



CLAVERING PARISH PLAN

a plan produced by and for the community



APRIL 2014

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Section 1 INTRODUCTION

About the Clavering Parish Plan

In common with other communities large and small, rural and suburban, Clavering decided to embark upon developing a Parish Plan. Little did any of those involved realise what a task this would prove to be – or how fascinating.

A Parish Plan is an assessment of all that a Parish has by way of amenities, culture, nature and communities. It also seeks to find out about areas perceived as problems and discover what the community believes should be prioritised in future plans.

The impetus for Parish Plans was the Government's 2000 Rural White Paper, which introduced the framework for surveying communities for their views. All Parish Plans are organised through topic-led working parties made up of people from within the community itself. While it has support from both local and national government, the information gathering process and results remains independent of them.

How is a Parish Plan used?

Our Parish Plan is a resource and a reference document for all those deciding the future of Clavering. The Plan has been distributed as a reference document to the Parish Council, the Local Authority and – via our Local Councillor – the County Council. The Plan is also available for academic and historical use and as an evidence-based resource for groups and individuals seeking grants or wanting to get more involved in the community. Officially, the Plan should also include the Parish Council's prepared Development Plan and Emergency Plan. The Parish Plan funding included this

requirement, but no binding requirement was included in the funding on the Parish Council. However, it is now decided that the Plan will be published without these additions as the Parish Council, after several discussions, voted not to go ahead with their Development Plan due to the extraordinary amount of work this involves for the Councillors (a Development Plan cannot be done by volunteers from the community). This is disappointing but understandable. The Parish Plan committee have researched what is involved and concluded that there is nothing further that can be done and, therefore, agreed to publish the Plan without these additions.

So how could this Parish Plan benefit Clavering?

Like all communities, Clavering is growing and changing all around us. Many people have strong views on whether this change is good or bad.

By expressing our own opinions and hearing the opinions of others who live and work here – even if it is one lone voice with a valid comment to make – all of us have an opportunity to consider the current and future needs of our community. Elderly care, youth groups, housing and transport can all be assessed at Parish Council Level, but our Plan has been prepared by and for the community.



Clavering Parish Plan is funded by:

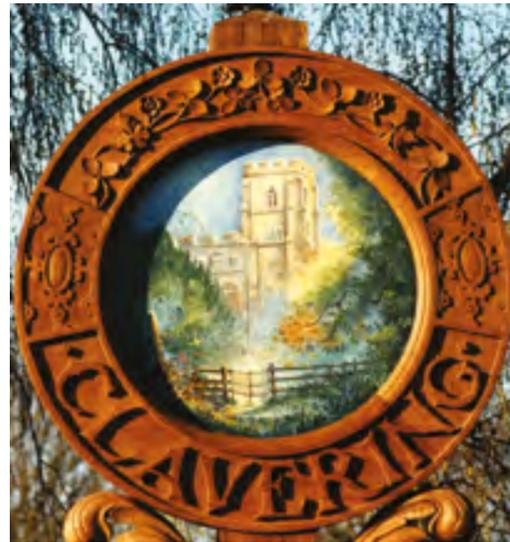


So has the Clavering Plan succeeded in its goals? Will it prove to be a worthwhile document? For the most part, the Plan has achieved its goals and fully justified the grant and time given to it. To some extent, it has been so long in its preparation because of the high response rate. Our Working Groups were so successful in their endeavours that the replies had to be sent away to be collated using specialist computer software. All villagers involved in helping to bring the Parish Plan to publication have been volunteers and their input has been greatly valued. As is often the way with voluntary projects, 'life' then managed to delay some stages of preparation.

Yet, there have already been several positive outcomes. The Speed Group Committee has been able to quote the survey's wholehearted support (100% of respondents for a speed limit reduction to 30mph) as their evidence to Essex County Council, helping our community to secure agreement and introduction of a lowered limit along main routes through the Village.



The Wildlife Group, which grew out of a Working Party for the Parish Plan, has had a very positive influence on the green cutting regime as, once again, evidence from the Plan helped the community to reach a decision. This Group have also extended their work to incorporate native bulb planting and, in the near future, bat and bird boxes. The Nature Trail from Jubilee Field to Dick Ball Meadow that opened in 2012 is further testament to the vibrancy and positive action of this group.



It is, perhaps, regrettable that a more representative voice from employers in Clavering was absent from the Village Plan results. A survey was conducted by the developers of the industrial units at Jubilee Works, with results forwarded to Uttlesford District Council. However, in the continued absence of a Regional Development Plan from Uttlesford District Council (as with many other local authorities), we must wonder if our whole community's voice gets the full attention it deserves. Employment needs of the Parish is an area that would, almost certainly, benefit from further enquiry – not least because of the high number of housing development applications currently being made in communities such as ours.

It is important to remember that Parish Plans are intended to be evolving documents, and so the input of all interested voices in the future of our community is both welcome and important for the future of Clavering.

We also recognise, however, that this has been a very rewarding journey so far, and a wonderful opportunity to forge new friendships and groups. We are indebted to the many committed and talented individuals of Clavering who worked so hard to bring our community's Parish Plan to fruition.



History of the parish of Clavering

Clavering is a large and scattered parish, situated in gently undulating countryside crossed by tributary valleys of the River Stort, and sited geologically on the border between Upper Chalk and Lambeth group deposits characteristic of the North West Essex landscape. Much of the surrounding countryside is intensively farmed, although there are small woodlands. It is governed locally by Uttlesford District Council and is nationally represented by the elected MP for Saffron Walden.



The extent of the Parish has changed little since the mid 18th century, when it was described as the: "largest and chief parish in this half hundred...in length it measures upwards of four and in breadth about three miles". With the centre of the village regarded as the area in the immediate vicinity of the Parish Church of St Mary & St Clement, Clavering has seven 'greens' and three 'ends' – Hill Green, Stickling Green, Sheepcote Green, Birds/Butts Green, Deers Green, Mill End, Ford End and Further Ford End.

Apart from a late Bronze Age hoard found in the vicinity of the Bury in Victorian times, and a noted 1304 aisled Hall House, there is little evidence of really early settlement. The Parish boundary with Langley is formed by a Roman Road that linked Great Chesterford and Braughing, however it appears that Clavering was established in the early Saxon period, when a small village was sited on the high ground near the confluence of the River Stort and the King's Water Stream (Stickling Brook).

