



**STEEP PARISH PLAN**  
**QUESTIONNAIRE**  
*For Local Businesses*  
**2011**



## Introduction

We are fortunate to live in a fine parish in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and within the new South Downs National Park. Steep is an active and varied community, including those who work within the village (or nearby), those who commute to work, as well as those who are retired. Agriculture plays an important part in village life; there is some small-scale industry in Steep Marsh; and we have the added advantage of the presence of our beautiful church, a well-regarded primary school and Bedales, one of the country's leading independent schools. We enjoy the unique backdrop provided by the Ashford Hangers and benefit from a wide range of styles and types of housing within the parish boundary.

However, like all communities, Steep Parish is subject to various pressures for change and has to be prepared to respond positively to these. To help manage any such changes effectively, the Parish Council is sponsoring the development of a **Steep Parish Plan**. In developing this plan, we want to reflect the views **of the whole village** in looking at how we might deal with change and in how we might choose to change. Equally, we will also need to focus on what should be protected and preserved.

The Plan will describe Steep as it is today, and attempt to capture what gives the parish its particular character and its villagers a sense of community. It will then set out priority areas for future action.

**This exercise only has value if it reflects the views of the people of Steep Parish on the topics and issues that influence their life here. YOUR ideas and opinions are a vital part of the Parish Plan. The list of topics covered in the survey is based on suggestions from the early conversation groups on the Parish Plan which involved a large number of residents across the Parish, as well as from the two exhibitions held in 2010. We are seeking the views of everyone who lives and works in Steep, together with the children and young people who attend school here. This version of the questionnaire is specifically aimed at businesses operating in the Parish.**

**Please take a few minutes to complete this survey. If you need any help in completing the form, we will be pleased to assist.**

**If you have any questions about the survey form, please telephone  
James Rush on 01730 267928   Peter Cruttenden on 01730 233241  
Tony Struthers on 01730 269533   Jeremy Young on 01730 265414**

## How your answers will be used - and what happens next

1. Taking part in this survey is **VOLUNTARY**. You can answer as many questions as you wish, but the more answers you give; the more this will influence the final direction of the Parish Plan.
2. Indicate your answers clearly with an **X** in the boxes provided. Some questions invite you to give more information, but please keep your answer as brief as possible to make analysis easier. If you do not wish to answer a question, please leave blank. If you need more space, please use a separate sheet of paper and include it in the survey booklet.
3. Your answers will be kept **CONFIDENTIAL**. The results from all the forms received back will be added together to provide statistical summaries. Any written comments or suggestions you provide will only be used anonymously.
4. We would ask you to complete the form as soon as possible. You can **mail your completed survey form** using the enclosed postage-paid envelope or you can drop it into the box you will find in the Village Hall. All forms must be in by the closing date of **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July**.
5. Once we have analysed the results, we plan to hold a **VILLAGE SURVEY FEEDBACK EVENT**. This is likely to be in the autumn. All villagers will be welcome to this event (whether they have completed the survey or not) and it will be an opportunity to discuss the survey results, the issues they raise, and to influence the next stage of developing the Parish Plan.

## A. YOUR BUSINESS

1. If you run a business within the parish, how many people do you employ?

	Number
None, I work on my own	<input type="text"/>
1-3 employees	<input type="text"/>
3-6 employees	<input type="text"/>
7-10 employees	<input type="text"/>
More than 10	<input type="text"/>

2. How long has your business been established?

<input type="text"/>	years
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3. The parish web site – [www.SteepVillage.com](http://www.SteepVillage.com) – supplements the parish newsletter, acts as a store of useful information and provides direct access to a great deal of material about the Parish Council.

Would you be interested in linking to the website or advertising on it as a way of promoting your business?

Yes	<input type="text"/>
No	<input type="text"/>

## B. BASIC SERVICES

4. As a rural parish, not all areas have access to services which would be taken for granted in a town. Please indicate below which services your business currently receives:

	Yes	No
Mains Gas	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Mains Electricity	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Mains Water	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Mains Sewerage	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Good Broadband Connection	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

5. Extending mains services is generally an expensive business. However, please indicate which of the following (if any) you would like the parish to treat as a priority:

Household Member					
	1	2	3	4	5
Mains Gas					
Mains Water					
Mains Sewerage					
Improved Broadband Connection					
Other					
<i>It would be helpful to identify which area requires the services</i>					

6. Which of the following types of COMMUNITY-OWNED energy sources would you like to see in the parish in the next few years? Please rank in priority (1, 2, 3...)

Household Member					
	1	2	3	4	5
Community bio-mass (e.g. wood chip) boiler					
Solar panels on large buildings					
Roof solar collectors for hot water on large buildings					
Community wind turbines					
None of these					
Other (please specify)					

*Please note that further information on these possibilities is available on the SteepVillage.com website*

7. Any business which survives and thrives in the parish makes a positive contribution to the community. Do you think your business has any negative impacts on the community?

No, there are none

Noise

Delivery vehicles

Other (please specify)


8. Is there anything that you or the Parish can do to reduce these impacts?

**9. Do you have any concerns with the road access to your business within the parish? (Tick as many as appropriate)**

	Household Member				
	1	2	3	4	5
Poor or misleading signage					
Poor or inadequate lighting					
Lack of roadside footpaths					
Poor road maintenance					
Poor or missing road markings					
Vehicle speeds					
Vehicle access					
Traffic jams					
None					
Other (please specify)					

**C. COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN STEEP**

**There are significant planning restrictions on building in many parts of Steep as a result of the East Hampshire Local Plan; our situation in an area of outstanding natural beauty; and now, as part of the South Downs National Park. These restrictions are intended by the planning authorities to encourage small-scale “in-fill” residential development but discourage substantial building. Do you believe that there is a need for more commercial premises in the Parish which should be looked at by the planning authorities? Please give as much information as possible on the type of development and possible locations as you can.**

6. One of the ways in which communities flourish is through local employment opportunities. If the parish wanted to attract more employment opportunities, please indicate which sectors you believe should be given priority.

		Household Member				
		1	2	3	4	5
	Agriculture					
	Processing agricultural products					
	Forestry and forest processing					
	Small-scale industry					
	IT sector					
	Shop/Post Office					
	Tourism					
	We don't need any more employment					
	Other (please specify)					

**D. LOCAL DEMOCRACY**

7. How good a job is generally being done by your Parish Council in addressing the needs of your business?

		Household Member				
		1	2	3	4	5
	Excellent					
	Good					
	Average					
	Poor					
	Very Poor					
	How could it do better?					

**E. THE BIG QUESTION .....**

8. Overall, how satisfied are you to be running a business in Steep at the present time?

		Household Member				
		1	2	3	4	5
	Very satisfied					
	Satisfied					
	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied					
	Dissatisfied					
	Very dissatisfied					
	Comments					

## AND FINALLY .....

Congratulations on making it to the end! And a huge thank you for taking the time to complete this form. Your opinions will be very useful in our future planning of the Parish. Please use the space below to add any final thoughts that we ought to know:

Final Thoughts

Please be sure **to drop your completed questionnaire into the box at the Village Hall, to save postage,** or in the stamped addressed envelope and post it back to EHDC.

**The closing date for submissions is 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011**



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