

A large, leafy tree with green and yellowing leaves dominates the center of the image. In the foreground, there is a dark metal park bench and a green trash can on a grassy area. To the left, a stone wall or structure is partially visible. In the background, a white house with a brown roof is partially obscured by the tree. The sky is clear and blue.

Great Yeldham Parish Plan 2014

The Future Of Our Village

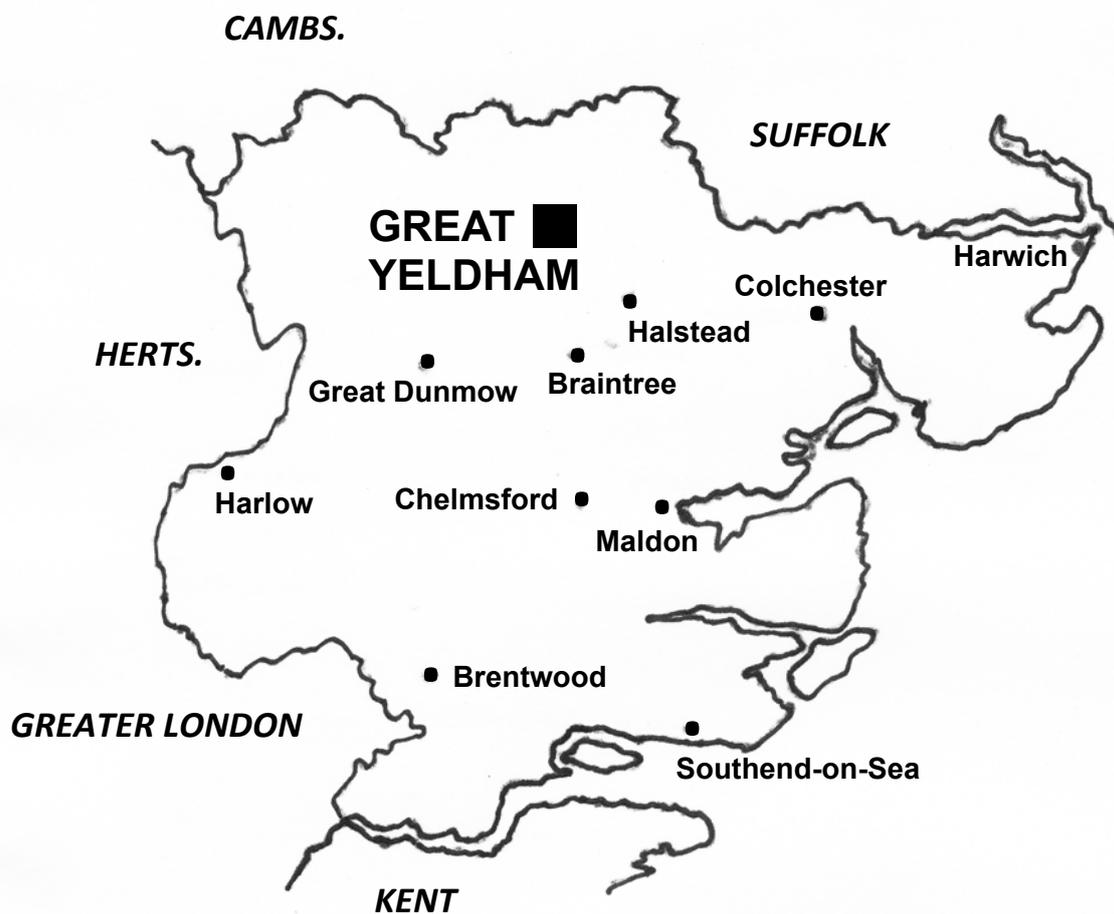


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1	Letter from Great Yeldham Parish Council
Page 6	Great Yeldham Then
Page 10	Great Yeldham Now
Page 23	Map Used For Questionnaire
Page 24	Great Yeldham Parish Plan - What's Already Happening
Page 34	Parish Plan Action List
Page 36	Acknowledgements

Great Yeldham Parish Council Office 01787 237832

Usual Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.15am - 4.00pm

Website: www.essexinfo.net/great-yeldham-parish/council/

Letter From

Great Yeldham Parish Council

March 2014

Chairman: Mrs. M. Broomfield

Parish Clerk: Mrs. T. Wigmore, Vice-Chairman: Mr. P. Rawlinson

Mrs. H. Callaghan, Mr. S. Hornsby, Mr. B. Sargeant, Mrs. P. Slimming

Mr. J. Dunn, Mrs. A. Burrows, Mrs. R. Buckenham

Introduction and Background

This is the second edition of the Parish Council's Plan for Great Yeldham. Parish Plans were first announced in the Government's Rural White Paper in 2000 which invited local communities to take more control over their own lives.

The purpose of the plan is for the local community to set out a vision of what is important to the parish, how to fit in any new development, how to preserve valued local features and to map out facilities needed for the future and identify the actions required for those things to be achieved.

In 2012 the Parish Council initiated a community workshop to review the original Parish Plan which was completed in 2005. From this workshop the Great Yeldham Parish Plan Group was established and consisted of representatives from the local community. With support from the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE), grants from the Big Lottery and Essex County Council were awarded for the cost of the plan preparation and publication.

The first step was to invite ideas from the whole village by means of a questionnaire. This was delivered to all village households and 55% of questionnaires were completed. The results were analysed with the help of Warwick Network Ltd and the results were published on the village website; presented in an edition of the 4 Village Magazine; and to an open meeting of the steering group held in December

2013. From the results the steering group formulated a draft of the Plan which was presented to the Council for consultation and the final draft was approved by the Parish Council in March 2014

The Plan gives some description of the Parish as it is now and explains a little of the long history that has brought it to its present stage. It sets out the hopes and concerns of the Parishioners as revealed by the consultation process, and makes proposals for meeting those concerns over the next ten years. These proposals will guide the policy of the Parish Council in its work for the residents and in its dealings with outside bodies and individuals.

Since times and circumstances will change, the Parish Plan will be reviewed annually and adjusted to meet those changes.

The Role of the Parish Council

Great Yeldham Parish Council is an elected body consisting of 9 elected Councillors. The Council has been granted powers by Parliament including the important authority to raise money through taxation (the precept) and a range of powers to spend public money; for example on the upkeep of the village including maintaining the green verges, the burial ground, environmental amenities and street furniture, community and communication activities and procedural requirements for the financial and administrative control of the Council.

