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THE SWAN

QUIZ NIGHT

HOLER

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### **Messages of support**

Can I, on behalf of all the residents of Hoxne, express thanks to all who have worked so hard to produce this Parish Plan?

We are proud of Hoxne, its beauty, its history but, perhaps above all else, its sense of community. If our village is to remain a place for all of us to enjoy we must influence the future. The Coalition Government's Agenda of localism will have an important impact on all communities in the years to come and this Plan gives us all a chance to be part of this new direction and shape the future of Hoxne.

Guy McGregor (County Councillor, Hoxne & Eye Division)

This is a very exciting moment for Hoxne. You might think you know the village you live in but a comprehensive survey such as the Parish Plan can throw up some surprises. I congratulate all those that organised the plan, it is a great deal of work and I thank all those that returned their forms.

A thriving and vibrant village, Hoxne has proved over the centuries that it can move with the times while preserving the character and beautiful old world charm that invites people to live here. With our historic buildings, thriving shop, school and pub, Hoxne has many of the benefits of a rural Suffolk village. I know that your Parish Plan will show you the way for the coming years.

Elizabeth Gibson Harries (Mid Suffolk District Councillor)

The Parish Council has been pleased to promote, contribute financially and support the Parish Plan from the outset.

Sincere thanks are due to parishioners for their responses, volunteers for delivering and collecting the questionnaires and especially the Steering Committee who have put in many hours work to complete the report.

The Parish Council now look forward to working with the community to progress the Action Plan for the benefit of all.

Philip Flagg (Chairman, Hoxne Parish Council)

### **Background: The Parish Plan**

#### **The Concept**

A Parish Plan is an opportunity for a community to play an active part in determining its own future"

#### Aims and Objectives

To reflect the concerns and aspirations of all members of our community and to reflect this in a prioritised Action Plan for Hoxne Parish Council to implement (in conjunction with the community, other organisations and agencies as appropriate).

#### How the plan was produced

- At a Public Event at the Village Hall residents of Hoxne were asked for comments on the wide range of issues that affect our community
- From the comments received, the Steering Group designed and produced a questionnaire reflecting residents concerns and views
- The questionnaire was delivered and collected by volunteers to every address in Hoxne. A very high return rate was achieved
- The results were analysed and put into visual format for ease of reference in the report by Jack Golding of Hoxne
- From the data, the Steering Group drafted the" Conclusions" of residents views and noted the Action Points that resulted
- At a further Public Event in the Village Hall residents were asked to confirm the proposed Action Points and to prioritise them so that the Parish Council can progress them accordingly, with the community and the appropriate agencies
- The resulting document "Hoxne Parish Plan" has been passed to Hoxne Parish Council for adoption and implementation, with hard copies available at the Low Street Post Office Stores and online at http://www.hoxne.net



#### What happens now?

In some communities with a Parish Plan, parishioners complain that little has changed. We are confident that this fate will not befall our Parish Plan and on behalf of the community would ask Hoxne Parish Council

- To formally adopt the Hoxne Parish Plan
- To positively implement the Action Points of the Plan
- To actively lobby for the Action Points, where outside agencies are involved

We very much hope that the Parish Council will increase its engagement with the community, possibly to include

- Publishing detailed reports on progress of the Action Points of the Parish Plan
- Maintaining and reporting on a register of planning consents granted in the Parish (approximately10 units over next five years)
- Providing a detailed progress report at the Annual Parish Meeting
- Commissioning a fresh Parish Plan every five years, if all outstanding issues have been addressed.

Hoxne Parish Plan Steering Group (Alan Smith, Steve Hickman, Jenny Knight and Hoxne Parish Council Representatives, Michael Knights and Tim Craven).

# Introduction: "The Blue Planet" and Hoxne

Here are five interesting facts about" The Blue Planet":

- Mount Everest is the highest point
- The largest volcano is Mauna Loa, Hawaii
- The longest river is" The Nile"4,160miles long
- The driest place is the Atacama Desert, Chile
- The best place to live is Hoxne ,Suffolk

Well, that's what many people think including those who left the earliest human tools, found at the Hoxne Brickyards by John Frere. Those Hoxnians settled here 320,000 years ago.

