

For the Millennium, a granite horse trough, made in the Village, was sited at Pond Green with a time capsule on village life buried beneath it. This trough is kept planted throughout the year. Our latest asset is the clock, sited outside Bucklers View by the Gurnard Partnership. This has been planted around with containerised flowers.

There are some good walks with great views of the Solent. There is also a privately owned wooded area at the bottom of Worsley Road. The beach can be accessed through this via a winding path by permission of the owner. Past the Sailing Club there is a lovely flat walk to Cowes. The Sailing Club was rebuilt to a high standard, partly with the aid of grants obtained by the Club Committee. It is a great asset, used by many residents, both young and old. It also hosts many events, especially during Dinghy Week which takes place each year in the week preceding Cowes Week. We have, however, lost the highly popular raft which was moored a little way off the shore.

Also popular are the beach huts and 'The Green', an open space behind the huts where you get a very good view of Solent happenings. The Green has sadly lost its putting course. The sea water quality is now excellent due to the new, extensive, state of the art sewage system.

In the other direction towards Thorness you pass the Marsh. This has altered considerably with lots of the old chalets having been rebuilt. The old narrow bridge over the Luck has had to be rebuilt, to avoid collapse and to help alleviate flooding of the chalets, which may still be a problem. It has lost some character but children still love to catch crabs from it. The Luck itself is home to many local small boats. From the Luck you can get to Thorness via the Coastal Path which has good sea and farmland views. The

nearby Sticelett Copse is very good for bluebells. Sadly, although there are still local farms, there is less livestock in evidence than in previous times. One thing that is noticeable by its absence is the pig farm that used to be in the centre of the Village.

We now have two pubs, one old, one new, and several local eateries where you can get a good meal.

Over the years Gurnard Pines, a holiday village, has developed considerably with lots of semi-permanent residents. It has two large swimming pools, a gym and a restaurant. Local residents can become members.

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Traffic in and through the Village has increased dramatically and has brought with it all the usual parking and speeding problems. The school run continues to cause concern.

We have red squirrels, but tree felling and new house building can be a problem. There are several foxes around and rumours of badgers.

Amongst our other assets are a reasonable bus service, a mobile library which calls every three weeks and you can still get your newspapers and milk delivered.

We need more people to come forward to help run the many organisations that are so important to village life.

We must take care not to become a place where people do not know their neighbour, or say hello to others, a trend that second homes can bring about.

Overall, Gurnard is a happy, friendly and welcoming village and a good place to live and bring up children.

The people who live in Gurnard

The population of Gurnard is relatively elderly compared with the rest of the Isle of Wight and the country as a whole. Gurnard also has a relatively high number of people who are of working age but are classified as being retired, according to the 2001 Census.



The Census highlights some of the key characteristics of the population of Gurnard. The resident population, as measured in the Census, was 1,696. This represents 1.3% of the Isle of Wight's total population. The average age was 46.2 compared with 43.2 for the whole Island and 38.6 for all of England and Wales. Nearly a third of Gurnard residents were over the age of 60 (32.6%) compared with 28.3% of all Island residents and just 20.9% of all the residents of England and Wales. Only 15.4% of Gurnard residents were under 16, compared with 18.2% of all Island residents and 20.2% of all the residents of England and Wales.

Of those residents who were 16 and over, 59.6% were married compared with 52.6% across the Island and 50.9% for all of England and Wales.

EMPLOYMENT

950 Gurnard residents (56%) were of working age with 61% of males being of working age compared with 51% of females. These figures were broadly consistent with the whole of the Isle of Wight but well below Great Britain as a whole, where 65% of males and 58% of females were of working age.

The proportion of Gurnard residents of working age who were retired (5.5%) is higher than that of the whole of the Isle of Wight (3.7%) and more than double that of the population of Great Britain (2.2%).

Of those Gurnard residents who were in employment, 46% regarded themselves as being professional or managerial, compared with 36% of all of the Island's working population and 40% of the whole Great Britain population. 23% of Gurnard residents aged 16 to 74 had "higher level" qualifications, compared with only 15.3% of all Island residents and 20.4% of the population of Great Britain in this age range.

Only a very small proportion of Gurnard residents (1.3%) were claiming Job Seekers Allowance, compared with the Island as a whole (1.9%) and the population of Great Britain (2.3%).



Community consultation

The section describes the consultation which has taken place amongst local residents to inform the preparation of this plan.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

In May 2003, following a decision by Gurnard Parish Council to consult with local residents, a letter was sent to all local organisations and a notice was placed on the village notice-board informing all residents about an open meeting concerning the production of a Parish Plan.

