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**Leigh Parish Plan Steering Committee**

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## INTRODUCTION

Leigh Parish Council, in June 2002, decided to take advantage of a scheme introduced by the Countryside Agency whereby the Agency would provide financial support to villages for research and production of a plan for the future benefit of local people. This scheme emerged from the Government White Paper on Rural Affairs that sought to encourage opportunities for local opinion to influence village development, and for residents to take the initiative in planning and implementing constructive change. It is intended that the Parish Plan will help the Parish to identify the main issues affecting its community.

With the support of The Countryside Agency and help from the Surrey Community Action, Leigh Parish Council set up a small steering committee to prepare the Parish Plan. Two meetings were held, the first meeting invited all the parish groups, organisations and businesses; and the second was an open meeting to which all parishioners were invited. At these meetings volunteers were sought to form the steering group.

A publicity campaign was organised using flyers delivered to each household as well as articles in the Leigh Post. The views of parishioners were sought initially to form the basis of the questionnaire that was to be used to provide the raw data for the development of the plan. Using a software package provided by The Countryside and Community Foundation the steering group set about designing and developing a questionnaire. The group recognised the overriding problem of obtaining as much information as possible without making the questionnaire too lengthy and difficult to complete. There were many issues that, given an infinite amount of space, we would have wished to include but it was necessary to be selective and aim to meet the wishes of the community and the needs of the Parish Plan.

Using the electoral register as a guide, 351 households were identified. Of these 15 were unoccupied and 22 did not wish to complete the survey. Therefore 314 surveys were delivered, of these 264 were returned providing details of 682 people. There were 12 surveys returned not completed. This represents a response rate of 83%; an excellent figure. The steering group would like to thank everyone who took the time to fill in the survey and thereby expressed an interest and concern in the Parish of Leigh. This success was due in no small part to the hard work of the delivery and collection team, our grateful thanks goes to them.

The comments within the report are those of the Steering Committee, and The Parish Council has not yet agreed to accept or reject those recommendations attributed to it that are contained at the end of each section nor has any action been taken on those recommendations either by the Parish Council or other interested organisations. Most sections of the report contain recommendations and, in italics, parishioners' comments.

When making representations to various authorities, it is becoming increasingly common to be required to prove and demonstrate a need for change. This Parish Plan will be available to every organisation and individual in the Parish to provide evidence of need or support from the community, especially when seeking grants or financial assistance. There are many opportunities to seek such grants but the application process is often extremely rigorous and it is hoped that the data contained in the Plan will help the process.

Many parishioners commented that the issue of the additional runways at Gatwick should have been included. The steering group considered that this issue was a far larger one and rightly deserved its own platform that indeed it did receive. The key part of the campaign organised by GACC was that individuals should express their views personally to the Government and this would not have been achieved by introducing questions into the questionnaire.

## HISTORY OF LEIGH

Leigh has had various spellings throughout history – Leye, Ladege (12<sup>th</sup> century), Legh, Leygh (14<sup>th</sup> century), Ley (16<sup>th</sup> century), but all these names describe a clearing in the wood.

Leigh is on the weald between the chalk limestone of the North and South Downs. Fossil remains can still be found of marine creatures and dinosaur bones in the clay and evidence of a Stone Age habitation has been found at Flanchford and a Roman Farm at Betchworth.

People have been living and working here for centuries however Leigh is not mentioned in the Domesday Book. The largest part of the parish was Shellwood where the manor house stood, but the manors of Reigate, Betchworth and Charlwood all had land in Leigh.

Leigh was part of the estates of the Earls of Warren but in the time of King Richard I it was given to the Prior and Convent of St Mary Southwark. After the dissolution of the religious houses in 1539 Henry VIII granted the manor of Shellwood to Sir Thomas Nevil for the payment of service, one knights fee.

Leigh has always been a small agricultural based community with a church that had a priest to officiate for the four main Christian festivals. In 1324 two nuns were appointed “so that no prejudice was done to the mother church”.

Despite its remoteness, events in the larger world of politics and court life did have its effect on life here. Henry VIII used Leigh oak trees to build the towers of Nonsuch Palace. Families caught up in the political and religious troubles of Henry VIII, Mary I and Elizabeth I had their lands confiscated and some went into exile. When William and Mary came to the throne in 1641, the men of the parish 18 years old and over, had to swear an oath of allegiance. Ninety one names appear and a note was made of those who refused – or who had reservations about upholding the doctrine of the Church of England.

During Tudor and Stuart times there was a great demand for iron. The bloomeries for smelting the iron ore and charcoal burning were a large source of employment. Footpaths were in constant use as ways to work for the charcoal burners, foresters, sawyers and carpenters, lime burners and farm workers. Lime was important as farmers used it to lighten the heavy wealden clay; two hundred bushels per acre were needed every 5-6 years.

Chalk was brought by horse and cart to Leigh where water to slake the lime and wood for fuel was available. Kilns were always near to a road or common and a stream.

Field names are all that is left of the iron working – Pitfield, Blackhole Furnace Field, in fact slag can still be found. Leigh had the charcoal for smelting and waterpower to work the crushing hammers and the bellows of the forges.

At this time, life continued without a great deal of change. Families stayed in the village, intermarrying with neighbouring village families. Repeated family names are found in church records and census returns. Transport was by horse and cart or people walked. However job opportunities started to change, by the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries girls could be employed in the nearby large houses as house servants, laundry maids, dressmakers,

kitchen maids, dairy work, nurse maids and shop assistants. Young men became carters, hostlers, farriers, game keepers, millers, carpenters, kennel men, outdoor farm workers, blacksmith assistants and gardeners.

Roads before the advent of the car were very bad, extremely muddy and potholed and were flooded in winter and dusty in summer. .

In 1845 a school was built using funds from a grant from the National Society for Education, the council, a donation from the Dowager Queen Adelaide and other private contributions. The school provided education for 40 boys and 40 girls. Fees were 2 pence (2d) a week. The estimated expenses for maintenance, including a master and a mistress, were £50 per annum. The school was supported by subscriptions amounting to £20 per annum. Later in 1885, the school was enlarged, and in 1914 it moved to its present site with space for 150 boys, girls and infants.

During the war years 1939-1945 the school was used as the HQ for the Leigh Home Guard and the ARP Post. Many thousands of Canadian soldiers were billeted locally with officers' quarters located at Mynthurst, Sweet Briar and Burys Court. The Americans came later, although fewer in number and they were billeted on a more permanent basis in log cabins along Smallshill Road. These cabins were used also as radar stations. After the war the cabins were used as homes until the bungalows in Harrington Close were built.

At the end of the war the schoolhouse served as a working mans club with a full size snooker table, table tennis and darts. It was also the venue for the cubs and scouts and a meeting place for the football and cricket clubs. The building also housed a small library that opened on Fridays.

Although Leigh boasted three shops: the post office, garage and a general store only two were ever operating at one time. The general store, incorporating a bakery was sited opposite the Seven Stars. The post office, which incorporated a small store, was sited on the village green in Orchard Cottage. There was also a small café on Flanchford Road that mainly catered for cyclists and ramblers.