Parish Council meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month except in January and members of the public are invited to attend. The agenda includes an item which allows a 'Public Participation Session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters of mutual interest'. This enables members of the community to raise issues of concern, identify areas for improvement or suggest new projects and activities for the village.

The law gives local councils choice in activities to undertake; but there are very few duties, or activities that they must carry out in delivering services to local people.

Principal councils or authorities e.g. Essex and Braintree, have many legal duties to deliver services such as education, housing, town and country planning, transport, environmental health and social services. To help achieve the objectives of the Council and help facilitate the Parish Plan, the Parish Council has set up a range of Working Groups including:

Environment Amenities & Footpaths	Responsible for the environmental amenities within the village such as footpaths, trees, bus shelters, bins and seats, verges, overgrown vegetation, and maintenance of these areas.
Finance & General Purposes	Responsible for the Annual Budget (the Precept) for the Parish, Audit & Banking procedures. It oversees all financial matters related to leases, insurance, employment and Parish Procedures. It also deals with all items relating to Council Policy and such matters as the Council may determine.
Open Areas	Responsible for the open areas in the village including the Recreation Ground, the Play Area, the village common and the green adjacent to the Reading Room. To work in partnership with land owners to protect open spaces.
Highways	To monitor all roads within the Parish in relation to safety, parking, speeding, signage and related matters. Liaises with District and County Councils on forthcoming projects and improvements and maintains a close interest in drainage matters within the Village. Operate the Speed Watch facility.
Communications / ICT	Responsible for 4 Villages Magazine, Welcome Pack, any Parish publications, the website or other media and Superfast Broadband.
Planning	An endeavour to undertake site visits where applications are made and to make contact with neighbouring residents. Responsible for forwarding comments and making recommendations on local planning issues to the Parish Clerk.
Emergency Planning	Lead Parish/Community Emergency Team, Winter Salt and Sand bags, severe weather, flooding, power failures, water cut off 12 hours, communications down, fire (properties/locations), co-ordinating/training volunteers, drafting emergency plan and risk assessments with the Parish Clerk
Young People/Families and Vulnerable People	To lead on village activities and social events, liaison with key stakeholders including Village Agent, Toddler and Parent Group, St Andrews, Parochial Church Council, Greenfields Community Housing, village groups/societies and charities, Essex County Council Youth Services, establish Youth Forum.
Burial Grounds	Responsibility for the Lawn Cemetery and the Natural Burial Ground and possibly the Churchyard (if the Parish Council chooses to maintain once the Churchyard has been closed).

The aim of the working groups are to support and assist the Parish Clerk in Parish Council activities and to provide a service to the community. In achieving the Parish Plan objectives and actions, the Parish Council will:

- Work in partnership with the Parish Plan Steering Group, responsible authorities including Essex County and District Council, Police, NHS and Fire Authorities, and other organisations, groups and societies and the local community on key issues affecting the parishes
- Develop funding applications to secure grants to achieve priority actions
- **Monitor the Parish Plan** and actions to chart the success (and maybe failure) of the Council to meet the community's wishes. The Plan will be monitored through regular meetings and it will be reviewed annually at the Annual Parish Council Meeting.
- Follow the development of the Parish Plan via the Great Yeldham Parish Council website. The Parish Plan will be a "living document" and a blueprint for the future. It will be updated regularly and, together with the 4 Villages Magazine, act as a link with the community and keep people fully informed and involved in the progress of initiatives indicated in the plan. To hold further public meetings as necessary to obtain the views, comments, guidance and suggestions of the community
- Support the results of the parish plan and respond to consultations in the light of the wishes expressed by the community including new development and land use with affordable housing (in line with Essex and Braintree Local Development Plans); environmental and infrastructure improvements including new medical facilities, open spaces, broadband and allotments.

Great Yeldham Then

Our village of Great Yeldham is referred to in the Domesday Book of 1086 as Geldham, probably from the Saxon meaning “homestead (*ham*) liable to pay a certain tax (*geld*)”. Through the centuries this has been corrupted to Yeldham. It appears that the two settlements,

now known as Great and Little Yeldham, had difficulty in coming to an agreement on the first part of their names, the smaller settlement preferring “Upper” Yeldham for themselves and “Lower” Yeldham for

the larger community but the folk in the latter area disliked being known as “Lower” and subsequently Great Yeldham and Little Yeldham prevailed!

For centuries the name of Great Yeldham has been synonymous with “The Yeldham Oak” which stood in the centre of the village where three roads

converge. “The Great Oak”, now a stump filled with concrete, is shown on a map of 1777 but the tree was growing there many centuries before that. A replacement oak was planted in 1863 but needs many centuries of growth before it can compete with the

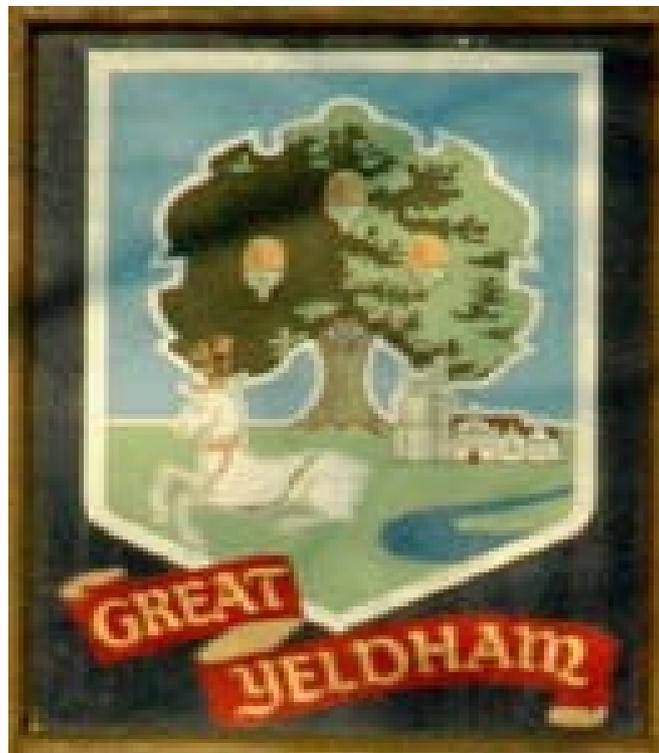
old tree.

What changes to the village the Old Oak has seen and what changes will the old stump see in the lifetime of this Village Plan?

