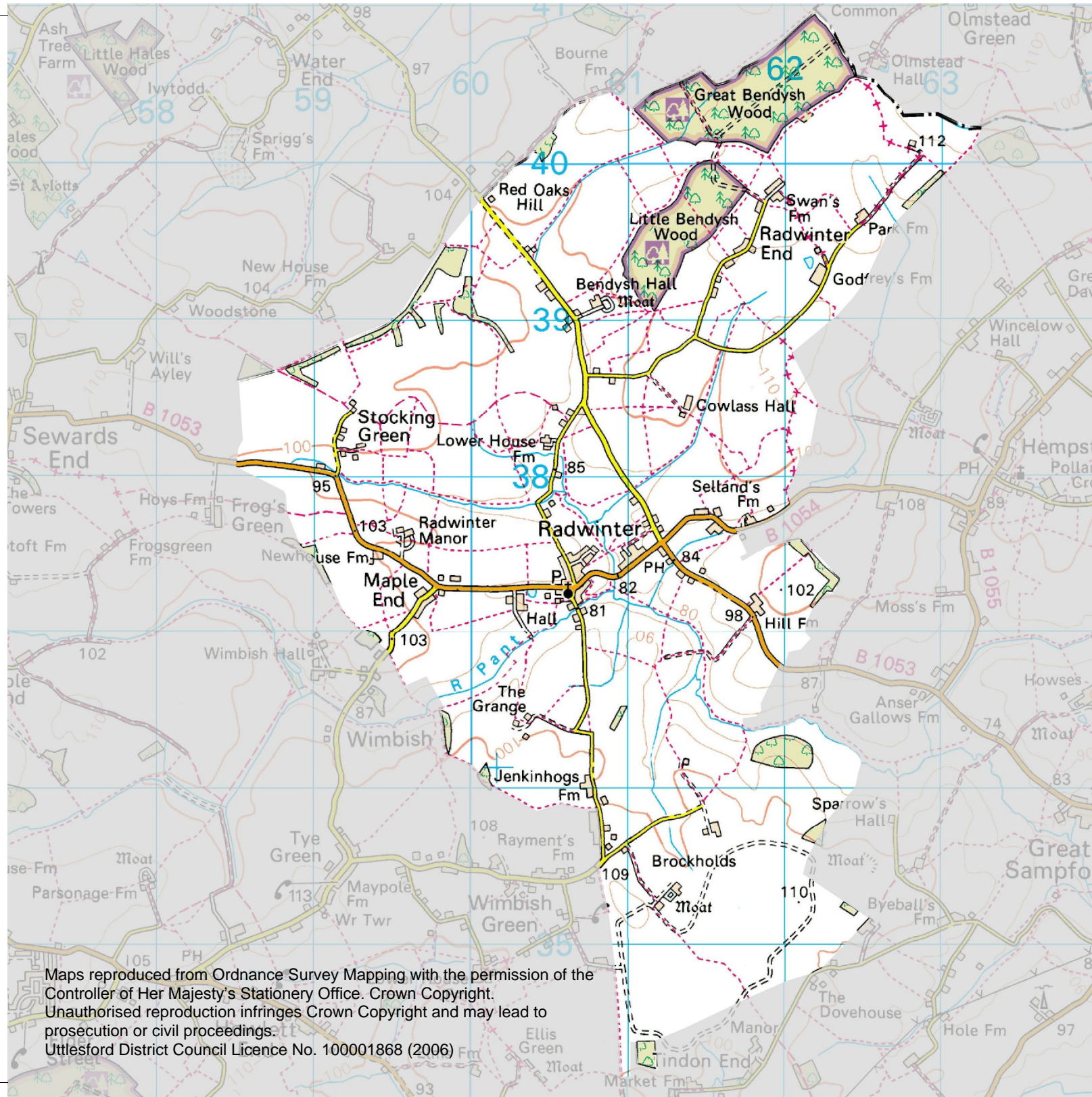


# Radwinter



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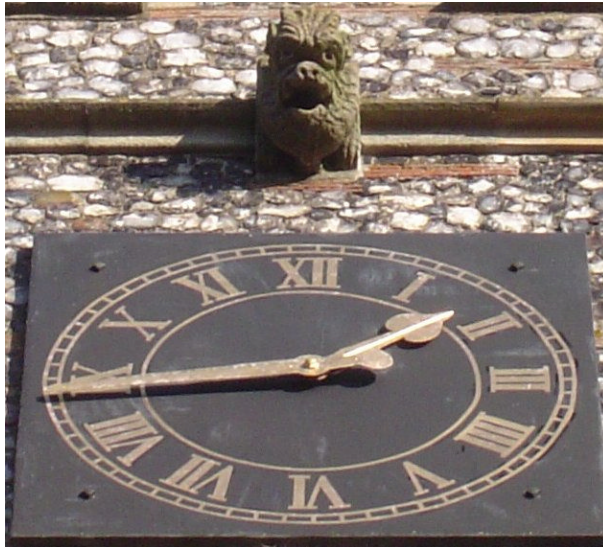
# Our Parish Plan 2007- 2012

# Introduction to **Our** Parish Plan

**R**adwinter, a community of some 600 people, is situated 5 miles east of Saffron Walden in the valley of the river Pant. The river rises at Wimbish and flows north-east until it is joined near the bottom of Plough Hill by a tributary from Bendysh. Thereafter it flows south-east past Clay Wood to Great Sampford, Great Bardfield and eventually into the Blackwater at Maldon.

The river valleys and the rising ground to the North and South of the village make for an attractive undulating landscape enriched by woods, copses, mature hedges and farms.

The centre of the village is built on the North side of the river around the crossroads where the lane from Wimbish Green, after crossing the river at Princes Well, meets the main road from Saffron Walden to Haverhill. The centre is dominated by the church which stands high on ground rising from the river. The impressive church tower, which was rebuilt and enlarged in the 1880s, makes a prominent land mark visible throughout the parish.



This central area owes its appearance to the rebuilding which took place following a great fire in 1874. Twenty-five houses were destroyed leaving only the church and the Red Lion Inn (now a private house) around the crossroads.

The church had recently been restored and enlarged and Eden Nesfield, the architect engaged for this purpose by the Rector, Rev. J.F. Bullock, was commissioned to undertake the rebuilding of the village centre with a village hall, almshouses, a shop and cottages. The work was carried out by Nesfield in accordance with the social and visual ideals of the Arts and Crafts Movement.