The present medieval church dates from the 14th and 15th centuries, but stands on the site of a much earlier church. Three further distinct areas have developed: the higher ground of Hill Green, which has notable early buildings, early 20th-century housing, farm and industrial units and recreation areas; Pelham and Stortford Roads, which are mainly 20th-century buildings and a mix of private, local authority and shared ownership housing; and Coles Hill, a small late 20th-century housing development.

Clavering today

Our community is some 20 miles from Cambridge and 10 miles north of Stansted Airport. Clavering is bounded by a number of main arterial routes: the A10 to the west, the A120 to the south and the M11 to the east. Two stations on the Cambridge to London line are situated some four miles away. The proximity of all these transportation routes has influenced – and will continue to shape – the residential make-up of the Village.

Today, Clavering is a vibrant community with a diverse range of local organisations, a shop, school, well-tended recreation grounds, an active Parish Council and light industrial units. The 2001 census states the population to be 1,389.



Section 2 PARISH PLAN SURVEY RESPONSES

Demographics – about village residents

The Clavering Parish Plan survey's first questions set out to discover more about the make-up of the village in order to establish what sort of community we live in.

Almost a third of households that responded to the survey have one or more children and close to half of households (46 per cent) contain adults aged 60+.

The survey asked about patterns of work and lifestyle – to discover how many villagers work locally, commute or are retired. Of those that filled in this question on the survey, 39 per cent are retired and a further fifth are full or part-time homemakers.

Of those in employment, 19 per cent work either full- or part-time in the village itself, and a further 14 per cent work in surrounding villages. However, many village residents travel further afield, with almost a fifth working full- or part-time in London. A further 16 per cent are employed in Bishop's Stortford and Saffron Walden, while six per cent commute to Cambridge. One per cent of those who responded to the survey are unemployed.

Clavering Primary School is a valuable asset and 10 per cent of households who responded have children who attend school here in the village, while eight per cent of households have children who attend secondary school in surrounding villages.

The survey also asked respondents how long they had lived in the village and just over a fifth (21 per cent) have clocked up 40 or more years in Clavering – a figure matched exactly by new

blood, with a further 21 per cent having lived here for five years or less.

Clavering can, however, pride itself on being a very stable community, with well over half of respondents (64 per cent) having lived here for a decade or more. The vast majority of residents (89 per cent) own their own home or have shared ownership – unsurprising considering the shortage of rental accommodation in the local area. Over a third of respondents also attend church services at the Parish Church or Christian Centre.



Finally, this section of the survey asked about disability, and 14 per cent of respondents regard themselves as having a disability or long-term health condition affecting day-to-day activities – a figure that rises to 19 per cent among households containing adults aged 60+. Almost a quarter of all respondents say they cannot access all the facilities and services available in Clavering because of their disability or health condition.

VILLAGE VOICES:
“We are very lucky to live in such a friendly, lively and lovely village”

Village communities

The second section of the survey set out to find out what specific communities – younger, older, established and new – feel about information, services and groups within the village.

Part of this section explored communication. Almost three quarters of respondents say they found it easy to learn about village organisations and groups when they first moved to Clavering. The Parish News, produced by the Church and covering Clavering, Langley, Wicken Bonhunt and Arkesden, remains by far the most popular source of initially consulted information about forthcoming events (50 per cent). Word of mouth comes second at 20 per cent. The Parish Council Newsletter is consulted initially by 14 per cent of respondents and is the most popular second source (31 per cent).

The survey wanted to find out more about the kind of social meeting points young residents of Clavering would enjoy. Among households with children, 42 per cent would be interested in joining a youth club. There is even more enthusiasm within this group for dedicated facilities, with almost half (48 per cent) wanting a roofed shelter with facilities for table tennis (51 per cent) and basketball (49 per cent). The survey asked if there should be organised trips for young people and over a third of households with children like the idea of group outings to the cinema. Bowling comes a close second.



The survey also looked at existing facilities/groups for babies and very young children. Among households with children, the Village Hall Playgroup and Babies & Toddlers Group are well-used facilities (14 and 13 per cent respectively). It's worth noting that some children may attend both groups. There was considerable support for running baby and toddler groups throughout the year (not just during term time), with one fifth of households with children supporting the idea.

VILLAGE VOICES:

“Try to focus on the younger members of the village, encouraging them to use the facilities and get involved”

Clavering households were asked what they think of the idea of informal family social events during the summer (such as rounders or barbeques). Over a fifth of all respondents think this is a good idea, rising to over half (55 per cent) among families with children.

Focusing on provision for senior residents, the survey revealed that 62 per cent of respondents know about the village's Over 60s Club – rising to over 90 per cent among eligible residents. For around a third of households with adults aged 60+, the main appeal of this style of group is the opportunity to meet people.

The village has specific facilities to assist less mobile households. Clavering Care is a long-running voluntary help scheme designed to help people keep essential medical appointments and collect prescriptions. Among respondents, three per cent use its services, rising to five per cent among residents aged 60+. Seven per cent of people who responded to the survey would like to become involved in helping to run the scheme. Clavering's mobile library service is used by six per cent of respondents – rising to eight per cent among those aged 60+.

WHAT VILLAGE GATHERINGS WOULD WE LIKE?

22 households suggest a New Year's Eve party to appeal to the whole community

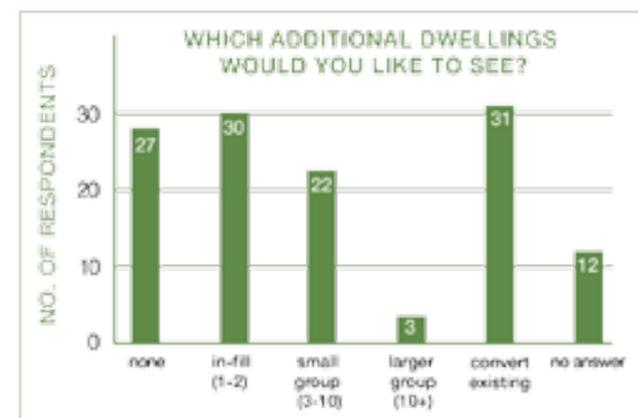
12 say a village barbecue or summer celebration

10 want the return of a village Fireworks Night celebration

Housing

Part of the survey covered the major issues of housing, since building homes to meet current and future needs is a well-publicised national and local issue.