Agriculture was once the mainstay of employment in

Great Yeldham with many of the farmhouses still surviving after 400 years or more.

The Yeldham Flock of pedigree Suffolk sheep was well known and, during the 19th Century, there were a number of maltings sustained by the hops grown around the village.



A clay pit behind Potters Hall Farm in Toppesfield Road provided the basic material for the Brickworks located there which made red and yellow bricks between 1874 and 1908. The old Whitlock Chaff Works at Poole Farm still stands as testament to the quality and variety of the local bricks. In the 17th Century the making of straw plaits used for hats and bonnets gave employment to most of the women and young people of the village.

With the birth of Walter Whitlock at Lovingtons Farm in 1841, the Whitlock dynasty offered new opportunities to the people of Great Yeldham.

The Whitlock Brothers factory, founded in 1899, which was situated where Whitlock Drive is today, manufactured and dealt in agricultural machinery which was sold all over the world - at its height employing over 600 people.

Probably the most famous of the Whitlock machines was the Dinkum Digger, a revolutionary earth moving machine. This factory was eventually closed in 1972 with a great loss of jobs. The Whitlock family also ran the Chaff Works, sited at Poole Farm, which exported hay to South Africa during the Boer War and at one time employed more than 70 people.



Building Whitlock Drive



From 1862, Great Yeldham had the advantage of a railway station on the Colne Valley and Halstead railway line which was finally closed to all traffic in 1964. Now only the crumbling platforms survive. This station gave quick and easy access to the outside world and was used during the 2nd World War to bring munitions and personnel to Ridgewell airfield.

Nowadays there are but small pockets of employment in the village: the industrial units on the Hunnable site, Woodpecker Court and Hyde Wood Road; the farms, which are now mostly arable using huge modern machinery and employing few farm

hands; shops provide limited employment opportunities. The village no longer has its own forge and wheelwrights shop but can boast a Post Office and general store; a small supermarket; two fast food shops; a veterinary surgery; a Doctors' outreach surgery; a hairdressers and three Public Houses as well as a thriving Primary and Pre-School and a well-used Village Hall, known as the Reading Room.

The village has an amazing array of beautiful and ancient buildings including the lovely Parish Church (14th Century); The Old Rectory (15th Century); Spencers (1760); Oak House,

Great Yeldham Hall (built in the Reign of King John); the Old Hall House and the White Hart Inn (1500) to name but a few. Many of the old farmhouses still survive after more than 500 years. The people of Great Yeldham are fortunate to have many open spaces within the village: the Village Green, Whitlock Green, the Sports Field and the use of Bowtells Meadow and to be surrounded by fields with numerous footpaths which link up to form the Yeldham Millennium Circular Walk. With a population of more than 1,840 and 716 dwellings, the next few years will see many changes in both the



The Great Oak

size and nature of Great Yeldham but it is hoped that the community spirit will be nurtured and that the fortunes of its inhabitants will thrive.



From The Top Of St. Andrew's Church

Great Yeldham Now

St. Andrews CEVC Primary School

The school is a small, village school at the heart of the local community in Great Yeldham. Its aspiration is for all pupils to be the best that they can be. The school is underpinned by a strong Christian ethos, which in turn is guided by core values of confidence, compassion, community, creativity, enthusiasm and determination. It has strong links with St Andrews Church, and offers a daily act of Collective Worship.

‘St Andrew’s is an effective church school. It is a place where clear values are evident not only in the environment but in the way that people respond to each other. It is a place where the children feel well cared for and safe. The new head teacher has developed strong links with the local church and community which enhances the distinctiveness of the school as a place of spiritual development.’

*Statutory Inspection of Anglican
Schools, 2013*



The teaching is of a high quality that ensures all pupils make progress. Teachers offer imaginative lessons and maintain high expectations. The school works carefully to ensure we balance ambitious academic expectations with the development of well-rounded children, with clear values. The school is very proud of the pupils' positive attitudes to learning and high standards of behaviour.

‘Teaching is good, and support for individual pupils is very well targeted so that pupils of all ages and all abilities make accelerated progress,



particularly in their reading, writing and mathematics. Pupils behave very well, enjoy school and have positive attitudes to learning. They are particularly polite and considerate towards one another.'

Ofsted Report, 2013

The Governors, staff and parents work together to move the school forward. They remain focussed on the children being the best they can be, and ensuring all pupils excel during their time at the school.

'The headteacher balances well the need for challenge and support, and

manages the school with remarkable calmness and assurance. Staff understand that they each have a role to play in driving the school's improvement and know that their ideas and efforts are valued. There is a strong focus on raising achievement, and every opportunity is encouraged to develop pupils' wider enrichment.'

Ofsted Report, 2013

The village is very proud of the school, the pupils within it and all that they achieve. Visits are welcomed to the school. Full details of the school can be found on the website

www.greatyeldhamschool.co.uk

Great Yeldham Recreation Ground



The Recreation Ground and Pavilion

The Recreation Ground is situated just off Toppesfield Road, access can also be made on foot by using the public footpaths from the High Street or Toppesfield Road. The ground offers facilities for football, cricket, skateboarding, basketball and has a BMX track.

Currently it is the home of Great Yeldham Athletic Football Club and the Scouts & Brownies Group. The pavilion provides excellent changing facilities with a fully equipped kitchen for refreshments.

Adequate parking and suitably placed seating and picnic area make it an ideal place to go.

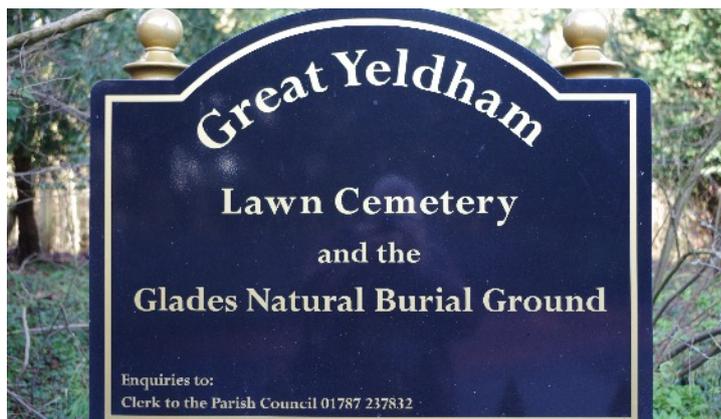
The Recreation Ground Committee is working to enhance the grounds and is looking at projects to introduce new activities.