Later on, the Romans left the Hoxne Hoard, the largest trove of Roman Treasure to be found in the U.K.

In 869 AD, legend has it that Edmund, King of Anglia was slain by the Danes, having been given away by a wedding party crossing the Goldbrook bridge. More recently Miss Marple came here to investigate "The Moving Finger" by Agatha Christie

The Christian Church and Hoxne have been linked for over 1200 years and the Bishops seat of East Anglia was here, in Hoxne, before it moved to Norwich. Our church of "St. Peter and Paul" has a magnificent tower of nearly 100 feet and a newly automated clock.

Our village is a vibrant community with many clubs, interests and activities which are well supported. Our village facilities of Hall and Playing Fields are beautifully maintained and the envy of Suffolk. There are Music Festivals, Litter Picking Sundays, Bowls Club and Gardening Club with a Ramblers section, traditional Clog and Country Dancing and of course the Traditional Harvest Breakfast on the Village Green with beautifully restored mechanical organs, magicians and jugglers. There is the Church Garden Fete at the Abbey, Open Gardens where visitors come from all over and of course Father Christmas makes a personal visit to Hoxne on Christmas morning.

Hoxne villagers always welcome new arrivals with a smile and a chat asking "How are you settling in?"

Yes, our place on "The Blue Planet" is a very special place and with completion of the Parish Plan, Hoxne Parish Council will be able to take the lead in implementing your views which will help ensure that Hoxne continues to be that "special" place for all those who come to live in and enjoy Hoxne.

A personal view from Jenny Knight, Hoxne Parish Plan Steering Group.

### **Questionnaire results & action points**

### **General Questions**

#### 1) Where in Hoxne is your house located?



This question was answered by 100% of respondents (489)



This question was answered by 100% of respondents (489)





This question was answered by 99.6% of respondents (487)

Conclusion: Of the respondents

12% are 30 years old or under

58% are aged 31-64

29% are 65 and over

### Housing

4) Planning policy since the 1970s has enabled an average of about 2 new homes to be built per year in Hoxne. Do you feel that this policy has:



This question was answered by 87.3% of respondents (427)

**Conclusion**: An overwhelming majority of respondents considered that past development has benefited the village.

#### 5) Should new housing be built in Hoxne?



This question was answered by 94.5% of respondents (462)

**Conclusion**: Over 80% of respondents supported the policy of building an average of 2 homes per year, or more. Comment was made that this policy should be regularly reviewed (e.g. every 5 years)

ACTION POINT 1: Hoxne Parish Council to actively lobby relevant local planning authorities to achieve this outcome.

#### 6) What type of housing should be encouraged in Hoxne?



This question was answered by 93.8% of respondents (459)

Conclusion: The most preferred housing for the future is:

- Family houses 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms
- Small houses 1 and 2 bedrooms

ACTION POINT 2: Hoxne Parish Council to actively lobby relevant local planning authorities to achieve this outcome.

PRIORITY ●●000

### 7) In recent years the majority of new houses have been built on "infll"plots. There are few of these left. For new houses, what is the best solution?



This question was answered by 90.2% of respondents (441)

**Conclusion**: Major preference is to use the remaining infill sites. There is limited support for using sites for small groups of houses. Suggested sites include:

"Banhams Yard" – 11

Behind Abbey Terrace - 5

Nuttery Vale - 4

ACTION POINT 3: Hoxne Parish Council to actively lobby relevant local planning authorities to achieve this outcome.

PRIORITY ●●●●○

### **Business and Tourism**

8) How important is it that the following business types should be supported?



This question was answered by 94.5% of respondents (462)

**Conclusion**: The only business types, which do not carry the majority support of the community, are Coffee Shop/Café and Takeaway.

