

Brightwell,  
Foxhall  
and  
Purdis Farm

November  
2013

SUMMARY  
and  
ACTIONS

# Parish Plan

**T**his document is a summary of the full Parish Plan document which contains the detailed analysis of the responses to the Parish Plan questionnaires originally distributed across the three parishes in 2009. The full Parish Plan document will be available from the parish council website <http://brightwellfoxhallandpurdisfarm.onesuffolk.net>. The parishes of Brightwell, Foxhall and Purdis Farm are adjoined but each has a uniquely different character and population, consequently the responses to the Parish Plan questionnaires reflect these differences. Although there was a large spread of opinion there are clearly some subjects and issues which are of greater concern than others as these appear more than once in the responses and are common across two or more parishes.

## What is a Parish Plan?

A Parish Plan is a snapshot in time of our community's character and identity and includes priorities for action on the issues that matter most to residents. It is an authoritative record of the community's views, which will hopefully influence those making decisions about how *our* money is spent and how developments are planned. The essential characteristic of the Parish Plan is that it is based on *local* views and should be respected as it identifies the issues that matter most, to local people. It offers a real opportunity for our voices to be heard about what's needed to make Brightwell, Foxhall and Purdis Farm even better places to live, however small some of those improvements might seem.

## How was the Plan developed?

The original idea to develop a Parish Plan was embraced enthusiastically by local people at an annual meeting of the Group Parish Council in 2009. It was then developed by a Parish Plan Working Group consisting of local residents, starting with a series of public meetings. Every local resident and business was then given the opportunity to say exactly what they value most, via the household, business and youth questionnaires which were distributed to around 1,100 properties. We received 508 responses and building on these the Parish Plan was developed. Regular reports on progress were provided at the Group Parish Council meetings. Since the questionnaires were distributed time has passed and technology has changed so some questions and responses are no longer valid, such as those relating to TV and radio reception and internet access. Also, some issues have already been addressed through the combined efforts of residents and the Group Parish Council and other parties.

## Who is the Plan for?

It's for everyone concerned about the future of Brightwell, Foxhall and Purdis Farm. It can also be used by Suffolk Coastal District Council, which has a statutory obligation to consult the views of the community when taking any decisions on issues (especially development) that will affect our parishes.

## What's in the Plan?

The Plan contains a summarised view of all the questionnaire responses received for each of the three parishes. This information gives a detailed insight into the views and opinions of local residents. The combined responses were analysed to identify the main areas of concerns for residents that could be realistically addressed, subject to the relevant support and resources being available. These main areas of concern were then summarised into 6 key action points which are also shown below, with suggested groups that we believe should be responsible for addressing them.

## What happens next?

The publication of the Parish Plan is not the end of a process, but the next step. Making change happen will need sustained commitment and effort so the priorities and other recommendations are acted upon. Some of these will require the support of volunteers and community groups.

## How can you get involved?

We hope that as many residents and businesses as possible will continue to volunteer to help the Group Parish Council which will provide leadership and coordinate people's priorities for improvement. Information on how to get involved in areas that interest you will be on the Parish Plan website.