Skateboard Park

Great Yeldham Lawn Cemetery and Glades Natural Burial Grounds

The Great Yeldham Burial Ground is on Ridgewell Road in Great Yeldham. It is in a very attractive setting with trees on either side and open ground behind it. The Burial Ground is owned and maintained by the Parish Council.



The Burial Grounds Advisory Group

This group was established in June 2012 and has worked hard in the lawn cemetery with the removal of dead trees and pruning of others. The sheltered seating area has been refurbished and a fence erected at the rear to keep things looking tidy. Benches around the grounds have been restored. A new sign for the entrance to the cemetery has been erected.

Work in the Glades Natural Burial Ground area has also taken place with pruning of established boundary hedges and the cutting of the grass to enable wild flower seeds to be scattered throughout. Unfortunately quite a few trees that were planted originally have not taken therefore, our next project is to replace them and to introduce a program of site management.

The Lawn Cemetery

The Lawn Cemetery was established in 1973 and is the formal part of the burial grounds where traditional burials take place including the placing of headstones. There is also a separate area for Ash Interments with memorials. The Cemetery is well maintained and has a central covered seating area for visitors.

The Glades Natural Burial Ground

The Glades Natural Burial Ground is a natural burial ground to the rear of the formal Parish Burial Ground (The Lawns Cemetery). It consists of spinneys of native trees and shrubs planted to preserve the view across the valley to the woodland on the opposite side of the river.

Trees will not be planted on top of the



The Glades Natural Burial Ground

individual burials. By planting the trees all together in 2007-2008 in separate spinneys they will have a chance to mature and enhance the landscape without having to wait for the burials to take place.

Burials will take place in the areas of natural grassland between the spinneys.

A request for burial in the Glades Natural Burial Ground or the Lawn Cemetery may be made in advance with the Clerk of the Parish Council, but do not forget to make your wishes clear in your will.

Great Yeldham Charities

Great Yeldham Educational Foundation School Uniform Grant

The parents of children resident in the parish of Great Yeldham who will have children leaving primary school to attend secondary education are eligible to apply to the Foundation for a grant towards their child's school uniform.

Please note: Residency in the Parish is determined by your name being on the current edition of the Register of Electors for Great Yeldham.

All grants offered to successful applicants are provided by way of depositing the grant money with Frank Smith & Sons, Halstead. Successful applicants can then purchase the child's appropriate uniform from this retailer and the total cost of the uniform is defrayed by the grant money deposited and any balance becomes payable by the applicant. Applications are invited before the end of the Summer Term.

Great Yeldham United Charities Grants to Charities, Voluntary Groups and Societies

Charities, voluntary bodies and the general public operating/living in the parish of Great Yeldham are eligible to apply to the Trust for a grant towards planned activities. The grant is for the prevention or relief of neediness and for religious activities. Applications are invited twice a year: once in the Summer and once in the Winter.

St. Andrew's Parish Church

St Andrew's Church has had an exceptional year with the installation of a beautiful stained glass window and a toilet with facilities for the disabled. The stained glass window was designed by an ex pupil of St Andrew's school and depicts the Good Shepherd.

It is hoped that now the toilet is in place other events can be held in the church such as concerts as well as continuing to hold weddings, baptisms and funerals there.

Ties are being strengthened with St Andrew's school and there is now a children's worker in Kerry Brazier who has arranged with the headteacher Carrie Prior, for events involving pupils, to take place in the church and



churchoyard throughout the year. Negotiations are on-going with County Broadband to install a faster network using the church, which will benefit the whole village. The church will then be able to use technology for services and children's work in the future. It is also hoped that it will be used to inform visitors the history and usage of this lovely building.

The church remains open every day for private prayer and visitors and it is our vision that the church will remain an integral part of the village for many years to come.



Great Yeldham Clubs, Groups and Societies

Great Yeldham Cottage Garden Society

This is the oldest Cottage Garden Society in the Country, formed in 1854. The society hosts and arranges events throughout the calendar year.

An Annual Show is held each year. There are classes for Cut Flowers, Fruit and Vegetables, Floral Art, Craft, Domestic Economy (Cooking), Photography and Children's entries. Show schedules (free) are printed in the spring.

A plant stall is held in May on the village green.

Donated plants of all sorts may be found here as well as bought-in bedding plants.

The School Sunflower competition, from seeds provided to the school and judged in September to find the tallest in each class.

Coach outings - the society aims for at least 2 coach outings a year to places of interest to members.

For more information visit the website

<http://www.markwoodwheels.co.uk/gardsoc/gardsocwelcome.html>

The Great Yeldham Walking Group

The Great Yeldham Walking Group is an informal group who meet once a month to walk the local footpaths. The walks vary in length but usually last about two hours.

There are footpaths on all sides of the village and different routes are chosen from month to month to give as much variety as possible. This is a good way to get to know your local countryside without having to be super-fit.

The group meets at 10.00 am on every **second Saturday of the month** at the Village Green. All are welcome.

Contact: Mark Wood for more information on 01787 237593, or mark@markwoodwheels.co.uk

For more information visit the website

<http://www.markwoodwheels.co.uk/walks/group.html>

Yeldham Athletics Football Club

Yeldham Athletic FC is a new football club set up for the 2013/2014 season. The club was founded by former members and players of a local team who wanted a fresh approach and a clear objective of youth football. The club is registered with both the Blackwater and Dengie league, Essex FA and run by CRB checked and qualified managers and coaches. The club aims to provide football for all ages from 7 years old, to senior level over the next few years, within a well organised and well managed football club.

For more information visit

<http://www.clubwebsite.co.uk/yeldhamathleticfc/269164/Home>

Community Cafe

The Community Café, operated by some friends of St. Andrews Church, opens every other week on a Thursday afternoon between 1pm & 3pm. For actual dates contact Revd. Barbara Hume. Everybody is welcome to partake of tea, coffee and delicious home made cakes.

Sundowners Line Dancing

Sundowners started line dance classes at the Snooker hall in Sible Hedingham in 1998 when Line Dancing was very popular. Classes quickly expanded to a second night in Hedingham followed by classes in Ridgewell, Greenstead Green, Toppesfield and Stisted and in 2003 they started in Great Yeldham.

The hey day of Line dancing has now passed (as happens) and Great Yeldham is now one surviving class along with another in Sudbury.

The Great Yeldham class meets on Monday evenings 7.30 till 9.30pm, £2.00 for 1st hour or £3.50 all evening and is attended by a really good group of people.

