

# LITTON CHENEY

## Parish Plan 2005



This Parish Plan represents the aspirations and views of the residents of the Parish of Litton Cheney. The community has been involved in producing the plan by raising the issues of concern, responding to the survey and by endeavouring to work together to find solutions. As part of the survey respondents were able to state what would be their choice for the future development of the community.

**First choice was a shop**

**Second choice was homes for young families**

**Third choice was a new village hall**

**The fourth choice was NO CHANGE**

**Fifth choice was a maintained Church Hall**

**The sixth choice was improved public transport**

**Seventh choice was an allotment**

**The last choice was an information board**

The consultation stage and information gathering by way of the questionnaires being completed, the next stage was the analysis of the results and the completion of the Parish Plan. Part of the process of developing the plan has been putting the results of the survey into action. As a result of the steering group and the community working towards producing a Parish Plan the parish has, since the Vital Villages initiative, commenced:

**A monthly village lunch at the White Horse Inn**

**An improved Church Hall**

**All the parish's footpaths adopted**

**An additional Notice Board**

**A weekly Keep Fit class**

**An Archaeology Group**

**A series of Producers' Markets**

The actions already undertaken have resulted from the wishes and aspirations of members of the community. The preparation of this Parish Plan is a starting point. What happens next is dependent upon continued input from the community. It is up to everyone to be involved in the vision they have for the future of the community. The Vital Villages Steering Group have outlined a plan reflecting the views of the parish in 2004/2005. **It is up to us all to make sure the Action Plan is implemented, monitored and updated; please maintain your involvement in the areas of your choice or make the relevant group aware of your interest.** The implementation of some actions can be undertaken by enthusiastic and interested individuals or groups. The steering group have information to assist some projects. The work of the Vital Villages Steering Group has finished with the publication of this Parish Plan. It is the community's plan and it is envisaged that the community will wish to monitor and update the Parish Plan and Action Plan to reflect changes in our rural parish.

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## The Parish of Litton Cheney

Litton Cheney lies in the Bride Valley between the market towns of Bridport and Dorchester. It lies approximately 5 kilometres north of the World Heritage Jurassic Coast and is surrounded by arable land, sheep and cattle pasture. There are five farms in the parish. There is a small hamlet in the Coombe Valley comprising seven homes and an isolated home at Stancombe Farm.

The village has a church, primary school and public house. The post office closed in April 1998, the shop in the summer of 2000 and the nearest doctor's surgery closed in June 2004. The bus service from the village is now limited to one day a week to Dorchester (the market day service stopped in May 2004 after more than 70 years). A bus service operates once a day, six days a week from the village to Bridport. The population from the 2001 census was 348 and there were 149 residents under 45 years of age and 205 that age or older. The response to the survey carried out in June 2004 was in the region of 78%. A population of 305 were involved in the survey, 141 residents were under 50 years of age and 164 residents 50 years or older. There was a questionnaire for each household and an individual questionnaire for residents attending secondary school and older. Thorner's School created a wishing tree to reflect the views and aspirations of the pupils aged from 4 - 11 years. People who worked in the village were also invited to complete a questionnaire. All individual respondents could return a volunteer form and over 70 were returned.

### **The 'Vital Villages' scheme**

The aim of the scheme was that communities could work together to improve the quality of life of people within that community. As part of the scheme a Parish Plan had to be produced. Every household in the Parish will receive a copy of this plan together with surrounding Parish Councils, Councils and any agency who requests one. In this way all authorities are made aware of the wishes of the residents when deciding upon our future.

The timetable below details the process the residents have been involved in.