<http://brightwellfoxhallandpurdisfarm.onesuffolk.net>

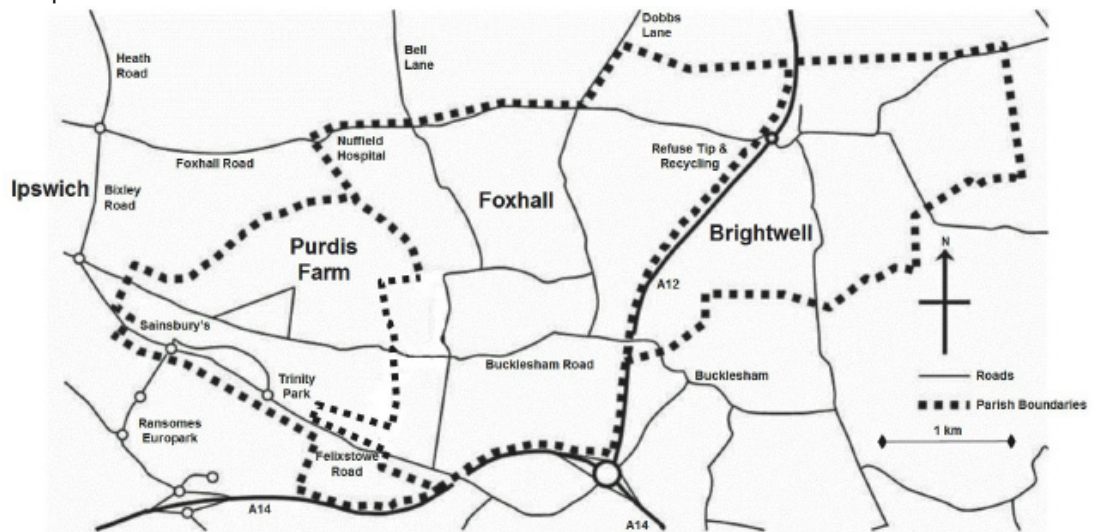
| <i>Action number</i>  | <i>Area of concern</i>  | <i>What actions to be taken and how ...</i>  | <i>Who should action?</i>                        |
|-----------------------|---|--|--|
| <b>Action point 1</b> | Speeding traffic, traffic congestion and increasing numbers of HGV vehicles on country roads featured very highly across a number of questionnaire responses. | <p>Much work has already been done in relation to speeding traffic especially in the Murrills Road area. As a result of police spot checks it was identified that the majority of vehicles exceeding the speed limit were actually local residents so all local households were issued with advisory leaflets.</p> <p>Further actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to work with the local police in addressing issues of speeding traffic.</li> <li>• Investigate weight/width restrictions on 'C' class roads where not suitable for HGV traffic.</li> <li>• Continue to report issues relating to increased traffic volume and congestion to SCC Highways &amp; SCDC &amp; IBC Planning - especially in light of recent and proposed retail and housing developments adjacent to, and within, the parishes.</li> </ul> | Residents<br>Police<br>GPC<br>IBC<br>SCC<br>SCDC |
| <b>Action point 2</b> | Residents are concerned that pavements, footpaths & hedgerows are not being maintained and that the dog fouling of footpaths needs to be addressed.           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents should report issues either to the Parish Clerk or directly to SCDC, for resolution.</li> <li>• Update GPC website and notice boards with information on how residents can report issues.</li> <li>• The GPC could benefit from having a nominated person or persons to monitor the condition of footpaths and hedgerows</li> <li>• Investigate possibility of footpath maps being available on the GPC website.</li> <li>• Investigate possibility of additional dog waste bin in Bucklesham Road near entrance to Bobs Meadow/Purdis Heath where dog walkers park cars.</li> </ul>  | GPC<br>SCDC<br>Residents                         |
| <b>Action point 3</b> | The amount of litter and instances of fly-tipping on local roads is a serious concern.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fly-tipping is an eyesore, an environmental issue and a prosecutable offence. Issues must be reported (through) to SCDC for immediate action.</li> <li>• Update GPC website and notice boards with information on how residents can report issues.</li> <li>• Litter needs to be monitored on a continual basis; we could consider Community Service resources to address specific areas as they arise.</li> </ul>  | Residents<br>GPC<br>SCDC<br>Community Services   |
| <b>Action point 4</b> | The area does not have a Community Centre which means that there is no focal point for the community or local events amenity.                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The addition of a community centre could have a very positive effect on the area by creating a focal point to bring people together and create more of a community spirit.</li> <li>• GPC and residents to highlight the need for a Community Centre with SCDC and developers at every opportunity in light of proposed housing developments within the parishes.</li> </ul>  | GPC<br>SCDC<br>Residents<br>Developers           |
| <b>Action point 5</b> | The impact of encroaching industrial development and associated light and noise pollution concerns featured highly in responses.                              | <p>The concerns of industrial development and light pollution relate to two areas:</p> <p><b>Ransomes Europark</b> - this impacts on residents in Felixstowe Road/Purdis Farm areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issues have already been raised with the GPC in relation to noise pollution and disturbed sleep.</li> <li>• The GPC should establish a working relationship with IBC planning and development control to ensure that the lives of residents are not adversely impacted through the further development of Ransomes Europark.</li> </ul>  | GPC<br>IBC<br>SCDC<br>Residents                  |

| Action number         | Area of concern   | What actions to be taken and how ...  | Who should action?                                |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|
|                       |   | <p><b>Valley Works</b> - this impacts on residents in the 'Foxhall 2' area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of concerns have already been raised over the development of this site by the GPC.</li> <li>• The continued development of this site needs careful monitoring due to its location and the narrow roads that serve the area.</li> </ul>  |   |
| <b>Action point 6</b> | Crime, personal security and burglaries are a concern for residents primarily in Purdis Farm. | <p>Although overall crime levels are low across the three parishes there are some specific areas where there are repeated incidents of a similar nature involving opportunistic theft. This is generally through premises and vehicles being left unsecured and with valuables on display. Residents have indicated they would like an increase in police foot patrols.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to remind residents about keeping premises secure via leafletting and the GPC website and working with the Police.</li> <li>• We need to recognise that increased foot patrols are unlikely in light of recent budget cuts.</li> <li>• The Public must report suspicious persons/ vehicles via the non-emergency number 101 or 999 if they require the Police to attend.</li> </ul> | GPC<br>Police<br>Residents<br>Neighbourhood Watch |