Radwinter includes a number of separate hamlets- Bendysh, Radwinter End, Mill End, Sellands, Brockholds, Maple Lane and Stocking Green. Unusually Radwinter comprised 4 manors - Radwinter Hall, Brockholds, Bendysh and the Grange - and may be this accounts for the fragmented character of the village.

Apart from the rebuilding of the village centre at end of the 19th century the only major

## Acknowledgements

The Steering Group for the Village Appraisal and Parish Plan was:

- Sue Bright, Chair
- Viv Anderson
- David Bacon
- Joe Bacon, Deputy Chair
- James Briggs, Secretary (Village Appraisal)
- Helen Brown, Parish Council
- Wendy Graves
- Marion Gillon
- Julie Haines
- Richard Hull
- MB Parker
- Tim Pratt
- David Richardson, Treasurer
- Eric Rust
- Joan Simpson
- Dave Smith, Parish Council
- Michael Southgate
- Martin Stocks
- Sue Taylor
- Robert Walker
- Suzanne Walker, Secretary (PP)



Many people have contributed to the Village Appraisal and the Parish Plan. Thank you all, including the 454 people of Radwinter who completed Household questionnaires, 48 who completed Youth questionnaires, and 23 who completed Business questionnaires.

Thanks especially to Radwinter Parish Council for paying for the printing of the Village Appraisal, hire of the Village Hall, and support throughout the development of the Village Appraisal and this Parish Plan. We acknowledge the financial assistance we received from Uttlesford District Council. Thanks to Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) Fieldworkers: Carole Ware & Chris Hobbs. The editorial group for the Parish Plan was: Dave Smith, Sue Bright, and Suzanne Walker

All photographs by Dave Smith (except Sheep by Wendy Graves). Watercolour of Chestnut Tree by Marion Gillon. The Radwinter Parish Plan was printed by Aimprint, Saffron Walden.