Event	Date
Formation of Steering Group	January 2004
Village open meetings	February 2004
Preparation of draft questionnaire	February 2004
Funding application submitted and draft questionnaire displayed	March 2004
Household and personal questionnaires distributed and collected	June 2004
Questionnaires given to those who work in the parish	July 2004
Meetings for working groups	July 2004 - January 2005
Presentation of survey results + Summary of Results distributed	November 2004
Draft Parish Plan displayed and distributed for consultation	March 2005
Parish Plan displayed and distributed for final consultation	June 2005
Parish Plan printed and distributed	September 2005

### Find out more about:

**Archaeology from Paul Kingston**

**Community Composting from Tess Green**

**Footpaths from Steve Kourik**

**Litton Retailers Association from John Firrell**

**Meet Sally Dyke and Gil Smith the Parish**

**Councillors on the Group**

**Ask Catherine Caudrey, Eddy Fry, Elizabeth Kingston, Kathy Kourik and David Taylor to find out about any other aspect of the Plan.**

**COME TO THE CHURCH HALL on**

**Thursday 20 October 2005 7.00 - 8.30 p.m.**

## THE ISSUES RAISED IN THE SURVEY

The Survey took place in June 2004. The survey questions were compiled from the issues raised at the two open meetings.

### Housing and Development

Issue (response in the survey)	Action	Information Contacts - Organisations
<b>69%(190 people) think that there is a lack of affordable housing in the parish.</b>	The Parish Council commissioned a Housing Need Survey in May 2005.	DCC response <b>support</b> . The Council agrees with the action proposed for Litton Cheney and will support partners in their work to achieve it.
<b>53% of respondents supported the provision of workshops in the village.</b>	WDDC response - Employment developments are supported in principle by adopted and emerging Local Plan policy –either as conversions of existing buildings or as new build within or adjacent to the Defined Development Boundary. Preliminary enquiries regarding possible sites should involve the Western Area Planning Officer.	

### Education and Childcare

Issue (response in the survey)	Action	Information Contacts - Organisations
<b>The school is clearly considered of great importance to the community of Litton Cheney with 211 people (77%) rating it as very important.</b> <i>"If there were an 'essential' box I would have ticked it."</i>		
<b>40 people would like to a learn a language.</b>	DCC response <b>support</b> – There is a good range of courses available in Bridport and Dorchester. The Service offers a full range of Learndirect courses. Residents on low income could apply for some support with transport costs and also need to link into any voluntary transport schemes that are available Tel.01305 251040.	
<b>30 people would like computer classes.</b>		
<b>26 households had people over the age of 16 in education at 18 different establishments.</b>		
<b>7 households experienced difficulties with childcare.</b>	Information about locally available childcare is provided by DCC Children's Information Service 0845 355 2099.	

### Transport

Issue (response in the survey)	Action	Information Contacts - Organisations
<b>Improved public transport was the sixth choice of those who responded to the survey.</b>	DCC response <b>investigate</b> DCC is reviewing all rural bus services for future development to become demand responsive to help ensure long-term viability.	<b>Traveline</b> – 0870 608 2608 Public transport information 7am-9pm Two schemes for those who have difficulty accessing transport - <b>Dorset Country Car Scheme Bride Valley</b> – a voluntary car scheme 482457 or 482537 (This scheme is dependent on volunteers who are always needed) <b>Axe Valley and West Dorset Ring and Ride</b> – 01404 46529.
<b>43 households are dependent on one driver.</b>		
<b>9% (26 people) supported car sharing.</b>		Dorset County Councils <a href="http://www.carsharedorset.com">www.carsharedorset.com</a>
<b>3% of the households who responded had no vehicle.</b>		

**Communication, Community Life and Community Spirit**  
**(including the activities in which 30 or more people wished to be involved)**