The Sudbury class is 9.15 till 11.30 Thursday mornings.

Social evenings are arranged to raise money for various charities and weekends away to enjoy a dancing break.

Over the years some of the members have been lucky enough to have seen many top artists both in this country and America including a visit to Nashville.

Great Yeldham Parent and Toddler Group

Meets every Wednesday - Term Time only - 9.30 - 11.30 am. In the Reading Room, Great Yeldham. All children from newborn up to and including pre-school are very welcome. £2.00 for a parent and up to 2 children. £1 for a parent and baby under 1. FIRST SESSION FREE.

We are a very welcoming and friendly group with access to lots of toys and arts and crafts for the children. A great opportunity to meet and talk to other parents in and around Great Yeldham and for the children to let off some steam!

We offer a selection of hot and cold drinks and biscuits for everyone!

Contact Rachel on 07900 564119 or yeldhamtoddlers@gmail.com

Veterans Club

This club is especially run for the over sixties. So far all the members are ladies but any gentlemen wishing to join would be most welcome.

The club meets every Wednesday in the Three Bottles public house in Bridge Street. Meetings start at about 2pm and usually end about two hours later.

It gives the members a chance to get together for a chat over a cup of tea & a cake and to enjoy a small raffle & a game of bingo.

Occasionally we receive donations which enable the organisation of trips.

It is a very friendly club and will welcome new members. If anybody has mobility problems, transport can be arranged.

Joan Storrar 01787 237740

Neighbourhood Watch Group

The group is composed of a group of residents with a strong community interest.

Their object is to be aware of any untoward happenings in the village and to supply help and assistance to the infirm or elderly.

Any problems are reported directly to Essex Police.

For more information contact:

Peter Hyland

01787 237463.

Yeldham & District Ladies Club

The Ladies Club of Great Yeldham has been running as a lively and busy club for over 20 years, having emerged from being a W.I. Branch.

It meets in the Reading Room at 7.30pm to 9.30pm on the last Thursday of the month, December being the exception to the rule, when it is the second Thursday. The programme is very varied and consists of speakers who talk on a variety of topics and hobbies, e.g. gardening, crafts, history, local history and fascinating professions, plus travel and entertainment to name just a small part of the programme.

A local Theatre Trip is usually organised each year plus a coastal venue if possible.

The Summer and Christmas parties are very well attended and popular, with a variety of artists from rock guitarists to magicians to variety groups, plus a jazz band, which is back for a second time by popular request. Food is provided at all of the entertainment functions, ranging from hot meals, to buffets and ploughman suppers depending on the time of year. As there is not a drink licence people are asked to bring their own.

Although listed as a Ladies Club, husbands, partners and friends are welcome at all of the meetings and functions.

Please contact: Margaret Rawlinson (Club Secretary) 01787 237049

Great Yeldham Knit and Natter Group

The Knit & Natter Group was formed about six years ago with the aim of knitting hats, mittens & scarves for the annual shoe box appeal. The shoe boxes are filled with gifts for children in need. The Great Yeldham ones usually go to Belarus.

The group meet once a month to share ideas, socialise & show off our work.

Since the early days the group has expanded to knitting a variety of puppets, purses, bags, pencil cases etc.

Knitting is now done for Broomfield Baby Unit and the Chesterford Aid to Romania.

One of the members recently completed a full size blanket made up of knitted squares.

The group is always grateful for donations of wool.

Chris Persinger 01787 237522

Acorns Pre-School

Acorns Preschool Limited was opened over 37 years ago. It operates in the grounds of St Andrews School. The preschool serves the local areas and is registered on the Early Years and the voluntary & compulsory Childcare Registers.

The building is 3 years old. All the facilities and access are disabled friendly. A maximum of 18 children may attend at any one time. There are currently 34 children aged from two to almost five years on roll. The setting can support children with learning difficulties and disabilities and those for whom English is an additional language. The children attend a variety of sessions. Acorns is open 9.00-12.00 every day and 12.00-3.00 on a Tuesday and Thursday. A lunch club has been introduced recently on the all day sessions and this has become very popular. Three part-time staff work with the children and there are three emergency cover staff. Nearly all staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. Staff training is paramount and training courses are attended regularly as it is essential that well trained staff are successful in promoting all aspects of children's welfare and learning. Acorns thrives on creating a fun, healthy, creative, safe learning environment for all the children. The children also enjoy learning about the community and especially exploring outdoors. Building good links with parents is essential to the day to day running of Acorns. Very good links are retained with St Andrews School making transition into school an enjoyable process. Lastly and very importantly there is a very hard working and committed committee that are involved in the running of Acorns which we truly appreciate.

Carpet Bowls Club

This club has been active since 1987 and is still going strong. People from within the area come together each Tuesday to play indoor short mat bowls. Members are divided into teams and skills are enhanced by playing against each other. The club is entered into the North Essex League and regularly plays matches at home and away. All games are social occasions where new friends are made. Christmas dinners, Summer BBQ and charity tournaments are always enjoyed. The tournaments are run to raise money for charities. The club is open to all ages. Tuition is available and new members are always welcome.

Contact: Paulette Bauckham 01787 371508

Great Yeldham Church Tower Bell Ringers

The full Change Ringing of Church bells take place on;-Sunday morning Church Services, Weddings and Special occasions at Great Yeldham St Andrews Church. A small team of local ringers plus support from other churches take part each week.

The most regular time being at 10.30am-11.00am prior to the Sunday services.

We have six bells at Great Yeldham and ideally require six or more ringers.

Unfortunately, nationally there is a reduction in the number of people available to ring the Church bells on a Sunday Mornings, and Great Yeldham suffers similarly.

We welcome new members who would be trained to achieve the standards necessary.

Our formal Great Yeldham practice evening is Monday from 19.30 to 21.00

However, other practice nights/training can take place in our local associated churches.

Jean Lewis is the principle contact --as Bell Captain **tel. 01787 237474**

David Osgood deputises for her **tel. 01787 237461**

email: **d.osgood56@btinternet.com**

Great Yeldham Scout Group

The group meets at the Recreation Ground during the week and takes part in various activities during the year such as climbing, fire lighting and other outdoor activities. It also takes part In group camps as well as district and county events.