In 1952 the centre of the village changed dramatically when 36 houses were built in what is now The Glebe. The objective was to provide rented accommodation for local families, which brought new life to the village. This was a controversial concept at the time. However the design was to lead the way from the then standard council house estates, in fact the Dorking and Horley Rural District Council were so proud of the development that for many years The Glebe was the only location to have a road-name sign. As part of this development a piece of land, which is now the village green, was given to the parish.

Although farming was the major industry, with majority of the farm land owned by the Charrington, Harrington and Cooper families, work opportunities were also provided by Beechams the research laboratories, Gatwick Airport, Schermuly rocket and fireworks factory, Silvermist sheds and garden centres.

The pleasant rural setting attracted actors, musicians, racing drivers, city businessmen and scientists to set up home here at a time when Leigh was self supporting with its shops, post mistress, blacksmith, sexton, publicans, nurse and bakers. Now the services in the village are more limited and no longer can we rely on meat and bread to be delivered to the door 2 or 3 times a week, but the daily chores of oil lamps, earth closets and wells have thankfully gone.

## LEIGH PEOPLE TODAY

The latest National Census figures available (2001) indicated that there were 856 people resident in the Parish of Leigh. The 1991 Census registered 850.

This survey received data on 682 people. The survey therefore represents 80% of the population of Leigh.

### Households

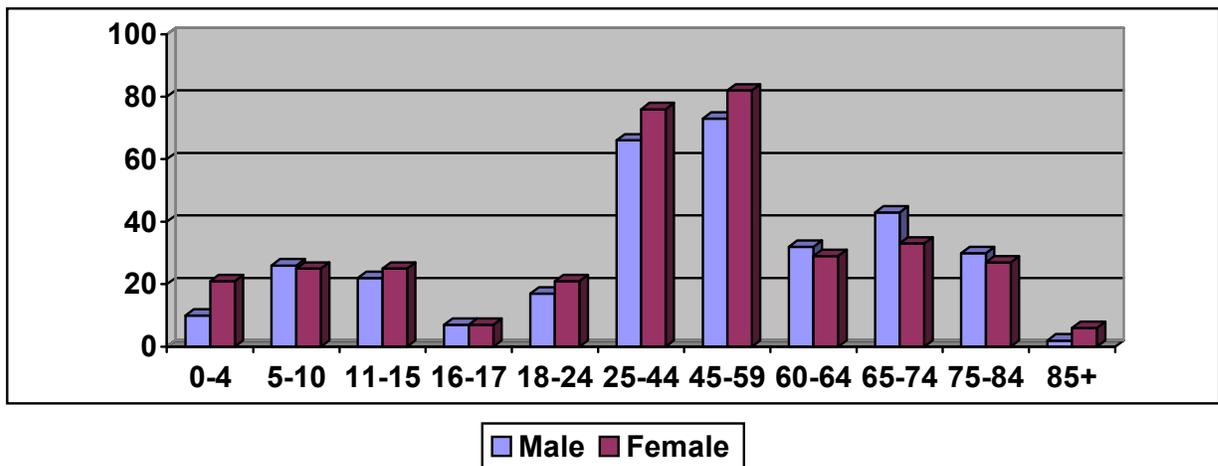
Using the MVDC Property Report, 351 households were identified. Of these 15 houses were unoccupied and 22 households did not wish to complete the survey. Therefore 314 surveys were delivered, of these 264 were returned indicating a population of 682 people.

### Profile

Table 1 shows the distribution of the population of Leigh by age and gender. In summary the age ranges 0 – 17 represents 21% of the population, 18 – 64 represents 58% and 65+ represents 21%.

**Table 1**

**Number of People by Age Group**



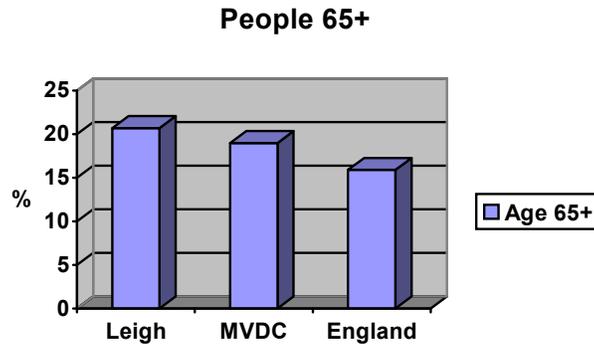
**Table 2**

	Male	Female
0 – 4	10	21
5 – 10	26	25
11 – 15	22	25
16 – 17	7	7
18 – 24	17	21
25 – 44	66	76
45 – 59	74	83
60 – 64	32	29
65 – 74	43	33
75 – 84	30	27
85+	2	6

<b>Totals</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>353</b>
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The figures in Tables 1 & 2 when compared to the national average and the average of Mole Valley, demonstrate that Leigh has a slightly older population. Unfortunately, as this is the first survey of its kind in Leigh we are unable to comment on any trends.

**Table 3**



These facts must be considered when addressing and planning such issues as future housing policy, transport and social services needs.

**Status**

Table 4 indicates the status of individuals. The immediate observations are the number of retired people compared to the national average (see Table 3) and the high number of self employed people. The most popular work location is Redhill/Reigate, however 44 people work in Leigh; further analysis shows that of these, at least 28 are self-employed. An assumption can be made that many people work from home. The formation of an association of self-employed home workers could investigate opportunities for centralisation and sharing of certain services. In addition it could lobby for the introduction of services to the Parish, for example that there is sufficient demand to commercially justify the provision of an Internet 'broadband' service.

**Table 4**

<b>Employee</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>32.5%</b>
<b>Retired</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>26.1%</b>
<b>Self employed - not employing anyone</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>12.5%</b>
<b>In full-time education</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>10.8%</b>
<b>Unwaged housewife/husband</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>9.0%</b>
<b>Self-employed - employing other people</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>5.7%</b>
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2.6%</b>
<b>Permanently sick/disabled</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.7%</b>

There is a diverse range of businesses in Leigh; some will have been recorded in the survey by way of the owner or proprietor being resident. There are a number of other businesses that operate from premises within the parish without anyone involved being resident. The details of these will not have been recorded in the survey. The advertisements in the Leigh Post demonstrate this diverse range.

## YOUNG PEOPLE IN LEIGH

There are 31 children between the ages of 0 and 4, 51 between 5 and 10 and 47 between 11 and 15 in Leigh Parish. Although 79% deemed Acorns Leigh Base Primary School to be important or very important only 15 children from the parish attend the school.

Leigh Lollipops provide a term time nursery for under 5's and the Brownies and Cubs provide facilities for 7 to 10 year olds.

Other activities have been organised by enthusiastic individuals and have been successful in engaging young people; the Young Peoples Gardening Club meeting on Saturday mornings, and the bell ringers on Thursday evenings. But there is a demand for other activities such as creative arts, drama etc.

The facilities provided in the children's playground were generally only considered reasonable. The area in which the playground is situated is without doubt a great asset to the Parish; however there may be opportunities to expand the facilities offered. There were comments on the need for improvement of the playground, including gates for security.

Whilst convenient for the Leigh Lollipops, the playground is not geographically central, a common feature of a Parish so widespread as Leigh.

There were several comments relating to the need for somewhere for young people to go with activities that have a degree of structure, a youth club or the involvement with a youth worker were suggested.