# 9) Should more tourism be encouraged in Hoxne by developing these facilities ?



This question was answered by 87.3% of respondents (427)

**Conclusion**: The above information may be useful when considering a tourism policy for Hoxne.

### **School and Education**





This question was answered by 94.9% of respondents (464)

### 11) Currently the preschool is based in the Village Hall. Should Hoxne provide a separate building for the pre-school?



This question was answered by 92.4% of respondents (452)

**Conclusion**: The majority of respondents chose "No" to Hoxne providing a separate building. The least support was in the 16-30 age group. However, the Parish Plan Steering Group on reflection feel that the question is poorly worded, implying that parish funds would meet the expense of the provision, whereas outside funding might be available.

ACTION POINT 4: Hoxne Parish Council to consider the matter with the Pre-School Committee to agree a way forward.

PRIORITY 0000



# 12) Is there a need to use the facilities of Hoxne"sSchool, outside school hours, for any of the following?

This question was answered by 83.0% of respondents (406)

**Conclusion**: There is a perception that Hoxne Primary School's facilities would be appropriate for community use outside school hours and outside the school term.

ACTION POINT 5: Hoxne Parish Council to make further enquiries to establish which facilities could be used by the community.

PRIORITY 0000



# 13) Is there a need for the following parent/carer support in Hoxne? (Some are already provided).

This question was answered by 71.8% of respondents (351)

**Conclusion**: Respondents expressed considerable interest in a wide range of parent/carer support.

ACTION POINT 6: Hoxne Parish Council to investigate further the viability of adult education and evening classes provision in Hoxne, possibly in the Village Hall or the school.

PRIORITY 0000

### Environment

### 14) Hoxne is generally a tidy and well maintained village, but do you think further improvements could be effected by:



This question was answered by 85.1% of respondents (416)

**Conclusion**: There were 3 equally strong suggestions for improving the environment in our village.

- Enhanced coverage by a paid litter warden/road sweeper
- Provide more dog bins
- Provide more litter bins

ACTION POINT 7: Hoxne Parish Council to consider how to progress the suggestions made.

PRIORITY ●●000.



### 15) In our immediate environment would you support...

This question was answered by 74.4% of respondents (364)

**Conclusion**: Half of the respondents supported Individual Wind Turbines. The other suggestions received minority interest.

Of the 102 people who specified a location for a village sign, more that half (62) favoured the Low Street Village Green, six favoured a village sign at both ends of the village and five favoured Heckfield Green as the location.

# 16) Should the Parish Council try to acquire land for the following purposes?



This question was answered by 72.2% of respondents (353)

### ACTION POINT 8: Hoxne Parish Council to look at acquiring land for allotments.

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#### 17) Would you take part in any of these environmental projects?



This question was answered by 43.8% of respondents (214).

ACTION POINT 9: Hoxne Parish Council to contact those who completed "volunteering forms" and encourage them to come forward.

#### PRIORITY 00000

# 18) The village Notice Board is presently situated in the Village Hall car park, not clearly visible from the road. Which statement do you agree with?



This question was answered by 90.4% of respondents (442)

**Conclusion**: The largest group (176) felt the notice board should be repositioned to face the road. Of those who felt it should be re-sited, 77 respondents suggested alternative locations. 70 of these preferred the low street area with 52 suggesting "Outside the village shop"

# 19) What is your opinion of the quality of design and external appearance of homes built in recent years in Hoxne?



This question was answered by 92.4% of respondents (452)

**Conclusion**: Only 34% of respondents felt that the quality of design and external appearance of homes built in Hoxne in recent years was good.

ACTION POINT 10: Hoxne Parish Council to advise planning authorities and actively lobby for improvements.

PRIORITY ●●●○○ Page | 19



# 20) On the question of waste and recycling collection, and bearing in mind the cost of collections, do you feel that:

This question was answered by 95.3% of respondents (466)

**Conclusion**: A majority felt that the present fortnightly service is satisfactory

21) How important is it to retain a local waste site for disposal of garden waste and larger items of refuse at somewhere like Eye, rather than having it located further away, possibly at Stowmarket?