# Business

**T**wenty-three Business Questionnaires were returned, 4 of these in exclusively business premises, with nearly all employees from within Radwinter itself. The largest number of businesses, as you might expect, were involved with agriculture, with 4 service and 4 professional businesses, and a further 3 each in retail and construction. Most of these business say that are about the same size as last year, and most have premises that they feel are about the right size for their business. There were no real complaints or requirements, except a few small mentions for better road signage and street names - which we now have in most areas!

What are the Issues?	What can we do about it?	When?	Who could be responsible?
Encourage more small businesses.	Proactive support for barn/shed conversion or extensions to houses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barn/shed conversion</li> <li>Extension to home</li> </ul>	Within 2 years	Parish Council and local planning authority.
Encourage small workshops and light industrial use.	Proactive support for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barn/shed conversion</li> <li>Extension to home</li> </ul>	Within 2 years	Parish Council
Directory of village businesses.	New page on web site.	Within 12 months	Web site editorial committee.
Encourage market gardening	Promote and support regular local produce markets and stalls.	Within 2 years	Radwinter Garden Club and Village Hall Management Committee. Advertise on notice board.

development in recent times has been the building of the council estate in East View Close. There has been some in-filling in Princes Well and Maple lane, several houses built on the north side of Plough Hill and a few elsewhere, but other than the major developments mentioned above, the physical appearance of the village has not changed greatly in recent times.

What has, however, changed radically is the way of life. One hundred years ago the village was still to a large extent self sufficient. Most of the people who lived in the village were born there or in the immediate neighbourhood. It was there that they worked and met their daily needs. They worked on the land or in trades supporting farming (millers, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, saddlers) or providing for the needs of the village people (grocers, butchers, publicans, tailors, dressmakers, shoemakers).

In living memory Radwinter was still a close-knit rural community. This is no longer so. While farming is still the principal commercial activity, only a few people are engaged in it. Farms have amalgamated and farmhouses, barns and stables turned into private residences. Trades dependant on farming have ceased, the shops (only the Post Office remains) and all but one

pub, the Plough, have closed. There is little employment in the village and most people who live here earn their living elsewhere.

Radwinter is an attractive and convenient place to live. Its situation, in pleasant open countryside, half way between Saffron Walden and Haverhill gives ready access to supermarkets, shops and medical and other services. There is a regular, though infrequent, bus service to both places. It is not now greatly used as most have cars or access to them.



The village is within commuting distance of London either by train from Audley End or by car via the M11. It is within easy reach of Cambridge and Stansted Airports. There is a flourishing primary school and a well regarded comprehensive high school in Saffron Walden to which transport for the children from the village (except for the Sixth Form) is provided. There are also a number private schools at Saffron Walden and Cambridge.

## Our Parish Our Vision

The purpose of any Parish Plan is to guide both the Parish Council and parishioners as to the needs of the village community over the next five years. After this period the Parish Plan will be reviewed and revised.

# The Environment

The results of the Village Appraisal indicated that the natural environment to be found in and around Radwinter is very important to our population. Residents were also very aware of the wider environmental issues affecting all of our lives.

What are the Issues?	What can we do about it?	When?	Who could be responsible?
Many people proposed that more trees should be planted in Radwinter. Others wanted some trees cut down. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and the establishment of <i>Natural England</i> will also shape and enhance rural biodiversity, landscape and nature, and help people to enjoy them.	Carry out a tree survey and assess local biodiversity in accordance with the NERC Act.	Within 12 months	A group of environment volunteers to be organised by the Parish tree warden.
Many people said they would like better access to the countryside for walkers, and riders. Some called for better maintenance of footpaths and bridleways.	Provide a noticeboard in car park and Post Office showing local paths. Produce local footpath maps	Within 2 years	Volunteers and Parish Council in liaison with Parish Paths Partnership.
	Annual audit of local paths.	Within 2 years	Volunteers. PC rep to talk to local walking groups.
	Annual Parish walk - e.g. Parish boundary.	Within 12 months	Liaise with local walkers via Suzanne Walker.
A number of people expressed interest in general environmental concerns: energy saving, litter clearing, and "reduce, reuse, recycle."	Co-ordinate litter clearing within the village. Advertisement and article in Ambo.	Within 12 months	Form a working party from those interested.
Need a plan for improving drainage of the Recreation Ground.	Investigate mole drainage and alternative solutions.	Within 2 years	Parish Council and Recreation Ground Management Committee.