*'We have 4 children and our neighbour has 3 and another 1. There is a lack of things for children to do in the summer holidays, therefore resulting in boredom. .... A play-scheme run in the village designed for the needs of these and many other children would be a great idea. Also it would be good if we had a local youth worker in the area as they could talk to the teenagers that hang around the area and perhaps think of evening schemes to alleviate bored kids syndrome.'*

*'I am 14 and me and my friends who ride our bikes would like some dirt jumps or somewhere to build some.'*

*'The playground at Leigh is a lovely large area but needs improvement to encourage more people to use it. These could include gates for security, the updating/adding of equipment and a bench or picnic table.'*

*'Can't let children go to the playground as it is too far away. Need some sort of activity in the centre.'*

### **Recommendations**

- 1) There is a demand for a youth club or a formal meeting place and activities for young people. The Parish Council should seek advice from MVDC Youth Development.
- 2) C opportunities presented by community transport grants to introduce affordable transport for young people into local towns or youth clubs in conjunction with other villages in the area.

- 3) Parish Council to make contact with Forum of Local Councils to request (2) above is placed on the next agenda.

**Clubs and Societies.**

Whilst there is currently a wide range of clubs and societies within the village the survey asked if there were any other activities that respondents would like to see introduced. Before any new activity can be introduced there needs to be a core of enthusiastic individuals who are prepared to organise, recruit and run such activities. Many indicated the willingness to do this and a high percentage gave their names on the survey.

Table 5 below demonstrates responses and suggests that, with the right organisation, leadership, and, above all, communication within the village, the activities within the Parish could be considerably increased.

**Table 5**

	<b>Would like to participate</b>	<b>Would be prepared to organise</b>
<b>Badminton</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Keep Fit</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Tennis</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Yoga</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Rambling Club</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Art Club</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Drama</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Music Society</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Creative Arts for Children</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Young Peoples Gardening Club</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Football</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Bridge</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>4</b>

Additional comments were made regarding football for young children.

**Leigh Recreation Ground**

The Parish Council owns the Leigh Recreational Ground, and currently permits cricket, softball and stool ball to take place there. The major part of the facility is leased to Leigh Cricket Club who maintains the cricket ground and pavilion. However, opportunities may exist for further use to be made of the facility to engage parishioners in a wider diversification of activities. We feel that any additional activities should be complementary to those of the Cricket Club who have responsibility on behalf of the Parish Council through a lease.

Asked for their views on local social facilities, nearly half expressed “no opinion”. On the other hand, the over 60s appeared more satisfied than the younger age groups.

## Other Events

An additional question sought the views of existing Parish events, the attendance at these events confirms the high opinion expressed about their importance. (See Table 6). However there may be a communication issue with regard to the 'Meet The Village' evening as the high 'no opinion' count was supported by a number of comments that indicated a lack of knowledge of the event.

**Table 6**

<b>How important to Leigh are the following events?</b>	<b>Very important</b>	<b>Important</b>	<b>Not important</b>	<b>No opinion</b>
<b>Leigh Summer Show</b>	<b>47.0%</b>	<b>37.2%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>9.9%</b>
<b>Leigh Autumn Show</b>	<b>23.6%</b>	<b>38.8%</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>16.4%</b>
<b>Leigh Summer Fair</b>	<b>39.2%</b>	<b>41.4%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>11.2%</b>
<b>Meet the Village Evening</b>	<b>22.5%</b>	<b>27.1%</b>	<b>11.9%</b>	<b>26.8%</b>

A major issue emerging from the survey is the village way of life and that a central, focussed community spirit is important to the people of Leigh.

### **Recommendations:**

- 4) The Parish Council reviews the facilities of the playground area.
- 5) The Parish Council to ensure that the opportunities to introduce new activities within the Parish are grasped and those willing to organise them be encouraged to do so.
- 6) The Parish Council should look into the possibility of increasing the number of activities that could use the Recreation Ground.

## EDUCATION

A school in Leigh first started educating young people in 1845 in what is now the Old School House at the crossroads in the centre of the village. In 1907 the school moved to its present location. It became a Federal School in 1994 and was at the time the only Federal County First School in Surrey. The Acorns First School Leigh Base is now federated with the Acorns Base in Betchworth. The Leigh Base provides education for approximately 47 young people aged between 'rising' 5 year olds and 8 years of age. At age 8 children progress to other primary schools. However from 2004 the top age will be reduced to 7 years.

79% of respondents thought Acorns to be important or very important. However only 15 children who are eligible to attend the Acorns do so. 19 children attend primary schools outside the Parish. Similarly, only 5 children in the village attend Leigh Lollipops, whilst there are 31 children aged between 0 and 4 who may be eligible to attend. Although attendance is not low in either the Acorns or Leigh Lollipops, we may achieve a greater community feel if more local children were to attend. Perhaps the Acorns school and Leigh Lollipops could promote the strengths, advantages and benefits of an education within the local community.

In addition, 25 children attend Middle school (which may include Brockham Base, but this was not asked specifically) and of those children who are under 16, 35 attend secondary school.

Burys Court School off the Flanchford Road is an independent pre-prep and prep school catering for children from the ages of 3 to 12 years. There are approximately 100 pupils some of which are resident in Leigh.

When asked what additional educational facilities are required in Leigh 299 respondents replied. The results in Table 7 clearly indicate that there is a wish for more educational provision of a varied nature, and suggests that there would be support if an individual or organisation decided to set up a group. With 19% of Leigh's population being under the age of 18 (129 children), there would clearly be scope to set up some of the facilities mentioned below. However further research would need to be done on Adult Education evening classes to identify which classes the population would wish for, in order to see if a class would be viable.

**Table 7**

<b>After school clubs</b>	<b>182</b>
<b>Holiday play scheme</b>	<b>149</b>
<b>Adult education evening classes</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>Pre-play group</b>	<b>91</b>

### **Recommendations**

- 7) Acorns County First School and Leigh Lollipops should seek ways to increase awareness of the facilities and opportunities offered by both
- 8) The Parish Council to assist anyone who wishes to introduce adult education classes by facilitating contact with the Surrey Education Authority.



### **Keeping Leigh clean**

When asked which methods parishioners thought would help to keep Leigh clean, there was enormous support for a number of initiatives.

**Table 8**

<b>Have a 'Spring Clean Day' twice a year</b>	<b>259</b>
<b>Waste bins</b>	<b>238</b>
<b>Entering a 'Best Village Competition'</b>	<b>230</b>
<b>Dog mess bins</b>	<b>217</b>
<b>Paying for a road sweeper</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>Putting up notices</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>No opinion</b>	<b>64</b>

Interestingly, 259 villagers supported having a Spring Clean Day twice a year. This is currently held once a year, but there is very little support. The organisers should perhaps review the way that this is carried out and promoted, in the light of the clear support indicated in the questionnaire.

Whilst we do have some waste bins, the Parish Council need to review the quantity and the other suggestions that received the support of villagers, to see how these can be taken forward.

The Parish Council has already taken forward the placement of dog mess bins and installation is planned before the end of the year.

Among some of the other comments received, there were suggestions that there should be notices aimed at drivers who dispose of their rubbish as they drive through the village.

