

# Ashington Community Action Plan 2010



## Contents

1. Ashington Village.....	3
2. A brief local history .....	4
3. Previous Community Action Plans.....	5
4. Ashington Community Action Plan 2010 .....	6
5. Summary of results.....	8
6. Ashington Community Action Plan 2010 .....	10
6.1 A better place to live.....	10
6.2 Opportunity for all .....	13
6.3 Better health for all .....	15
6.4 Staying and feeling safe .....	17
7. What next?.....	18
Useful Numbers.....	19



## 1. Ashington Village

Ashington is situated in the Horsham District within West Sussex. The parish is approximately 10 miles from Horsham, 4 miles from Storrington and 9 miles from Pulborough. According to the 2001 Census, the population of the parish was 2351 of which 1183 were male and 1164 were female. There are 962 households and the predominant tenure in Ashington is owner occupation (85%), followed by renting from a private landlord (8%) and renting the property from a housing association (7%)- Census 2001.

The Parish has various amenities including a mobile library service, a primary school, 2 churches, 1 community centre, 1 pub, local businesses including a pharmacy, post office, Indian restaurant, hairdressers and general store. Access to doctors are in the neighbouring parishes of Storrington/Southwater. There are also 3 bus routes through the parish to Horsham, Worthing, Steyning, Storrington and Shoreham, some of which have a limited service.

Ashington has been recognised nationally, winning West Sussex Village of the Year in 2001, 2003 and 2005. Also winner of the categories "Community Life" and "Business" for Southern and South East England in 2001 and National "Calor Village of the Year" in 2003.



In 2005 Ashington was the first winner in West Sussex of the Calor / Defra sponsored "Building Community Life Competition". Recently, Ashington was invited to enter the Calor Village of the Year 10th Anniversary Award Competition celebrating ten years of the Village of the Year competition along with other winners over the period 1997 to 2006 and were judged as the South of England Village of the Year – Best of Best.

## 2. A brief local history

Archaeological evidence proved that there was activity in Ashington about 900 BC Late Bronze Age. To the South of the village runs the "Green Sand Way" which is a Roman road. Just over ½ a mile to the north of the Roman Road is a Roman villa site. Ashington is also mentioned in Domesday under the name Essingetune where it proudly boasts two house-holders and six labourers. Most of Ashington's history revolves around agriculture.

In 1801 the population was 173 with 28 houses. Some twenty years later, this had grown to 41 houses. In 1802 a toll road was put across the common and a regular stagecoach service from London to Worthing and back, stopped at Ashington. This finally faded out in about 1848 when the Southern railway opened and it was easier to get to and from London and Worthing by train. The main enclosure act in 1816 meant houses could be built up to the road's edge, which had formerly been part of the common. By 1939 an Ashington bypass was spoken of but it was not until 1995 that the bypass was completed. A new school (opened in 2002), a new community centre (opened in 2003) and approximately 400 new houses have recently been built in the village.

Ashington has two churches, St. Peter and St. Paul and the Ashington Methodist Church. The former is of flint and stone construction possibly dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. It was greatly enlarged in 1871 when the episcopal parish was extended to cover the eastern side of the village, which, up to that time had been known as North Washington. The church has two bells one of which is considered to be one of the oldest bells in Sussex dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The first

Ashington Methodist Church of iron construction was built in 1888. The second church was built around it in 1894.



### 3. Previous Community Action Plans

In 1999, the second Village Appraisal was carried out. This followed the major development in the village following the completion of the new bypass. A smaller appraisal was carried out in 2000 to take into account the views of the many new residents who moved into Ashington during 1999-2000. The Parish Action Plan that followed achieved all the aspirations from residents, apart from one, the need for a village pharmacy. This was achieved in 2009.

In 2006 a further Village Survey was issued to all residents. 127 households responded and the 2006 Ashington Parish Plan was developed. Residents were asked to prioritise areas/issues for action within the community and 40 high priority actions were agreed and presented across 10 themes including Good Health, Community Safety and Leisure and Cultural activities. A new Parish Plan Steering Group was established to oversee the achievement of the 2006 plan and during the last 3 years we have achieved most of the actions including:

- Continuation of the Ashington Neighbourhood Warden Scheme and Junior Wardens
- New play area for the over 12s

- New layby for London Road shops
- Campaigning for the A24 to be resurfaced with noise reducing tarmac
- Championed establishment of a new Pharmacy for the village
- Improvement at the Youth Centre including new heating, stage area, windows and a new gym
- Scout Hut improvements to porch area
- Developed village communication network through web site, weekly email, notice boards, newsletters and e-board at Co-op
- Investigations are already underway with W.S.C.C. regarding changing the existing footpath from the Church to Malthouse Farm into a bridleway for use by horses and bikes as well as people on foot.



A new plan was needed so in 2009, the Parish Plan Steering Group managed a consultation process to develop a new Ashington Community Action Plan for 2010 and beyond.

#### **4. Ashington Community Action Plan 2010**

A 4-page survey was hand delivered to all households in Ashington and made available on line in August/September 2009. 196 responses were received.

In addition to this survey:

- Affordable Housing Survey completed in Nov 2007
- Older Persons Housing Survey completed in November 2009

- Additional questionnaires were sent to all organisations and businesses in the village in April 2009
- Parish Plan Surgery events were held outside of the Co-op during 2009
- A stand was organised at the 2009 Ashington Festival for resident feedback
- Plus 2 showcase events were held after the survey results were available to share them with residents and check that the results were reflective of need.



The Steering Group and Parish Council reviewed all the above information and developed the Ashington Community Action Plan 2010. The new Ashington Community Action Plan is split into 4 areas – which match the Horsham District Council and West Sussex County Council Sustainable Community Plans:

- A better place to live
- Opportunity for all
- Better health for all
- Staying and feeling safe



## 5. Summary of results

A maximum score of 784 was available for each of the 46 issues that residents were asked to individually score. The top 5 issues were:

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Score</b>
Maintain the Ashington Neighbourhood Warden Scheme	735
Reduce Dog Fouling by using enforcement/fines	696
Reduce littering in the village by using enforcement/fines	678
Reduce the noise for the A24 and its impact on the village	669
Reduce the number of lorries coming through the village	664

In response to the question “what do you like about living in Ashington”, there were 142 responses. Positive comments related to areas such as:

- Strong community spirit
- Good location
- Friendliness
- Peaceful and tidy
- Lovely refurbished pub (Red Lion)
- Neighbourhood Wardens
- Safe place to live
- Good school
- Play areas for young people
- Annual Festival/Carnival
- Lots of activities to participate



One comment summarised well what many residents said:

“Friendly, generally peaceful, tidy and well maintained village, with a great feel of community spirit. The retail units, although not many in number, provide for most necessities i.e. groceries, post office, chemist, takeaway, restaurant and pub. The presence of Wardens provide a feeling of safety and security even when I am out walking my dog at 10/11pm at night.”



In response to the question what do residents least like about living in Ashington – the following issues were raised:

- Noise of the A24
- Dog fouling
- Litter problems
- Threat of Laybrook Landfill
- Lack of variety of shops
- Poor public transport especially in the evenings

In addition, there were some ideas that were a little aspirational for the moment but we will of course keep them on the list!

- Swimming Pool
- Railway Station
- No sweets for sale in the Co-op
- Outside fountain/statue

## 6. Ashington Community Action Plan 2010

The following action plan provides more information on the key issues and areas for action that Ashington residents prioritised during the consultation period. This is our plan for 2010 and beyond.

### 6.1 A better place to live

We want to improve and protect our local environment in areas such as housing, community resources and transport.

<b>A better place to live</b>			
<b>Ref</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Who</b>
1.1	Reduce the noise level from the A24.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue to lobby W.S.C.C. for noise reducing tarmac on the A24 bypass.</li> <li>▪ Work with W.S.C.C. to consider other options for reducing the noise impact on the village.</li> </ul>	Parish Council and Ashington Residents Association
1.2	Reduce the number of lorries coming through the village unnecessarily.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work with W.S.C.C. to reduce the number of lorries "passing through" the village not requiring access for deliveries etc.</li> </ul>	Parish Council
1.3	Improve bus service to and from the village.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Explore the current gaps in provision and discuss with local bus companies.</li> <li>▪ Consider alternative sustainable transport options -</li> </ul>	Steering Group

		<p>access to community buses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Advertise the available services more to residents.</li> </ul>	
1.4	Enhance opportunities for older people to remain and move to the village.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work with HDC to encourage building of bungalows as part of any new housing developments.</li> <li>▪ Circulate information about HDC Handy Van and other similar schemes/ Approved Traders Directory to give better access to homeowners for home repairs/ maintenance.</li> </ul>	Parish Council
1.5	Enhance opportunities for younger people to remain in the village.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work with HDC to ensure affordable homes are built as part of Meiros Farm Development.</li> <li>▪ Work with HDC to ensure any new developments include a high percentage of affordable homes.</li> </ul>	Parish Council
1.6	Reduce school run traffic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Re-start the school "walking bus".</li> <li>▪ Investigate starting a "park and stride" scheme for school.</li> </ul>	Ashington School, Neighbourhood Wardens and Parish Council

1.7	Improve parking issues in Church Lane/Foster Lane due to Community Centre, church and recreation ground parking requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consider parking restrictions.</li> <li>▪ Enhance the parking facilities for the recreation ground outside the Pavilion and Youth Club.</li> </ul>	Parish Council and Community Centre
1.8	Ensure play areas are kept in good condition and equipment is replaced when required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue regular monitoring of play areas.</li> <li>▪ Replace equipment when required.</li> <li>▪ Consider providing new and additional equipment if possible.</li> </ul>	Parish Council and Community Centre
1.9	Develop options to improve access to the village for residents in Penn Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consult with residents of Penn Gardens to consider additional needs.</li> <li>▪ Use the Merios Farm development to enhance facilities at the north-western end of the village.</li> </ul>	Parish Council and Steering Group
1.10	Review the opportunities to resurface un-adopted roads in the village.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consult with residents living on un-adopted roads and work with them to consider options for re-surfacing if this is required.</li> </ul>	Steering Group and Parish Council

## 6.2 Opportunity for all

We want to ensure our local economy is sustainable and develop ways to support local businesses and home-workers based in Ashington.

<b>Opportunity for all</b>			
<b>Ref</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Who</b>
2.1	Support the use of empty retail units to meet village needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work with H.D.C. to identify opportunities for increasing economic growth in the village.</li> <li>▪ Develop ways to encourage retail business to invest in Ashington.</li> <li>▪ Promote Ashington as a place to do business.</li> </ul>	Parish Council and Ashington Business Consortium
2.2	Enhance community facilities in the village.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify opportunities to develop a community café.</li> <li>▪ Investigate providing a public access internet point.</li> <li>▪ Enhanced access to library facilities.</li> <li>▪ Investigate options for a village petrol station.</li> <li>▪ Provision for home-workers to network with each other and sell products /services.</li> <li>▪ Develop leisure opportunities e.g.</li> </ul>	Steering Group and Community Centre

		<p>Ashington Movies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the option to extend the Community Centre</li> </ul>	
2.3	Create Village Information Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop village information points to ensure residents have easy access to information.</li> <li>Develop on-line calendar facility to advertise events/ organisations.</li> </ul>	Steering Group
2.4	Encourage more businesses/ community enterprise schemes e.g. community run shop, to invest in the local area to create jobs for local people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with H.D.C. / W.S.C.C. to consider opportunities to encourage more investment in the village and opportunities for community enterprise.</li> </ul>	Parish Council and Steering Group
2.5	Encourage more interest in the history and heritage of the local area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop history/heritage walks and information booklets (on-line versions).</li> <li>Consider opportunities for small museum display to be created (building on the existing Community Centre display cabinet).</li> </ul>	<p>Ashington History Group</p> <p>Steering Group</p>

### 6.3 Better health for all

We want to promote the health and well being of Ashington residents.

<b>Better health for all</b>			
<b>Ref</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Who</b>
3.1	Reduce dog fouling in the village.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Use of enforcement/fines for repeat offenders.</li> <li>▪ Develop an education programme for dog owners.</li> </ul>	Neighbourhood Wardens
3.2	Reduce littering in the village.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Use of enforcement/ fines for repeat offenders.</li> <li>▪ Develop an education programme for residents.</li> </ul>	Neighbourhood Wardens
3.3	Expand the Ashington 1 <sup>st</sup> Responder Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recruit more Ashington residents to become volunteers.</li> <li>▪ Provide training opportunities for residents on how to deal with emergency medical incidents.</li> <li>▪ Ensure the Ashington 1<sup>st</sup> Responder Service is sufficiently funded.</li> </ul>	Ashington 1 <sup>st</sup> Responder Service
3.4	Retain presence from NHS West Sussex within village.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work with NHS West Sussex to continue to run local sessions for parenting, baby clinics, health issues etc. in the village.</li> <li>▪ Liase with the main doctors surgeries to</li> </ul>	Steering Group and Ashington Pharmacy

		ensure easy access for residents.	
3.5	Enhance public facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Refurbish the toilet and kitchen facilities at Ashington Youth Centre including providing disabled toilets.</li> <li>▪ Organise healthy cooking courses for young people.</li> <li>▪ Work with the facilities that have toilets, community centre, church, scout hut, youth centre and pavilion to consider options.</li> </ul>	Ashington Youth Centre, Churches, Scout Group and Community Centre
3.6	Encourage residents to participate in outdoor activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop a bi-annual open gardens event for the village.</li> <li>▪ Investigate setting up a "green gym" to work in people's gardens/improving village open space.</li> <li>▪ Retain and improve the accessibility to allotments.</li> </ul>	Ashington Horticultural Society, Steering Group and Parish Council
3.7	Encourage residents to walk, cycle around the village and surrounding country-side.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop walking, cycle and nature trail routes for residents to use.</li> <li>▪ Make information available on parish council website in addition to leaflets.</li> </ul>	Steering Group

## 6.4 Staying and feeling safe

We want to ensure residents and visitors to Ashington feel safe and build respect for each other. We also want to look at ways to reduce traffic and speeding issues in the village.