**Key:** GPC = Group Parish Council, SCDC = Suffolk Coastal District Council, IBC = Ipswich Borough Council, SCC = Suffolk County Council

## USEFUL POINTS OF CONTACT

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Brightwell, Foxhall and Purdis Farm Group Parish Council</b> | <p>Website: <a href="http://brightwellfoxhallandpurdisfarm.onesuffolk.net/">http://brightwellfoxhallandpurdisfarm.onesuffolk.net/</a></p> <p>For all matters relating to the parish council please contact the Parish Clerk:<br/>Mrs Angie Buggs, 27 Brendon Drive, Rushmere St Andrew, Ipswich, Suffolk IP5 1NJ</p> <p>Telephone: 01473 635341</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:angiebuggs2001@yahoo.co.uk">angiebuggs2001@yahoo.co.uk</a></p> |
| <b>Suffolk Coastal District Council</b>                         | <p>Website: <a href="http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk">http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Telephone: 01394 383789</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:customerservices@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk">customerservices@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk</a></p>  |
| <b>Suffolk County Council</b>                                   | <p>Website: <a href="http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/">http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/</a></p> <p>Telephone: 08456 066 067</p>  |





# *A short history of the three parishes*

## **Brightwell**

Brightwell means bright or clear spring or well, and it may have been a holy well with healing powers. The village is situated around the Mill River, which forms a splash at the bottom of the valley. The bridge and road were built in the late 1920s, curving past the old smithy. John Constable's painting, from 1828 or 1829, shows the village and church looking much as it does today. The church is dedicated to St John the Baptist, and dates from the 1300s, with repairs undertaken in about 1656 by Thomas Essington, of Brightwell Hall. The Hall was later the home of Sir Samuel Barnardiston MP, leader of the Suffolk Whigs and a deputy Governor of the East India Company, but was demolished in 1730.

## **Foxhall**

Not surprisingly, Foxhall (or Foxhole) means fox's burrow. The parish church of All Saints, to the north of Mill River, was in ruins by the mid-16th century and Foxhall became an ecclesiastical hamlet to Brightwell in 1530. In Victorian times, there were two beerhouses – the Waddling Duck, owned by the Cobbolds (as was much of the land in the parish, including 22 acres of hop grounds); and The Shepherd and Dog. The parish boundary with Nacton ran through the middle of the pub, which was demolished when the road to Felixstowe was widened. Orwell Park and 30,000 acres were bought in about 1850 by Colonel Tomline, and inherited by Captain Ernest George Pretyma in 1889. The houses on the north side of Bucklesham Road were built post-1920 on land sold by the Broke

Hall Estate. The population has always been small – in 1086 there were just 20 people, rising to 150 people by 1801. By the turn of the last century, there were 122 people of voting age living in about 64 houses.

## **Purdis Farm**

The name is thought to be derived from the ancient (and long since gone) church of St Petronilla. In the early 20th century, Purdis Farm was part of the Broke Hall Estate. Around 1925, Captain Saumarez, the owner, sold nearly 1,500 acres of the Estate in the Purdis Farm and nearby parishes. The following year, 217 acres were sold to Ipswich Golf Club, who called it Purdis Heath. In 1954 and in 1957 the Golf Club sold off parcels of land along their Bucklesham Road frontage for housing development. Adjoining the golf course is Purdis Heath, listed by English Nature as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The parish church is St Augustine's, at the beginning of Bucklesham Road.



429 St John the Baptist Church, Brightwell, from a postcard sent in 1905. Originally known as Brightwell Chapel, it dates from the early 14th century and is constructed mostly from flint and rubble.



SHEEP SHEARING AT FOXHALL

## *Acknowledgements*

The development and distribution of the Parish Plan Questionnaire, exhibition organisation and analysis of the questionnaire responses have all been carried out by a team of volunteers over several years. These activities have consumed many hours of unpaid and considerable effort. We would like to thank every single one of the volunteers for their efforts, along with the Group Parish Council which has supported this work and provided the funding for data entry, document design, proofing and printing.