### **Recommendations**

- 9) The Parish Council should appoint a co-ordinator for the Spring Clean Day to plan and identify volunteers and ensure that the day is effectively communicated.
- 10) The Parish Council should consider the value of entering the 'Best Village Competition'.

### **Flooding**

When asked about flooding problems with surface water or storm drainage, 6.8% reported having many problems, 35% had few problems and 46% had no problems.

When asked about flooding problems with sewage water drainage 1.5% reported having many problems, 6.1% had few problems and 59.3% had no problems. There is not any specific area within the Parish that suffers more problems than any other.

Although the numbers experiencing flooding problems are low, it does demonstrate there are some problems, which in time could impact on a greater number of houses. The Parish

Council should review these figures and consider them when dealing with issues within the village, including planning applications.

*'Ditches either side of Dean Oak Lane are not professionally maintained. After the floods in 1968 much work carried out and the problems were solved nothing has been done since.'*

### **Recommendations**

- 11) Residents should report any flood issues to the Parish Council in order that the authorities may be immediately informed.

### **Disturbances**

Table 9 below shows the percentage of people who suffer from the types of disturbances shown.

**Table 9**

<b>Low-flying aircraft</b>	<b>53.1%</b>
<b>Traffic noise</b>	<b>48.8%</b>
<b>Traffic pollution</b>	<b>33.1%</b>
<b>Noise pollution</b>	<b>23.0%</b>
<b>Shooting</b>	<b>20.9%</b>
<b>Hunting</b>	<b>7.6%</b>
<b>Domestic disturbance</b>	<b>5.7%</b>
<b>Farm animals in gardens/on roads</b>	<b>4.1%</b>
<b>Motorcycle scrambling</b>	<b>4.1%</b>

The 'top three' disturbances are low-flying aircraft (53.1%), traffic noise (48.8%) and traffic pollution (33.1%).

In addition to those mentioned above, others that noticeably cause concern are fireworks within the village, smoke from dung heaps, refuse burning and bird scarers.

### **Footpaths and Roads**

The table below shows the percentage of people and their views on the state of the following:

**Table 10**

	<b>Good</b>	<b>Reasonable</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>No opinion</b>
<b>Roads</b>	<b>12.5%</b>	<b>47.1%</b>	<b>36.1%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
<b>Pavements</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>44.7%</b>	<b>31.9%</b>	<b>11.8%</b>
<b>Verges</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>44.4%</b>	<b>38.2%</b>	<b>4.9%</b>
<b>Footpaths/waymarks</b>	<b>14.3%</b>	<b>43.5%</b>	<b>19.6%</b>	<b>14.9%</b>

The majority of people feel that the state of the roads, pavements, verges and footpaths/waymarks are reasonable. However a significant number believe them to be poor, and the Parish Council should use this information to encourage the Highways Department of Surrey County Council to improve them.

## Traffic

Speeding traffic has been a problem in Leigh for many years. In 1994 Surrey County Council initiated the STAR project in response to complaints relating to speed of traffic in the Parish. With the co-operation of MVDC the 'Dorking Rural Box' was defined, incorporating the villages of Brockham, Betchworth, Buckland, Capel, Charlwood, Newdigate and Leigh. A number of solutions have been presented and rejected by various Parish Councils and residents. The only manifestation of the STAR scheme has been the traffic calming solution delivered in Charlwood. The key to an effective solution will require the agreement of every parish in the 'Box'. There are however currently budget issues at

County and District level that will require resolution before the STAR scheme can be fully resurrected.

It is impossible to put facts to the speeding problems in Leigh because of the reluctance of the police to provide speed-recording equipment; it is therefore only possible to rely on opinion and anecdote. Over 81% of the respondents believe there is a speeding traffic problem in Leigh.

**Table 11**

<b>Would you support the following speed control measures in Leigh?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Enforcement of the speed limit</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Traffic calming</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>Children at play signs</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>'Leigh welcomes safe drivers' entrance to village</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Illuminated road warning signs</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>Mini roundabouts</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>180</b>
<b>A bypass</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>222</b>
<b>One way traffic flow</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>261</b>

**Table 12**

<b>Traffic speed</b>	<b>82.8%</b>
<b>Short cut route</b>	<b>79.3%</b>
<b>Rush hour traffic</b>	<b>70.1%</b>
<b>Lorry traffic</b>	<b>45.0%</b>
<b>Need for traffic regulation</b>	<b>32.9%</b>
<b>Road side parking</b>	<b>25.0%</b>

The general consensus was that speeding traffic, using Leigh as a short cut route, and rush hour traffic were the main traffic problems in Leigh.

Although many respondents thought that 'danger-spots' existed throughout Leigh there were a number of areas that caused particular concern. Notably the crossroads by The Plough, the junction of Deanoak and Smallshill Road, Bunce Common Road, the junction by the Seven Stars, Flanchford Road and generally through the centre of the village.

*'Traffic calming is needed along the whole 'rat-run' not just in the centre of the village'*

*'Leigh has clearly become a 'rat run' for traffic with the growth of Gatwick and increased commuting, the community has become vulnerable because of high speed vehicles failing to observe 'non enforceable' speed limits.'*

*'School buses are driven with a cavalier attitude within Leigh'*

## **Recommendations**

- 12) The Parish Council should undertake a survey of traffic and obtain if possible monitoring equipment to prepare a factual report on the speeding problem in Leigh rather than rely on anecdotal reports.
- 13) In liaison with other parishes in the 'Dorking box' the Parish Council should bring pressure to bear on the Highway authority to address the speeding and through traffic problems experienced in this area.

## **Pavements**

Over 46% consider the pavements to be in poor condition particularly for people with disabilities, wheelchair users and people using pushchairs. This would account for 223 people wanting environmentally sensitive streetlights. Environmentally sensitive streetlights refer to low-level lights that illuminate only as pedestrians approach and pass.

The facilities for pedestrians in the area of Leigh were considered to be poor by over half the respondents and 257 people wanted more pavements.

**Table 13**

<b>In relation to paths and streetlights, would you like to see any of the following in Leigh?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Street lights</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>Environmentally sensitive street lights</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>More pavements/paths</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>Roundabouts</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>219</b>
<b>Traffic islands</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>243</b>
<b>Pelican crossings</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>219</b>

*'Leigh is a rural setting – if I had wanted to live in an urban area with speed humps streetlights I would have moved to Sutton.'*

*'Because of the lack of pavements people are forced to use their cars for short journeys thus increasing the traffic problem.'*

*'We are in a rural location and it should stay that way, street lighting is for urban areas, we need traffic control for the rat run each day.'*

*'Lights at the end of the Glebe, Harrington Close and near school, greatly appreciated.'*

*'I do not wish to have verges sacrificed for pavements ... Verges should be left for wild life, i.e. native plants and insects which feed birds.'*

## **Recommendations**

- 14) The Parish Council should approach the Highways authority regarding the poor state of the existing pavements

## **Recycling**

It is clear from the responses that the residents in Leigh are environmentally conscious, 86% were willing to keep items to be collected for recycling. They also demonstrated a good awareness of the local waste disposal facilities. With regard to 'wheelie-bins' however 52.3% were against with 47.7% for.

*'Wheelie bins are a good idea if you are young and fit. What allowances/provisions are made for the elderly and disabled?'*

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Parish Council is a corporate body that has been granted powers by Parliament including the important authority to raise money through taxation, called the precept.