What are the Issues?	What can we do about it?	When?	Who could be responsible?
We have some accident black spots such as Stocking Green Corner, where accident recording and liaison with Essex Highways have helped to introduce new measures. Where else needs attention?	Water Lane junction at the crossroads has very poor visibility of traffic approaching from the Saffron Walden direction. Explore possibilities of improving sight lines on exit from this junction.	Within 2 years	Parish Council
	Improve observance and enforcement of the no waiting zone outside the school	Within 2 years	School, Radwinter Safer Journeys to School Group, Police Community Support Officers.
Many walkers complain that roads within the Village are extremely dangerous for them because of traffic speed and volume.	Continue to monitor the recent Government initiatives on Quiet Lanes and Home Zones.	Within 12 months	Parish Council



# Traffic & Transport

**W**e own well over 300 vehicles in Radwinter. 75% of us never use buses, which are infrequent, but they are very important to those who do. There is perennial concern about traffic volumes and speed through the village, particularly along the B1053, and along Maple Lane and Water Lane. And then of course...there's Stansted Airport!

What are the Issues?	What can we do about it?	When?	Who could be responsible?
Despite many efforts over the years, public service bus frequency has declined - are there any realistic alternatives?	Investigate other existing schemes in Essex including the Voluntary Car Scheme, Care-Watch, and Car Sharing for Shopping, Commuting, Radwinter School run, 6th Form School run. This is recognised as being difficult to make work so organisation and commitment would be vital ingredients.	Within 12 months	Care Network with assistance and support from Rural Community Council of Essex,
Many of us want to reduce traffic volumes and speed - what could we do?	Support the proposal on Traffic Calming in Rural Villages made by Lizzie Sanders of Littlebury PC and accepted by the UDC North Area Panel Jan 2007. This called for a pilot traffic control project to reduce vehicle speeds by removing visual cues rather than adding unsympathetic signage, and traditional traffic control measures.	Within 12 months	Parish Council with assistance and support from Rural Community Council of Essex,
	Investigate and take advantage of National and Essex schemes for residents to participate in traffic speed and volume measurement.	Within 2 years	Parish Council
	Investigation of traffic volume and speed reduction in Water Lane and Maple Lane.	Within 2 years	Parish Council



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# Community

The level of participation in the Village Appraisal - and the return of so many questionnaires - suggest a healthy community spirit, or desire for one. Community involvement, as well as infrastructure, needs to be a part of the focus of the Parish Plan.

What are the Issues?	What can we do about it?	When?	Who could be responsible?
How can we welcome new residents to Radwinter, introduce them to the village, and encourage them to feel part of the local community?	Produce a "Welcome to Radwinter" leaflet and information pack including local walks leaflets and the Parish Plan.	Within 12 months	Parish Council and village activity groups, together with friends and neighbours.
	Include links and brief description of the information that can be found on the Radwinter web site. Distribute Parish Plan to all newcomers.	Within 12 months	Radwinter web site editorial committee.
How can we continue to make Radwinter a friendly place where people enjoy living?	Stage more village social events - e.g. annual Summer picnic in the Church meadow.	Within 12 months	Web site committee to set up a volunteer forum on village web site.
	Investigate the viability of Radwinter as a venue for a Farmers' Market or local produce market. In the meantime organise transport share to Wimbish Farmers' Market.	Within 12 months	Parish Council, Garden Club, Village Hall Management Committee.
What infrastructure do we need to help us improve the community?	Feasibility of opening a village shop staffed by volunteers, or expansion of Post Office or incorporated into new Pavilion. These were very popular ideas.	Within 2 years	Dedicated steering committee initiated by Parish Council. (PC has already approached VIRSA: Village Retail Services Association.)