This question was answered by 96.1% of respondents (470) Ranking: 3<sup>rd</sup> highest response

ACTION POINT 11: Hoxne Parish Council to make it clear to Suffolk County Council how highly the local waste disposal site is valued.

#### PRIORITY 0000

### **Travel and Traffic**



This question was answered by 95.9% of respondents (469) Ranking: 4<sup>th</sup> highest response

**Conclusion**: Only 22% felt that the situation was generally acceptable. The chart below shows how this response varied between different locations in the village.



#### Variation of perceived traffic problems by location

Number of respondents

#### 23) If you perceive any traffic problems, are they related to:



This question was answered by 92.6% of respondents (453)

With regard to the different locations the worst problems were perceived as: -

Green Street and Church Close	Speeding HGVs
Low Street, Eye Road and Goldbrook	Speeding HGVs
Oak/Abbey Hill, Cross Street, Nuttery Vale and Heckfield Green	HGVs Speeding
Denham and Reading Green	HGVs Congestion Near School

**Conclusion**: A clear majority of respondents identified Heavy Goods Vehicles and Speeding as being very significant problems.

ACTION POINT 12: Hoxne Parish Council to consider what action to take, including possibly a follow-up traffic survey, to effectively tackle th concerns raised about heavy goods vehicles (particularly in Cross Street) and speeding (particularly in Green Street)

#### PRIORITY •••••











# 24) Would the following traffic management measures be worth considering?



This question was answered by 92.8% of respondents (454)

**Conclusion**: There was a clear majority of respondents wishing for restriction on the size and weight of vehicles travelling through Hoxne.





This question was answered by 94.3% of respondents (461)

**Conclusion**: There was strong support for the maintenance of existing street lighting levels, perhaps with more energy efficient methods.

#### 26) Would you like to see any improvements to the Bus Service?



This question was answered by 85.5% of respondents (418)

**Conclusion**: Almost a third of respondents would like to see improvements made to the bus service. Of these 87 respondents wished for improved timetabling information and 58 would like to see improvements in bus routes.

ACTION POINT 13: Hoxne Parish Council to liase with Suffolk County Council to investigate what improvements may be possible.

#### PRIORITY 0000

27) Hoxne has many beautiful footpaths. Do you find their general condition...



This question was answered by 94.3% of respondents (461)

**Conclusion**: Less than 10% of respondents found footpaths to be poor. Over 70% found them to be good or adequate.





This question was answered by 21.9% of respondents (107)

Ranking: This was the lowest response

**Conclusion**: Significant numbers showed interest in sharing cars. Volunteering forms for car sharing were completed by 7 villagers.

ACTION POINT 14: Hoxne Parish Council to investigate whether they might facilitate a car-sharing scheme in Hoxne by contacting volunteers.

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### **Facilities and Amenities**





This question was answered by 74.2% of respondents (363)

**Conclusion**: Replies suggest that the standard of services for both Hospital Transport and Police Services could be improved.

ACTION POINT 15: Hoxne Parish Council to advise the relevant services and work with them as appropriate to achieve better standards.

PRIORITY 0000

# 30) How do you rate the provision of the following services and utilities in Hoxne?



This question was answered by 91.8% of respondents (449)

**Conclusion**: Responses suggest that TV, Internet and Mobile phone signals all need improvement.

ACTION POINT 16: Hoxne Parish Council to review the situation with digital TV/ radio reception following the digital switch-over, and to investigate now with service providers whether better broadband can be provided.

#### **PRIORITY** ●●●○○ Page | **31**



**Conclusion**: The network with the best reception was Vodafone. Respondents felt that the poorest reception was with Orange, O2, Virgin and T-Mobile.

### ACTION POINT 17: Hoxne Parish Council to advise the relevant providers and investigate whether an improved service can be provided.

#### 

# 31) Would you like to see any of the following community measures in Hoxne?



This question was answered by 85.5% of respondents (418)

Conclusion: There was good support for all of the above measures.