The Parish Council is an elected tier of local government. Other tiers, known as principal authorities, have a legal duty to deliver services such as education, town and country planning, environmental health and social services. Parish Councils have the legal power to take action, but have fewer duties and greater freedom to choose what action to take. The Council plays a vital part in representing the interests of the community it serves and improving the quality of life and the local environment.

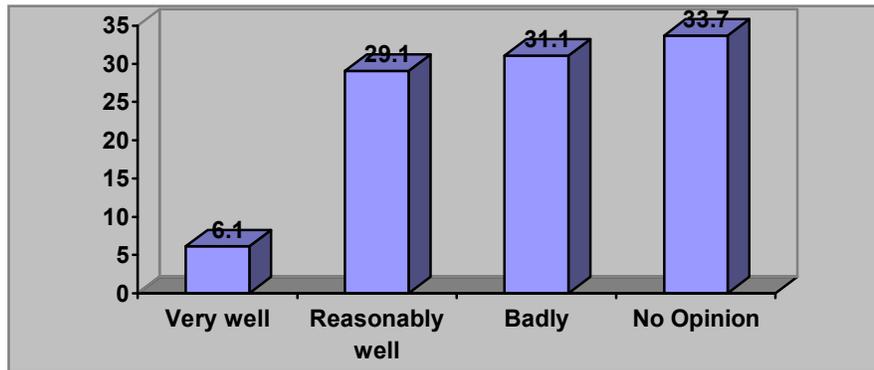
There are many issues that concern parish government, and the Government are encouraging parish councils to deliver more services and play a greater part in their communities.

All Parish Council meetings are open to the public and are held every other month in the Acorns School.

From the responses to the questionnaire, 24.6% of villagers indicated that they had attended a meeting of the Leigh Parish Council. Whilst not being an insignificant number, the Parish Council could do more to encourage villagers to attend.

Table 14 indicates how well villagers feel that Leigh Parish Council publicise its decisions and activities.

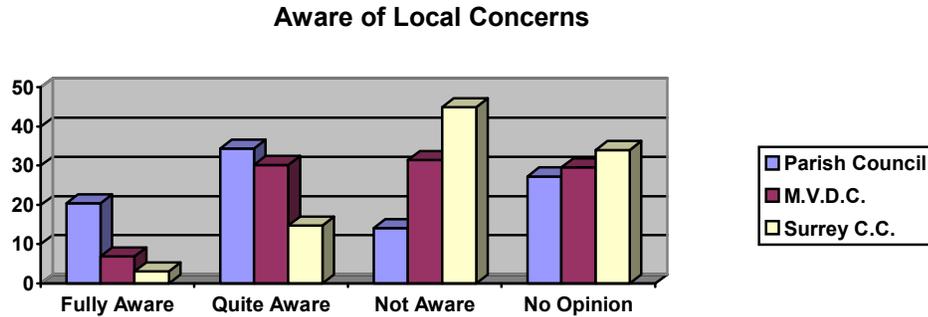
**Table 14**



The majority of people 34% had no opinion and 31% thought they publicised its decisions and activities poorly. Clearly, members of the Parish Council need to take note of these figures and improve the way they communicate with the village.

Table 15 shows how villagers feel their elected representatives in local government are sufficiently aware of local concerns and feelings.

**Table 15**



Whilst there is a wide and varied response, the Parish Council need to take note that only 21.2% of villagers feel that they are sufficiently aware of local concerns and feelings. This figure may be low because the Parish Council is not communicating as it should with the Parish. As the Parish Council is made up of people who live in the Parish, it should be of concern to the Parish Council that a high percentage of residents do not believe them to be fully aware of local concerns and feelings. Once again, a significant percentage of villagers have no opinion on this issue.

**Recommendations**

- 15) The Parish Council should do more to encourage parishioners to attend the council meetings.
- 16) The Parish Council should make greater efforts to communicate their decisions and activities.
- 17) The Parish Council should take action to demonstrate their awareness of local issues and concerns on an individual and parish basis.

## SHOPS AND SERVICES

**Table 16**

<b>Post Office</b>	<b>320</b>
<b>Community Shop</b>	<b>305</b>
<b>Mobile library</b>	<b>117</b>
<b>Coffee shop</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>Internet Café</b>	<b>49</b>

With 305 people saying they would use a community shop and 320 a post office, this might be a viable proposition if volunteers and a venue could be found. It could provide a much needed centre in Leigh for people to meet and communicate. However past experience suggests that any such venture would struggle to be viable. One family commented:

*‘When people are able to bump into one another by going to school, shop, church, and post office a tight knit community is encouraged. All of the above are what makes a village come to life.’*

Whilst 86 people said they would support a coffee shop only 21 are likely to be around during the day to use it. The same situation exists for the post office and the mobile library; the latter would certainly only be available during the working day.

The criteria laid down by the Post Office indicate that the granting of a license for a post office to re-open in Leigh is remote in the extreme. However it was felt that the survey should ask the question whether certain facilities would receive support from the community.

### **Voluntary Car Service**

As previously mentioned in the report, the majority of residents are self-sufficient in transport requirements. It is therefore not surprising that few people would regularly make use of a voluntary car service scheme. This can be confirmed by two schemes set up in the parish. The first was established as a result of the closure of the post office, to take regular users who did not have transport to another local post office. This scheme was never used. The second scheme, still available, will take prescriptions to the local chemist; this service has rarely been used.

**Table 17**

**For which of the following would you use a voluntary car service as a passenger?**

<b>Shopping</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Work</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Visit to Doctor</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Visit to Hospital</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Social events</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>None</b>	<b>455</b>

The response from residents to offer their services in a voluntary car scheme however was very positive with nearly 60 people volunteering their services.

### **Good Neighbour Scheme**

A Good Neighbour Scheme is a group of volunteers who get together in their community to provide residents of any age with help they either cannot get elsewhere or cannot afford to pay for, e.g. form filling, dog walking, small DIY jobs, pension and medicine collection, shopping. This activity exists at present on an informal basis, typically watering a neighbour's plants while they are on holiday and generally 'keeping an eye' on things.

Over 190 people said that they would be prepared to help out occasionally whilst 15 and 28 would help weekly or monthly respectively. Understandably some people perhaps are reluctant to commit to regular, formal support but would very often willingly lend a hand when called upon to do so. The solution may be to promote the Voluntary Car Service and the Good Neighbour Scheme more proactively, and encourage all residents to be more aware of their neighbours' needs particularly if they are elderly and unable to carry out certain tasks.

*'I am elderly and infirm but fortunate to have a supporting family and friends. If I lived alone, as some people do, I would feel very isolated in Leigh. No one from the Church or other organisations seem to be concerned!!!'*

### **Recommendations**

- 18) The Parish Council to encourage all those prepared to help with the Voluntary Car Scheme and the Good Neighbour Scheme to help set up a steering group for each service.
- 19) The editor should promote and raise awareness of the Good Neighbour Scheme in the Leigh Post and secretaries of the organisations within the Parish might consider raising it during meetings.