What are the Issues?	What can we do about it?	When?	Who could be responsible?
Need to identify parties interested in local accommodation and keep list updated so that our Parish Council is aware of our local housing needs.	Arrange informal meetings to discuss needs with those requiring accommodation.	Within 12 months	Parish Council in conjunction with the RCCE Rural Housing Enabler.
Housing density and design.	Produce Village Design Statement (VDS)	Within 12 months	Parish Council sponsored group to follow on from Parish Plan Steering Group
Young people and young families need homes.	Support affordable housing scheme(s).	Within 5 years	Parish Council



# Housing & Development

Of the 311 people who responded to the question about housing development in the Village Appraisal, 44 were opposed to any housing development. Of the 303 who answered the question on “Other Development” just under half (43%) were opposed to any.

There were also comments that any development should be gradual and traditional, in order to retain the character of Radwinter.



There is increasing government pressure for housing development over the whole area.

The Parish Council is keen to support the building of appropriate affordable homes as part of controlled housing development in the village by local landowners.



The Village Appraisal indicated that there was significant support for homes for young people and young families.

The majority of the Parish Council considers that some development is essential and there is particular concern about the fall in numbers attending Radwinter School.



What are the Issues?	What can we do about it?	When?	Who could be responsible?
	Promote wider use of existing buildings for community use (Village Hall, School, Bowls Club)	Within 2 years	Parish Council, School Governors and Headmaster, Bowls Club Committee
Community infrastructure and amenities needed in the longer term.	Replace existing Pavilion with a purpose-built structure which meets the needs of the community in the 21st Century	Within 3 years	Parish Council, Pavilion Committee, and Recreation Ground Management Committee.
	Consider how the toilet facilities could be made available to Recreation Ground users, particularly at weekends and in the summer months.	12 months	Recreation Ground Management Committee. This would be influenced by a Pavilion with Management Committee.

# Youth

Some 48 young people between the ages of 11 and 17 responded to the Youth Questionnaire, and about half stated that they socialise with friends either in Radwinter or Cambridge or both. In Radwinter, locations for meeting friends included the recreation ground and, overwhelmingly, at friends' houses.

There was no strong suggestion that special structures were wanted, but better toilet facilities and a tennis court attracted strong support, with strong support for more seating and a hard games area. Our Youth Club



was very successful and well-attended with a small but dedicated team of leaders and financial support from the Parish Council, but eventually folded principally due to lack of active parental support.

The things our residents most liked about Radwinter were the recreation ground, peace and quiet, the freedom to walk and cycle, and the surrounding countryside.

Least liked was "nothing to do", "no shop", and "lack of transport" but even these complaints were put forward by only about 1 in 6 of our young people.



What are the Issues?	What can we do about it?	When?	Who could be responsible?
We should consider the benefit of some additional facilities on the Recreation Ground for young people, so that it becomes a more useful meeting place. The existing seating has been lost over time.	Consider replacement seating near the play equipment. Seek grants from BIFFA, Lottery and Viridor.	Within 12 months	Recreation Ground Management Committee and young volunteers, with possible assistance from the Parish Council.
Support for a tennis court or hard play area was high, with 2/3 of young people naming it as a favourite (almost double the number that suggested a skateboard ramp) and 1/4 of them were keen on the idea of a tennis club	Assess interest of local adults in establishing a tennis club for young and adult.	Within 12 months	Recreation Ground Management Committee and young volunteers, with possible assistance from the Parish Council.
	Look at the possibility of providing an all-weather playing surface on the Rec.	Within 2 years	Recreation Ground Committee and Parish Council.
	Re-establishment of a tennis court on the Recreation Ground	Within 2 years	Recreation Ground Committee and Parish Council.
What infrastructure do we need to help the young people of our community?	Provide a shelter on the Recreation Ground.	Within 2 years	Recreation Ground Committee and Parish Council.