



STEEP PARISH PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE 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.

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. There is an **Entry Form** at the end of this booklet for you to use to enter the prize draw. Please fill in your details and you will be entered into the draw. Don't worry, your details will be kept separate from the Questionnaire!
5. We would ask you to complete the form (and invite any other members of your household to add their views – the form is designed to accommodate a number of individual views) as soon as possible. You may find it more fun to sit down together as a household to complete it. Multiple answers to the open questions can be entered in the text box provided in each case.
6. 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 1st July**.
7. 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. STEEP'S COMMUNITY

The parish of Steep covers a large area – and has a population which is quite widely dispersed.

1. How do you rate the sense of community in the parish?

	Household Member				
	1	2	3	4	5
Excellent					
Good					
Average					
Poor					
Very Poor					

2. Which of the following community activities have you attended in the past year?

	Household Member				
	1	2	3	4	5
School activity (Summer Fair, etc)					
Steep Film Society					
Welcome Club					
Women's Institute					
Steep Tennis Club					
Steep Cricket Club					
Steep & Stroud Garden Group					
Church event					
New Year's Eve Party					
New Year's Day Walk					
Hangers volunteer work morning					
Ashford Hangers Preservation Society					
Allotment Society					
Bonfire Night					
Bikes & Barrows (Help for Heroes)					
Royal Wedding Celebrations					
Other (please specify)					

3. Do you have any suggestions as to how the sense of community could be improved?

4. Some people may think of the heart of the parish as the Village Hall or the Church or one of the schools or Steep Common. What do you think of as the heart of the parish?

5. Do you think we need a more effective centre to the parish – and what could it be?

6. What, if any, community facilities would you like to see added or improved in Steep?

	Household Member				
	1	2	3	4	5
Larger children's playground					
Additional children's playground					
Scout Hut					
Public swimming pool					
Playing fields					
Café					
Post Office					
Village shop					
Other (please specify)					
We don't need any more facilities					

7. We are fortunate to have two well-established and active pubs in the parish. Are there any improvements you would like to see, which would make them more attractive and help them to flourish?

B. HEALTH, SAFETY & SECURITY

8. As there are no medical services in Steep, we are all dependent on being able to get to pharmacies, dentists, doctors' surgeries, the minor injuries unit and community hospital in Petersfield or the major hospitals in Portsmouth and around. Do you have any difficulties getting to medical services?

	Household Member				
	1	2	3	4	5
No, I don't have any difficulties					
Yes, due to distance from the bus stop					
Yes, due to lack of a bus route					
Yes, due to bus times					
Other (please specify)					

9. Have you ever experienced any problems in using the emergency services (Police, Fire or Ambulance) within the parish?

	Household Member				
	1	2	3	4	5
Difficulty in getting through on telephone					
Poor response time					
Services unable to find my address					
Unsatisfied with service received					
I haven't had any problems					
Other (please specify)					

10. How safe do you feel at home or in the parish during the day?

	Household Member				
	1	2	3	4	5
Very safe					
Fairly safe					
Fairly unsafe					
Very unsafe					

11. How safe do you feel at home or in the parish after dark?

	Household Member				
	1	2	3	4	5
Very safe					
Fairly safe					
Fairly unsafe					
Very unsafe					
Comment					

12. Is the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in your area effective?

	Household Member				
	1	2	3	4	5
Yes					
Somewhat effective					
No					
I am not aware of any scheme in my area					

13. Would any of the following make you feel safer at home or around the parish?

Please rank in priority order (1, 2, 3...)

	Household Member				
	1	2	3	4	5
Additional street lighting					
Improved Neighbourhood Watch Scheme					
Neighbour Care Scheme					
Assistance to improve home security					
Help and advice from police					
I do not need any of these					
Other (please specify)					

C. FINDING OUT ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE PARISH

14. How do you rate the information that you see about the parish?

	Household Member				
	1	2	3	4	5
Excellent					
Good					
Poor					
Very Poor					

15. Which of these sources of information about Steep do you currently see?

(Tick as many as appropriate)

		Household Member				
		1	2	3	4	5
	Noticeboards					
	Steep & Stroud Parish Newsletter					
	Steep website					
	Local newspapers					
	Parish Council meetings/minutes					
	Parish Council website					
	Other (please specify)					

16. A great deal of voluntary effort is devoted to preparing and distributing the Parish Newsletter.

		Household Member				
		1	2	3	4	5
	Do you receive it?					
	Do you read (at least some of) it?					
	Any comments or improvement suggestions?					

17. The parish web site – www.SteepVillage.com – supplements the newsletter, acts as a store of useful information and provides direct access to a great deal of material about the Parish Council.

How often have you visited the site in the last year?

		Household Member				
		1	2	3	4	5
	More than 5 times					
	1 – 5 times					
	I have never visited the website					
	How can the site be more useful?					

18. What other improvements would you like to see in the information about parish activities?

D. BASIC SERVICES

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

	Yes	No
Mains gas		
Mains electricity		
Mains water		
Mains sewerage		
Good broadband connection		

20. 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>					

21. Which of the following types of COMMUNITY-OWNED energy sources would you prefer 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

22. Do you have any concerns with the roads or footpaths 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)					

E. LANDSCAPE and the COUNTRYSIDE

23. A separate exercise is being carried out to assess the current state of our landscape. Many of you will have attended the public exhibition held on 2 April and expressed your opinions on the things you like about our landscape, those that you don't like and possible future threats to the landscape. We are, therefore, not asking a lot of landscape questions as part of this survey. However, if you have an important landscape topic that you wish to comment on (likes, dislikes, threats), please do so below.