The meeting, held on 21st May 2003 at Gurnard Primary School, was attended by 25 people. The Community Development Officer from the Rural Community Council gave a potted history of Parish Plans and the process to follow. From the assembled residents a number of names

were put forward to form a Steering Group for this purpose along with names of volunteers who would provide ancillary support.

The first meeting of the Parish Plan Steering Group was in June 2003. We were told that we would not be able to commence the work until a funding application had been submitted and approved. This was left in the hands of the Parish Clerk who called the next meeting in March 2004 once funding had been approved.

We decided that our first exhibition would take place at the Gurnard May Queen 2004 event, for which we produced a publicity flyer plus a

form for the Camera Project. We had a map of the Parish, and several of our group were available on the day to talk to people about the Plan. This first exhibition was successful with lots of people talking about the Parish Plan and many residents expressing interest in the Camera Project.

Camera Project

The Project was structured to enable local residents to identify aspects of the Parish which they disliked, liked, or wanted to see improved. They were asked to maintain a list of the photos they took, along with an explanation of what they liked, disliked or wanted to see improved in respect of each image. They were also invited to list three things they would like to see provided in the Parish.

During June 2004 we started the distribution of 33 single use cameras. A deadline of the 22nd October was set for the return of the cameras so we could use the photographs at an exhibition on 8th November.

The exhibition was a great success with around 150 attendees. We gathered more suggestions for matters to be addressed through the Parish Plan, all of which were subsequently analysed.



Feedback from the Camera Project was used as a basis for developing the questionnaire.

Questionnaires

We produced two questionnaires. One was a general questionnaire (the Questionnaire) aimed at all local residents. The other (the Children's Questionnaire) was designed to obtain the views of children from both schools in the Parish.

The Questionnaire went through a number of drafts. The final version was distributed to all homes in the Parish with the November 2004 edition of Gurnard News, the Parish magazine produced by All Saints Parochial Church Council. By mid December we had received 112 of them for collation and analysis.

Shortly after Christmas 2004 the Children's Questionnaire was distributed to both Gurnard Primary School and Solent Middle School with a deadline of 18th March for their return.

Planning for Real

The children of Gurnard Primary School produced a model of part of the Village to form the basis of a "Planning for Real" exercise. This was the centrepiece of an event on 19th March 2005 which also featured the photos from the Camera Project and some initial analysis of the questionnaires. This exhibition was attended by 150 people including our local MP, Andrew Turner, and the Isle of Wight County Press.

A final exhibition was held at the May Queen 2005 event. This included the Planning for Real model, photographs and analysis of the data collected. This was intended to be the final exhibition before the draft plan was produced.



ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES

May Queen 2004 event

This event was not designed to produce any direct responses. It was intended to raise awareness of the process involved in developing the Parish Plan and stimulate requests for cameras for the Camera Project.

Camera Project

This event generated around 1000 photographs which were analysed into Likes, Dislikes and Requests for Improvements. Lists were then produced to reflect the contents of the photographs.

There were 376 **“Likes”** photos, with 222 on Structural and Landscapes, 83 on Commercial Facilities, 52 on Community Organisations and Facilities, 12 on Community Amenities, 5 on Community Infrastructure and 2 on Community Relationship.

For the 292 **“Dislikes”** the analysis revealed - 71 on Structural and Landscapes, 2 on Commercial Facilities, 0 on Community Organisations and Facilities, 95 on Community Amenities, 71 on Community Infrastructure and 53 on Community Relationship.

For the **“Request for Improvement”** there were 298 photos - 142 on Structural and Landscapes, 8 on Commercial Facilities, 24 on Community Organisations and Facilities, 25 on Community Amenities, 93 on Community Infrastructure and 6 on Community Relationship.

The things people would like to see provided in the Parish were listed separately.

See Appendices 3 and 4.

The Questionnaire

The questionnaire forms were circulated in November 2004 with the deadline for their return just before Christmas. The analysis was completed by March 2005.

The main questions asked were on existing village facilities, where the overwhelming response was that we should strive to keep all our current facilities. On building development, most respondents were in favour of affordable housing, free market housing and sheltered housing but were firmly against second homes and mobile home parks.

The next question was on population and facilities and this was where the Village was somewhat divided. While a lot of people wanted more employment, most wanted no more light industry or offices. Most people did not want an increase in the population. Of the various facilities that were commented upon, most people wanted more off-road footpaths, action on dog fouling, litter bins, public transport, speed limits, coastal protection, visible policing and community wardens.