Issue (response in the survey)	Action	Information Contacts - Organisations	Timescale
<i>Litton Cheney has an active band of committed volunteers for many of its clubs and societies</i>			
<b>85% (234) respondents obtain information about what's happening in the parish from the Bride Valley News</b>			
<b>59%(161 people) supported the provision of information boards.</b>	A new notice board has been provided by the Parish Council.	The notice board is placed on the wall of Manor Farm by the footpath from Main Street through to Barges Close.	
<b>54% of people would support a Producers' Market (weekly).</b>	Litton Retailers Association has set up a series of markets.	Litton Retailers Association 482313	June – Nov.05
<b>52%(144 people) would support regular litter picks.</b>		The Litton Cheney Social Committee organise village litter picks – details in the BVN or on the notice boards.	
<b>27% (73 people) supported Community Composting.</b>	A meeting was held and a group continues to investigate the viability of Community Composting in the parish.	Contact 482102	January 2005 -
<b>Keep Fit (61 + 7) Yoga (60 + 4)</b>	A class combining <b>Callenentics, Pilates</b> and <b>Yoga</b> has started.	<b>Lithe Litton Ladies</b> at 6 pm Mondays in The Church Hall Contact 482661	Nov.2004 and continuing
<b>History (49+3) /Archaeology</b>	The Parish Council's Ancient Monuments Liaison Officer gave a talk and slide show for those interested. An informal group has been formed.	The Parish Council's appointed Ancient Monument's Liaison Officer. Contact 482384 paulkingston@tinyworld.co.uk <b>Litton Archaeology Group</b> Contact 482552 skourik@toucansurf.com	Nov. 2004 – Jan. 2005 and continuing
<b>Walking (48+3) Groups</b>	Those who gave their names received details of the Social Committee's July walk.	<b>Litton Cheney Social Committee</b> organise walks usually on a monthly basis. For details check the BVN.	July 2004
<b>Theatre Club (47 people) Film shows (40+3 people)</b>		DCC response <b>action/implement</b> Contact information provided by both DCC and WDDC.	
<b>17%(46 people) support adopting a footpath.</b>		The Parish Council has an appointed Footpath Liaison Officer 482552 skourik@toucansurf.com	July 2004 All footpaths adopted by Nov. 2004
<b>12% (33 people) would like an allotment in the village.</b>	If 6 parishioners approach the Parish Council under the 1908 Smallholders and Allotment Act the Parish Council are obliged to consider the request seriously. If a genuine demand is confirmed they have to take action to provide allotment gardens.		
<b>Further activities in which 30 or more people wished to be involved</b>			
<b>Swimming (54+7)</b>	<b>Learn a language (40 people)</b>		
<b>Working groups for tidying (41people)</b>	<b>Film shows (40+3 people)</b>		
<b>Tennis (41+2 people)</b>	<b>Badminton (39+4)</b>		
<b>34% (94 people) would support a community newsletter.</b>	<b>Computer classes - evening (30+9 people) day (30+2 people)</b>		

## Environment

Issue (Response in the survey)	Action	Information Contacts - Organisations
<b>84%(230) people felt it was important to preserve the local heritage.</b>	Dorset County Council's response <b>support</b> Contact information provided by both DCC and WDDC.	
<b>82% of households use the kerbside recycling collection.</b> (66% of households used the recycling bins at The White Horse)		
<b>154 people expressed great concern or some concern about potholes.</b>	The public can report pot holes in the Parish to the Parish Council's Clerk or Clarence 0800 232323	Dorset County Council have introduced <b>Parish Maintenance Units</b> to carry out repairs to the highways. The Parish Council provides a list of known defects for the visits in April and October.
<b>52%(144 people) would support regular litter picks.</b>	The Litton Cheney Social Committee organise village litter picks – details in the BVN or on the notice boards	
<b>51%(139 people) view speeding traffic as a problem.</b>	Investigate problems with traffic speeding through village and traffic calming solutions.	DCC response <b>investigate</b> . This request can be added to our traffic management programme for investigation in due course subject to a formal request by the PC or through the PP.
<b>136 people expressed great concern or some concern about the safety of junctions with the A35.</b>	DCC response <b>investigate</b> Both DCC and WDDC advise that the A35 is a trunk road and junctions are the responsibility of the Highways Agency. The Parish Council have contacted Connect, Dorset County Council, The Highways Agency, The District Councillor and MP. WATAG have had a positive response from the Highways Agency in connection with safety of the bus stops on the A35.	
<b>47% think parking in the village is a problem.</b>	DCC response <b>investigate</b> . Parking provision is probably best addressed either through WDDC or PC	
<b>38% support the provision of poop scoop bins.</b> <i>"Poop scoop bins are not necessary if all dog owners carry out their civic duty."</i>	WDDC response. It is not the Council's policy to provide dog waste bins. Dog owners may place dog waste, properly wrapped in litterbins.  WDDC Dog Warden 01305 252281	
<b>37% support tree planting</b>		
<b>32%(87 people) thought a dog-free area where dog walking is not allowed a good idea.</b>		
<b>31% support the provision of litterbins.</b>	WDDC will empty litterbins weekly if they are readily accessible from the highway.	
<b>30% support a GM free parish</b>		
<b>27% (73 people) supported Community Composting.</b>	A meeting was held in January 2005 and a group continues to investigate the viability of Community Composting in the parish.	Contact 482102 WDDC advise that DCC are currently taking the lead on Community Composting.
<b>17%(46 people) support adopting a footpath.</b>	A meeting was held in July 2004 and all footpaths were adopted by Nov. 2004.	The Parish Council has an appointed Footpath Liaison Officer 482552 skourik@toucansurf.com
<b>15% (40 people) support more rights of way</b>		