ACTION POINT 18: Hoxne Parish Council to evaluate the suggestions and facilitate solutions where possible.

#### PRIORITY ●●●○○

#### 32) How important is the Low Street Post Office Stores to Hoxne?



This question was answered by 98.2% of respondents (480)

Ranking: This was the highest response

**Conclusion**: There is overwhelming support for the Low Street Post Office Stores.

ACTION POINT 19: Hoxne Parish Council to do all in their power to help ensure that the Post Office Stores remains open in the future.

#### 

#### 33) If you regularly use the Post Office Stores, is it because.....?



This question was answered by 94.1% of respondents (480)

**Conclusion**: There are many reasons for the support of the Low Street Post Office Stores.

### 34) To safeguard the future of the Post Office Stores are you willing to:



This question was answered by 92.8% of respondents (454)

**Conclusion**: To safeguard the future of the Post Office Stores the vast majority of villagers are willing to use the facility. In the event of threatened closure a majority of villagers would support subsidy from public funds to keep it open.



This question was answered by 96.9% of respondents (474)

Ranking: This was the second highest response

**Conclusion**: 432 villagers (92%) consider the Swan Public House to be Very important or Fairly important to the community.

ACTION POINT 20: Hoxne Parish Council to do all in their power to help ensure that The Swan remains open in the future.

PRIORITY ●●●●○
#### **Health and Welfare**



This question was answered by 23.3% of respondents (114)

Ranking: This was the second lowest response

**Conclusion**: Although this question saw a weak response, 27 residents aged 75 years or over (43.5% of the age band) found it difficult to get to medical services.



The problems of respondents aged 75 or over are outlined below.

ACTION POINT 21: Hoxne Parish Council to investigate these difficulties, perhaps facilitating a Good Neighbour scheme.

PRIORITY 0000

## 37) Would you use the following Care/Support services if available in Hoxne?



This question was answered by 56.2% of respondents (275)

**Conclusion**: The services that would be most appreciated by villagers are:

- First Response emergency group
- A "bank" of local skills
- Prescription collection

#### General

38) Hoxne Parish Council can be "neactive", dealing with issues and enquiries from parishioners, or "proactive" in establishing initiatives and lobbying for policy changes. Would you prefer the style of Hoxne Parish Council to be:



This question was answered by 80.4% of respondents (393)

**Conclusion**: The community would like the Parish Council to be both Proactive and Reactive.

39) For those who own second homes in Hoxne, their Council Tax is the same as full-time residents, less 10%. On balance, do you feel that second home owners should:



This question was answered by 88.8% of respondents (434)

**Conclusion**: A majority of respondents felt that second-home owners should pay the same council tax as full time residents.

ACTION POINT 22: Hoxne Parish Council to actively lobby to achieve this outcome.

PRIORITY 0000





This question was answered by 86.3% of respondents (422)

**Conclusion**: 50% of respondents felt that Hoxne Parish Council publicises its activities/decisions well. The other statements received only minority agreement, reflecting the high level of "neither" answers. This may suggest a lack of engagement between community and council.

ACTION POINT 23: Hoxne Parish Council to look more critically at their democratic engagement with the community and take steps to enhance this engagement (for example by implementing the Action Plan in this Parish Plan).

#### PRIORITY ●●●●○

#### 41) Is Hoxne Church important to you?



This question was answered by 91.2% of respondents (446)

**Conclusion**: The community value Hoxne Parish Church for a wide variety of reasons.

# 42) Would you like to see Hoxne Church used as a venue for any of these activities?



This question was answered by 72.6% of respondents (355)

**Conclusion**: The most favoured use of the church for secular reasons are:

- Music Concerts
- Exhibitions
- Organ Recitals





This question was answered by 68.3% of respondents (334)

**Conclusion**: Over 95% of respondents felt that the facilities at Hoxne Playing Field were either good or satisfactory.

A separate children's survey was carried out alongside the main survey, but the response rate was relatively low and it has not been possible to draw any significant conclusions.