<b>Staying and feeling safe</b>			
<b>Ref</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Who</b>
4.1	Retain the Ashington Neighbourhood Warden Scheme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Good publicity for the scheme to ensure residents know what support is available.</li> <li>▪ Develop an annual programme of events/activities for the Wardens.</li> <li>▪ Include some new initiatives such as intergenerational projects.</li> </ul>	Neighbourhood Wardens
4.2	Reduce the amount of drinking in public including recreation ground and streets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Investigate "drink aware" zoning for the village.</li> <li>▪ Provide support and education to those participating in "street drinking".</li> </ul>	Neighbourhood Wardens
4.3	Reduce speeding on residential village roads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Investigate 20 m.p.h. zones in the village.</li> <li>▪ Review limits on Hole Street and Billingshurst Road.</li> <li>▪ Consider use of electronic static speeding signage in London Road.</li> <li>▪ Expand use of S.I.D to other roads in the village.</li> </ul>	W.S.C.C., Neighbourhood Wardens and Parish Council

4.4	Street Plan for Emergency Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and maintain a detailed street plan for use by emergency services.</li> </ul>	Steering Group
4.5	Review adequacy of on-street lighting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate street lighting needs across the village and consider options.</li> </ul>	Steering Group and Parish Council

## 7. What next?

Our Ashington Community Action Plan is a living document and will be continually reviewed to ensure the actions being progressed are still important to those living and working in Ashington. The Ashington Community Action Plan Steering Group will meet on a regular basis to support the implementation of the actions and also monitor progress. If you would like to join the Ashington Community Action Plan Steering Group please email [ashingtonevents@googlemail.com](mailto:ashingtonevents@googlemail.com) or call (01903) 893740.

Progress on all the actions listed in this plan will be shared in the quarterly Parish Council Newsletters which are issued to all households. Ashington Parish Council and the Steering Group would like to thank all the residents, groups and organisations who contributed to our new Community Action Plan.

Copies of the Plan were sent to all households in April 2010 and were made available at key locations in the village including the Ashington Community Centre. In addition, copies of the Plan will be provided for new residents in the 2010 Ashington New Resident Welcome Packs, available from Jimmy Girling (01903) 892900. An electronic copy of the plan is also available on the Ashington Parish Council website at [www.ashingtonpc.org.uk](http://www.ashingtonpc.org.uk)

Large Text versions are available on request to  
Ashington Parish Council Office.

## Useful Numbers

*Numbers correct - April 2010*

Ashington C of E First School	Office (01903) 892584 <a href="http://www.ashington.w-sussex.sch.uk">www.ashington.w-sussex.sch.uk</a>
Ashington Community Centre	Margaret Alford (01903) 892633 <a href="http://www.ashingtoncct.co.uk">www.ashingtoncct.co.uk</a>
Ashington Methodist Church	Rev. Ian Pruden (01903) 744984
Ashington Neighbourhood Wardens	Office (01903) 891543 Warden 1 0776 414 6367 Warden 2 0776 414 6368
Ashington Neighbourhood Watch Scheme	Alan Child 0775 952 2984
Ashington Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul	The Reverend Chris Maclay (01903) 893878 <a href="http://www.ashingtonparishchurch.co.uk">www.ashingtonparishchurch.co.uk</a>
Ashington Parish Council Parish Clerk	Karen Dare (01903) 893740 <a href="http://www.ashingtonpc.org.uk">www.ashingtonpc.org.uk</a>
Ashington Residents Association	Vivienne Nuttall (01903) 892702
Sussex Police	Non-emergency number (0845) 6677999 Emergencies 999

A full listing of all groups, clubs and associations that are based in Ashington is available from the Parish Council website  
[www.ashingtonpc.org.uk](http://www.ashingtonpc.org.uk)

### PICTURE INDEX

Front Page - Ashington Carnival 2009, Parish Church, Ashington C of E School, Bowls at Community Centre, Red Lion Pub and Methodist Church  
Page 2 - Chanctonbury Playschool in Ashington Old School  
Page 3 - Welcome to Ashington Sign - north end London Road  
Page 5 - Ashington Community Centre in snow  
Page 6 - Ashington Carnival  
Page 7 - Parish Church choir and Ashington Carnival  
Page 8 - Foster Lane play area  
Page 9 - Police, Parish Council and Neighbourhood Warden Surgery event  
Back Page - Annual Horticultural Show, Ashington Community Centre, Ashington Annual Fun Run, Willard Youth Gym, and New Over 12 play area opens 2009.

*Design with compliments of Gareth Coombs-Humphreys 2010*