## DON'T JUST TALK ABOUT IT – GET INVOLVED!

The Parish Plan has evolved from the Vital Villages Survey. IT IS A STARTING POINT – not just for talking about – life in our community is about being involved and maintaining your interest; everyone's support is needed so that ideas can actually be made to happen if opportunities arise.



## Amenities (including meeting places)

Issue (response in the survey)	Action	Information Contacts - Organisations
<b>94% of respondents use the post boxes in the village.</b>		
<b>89% of respondents viewed the Playing Field as a worthwhile provision.</b>		
<b>36% of households use the Playing Field.</b>		
<b>78%(213 people) wanted a shop.</b>  <b>The first choice for 27% who took part in the survey.</b>	David Fisher from ViRSA came to an open meeting in January 2005. Litton Retailers Association has been formed and is meeting on a regular basis with the objective of setting up a village shop.	DCC response <b>support</b> Litton Retailers Association Contact 482313.
<b>70% of the respondents considered the public telephone of importance.</b>		
<b>63%(173 people) thought the Church Hall should be maintained as a community facility.</b>	The Church Hall has been painted and is being cleaned on a regular basis.	To hire the Church Hall or the tables contact 482383/4 If you would like to help with cleaning /maintaining the Hall contact 482532 Litton Cheney Parochial Church Council.
<b>55% of households thought they would use a mobile post office.</b>	The mobile library van sells stamps. The library van stops in the village fortnightly. Post Office Ltd is carrying out a series of pilots in the UK to investigate and trial new ways of providing post office services to rural areas from 2008 onwards. Until these pilots are completed and a policy formulated on the future of the rural network Post Office Ltd will not be able to consider any applications for new mobile services.	
<b>53% (144 respondents) would support a new hall shared with the school.</b>	An application for planning permission was submitted by the Parish Council, and granted in August 2005.	DCC response <b>action/implement</b> The County Council provides grants for new and replacement village halls. The fund is managed by Dorset Community Action.
<b>22% (60 people) support the provision of allotments in the village.</b>	If 6 parishioners approach the Parish Council under the 1908 Smallholders and Allotment Act the Parish Council are obliged to consider the request seriously. If a genuine demand is confirmed they have to take action to provide allotment gardens.	

## Glossary

### Definition of the County Council's response

- **action/implement** The specific recommendation will be accepted in principle and, subject to financial, procedural or legal constraints implemented by or with the support of the County Council.
- **investigate** Further information to be obtained by the Parish/Town Council or other agency may be required in order that the County Council may establish if the specific recommendation can be supported.

- **support** The specific recommendation relates to a matter, which may not be the responsibility of the Council. However, the recommendation does support an objective of the Council and it will therefore offer support to the community by working in partnership with the service provider to achieve its implementation.