The survey asked if Clavering needs more affordable housing. Well over half of respondents (59 per cent) think it does and 54 per cent believe there should be more new homes for rent. Well over a third (41 per cent) of households with adults aged 60+



believe there is not enough housing suitable for local elderly people.

The survey also asked residents what they thought about new build excluding affordable homes. Only three per cent of respondents agree that they would like to see larger (10+) housing developments. Infill (1-2 home) developments are preferred by almost a third of villagers. It's worth noting that 27 per cent of respondents don't want to see any new houses at all – rising to 33 per cent among families with children.

Respondents are split about the style of homes Clavering needs. Almost 40 per cent want family homes and almost a third want homes designed for older people. In addition, 17 per cent of respondents support the idea of homes created to house single people – perhaps reflecting both demographic change in our society and the need for affordable properties in this area. Environmental concerns are clearly a key issue, affecting both quality of life and sustainability. Almost three quarters (74 per cent) of respondents believe that new homes should be environmentally friendly, rising to 85 per cent among families with children.

VILLAGE VOICES:

“Any future developments should recognise that Clavering is a village and should be kept rural”

Light pollution (from street lights, etc) is considered to be a serious issue by seven per cent of residents. Nor are the majority bothered by road noise – over half say that this isn't a serious issue at all. Aircraft noise is a more significant worry, with over a third responding that this is an issue of concern.

Thankfully, most respondents are not too troubled by either bonfires or late night parties – combined these are considered environmental problems by 14 per cent of respondents. This suggests that, in the main, Clavering residents are considerate of their neighbours.

WHY DID WE MOVE HERE?

21 households chose Clavering for the rural location/beauty of the area

10 had family connections

8 liked the friendly community



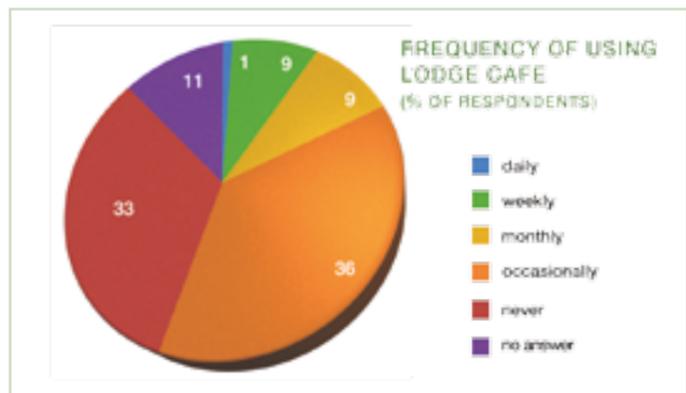
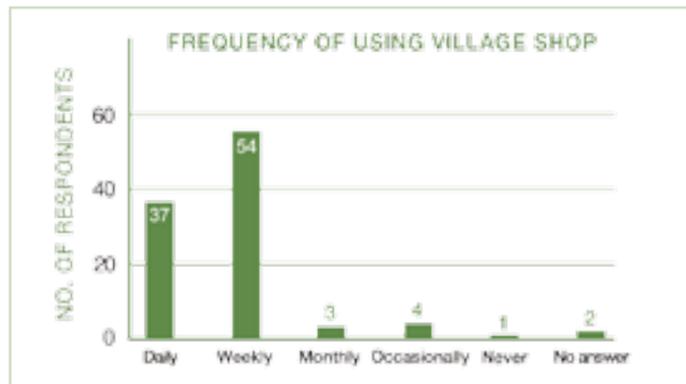
Facilities and recreation

In this section the focus was on activities and facilities available to village residents – exploring patterns of usage and what people want in the future.

First the survey asked if people think there are enough facilities to cater for the village’s needs and 89 per cent of respondents say that there are. Then the survey asked about individual facilities. The village shop is used daily by over a third (37 per cent) of respondents, and weekly by over half (54 per cent). The Post Office within the village shop is considered a vital resource, with a resounding 97 per cent believing it is very important to Clavering.

VILLAGE VOICES:
“The British Legion Sports Day for Children – it’s fab!”

The village’s two pubs – The Fox & Hounds and The Cricketers – are used either occasionally or monthly by 64 per cent of those who responded to the survey, with almost a fifth of this group visiting at least once a week. The Fishing Lodge Café at The Lakes is visited occasionally or monthly by close to half (45 per cent) of respondents. It is even more popular among families with children, with almost a quarter visiting at least weekly.



The preferred method of travel to local facilities obviously depends on where we live, but encouragingly, 44 per cent usually go on foot and a further six per cent usually cycle. Almost 20 per cent of respondents use a combination of car, bike and walking to get to local facilities – perhaps showing that there is a desire among many households to reduce reliance on petrol power.



households containing 60+ residents, a fifth use its facilities frequently. Of those who do use the Village Hall, over half attend as part of a club. The Christian Centre in Stortford Road is also a popular venue for organisations, with 63 per cent of those who do use it attending for club activities.

Finally, this section of the survey asked if people would like to see more community events within Clavering (eg, a village New Year’s Eve party), and 42 per cent say yes to this idea – with over a fifth of respondents being willing to help organise more community events. These positive answers may suggest how facilities might be managed in the future to maximise their usage and benefit even more village residents.

Clavering is lucky to have many clubs and activities – 23 were listed in the survey. In all, 38 per cent of respondents participate frequently in some form of sporting activity (eg, tennis, riding, cricket, fishing, bowls). Group-run activities (eg, Horticultural Society, British Legion) are attended by a good proportion of survey respondents at least occasionally. Asked if there should be more history-related activities organised within the village, almost a quarter of respondents said that they like this idea. Such activities might perhaps be managed through existing groups, such as the Village Society and Landscape History Group.

The survey asked a set of questions about the allotments behind Stortford Road. Having celebrated their centenary in 2009, these plots are attracting many new allotmenters. The vast majority of those who grow their own on allotment land are happy with the way things are organised. The survey asked if a proportion of spare land should be converted into orchards and 23 per cent of respondents say this is a good idea. The same percentage would also like to see poultry allowed – joining the pheasants, rabbits, deer and other less productive animal life already in residence there!