However, a summary of the responses to the Youth Questionnaire has been forwarded to Hoxne Parish Council for them to consider.

## 44) What are your views on the quality of the facilities in the Village Hall?



	Good	Satisfactory	Poor
Main hall	262	92	0
Toilets	252	84	0
Meeting room	212	88	7
Bar	212	111	11
Car park	202	139	34
Lighting	198	141	4
Disabled access	177	81	3
Recycling bins	169	172	21
Stage	157	145	21
Heating	153	149	34
Kitchen facilities and equipment	123	152	50
Sound system	116	144	15
Disabled parking	115	104	27

This question was answered by 80.8 % of respondents (395)

**Conclusion**: Over 94% of respondents felt that facilities at the village hall were good or satisfactory.





This question was answered by 70.3% of respondents (344)

**Conclusion**: There is strong support for more plays and music concerts and art/photography exhibitions by local artists.

### 46) Are there any new clubs and activities you would like to see in Hoxne?



This question was answered by 44.9% of respondents (220)

Ranking: This was the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest response

**Conclusion**: The most favourite new clubs are:

- Local history group 114
- Photography/Camera club 66
- Book Club/Reading circle
  65
- A community drama project 63

ACTION POINT 24: Hoxne Parish Council to contact those who completed volunteering forms facilitating the setting up of new clubs where possible.

#### PRIORITY 0000

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### **Action Plan**

A summary of the Action Points from the report alongside the relevant question number, ranked in priority order:

AP	Q	Action Point summary	Priority
12	23	HPC to consider further action to tackle issues of HGVs in Cross Street and speeding in Green Street.	•••••
19	32	HPC to do all in power to retain Post Office Stores.	•••••
1	5	HPC to lobby planning authorities to achieve new house building at the rate of two per year.	••••0
3	7	HPC to lobby planning authorities to approve new building primarily on remaining infill sites.	••••0
8	16	HPC to look at acquiring land for allotments.	<b>●●●●</b> ○
20	35	HPC to do all in their power to retain The Swan public house.	••••
40	23	HPC to enhance democratic engagement with the community.	••••
5	12	HPC to liaise with Head Teacher to establish which school facilities could be used by the community.	<b>●●●</b> 00
10	19	HPC to lobby planning authorities for improvements in quality and external appearance of new homes.	<b>●●●</b> 00
11	21	HPC to make clear to County Council the support for the local waste disposal site.	<b>●●●</b> 00
16	30	HPC to investigate with service providers how to improve broadband.	●●●○○
17	30	HPC to investigate with service providers how to improve mobile phone reception for some networks.	●●●○○
18	31	HPC to evaluate suggestions for community measures (see text of report) and facilitate solutions.	●●●○○
2	6	HPC to lobby planning authority to achieve the provision of more family homes and small houses.	<b>●●</b> 000

AP	Q	Action Point summary	Priority
4	11	HPC to consider the matter with the Preschool Committee.	<b>●●</b> 000
6	13	HPC to investigate the viability of adult education classes.	●●000
7	14	HPC to consider how to progress environmental suggestions (see text of report).	●●000
13	26	HPC to liaise with County Council to investigate improvements in bus services.	●●000
15	29	HPC to advise hospital transport and police services of results of survey, and work with them for improvements.	●●000
21	36	HPC to investigate difficulties of those over 75 in accessing medical services.	●●000
22	39	HPC to lobby to achieve the outcome that second-home owners pay the same council tax as residents.	●●000
24	46	HPC to contact volunteers to facilitate setting up of new clubs.	●●000
9	17	HPC to contact volunteers for environmental projects with aim of establishing new community groups.	•0000
14	28	HPC to investigate whether car sharing scheme could be established.	•0000

### With thanks

To the Steering Group members Steve Hickman and Jenny Knight and to Michael Knights and Tim Craven (Parish Council Reps).

To the many volunteer collectors whose perseverance helped secure such a high return of questionnaires.

To Jack Golding who analysed the data and worked with Phil Golding to assist in the form of presentation of the analysed data and preparation of this document.

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