BVN – Bride Valley News  
 DCA – Dorset Community Action  
 DCC – Dorset County Council  
 PC – Parish Council  
 PP – Parish Plan  
 UK – United Kingdom  
 ViRSA – Village Retail Services Association  
 WATAG – Western Area Transport Action Group  
 WDDC – West Dorset District Council

The next steps, acknowledgements and distribution of the Parish Plan 2005

The work of the Steering Group is completed with the publication of this Parish Plan. The plan reflects not only what people wanted but includes references to those aspects in our community which people felt were important. It is up to everyone to play a part in helping aspirations to be realised and ensuring that the services, which are important to the community, continue. A copy of the whole process is lodged with the Parish Council.

The Litton Cheney Vital Villages Steering Group: Catherine Caudrey, Sally Dyke, John Firrell, Eddy Fry, Tess Green, Elizabeth Kingston, Paul Kingston, Kathy Kourik, Steve Kourik, Gil Smith and David Taylor wish to thank the 205 households in the parish for the many ways they have contributed to the development of this Parish Plan. Members of the community attended the initial meetings, distributed, responded and collected the survey and responded to the findings of the survey. The involvement of many has meant that much has been achieved before this plan was printed. We hope you will find the plan of interest and helpful by providing information. We acknowledge the comments and advice from 17 officers at Dorset County Council and responses from 7 officers at West Dorset District Council. The Steering Group acknowledges the

Parish Council's financial contribution to the work of the group and their support. The neighbouring Parish Councils will each receive a copy of the plan and we acknowledge advice and help from residents in our neighbouring parishes. We wish to thank Mrs Johnstone, all the staff and the children who attended Thorne's School for creating a 'Wishing Tree' to ensure that children took part in the process. Simon Thompson of Dorset Community Action has provided advice and support to the group throughout the process. Dorset Community Consultancy undertook the analysis of the questionnaires. The following organisations have offered advice on aspects of the plan: Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils Royal Mail - Post Office Ltd Western Area Transport Advisory Group This parish plan has been produced with funding from The Countryside Agency under the Vital Villages initiative. The plan may be viewed on the Litton Cheney Website and we are grateful to the webmasters for providing this service for the wider community. [www.littoncheney.org.uk](http://www.littoncheney.org.uk) A plan will be distributed to each household in the parish and to all the organisations that have contributed. A copy of the plan is available on request.

Litton Cheney's Action Plan September 2005

Aim	Action	Partners	Estimated Cost	Timescale
Reinstate a shop in Litton Cheney.	Investigate the feasibility of a shop.	Litton Retailers Association		January 2005 and ongoing
Investigate the need for affordable housing in the Parish.	Housing Need Survey.	Parish Council West Dorset District Council		Survey October 2005
To provide a hall adjacent to the school.	An application for planning permission has been successful.	The Parish Council Diocesan Board of Education		June 2005 - ongoing
Investigate demand for allotments in the parish.	Parish Council to respond to the information in the Parish Plan.			September 2005
Provide for community composting in Litton Cheney.	Investigate the viability and possibilities in the parish.	A composting group has been formed		January 2005 - ongoing
To produce a monthly Community Newsletter.	Liaise with groups in the Parish.	Parish Residents and groups	~ £10.00 a month	September 2005
Initial review of Parish Plan.	Yearly Review.	Parish Council		Annually at the Parish Assembly.
Parish Plan for the villages in The Bride Valley.	Joint survey and plan.	The Parish Councils and residents of The Bride Valley.		?2008/2010

## CONTACTS

### For further information about the Parish Plan please contact:

Steering Group chairperson: 01308 482384  
[news4litton@bridevalley.net](mailto:news4litton@bridevalley.net)

### Other useful contacts:

Parish Council Chairman: 01308 482532  
Parish Council Clerk: 01308 482175  
[klk365@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:klk365@tiscali.co.uk)  
The Vicar: 01308 482302  
[anthonyashwell@aol.com](mailto:anthonyashwell@aol.com)

### Education, Childcare and Youth Activities

Thorner's Primary School: 01308 482410  
[office@thornerschool](mailto:office@thornerschool)  
Fledglings Playgroup Play leader: 01308 897771  
Toddler Group village contact: 01308 482315  
Children's Information Service: 0845 355 2099  
Bride Valley Young Farmers Leader: 01308 482549  
Litton Cheney Youth Club Leader: 01308 482384  
[paulkingston@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:paulkingston@tinyworld.co.uk)  
Bride Valley Scout Group Chair: 01308 482589  
Beavers and Cub Scout Leaders: 01308 458007  
Bride Valley Brownies Leader: 01308 482674  
Keyboard Club: 01308 897068

