have raised and resolved some of the items already. Clearly this is not the end of the process and the Parish Council will take the lead on the outstanding items that fall within their control. The community will take the lead on other items such as running groups and clubs. As the issues are resolved more will inevitably come to light. We hope that residents will continue to raise items of concern with Parish, District and County Councillors. See your Newsletter for contact details.

Our Aim

*Our aim is to work towards a safer and more caring community,
to maintain the local character of the Parish whilst still encouraging
the local economy.*

References

A number of Agencies have assisted in the preparation of this document. The following website/email addresses and telephone contact numbers may be of assistance should you wish to obtain further information:

Rochford District Council

www.rochford.gov.uk

*Council Offices
South Street
Rochford
Essex SS4 1BW*

01702 546366

Essex County Council

www.essexcc.gov.uk

*County Hall
Chelmsford
Essex CM1 1LX*

Help line 08457 430430

Rural Community Council of Essex

erdc@essexrcc.org.uk

*Mackmurdo House
79 Springfield Road
Chelmsford
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01245 352046

The Countryside Agency

www.countryside.gov.uk

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126 – 128 Hills Road
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CB2 1PT*

01223 273587

Bibliography

Morant P., The History of Antiquities of the County of Essex Vol 1, 1816, Meggy and Chalk, Chelmsford
Reaney P. H., Place Names in Essex, 1976, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge
Morris J., Domesday Book, 1983, Phillimore, Chichester.

Thanks & Acknowledgements

The Parish Plan Steering Committee consisted of:

John Tyson (*Chairman*)

Mary Beckers (*Vice-Chairman*)

Christine Holmes (*Minute Secretary*)

Spencer Croucher (*Treasurer*)

Paul Beckers

Carol Bright

Jean Collins

Dave Collins

David Holmes (*Graphics and Design*)

Ruth Lushey

Basil Osborn

Rev Linda Steward

Norman Steward

Pat Woods

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Further copies of the report are available from the Clerk at Rawreth Parish Council.