## HOUSES AND PLANNING

There is no doubt that houses in Leigh are relatively expensive. Land Registry figures indicate that the average price of a semi-detached house in Leigh (Postal Code RH2), as at January - March 2003, was £206,320, compared to the National average of £130,093. Detached houses during the same period were £524,666 in RH2 and £230,709 nationally.

The majority of responses (38.3%) of those with an opinion felt that the number of houses built in Leigh over the last ten years was "about right", and only 5.7% felt there had been too much new housing in the period. 47.7% felt the houses were too expensive or too big.

Of the future, while 30% thought that no further homes are needed, the majority (58.8%) clearly indicated that there is a need for small family homes and low cost housing. 36.4% felt that Leigh needs homes for young people.

*"More young people and families would be encouraged into the community by providing lower cost housing. This would also encourage children of the existing community not to move away."*

### **Recommendations**

- 20) That the Parish Council takes note of the need for smaller affordable housing and houses for young people when examining planning applications.
- 21) The Parish Council should actively pursue new schemes and initiatives for smaller affordable housing and houses for young people.

**Local Policing**

How do you rate the police presence in Leigh? *‘What police presence?’*

32.4% thought the police presence in Leigh ‘poor’, 24.2% thought it reasonable, 8.4% good. As far as the service provided by our community policy officer is concerned, your comments reflect the responses that 54% thought it ‘poor’, 21.2% reasonable, 4% good.

*‘Never met him/her’; ‘Haven’t got one’; ‘Never seen’; ‘I didn’t know we still had one’*

This suggests a lack of communication between the police and the villagers. A public meeting between the two could be combined with information about crime prevention. Table 18 shows considerable concern regarding crime and anti-social behaviour.

**Table 18**

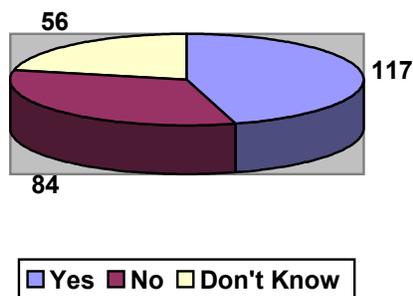
<b>Vandalism</b>	<b>61.3%</b>
<b>Fly tipping</b>	<b>57.5%</b>
<b>Litter</b>	<b>55.3%</b>
<b>Burglary</b>	<b>51.9%</b>
<b>Theft</b>	<b>40.8%</b>
<b>Not concerned</b>	<b>8.3%</b>
<b>Drunkenness</b>	<b>5.8%</b>
<b>Mugging</b>	<b>4.1%</b>

**Neighbourhood Watch**

The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme was set up by the Leigh Residents Association and is operated on the basis of a number of local co-ordinators who pass on messages to residents and in turn ensure that local issues are made known to other co-ordinators in the Watch Scheme. Without someone volunteering to be the local co-ordinator it is not always possible to cover the whole of a village. According to the survey results the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme covers less than half of the dwellings in Leigh.

**Table 19**

**Houses in a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**



Those households that responded 'No' or 'Don't know' were asked whether they would like to be in the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme 70 said they would, 24 declined and surprisingly 33 did not know.

Neighbourhood watch schemes presently exist in Deanoak Lane, Mynthurst, Shellwood Road North, Shellwood Road South, Tapners Road, and Flanchford Road, part of Smalls Hill Road, Swains Estate and Church Road.

### ***Recommendations***

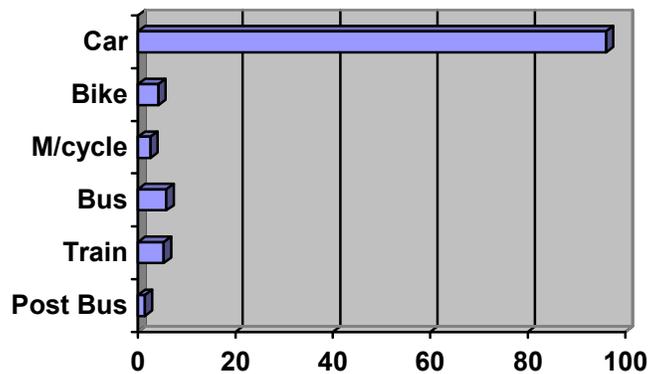
- 22) The Parish Council should raise awareness, with the police, of the role that the police undertake and promote the opportunities that exist to contact the local police officer other than by the emergency services.
- 23) The Leigh Residents Association should consider promoting the Neighbourhood Watch scheme again with the aim of recruiting new members and explaining how the scheme works to the current dissenters.
- 24) As a substantial number of residents have access to email the Leigh Residents Association may wish to make better use of it as an appropriate communication medium when considering the expansion of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

## TRANSPORT AND TRAVEL

Perhaps as a result of poor public transport or perhaps because of the relative wealth of the Parish or indeed because people only live in a Parish such as Leigh if they have their own transport, unsurprisingly 96% of residents who completed the survey use or have the use of a car.

**Table 20**

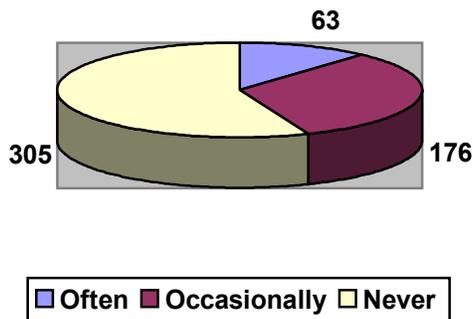
**Regular Means of Transport**



	Car	Bike	Motorcycle	Bus	Train	Post Bus
<b>Number of people</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>8</b>

**Table 21**

**Difficulty getting out of Leigh**



As Table 20 shows, the majority of Leigh residents are self-sufficient for transport; the figures in Table 21 are therefore to be expected.

When asked if anyone experienced difficulty in getting to the hospital, doctor, shopping, dentist or other medical facilities or social activities the average response was that 12 often had difficulty, 23 occasionally and over 460 never had difficulty.

These figures would not support a case to the transport authorities to improve the services to and from Leigh. Having said that, if only one person has difficulty in getting to the doctor then it is a major issue for that individual. It may be that improved awareness of a neighbour's plight, in the spirit of the Good Neighbour Scheme and the Voluntary Transport Scheme could resolve many of these difficulties.

However, comments from villagers on public transport reveals that there is a need for a better public transport service for the apparent minority who do not have a car or access to one.

*'... having looked at the timetable I would imagine it very difficult to attend appointments at the hospital, doctors, dentist etc. if you had to rely on the transport offered within Mole Valley.'*

*'My husband has had to give up driving for health reasons and once I have to give up as well, life will become very difficult without some form of help with transport to shops, doctors etc. A taxi service in the village would be a great help.'*

*'More facilities for the old – and those who have no transport. .... I have 3 children under 5 and it's a nightmare trying to get anywhere.'*

## **Public Transport**

It came as no surprise that generally the public transport links are considered very poor. Whilst a few thought that the route and reliability were good, nobody thought the timetable to be satisfactory. The fact that the majority had no opinion on the reliability, cost and access for the disabled but thought that the route and timetable were poor might suggest that they have investigated the convenience factor and found it wanting, but if the timetable improved, perhaps to tie in with the arrival and departure of trains at Dorking Station, the service might be considered.