A fifth of respondents to the survey say they never use the Village Hall, but among

WHAT VILLAGE HISTORY EVENTS APPEAL TO US?

14 households would like a Clavering and local area museum

4 people suggest children’s archaeology or history activities

4 people want re-enactment days

VILLAGE VOICES:
“I don’t think there is any crime here.”

Law and order

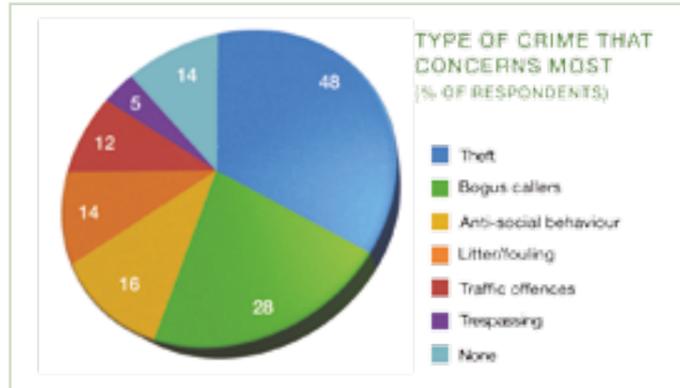
Clavering has very low levels of crime, however law and order remains an important concern so the survey set out to find out about perceptions of security and opinions on the best use of police resources.

Well over half (64 per cent) of households who responded feel safe, while just under a third more describe themselves as reasonably safe. Perhaps Clavering can feel safer still knowing that people will act if they see something unusual, since 94 per cent of respondents say they would report suspicious activity to the Police.

The survey gave people a list of six law and order issues to rank in order of concern.



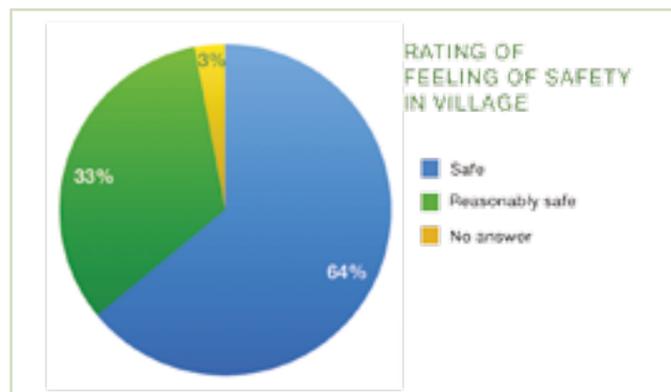
Theft is the biggest issue for households, with 48 per cent citing this as their chief fear. Bogus callers are the most worrying issue for over a quarter (28 per cent) of respondents, while anti-social behaviour is the chief concern among 16 per cent of households.



VILLAGE VOICES:
“Traffic outside the school is dangerous for pedestrians and other traffic, especially in the morning”

Almost as pressing are issues that spoil the environment and enjoyment of the community. Littering, refuse and dog fouling is listed as either the second or third most serious concern in Clavering by 40 per cent of respondents.

Asked where police resources might best be targeted, over a third (35 per cent) of respondents opt for a more visible police presence as their top priority. Speed checks are the most important use of resources for a quarter of respondents.



Vehicle obstruction outside schools also concerns many households. Over a fifth (22 per cent) list this as the most important use of police resources and a further 21 per cent think it is the second most important use of resources. This suggests that tackling thoughtless and illegal parking is high on the village agenda for many people.

HOW SAFE DO WE FEEL?

130 households think there isn't much crime and they feel safe

8 households think crime is low, but increasing

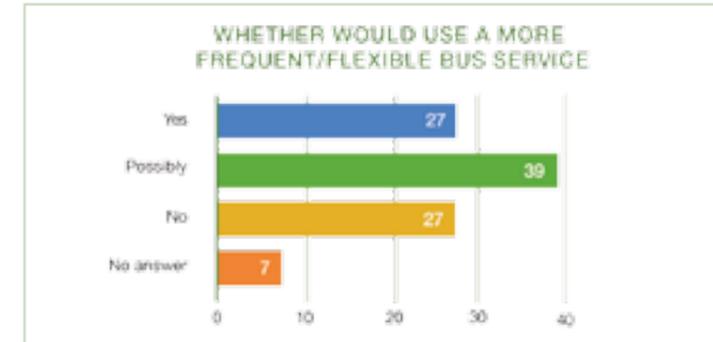
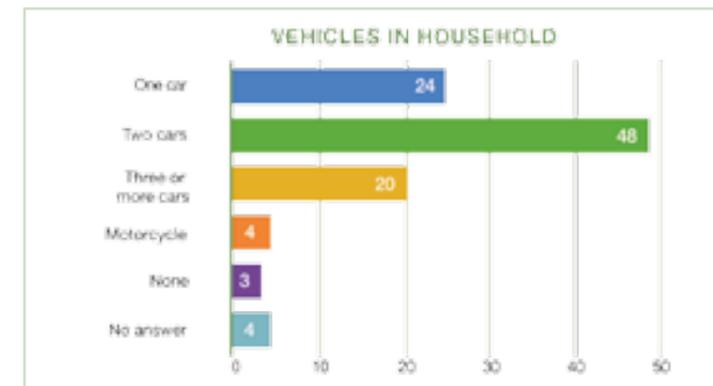
Transport and traffic

The Clavering Parish Plan survey asked a series of questions about attitudes to traffic and transport in Clavering.

There was overwhelming support for a widening of the 30mph speed limit, with 87 per cent of respondents believing Clavering should campaign for its introduction throughout the village. Support rises to 92 per cent among village households with children. (Note: this was successfully introduced in 2013.)

Other potential solutions to traffic calming receive a more mixed response. Less than half (46 per cent) of respondents support the idea of village entrance gates with rumble strips. More than half (58 per cent) would like more flashing speed warning signs. The survey also asked about the introduction of crossings. Over half of households with children believe these should be introduced, and almost 40 per cent of all respondents view them as necessary. Only 15 per cent of the village would join a community speed watch scheme.