The last section was an invitation to comment on, and add to, future projects (listed in

importance) such as sea wall maintenance, coastal footpath access, better public transport, cycle ways, play areas, a minibus and a pharmacy. A list was compiled from these comments.

See Appendices 5 and 6.

Children's Questionnaire

This was circulated in February 2005 and had been analysed by April 2005. The Children's Questionnaire was in the same format as the Camera Project, asking what would you like to keep, what would you like to improve and what new facilities/services you wish to be provided.

Out of the total of 37 items listed, the top items the children would like to keep were the School, Gurnard Pines, the Beach and shops. Choosing from a list of 77 possible improvements, 49% wanted the bumpy school road improved, 24% wanted less rubbish on the beach, 19% wanted the public toilets on the Green improved, 16% wanted improvements to the beach, 14% wanted more shops and better transport and 10% wanted road improvements. The "wish for" list generated 69 possible items including a play

area, a library, a nature reserve, more shops, an internet café, safe bike rides, a paddling pool, a leisure centre and a youth club.

See Appendix 7.

Planning for Real

Attendees of this event were invited to write observations/comments on flags which they placed at the appropriate location on the model of the Village. The analysis of the comment flags was completed in April 2005. The items flagged seem to broadly underline the results obtained through the Camera Project, the Questionnaire and the Children's Questionnaire.

...to get the Village to speak out and give us further facts and figures on which to base the Parish Plan. See Appendix 8 May Queen 2005 event

This exhibition was intended to be the culmination of our year's activities, to get the Village to speak out and give us further facts and figures on which to base the Parish Plan. Like its counterpart exhibition last year there was no intention for this event to produce any further comments.



Vision statement

Based on the views of local residents, the Parish Plan Steering Group has developed an achievable, long term vision for Gurnard. This is:

Gurnard will

- *remain a vibrant and caring community, focussed on the needs of its permanent residents*
- *maintain its current boundaries to help it retain its distinct and individual identity*
- *provide a safe and inspiring environment for residents of all ages*
- *attract and retain facilities which enhance the quality of life of residents and visitors.*

Planning policy and land use

The development policy for the use of land for the Isle of Wight and, therefore, for the Parish of Gurnard is controlled by the Isle of Wight Council (IWC) within its Unitary Development Plan (UDP).

This was created in 1996 after the Isle of Wight became one of the first Unitary Authorities. This system had replaced the Structure Plan administered by the Isle of Wight County Council and the Local Plans produced by the Borough Councils of Medina and South Wight.

Central Government now considers this system to be slow and unwieldy in its throughput for the planning requirements of the future and has tasked Local Authorities to produce a new Local Development Framework (LDF) to be more efficient and community conscious. This has been produced and is currently undergoing public consultation before final publication. It has to be implemented from 2007.

Communication with the IWC suggests that the LDF will follow similar principles to that of the UDP and be more wide-ranging in its scope of control.

For Gurnard the UDP includes areas set aside for:

- Education
- Permanent Holiday Accommodation
- Waste Water Services
- Open Space
- Site of Importance for Nature Conservation

(SINC)

- Areas in which development may be considered (UDP Envelope).

The sites for Education and Waste Water Services are clearly understood by the community as are the sites defined for Village Green and Open Space, albeit less clearly. The sites for Permanent Holiday Accommodation have become less clear because of the tendency for more of that accommodation to be used as permanent housing, without strict adherence to the regulations applied to either holiday accommodation or normal housing.

Those sites outside the development envelope or in SINC are often, by their very nature, the most contentious and desirable targets for development because they attract high value and high return projects.

Those sites within the envelope are administered by well-defined guidelines but are contentious because of the effect they have on their immediate vicinity or the community in general. It is the declared intention of the new LDF to provide more community input to the decision-making process. It is not yet clear how this will happen.

It is clear from the results of the Camera Project and the questionnaires that Gurnard residents wish to retain the green field separation from Cowes and Northwood and the rural identity that it brings. There is also some concern expressed over increases in the level of 'holiday' relative to 'permanent' accommodation.

It is also a concern of the community that the existing road infrastructure of the Parish is inadequate for its current use. The surveys highlighted many examples of the difficulties experienced, all of which would be exacerbated with inappropriate development.

In common with all rural areas Gurnard is in danger of losing the few commercial enterprises that create its centre. These shops, cafes and hostleries feature very strongly in the survey results as desirable village attributes. Similarly the schools, churches and community organisations are well liked and requests for their retention and support are clear messages for future development.