There are three sections in the group:-

Beavers, aged 6 years to 8 years (Thursday evening - 5.30pm - 6.45pm)

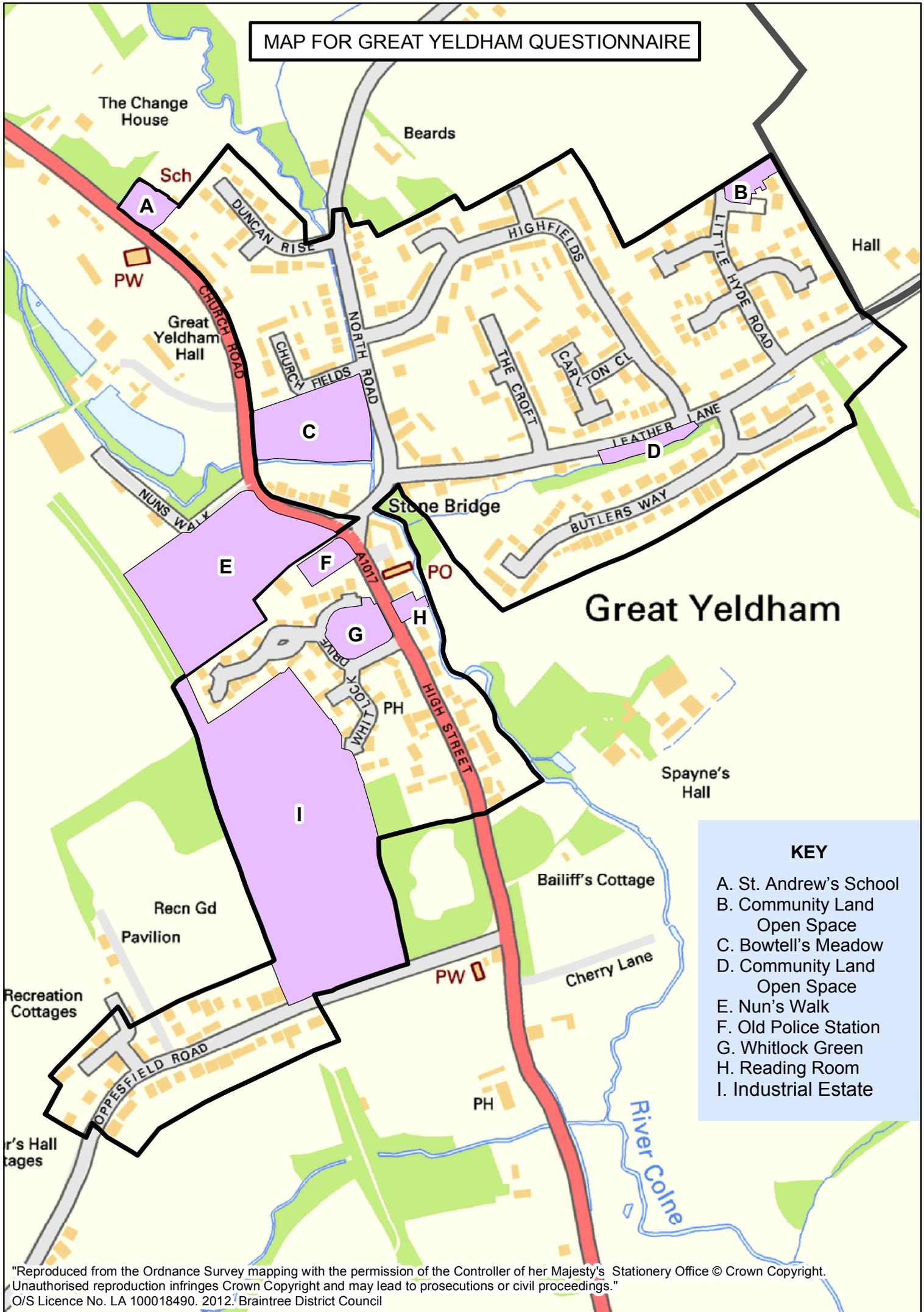
Cubs, aged 8 years to 10.5 years (Tuesday evening - 6.30pm - 8.00pm)

Scouts, aged from 10.5 - 14 years (Friday evening - 7.00pm - 9.45pm)

Everyone of all ages welcome to join in and if there are any adults who would like to give some of your free time please don't hesitate to get in touch with

the Group Scout Leader on **07976780132.**

MAP FOR GREAT YELDHAM QUESTIONNAIRE



KEY

- A. St. Andrew's School
- B. Community Land Open Space
- C. Bowtell's Meadow
- D. Community Land Open Space
- E. Nun's Walk
- F. Old Police Station
- G. Whitlock Green
- H. Reading Room
- I. Industrial Estate

Great Yeldham Parish Plan

What's Already Happening?

Most of you will remember the questionnaire you received during the middle months of last year (2013). Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete and return their questionnaires. We had an impressive response rate of 55%. The action list in this document relates to areas of interest and concern that were raised in your responses. In participating in answering the questionnaire you, the public, have been instrumental in creating this Parish Plan. For those actions your input is very much appreciated.

New Development & Land Use

What you told us

Responses to the Parish Plan questionnaire indicate a preference for affordable housing rather than executive style homes, for further opportunities for local employment (in particular light industrial employment), for the protection of Whitlock Green and Bowtell's Meadow as open spaces, to maintain the existing school and the Reading Room as a community facility and an interest in allotments.

What's already happening

Decisions regarding new development and land use in the local area are governed by the Local Development Framework (LDF), the planning system which sets out how development will be managed across the district. One important element of this is the Site Allocations Development and Management Plan which allocates

development sites and identifies areas for protection from development.

Following a period of consultation the LDF Site Allocations document is currently being finalised by Braintree District Council (BDC). Proposals for Great Yeldham address some of the priorities indicated in the responses to the Parish Plan questionnaire. These



include Whitlock Green and Bowtell's Meadow being designated as open spaces which means that they will remain as non-development areas for the foreseeable future. The formal designation is expected some time late in 2014.

One of the principal areas of concern for residents responding to the questionnaire was the provision of medical facilities. Unfortunately Great Yeldham Parish Council has no control over decisions surrounding this as these are made by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), formerly the Primary Care Trust, in conjunction

with the developers and the land owners.

Both the Nun's Walk and the Hunnable sites are designated for development and include housing developments and an area designated for community use which includes possible locations for a new medical facility. In addition the Hunnable site also includes an area designated for employment and area of open space which could potentially be used for allotments.