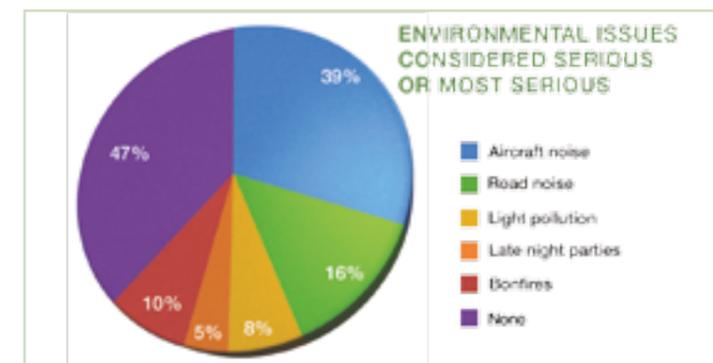
Cars are a vital lifeline, with 68 per cent of the village owning two or more vehicles. Despite the fact that only three per cent of households do not own a car, over a quarter of the village would welcome more frequent and flexible bus services. And among households with children, support for more buses rises to 38 per cent. Around a third of Clavering households with children also



own three or more cars, so this desire for better public transport may reflect a wish to be greener and/or reduce petrol consumption and household 'taxi' duties.

Feelings towards car sharing are mixed. Only 14 per cent of the village say they would be willing to participate in a scheme. However, over half of those who responded (55 per cent) say they are either 'not sure' or 'don't know' – suggesting that this is an idea worth investigating further.

The survey also asked whether the introduction of designated cycle lanes would make the village more likely to get on their bikes. In total almost half (45 per cent) say 'very likely' or 'possibly'. However this rises to almost three quarters among households with children.



The final question in this section asked for views on the volume of heavy goods vehicles. Well over half of respondents (67 per cent) are concerned about the number of lorries on Clavering's roads. This issue is of more concern to villagers aged 60+ – perhaps because they remember when there was less commercial traffic in this area.

WHAT WOULD MAKE PUBLIC TRANSPORT MORE APPEALING?

80 households say more frequent and reliable bus services

14 would like more direct routes

6 want more bus stops

The Village environment

The survey included a series of questions about the local environment, focusing on rights of way, wildlife and the village landscape.

Rights of way – including footpaths and bridleways – are used by over a third (36 per cent) of the village on a daily basis. Among families with children, this rises to almost half. A much smaller group (four per cent) ride on bridleways at least weekly.

The survey also asked what changes to footpaths would be acceptable. Close to half of respondents (45 per cent) would like both better signposting and boards highlighting seasonal nature highlights. Walkers' leaflets are also a popular idea – supported by over a third of respondents. Over a quarter (28 per cent) would accept the idea of re-routing footpaths so they run around the boundary of fields.

Accessing paths and bridleways can be an issue and almost a quarter (22 per cent) like the idea of introducing buggy/wheelchair-friendly measures. Removal of stiles and introducing parking for cars and horse trailers are both supported by 11 per cent of respondents. Among households with children there is particularly strong support for making

walking more accessible and ‘user friendly’, with over half (59 per cent) supporting both better footpath signposting and organised walks through the year.

It is important to note that maintaining things just as they are is important to a sizeable proportion of those who responded to the

VILLAGE VOICES:
Byways should not be used as a race-track, whereby they make it impossible for people to walk along the land.

survey. Over a third don’t support either stile removal or parking provision by footpaths and bridleways. Over a quarter don’t support alterations to allow access to buggies/ wheelchairs. There is, however, a strong majority (80 per cent) across all households in favour of winter closure of byways to protect surfaces from damage.

Clavering’s greens and open spaces are a wonderful natural asset and the survey asked for views on their management. A

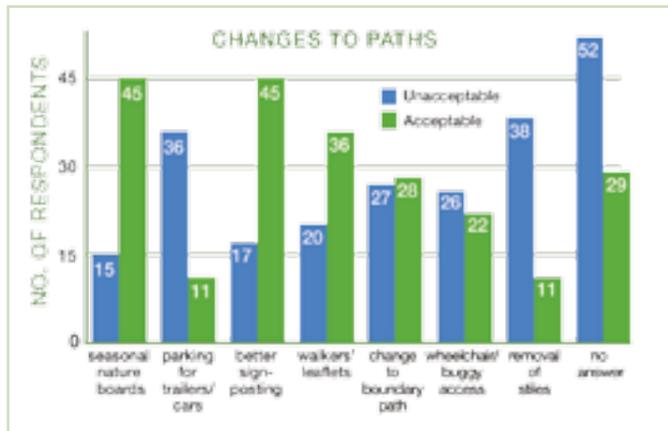
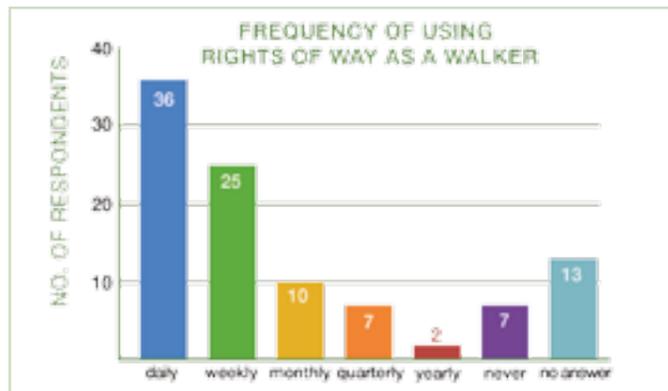
conclusive 90 per cent of respondents agree that the parish council should continue to cut them to conserve protected species. A high number (77 per cent) would also like to see parish verges maintained and cut in a way that promotes wild flowers. Some verges (eg, The Mills and Deers Green) are managed by the county council in order to promote wild flowers and 67 per cent of respondents would like to see more verges around Clavering designated for wild flowers.



Among all households who responded, 68 per cent are in favour of a programme to promote wildlife/wildflowers in the churchyards by cutting the grass less frequently in specific areas. However, a quarter of older (60+) households don’t support this idea. Perhaps more detailed plans about how this could be managed to ensure both access and appropriate appearance of the churchyards might increase support among this group.

The Parish Council provides and maintains a range of street furniture – including 16 seats, a dog waste bin, village sign, noticeboard and bus shelter. Most respondents (65 per cent) feel this is adequate for the village’s needs – although littering, refuse and dog fouling does crop up as a key issue within the Law and order section of the survey.

The survey revealed that the majority (around three quarters) know about Dick Ball Meadow and Simon’s Wood, the two nature reserve areas located within the heart of Clavering. Villagers were asked if they would be willing to help maintain the two ponds



(known as Horse and Frog) at Hill Green and a quarter of respondents say they would – rising to 38 per cent among households with children. It seems that Clavering residents not only value the village’s wild areas, but are prepared to ‘wade in’ to help maintain them.

HOW CAN WE IMPROVE THE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT?

50 households want more dog waste bins

25 would like street furniture to be better maintained

8 suggest more village seats (including seat/s outside the shop)



Business

The survey asked a series of questions about business activities and the village’s attitude to them.

Among respondents to the survey 13 per cent run a business in the village and, of those, the vast majority work from home or from premises located within Clavering. This brings jobs – with 26 per cent of these businesses also employing people from the village.

While no in-depth questions were asked about the nature of business activities, the survey did reveal that only nine per cent of respondents who run businesses consider that their activities generate a lot of traffic.

The survey also asked businesses about the quality of services provided in Clavering. Among respondents who run businesses, over 90 per cent consider that services and amenities are sufficient for their operational needs. Almost half (46 per cent) would like to be included in either noticeboard listings or on the village website.



The survey also set out to discover attitudes to business activities from across the village. Half of respondents use the services of businesses based in Clavering and over a third would like to see more locally run ventures. That said, 34 per cent believe they would be affected by any traffic increase caused by expansion of business activity within Clavering.

Finally, the survey asked if village residents would like to be employed by/set up a business within Clavering. While only 12 per cent of respondents said yes to this, almost half answered don’t know – so the prospect of avoiding the daily commute may be attractive to a far more substantial proportion of village households.

VILLAGE VOICES:
The shop provides excellent facilities

Section 3 ACTION PLAN

Already in Place	Action Plan	1 Year	2 Years	5 Years
'WELCOME PACK' FOR NEW VILLAGE RESIDENTS	Check all Village organisations have supplied details for 'Welcome Pack'.	Continuing	Continuing	Continuing
VILLAGE WEBSITE	1. Parish Council to check its information is up to date and to publicise Clavering Village website's existence as a utility for the whole community. 2. Ensure Village organisations' information and key contacts are listed on Clavering Village website.	Parish Council to review Village website effectiveness and, if necessary, create a sub-committee that includes co-opted members to advise on website's future development. Continuing	Continuing Continuing	Continuing Continuing
SPEED WATCH/ LIMIT COMMITTEE	To continue to report to Parish Council and the Village and to liaise with Essex County Council on effective traffic management.	Report results of new traffic measures in the Village. Review the placing of the new 30mph signs and the areas covered, bearing in mind the possible future growth of the Village and issues that may arise.	Continue monitoring of traffic's adherence to speed limits. Monitor growth of the Village and potential extension of coverage of the 30mph speed limit, or further measures, as required.	Continue monitoring

Already in Place	Action Plan	1 Year	2 Years	5 Years
VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS These are numerous and not all were identified by the Parish Plan survey. Some key organisations and actions are detailed here.	Over 60's Club Valuable community social group. Clavering Countryside Group Actively involved in grass cutting regime and watching brief on Village greens and natural environment. Recently undertook extensive bulb planting around Jubilee Field and erection of habitat boxes. Horticultural Society Runs the popular Rose Show and Flower, Vegetable and Cookery Open Show Clavering Care Supporting older residents within the Clavering community	Parish Council to check if the organisers and Church need any further assistance. Can the Clavering Village website be of any help to the Club? Parish Council to remember this valuable resource that can advise on natural environment matters. Support Group in its efforts to educate and implement schemes to support native wildlife. Parish Council to continue to support the work of this valuable Group. Village/Parish Council to maintain contact to see if any further assistance is needed to run the Group	Continuing Continuing Continuing Continuing	Continuing Continuing Continuing
VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE AND JUBILEE FIELD COMMITTEE	1.To review respective trust deeds and ensure they are still current, updating as necessary and publishing information about how the trusts are run. 2. Trustees of each organisation to look at how the Clavering Village website might assist with the running of the trusts. 2.Encourage a flow of new / replacement trustees, as required.	Continuing Continuing Continuing	Continuing Continuing Continuing	Continuing Continuing Continuing

Appendix

YOUNG RESIDENTS GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON CLAVERING

Already in Place	Action Plan	1 Year	2 Years	5 Years
EMPLOYMENT	Parish Council or a subcommittee to assess current Village employment (types, numbers, levels) and encourage employers to articulate what their future needs might be, e.g., local network groups, planning, broadband and transport.	Continuing	Continuing	Continuing
PARISH COUNCIL	1. Publish Emergency Plan on Clavering Village website 2. Continue to assess housing needs, specifically for the Elderly, and review the need for a Design Statement	Ongoing. Checking relevant updates included Continual monitoring	Ongoing. Checking relevant updates included Continual monitoring	Ongoing. Checking relevant updates included Continual monitoring

Clavering Primary School Workshop was a project that took place on 15 May 2008 and was facilitated by Chris Hobbs and Stella Meesters of the Rural Community Council of Essex, an independent charity. The project set out to get the views of young residents and 22 children from Year 5 - of which six were non-Clavering residents - were asked to provide their opinions on what it was like to live in Clavering and/or visit Clavering, and how the village could be improved.

Methodology used for the project

- The children were presented with an OS map of the area. Scale 1:4000, kindly provided by Uttlesford District Council Planning Department. The maps, mounted on polystyrene, were used as a visual aid for children to discuss their area as the map detailed everybody's individual house. The children, placed firstly in small groups, were asked to locate the school on the map. Having completed this, they then found their own houses and placed a flag (a post-it note wrapped around a cocktail stick) there.
- The children were then each presented with coloured flags, two blue and two pink. The children were asked to determine what they liked about Clavering or thought was special and use the blue flags to indicate these, and then use the pink flags to indicate what they did not like or thought needed changing.
- Within the groups they then discussed what they felt were the top three issues that they liked and the top three issues that were problems. After further discussion, each group then fed back to the class what they thought were the top three issues to be addressed, either good or bad
- The children had the chance to discuss other things that couldn't necessarily be shown on the map (such as clubs) and, using post-it notes, wrote down what they liked or how things could be improved. There was then a class discussion about how the children thought Clavering could be improved and what needed to change.
- Finally the children were given a blank sheet of A4 paper and asked to write down or illustrate something that they liked about Clavering (or their own village if they were non-Clavering residents).



The Results

EXERCISE 1

There were five table groups, most comprising four children, and they completed five maps like the one shown below.



EXERCISE 2

The comments received on the maps are shown opposite (some comments such as dislike school/homework have obviously been omitted).

Please note: Comments with a star and a number denote there was more than one comment of that type, the number representing how many. Comments are placed in non-alphabetical order and no preference to comments is shown. Comments – including spelling mistakes – are exactly as written by the children in the group.



 BLUE FLAGS
(THINGS THEY LIKE)

- Trees
- Walking places
- Fields
- Rugby
- Pubs *6**
- Clavering Park
- The Green *2**
- Walk
- Tracks
- Lakes/pond *2**
- Youth club
- Park *5**
- Forest
- Brook
- Horses
- The wildlife and flowers around the castle
- Fords
- Wildlife
- Woods *4**
- Tennis Court
- Stables *2**
- Post office *3**
- Shop *7**
- Castle *3**
- Gym *3**
- Church *2**
- Lovely space fields
- Fox mounds
- Park has lots of equipment
- Cricket pitch *2**
- Cubs
- Park *2**
- Shop *2**
- A friendly village
- Good history
- Bowls club
- Village hall *2**
- We like the school
- I like the fishing lakes
- Fox and Hounds *2**
- I like the Ford *2**
- Grange Farm
- Church
- I would like a dance club
- I like the motorway
- Friendly and safe
- Places to walk and take dog for a walk
- I want a youth club

 PINK FLAGS (DO NOT LIKE, OR MISSING FROM CLAVERING)

- Need more pubs
- I don't like the pub *2**
- River *2**
- We do not want a skate park *3**
- Range farm
- Building sites
- Village hall
- Need more places to play
- Litter *2**
- Clubs at village hall
- The ford *3**
- No rugby club
- No transport
- No one should have swimming pools
- No more houses
- Houses
- There is no rugby
- No football club
- Swimming pool *7**
- Building sites- we do not want clavering to get bigger because it destroys wildlife
- Not many play areas
- Not enough clubs
- Village shop
- The new houses
- No swimming pool
- Don't close the shops
- Bowls club
- Too many houses
- Not much sporty clubs
- No monkey bars
- Cock lane is not too safe
- Can be boring

Note: observations made by more than one child in the group have been highlighted using bold green text. Descriptions are exactly as the children expressed them.

EXERCISE 3

In groups the children were asked to choose their three most important issues in Clavering whether they were deemed good or bad. Interestingly most groups chose 'positive' features of Clavering.

- Castle
- Clavering Park
- Forest
- River and lake
- Shop
- Park and Brooke Woods
- Park *2**
- Not enough clubs
- Shop *2**
- No clothes shop
- Village hall/park
- I like the fishing lakes
- The ford



EXERCISE 4

In groups children were asked to discuss what they thought would improve Clavering. The annotated comments are below, placed in alphabetical order

WHAT WOULD IMPROVE CLAVERING?

1 night a month a fun night at the village *2

- A bus for elderly people
- A field you can play with dogs and balls
- A fun club at village hall
- A go-karting course
- A guide to wildlife in Clavering
- A gym
- A lazer quest
- A little bakery
- A pond in the park
- A theme park
- A youth club
- An ice cream man
- Another pub
- Another village shop
- Archery club *3**
- Art club *2**
- Art shop *2**
- Artist club
- Athletics club
- Bakery in shop *4**
- Beauty spa
- Better footpaths

- Bigger horse shop
- Bird feeders
- Bird feeders around Clavering
- Bird feeders/baths
- Bird feeds and bird food
- Book shop
- Bouncy castle
- Boxing kick boxing
- Bus stops
- Camping centre
- Camping days
- Campsite
- Car wash center
- Centre parcs
- Change speed limit to 30mph
- Chess club
- Clothes shop *2**
- Clubs
- Cross country running club
- Cycle paths *2**
- Dance (not ballet because there's lots of ballet already)
- Dance club *2**
- Dancing club

Do more clubs at village hall *2

- Drama club *4**
- English club
- Fairground
- Farming club
- Fencing club
- Film night
- Fishing club
- Football club (for younger age)
- Footpaths
- Footpaths should be cleared
- Fun club
- Fun club every week at village hall
- Fun club once every month
- Games shop
- Get metal cows back
- Girl's football club
- Go karting
- Golf club
- Good friend
- Gym
- Gymnastic club *2**
- Hairdressers
- Homework club
- Ice cream van to clavering and Takeley *3**
- Ice rink
- Ice skating rink
- Instrument shops
- Judo club
- Jumble Sale
- Karate Club *2**
- Kung foo (or martial arts)
- Kayaking club
- Leisure centre
- Library *4**
- Local swimming pool *6**
- Lollipop person for walking bus *6**
- Lower the speed limits *3**
- Make paths so you can walk to school
- Make the river bigger for more nature
- Maths club *2**
- Medieval day
- Metal cows *8**
- Metal horses
- Mini fun fair each year *2**
- Mini gym
- Monkey bars *2**
- More dog litter bins *2**
- More fetes

- More footpaths
- More lakes
- More parks
- More play area
- More shops
- More sporty clubs
- More tennis courts
- Movie centre/night
- Music classes *2**
- Nature reserve *5**
- Netball/hockey court
- New play equipment
- Night club
- No more petrol stations
- No speed limit flashing signs they don't work
- Old peoples clubs
- Paint balling
- Pet shop
- Pig farm
- Race track in park (small)
- Reading club
- Reading club at school (where you can go and read in quiet)
- Rebuilt version of clavering castle
- Restaurant
- Rifle range
- Rock/dance club
- Rugby
- Science club *3**
- Shooting
- Shop in Stickling Green
- Skate board park and Bike Park
- Skate boarding club *2**
- Small pet shop *4**
- Snow domes
- Speed cameras *2**
- Sports club
- Stables *3**
- Sweet shop *3**
- Swimming club
- Taxi Park
- Toy shop *3**
- Vets
- Wildlife club
- Youth club is fun because you get to meet new friends and see your friends
- Zebra crossing (outside school)
- Zebra crossing outside the school
- Zebra crossing *6**

EXERCISE 5

A class discussion was initiated with different children putting forward a single suggestion for how Clavering could be improved. The majority of the children, as with all events of this nature, wanted a public swimming pool. However the exercise was designed to enable the children to focus on the smaller, more manageable, village projects.