With regard to the route options, whilst the response rate was low, services to Reigate, Crawley and Horsham would clearly benefit the parish, as indeed would a change of route that serviced Mynthurst and the end of Deanoak Lane. The bus timetable can be found on Page 36.

## **Post Bus**

To the question 'If you use the post bus, what do you use it for and how often?' shopping was the main usage - 6 people used it often and 11 occasionally.

*'Didn't know there was a post bus service'*

*'I didn't know the existence of the post bus – times and places of operation required'*

It is clear from the responses to the survey that many people are unaware that there is a post bus service in Leigh. The daily timetable can be found on page 36.

## **Recommendations**

- 25) Consideration should be given to promoting the Post Bus service in the Leigh Post on a regular basis.
- 26) The relevant bus company to be contacted by The Parish Council regarding a review of bus times to coincide better with trains in and out of Dorking, particularly for the working public.

## ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Parish churches have traditionally acted as one of the cores of English villages, and especially those that are in any way isolated. Leigh appears to reflect the falling numbers of congregations generally in the country, illustrated by the fact that 89% of responses said that they "occasionally, rarely or never" attend services at St Bartholomew's Church. Some preferred to go elsewhere for their worship. Of those who responded between the ages of 11 and 44, only 14 said that they attend the church monthly or more frequently. Hence the church no longer provides that traditional centre for the village of Leigh, especially with the younger inhabitants.

Of all ages responding (457), the numbers attending St Bartholomew's:

Weekly	25
Fortnightly	11
Monthly	31

Some services in the church are well attended, clearly being heavily augmented by visitors from nearby villages. So the church has a role to play in meeting the needs of some worshippers in the Mole Valley, even if not in Leigh itself.

The issue of the siting of extra space adjoining or near the church was not a subject for the Survey, but it is noted that one of the principal issues arising from the Survey is the lack of a centre for the village, and a place for activities on a smaller basis than in the Village Hall, activities of interest to the youth and also the elderly.

### ***Recommendations***

- 27) That the Parochial Church Council, as representatives of the Parish, considers carefully the issues raised in this report, particularly the needs of the young and the elderly when considering changes to the facilities at the church.

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

The geographical spread of the parish and the lack of one central communication point makes the distribution of information difficult.

Reliance on the motor car, the poor state of pavements where they exist and the fact that there are very few places to walk to in Leigh (the pub, the church and the post box) could mean that very few people read the content of the notice boards.

Communication of events and details of groups rely on a small band of volunteers who are prepared to give up their time to post flyers, notices and of course the Leigh Post, although the Leigh Post is not currently delivered to every household.

With regard to the Leigh Post nearly half of the respondents are happy to receive it every other month but over 30% would like some form of communication every month. There have been occasions when events notified in the Leigh Post have passed before it has been delivered. This situation could be resolved by reducing the lead-time between copy deadline and production. Comment was also made with regard to breadth of topic. Secretaries of the various Parish Organisations should consider the benefits of presenting an article for publication on a regular basis. Consideration should also be given to extending the opportunity to advertisers to include articles of interest such as antique collecting, household, garden and car maintenance tips.

Having said this 22% think the amount of information available on what is going on in Leigh is good and 50% think it is reasonable.

The survey indicates that nearly 400 people have access to the Internet and when asked about a parish web site, the two most popular requirements were local community news followed closely by news of local groups.

**Table 22**

<b>If there was a Leigh Parish web site which of the following would you like to be included?</b>	
<b>Local community news</b>	<b>273</b>
<b>News of local groups</b>	<b>232</b>
<b>Parish Council minutes</b>	<b>187</b>
<b>On-line Leigh Post</b>	<b>158</b>
<b>Local business information</b>	<b>154</b>
<b>Help and advice forum</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>Church news</b>	<b>96</b>

Comments have been made in response to the survey that clearly indicate that certain activities and events have completely escaped the attention of some individuals.

On the other hand it must be accepted that many people have no interest in 'village life' and are quite content to live in their homes 'keeping themselves to themselves' without getting involved in parish activities or indeed their neighbours, and of course this stance must be respected. This is confirmed by the high number of 'No opinion' and 'Don't know' responses throughout the questionnaire.

There is however a strong feeling that Leigh has become an anonymous commuter village that no longer has a heart.

*'Leigh's biggest problem is a lack of community spirit'*

*'Since moving to Leigh approximately 18 months ago I have found no 'community' atmosphere – there is nowhere to meet other people from Leigh – I have 2 small children and have to go to Brockham/Buckland to baby/toddler groups. As such I do not feel part of the Leigh 'community'*

For a significant number the basic desire to be involved runs as a thread throughout many areas of the survey. The challenge is to create an environment where those who wish to be involved and wish to enjoy the benefits of a vibrant village life can do so easily.

This will not be easy with the demographic structure of the parish, with many people out of the parish during the day and not many activities going on in the village during the evenings. However, a good place to start might be the introduction of new activities, together with existing organisations making themselves better known by promoting their activities and providing an easy and welcoming route to membership.

A community spirit can not just be switched on but must develop and evolve as a result of the behaviour of individuals and organisations who genuinely desire a dynamic, friendly, welcoming, integrated parish.

### **Recommendations**

- 28) The organisers to take steps to ensure that the Leigh Post is delivered to every household
- 29) The organisers to review the frequency of the Leigh Post and its function as a communication medium for all aspects of village life.
- 30) Organisers of parish clubs, societies and other events and services to take full advantage of the Leigh Post or other medium, to advertise and communicate their activities.
- 31) The Parish Council should review the number and effectiveness of the notice boards
- 32) The Parish Council to give consideration to setting up a Parish web site.
- 33) The Parish Council should include within its annual report the results of any actions taken as a result of this survey.

## CONCLUSIONS

The key issues emerging from the survey relate to the environment, notably the volume and speed of traffic through the village, and also to the lack of a coherent centre to the Parish. This latter point is particularly significant in that the Parish geographically covers a wide area. We believe this Plan will provide a framework to take forward an action plan based on the local social, economic and environmental issues of our parish, for the good of the parish. This will not just happen, it will need the involvement of individuals who are prepared to offer what skills they have to implement and deliver the action plan.

On page 28 there is a summary of our recommendations. The majority of them are seen as the responsibility of the Parish Council, if not to deliver, then at least to initiate. Others are the responsibility of Parish organisations.

The Parish Council will have to undertake a substantial amount of work and as such it is not anticipated that all these recommendations will be addressed and delivered immediately. Our overall recommendation is that the Parish Council considers its resources and prioritises these recommendations and develops a programme of delivery over the next few years.

It is also the conclusion of the Steering Group that, whilst there is an enormous amount of work involved, this exercise should be repeated in approximately 5 years time.

We hope these recommendations and the observations within the body of the report will galvanise everyone in Leigh into creating a greater sense of community so that comments such as

*'We have done it all before – nothing has been done about: transport, traffic calming, etc. We have also lost our post office and shop'*

will be a thing of the past. We should strive to fulfil sentiments such as:

*'When people are able to bump into one another by going to school, shop, church, and post office a tight knit community is encouraged. All of the above are what makes a village come to life.'*

*'As a family group we are agreed that we would favour a more tightly knit community than currently exists, and a greater degree of personal responsibility for our quality of life in the village.'*

Let us take this opportunity to review our relationship to the village and to each other and do something about it.