The Old Police Station has been registered with BDC as an Asset of Community Value under the

Hunnable Industrial Estate



Community Right to Bid which was introduced by the Localism Act 2011. Funding and support is available if the community wanted to purchase and takeover management of the building.

What next?

Although the Parish Council does not have the power to make decisions regarding the designation and allocation of sites within the locality, it will continue to put forward the views of residents to help influence the decisions made by BDC and the CCG. The Parish Council will also continue to

inform residents of any opportunities to get involved in the consultation process.

Further research is needed on the potential use of the Old Police Station to see if there is a viable plan for community ownership and management of the building. The parish plan responses raise some interesting ideas (fitness centre, gymnasium, indoor sports) that can be explored.

Village Environment & Infrastructure

What you told us

The questionnaire responses highlighted that residents considered several issues to be priorities in terms of improving the village environment and infrastructure. These included improving the parking outside St Andrew's School, improve broadband, providing kitchen and toilets at the church, reducing the level of dog mess and litter and reducing incidents of speeding in the village.

What's already happening

Great steps have already been made to improve issues identified relating to the village environment. A toilet has now been installed at the church following a successful fundraising campaign and the generous gift of a benefactor. This is a great addition to the church and increases the scope to hold more events in the church in the future.

Braintree District Council have run a campaign to encourage residents to register their interest in superfast broadband. The first steps have been taken to improve the service with the telephone exchange being upgraded which will increase broadband speed for most residents.

In an attempt to highlight the issue of, and reduce the incidents of speeding





Churchfields

in the village the Community Speed Watch scheme is now running again. With this being highlighted as such a priority for residents, the Parish Council is hoping to recruit more volunteers to the Speed Watch team this year and carry out more speed monitoring sessions.

The general appearance of the village is being improved by the regular litter picking visits from the Community Payback team. The Parish Council has employed a village handyman whose role includes undertaking general upkeep and maintenance tasks such as pavement and leaf clearance. The Parish Council is also liaising with the Dog Wardens at Braintree District Council to take action on the issue of dog fouling.

What next?

A high priority is to improve the parking situation outside St Andrew's School. Suggestions include a walking bus, provision for cycling to school and a greater police presence. Meetings will be held with the relevant organisations to discuss the options and agree a course of action.

The Parish Council will continue to work alongside the Dog Wardens to address the ongoing problem of dog fouling.

Requests have been made to the Essex County Council Highways Department for an upgrade to the lay by near the Burial Ground. So far there has been no response but your Parish Council will be chasing this.

Village Services & Activities

What you told us

Responses to the questionnaire suggest that the uptake on current activities is relatively low. The results indicate that residents would be interested in having new activities in the village and in increasing the use of the Reading Room. It was also suggested that it would be beneficial to improve communication about existing village activities. The responses also highlighted a need for improved transport links and support for vulnerable people.

What's already happening

The organisers of existing activities in the village are being encouraged to publicise activities through the 4 Villages magazine and the village website to increase the number of residents participating in them. In addition the Reading Room Management Committee are looking at

options for new activities that could be held in the hall and at improving the appearance and accessibility of the outside space at the Reading Room. A new fence has already been erected at the rear of the building to enable the garden to be used safely by hirers. It is hoped that these improvements will help to increase the use of the



Playground at Bowtell's Meadow

High Street



Reading Room and the number of activities available to residents.

In terms of new activities in the village, one good news story is that Yeldham Athletic Football Club was formed in September 2013 and started playing in the 2013/2014 season.

The Great Yeldham Parent & Toddler Group passed the Preschool Learning

Alliance Good Practice checklist at the end of 2013. This achievement is something that is hoped will be beneficial in encouraging new members to attend. The group also hosts a Health Visitor clinic on the first Wednesday of each month and is hoping that by publicising this more widely in the village, more families will access this facility.

In terms of improving transport links for residents, the planning permission for the former Premdor site in Sible Hedingham includes a Section 106 agreement to run a bus service to Sudbury 5 days a week for a period of 1 year. Braintree District Council



operates a community car service which residents can access.

What next?

Existing activities will be promoted through the 4 Villages Magazine and the village website to increase awareness. The Reading Room Management Committee will work actively to increase the number of activities held in the hall. It is planned that the outside of the Reading Room will be revamped with improved disabled access, block paving, a seating area and planters.

The provision of Tennis Courts will be explored by the Parish Council. The ground work is in place at the Recreation Ground but significant funds will be required to transform the site. Grant funders will require evidence that such a project is needed and that there is significant demand for tennis in the village.

Essex County Council is responsible for the provision of bus services and the parish council will continue to lobby for improvements; however it is recognised that many services are not financially viable due to insufficient passenger numbers. Community Transport alternatives (e.g. BDC community car service) will be publicised so that residents are aware of the options available.

The Parish Council is working with Essex Police and the North Essex Parking Partnership to try to get more policing and parking inspections. Meetings are on-going.

In order to increase support for vulnerable and elderly residents, the Parish Council will be liaising with the Village Agents.

Communication

What you told us

Residents fed back that the 4 Villages magazine was providing a good source of information but there was demand for new information boards and to increase use of the village website.

What's already happening

The existing information boards located on the village green were revamped last year (2013) with a second side being added to double the display. One side is dedicated to Parish Council information and the other side is available for residents to post their own information and notices.