24. Noise can be an irritant in a rural area. Which, if any, of the following do you think are the most serious causes of unwanted noise in Steep and need specific action to reduce?

	Household Member				
	1	2	3	4	5
Local traffic					
Delivery traffic					
A3 road noise					
Traffic calming measures					
High aircraft					
Low-flying helicopters (military)					
Low-flying helicopters (private)					
Neighbours					
Pubs and Clubs					
Other (please specify)					

25. South Downs National Park

It is early days for the National Park and it is not yet clear how this will affect the parish or its landscape. One option would be for the Parish Council to try to establish a written agreement with the National Park Authority which sets out the responsibilities and ambitions of both parties.

Do you think that such an agreement might be of value?

		Household Member				
		1	2	3	4	5
Yes						
No						
Other suggestions						

26. Visitor numbers to Steep Parish: one of the topics often raised about the future of our landscape is the effect of increasing numbers of visitors as a result of the launching of the National Park. Which of the following statements best describes your feelings on this subject?

		Household Member				
		1	2	3	4	5
Happy , I think it would be good for the parish and the landscape is for everyone to enjoy						
Not concerned , I don't think it will change much and any impacts can be managed						
Concerned , it will cause disruption to the parish and may cause increased soil erosion on the Hangers						
I don't have an opinion on this						

F. RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IN STEEP

27. 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” development but discourage substantial building. Extensions to existing properties, with some limitations, are usually possible, and conversions of existing agricultural buildings into homes may, under certain circumstances, be permitted. Exceptions to these restrictions can be made by the planning authority for affordable housing.

Many residents strongly wish to conserve the current appearance of the area and are uneasy about new developments.

Property values are high, with demand outstripping supply. It is possible that the coming of the National Park will increase this effect and make it more difficult for local people to remain in the parish.

The EHDC housing register continues to show that there is current demand for additional social housing for those with strong local connections to Steep.

There are very few “in-fill” sites remaining.

This has been a controversial topic in Steep in recent years, but the conflicting pressures listed above remain. If you have any thoughts on how the Parish Council should deal with this topic over, say, the next ten years, please complete the box below.

28. Do you think the parish needs to protect and enhance its character by creating a designated Conservation Area?

“The term **Conservation Area** nearly always applies to an area considered worthy of preservation or enhancement because of its special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. It is the protection of the quality and special interest of the neighbourhood or area as a whole that is intended, rather than specific buildings.” *Extracted from Wikipedia*

		Household Member				
		1	2	3	4	5
Yes						
No						

G. PUBLIC TRANSPORT

29. The bus service appears to be quite lightly used. Any comments on the quality and the convenience of the service, and how it could be improved, would be welcome.

Household Member	Bus Service Comments
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

H. THE LOCAL ECONOMY

30. Where do you do your major food shop?

		Household Member				
		1	2	3	4	5
Petersfield						
Alton						
Liss						
Waterlooville						
Havant						
Home delivery						

31. Steep has not had a village shop and post office for a number of years. Do you believe that there is sufficient enthusiasm for the idea – and commitment to support it – to make it worthwhile for this project to be revived?

	Household Member				
	1	2	3	4	5
Yes					
No					

32. 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)					

I. LOCAL DEMOCRACY

33. How good a job is generally being done by your Parish Council?

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

34. How good a job is generally being done by your East Hampshire District Councillor?

		Household Member				
		1	2	3	4	5
Excellent						
Good						
Average						
Poor						
Very poor						
I don't know						
How could this be improved?						

35. How good a job is generally being done by your Hampshire County Councillor?

		Household Member				
		1	2	3	4	5
Excellent						
Good						
Average						
Poor						
Very poor						
I don't know						
How could this be improved?						

J. THE BIG QUESTION

36. Overall, how satisfied are you with living in Steep at the present time?

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

K. THE HOUSEHOLD

In analysing the results, it would be helpful to know some basic information about your household:

37. Age Profile

Household Member	Gender		Up to 11 Years	11-17 Years	18-25 Years	26-39 Years	40-60 Years	61-80 Years	Over 80 Years
	M	F							
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									

38. Which of the following categories best describes you?

	Household Member				
	1	2	3	4	5
Full/part-time employee					
Full/part-time self-employed					
Full/part-time student					
Retired					
Homemaker					
Unemployed					

39. If you are in employment, do you work mainly from home?

	Household Member				
	1	2	3	4	5
Yes					
No					

40. If you are in employment and don't work from home, do you work within the parish or outside?

	Household Member				
	1	2	3	4	5
Within the parish					
Outside the parish					

41. If you are a student, which education establishment do you attend?

Member	Education Establishment Name
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

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

	Household Member				
	1	2	3	4	5
None					
1-3					
3-6					
7-10					
More than 10					

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:

Household Member	Final Thoughts
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

Good luck in the Prize Draw. Please be sure to complete the attached form and put it in the stamped addressed envelope along with your completed questionnaire.

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 1st July 2011

Prize Draw

Prizes to be won

- £100 Cash Prize
- £100 voucher from Owen's Cycles
- Dinner for two at the Cricketers Inn
- Lunch and drinks for two at the Harrow Inn
- Scotland Farm local lambswool Southdown Duvet

Please fill out your household details below to enter the draw (these details will be kept completely separate from your completed questionnaire)

Address:.....

.....

..... Postcode:.....

Contact Telephone Number:.....

Contact Email Address:.....

With thanks to the following Sponsors and Prize Givers:

