

*CHAPTER*  
*III*

*Appraisal*  
*of*  
*Parham's Future*

## Introduction

Nationally, many methods have been used to gather the general public's views on different issues. However, once obtained, the problem of how this information could be collated and put to good practical use, still remained. It was suggested we should include thought-provoking questions in the questionnaires but we were afraid the vast array of individual ideas would have been impossible to have appraised and implemented. We needed a more structured method.

Having attended several successful 'Forums'; where the meeting was broken up into smaller groups allowing all the delegates the opportunity to voice their opinion and join in discussions, we decided to try this method. Our intentions were to acquire Parishioners' expectations of Parham's future and glean practical solutions to make our environment a better place to live in. It was felt this type of meeting would provoke an in-depth, focused discussion amongst the participants.

Parishioners were subsequently invited to attend the five 'House Group Meetings', during November 1998, held at White House Farm by invitation of Michael and Annette Gray. The venue proved to be ideal, offering an informal, relaxed ambience, especially once attendees had consumed the welcoming beverage.

Thirty parishioners took part, many attending more than one meeting. A wide range of years of residency, from 18 months to a lifetime was represented. An average of 10.8 parishioners were present at each meeting. Valuable and interesting information was contributed by all.

Louise Wilby from Suffolk ACRE was invited to help officiate alongside Annette Gray. Meetings opened by the topic for discussion being introduced and parishioners introducing themselves, (*allowing everyone to be identified although invariably most knew each other*), and stating in a sentence or two why they had chosen to attend that particular topic.

A brain storming session was then conducted; encouraging participants to voice briefly related subjects that they wished to discuss in greater depth later. A great array of suggestions was noted and it soon became apparent that there would not be enough time to discuss all the items to the depth that we had intended. So, participants were asked to select the topics that they preferred to discuss in greater detail. The meeting then broke into two groups to discuss these most popular subjects. Each person was given a choice as to which group they wished to join and emotive discussions then took place. Finally, everyone convened and a résumé of the points raised were highlighted.

Summaries of these House Group Meetings in the form of notes can be found with the archives. These not only identify Parishioners expectations for the future but record facts about Parham and include present day activities.

This exercise has proved most successful, resulting in a Suggested Action Plan being produced, which will be presented to the Parish Council and the community for consideration.



High House, Parham by Bob Alcock

**Suggested ideas for Parham's future gleaned from the House Group Meetings that took place during November 1998**

**Parish Council Effectiveness**

| Suggested Action   | How to implement action   | By whom                            |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 Tackle apparent apathy of the electorate                                 | a) By implementing items 2, 3 & 4   | Parish Councillors & Parish Clerk  |
| 2 Publicise Parish Council business and finance                            | a) Make better use of Parish Magazine to keep Parishioners informed<br>b) Choose a topical subject to attract Parishioners to the Annual Parish Meeting | Parish Clerk<br>Parish Council     |
| 3 Enlighten Parishioners about the powers and duties of the Parish Council | a) Report briefly at the Annual Parish Meeting  | Chairman/Clerk                     |
| 4 Recruit new Parish Councillors   | a) Advertise deadline dates well in advance of local elections<br>b) Through informal discussion  | Parish Clerk<br>Parish Councillors |
| 5 Address intimidating/uninviting Parish Council Meetings                  | a) Hold informal meetings prior to Parish Council meetings to allow open discussion<br>b) Serve refreshments prior to meetings                          | Parish Council<br>Parish Clerk     |
| 6 Investigate if there is a need for certain types of housing in Parham    | a) Survey Parishioners<br>b) Consult Housing Associations   | Parish Council<br>Parish Council   |
| 7 Maintain a broad spectrum of sizes of houses in the village              | a) Be aware of the effect extensions have on creating property only affordable by the affluent  | Parish Council & S.C.D.C.          |
| 8 Involve weekend/holiday home occupants in village life                   | a) Send Parish Magazine to their alternative address  | Parish Magazine Committee          |

**Suggested ideas for Parham's future gleaned from the House Group Meetings that took place during November 1998**

| <b>Community</b> |   |  |  |
|------------------|---|--|--|
|                  | Suggested Action  | How to implement action  | By whom  |
| 1                | Need for central information source                             | a) Set up, twice yearly, Newsletter for general information. Deliver to all 114 Households households.   | Parish Council & Parish Clerk  |
| 2                | Review welcome leaflet  | a) Add Framlingham Volunteer Centre, Parish Police Constable and local dialing code<br>b) Update names of people holding positions<br>c) Re-issue welcome leaflet to existing parishioners or include information in the Newsletter<br>d) Encapsulate sheet of contact numbers of different organisations in the village | George Culpan<br><br>George Culpan<br>George Culpan & Parish Clerk<br>Parish Council |
| 3                | Enlighten Parishioners about services provided locally          | a) Invite Framlingham Volunteer Centre representative to Annual Parish meeting<br>b) Mention F.V.C., Citizens Advice Bureau and other services in Newsletter<br>c) Include F.V.C. telephone number in Parish Magazine every month  | Parish Clerk<br><br>Parish Clerk<br>Parish Magazine Committee                        |
| 4                | Encourage new/old residents to subscribe to the Parish Magazine | a) Personally deliver complimentary copy on their arrival  | Daphne Culpan  |
| 5                | Improve Notice Board  | a) Softer pin board is required<br>b) Appoint volunteer to clear old posters regularly   | Consult the carpenter<br>Parish Clerk  |

**Community contd.**

|   | Suggested Action   | How to implement action   | By whom                             |
|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| 6 | Involve other Parishioners with the maintenance of the Play Area | a) Recruit new helpers by word of mouth   | Play Area Committee                 |
| 7 | Resurrect emergency numbers for different areas of the village   | a) Publicise in Parish Magazine   | Daphne Culpan/Church                |
| 8 | Match people in need with others prepared to help                | a) Place article in Parish Magazine/News letter<br>b) Set up a register of volunteers | Parish Clerk<br>Parish Clerk/Church |

**Suggested ideas for Parham's future gleaned from the House Group Meetings that took place during November 1998**

**Traffic/Transport/Services**

| Suggested Action                           | How to implement action   | By whom   |
|--|---|---|
| 1 Reduce speed of traffic through village. | a) Investigate the use of rumble strips to make motorists aware that they are entering a village.<br>b) Request more Police speed checks using the new cameras that require a shorter distance.<br>c) Investigate the possibility of erecting 30 mph 'SLOW' flashing lights.<br>d) Recommend a National scheme where a village sign automatically indicates a 30 mph speed restriction. | Parish Council/<br>S.C.C. Highways.<br>Parish Council/<br>Martlesham Police.<br>Parish Council/<br>S.C.C. Highways.<br>Parish Council/<br>S.A.L.C. & N.A.L.C./<br>Lobby MP. |
| 2 Improve road safety within the village.  | a) Enlighten Highways of the problem of queuing lorries on the C242, waiting to unload at the transfer recycling unit.<br>b) Try to persuade haulage companies to use the trunk road A12 and the C242 rather than cutting through the village.<br>c) Consult S.C.C. Highways about possible concealed entrance signs.<br>d) Discuss solutions to identified black spots.                | Parish Council/<br>S.C.C. Highways.<br><br>Parish Council.<br><br>Parish Council/<br>S.C.C. Highways.<br>Parish Council.  |
| 3 Improve Public Transport.                | a) Produce easier to read timetables.<br>b) Highlight the need for the Bus Service and Train Service. Consult in order to provide a net-work that is sympathetic of commuter times.   | Bus Companies.<br>Bus Service/<br>Train Service.  |

**Traffic/Transport/Services contd.**

| Suggested Action   | How to implement action   | By whom         |
|--|---|-----------------|
| 4 Investigate solutions to the problem of hailing buses at a request Bus Stop. | a) Address visibility problem of users waiting in the Bus Shelter.                        | Parish Council. |
|  | b) Investigate need for a new bus shelter opposite Willoughby Arms.                       | Parish Council. |
|  | c) Suggest Bus Companies devise an electronic hailing signal.                             | Parish Council. |
| 5 Publicise alternative PublicTransport ideas.                                 | a) Advertise schemes in proposed Newsletter.  | Parish Clerk.   |
|  | b) Investigate local mini-bus service serving villages in a 6 mile radius of Framlingham. | Parish Council. |
|  | c) Liase with local supermarkets about the possibility of sponsored transport.            | Parish Council. |

**Suggested ideas for Parham's future gleaned from the House Group Meetings that took place during November 1998**

| <b>Social Aspects</b> |   |  |  |
|-----------------------|---|--|--|
|                       | Suggested Action  | How to implement action  | By whom  |
| 1                     | Investigate ways to rekindle interest in attending the Social Club. | a) Change Men's Club image.<br>b) Need to create more comfortable furnishings.<br>c) Review florescent lighting.<br>d) Promote more family evenings.   | Social Club.<br>Social Club/VHMC.<br>Social Club/VHMC<br>Social Club     |
| 2                     | Urgently address condition of Youth Club premises (School Canteen)  |  | Youth Club/VHMC  |
| 3                     | Promote other competitive sports.                                   | a) Extend the duration of family 'Rounders' played on North Green.<br>b) Promote village participation in the Inter-Parish Sports Tournament by use of Parish Magazine and and at the Annual Parish Meeting.                     | Church<br><br>Parish Council   |
| 4                     | Improve contact between the Church and Parishioners                 | a) Invite the Rector to visit 'Mothers & Toddlers' at Hacheston Village Hall.<br>b) Invite the Rector to visit 'Rendezvous' at Parham Village Hall.<br>c) Invite the Rector to visit 'Youth Club' in the the old school canteen. | Hacheston & Parham Mothers & Toddlers.<br>Rendezvous.<br><br>Youth Club. |
| 5                     | Utilise Village Hall facilities better                              | a) Review Hirer charges.<br>b) Investigate the possibility of holding adult Education/leisure classes.<br>c) Possibly hire Hall to hobby clubs.  | VHMC.<br>VHMC.<br>VHMC.  |