A new Parish Council Community website has been launched and is in

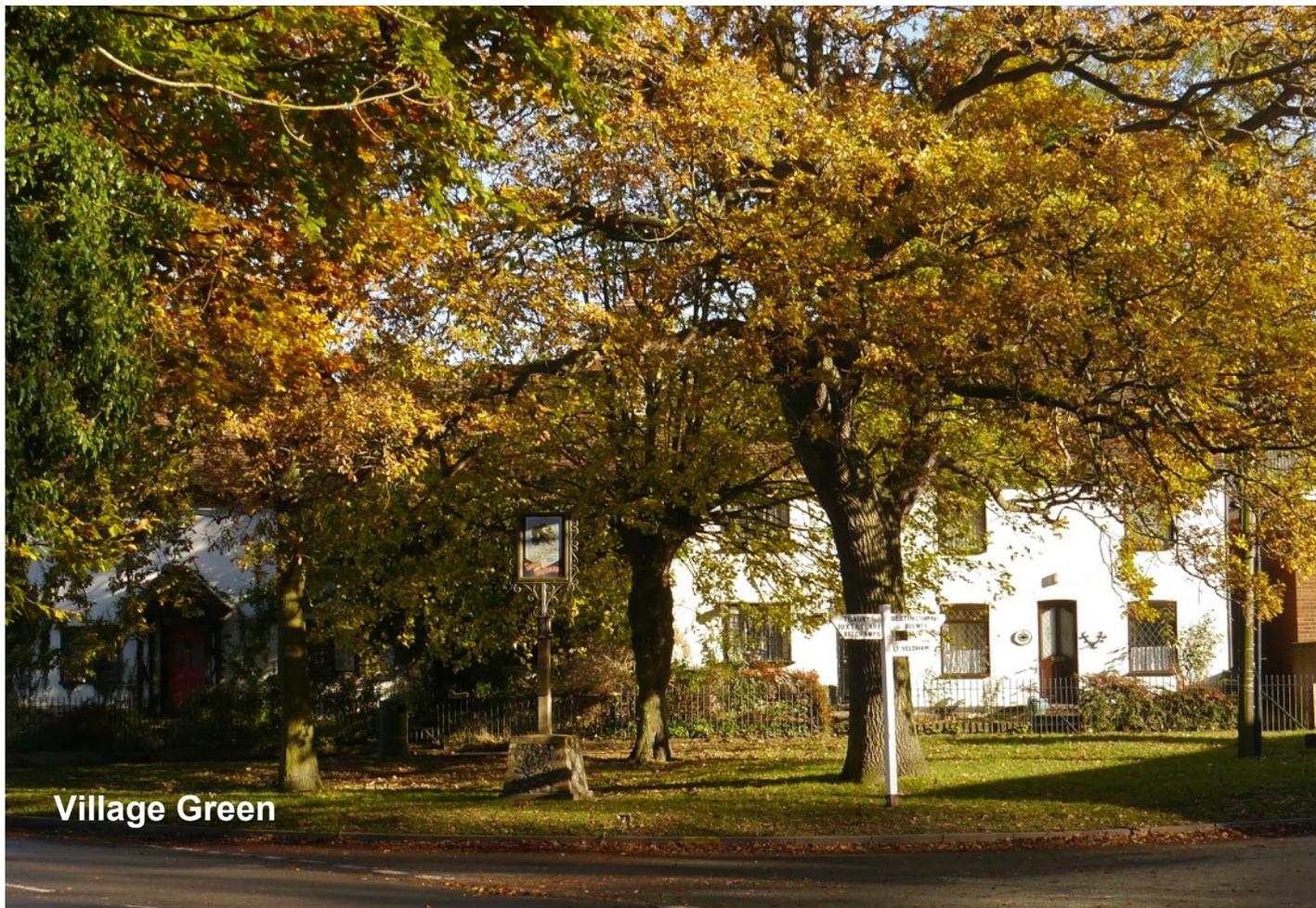
the process of being developed and having further content added. The website is now maintained inhouse by the Parish Council which enables the content to be updated much more regularly.

What next?

The Parish Council is looking into British Telecom's 'Adopt a Kiosk' scheme to see if the phone box outside the Reading Room is available



Outside The Reading Room



Village Green

for adoption. If it is no longer used for phone calls, the Parish Council may be able to purchase it to use as an information point.

The new website will continue to be developed with further information being added for residents. It will be

regularly promoted to increase awareness of the site.

In order to promote existing activities the 4 Villages Magazine will feature a series placing the spotlight on clubs and organisations in Great Yeldham and the local area.

Great Yeldham Parish Plan – Initial Action List

No.	Aims and Suggested Actions	Priority	Who	Status
1	Improve the parking situation by the school. Suggestions include walking bus, higher police presence.	High	St. Andrews School, PTA, Parents, NEPP & Essex Police	Talking to NEPP & Essex Police
2	Improve broadband. Lobby BT.	Medium	GYPC (Communications) & BT	Exchange updated
3	Reduce dog droppings. Work with dog wardens to expedite their actions.	High	BDC & GYPC	
4	Reduce litter. Initiate regular litter picking.	High	GYPC, BDC & Community Payback	Talking to Community Payback people
5	Cut down on speeding. Encourage more volunteers to join Community Speed Watch (CSW) and start more frequent sessions.	High	CSW & Essex Police	Asking for more CSW volunteers
6	Seek to get improved transport facilities. Work with ECC to try to get extended operating times and better service to Sudbury.	Medium	GYPC (Transport) & ECC	
7	Improve communication about village activities. More publicity in the 4 Villages Magazine and publicise the village web site. Work with Halstead Gazette to get a regular column about GY.	Medium	GYPC (Communications) & HG	
8	Encourage exercise classes in the village. Approach people like Jazzercise etc.	Medium	RRMC	
9	Provide support for vulnerable people both in their homes and outside. Stay Safe in Great Yeldham has been operational for about a year but not many people are aware of it. Work with village agents to help.	High	GYPC & Village Agents	
10	Ensure new housing meets local needs. Work with Gray & Dale and Hunnable Holdings to encourage them.	High	GYPC, Gray & Dale and Hunnable Holdings	Braintree District Council consultation opened on February 17th 2014

11	Improve the lay by near the burial ground entrance. Work with ECC Highways.	Medium	GYPC (Burial Ground Group) & ECC	Essex County Council Highways report reference 2303216
12	Extend the existing school & pre-school. Work with schools & ECC	Medium	GYPC, St. Andrews, Acorns & ECC	
13	Find a suitable use for the old police station. It is currently on the Community Asset Register but further plans are needed.	Medium	RRMC & Essex Police	
14	Provide allotments. This could be achieved if the village receives the land by Toppesfield Road from Hunnable Holdings.	Medium	GYPC & Hunnable Holdings	
15	Indoor fitness centre.	Low		
16	Provide tennis courts. The ground work is in place at the Recreation Ground even though it is a poor state of repair.	Medium	GYPC (Recreation Ground) & funders	
17	Improve leisure facilities. The survey suggested that the following were needed:- Internet Café Pool Table / Darts / Table Tennis / Hobbies Gymnasium Adult Education Film Nights	Medium		
18	Help in the home. Small jobs like garden maintenance, changing light bulbs etc.	High	Special group to be set up	
19	Ensure a greater police presence. Work with Essex Police.	High	GYPC (Police)	
20	Install a Zip Wire at the Recreation Ground	Low	GYPC (Recreation Ground)	

Acknowledgements:

Rachel Buckenham

Anne Burrows

Jan Cole

Mary Marshall

Philip Rawlinson

Jackie Tatam