When the time comes and volunteers are requested please give thought to how you may be able to help improve our parish.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### **Young People in Leigh**

- 1) There is a demand for a youth club or a formal meeting place and activities for young people. The Parish Council should seek advice from MVDC Youth Development.
- 2) The Parish Council to investigate the opportunities presented by community transport grants to introduce affordable transport for young people in conjunction with other villages in the area.
- 3) Parish Council to make contact with Forum of Local Councils to request (2) above is placed on the next agenda.

### **Leisure and Social**

- 4) The Parish Council to review the facilities of the playground area.
- 5) The Parish Council to ensure that the opportunities to introduce new activities within the Parish are grasped and those willing to organise them be encouraged to do so.
- 6) The Parish Council should look into the possibility of increasing the number of activities that could use the Recreation Ground.

### **Education**

- 7) Acorns County First School and Leigh Lollipops should seek ways to increase awareness of the facilities and opportunities offered by them both.
- 8) The Parish Council to assist anyone who wishes to introduce adult education classes by facilitating contact with the Surrey Education Authority.

### **Environment – Keeping Leigh Clean**

- 9) The Parish Council should appoint a co-ordinator for the Spring Clean Day to plan and identify volunteers and ensure that the day is effectively communicated.
- 10) The Parish Council should consider the value of entering the 'Best Village Competition'.

### **Environment - Flooding**

- 11) Residents should report any flood issues to the Parish Council in order that the authorities may be immediately informed.

### **Environment - Roads**

- 12) The Parish Council should undertake a survey of traffic and obtain if possible monitoring equipment to prepare a factual report on the speeding problem in Leigh rather than rely on anecdotal reports.
- 13) In liaison with other parishes in the 'Dorking box' the Parish Council should bring pressure to bear on the Highway Authority to address the speeding and through traffic problems experienced in this area.

### **Environment - Pavements**

- 14) The Parish Council should approach the Highways Authority regarding the state of the pavements.

### **Local Government**

- 15) The Parish Council should do more to encourage parishioners to attend the council meetings.
- 16) The Parish Council should make greater efforts to communicate their decisions and activities.
- 17) The Parish Council should take action to demonstrate their awareness of local issues and concerns on an individual and parish basis.

### **Shops and Services**

- 18) Parish Council to encourage all those prepared to help with the Voluntary Car Scheme and the Good Neighbour Scheme in helping to set up a steering group for each service.
- 19) The editor should promote and raise awareness of the Good Neighbour Scheme in the Leigh Post and secretaries of the organisations within the Parish might consider raising the benefits during meetings.

### **Houses and Planning**

- 20) The Parish Council takes note of the need for smaller affordable housing and houses for young people when examining planning applications.
- 21) The Parish Council should actively pursue new schemes and initiatives for smaller affordable housing and houses for young people.

### **Crime**

- 22) The Parish Council should raise awareness, with the police, of the role that the police undertake and promote the opportunities that exist to contact the local police officer other than by the emergency services.
- 23) The Leigh Residents Association should consider promoting the Neighbourhood Watch scheme again with the aim of recruiting new members and explaining how the scheme works to the current dissenters.
- 24) As a substantial number of residents have access to email the Leigh Residents Association may wish to make better use of it as an appropriate communication medium when considering the expansion of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

### **Transport and Travel**

- 25) The editor should give consideration to promoting the Post Bus service in the Leigh Post on a regular basis.
- 26) The relevant bus company to be contacted by the Parish Council regarding a review of bus times to coincide better with trains in and out of Dorking, particularly for the working public.

### **St Bartholomew's Church**

- 27) That the Parochial Church Council, as representatives of the Parish, considers carefully the issues raised in this report, particularly the needs of the young and the elderly when considering changes to the facilities at the church.

### **Information and Communication**

- 28) The editor to take steps to ensure that the Leigh Post is delivered to every household.
- 29) The editor to review the frequency of the Leigh Post and its function as a communication medium for all aspects of village life.
- 30) Organisers of parish clubs, societies and other events and services to take full advantage of the Leigh Post or other media, to advertise and communicate their activities.
- 31) The Parish Council should review the number and effectiveness of the notice boards.
- 32) The Parish Council to give consideration to setting up a Parish website.
- 33) The Parish Council should include within its annual report the results of any actions taken as a result of this survey.

## PARISH ORGANISATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Comments received referring to clubs activities and other organisations that have not been included within the report will be made available to the organisations separately.

Acorns County First School  
Bob Chudley Club for the Blind  
Brownies  
Cricket Club  
Cubs  
Leigh and District Cottage Garden Society  
Leigh Lollipops  
Leigh Resident's Association  
Leigh Women's Institute  
Magazine (Friendly Club)  
St Bartholomew's Church – Bell Ringers; Bible Reading Fellowship; Children's Church  
Smith's Charity (1628)  
Social Club (Whist)  
Stool Ball and Soft Ball  
Surrey Union Pony Club  
Young People's Gardening Club

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Grateful thanks to the distribution and collection volunteers who willingly gave of their time and without whom our task would have been much harder:

Judy Bartley  
Jean Bristor  
Paula & Graham Brockwell  
Pam Burke  
Sue Frost  
June Gautrey  
Brian Gills  
Gary Jones  
Lesley LeCroisette  
Cindy Steege  
Tony Stephens

Thanks also to those people who gave their time to fill in 'trial' questionnaires.

Many thanks to Caryl Brain for researching the History of Leigh, and to the pupils of Acorns Leigh Base for their artwork.

We thank The Countryside Agency, Surrey Community Action, Buckland Parish Plan Steering Group for their help and support to our Steering Group.

Thanks also to the Leigh Parish Council for instigating the project.

*'Thanks for organising this questionnaire – it's a lot of work and very welcome.'*

## BUS TIMETABLES

### Reigate – Leigh Post Bus Timetable

Mondays to Saturdays		
Service	1	2 (NS)
Reigate <i>Sorting Office/Rushworth Rd</i>	06:30	10:55
Reigate <i>High Street</i>	06:35	-
Reigate <i>Safeways</i>	-	11:00
Reigate <i>Reigate Heath</i>	06:40	11:10
Bury's Court School	06:45	11:15
Leigh <i>The Glebe</i>	-	11:20
Dawes Green <i>Seven Stars</i>	06:50	11:25
Shellwood Cross Roads	08:00	11:45
Mynthurst	09:40	12:10
Leigh <i>The Glebe</i>	09:45	12:15
Dawes Green <i>Seven Stars</i>	09:47	-
Bury's Court School	09:52	12:19
Reigate <i>Reigate Heath</i>	09:57	12:24
Reigate <i>West Street</i>	10:02	12:29
Reigate <i>Safeways/Bell Street</i>	10:07	12:35
Reigate <i>Sorting Office/Rushworth Rd</i>	10:12	12:45
Code NS – Not Saturdays		
Service 1 operates on Good Friday		
No service on Sundays or Public Holidays		

### Bus Timetable

Mondays to Fridays		
Service No. 22		
Leigh – The Plough	08.10	10.10
Dorking – White Horse		10.28
Dorking Station	08.20	
Dorking – White Horse	15.47	18.07
Dorking – Station	15.52	18.10
Leigh – The Plough	16.10	18.30