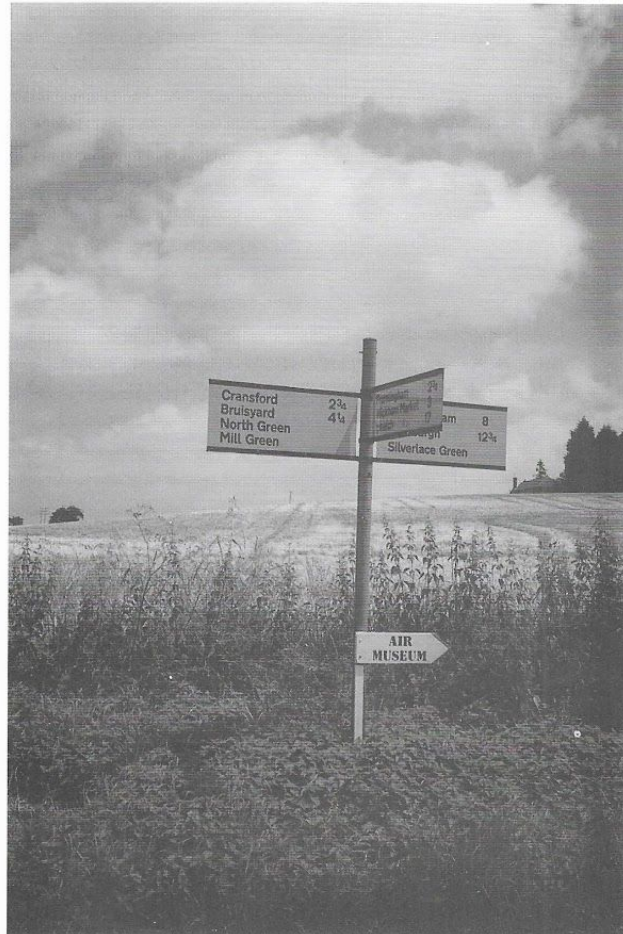


**Suggested ideas for Parham's future gleaned from the House Group Meetings that took place during November 1998**

| <b>Environment</b>   |  |                                      |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| Suggested Action   | How to implement action  | By whom                              |
| 1 Convey Parishioners concern about tap water quality to Essex & Suffolk Water Co. | a) Send copy of House Group Meeting report to Essex & Suffolk Water Co.  | Millennium Committee                 |
|  | b) Obtain results of samples of tap water tested.  | Parish Council                       |
| 2 Highlight the importance of water conservation                                   | a) Promote the use of Water Butts.   | Parish Council                       |
| 3 Investigate the River Ore water quality  | a) Monitor the River Ore water sampling results taken by Environment Agency routinely.   | Parish Council                       |
|  | b) Convey Parishioners fears to the Environment Agency about the level of water in the River Ore.  | Parish Council                       |
| 4 Assist with public access of the Countryside                                     | a) Investigate trading off definitive routes for amenity paths.  | Parish Council/S.C.C.                |
|  | b) Lobby MP to change the law on public footpaths allowing the local community and landowners to have a say where public rights of way go. | Parish Council/M.P.                  |
| 5 Maintain village greens  | a) Arrange for a work party to cut back the Black thorn hedge on North Green.  | Village Greens Management Committee. |
|  | b) Trim outer limits of village greens annually.   | Adjacent Landowners/<br>Volunteers   |
|  | c) Clean out pond adjacent to Elm Tree Farm.   | Village Greens Management Committee. |
|  | d) Clear Bulrushes and scrub from Silverlace Green.  | Village Greens Management Committee. |

| <b>Environment contd.</b>   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| Suggested Action  | How to implement action  | By whom   |
| 6 Arrange a 'Woods Open Day'  | a) Consult Landowners.   | Parish Council  |
| 7 Remind Parishioners about the laws on 'Dog Fouling'.                                | a) Post notice on Notice Board.<br>b) Include article in the proposed Newsletter.  | Parish Clerk<br>Parish Council                          |
| 8 Observe the litter problem adjacent to roads  | a) Inform S.C.D.C. when verges require clearing.   | Parish Council  |
| 9 Observe vehicle emissions   | a) Encourage Parishioners to report offending vehicles.<br>b) Advertise 'VERA LINE' ( <i>Vehicles Emission Reporting Arrangements</i> ) in Proposed Newsletter.              | Parish Council<br>Parish Council                        |
| 10 Support recycling and waste minimisation initiatives                               | a) Negotiate with S.C.D.C. about participating in Project 2000.<br>b) Investigate a suitable site for glass, paper & aluminium banks.<br>c) Promote the use of compost bins. | Parish Council<br>Parish Council<br>Parish Council/SCDC |
| 11 Improve relations with Antiwaste recycling transfer unit based at Siiverlace Green | a) Invite Representative to Annual Parish Meeting.   | Parish Council  |

Parham has no Shop, Post Office, School or Public House but we are no poorer for the demise of these amenities. We have created alternatives, which substitute for these losses so that vital community interaction is still retained. We treasure our past, are proud of our present environment and have expectations for our future. Our community is thriving because we have a 'sense of place' and we say that with pride.



Road Sign  
(Church Farm Corner)