Whilst acknowledging that there are always improvements that can be made, it is the desire of the community to retain the existing ambience of Gurnard and this must be taken into account in any development plans for the area.



AIMS

- a Protect the Gurnard/Cowes green barrier**
- b Control holiday accommodation/second home development**
- c Maintain uniqueness of Parish**
- d Preserve and enhance services**
- e Improve road infrastructure**

See detailed Action Plan on pages 26-29.

Description	Policy Ref.	Description	Policy Ref.
Development Envelope	G1,G2,G5	Proposed Mixed Site	M1,M4,M9
Employment Site	E5	Wharf	M4,TR13
Airport	TR11	Existing Railway	TR15
Educative	UR,SM,IT	Former Railway	TR15
Proposed Education	UR,SM,IT	Proposed Public Right of Way	TR17
Visitor Development Area	TT	Access Point	TR1
Neighbourhood Policy Area	TA	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	C3
Permitted Holiday Accommodation	TA	Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	C16
Conservation Area	SS,BA	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	C21
Neighbourhood Development Site	HE	Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Site (RIGGS)	C31
Proposed Landfill Site	W1	Historic Park or Garden	S15
Water Works Site	WS	National Nature Reserve	C15
Community Facility	CF	Local Nature Reserve	C11
Social Greenways and Crossways	GS	Open Space	L4
Town Centre Boundary	SI,EG,RE,RS	Heritage Coast	C4
Site for Retail Development	R1	Heat Map	
Retail Daily Footage	R5	Below Mean Low Water	
Flourish Site	M1,M4,M9		



Traffic and parking

Traffic and parking have long been contentious issues in Gurnard, but in December 2001 it was decided that the views and comments of Gurnard residents should be sought and discussed by members of the Parish Council together with the Isle of Wight Council (IWC) Traffic Engineer, Gurnard Community Partnership and the local IW Councillor.

Following a local survey by the IWC Highways Department, a meeting was held which, after a preliminary statement by the IWC Traffic Engineer, discussed parking, one-way systems, speed and the impact that the local holiday camp (Gurnard Pines) has on Gurnard. The Parish Council established a Traffic Plan sub-committee to consider ideas, consult with the public and make recommendations

Since the plan was submitted in 2002, the first phase has been implemented. This consisted of alterations to the junction at the Portland Inn. Parts of the other phase are currently awaiting implementation.

for the Parish Council to put forward to the IWC for implementation. Safety was recognised to be the key issue. The sub-committee met for the first time in April 2002. It comprised three Parish Councillors, the IW Councillor, a Gurnard Primary School Governor, a Community Partnership representative and the Gurnard Primary School

Headteacher. The Parish Clerk was asked to attend for record keeping.

Meetings were held over the next few months. Public consultation took the form of a limited survey of residents in Church Road, The Avenue and Tilbury Road, an exhibition and letters from a variety of residents. This resulted in a Traffic Management Plan being submitted to the IWC Highways Department in October 2002. On the advice of the IWC Traffic Engineer the plan was divided into two phases.

Since the plan was submitted in 2002, the first phase has been implemented. This consisted of alterations to the junction at the Portland Inn. Parts of the other phase are currently awaiting implementation. As well as the work that the Traffic Plan sub-committee proposed, the IWC has put double yellow lines in Albert Road and around most of the corners and, through pressure from Rew Street residents, 30 and 40 mph speed limits have been imposed along Rew Street.

The Parish Plan consultation has identified further concerns and aspirations of local residents. These are:

- Imposition of lower speed limits
- Improvements to Hilton Road, the unadopted road running from Tuttons Hill to Cockleton Lane. The entrance to Gurnard Primary School is located at the lower end of Hilton Road.
- Improve pedestrian safety on roads
- Improve signage.
- Provide additional car parking.
- Introduce cycleways.



AIMS

- a Improve pedestrian safety on roads**
- b Achieve lower traffic speeds**
- c Improve traffic signage**
- d Improve car parking facilities**
- e Achieve dedicated cycleways**
- f Improve Hilton Road**

See detailed Action Plan on pages 26-29.

Public/community transport services

The majority of households in the Parish have access to their own private transport with some 82% of households owning at least one car. This leaves 18% of households who are wholly reliant on public transport. There is a network of four bus services that link Gurnard with the rest of the Island. These are the number 1, number 3/3A, 3B and number 33 bus services.



...there is a strong feeling that the bus service should be improved and the costs reduced.