### Amenities (including meeting places) and delivery services

Playing Field Association Chair: 01308 482589  
Church Hall Hire: 01308 482383/4  
White Horse Inn: 01308 482539  
Daily newspaper deliveries: 01308 897883  
Dorset Evening Echo: 01308 482534  
Sunday newspaper delivery: 01308 897618  
Milk delivery (Mon, Wed, Fri.): 01308 482405  
(Tues, Thurs, Sat.): 01308 423308  
Coalman (Tuesday): 01460 731114  
Mobile Library (Thursday - fortnightly): 01308 422778  
Mobile shop (Thursday):  
Fishwife (Friday): 01305 871882  
Litton Retailers Association: 01308 482313  
**Producers Market:** 01308 482532  
[taylor@bridevalley.net](mailto:taylor@bridevalley.net)

### Producers at the first three markets

Artist - Paul Adams: 01308 482541  
Bride Valley Beef: 01308 482371  
[beef@jagooa.f9.co.uk](mailto:beef@jagooa.f9.co.uk)  
Bride Valley Garlic: 01308 482108  
[info@bridevalleygarlic.co.uk](mailto:info@bridevalleygarlic.co.uk)  
Bride Valley Nursery: 01308 482348  
Dorset Coffee Company: 07785 732666  
Ford Farm: 01308 482580  
[cheese@fordfarm.com](mailto:cheese@fordfarm.com)

Honey: 01305 260538  
Litton Lamb: 01308 482391  
Mannaorganic: 01305 851551  
Modbury Farm: 01308 897193  
Ourganics: 07900 963228  
Preserves: 01308 482508  
River Cottage: 01308 420020  
Tamarisk Farm: 01308 897781/897784  
Village Table: 01308 482313/482532

### Environment

Clarence: 0800 232323  
Community Composting: 01308 482102  
Parish Footpath Liaison Officer: 01308 482552  
[skourik@toucansurf.com](mailto:skourik@toucansurf.com)

### Transport

Bride Valley Car Service: 01308 482 - 457/537  
Ring and Ride: 01404 46529

### Communication, Community Life, (clubs and societies)

Bride Valley News Correspondent: 01308 482484  
[jo.belasco@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jo.belasco@tiscali.co.uk)  
Lithe Litton Ladies: 01308 482661  
Archaeology Group: 01308 482384  
[paulkingston@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:paulkingston@tinyworld.co.uk)  
Bride Valley Gardening Club Chair: 01308 482131  
(pref. enquires on Tuesdays)  
Social Committee Chairman: 01308 482661  
Litton Cheney Homewatch contact: 01308 482375  
Litton Cheney Webmasters:  
[simon@bridevalley.net](mailto:simon@bridevalley.net)  
[walter@clarinet.org.uk](mailto:walter@clarinet.org.uk)  
Puncknowle Art Group: 01308 482375  
Ladybirds Litton contact: 01308 482661  
Village Textile Group contact: 01308 482301  
Long Bredy & Litton Cheney Womens' Institute  
Secretary: 01308 898167  
Bellringing Captain: 01308 482260  
Bible Study Group (Wednesday): 01308 482383  
Bible Study Group (Thursday): 01308 482346  
Church Flower Arranging: 01308 482260  
Parochial Church Council Secretary: 01308 482532  
[taylor@bridevalley.net](mailto:taylor@bridevalley.net)

**All the information was correct to the best of our knowledge at the time of publication.**

### Litton Cheney Vital Villages Steering Group:

Catherine Caudrey, Sally Dyke (Parish Councillor), John Firrell, Eddy Fry, Tess Green, Elizabeth Kingston (Chairperson), Paul Kingston, Kathy Kourik, Steve Kourik, Gil Smith (Parish Councillor), David Taylor