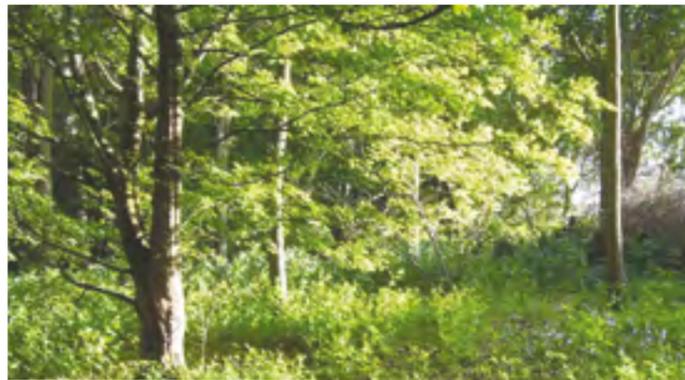
Many children already appreciated the wildlife present in Clavering and wanted to encourage more with nature reserves (although one is already present). Discussing this made them realise that ideas, such as more bird feeders, were more achievable and manageable than a pool.

Other discussions focused on bringing back the 'metal cows' and the introduction of a possible zebra crossing near the school with a lollipop lady/man (especially as many recalled an accident there involving a pupil) and clearing footpaths.

The children identified what they considered the most important assets in Clavering, namely the village shop, pubs and play areas – in particular 'the forest' (Simon's Wood).

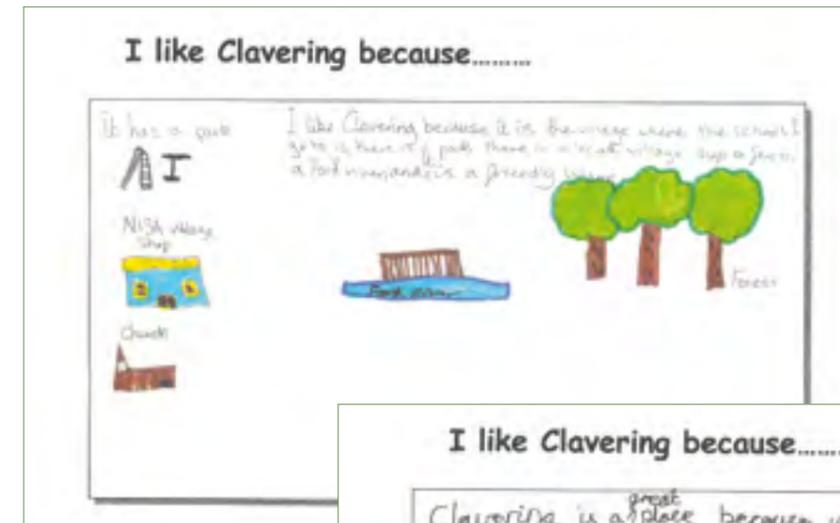
There was a perceived need for more sports related clubs in the area, with suggestions including rugby, football (for younger age groups) and a dance club. With regards to the clubs that were not sport based, many children felt the village hall would be a good way to support these ventures.

Although a library generally falls under the same category as a swimming pool in terms of financial viability, many felt the addition of a travelling library would be beneficial. (At the time, this perplexed the adults as there is a mobile library. However, subsequent research showed that this visited the village during school hours, so many children had never encountered it.)



EXERCISE 6

The session was ended by the children drawing and writing about what they liked about Clavering and why.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Clavering Parish Plan was produced with the support and input of an enthusiastic team of village volunteers – there are too many to name here, but it is thanks to their efforts and hard work that this document exists today.

We are particularly grateful to the independent charity Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) for their guidance, grant and especially their inspiring project work that encouraged the views and artwork of Clavering's young school residents. We also thank the Parish Council for their donation to allow grants to be sourced.

Parish Plan production

DESIGN

Heather Pointer (heather@commagraphics.co.uk)

EDITING

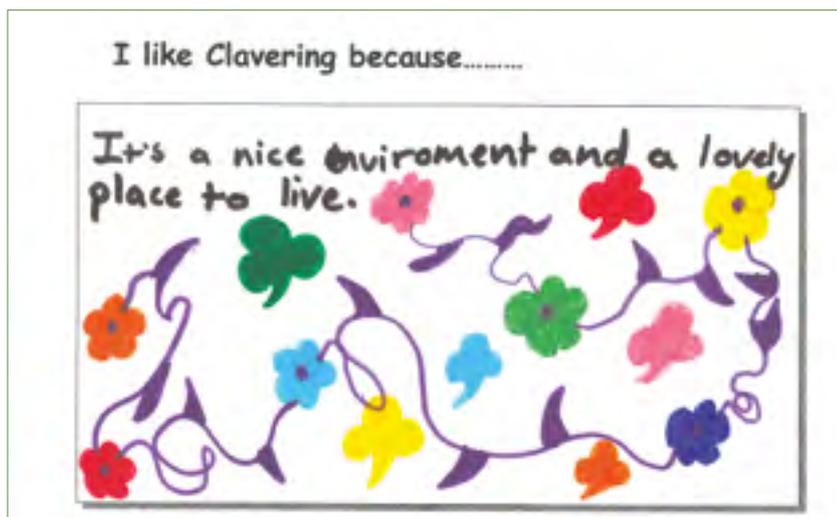
Libby Norman (libbynorman@mac.com)

PHOTOGRAPHY

Peter Blomley; Ben Bull Photography (www.benbull.net); Clavering Primary School; Jacky Cooper and Clavering Landscape History Group (jacqueline.cooper@virgin.net); Nigel Cox; Pidgeon Photographic (www.pidgeon-photographic.co.uk/); Gordon Ridgewell; Evelyn Simak; John Sutton.

Parish Plan Committee

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